

The Recorder

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Beyond Hispanic Heritage Month



Barrio-Latino, New Britain

By Omar Gonzalez-Solano
Staff Writer

Although Oct. 15 marked the official end of National Hispanic Heritage Month, Central Connecticut State University's Latin American, Latino and Caribbean Center (LALCC) has planned several cultural events on campus beyond the nation's yearly observation of the month.

Hispanic Heritage Month, observed from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, celebrates Latin American independence from Spanish colonialism, with many South American countries celebrat-

ing their Independence Day within its first week.

Melody Lozano, LALCC's coordinator, along with Mary Ann Mahony, LALCC's director, have coordinated a total of six events throughout the month and after. Lozano said the events include musical and theatrical events, funded with the help of foundation money, grants from CT Humanities and programs directed by Library of America.

LALCC commenced Hispanic Heritage Month with a display of the flags of Latin America, which were hung around Elihu Burritt Library's

Photo by Omar Gonzalez-Solano entrance for the first time since the tradition's inception.

"At first it was around the Student Circle and spread out through campus," Lozano said. "This year they wanted to change it up."

LALCC, in collaboration with the MOSAIC Center and the Latin American Student Organization, hosted "Salsa Fest" on Sept. 25 in the Student Center Circle. Lozano said students were taught salsa by dance instructor Xiomara Colon, with musical accompaniment by the Hartt Salsa All-Stars, a student-led musi-

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University Funds Club Trip after SGA Votes No

By Eary Banushi
Staff Writer

Central Connecticut State University said it will fund the travel expenses for Dr. James DeLaura, the chair of the Technology & Engineering Education department and a wheelchair user, after the Student Government Association denied a \$3,000 request for accessible transportation to a conference.

The decision comes after a vote to provide the Technology & Engineering Education Collegiate Association (TEECA) club with \$3,000 to rent a

handicap-accessible bus failed during the Student Government Association (SGA) meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 2.

Ryan Zamboni, the president of TEECA, said after the vote he had a hard conversation with Dr. DeLaura who was upset by the SGA's decision.

"I had to have a really awkward conversation with Dr. DeLaura where I brought up the SGA's concerns and their thoughts," Zamboni said. "I had never seen him look so defeated. He seemed to take all the blame for it. He

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TEECA Club

Photo by Ryan Zamboni

Board of Regents Chair's Proactive

By Deanna Prescott
Editor-in-Chief

Gov. Lamont appointed Martin Guay as the new chair of the Connecticut Board of Regents, who said he is going to work proactively to improve the board throughout his upcoming term.

The former chair, JoAnn Ryan, completed her term on June 30, 2024.

The board governs the Connecticut State Colleges and

Universities (CSCU) system and consists of 15 voting members, two of which are students chosen by their peers, according to the CSCU website.

Chairman Guay has been on the board since August 2023, and officially started his new position on July 1, which will last for six years.

Guay said that he plans to prioritize work-based learning experiences for students,

the Early College and Dual Enrollment program and the alignment of enrollment rates with tuition costs.

"I think that in the past, the board was very passive and didn't do a lot of what I call proactive work," Guay said.

There are key industries and markets in CT such as health-care, information technology, and manufacturing, which act as potential job markets for

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Terrence Cheng, JoAnn Ryan, Gov. Lamont, Martin Guay

CSCU

About

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SCAN FOR MORE



SGA

was deeply upset about this because it makes the disabled person feel really in the way. It makes them feel like a big hassle.”

Jodi Latina, the university spokesperson, said in a written statement on Thursday, Oct. 10 that the university supported the trip.

“University leadership supports the initiative and understands the club members may not have been aware of other funding opportunities for faculty professional development,” she said.

The motion was voted on twice during the SGA meeting, with the first vote failing as several senators abstained. Senator Favor Uwaya moved to reconsider the motion and said that failure to provide the

funding could make the SGA look “ableist.” The second vote also failed.

Logan Palardy, president of the SGA, was one of the few that abstained from voting. He said he did not want to pass the motion without unanimity from the senate.

“It’s a complicated motion,” Palardy said. “I think if the senate couldn’t pass it themselves, then it’s not my job to force something through.”

DeLaura said the SGA would have approved the funding if it were a student in a wheelchair instead of a faculty member. He added that the situation made him feel like a burden, and that he was preventing members of TEECA from going on the conference trip.

DeLaura said he could have filed a discrimination

complaint to the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) because of the SGA decision, but that he did not want to make it a larger issue.

