

THE RECORDER

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Polish President Makes Historic Visit To New Britain



President Duda is the first foreign head-of-state to visit New Britain.

RYAN JONES | STAFF

Despite arriving 45 minutes later than expected, the crowd was still quick to greet President Duda with a spirited rendition of Poland's national anthem.

Before Duda would greet the thousands gathered, he was welcomed by speakers representing the state. New Britain Mayor Erin Stewart started her speech in Polish, garnering a reassuring thumbs-up from President Duda. Stewart went on to grant the President the key to the city, accompanied by a specially made Stanley Black & Decker tape measurer manufactured in New Britain.

Speaking entirely in Polish, Duda praised the Polish-Americans of New Britain and extended a welcome invitation back to Poland to all of Connecticut's Polish population. The President went on to present awards to leaders within the Polish-American community and enjoyed some traditional Polish performances, such as dancing and singing.

Martin Krawic, Polish immigrant, was one of the many in attendance Sunday.

"Not being in my country for 20 years, having that chance to meet the President of Poland, it's huge," Krawic expressed.

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Enrollment A Main Focus During President Dr. Zulma Toro's Annual Opening Meeting

BY BRUNA VILA ARTIGUES
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

President Dr. Zulma Toro's annual opening meeting debuted with some unpleasant news for the 2019 - 2020 academic year. During the speech, Dr. Toro addressed the low-enrollment of the Fall 2019 semester and its heavy influence on several aspects of the university, such as student retention, campus projects and creative solutions.

Dr. Toro immediately dove into enrollment statistics which are "low in every category."

The total full and part-time enrollment is just over 9,000 and the graduate school's students barely reach over 2,000; the school's combined number of students is 11,154, becoming the

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BY RYAN JONES
SPORTS EDITOR

Thousands of Connecticut's deep rooted Polish community braved the harsh sun Sunday to witness history. Polish President Andrzej Duda's visited Walnut Hill Park to meet the community that makes up 30 percent of New Britain's population, the first time he, or any Polish President,

had visited the state. "This turn out is amazing, people are coming out not only to pay respects to the President but to celebrate Poland and the Polish heritage and traditions that have so enriched this nation," Democratic Senator Richard Blumenthal said in an interview with The Recorder. "We owe so much to people who have come here from Poland and we're celebrating that today,"

Blumenthal said. The Polish population of New Britain has always played a huge part in the telling of the city's history. New Britain has the largest Polish population of any city in Connecticut and five of the city's mayors have been of Polish decent. In 2008, Broad Street and its surrounding area, the epicenter of New Britain's thriving Polish community, was officially dubbed "Little Poland."

Former Student Accused Of Showing Interest In Mass Shooting Had Long, Troubling History

BY SARAH WILLSON
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

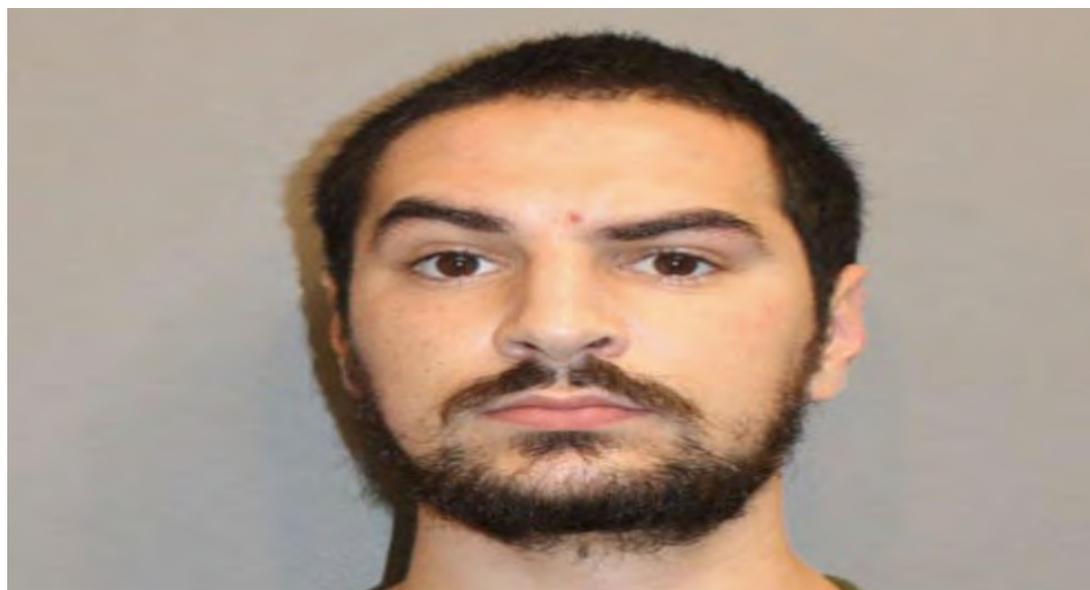
Central Connecticut found itself scrambling to avoid becoming another statistic after a former student charged with possession of high-capacity magazines left a virtual trail of racist and hateful posts and an interest in committing a mass shooting. Alongside with a heavier police presence on and around campus, President Dr. Zulma Toro said CCSU will be informed if Brandon Wagshol, who was released on a \$250,000 bond and is currently on house arrest, is within a certain perimeter of campus.

"We are [also] training, staff, faculty and students... that will educate any individual how to deal with any event like [a mass shooting]," Toro said. "In the case of an event, we have a plan to deal with that, including the

fact that all the police officers now have an iPad with their plans and map of every building [so] it's very easy for them to get to that building immediately."

Wagshol, 22, attended CCSU last spring and was arrested

last month facing charges of possessing large-capacity magazines, raising fears about whether or not CCSU could fall into the hands of the country's next gun massacre — number 284 this year alone.



Former Central student, Brandon Wagshol (above), has been banned from campus.

NORWALK POLICE

What Investigators Discovered:

The arrest and a joint FBI-local police investigation began after a tip that said Wagshol was

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BLUE DEVIL DINNER DOWNTOWN CAUSES A BUZZ



Multiple bee themed statues were unveiled, including a Kizer, the "Blue Devil Bee."

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FOOTBALL FALLS TO EASTERN MICHIGAN



With a last second blocked punt, Central fell to FBS opponent Eastern Michigan.

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@TheRecorder on Twitter

THE RECORDER

Student Center
1615 Stanley Street
New Britain, CT 06050
860.832.3744

editor@centralrecorder.com
centralrecorder.org

Editor-in-Chief

Daniel Fappiano
dan.fappiano@my.ccsu.edu

Managing Editor

Natalie Dest
nataliedest@my.ccsu.edu

News Editor

Bella Chan
chan2017@my.ccsu.edu
Bruna Vila Artigues, Assistant
bruna.vilaartigues@my.ccsu.edu

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Julia Conant
juliaconant@my.ccsu.edu
Carolyn Martin, Assistant
carolyn.martin@my.ccsu.edu

Sports Editor

Ryan Jones,
ryan.michael.jones@my.ccsu.edu
Trevi Alickolli, Assistant
talickolli@my.ccsu.edu

Layout Editor

Mauriah Johnson
mauriah.johnson@my.ccsu.edu

Copy Editor

Kelly Langevin
kelly.langevin@my.ccsu.edu
Jeremy Ganavage
jeremyganavage@my.ccsu.edu

Photography Editor

Julia Jade Moran
julia.j.moran@my.ccsu.edu
Kristina Vakhman
k.vakhman@my.ccsu.edu

Business Manager

Shaina Blakesley
shainab@ccsu.edu

Social Media Editors

Sarah Willson
s.willson@my.ccsu.edu
Bailey Murphy
baileymurphy@my.ccsu.edu

Staff Writers

Kyle Flynn
Shwar Zaidi
Gabriel Anton
Tessa Stack
Melody Rivera
George Attwood
Ava Piotrowski

Connecticut Takes Action Against Climate Change



Sena Water led the rally on Climate Change in front of hundreds upon the Capital Building steps.*

ISABELLA CHAN | STAFF

BY ISABELLA CHAN
NEWS EDITOR

Hundreds of Connecticut high school students and environmental activists rallied together on the steps of the Capitol Building to protest for better action on the climate crisis the world is facing.

They, along with millions across the country, stood with handmade signs saying, “Stop Environmental Racism”, “Save Our Seas” and “Don’t Be A Bottom Feeder!”

The movement, known as the Global Climate Strike, began after 16-year-old Swedish high schooler Greta Thunberg started skipping school on Fridays to protest against Swedish politicians’ unwillingness to address the current climate crisis.

As her efforts to draw awareness to climate change continued, thousands began to join her, thus leading to Friday’s protest - which was joined by over 150 countries and all 50 U.S. states, according to organizers of Global Climate Strike.

The event was held in hopes of encouraging adults to join in and jumpstart the week of events for the United Nations Climate Action Summit, which began on Sept. 23.

15-year-old UCONN freshman Sena Wazer was one of many who helped to organize the event, in hopes of encouraging adults to join in and jumpstart the week of events for the United Nations Climate Action Summit.

She pointed out that the reason for high school students rallying together for such

a cause was because “adults don’t always take action to protect our planet.”

“We do not just want a common denominator out of the White House, we want a climate leader,” Wazer stated. “Perhaps if we had taken action in the past we wouldn’t have to take such drastic action now. But we didn’t and now you chosen it over me and my generation and future generations.”

“We don’t know exactly all the technical challenges of switching to a sustainable world. But we do know we are not fighting for just one community or one generation, we are fighting for all people! And we are working towards clean air, clean water and a livable future for everyone” Wazer proclaimed.

“We are not doing this because it is easy or because it is hard, we are doing this because our future is at stake,” she added.

The UN Summit, which began on Sept. 23, will look to implement the goals of the 2016 Paris Agreement, which will keep the earth’s average temperature “below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.”

Connecticut Senator Matt Lesser believes that Connecticut is working to eventually stop emitting carbon as whole; he added the rally was a great call to action for politicians.

“I think it’s absolutely wonderful that an entire generation is standing up to call on us to act: to call on this state, this country, this world to change the way we’ve been doing things,” Lesser stated.

Lesser emphasized the need to change

the transportation and energy policies within the state. He suggests building a train station in Newington to limit the use of cars, due to their large production of emissions.

“I think what we really need to do is embrace local action, whether it is at the town level or state level we have a responsibility to act no matter what they say in Washington D.C.,” Lesser expressed.

“We have to do everything we can. If they’re not going to lead down in Washington D.C., we’re going to have to lead within the states,” he continued.

Although Governor Ned Lamont was not in attendance, he did issue a statement addressing the “significant threat” climate change plays on Connecticut’s quality of life following the rally.

“It is irresponsible to push these issues down the road for future generations to tackle and solve. That’s why we must act now,” Lamont stated. “Connecticut is leading the charge in charting a path toward a cleaner, healthier community through our commitment to a zero-carbon electric grid by 2040 and to alternative energy sources, like the bipartisan support for offshore wind.”

Many of the activists argued that the Lamont’s plan for climate action by 2040 was too late especially after the UN announced people only have 11 years to make a change.

“In 11 years from now, I will be 26 and my sister will be 24, and I still want a safe future for us and rest of our generation at that time,” Wazer stated. “We will not take no for an answer.”

CHAN2017@MY.CCSU.EDU

About

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SGA Briefs

BY KRISTINA VAKHMAN
NEWS EDITOR

The Student Government Association meets every Wednesday at 3:05 p.m. in Bellin A and B in the Student Center. These briefs are from the SGA’s meeting on Sept. 18.

- Senator Melody Rivera was elected vice-chair of the Finance Committee.
- A motion to allocate \$3,370.00 to the AcaBellas for conference registration and airfare passed.
- A motion to allocate \$1,202.00 for ReCentral to purchase Blue Devil horns passed.
 - A motion to allow tied position nominees the opportunity to speak again for 5 minutes and for the chairperson of the SGA to cast a tie-breaking vote in the event of another tie passed.
- A motion to strike the Board of Regents Student Advisory Committee Membership election passed.
- A motion to make the Board of Regents Student Advisory Committee membership a Senate-appointed position, where any student is eligible to apply and be possibly nominated and voted in, passed; it will take effect in 2020.

What’s New, CCSU?

