

The Recorder

Oct. 17, 2024

VOLUME 135 | ISSUE 3

CCSU Professor Ends Decades-Long Display

By Savanna Yelling
Managing Editor

For 21 years Matthew Warshauer has captured the scariest moments in politics through his political Halloween decorations; he said this is the perfect year to end the tradition.

“I’m always trying to sort of put my finger on the pulse of what is going on in the

country,” Warshauer, a Central Connecticut State University history professor, said.

Warshauer said he thinks the national will “either turn a corner or crash” depending on who is elected, making this year the ideal grand finale for his political Halloween display. He calls the 2024 election a “one-issue election.”

See *Halloween* on Page 2



Photos by Savanna Yelling

The Gen Z Vote Counts

By Aniya Pouncey
Contributor

NEW BRITAIN – With reports of the Gen Z vote decreasing as the 2024 election approaches, political advocates urge young voters to cast their ballots on Nov. 5.

National youth turnout dropped to 23% in the 2022 election, down from a historic 28% in 2018, according to Tufts University’s Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement. This drop highlights a crucial gap in participation that could shape policies affecting young people.

Nathan Simpson, a Gen Z alderman for the New Britain Common Council, emphasized the power of the youth vote, particularly in local elections. Simpson is the first Gen Z person to hold public office in New Britain, he said.

“I have a resolute confidence that the youth vote will be a heavy driver in this year’s election outcome, regardless of the winner,” Simpson said.

Simpson noted that young voters can significantly impact See *Gen Z* on Page 2

CSCU Chancellor’s Spending Under Scrutiny

By Deanna Prescott,
Editor-in-Chief
and Madison Musco,
News Editor

Central’s President Zulma Toro said she looks forward to the results of Gov. Ned Lamont’s call for an independent audit of the Connecticut State Universities and College’s system.

After CT Insider uncovered questionable spending by CSCU chancellor Terrence Cheng, board members called

for the records to be looked into further.

“As CSCU has recently implemented measures such as tuition increases and program reductions to address significant budget shortfalls,” Lamont said in a press release, “it is imperative that the public have complete transparency into how public funds are being utilized.”

As tuition for CSCU students increased by 5% for the second year in a row, state

representatives and senators on both sides of the aisle have called for action in the form of freezing Cheng’s expense account and digging further into his spending, according to CT Insider.

Cheng used CSCU funds to purchase \$60 steaks, \$490 chauffeured rides and other personal expenses, according to reports by CT Insider.

The investigation by CT Insider also raised concerns

See *Spending* on Page 3



CSCU

About

The Recorder is a student-produced publication and does not necessarily represent, in whole or in part, the views of the CCSU administration, faculty, staff or students. The Recorder's articles, photographs and graphics are property of The Recorder and may not be reproduced or published without written permission from the Editor-in-Chief.

Editor-in-Chief

Deanna Prescott

Managing Editor

Savanna Yelling

News Editor

Madison Musco

Lifestyle Editor

Jayden Klaus

Sports Editor

Ian Yale

Copy Editor

Nathalia Blair

Layout Editor

Madison Musco

Staff Writers

Omar Gonzalez-Solano
Eary Banushi
Sabiha Dodd-Brown
James Studley

Contributors

Yvonna Rodriguez
Chike Onyiuke

Meetings

Mondays at 6:00 p.m.
Clock Tower Room
Student Center

THE RECORDER OFFICE

Student Center
1615 Stanley Street
New Britain, CT 06050

860-832-3744

editor@centralrecorder.org
CentralRecorder.org

Printed By:
Valley Publishing Company

SCAN FOR MORE

Spending

about whether Cheng properly reported personal use of his state vehicle in taxes.

Board of Regents Chair Martin Guay said that although Cheng's use of funds may have been permissible under both state and system rules, the board agrees that perception and activities matter.

"More attention is being paid to ensure that the system is fiscally prudent," Guay said.

Toro said in a statement that the news of misspending "sad-

dened" her, and that further review of Cheng's spending should "shed light on the allegations."