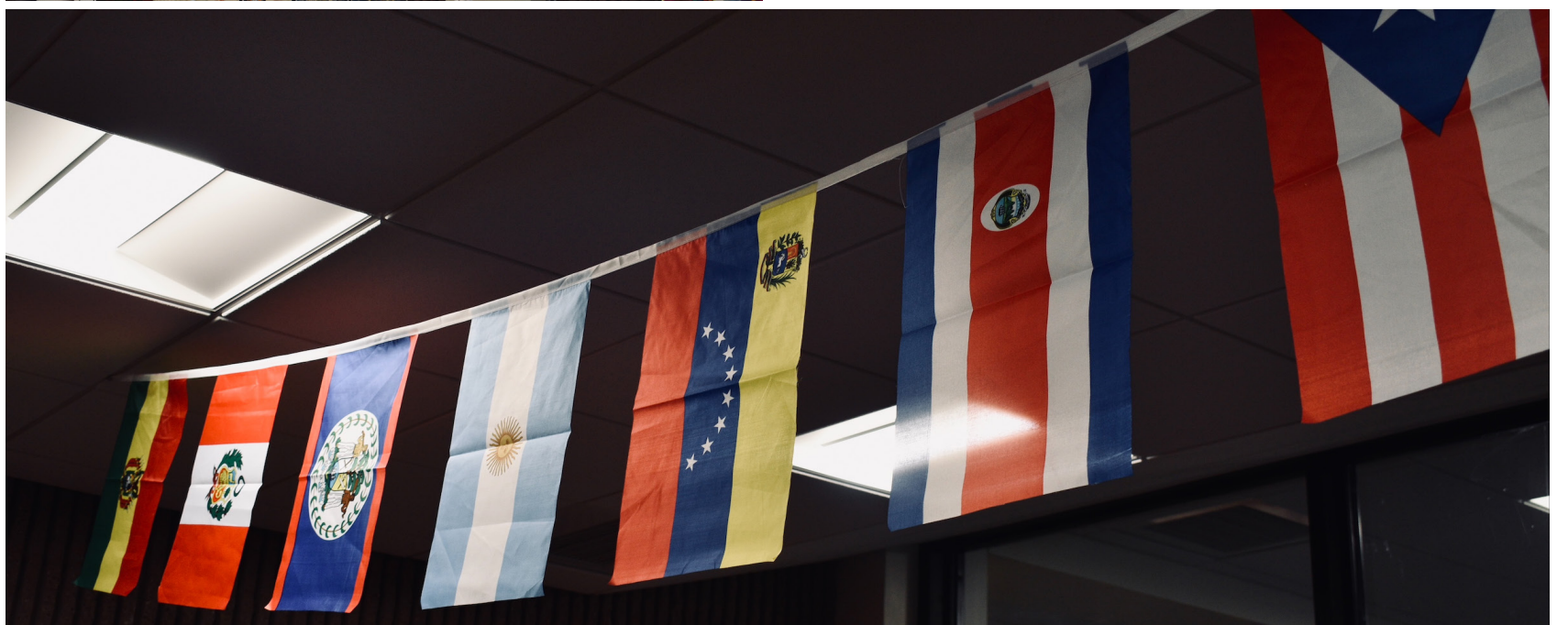
“They can’t deny access to an individual because they need a wheelchair lift. That’s actually state and federal law,” DeLaura said. “But I didn’t want to embarrass anybody by calling the CHRO. I didn’t want to make it that kind of an issue. I don’t want anybody to get in trouble. But it’s an awareness thing. We need to let the senators know that it’s not appropriate at all.”

The TEECA club is scheduled to attend the annual TEECA East Conference which takes place in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware between Nov. 7-9. Zamboni said that the conference is a chance to

network and compete against other universities in different educational and engineering challenges.

Zamboni said this was the first time in recent years the SGA had denied the club funding for the trip.

“No other years did we have any issues getting this funding,” Zamboni said. “We’ve been going to this conference for the past decade, and our professor has had this disability for the past decade ... Now that travel has become an issue, it’s made him feel very guilty. I just can’t stress how difficult it was to tell him ‘We’re not getting funding because you need special accommodations,’ which should be totally fine.”



Flags in the LALCC.

Photos by Omar Gonzalez-Solano

Upcoming Hispanic Heritage Events

Community Reads: Latino Poetry with Deborah Paredez

Oct. 21, 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
The Periodical Room at the New Britain Public Library

“The Other Side Story” Comedy Show with Angel Vasquez

Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Torp Theatre, Davidson Hall
• Register for tickets in advance through CCSU Blue Devils Ticket Office.

