

# THE RECORDER

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## Drop-In Center To Fulfill Student Childcare Needs



The long-awaited on-campus drop-in center may finally come to fruition.

CCSU

BY KRISTINA VAKHMAN  
NEWS EDITOR

The more than decade-long fight for on-campus childcare services at Central Connecticut may finally come to an end with Barnard Hall's renovation, which is officially set to include a drop-in center upon its completion.

"The drop-in center [is] still in the renovation plans for Barnard," Interim Dean of the School of Education and Professional Studies Dr. Kimberly Kostelis said. "It is

still one of my priorities and the last time President [Dr. Zulma] Toro and I spoke about the renovations, it was one of her priorities as well."

Drs. Fiona Pearson and Leah Glaser, CCSU professors and Committee on the Concerns of Women co-chairs, spearheaded the call for some form of on-campus childcare for over 10 years. Now that it most likely will happen, the issue becomes affordability for students.

The drop-in center's timely implementation, Pearson said, would be

incredibly beneficial, especially in terms of receiving a federal grant that would subsidize its resources for students, particularly those who are low-income.

"I don't think a drop-in center will attract students if it's too costly," Pearson stated, explaining that, for CCSU to receive the desired grant, it needs to prove to the United States Department of Education that it supports having a child- and family-friendly campus. "If we can show that students and administrators both want this, then we are more likely to receive this grant."

A free on-campus drop-in center for student-parents would be far more preferable to a high-priced off-campus daycare. Sociology senior Kacie Harris can attest to that – her 2-year-old son Kameron's daycare costs her \$200 for three days a week; it used to cost her \$350 for five days, but she could no longer afford that after leaving her full-time job so she could finish her CCSU degree.

"It's very expensive," Harris said. Some professors allow her to bring Kameron to class, but the idea of trying to make an active toddler sit for over an hour makes her "uncomfortable." Moreover, CCSU's off-campus Early Learning Program is costly and only accepts children above 3 years of age.

Pearson corroborated that, saying that she personally knows that the ELP's pricing has made some students look for childcare services elsewhere.

Additionally, the program is currently completely full and requires pre-registration.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 3

## Controversy Continues Despite Tim Stewart's Resignation

BY SARAH WILLSON  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Three days after an uproar of controversy surrounding a Facebook comment that some called misogynistic, former New Britain Mayor Tim Stewart resigned from his position of president of the Chamber of Commerce. Now, uncertainty is surrounding the city's "business voice."

The comment, which has since been deleted, referred to the Democratic Congresswomen wearing white during the State of the Union in commemoration of the Women's Suffrage Movement as "Bitches in heat."

"[What's next for the Chamber of Commerce] is up in the air. I'm not even sure if they're looking for someone to fill [the position] right now," Correspondent Secretary for the New Britain Democratic Party and Central Connecticut student Victor Constanza said. "I'm guessing the chairman, Gennaro Bizzarro, will take the lead."

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## Senior Class Trip Up In The Air

BY KRISTINA VAKHMAN  
NEWS EDITOR

Without a senior class president in place, currently nobody is planning or organizing 2019's senior class trip, begging the question of whether it will happen at all.

"There should still be hope that there will be a senior class trip. At this point, it has to be who's going to do it," Central Connecticut's Student Government Association President Cassandra Fruin said.

The only eligibility requirements for being senior class president, according to the SGA bylaws, is a 2.0 GPA and senior standing. The position's sole duty is to plan the senior class trip – the individual will no longer be an automatic speaker at commencement since CCSU now looks closely at merit.

But the lack of oversight and guidelines has resulted in previous trips being "not

executed in a way a lot of people on the Senate would hope," Fruin said, so she had planned on introducing new bylaws outlining the position's responsibilities, reasons for removal from office and other stipulations.

"We lost \$20,000 [from last year's trip and didn't gain it back]," Fruin emphasized as one explanation behind wanting more direction, citing how 2018's senior class president struggled to delegate her committee and didn't sell enough tickets because of poor promotion.

"Last year and in previous years, there's been a senior class president that hasn't been effective in advertising and making the events plausible to happen," former SGA President Brendan Kruh said, adding that a lack of structure, "defined" responsibility and accountability made the event unsuccessful.

However, Fruin and SGA Vice President Dante Solano came to the conclusion that this process



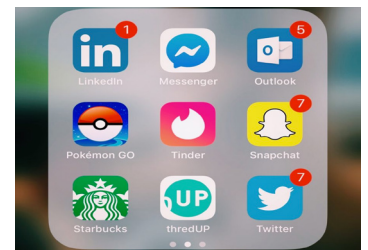
CCSU's Student Government Association currently cannot host elections for a senior class president to plan the senior class trip. KRISTINA VAKHMAN | STAFF

would "solidify" the senior class president as an elected position on the Senate, an outcome they did not want. Instead, the two went to Student Activities/Leadership Development Director Scott Hazan last semester – after discovering the Senior Class Committee existed on TheLink – with the proposed bylaws' language and asked the office to adopt them.

"We decided not to go through with [these new additions] because we don't want [the senior class president] to be considered a member of the Senate," Fruin said. "We put it into SA/LD's hands. Like we'll facilitate the election for you, we'll fund the trips, we'll do everything on that end, but we'd really like the person to follow these guidelines."

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## STUDENTS ON DATING NOWADAYS



This Thursday is Valentine's Day, but each year, dating for college students has escalated to swipes left and right rather than roses and chocolates for potential flames.

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## LACROSSE SEASON PREVIEW



After a 2-16 season, CCSU's lacrosse team turns to alum Betsy Vendel to turn the program around.

SEE PAGE 16

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# Central Family Gets Bigger



New Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management Karissa Peckham, middle, speaks with fellow CCSU faculty and staff members at last Friday's Welcome Reception.

ISABELLA CHAN | STAFF

BY ISABELLA CHAN  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Central Connecticut family just got a little bigger with new Vice President for Student Affairs Michael D. Jasek and Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management Karissa Peckham.

The two were welcomed with a reception last Friday morning, which included the attendance of President Dr. Zulma Toro, as well as faculty, staff and students. Both Jasek and Peckham are said to be important members in Central's executive committee as "key officers."

As the new vice president for the Office of Students Affairs, Jasek will be in charge of providing students with extracurricular and learning opportunities that exceed what is offered in the classroom.

Peckham is Central's first Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management. She said she believes her role will help to continue to move Central forward on the

bright path it's currently on.

"Central has some pretty progressive goals for enrollment. We really want to grow. My goal is to work with marketing, admissions office, transfer office and [on] financial literacy so we can find ways to



President Dr. Zulma Toro and other CCSU faculty and staff members welcomed two new key university officers.

ISABELLA CHAN | STAFF

## Unpaid Internship? Make Sure It's Worth It

BY KRISTINA VAKHMAN  
NEWS EDITOR

Now is around the time some recruiters will get back to you about that summer internship you applied for last year. Receiving a response that you have been selected will undoubtedly have you bursting with excitement, but set that excitement aside for a moment if your desired internship is unpaid. Before you accept a position as an unpaid intern, look out for these red flags to make sure that the internship is worthwhile and, more importantly, legal, with advice from Central Connecticut Career Success Center's Advising and Career Specialist Montez Johnson.

### Are you receiving some form of compensation experience-wise?

Even though an unpaid internship does not fill your pockets with cash, it should be paying you in another way, whether that be through credit that can be applied at CCSU or by providing a substantial learning experience that will benefit you in the long-run.

"[You] wanna make sure that it is something that is relevant to [your] major. One of the biggest things is if it is truly an unpaid internship, [it should be] something that can actually go on [your] resume," Johnson said. "It's making sure you're not going out to get cheesecake or are in charge of the coffee machine – that you're actually doing something."

### Is the company even legitimate?

Sometimes an unpaid internship sounds too good to be true, the proposed

experience outlined to sound so amazing that it outweighs the fact that you will not be walking away with a filled wallet. So...is it actually too good to be true? Doing your research and confirming the company is actually a company, Johnson explained, is imperative.

"Making sure that they're a legitimate company, LLC or if they're an organization that's been around for 20, 30 years, making sure that it's not just a posting that doesn't have true backing, [is important]. You can go on the internet and check the Better Business Bureau, you can check that they have a legitimate website and you can check and see if they have references of folks that actually worked there. If you do your extensive research, that's important," Johnson elaborated.

### Is the experience even relevant and enriching?

Sure, an unpaid internship is meant to give your resume an extra layer of shine, but are you actually getting something out of it? Does it relate to your major? Johnson suggested that you make sure you are receiving mentorship or are able to participate in certain cases that let you have a "feel for the job." Bottom line: you should be allowed to apply the skills you have learned from CCSU in the area that you want.

"You're following your actual emphasis," Johnson said. "You can then actually say, 'Hey, this is something that will help me in my degree program.' If it's not paid, it's worthy only if it's relevant."

### Does it meet all six legal prongs?

support students," Peckham said.

With Peckham's help, the university is hoping to reach an enrollment goal of 15,000 students by 2023.

Through this work, Peckham hopes to increase enrollment and retention of CCSU students. Her primary focus is to "help more students out in the community feel as though Central is the right place for them."

Despite being new to the campus, Peckham has been adjusting to the area well.

"I took a three-hour tour of the campus, and that's not a 'Gilligan's Island' reference – it really was three hours. I got the chance to see the entire campus, including some of the newer facilities [like] Willard-DiLoreto. There are some really beautiful places here," Peckham said.

"Working with everyone here is amazing. I'm still getting adjusted but everyone here has been more than helpful, super gracious. It's been great so far," Peckham stated.

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The United States Department of Labor has a six-part test to determine whether an unpaid internship is legal. Make sure that your internship meets all six of these requirements, which are:

1. You and your employer mutually agree you are not receiving any form of monetary compensation.
2. You are receiving training similar to that of in an educational environment, like hands-on work.
3. The experience is tied to your education program either through integrated coursework or credit.
4. Your academic commitments are being accommodated by corresponding to the academic calendar.
5. The internship lasts for as long as you're receiving a beneficial learning experience.
6. You are not displacing any actual employees.

If you run into any problems, Johnson said to remember that CCSU's Career Success Center in Willard-DiLoreto Room 101 is here to help, whether you got the internship through the university or on your own.

"Before you talk to the company person, the person who helped you get that job will coach you on how to approach them. They can be like a liaison or a middle man before you actually either stop working the job or approach the people you have the issue with," Johnson said. "[If you found it on your own], we'd give you as much information and resources to try to figure out how to make it better for [you]."

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# Drop-In Center To Fulfill Student Childcare Needs

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1

Harris added that having an on-campus drop-in center would be a factor in her deciding whether to pursue her Master's degree at CCSU.

"If there was a daycare on campus that might be subsidized or affordable, that would definitely encourage me to go to school at Central," she stated, noting that it is disheartening to see other schools, like Naugatuck Valley Community College, have comprehensive childcare services, but not CCSU. "They're encouraging you even if you have kids, you can come to school, we have daycare, we'll help you. But at Central, that's not a priority."

"It's been frustrating," she went on. "I've seen tons of new buildings and tons of new everything else, but it's like, why can't we put some of that money towards helping the people who have children?"

The drop-in center in Barnard would be on the ground floor and would face Welte Garage. Though it looks like it is on the road to finally happening, Pearson said she and her peers are prepared to continue to fight for it if it doesn't.

"I'm still hopeful that we can make this happen. I'm still very strongly committed to figuring out a way to provide drop-in care for students and evening care for students that subsidize for students," Pearson said.



Work is being done to make the drop-in center subsidized for students.

KRISTINA VAKHMAN | STAFF

@KRISDVP

## Working Behind Central's Athletes

BY ISABELLA CHAN  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR



Pasquale Rosado

ISABELLA CHAN | STAFF

Waking up at the crack of dawn to rush to Kaiser Gym for morning practice is a duty many of the athletes at Central Connecticut can relate to all too well. But rolling out of bed just moments before they do are the students in the athletic training program.

For Pasquale Rosado, the early mornings are not dreadful, but are all part of his journey to success.

"What motivates me is my dream. I want to become an athletic trainer for professional sports and for me to do that I would have to keep pushing to be the best I can," Rosado said.

"A lot of people don't finish the [athletic training] program because they aren't set on what they want to do with their lives or can't meet the demands of the profession. Many people don't understand the time commitment and the extent of knowledge we need [for this career]," Rosado continued.

As a student in the Central athletic training program, Rosado is required to meet a number of tasks designed by the Board of Certification and the university, some of which include becoming certified as an emergency medical technician, an understanding of sport and medical sciences, as well as taking part in an internship in the athletic training field.

Along with the substantial information learned in the classrooms, the major also build the students character.

Through the program, Rosado has gained professionalism, communication skills and good time management, all of which he said are helpful when on and off the field.

"Some people forget athletes are people too. They actually like to be talked to and asked about their day,

so being able to communicate is very important. Mainly this major has taught me a lot about professionalism – how to dress, speak and maintain yourself at sporting events on the sideline or even at a conference, which are important parts of the job," Rosado said.

Being well connected to the athletes is a major component of what Rosado does on a daily basis.

Central football players Brandon Scott and Matthew Bickelhaupt have worked with Rosado on several occasions in the training room. At this point, their relationship has created a friendship.

Scott, who is recovering from potential nerve damage, appreciates the assistance and support Rosado – who he calls 'Squale' – provides in the training room.

"Squale has helped me throughout a lot of my healing process. His encouragement is really helpful because he'll motivate me by saying to try and take that extra rep or [an] extra set. Most importantly, he also taught me that I have to take it slow and not rush the process," Scott said.