"As leaders in the state CSCU system, it is important for us to be mindful of our responsibility to educate our students," she said, "including providing affordable access to the education experiences we offer at our institutions."

Guay said that the board is committed to providing appropriate oversight to ensure that state resources and tuition are being used for their intended purpose, "to benefit our students."

Halloween

"Donald Trump attempted to overthrow the government of the United States. That's what January 6th was about," Warshauer said. "It wasn't a civil riot it was an attempted coup."

Warshauer said he combines his artistic interests with the work he does as a professor, to create intricate political Halloween displays on his front lawn.

"I'm a big believer in embracing absurdity," Warshauer said.

On the lawn of his North Main Street home there is a 16-foot sculpture of Kamala Harris as the Statue of Liberty. Surrounding the larger-than-life statue there are several satirical representations of quotes from former President Donald Trump.

"I needed it to be big,"

Warshauer said. "I needed it to be that mammoth and overwhelming so that you can see it from far away then when you drive up on it, you're like 'wow.'"

There is a blank panel addressed to Trump supporters asking why they support his re-election despite those who worked closest with him condemning him.

"In my view anybody who supports Donald Trump in this election... they cannot call themselves believers in American democracy," Warshauer said.

The blank panel allows for anyone to voice their opinions on the display and Warshauer said he does not interfere with what is written.

"Political satire is as old as the nation and that is what I'm doing," Warshauer said this is what he aims for those skeptical of his work to remember.



Gen Z

local elections, where he said every vote truly counts.

"Your vote weighs 226 times more in local elections than in presidential ones," he said. "In a recent council election, there were about two thousand total votes, and I won by only eighteen. I've seen local candidates edge out their opponent by just one vote."

Eighteen-year-old Rachel Drucker, a first-time voter, shared her struggles with the voting process.

"I live outside my state of residence, which complicates voting. I recently turned 18, and it was unclear if I'd be able to vote," she said. Drucker feels that her vote carries little weight, especially in a less populated state, she said.

"I wish that every vote was important, but at times it feels like it doesn't matter much," Drucker said. "The influence of my vote really isn't that big."

Despite these challenges, she said she plans to participate in future elections.

"I think I probably would vote in the next election because I'll be older and I'll be able to do more research ahead of time on how to sort it all out," Drucker said.

Logan Palardy, President of

the CCSU Student Government Association, reinforced the need for young people to participate in elections.

"It's important for young people's voices to be heard because the choices being made will impact our futures," he said.

Palardy also said that every vote matters, even in states considered politically secure.

"Every vote matters, even if you're in a 'safe state' for one of the parties," he stated.

He said he encourages his peers to take action and recognize the importance of their participation.

"I'd say to everyone who isn't voting to please consider it. Policies being passed now will affect our futures, and it's up to us to vote people in who represent our needs," Palardy said.

Simpson says there is a critical need for Gen Z to engage in both local and national elections.

"If you're voting in Connecticut this year, your ballot will be one of about two million to decide the winner of Connecticut's electoral votes," Simpson said.

As the 2024 elections approach, Simpson said understanding the impact of their votes can lead to meaningful change in policies that affect their lives.

2024 is a one issue election.

It is about safeguarding the American experiment in democracy from a man who knowingly and fraudulently abused his authority, refused the peaceful transition of power, and treasonably attacked the very halls of government.

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

Dia de las Muertos: Celebrating Loved Ones Lost



Photos by Omar Gonzalez-Solano students who died during the 1968 Tlatelolco massacre and the 2014 Iguala kidnappings in Mexico, both of which resulted in the deaths of student activists.

"I know there's a lot of students and it's impossible to name every single victim, but just a memorial of them on the altar would be an honorable way to remember them while at the same time educating students on Latin American history," Garcia said.

Associate Professor Rocio Fuentes, with the help of the World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures department displayed their ofrenda in the department's office. The altar features a portrayal of the Virgin Mary beneath an arch of marigolds alongside the mementos of loved ones including food, photos, and even empty bottles of mezcal and tequila.

By Omar Gonzalez-Solano
Staff Writer

In celebration of Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), The Latin American, Latino, and Caribbean Center (LALCC), as well as the World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures department, have built marigold adorned altars in memory of the dead to commemorate the yearly Mexican tradition.

