

THE RECORDER

www.centralrecorder.org | September 11, 2019

VOLUME 120 | ISSUE 3

New Esports Center Levels Up Opportunities For Gamers & Academics

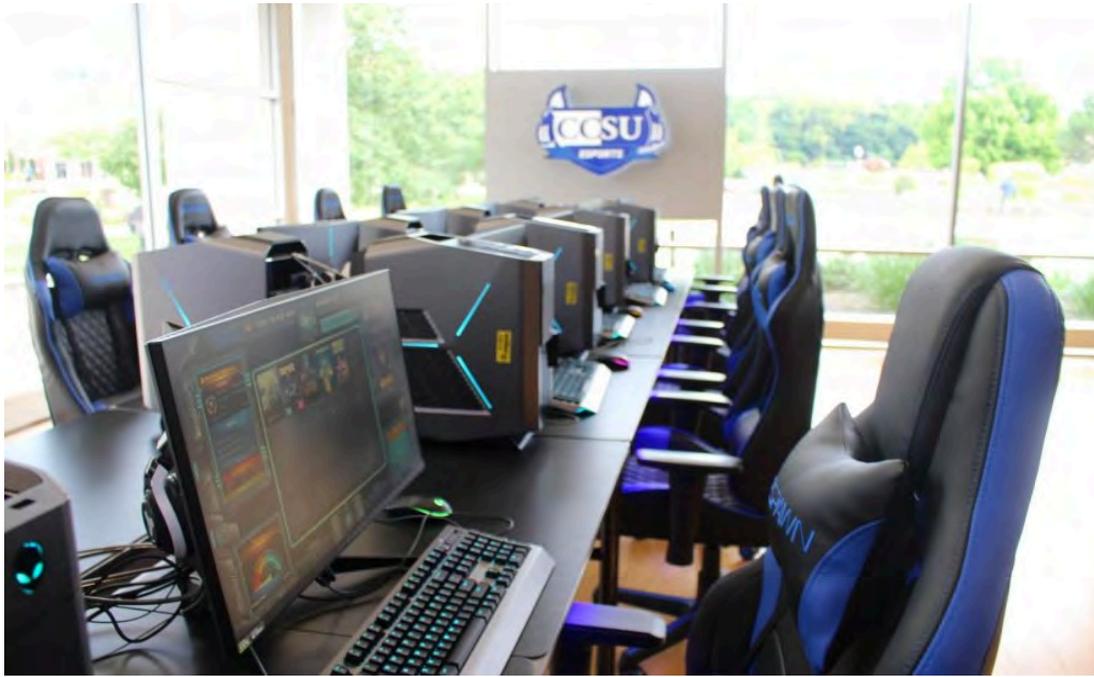
BY DANIEL FAPPIANO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

With an eye towards academics and a devotion towards gaming, Central Connecticut opened a brand new esports center—the first of its kind at a public or private university in the state.

While the center is ridden with brand new gaming computers through a partnership with Dell, Central President Dr. Zulma Toro said CCSU's new Esports room is more than just playing games.

"It is not about gaming and having fun," Toro said. "It is about developing a unique set of skills for our graduates and offering relevant academic programs that will allow them to get well paying jobs after they leave."

According to Toro, the room will allow for faculty members in subjects such as Business and Computer Science to teach with a different approach due to higher technology. Rather than the room just being just for games, Toro feels the space could allow for research and other methods of higher



Central received state-of-the-art computers through a partnership with Dell.

KRISTINA VAKHMAN | STAFF

learning.

"It's not only exciting, it's relevant and will allow us to bring students and faculty with unique talents, research and academic skills," Toro said. The skills it will develop include teamwork, ability to solve complex problems, ability to take risks and try new things [and] those are some very unique skills that will differentiate our

graduates from the rest."

Toro left the possibility open for new types of programs to be added to the curriculum due to the addition of the center.

George Claffey, Central's Chief Information Officer was in charge of the group deciding what technology should be used in the center. Claffey said that his team often worked with members of the esports

club to decided which types of keyboards or monitors to use. Those same students saw the academic impact the center can have.

"The academic impacts of this are just as provocative as the gaming aspects," Claffey said. "As we talked to students in the esports and gaming club, they were excited about

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Jake Dolegala's Road To NFL

BY TREVI ALICKOLLI
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

After impressing during the preseason, former Central Connecticut quarterback Jake Dolegala was informed that his life-long dream was coming true when he made the Cincinnati Bengals 53-man roster.

Flash forward into September, a week into the NFL regular season, Dolegala has shown enough promise to garner raving reviews from people within the Bengals organization such as scout Andrew Johnson.

"We kept him for a reason, we're keeping him to develop him and we'll see where that goes," Johnson said. "The kids got a very bright future for us and we're hoping he can contribute for us one day."

Johnson is the Bengals scout in charge of the Northeast area for the team and is very familiar with Dolegala's career at CCSU.

"The things that he does well, you cant teach. You can't teach size, you can't teach arm strength, you cant teach a quick release," Johnson said. "He

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A New Direction For Student Conduct

BY ISABELLA CHAN
NEWS EDITOR

The beginning of any semester comes with the arrival of changes and adjustments for the future; for Stephanie Reis it meant adjusting to her new office as the Director of Student Conduct.

The office was decorated with cushioned leather chairs, dimly-lit lamps for a "comfortable vibe" and paintings waiting to be hung up. Reis is ready and prepared to take her plans into action and not just for her new office.

"The last couple years the university has been through a lot of transitions with new people in leadership and departments being changed," Reis shared. "Good change is coming and good things take time but I think we are on the right path for that. We are really here for the students; we want students to succeed."

Starting out as a student

worker herself at Reslife during her early college years at Central Connecticut, Reis truly worked her way up the ladder. Over the years, she has found her own success at CCSU, moving from Assistant Director of Student Conduct to filling in as Interim Director of Student Conduct and now holding the position permanently.

During her time as interim, Reis was able to participate in higher-level cases, such as those reported to CCSU Police, sexual misconduct and some alcohol/drug cases. Rather than being scared off by the responsibilities, Reis felt more motivated to tackle the position.

"I'm someone that always wants to keep challenging myself, so even in the Assistant Director role I was already looking to see what I could do next," Reis admitted. "Getting a director role always seemed like the next step to me but I always thought it would be 10 years from now rather than



Stephanie Reis is the new Director of Student Conduct at CCSU.

STEPHANIE REIS

the immediate future. But I've always been taught that when an opportunity presents itself you take it, and I feel that's especially truer for women."

Now, with her voice at the table, Reis is ready to come forth

with a number of new ideas for the department and student population. Her first order of business is to rename the office to Community Standards.

"Student conduct is more

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C.A.N. PRESENTS 'BAD AND BUBBLY'



C.A.N. hosted a foam party complete with glow-sticks, a slip and slide and a DJ.

SEE PAGE 10

FOOTBALL SNEAKS BY MERRIMACK



After losing a 16-point lead in the fourth quarter, the Blue Devils came away with the victory due to a last-second field goal.

