

The Recorder

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Toro's Alleged Threats Cause Mayhem Amid Scandal



by Nicolina Coronis,
Eary Banushi
Editor-in-Chief,
Social Media Editor

CCSU President Zulma Toro, pictured atop a float at the local Puerto Rican Day Parade, has become a controversial figure due to a whistleblower's complaint concerning past behaviors.

Eary Banushi

CCSU President Zulma Toro is under investigation after a nine-page complaint was filed by the university's director of institutional advancement, Lisa Bigelow. The complaint alleges that Toro created a work environment of fear and intimidation.

The complaint lists 14 [fourteen] alleged violations of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities Code of Conduct. Among the allegations, Bigelow claims Toro had staff members handle personal tasks, including dog-sitting in her office, and displayed fits of rage toward employees. In one instance detailed in the complaint, Toro allegedly said:

"My father taught me that when people disrespect you, they either pay with their money or pay with their blood. Someone is going to pay with their blood."

The complaint also identifies witnesses in connection with the alleged incidents. According to Bigelow, Toro's "egregious" behavior has been a known issue over the years.

"Three Chancellors are aware. The latest chancellor was made aware on August 14, ...and here she is, still in charge of Central Connecticut State University, why isn't she out on paid administrative leave?" Bigelow said.

MAYHEM continued on page 2

Hate Served At Fairfield Volleyball

by Andrew O' Sullivan
Sports Editor

The Central Women's Volleyball team took part in the Fairfield Invitational from September 17-19 for a three-game series against the host school, Middle Tennessee, and Brown.

However, the biggest story to come out of the invitational for the Blue Devils was not the play on the court, as the team went 0-3 on the weekend.

A more jarring incident took place not too far off it. During the third set of Central's game against Fairfield on Thursday, teammates told Blue Devil middle blocker Breanna Ginley about racist remarks coming from the Fairfield student section.

Ginley explained the tense situation in an Instagram post the same day.

"During the third set, as I went back to serve, members of the student section could be heard saying 'George Floyd'. To use George Floyd's name as a way to demean me was nothing short of disgusting," Ginley wrote. She also described the incident as *"deeply disturbing"*.

"I told my coach right after I found out the specifics and about the 'George Floyd' comment," Ginley said in an interview with The Recorder. *"She then informed the referees, who told a member of the Fairfield faculty working the game, and he told the student section that they had to stop with the comments for the rest of the match."*

The student section then mockingly shushed each other afterward.

SERVED continued on page 8

U-(SHALL)-PASS!

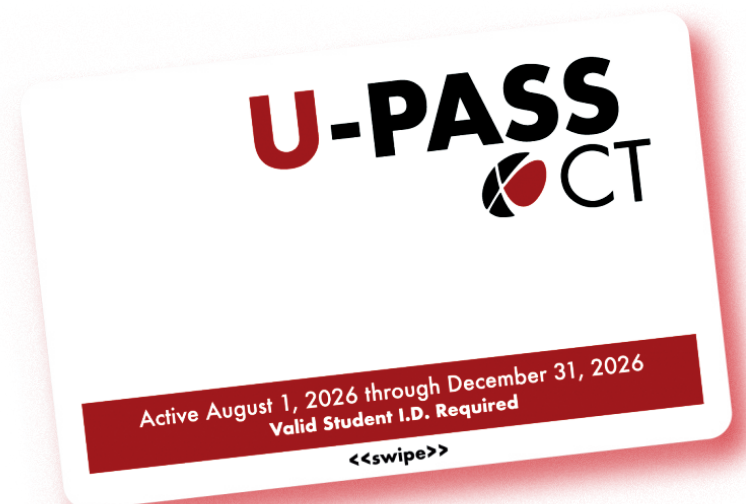
by Liam McCusker
News Editor

Some Central Connecticut State University students rely on public transportation to get to campus, and a program makes it more affordable.

The U-Pass, established by the Connecticut Department of Transportation, allows students at participating universities to use public transportation without paying an additional fare for each ride. Full- and part-time undergraduate and graduate students at CCSU who take at least one class on campus are eligible for a pass. Undergraduate students are charged a \$40 fee that is included in their tuition. The fee is optional for graduate students, but they cannot receive a pass without paying it at the CCSU Bursar's Office.

The number of U-Passes distributed for the fall 2026 semester is consistent with previous years, with a little over 1,100 passes handed out so far, according to the CCSU Card Office.

"This semester has been similar to last year's," Card Office Manager Thom King said. *"We saw a large drop during the COVID-19 pandemic and the*



The newest U-Pass valid until 2027 for all CCSU students.

ctrides.com

subsequent years, but usage has been returning."

For CCSU junior Ariana Lebron, the U-Pass has been extremely beneficial. Lebron lives in New Britain, and her commute to campus takes a little less than an hour each day.

"It's really a lifesaver," Lebron said. *"It saves me a lot of money because it's just another expense that I don't have to worry about."*

Lebron does not currently have a driver's license, so she uses public transportation to get to campus regularly. She added that it has been helpful for getting her to class on time.