Have a story that needs to be told?
Tips or leads that should be investigated?
Email us at editor@centralrecorder.org
or fill out the contact form on our website
centralrecorder.org



Lyndsay Ruffolo

Via LinkedIn

By **Yvonna Rodriguez**
Contributor

For some people, graduation is the last time they plan on being on their college campus; for Lyndsay Ruffolo, her college campus became home to her career.

Ruffolo, a professor at Central Connecticut State University in the criminology and

criminal justice department, completed her bachelor's and master's degrees at CCSU.

While Ruffolo graduated as a criminology major, she didn't start out in that area of study.

"When I first started college, I thought I was going to be a communications major," Ruffolo said.

Alumna Gives Back Through Teaching

Ruffolo said that studying criminology had never crossed her mind and that when she started college, it was a new major. Ruffolo decided to take an introduction to criminal justice course as an undergraduate, which opened her eyes to the field.

Before taking that course, Ruffolo said that she didn't know there was more to criminal justice than being a police officer. After seeing all the possibilities criminology had to offer, Ruffolo changed her major.

After graduation, Ruffolo completed her master's at CCSU and began working in research within the criminal justice field for CCSU. Ruffolo was responsible for evaluating criminal justice programs around the state and looking at their effectiveness.

"While I was doing that, I was in the field all the time," Ruffolo said. "I was in the prisons, I was in the courts, I

mean all the time."

After five years in this position, Ruffolo "gave up a very cushy full-time state job" for a new job. Ruffolo began working for Wheeler Health, managing the criminal justice programs the company had.

Ruffolo spent her time in the field, getting to work firsthand with all kinds of people, including domestic violence victims.

After three years Ruffolo made the difficult decision to step back from the job she loved. When she received an offer from CCSU to teach, Ruffolo knew she had to accept.

"I had the opportunity to work in the department I graduated from," Ruffolo said. "If I'm going to teach, I want it to be at CCSU."

Ruffolo has taught many courses while at CCSU, with her favorite being the first course she ever taught, victimology.

"This is an opportunity for me to shift the focus away from the offender and onto the victim," Ruffolo said.

Ruffolo said that this opportunity is not presented in other courses. Victimology also allows students to get involved on campus, with the course doing work with the Office of Victim Advocacy, Ruffolo said.

While becoming a professor is not the route Ruffolo saw herself taking, she said she "can't picture doing anything else."

Ruffolo said that she loves getting to work with students and seeing their progression throughout the semester while taking her courses.

"There's nothing better than to go to school for all these years, dedicate your entire professional career to something, and then be able to talk about it and have students be interested in what you're interested in," Ruffolo said.

Heritage

cal group from the University of Hartford.

She said that Colon, a CCSU alumna and former member of Central's Organization for Latin American Dance Awareness, gave background on the history of Salsa and its cultural significance within the diaspora.

"We are an academic cultural center, so we try to add in that academic aspect that a lot of student-led clubs may not add," Lozano said.

Lindsy Figueroa, a new member of the LALCC, said that turnout was significant, with students enjoying the live musical performance and Latin American food trucks, which were also funded by the MOSAIC Center and LALCC.

Lozano said that the events

were made possible by the grants, which allowed them to use their budget to hire musical performances from the University of Hartford and a mariachi performance by Mariachi Mexico Antiguo, which performed at LALCC's Open House buffet on Oct. 2.

LALCC will also host poetry community readings featuring one Latin American poet per semester. Mexican-American poet Deborah Paredez is scheduled to discuss her poetry at the New Britain Public Library on Monday, Oct. 21 and will hold a reading the next day in Memorial Hall at 10:50 a.m. where students from Meriden Public Schools will also participate.

"We partnered with the New Britain Public Library, the Spanish Community of Wallingford (SCOW), and Meriden

Public Schools," Lozano said. "Through our CT Humanities grant, we were able to purchase 100 copies of this Latino poetry book. We distributed 10 copies to each one of our program partners."

Angel Vasquez's upcoming one-man comedy show will wrap up CCSU's celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

"It's lighthearted, but he touches upon important topics within Puerto Rican history and politics today," Lozano said. "It's supposed to be a play on 'West Side Story.'"

Vasquez's "The Other Side Story" is scheduled for Oct. 24 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and will dive into the cultural struggles of Puerto Ricans in New York. Tickets are free and available through CCSU Blue Devils Ticket Office.