BY ISABELLA CHAN
NEWS EDITOR

- CCSU’s ‘Days of Service’ jumpstarts Friday.
- Meet the Greeks, Thursday, Sept. 26, 8 p.m. in Semesters.
- Adriano George and the Groove Brotherhood will be performing in Welte Auditorium, Sept. 26.
- Music of Polish Renaissance, Sept. 26, 7 p.m. Founders.
- Ray Crothers Memorial 5k X-C race will be held in Stanley Quarter Park, Sept. 28, race fees will be \$20.



Enrollment A Main Focus During President Dr. Zulma Toro's Annual Opening Meeting

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President Dr. Zulma Toro addressed the university's low enrollment rate.

BRUNA VILA ARTIGUES | STAFF

lowest enrollment since 1978, according to Dr. Toro.

She highlighted that the main problem being only 72 percent of first-year students returned for a second year.

"We have quite a climb ahead of us," Dr. Toro admitted, however she also believed there was good news with the past year.

Compared to the 2013 retention rate of first-year full-time students, which was 80 percent, the increase in the 4 and 6-year graduation rates appears to be moving up, thus demonstrating that the school can achieve higher rates when the retention rate reaches this percentage.

In fact, she set the strategic goal for the first-year's retention to 85 percent.

"Our minority enrollment continues to edge off," Dr. Toro continued, "38 percent of our first-year full-time class are students of color, and overall, the number is 35 percent."

She added if the school can grow the full-time Hispanic number from 20 percent to 25 percent, it can earn the designation of a Hispanic-serving institution and the right to apply for significant federal Title III and Title V grants.

Moving forward, Central will continue to invest and support certain areas such as enrollment management and strategic academic innovation that will help them cultivate enrollment and make the campus more inclusive.

"I think that we can all do the math, fewer students meant a reduction in revenue," Dr. Toro said. "We need to reduce spending by 1.4 million dollars, but we are not making across the board cuts."

"It is clear we cannot continue to operate in the same manner that we did five or even two years ago," Dr. Toro said. "The landscape is changing. We

are dealing with a generation of students whose expectations and needs are significantly different."

When it comes to enrollment, launching a more aggressive campaign to reduce out-of-state tuition for all New England students was stated. Retention will involve implementing a "First-Year Connect" which involves volunteers connecting with first-year students.

Dr. Toro described "First-Year Connect" as a one-year grant, up to \$10,000, as well as another approach- the creation of the Circle of Care Initiative to provide students with basic needs that they can not obtain on their own.

The new programs include a drop off child care center on the edge of campus starting in January.

"The School of Education and Professional Studies will run the center and, in doing so, will create new internships and clinical and work-study

opportunities for our students," Toro added.

New developments have been arising to implement change and opportunities, including a new esports curriculum developing grant and a graduate-level certificate in business leadership. Along with that, the department of geography is working to establish an undergraduate certificate, construction management is developing a doctoral program and the establishment of pathways between community colleges and centers is emerging.

In June, Central Connecticut, signed an articulation agreement with Manchester Community College to provide a smooth transition for students who wish to pursue Tourism and Hospitality Studies.

Also, the School of Business is expanding to Tunxis Community College and allowing students who earn business degrees there to complete a Bachelor of Science in management and organization from Central Connecticut. This will take action in Fall 2020.

Dr. Toro calls one of the most important things to keep Central students returning is to lend comfort and support to our Central family.

"We must use and enforce an inclusive and safe campus where everyone is valued and can participate in a free and respectful exchange of ideas," Dr. Toro stated.

"We have the capacity for establishing a new model of higher education for the 21st century," Dr. Toro continued. "We are a public institution committed to its responsibilities as a drive new force and enabler of social mobility and a committed community partner."

"After all, we are all part of the same family. After all, we are the central family," she finished.

@BRUNAVILA

Connecticut College Students Contribute Largely To State Transport Ridership

BY KRISTINA VAKHMAN
PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Public transportation is winning in Connecticut and it has college students to thank for that.

"[I take public transportation] probably almost every day," Central Connecticut history major John Carpa said.

Nationwide, bus ridership has been declining for years, with the United States Congressional Research Service reporting in 2018 that "ridership nationally declined by 7% over the past decade." But that is not the case in Connecticut – the American Public Transportation found that bus ridership in Connecticut was up by over 5 percent in 2018.

More than half of the passengers on Connecticut's bus lines are college students taking advantage of the U-Pass program, according to the Hartford Courant.

Additionally, rails have seen major booms with student riders, surpassing even the Connecticut's Department of Transportation Service's expectations. The train from New Haven to Hartford that opened last June was so full that conductors "kicked off students using GO passes, telling them to wait for the next train," the CT Post reported.

Carpa, like other CCSU students who utilize the state's transportation services, has a U-Pass that allows unlimited access to rides for a \$20-per-semester "transportation fee." For him, the U-Pass is more than

just a way to get to campus – as someone diagnosed with epilepsy, he cannot drive per Connecticut law and thus uses public transportation for "pretty much everything."

"It's very handy," Carpa said. The campus is a 20-minute walk from his house and the bus ride makes for an easy commute for that reasonable \$20 price. "I'm a student worker, so a [regular] bus pass would really be a hindrance in price. [I also use it for rides to] the grocery store, to the doctor's, wherever I would need to go."

Connecticut put off having a U-Pass program because of the 2016 budget crisis, but the demand in the service the state is seeing currently speaks to the effectiveness of its implementation. In addition to Central, the program now also extends to Southern Connecticut and to the state's community colleges, as well as to the University of Connecticut and its branches.

More than 115,000 riders leveraged the buses connecting UConn campuses in the line's first year of operation, according to former Governor Dannel Malloy's office. Private institutions like Sacred Heart University want their students to have the opportunity to participate in the program as well, the Courant wrote.

As of the Fall 2017 semester, CCSU has "enough passes for all undergraduate students," according to the Card Office's Director of Auxiliary Services Thomas King.

"Prior to that, we were limited to 1,000 per semester," King said. That Fall 2017 semester, he said, the Card

Office issued 2,029 passes compared to Spring 2017's 989. In the Fall 2018 semester, the number was still high at 1,940 passes, while Spring 2018 saw 1,465 and Spring 2019 issued 1,338.

"The more I use public transportation, the more cost effective my U-Pass becomes," Demitric Baez, also a CCSU student and an accounting major, said.

Before he got a car, Baez used public transportation weekly. He still makes use of rides on express and local buses, the CTRail, Amtrak and Metro-North twice a week because he "likes" it and its convenience.

"I can let someone else drive when I enjoy the scenery, plus I save gas money by doing so and using public transportation is more environmentally friendly," Baez stated. "It is helpful because in the event that my car breaks down, I'm too anxious to drive or I just want to observe the scenery while someone else is at the wheel, public transportation is available to me."

And now that Baez is going to be driving buses himself as his new job, experiencing the commute from the eyes of his future riders is important.

"I've always had an interest in trains and buses as a child," he said. "As someone who will be operating the New Britain city buses later this year, I get to observe what I'll encounter on the job."

Connecticut government figures project that as more students pocket U-Passes, the trend in rising ridership will only continue.

@KRISDVP

Polish President Makes Historic Visit To New Britain

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President Duda (above), gave his entire speech in Polish.

RYAN JONES | STAFF

He continued with high praise for the work Duda has done in his homeland. “In Europe we are becoming a strong country,”

Krawic said. “The absolute opposite of when I left, so for me it’s huge.”

“They wake up our spirits. You feel

pride in being a Polish citizen,” Krawic added.

While his Walnut Hill stop had the largest turnout, the head-of-state first made other stops in New Britain.

Duda attended a packed mass at Sacred Heart Church, who has housed the Catholic Polish since its first construction in 1896. He went on to visit Central Connecticut State University’s Polish Studies office.

CCSU’s Polish Studies Program was founded in 1974 by the late Dr. Stanislaus A. Blejwas. Blejwas was the first person designated a Connecticut State University professor by the CSU System (per CCSU).

Duda met with Dr. M.B. Biskupski, the Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies.

“The Polish Studies Program here is very old and to be recognized by the President of Poland, it indicates that Poland knows about the program here and the President of Poland wants to acknowledge its,” Biskupski said. “That’s a compliment beyond anything the Polish

Studies program has ever had.”

“The fact that the president of the country I love would come to CCSU is not only an honor, but it’s also very moving,” Biskupski said.

Historian Troy Kennard was also in attendance of the festivities at Walnut Park Sunday to watch “history in the making.”

“It’s a great thing that President Duda has come here and recognized the growing Polish community. Poland and the United States have always had a spirit of cooperation,” Kennard said, citing the Revolutionary War as an example.

“Without their contributions, we might not have a country here...We’ve always had great relations with Poland and I hope this is another building block on that movement.”

To cap off his visit, President Duda visited a local restaurant in New Britain’s Little Poland just before getting back on the road. Following his Connecticut visit, Duda will be traveling New York to attend the United Nations’ General Assembly.

@RYANJONES385

Former Student Accused Of Showing Interest In Mass Shooting Had Long, Troubling History

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1



attempting to obtain “large-capacity rifle magazines from out of state,” according to Norwalk Police. Police said that Wagshol was buying rifle parts online in an attempt to build his own rifle, possibly an AK-47, and had a Facebook post that showed his interest in carrying out a mass shooting.

Police did not provide details on what the Facebook post said.

After searching Wagshol’s home, police said they found multiple guns, armor and tactical equipment, including 300 Blackout rounds of ammunition. The firearms were registered to Wagshol’s father, though Wagshol had access to them.

Wagshol was a full-time student at Central living in Thomas Gallaudet Residence Hall. Halfway through the spring semester, Ivan Gotchev, Wagshol’s math professor, said Wagshol stopped showing up to class. Though not heavily involved on campus, he was outspoken online, particularly on Twitter.

Wagshol left behind a number of racist tweets, including one that read “I hate n---ers.” He also appeared to have an evident hatred for the LGBTQ+ community and a fixation on the FBI.

A Troubling History:

Court documents show Wagshol had an “extensive” history with police that dates back to 2008. According to the documents, a parent advised to Norwalk Police that Wagshol “always had a fascination with guns, knives and violence.” Wagshol was investigated for the first time at the age of 11 for threatening to stab and shoot his classmates.

Documents show that students in school also said they heard Wagshol talking about stabbing and shooting people and that he said he would make the Virginia Tech campus shooting, which killed 33, “look like nothing.”

Alongside verbal threats, investigators found a “threatening” Facebook profile, that was later identified as Wagshol’s, contained “alarming” photos and the words “PLANNING MASS MURDER!!!!” and “IM GENOCIDAL.”

When asked if Wagshol had thoughts of killing people he responded “not really,” documents show.

Police also went to Wagshol’s home in September 2013 after he called in a burglary. Wagshol said he cut the burglar with an ax, diverting the incident, but later admitted nothing happened and that he was having a “lucid dream.”

Wagshol was also involved in two domestic incidents, one in 2015 in which police seized firearms, and another last year in which Wagshol was arrested after becoming “enraged over household issues” and knocking over a table in the living room.

Wagshol’s mother, who was interviewed by investigators, said she could not say “no” when asked whether or not her son was capable of carrying out a mass shooting. She also said that her son was “infatuated” with guns and that he had been previously expelled from school for researching the costs of guns on a school computer.

Relatives also told police that they stopped having Wagshol over for Thanksgiving dinner because of his

“scary odd behavior.”

Court records stated that Wagshol was diagnosed with “oppositional defiant disorder” at a young age. Wagshol had been previously committed to psychiatric treatment against his will after attempting to “force” his way into a Stamford bank.

Social Media Accounts Filled With Hate:

Wagshol had multiple social media accounts that contained hateful and racist posts, including ones in which he said that transgender individuals were “worthy of a gas chamber.”

Though Wagshol’s social media posts outlined a man filled with hate, two of his friends from Gallaudet Hall, who asked to remain anonymous for safety reasons, said Wagshol was different in person and that he was just being “kooky” online.

“The best way to put it would be just off-color humor,” one friend said.

“I think it’s humor. Of course, I also think the humor derives from his political standing [which is] probably not in favor of trans rights,” the second friend added.

Despite this, Wagshol’s friends said that he was often put in a “liberal environment” when socializing with others in his residence hall and that he never seemed “pestered” by it.

When asked if Wagshol would ever carry out a mass shooting, the two friends, who said they knew Wagshol owned guns, replied “never.”

Both friends said they believe that Wagshol may have begun to “spiral” during the summer months due to a “lack of communication” followed by “isolation.”

“Brandon simply didn’t have any outlets to communicate with friends or to be able to understand what is and what is not acceptable,” one friend said. “I can’t prove that [he was socially isolated], but I’m assuming so.”