During the duration of training, Scott says the two will "talk about everyday life or we will be joking around," to help the time fly by.

Bickelhaupt has also experienced the positive energy Rosado brings to each training session.

"Pasquale is a great guy. He is outgoing, funny and a great trainer. He works hard and has helped me a lot [to recover] from my knee injury. He always knew what to do and is very attentive," Bickelhaupt stated.

Central's athletic training program benefits from students like Rosado, who creates the best possible experience for the athletes.

"I always loved sports and when I was an athlete, I would always help my fellow [teammates] out with their injuries. So I found out what an athletic trainer was because my high school didn't have one. Once I read what they did, I felt like that was a great fit for me and turns out it was because I love doing what I'm doing," Rosado said.

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## Senior Class Trip Up In The Air

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According to both Fruin and Solano, there's been no approval from SA/LD or any recent follow-up. Without the office's confirmation, the SGA does not have the authority to facilitate the election for the senior class president.

"They said they liked it, but there hasn't been a secured 'yes' yet," Solano said, adding that if SA/LD were to approve having the elections, the SGA could move forward with a quick one. "But even at this point, it's a little bit late."

Hazan did not wish to comment at this time and directed all questions back to the SGA. And though the Senior Class Committee has been "reregistered and reinstated," according to its interim chair, Sanil Patel, there are "no specifics yet" and all discussed ideas, including for the trip, first need to be approved.

"Right now, I am trying to get the ball

rolling with the programming of these events by getting more seniors interested in joining the committee," Patel said. "This position does not matter in the long-run as this committee, along with the entire class of 2019, will work together to come up with events and trips. We are just trying to ignite the flame so we can finalize these events as soon as possible."

Fruin said that the Senior Class Committee would be able to adopt her guidelines if its members wanted to.

Faced with the prospect of having no senior class president and, consequently, no senior class trip, Fruin believes that another organization like the Central Activities Network could plan the trip as an alternative.

"I'm sure our Senate would be open to helping with the funding of it as well because at least with C.A.N., we know

that they're programmers and they know what they're doing and they'll be able to actually get students to go," Fruin said.

"I genuinely think that if SA/LD thinks it's too late, C.A.N. will get right on it and they'll put on a f\*\*\*\*\* fantastic senior class trip," she continued.

C.A.N. President Taia Lionetti declined to comment on whether C.A.N. would take the task, explaining that the matter was "uncharted territory" and hadn't been discussed enough.

But Fruin and Solano, as well as Treasurer Kristina DeVivo, support C.A.N. as the senior class trip's biggest chance for surviving if the SGA cannot hold elections for a senior class president. Solano hopes that students will be encouraged to push for the trip's success.

"I was motivated because a student came into the office asking if there was a

senior class president and I was like, 'No, but this is what's been happening with it, so say something about it,'" Solano stated.

Fruin agreed, expressing that the SGA hasn't "had much pushback or any passion" from students on the topic because people know that the senior class president doesn't get to speak at commencement anymore." If C.A.N. could take on the endeavor, Fruin said that the SGA would consider handing the task over to them permanently and would still provide funding per tradition.

But for now, that's undecided. The SGA will continue to wait for SA/LD's response in the meantime.

"We've just been waiting. We want the senior class trip to happen," Fruin said.

Solano corroborated. "We haven't forgotten about the senior class."

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# Controversy Continues Despite Tim Stewart's Resignation

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1



New Britain Chamber of Commerce President Tim Stewart, left, Mayor Erin Stewart's father, right, resigned Saturday after making a sexist Facebook comment last week.

TIM STEWART

Stewart issued an apology for the last Wednesday after he was placed on administrative leave.

"My comment was wrong and in poor taste in response to a particular time during the speech that I took offense to," Stewart said in his post. "This in no way excuses my behavior and I am deeply sorry to not only the women in my life but to all women for the remark."

Current New Britain Mayor Erin Stewart and Stewart's daughter took to Twitter, saying: "To all of those asking: I'm embarrassed and mortified."

The former mayor's comment regarding the Congresswomen prompted a quick reaction from CCSU President Dr. Zulma Toro, who said she was "disturbed" by the post.

"As this University's first woman and first Hispanic president, I am disgusted with the behavior and attitude [Stewart] shared," Dr. Toro said in an email sent out to students, faculty and staff. "It is further evidence that we have much work to do to improve the culture and discourse as it relates to misogyny."

Much like Dr. Toro, Student Government Association President Cassandra Fruin said she was also "disturbed" by Stewart's comment.

"Regardless of my party affiliation and political ideology, I believe I speak for all

women of New Britain that his words were hurtful, insensitive and unrepresentative to our values as a community," Fruin said. "As a female student, holding a high position of power on campus, I am deeply upset and disappointed by Mr. Stewart's remarks."

Constanza, who is also an active member in the city's Democratic Party, said that he was "not surprised" by Stewart's comments.

"Comments like that coming from a public leader should not be acceptable," Constanza said. "He is a community leader and all community leaders should be held to a [high] standard."

Stewart's comment was originally met with over a dozen Democrats calling on his resignation. In a press conference last Wednesday, Alderwoman Eva Magnuszewski said Stewart's comments were insensitive.

"We need somebody to represent the chamber that isn't going to offend women," Magnuszewski said. "Those remarks were mean, they were cruel and they were unnecessary, especially in today's climate with the 'Me Too' movement."

Alderman Carlo Carozzi, majority leader of the Council, called Stewart's remark "the breaking point."

This is not the first time Stewart, who served from 2003 to 2011, has been under scrutiny for a Facebook comment.

In 2017, Stewart referred to residents

of the city's North Oak neighborhood as "inmates running the asylum."

Magnuszewski added that Stewart's original comments were "racist" and "offended an entire community."

Though the future of the Chamber of Commerce may be uncertain, Fruin said she hopes this time will be taken for the Chamber to "reevaluate what they believe are the true values of New Britain and its residents."

"The Chamber should lead with their best foot forward, and my hope is they all we be reflective and not reactive," Fruin said. "I look forward to a day when all citizens in New Britain are confident that their standards of civil discussion and nonpartisan objectives are celebrated."

Stewart could not be reached for comment. Moreover, CCSU's off-campus Early Learning Program is costly and only accepts children above 3 years of age.

Pearson corroborated that, saying that she personally knows that the ELP's pricing has made some students look for childcare services elsewhere. Additionally, the program is currently completely full and requires pre-registration.

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deciding whether to pursue her Master's degree at CCSU.

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@SARAHWILLSON



Carlo Carozzi addresses a crowd of reporters just days before Stewart's resignation.

SARAH WILLSON | STAFF

## New Vice President Of Student Affairs Plans To Increase Student Engagement

BY SHAINA LAPUEBLA  
MANAGING EDITOR

The start of the spring semester brought new classes, students and a new vice president of the Office of Student Affairs. Dr. Michael Jasek's hope is to help Central Connecticut students feel like a part of CCSU's history and legacy.

"I know personally, anecdotally and research-wise [that] a student who's more involved outside the classroom is more likely to persist to graduation," Jasek said. "For me, that's about when the student leaves here in a better place in their life to find a job that pays well and allows them to contribute back to society."

CCSU began looking for a new vice president almost two years ago. Jasek filled the spot this January.

The Texas native earned his undergraduate and Master's degrees at Texas A&M University, and his doctorate at the University of West Florida. While in Texas, Jasek worked at Texas State University in Residence Life and New Student Orientation.

In 2004, he moved to Pensacola, Florida, where he worked at his doctorate alma mater as the director of New Student Transition Programs. While there, he spent eight years climbing the ladder to become the associate dean of students.

Moving to the west in 2012, Jasek landed in Las Cruces, New Mexico to work at New Mexico State University as its dean of students. His 20-year journey through Student Affairs all culminated to his position at Central, where his goal is to increase student participation on campus.

"A goal and aspiration would be that every student is getting involved outside of the classroom and [to] increase engagement with the institution," Jasek stated.

His experience made him appealing to CCSU's Student Government Association.

"I was looking for a vice president who was good about making connections and showed history or evidence of



Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Michael Jasek started working at CCSU this January.

SHAINA LAPUEBLA | STAFF

supporting all students at previous institutions," SGA President Cassandra Fruin, who was tasked by CCSU President Dr. Zulma Toro for both candidate searches, stated. "I believe to foster a better environment, the new Vice President had to be someone who was willing to come out of their comfort zone and truly make time for all student groups."

When looking for this position, Jasek stated he was seeking a smaller institution with between 10,000 and 15,000 students. He also wanted a school that was Regional Comprehensive, often called the "people's university."

"The mission of the regional is to serve the people of the state, which means sometimes that's giving an opportunity for people who wouldn't have an opportunity otherwise to go to higher education," Jasek said. "And I think higher education really helps to resolve social issues because it's

giving mobility to people. But if you're not allowing them into institutions, then that mobility is not even granted from the very beginning."

As the oldest university in the state, opening its doors in 1849 to educate teachers, Central has a long history that intrigued Jasek in pursuit of his current position.

"I think [the history] really solidifies the identity of the institution and what niche are they going to serve," Jasek stated.

In his first month at Central, Jasek observed the already ingrained participation students possess, but he aims to push that boundary further.

"I do look around and see a lot of student involvement," Jasek said. "So I think our students are very hungry for that I just got to find a way to give them even more opportunity."

Jasek believes that forming a division as a team can increase student involvement and integration amongst the departments.

"I want the directors to feel that they truly have a say in what happens in the division and they're not just part of their unit and as a result of that we're able to support the students," Jasek said.

Jasek aims to increase student involvement by utilizing the various divisions of Student Affairs. He also emphasized the importance of joining on-campus organizations or student-led events.

"Students a lot of times are like, 'I don't have time for that,' and I get that, but I'm not asking you to get involved in 20 things. Find one thing to get involved in," Jasek concluded.

Jasek has the potential to meet the expectations of the Central's campus community, according to Fruin.

"I personally think his wit, drive and confidence makes him a well-rounded person for the job of vice president of student affairs," Fruin concluded. "I already can see he's making big attempts to educate himself of our needs and I am very excited to see what he will accomplish."

@SHAINA\_LAPUEBLA



## News In Brief

BY SARAH WILLSON  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

### Connecticut Faces Pressure To Ban Plastic Bag Use:

Connecticut could soon follow California's footsteps by becoming the third state in the country to ban the use of plastic bags.

State lawmakers have been under "increasing pressure" to pass legislation that would "prohibit" or "phase out" single-use plastic shopping bags, according to the Hartford Courant.

According to Senator Christine Cohen, a Democrat from Guilford and co-chair of the legislature's Environmental Committee, there are at least 18 different "bag ban" bills up for discussion by the end of the month.

According to the Hartford Courant, one discussion among lawmakers is whether or not to instate a "plastic bag tax" to discourage use.

After years of environmental warnings from scientists, California and Hawaii became the first states to ban single-use plastic bags.

### Deal To Shutdown Deadline Halts:

Talks amongst Republicans and Democrats regarding a border security agreement have stalled as of Monday despite the looming Feb. 15 deadline to avoid another government shutdown.

According to The New York Times, the talks stopped after Democrats said they wanted Immigration and Customs Enforcement to detain migrants with criminal records, not those who have overstayed their visas.

The 17 House and Senate negotiations have also been discussing the \$5.7 billion in border wall funding that President Donald Trump requested.

Republican Senator Richard Shelby told Fox News that there is a "50-50" chance a deal is reached before Friday's deadline.

Trump suggested over Twitter that a deal was being reached with Democrats.

If Friday's deadline is not met, 800,000 federal employees will go unpaid.

### U.S. Struggles Against ISIS In "Final Battle":

The battle between U.S.-backed fighters and Islamic State militants in Syria is meeting a "fierce resistance" in a last-ditch effort for U.S. forces to oust the last "enclave" claimed by ISIS.

Airstrikes and artillery fire, according to BBC News, against 600 jihadists have been going on for "hours."

The fighting resumed after a "pause" that allowed for an estimated 20,000 civilians to leave the area, BBC said.

The "caliphate," which was estimated to be the size of the United Kingdom, controlled over 7.7 million people.

Late last year, Trump said the U.S. will withdraw its 2,000 troops, adding last week that the U.S. should soon have "100 percent of the caliphate."

# Students React To State Of The Union

PHOTOS AND STORY BY KELLY LANGEVIN  
COPY EDITOR

President Donald Trump gave his second State of the Union last Tuesday, touching on issues like border security, foreign policy and women's rights. We asked Central Connecticut students what they thought of the president's speech.



JUSTIN BOUTIN, SENIOR, POLITICAL SCIENCE

"I thought it was overall positive. I think it did have a lot of substance. He brought up some information and statistics as to why the country is doing better. He talked about non-violent drug offenders getting released early from prison and I agreed with what he said about that."

### SHAY DIGGS, FORMER JUNIOR/ATHLETIC TRAINING MAJOR, LEAVING FOR THE MILITARY

"I didn't think the speech was positive or negative. I thought it was kind of jumbled and all over the place. I felt that there was a lot of stalling and a lot of kissing up to a lot of people. If you watched, a lot of the women were dressed in white and a lot of them didn't really clap with a lot of the things President Trump said and he started noticing that and started directing things towards them and I thought, 'Oh, okay, well now they're clapping because that's specifically towards them.' I felt that Trump was purposely trying to get the women to like him. I think Trump looks at them clapping and thinks they're there for him, but I think they are there to fight against him."