Board

students to get work-based learning experience, according to Guay.

"We need to do a better job at CSCU creating more apprenticeships and internships and job opportunities for when people get out," Guay said. "It's important that as a system we help people do that."

Guay also said that he wants to align CSCU enrollment rates with cost structure, meaning that if enrollment is flat or declining, then the costs that are allocated to the universities should not be going up.

"It's our intent not to raise tuition," Guay said.

According to the Connecticut Public College Enrollment Trends 2024 report, CSCU saw a 22.4% decrease across the system. However, CSCU

Chancellor Terrence Cheng said in a recent board meeting that enrollment is up 4.2% this semester.

Aside from being a part of the board since 2023, Guay worked closely with Lamont on building the Tech Talent Accelerator program for higher education in CT. The program aims to expand programs at colleges across the state in emerging and in-demand fields such as cybersecurity, virtual modeling, software development, and digital analytics, according to the Government Technology website.

Guay said he also wants to see more faculty involvement and collaboration in board meetings.

"There are a lot of opportunities to do things better and be stronger," Guay said. "I'm optimistic that we could do more and get more done."

Kizer's Rodeo Stirred Up School Spirit



Students gathered near the CCSU Student Center.

Photo by James Studley

By James Studley
Contributor

Central Students Get rowdy for a Pep Rally Hoe Down in the Student Circle

On the evening of Oct. 10, CCSU hosted its annual pep rally to honor the Blue Devils football team and other fall athletics on campus.

Students were lined up out-

side of Elihu Burritt Library at 7:30 p.m. to snag raffle tickets, free t-shirts and vouchers for a food truck. Students could choose between fried dough, tacos or Ben and Jerry's ice cream.

The rally, called Kizer's Rodeo, was rodeo-themed, so in addition to the t-shirts being

handed out, there were also cowboy hats in both white and pink to recognize Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The opening ceremony was the main event of the night. To kick things off, senior Montgomery "Monty" Rios shouted out her fellow cheerleaders and introduced the football

team.

Rios said pep rallies have many benefits for students.

"I believe the pep rally is very important because it's a great way to show your school spirit," Rios said. "It's also a way to build connections and support your fellow Blue Devils."

After the football team walked out of Breakers Game Room through a tunnel of cheerleaders, head coach Adam Lechtenberg and team captain Jack Barnum, a junior, thanked students for coming out to show their support.

Barnum said that the fans being at the game significantly impacts the players.

"The fans give a different level of energy to guys on the field. Looking up and seeing people you go to class with in the stands really hypes up the team."

Barnum said this year's pep rally was better than last year's.

"This year was a step up from last year," Barnum said. "It's been great to see the Blue Devils come together."

The Brazen Blue Devils, represented by Vice President and senior Jenna Bulmer, were the last people to speak at the opening ceremony.

Bulmer said she enjoys being a part of the Brazen Blue Devils.

"It's my fourth year at Central and as a freshman, the Brazen Blue Devils helped me get introduced to a lot of people and feel welcomed," Bulmer said. "I want to make freshmen and transfer students feel the same way I did when I was a freshman."

Afterwards, students were met with a variety of activities in the Student Circle. To fit in with the rodeo theme, there was a mechanical bull and pig, along with a succulent station where students could adopt a cactus for their dorm.

The night ended with a handful of students dancing to the "Cupid Shuffle" and "The Wobble." The pep rally saw a large turnout where students had fun representing CCSU pride.

OCTOBER Central Events

Re-Present Photographic Practice

Oct. 17, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Torp Theater, Davidson Hall

• A symposium exploring photography technologies from the 1800s.

Art Gallery: "Proximity & Distance"

Oct. 17 - Nov. 15

Chen Art Gallery

• Featuring six artists from across the country, the works challenge ideas of closeness.

Community Reads: Latino Poetry

Oct. 21, 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

The Periodical Room at the
New Britain Public Library

• Mexican American author and poet, Deborah Paredez will host the event and read her poetry.

OPINION: "Much Ado," Must See

By Jayden Klaus
Lifestyle Editor

Shakespeare returned to the campus last week with a brilliant performance by Central students.

The show, "Much Ado About Nothing," was performed in Maloney Hall's Blackbox Theatre from Oct. 9-13. The play is one of Shakespeare's comedies and follows the romantic misadventures of four people. It explores how romantic relationships can develop, how people will attempt to manipulate the relationships and how that can be overcome.

