

# The Recorder

May 1, 2025

VOLUME 136 | ISSUE 5

## Maria's Place Donations are Decreasing While Need is Increasing

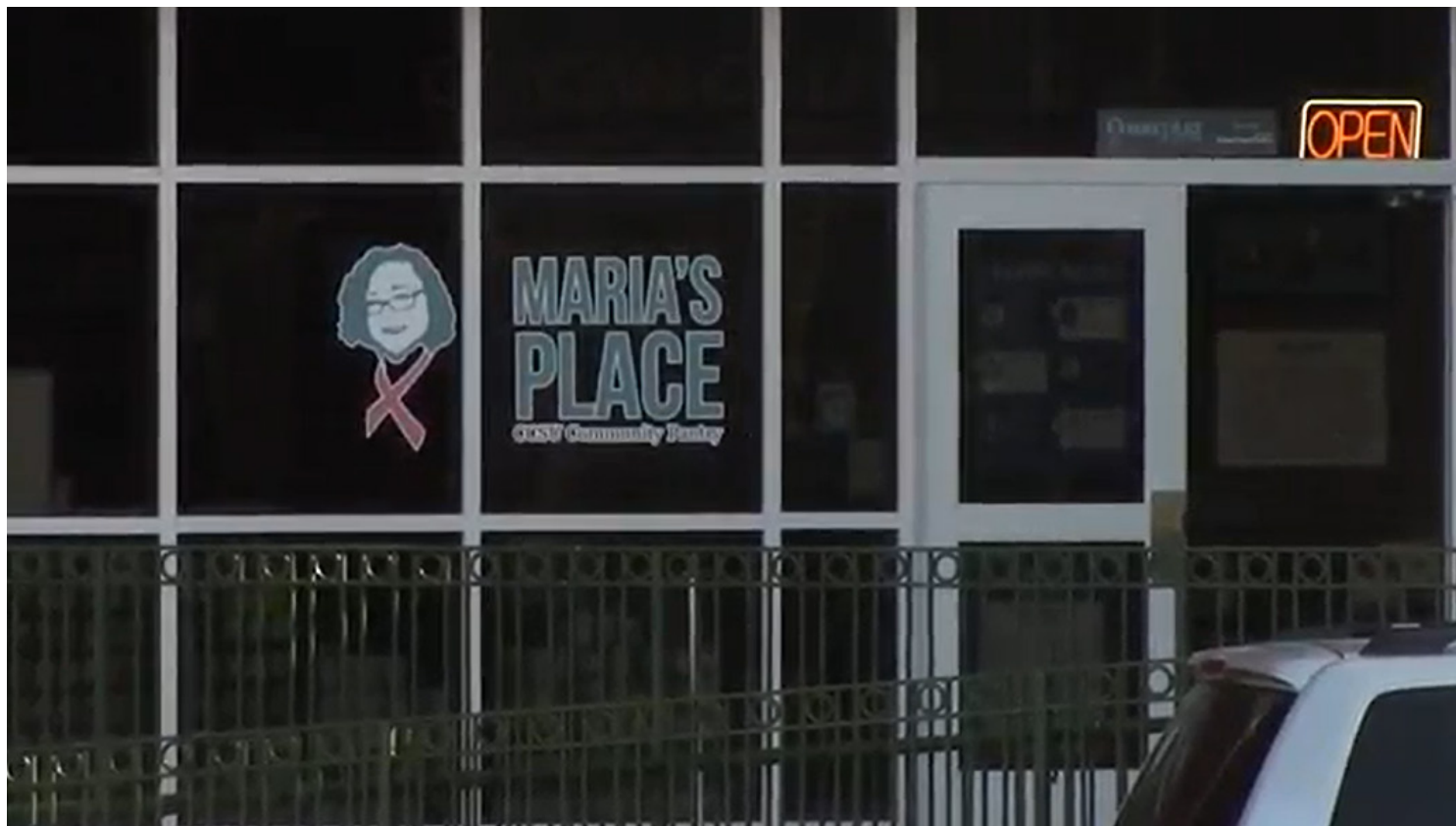


Photo by Maria Sevilla Sola

By Maria Sevilla Sola  
News Editor

Kate Ayotte, the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, said the campus food pantry, Maria's Place, is seeing less donations while grocery prices rise in the United States.

The pantry relies on food donations from others and from Food Share, a national organization that serves to help families in need.

"I do feel like with the rise in cost of groceries we are seeing less donations," Ayotte said. "But we do have a partnership with Food Share which has really helped us keep our shelves stocked."

While Maria's Place has seen a decrease in the number of food donations, Ayotte said the number of students in need has risen.

"Data is showing that more and

more college students are becoming food insecure," she said. "In an effort to help our students here at Central, Maria's Place is not only able to help them, not only with food insecurity, but also help them stay in school."

From 176 students in 2018-19 to 1653 in 2024-25, the number of students going to the pantry has skyrocketed.

See *Donations* on Page 2

## Train Station Stop Would Benefit Students, Representative Says

By Lucas Amoroso-Whittles  
Social Media Editor

A state representative champions the idea of a train station being built not far from Central.

The proposed train station would fall on the Hartford train line, which, according to CTrail's website for the line, runs between Springfield, Massachusetts and New Haven.

Gary Turco, a Democrat who represents the 27th district, comprising parts of Newington and New Britain, said that the idea of a station has been around for years, despite some political transitions locally.

Turco said that there would be benefits to having the

train stop, helping transport residents in the Newington area and CCSU faculty and students, who he said have been supportive of the idea, and would also provide an alternative to car travel.

"We're so heavily reliant on cars now that if we put this big infrastructure in making, you know, a mass transit system that's easier to use, that is convenient to people's lifestyles with the, you know, the amount of times the train will stop and you can get on it." Turco said in an interview Monday.

Turco said that while there is support for building a

See *Train Station* on Page 2

## Central's ASO Fashion Show

By Elijah Hernandez  
Staff Writer

For eleven consecutive years, the Africana Student Organization (ASO) has hosted a fashion show to embrace their members' unique heritages, to provide a night of appreciation for the beauty individuality harbors, and to celebrate the future by giving a platform for Central's CCSU's pioneers to shine.

This year, ASO decided to spotlight a smaller historical

country with a very rich history during the event, which was held inat Welte Auditorium on April 26. The fashion show's name, Mansa Fanga, is derived from Mansa Musa, the king of the historical Mali Empire, who was deemed the richest man in history by historians and archaeologists alike.

Mansa Fanga took attendees on a cultural journey with each scene offering a distinctly unique perspective of what wealth and divinity means.

One of the scenes, cultivated by ASO Vice President Favor Uwaya, focused on the effect love has on loyalty.

Uwaya said she was trying to establish the importance of what devotion to love meant generations ago.

"For my scene, there were men offering women and riches to Leo (Mansa), but he always had his four wives in mind," Uwaya said. "He rejected all the women that were brought to him, and towards the end, his wives came

See *Fashion Show* on Page 5



Photo by Elijah Hernandez

About

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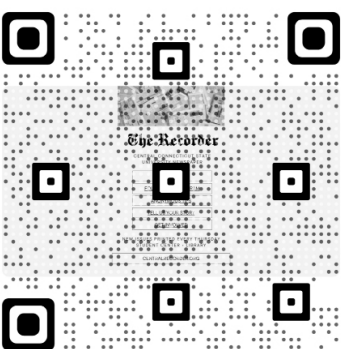
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Printed By:  
Valley Publishing Company

SCAN FOR OUR LINKS



# Donations

The U.S. Inflation Calculator reported that grocery prices went up 3% since March 2024 while showing that 2022 has the highest inflation at 10.5%.

“Since COVID, a lot more students are using the food pantry and visiting more

often,” said Ayotte.

