

THE RECORDER

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CCSU was originally going to distribute the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Isabella Chan

COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout on CCSU's Campus

BY ISABELLA CHAN
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

In efforts to help return to a normal campus, Central Connecticut hosted an on-campus vaccination clinic for students, allowing them to receive their first-dose of the Pfizer vaccine.

The pop-up event, organized by Community Health Center, reserved 800 slots for preregistered students on Sunday, April 18.

Interim Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. John Tully shared the main goal of the semester has been student health and safety, which is why the university decided to offer the vaccine.

"If we can keep students healthy and provide them with the vaccine, we felt

that it was important to do so, even if it meant that it would be a difficult day after the second shot," Tully stated.

CCSU initially planned to administer the Johnson & Johnson/ Janssen vaccine, but after the CDC and FDA recommended a pause on using it just five days before the clinic, CCSU switched to the two-dose Pfizer vaccine.

"It would've been great to have the Johnson & Johnson vaccine because, with one shot, students would've been done, [they] would've been fully vaccinated moving into finals. But we made a very quick pivot," Tully shared.

Despite these changes, freshman Gabriel Kleszcz is happy with the university's decision to administer the Pfizer vaccine; he believes it is one of the safest on the market, even with the

potential side effects after the second dose.

"If I was able to do it tomorrow I would. I mean if I get side effects I get side effects. I'm not even too worried about that," Kleszcz said.

"Everyone helps," he continued. "Let's say each person, one person doesn't get the vaccine after the other, after awhile it's not going to work. To get to immunity, we have to get everyone to get the vaccine."

Kleszcz hopes that by getting the vaccine it will "help better the community [and] make sure next semester is the best semester we can get."

Many students are expecting the same after President Dr. Zulma Toro announced the fall 2021 semester will

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Could CCSU Mandate COVID-19 Vaccines?

BY RYAN BROOKS
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

As the spring semester comes to a close, for many, the reality of a return to normalcy this fall semester is setting in. However, questions still remain on whether the university will require vaccines as well as how exactly it will handle new interest in online courses.

"We're all hoping that things return to as close to normal as possible," CCSU Faculty Senate President Fredric Latour told the Recorder. "[However], we're all [still] wondering if things don't get normal, if there is a new strain that is just as bad."

The United States has been battling a new COVID variant for months. According to Dr. Anthony Fauci, the chief medical advisor to the President, the new variant results in a 50% increase in transmissions over the original coronavirus strain.

To combat this new strain, CDC director Dr. Rochelle Paula Walensky maintains that Americans should get vaccinated as quickly as possible.

"The way we can counter [the variant], which is a growing threat in our country, is to do two things: to get as many people vaccinated as quickly and as expeditiously as possible with the vaccine that we know works against this variant and, finally, to implement the public health measures that we talk about all the time," Walensky said.

While CCSU has committed resources to implement health measures via HyFlex technology and other campus safety upgrades,

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School of Business Earns Accreditation Again

BY AVERY JONES
STAFF WRITER

On Monday, April 12th, CCSU President Zulma R. Toro emailed the student body with exciting news; CCSU's School of Business has again been accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), an accreditation organization known as the world's largest business education alliance.

The AACSB was founded in 1916, and for more than a century, the organization has been providing accreditations to schools of business around the country, something that is very important for educational institutions to prove that their

curriculum is valuable.

The process of becoming accredited is extremely rigorous. Schools, colleges and universities undergo intensive assessment of curriculum and mission. They must demonstrate things like strategic management and innovation, support for learners, faculty, and staff and up to 20 other standards.

Accreditation agencies look for different attributes depending on the type of school, and most specialize in certain kinds of learning institutions. For example, all accrediting institutions hold that schools must have a clearly defined mission aimed to better educate and serve students.

Additionally, almost all institutions commit to periodic and unannounced external reviews as well as a rigorous internal review program, ensuring standards are continuously met.

This process is tough, but rewarding nonetheless. To be accredited is to be officially authorized and approved for meeting high educational standards. For this reason, the achievement of accreditation by CCSU's School of Business is cause for celebration.

"This achievement is impressive and speaks to the dedication, hard work, and talent of the school of business faculty, administrators, and staff", President Toro wrote in

her email.

It is an effort of the entire business school staff and faculty, and a reflection of that effort and hard work. A process of deep internal focus in order to implement the high standards needed.

"AACSB accreditation places Central's School of Business among the world's best business schools", President Toro said in the release.

This accreditation will continuously empower CCSU students, faculty, and staff to venture outside of their comfort zones as any business-minded person should.

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PAGE 8 Women's soccer is heading to the NCAA Tournament, again.



PAGE 5 Get ready for a CCSU Film Festival!