"It's definitely reliable, especially because I use the Transit app," Lebron said. *"So it tells me when I need to leave to be on time."*

CCSU freshman Lawrence McCalla commutes from Waterbury every day and has not had any trouble getting to campus.

"It takes 40 minutes to take a bus from Waterbury to the New Britain station and then 10 minutes to get to the station outside Davidson Hall," McCalla said.

PASS continued on page 4

ABOUT US

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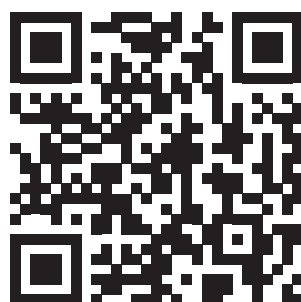
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SCAN HERE FOR OUR LINKS

**MAYHEM** continued from front

"If there's failure after failure of the systems office to be able to handle these issues, what's broken? And how can it be fixed?" Bigelow said.

The Recorder reached out to Toro's office for a response and received a statement from Sam Norton, spokesperson for CCSU.

"CCSU takes all complaints seriously and is committed to ensuring that they are handled through the appropriate processes. We are aware of a complaint involving the president of Central Connecticut State University, and the matter is currently being handled through CCSU's Office of Compliance. Upon receiving the complaint, CCSU's Compliance Office acted immediately to initiate a formal process so that the concerns could be reviewed appropriately. The investigation, opened August 20, 2026, is now underway and no findings have been made. It is important that we allow the established process to work and that we not prejudice either the facts or the appropriate employment action before those facts have been fully assessed. As this is an ongoing personnel matter, we cannot comment further at this time," Norton said.

CCSU student Isaac Drummond shared his perspective on the allegations.

"It's kind of crazy to hear about how someone so powerful at CCSU could use that power against other people. It's kind of shocking. ...Definitely reconsider how much power she should have," Drummond said.

Students are also discussing the allegations and what they could mean for university leadership. Student Kai Platt shared their reaction.

"I wish I could say I was surprised, but I feel like these kinds of things just happen so often, especially when you have these people in such big positions of power, even if it's just like [the] president of the university," Platt said.

Platt hopes the investigation results in accountability.

"I honestly just hope accountability happens, whether that means she leaves the position or whatever that may be. There has to be something that happens. I don't want it to just go away because I

don't think anyone should be allowed to do that and just get away with it because they're in a powerful position. So I just hope that some form of accountability can be had for this," Platt said.

The Recorder is continuing to report on additional information related to these allegations. CCSU's investigation remains ongoing.

Something New Is Cooking At Central

by Cody Dzis, Michael Kileem
Contributors

The Central Connecticut State University Student Center's food court, The Devil's Den, underwent renovations over the summer break. Little did the students realize that when they came back to campus for the fall semester, they would be welcomed with a new food place – Yella's restaurant.

"This is a completely brand new menu," Central Eats Marketing Manager and CCSU alumnus Zach Volante said. "The first thing I've been hammering home is we're the first Yella's in Connecticut, which I think is very cool."

Originating in New Jersey over 90 years ago, Yella's was helped brought to Central by Sodexo, an international company that provides food services to institutions around the world, including schools and universities. The Central location is Yella's 31st college and university location across the country.

"We were able to come up with three options, and we narrowed it down to Yella's because we saw that was the best fit of student dining preferences," Volante said. "It doesn't really matter too much based on location, but of what concept fits best."

Yella's replaced two restaurants in The Devil's Den – Sub Connection, and The Grille.

"We removed the Sub Connection and The Grille, but the great

thing about Yella's is it's a concept that does keep those core items like burgers, chicken sandwiches and sub sandwiches, but it brings new flavor," Volante said.

After every semester, CCSU conducts a customer satisfaction survey, as well as a preference survey, to determine how to enhance the dining experience in the Devil's Den. Part of why Yella's restaurant was introduced as a franchise that would provide a new and better experience for students, making the renovation over the summer a perfect time to introduce it.

"We wanted to introduce a brand-new look," Volante said. "Having Yella's come in, that's a franchise. They have their own look. We looked at the whole space and were like, 'This is a brand-new opportunity, brand new semester to introduce all these new concepts.'"

Yella's provides the students at Central with a wide variety of options to purchase. The menu includes new items as well that weren't available at Sub Connection or The Grille, such as the Eggplant Milanese hot sub sandwich, or the signature Yella's Burger, among other new options.

"I got The Yella's Burger, and I thought it was really good," senior Payton Mozelak said. "I usually don't get cheese on my burger, but with how many people there were, they got everything right that I wanted on it. I was really pleased with that, and the food tasted good."

The price comparison between Sub Connection sandwiches and Yella's sandwiches are similar in some cases and different in others. At Sub Connection, they allowed students to build their own sandwiches which determined the price, whereas at Yella's, the sandwich they buy with all the toppings on it is a flat rate.



Yella's located in the newly renovated Devil's Den in the Student Center.
Cody Dzis

For example, Sub Connection charges around \$6-7 for a 6-inch sub and \$11 for a 12-inch sub but then charges extra for cheese and toppings, which brings it to around \$15 depending on how much is added. At Yella's, however, sandwiches with toppings included vary between \$11-15 as a base 8-inch sub. As part of the new Devil's Den renovations, the ordering system changed along with the building's reconstruction. Now, students can order through GrubHub kiosks or on their mobile devices to speed up the time to wait for orders.