She said that she hopes that more students become involved in food drives and that they feel safer to visit.

“The location is a little secluded on purpose so that it’s a little bit more conspicuous if students are visiting the food pantry,” Ayotte said.

From athletes to older students, Maria’s Place is open to everyone in need of groceries up to two times a week.

The pantry is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday and is located under the R.C. Vance Academic Center.

Major Food category expenditures, 12-month percent increase from March 2024 to March 2025

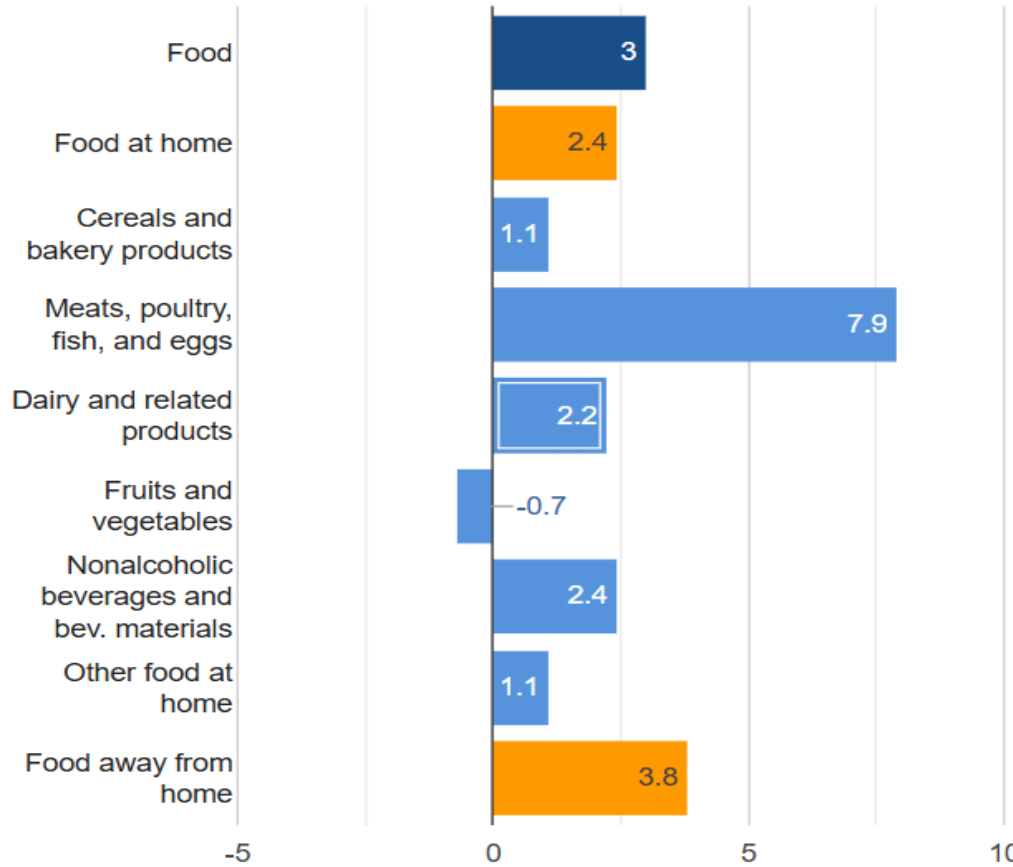


Photo by the U.S. Inflation Calculator

# Train Station

train stop, there has to be more use of existing train lines and buses to make the case for investment in more public transportation services.

“People have to be willing to change their behaviors, so that this system that the state will invest in will work,” Turco said.

There is public transportation surrounding the CCSU area. The CT Fastrak bus station lies on Fenn Road, not far from CCSU, providing bus services to downtown New Britain, West Hartford and Hartford, according to CCSU’s website. The nearest train stations to the campus are in Hartford and Berlin.

Students can email dot.customer@ct.gov to express support.

# Potholes Cause Upset Near and Around Campus

By Jameson Lynch  
Staff Writer

Some students said they are upset about the potholes appearing on campus and on Ella Grasso Boulevard.

CCSU student, Francesco Moline, said he’s worried about his car when driving to class and around the area.

“I do risk some damage on the car if I do drive over them, so I do my best to avoid them, but they’re starting to get pretty hard to avoid,” he said.

According to AAA, potholes form when water freezes in the cracks in the road and expand, breaking them open in the process.

They said about 10% of drivers will experience some damage from a pothole at some point with expenses averaging up to \$600 in 2021.

The City of New Britain’s website said hot asphalt is used to fill the potholes permanently but that they are unavoidable due to changing weather conditions in

the city.

Despite this, Moline said the potholes come back every year. Student Brian Garrow said he isn’t happy about the situation either. “I’ve almost thought I lost a tire a couple times going through there,” he said. “I’ve hit a couple of the bigger ones and my car, it’s not the biggest car in the world.”

He said that there were times when he had to pull over to make sure his tire was still on after driving

over the potholes.

Though the New Britain Public Works Division filled in some of the potholes on campus, some students say they are still worried about driving in the area.

The city said people can report these holes and other issues they notice through SeeClickFix.

The website is used to pinpoint issues and send them to the local government while also allowing pictures to be sent for a more specific look.

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

# Wellness Spaces on Campus



Photo by @ccsu\_wellness

By Jayden Klaus  
Lifestyle Editor

It can be hard to unwind after a long day of studying while on campus. Even in between classes, it helps to have somewhere where you can relax and have time to yourself. Central has a few places around campus that make for a great, supportive place to find the peace you need on campus.

The Tranquility Room, located on the third floor of the Student Center, offers students a quiet place to study, pray, meditate, or use otherwise for such activities. It was created by the Student Union Board of Governors in 2013 originally in Memorial Hall before being moved to the Student Center in 2020. Since its opening, the Tranquility Room has been available and used by many students for their own benefit.

The Tranquility Room is comprised of two enclosed rooms that are open during normal Student Center

hours. While small, both rooms offer privacy to be used for quiet activities. Since the space is often used by Muslim students on campus, it contains prayer rugs, Islamic decorations, prayer books and signs denoting the direction of the Qibla for prayer.

Director of Student Activities/Leadership and Development and Associate Dean of Student Life Scott Hazen said the Tranquility Room is open to all students and provides a neutral place for anyone to engage in calm activities as needed.

“It’s a good space, a great space, and it’s something that seems to be serving students’ needs at this time,” Hazen said.

Mariam Khalil, a junior and president of the Muslim Student Association, said she’s thankful to have a space on campus that she and other Muslim students can use for prayer. She said that while she sees the

Tranquility Room primarily get used by Muslims, it is a good place for anyone to get peace and quiet.

“Everyone is allowed to go in and get peace there,” Khalil said. “The main purpose is for people to gain whatever peace they are seeking, whether it’s academic or spiritual.”

For student athletes dealing with both classwork and sports training, it can be hard to find a moment to slow down and relax for the sake of your mental wellbeing. The Wellness Room, located in Kaiser Hall, is a place for athletes relax while promoting good habits for managing and practicing wellness. Among its amenities, it offers snacks and drinks, craft projects, weighted blankets, massagers, stress relief techniques, and other tools to promote and foster a relaxing environment.

The Wellness Room’s calming atmosphere is apparent the moment the

space is entered. The pleasantly warm air perfumed by an essential oil diffuser that invites relaxation. Natural light comes in through the windows to illuminate the space. The food, crafts, and relaxation tools serve to make the space an open and welcoming environment.

Molly McCarthy, Assistant A.D. for Compliance & Student Services and coordinator for the Wellness Room, said that she created the Wellness Room to be somewhere for student athletes to pay more attention to their mental wellbeing alongside their physical wellbeing.