ANDREW PLIKONS, JUNIOR, CHEMISTRY

"Overall, I just thought [the speech] was just okay. I thought President Trump did a good job of getting a feel for [speaking at the SOTU], but I also felt that he didn't have a lot of substance in his speech, too. However, I felt one of the best moments was when President Trump mentioned the Holocaust survivors and WWII veterans. I thought that was pretty nice."



## SGA Briefs

BY KRISTINA VAKHMAN  
NEWS EDITOR

The Student Government Association meets every Wednesday at 3:05 p.m. in Bellin A and B of the Student Center. These briefs are from the SGA's meeting on Feb. 6.

- The first Good Neighbor Campaign is Feb. 23 at 11 a.m.
- The following items passed:
- A motion to allocate \$1,850.00 to the Collegiate National Association of Music Education Club.
- A motion to allocate \$1,589.82 to CCSU's The American Choral Directors Association.
- A motion to allocate \$5,015.61 to the Tennis Club.

## What's New, CCSU?

BY SARAH WILLSON  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

- Central Activities Network will host a "Central Perks Valentine's Day Event" in the Student Center Lobby on Wednesday, Feb. 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Another one will take place in Memorial Hall's Constitution Room later that day from 4 to 10 p.m.
- The Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity and the brothers of Groove Phi Groove Social Fellowship will be giving away free Valentine's Day flowers and candy in the Student Center Lobby on Thursday, Feb. 14 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- The Spring 2019 Black History Month Civil Rights Lecture will take place on Feb. 14 at 12:15 p.m. in Founders Hall and feature Beverly Morgan Welch, associate director of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, who will deliver the lecture. A "Meet and Greet" will take place one hour beforehand.
- A "Public Planetarium Show" be held on Saturday, Feb. 16 from 8 to 10 p.m. in the Nicolaus Copernicus Hall building.
- CCSU's annual Study Abroad Fair is happening on Tuesday, Feb. 19 from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Student Center's Bellin A-B Room.
- The "Fix Flux" Art Gallery Exhibition in the Chen Art Gallery will continue to be open to the public until Feb. 28.

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## EDITORIAL

## Fantasy Sports Leagues Aren't Gambling, It's A Skill

Would you count betting on a skill propelled game of chess gambling? I doubt it because chess, similar to fantasy sports, requires a higher cognitive skill than just randomly picking which team wins or loses.

One of the most popular subdivisions of sports betting, fantasy sports, has become an everyday part of life for many sports fans and is a fun form of entertainment that makes every game mean a little extra. Fantasy sports allows everyday fans to draft a team comprised of players around the league in hopes that their team will outscore the handpicked team they are playing against.

Since last year's Supreme Court ruling allowing states to legalize sports gambling, the multi-billion dollar business has exploded the market. It has brought in serious money and can be a much more complicated game than just betting on the score.

The growing business has quickly overtaken sports books in Vegas, with 59.3 million people in the U.S. and Canada having played in 2017. The process of drafting a team and selecting the perfect line up is far more complicated than simply picking who will win a game or any other sort of prop betting.

Unlike gambling in the Sin City, the deficit incurred is very minimal. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Fantasy Sports Trade Association calculated that the 50+ million fantasy sports fans and "spend an average of \$465 a year" on their favorite fantasy applications.

Yet still, some states still outlaw these reputable fantasy sites. Arizona, Alabama, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Louisiana, Montana, Nevada and Washington State all block FanDuel and DraftKings, two of the most popular fantasy sports venues today.

According to a study conducted Kansas State University, season-long leagues and "daily fantasy sports are not games of chance" meaning that state legislators banning these should not class contests as gambling.

A tense political climate towards fantasy sports sites like FanDuel and DraftKings hit its peak when New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman tried to sue the two companies in 2016 for violation of its illegal gambling laws.

"Elected leaders and the judges of the country or state determine what constitutes gambling. This paper has shown that DFS contests do not meet one of the necessary requirements of gambling: chance," the study concluding regarding states suing fantasy sports companies.

Following this attempt to reduce this type of sports betting, Albany passed legislation legalizing DFS in the state.

The biggest argument most states have against fantasy sports betting is that gambling addictive and can cause serious problems for those consumed by it, but Las Vegas is an entire city built on gambling — Nevada, one of the states against DFS, has not shut down that monster yet.

Not only is this "betting" atmosphere skill-based, it is also monitored professionally by companies that follow strict rules. For one, they do not accept money the user does not possess because it has to physically deposited on the site. That already eliminates bookies kicking down your door to collect the \$200,000 you claimed to have when placing the bet.

Sites also include free leagues to join and low, pre-set bet amounts (0.25, 0.50 and \$1) on top of limiting the number of contests a player can be a part of. Another way these companies combat excessive gambling is by preventing the same user or email to have more than one active account, meaning I can't have 20 accounts participating in leagues at the same time.

Fantasy sports is not the same as sleuthing around an alley, where an underground casino resides and losing your entire life savings. These leagues act as a healthy competition amongst sports enthusiasts while putting fans knowledge to the test, like a friendly game of chess in the park.

## Community College Still Matters



Tunxis is one of 12 community colleges that are poised to be consolidated in 2023.

MAIN STREET COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

BY DANIEL FAPPIANO  
LAYOUT EDITOR

When students begin to prepare for life after high school, community college is usually the last option that crosses their minds. However, while the thought of attending a big school with bigger parties may be a tantalizing idea, community college should not be a last resort, but a priority.

Prior to transferring to Central Connecticut, I attended Tunxis Community College for three years. Before enrolling, I had many of the same thoughts as today's graduating high schoolers, in that community college isn't the same as a four-year school. But while I may have entered Tunxis with those thoughts, I left with a greater respect for community college and a much better education.

In my time there, I was able to finish all of my general education requirements. When I transferred to CCSU, I began my focus in journalism rather than waste time in tedious math and sciences courses. While I took those gen-eds, I was able to do it for little cost. With financial

aid, I was able to attend all three years debt-free, something incredibly uncommon at a four-year school.

Tunxis also gave me my first taste of college life. The jump from high school into college could be jarring, but being at a two-year school gave me my first glimpse of what it meant to be a college student.

In three years, I obtained an Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts and an opportunity to attend Central.

While community college was life-changing for me, many lawmakers are trying to take that dream away from others. In 2018, Connecticut's Board of Regents voted to consolidate the state's 12 community colleges into a single accredited university.

If that were to happen, each community college would no longer have every major available, but rather a focus on a select few. For example, Tunxis could be looked at as the "College of Liberal Arts," whereas Middlesex could be looked at as the "School of Nursing." All 12 would take on their own focus under one institution.

This would clearly be a cost-cutting move for the state, but could be a disaster for many potential students.

If a mother from Farmington wants to be a nursing major, why should she have to go to the other side of the state to achieve that goal?

The whole point of community college is to give an alternate route to higher education. It's supposed to be accessible to all, no matter the financial background. If the system were to consolidate its community colleges into one giant university, that accessibility would be severely hampered.

Without Tunxis, I likely wouldn't have been able to attend college, let alone a four-year university like CCSU. But what about single mothers or veterans of war? Getting a strong education is key for their ability to sustain a successful and healthy lifestyle. Many of them cannot afford to attend a four-year school right away. Community college is a way for them to obtain that level of higher education.

If the state is dedicated to raising money, wouldn't continuing to invest in community colleges be their best point of action? Giving low-income students an opportunity to get a degree will only increase the workforce. Taking away that opportunity will keep more people jobless and increase the number of those on welfare.

Community college is exactly that: community. You're allowing students who may not have been able to attend a four-year university an opportunity to get a degree. By consolidating the schools, you're taking that opportunity away.

For me and many others, community college gave us a second chance at ever having a successful career. It may be looked at as a last option for some, but for others, it's the only option.

@DFAPPIANO14

## McDonald's Replacing Toys With Books Is A Good Thing

BY KELLY LANGEVIN  
COPY EDITOR

McDonald's restaurants in New Zealand are replacing "Happy Meal" toys with books by author Roald Dahl, according to their website. The fast food chain's marketing is a decent attempt for a somewhat better reputation.

Some familiar books by the famous author include "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," "Matilda" and "James and the Giant Peach."

McDonald's launched the "Happy Meal Readers" program in 2001. Since then, the company claims that over 450 million books have been given out. In 2018, the chain said it hopes to expand the program to more than 100 markets by the end of 2019, according to MSN.

I am beyond guilty of going to McDonald's way too often despite knowing the food itself is not the healthiest by any means. However, people become in the mood for something quick and, now

and then, parents will give in after the begging and stomping becomes enough and end up at McDonald's. Even going on a far trip sometimes leaves you at McDonald's because it is convenient.

If parents give in or it has been a long trip, at least seeing a book in their children's hands might make them feel more at peace with their fast food decision.

Children are always curious. It may also help that the books are well known and there is a possibility that the youngsters have seen the movies, making them want to read what they have just gotten with their meal.

Additionally, reading to young children or having them practice themselves at a young age improves their cognitive development, according to the Children's Bureau.

A study conducted by the University of Michigan also found that students of a young age who are exposed to reading before preschool are more likely to do well when they reach their period of formal education.

McDonald's participates



McDonald's restaurants in the U.S. should replace Happy Meal toys with books.

JULIA JADE MORAN | STAFF

in events such as National Literacy Month in September and handed out books for two days to celebrate reading across the United States in 2017, according to the company's newsroom.

McDonald's also claims to be a supporter of Reading is Fundamental, the nation's largest children's literacy organization. The chain said it wants to reach out to families by donating books and replacing toys to try and establish a bond with customers and to seem like a more approachable eating place.

Families know that McDonald's isn't the healthiest

choice to feed their children, but for some, it may be all they can afford, along with other fast food restaurants.

If this is a place you go to eat once in a while or it's a more common stop, having a book instead of a toy can be beneficial. Then the child has something to keep for longer than just a toy they will lose once they get into a car.

It is a decent step into helping children keep reading or learn how to read. Maybe in the future, McDonald's will give out toys along with a book with Happy Meals.

If this isn't the case, at least their attempts now may be one step into a positive direction.

@KELLYLANGEVIN2



# ‘Presidential Harrasment’ Isn’t Real, But Sexual Harrasment Is



*Sexual harassment should be more associated with President Donald Trump than “presidential harassment.”*

GETTY

BY KRISTINA VAKHMAN  
NEWS EDITOR

President Donald Trump has a talent for coining catchy terms with useless meanings. His latest creation is “presidential harassment,” a response to the House Intelligence Committee opening a series of investigations into his ties with Russia and other foreign powers, according to *The New York Times*.

“Presidential harassment” is not a real thing. But the more than 20 women who have accused Trump of sexual harassment, of whom 13 have corroborated stories compiled in a *Washington Post* article, are very much real. And you should not forget about them, nor should you forget about or make up excuses for Trump’s past and continuing history of degrading and abusing women.

Trump openly admitted to sexual harassment on an “Access Hollywood” tape in 2016. Remember that? Yes, with all of the mess coming out of the White House day after day, gems like “grab ‘em by the pussy” and “I

just start kissing them” have collected dust. But Trump said that, no less openly on tape, and became president anyway because Republicans in office, despite claiming that they were appalled as parents to daughters, supported him anyway.

That tape was not even the only time Trump confessed to misconduct. During a 2005 interview with *Howard Stern*, Trump said that he went into pageant dressing rooms unannounced while contestants were “standing there with no clothes” and that he “[got] away with things like that” because he was the owner. However, by that thinking, any CEO anywhere would be allowed to harass his employees just because “they were the owner.”

The accusations against Trump span decades and in severity. *People Magazine* writer Natasha Stoyanoff alleged in a 2016 *People* article that in 2005, when interviewing Trump and wife Melania about their first anniversary, Trump lured her into a room, pushed her against the wall and forced his tongue down her throat. The “Access Hollywood” tape triggered her, she wrote,

and encouraged her to speak out after years of blaming herself for the assault. Five individuals, including two *People* colleagues, corroborated Stoyanoff’s story, according to the *Post*.

Jessica Leeds told the *Times* in 2016 that Trump assaulted her on a plane in the 1970’s, his hands “everywhere” like an “octopus.” Four people close to her verified her story with the *Times* and a British witness who said Trump had done nothing wrong himself has multiple sexual misconduct allegations against him, according to *The Guardian*. She also said he called her a “c\*\*\*” when he saw her three years later, presumably for rejecting his inappropriate advances.

Regardless of the validity of the over 20 women’s allegations, Trump has publicly degraded women. Whether it be saying former *Fox News* host Megyn Kelly had “blood coming out of her wherever,” calling pornographic film actress Stephanie “Stormy Daniels” Clifford “horseface,” or endorsing candidates like alleged child predator Roy Moore, Trump has presented many examples that show how little he thinks of women and their safety. And many incumbent Republicans have been behind him through it all.

Late-night comedian Stephen Colbert joked during an episode of his show last week that “presidential harassment” is “like sexual harassment, only Republicans take it seriously.” But that’s not even a joke. That’s reality. Time and time again, we have seen Republicans in the U.S. Congress condemn Trump’s behaviors toward women, but still support him. Democrats, on the other hand, do not hesitate to throw their accused into a pit of fire.

Investigations don’t constitute harassment. “Presidential harassment,” likewise, is a myth. But grabbing, groping, kissing and shoving women without their consent is sexual harassment and it’s real.

Trump likes to play the victim card when he himself has victimized women. Despite his misconduct, he’s the president, so even if it’s not possible for him to grow new hair, it’s time to grow some thick skin.