“There is no intention of this man committing anything violent from what I’ve seen,” the second friend said. “I think it was a cry for attention.”

No ‘Imminent Threat’ To CCSU:

“I can tell you there was no information that confirmed that [Wagshol] was an imminent threat to CCSU because we have information about that,” Toro said. “We have processes and systems in place that allow us to assess the level of risk and threat that somebody represents. And then we took the appropriate actions based on that information we had.”

Toro said not every student is run through the risk-assessment process, though students with “red flags,” which include any previous convictions or any disciplinary action in previous institutions, are.

Though Toro said there is no imminent threat to campus, she acknowledged that a shooting can happen at “any institution.”

Wagshol was reached out for comment but did not respond. His next court appearance is Oct. 4.

@SARAHWILLSON



News In Brief

BY SARAH WILLSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

One Dead After EEE Case In State, Second Hospitalized:

One man has died after nearly 100 mosquitos tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis, also known as EEE, NBC Connecticut reported.

Four reports of EEE came from the Pawcatuck River in North Stonington, five at Bell Cedar Swamp, three at Cedar Swamp in Plainfield and one at Stonington High School, NBC CT said.

The person who died from EEE last week has only been identified as a man from East Lyme. A second person who contracted the virus is also from East Lyme and is currently hospitalized.

Though EEE is considered rare, 30 percent of the people who catch it will die. Those who survive are likely to live with ongoing neurological problems, as the virus causes brain infections.

At Least Five Dead From Historic Texas Floods:

One of the “wettest tropical cyclones” in U.S. history has claimed its fifth victim in east Texas — a 52-year-old man found stranded in a pickup truck, CNN reported.

Hundreds of other homes and buildings have been destroyed in the flood caused by Tropical Storm Imelda, which has dumped more than 40 inches of rain in some parts of the state.

The heaviest of the rainfall has moved out of eastern Texas, but meteorologists warn that parts of northeast Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Louisiana could still see flash flooding, CNN said.

U.S. Deploys Troops To Saudi Arabia:

The United States will send an unknown number of troops to Saudi Arabia in response to the attacks against the country’s oil infrastructure.

Secretary of Defense Mark Esper announced the deployment late last week during an unscheduled press conference.

Yemen’s Iran-backed Houthi rebels claimed responsibility for the attack on the Kingdom’s two oil facilities 11 days ago, though both the U.S. and Saudi Arabia have blamed Iran for the incidents, BBC News reported.

Just on Friday, President Donald Trump announced new sanctions of the “highest level” against Iran that will primarily target the country’s central bank and sovereign wealth fund, BBC News said.

Esper said the primary goal in sending troops overseas will be to focus on increasing air and missile defense.

@SARAHWILLSON

CCSU’s Theater Department Hires Experience And Excitement To Rebuild The Program



Wesley Borulik

BY BRUNA VILA ARTIGUES
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Theater Department at Central Connecticut has hired three new professors to fill in for the opening positions to renovate and improve the program and curriculum.

Christie Maturo and Wesley Borulik are two of the new faces being brought into the program.

Acting has brought new CCSU theater professor Christie Maturo to all over the country; from Las Vegas to Chicago and Texas and now she is ready to come back home to the east coast.

After spending four years at a smaller and remote school in central Texas, Maturo “missed the North-East culture, being close to cities, concerts, music, theater, comedy and good food.”

Central Texas was like a desert land; just getting from her car to the air conditioning at home was draining. Maturo loves to hike and be outside, so Connecticut’s hiking trails, scenery and outdoors are, “already making her feel like she has more energy.”

“I was super thrilled to get this offer,”

Maturo continued. “It checked off all the things that I was looking for: a state school, a department of under 100 students, a liberal arts college, MPA and MPFA programs.”

Maturo added that with CCSU being a bigger school, people do not get burned out as quickly with all of the things that are going on this semester such as clubs and two different shows.

In fact, besides teaching Acting I, II, and Voice; Maturo is directing the first show that will go up in October, “Lend Me a Tenor,” a physical comedy, which is her specialty and favorite thing.

Along with the university’s size, Maturo mentions that CCSU’s location also makes a difference for students.

“Where I taught before was really remote, so a lot of my theater major hadn’t seen much theater,” Maturo explained.

Many of the students had done theater in high school and college, but had little experience with professional shows. However, here in Connecticut, Maturo has found more students have witnessed more shows and, therefore, know the new works and what is big on the art scene.

When it comes to this new academic year, the department wants to find consistency for classes, so that “students feel like they have a streamline planned on how to move through the program and that we have a streamlined curriculum and basis to get them from point A to graduation,” Maturo explained.

“I just want to make art with these students and meet them wherever they are,” Maturo said. “I don’t want to diminish anything they have done and celebrate all the victories that they have had.”

“What else can I offer to your toolbox of acting techniques?” Maturo concluded.

Along with Maturo, the department welcomed Wesley Borulik.

In his portfolio, Borulik has a experience plethora of experience as a working artist in off-Broadway, national tours, large regional theaters, like the Shakespeare Theater in Washington D.C., as well as films and television series for 20 years now.

Although he came from a much bigger

alma mater, University of Nebraska, Borulik looked at this position as an opportunity for his family to move back to the East Coast with his living grandparents.

Borulik is very excited about the new program.

“When you are hiring a bunch of new faculty like this place is, it is a huge opportunity to build your own world and make it the program and place you want it to be, because you’re not dealing with 10, 20, 30 years of institutionalized entrenchment,” Borulik said.

“Nothing against senior faculty,” he explained, “but opportunities like this come every once in a while.”

Borulik’s experience is in building and growing programs, as well as in teaching in a wide variety of places. Some of his best assets vary from conservatories to liberal arts programs.

He believes teaching is a legit link vocation or calling, not something you can take lightly.

“I love fostering young artists, seeing them grow and helping them find opportunities,” Borulik said. “To me it is really exciting and personally rewarding.”



Christie Maturo

LGBTQ Center Works To Normalize Pronoun Usage

BY JULIA CONANT
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Central Connecticut’s LGBT Center took to the Student Center with their “Pronoun Etiquette Campaign” to spread awareness and help people’s understanding of pronoun usage.

Throughout the month of Sept., the center promoted the idea of normalizing introductions while using one’s preferred pronouns.

The three most commonly used pronouns are she, he and they. For people who identify with the gender they were assigned at birth (also known as cisgender), stating their pronouns may not be a concern, as most people probably guess them correctly.

However, according to GLAAD, transgender people have a higher chance of being referred to as the wrong gender or having someone use the wrong pronouns to describe them. When transgender people are the only ones who have to introduce themselves with their pronouns, it can be isolating and can also cause someone to inadvertently out themselves as transgender.

“When you have to introduce yourself with a pronoun that may not match your assigned gender at birth or how you’re presenting [yourself] at the time, it can be kind of intimidating going into a cis dominated space,” Central student Amara Osorio said. “You’re the only one who has to introduce your pronouns because you’re the ‘other.’”

To avoid the feeling of being the only “other” in the room, the LGBT Center encourages cisgender people to introduce themselves with their pronouns as well.

“If we get everyone to start using their pronouns, then we bring everyone to the same level,” Osorio said. “We’re eliminating that fear of rejection and confusion from cis people and just creating an environment where everyone can get over the introductions and just validate each other.”

LGBT Center member Myles Place shared that some CCSU staff members are signing off their emails with their preferred pronouns despite being cisgender, which is a step in the right direction for the campaign.

“We’re heading towards the goal of it

being a cultural practice,” Place, Central student, said. “So that someone isn’t inherently outed as trans or someone doesn’t get harassment or eyebrow raises or ‘What’s a pronoun?’”

The Pronoun Etiquette Campaign table gives out useful information on pronoun usage along with buttons with pronouns on them. Those who visited the table who encouraged to take one that matched their pronouns.

Putting a button on a shirt or backpack, especially for those that are cisgender, is a way to support the campaign and promote correct pronoun usage. It can also start a conversation about pronouns, spreading the knowledge of them and created a well-informed environment.

“Having these conversations helps normalize the topic of pronouns,” Central student Reanna Leary said.

For more information on the campaign, visit the LGBT Center on the third floor of the Student Center.

There will also be an upcoming LGBT Center event at the end of the month: Welcome Back Dinner and Bingo Night on Monday, Sept. 30 at 5 p.m.

JULIACONANT@MY.CCSU.EDU

EDITORIAL

SNL Made Right Decision On Shane Gillis

Almost as quick as he was hired, comedian Shane Gillis was fired from Saturday Night Live after videos surfaced of him using a racial slur. Gillis openly lambasted the Chinese, mocking their accents.

SNL decided that Gillis' actions were reason enough to not bring him onto the show. The show's executives sent out a statement that read in part, "The language he used is offensive, hurtful and unacceptable. We are sorry we did not see the clips earlier, and that our vetting process was not up to standard."

With comedians like Dave Chapelle and Bill Burr recently releasing new stand-up material, the idea of "dark humor" has become more mainstream. All three said something completely against our politically correct society in the name of comedy.

While one could argue that what they're doing/saying is satire, satire only goes so far. It's hard to argue satire when someone like Gillis is mocking an entire culture.

If the only way a comedian gets laughs is by saying something inappropriately outrageous, they do not understand real humor. Being comedic doesn't mean being outlandish. Being openly disrespectful in an effort to be funny should not fall under satire.

In Gillis' video he is heard openly complaining about Chinatown, referring to noodles as "nooders" and openly mocking their service industry. At no point does he preface his words or hold any punches, he was openly racist all to get a few laughs.

In his apology, Gillis writes, "I'm a comedian who pushes boundaries, sometimes I might miss."

However, as we enter a more PC world, "misses" that include denigrating an entire society aren't just a normal mistake. Words have meanings and words have true consequences. Having a joke flop is nothing compared to spewing hate speech.

SNL is an opportunity to help comedians grow. Some have been able to translate their SNL success to big-time solo careers. The show is a privilege and not a right. Gillis abused his privilege.

Gillis should be given an opportunity to change and improve as a comedian and person. That being said, his one major "miss" deserved to cost him his spot on SNL.

A comedians role is to be funny, to make people laugh. However one does that is up to them. Yet, a comedian shouldn't have to berate an entire community to tell a joke. It is ok to push boundaries - the funniest jokes are usually the least clean - however, there is a way to be respectful. Openly mocking another culture just shows that a comedian is unable to make jokes on their own and must resort to making people laugh due to shock factor.

It's unlikely that Gillis truly hated Chinese people. However, in that moment, he made a decision that showed the true colors of some comedians and eventually cost him his role at SNL.

Editor's Column: Student Newspapers Are Real News

BY DANIEL FAPPIANO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

During my three years at The Recorder, I've often heard the newspaper's credibility called into question since it is student-run. Some say that we are not a real news source whereas others say that what we do doesn't matter.

Both all of those opinions are utterly false.

The Recorder may be student-run, but that doesn't make any of the work done thus far any less credible. Student journalism is still journalism.

Multiple different people at The Recorder have broken important news stories that many others may not have heard about if it wasn't for what our staff has been doing.

While at The Recorder, Ruth Bruno released a report detailing sexual assault allegations levied against then Theater professor, Joshua Perlstein. She was credited in the Hartford Courant as being the first to report. Without Bruno's immersive report, the victim's stories may have never been told.

Both Sarah Willson and Kristina Vakhman - who are still at The Recorder - were one of the first to report on the rape allegations involving Central Connecticut's police station. They were willing to do the digging and find the facts.

Other reports such as Tyler Roaix's story about the Athletics Department or Angela Fortuna and Shaina Blakesley's story about the Dance Education department, all broke real news and all told true stories. What they did, was real journalism.

All those stories and many more make up what The Recorder is today. Our only goal is to continue to report on everything about CCSU with the same vigor as those of the past.

Being a student does not make anyone less of a journalist. They are still on the ground, every day, covering many of the same stories that would run in the Hartford Courant or the New Britain Herald.

They are able to hear everything going on on-campus. They're able to make better

connections and acquire more sources since they are the first to hear of them.

In approaching any story, those journalists don't need to be treated differently, as they are true news sources reporting on a story.

The Recorder is an opportunity for potential journalists to improve, we are bound to make mistakes. However, our mistakes do not define us. What does is the week-in and week-out coverage of this campus.