"The people say that the lines are long, and that's completely understandable," Volante said. "We introduced GrubHub kiosks that allow you to order, pay and pick up all in one place."

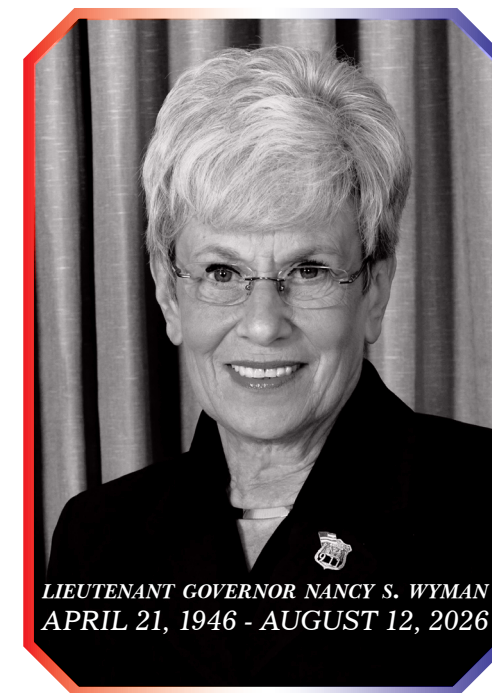
Some students haven't had a chance to try it, but look forward to it.

"I think the food looks better here than Subway, personally," sophomore Braeden Christopher said. "I like chicken sandwiches. They look pretty good, so I'll definitely try it out."

Students that have already tried Yella's are encouraging ones who haven't yet to give it a shot.

"I'm glad they put it in so I could experience it while I'm here, and I definitely think they should try it," Mozelak said. "There's something on the menu that I think everyone could find that they would like."

REMEMBERING NANCY WYMAN



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR NANCY S. WYMAN
APRIL 21, 1946 - AUGUST 12, 2026

by Liam McCusker
News Editor

Former Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman, a longtime Connecticut public servant who spent more than four decades in public life, died August 12 at 80. Wyman grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y., and moved to Connecticut with her husband, Michael, in 1973, where they started their family. She began her career in public service by seeking a seat on the Tolland Board of Education. Wyman was elected to and served on the Tolland Board of Education from 1979 to 1987 and served as vice chair for four years because she wanted to have a say in the education her two daughters received.

Wyman was elected to the Connecticut House of Representatives from the 53rd District in 1986 and served as chair of the Education Committee and held a leadership position on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary education, according to the General Assembly's website.

Wyman became Connecticut's first woman comptroller in 1994 and served for 16 years beginning in 1995. While Wyman was comptroller, her work on a 1995 working group on uninsured residents helped lay the foundation for HUSKY Health, which at the time covered more than 300,000 children and their families, according to the Connecticut General Assembly's biography of Wyman.

Wyman was approached by Stamford Mayor Dannel Malloy about becoming his running mate in the 2010 Connecticut gubernatorial election. Wyman and Malloy defeated Republican candidate Tom Foley and his running mate, Mark Boughton, with 49.5% of the vote, according to the Connecticut Secretary of State's official election results. Wyman cast the deciding vote in an 18-18 Senate vote in 2011 on legislation that decriminalized possession of small amounts of marijuana, as noted by CT Mirror. She cast another tie-breaking vote in 2017 on legislation aimed at closing a state budget gap through labor savings. Democrats said the measure was expected to save \$1.5 billion over two years, according to WSHU Public Radio.

Wyman left office in January 2019 after Malloy declined to seek a third term in 2018 and Wyman chose not to run for governor.

Her work in public service did not end there. Wyman served as chair of the Connecticut Democratic Party from January 2019 until June 2020. Following Wyman's death, Gov. Ned Lamont directed all flags in the state to be lowered to half-staff in her honor. "Nancy Wyman was a good friend to me, a good friend to Democrats, and a good friend to the people of Connecticut," Lamont said in a statement.

Ultimately, Nancy Wyman was much more than a politician. She was a public servant committed to the well-being of everyone in her state. Her four-decade career left a lasting mark on Connecticut, from education and health care to fiscal policy and public service.

THIS WEEK'S CAMPUS EVENTS

Fashion & Design Club

Thrift The Block
Wednesday 9/23 @ 11:00 AM
Student Center Circle

Student Government Association [SGA]

Open House
Wednesday 9/23 @ 4:45 - 6:00 PM
SGA Office [Student Center Second Floor]

Inter-Greek Council

Meet The Greeks
Thursday 9/24 @ 7:00 PM
Alumni Hall [Student Center]

Inter-Greek Council

Devils Den @ 10: Meet The Greeks
Thursday 9/24 @ 10:00 PM
Semesters Café

#KizerSays

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Full Hearts,
Can't Lose!

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Email us at theccsurecorder@gmail.com

PASS continued from front

McCalla also does not have a driver's license, so he said access to a U-Pass has been extremely beneficial to him.