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Staff meetings for The Recorder are held on Mondays at 5:00 p.m. in the Blue and White Room in the Student Center.

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Brian's Angels Reach Central



All of the Brian's Angels volunteers standing with their truck full of donations.

JULIA CONANT | STAFF

BY JULIA CONANT
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

While students prepared for Central Connecticut's first home football game of the 2019 season, a can and bottle drive was held in Kaiser Lot in support of Brian's Angels Homeless Outreach.

Brian's Angels is a Bristol-based nonprofit organization that assists the homeless in Bristol and the surrounding area. From 2 to 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, the organization collected non-perishable donations, cans, glass and plastic bottles that can be redeemed in Connecticut.

They also held a bake sale and a 50/50 drawing in order to raise money for the nonprofit. People who donated to Brian's Angels on Saturday were offered a pin with the organization's name on it and a homemade keychain in the shape of an angel.

The organization was named after Founder Pat Stebbins's late son who took his own life after struggles with homelessness, addiction and mental illness.

"Brian was my youngest son who I lost in 1998 to suicide," Stebbins shared. "I started

doing [Brian's Angels] in 2015, not even relating the two. I just saw a lot of homeless near where I lived and it was a very hot August day in 2015, and we started by passing out cold water."

After a substantial donation, the organization began to pick up the company.

"We went from [handing out] cold water to someone handing me \$500 in cash," Stebbins said. "I had to step up our game a little bit because that was an awful lot of water, so we started making 'loving bags.'"

"Loving Bags" are 2.5-gallon bags that contain supplies homeless people may need or appreciate, such as non-perishable food items, brushes, deodorant and rain ponchos. These are distributed to whoever is outside and needs a bit of help or extra supplies."

The main goal of Brian's Angels is to get homeless people back on their feet and headed in the right direction.

"It's mostly about getting people services, [telling them] where they can go for help, whatever that next step for help is," Stebbins said. "We'll help them get to either social

services, DSS, disability, however, we can direct people is what we do."

Along with pointing people in the right direction, Brian's Angels also gives supplies to the needy.

"We provide sandwiches, tents, sleeping bags, underwear, socks, boots, whatever people need to get from one day into the next," Stebbins said.

Brian's Angels is also working towards helping the homeless substantially better their ways, in ways such as receiving an education.

"We're trying to get started with a few day programs going if possible," Stebbins said. "We're hoping to help people get their diplomas, whatever they need to do to go on to the next step from homelessness."

Despite Stebbins being told that it was nearly impossible, the organization is 100 percent run by volunteers and has been going strong for four years. And like Stebbins lost her son, most of the volunteers on the fundraising committee have also lost someone close to them.

"This is how we keep ourselves going," Kathy Nelson, a member of the fundraising committee said. "We keep busy. It's a wonderful thing to give."

Currently, Brian's Angels gives coffee and a sandwich to approximately 35 homeless per day, as well as a place to watch television, take a nap or just relax and socialize.

Brian's Angels' Outreach center is open from 1 to 5 p.m. seven days a week, located at 99 Center St in Bristol.

The organization is currently looking for donations and volunteers. Financial donations should be sent to P.O. Box 2111, Bristol, CT 06010. Brian's Angels can be found on Facebook at "Brian's Angels Homeless Outreach."

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A New Direction For Student Conduct

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negative and a reactive approach whereas I want to be more proactive," Reis explained. "The community standards part ties in about what we expect of students while they are here and I want to tie students more to the campus community."

The renaming already has the support of Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Michael Jasek.

"If we can get the name change taken care of- it is a bit of process- it will redirect our focus. Focusing on the community's standards rather than the misbehavior," Jasek added. "I think that will set a positive tone in the residence halls and athletic events."

Along with a name change, Reis wants to bring forward more educational outreach programs and approach cases with "more living room talk" rather than "handing out punishments."

"Students normally don't necessarily

know what they can or cannot do or what can lead to 'X, Y, Z' from certain behavior. I think we should give as much education as we can on what the expectations of students are while you are here. Also what to do so you don't end up in our process but if you do what can you expect." Reis continued. "So maybe it's not having formal conversations all the time but 'Hey this is not a good thing you did [but] it doesn't really warrant a violation or charges instead I want you to connect with Reslife and help them do a program.' instead."

Reis feels as though by approaching some of the cases with conversations and less definite punishments, students will be more receptive and willing to change their behavior. At times, the cases she has handled were just misunderstandings amongst others and boiled down to comprehending that perceptions differ but everyone is entitled to their feelings.

"If you ever have to go through [our office] just trust the process that you will have your due process and your rights," Reis said. "This process is in place to protect you - which really sounds weird but it is. We just really take pride in what we do in our institution and keep everyone safe."

Moving forward, Reis is looking to bring a new light and new day. "Good things take time but it's coming and there will be a lot of transitions to adapt to, Reis stated. "We will be more proactive and be positive."

"Being an alumni and just being here for so long I feel like I have a kind of dedication to the students," Reis said. "I don't like to be corny by saying 'Blue devil family!' but I really do feel that way. If I can help students navigate through the lowest times in their college career as a director then that's what I want to do."

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What's New, CCSU?

BY ISABELLA CHAN & DANIEL FAPPIANO
EDITORS

- The Elihu Burritt Library lot breaks ground on construction for new Engineering building on Thursday, Sept. 12.
- Devils Den is hosting a Hip Hop Showcase in Semesters at 10 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 12.
- Fashion and Design club auditions begin, Tuesday, Sept. 17 at 7:15 p.m. in Welte Auditorium.0

SGA Briefs

BY KRISTINA VAKHMAN
PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The Student Government Association meets every Wednesday at 3:05 p.m. in Bellin A and B in the Student Center. These briefs are from the SGA's meeting on Sept. 4.

- There will be an academic forum Oct. 21.
- A motion to unfreeze the accounts of the Theatre Unlimited Club and the Japanese Culture Club passed.
- A motion to allocate \$5,063.00 to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers for accommodations and registration for the International Mechanical Engineering Congress and Exposition Conference, a tour fee and registration passed.

New Esports Center Levels Up Opportunities For Gamers & Academics

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1

how courses connected with them and were curricular. As excited as people have been to come and play Smash Bros, they're just as excited to see the development of academic courses, things that they could take."

Outside of just new programs, Toro stated that the center could open up more opportunities for scholarships in the esports focus.

"This is the first step to building something bigger," Toro said. "The potential for attracting donations, donations that will allow us to establish scholarships for students interested in academic programs in this area."

Along with Dell, Central also partnered with cross-platform game engine company Unity 3D. The company gave Central a grant worth 100 licenses of their service. According to Claffey, Unity 3D could allow for classes such a video character design and digital storytelling.

Nicholas Streifel, manager of the esports center says the room has already been drawing interest from multiple different faculty.

"We want to make it so we are using this room around the clock," Streifel said. "Faculty members in other departments are looking at stuff like how does playing video games increase heart rates, putting on heart rate monitors as they play League of Legends. When they're getting mad and raging – what is really happening to the body?"