Whenever a major event happens on campus, The Recorder is always there. We know what is happening because we are students and we know who to talk to. Our coverage grows at the same rate as our journalists.

What Ruth Bruno wrote made a huge impact on the Central campus. She broke a story before any other news outlet could and proved The Recorder does and will report the facts.

However, we should not have to prove anything in the first place. Every week, every issue, The Recorder reports on the biggest news on campus. That will never change.

If we continue to prove how credible The Recorder is, maybe people's perceptions of student journalists will.

@DFAPPIANO14

Sorry Bill Maher But Fat Shaming Is Never The Answer

BY KELLY LANGEVIN
COPY EDITOR

Bill Maher's disgusting take on obesity has turned into "fat-shaming is okay" which sent James Corden and myself into a spiral of disbelief that a tv show host could advocate for such harmful behavior.

"Some amount of shame is good," Maher said.

Corden knocked those comments deep into the ground and stomped all over them coming back with saying, "if making fun of fat people made them lose weight, there'd be no fat kids in school, and I'd have a six pack right now."

The Late Late Show host noted that any time he spoke to Maher it was always pleasant, however, using his platform to tell America that fat-shaming should return did not sit well with Corden.

Using humor to pick and prod at himself, Corden got to the core of issue-shaming, pointing out that the negativity will not "cure" someone from being overweight.

"There's a common misconception that fat people are stupid and lazy and we're not," Corden said with a slight smirk. "We get it. We know that being overweight isn't good for us. I've struggled with my weight my whole life. I've had good days and bad months."

Diets are hard and some people just can't seem to stick with them. But that doesn't mean they're lazy and stupid, a bias many people have ingrained in their minds just like Corden said.

"I've basically been off and on diets for as long as I can remember, and, well, this is how it's going," Corden said using his hands to show the audience his body.

Corden makes a point here. One reason why people might quit their diet is they picked a diet that does not support their body type so they can't follow through, thus making it super hard on themselves.



Bill Maher's remark about "fat shaming" sparked a war with James Corden.

SALON

According to research from the University of California-Los Angeles, most people may lose up to 5-10 pounds from their diet but on average, most people gain the weight back with a little more added.

Many things can factor into why a diet doesn't work, but the point is, not every person who is overweight is doing nothing to fix it and shaming the people who are and aren't is just not the answer.

Why?

"We're not all lucky like Maher. We don't all have a sense of superiority that burns 35,000 calories a day," Corden joked.

Although Corden said he recognized that Maher's segment could have been displaying, "tough love," shaming is not how to approach obesity. When Maher was preaching about "tough love," he didn't consider what shaming others for their weight can actually do.

"Fat shaming only does one thing. It makes people feel ashamed and shame leads to depression anxiety and self-destructive behavior. Self-destructive behavior can be overeating," Corden said.

"We use this term fat-shaming. We have come up with a name for it. But let's be honest, fat-shaming is just bullying. That's

what it is, it's bullying, and bullying only makes the problem worse," Corden said.

According to Penn Medicine News, studies have shown that being exposed to weight-related bullying can negatively harm someone in regards to their mental and physical health. People who experience weight-related bullying could eventually have a physiological stress response such as increased inflammation and cortisol levels," the Penn Medicine News article stated. Due to such medical conditions, overeating or inability to exercise can ensue.

With such a negative message being sent out into the world, Maher is creating inappropriate, unrealistic ideals to a younger crowd.

Obese kids who are victims of bullying because of their weight are 2-3 times more likely to report that they have experienced suicidal thoughts or engaged in behaviors such as cutting themselves, Nationwide Children's article states.

Obesity in America is a health issue that needs to be talked about. It comes down to: fat-shaming is just bullying and perpetrators like Bill Maher get stopped by broadcasting their message.

@KELLYLANGEVIN2

Student Debt Will Be The Death Of Me

BY ISABELLA CHAN
NEWS EDITOR

I remember sitting down with my parents while applying to colleges and calculating in my head where I would go off to school. It wasn't about where I would find the most success but in where I would end up less in debt.

All of them, even the in-state universities, were unrealistically priced. There was no doubt in my mind that I would take out student loans in order to receive a higher education and I had to be okay with that because that was the reality for the millions of others pursuing the same dream.

My student loans contributed to the \$1.57 trillion Americans owed at the end of 2018, according to the Federal Reserves. To be exact, the average student debt in Connecticut is \$38,669, according to The Institute for College Access & Success, and is one of the highest in the country.

Even if I earned a salary of \$60,000 right after graduating and made payments of \$500 per month, I would still be paying off that \$38,669 for over 8 years. Including the Stafford interest rate of 6.8 percent, my cumulative payments would be \$51,029.06.

This in itself isn't realistic at any point since the average American salary is \$46,800, according to The Street.

My education should not come at the cost of my livelihood later in life, nor should it be that way for anyone else. America's higher education system is in need of a makeover and not just a simple haircut with highlights, I'm talking full on Queer Eye takeover.

Throughout the country, states vary on their solutions to reducing/eliminating student loan debt.

Governor Gretchen Whitmer is pushing to provide debt-free tuition to high school graduates and adults, along with offering \$2,500 scholarship to nonprofit or public four-year universities.

New Jersey government is looking to create a tuition-free community college program in order to have 65 percent of "adult population earn a post-secondary degree by 2025."

Along with reforming higher education on the state level, some presidential candidates are looking to make change on a nationwide.

Democratic candidates Senator Elizabeth Warren and Senator Bernie Sanders, are advocating for public colleges to become tuition free or at least reduce tuition to the point where loans will be unnecessary.

"In a generation hard hit by the Wall Street crash of 2008, it forgives all student debt and ends the absurdity of



Connecticut has one of the highest average of student debt in the country.

BIG STOCK PHOTO

sentencing an entire generation to a lifetime of debt for the 'crime' of getting a college education," Sanders stated in an interview with the Washington Post.

Sanders is pushing to eliminate all \$1.57 trillion to relieve those in debt basically overnight. As lovely as his plan is, I don't believe it will be that easy to accomplish nor is it entirely the government's fault to fix the system.

Universities are the ones setting the high price so they should be the ones fixing the problem. If there are graduates filing for bankruptcy while receiving their diploma then universities should rethink their methods.

Holding the colleges and universities accountable should come first, forcing them to implement better forgiveness policies in order to eliminate some of the debt should be the first step. Once the debt is substantially

reduced then the process to eliminate student loan debt through government funding would be lighter.

Don't get me wrong, I would love to remove all of my student debt in the blink of an eye, but the United States government is in no financial state to perform such an act for all millions of people suffering along with me.

The steps needed in order to get through this student loan debt are not simple but something needs to happen soon to save me from this crippling financial death.

Until the U.S. government decides to turn around the higher education system, my only hope will be for a stranger to kindly donate \$30 million to the coming graduating classes at CCSU. I wish this good fortune onto the fellow members of the CCSU community.

CHAN2017@MY.CCSU.EDU

Letter To The Editor

During the past year, event planning and coordination have changed dramatically as we know it and see it happening on campus.

In the past, CCSU's event planning and production ran mostly through the previous Event Management office and some through the Central Reservation Office (CRO).

Since President Dr. Zulma Toro's arrival as President of our university, she has changed the system due to budgeting, revenue and complaints-coming mostly from faculty and clubs-putting an end to the way the system was running for over 20 years.

Over the summer of 2019, President Toro announced the new and "improved" model which put CRO in charge of booking all events along with almost all of production. However, the part overlooked was the production that has always come out of Event Management (EM) ran by Dr. Scott McKenna.

In years past, EM has employed over 30 students as well as 3 university assistants and 2 full-time employees. With the change, they now have approximately 10

students, 2 university assistants and 1 full-time member.

Kathy Poirier, Interim Director of the Student Center, has since taken over duties of event planning on campus, where she seems to be doing quite well. The full transition was performed during the first week of this fall's semester.

One club president (he/she wishes to remain anonymous to keep from being blackballed), was refused an outdoor setup "because we didn't tell them what we needed 3 weeks ahead of time."

They then proceeded to share, "We never had a problem getting equipment when EM was in charge and we constantly told them days ahead of time." As like any new system, kinks have to get resolved.

This article is not to bash either side of the table; however, as an invested member of this CCSU family, both sides are at fault. Both department's students are suffering over the political turmoil of the change and is undoubtedly impacting student's education.

During this transition I've talked to many students on both sides. Almost all say, "this is so dumb," and "the old

system wasn't broken."

My question to Dr. Toro and the event planning committee (the team given the task of fixing the issue) is, why have you still not asked the students who actually produce these events how they feel? For an administration that says they care for the student body, why were they not consulted on a larger scale?

Fix these issues.

In a place where students tend to be tight for money and don't have another option as a place of employment, having to deal with the inconsistencies of this change is very difficult, especially when no one seems to have answers as to what is happening.

Students do your part and change our campus. Make it better and don't accept anything less.

Until next week...

- Anonymous

@TheRecorder on Twitter

Course Abroad Fair Opens Opportunities For Students



Students line up to learn about taking a course abroad.

AVA PIOTROWSKI | STAFF

STORY BY AVA PIOTROWSKI
STAFF WRITER

If you have ever wanted to study in another country, last Tuesday's Course Abroad Fair was for you.

On Tues. Sept. 17 the Center for International Education presented the Course Abroad Fair. Many tables set up for various countries and cities. These included London, Belize, Azores, Spain, South Africa and Bolivia, to name a few. Each table featured a pamphlet explaining the courses that would be available as well as a larger pamphlet outlining details such as the cost and dates of

the trip.

Many students wanted to travel to places that would be a cultural immersion in a variety of different ways. This would give them the ability to interact and learn the different values in different places.

"I would like to go to Japan," Sam Black (freshman) said. "I want to learn Japanese, as well as get to know the culture better." Black explained that understanding the culture would help in understanding the values behind it.

"I'm interested in Italy because I want to immerse myself in different cultures," Maddie Ceci (freshman)

said. "And my family also came from Italy."

MaryAnn Mahony, a History professor at Central, represented the abroad trip to Brazil. She talked about the many different benefits one would get out of going abroad to Brazil to take a course. One of these benefits is that the trip can either fill a Study Area Two requirement or an Education requirement.

"[The trip] is designed around multicultural education in Brazil," Mahony said. "Students at Central need to be prepared to live and work in a multicultural society. Brazil is one of those places where they can see how other people do it. Anybody who wants to really be prepared for the job marketing in Connecticut needs not only to be prepared to work with a Spanish speaking population, but with a Portuguese and Brazilian Portuguese speaking population."

Mahony then discussed the mechanics of the abroad trip to Brazil.

"We are going to partner with the State University of Santa Cruz in Northeastern Brazil," Mahony said. "They have a big program for applied foreign languages, including English. Since most of our students speak English and most of the students in Brazil don't, we are going to put them all together."

Mahony spent her junior year of college studying abroad in Spain. She said that it really does change your life.

Ultimately, if you ever wanted to do a course abroad then this fair was for you. Going abroad will expand your view of different countries and help you understand the values of the countries at a higher level. Each course you take in a different city or country aims to expand your knowledge of that course as well gaining knowledge from different people outside of your own culture.

Central Takes On 'The Handmaid's Tale'



The contributors of "The Handmaid's Tale: Teaching Dystopia, Feminism, and Resistance Across Disciplines and Borders."

STORY AND PHOTOS BY TESSA STACK
STAFF WRITER

Last Monday, a book release party was held for the book, "The Handmaid's Tale: Teaching Dystopia, Feminism, and Resistance Across Disciplines and Borders" in the Connecticut Room. The book was almost entirely created by the Central Connecticut faculty and alumni in a collection of essays regarding "The Handmaid's Tale."

"The Handmaid's Tale" is both a Hulu original series and book from the mind of Margaret Atwood. It takes place in a totalitarian government called Gilead, formerly known as America. In this world, women have lost their rights. They aren't allowed to work, read, write, learn, love another woman or speak freely.

Some women are captured and taken from their families; their children ripped from their arms, becoming "gifted children of Gilead." The captured women become handmaids. A women's only duty as a handmaid is to repopulate. The book touches on sensitive subjects such as rape culture, survival, freedom of speech, slavery, process, growth, dystopia, religious studies and more.

Dr. Karen A. Ritzenhoff, a Communications professor at Central, encouraged colleagues from the departments of History, Women Studies, Journalism and more to write essays about their thoughts on the topics

within "The Handmaid's Tale." Ritzenhoff, with the help of Central's Director of Public Relations Janice Palmer, edited and compiled these essays into "The Handmaid's Tale: Teaching Dystopia, Feminism, and Resistance Across Disciplines and Borders."