The production for the show had a more modern twist compared to the time period that it was originally took place in. Set in the Hollywood Hills during the year 2000, the show employs a Y2K aesthetic that

is upbeat and eye-catching. It makes the show feel reminiscent of modernized Shakespeare movie adaptations like "10 Things I Hate About You" and "Romeo + Juliet." This gave the show a very engaging and nostalgic vibe.

In the play, a group of boy banders arrive in Messina: Don Pedro, Claudio, and Benedick. Claudio soon falls in love with Hero, daughter of governor Leonata while Benedick banter with her niece Beatrice. Don Pedro offers to help set up Claudio and Hero, which his illegitimate brother Don John vows to sabotage.

After Claudio and Hero's marriage is arranged, Benedick and Beatrice's friends and relatives conspire to set them up together as well, as both have vowed not to marry and yet enjoy sniping with

each other. What follows is a hilarious sequence of Beatrice and Benedick overhearing how one another supposedly are in love with them. They both decide to confess love to each other.

Don John enacts a dastardly plan to trick Claudio that Hero is unfaithful towards him and he calls off the wedding. After a constable catches Don John's co-conspirator, Benedick comes up with a plan with Leonata to repair the situation in exchange for Beatrice's hand in marriage. Claudio is given proof that he was wrong and happily marries Hero. Benedick and Beatrice banter and confess their love, drawing the story to a close.

The performances were fantastic to behold. Often times, it

See *Much Ado* on Page 2

Club Highlight: Ballroom Dance Club

By Jayden Klaus
Lifestyle Editor

The CCSU Ballroom Dance Club re-emerged this semester to educate students on ballroom dancing and cultures.

In an informational meeting held on Wednesday, Oct. 2, Club President Julie Bielski gave a presentation on her goals and future plans for the club for the current semester and beyond. Despite the club being under temporary recognition status, the meeting saw several interested students attend, demonstrating the potential the club has on campus.

Bielski said that the club will be meeting on Wednesdays at 7 p.m., hopefully in the Dance Education Center so that the club will have a

proper studio to use.

“Anybody who wants to join can come,” Bielski said. “It’s for all dance lovers.”

The club meetings will consist of beginner-friendly group dance classes taught by Bielski, and move toward general social dances that everyone can participate in.

During the meeting, elections for club executive board positions were held. Ali Saleh was elected as Vice President, Lori Barnett was elected as Treasurer, Svelynette Pacheco was elected as Secretary and Alondra Perez was elected as Social Chair.

Bielski said that one of her plans for the semester is to host a “Devil’s Den @ 10 p.m.” event. She said that it would be a group class dance

social hosted by an instructor she knows. Bielski said that while still in the idea phase, she would like to host it by the end of the semester to teach students dance formation and group dancing. Bielski also said that she would like for the club to travel to dance conventions to create opportunities for club members to gain experience and have fun.

Bielski said that she wants to grow the club, as it had started out small and simple last semester. She said that because she already teaches dance in New Britain and it has had such a big impact on her life, she wanted to bring it to CCSU and grow the club more over the next couple semesters.



Photo by Ali Saleh, @ccsuballroom Instagram

OPINION: Hilltop’s Downfall

By Sabiha Dodd-Brown
Staff Writer

failed to stick to uninspired menus that fail the student body.

If you weren’t here before the downfall of CCSU Hilltop Cafe, located up the hill on Central’s campus, I feel sorry for you.

Hilltop is now failing to meet the expectations of students. Before this year, Hilltop had a range of quality foods people could choose from. Last year, you were able to make your own food.

Pans were available to the students to take and make their own meals for themselves. Oils, meats, seasonings and many more food options were provided with these pans, and you could cook to your own liking.

Hilltop was once the heart of Central regarding its culinary options, but now it is on the same level as Memorial Hall with their quality of food.

With access to cuisines from different walks of life, students expect their dining options to reflect more on their varied tastes and dietary preferences.

The model of Hilltop now consists of bland food and limited choices. Many students here at Central seek sustainable, healthy and tasty, relevant meals during their time here, but Hilltop has now

With the increase of campus tuition, students would expect to come back to an improvement to one of the most important parts of college, which is food. When students came back to campus, we did not expect one of the best food options to go downhill so quickly.

The atmosphere of dining halls plays a big part in shaping students experiences in college. Because of the food quality at Hilltop, the social aspect of dining at Hilltop suffers. More students tend to avoid coming to Hilltop because they know the food is going to be a disappointment to them. Hilltop should be that dining hall where students feel excited to come to after a long day of schooling, yet many students now view Hilltop as a last resort.