“This is a hub for mental health information, and that’s another purpose of it,” McCarthy said. “They can come in here, they can choose to just relax or they can choose to gain some information on mindfulness and eating, or sleep hygiene or how food can affect your mood. It’s a resource place.”

Gabriel Kwarteng, a senior

in track and field, said he regularly uses the Wellness Room because of the help it provides athletes with both physical and mental health while on campus.

“It promotes prioritizing yourself and prioritizing your health,” Kwarteng said. “I think it does that by being a safe space for you to just relax and do whatever you need to do whether that’s emotional, physical, spiritual, I think that it’s a good place for people to just go and just relax to take a moment for themselves.”

Outside of these two dedicated spaces, there are other places on campus for students to relax that may not be as well known, Hazen said. While the Wellness Room and Tranquility Room are good places to visit, it is important to note that they aren’t the only ones and students can find or create similar spaces to suit their needs.

# Students Catch a Break at Wellness Fair

By Lucas Amoroso-Whittles  
Social Media Editor

The Central Connecticut State University Office of Wellness Education held the My Best Self Health Fair in Alumni Hall on Tuesday, April 15.

The annual event is a way for students to utilize support services and take a step back from their schoolwork.

At the event, students could participate in Zumba dancing, speak with different campus centers that tabled and collect stamps on a card to redeem at a taco truck outside. Wellness trucks were also available outside of the Student Center. Other features of the event included therapy dogs and CPR training.

Liz McCall, a graduate intern at the office, said that the fair is a reminder for students to take care of themselves and to put themselves first when they can.

“If you can show up as your best more often than not, that’s going to start by

taking care of yourself, then that’s the main goal,” McCall said.

McCall said that this year, the event was scheduled to be held towards the end of the semester, rather than the beginning, placing it between midterms and finals, when students begin to prepare for exams and projects, with the idea that it will help students destress.

“We wanted to make it fun, we wanted to make it engaging and we need them to find some time to focus on themselves because it’s very stressful, the end of the semester is very heavy for coursework,” McCall said.

Alison Burge, CCSU Coordinator of Wellness Education, said that the events and the tables connect to elements of wellness that are important to students’ health.

“We just wanted students to have resources to kind of wrap around them in this stressful environment and provide them with resources to be the best ver-



Photo by Lucas Amoroso-Whittles

sions of themselves,” Burge said.

The Office of Wellness Education helps educate

students on health and well-being, according to their website. Students can visit their office, located in the

Student Wellness Center in Willard-DiLoreto Hall room 101.

## OPINION: Harvard Plays Victim, Trump Says ‘You’re Fired’

By Nicholas Dest  
Staff Writer

Instead of refuting President Trump’s claims or adhering to his requests, Harvard chooses a third path: denouncing the administration’s actions as unconstitutional — while ignoring its own institutional flaws.

After a multi-billion-dollar funding freeze following Harvard’s noncompliance with the government, Alan M. Garber, Harvard’s President, feverishly sought legal action. He also seeks taxpayer pity for halted research programs, revocation of tax-exempt status and the impact it has on “American higher education in the world.”

University-wide antisemitism has been stirring for years and is what led to the onslaught of

public and political backlash. The most notorious instance came when more than 30 Harvard student groups signed a letter blaming Israel for the Hamas attacks of Oct. 7, 2023.

It took 472 painstaking days for Harvard to adopt a formal definition of antisemitism after the letter. But once federal funding was at stake, it took them just seven days to launch a lawsuit against the U.S. Government. Coincidence? I think not.

Garber warned that the funding freeze would “undermine America’s ability to save lives.” It’s almost amusing to see him accidentally take accountability for his disobedience. However, I have a sneering suspicion that this isn’t the interpretation he was looking for. It’s obvious he is a desperate

fearmonger, making a last-ditch effort to rally public opinion against the funding freeze.

Garber’s full response underscores Harvard’s cowardice. If their DEI programs, admissions practices and anti-hate efforts are up to par — the administration’s main concerns, and rightfully so — why doesn’t he say so? For a university with such high standards and rich history, sidestepping confrontation and blaming the authoritarian is quite alarming.

If Harvard continues to inadequately defend their actions, their motto, “Veritas” — Latin for “truth” — should be exchanged for “Victima,” a word that needs no translation.

## MAY Campus Events

**CAN Six Flags Trip,  
May 1, 10:00 am  
Six Flags New England**

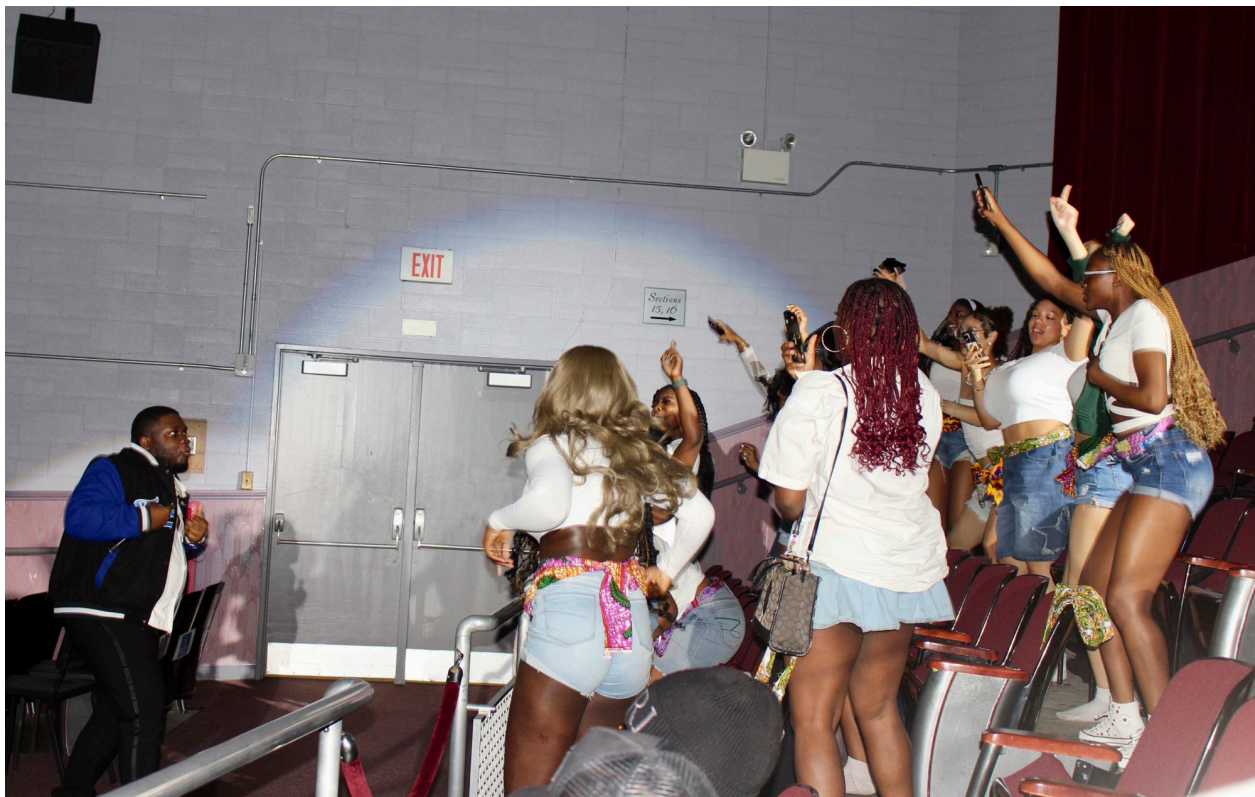


Photo by Elijah Hernandez



Photo by Elijah Hernandez

## Fashion Show

from the crowd in beautiful gold gowns to show they weren't like any of the women before them."