THE RECORDER

Student Center
1615 Stanley Street
New Britain, CT 06053
860.832.3744
editor@centralrecorder.
org
centralrecorder.org

Editor-in-Chief

Ryan Jones
ryan.michael.jones@my.ccsu.edu

Managing Editor

Kelly Langevin
kelly.langevin@my.ccsu.edu

News Editor

Samantha Bender
samanthabender@my.ccsu.edu
Ryan Brooks, Assistant
rbrooks@my.ccsu.edu

Lifestyle Editor

Julia Conant
juliaconant@my.ccsu.edu
Sarah Wall, Assistant
sarahwall@my.ccsu.edu

Sports Editor

Ryan Jones

Layout Editor

Ryan Jones

Copy Editor

Jurrel Racine
jurrel.racine@my.ccsu.edu

Social Media Editor

Isabella Chan
chan2017@my.ccsu.edu

Staff Writers

Samuel Pappas
Molly Ingram
Samuel Pappas
Shwar Zaidi
Leonardo Guerrero



Vaccine Rollout at CCSU

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return to a normal or near-normal campus.

While the university has yet to announce if coronavirus vaccines will be mandated, Tully stated the university is considering the option, if made available. He hopes that students and staff will take advantage of the opportunities to get vaccinated prior to a decision being made.

“If we have a larger percentage of our entire campus community getting vaccinated, we’ll be able to have a more normal semester. We’ll be able to be safer when we meet for on-ground classes, and when we participate in athletic events, cultural events, all of the rich campus life,” Tully stated.

With students now needing a second dose of the Pfizer shot to become fully vaccinated, the university plans to host another

clinic in three weeks, according to Tully.

“Our goal is to have students at least get that second shot and be well on their way to being fully vaccinated by the time they take off and head back home. It’ll keep them safer, it’ll keep their families safer and it’ll keep our communities safer,” Tully said.



More than 800 students signed up to receive the vaccine.

Isabella Chan

School of Business Earns Accreditation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

It should be engaging, incite innovation and strengthen the business education here at CCSU.

To earn and maintain the accreditation, the School of Business continuously met 15 standards that, in a nutshell, assess management and support of students and faculty. Institutions that become accredited hold the status for five years. CCSU was first accredited by the AACSB in 2013.

It may seem like a short amount of time; however, accreditation is crucial to the integrity of any school. When students graduate and begin to look for a job, employers

often take into consideration the school they attended and whether it is accredited by a reliable agency.

If an individual’s degree is from an institution that has questionable accreditation, employers will question the validity of the degree and the individual’s potential as a good candidate for the open position. It can also be hard to transfer credits from an institution that is not accredited.

An additional celebratory aspect is the fact that accreditation is a voluntary evaluation process. Institutions willingly go through these processes to continue to maintain standards of

educational quality and deliver to the students. Accreditation is an effort to enhance and sustain the quality of education and service to students.

What CCSU’s School of Business displayed is their dedication to their students by pushing themselves to meet these standards and gain this status once again.

In a news release following the announcement of accreditation, CCSU School of Business Dean, Dr. Joseph Farhat, noted, “AACSB accreditation is a seal of academic excellence that demonstrates our commitment to meeting the highest international standards in

business education, including teaching, research, curricula development, and student learning.”

“We are so proud of our faculty for their commitment to the process of continuous improvement, and we congratulate our faculty, students, staff, advisory board, and alumni on this accomplishment.” Dr. Farhat concluded.

President Toro reiterated that this is an indication of prestige to prospective students, their families, and business partners that the CCSU community delivers the education hard-working students deserve.

The Recorder is looking for writers/
editor positions for next semester!
Positions include News, Lifestyle, Sports, Layout,
Photography and more. All positions are paid.
If interested, email ryan.michael.jones@my.ccsu.edu

Exploring Biden's First 100 Days in Office

BY RYAN BROOKS
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

As President Biden nears the 100-day mark of his presidency, CCSU political science professor Jerold Duquette has questioned whether or not the President is having a political “honeymoon”.

Traditionally, a political honeymoon is a period at the beginning of a new presidency in which the president enjoys a high level of satisfaction among the public as he pursues his legislative agenda.

“At day 76 of his presidency, Joe Biden has about a 53.6 percent approval rating, which, historically, is not that impressive,” Duquette said. “Obviously, in terms of Donald Trump, it’s a bump, a big bump, as Trump had a 40.4 percent approval rating on day 76. However, when you go past Trump to look to the rest of the presidents’ successors, his first 100 days do not appear to be much of a honeymoon.”

However, Duquette suggests new metrics to weigh whether Biden is enjoying a political honeymoon.

“The success of [Biden’s] legislative agenda shows something of a honeymoon, the passage of the American Rescue Act is a very significant legislative accomplishment, not one that sort of squares with what’s not the most impressive popularity number,” Duquette said.