Many of the professors that contributed to the book connected the show and book to the real-world issues we face today. Each contributor stood up at the podium and

spoke briefly about their chapter and thoughts on creating the book. They shed light on the scary truth that we are closer to the fictional world of Gilead than we thought we would be. In fact, Geological Sciences professor Kristine Larsen said that when she was writing her chapter for the book, she titled the document, "Welcome To Gilead."

At the book release party, Jacqueline Cobbina-Boivin from Central's Women's Center spoke about what the Center stands for and why the message of "The Handmaid's Tale" is so important when it comes to the main character, June.

Professor Ritzenhoff also had her students write essays on "The Handmaid's Tale" for a school assignment. One of those students, Adam Gwara, wrote about the camera close ups within the Hulu series that were used, especially when it came to the eyes. Gwara also said that one of the things that makes "The Handmaid's Tale" powerful in it's own way is that, "everyone comes from different life experiences."

"The Handmaid's Tale" is a powerful book and television series centered around women, the rights they have and how women must stand up and use the voice they were given. But despite this, the event was filled with men and women alike. Teachers, students and contributors to the project came together to celebrate the release of "The Handmaid's Tale: Teaching Dystopia, Feminism, and Resistance Across Disciplines and Borders."



Karen Ritzenhoff and Janis Goldie's book "The Handmaid's Tale: Teaching Dystopia, Feminism, and Resistance Across Disciplines and Borders."

How To Travel Through Six States In One Evening



The Maine building offered many foods to patrons, one of these being whoopie pies.

JULIA CONANT | STAFF

STORY BY JULIA CONANT
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

The Big E's Avenue of States allows you to travel through the six New England states in a fraction of the time it would normally take to drive through the northeast.

Six buildings stand in a row, each one modeled after its respective state's original statehouse. Each one contains a taste of the state represented in the building. There are foods, clothing items and other items in each building.

The route starts with New Hampshire, where the mac and cheese line was out the door. This was evidently the most popular aspect of the New Hampshire building.

Aside from mac and cheese, New Hampshire offered corn (both popped and on the cob), cotton candy and fudge in terms of food.

Besides food, there were quite a few pet-related

products, such as collars, pet toys and even catnip infused comforters.

Next down the line was our own state, Connecticut. In terms of food there was ice cream, pizza and PEZ candy, since Connecticut is home to the PEZ Visitors Center. Several book themed stalls and publishing companies could also be found in the Connecticut building.

Beer and wine were also a common theme throughout the building. As soon as patrons walked in, they were greeted by a table of free wine samples (only if they were 21 or older of course).

Next to the Connecticut building was the Vermont building. As expected, there were a lot of maple syrup themed and cheese themed foods here. Cider, wine and smoothies were offered in terms of beverages.

Since Vermont is known for being snowy and cold, many heavy coats and other clothing items were being sold. One vendor, Vermont Flannel, played on a saying from the TV show "Game Of Thrones" and made a sign

that read, "Winter is coming. Conquer the cold."

After Vermont came Maine. Maine offered a heavy seafood theme, from salmon to lobster. A large scale lobster trap was placed on the floor for visitors to take pictures in, pretending they were trapped. Continuing with food, there were also whoopie pies, blueberries, salsa and ice pops.

Aside from food, poster calendars, goat milk soap and buoys were sold by vendors. The biggest attraction in the Maine building seemed to be baked potatoes. Similar to New Hampshire's mac and cheese, Maine's potato line formed outside of the building.

The Massachusetts building was next, celebrating its 100th year of being at the Big E. Apples, cranberries and chili dogs were just some of the food options offered. Since Massachusetts is home to the Amazing World of Dr. Seuss Museum, a "Cat in the Hat" statue was placed in the middle of the room for people to take photos with.

Hampden County Beekeepers had a long line at their stand, as they sold honey products like moisturizer cream, candles and lip balm.

Last but not least came Rhode Island. French fries, clams and kettle corn were some of the food options offered there. The main attraction of this building seemed to be the "Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular," which was a dimly lit room with jack-o-lanterns all around the perimeter. This room promotes the actual "Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular" at Rhode Island's Roger Williams Park Zoo.

The Big E is open until Sept. 29, so if you want to experience what each of the New England states has to offer without having to visit them all, head up to the Avenue of States before it's too late.

JULIA CONANT@MY.CCSU.EDU

The True Big E Experience

BY GEORGE ATTWOOD
STAFF WRITER

The size. The sheer size is the first thing that catches your eye. Next the smell. The smell of fried brownies and fried Oreos. Anything you could possibly want to fry is there.

The noise. Thousands upon thousands of New Englanders talking and shouting. Everywhere you walk, there are shout-y people enjoying themselves.

Everywhere you walk, something is fried. It feels like every other stand serves fried food. They range from the traditional corn dog to the outright crazy fried Pop Tarts. It is the most American thing I have seen. Fried Pop Tart. The concept intrigues you. Even though it is the weirdest sounding food, something about it excites you. Where else in the world would you find a food so outlandish and bizarre?

The next thing that catches your eye is the sheer volume of football jerseys — Pats jerseys. Everywhere you look, there's a Brady, Edelman or Gronk jersey. New Englanders showing passion for their world-renowned side. Passion is a big part of the Big E. All around you, people are passionate about something.

If you raise your eyes upwards, you see amusement rides so outlandishly high up that you would fear for your safety if you decided to go on such a ride. Rides like the Super Loop, which suspends you upside down for what seems like an eternity. Just as you feel like you are going to plummet to your death... woosh. The ride continues and you whizz around the loop, back to your starting point. Your organs, which had dropped down towards your head, realign inside your body. You feel dizzy and slightly disoriented, but the excitement and thrill are worth it.

Possibly the greatest thing that you could purchase at the Big E is fried cheese. Hands down one of the best foods you will ever eat. The thought of fried

cheese excited me. It was something I had to experience. I walked up to the counter and within seconds, eight golden cubes of joy were handed to me. The smell alone told me I had made the right choice. As I took my first bite, they took my breath away. The nugget of fried cheese created a golden river between my mouth and the rest of the nugget. Once you have one, you're hooked. I barely stopped to take a breath as I stuffed my face with the glorious creation of fried cheese nuggets. Upon completion, I wanted more. I could have easily eaten another 16 of these nuggets of sunshine.

The carousel. If there is anything in the world that makes you feel like a seven year old, it is a carousel. The sheer joy and excitement it brings you is unrivaled. I had not been on a carousel in over 10 years. I initially got on as a joke, to have a laugh with my friends. The experience reminded me of the film "Mary Poppins," when they jumped into the chalk painting and competed in the cartoon horse race. Joy. The biggest feeling the carousel gives you is joy. The bright lights make you feel like the world is watching you go round and round on your horse. There is something about a horse. They are usually associated with royalty. Or if you know your sports, then horse racing. Riding on the pretend horse, situated in a racing pose, gives you the sensation that you are racing in the Grand National. One of the most prestigious races in the world.

It's bizarre that something as simple as a roundabout with horses on it can give you so much joy. The feeling of elation does not wear off quickly. It stays with you like that piece of gum you get on your shoe. Sticks to you like glue.

Upon leaving Big E, you feel a sense of pride. Pride that your internal organs survived the grease and fat you consumed.

Letters to the Big E

BY MAURIAH JOHNSON
LAYOUT EDITOR

Maine.

Dear "Maine,"

The reminiscence of my childhood summers spent at my great grandmother's house were triggered by the warm scent of your home.

Popcorn.

Dear "Popcorn,"

Your pretty ocean eyes and sweet smile. "Samples!" you called out as you handed me the most melting sweetness of a kettle.

Best sample of my life.

Everyone belongs.

Dear "Everyone Belongs,"

You're absolutely right. On a simple black crew neck, stamped in bold white Calibri like font — Yet, your message is soul clenching.

Lonely Man.

Dear "Lonely Man,"

Those sorrowful windows, caught mine. After a few loops around, your windows were no longer gloomy, as you were approached by a rainbow Rasta beauty.

Picture Perfect Mom.

Dear "Picture Perfect Mom,"

"No, put your hands out!" you yelled in frustration, as you wanted to post your version of a 'worthy' photo on Facebook. Your gorgeous, inviting, blonde preteen turned into a "typical teenager." She just wanted to show how happy she was about her lobster hand gloves.

She took the picture for you.

Carly.

Dear "Carly,"

Given with generosity and the teeniest plastic spoon, your chocolate cookie crunch lingers on

the tip of my tongue with chills bubbling my brain. Because of you, I have officially left my love of vanilla and converted to chocolate.

Pig Bandana.

Dear "Pig Bandana,"

A vintage pig wrapped in the blanket of your muscle head, biting down into that turkey leg as if it would be the last thing you would ever eat. As you closed your eyes with every bite, your girlfriend watched in amazement, and so did I.

Swine.

Dear "Swine,"

The bravest of them all. Watching you fall over and nearly crushing one of your babies, stopped my entire existence. In a wall-less pen, surrounded by hundreds of random faces. You did what any mother would do, you bared yourself for the world to see, so all five of your beautiful baby piggies could eat.

Newport Man.

"Dear Newport Man,"

After making homemade one-pound meatballs all day, you deserve a smoke break. Your silver beard and compassionate spirit reminded me of a person I used to know, as you offered me your last Newport. I declined, but I will never forget those Rocky Balboa hands and that Italian heart.

Zipper.

Dear "Zipper,"

Thank you gnarly ride, for making my brain feel like a batting cage with all your twists and flips and activating the side effects of my lactose intolerance. It was worth it.

Blue Devil Dinner Downtown Causes A Buzz



CCSU president Zulma R. Toro poses with Pedro Valentin's "Blue Devil Bee."

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MELODY RIVERA
STAFF WRITER

New Bees were buzzing and Central students dined in Central Park which is located downtown.

On the evening of Wednesday, Sept. 18, the "Cele-BEE-tion" and Blue Devil Dinner Downtown occurred from 4 to 7 p.m. It was precisely 3:45 p.m. when the shuttle buses took off from Central and brought students downtown to watch the unveiling of six new bee statues. All of the students that participated were given two Blue Devil Dollars — each representing five dollars — as well as the opportunity to taste food from all different cultures of New Britain.

The unveiling ceremony began with Mayor Erin E. Stewart talking eagerly about the new six-foot tall statues that were displayed behind her and gave credit to those that created them. Stewart also mentioned that the Beehive Bridge dedication ceremony would be held in downtown on Thursday, Sept. 19 at 6 p.m. Central's President Zulma R. Toro also spoke about her experience as president and mentioned that the "Cele-BEE-tion" was coincidentally planned on the same day as Blue Devil Dinner Downtown. After several speeches, the statues were all revealed one by one.

The first statue to be unveiled was the "Borinquen Baker Bee" by local elementary school art teacher, David Segarra. This bee statue is dedicated to Borinquen Bakery which is on 610 Arch St. and is located near the downtown area. The statue represents Puerto-Rican residents and was decorated to look like the flag of Puerto Rico.

Joanna Cistulli's "Polish Bee" was the next statue to be revealed. She gave it the

look of a traditional Polish grandmother to represent Polish citizens.

The third statue to be unveiled was the "ASL Bee." This statue is dedicated to the American School for the Deaf in West Hartford. The statue was designed by Candace Macy. It holds a sign that is written in sign language.

The fourth bee statue to be revealed was none other than Kizer the "Blue Devil Bee." This statue, made by Pedro Valentin, holds a pitchfork in his left hand, a book in his right and has been given wings. Even though Kizer has been made into a bee, he still has his devilish features, such as his horns and long tail. The statue is currently on display in Central's Student Center next to the information desk.

The fifth statue to be unveiled was the "BEEhavioral Health Bee." This statue was created by Jennifer Oliveira-Florio and was dedicated to the Community Mental Health Affiliates.

The sixth and final statue to be revealed was "Marty Bee." It is inspired by Martin Rosol, who founded Martin Rosol's Inc. in 1928 where meat products are sold. The bee is dressed in an apron with the company's logo and hat. The statue also holds a hot dog.