@KRISDVP

## Diversity Takes Center Stage For 2020 Election

BY ISABELLA CHAN  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The reign of white male presidents may be coming to an end. After the 2018 midterm elections showcased the most diverse group of candidates in American history, it is likely that the 2020 presidential election will do the same.

Over a dozen candidates have already announced their run for office, or that they’re considering a run, and amongst them are some the most diverse candidates in United States history.

For the first time, the presidential election is featuring two strong African-American candidates with Senators Kamala Harris and Cory Booker.

Besides a partial bias of rooting for a fellow, mixed black women, I think Harris has the potential to make major changes. Her background in the justice system will help to fix major issues in the U.S., such as the criminal justice system and immigration laws.

In her campaign, Harris claims to be “a fearless advocate for the voiceless and vulnerable and a vocal and determined fighter on behalf of all people.”

“People in power are trying to convince us that the villain in our American story is each other. But that is not our story. That is not who we are. That’s not our America,” Harris said in her message.

Also securing her presidential candidacy is Tulsi Gabbard, U.S. representative from Hawaii. Gabbard is a member of the Hawaii Army National Guard and uses the love for her country as a motivation to live a life defined by public service.

Other diverse candidates include Julián Castro, former Secretary of Housing and



*Cory Booker and Kamala Harris are two African-American Democrats running for president in 2020, amplifying diversity.*

GETTY

Urban Development, and Andrew Yang, founder of *Venture for America*.

Although the election has yet to start, I am already in favor of these five candidates because they are a representation of what the U.S. is today rather than what it used to be.

American people are cultured and ethnically diverse, not just vanilla. If our nation claims to be “a melting pot,” then our government should be representative of those people who make it that way.

For any indication of what the future may hold, take a look at the 2018 midterm elections.

According to *The New York Times*, of the 946 candidates running for House, Senate and gubernatorial seats, 411 candidates were women, people of color or LGBT.

Those that came out on top included

Sharice Davids and Debra Haaland, the first Native American women elected into Congress, as well as Ilahn Omar and Rashida Tlaib, the first Muslim women elected into Congress, and Jared Polis of Colorado, the first openly gay man to be elected governor.

Our own state has even made major strides with Jahana Hayes, who is the first black woman elected to represent Connecticut in the House of Representatives.

And yet, despite these milestones, the U.S. Congress remains predominantly white.

Last October, a study conducted by Guilford College found that the 116th Congress had historic “lows” for white men, with 60 percent in the House and 71 percent in the Senate, but that “the fact that there is more diversity in Congress

should not mask the fact that the Congress is still dominated by white men.”

This past election was impactful on many levels, but it is still not enough to balance the scales of diversity in our government.

Since President Donald Trump’s inauguration, we can collectively agree that America has taken several steps back in terms of success, but there is hope in the 2020 presidential election to correct our mistakes.

Trump may be running for office again; however, I am hopeful the upcoming presidential election will not have the same outcome as the last.

With a number of diverse, strong candidates securing their spots, it’s only a matter of time till we see Trump ungracefully stumble out of office.



# How To Survive Being Single On Valentine's Day



Being single on Valentine's Day does not mean you can't celebrate; hanging with family or your best single friends is a perfect way to spend your day.

LEARNING LIFTOFF

BY NATALIE DEST

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Every year, Feb. 14, marks the special 24-hours dedicated to chocolates and the beauty of love. Valentine's Day is a special day for those who find themselves in a relationship, whether that be with their boyfriend, girlfriend, husband or wife, people around the world will be spending Thursday celebrating their devotion to one another.

However, for some of us, it is just another day of the week. Although you may feel like you are missing out, there is no shame in being single this upcoming Valentine's Day.

Why try to hurry through the day when you can have a fabulous time just being you?

Being single on the "day of love" can be a drama-free blessing instead of a curse. Whether you spend it alone or with your best, single friends, there are many ways to seize the day and make it one to remember.

## 1. Buy yourself flowers.

Start your day off by showing love for yourself.

Whether that be buying yourself flowers, candy or even a new outfit, show yourself some appreciation; it can go a long way.

## 2. Bake something sweet.

Whether you bake some brownies, cookies or some chocolate strawberries, you can always gift these snacks to your single friends and show some love.

## 3. Binge your favorite television series.

What can make you happier than watching your favorite television show? There is no better feeling than changing into comfier clothes, making a bowl of popcorn and sitting down to binge your favorite show.

## 4. Treat yourself to your favorite restaurant.

Treat yourself. Whether you go by yourself, with your family or your best friend, taking a trip to your favorite restaurant is a perfect way to celebrate the night.

## 5. Explore a new neighborhood or city.

Head to a neighboring town or area that you are not familiar with. Try new shops, restaurants or boutiques and make it a night of trying new things.

## 6. Read a book.

Although simple, cuddling up in a blanket on the couch, opening up a book can be more relaxing and worth it than you might think. Turn off your phone and get lost in a good novel.

## 7. Exercise.

Exercise is proven to increase a healthier attitude and state of mind. Try going for a nice long walk, hike or run while jamming out to your favorite playlist. This will help improve your mindset and set the rest of your

day on a positive note.

## 8. Plan a night in with your single friends.

Whether you make dinner together, gather around to watch or movie or play a few games, Valentine's Day is a perfect day to celebrate with friends. Rather than feeling sad that you can not share the day with a significant other, share the day appreciating your friends.

## 9. Do something to give back.

Helping out your community is a great way to give this day a purpose. Even doing something small such as donating clothes to your nearest Goodwill is a great way to give back.

## 10. Let the ones you love know you appreciate them.

Giving your parents, siblings and grandparents a call on Valentine's Day can make all the difference. Let your loved ones know that you appreciate and adore them. Spend the day surrounded by love for your family.

@NAT\_DEST



Baking delicious sweets is a perfect way to cure your "single blues" this Valentines Day.

WESTLAKE

# The Legends Behind Saint Valentine

BY NATALIE DEST

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Valentine's Day marks a day of celebration around the globe where flowers, chocolates and teddy bears are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of Saint Valentine.

But who exactly is this mysterious saint, and where did these traditions surface from?

The history of Valentine's Day and the story of its "patron saint" is covered in mystery. What we do know is that February has long been celebrated as a month of romance and that St. Valentine's Day, as we call it today, contains traces of both Christian and ancient Roman traditions.

According to History.com, the Catholic Church recognizes at least

three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, "all of whom were martyred."

One legend has stated that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century Rome, where Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families. Thus, outlawing marriage for young men.

Valentine quickly went against Claudius and continued his duty in performing marriages for young lovers in secrecy. However, when Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

Others stories are seen to suggest that Valentine may have been killed due to his attempt in helping Christians escape harsh Roman prison, where they were often beaten and tortured.

According to one particular legend,

an imprisoned Valentine actually sent the first "valentine" greeting himself after he fell in love with a young girl who had visited him during his confinement, according to History.com.

Before his death, it is alleged that Valentine wrote a letter signed "From your Valentine," an expression that is used every year to this day. Although, the truth behind the Valentine legends is rather murky, where the stories all highlight his appeal as sympathetic, heroic and most importantly, a romantic figure.

By the Middle Ages, perhaps thanks to this reputation, Valentine would become one of the most popular saints in England and France.

In these two countries, in the Middle Ages, it was commonly believed that Feb. 14 was the beginning of bird's mating season, which added to the idea that the middle of Valentine's Day should be a day for romance.

Even Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the Middle Ages, even though written Valentine's did not begin to appear until after 1400. The oldest known valentine that is still in existence today is a poem that was written by Charles, Duke of Orleans, in 1415 for his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London (the greeting is now part of the manuscript collection of the British Library in London, England).

Only a couple years later was it believed that King Henry V hired a writer by the name of John Lydgate to compose

a valentine note to Catherine of Valois.

Now, in the present day, Valentine's Day is heavily celebrated in the United States, Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France and Australia.

In Great Britain, Valentine's Day began to be popularly celebrated around the 17th century. By the middle of the 18th century, it was more common for friends and lovers of all social classes to exchange smaller tokens of affection or handwritten notes. By the 1900's, printed cards began to replace written letters due to improvements in printing technology.

Ready-made cards became an easy way for individuals to express their emotions in a time when direct expression of someone's feelings were often discouraged. Cheaper postage rates also helped contribute to increase the popularity of sending Valentine's Day greetings.

For America, it was not until the early 1700's where individuals began exchanging hand-made valentines. In the 1840's Esther A. Howland, known as the "Mother of the Valentine," made "elaborate creations with real lace, ribbons and colorful pictures known as 'scraps,'" according to History.com.

Today, according to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated 145 million Valentine's Day cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year — Christmas landing at number one.

@NAT\_DEST



Saint Valentine is a third-century Roman saint celebrated widely every year on the 14th of February.

AL.COM



# “Late Night Pop”

BY MAURIAH JOHNSON  
CONTRIBUTOR

*Editors note: This short story was submitted by a Central Connecticut student for publication in The Recorder.*

“Mauriah, you need to go to bed. If I tell you again it’s going to be a problem” my grandmother said every night religiously around twelve in the morning.

I’d calmly leave my wooden oak writing desk purposely letting my matching chair scrape against the hardwood floors, knowing it would make her leave sooner than later. Like clockwork she shut my door which never exactly closed properly due to it missing a door knob, so it always creepily cracked open in the middle of the night by the slightest winds.

Its almost time.

As I’d lay in bed counting the thirteen long golden-brown sticks of wood holding up the bunk bed above mine, I begin to think.

Tic. Toc. Tic. Toc.

I reach under my pillow and begin to write. I watched enough Blues Clues to know you should always keep a “handy dandy notebook,” my night light was just enough to let me see the pages.

Tic. Toc.

Writing always seemed to pass the time as I was patiently waiting.

Tic. It hits two in the morning.

It’s time.

I slid my lanky body through my cracked door, looking to the right to make sure my grandmother was sleep or at least consumed by “The Golden Girls.” Betty White always gets the job done.

Getting down the twenty-six ancient steps was the hardest part which constantly creaked and of course my room is on the third floor.

Thankfully, my grandmother’s laughter is louder than everything, especially those Roman Times steps. As I creep down the steps on the second floor, I hear keys trying to unlock the door.

Click, Click.

He’s here.

One more flight to go.

Before I can even reach the bottom, I see his jet black thick sole work boots with every step sounding like it weights a ton. His infamous masculine oil consumed the air and I can’t help but to smile before he walks in. We make eye contact.

“And what are you doing up Miss Johnson?” he asks in his slightly raspy tone.

“I couldn’t sleep”, my usual reply and lie.

“Mhm, your grandmother would have our heads if she knew you were awake and downstairs” he responds as he sits on the bottom of the steps taking off his work boots and switching to his old comfy grey slippers.

He gets up and looks at me, he knew I was lying.

“Alright, come on.”

As he lets his slippers slide behind him on the floor, we walk into the kitchen.

“Take a seat” he orders.

So, I grab my grandmothers high chair that she uses to cook and read the newspaper. He begins to take out the usual: Neapolitan and strawberry ice cream, Oreos, my grandmas’ bananas that she would flip out about when they go missing, milk, two spoons and the jumbo mug that he got from Vegas.

I’d watch precisely.

He would take extra large scoops of ice cream, putting less chocolate than vanilla and strawberry, a dash of milk because too much would make it too soggy and Oreos.

“Did you write today?” he asked, as he would slice the bananas into perfect pieces.

“Yes” I replied while creating a permanent memory of him: a freshly shaved face with clear brown skin, the smell of almost Egyptian musk oil and his signature bandanas.

“Good, I brought you a new pad and pens.”

Now, came the mixing and mashing, my favorite part. He would take the spoon and perfectly mix all the ingredients by hand clockwise as we discussed his day and how he believed I could be a writer someday... I just enjoyed his company.

“Are you ready for Pop’s Famous Milkshakes?” he’d ask, knowing I knew that meant it was ready, but he would dramatically spin the mug and place the other spoon inside, it was tradition.

I’d take the first spoonful and everything is just right, the consistency, the chunks of cookies, the taste of the bananas and the lasting strawberry flavor still tingling and lingering on your tongue.

For 12 more years, Pop continued to make me his famous milkshakes every night until he got Arthritis in his hands and now I make them for him and my closest friends.

Whenever I go out now, I still order milkshakes. It’s not the same but it’s the reminder of him.

Late nights weren’t just my favorite nights because of “Pop’s Famous Milkshakes” but because it was the only time I’d get to see him.

My first friend.

My Best Friend.

My Grandpa.

## Highly Anticipated ‘Kingdom Hearts 3’ Released



Long awaited “Kingdom of Hearts” has finally been released for PS4 and Xbox with a price starting at \$60.00.

INVERSE.COM

BY SAM PAPPAS  
STAFF WRITER

“Kingdom Hearts 3” is the long-awaited 12th installment in the “DisneyX Final Fantasy” franchise, started when an executive at Square Enix and an executive at Disney had a chance encounter in an elevator.

Directed by “Final Fantasy” character designer Tetsuya Nomura, “Kingdom Hearts” released in 2002 drawing critical acclaim. Mass confusion arose when Americans watched Donald Duck and Goofy adventure with spiky-haired anime characters, and edgy “Final Fantasy” villains who are actually murderers.

Nevertheless, the game had beautiful visuals, music and a story about growing up, which was loved by millions. Except me of course, since the combat feels like fighting a mass of bees with a sledgehammer and I could not deal with it.