CCSU sophomore Keria Treleven commutes from Hartford, and her commute takes her roughly an hour. She relied heavily on the U-Pass during her freshman year, but she said her reliance on it has decreased during the fall 2026 semester because she recently got her driver's license.

"I still use it on days I don't want to drive because of weather, parking and other external factors," Treleven said.

Treleven said she used her U-Pass about six times a week before she got her license. In addition to using it to commute to school, she also used it to go to the mall, the store, and to hang out with friends. She now uses it roughly three times a week. McCalla also uses his U-Pass to go to a park called the Waterbury Green because he can easily get there and back to his home by taking the bus.

U-Passes can also be used on some trains in Connecticut, including Amtrak, according to CCSU's website. King added that the program was created as a discount to college students.

"For comparison, a 30-day bus pass costs the average commuter around \$60. That means the fall student U-Pass is worth at least \$300, and the spring is worth \$350," King said. *"Students pay \$80 a year for a pass that costs the average commuter nearly \$650 a year."*



The Bombs Bursting In Air: 'Nam and Iran

by Liam McCusker
News Editor

The United States has a history of entering wars without a clear objective and exit strategy, risking becoming bogged down in conflicts that last for decades.

President Lyndon Johnson deployed U.S. combat troops to South Vietnam in 1965 after the Gulf of Tonkin incident in 1964, which included a confirmed attack by North Vietnamese patrol boats on the USS Maddox and a second reported attack that was disputed. President Donald Trump should keep these lessons in mind as he attempts to bring an end to the ongoing conflict with Iran. A similar occurrence led Trump to authorize the strikes on Iran in March 2026 after receiving reports that they were developing a nuclear weapon.

Endless wars inevitably lead to losses of American lives, as well as destruction on another nation's soil. The United States entered Vietnam as an ally to South Vietnam, but according to the National Archives, the South Vietnamese army was poorly trained and ill-equipped to fight against North Vietnam. American troops faced guerrilla warfare rather than direct battle with the Viet Cong, a communist insurgency backed by North Vietnam that would often ambush the Americans and vanish back into the jungle. Iran has ties to regional militant groups, including Hezbollah and the Houthis which adopt similar strategies.

The Trump administration appeared to expect the strikes in Iran would produce a quick victory, similar to the operation they conducted just a few months earlier in Venezuela, capturing Nicolás Maduro and his wife and bringing them to the United States to face trial. The authorized strikes killed Iran's supreme leader. He was quickly succeeded by his son, who took control of the Strait of Hormuz and blocked it to commercial shipping.

The Vietnam War also escalated over time, drawing Laos and Cambodia into the conflict because the Viet Cong created the Ho Chi Minh Trail that ran through both countries, allowing the Viet Cong to slip into South Vietnam. As a result, the United States authorized bombings in what was known as the Secret War in an effort to disrupt North Vietnamese supply lines. Roughly 310,000 Laotian and 150,000 Cambodian citizens were killed, and Laos became the most heavily bombed nation in history.

Similarly, Iran has conducted missile strikes on nations that include Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia because U.S. military bases are located in those countries. While Trump authorized this war alongside Israel, tensions between the United States and Iran long predated his presidency.

Tensions first arose when the Iranians overthrew their leader, Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi during the Iranian Revolution of 1979, who then fled to the United States and was granted asylum by President Jimmy Carter and his administration, according to Britannica. The Iranians then stormed the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and captured embassy staff, leading to what became known as the Iranian hostage crisis where the hostages were held for 444 days and not released until President Ronald Reagan and his administration came into office in 1981.

The Iranian government has also been stalling negotiations to end the conflict, much like the North Vietnamese government did during the Vietnam War. Per Politico, the Paris Peace Talks during the Vietnam War began in 1969 but both sides struggled to reach a compromise. President Richard Nixon and his administration proposed a peace deal under which all U.S. and North Vietnamese forces would withdraw from South Vietnam, as well as Laos and Cambodia within the first six months of the agreement and the release of all prisoners that both sides had taken during the conflict.

This proposal was rejected by the North Vietnamese who called for the U.S. and its allies to withdraw all troops from the area without any conditions on the North Vietnamese government and for South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu to immediately resign. As negotiations stalled, the North Vietnamese army and the Viet Cong launched an invasion of South Vietnam in March 1972 known as the Easter Offensive.

The North Vietnamese did not return to the Paris Peace Talks until Nixon authorized the Christmas bombings on their country in December 1972 during which American bombers dropped approximately 20,000 tons of bombs over a period of 12 days, according to CNN.

Roughly 1,600 North Vietnamese civilians were killed during the bombings. Hanoi indicated its willingness to return to the Paris Peace Talks in January 1973, after which Nixon suspended the bombings. It was also politically difficult for the United States to withdraw because allowing Vietnam to unify under a communist government could have undermined its broader policy of containing communism.

A similar dynamic has likely made it difficult for the Trump administration to withdraw U.S. forces from the conflict with Iran as it coordinated with the Israeli government to stop Iran from developing a nuclear weapon. While the United States and North Vietnam eventually reached an agreement through the Paris Peace Talks in 1973, temporarily ending the fighting, securing the release of all prisoners of war, and providing for the withdrawal of U.S. forces from the region. It could be argued that this agreement later became meaningless.