After the unveiling ceremony, Central students walked down the sidewalks of downtown to eat at various restaurants. The eateries that participated in Blue Devil Dinner Downtown were Sweet Dreams Deli & Bakery, Peppino's Pizza, Mae Kong Thai Restaurant, C Town Supermarket, Riley's Hot Dog & Burger Gourmet, Dunkin' Donuts, Cheng's Kitchen, Mofongo, Kencarlou's Jamaican Restaurant, Sweetwater Juice Bar & Deli, Subway, Negritas Restaurant and My Wife Didn't Cook.

All in all, the "Cele-BEE-tion" and Blue Devil Dinner Downtown brought New Britain together to celebrate its diversity and culture.



Joanna Cistulli's "Polish Bee" is unveiled with the help of Mayor Erin Stewart.

'Promare' Presents As Promising



The "Promare" movie poster looks like someone burned down a "Baskin-Robbins."

TRIGGER, KUZUKI NAKASHIMA, XFLAG

BY SAMUEL PAPPAS
STAFF WRITER

"Promare" is a two-hour long full-throttle showcase of brilliant 3D animation that's very reminiscent of "Spider-Man: Into The Spideverse." If you thought that movie was awesome, then you'll share a similar opinion about this one.

"Promare" comes from Studio Trigger. These are the same folks that brought us my personal favorite animes of all time, "Gurren Lagann" and "Kill La Kill." All three of these stories are bombastic and intense tales about the tenacity of the human soul to overcome any obstacle

with a smile on your face and a song in your heart.

I'm not going to explain the story at all. If you want to know whether you might enjoy a film like this, then watch the trailer. If any character looks cool to you, the answer is yes. This is truly a film where the style is all the substance you will need.

"Promare" premiered to a party of punctual and positive movie-goers for its two-day run in the United States. It's a special kind of feeling to walk into a theater and know that everyone else in the room knows exactly what kind of films and shows the studio produced beforehand.

"Promare" proudly presents the audience with powerful and provocative animation and character designs, coming from the anime industry's most prominent animators with plenty of experience under their belt. It's almost something of a celebration of everything the studio has made up to that point, drawing very blatant comparisons to ideas that were already fully developed. If you've already seen the two shows I mentioned above, then you've basically already seen the same ideas in "Promare" but with better execution.

Not to say that "Promare" produces nothing of value, the animation is nearly flawless. For the few moments that "Promare" isn't presenting the perfection of professional animators, it still looks pretty great, even as my eyes peered down to the bottom of the screen to read the subtitles.

"Promare"'s biggest issue is that it doesn't really have any ideas of its own. Everything except for the visuals comes from previous works of the team at Studio Trigger. Most of the characters, while stylish, don't contribute anything to the story. The world building feels somewhat hollow.

If you plan to watch this movie when it comes to streaming services, then I recommend getting a big group of friends who are familiar with the studio, the largest TV you can find and the highest quality sound system you can afford. This is definitely a film that would have hit me completely differently had it not been on a giant movie screen with surround sound.

The composer is another personal favorite of mine. Hiroyuki Sawano's pieces are known for having gigantic buildups and swells that make the animation hit like a truck. I can't imagine watching this movie on a smartphone or computer and feeling the same level of enjoyment.

If you're the kind of person who likes to see new and inventive animation, or you are just looking for a nice feel good film, then keep an eye out for "Promare" in the future. If you think it looks as cool as I do and you want to see something similar, then you can watch "Gurren Lagann" and "Kill La Kill" on Netflix right now in multiple languages.

OPINION

Have 'No Fear' Slaughter Beach, Dog Is Here

STORY BY CAROLYN MARTIN
ASSISTANT ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

As the summer came to a close I decided to go to one final concert. This time I would be seeing Slaughter Beach, Dog. Slaughter Beach, Dog is the new band Jake Ewald created after the band Modern Baseball took an indefinite hiatus. It would be my first time seeing them, and I couldn't wait!

I was actually lucky enough to interview Slaughter Beach, Dog before the show. One question I wanted to know the answer to was where the title of their latest album came from.

"I kinda just heard it and I wrote it down and it stuck with me and it just felt like a good vibe." Jake Ewald (vocals, guitar) said. "It made me feel good so I wrote it down."

The members also expressed how much time and effort they put into making their albums.

"I do feel like this is, especially right now where we are this is like the first band I've been in where it feels like the 100% focus is simply on music" said Nick Harris (guitar).

Now on to the actual show. The band Cave People opened up the show. But they didn't open it by just starting off with a song. Instead, Russell Edling (guitar) read a poem written by Spenser, a member of the band that passed away unexpectedly in July. I thought that it was really nice to still read that in memory of him even though the tour is almost over.

Cave People played a really nice set. It was nice how they got the audience engaged. During a break between songs Dave Tomaine (vocals, guitar) asked if anyone had any questions. Voices from the crowd came up asking where the band was from (Pennsylvania) and if they could help someone with their homework (Tomaine



Slaughter Beach, Dog vocalist Jake Ewald.

BANDCAMP

politely declined). They are definitely a band you should check out if you haven't yet. Their newest release "Salt" is out now.

Next Slaughter Beach, Dog came on. They started their set with "One Down," the opening track of their newest album "Safe And Also No Fear." That got the crowd to sing along, as most of their songs did. It was so refreshing to be in a room full of people not afraid to sing the lyrics back, no matter what they sounded like. My favorite part was during the song "Sleepwalking." Most of the crowd said "Wake Up!," a line from the song, in unison. The crowd really started dancing during the song "Your Cat." The greatest thing about it was, while the crowd was having fun, all of the band members looked

so happy. Their happiness radiated all around the room. The saddest part of the night was when the lights came on. I didn't want to go home yet. I have been to a lot of shows, and I have felt that same sadness when the lights go on. But this time, it was different. I really didn't want to admit it was over. That's a pretty powerful thing to be able to do. But even though we had to go, we all left with smiles on our faces. "Safe And Also No Fear" is out now via Lame-o Records.

And if Cave People or Slaughter Beach, Dog are reading this, I just want to say I hope you find yourself back in Connecticut soon/on your next tour, we'd love to have you again. I know I'll be there.

@CAROLYN_MARTINN

OPINION

Mat Kerekes Is Something To Write Home About



Artist Mat Kerekes played songs such as "Ruby" and "Diamonds"

STORY AND PHOTO BY CAROLYN MARTIN
ASSISTANT ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Fall is the season for pop-punk. Now that it is upon us, what better way to start it off than by going to a concert? I had the opportunity to see Mat Kerekes at The Space in Hamden, CT on Sept. 22.

If the name Kerekes sounds familiar it's because he is also in the band Citizen. However, this tour would

feature his solo work. Kerekes would be taking some friends with him as well; the band Teamonade and the band Shortly.

Connecticut got a special surprise; Ryan Patrick White was added on to the bill last minute. I've seen White play once before. It was a decent performance then, but he really impressed me this time around. I'm going to give his stuff another chance now that I've seen him play twice. White definitely had a warmer reception

from this crowd. He didn't have to win the crowd over; they already knew him. Even in saying that, no one stood close to the stage. It was almost as if they were afraid to. It was a little strange in my opinion.

Teamonade came on next. And I really wanted to love them, but I don't think they're the band for me. Don't get me wrong, they aren't horrible, but I only liked about two of their songs. The worst part was the crowd didn't seem to care they were performing. Normally the later you play the more people [are there] pay attention. This wasn't the case for them. People stood in back with their respected groups and chatted the whole time. Only about five people watched their entire set, but they still deserve a fair chance. Their newest release "THIS IS YOUR ONLY WARNING" is out now.

Shortly came on to play next. I loved their set. They got the whole room to just stop and watch them. Even Alexandria Maniak (vocals, guitar) expressed how she wasn't used to people giving her their undivided attention. The best example was at the end of their set. They were going to play a song called "For Sam." This song is about Maniak's friend who passed away when she was 14. She also explained how this song does not have a studio recording and it probably never will.

As soon they started playing until the song ended the entire crowd just stood and watched in reverent silence. Maybe it was out of respect for Sam, but it was wonderful. These guys are going to do great things and I suggest you listen to them if you haven't yet. Their newest release "Mapping"/"Haven" is out now via Triple Crown Records.

Finally, it was time for the man we were waiting for: Mat Kerekes. This is when everyone started to get closer to the stage. This crowd wasn't one to sing or dance, only a few individuals were bold enough to do either one. The songs "Ruby" and "Diamonds" however, got the entire crowd singing along. The best part was during "Diamonds." It was when the whole crowd shouted "okay" the same time as the band. "Ruby" is out now via Black Cement Records.

@CAROLYN_MARTINN

The Couples Of Bachelor In Paradise

BY SHWAR ZAIDI
STAFF WRITER

If you are a hopeless romantic looking to find some drama, “Bachelor in Paradise” is the right show for you.

“Bachelor in Paradise” is a reality television show where the rejected contestants from previous seasons of “The Bachelorette” and “The Bachelor” are granted another opportunity to find love on a tropical island.

Each week, the contestants get to know one another and form relationships by building connections. One week, men get to hand out roses to their chosen partner and another week the women do the same thing. The remaining contestants without roses are required to leave the “Paradise” if they haven’t formed any relationships by the end of the week.

As people get eliminated, new people arrive to find love as well. These relationships can cause drama for the sake of the show with love triangles or disputes. Often, people leave rejecting their partner or they stay until the end. In the end, partners who fully decide to commit to one another get engaged and form a new life after they leave “Paradise” for the real world.

In Season six there have been a total of 38 contestants on the show within six weeks. Here are a couple of the relationships that made it for the whole duration.

Chris Bukowski & Katie Morton

Bukowski (previously in seasons one and two of “Bachelor in Paradise”) and Morton (Season 23 of “The Bachelor”) have a relationship. They started their relationship in week two and remained together despite their ups and downs until week six.

Clay Harbor & Nicole Lopez-Alvar

Harbor (Season 14 of “The Bachelorette”) and Alvar (Season 23 of “The Bachelor”) were instantly fond of each other when they met. Harbor’s ex-girlfriend Angela Amezcua arrived in week four and Harbor had a hard time focusing on his relationship while Amezcua was making connections. But he moved on and Harbor and Alvar were still a couple until week six.

Demi Burnett & Kristian Haggerty

Burnett (Season 23 of “The Bachelor”) was known to be the villain in bachelor Colton Underwood’s season. However, when she comes to Paradise, she has a big secret weighing on her as she comes out as bisexual. She has a girlfriend back



‘Bachelor in Paradise’ gives former contestants a chance at true love.

REALITY STEVE

home who she is very serious with (Haggerty), and later Haggerty comes and explores her relationship with Burnett. They focus on Burnett’s insecurities of coming out and how she copes with being who she is as a bisexual woman. The producers asked Burnett to stay with her girlfriend for LGBTQ+ content.

Dylan Barbour & Hannah Godwin

Barbour (Season 15 of “The Bachelorette”) and Godwin (Season 23 of “The Bachelor”) had chemistry to the moment they met each other. Barbour had eyes for Godwin even before they came to Paradise. However, Hannah also wanted to explore her relationship with Blake Horstmann, with whom she had a history with. After exploring her options, she chose Dylan, and they stayed together.

John Paul Jones & Tayshia Adams

Jones was a fan favorite in season 15 of “The Bachelorette.” Around week three, he began to have an instant relationship with Adams (The front runner up in season 23 of “The Bachelor”). Despite both of them having different personalities, they clicked from the beginning as they joked around and talked emotionally to one another. However, Adams had a love triangle with another guy named Derek Peth (Season 12). Jones and Peth were both fighting for Adams’s love. They would constantly fight to the point where Adams breaks things off with Peth. Peth left “Paradise” because he couldn’t find anyone to connect with.

Furthermore, Adams focused on her relationship with Jones, but they ended it in week six.

Blake Horstmann & Kristina Schulman

Horstmann was known to be the front runner up in season 14 of “The Bachelorette.” Despite his vast heartache, he still decided to give love another try. However, there was a history that Horstmann had slept and flirted with multiple women during “Stage Coach,” a music festival. Therefore, many women in the show didn’t want to talk to Horstmann. Schulman was one of the women that Horstmann slept with during “Stage Coach.” They both decided to be each other’s friendship roses to stay in Paradise and hopefully find someone else they can connect with. However, Horstmann fell in love with Schulman. They decided to give their relationship a try. During week five, Schulman broke it off with Horstmann and they both quit the show.