Then in 2004, there was a GameBoy Advance game that no one really remembers. However, in 2005 “Kingdom Hearts 2” released, marking the game’s descent into complete ridiculousness, that occasionally jump into a Disney movie midway through the story, with half of the charm and no care for pacing.

Goofy dies at one point.

The problem with “Kingdom Hearts” is it is an over-complicated story that spends too much time trying to explain itself without actually making any sense. Disney and Final Fantasy characters get pushed aside to make room for original characters who push the bulk of the confusing plot.

So what about the other 10 games?

Just hack-and-slash adventures that continue the story. I can tell you for a fact “Kingdom Hearts 0.2 Birth By Sleep - A Fragmentary Passage” is just as much of a mess to play, as it is to pronounce.

KH3 is more of the same as KH2, with new Disney properties to play around with and flashy new attacks to make combat more of a spectacle.

I would not call myself a massive fan of it, but watching people get confused when they see a performance of “Let it Go” get interrupted by Sora running around is always funny.

My favorite part of KH3 is the finale, where all the villains and heroes get thrown into a massive gauntlet of boss fights and combat gets a lot more interesting.

A majority of the story content feels so rushed that the events of the conclusion do not really feel earned, however, and that is what left such little impression on my mind.

I can not really recommend any part of the “Kingdom Hearts” series, but I will say I am excited for the next installment: “Re:Kingdom Hearts 3.25: Future of The Past - Revelations Ultimate FINAL MIX EDITION - Featuring Dante from the ‘Devil May Cry’ series - HD COLLECTION” which should be coming out sometime in next century, exclusive for the Playstation Vita.



# Four Iconic T.V. Relationships

BY TYRA MCCLUNG  
ASSISTANT ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Valentine's Day is rapidly approaching, and although some of you might be happily "Boo'd Up," the rest of us are still looking for love. So instead of staying home scrolling through posts of your Instagram followers on dates at the Cheesecake Factory, check out this list of our original #Relationshipgoals.

ROSS GELLER &  
RACHEL GREEN



HELLO MAGAZINE

If we were being honest, this "Friends" couple was pretty toxic. Between the make ups and break ups, this couple took a long time before they finally got it right. They never really had the healthiest of relationships between the cheating, getting married and divorced, having a baby out of wedlock and all the destructive behaviors in between, but their long history and strong friendship seemed to keep us all rooting for them. Although we do not get to ever see the outcome of that relationship, the idea that Ross and Rachel lived happily ever after is enough for this iconic couple to make the list.

MICHAEL KYLE &  
JAY KYLE



PINTEREST

"My Wife and Kids" was a hilarious representation of a strong loving family. Jay and Michael were not just marriage goals, but parent goals as well. The way they tagged teamed raising their children, they always had each other's back and were quick with the jokes. This iconic marriage should set the standard on how marriage is portrayed on television.

MARSHALL ERIKSON &  
LILLY ALDRIN



PINTEREST

Hands down the greatest television couple of all time. "How I Met Your Mother" was a 10-season series surrounding the romantic escapades of Ted Mosby on his journey to meet the mother of his children, however the true love story was between his two best friends Marshall and Lilly. College sweethearts the couple set the bar for what the perfect relationship looked like, Ted's entire storyline was finding a love as stable and adorable as his to best friends from college. Although the pair did break up for a bit during the shows earlier seasons, watching their progression as individuals and their journey back to one another made this relationship so iconic.

COREY MATTHEWS &  
TOPANAGA LAWRENCE



GOSSIP ON THIS

Almost number one, this couple grew up together right in front of our eyes in everyone's favorite childhood show "Boy Meets World." We watched Topanga freak Corey out with her school girl crush, we saw Corey nervously ask Topanga out on their first date, we saw make ups and break ups, college living and married family life. This relationship is so iconic because we experienced the growth of a school girl crush to till death do us part.

## Students On Dating Nowadays

BY SHANIA LAPUEBLA  
MANAGING EDITOR

There are two billion swipes every day from Tinder's 4.1 million users spanned across 190 countries, according to a Tinder press release. If this does not scream the mentality of dating in today's society then the almost 14 million combined "The Bachelor" and "The Bachelorette" viewers who think each season will end in a long-term relationship, according to the Variety.

The collective 28 seasons between each series has resulted in five marriages — two in "The Bachelor" and three on "The Bachelorette." The competitive reality love show indulges the younger generation with a fantasy of love that does not exist, according to Central Connecticut student Radeana Hastings.

Alexis Little, CCSU student, agrees that shows fashioned like "The Bachelor" ignites a deadly flame surrounding the fiery passion meant to be present in a typical committed relationship.

"It kind of romanticizes a whirlwind romance and people fighting over one person. Reality dating shows really aren't my favorite things, I think they give the wrong ideas about dating and entering relationships," Little added.

"In apps, the format of swiping can intensify pleasurable chemical reactions in the brain and the 'infinite scroll' persuades users to keep swiping," according to Axios.

College is said to be a time for exploration and discovering one's self, but how does that extend to sexual conquests?

According to senior Dan Guerra, participating in the hook-up culture depends on a variety of reasons, such as age and perceptions of commitment.

"In instances like college, most apps like Tinder are orientated for hook-ups," Guerra said. "Although more and more people are waiting to get married, it is possible the younger generation prefers the hook-up lifestyle."

The question arises, what is dating exactly? The term can be loosely thrown around or carry many connotations based on the convoluted notion of commitment.

Hastings said that "dating is when two people agree that they are going to try to see if the relationship is going to work after sometime of talking," which reflects the more free idea regarding courtship in today's society.

The philosophy of dating via technology has grown due to Millennial and Generation Z driven by social media and smartphones.

In the 2017 study by Stanford, a hefty handful of relationships blossomed online for 39 percent of U.S. heterosexual relationships and 65 percent of same-sex partnerships.

Little stated dating has slowly become more app based because it is just easier than approaching a prospect face-to-face.

"Messages over a phone feel simpler and it's almost like a barrier. You can fix what you're saying and rethink things, where you normally can't in an in-person conversation," Little said. "I think a big thing with dating these days is the less pressure the better, and when you meet someone through an app there's almost no pressure to move it from the app to real life."

A recent Axios/Survey Monkey poll estimated that more than half of Americans today have experienced a more positive response to online dating than traditional courtship.

The poll concluded that 72 percent of relationships that stemmed from online are more or just as successful

as those deriving from traditional means. In comparison, half of the surveyed LGBTQ+ community stated that they "had a positive view of online dating."

Central sophomore Katie Klinck believes that dating has turned mobile because it is a viable option that has not been previously prevalent.

"In the past, they did not have the technology available to be able to do that," Klinck said. "I also believe that people use dating apps because it is easier to meet someone outside of who you see consistently rather than to go out and try."

Despite a solid majority of college-age seekers of love, the stigma among those who do not think web-based dating is the best alternative is relatively high. The dissatisfaction and negativity is endorsed by people who have never used a dating app before.

In the same survey, 65 percent of those who have not delved into the world of swiping right and almost half revered online-born relationships less successful.

Sexually fueled bonds that are forged online still seem to remain a dominant method for 18 to 24 year old college students due to the influx of influence generated by social media. The round-the-clock need for online communication between intimate partners stimulates a pulse necessary to keep a relationship alive and thriving in today's technological society.

"Between the need to be constantly in communication and social media being such a big part of everyone's lives, it makes things harder," Little said about relationships today compared to those previous. "In the past, before cell phones, there wasn't this need to always be talking to your significant other and I think that's definitely put pressure on relationships."

@SHAINA\_LAPUEBLA

@centralrecorder on Instagram





# Book Review: 'Me Before You'

BY SHWAR ZAIDI  
STAFF WRITER

“Me Before You” is one of the most popular romance novels written by author Jojo Moyes. The highly acclaimed novel then adapted into a movie starring Emilia Clarke (from HBO’s “Game Of Thrones”), as Louisa Clark, and Sam Claflin, as Will Traynor.

“Me Before You” has a plot line about a quirky small-town girl named Louisa who loses her job when her boss decides to close the café she works at. Desperate to maintain her financial demands, Louisa decides to interview for the opportunity to help a wealthy family take care of their son Will, a handsome young man left paralyzed after a motorcycle accident.

Louisa is immediately hired by his mother, Camilla, due to her cheerful personality, hoping she would entertain Will and bring him company. During her job, Louisa finds it hard to help him when he treats her coldly, shutting her down each time she tries to make a conversation.

But slowly, he started opening because of her quirky and interesting personality. Will is determined to help Louisa get out of her comfort zone and experience life.

Louisa overheard Camilla talking to Will’s sister that he is thinking of committing suicide.

After six months, he plans on ending his life through

an organization in Switzerland known as “death with dignity.”

After hearing about his fatal plan, Louisa refused to continue her job. However, Camilla begs her to stay, coming up with a compromise that for six months she would show Will the world and hopefully change his perspective on life.

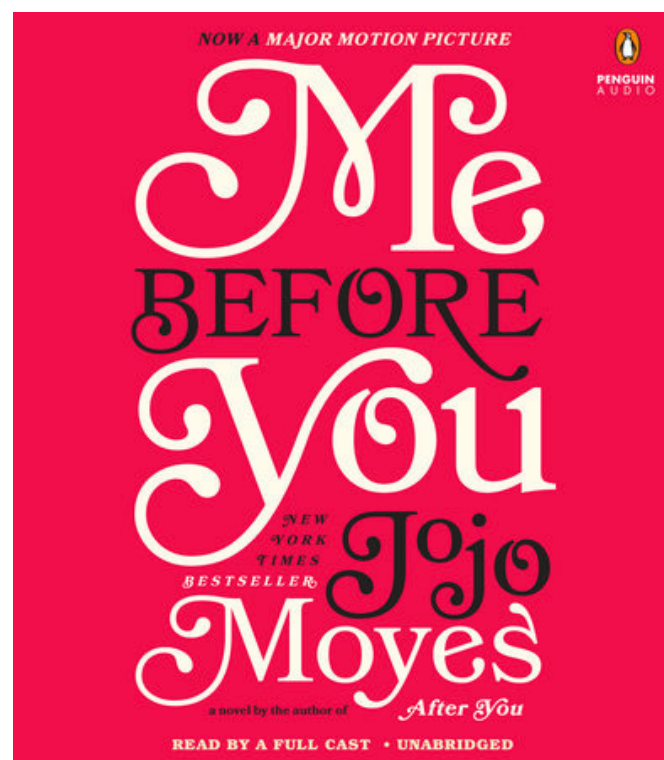
Louisa then makes a bunch of plans to do with Will.

Will and Louisa begin to grow closer as she helps cut his hair and shave his beard. Will wants Louisa to change and show her the world as she is afraid of getting out of her shell. Will even ends up meeting her parents and her long-term boyfriend Patrick at her birthday dinner.

Furthermore, a wedding approaches involving Will’s ex-lover, who left him after his accident, and his best friend Rupert.

Surprisingly, he decided he wanted to go to the wedding and they both have a blast. Louisa could tell time was running out and decided to make a best plan of them going out.

Louisa’s love life takes a turn for the worse as she tries to make Will love life again, despite his injuries. After getting sick again, Louisa plans on making every moment the best it can be for Will.



You can purchase Jojo Moyes' novel "Me Before You" at Barnes and Nobel for only \$13.60.

TARGET

## CCSU Student Talks Black History



Sierra Nesmith runs track and works as a manager for RECENTRAL

JETT WATKINS |  
RECENTRAL

BY TYRA MCCLUNG  
ASSISTANT ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

It is an ambitious attempt to squeeze centuries of influence and innovation into the shortest month of the year. And so, it is important that as a society we step outside of the limited realm of recognition and uplift one another year round. With that being said, February is the time of the year that achievements and accomplishments made by the black community, and their contributions to society, are celebrated on a national scale.

In honor of Black History Month it is imperative that we highlight the achievements and accomplishments made by the black community here at Central Connecticut.

Senior Sierra Nesmith, a member of Central’s track and field team, is constantly setting the bar and surpassing expectations, setting two records this season alone: the 200-meter hurdles and the women’s triple jump.

“That was really unexpected like it just happened I just felt so amazing,” Nesmith said. “I was just so amazed at myself, so now because of that I’m running the 200 at the NEC.”

Nesmith also won the gold medal for the 400-meter hurdles and the bronze for the 100-meter hurdles at the Black and Gold Invitational, while also setting her personal best for the 400-meter hurdles at the UConn Northeast challenge.

She also won the gold for the 400-meter hurdles and the triple jump at the Northeast Conference Championship, according to the CCSU Blue Devils website.

“I was trying to reach for the record last year, and I was like 0.3 centimeters short,” Nesmith said. “I was like, ‘okay let it go,’ but it’s really a great feeling because it’s like all your hard work is really paying off.”

To be able to put her focus into the 2019 indoor and outdoor seasons while graduating on time, Nesmith took 18 credits last semester.

Because of that sacrifice, this semester she was able to drop to part-time splitting her days between classes, an internship, a part-time job and the hours of practice and lift time dedicated to track.

The Exercise Science major interns at Suburban Physical Therapy and Sports and Medicine located in Rocky Hill, Connecticut. Nesmith is also a manager at her part-time job working for RECENTRAL and estimates devoting at least nine hours of her week to practice, but she does not put a limitation on it.

“This last semester has really trained me in a way that if I need to get something done. I need to get it done. Like lifting, even after a late Monday I still have to lift so I have to make sure I get my lift in,” Nesmith said. “I’m doing things that I didn’t do last year which is really great for me. I think one thing that’s different is that I’m lifting and I’m actually more focused on like my body and making sure I’m taking care of myself and just things like that.”