The LALCC built an ofrenda near the entrance of the center and is encouraging students to participate in decorating the altar with items from their loved ones.

Ednitza Alagarin-Garcia, junior, 21, works at the LALCC.

"People plan on bringing non-perishable foods like drinks, food that's packaged... The bread will have to be wrapped up," Alagarin-Garcia said.]

Traditionally, family members decorate the altar with the

favorite foods, drinks, mementos, and vices of their passed loved ones as an offering.

"Dia de los Muertos... It will always fundamentally be a Mexican holiday," Jefferson Garcia, a member of the LALCC said. "A celebration of indigenous, Spanish, and Catholic roots. But, I think at this point, it has transcended the cultural boundaries, and it's etched as a global holiday now."

Garcia, a graduate student who has been a member of the LALCC for over four years, spearheaded the ofrenda project for the center with the support of LALCC Director Mary Ann Mahony.

Garcia, who is of Guatemalan descent, said that he wanted to incorporate activist messaging into the altar, something that is present in his culture's celebration of Dia de los Muertos. Garcia said he wanted to honor the lives of

CCSU Student Wellness Center's Strategy on Surge of Student Visits

By Nathalia Blair
Copy Editor

As midterms pass and final exams draw near, students find themselves juggling exams, work-study commitments, and personal challenges while managing the weight of stress. The Director of Counseling and Student Development and Interim Vice President for Equity and Well-Being, Michael Russo, shares the Wellness Center's strategies to support students' most stressful moments.

Russo said anxiety as a significant issue amongst students with an increased demand for counseling services post-pandemic. Counseling demand rose by 12%, with average wait times over nine days for individual counseling, affected by student schedules and peak periods such as midterms or exams week.

Several factors affect the wait time for students to meet with counselors, including the student's schedule and the time of year. Regarding scheduling, Russo said the times appointments are available may not match the student's schedule.

"As we get closer to midterms and again finals," Russo said. "We see increases in the number of students who are coming in for services."

According to Russo, the Wellness Center has adapted to longer wait times. Students who wish to be seen sooner have options for immediate access outside of individual sessions, such as support groups. Additionally, if a student is in crisis, Russo said, whether due to suicidal thoughts, experiences of assault, or feeling completely overwhelmed, they should notify the center to receive immediate assistance.

"One of the things that is really encouraging," Russo said. "Even though we saw an increase in the number of students who are receiving crisis services, we had a very low number of transports last year from the counseling center."

The number of transports refers to students needing to go to the hospital for further evaluation and stabilization.

"We really encourage students to engage in these [support] groups and give them a try," Russo said. "It's certainly a much better option than waiting for an individual counseling session, in my view."

Russo also shared two initiatives that were launched this year.

"We contracted with a company called Protocall, and that's an after-hours crisis service," Russo said. "So, during times when the wellness center is closed, meaning the evenings or weekends or holidays, Protocall is available."

Russo said they continue promoting mental health first aid and the trauma initiative in collaboration with Klingberg Family Centers and their Traumatic Stress Institute, located in New Britain.

"We'll be continuing to promote mental health first aid for faculty and staff to be trained on how to identify when a student may be struggling with a mental health issue and how to get them to the services so that they can get the support they need," Russo said.

The 'Student Wellness Center' is open Mondays to Fridays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Willard DiLoreto Hall. For students who would like to access help outside of the center's business hours, contact Protocall at 860-832-1212.

Fraternity and Sorority Presence Grows on Campus

By Nathalia Blair
Copy Editor

The Inter-Greek Council Programming Board sponsored the “Meet the Greeks” event on Oct. 21 for all Central Connecticut State University fraternity and sorority chapters to grow Greek Life presence on campus.

CCSU Greek Life was able to socialize with other Greek organizations from other colleges. Students sported their jackets, caps and other merch to advertise their chapter affiliations.

Since COVID-19, Greek Life had not been as prominent on CCSU’s campus. Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Kellie Byrd Danso said she is taking the opportunity to bring some of that campus life back.