Ultimately, Central should recognize that investing in high-quality food options is not just another financial consideration that is not put into much thought, but essential for making a positive food culture.

The time for change is now and the students of Central deserve better.



Photo by Jayden Klaus

Much Ado

can be difficult to understand Shakespeare’s works when just reading them. Seeing them onstage breathes life into the characters and dialogue to make it more engaging. The actors did great at making the play enjoyable through their physicality and line reading.

Even though this play is labeled as a comedy, I hadn’t expected it to be so funny. A lot of the humor came from how the characters interacted

with each other. Benedick and Beatrice’s interactions were especially funny with how they would playfully snipe at each other. Their actors, Ethan Roy and Brooke Hendon respectively, had great chemistry with each other and the rest of the cast to make the show a delight to watch.

The use of era music and dance numbers were also a welcome surprise. This made the 90s to aughts aesthetic really pop and the setting more in-depth. The final dance number celebrating the characters’

marriages led into the cast bows, which was very clever.

Everyone involved in the play did a fantastic job at bringing the play to life. Seeing it set in a less distant time period than it was originally set makes it more palatable than simply reading it. The actors all look like they had a blast performing and giving the audience a great show and they enjoyed it in turn.

Blackbox Theatre’s next performance will be “The Revolutionists” from Dec. 4-8.

Central Football Ground Game Takes Over

By James Studley
Staff Writer

Central football found themselves back in the win column with a 38-20 victory over Mercyhurst on Saturday, Oct. 12.

The win puts the Blue Devils at .500 for the season, bumping them to 3-3 while retaining their 1-0 conference record due to the Lakers' late addition to the NEC in April.

Head Coach Adam Lechtenberg emphasized the importance of winning in college football.

"It's hard to win," Lechtenberg said. "In college football, if you win a game, you better celebrate it, and I'm proud of our guys for finding a way to win... Our goal is to win the conference championship, but we're not going to do it if we don't play better".

The stars of the show were the dynamic backfield tan-



CCSU football player, Joe Crifasiww

Photo by Ian Yale

dem of junior Elijah Howard, whose 169 yards on the ground moved him into the top 20 all-time for rushing yards as a Blue Devil, and Stony Brook transfer Jadon Turner, who added 114 yards on the

ground of his own, including a 59-yard scamper for a touchdown late in the fourth quarter.

Junior quarterback Brady Olson was efficient through the air, as he threw for 124 yards on nine completions,

three for touchdowns.

"[Finding the endzone in the air] felt great," Olson said. "Just getting the offense going, we knew it was going to be a big run week, but we capitalized when passing."

Defensively, the Blue Devils forced four Laker turnovers, including an interception apiece from linebacker Malachi Wright and cornerbacks Jayvis Rayside and Davone Walden Jr. Linebacker Gavin Taylor added a fumble recovery.

Receiver Paul Marsh, Jr. made a miraculous catch to put Central ahead 14-7 early in the second quarter. Marsh said he wanted to make the catch to redeem himself.

"I was just praying I caught it," Marsh said. "[I] didn't want to let the team down because, earlier I dropped it before."

The Blue Devils look to keep their momentum as they look forward to a road trip to Hanover, New Hampshire to take on the Big Green of Dartmouth University in another NEC-Ivy League matchup.

Central Athletics Announces Morgan's Message Fall Slate



Central women's soccer players Rachel Wygant and Riley Powers, and softball player Abby Meehan tabling for Morgan's Message.

Photo by Ian Yale

By Ian Yale
Sports Editor

The CCSU Athletics Department announced their fall schedule of Morgan's Message dedication games on Monday, Oct. 7., and includes dates for six Blue Devil home games.

Morgan's Message is a non-profit organization found-

ed and operated by the friends and family of Morgan Rodgers, a former student-athlete at Duke University who died by suicide in 2019 after a battle with mental health struggles.

The organization's mission is to eliminate the stigma surrounding mental health among student-athletes with the goal of normalizing conversations

surrounding mental health, as well as empowering and encouraging anyone, student-athlete or not, to ask for help when they are struggling.

The company's slogan, "Taking a Shot at Mental Health," is a nod to Rodgers' lifelong sport of lacrosse, as well as a reminder that mental health is not something that is

impossible to improve, regardless of how it may seem.

Men's soccer played the first dedication game of the year on Sunday, Oct. 13, falling 4-2 to the visiting Chicago State Cougars.