“Another thing that shows honeymoon is an analysis of



Biden currently has an approval rating of 53.6%

Getty

how he is treated by the media. The mainstream media seems to be doing for President Biden what it does for all presidents, which is giving them the benefit of the doubt. The [exception] in this instance is Donald Trump. President Biden has benefited from being the successor to Donald Trump; not being Donald Trump has become a central element of President Biden’s ability to exert influence.”

Duquette suggests that unlike any president before, Biden’s ability to get his legislative program through, as well as much of his authority, is predicated on

being the complete opposite of the previous president.

“The Biden administration has taken every opportunity to frame almost everything they do explicitly with respect to how it was done in the previous administration”, Duquette said.

“Even when the Biden immigration policy at the border can be shown to have a direct relation to some of the problems, the Biden administration can say ‘yes, this is a problem, but it would not have been a problem if not for his predecessor inhumanity.’ The question then is how long can they get away with

that.”

This brings to light another aspect of a political honeymoon, that being the opposition.

Duquette asserts that the Republican Party is not particularly concerned with Biden’s approval rating, nor are they concerned with the good coverage he’s getting or the policy he is promoting.

“[Republicans] are focused like a laser beam on the midterm elections and they’re [ignoring] that the president right now is getting good numbers and good coverage. They are intentionally not engaging on policy, and my

assumption is that they believe that by the time we get around to the midterm elections, that voters will be back into their group identity mode,” Duquette said.

Duquette emphasized that voters will be concerned about cultural issues again, effectively returning to their respective political camps.

“The specifics about the COVID crisis will have run their course, and what the president is relying on right now, which is the sense of national crisis, would have faded, and to be honest, I believe that is a pretty sound strategy,” Duquette said.

Could CCSU Mandate COVID Vaccines?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the university is not requiring students to get vaccinated for the fall 2021 semester.

“President Toro has said that vaccines will not be mandatory because of the process that was used for approval of the vaccines,” Latour said. “My understanding is that the covid vaccine process has been different from other vaccines, [so] we cannot mandate the vaccines, that is what the president has said whenever she has been asked.”

Latour is still unclear about whether or not CCSU faculty would be required to get vaccines.

“[I have] not been told anything about it being mandatory for faculty. Now, can they? I’m sure if you asked different lawyers you get different answers,” Latour said. “With that being said, people have been very outspoken in terms of encouraging faculty to get the vaccine as

early as they can.”

The question that remains at the heart of whether or not universities can mandate vaccines stems from the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) statute from the Food and Drug Administration.

“The uncertainty has to do with the Emergency Use Authorization being unclear, since the statute says that people who get the vaccine have to be informed that they have the right to accept or refuse it,” according to Dorit Reiss, a Professor of Law at the University of California, in an interview with the CT Mirror. “The question is, what does that mean? Some say if they have the right to accept or refuse, that means no mandate. It just tells people you can’t be held down and given the vaccine. It doesn’t say anything to employers, it doesn’t say anything to universities.”

Leigh Appleby, the Director of Communications for the CT Board of Regents for Higher Education, told the CT Mirror that there is an internal dialogue going on within the board regarding vaccines.

“We have had conversations to look into the possibility of doing as much as we can, and that would include a vaccine requirement,” Appleby said. “No decisions on that have been made, and we’ll have some more information on that as we go forward. But that has been part of conversations, absolutely.”

Regarding the future of online classes at CCSU, Latour said that there is increased interest from faculty in continuing to teach some classes online.

“One thing that is clear is that there are some professors who never taught online

before the pandemic, and they tried it, and now they are thinking well, it’s not that bad, it could be something I do in the future,” Latour said. “One question is if we should do more graduate courses online because a lot of them are taking one or two classes per semester and are working full-time, so doing the class online for them might be worth it.”

While many questions remain with respect to how exactly the fall semester will look, the professor is optimistic.

“I’m optimistic that the fall semester will be close to normal, however, I understand that the university must be ready in case something happens, [and] that we need to listen very carefully to what the students want,” Latour said.

“Play the Hits!” Volume Five: April 1977

BY RYAN JONES
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Welcome back to another edition of “Play the Hits!”, column where we pick a random year in music history and look at the Top Five on Billboard’s Hot 100 for the week. This week we will be covering 1977. Unfortunately, Fleetwood Mac’s smash hit Rumors, which came out in ‘77, did not make the Top Five for this one. Instead, we’ve got one of the greatest rock songs in history earning a spot, along with one of music’s most underrated session musicians. Without further adieu, let’s dive into this week’s Top Five.