“When I first started almost two and a half years ago, students said this is what they wanted and you know I heard them loud and clear, and the president is obviously on board, and we want to give students what they’re looking for,” Danso said. “They asked

for some Greek Life presence; they asked for some culture on campus.”

As a former member of Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA), Danso said her undergraduate experience was amazing, and she has heard good feedback from students so far.

Velma Walters, Associate Director of Student Activities and Leadership Development, said Greek Life gives students something unique to experience on campus. “Greek Life has impacted students here on campus with those that have been involved and helps to enhance your college experience,” Walters said.

Walters said that there is more to Greek Life than what most people assume.

“Some of the stigmas that people might say with Greek Life that may not know a lot about Greek Life organizations, they think that we just party,” Walters said. “Yes, we do have fun, but before that fun, and a big part is having fun, is doing community service- having fun in improving

See *Greeks* on Page 6

OPINION: A One-man Show Honors Puerto Rican Heritage



Photo by Jillian Elsner

By Jillian Elsner
Contributor

Angel Vazquez’s “The Other Side Story” stole the show at Central Connecticut State University’s Torp Theatre in Davidson Hall on Thursday, Oct. 24.

The one-man show, hosted by the Latin American, Latino, and Caribbean Center (LALCC), marked the end of Hispanic Heritage Month, an after-party to a month of cultural celebration and remembrance. Featuring live music and humor, Vazquez played an unnamed man who traveled to New York to collect some items from an old apartment for his mother.

In the play, the protagonist meets Josefina, who walks him through the history of Puerto Ricans in New York. She explained to him how Puerto Ricans struggled since the beginning. She told the stories of people such as Sylvia Rivera, a gay liberation and transgender rights activist who participated in the Stonewall riots, Antonia Pantoja, an educational equity activist and founder of the ASPIRA Association and Tito Puente, a musical visionary. In addition to telling those stories, Josefina also told the stories of Puerto Ricans who were not big names. She told the stories of her own grandfather, who was a shoeshiner at the turn of

the century, a soldier beaten to death for speaking Spanish and a plantation worker in Hawaii.

Each story told of forgotten figures such as Rivera held so much power for me. The struggles Rivera faced, paralleled by the phrase, “I got up,” was a powerful reminder of the strength it took not only to embrace and take pride in her identity in a time that denoted race-based discrimination, but discrimination based on her gender identity. It was a beautiful call-back to his emphasis on Puerto Rican pride and the flag that symbolizes it. During the story of the soldier, there was also a compelling parallel between the protagonist’s proclamation that you can’t be a “real” Puerto Rican if you don’t speak Spanish, and the Puerto Rican soldier beaten to death for speaking Spanish.

The performance was a breathtakingly heartfelt tribute to Puerto Rican culture and prior generations who walked, so that the new generations could run. Through crowd work, Vazquez quickly established a positive rapport with the audience, which, in an increasingly divided social climate, is a welcome surprise. The show felt like an invitation to glimpse into another culture through dance and music segments.

There were many moments

where I, a person who is not Puerto Rican, felt very moved.

My personal favorite parts of the play revolved around Rivera’s story, Pantoja’s story and the segment about the 65th Infantry Regiment, an all-Puerto Rican military unit. Although I could not understand what the chant “¡Iré Irakú!” meant, the feelings of respect, love and remembrance for the fallen soldiers hung heavily in the air.

Vazquez did a wonderful job showcasing the history of Puerto Ricans in the United States, using current events and humor to connect the 150-year-long history of Puerto Rican influence on the East Coast to the here and now. Although the turnout was very small, this show still served as a long-awaited, underrated love letter to the culture, experiences and people, both past and present, that hail from Puerto Rico’s rich cultural heritage.

This show left me with new information about people who have had an impact on American culture that I never learned about in school. In turn, it left me with a newfound appreciation for Puerto Rican culture and the contributions that Puerto Ricans have made to the United States. I would encourage anyone to go the next time it makes its rounds.

NOVEMBER Central Events

Fall Fest
Nov. 1, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Student Center Lot

Stellar Zombies Planetarium Show
Nov. 1, 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Copernicus Observatory

Arrive 15 minutes early - no late admittance.