Caelynn Miller-Keyes & Dean Unglert

Keyes was left heartbroken in season 23 of “The Bachelor” after she was eliminated and sent home. However, she came to “Paradise” to find love and one man caught her eye. Unglert arrived in week two, and he instantly connected with Keyes. The two eventually became a couple. They stayed together until week three when Unglert dumped Keyes because he wasn’t ready for a relationship after he had given her a rose on her birthday. Devastated, Keyes tried to cope without him, and during a wedding began a connection with Connor Saeli. They were together until Unglert came back and told Keyes he was in love with her and wanted to leave together. Keyes agreed, and they both quit the show. It’s reported that they are still together to this day.

Want to find out who ended up getting engaged in the final episode? Watch “Bachelor in Paradise” to find out.

Word Search: September 25

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

Word List

1. JANICE
2. PRESIDENT
3. CLIMATE
4. PRONOUN
5. POLAND
6. ABROAD
7. HANDMAID
8. DOWNTOWN
9. PROMARE
10. BACHELOR
11. TRE
12. SIMPSON
13. YALE
14. HOCKEY
15. HAWKS

Tre Jones: From Walk-On Safety To Central's Best Pass-Rusher



Tre Jones is tied for second in sacks in the Northeast Conference through four weeks.

CCSU ATHLETICS

STORY BY TREVI ALICKOLLI
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Coming out of St. Raphael Academy, Central Connecticut's junior linebacker Tre Jones was a 210 lbs safety and had no scholarship offers. But after three years, Jones has transformed himself into a 255 lbs linebacker who can be described as a swiss army knife.

"I'm pretty proud of myself," Jones said. "I had to work really hard to get to where I am today, it's been a long journey."

Out of high school, Jones did not generate any buzz during the recruiting process and was close to going to the University of Rhode Island to stay close to home.

Luckily for Central, after a long talk with his mother, Jones had a change of heart. He really enjoyed Central's campus and felt welcomed from the beginning by the football program, despite not being on scholarship.

Although, it did not take long for Jones to earn that scholarship.

"When he got here [and we got a chance to see what he's all about], we put him on money relatively quickly,"

Central's interim head coach Ryan McCarthy said.

"He's obviously made a commitment and he's a very good football player; he's captain as a junior, he can drop into coverage and he's our best pass rusher right now."

In addition to changing his role into more of a pass rusher, Jones has made another change this season.

"I wanted my high school number back," Jones said after switching jersey numbers from 50 to five. "I've worn it all my life since pop-warner. I wanted it when I first got here but someone already had it, so I had to wait my turn."

Jones waited his turn until players graduated, but graduation also left a hole in the leadership department in Central's defense and the team as a whole.

"It's never too early to be a leader," the junior captain said. "But I think it's just being more vocal on the defense; that's something we need on the defense and the team and I think we have that with me, Aaron [Winchester], Tajik [Bagley], Conner [Mignone] and J'Von [Brown]."

Through four games, Jones has recorded 2.5 sacks which leads the Blue Devils and ranks second in the Northeast Conference.

In addition, Jones leads the Blue Devils in tackles for loss with 4.5, has recorded 18 tackles this season (T-3rd on team) and recently recorded his first interception of the year against FBS opponent Eastern Michigan.

He is projected to finish the season with 54 tackles, and career-highs in sacks (7.5), tackles for loss (13.5) and interceptions (3)

In the pre-season, when the NEC constructed its award projections, it did not see this breakout season from Jones coming, as they left him outside of any of their All-NEC teams.

"It motivates me a lot, that gives me the motivation to keep going, I always try to perfect my craft," Jones said. "It tells me I need to be more physical, more violent on the line and I plan on doing that for the rest of the season."

Jones earned Week 4 Defensive Player of the Week honors in the NEC Conference after recording five tackles and an interception.

He led a defense that held Eastern Michigan to fewer yards than their previous two opponents, Illinois and Kentucky.

"I don't really know how else to explain it, he's a dog," quarterback Aaron Winchester said. "He's a guy where you have to find every snap, like 'where's Tre at?' because you don't know what he's going to do."

That versatility from Jones is something that adds confusion to opposing quarterbacks, but according to McCarthy, "more often than not, we're gonna rush him; I think he's in the perfect position, he's our hybrid rush end guy."

Jones was asked to improve on his pass-rushing during the spring by the coaching staff and he did, just by watching videos.

"Videos, man. Von Miller, Aaron Donald, everybody. Guys like Chris Tinkham and Seth Manzanarez taught me moves, too," Jones said.

Jones's role depends and changes week-to-week but it seems he has turned himself into a player that opposing offenses take notice of.

If opponents leave Jones unchecked, he will impact the game as he has already proved to.

"He's loud and he's going to let you know he's coming," Winchester said. "He's definitely a lot better than most these guys we're playing."

"On one-on-one matchups, I feel really confident in what I can do on the field," Jones said.

@ATREVI013

CCSU Hockey Eager To Embark On New Season

STORY BY RYAN JONES
SPORTS EDITOR

As Central Connecticut's Fall sports teams continue their seasons on the turf, courts and courses, CCSU hockey will be lacing up the skates for its first game of the season Friday.

The Blue Devils hockey team has often been overlooked amongst CCSU's athletics, in large part due to their Division II placement. Head coach Mitch Beck is adamant on changing the culture of the program, and affirms that his team is "working exceptionally hard to be one of the best teams in the country."

The pieces are certainly there for the Blue Devils this season. Sophomore forward Billy McKinley came into the league dominating, taking home American College

Hockey Association Most Valuable Player in his rookie year. As a freshman, McKinley led the way offensively for CCSU, scoring a team high 22 goals and 37 points.

The first game of Central's season comes on home ice as they take on the University of Hartford at Newington Ice Arena Friday at 8:50. In their two match-ups last season, the Blue Devils defeated the Hawks 10-1 and 10-3, respectively.

CCSU will follow up Friday's game with a road trip to Bridgewater University as they take on the Eagles. The Blue Devils again fared well against Bridgewater last year, defeating the Eagles 7-3 in their lone game.

Hockey season is a long one, as the Blue Devils will play in 27 regular season games ending in February.

In the middle of CCSU's season, they will be taking part in the Governor's Cup Tournament. Joining the

Blue Devils in the tournament are in state opponents UConn, Eastern, New Haven and Connecticut College. Providence, the only non-Connecticut team in the tournament, are back-to-back winners, but Beck believes "we're a loaded team and we could take them this time around." The tournament runs from Nov. 21 to the 24.

"I want to see the kids have an actual home ice advantage," Beck said. "If you ever saw the crowds that show up for New Haven, it would make your head spin. They're loud and raucous and really help them, I want our boys to have that as well."

The Blue Devils will look for that home ice advantage Friday, with Colleen Zawadski (Miss Connecticut 2015 & CCSU alumni) dropping the first puck of the year onto Newington Ice Arena.

@RYANJONES385

@TheRecorder on Twitter

Men's Soccer Snaps Losing Streak

BY GEORGE ATTWOOD
STAFF WRITER

After two 6-0 losses to start the season, Central Connecticut Men's Soccer put a halt to its losing skid, tying for the first time.

Continuing their six game home stand, the Blue Devils hosted Rhode Island Tuesday. The Blue Devils started the game sloppy, almost giving up an early goal to the Rams.

One of a few bright spots for Central was forward Jamie Simpson. Simpson, a freshman, constantly looked to do something positive for the team, continually making runs behind the Rhode Island back line.

"I've always looked at it as you have to give everything no matter what because at least if you're not having a good game you can at least work as hard as you can," Simpson said. "You've gotta work hard for everybody that's working for you."

Throughout the first half, anytime Central seemed to get anything positive going they seemed to give the ball away. The Blue Devils spent the majority of the period defending and in their own half. This was largely down to poor offensive play from Central, who continually turned the ball over.

After the half time break, Central looked like a new side. They were much more positive on the ball, which had an effect on the crowd who started to chant for the team. This momentum led to a free kick for Central that cannoned off the left upright, the best chance for either side.

A trend started to develop, with both sides looking to cut in from the left and shoot across goal. The positive play for Central led to a goal, their first of the season. The Blue Devils went on a fantastic counter attack which was smartly finished by Panos Ravanis.

Soon after Central had scored, they conceded a goal from Rhode Island. Neither side were able to score after, sending the game into overtime.



The Blue Devils are now 0-3-1 on the season.

CCSU ATHLETICS

Throughout overtime, both teams had chances but neither were able to capitalize. The game finished 1-1, a fair reflection of how the 110 minutes of football panned out.

Coach Sean Green spoke of his sides start to the season.

"Well I think that once we get a few games under our belt we're going to get better. We've got young kids on the roster, the important thing is to learn from each game and move on."

Central came into its second game in three days with hope after a good performance against Rhode Island. The Blue Devils' opponents Quinnipiac came into the match with a 3-2-1 record.

The Blue Devils started off the half just like they did in the first half against Rhode Island. The Bobcats had a lot of the ball in the opening exchanges and looked

dangerous when they came forward.

This pressure resulted in a Quinnipiac goal just 12 minutes into the game. The goal came down to poor play from the Blue Devils, who were unable to clear the ball from free kicks or corners. Quinnipiac had two corners in quick succession. From the second corner, a Bobcat finished smartly to double Quinnipiac's lead.

Central conceded again before halftime, this time to a snapshot that was fired past the keeper.

Central came out in the second half like a new team, playing with a high press and trying to force mistakes onto the opposition.

This high press style of play led to chances and a penalty kick for Central won by Simpson. He took the resulting penalty which was saved, however he smartly scored the rebound to score his

first goal as a Blue Devil.

Just like on Tuesday, the goal for Central seemed to ignite the side. However, they were unable to capitalize with another goal. The Bobcats were able to score after continued shots as the ball went into the net against the run of play.

"If you have the work ethic you've got a chance to play well," Green said. "If you start playing well you've got a chance to win."

"It is easy to point the finger and blame people, but I'd much rather point five fingers and lend a hand, encourage them to move forward and learn from their mistakes," Green said.

The Blue Devils continue their home stand with a game against NEC opponent St Francis Brooklyn on Sept. 27 before they host Yale on Sept. 30.

Week Four Fantasy Football Picks

BY THE RECORDER SPORTS STAFF

As the first two teams - New York Jets, San Francisco 49ers - enter their bye weeks, fantasy football fans need to be ready to weather the storm. The Recorder sports staff came together to show you who will reign supreme, surprise and face defeat in Week Four.

Dan Fappiano, Editor-in-Chief

SURE THING: Keenan Allen (LAC WR, @ MIA)

Allen has been on fire to start the season, leading the league in receiving. He has been Phillip River's favorite target this season and will remain the go-to as long as he can stay healthy. Facing a Dolphins defense that is ranked worst against the pass, Allen should continue his dominance in Week Four.

SLEEPER: Dawson Knox (BUF TE, v.s. NE)

Knox shined in Week Three, going over 50 yards for the game and catching a touchdown. With injuries to their other tight ends, Knox will now have an opportunity to make an impact during his rookie season. While the Patriots' secondary should shut down the outside, Knox will be the answer down the middle.

BUST: Delvin Cook (MIN RB, @ CHI)

Like Allen, Cook has shined this year, leading the

league in rushing. He has proven that he is past the injury bug and ready to compete. However, facing a tough Chicago defense that has allowed the second-fewest yards on the ground, Cook will struggle to find his footing and fall outside the top 30 RBs this week.

Ryan Jones, Sports Editor

SURE THING: D.J. Chark (JAX WR, @ DEN)

The rookie wide receiver has quickly asserted himself as Gardner Minshew's favorite target, hauling in four catches for 76 yards and a score in week three. Going against a shaky secondary in Denver, the rookie-to-rookie connection will again shine against the Broncos.

SLEEPER: Jacoby Brissett (IND QB, v.s. OAK)

Taking over for the recently retired Andrew Luck, Brissett has exceeded expectations for a lot of Colts fans. He's led the team to their current 2-1 record and has only thrown one pick to his seven touchdowns. The Raiders defense ranks in the bottom ten in the NFL in passing yards allowed per game (286.3) and looked uninspired in their 34-14 beating in week three.

BUST: Baker Mayfield (CLE QB, @ BAL)

Though the season is still young, Mayfield and the Browns have not come close to their expectations. Mayfield will again struggle against the dominant

Ravens defense headed by Earl Thomas.

Trevi Alickolli, Assistant Sports Editor

SURE THING: Austin Ekeler (RB, LAC @ MIA)

Picking any offensive player against the Miami Dolphins is too easy but I think Ekeler and the Chargers will have a very productive day after losing their last two games. Ekeler is projected to score over 20 points this week and Miami is fresh off of allowing 235 rushing yards (6.9 YPC) against the Cowboys.