Number Five: The Things We Do For Love - 10cc



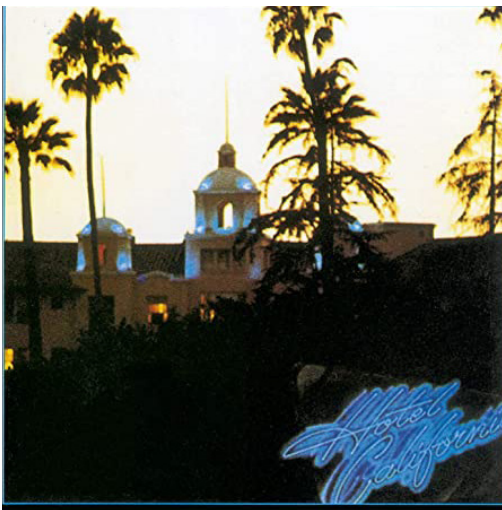
Just four guys being dudes. TopPop

This song is pretty boring to me. It’s pretty catchy, but it sounds like you took the sound of every successful pop band, blended it together and made this. I know I am already being a hater, but the vocals on this just don’t do it for me. It sounds like they were trying to go for a Queen type melody ala “Killer Queen,” but Eric Stewart certainly does not have the same conviction in his voice that Freddy Mercury did. I don’t hate the 10cc! Songs like “I’m Not In Love” are amazing. This is the first song the group recorded after two of their founding members left the band. Maybe they were trying to find their groove again. It didn’t work (for me!!!) and that’s okay. But why was this number five?

Number Four: Don’t Give Up On Us - David Soul

Okay, before we get into the music here, PLEASE watch the music video. I can’t pin down exactly what it is that makes it so hilarious, but I simply can’t stop watching it. It’s basically just a headshot of David Soul staring directly at the camera and lip syncing his butt off. At first, it was creepy. After 30 seconds, all you can do is laugh. This song is pretty boring too, I’m afraid. It’s basically just Soul, sometimes double tracked, accompanied by some orchestration. There is a cover of this by Owen Wilson that was recorded for Starsky and Hutch. Listen to that one instead. Fun fact, it pissed off Soul so much he allegedly re-recorded the song after hearing Wilson’s version.

Number Three: Hotel California - The Eagles



The Eagles have recorded this song 1,038 times, Record Plant

Possibly the most overplayed song in rock and roll history, coming in at number three we have the Eagles astronomical hit “Hotel California.” Other than the fact that I’ve heard it roughly 6,000 times, it’s hard to find any critiques of this one. It won Record of the Year at at 1978 Grammy’s and honestly it could be record of the decade. Henley’s vocals sound so entrancing when they’re paired with Felder’s 12-string guitar. The chorus has the familiar Eagles’ feel of some beautiful harmonies, but the ending of the song is what steals the show for me. The great Joe Walsh battles Felder in a guitar duel akin to “Free Bird,” trading licks and sometimes harmonizing. According to the Encyclopedia of Great Popular Song Recordings, it took Walsh and Felder three days of practicing to master the syncopation of one another and lay down the final version. What came out of those three days is one of the greatest guitar solos in music history. To leave with another fun fact, this song has been performed by the Eagles 1,038 times. *One thousand and thirty eight.*

Number Two: Southern Nights - Glen Campbell

Glen Campbell is one of my favorite artists from the this time period and in my opinion, one of the most underrated. Starting out as a session musician, Campbell has recorded sixty four albums over his five decade career. Campbell’s guitar work is his greatest skill to me. He may not show it on “Southern Nights,” but other works like “Gentle On

My Mind” showcase his skill best. Before we get into the song itself, let’s go over its bizarre recording history. “Southern Nights” was written and recorded by Allen Toussaint for his 1975 album Southern Nights. Then two years later...Campbell took the song then also named his album Southern Nights? I don’t know, weird move to me. But looking at the music, Campbell’s version is far superior. It’s a fun, kind of goofy song. Between Campbell’s iconic southern twang and the banjo, you really feel what Campbell is singing. The music sounds like a southern night, and I have never wanted to experience that until I heard this song.

Number One: Don’t Leave Me This Way - Thelma Houston



The song was originally intended for Diana Ross MoTown

“BABYYYYYY!” Thelma Houston bursts into this week’s list with the funky track “Don’t Leave Me This Way.” This was a perfect pallet cleanser from the other four from this week. Houston’s powerful vocals are accompanied by a thumping bass line that makes it impossible not to bob your head to. The background vocals in the chorus give it that exciting feel of ‘70’s soul. Halfway through the song, the tambourine starts bumping and a faint keyboard riff is heard behind Houston’s vocals. It’s a quintessential disco hit, but the craziest part about the song to me? It was originally intended for Diana Ross!

Tune in next time for another round of nothing but the hits!

Kesha Taking the Field for Spring Concert

BY KELLY LANGEVIN
MANAGING EDITOR

CCSU music fans, buckle up. Pop star Kesha is set to perform a virtual concert for Central's spring week on April 24, at 8 p.m. in Arute Stadium.