Like Uwaya's scene, there were many defining moments that left a lasting impression on members of the audience. Whether that be the flag show encapsulating the different faces and emblems that make up the ASO, or the gender specific scencescenes that allowed the models to display their collaborative magnificence through a shared characteristic.

However, there were moments some say will be very hard to forget. Many guests of the night said the

swimwear scene was an amalgamation of alluring provocation, raw intimacy, and the shock of the artistically creative vision. The only thing between the audience and the models was the stage they stood on. This allowed for a scene of passion to feel so much more real.

But that wasn't the only segment to impress the audience. Clubs from Eastern Connecticut State University, Southern Connecticut State University, and the University of Hartford all showed off their talents in different yet exhilarating ways. The visiting choreographies oozed unity through fluidity and not only proudly represented their respective universities, but

also the culture they shared showed how diverse Connecticut is.

With the incorporation of other schools and the effort poured into everything leading up to Saturday night, Uwaya said it was worth it.

"I've been hearing that people think this was the best show that we've had," Uwaya said. "The planning process starts in the summer, where the e-board members decide what the theme is, what our scenes will be, and pick the designers for what we're envisioning. This is one of the biggest events on campus, so we try to get a variety of people a taste of cultures they may not have experienced before."



Photo by Elijah Hernandez



Photo by Elijah Hernandez



Photo by Elijah Hernandez

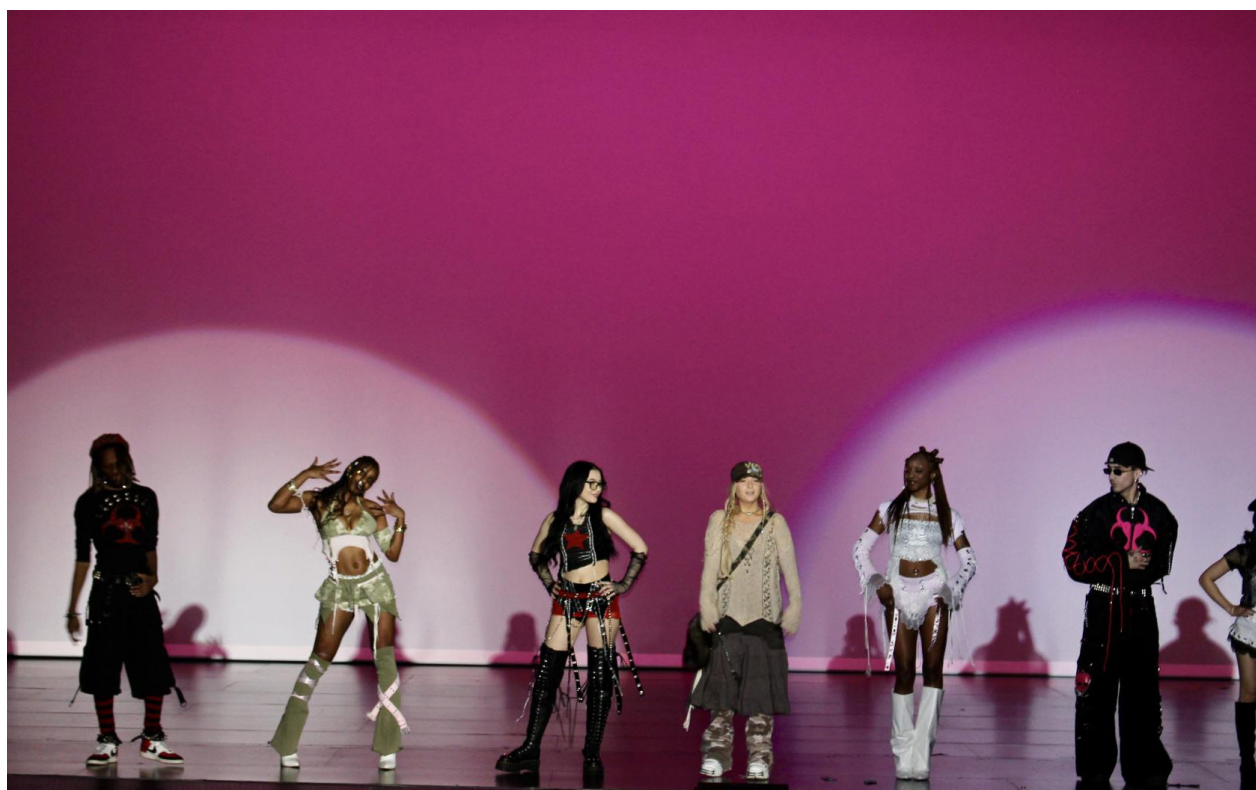


Photo by Elijah Hernandez



Photo by Elijah Hernandez



Photo by Elijah Hernandez



Photo by Elijah Hernandez

## Fashion & Design Club's Annual Show

By **Elijah Hernandez**  
Staff Writer

The Fashion & Design Club hosted its annual fashion show in Welte Hall at Central Connecticut State University on April 4 where over 200 attendees were able to witness an elegant performance

More than just a showcase of different outfits strung together for a normal day, the fashion show was an immersive experience that gave a sense of mystery as to what could possibly happen next.

The clothing included was from designers such as Switch Blade using stainless steel rings to reinterpret what fashion design can mean, to the irony exhibited by the Ghetto

excellence line created by Honcho, which elevated what streetwear means, to a place of raw sophistication.

The fashion show, cultivated by the president of the club, Devon Astacio, was an intrinsically captivating experience that transported you into a film-like ambiance. The entire show was strategically produced in such a way that each scene played off the last in a subtle but passionate way.

Astacio said the show was more than just a club event he was taking part in, but something he could be proud of.

"To me, it was a passion project that we put on that ended up being successful," Astacio said. "I've proven so much to myself through the

show, it meant a lot to me. The show was a showcase of excellence."

However, Astacio wasn't alone in this endeavor, as Damani Hough had an important role in making the fashion show a reality. Together, the two of them created a visual story, beginning and ending with both of their visions; The S3R3NTY Brand and Sonder.

Hough said the storytelling was methodically planned out with the purpose of letting the models exude emotion.

"The Sonder scene was meant to tie the whole thing together; everyone's definition of elegance is different because we're all perceiving everything differently from our stories, so it showed the

different definitions," Hough said.

The show had elements that reached many different demographics of creatives. Lines like Kanti by Nu Rana illustrated culture through the use of traditional South Asian attire and alluring jewelry. Additionally, there was a redefining of what business casual looks like through the Rose Collection by Syniah Rose, using denim in new and innovative ways.

There were even moments of darkness and grunge constructed by Eldridge Adomoko and Krista Allen, respectively. By harnessing dark emotions and embracing rebellion as an outlet, these lines took what may be looked at as taboo and

created a platform of acceptance.

Astacio and Hough shared a common goal and said they hope people took something away from the show.

"A lot of people treat fashion as a trend, but you can't be super judgmental and cookie-cutter with fashion," Astacio said. "Our purpose here on Earth is to inspire."

"I miss when fashion was a select few people doing it, but we still want to teach everyone the language of fashion so that people can communicate in their own way," Hough said. "I want to see everyone speaking their own language. When you're putting your mind to something, you're really capable of anything."

## Book Review: 'Milk Fed' by Melissa Broder

By Deanna Prescott  
Editor-in-Chief

Female main character Rachel lacks spiritual and physical belonging; she seeks solace in various vices and unhealthy eating habits that bring her a temporary and false sense of security. Broder explores enticing themes of soul-searching, mother-daughter relationships, physical and spiritual hunger, queer love, heartbreak, indulgence, religion, and more.