A Yeadon, Pennsylvania native, Nesmith began running

track at seven-years-old. Due to the influence of her parents.

Nesmith had previously been involved in various dance classes such as ballet, tap and jazz; She even played volleyball in high school.

Nesmith believes in giving back to the community. She works at a local daycare in her home town and spent the summer coaching the Amateur Athletic Union track team.

“It really helped me learn more about myself and how to be a coach and how to work with kids,” Nesmith said. “As black women we need to show a better representation of ourselves, and we do that, and it helps younger girls look up to [us], and I feel like everyone should want someone to look up to them. That’s motivating me, [and] it’s also motivating them to be better than what they know they can be.”

Nesmith is inspired herself, by strong women such as track star Allison Felix and our forever first lady Michelle Obama. These women remind her to stay patient and not give up. She understands that she will not set a personal best, or break a record every meet, but having strong role models reassures her that with patience and hard work her potential is limitless.

“I definitely want to say never to give up always to believe in yourself first, even when you don’t get it on the first try keep going things will get better at the end. Always have faith, that’s what keeps me pushing. When things are supposed to happen they’re going to happen, not right there, but in the near future,” Nesmith said.

Central is home to a number of students humbly achieving greatness, and during black history month it is important to be reminded of that.

“Black history month means a lot to me it shows that we have moved up in the world. We’re not all as one yet, but we’ve come more together,” Nesmith said. “We’re standing up for our right, were fighting for what we believe in and I feel like we shouldn’t just be celebrated one month we should be celebrated 365 days a year.”



DARYL LAPUEBLA | CONTRIBUTOR



# 91st Academy Awards Guide

BY GABRIEL ANTON  
STAFF WRITER

With 2018 wrapped up, movie-going audiences all around the world have the year's entire film catalog at their disposal to enjoy. The likes of bombastic and energetic big summer blockbuster season will be yearned for until the summer of 2019, but underway lies awards season.

This period of time began in early Oct. 2018 and is continuing into the New Year until the 91st annual Academy Awards ceremony on Feb. 24 that functions as the official honorary season for cinema.

What makes this year's awards season so special?

It has to do with the films nominated for Academy Awards. The Oscars, which recognize the absolute best in every aspect of filmmaking for the year, yet do not always get it right. This year they have made some significant breakthroughs with their nominations, and there were many long-awaited first time occurrences.

But at the same time, the Academy chose to disregard some great artists and films from their nominations, shielding some wildly unrecognized gems from proper recognition.

To begin, not every film that any average movie-goer sees in theaters is an "Oscar film." What I mean by that is that there is usually a rough collection of genres and standards that an "Oscar film" is molded by, being biopics, dramas or tragic historical and period films.

This year however, filmmakers from Marvel Studios broke the Oscar mold as they have made it possible for the first ever comic-book/superhero film to be nominated for best picture, the most prestigious award at the ceremony with the film "Black Panther."

During the 81st Academy Awards, 10 years prior, many believed that Christopher Nolan, who directed "The Dark Knight," would be the most decorated comic-book film for a long time with best-supporting actor and sound mixing.

This year it looks like "Black Panther's" seven nominations, including best picture, could see it as being the highest achieving comic-book film.

The musical romantic drama film, "A Star is Born" performed well early on with audiences and critics alike, showcasing Lady Gaga's singing talents with nominations for best song and score and first time acting performance in a big feature film with a nomination for best actress.

However, nothing could have launched this film into the minds of the audiences and the conversation for best picture, which it is also nominated for, like its first time director, Bradley Cooper ("Silver Linings Playbook"), who has been

nominated for several acting awards in the past.

One of the most glaring snubs of this year's Academy Award nominations is the absence of a best director nomination for Bradley Cooper. A body of the highest profile directors in Hollywood nominated him for a Director's Guild of America Award; yet, the Oscars didn't honor him in such a fashion.

Films like "Bohemian Rhapsody" and "Green Book," which are based off real-life historical events or people, belong to a category of films that are often mired for their historical inaccuracies, or dislike for the portrayal of the historical figures in the film.

This year, controversy enveloped these films in all shapes and sizes. Bryan Singer, the director of "Bohemian Rhapsody," had to be fired from production because of allegations that arose about him sexually assaulting a minor.

Viggo Mortensen, ("Lord of the Rings") plays an Italian-American cab driver Tony Lip, who is hired to drive the highly esteemed, Dr. Don Shirley, a gay, African American classical pianist in the 60's portrayed by Mahershala Ali ("Moonlight"), through the Deep South for a concert tour in "Green Book." Unfortunately, in an interview about the film Mortensen inadvertently said the N-word and it left audiences shocked. It also did not help that the real Dr. Don Shirley's brother was outspoken about the film's inconsistent portrayal of Shirley's life.

These two films have both received best picture nominations, yet they are also scarred by the controversies that will be weighing on Oscar voters' minds come voting time. Both films are also honored with best actor nominations for the remarkable performance by Mortensen as Tony Lip, and Rami Malek's ("Mr. Robot") eccentric and fascinating performance as Freddie Mercury in the Queen biopic.

One of the most prominent and surprising rising stars in this year's Oscar race is the film "Roma," directed by Alfonso Cuarón ("Gravity"). He was the first Hispanic film director to win the Academy Award for best director for his film "Gravity" in 2014.

The film "Roma" was not on anybody's radar when it debuted at the Toronto International Film Festival, but it became mainstream when it officially debuted on Netflix.

The film is semi-autobiographical as it explores an iteration of Cuarón's upbringing in Mexico City. It is thematically and visually unique from the other nominated films, being in black and white and having no score. It portrays a very detailed sense of everyday life and is heavily reliant on the performances, the dialogue and the cinematography to capture realism.



Tune into the 91st Academy Awards on ABC on Sunday, February 24, at 5 p.m.

RICHARD HARBAUGH/  
©A.M.P.A.S.

The film has 10 nominations, the most this year, with best actress and best supporting actress nomination, and best director, picture, cinematography, original screenplay, sound and design, along with best foreign language film; most of these credited to Cuarón.

One of the most notable snubs comes from the category of best documentary feature. A very moving, very timely, and exceedingly emotional documentary titled, "Won't You Be My Neighbor," which examines the life and legacy of the late, great Fred Rogers. Mostly known as the creator of the all-time classic television program, "Mister Roger's Neighborhood," was not included in the nominations.

Many reactions from critics, fans, and filmmakers themselves revealed the immense popularity and emotion behind this feature and believed it would be a frontrunner at the Academy Awards this year. Its absence from the list is louder than if it would have nominated. This was a highly questionable decision indeed by the Oscar voting body this year.

Given that this year the general populous has seen a few more frontrunner films than prior years, it would seem that the 91st Academy Awards ceremony has started a trend of taking more diverse film genres and artists into consideration for their prestigious honoring.

Maybe in the future, the average movie-goer will not have to browse through a catalog on unknown films come Oscar season and will be able to recognize more and more of the films nominated. This disjunction between the fan and the critic feels like it is being fixed and it is starting with this year's Academy Awards ceremony, where history might be made, again.

## Word Search: February 13

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

### Word List

1. JASEK
2. SENIOR
3. PRESIDENTIAL
4. STEWART
5. CHILDCARE
6. KOHL
7. WINCHESTER
8. COMMITS
9. VENDEL
10. BLAKE
11. DEADLINE
12. SAINTFRANCIS
13. VALENTINE
14. SAINT
15. CANDY
16. KINGDOM
17. NOVEL
18. RELATIONSHIP



# Aaron Winchester Embraces New Football Journey At CCSU



Aaron Winchester spent four seasons at Georgia State, appearing in 15 games.

RANDY WILSON PHOTOGRAPHY

BY DANIEL FAPPIANO  
LAYOUT EDITOR

As then Georgia State quarterback coach Luke Huard watched little-known prospect Aaron Winchester outperform passers with numerous Division I offers at a summer recruiting camp, he knew he was watching a future starter.

"It wasn't even close," Huard said.

With Winchester arriving to Central Connecticut as a graduate-transfer, Huard, the man who originally recruited the future Blue Devil, says Central landed a true playmaker.

"He'll be a fierce, courageous competitor. Anytime the ball is in his hands, a big play could be made," Huard said. "I think the CCSU fans will see an exciting player that is going to give everything he's got on Saturdays. Central Connecticut hit a home run."

Winchester spent four seasons at Georgia State, appearing in 15 games and starting three. In that time, he completed 61 passes for 721 yards and a five-to-four touchdown-to-interception ratio. He also rushed for 405 yards and three scores on 102 carries.

Despite former head coach Pete Rossomando's departure to Rutgers, Winchester says he is fully committed to CCSU.

"I still plan on attending Central," Winchester said. "As I went through the process, I knew not to commit to coaches. Coaches change, other opportunities come

up. I committed to the school. I'm still on my way up there."

Winchester says he was not shocked by Rossomando's departure, as he knew the former head coach would be in high demand due to his ability to recruit and coach. With Rossomando out of the picture, the Georgia native says he is more than happy with former offensive coordinator Ryan McCarthy's promotion to interim head coach.

"Coach McCarthy was actually the one who recruited me," Winchester said. "Having him get promoted to the head job gives me even more reason to attend CCSU. He was the first to reach out to me, I'm good with it."

With former quarterback Jacob Dolegala graduating, Winchester will have an opportunity to replace Central's all-time record holder for passing yards and touchdowns. Replicating Dolegala's production will be no easy task, but Winchester's former position coach thinks he has all the tools to succeed.

"Aaron is an incredibly competitive guy. He has tremendous character and work ethic," Huard said. "He's a guy who can run, he's athletic and both mentally and physically tough. He can take a hit, jump right up and keep playing hard. Aaron loves football and works hard at it, I loved his mental and physical attributes."

Winchester's ability to make plays with his feet will bring an entirely different dynamic to Central's offense. In Dolegala's four years as a starter, the quarterback ran

for just 452 yards, with 274 of them coming as a senior. Winchester says that his run game should help keep the defense honest.

"I think it helps a lot," Winchester said. "As far as the defensive scheme goes, they have to account for the quarterback being able to use his feet and make plays in the running game and passing game."

Winchester notes that while his running ability is a strength, he is trying to become a more well-rounded quarterback.

"I've been trying to turn my game into a pocket guy who can also run, not just a guy who can run and throw," Winchester said. "That's really the next step and I think that CCSU can help me with that."

With Winchester's arrival and Dolegala's departure, the Blue Devils currently have five quarterbacks on the roster. However, only Winchester and senior Tanner Kingsley have made collegiate starts. As Winchester transferred to CCSU, McCarthy told the school's Athletics Department that his experience will be key.

"He is a dual-threat quarterback that brings experience, maturity and athletic ability to the QB room," McCarthy said. "We are very excited to have Aaron."

Winchester was voted a team captain by his teammates during the 2018 season. His leadership was something that stood out to Huard during his time at Georgia State.

"There's nothing phony about him. He's a very genuine guy," Huard said. "He knows how to hold guys accountable but at the same time stay positive. He knows the fine line on when to push a teammate and when to put his arm around them. He checks all the boxes in terms of leading by example, encouragement and accountability. He's a natural leader as far as how he interacts with his teammates and how genuine he truly is."

For Winchester, coming to CCSU from Georgia State means leaving his home town and traveling almost 1000 miles. However, the former Panther feels that Central is the perfect school for him.

"When I got to CCSU on my visit, I just felt like everybody was real. I think Central's staff and players were very upfront and honest about what CCSU is," Winchester said. "As far as football goes, I think they're honest about having me compete for the job and not just guaranteeing me a spot. I

felt like that was important to me, to go to a coaching staff and a team where I have to earn everything I get."

The idea of having to earn a role has been an essential part of Winchester's career. He describes himself as a "blue collar worker" and said "I just want the fans to know that football is an obsession of mine. Most of my craft and most of what I do comes from hard work. I want them to see that I don't give blame. I take all the blame and give all the credit."

Huard says Winchester's desire to earn anything given to him dates back to their time together at GSU.

"I know when he gets there those players will gravitate towards him, just by the way he works and the way he carries himself," Huard said. "I think for (CCSU) it's a great get because he's a good learner and will adapt to whatever system is run. He has good football knowledge and understanding. Aaron figured out things pretty fast, if he didn't have it figured out, he was going to work until he excelled at it."

Ever since recruiting him in 2015, Huard has been a fan of Winchester. While his mental toughness and physical specimen stand out, he says it is Winchester's playmaking ability that will set him apart.

"He's got very good arm strength and can make all the throws. When plays breakdown, he has a really good feel of the pocket, making guys miss and get yards that maybe weren't by design," Huard said. "CCSU can expect a guy who is going to go out there and give that offense big play potential on any snap."

On a new team, in a new state, Winchester is about to embark on a new football journey. With a new head coach and a new quarterback in place, Central Connecticut football is about to begin a new era. As Winchester steps on campus, he is excited to help the Blue Devils win another Northeast Conference title.

"I'm looking forward to getting to work with the guys," Winchester said. "I know they had a chance to win the conference championship against Duquesne last season and obviously they won the NEC the year before. As far as an individual standpoint, I'm just trying to help this team as much as I possibly can to reach that goal again."