The concert, hosted by Central's Activities Network [C.A.N], had to get a little creative with the logistics of how everything would work around the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

C.A.N president Nadia Santone said there is general admission seating for Arute's stands. It is first come first serve and there is a capacity limit

around 200 people according to Santone. Social distancing will also be enforced.

Kesha will be performing from a studio in Los Angeles, but students can watch from Arute on a "giant inflatable screen," according to C.A.N's website.

"So in the stadium there are little stickers that are six feet apart and people have to sit on those stickers and stay that way throughout the concert," Santone said.

Another option to secure a spot in Arute Stadium is the VIP area. This special

treatment allows students to sit up close right on the field and see Kesha from a whole other level.

According to Santone to access the VIP area, students needed to enter a contest and submit their posts to C.A.N's Instagram.

Before the concert begins, Santone said there will be two food trucks, free merchandise and music playing to get the party started. For the lucky VIP winners, Santone said there will be glow swings, glow seesaws and merchandise only

offered to them.

If you don't make it into Arute stadium, Santone said there is overflow seating available in Welte Auditorium and Alumni Hall, located in the Student Center.

Want to stay home? Not a problem. Student's can access the concert right from their phone or mobile devices.

To find out more information visit C.A.N's Instagram account @can_ccsu and by watching the video below.



There are only going to be roughly 200 tickets sold for the in person experience.

CAN

A Night at the Drive in for CCSU Film Festival

BY JULIA CONANT
LIFESTYLE EDITOR

The only thing better than a night of watching films is a night of watching films created by your peers.

Next Thursday, Central's Art Gallery will be hosting an event titled, "Blue Devil Film Festival."

On the fifth floor of Welte Garage, members of the Central community will be able to drive-in or walk-up and watch films created by CCSU students and alumni.

"This will be a great opportunity to celebrate the work of CCSU students and alumni while experiencing a safe and interesting social event," CCSU Art professor Eben Kling said. "The idea

of the drive-in theatre came about as a creative answer to the compromises that are presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and this structure seemed like a good way to address those concerns in a conceptually interesting way."

Prizes for the winning films will be announced at the end of the screening.

You must be either a Central student, faculty or staff member to attend. Tickets are also required for entry. Tickets are free and able through this link.

One ticket is required per car, or one ticket per walk-in.

"Blue Devil Film Festival" will occur on April 29 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m.



Attendees must register for tickets before hand for.

CCSU Art Department

Psychology Club Presents Research at EMA

BY SHWAR ZAIDI
STAFF WRITER

Central Connecticut State University's Psychology Club participated in an Eastern Psychological Association Annual Meeting (EPA) on March 5 and 6 where students and teachers presented their psychological research.

Dr. Silvia Corbera Lopez, an assistant professor at the department of psychological science at CCSU, said she presented research titled "Validation and Developmental Trajectories of the Bell-Lysaker Emotion Recognition Task for Kids (BLERT-K)," a study in which Corbera Lopez collaborated with colleagues from the Yale Department of Psychiatry.

"We collected data on the fall 2019 to validate a new task in emotion recognition in children," Corbera Lopez said, "to do this study, we collected data in children from 3 to 17 years old at the Connecticut

Science Center, and we presented these preliminary data on EPA this year."

Corbera Lopez mentioned she was happy that she was able to make the presentation, which was a 10-minute talk plus question and answer at the end. She also said that she believed there were a good amount of audience members and that she felt listened to and heard as she was very active, focused and excited when presenting her results.

"This study also provided the wonderful opportunity to work with CCSU students who worked very hard to collect data and help work on the study," Corbera Lopez said, "I felt very proud after presenting these results and showed the work we have done."

Megyn Jasman, a student in CCSU and president of Psychology Club, said she was satisfied with how the EPA meeting went as it was in a virtual format. Jasman said it was easy to follow and understand what to do and mentioned that students could

benefit greatly from EPA. It allows space for psychology students to learn about the newest research from other students as well as professionals in the field where they could network and learn about graduate schools they could apply to.

"I enjoyed attending EPA a lot. It was different from past years considering the virtual format, as I have been to the conference in person as well back in 2019," Jasman said. "I attended mostly undergraduate psychology student's research poster presentations. I enjoy learning what other students are researching. I learned about a variety of topics, such as masculinity/male sexuality, post-traumatic stress, and various other topics in psychology!"

Juliana Vass, a senior psychology major at CCSU, presented her independent study in EPA "The Effect of Enthusiasm vs. Expertise on Working Memory," with Dr. Julia J.C. Blau.