Everything Rachel has ever known is to be re-evaluated when she meets a vivacious Miriam, the employee at Yo!-Good, a frozen yogurt shop that she religiously frequents.

Melissa Broder seduces her readers with exquisite food descriptions and whimsical prose. The cover itself is enticing with its loud-colored, ambiguous illustration that immediately draws you in. I devoured Milk Fed within a few sittings and I would do it

all over again.

The only short-coming for me that took away one star is the lack of elaboration for some elements, such as the imaginary Rabbi that would visit Rachel's mind. While I was intrigued by the capabilities of Rachel's imagination, I wish the Rabbi had been woven in more consistently throughout the chapters; he connects to the significant theme around her lack of religious belonging. Furthermore, there is so much going on in this book that it's hard to pinpoint a deliberate message to the reader. If I had to craft a message from my experience with Milk Fed, it would be to fearlessly indulge in the fruits and natural impulses that this life has to offer- whether that be an electrifying love that feels forbidden, or a hearty meal that graces each groove of your taste buds, you should always dare to live.

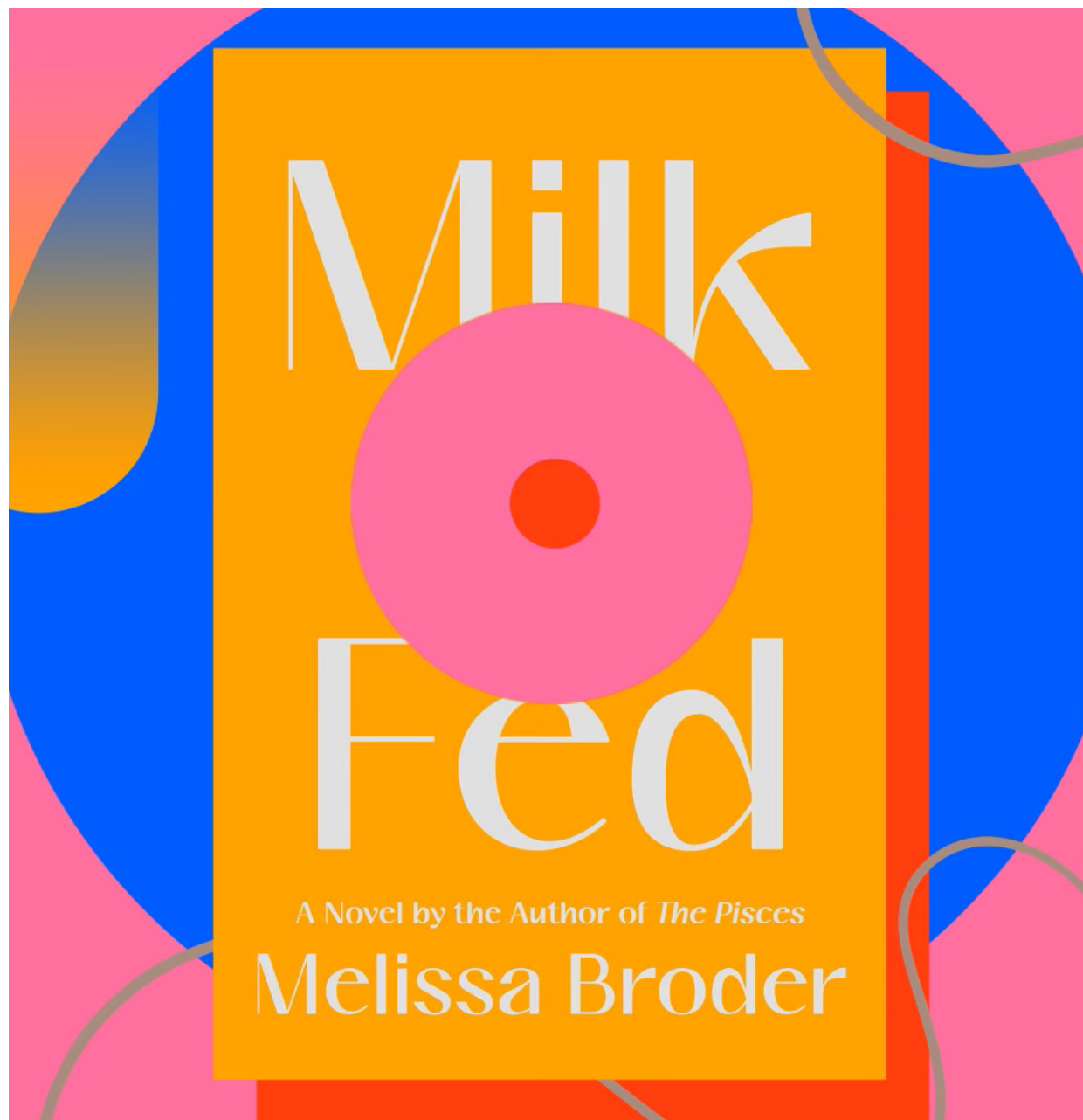


Photo by Refinery29

## Book Review: 'Malice' by Keigo Higashino

By Deanna Prescott  
Editor-in-Chief

Keigo Higashino's "Malice" is a detective fiction that centers around solving the murder of Kunihiro Hidaka, who was murdered in his own home just days before moving to Canada. Hidaka's wife and best friend discover his body and are left with a thousand questions. This suspenseful cat and mouse tale turns in a new direction at any given moment. Higashino explores themes of revenge, jealousy, success, loneliness, transactional friendships, blind love, greed, unreliable narrator

If there's one thing Keigo Higashino knows how to do, it's plot-building. Before I reached the halfway mark, I knew I was going to be adding more of his books to my extensive TBR list (to-be-read). He executes the plot in a way that is extremely cohesive and sensical; the multiple subplots merged

ever-so-harmoniously and as a reader, that couldn't be more satisfying. Simply put, to read Keigo Higashino's work feels like a breath of fresh air.

One may find themselves empathizing with the killer, which goes to show Higashino's talent with character building. He explores lots of the darker themes in humanity that I mentioned above, such as jealousy and greed taken too far.

While constructing an enticing plot, Higashino included subtle Japanese culture and sensory elements that immersed me into the little world within the pages. I loved the consistent mentions of Japanese cherry blossom trees, mountains unique to the land, and how one of the narrators (who is awfully unreliable) often drinks hot milk.

Higashino keeps the reader guessing- just when you think you've uncovered the mystery- no, you haven't.