@DFAPPIANO14

## Football Lands Twelve On National Signing Day

BY DANIEL FAPPIANO  
LAYOUT EDITOR

"We are very excited about the class we have signed," interim head football coach Ryan McCarthy said to Central Connecticut's Athletics Department about this year's incoming recruiting class. After taking over for the departed Pete Rossomando, the former offensive coordinator had a tall task of replacing some of the team's biggest names.

Players such as quarterback Jacob Dolegala and defensive lineman Chris Tinkham graduated while players such as cornerback Grant Ibeh and wide receiver Joey Fields decided to transfer. However, despite losing some of their upperclassmen talent, McCarthy thinks the newest Blue Devils will be worthwhile additions.

"Our coaches worked diligently to recruit this group of talented student-athletes who we believe have the ability to have a positive, and in some cases immediate impact on the field," McCarthy continued to Central's Athletics Department.

"We welcome these players and families into our program, and we are excited to begin working with them."

On the offensive side of the ball, CCSU added Georgia State graduate transfer Aaron Winchester at quarterback. Winchester is the only Central recruit to have seen playing time at the college level, appearing in 15 games with GSU, completing 61 passes for 721 yards and five touchdowns. The redshirt senior also ran for 405 yards and three touchdowns on 102 carries.

Winchester is expected to compete to replace Dolegala at quarterback in 2019.

Outside of Winchester, the Blue Devils added two wide receivers in Kyren Petteway and Shamar Mohr along with two tight ends in Connor Peterson and Nas Johnson. They also signed running back Malik Thomas and offensive lineman Jordin Martell.

With Fields transferring and the program also losing Courtney Rush and Jose Garcia to graduation, there is a chance Petteway and Mohr are pushed into immediate playing time. While the Blue Devils still have senior Arthur Gilmore at tight end, signing both Peterson and Johnson add to the team's depth going forward.

Thomas may struggle to find work as a freshman with running backs Aaron Dawson, Drew Jean-Guillaume and Enyce Walker all still on the team. However, he proved how explosive he can be as a senior at Danbury High School, rushing for 713 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Defensively, the Blue Devils signed a pair of defensive lineman in Prince Boyd and Jaavon Brown, as well as a pair of outside linebackers in Jayden Anderson and Duane Binns.

The Blue Devils are losing Tinkham on the line and fellow All-NEC talent Kenneth Keen at outside linebacker. These four players should have an opportunity to make an immediate impact on the program.

Boyd could be the standout of the group after he amassed 101 total tackles, 17.5 sacks and two fumble recoveries during his senior season at Hillhouse High School. He was voted to



Prince Boyd (above), is JULIA JADE MORAN | STAFF one of CCSU's 12 recruits.

the Walter Camp All-Connecticut team.

CCSU also added a cornerback in Kobe Stingler. Central consistently played freshman Jahlil Brown and Dexter Lawson at corner last season, proving they are willing to let incoming recruits make an immediate difference. While Stingler does not have a direct path for playing time, he clearly has a fan in McCarthy.

"Kobe is driven, wants to be elite and has the necessary athleticism to be a difference maker at cornerback," McCarthy told the Athletics Department.

The 2019 season will come with a lot of changes for the Blue Devils. However, as McCarthy begins his first year as head coach, he believes his first recruiting class will make a difference for years to come.

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## Silva Passes Torch To Adesanya At UFC 234

BY ROBERT GULLO  
STAFF WRITER

Ultimate Fighting Championship's 234's main event took a whole 360 after it was announced that current Middleweight champion Robert Whittaker would be out of his title fight against challenger Kelvin Gastelum after suffering a hernia-related injury.

With that fight off, Middleweights Anderson Silva (arguably the greatest UFC fighter of all time) versus Israel Adesanya (one of the best young stars in the UFC who resembles Silva's fight style) became the new main event.

As expected, Adesanya shined, landing more than twice as many significant strikes as Silva (65-31) and won via unanimous decision (30-27, 30-29, 30-27), improving to 16-0 (5-0 in the UFC.) Adesanya, who is only 29, used his youth to his advantage. He was the more active fighter, controlling the pace and constantly moving forward in front of Silva. He threw more strikes, was more efficient and landed the cleaner shots being quick and aggressive.

On the other hand, the fight was closer than expected, with Silva lasting all three rounds and also landing his fair share of strikes, particularly in the second, where he became most aggressive. In a competitive technical back-and-forth Muay Thai-styled fight, it was Adesanya who did more, landing all three of the judges' nods.

Many saw this as a "passing the torch fight" in which we witnessed the rise of Adesanya and the last days of legend, Silva.

At age 43, Silva has been fighting in the UFC since 2006 and won his first 16 fights, which is still a record for most consecutive wins.

His 49-second debut fight earned him a title shot against then-champion, Rich Franklin, who he knocked out with a series of elbows and knees in the first round.

From there on out, Silva dominated the Middleweight division holding the longest reign of any champion in the UFC, along with many other records accumulating over time.

His seven-year reign came to an end when he faced Chris Weidman on July 6, 2013, in a match where Silva's cockiness and taunting caused him to be unconscious on the canvas after Weidman knocked him out in the second round. After that fight, Silva never returned to full form, accumulating four losses in his next five bouts.

Adesanya, on the other hand, is an undefeated rising star in the UFC. He has compiled five victories in exactly 364 days in the UFC in which he dominated and looked near-perfect in each fight.

He has stated multiple times that Silva is one of his biggest idols and that he recalls watching Silva's fights on DVD's growing up and having that be part of his motivation getting into mixed martial arts.

Many analysts and fans compare Adesanya to Silva, pretty much referring to him as a young Silva. Their fighting style is very similar in which both are Muay Thai practitioners and rely heavily on their stand-up game with their precise counter strikes, which include elbows, knees and clinching.

It was announced that the winner of the fight would get a title shot against the winner of Whittaker-Gastelum, but since that fight did not happen, it is unclear who will get the next title shot.

Whittaker may be cleared to fight in as early as four weeks from now and many are wondering who the fight would be against. If not Gastelum, then I would say Adesanya, but he may have to wait his turn after Gastelum.

For Silva, he hinted at fighting one more bout in his hometown of Curitiba, Brazil and having it possibly be against Nick Diaz.

## NEC Women's Update: Top Teams Continue To Win

BY PATRICK GUSTAVSON  
SPORTS EDITOR

*Standings and stats are reflective of Saturday, Feb. 9.*

Things are beginning to shape up in the Northeast Conference standings with the top-four teams further separating themselves from the pack. That said, the teams in the middle of the pack all sit closely aligned with four weeks of the season remaining.

The Robert Morris Colonials continued their winning streak, but it did not come easy. Bryant gave them all they could handle, holding the unbeaten Colonials (in conference play) to 59 points and falling by just one possession. The Colonials beat the Bulldogs with team basketball with just one player reaching double-figures but had six players with seven or more points.

Entering the week, three teams sat tied for second in a position to host a playoff game: Saint Francis (PA), Sacred Heart and Saint Francis (BKN). All three squads took care of business against their respective opponents, leaving them neck

and neck.

Sacred Heart took care of Mount St. Mary in dominant fashion, holding the Mountaineers to 41 points, just one point off their season low. The Pioneers will have a chance to stay at pace with second place when they take on two opponents below .500 in conference play.

Saint Francis (PA) was defeated by Central Connecticut when they visited New Britain in January. This time around, the Red Flash handled the Blue Devils easily in a 15-point victory. The team continues to be led by Jess Kovatch, who at this point is almost guaranteed to be NEC Player of the Year. Kovatch had 29 points on five made threes against the Blue Devils, avoiding another upset.

Much like Robert Morris, it was a team effort for Saint Francis (BKN) to take down Fairleigh Dickinson. The Terriers had five players reach double-figures. If the team can carry that kind of consistency outside of Jade Johnson, who trails only Kovatch in the conference in scoring, they will surely be in a good position for a home conference game come tournament time.

With the Colonials showing little signs of losing, these teams will have to control their own destiny in the hopes Robert Morris slips up.

The two teams that cling to the hopes for the eighth and final playoff spot are CCSU and FDU, who sit tied at 3-7.

The loss to Saint Francis (PA) snapped a two-game winning streak for the Blue Devils. They will face the incredibly tall task of taking down Robert Morris in Pittsburgh, where the Colonials have only lost three times all season. The last time the two teams faced off, CCSU hung with the conference leaders, losing by just seven.

LIU Brooklyn will also have to claw their way into contention. The Blackbirds will host Mount St. Mary's on Monday in a contest that would leave the two teams tied should the Mountaineers win. They will then have to travel to Saint Francis (BKN).

While being on the verge of missing out on the tournament entirely, these teams are just a win or two away from being comfortably in contention for the coveted NEC crown.

@PJGUSTAVSON

## Track And Field Gears Up For NECs



*The men's team will look to repeat as NEC champions next weekend.*

TYLER ROAIX | CONTRIBUTOR

BY PATRICK GUSTAVSON  
SPORTS EDITOR

In their final gear up for the Northeast Conference Championships, the Central Connecticut track and field team took on the David Hemery Valentine Invitational, where they secured several personal bests. Entering the meet, head coach Eric Blake said the purpose was to prepare for next weekend's championship meet.

"We raced a few in shorter races to sharpen them up for NEC's. We had a few students take the weekend off to rest up for next weekend. It really depended on what's best for the individual," Blake said.

Earlier this season, Blake stressed the importance of the veteran core of the women's team, which was on display Friday, day one of the event. Senior Dawn Hubbell finished the one-mile run in 5:11.83, beating her previous personal best by two seconds.

Junior, Taylor Davis set her personal best time in the 200-meter dash when she finished in 25.94. Davis also competed in the 60-meter dash, finishing 22nd out of 51 competing runners.

On the field side, junior Hailey Rospierski set a personal best in the long jump when she jumped 5.11 meters.

Though not setting a personal record, junior Megan

Brawner finished 49th of 179 runners in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:15.40.

Blake called the veteran core "very consistent" and said his team is "very fortunate of the leadership."

Though not a veteran, freshman Samantha Vasquez got in on the shattering of previous best times when she ran the 200-meter dash in 27.47, the same event Davis broke her own previous best.

On the men's side, they set seven personal bests of their own. Sophomore Darius Wise contributed two, finishing the 60-meter dash in 7.13, good enough for a third-place finish out of 43 participants. Wise added a time of 22.30 in the 200-meter dash, also a personal record.

Freshman Qasim Danazumi also set a personal record in the 200, eclipsing his previous time by a second. His time of 22.74 was not far off that of his teammate.

The other Blue Devil that had two personal bests on the day was on the field side of things. Freshman Ed Radizon bested his distance in the shot put by almost an entire meter. Radizon

also had a throw of 11.14 meters in the weighted throw.

Freshman Cam Whalen ran the 60-meter hurdles in 8.74, his personal best. Classmate Tim McNamara also notched a career-best in the 800-meter run.

The final Blue Devil to record a personal best was junior Andrew Flemming, who finished the 500-meter dash in just over a minute, finishing in 29th place out of 63 runners. Classmate, Richard Grudzwick, came home in 13th place. Though it was not a personal best, it was another strong showing for Grudzwick.

Both sides will next compete at the NEC Championships in Staten Island, NY.

"Anytime we go to NECs, we want to have our best team meet of the season. I feel we are ready to do that," Blake said of the meet.

As for his team's chances, Blake said "if the meet was scored off the seeds we would be in trouble but I feel our best meet is still ahead of us."

The men will look to repeat as conference champions while the women look to win the conference for the first time since 2001.

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## CCSU Weekly Sports Schedule



### Men's Basketball

- Thursday, Feb. 14, 7 p.m. @ Wagner
- Saturday, Feb. 16, 4 p.m. @ Saint Francis (BKN)

### Women's Basketball

- Saturday, Feb. 16, 1 p.m. @ Wagner
- Monday, Feb. 18, 1 p.m. @ Saint Francis (BKN)

### Lacrosse

- Saturday, Feb. 16, 1 p.m. @ Holy Cross
- Friday, Feb. 15 @ Northeast Conference Championship
- Saturday, Feb. 16 @ Northeast Conference Championship

### Swimming & Diving

- Wednesday, Feb. 13- Saturday, Feb. 16. @ Northeast Conference Championship



## Women's Basketball's Winning-Streak Snapped By Saint Francis (PA)

BY RYAN JONES  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Coming off impressive back-to-back conference wins, Central Connecticut's women's basketball team missed their shot at making it a three-game streak on Saturday after dropping a game against Saint Francis (PA) on the road.

To start the game, the Blue Devils dominated both sides of the ball. On defense, the Blue Devils held the Red Flash without a field goal for the first 5:22 of the game with six straight misses.

Offensively, Kiana Patterson and her team looked primed to spoil to the second-ranked Red Flash. Patterson connected on two threes early, while Tiffany Slicklein contributed a layup to put CCSU up 8-0 early.

Jess Kovatch scored three straight to put SFU ahead to end the first quarter, drilling two straight threes and following it up with a clean mid-range jumper. She would finish the game with a team-high of 29 points.

The Red Flash began pulling away in the second quarter, firing off a 9-3 run to start. The Blue Devils were able to march back and

regained the lead with a minute remaining in the half after another layup by Slicklein. SFU would score five in the last 44 seconds to take a 30-27 lead going into the half.

Patterson drilled a three to open up the second half, locking both teams in at 30.

Both teams alternated leads for a majority of the quarter until Kovatch would knock down another long-range bomb to give the Red Flash a two-point lead.

On the ensuing possession, Kovatch would attempt another three, this time drawing the foul, which led to three easy points. This seemed to be the breaking point for CCSU, who were outscored 12-7 to close out the quarter.