"It was a great experience and for some

tips I would give to students is to find an area in psychology that you enjoy. Learn about the topics in those areas and if there are some unanswered questions that you would like to analyze," Vass said. "Also do not feel discouraged because research can be challenging but it is such an awarding feeling to conduct your own study and learn from your results."

Overall, EPA is a great opportunity for psychology students to find their interest and put themselves out there to learn and experience.

If you are interested, Jasman said that even though she does not know how the format will be on 2022 EPA conference, students could join CCSU Psychology Club by attending meetings and if they become interested in attending an EPA meeting next year, they can talk to the Psychology Club's President in fall 2021 regarding the club's plan.

ASO Takes on Fashion Amid COVID

PHOTOS AND STORY BY ISABELLA CHAN
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Despite the pandemic, fashion must go on and Central Connecticut’s African Student Organization did just that at its annual fashion show.

Student models strutted across the stage in Welte Auditorium, draped in vibrant African gowns. Each one took viewers on a journey through the culture of Africa, just as the show was entitled, Vol Ver L’Afrique.

While the fashion show highlighted various countries in Africa with colorful suits and intricate gowns, the audience also bore witness to exotic music and entertaining dance moves from the models and even fellow crowd members. Along with this, viewers enjoyed live performances from fellow CCSU students.

ASO produced a moving showcase with CCSU senior Olawunmi Sodipo capturing the audience’s attention with her powerful poetry as fellow senior, Nehway Sahn, soothed them with her guitar and original music.

Though the auditorium kept students apart in order to execute CDC guidelines, the Blue Devil spirit shined in Welte as students cheered on their peers from the socially-distanced stands.



WORD SEARCH

R	A	O	K	T	Q	D	I	G	E	D	Q	M	F	N
Y	S	H	A	Z	U	N	R	M	S	Y	R	O	N	O
Z	F	V	S	S	C	U	E	N	I	C	C	A	V	I
X	M	A	D	E	D	C	S	P	R	U	V	U	N	H
L	N	C	K	Z	K	S	S	F	O	I	A	V	Y	S
U	N	S	W	V	E	H	R	I	M	Q	L	V	C	A
M	F	I	I	N	B	B	E	U	A	T	V	Q	G	F
V	C	J	I	D	U	Q	U	E	T	T	E	X	L	Q
K	R	S	K	O	H	I	V	P	G	Q	K	V	B	D
E	U	A	C	H	X	G	A	W	F	J	I	I	P	B
B	K	J	N	F	M	L	S	X	W	B	Z	Q	K	V
U	T	I	I	R	K	G	H	O	L	Z	X	L	W	M
R	I	Y	I	Y	T	G	D	X	N	H	Y	Z	Z	D
Y	Z	Y	I	W	G	N	N	J	Q	Q	W	E	R	H
V	O	C	E	F	K	V	U	W	Y	T	M	W	G	C

WORD BANK

- Business
- Kesha
- Roma
- Grudzewick
- Vaccine
- Duquette
- Fashion

SPORTS BEGINS ON BACK PAGE

Baseball Takes Series Over LIU

BY RYAN JONES
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Central Connecticut Baseball continued its streak of series wins last weekend, taking two of its three games at Long Island University.

Andrew Braun kept his perfect record rolling in game one. The senior southpaw allowed two runs in his 6.2 innings of work and once again did not walk a LIU batter. He's only walked three batters all year.

Noah Martinez started the scoring in the top of the third with a home run to right center, putting two runs on the board for CCSU. The redshirt freshman is second on the team in RBIs this year with 19 and tied for second in hits with 24.

CCSU was set up perfectly to do more damage in the top of the seventh. The Blue Devils loaded up the bases with two outs, forcing

LIU to send in a new pitcher. He walked the first batter he faced, scoring a run for CCSU, but drew an out from the ensuing batter.

The bullpen again delivered for CCSU, striking out four and only allowing one hit over 2.1 innings of work.

The bats were flying off the rack early in game two of the series Saturday.

The Blue Devils took advantage of some erratic fielding to get on the board in the first. Two straight fielding errors from LIU led to a run scored and more runners getting in scoring position. Dave Matthews hit a sac-fly to bring in another run before the inning was over.

Another throwing error scored a runner in the second. And then another runner scored on a wild throw in the seventh. The Sharks committed five fielding errors on the day. The Blue Devils used 10 hits and seven walks along with

those errors to finish the game 10-1.

Brandon Fox allowed only one run across 31 batters face to improve his record to 4-2 on the year.

The Sharks made up for their egregious errors in game two with some tricky work on the baseline in the final game. LIU drew three straight walks against CCSU's Anthony Mozzicato that put one run on the board. Tim Buchek came in and allowed one more run before finishing off the inning.

With the game tied at four in the bottom of the ninth, the Blue Devils intentionally loaded the bases. Unfortunately, the ensuing LIU batter drew a walk, too, giving one of the most boring endings possible in baseball: a walk-off walk.