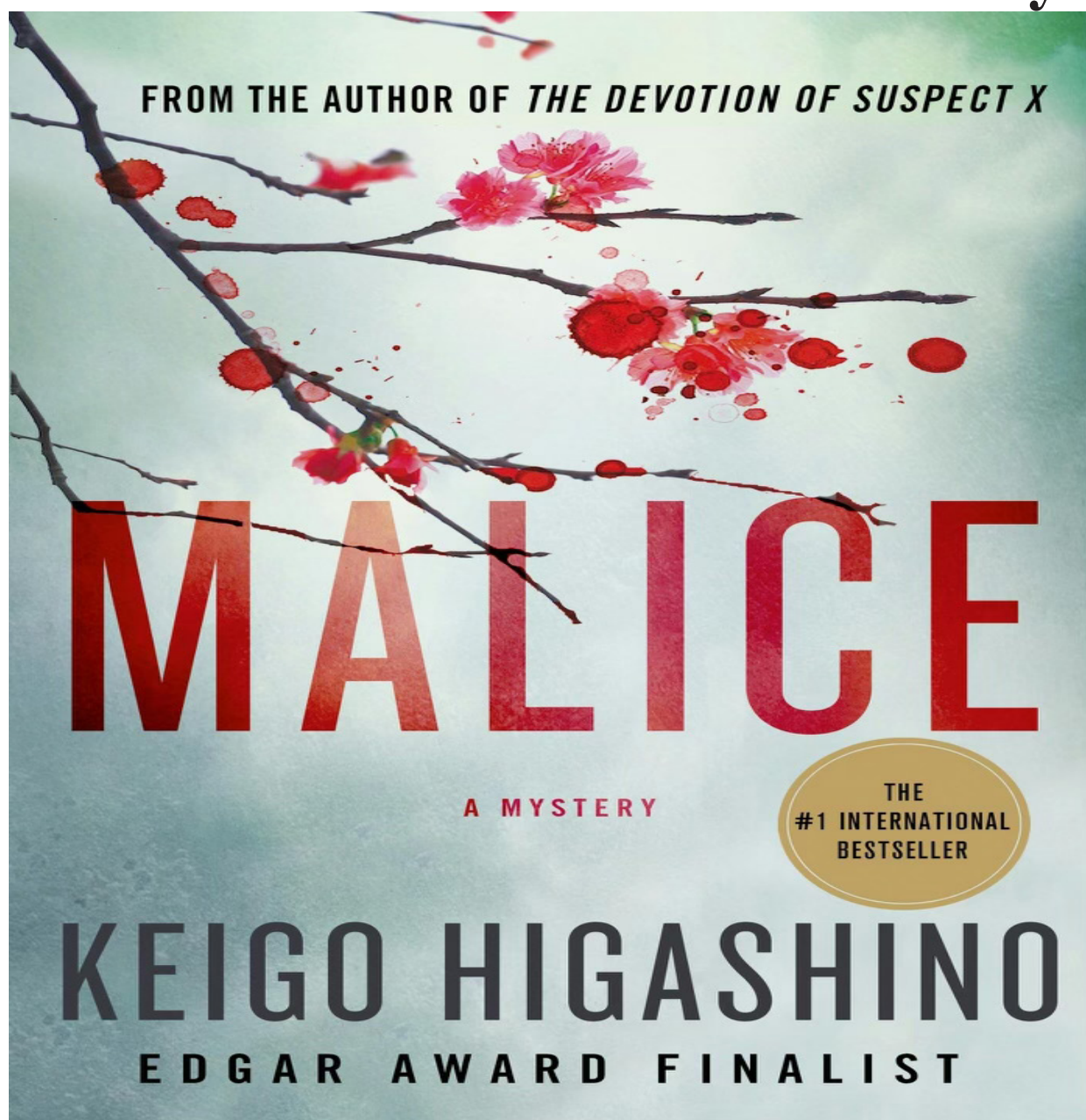


Photo by Macmillan Publishers

# CT's Go Baby Go Empowers Young Drivers

By Keysa Mateo  
Staff Writer

**G**o Baby Go is a national program that uniquely reworks electronic toy ride-on cars for kids with limited mobility disabilities to let them move on their own. The program started as a research project at the University of Delaware working on assisting children with disabilities that impair their mobility. The program adjusts each car specifically for each child to allow them to control their ability to move.

The Connecticut branch of the community-based program was founded in 2015 by Michele Dischino, a professor in Technology and Engineering at Central Connecticut State University.

Dischino said she was inspired after watching an NBC news segment on the program and how it sought to address the problem that children with mobility impairments don't have access to electric wheelchairs.

"They thought they could take something inexpensive and readily available, like a ride-on car," she said.

The use of these electronic ride-on cars provides kids not just with a means of getting

around on their own, but also a way to be able to socialize with other kids when they otherwise wouldn't be able to, which is another one of the program's stated purposes.

"It's also important that they be able to play with the toys their peers play with," Dischino said. "But the way the cars come out of the box, they wouldn't be able to do."

Dischino reached out to the program in Delaware to start working on developing it for children in Connecticut.

"So, we've helped a lot of children with Down syndrome or Cerebral palsy," Dischino said.

"The way the car comes out of the box, we make some changes, and they can use it, so it's been very rewarding."

Dischino integrated her first Go Baby Go event into one of her courses and allowed her students to show their engineering skills to join the program to transform these cars for the children. From there, students from other high schools, like New Britain High School, I joined the program to work on electric vehicles, for which some earned college credits for participating.

Working with the community clinic, Dischino contacted families to enter and transform the vehicles for their children with disabilities. She also worked with a physical therapist to ensure the car wiring was safe and how to position the child in the car. They also make harnesses for child safety while in the car or extra head support if needed.

"I've gotten to know other people around the university who can bring other skills and ideas into it. I love that," Dischino said.

With a lot of research and dedication, Dischino now has two therapists, and the program has modified 300 cars for children. She has applied for funds and received donations to purchase the vehicles and other accessories.

As they meet each child, they can determine the changes they will make in the car for that child, making it adaptable to children who cannot move at all and to those with limited mobility. The program takes time and passion to apply their skills to make each car right for their little driver.

"A few years back, we had a boy who couldn't bend at the

waist, so that he couldn't sit in a car, and we had to adapt it," Dischino said. "So, we kind of made it so that he could lie in the car, and he could press a button; we put the button on the side to make the car go."

Even for those with significant disabilities, Dischino and her crew have made sure to make the car the proper way for the child.

"We figured it out, we found a way to make it work, and this is eye-opening because you realize how much we take for granted," Dischino said.

While working with one of her students, the students have shown their ability to change the process and make an impact in not only the accessories in the car for the child, but also a change in making the cars with more effortless mobility for them and a decrease in the amount spent on adjustments on many of the cars.

Falcon Yule, a senior at Central, created a handlebar with a 3D printer. This was an in-class project that she didn't expect would go as far as now to being used. Currently, the 3D-printed handlebars are used to make the cars more accessible by making it easier for the kids to drive their

car. They can also be customized for each kid by letting them choose the color of their handlebar.

"Fisher-Price Power Wheels cars are not easy to turn for anyone, but it's especially not easy to turn for these kids who have trouble with mobility," Yule said. "And so, with the handlebar, all you have to do is shift your weight, and then it turns."

Yule also creates custom-made license plates, and the additional buttons used for various kids' cars. The button typically costs \$75, but Yule's passion and skills allowed her to print the 3D button and buy the wires inside for just \$5-\$10.

"So just having the button run along the whole length to close the edge like this, wherever they put their hand, you know, they can use one hand if they want, they'll still press down and turn," Yule said.

Yule said she dedicates her time and skills to the cars for the kids and is very detailed in her work.

"I spent a lot of time on its details. I used star bit screws

See *Baby* on Page 7

## OPINION: 2025 NFL Draft Picks

By Chike Oniyuke  
Staff Writer

**O**ne of the biggest sports events in 2025 just went down this past weekend: The NFL Draft.

With 257 picks over three days, the NFL draft is one of the most anticipated days in football, besides the Super Bowl. Each team got to pick players for a low cost that can impact their team now and in the future.

With the number one pick in the draft, the Tennessee Titans selected Cameron Ward, a quarterback from the University of Miami. This pick was not surprising, as the majority of football fans knew he was going to the Titans.

The second pick that occurred involved the Cleveland Browns trade with the Jacksonville Jaguars. The Jacksonville Jaguars traded their fifth overall pick, their second and fourth picks, and next year's first round pick in exchange for a 2025 second overall, a 2025 fourth round pick, and a 2025 sixth round pick. With the second pick, the Jacksonville Jaguars selected Travis Hunter, wide receiver and cornerback from University of Colorado Boulder. A lot of people didn't see this coming. Also, with Myles Garrett signing a major contract recently, people thought that the Browns were going to

take Abdul Carter to pair with Garrett on their defensive line.