In April 1975, North Vietnam launched the Ho Chi Minh campaign, an all-out final assault on South Vietnam. Saigon fell to communist forces on April 30 and civilians could be seen reaching for helicopters that departed the captured city. Vietnam then unified under a communist government, leaving many to question why American troops had been sent to fight in the conflict when the outcome they fought to prevent eventually occurred.

Ultimately, the Vietnam War should serve as a lesson to the Trump administration as it attempts to bring an end to the conflict with Iran. When leaders enter a war without a clear objective or exit strategy, they risk creating another conflict that drags on for decades.

2UMMER SOUND6

by Ron Marq
Design and Layout Editor

This past summer's proven the breadth of moods delivered by the season, ranging from ennui to euphoria. Here's just some of the summer's biggest bangers and tropical tracks.



[Charli xcx | Music, Fashion, Film](#)

Stepping out of the limelight of 'brat', Essex-born Charli XCX returns to the game with her rock-inspired raw seventh album, 'Music, Fashion, Film', hot on the heels of her soundtrack to 'Wuthering Heights'.

Its cover features the likes of musician John Cale of the Velvet Underground, fashion designer Marc Jacobs, and actor and director Martin Scorsese. Charli's vulnerable vocals pair off well with A. G. Cook and Finn Keane [AKA the band, Thy Slaughter]'s grisly and distorted production to create a bold piece of work.

Highlights include: 'Rock Music', 'SS26', 'Wink Wink', 'Camera', 'Yeah', and 'No One Lasts Forever'.

10/10



[Madonna | CONFESSIONS II](#)

The Queen of Pop, Madonna, proves her title at 67 with 'CONFESSIONS II', the spiritual successor to her 2005 album 'Confessions on a Dance Floor'. With her producer from Confessions I, Stuart Price, as well as the Venezuelan savant, Arca, and features from Sabrina Carpenter, Feid, Martin Garrix, Stromae, and Madonna's own daughter, Lola Leon, this album is a vibrant and nuanced mix of tracks to get the dance floor and your heart pumping.

Highlights include: 'I Feel So Free', 'Danceteria', 'Everything', 'Love Without Words', 'Bizarre', 'My Sins Are My Savior', and 'The Test'.

8/10



[Madeon | Victory](#)

After his gap year following the 'Good Faith' era, French producer Madeon makes a comeback with his 'band', 'Victory'.

Featuring the likes of Erick the Architect, Slayyyter, and Sam Gellaitry, this album takes Madeon's signature electronic sound and takes it into newer and unexpected rock-inspired territory.

Highlights include: 'Hi!', 'Car Crash Baby', 'Dancing on Your Grave', 'Somebody -Else', 'Fire Away'

8/10



[Big Freedia | Released At Last](#)

The New Orleans Queen of Bounce Big Freedia has released 3 club thumping singles produced by the late great SOPHIE Xeon on their newest EP. Played in DJ sets over the last 10 years, these tracks give a new wind to SOPHIE's memory. With only three tracks and the help of the band, MUNA, these tracks can move your rear and liven up any moment or party!

9/10

Coyote Vs. ACME Is... The Bomb!

by Ron Marq
Layout and Design Editor



Official Theatrical Release Poster for Coyote Vs. Acme.
coyotevsacme.com

After three years of delay from Warner Bros. Pictures Animation, Ketchup Entertainment had 'Coyote Vs. Acme' released in theaters worldwide. The nostalgic cartoon chase between Wile E. Coyote and the Roadrunner comes to the silver screen for audiences both young and young at heart.

Starring Will Forte, Lana Condor, Luis Guzmán, Tone Bell, and John Cena, this comedy is based on a satirical 1990 article from The New Yorker magazine of the same name.

A small personal injury law firm in Albuquerque, New Mexico specializing in cartoon violence catches wind of Wile, looking to sue the Acme Corporation - the classic manufacturer whose inventory include anvils, rocket shoes, and various wacky products used by Coyote in order to catch Roadrunner - over their constantly failing inventions. Usually, claims are made for singular products by singular parties in singular situations, but this bold claim takes on the corporation as a whole.

The ensuing legal drama explodes - no pun intended - with the failure of ACME products showcased throughout the trials and in Wile's advances towards The Roadrunner. The film has a very sharp pivot to actually redeeming the underdog, as the faulty products prove to be a catalyst for ACME's slow but certain undoing thanks to repeated attempted claims by fellow lowly cartoon characters also scorned by ACME.