While Central is hoping the center will become an academic resource, the esports room will feature plenty of gaming.

Currently, CCSU is in the process of creating an intercollegiate team. Aside from the club, Central's esports teams will be taken more seriously and compete in major tournaments. The team is looking to hire coaches and trainers to help facilitate their schedules.

For Streifel, the creation of an intercollegiate esports team shows how

much potential the sport has.

"While esports club would be intramurals, this would be like varsity," Streifel said. "We are treating it just as serious as varsity, we can't call it that yet because of all the legal things and esports isn't there yet. For now there are several organizations we are hoping to join."

Central has already joined the Eastern Athletic College Conference and is looking at potentially affiliating with the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference. Either conference would facilitate Central's esports team to compete higher than the club level.

Despite the start towards hosting an intercollegiate team, Athletics Director Brian Barrio notes that the esports program will not directly correlate with the athletics program. He states that there are no current plans to take esports under the athletics umbrella and states that intercollegiate esports will remain separate.

While esports won't necessarily join the immediate varsity ranks, Barrio still expects the esports program to be a success.

"I think it's going to be a big things, I just think it'll be a big thing that is housed outside of athletics," Barrio said. "I could see that team bringing a lot of pride and visibility to Central the same way our athletics programs do."

Currently CCSU's two main teams focus on Overwatch and League of Legends. The new center could open up the possibility of Central hosting collegiate tournaments of those two games. Toro sees the idea of bringing esports tournaments to campus as a way to increase revenue.

"It's not the top priority, but we think these [tournaments] can serve as a mechanism to bring additional revenue to the university," Toro said. "We are in the final stages of having a rec center, we have spoken about the possibility about having a bigger facility there for things like these, in the future who knows, we will see how things go, but

we know it's at least a billion dollar industry and we think there is a lot of potential for us."

Before plans of academic benefits and varsity esports came about, Toro says she got the idea for the center after seeing a presentation by a former Rutgers graduate. She says that after talking with Claffey and Barrio, they all saw the vision and decided to proceed.

The team divided into six subcommittees deciding how the center would function. After planning and about 70 business days over the summer, the center was built.

While in subcommittees, Claffey says that each group continued to stay in contact with the esports club, gaining their input on the situation.

For Nick Pudlinski, President of the esports club, having Claffey and others reach out to help design the room showed how dedicated CCSU was.

"I was definitely grateful, I've been apart of the club since my freshman year so coming on 3 and a half years, to see the massive amount of interest shown and bringing us to the next level on campus and esports organization, I was ecstatic about it," Pudlinski said. "I am glad they kept asking us for info because we got to give back a lot of good feedback, it was a two-way street, we got them to help us build the room and we helped them to get it right."

Central's esports center cost the university around \$300,000. Through their various sponsorships, Toro says the school received a major discount.

"We did get support from some of our industry partners so we didn't have to pay in some instances," Toro said. "In others we got a big discount."

The President went on to state that she stands by the university's decision and thinks it will be resourceful going forward.

"If you want to be good at something as an institution of higher education, you have to do the best you can. The beauty of this investment is that it has multiple elements and avenues,"

Toro said. "It's not only about certain students and having a facility, it's about academic programs we offer and opening opportunities for faculty and students to do research. If you can accomplish all of those goals with modest investment, that's the way we will roll."

According to Claffey, new Connecticut legislature states that K-12 teachers must look to "gamify" their classrooms. Central's CIO feels that since everything is already digitized, investing in esports is a look to the future.

"It's becoming part of our lives, it's not just preparing people for the video game industry, it's about preparing teachers for how they're going to teach in the future," Claffey said. "This is multidisciplinary and our approach has been multidisciplinary, I think its been a challenge but its been one of our biggest success."

While the center is new, Pudlinski sees how much potential CCSU esports could bring.

"I hope we are the premiere esports college in Connecticut, we're the first with a room like this which is a step in the right direction," Pudlinski said. "Getting official teams up and running that'll have paid coaches and trainers, that'll be a huge thing for the guys on the team, I just really think we're going to be at the forefront of esports in CT."

Central's esports center broke new ground in Connecticut. President Toro is hoping that the center is looked at as both a place of higher learning and a successful esports program.

"Being recognized nationwide not only as a place where we host big tournaments and make money, but as an academic excellence center," Toro said. "A place where we offer very high academic programs that prepare professionals for the industry, at the same time a place that we do research that informs designers that inform the companies in this industry."

@DFAPPIANO14

K-9 Demonstration Gets A 10

BY KRISTINA VAKHMAN
PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

For three-year-old German Shephard Diezel, fetch is finding evidence and playtime is apprehending suspects.

"He loves to do it," Diezel's human partner Middletown Police Department Officer Aura Smith said. "You can see his tail going. He's happy."

Diezel – with a 'z' because "it sounds better," Smith explained – stole the crowd's attention during a K-9 demonstration hosted by Central Connecticut's Criminal Justice Club last Tuesday, flaunting his skills in everything from the preciseness of his nose when he sniffed out one student's randomly-thrown keys to the strength of his teeth by latching on to a bite sleeve.

"We wanted to show people how cool K-9 dogs are in action," senior criminology major Ivan Garcia, the club's president, said.

Diezel's obedience and mastery is the manifestation of Smith's training – and of a passionate love for a yellow rubber ball that he gets as a treat for his work. Bred overseas in Eastern Europe and brought to the United States, he became Smith's partner about two years ago with no training. She taught him all he knows.

"Everything is through me. Everything he gets is through me," Smith said.

"This is fun for him. It's very rewarding for him. He likes to do it. But everything's gotta be on my terms," Smith furthered as Diezel held on to the bite sleeve she'd instructed him to clamp his teeth into. When she ordered him to let go, he gently did as told.

Diezel's track record shows he's good at what he does. In February, he helped capture a stolen car suspect, according to The Middletown Press and WTNH reported that he found two car burglary suspects in May.

"The bread and butter of police K-9 work is tracking. It's finding evidence articles or people," Smith said, adding that Diezel can also locate narcotics and something as small as a shred of clothing. "He won't use his eyes. He'll use his nose."

Diezel and Smith's demonstration left students of mixed majors impressed. Senior Paula Lucarelli, a criminal justice major and a club member, came to see what the job of a K-9 handler entails.

"I just really wanted to see the K-9 and ask questions about what the job is about," she said.

Gaby Bierwirth, a second-year senior in the counseling in higher education graduate program, was happy to finally see one of the "furry companions that are part of the force."

"Seeing how incredibly trained that dog is was absolutely awesome. He had more control than I do," she said.

"I also really loved learning about the training that they go through and the skills that they have, seeing it in action and hearing about the bond that the officer has with her K-9 partner. Plus, I mean, he was super cute," Bierwirth went on.

@KRISDVP



Diezel loves not only his work, but a yellow rubber ball that he works hard for, Officer Aura Smith said. KRISTINA VAKHMAN | STAFF

Central Connecticut Remembers 9/11



Although the events of Sept. 11 took place 18 years ago, it continues to follow people every day.