CCSU will be back this weekend to take on NEC first seed Bryant.



The Blue Devils are in second place in the NEC with an 11-4 record in conference. Steve McLaughlin

Blue Devils Compete in Sole Home Meet

BY RYAN JONES
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Central Connecticut's track and field teams competed at home for the first and last time this season, taking on the university of Albany in the Blue Devil Invite Saturday.

The Blue Devils' men's team bested Albany by 32 points, while the women's side were beaten by a mere two points.

The men's side has been on a tear this season. This is their third straight victory in meets this year. The 32 point win over Albany is not their largest margin of the year either; the Blue Devils finished first in the AIC Yellow Jacket Invitational with a final score of 208, 93 points ahead of the second place team.

Miles Fye-Moore led the men's team in first place finishes Saturday, winning the 100 meter event (10.70) and 200 meter event (21.70). His victories accounted for 10 of the Blue Devils 94 points.

Two of the men's seniors, who were honored before the competition with their classmates, churned out two more gold medals for the Blue Devils.

Richard Grudzwick, who has played in a total of 12 collegiate seasons between indoor, outdoor and cross country, finished the 800 meter race with a first place time of 1:56.21.

On the flip side of things, this is senior Nick Kocienda's first season in any sport with the Blue

Devils after transferring from Manhattan College. The "rookie" senior took home first in the hammer event with a long toss of 53.04 meters, nearly 11 meters farther than the second place finish.

The women's team battled with Albany all day Saturday. In the short distance runs, Albany was able to poach 20 of its final 73 points with near clean sweeps in the 100 and 200 meter events.

Ashley Dana immediately brought CCSU back into things with dominating performances in the long distance races. The sophomore finished first in the 800 meter event by five seconds (2:17.75) and won the 1500 meter event by nearly 12 seconds (4:37.73).

Hailey Rospierski also won two events for the Blue Devils. The senior finished the 100 meter hurdles event with a first place time of 14.86 and marked the farthest in the long jump finals at 5.38 meters.

If the Blue Devils crossed the finish line of the women's 4 x 400 relay event a second sooner, they might have finished first overall on the day. Albany finished first in the 4 x 400 with a 4:13.28 time, just barely edging out CCSU's 4:14.73 time. Albany's victory resulted in a two point swing for the Great Danes.

The Blue Devils will be back on the track next for the Northeast Conference Championship on May 1 and 2, held at Bryant University this year.



Rafter (above) won gold in the 3000 meter steeplechase. Steve McLaughlin

Weekly Sports Schedule

Baseball:

Friday, April 23 v. Bryant, 3 p.m.

Saturday, April 24 v. Bryant, 1 p.m.

Sunday, April 25 v. Bryant, 1 p.m.

Lacrosse:

Wednesday, April 21 v. Sacred Heart, 3 p.m.

Saturday, April 24 @ Bryant, 1 p.m.

Women's Soccer:

Tuesday, April 27 v. South Florida, 3 p.m.

Softball:

Saturday, April 24 @ LIU, 1 & 3 p.m.

Sunday, April 25 @ LIU, 1 & 3 p.m.



Women’s Soccer Wins Third Consecutive NEC Title



CCSU has only conceded one goal this season. Steve McLaughlin



The Blue Devils will take on South Florida in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. Steve McLaughlin

BY LEONARDO GUERRERO
STAFF WRITER

Central Connecticut State University women’s soccer has once again lifted the Northeast Conference title after defeating Long Island University 4-0 in the NEC Championship. The win marked the third straight title for the Blue Devils and their 11th historical title (9th under head coach Mick D’Arcy). The Blue Devils finish the shorted season 7-0, making it the third straight season that CCSU kept a perfect record on their home field (23-0-2 from 2018). The first 30 minutes of the match were deadlocked, typical of a final in which psychological aspects of the game mix: the desire to win and the fear of losing. Central set out to play the traditional soccer they are accustomed to: moving the ball horizontally and vertically, relentless movement in attack, making use of their one-on-one abilities and a strong pressing on defense. The Blue Devils were met with a conservative LIU defense that opted to present continuous resistance to Central

attack by congesting the center of the field and by sitting back on defense and closing possible spaces impeding Central to permeate attack. The deadlock was broken at the 31st minute after two-time NEC Midfielder of the Year and Championship MVP Roma McLaughlin sent a corner into the box which was seen deflected from an LIU defender and as a result ended up in the back of the net. The tightly fought first half finished 1-0, however the second half would see a complete dominance from the Blue Devils. “The longer the game stayed at 0-0 or 1-0, LIU still had chances to win, but as soon as we got the second goal it was game over,” D’Arcy said after the game. NEC Freshman of the Year Kelly Brady scored off a header for the second goal of the final after a cross was fed into the box from NEC Attacker of the Year Jenna Rae Covello. The third goal again came off a header, this time from Taylor Smith who had just recently been subbed on. Having it be more than obvious that the NEC Championship would be theirs, Central would not renounce attack and would score the final goal of the match in the 85th minute; this time it would come from