A deep range attack would boost SFU over the Blue Devils early in the fourth.

Three quick threes made it nearly impossible for CCSU to climb out of the hole, trailing 68-52 after one last three from Kovatch.

Two threes from Sydney Hines would help Central cut into the lead, but not much else was going offensively for the remainder of the game. The Red Flash would close out the game with an 8-2 run, securing an 83-68



The Blue Devils are tied for the final NEC playoff spot.

JULIA JADE MORAN | STAFF

victory over the Blue Devils.

Senior Andi Lydon had her best game of the season in the loss, scoring a season-high 17 points to go along with her seven rebounds, four assists and two blocks.

Patterson, who was held scoreless in the fourth quarter, finished with 15 points.

The Blue Devils shot at a more efficient rate than normal, knocking down 43.5 percent of their shots, but put the Red Flash at the line far too much to have a chance. Central shot only eight free throws compared

to SFU's 20. The Blue Devils were also outrebounded in the matchup 38-29.

This loss puts CCSU at 3-7 in conference play, tying them with Fairleigh Dickinson for eighth in the standings, the final playoff spot.

With only eight games remaining in the regular season, the Blue Devils still have a lot of ground to make up in the tough NEC if they want a shot at having a postseason berth. Their season continues on the road for the next three games before returning home to face Sacred Heart Feb. 23.

@RYANJONES385

## NEC Men's Update: Red Flash Seize The Weekend

BY PATRICK GUSTAVSON  
SPORTS EDITOR

There was not a lot of movement throughout the Northeast Conference standings this weekend as all but two teams split their pair of games. The only team to come out unscathed was the Red Flash of Saint Francis (PA).

Home court advantage was in full effect Thursday night with all five home teams taking home the victory. But on Saturday, four of those same teams were handed losses on their own hardwood. It is yet another example of how unpredictable and topsy-turvy things have been throughout the league slate.

With the two wins, Saint Francis (PA) now is tied atop the standings. The Red Flash, led by the dynamic duo of Jamaal King and Keith Braxton, in the team's contest against Central Connecticut. Braxton had 19 points to go with 15 boards and eight assists. Meanwhile, King scored 27 points on Saturday against Bryant.

The Red Flash have a tough week ahead as they travel to Fairleigh Dickinson before returning home to take on Robert

Morris in a fight for first place.

After losing both games last week, Robert Morris bounced back by beating Bryant on Thursday by double-digits. They could have extended their lead in the standing further when they welcomed CCSU, who sat outside the playoff picture. But they fell to the Blue Devils by nine, leaving them in a tie with the Red Flash.

This past weekend should have been an opportunity for Sacred Heart, who had only lost one game at the Pitt Center all year. They took care of business against Fairleigh Dickinson, leaving them in a position to take sole possession of third place after the weekend. This was especially true considering they were hosting Mount St. Mary, who sits at the bottom of the standings and had won just five games all year. But the Mountaineers pulled off the upset, handing the Pioneers just their second home loss of the season.

Another strong home team all season has been Saint Francis (BKN). The Terriers hosted Wagner on Thursday and won in a putrid 51-44 game that saw both teams shoot under 35 percent from the floor. A win against FDU could have put

them in a position for a home playoff game, but the Knights handled them by 11. SFBK now sits at 6-6 in a tie with Wagner.

Things get tight again for the eighth and final playoff spot as there is a three-way tie between CCSU, LIU Brooklyn and Bryant.

Bryant was the big loser of the week being the only team to drop both contests. After failing to crack 60 against Robert Morris, they were handled by Saint Francis (PA). The Bulldogs will return home to take on SHU before then traveling to SHU.

CCSU is trending in the other direction. Facing the dreaded Pennsylvania road trip, the Blue Devils managed to pull off the upset against Robert Morris. Tyler Kohl has looked like one of the best players in the conference again following a four-game lull. They will have a crucial matchup with LIU Brooklyn which could determine the final playoff spot.

With just three weeks remaining on the schedule, seven of the teams sit just two games apart. It would not be a surprise if things take until the final weekend for the playoff picture to unfold.

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### OPINION

## Winners And Losers Of The NBA Trade Deadline

BY TREVI ALICKOLLI  
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

The NBA trade deadline has come and passed and it did not disappoint. Although one of the best players in the league, Anthony Davis, did not get traded (despite his request) there was a total of 19 deals that were achieved.

It seemed like every team was in the mix and involved with a trade in some way. Going through the deals, mostly everyone came out of the trade a winner.

#### Winners

##### Philadelphia 76ers

Philadelphia showed how aggressive they can be earlier in the season when they acquired Jimmy Butler. They maintained their aggressive mindset through the trade deadline as they acquired the likes of All-Star caliber forward Tobias Harris, effectively forming a "Big Four." Additionally, they added a few role players to solidify their rotation. Philly is going all out as they try to compete for titles but their goals are not short term. They hope to re-sign Harris in the summer and hope to dominate for a long time to come.

##### Markelle Fultz

In a series of moves by the 76ers to add depth to their bench, they dealt away former number one overall pick Markelle Fultz to the Orlando Magic. This is simple, Fultz is a winner strictly because he now gets a fresh start as he tries to return from injury and resurrect his once promising career

in Orlando.

##### Milwaukee Bucks

The Bucks, much like the 76ers, are in a win-now mode as they try to make a hard push to the NBA Finals. As of Feb. 7, they are the number one seed in the Eastern Conference and they just added an offensive weapon in Nikola Mirotic. Mirotic is likely to come off the bench for the Bucks and he will provide them with plenty of scoring to lead the second unit. He provides versatility offensively as a stretch four, scoring from inside and out, while also providing some defense and rebounding. The Bucks look like one of the most dangerous teams in the East, but they are going to have to battle with the likes of Philly and the Toronto Raptors, who both made moves at the deadline themselves.

##### Marc Gasol

Gasol has not been a part of a legitimate title contending team in a long time. As the Memphis Grizzlies have been considered a rebuilding team, they sent him to one of the powerhouses in the East and that is probably a dream come true for the 34-year-old veteran center.

##### Boston Celtics

Though they did not make a big trade, Anthony Davis did not get traded, meaning Boston has a shot to trade for the star big man in the summer. That's a win on its own.

There are virtually no losers when it came to this year's NBA trade deadline. No team made any outrageously horrific trades that made no sense in any way. With that being said,

there were a few questionable moves.

#### Losers

##### Los Angeles Lakers

The waiting game has not worked well for the Lakers in recent history. The lack of an aggressive push cost them All-Star forward, Paul George, who is having an MVP caliber season. If the trend continues, it might cost them another All-Star forward in Kawhi Leonard and potentially Davis. We'll just have to wait until summer to find out how the latest Lakers saga unfolds.

##### Dallas Mavericks

During their game against tCharlottette Hornets, the Dallas franchise finalized a deal to trade Harrison Barnes to the Sacramento Kings halfway through the game. Instead of letting him sit for the entire duration of the game, Barnes played the first two quarters, then was benched after halftime when the trade was completed. You simply cannot trade a player mid-game while he is logging minutes for your organization. Show some class, Mavericks.

There were other trades that went down, but these were the most impactful on the future of the NBA. The deadline created great excitement around the NBA and it is likely to continue through the All-Star break, the playoffs and the championship.

Stay tuned, NBA fans.

@ATREVI013





Joe Hugley (above) averaged 11 points in his return to the team.

JULIE JADE MORAN | STAFF



Tyler Kohl (above) was named NEC Player of the Week for the sixth time this season.

JULIA JADE MORAN | STAFF

## Men's Basketball Splits Pennsylvania Road Trip

BY PATRICK GUSTAVSON  
SPORTS EDITOR

The dreaded Pennsylvania road trip stared Central Connecticut's men's basketball team in the face this past weekend as they took on Saint Francis (PA) and Robert Morris, the two top teams in the Northeast Conference.

Though they were unable to top the Red Flash, they handled Robert Morris in a nine-point victory.

It was senior forward Tyler Kohl that kept the Blue Devils in the game against SFU. Kohl had 35 points on nearly 50 percent shooting to go with five rebounds, seven assists and four steals, the first player in the country to boast that stat line this season.

But very much like the first time the two teams met, the Blue Devils struggled to defend the three, allowing the Red Flash to connect on over 42 percent of their attempts.

"We didn't play tough at first. It wasn't until we got down that we started playing better. Guys were going to the basket and looking to get fouled instead of finishing at the rim and getting the foul after that. We've got to learn to play through that," Marshall said. "We've just got to focus on us."

Central was unable to overcome the multiple double-digit Red Flash leads, falling by a score of 90-85.

The Blue Devils remained in state to take on Robert Morris, the NEC leaders at the time.

They marched in and knocked off the number one

team by a score of 78-69.

Kohl once again led the way with 23 points to go with seven rebounds, five assists and three steals.

The two performances led to him being named NEC Player of the Week for the sixth time this season, a new conference record.

Marshall said the Kohl was one of the keys to victory, helping his teammates get better.

"We shared the basketball. Tyler believed in his teammates. He did a good job of getting in the paint in the first half," Marshall said. "In the second half when he got in, he was able to collapse the defense and hit guys that were open and they had the confidence to shoot and make it."

Marshall was also pleased with his team's ability to keep the Colonials off the three-point line, forcing them to shoot a measly 22.6 percent from behind the arc.

In both contests, the Blue Devils essentially played seven guys the entire game, with freshman Mike Underwood seeing one and two minutes, respectively.

They were shorthanded against SFU as they were without senior center Deion Bute. Bute was replaced in the lineup by freshman Karrington Wallace, who saw 21 minutes, the third most on his season. But when Bute returned to take on RMU, Wallace did not see a minute.

Marshall said the lineup will depend on who will help the team win.

"We can go eight or nine deep, but at the end of the day we're going to go with who's playing well, who's rolling,"

Marshall said. "I can't tell you it's going to be seven or six or nine. It's all about who's playing well."

They are also rolling with just one true point guard in Tyson Batiste. Freshman Thai Segwai, who saw significant minutes through the team's first 20 games, has not appeared in the last four.

Kohl has been relied on to handle to the ball when Batiste is not on the floor.

"I think Tyler has been getting us going early. You've got guys who can shoot the ball with him in the game so you have to pay attention to all five guys on the court," Marshall said of Kohl.

"Then Tyson comes in and he's been doing a good job on the defensive end, sharing the basketball and being a leader," Marshall continued. "For us, it's just been a good mixture because when you bring Tyson in, you can bring him in for a few people."

Though the Blue Devils knocked off the then top team in the conference, Marshall is looking at it like any other win.

"We're going out there to play whoever is in front of us, whether you're first, last, middle, whatever. We've got to win every game," Marshall said.

The Blue Devils will travel to Staten Island, NY to take on Wagner on Thursday, where they will look to avenge a 22-point loss to the Seahawks in early January, without Kohl. Though they will have Kohl, Marshall said his team must be tough, box out and keep them off the three-point line.

@PJGUSTAVSON

## Lacrosse Ready To Turn Things Around With Alum At Helm



The Blue Devils will look to improve on their 1-6 NEC record last season.

JULIA JADE MORAN | STAFF

BY RYAN JONES  
ASSSTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Heart and hustle. For Betsy Vendel, Central Connecticut's new lacrosse coach, these are the two most important facets of the game. As for the Blue Devils, it's a new-found lifestyle.

Last season, things could have gone better for the Blue Devils, who finished with a 1-6 Northeast Conference record that placed them only a game ahead of last place. Eager for a chance at contention again, CCSU named Vendel the new head coach of the program at the end of 2018.

Vendel had been an interim coach at Southern Connecticut, and already has an impressive resume with the Blue Devils. But this comes as a player instead of a coach.

Vendel graduated from Central in 2014 and dominated the field in her time as a player. Never missing a start over her four years, Vendel leads the program in points (219) and assists (99) and now has a chance to make more history for her alma mater.

The knowledge that comes from Vendel's offensive prowess at the attack position could come in handy for the Blue Devils, who last year ranked last in the NEC in goals, assists and shots on goal per game. Vendel mentioned a

change of offensive scheme that could help the Blue Devils this year, ideally giving everyone on offense the chance to score.

"I've put in a couple offenses where there's two or three options off of each part of it. It's moving from having one or two people be successful to having everyone as an option. It's definitely more of a shared offense, which I think is motivating," Vendel said.

Eight freshmen will be joining the Blue Devils this year, and look to play a large role on the team early.

"They bring such a wealth of skill, a fresh look into our offense," Vendel said. "They're all definitely going to be big contributors this year. I have high expectations for sure."

On the other side of the ball, Central will be sporting some depth in the crease this year, with three goalies on their roster. Last year, then junior Jackie Branthover started in 11 of the Blue Devils' games while freshmen Meaghan Allard started the final four games of the season.

Now, Branthover will once again be sharing the net with sophomore Cooper Cowdin and freshmen Emily Erne.

As for who will be playing in goal for Central, Vendel explained "it's more in terms of what team we are playing, what we'll need for that. That'll come with scouting," but added that "I feel confident with each one of them in there, so it's a good problem to have for me."

But the two things it will come down to for the Blue Devils is heart and hustle, which Vendel wants her team to focus on.

"If you have enough heart in this game and you hustle your butt off," Vendel explained. "Then you will become successful. The skills will fall into place if you have those two components."

For the Blue Devils, their heart and hustle will be put to the test Saturday, as they open their season against Holy Cross. Their conference play will begin April 5, when they take on LIU Brooklyn.

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