While this film is 'based on a true story', its ending fell slightly flat for me. I mean, what kind of CEO/corporation actually pays for its crimes against humanity? Be it 2D or 3D? **9/10**

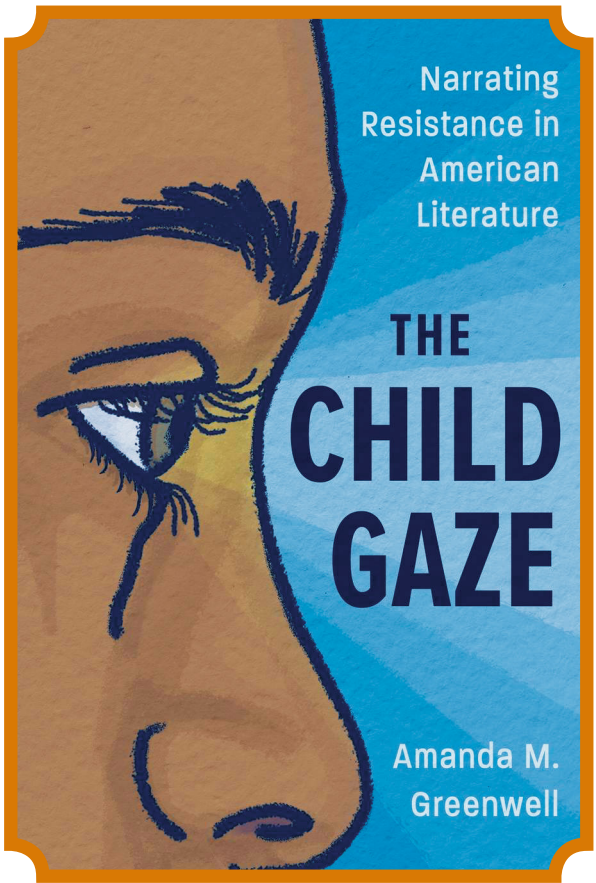
Central Professor Wins Children’s Literature Association Book Award

A book by Central professor Dr. Amanda Greenwell has earned the top prize from the Children’s Literature Association. “The Child Gaze: Narrating Resistance in American Literature” (University Press of Mississippi, 2024) won the 2026 Children’s Literature Association’s Book Award, which recognizes outstanding book-length contributions to children’s literature history, scholarship, and criticism. (Awards are given for books published two years prior to the award year.)

The Book Award Committee praised “The Child Gaze” as an innovative and interdisciplinary contribution to the field that will benefit educators, researchers, and scholars across children’s literature studies, childhood studies, and the humanities.

“Using a wide variety of texts, ranging across genres, media, and time periods in US publishing for children, Greenwell’s book is well-written, effectively historicized, and brilliantly theorized, drawing as it does on childhood studies, theories of vision and power, and scholarship on contemporary American children’s literature,” the committee noted.

Greenwell is an associate professor of English and program coordinator for the English Secondary Education program at Central. Her research specialties include literature written for young people and the figure of the child in U.S. literature. Greenwell also serves as the associate editor of Children’s Literature Association Quarterly.



‘The Child Gaze’ cover artwork. University Press of Mississippi

CCSU Polytechnic Proposal Stalls Out Among Faculty

by Noah Gavin
Managing Editor

During the Spring 2026 semester at Central, President Zulma Toro released a surprise proposal to rebrand the university as a R2 Polytechnic Institution. Now, at the start of a new academic year, the proposal may have fizzled out. The initial proposal to turn Central into a STEM focused institution sparked backlash from faculty and confused students who feel uninformed. Now, as the proposal was planned to be voted on this Fall semester, many faculty around Central are reporting not hearing about it anytime recently.

Dr. Jacob Werblow, educational leadership professor at Central, said that his peers have not heard much about the proposal recently and feel left out in the dark.

“Many faculty I’ve talked to have actually said that they feel like they have been totally out of the loop of [the status of the proposal],” said Werblow. “[Faculty] have said that a lot of their hesitancy to this proposal is the fact that they feel like specialized leadership throughout the school has not had a voice in it.”

Werblow said that the university has not been communicative in requests for more information from the faculty.

“The [Connecticut State Universities American Association of University Professors] (CSUAAUP) has made a formal request for transparency for sharing data like disseminating reports and feedback that has been collected and this data has not been shared,” Werblow said. “And that is very concerning, it seems either that data hasn’t been collected or if it has been collected, it hasn’t been disseminated.”

As reported by WFSB, recent investigations into President Toro stemming from an extensive whistleblower complaint includes

accusations of her pressuring staff to falsify data for this proposal.

Werblow said that he has noticed a lack of student knowledge on the proposal as well.

“Students I’ve spoken to have no idea [about the proposal] or claim they’ve never been surveyed, and that’s shocking,” Werblow said. “Without the support of the student body the university will have a difficult time attracting students [in majors] that are clearly not aligned to polytechnic fields of study.”

Other professors, like Dr. Amanda Fields, professor of English and writing, confirmed Werblow’s opinion on the lack of faculty involvement in the process.

“[This proposal] has been talked about as if it was a forgone conclusion,” said Fields. “There’s [faculty] that aren’t happy about that, there’s a sense of ‘okay, we’ve made this decision and now you all have to adjust to it’, and that’s not how shared governance works.”

Fields said that she does think that the lack of shared governance has been a huge part of the faculty push back on the proposal.

“Even people who would support it are still upset about the lack of shared governance,” said Fields. “Most faculty here [would be] happy to have a reasonable debate about changes, but they haven’t been given the opportunity to do that.”

Results of an AAUP survey on faculty opinions of the R2 Polytechnic proposal support Dr. Fields’ claims. According to the survey, 61% of CCSU faculty believe that across the process, President Toro has not displayed “meaningful shared governance” to faculty.