SLEEPER: Terry McLaurin (WR, WASH @ NYG)

McLaurin has proved he is the real deal and has also proved he is Washington's No.1 receiver four weeks into the season. Three weeks into the season, McLaurin has recorded 10 receptions for 187 yards and two touchdowns. Going against a terrible Giants secondary, who just allowed Mike Evans to go for 190 yards against them, McLaurin should have a field-day and should be in consideration for the very least a flex play.

BUST: Josh Allen (QB, BUFF vs NE)

The most impressive aspect of New England is their defense. They have not allowed a touchdown three weeks into the season thus far. I believe Allen will struggle in comparison to what he is used to doing and the Patriots defense will once again dominate the field.

CHARGERS

Volleyball Bounces Back After Close Loss

BY RYAN JONES
SPORTS EDITOR

Before Northeast Conference play begins this Friday, Central Connecticut volleyball would have one final weekend to improve upon their weaknesses and continue honing their strengths. CCSU would have this opportunity about a half hour from their home court as they took part in the Hartford Invitational Tournament.

The Blue Devils' first game of the tournament came against the Lafayette Leopards. CCSU used an early 4-0 run to lead Lafayette, but exchanged leads often after that. There were 12 ties in the opening set, with the last coming as Central tied it back up at 22 a piece. Lafayette scored the ensuing three points to take the set 25-22.

After struggling in a tight first set, the Blue Devils shifted the momentum their way in the second. The Leopards tied the game early at five, but consecutive aces from junior Samantha McCreath helped CCSU pull away with a 9-2 run. Freshman Molly Pincince similarly ended the set and capped off an 8-0 run with a service ace. Pincince has been a serving specialist in high leverage situations for the Blue Devils this year despite only being a freshman.

The Blue Devils were primed to pull away with a third set victory. CCSU had an 8-1 lead to begin, but relinquished it late as the Leopards tied the set at 20. With set point lined up for CCSU, the Leopards outscored them 4-1 to take the third set 27-25.

The Blue Devils again led late in the fourth set. A McCreath kill put Central in control with an 18-17 lead, but the Blue Devils were again unable to close things out. CCSU scored only two as Lafayette



The Blue Devils sit at 4-8 on the year.

RYAN JONES | STAFF

took the set in eight points, winning the match.

"I don't know if their nerves came into play or what it may be, but we have to work on the last part of the set when the score is tight," head coach Linda Sagnelli said after the match. "In set two we were very sharp, we attacked. I think we lost that. You have to keep that in every point in every set for the entire match. We had a chance to win this match and I think it got away from us."

CCSU's middles led the way during the match. Senior Gala Galabova was a force to be reckoned with at the net, blocking eight balls and hitting .471 on the day. This hitting percentage was her second best of the season. Galabova's freshman counterpart Isabella Rouff's was also a bright spot for the Blue Devils, hitting a team best .5 while adding in nine kills and four blocks.

"[Rouff's] is really coming into her own as a middle, she's doing a great job," Sagnelli said. "And she's only going to

keep getting better and better and better."

The Blue Devils did not hang their heads after the close loss Friday. Saturday's match-up with Maryland Eastern Shore proved to be a better showing for CCSU, demonstrating the skills and chemistry required to close out late into sets.

CCSU did not trail once in the first set, leading by as much as nine as they cruised to a 25-15 win. The defense stifled the Hawks, allowing only four kills for an even 0.00 hitting percentage.

The second set was more closely contested, but the Blue Devils pulled away in the match after MES tied the game at nine. They would not trail after this, and took the set 25-19.

After a 25-21 win by the Hawks in set three, the Blue Devils were in a tight spot in the fourth, trailing 6-2. CCSU was behind 23-22, but two kills from McCreath helped close out the set and match win.

On the win, McCreath believes it

"shows how much we've been working on the team effort. We've really been trying to build our team chemistry because a lot of times that's been lacking and it was very visual," she said. "It shows that we've been putting in the work ourselves, so it starts with us and ends with us," McCreath continued.

Sagnelli was most happy about how the Blue Devils won the match, explaining that mental toughness lost them the Lafayette match. "You can never sit back and assume that another team is going to make mistakes and give you points," Sagnelli said. She added that the win "taught an important lesson to the team in the way that we finished."

An interstate match-up was the tournament's final game, as Hartford hosted the Blue Devils.

CCSU came into their second game of the day hot and held an 8-2 lead over the Hawks. They closed out the first with a statement 25-17 win.

This would be the last set CCSU won, losing three straight sets to end the game. The Blue Devils hit -.250 in the second, their worst percentage over the tournament in a single set.

"I just think that people are being way more aggressive to the ball than we are," Sagnelli said. "Somebody's got to step up as a leader and take ownership of everything, and then our game will turn around. It's just a matter of believing yourself and not being afraid to be aggressive on the court, and right now that's our biggest obstacle."

The Blue Devils will have their shot at redemption Friday, as they take on LIU for the first NEC game of the season. Sagnelli "can't wait to play LIU," and believes "if we can just get everybody running on the same cylinders, then we're gonna click. I see flashes of it." —@RYANJONES385



CCSU begins NEC play Friday against LIU.

RYAN JONES | STAFF

CCSU Weekly Sports Schedule

Men's Soccer

- Friday, Sept. 27, 6 p.m. v.s. St. Francis Brooklyn
- Monday, Sept. 30, 6 p.m. v.s. Yale

Volleyball

- Friday, Sept. 27, 7 p.m. v.s. LIU
- Saturday, Sept. 28, 5 p.m. v.s. Farleigh Dickinson

Women's Soccer

- Sunday, Sept. 29, 1 p.m. @ Mount St. Mary's

Swimming & Diving

- Saturday, Sept. 28, TBA @ Fairfield Invitational Tournament

Women & Men's Cross Country

- Saturday, Sept. 28, 11 a.m. Ted Owen Invitation Tournament (Home)





Tyshaun James racked up 151 total yards against FBS opponent Eastern Michigan, earning NEC Co-Offensive player of the week honors. CCSU ATHLETICS



Central falls to Eastern Michigan 34-29, dropping them to 3-1 on the season. JULIA JADE MORAN |STAFF

Central Falls to Eastern Michigan In Heartbreaking Fashion

BY TREVI ALICKOLLI
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

With 18 seconds remaining against Eastern Michigan, Central Connecticut was leading 29-28 and had the opportunity to continue the historic start of its season.

If the Blue Devils had won the game, it would have been the first time starting the season 4-0 since 1970 and would have been the first victory over a Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) team in school history. Also, it would have been the first time a Northeast Conference team beat an FBS opponent.

That's when disaster struck for the Blue Devils, as they had a punt blocked and returned for a touchdown, causing Central to lose 34-29 and fall to 3-1 on the season.

Heading into the week, Head Coach Ryan McCarthy knew what his team had to do to win the game.

"Special teams, special teams, we had two punts blocked last week and a third that should've been blocked," McCarthy said. "I'm looking for us to play that complete game in all three phases, I haven't seen that yet, those are the things

that need to happen."

"I know full well what's going to happen when we punt, they're going to come after us, our guys better be ready for it," McCarthy continued.

Beyond the special teams, McCarthy also recognized how good Eastern Michigan was in all phases.

"I think they're extremely well-coached and they're very talented," McCarthy said. "Defensively their eyes on in the right spots, you're not going to trick them, offensively they have a really talented quarterback, a big offensive line and good receivers. They do a lot of things and they do them well."

Despite the last-second defeat, Central put up a good fight that was led by a solid offensive performance and a dominant defensive performance. The Blue Devils held the Eagles to fewer yards than they had against their previous two opponents, Illinois and Kentucky.

Quarterback Aaron Winchester put up arguably the best stat line of his young season, completing 17/22 passes (77%) for 231 yards and one touchdown.

Junior Wide Receiver Tyshaun James caught two passes for 118 yards and a touchdown. 118 yards is a career-high for

James and it came against one of the best teams he has ever faced.

Both receptions came in the fourth quarter and his touchdown catch was the go-ahead score with less than two minutes remaining in the game.

James also continued to be dynamic, rushing the ball five times for 33 yards and another touchdown. His 151 yards of total offense and two touchdowns earned him the honor of NEC Co-Offensive Player of the Week honors.

Sophomore running back Keonte Lucas led the rushing attack for the second straight week, rushing nine times for 51 yards (5.7 avg) and a score.

Central rushed for 115 yards as a team and did so without their Preseason All-NEC starting right guard, J'Von Brown.

"I'm not in a real hurry to rush him back," McCarthy said. "He's dealing with a shoulder and I'm going to try to give him the most rest that I possibly can and right now, there's no reason to put him out there."

On defense, sophomore linebacker Foday Jalloh led the team with 10 total tackles and .5 tackles for loss.

The Blue Devils defense intercepted the Eagles twice and now have nine

interceptions on the season through four games.

One interception was recorded by the NEC Defensive Player of the Week, Tre Jones. The junior linebacker forced his first turnover of the year to go along with five tackles and one tackle for loss.

The second interception is categorized as a team interception.

"I am incredibly proud of our players and staff," McCarthy said to CCSU Athletics. "The kids played their tails off and executed the game plan put together by the staff extremely well."

"There are still a lot of things to clean up, but there are numerous positives to take from this experience. It was not the outcome we had hoped for, but we will learn from it and work on improving ourselves," McCarthy said.

The Blue Devils head into their bye week with a loss but will take the time to "improve and get ready for a very competitive Northeast Conference slate," according to McCarthy via CCSU Athletics.

Central will face conference opponent Sacred Heart University on Oct. 5 with kickoff scheduled for 2:00 p.m.

@ATREVI013

Soccer Draws Two-OT Tie In First NEC Match



Women's soccer has played in five overtime games. CCSU ATHLETICS

BY RYAN JONES
SPORTS EDITOR

Going into Northeast Conference play, Central Connecticut has played in seven overtime periods over just as many games, and were coming off of back to back double overtime ties. In their first NEC match of the year against Bryant, the Blue Devils repeated this algorithm with yet another double overtime 1-1 tie.

Junior Erica Bardes was aggressive

out the gates for CCSU, putting the first shot up for either team just nine minutes into the match. Though the shot did not fall for the Blue Devils, Barnes was determined to get her team on the board.

In the 22nd minute, she did just that. Bardes sent a corner kick sophomore Taylor Smith's way, who quickly struck a shot past Bryant's goalkeeper to put CCSU up 1-0. Smith's goal is the second in of the season, and is Bardes' fourth assist of the season. Bardes finished the past two season's with one lone assist each, but her

early four this season currently leads the NEC.

The Blue Devil defense did not waiver through the first half of play, allowing only one shot from the Bulldogs to their three. The shot did not come until the final three minutes in the half and was quickly corralled by sophomore goalkeeper Amanda McQuillan. She finished the day behind the net with two saves.

Bryant was not stifled the same the in the second half. The Bulldogs put up five shots against CCSU's defense before finally connecting in the 70th minute to tie the game. The Blue Devils would send three shots Bryant's way after this, including one on goal, but was unable to get on the board again before regulation ended.

Both offenses sputtered in overtime. Only one shot was taken by either team over the final two periods, as both teams went scoreless in extra time. This marks the fourth tie for CCSU on the season and fifth overtime game.

Central finished the week on the road, traveling to Yale for the final non-conference match of the season. The Blue Devils had recently faired well against the in-state opponent, winning the last

three games against the Bulldogs to put their all-time record at 3-8 (Per CCSU Athletics).

The Bulldogs of Yale opened up the scoring mere minutes into the match, scoring off of a deflection in the seventh minute. After this early mistake, Central's defense locked down the rest of the half. Yale put up eight shots on CCSU in the first, but freshman goalkeeper Caitlin Murphy was able to escape the first half without another score. In her last time out, Murphy shut out Iona on the way to a 4-0 win in her first career start.

Murphy and the Blue Devil defense was unable to stave off the Bulldogs in the second half. CCSU allowed goals in the 59th and 70th minute that extended Yale's lead to 3-0.

Central put up two shots in the second half, but were unable to get on the board for only the second time this season. The 3-0 loss is the largest margin of defeat for the Blue Devils' this season and puts them at 2-3-4 for the year.

CCSU will continue NEC play this week, as they travel to Mount St. Mary's and Fairleigh Dickinson, respectively.

@RYANJONES385