Blue Out for Homecoming
Nov. 2, 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Arute Parking Lot
Where all blue to show your Central spirit! Kickoff is at 12 p.m.



Proximity & Distance

By Jayden Klaus, *Lifestyle Editor*

Photos by Omar Gonzalez-Solano, *Staff Writer*

Central Connecticut State University began hosting another art gallery at the Chen Art Gallery in Maloney Hall on Thursday, Oct. 17.

A few days after the previous exhibition, *Transformed By Fire: Feats of Clay*, concluded, it was announced on Oct. 11 that a second exhibition, *Proximity & Distance*, would be displayed on campus. Artists Namwon Choi, Bill Conger, Carrie Gundersdorf, Jin Lee, Young Min Moon and Pete Schulte all contributed pieces to the exhibition.

The featured artists were invited by guest curator Professor Shona Macdonald of the Department of Art at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, according to a CCSU press release on the gallery. The displayed artworks all utilize how closely inspected images open to suggest larger spaces and work with the

re-emphasis of place and the displacement of objects, according to the press release.

The gallery was much smaller than the previous one with only 19 pieces on display. They included acrylic and oil paintings, archival pigment print photos, watercolors, graphite drawings and found images pasted on paper. The art depicted subjects like still life, naturalistic images and abstract work.

In a binder in the front of the gallery, all of the featured artists contributed insights into their artworks and explained their inspirations and origins. They also detailed how the selected pieces demonstrate the idea of space and how it can be created through the artworks' ideas, visuals and creation techniques.

The art gallery will be open to the public from Oct. 17 to Nov. 15.





Greek organizations gather to take a group photo at "Meet the Greek

Photo by Nathalia Blair

Greek Life

the lives of students here on campus."

Walter said the footprint of what is going on here on campus is changing.

Currently, parts of Greek Life on campus are collaborating with other clubs to hold events such as Phi Delta Theta organizing with Student Government Association and Central Activities Network to host the "Drive-in Movie Night" on Oct. 28. AKA also has co-sponsored several voter registration drives.

"At the end of the day, we all have the same goal, which is really trying to enhance the life of students here on campus and not only that, but get them politically involved," Walters said. "One of the big ways to change your commu-

nity is being aware of what's going on in politics."

Familiarizing yourself with the members of an organization of interest will be best if students plan to get involved. If a student wants to join a fraternity or sorority on campus, they have to be academically eligible. All organizations have a GPA requirement that varies from 2.5 or higher.

"If anyone is interested in becoming involved in any of the Greek letter organizations, a big part of the minimum requirement of the organizations is academics," Walters said. "Students have to be about the books because Greek life is also focused on scholarship."

Shayne Purandah said being a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity has given him a brotherhood that represents him as a Black man.

It's Halloween, and that means it's time to get spooky and indulge in sweet treats! These yummy popcorn balls are the perfect snack to bring to a Halloween party or hand out to trick-or-treaters.

Ingredients:

- 2 - 3.2 oz bags of lightly buttered popcorn or 12 cups of air-popped popcorn
- 5 tbsp of unsalted butter
- 10 oz bag of marshmallows
- 2 tsp of pumpkin spice
- Red food coloring
- Yellow food coloring
- 1/8 cup of semisweet chocolate chips

Directions:

1. Pop the popcorn and transfer it to a large bowl. Sort out unpopped kernels and discard them.
2. Melt butter on medium heat in a large saucepan.
3. Once the butter is melted, add marshmallows and lower the heat.
4. Stir until the marshmallows have melted. Add in pumpkin spice and stir.
5. Add two drops of red food coloring and four drops of yellow. Stir until the colors are well integrated.
6. Pour marshmallow mixture over popcorn and carefully stir with a wooden spoon until popcorn is fully coated.
7. Coat hands with butter or oil and compact popcorn into balls
8. Wrap in plastic wrap and chill in the fridge for at least one hour.
9. Melt chocolate over a double boiler. Let cool but not harden.
10. Pour chocolate into a sandwich bag and cut off a corner. Pipe chocolate onto popcorn balls into Jack-o'-lantern faces.
11. Return the balls to the fridge for ten minutes to let the chocolate set.