9/11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM

BY KELLY LANGEVIN
COPY EDITOR

It has been 18 years since America was devastated by terrorist attacks that killed over two thousand people, orchestrated by Osama Bin Laden. A day many Central Connecticut students and faculty haven't forgotten.

"This is a day of remembrance. This is a day to remember those lost, the horrific actions taken and the strength of a country to bounce back," an anonymous active U.S. Navy Central student said.

History Professor Matthew Warshauer teaches a course on the events of Sept. 11 and societal climate following it. Typically, the classroom is filled with students who were just babies when the event occurred.

"To them, 9/11 is truly a historical event but one they instinctively know looms over America," Warshauer said. Because of that, it's both fascinating and important to discuss with students the ways in which their lives have been dramatically shaped by the events of Sept. 11."

"This is a day of reflection of the past but also a day to compare what events are happening today," senior exercise science major Morgan Slossberg said.

Slossberg, who took Warshauer's class noted, "I was 3 years old when 9/11 happened. On this day I feel like it's a reflective and learning experience since I don't remember the event when I was alive."

Slossberg's biggest take away from the class was the slogan, "We will never

forget."

"The attacks irrevocably redirected the 21st century and I try to explain to students why the attacks occurred, the impact it has had and continues to have, as well as the nation's response following the attack," Warshauer explained. "I think my students walk away with a much better understanding of foreign policy and culture."

Marine Core Veteran Owen Cornish who served from 2011- 2016, has a different connection with 9/11. Although Cornish was in the 3rd grade when the attacks occurred, his father had just gotten off the subway right near the Towers getting ready to walk to work when the first plane hit.

"[My father] was completely dumbstruck. He was in that fog of was it

an accident. You didn't even fathom that it was an attack until the second plane hit sort of thing," Cornish said.

Cornish's father, who was in charge of a senior living community nearby, acted right away.

"His mind turned into do we have to evacuate? How am I going to get all these people out of Lower Manhattan and he basically jumped into action, got his employees together to leave and helped move all these people before the towers fell up to Upper Manhattan. And after they fell they went back to the community the next day," Cornish said.

"It makes me feel pretty proud that that is my dad and he had the foresight to do all of that," Cornish said.

The current Army student noted that though he was too young when the event took place he, "will never forget hearing of the everyday heroes that rushed into those buildings to save people. The firefighters, police and all others that made the choice and sacrificed it all. Their selfless service - they are true heroes."

"Terrorism is still worth fighting for. Violence and intimidation to gain political advantages is not freedom," Cornish continued. "No one should have to sit back and let that control their lives. Freedom is for everyone."

The day holds a different meaning for everyone.

"9/11 is arguably the most important event of the new century. It defines America in both good and bad ways," Warshauer said. "It could have brought the world closer together, but because of the Iraq War and the misguided policies of the Bush administration, 9/11 set much of the world on fire."

@KELLYLANGEVIN2

Student Center And Event Management Unite For New System

BY BRUNA VILA ARTIGUES
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

When President Dr. Zulma Toro arrived on Central Connecticut's campus in January 2017, her first mission was to gain feedback from every academic department and support office. Following her listening tour, Toro quickly made the way event management worked as one of her main priorities and wanted to streamline the way event management functioned.

To coordinate an event, people had to go through four different places and organizations: the Student Center, Athletics, the CCSU campus downtown and Event Management. Sometimes, there were others layers added as well, such as Information Technology services or food services, if that was the case.

The various departments or offices were all handling different areas on campus. The Student Center was responsible for events within their building, Memorial Hall and anything being hosted on in the Student Circle. Event Management was responsible for Welte Hall, Torpe Theater and supporting any of the classroom buildings.

"We used to have to submit requests for events or spaces to be booked

through CCSU The Link, which would then go to Event Management for approval but would never officially get approved unless you checked on them relentlessly," Constance Rubitz, the A Cappella Society President said. "Even then, they still wouldn't confirm them sometimes."

"In fact, the former president of the A Capella Society had a meeting with President Toro last spring about their accumulating frustrations, which sparked the change in Event Management to Central Reservations Office (CRO) because of 'how poorly organized the whole process was,'" Rubitz explained.

It was clear for Dr. Toro that the system needed to change in order to be more effective and take advantage of all the facilities the university had.

"Our first goal was to provide a better service to our students and our faculty and staff," Toro shared. "Our secondary goal was to seek other sources of revenue. Renting our facilities, if they are not used, was a way for us to attract additional funding," Toro continued.

After some consideration, Toro decided to appoint a task force on events and spent countless hours talking to people to understand how the operation was functioning and

identifying the areas for improvement.

The report was submitted on December 2018 and included 35 final recommendations.

"The existence of two separate offices (Event Management and Student Center Operations) each with its primary mission related to events planning, causes confusion among clients, both on- and off-campus," the report said.

"The Task Force recommends (a) expansion of the scope and charge of the Student Center to include comprehensive campus-wide events planning; and (b) revising the title from 'Director of the Student Center' to 'Director of University Events and Student Center Operation (subsequently referred to as UESCO)'" recommendation five stated.

Once the executive committee and Toro reviewed all the recommendations and decided what to implement, the new system began to come together. However, it was not until this past summer that the plan was implemented.

Now, they are "working towards a one-stop shop process," Katherine Poirier, Interim Director of the Student Center, said.

Both internal and external clubs, organizations and clients have to only

go to the Central Reservations Office, the main office for event planning at the Student Center.

"The shortest distance between two points is straight line," Poirier said. "We're really trying to work out that process and partner with a number of different areas and try to make it as easy as possible, as well as try to ease the transition."

It has been a lot of different people and facilities working together to make this happen and turn it into a positive experience for everybody. Of course, the process is fairly new and still being tested.

"As in any big change like this, I understand that we continue to refine small details and we will continue to learn and improve," Toro said. "After all, that's what we want: we want to have the best system we can aspire to have and to support the needs of the institution and also the external community," she continued.

"Although the new transition is still being worked out, and there are some within it working very hard," Rubitz said, "The channel of communication between our society and CRO during this new transitional time has been much better than we had previously with Event Management and this, I will admit, is very promising."

@BRUNAVILA

Students Look For On-Campus Employment

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ISABELLA CHAN
NEWS EDITOR

Having low funds and working a full class schedule is a tough boat to keep afloat. With the help of the Career Success Center, Central Connecticut students have the opportunity to find employment on campus. Several of the departments were looking to hire students this upcoming academic year, including the Admissions & Recruitment, Community Engagement, Ruth Boyea Women's Center, Writing Center and more. For more information on-campus employment opportunities please visit the Career Success Center.



On campus, students may work as employees with a variety of offices.



Offices on campus seeking students included Bursar's Office, Women's Center and more.



The event was hosted by the Career Success Center located in the Atrium of Willard - DiLoreto.



The department looks to help students find employment on and off campus.