The women's soccer team holds the next Morgan's Message game on Thursday, Oct. 17, followed by volleyball's dedication match on Saturday, Oct. 19.

Central Cross-Country will dedicate their mini-meet at Stanley Quarter Park on Friday, Oct. 25.

Football's dedication game

falls on Nov. 2, as the Blue Devils dedicate their homecoming game to the cause.

The final Morgan's Message match of the fall is slated for Friday, Nov. 8, when the swim and dive team returns to the Jack Suydam Natatorium.

The winter and spring Morgan's Message dates will be announced in the coming months, CCSU Athletics said via Instagram.

Contributions to Morgan's Message can be made at any dedication game, as well as at their website, <https://www.morgansmessage.org/>.

If you or someone you care about is experiencing thoughts of suicide or self-harm:

Call or Text 988

**For more resources:
988lifeline.org**

NIL

ideal avenue to benefit from the new NIL rules, while keeping it as easy as possible.

“It’s a pretty cool opportunity, as all of us have worked extremely hard,” Pitts said. “Many of my friends and family have already bought merch, and when I see them wearing it at games, that’s going to be awesome.”

Pitts urged any athlete who has not yet taken advantage of the store to do so.

“I’ve personally had a lot of fun and have found success with this NIL store,” he said. “I encourage all of the athletes here at CCSU to sign up.”

In addition to the deal inked with Influxer, the Central men’s basketball has found themselves as the benefactors of another NIL opportunity as

well.

A group of CCSU alumni and basketball fans formed an NIL group known as the Hard Hittin’ Collective, which markets the team and contributes directly to fundraising for the players.

Ostrowsky said the team has always felt the support and is very thankful for the community’s efforts.

“Our team has always felt tremendous support from the alumni and the community,” he said. “We are very thankful.”

NIL offers student-athletes a big-picture way to have a successful athletic career, both on and off the field.

“The NIL store has allowed me to take control of my athletic career in a way that benefits me financially and personally,” Niman said.



CCSU baseball player Gianni Merlonghi Photo by Ian Yale



CCSU softball player Matison Piripavel Photo by Ian Yale

Soccer

Leah Howe to make it 1-0. It was Radonicic’s first goal of the season.

Less than nine minutes later, the Blue Devils would go on a scoring rampage, scoring three goals in quick succession. Forward Riley Powers scored back-to-back goals in the 20th minute and in the 21st minute, and defender Kiley Yepes scored Central’s fourth goal in the 22nd minute.

When asked how she was able to score two goals in two minutes, Powers said she looks for open spaces to run into.

“I think just looking for those open spaces, seeing where I can make a run and where my teammates are running,” Powers said. “I’m always moving in the box, and just looking for the ball.”

Central’s next goal wouldn’t come until the 66th minute when midfielder Daniela De Souza finished a cross from forward Aoife Horgan to make it 5-0. The final goal came in the 75th minute when Central defender Charlotte Simmons scored off of a corner pass from midfielder Gia Edwards to make it 6-0.

By the end of the game, Central had outshot Delaware State 22-5. Central also had 12 corner kicks to Delaware State’s 1 corner kick.

With the win, Central moved to 3-7-1 overall on the season, 3-1 in the Northeast Conference. Delaware State moved to 0-11-1 overall on the season, 0-3-1 in the Northeast Conference.

Central’s head coach, Mick D’Arcy, said while he was happy with the win, he was also happy that his team kept Delaware State from scoring a goal.

“To win 6-0, you have to be



CCSU soccer player Riley Powers Photo by Katey O’Neil

happy with that. And to get the shutout is the bonus part of that too ... Our defense takes a lot of pride in not conceding goals,” D’Arcy said. “Overall, I was happy to win. We scored lots of goals, and different people scored today.”

D’Arcy said the win will boost the confidence of the team and prepare them for their next game against Wagner College, a rematch of last year’s NEC Championship final that CCSU won 4-3 on penalties.

“It’s just the overall confidence of winning another NEC game. That’s big,” D’Arcy said. “That’s three in a row that we’ve won. We look to carry that momentum, and confidence is a huge part of that momentum. If we’re confident, it helps a lot going into the next game against Wagner ... and hopefully the performance today will help us get ready for that game.”

CCSU captain Aoife Horgan said the team had been working hard in practice the past week to prepare for the game.

“Overall, it was a very good performance ... We worked really hard in practice all week and we were trying to get connections in their half of the field. I think today it worked well. We got to the endline and crossed the ball in. Overall, it was a good performance, but we still have a lot of work to do.”