Enjoy!

Jack-o'-Lantern Popcorn Balls

By Jayden Klaus, *Lifestyle Editor*



Photo by Jayden Klaus

CCSU Observed LGBTQ History Month in October

By Jayden Klaus
Lifestyle Editor

LGBTQ History Month was started in 1994 by Missouri high school teacher Rodney Wilson. He wanted to dedicate the month to education on gay and lesbian history. October was chosen because school was in session, and National Coming Out Day is Oct. 11, which in itself commemorates 1987's Second National March on Washington for Gay and Lesbian Rights.

The month-long observance serves as a second yearly celebration of LGBTQ identities and reflects on the queer rights that have been achieved. It has even spread outside of the United States to be celebrated in other countries.

On the Central campus, there has been little acknowledgment of LGBTQ History Month compared to similar commemorative months like

Hispanic Heritage Month and Black History Month, which see multiple campus events held during their run time.

Director of the LGBTQ Center, Donique McIntosh, who has a doctorate in social justice education, said she did host a table at the beginning of October in collaboration with campus Dining Services where people could win prizes for participating in LGBTQ History Month trivia. McIntosh said that the kind of programs the Center does depends on her decisions based on staffing availability, budget and vision for the Center.

"I could anticipate doing more to bring awareness in the future based on the factors I mentioned," McIntosh said.

Pride Club president Cathal Leone, a sophomore, said that it is important for Central students to understand LGBTQ



Photo by Jayden Klaus

history because it helps people to learn about the struggles that queer people have faced over the years and continue to face. He said he has never seen Central do anything related to LGBTQ History Month in any form and that there should be more awareness of LGBTQ history on campus in general.

"It is important that CCSU acknowledges that queer people not only exist, but they

have a long winding history that needs to be celebrated as well as understood," Leone said.

Leone said that Central students should be aware of more LGBTQ history and know where on campus they can learn more about it. He said the best ways to learn more include attending classes on LGBTQ history, Pride Club meetings, and visiting the LBTQ Archives of Elihu Bur-

ritt Library. Leone said that Central should make a greater effort to educate students on LGBTQ history.

"I don't think it should be a responsibility of the students to constantly be looking at the history," Leone said. "It should be up to the faculty at CCSU to show that there is history. They shouldn't have to look for it, they should just get it."

Jones

guys, great culture here," he said. "The style of play adapts to any pro league that you would go to."

Central head coach Patrick Sellers said he is excited to have Jones on his team, adding that Jones was an athlete he followed closely since becoming the head coach of the Blue Devils in 2021.

Sellers said that Jones's high IQ attracted his game to him, along with his variety of skills that will help him play many roles for the Blue Devils.

"You can play him almost anywhere," Sellers said. "He is tough, physical, he'll rebound, he can guard one through four, and he can play point guard because he can really see the floor with his height."

Jones is a big believer in

always putting the team before himself, and it was no different when he talked about his goals and what he wants to accomplish at CCSU.

"I don't really try to set personal goals," Jones said. "I feel like if I just set team goals like trying to win and you just do everything you can, everything else just comes with that."

After all of the stops he has made around New England, Jones gets to showcase all of his hard work throughout the years back at the city he grew up in, and he explained what it meant to him.

"It means a lot," Jones said. "I actually never really got the chance to play for my hometown after middle school, so it's actually just a blessing, honestly."

SPORTS



CCSU basketball player James Jones

Photo by Ian Yale

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

Central Cross-Country Honors Morgan's Message at Stanley Quarter Park



CCSU cross country Brooke Morabito

Photo by Ian Yale

By **Andrew O'Sullivan**
Staff Writer

Stanley Quarter Park hosted the Cross Country CCSU Mini Meet on Oct. 25, which resulted in big wins and records for the Blue Devil runners.

Isabelle Mondo had the quickest race of the Blue Devils entered in the Women's Sub-Varsity 3K, notching an 11:19.50, as she finished 24th, about a minute behind the winner.