News In Brief

BY SARAH WILLSON
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Local Missing Mom Case Draws New Evidence:

Fotis Dulos, the estranged husband of the missing mother of five Jennifer Dulos, said he believes Jennifer is still alive despite investigators and new evidence suggesting otherwise.

In his first national interview last week, Dulos said he "did not" have anything to do with his wife disappearance. But according to NBC News, Connecticut Police said last Thursday that they have "uncovered evidence that proves Dulos was 'lying in wait'" at Jennifer's house the day she went missing.

Dulos' girlfriend, Michelle Troconis, also said that Fulos used his car to transport Jennifer's body. Dulos later had his car cleaned and seats replaced, NBC said. Troconis was arrested last week on evidence tampering charges and is no longer supporting Dulos' case.

Dulos was arrested for a second time last Wednesday but was released on a \$500,000 bond and is set to appear in court on Sept. 12.

Devastation From Dorian Grows:

Bahamians are continuing to piece together their lives after Dorian, the a Category 5 hurricane, stuck the country last week leaving at least 45 people dead and 70,000

homeless.

The extent of the damage is so great, the New York Times said, the Bahamian government may not know the exact number of the missing and dead for months to come. There is currently no estimate on how many people are unaccounted for. The New York Times also reported that The Bahamian security forces are still responding to reports of missing and trapped individuals.

Dorian stalled over the Bahamas for 48 hours and made landfall in Nova Scotia as a post-tropical cyclone over the weekend.

'Secret' Taliban Talks Canceled Days Before 9/11 Anniversary:

United States President Donald Trump said he called off peace negotiations with the Taliban just days before the eighteenth anniversary of Sept. 11. The talks, BBC News reported, aimed to end the 18-year war in Afghanistan.

In a tweet, Trump confirmed he had been scheduled to meet with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and senior Taliban leaders, adding that he later canceled the meeting at Camp David.

The Taliban, BBC said, will "lose the most" for canceling.

@SARAHRWILLSON



What are we looking for?

Motivated, creative, passionate, fun people who have an interest in working with kids.

After School Program Positions

The New Britain Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department is seeking staff for after school programs at elementary and middle school sites. After school programs run September 2019 thru May 2020, Monday-Friday, 2:30-6:30pm.

Available positions: Site supervisor, assistant supervisor and group leader positions

Daily responsibilities: planning and facilitating a variety of enrichment and recreational activities, assisting with homework, engagement with students and behavior management.

APPLY TODAY!

Application must include: City of New Britain application, supplemental questions and a letter of recommendation.

Please submit application to the New Britain Parks and Recreation Office, 27 West Main Street, New Britain, CT 06051.

Candidates available all five days are preferred.

For more information call (860) 826-3360 or visit www.nbparksrec.org

New Britain
**PARKS,
RECREATION**
and Community Services Department



EDITORIAL

New Britain's Plastic Bag Ban Is Too Soon

It's been just over a month since the plastic bag tax began to take place across Connecticut. For many, the option to pay the extra 10 cents for these bags is still a difficult adjustment to make. While some places offer reusable bags as an alternative option, in some areas it is the only reliable option to take.

Within a number of municipalities and stores, the ban on plastic bags is already taking place, according to the Hartford Courant. Some of which include Glastonbury, Mansfield, Middletown and our very own New Britain.

Although the new bill states the ban on plastic bags will not be in full effective until 2021, the New Britain Council voted in February 2019 to completely ban the use of plastic bags by August 2019. At this time, other towns and cities began to charge a 10 cents fee for the bags to help eliminate their use.

Although it is an environmentally friendly choice, the decision to ban plastic bags within the city seems to be a bit rash. For starters, many did not know of the bag tax until it was in action, let alone banned in some areas.

Realizing halfway through grocery shopping that the ever-growing reusable bag collection is growing due to one's forgetfulness is quite tedious. Now it is just another bag added to the pile of eco-friendly products not being used.

At least with a plastic bag tax, there is a transitional phase to a complete ban.

In many ways, it is unfair to state that the ban on plastic bags will not be in full effect until 2021 and then ban all plastic bag use in 2019.

Families and other residents everywhere most likely believed that they would have more time to adjust and get into a routine and even perhaps purchase their reusable bags instead of being forced to pay an extra 10 cents for every bag they need when shopping.

Although it may not seem like much, paying for those bags can get expensive when some grocery stores only give the option for paper bags, meaning citizens will have to keep spending to carry their groceries.

If a standard family goes shopping once a week and needs at least 10 bags to carry their groceries, that means spending \$4 a month and \$46 on the year.

This does not include every time anyone runs into a store quickly and does not realize they need to bring their reusable bag in to carry their purchased items out of the store.

Many will not want to go through the hassle of bringing a reusable bag to the store and will think "it's only 10 cents," when asked if they would like to purchase a bag.

Banning plastic bags is environmentally better, but the sudden change to people's lives with no adjustment period could affect many families and other residents like college students all over as they are asked to spend more than necessary on a day to day basis.

Pizza Is Not Worth The Price Of My Political Dignity

BY ISABELLA CHAN
NEWS EDITOR

In Connecticut, it is basically a right of passage to experience New Haven-style pizza; if you haven't done it then I suggest you better get to it soon. But I would strongly advise against eating at Frank Pepe's if you are Anti-Trump.

According to New Haven Register, Gary Bimonte, co-owner of Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana, posted an "online a comment in 2018 thanking President Donald Trump for his policies on American-made steel." Since then, several people have boycotted the world-famous pizzeria and have every right to do so.

I am not one to judge someone based on their political stance. Everyone has their own personal beliefs and have the right to support whomever they choose. But I draw the line when it comes to one supporting Donald Trump, especially during his Presidency.

Though being Pro-Trump it is not a singular characteristic of a person, it becomes quite a glaring one often too difficult to ignore.

For years, Trump has been reported to racially discriminate against Hispanic and Black communities, but during his presidential campaign and term, it has become fairly evident that he does not stand with these cultural groups.

While on his 2016 Presidential Campaign tour in Michigan, Trump ignorantly stated that black voters have



World-Famous Pizzeria Frank Pepe's co-owner is found o be Pro-Trump.

FACEBOOK

nothing to lose by voting for him since "you're living in poverty, your schools are no good, you have no jobs [and] 58% of your youth is unemployed."

Later on that year in Virginia, Trump claimed Mexico allows its worst people to go through immigration. Ignorantly, Trump stated "they're sending people that have lots of problems, and they're bringing those problems with us. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists."

Trump heavily advocated creating a larger wall parallel the U.S.-Mexican border to help protect the United States from the lack of "good people" coming from Mexico. This came as a package deal with his plan to ban all Muslims from entering the country.

For a person with substantial power to promote such negative, generalized-stereotypes of cultural groups

and feed into the bigotry remaining in our American society is disgusting. Our country prides itself on the diversity running through its veins and yet our current "leader" is aiming to destroy that.

In my opinion, anyone who is Pro-Trump, whether from a political standpoint or not, is also supporting the bigoted beliefs and behaviors he essentially stands for. So if boycotting a restaurant due to the co-owners political stance for an unworthy president is wrong then I don't want to be right.