The third pick involved the New York Giants. The Giants selected Abdul Carter, an edge rusher from Pennsylvania State University. Arguably, this was one of the best picks in the draft. With a defensive line including Dexter Lawrence and Kayvon Thibideau, Abdul Carter coming in solidifies the Giants defensive line and linebackers to where they are going to dare you to throw the ball on third down. It's a tremendous pick by the Giants as they will become a force next year, especially defen-

sively.

The New England Patriots held the fourth overall pick, and they selected Will Campbell, the offensive tackle from Louisiana State University. This was a great pickup by the Patriots with Mike Vrabel as their new Head Coach. He is a Vrabel type player with his physicality and toughness; this could be a great pick by the Patriots to protect new QB Drake Maye's blind side.

Ashton Genty, the running back from Boise State University, was selected by the Las Vegas Raiders as the sixth overall draft pick. With him, they got a great pick. They maybe could

have gotten a QB with Shedeur Sanders to secure their franchise for the next ten years, but it was a good pickup overall.

The New York Jets had the seventh overall pick, and they selected Armand Mbemou, the offensive lineman from the University of Missouri. The Jets have had major injuries to their offensive line in recent history. Rookie coach Aaron Glenn from the Detroit Lions said in an interview that he wants to build his team exactly on how he left Detroit, with big players up front. This is a move that will protect potential starting QB Justin Field's blind side.

See *NFL* on Page 2

## Baby

because those are less likely to wear out when you're tightening everything together," Yule said. "That design's been doing really well; it's been helping a lot of kids."

Yule plans to continue to be part of Go Baby Go and eventually start a career as an engineer.

"I like tinkering with stuff and making solutions to problems out there, that's always really appealed to me," Yule said.

The organization is now celebrating its 10th anniversary of making kids and their families happy with their services for the community.

Dischino said she is preparing the next Go Baby Go Connecticut event and looks forward to the community joining and signing up the kids who will benefit from these fantastic cars. She said she will continue to link with experts and the community to improve and create this opportunity for the children.

"I look forward to more families, raising awareness, and more CCSU students getting involved," Dischino said.

Go Baby Go Connecticut has a Facebook page by the same name with information and updates on the program, applications for getting a vehicle, sign-ups to join and donations to support the progress of the cause.



Photo by Keysa Mateo

## NFL

In the ninth overall pick, the New Orleans Saints selected Kelvin Banks Jr., the offensive lineman from the University of Texas at Austin. Again, the offensive line depth shows in this draft with teams trying to build around their QB.

The tenth overall pick, made by the Chicago Bears, saw Colston Loveland get drafted, the tight end from the University of Michigan. This was a little bit of a surprising pick since a lot of people thought that the other tight end from Penn State would go earlier. Also, people thought the other tight end would have been a better pick for the Bears. However, this is a solid pickup from the Bears trying to build a team around Caleb Williams and rookie coach Ben Johnson.

The San Francisco 49ers held the eleventh overall pick, and they chose Mykel Williams, an edge rusher from the University of Georgia. This was a solid pickup from them. With this

pick, they are trying to rebuild a defense that was the cornerstone to their Super Bowl appearances in recent seasons. This is the first step in the right direction for the 49ers.

Three more trades went down in the first round.

One happened at the 25th spot, which originally belonged to the Houston Texans. The Texans sent the 25th pick to the New York Giants in exchange for the 34th and 99th pick as well as a 2026 third round pick. The Giants then used their second first round pick on QB Jaxon Dart. Some Giants fans felt revealed because they did not want Shedeur Sanders to be their franchise since they didn't rate him highly and no one else in the league wanted him.

The Second trade involved the Atlanta Falcons and the Los Angeles Rams. The Falcons received the 26th overall pick this year and this year's third round pick and the Rams got a 2025 2nd round pick, a late 2025 pick, and next

year's first round pick. The Atlanta Falcons selected Edge Rusher James Pearce Jr. from the University of Tennessee. In the aftermath of Grady Jarett and Matthew Judon moving on, they are trying to build up their defense.

The final trade in the first round involved the Philadelphia Eagles and Kansas City Chiefs swapping picks.

The Philadelphia Eagles selected linebacker Jihaad Campbell from the University of Alabama. He is a great pickup and a good replacement for Josh Sweat, who is leaving in free agency for the Cardinals.

The Kansas City Chiefs selected offensive tackle Josh Simmons from Ohio State University. He is a tough, physical guy that can protect Mahome's blind side. They can use this piece to help them as they struggled at left tackle last season.

## SPORTS

# Central's Men Win Blue Devil Invite in Comfortable Fashion



Stylz Mitchell

Photo by Andrew Johnson

By Andrew O'Sullivan  
Staff Writer

Central Connecticut hosted the Blue Devil Invite track & field meet on Friday, April 25th, where the CCSU Men's Track team placed first overall with multiple individual and team wins. They were 135 points clear of their nearest competitors.

Their final home event of the year was also special for eight graduate Blue Devils, as a senior recognition ceremony took place before the start of the meet.

Tristan Smith kicked off the throwing events with a P2 in

shot put at 15.45m, with Nicholas Xavier competing in both the discus and hammer throw and finishing top 10 in both. Zachary Bonini continued the Blue Devils' success with second place in the javelin at 49.93m.

Bryan Elliott was able to score an overall victory in the triple jump following his competing in the long jump. The biggest success came with a Blue Devil sweep of the top five in the high jump, as Keith Townsend led a quintet of CCSU athletes to dominate, all jumping higher than 1.85m.

Kenny Agwu was the lone  
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# CCSU Women's Track and Field Takes Close Victory in Blue Devil Invite

By Andrew O'Sullivan  
Staff Writer

The Central Connecticut Women's Track & Field team took the overall victory at the hosted Blue Devil Invite on April 25, during a day that saw 12 other schools competing. The final home meet of the spring season ended with a close win by four points over Quinnipiac University.

Nine seniors were recognized before the start of the meet, as this was their final home event as members of the CCSU team.

Central throwers showed out at home, as Wenesha Stewart scored two winning throws with 13.57m in the shot put and 43.71m in the discus, with Maya Marin backing her teammate up in second place with a 42.8m throw in the latter event. Lindsey Gravel was the highest-placed Blue Devil in the javelin event, with a final measurement of 5.28m, good for fifth place. Stewart, along with Sarah Ovesny and Marina Perry all scored top five in the hammer throw, Perry having the best distance of 47.15m for third place overall.

Erin Egan and Abigail Burgess started the jumping portion of the meet with fourth- and fifth-place finishes respectively in the long jump, with Egan



Kyrah Smith scoring a 5.28m jump and Burgess coming in at 5.25m. Burgess continued her consistency with a P2 in the triple jump at 10.38m, and Egan tied with three

other competitors in the high jump with a highest mark of 1.5m. Hailey Sousa anchored Central in the pole vault with a third place result of 2.75m.

Five Blue Devils competed across two heats of the 100m hurdles, with the first heat being won by Shania McCall at a time of 15.83, and Jasmine Ogando having

the best time amongst her teammates in the second heat with a time of 15.30, good for fifth overall. The 400m hurdles saw four Central runners compete

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## Central Wins Series 2-1 Against NSU, Drops Game 3

By Andrew O'Sullivan  
Staff Writer

After a sweep just a few days earlier, the Central Connecticut State University baseball team lost 13-2 to the Norfolk State Spartans on Sunday, April 27, at home. This was merely Central's second in-conference loss so far this season, and the loss

snapped a 19-game conference winning streak.

CCSU's Jacob Hines and Norfolk State's Nathaniel Varnier would be the starting pitchers for the respective teams, with NSU batting first at the top of the first inning. No runs would be scored from either side during the first, although Kyle Gordon made things

interesting with a base hit and an eventual steal.