In the Women's Varsity 3K, CCSU had three runners in the top 10 with another close behind in 11th. Brooke Morabito, who won overall with a 9:25:10, broke a school record for the 3K as she took the vic-

tory to a tune of nearly 20 seconds. Other standout runners included P8 Mya Morabito, P10 Julia Cancellieri, and P11 Maegan Desmaris, who all ran sub-11-minute times.

The Men's Sub-Varsity 5K saw CCSU have four runners placed in the top 10. Although the win wasn't in play, Joe Lauria, Michael Kraszewski, and Ryan McCauley finished from 2nd to 4th, all putting in times in the mid-15-minute range. Israel Caro IV also finished in 7th with a 15:26.

Central notched another victory in the Men's Varsity 5K, as James Sullivan beat teammate Jake Ireland to the line by 0.4 seconds to win, as

Blue Devils routed and placed in the Top 10 four times. Brendan Mellitt and Mark Rodriguez finished 8th and 9th, respectively.

The Mini Meet was the third of five Central Connecticut sporting events dedicated to the memory of Duke University athlete Morgan Rodgers and Morgan's Message; the nonprofit started in her honor strives to combat the stigma of student-athletes at universities across the country.

The Blue Devil men and women will take their talents to the Northeast Conference Championships at Stanley Quarter Park on Nov. 1.



CCSU SCOREBOARD

Oct. 17

• Women's Soccer vs. Chicago St., 3-1 win

Oct. 18

• Volleyball vs. FDU, 3-0 loss

Oct. 19

• Volleyball vs. FDU, 3-1 loss
• Football at Dartmouth, 20-16 loss

Oct. 20

• Women's Soccer at Howard, 1-0 loss
• Men's Soccer at Le Moyne, 4-0 loss

Oct. 24

• Women's Soccer vs. St. Francis (PA), 4-2 loss

Oct. 25

• Volleyball at Mercyhurst, 3-1 loss
• Men's Cross-Country, CCSU Mini-Meet, 1st place of 10
• Women's Cross-Country, CCSU Mini-Meet, 1st place of 12

Oct. 26

Football at LIU, 24-21 loss
Volleyball at Mercyhurst, 3-2 win
Swimming and Diving at New Hampshire, 231-122 loss

Oct. 27

Women's Soccer at Le Moyne, 1-0 win
Men's Soccer vs. St. Francis (PA), 2-0 loss

New Britain Native Looks to Make Early Impact

By **Marcus Saunders**
Contributor

CCSU freshman basketball player James Jones grew up in New Britain and was raised in a sports family, playing in many New Britain-based leagues. He played middle school basketball at HALS Academy, and played football for the New Britain Jr. Hurricanes from the age of five until he entered high school.

Once he finished middle school, he left the city to

attend East Catholic High School in Manchester, Connecticut. He said that the basketball program was calling his name, and that it all worked out in the long run.

"I ended up having success there while still having the support of my city," he said. "It was a win-win."

At East Catholic, he was a back-to-back high school state champion in the 2021-22 and 2022-23 seasons. In his senior year,

Jones was named the 2022-23 MaxPreps Connecticut High School Basketball Player of the Year. He led the Eagles to a 27-1 record while averaging 16 points, eight rebounds, and six assists per game, capping the season off with a state title.

Even though Jones was already highly decorated, he said there was still more work that he needed to put in. He decided to do a post-graduate year at Worcester Academy in

Massachusetts, where he was an All-NEPSAC honorable mention selection in his single season.

Jones said that taking a post-grad year helped him work on his body to prepare him for the next level. He said that he gained about 15 pounds during the prep year, and that it helped to play against bigger and stronger players.

Jones said there was a point in time where he still wasn't getting much recognition, and

he saw some of his peers get closer to his goal.

"I felt like there was just a long time where I had no offers and watched everyone else get them," he said. "But you kind of just have to run your own race, take it one day at a time and just keep working."

Even though Jones is from New Britain, it was more than just location that made CCSU feel like home to him.

"Great coaching staff, great
See Jones on Page 7