freshman Gia Edwards. It marked the first goal of her collegiate career. Central’s reproduced success this season saw important involvement from players of all class years; the most influential being the junior class with eight goals scored out of the 19 total and five assists. The freshman recruits managed to fluently adapt to the squad and would also provide very important numbers with seven goals scored (two in the final) and four assists. “It’s a balanced team, all classes are well represented. The goals come from all places and it’s nice to not be over reliant on one person” D’Arcy said. This season, not just for soccer, but for all sports, was irregular and unlike any other due to the COVID-19 pandemic which put a halt on all sporting competitions. The first post-COVID season was one fraught with imponderables. This season saw many games get postponed and cancelled due to positive COVID cases which led to some teams dispute unequal amounts of regular season games in comparison to others. As a result, this caused a very tight calendar which made the NEC adjust the postseason conference finals and implement a single-game postseason. Despite playing a season

like none other, the Blue Devils under Mick D’Arcy finished it like the last two: champions. CCSU Captain Roma McLaughlin expressed her joy of victory and also expressed her delight that her movement advocating for the return of college soccer had succeeded. “We’re so glad to get some games in, and to win it is even better,” Roma said to CCSU Blue Devils YouTube. “I have to give a shout out to the other teams who made the return happen. I got together all the captains at the start and we all wanted the same thing: to play soccer.” The next objective for the Blue Devils and Coach D’Arcy is the NCAA College Cup in North Carolina where they will face the University of South Florida, champion of the American Athletic Conference, on April 27. Last year, CCSU won its first round match against Rutgers and lost in double overtime in the second round. Projecting the upcoming fall season, the Blue Devils look to conquer their fourth consecutive title in a row, a milestone previously achieved in the seasons 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 under the coaching of D’Arcy. “The talk of now is going for four,” D’Arcy closed.

Softball Tearing Through NEC Competition

BY RYAN JONES
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Central Connecticut softball kept its winning streak going last week after a four game sweep of Sacred Heart. The Blue Devils are a perfect 16-0 against fellow Northeast Conference opponents this season. The Blue Devils outscored the Pioneers 9-6 over the first three games of the series. The bats flew off the rack in the final game as CCSU closed out the series with a 15-1 win. CCSU trailed SHU in both of Wednesday’s games. Heading into the bottom of the sixth in game one, the Blue Devils were facing a 3-1 deficit before they turned things on. Freshman pitcher Anaya Hunte shut down the SHU offense in her two innings of work, striking out four and not allowing a run. Over her two appearances in relief against SHU, Hunte pitched five innings, did not allow a run, struck out seven batters and only gave up a single hit. Down to their final two outs, Megan Dugas hit a walk-off home run in the seventh for CCSU to wrap things up in game one. Staring down a 3-0 deficit, CCSU’s

offense was desperate for a spark in game two. Sacred Heart put in a new pitcher to start the bottom of the sixth and likely regretted it immediately. The Blue Devils strung together four straight hits for two runs before SHU pulled their pitcher, but it didn’t stop the bleeding. Kim Howard knocked a two-run double to left, giving CCSU its first lead of the game. Kaylee Whitaker struck out the side in the seventh and won the day for CCSU. “Sacred Heart’s pitching is probably the best that we’ve seen so far so the first three games were expected to be pretty close,” Head coach Bre Gleason said after the Wednesday. “In that last game, our offense just exploded.” Things escalated pretty quickly in the final game of the series. You could say the Blue Devils wanted to finish the week off quickly, but the truth is the only thing CCSU was rushing to was the plate in the first inning. Sacred Heart’s starter only made it an out before getting pulled; six Blue Devils had already made it on base, a wild pitch brought Carli Backlund home and Paige Stringer hit a two-run homer to center field. The Blue Devils then loaded up the bases and drew three walks to put three more runs on the board, batting through

the lineup in a single inning and putting seven runs on the board. But the Blue Devils weren’t done yet. With two outs in the bottom of the third, the Blue Devils strung together four straight hits that was capped off by a three-run home run from Backlund. The Blue Devils finished the day with 14 hits. On the mound, CCSU did not walk a single batter. The Blue Devils are a perfect 16-0 now against other Northeast Conference opponents.

“What we’ve been missing the past couple years is an X factor and a willingness to compete. This team definitely has a willingness to compete and come out here and want to win for each and Central,” Gleason said. CCSU will be back in action this weekend against Long Island University. The road series will follow the usual format of four games over two days on Saturday and Sunday.