The survey has also found that faculty are worried about the rushed timeline of the proposal, as well as concerns that enrollment will drop because of a re-branding.

Fields has also heard the word that this proposal has been stalled, and questions on how it will come together have started to come down.

“Recently there has been [talk] that it’s slowing down a bit, and I think a big part of that is that the proposal needs to be in much more specific shape if it were to be brought to the board of regents, because it seems we would be requesting a lot of money for this,” Fields said. “And right now, we’re in a state of austerity right now in terms of budgeting.”

Liberal arts students have expressed concern about how the lack of transparency on the proposal worries them about their degree value, like English major Seraphim Walker.

“The lack of communication from the school about what it is, when and how it will take effect et cetera, has been a concern,” said Walker. “I heard that there was a chance funding could go down for arts and humanities, or at least less effort put into them.”

Walker has fears that the re-branding could change how employers look at degrees from the university and is among the many questions students have about the proposal.

“My professors have been against it, and I’ve thought like ‘If I get an English degree from a polytechnic school that is focused on engineering, what does my degree mean?’” Walker said.

The CCSU Faculty Senate has not responded to a request for comment. President Toro’s office has not responded to a request for comment on the status of the proposal.

The Lechtenberg Legacy: A Moment with the Coach

by Andrew O' Sullivan
Sports Editor

Following three successful seasons under Head Coach Adam Lechtenberg, the CCSU Blue Devils football team enters the 2026 season in a crucial position. After coming to the program in 2023 following stints at Virginia Tech and Central Oklahoma, Lechtenberg inherited a program that had experienced some recent success in the late 2010s with coaches Peter Rossomando and Ryan McCarthy and future CFL quarterback Jake Dolegala. Under Lechtenberg’s leadership, the team went from 3-8 in 2023 to 7-6 in 2024 and 8-5 in 2025, capturing the NEC Conference Championship and making it to the FCS Playoffs in the last two years. However, heading into 2026, the team looks to have hit a roadblock. Not only with massive roster turnover, but in their schedule.

CCSU has a gauntlet of tough road games to start the season. Week 1 against FCS powerhouse South Dakota, Week 3 against FBS Toledo, and week 4 against defending FCS champions Montana State, all away. After another off week, Central finally returns to Arute Field on October 5 to face Wagner.

So far, Central is 0-2. They lost 59-20 in South Dakota and 63-10 in Toledo.

In college football, larger schools are able to pick who they play and the small schools often don’t have a choice. To those not in tune, this might seem like a death knell for CCSU ball this season. Coach Lechtenberg, however? He and his men can handle it.

“We embrace the challenge, for us to go to the playoffs we have to win our league anyway so these tough schedule games can help us competitively play at a higher level against really good people.”

Central plays football at the Division 1 FCS (Football Championship Subdivision) level, the 2nd tier of college football in the United States, below the 1st tier FBS (Football Bowl Subdivision). In the early portion of the season, many FBS schools and larger FCS schools will schedule games against small FCS schools like Central in a symbiotic beat-down, essentially. The large school gets an almost guaranteed win in a game where they can see how their new players are doing, and the small school gets a nice payout and national exposure, with the small chance of upsetting their larger rival.

“We can have issues either way, we’ve always had a tough schedule since I came here. We’re not afraid of that,” says Lechtenberg. He would also mention that air travel was the worst part of these weekends, but his players enjoyed the playing time in an unfamiliar market.

Other NEC teams have similar road games to start their seasons, too. LIU was beaten 51-6 by Kansas on September 4, New Mexico routed Mercyhurst 70-7 on the 12th, while Wagner had 87 points dropped on them by reigning Sun Belt Conference champions JMU earlier that same afternoon. All their opponents are in the FBS.

“All the teams in our league are doing the same thing, from a financial standpoint and a competitive standpoint that’s just where we are.”



Coach Adam Lechtenberg, ccsubluedevils.com

Considering the NEC from a competitive on-field standpoint, Lechtenberg praised his current roster despite how different it looks and talked about how they would stack up against their conference mates.

“We have a lot of new faces and new players,” Lechtenberg said, explaining they have a lot of talent for the league, and they’ll still have a chance to be competitive, with the hard games building experience. “Some of these kids have never played in games or played very sparingly. It’s a lot different playing 5-10 snaps a game compared to 50-60. Week to week we continue to get better and more accountable.”

Lechtenberg has new faces at almost every position. “We have 3 starters back on defense, three starters back on offense, and even the starters were rotational guys last year,” he would say. “We’re continuing to develop the roster, but we do like the roster. We’ve got great kids and they’ve responded to every challenge.” He would later add that with a young team, development and consistency takes time and often the games themselves are the biggest tests.

CCSU is favored to win the NEC in the coaches’ poll, as well as having ten pre-season all-conference nods for some of their standout players. Lechtenberg, however, doesn’t get “too worked up” over these expectations.

“[We] didn’t worry about being picked first last year or last a few years before. It really doesn’t matter what other peoples’ expectations are for us, it’s really what our expectations are. We believe we have a chance to be competitive in the league and that’s what we have to work towards.”