Aside from boycotting Frank Pepe's Pizzeria, people have also boycotted Soul Cycle and Equinox after learning Chairman Stephen Ross is planning to host a luncheon fundraising for Donald Trump's reelection, charging at \$100K per ticket. Famous clients, such as Bill Eichner, Sophia Bush and Chrissy Teigen, have

participated in the boycott and some have even canceled their memberships.

"Just contacted @Equinox to cancel my membership after many years," Eichner tweeted. "Money talks, especially with these monsters. If it's too inconvenient for u to trade one LUXURY GYM for another, then you should be ashamed. (No disrespect to the many wonderful employees at my local Equinox). Bye!"

My soul hurts for the employees of these establishments who may be negatively impacted by the boycotts; they are not to blame for the owner's actions and likely were completely unaware of this information.

But if I am consciously aware of the money I am spending somehow funding the inappropriate, disgusting actions of Trump then I cannot stand behind it. This is not just about political views but ethical, moral values instead.

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We Will Still Yell "In- inde- independència" In Unison



Catalonia continues to fight for the independence and for their people.

GEOISSUES

BY BRUNA VILA ARTIGUES
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Hold it up high, proudly waving it around. I feel like I am touching the sky. Four red stripes on a yellow base, crowned by a blue triangle with a star: my flag. Over one million people are filling the streets of Barcelona, yelling "In- inde- independència" in unison. Sept. 11, about to hit 17:14 p.m.: we are claiming our independence.

9/11 is not a happy day, especially for Americans. The one I am referring to is a bitter sweet feeling among my people. This day, in 1714, meant the loss of Catalonia's freedoms, an autonomous community in Spain. Nowadays, it is a reminder of this painful memory, but it is also an attitude of vindication and active resistance to oppression: the hope for a total national recovery.

Ten years ago, Arenys de Munt, my hometown, became the first town in Catalonia to organize a popular referendum: "Do you agree with Catalonia becoming a State of law, independent, democratic and social, integrated into the European Union? Yes or No?"

After that, over 500 municipalities followed our steps. It was the start of an endless and exhausting battle.

Since 2012, Catalonia's people have massively protested every September 11th, with thousands and millions of people coming together. It is a democratic movement, free of violence and hatred. We want to be able to choose and decide our future and what is best for our region. The independent movement has one the last four elections. Doesn't this say something? Doesn't this give us the right to speak up?

Two years ago, Catalonia celebrated an

actual referendum to decide whether the people wanted Catalonia's independence or not. A referendum that the Spanish government did everything in their power to stop, abolish, and reject.

On Oct. 1 2017, we woke up ready to change our future, but our worst nightmares became reality.

I was here, in the States, unable to go home, so I had to sit tight and watch my people suffer. The Spanish police flooded the streets of Catalonia with a violence, anger and rage that I had never seen before. Tears fell from my eyes. Why is this happening? Why aren't they letting us decide?

Ninety percent of the voters said yes, but that did not matter, the nightmare did not end. Politicians and popular figures had to go into exile and innocent lives ended in prison. It has been two years and they are still gone or in temporary prison. They are being punished for leading the movement of democracy.

Even though we are sad and devastated, today, Sept. 11 of 2019, we want to fight. In fact, we have never stopped fighting, but it has not been fair. We have been mistreated.

People are still going to come out of their homes and show support. I will still follow it through a screen. We will still yell "In- inde- independència" in unison. But our hearts are broken to see all the lives that have been condemned and all the rights that have been prohibited to us. We just wanted to be able to decide and we still do.

@BRUNAVILA

Hurricane Dorian Makes You Think Twice About Life



Disaster strikes the Bahamas and Southern Florida as Hurricane Dorian crashed in with full force.

HELPMEDONATE

BY KELLY LANGEVIN
COPY EDITOR

“The news says for us to get ready for a Category 4 hurricane. We’ll see how the house holds up,” my father texted me. “We might lose the boat and camper.”

The storm never reached where my parents are located in Port Charlotte, Fl. Them and few thousand others got lucky, many did not.

I took the news with a grateful sigh of relief. The hurricane is no longer hitting my parents so all is well, right? Wrong.

Hurricane Dorian slammed Grand Bahama Island as a destructive Category 5 with wind speeds reaching over 185-miles-per-hour and gusts reaching 220 mph, according to Vox.

“Residents in the Abacos should continue to stay in their shelter until conditions subside later today. Hazards include strong wind gusts and storm surge 12 to 18 feet above normal tide levels with higher destructive waves,” the National Hurricane Center tweeted over the weekend.

“These hazards will continue over Grand Bahama Island during most of the day, causing extreme destruction over the island,” the tweet concluded.

Dorian slightly weakened over the Bahamas but for almost 40 hours completely destroyed what was in its path. The storm, it seemed, was hovering over the Bahamas as if it wasn’t ready to let go, moving west at only 1 mph.

We literally can walk faster than that;

the slower the storm moved the more destruction it caused. The islands that have been crashed by horrific chaos have been reported to have 30 deaths as of now and the number is expected to rise.

Images of submerged neighborhoods have flooded my timeline. Houses underwater, no longer housing the families it once held and is now, sadly, useless. People are left with nothing. Officials estimate that it will take billions to rebuild the islands and restore what was lost.

United Nations News reported that about 70,000 people live in Grand Bahama and Abaco Island and around 62,000 people will need extensive assistance including accessible drinking water and 60,000 people will need food.

“Hopefully it misses. Just track it

every day,” I had replied back to my father. “Yeah that would be nice,” he replied.

It did. And part of me feels guilty for thinking in my head that I no longer needed to pay attention to the storm. Just because it wasn’t impacting my family anymore means it over right? Wrong.

Finally steering away from the Bahamas, the storm now a Category 1, made landfall over Cape Hatteras, North Carolina and came with dangerous winds and flash floodings. Videos of floods in North Carolina washing away the streets of peoples lives makes my heart ache.

As the storm weakens, it is reported by the National Hurricane Center that parts of Eastern Canada can even be impacted.

“So what do you know? Is the storm coming to you guys or not? Do you know when? I asked my stepmom.

“We don’t know much. The news keeps saying they are unsure but we think it is turning north. Hoping for the best. Talk to you later,” she responded.

This wasn’t the case for some families in the Bahamas; this may not be the case for some people in North Carolina. Families have been torn apart and people are missing.

My sigh of relief that I felt when I heard my parents would be okay is something I would never want to take back. I urge people to take a step back and look outside to their roads, homes, food and water on their plates and realize how lucky they are.

Don’t sit back with just a sigh of relief.

Donations can be made to The American Red Cross, The Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity and many more.

@KELLYLANGEVIN2

What If Fake News Were A Good Idea?

BY BRUNA VILA ARTIGUES
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Did you know that a woman once swallowed watermelon seeds and an actual watermelon started growing inside her stomach? Probably not, because it is not true. However, my grandma believed it and told me all about it. My 12-year-old self was super amazed and surprised with the news and went straight to my parents.