Hines would continue the shutout into the second, and Norfolk State stopped any Blue Devil offensive attack with a double play to end the inning tied at zero. After going through nine batters with no issue, Hines struggled in the third and gave up two runs before being

replaced by Richie Kerstetter, who was able to knock down outs two and three. Owen Arias led off in the bottom of the third and was able to score a double, and a stolen third base and an Aidan Redahan single led to the first Central run of the game.

Kerstetter kept the momentum going defensively,

as despite an at-bat with eight consecutive foul balls, he was able to dispatch the NSU batters all in a row. Varnier continued his run with a perfect bottom of the fourth, and the NSU offense would begin the fifth with Terrence Rhodes taking a pitch to the helmet, eventually making it around

See *Series* on Page 9

## Series

the bases thanks to a base hit and a walk, making the game 3-1 in favor of the visitors. The CCSU offense failed to offset by the top of the fifth, where Brady Short was the only Blue Devil to record a hit.

To start the sixth, Kerstetter struck out two batters, but a costly walk and grounded single let a Spartan run home to grow their lead to three runs, whereafter Nick Murphy was called out of the bullpen to replace Kerstetter, already CCSU's third pitcher, while NSU still kept with Varnier. A flier to right field would turn the inning around, where the Central offense gained a bit of life, as Bo Yaworski, Gianni Merlonghi, Antonio Ducatelli and Gabe Pitts all reached base, although no runs were scored.

Murphy stayed in as the pitcher to start the seventh before three consecutive hits and a run home forced another change, this time for Bryce DiPiero, and the CCSU fielders would help keep the lead heading to the bottom of the inning despite the bases loading. Nathaniel Varnier would be replaced



Richie Kerstetter

Photo by Katey O'Neil

by Mac Yarborough after his six-inning workload, who would himself be swapped

out for Myles Crocker following two walked batters. Crocker would fare no bet-

ter as a single from Aidan Redahan, and a fielder's choice of Chris Brown led

to Owen Arias scoring another run, and one more out would end the inning.

## Men's Track

Blue Devil in the 110m Hurdles, where he tied for third with a 15.69. Agwu was joined in the 400m Hurdles by Maxwell Czarnecki, with the two runners scoring third and fourth in their heat, respectively.

A large field of 30 runners would take up multiple heats of the 100m. Central was still competitive as Jamar Alcena and Stylz Mitchell each won their respective heats. Mitchell's 10.8 was the fastest time overall for the event. 32 runners in the 200m field would be no match for

CCSU, as Noah Colangelo's 21.81 was both the fastest in his heat and overall, with Jordan Jackson and Cole Robertson also winning their respective heats and Kymoy Phillip and Tristan Burke placing in the top five overall times.

Jayden Brown and Lucas Figuieredo anchored Central during the 400m, with Figuieredo taking the victory with a 47.47 as Brown took fourth, less than 2 seconds behind. Five Blue Devils would hit the track for the 800m, with every runner scoring top 10 results, highlighted by Aidan Budge winning with a 1:51, with Ryan McCauley at 1:54 following in P2.

Another five CCSU runners populated the 1500m across two heats, with Logan Crawley's 4:10 enough to take the victory in the first, with Chris Abbey being the highest-placed Blue Devil in the second with a 3:53, good for P2 ahead of teammate Salvadore Masciarelli. The 3000m featured a trio of Central competitors, with Brendan Mellitt scoring the victory with an 8:38, over five seconds clear of his nearest runner.

Central's relay teams saw success as well, as their 4x100 team of Tristan Burke, Jamar Alcena, Jordan Jackson and Stylz Mitchell were a mere 0.1 seconds off of scoring the

victory to AIC, while a win was scored in the 4x400 thanks to the A team of Cole Robertson, Gabriel Kwarteng, Aidan Budge, and Chris Abbey at a 3:26, with the B team of Jonathan Orlando, Ryan McCauley, Tristan Burke and Ryan Scappaticci barely losing 2nd with a 3:38 time.

The invite came after a busy week for the Blue Devil track team. CCSU was participating in the UConn Northeast Challenge the Friday previous and had national recognition on Thursday at the Penn Relays, as Eddie Nicholas and James Sullivan were present to compete in the 3000m Steeplechase and the

5000m, respectively, with both runners finishing solidly in the middle of their respective fields.

Colin Winkler achieved NEC Field Athlete Player of the Week on April 23. Greyson Golda was honored as an NEC Rookie of the Week and Noah Colangelo was named as an NEC Prime Performer.

Their next event will consist of the two-day NEC Championships at Stonehill College, starting on May 3 and 4.

## Women's Track

in three heats, with Mimi Agnew taking a win in the first with a 1:15, Shania McCall achieving third in the following heat at 1:09 and Taina DeJesus scoring the fourth best time overall with a 1:06.

After a third- place effort in the 4x100, the 100m dash featured six CCSU runners, all of whom finished within the top half of the overall table, with the last Central runner placing 15th. Nuchwara Inthasit had the best time of all the Blue Devils, as her 12.37

was good enough for second overall, with another top 10 coming from Erin Egan, who won her heat with a 12.92 time. Abigail Burgess and Maykayla Farrington were also winners in their respective heats.

Inthasit led the way for Central in the 200m, as her 25.52 time was good for fourth overall. Makayla Harrington and Kayla Logan each won their respective heats with times of 28.68 and 26.36 as well.

Jessica Farrell was able to score the fastest overall 400m time, clocking in at 57.89, with Kyrah Smith

finishing fourth at 59.47. Mya Morabito and Kaylee Gravel both finished top five overall in the 800m. Their teammates Rachel Bartolucci and Oliwia Marecik both finished top five in their heat, as well as having top 10 race times.

Two Blue Devils competed in the 1500m, with Julianna Cancellieri achieving an overall victory in the event, finishing with a final time of 4:51, and freshman teammate Isabella Jensen placed seventh at 5:13. The 3000m event saw Isabelle Mondo third overall with a final time of 11:16.

The final running event

of the day was one of the most successful for Central, as the 4x400 saw a top two Blue Devil sweep. The A team of Kayla Logan, Kyrah Smith, Kaylee Gravel and Mya Morabito took the top honors with a 4:04 final time, with the B team of Alexandra Edwards, Rachel Bartolucci, Oliwia Marecik and Shania McCall at a 4:23, still 10 seconds clear of third place.

This was the first meet for the Blue Devils since April 19, when both teams descended on Storrs, Connecticut for the two-day UConn Northeast Chal-

lenge. Highlights of the meet included a top five shot put distance for Wenesha Stewart, Isabelle Mondo scoring sixth in the steeplechase and multiple PRs scored by Tania DeJesus (1:06 in the 400m Hurdles) and Kaylee Gravel (2:17 in the 800m).

Maya Marin was honored as the NEC Rookie of the Week on April 23. She was also recognized as an NEC Prime Performer alongside teammates Wenesha Stewart and Mya Morabito.

Select Blue Devils will take to Stonehill College on May 3 and 4 for the NEC Championships.



# CCSU SCHEDULE

### Baseball

May 2 – @ Wagner at 3 PM  
 May 3 – @ Wagner at 3 PM  
 May 4 – @ Wagner at 12 PM  
 May 6 – @ Sacred Heart at 3 PM  
 May 9 – vs. Stonehill at 3 PM

### Softball

May 8 – NEC Tournament @ LIU (Time TBD)  
 May 9 – NEC Tournament @ Oppnent  
 TBD (Time TBD)

### Men's Track

May 3 – NEC Championships at Stonehill College (All Day)  
 May 4 – NEC Championships at Stonehill College (All Day)  
 May 9 – New England Championships (All Day)

### Women's Track

May 3 – NEC Championships at Stonehill College (All Day)  
 May 4 – NEC Championships at Stonehill College (All Day)  
 May 9 – New England Championships (All Day)