Lechtenberg explained that the biggest issue would be toughness and discipline for his team, as the talent is all there. He and his staff remain focused on the season ahead.

“We talk a lot about how not one play from last year that carried over to this year, and not one play last week carries over to this week. It’s all about what you do with the next opportunity. That’s what we’re focused on.”

Central returns home on October 3 to take on Wagner at Arute Field.

SERVED continued from front



Photo provided by Breanna Ginley.

Instagram

Ginley explained that she had “never been subjected to racial remarks during a game before, nor have my teammates. This was definitely unmarked territory.”

The heckling was not initially racial, as there was simply raucous cheering from the student section that Ginley was used to, “but absolutely never to this degree of inappropriateness.”

Fairfield University Vice President of Marketing and Communications Jennifer Anderson issued a statement that weekend regarding Thursday’s incident.

“The University is actively reviewing what occurred and is in communication with the visiting institution. Any use of inappropriate or derogatory language is unacceptable and has no place at Fairfield University or at athletic events. As a Jesuit Catholic University, Fairfield is grounded in the inherent dignity of every person and our responsibility to treat others with respect and care.”

Fairfield College Democrats also voiced their support for Ginley, as did CCSU Athletics.

“We support the well being of our student athletes, and completely agree that sports should be a place where everyone can compete and feel they belong regardless of race. We are in communication with the Fairfield athletics department and will continue to look into the matter,” said the athletic department in an official statement.

In an interview with The Fairfield Mirror, Ginley expressed gratitude that her post had spread further than expected. Her Instagram post on the matter has more than 9,000 likes and 800 reposts, a much bigger audience than she initially expected.

“I think it's important for all athletic institutions to do their best to foster a welcoming and respectful environment for everyone involved [...] We belong in sports, and we deserve to feel respected and welcomed in them.”

Central's Men's Soccer Loses Fifth Game Straight to UAlbany

by Cody Dzis
Contributor

NEW BRITAIN — Despite the downpour of rain throughout the morning and afternoon, the dry spell continues for the Central Connecticut State University men’s soccer team.

The Blue Devils suffered their fifth straight loss, falling to the University of Albany Great Danes in a 1-0 finish on Sunday afternoon.

“We knew that we were going in to play a really tough American East team that got off to a good start this season,” Blue Devils head coach David Kelly said. “We weren’t at our best in the first half, conceded the goal, but our response in the second half was very good.”

The one goal that was allowed on Sunday made the difference for UAlbany to earn the win. The Great Danes controlled the first half, limiting the Blue Devils to three shots and out-shooting them 9-3 before halftime.

At the 42:09 mark of the first half, freshman forward Yuta Kimata scored on an assist from senior midfielder Ivar Orri Gissurarson to make it a 1-0 game heading into the break.

The Blue Devils came out of halftime playing more aggressively as they attempted to swing the momentum into their favor. They out-shot the Great Danes 11-10 in the second half and kept putting pressure on the defense by keeping it on UAlbany’s side of the pitch.

Santiago Marin Gutierrez, CCSU’s leading goal scorer, managed to get five shots off, three on goal in the second half. The Blue Devils were unable to score, though, against sophomore goalkeeper Alexander Genz (five saves).

“We talked about a couple of tactical things, making sure our low block was tighter and wasn’t getting penetrated, and we knew that they were going to continue to be a danger on set pieces,” Kelly said. “We made a couple of adjustments, and changed our shape in the 2nd half, but the response was great.”

However, UAlbany had trouble getting them past the stout defense in the 2nd half as well as transfer goalkeeper Carter Fitzgerald, who finished the game with 12 saves for the Blue Devils.

“The guys are very solid defensively,” Fitzgerald said. “We have tons of confidence in how we play, so going forward we’re in a very good spot and just have to stick together and get through these tough games.”

The Blue Devils now drop to 2-6-0 on the year with the loss to UAlbany, and now move onto their conference games when they travel to Washington, D.C. to play Howard University on Sunday, Sept. 27 at 1 p.m.

“We’re playing very good out-of-conference teams, and the message to the team today was, ‘Are we in a good spot despite these one-goal margins?’,” Kelly said. “We’re in a good spot based on performance, dedication, commitment, what we’ve done in training and on performance in the games. We’re in a good spot to move forward and take on the conference.”



CCSU ATHLETIC SCHEDULE

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

9/26 • 11:45 AM • Ted Owen Invitational

WOMEN'S SOCCER

9/27 • TBA • Chicago State

MEN'S SOCCER

9/27 • TBA • Howard

WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

9/27 • TBA • CCSU Open Water 5K

SOCCER STATS

UAlbany 1, CCSU 0
@ Central Connecticut State University

UAlbany 1 0—1, CCSU 0 0—0

Goals:
UAlbany — Yuta Kimata 1.

Assists:
UAlbany — Ivar Orri Gissurarson 1.

Shots:
UAlbany — 20; CCSU — 13.

Saves:
UAlbany — Alexander Genz 5; CCSU — Carter Fitzgerald 12.

Records:
UAlbany 4-2-1, CCSU 2-6-0.