“Bruna, you know this is fake,” they said. I was upset, and I still am to this day.

Fake news has been circulating since the early 19th century. It was deliberate on intentionally sending misinformation, with a lot of sensationalism and fiction. In 1835, The New York Sun published six articles called “The Great Moon Hoax” claiming there was civilization on the moon: from oceans, rivers and forests, to biped castors, winged humanoids and unicorns.

Obviously, the circulation of the newspaper increased. I mean, why wouldn’t it? Just because it is not true?

Nowadays, fake news is everywhere, especially on social media. Facebook is a professional fake news machine. The list goes on and on and on.

“Donald Trump Ends School Shootings By Banning Schools,” “Two Altar Boys Were Arrested For Putting Weed In The Censer-burner,” “Woman Sues Samsung For \$1.8M After Cellphone Gets Stuck Inside Her Vagina.”

In a sense, I understand why people use fake news. Although I am involved in the journalism world, sometimes I too get lazy about reading certain articles. I have to admit, there are occasions when I only read the title and pretend I have gone through it all. At times, they are not appealing enough at first sight. The worst part, though, is that I tend to feel good with myself afterwards thinking, “Great job Bruna, you have checked the news



Fake news plagues headlines across the country constantly.

GCF GLOBAL

today!”

Now, imagine that instead of ‘New Year, New Parking System For CCSU’ (yes, that is the boring headline of one of my stories for the last issue) it said ‘Aliens Abduct A New Britain Girl During Her Lunch Break.’

I can assure you the whole school reads the story or at least the beginning, until they realize it has nothing to do with aliens. Isn’t that a pretty good idea?

We do not have to actually report fake news; there have already been enough of those throughout the last couple of centuries.

We can just twist some words and avoid the whole truth in the title just to get more circulation and viewers. The world and the news are already so sad that a little spark will not hurt.

Headlines read: “Dr. Toro Cancels School For The Rest Of The Year!”

Wouldn’t we all love to see that?

Leaving the jokes aside, journalism has lost its credibility due to all this fake news. It is so hard to tell what is true from what is not, nowadays. People are bombarded with information 24/7: on social media, walking around campus, taking the bus, watching TV.

We are so over informed that we end up knowing nothing. Fake news are actually hurting society.

Maybe we all need to do our part by reading and checking reliable sources, instead of going for what catches our eye first.

I have to say, though, the idea of starting a newspaper with false headlines is very appealing to me...

@BRUNAVILA

Look Out Kizer, Here Comes The Apple Juice

BY JULIA CONANT
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Central Connecticut's official mascot may be Kizer the Blue Devil, but a small bottle of Mott's Apple Juice may be working to take that spot for itself.

In late March, an Instagram account called "@where_the_juice_at" surfaced. It features pictures of an apple juice bottle in various locations around campus. Some of these locations include Ebenezer Bassett Hall, outside the Student Center and Kaiser Hall. The first picture posted on the account features the apple juice outside Davidson Hall with the caption "Time to start my adventure at CCSU."

All of the captions of the photos are written from the perspective of the apple juice. One caption back in April read, "Hope y'all had fun waking up early for classes today! I didn't have to because I'm apple juice and CCSU doesn't offer classes for apple juice."

Funnily enough, the account started simply because a student was testing out their phone's camera.

"I was playing around with the different camera modes on my phone and took some pictures of the bottle of apple juice I was drinking," one of the owners of the Instagram account said. "Some of the pictures came out really nice and kind of resembled a portrait type shot. The angle of the pictures really made it feel like the juice was personified and that's when I thought it might be fun to make an Instagram account centered around a bottle of Mott's apple juice going on adventures."

The tone of the account is always lighthearted and sometimes humorous. For April Fools Day, the apple juice bottle was filled with orange juice. In August, a photo of the apple juice next to a container of blueberries was uploaded with the caption, "Found my cousins."

Currently, the account sits at just over 100 followers. But it was never important to the owners of the account how many followers they got. They mainly keep up with the account because it's fun and makes people laugh.

"I was never really concerned with how many followers the account got," a co-owner responded. "It



The CCSU apple juice took a trip up to Kaiser Hall back in March.

INSTAGRAM: @WHERE_THE_JUICE_AT

was just something fun and silly to do. However, it is really cool to see that so many people appreciate the account."

Despite being the self proclaimed "CCSU apple juice," the tiny bottle of Mott's has travelled far away from Central. Over summer break, the juice travelled to California and Montreal. The apple juice even made an appearance at ConnectiCon dressed as Superman, a Percy Jackson character and Spider-Man.

And despite the large following, the co-owners of the

account have managed to keep their identities a secret. For all we know, the owners of the account could be in the same classes as us.

"Currently we are not interested in revealing our faces," the owners of the account said. "We think that staying anonymous gives the juice it's own personality. Right now it's the juice talking. If we revealed who we are then it would be us talking and take away the fun."

To keep up with the apple juice's adventures, be sure to follow "@where_the_juice_at" on Instagram.

@JULIACONANT@MY.CCSU.EDU

Forever 21 Might Not Be Forever

BY NATALIE DEST
MANAGING EDITOR

Teens around the globe may be left without one of today's most staple clothing stores. Clothing empire Forever 21 is preparing for potential bankruptcy, according to numerous published reports this past August.

Launching from a single storefront in Highland Park, the Los Angeles-based store has more than 800 branches in 57 countries. In spite of the success of this franchise, the news of possible bankruptcy came about after the company was unable to "reach a deal to restructure around \$500 million in debt," according to LA Magazine.

This bankruptcy status could give the brand an opportunity to cut costs and pay off debt to creditors in an attempt to stay afloat. Or, of course, the whole franchise could fall apart.

According to Forbes, last week, Forever 21 brought in a team of advisors to help restructure the debt and re-evaluate its 800 store portfolio of stores in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Japan, Korea and the Philippines. The company also held campaigns in early August to raise additional financing. However, negotiations with potential lenders have failed. As these options fade, filing for bankruptcy is looking more and more likely.

Earlier this summer, popular clothing brand Topshop closed all its U.S. stores after going through a bankruptcy procedure themselves. According to Business Insider in May, "many of the problems that faced Topshop were remarkably similar to the pressures now hitting Forever 21." Among the



Highly popular teen clothing Forever 21 is facing possible bankruptcy, with the possible closure of all 800 stores worldwide.

RAYSONHO | WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

concerns, there is a significant rise in competition from newer brands, the decline of in-store retail sales, and the high cost of rent for storefront real estate.

Many retailers have run into trouble due to being bought out by private equity firms. However, Forever 21 is still owned by its founders, Do and Jin Sook Chang. Husband and wife business partners who immigrated from South Korea in 1981 and started their chain three years later with a single 900 square-foot store in LA and only \$11,000 in their savings. Forbes has listed the couple as having "a net worth of \$1.5 billion, and the privately-held company itself as having annual sales of \$3.4 billion

and 30,000 employees."

Although, Forever 21 has a significant online presence, National Real Estate Investor estimates that the 35-year-old company's average store was once bringing in around \$135 to \$165 in sales-per-square-foot, that number now has likely dropped closer to \$100.