Horgan, who had a goal in each of Central’s previous two matches and was named NEC Offensive Player of the Week last week, had an assist but didn’t score against Delaware State. She said she wasn’t concerned with scoring and was happy to get the win.

“I just want the team to win, so I’m not really worried about scoring goals,” Horgan said. “Obviously it’s good to get on the score sheet, but I think today we proved that a lot of people on the team can score, and I’m happy for them. They work really hard.”

CCSU next travels to play Wagner College at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 10.

Don’t Miss the Homecoming Game!
Central vs. Wagner
Oct. 2, 12:00 p.m. at Arute Stadium

CCSU Athletics Takes a Step Forward into NIL



CCSU basketball player Joe Ostrowsky

Photo by Ian Yale

By Ian Yale
Sports Editor

In response to the increasing role of Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) deals within college sports, Central Connecticut State Athletics recently announced a partnership with NIL merchandise company Influxer to open an online store to benefit Blue Devil student-athletes.

The store offers a wide range of shirts and sweatshirts bearing CCSU logos and the name and number of the respective student-athlete. The store also features a gold pendant with a given athlete's number.

The website, influxermerch.com,

says that the "majority of proceeds go to the student-athletes."

Central men's basketball player Joe Ostrowsky said the opportunity is highly beneficial not only for the Blue Devils, but for fans, friends and family of the athletes.

"It's exciting to have the Influxer website," Ostrowsky said. "Our friends, family and fans can support us not only with a portion of the sales going back to us, but also on gameday and throughout the community."

With the grueling schedule of a student-athlete, it is nearly impossible for many to hold a

part-time job to make money during the year. Central women's soccer player Gabby Niman said the Influxer store is a great way to alleviate some of the financial stress.

"As a student-athlete, I have a lot of responsibilities on and off the field," Niman said. "The NIL store purchases allow student-athletes extra funds to cover expenses while building a brand for themselves."

Blue Devil baseball player Gabe Pitts, who was featured on Influxer's Instagram page as a trending athlete for the week of Oct. 6, said the store has given student-athletes an

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CCSU SCOREBOARD

Oct. 3

- Men's Soccer loss vs. Mercyhurst, 2-1

Oct. 4

- Swim and Dive loss at Army, 249-50
- Swim and Dive loss at Vermont, 220-79
- Volleyball loss vs. Chicago St., 3-0

Oct. 5

- Football loss at Yale, 23-22
- Volleyball loss vs. Chicago St., 3-0
- Men's Cross Country at Paul Short Run, 32nd of 44
- Women's Cross Country at Paul Short Run, 36th of 42

Oct. 6

- Women's Soccer win vs. Delaware St., 6-0
- Men's Soccer loss at Fairleigh Dickinson, 3-0

Oct. 10

- Women's Soccer loss at Wagner, 4-1

Oct. 11

- Volleyball loss at St. Francis (PA), 3-0
- Men's Cross Country at New England Championships, 1st Place
- Women's Cross Country at New England Championships, 4th Place (Brooke Morabito, 1st overall)

Oct. 12

- Football win vs. Mercyhurst, 38-20
- Volleyball loss at St. Francis (PA), 3-1

Oct. 13

- Men's Soccer loss vs. Chicago St., 4-2

Devils Dominate in Dismantling of Delaware State

By Eary Banushi
Staff Writer

The Central Connecticut State University women's soccer team picked up their third Northeast Conference win of the season after defeating the Delaware State University Hornets 6-0 on Sunday, Oct. 6 at CCSU Soccer Field.

The Blue Devils were on a two-game win streak coming into Sunday's match. Their previous game was a 2-0 victory on the road against Mer-

cyhurst University on Sunday, Sept. 29. Delaware State came into the game having lost 3-0 at home to Saint Francis University on the same day.

Central put pressure on Delaware State's defense in the first few minutes of the game with a few early corners as well as a shot by Aoife Horgan in the second minute that was saved by the Hornets' goalkeeper.

The Blue Devils were in

control of the game from the start, controlling possession and constantly playing in the Hornets half of the field. When Delaware State did get the ball, it wouldn't be long before a misplaced pass or tackle put it right back at the feet of a Blue Devil who would then go right back on the attack.

Midfielder Emma Radonicic opened the scoring for Central in the 11th minute after she finished a cross from defender

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CCSU soccer player Riley Powers

Photo by Ian Yale