As of September 4, more scandal came the company's way when reports of Ariana Grande suing the clothing chain for using a look-alike model to impersonate her in a new ad campaign came about. The singer filed the lawsuit in "a federal court in California on Monday, Sept. 2. Grande claims the company falsely made it look like she was backing the brand by using imagery from her "Thank U, Next" album and hiring a model that looked just like her to recreate scenes from her "7 rings" music video, according to CBS.

Grande's lawsuit states that Forever 21 continuously ran the campaign on their website and social media. An ad posted on Feb. 8, which is still active on the company's Facebook page, shows a clothing collection promoted with a slogan that plays off the lyrics from "7 rings," without the singer's endorsement.

CBS stated that "Grande and the rest of her team are seeking at least \$10 million in damages for copyright and trademark infringement, false endorsement, and violating her right of publicity." If the company's head wasn't underwater before, it sure is now, having to add an additional \$10 million to their debt if Grande is to win her case.

@NAT_DEST

Central's Art Gallery Begins The Semester With 'Drip Drop Tick Tock'



Joe Fucigna's 2006 piece entitled "Excitable Boy," made with plastic and metal fencing

JULIA CONANT | STAFF

BY JULIA CONANT
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

When most people think of art materials, they think of paint or clay. But what about fencing and cable ties?

An opening reception was held for artist Joe Fucigna's, "Drip Drop Tick Tock" exhibit last Thursday, Sept. 5. "Drip Drop Tick Tock" featured both 2D and 3D abstract pieces, all created by Fucigna.

"I have solely been an abstract artist," Fucigna said. "When I was younger I was never really confident about my ability to draw things realistically. It didn't interest me, because maybe I felt a little, you know, not as confident. I would make things up and so

abstraction has always been my work."

The sculpture pieces that were featured in the exhibit were mostly made from plastic and metal fencing. Fucigna explained how he first began using this material during the reception.

"I live out in the woods," Fucigna started. "I had black deer net fencing and I was putting it around my plants. I was like, 'This is a cool material' and I had cable ties in my mind too. I started working with it, went to Home Depot to get some fencing, then thank goodness for the internet, I found some different types of netting there, tons of stuff. And I just started to play with the material."

Fucigna described most of his 3D pieces as being "muscle-y" and "bloppy." He cited artist Phillip Gustonas an influence for this design. Fucigna started focusing on bloppy and drippy work after playing with some putty.

"My wife came home with hand therapy putty, which is silicon, which is also silly putty," Fucigna said. "We all know silly putty. Who's not fascinated by silly putty? When you buy some, the first thing you do is stick it on the wall, and it starts to drip and you kinda go, 'Wow, that's cool.'"

Fucigna drew and painted 2D work inspired by the dripping putty, then moved onto sculptures.

Although Fucigna uses hard material, his pieces do not appear rigid. Rather, they look soft or fluid. Art critic Richard Klein commented on this idea.

"Fucigna's forms are so strong and unexpected that the original identity of the materials is easily forgotten," Klein stated.

Despite Klein saying the identity of the piece is forgotten, Fucigna explained that he doesn't hide any part of the sculpture material. For example, he never paints the fencing he uses in his sculptures. If the fencing is colored, it's because he bought it that way.

"The honesty of the material is very important to me," Fucigna said. "I like to show everything. For example, the cable ties. You can see how they are all

attached. Nothing is hidden."

Fucigna said that most of his work is based on "aha" moments, where he has a creative realization about something.

"You get these 'aha' moments every once in a while. And when you get that 'aha' moment, enjoy it okay? Because it does not come that often. But to understand that 'aha' moment you got to learn how to trust your instincts. To learn how to trust your instincts, you got to work at your craft a lot, to trust it when it comes," Fucigna said.

Fucigna's work will be on display from now until Oct. 3 in the Central Art Gallery, located on the second floor of Maloney Hall. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 1 to 4 p.m. Admission to the gallery is free.

@JULIACONANT@MY.CCSU.EDU



Joe Fucigna's 2004 piece entitled "High Five," made with plastic and metal fencing.

JULIA CONANT | STAFF

OPINION

'The Boys': The World's Worst Heroes

BY SAMUEL PAPPAS
STAFF WRITER

If you're like me and own an Amazon Prime account then you may have noticed that you can watch various T.V. shows at a click of a button.

One of the shows that rose to the top of the queue, distinguishing itself from the 6.5/10 anime and the HBO documentaries from the 90's, was "The Boys."

A gritty take on a superhuman society, "The Boys" exists in a world where the few humans gifted by superpowers defend the masses and battle crime. However, not everything is sunshine and rainbows.

The Heroes are aggressively marketed and monetized, corruption is widespread and those with powers can get away with anything they want, as long as they smile for the cameras and maintain a good public image.

Hughie Campbell, a mild-mannered twenty-something year old, life spirals out of control when his girlfriend is accidentally killed by a superhero taking an uncontrollable performance enhancing drug. Shortly thereafter, Campbell has a chance encounter with a mysterious thug claiming to work for the FBI named Butch and after some coaxing, decides to go after his girlfriend's killer and destroy the system with reckless abandon for laws of morality.

It's dark and twisted beyond any gag from a "Deadpool" film, it is an intriguing and likable story with a tight group of densely written characters and it's eight episodes long with no moments wasted.

"The Boys" isn't without it's share of annoyances. It has the same problem every American drama has; no one ever explains anything to each other. It makes sense for our group of crooks to be secretive about their activities, but on more than one occasion, Butch (the leader) will straight up disappear to pursue a lead towards a mutually beneficial goal, without informing his comrades. Butch gets in his own way by not letting his teammates in on



The "Boys" standing side by side with their comic counterpart.

DARICK ROBINSON

useful information.

On it's own, this wouldn't be that bad of a problem, but an early episode has Butch give a comically cheesy and moderately self-aware speech about teamwork while he compares his teammates to The Spice Girls. The "Lone Wolf" attitude Butch keeps up after that scene kind of clashes with the internal logic of the series.

"The Boys" is also an adaptation of a comic book from 2006, so it runs into the problems that plague every superhero film; everything is different. I haven't read more than a few pages of the comic, but you can expect that Amazon made mass-marketing decisions to fit the story into a screenplay. However, it makes sense that the story would be different in 2019.

Being a celebrity nowadays is different than it was in 2006. With the constant presence of social media, anyone with a verified Twitter account has a permanent mark on their back. Keeping up your reputation as a superhero is more threatening than any villain could ever hope to be,

and this show knows that.

It's kind of hard to get a read on the motivations of any character in a particular scene. Campbell and company are straightforward and likable, but the antagonists have a serious case of cognitive dissonance. I don't want to spoil too much, but it's hard to make a morally-grey character sympathetic when they will throw away their relationships for the tiniest advantage.

Maybe the show is trying to show us that these characters are hypocrites (which they are), but it's still incomprehensible in it's current state. Maybe the comic did it better since it wasn't crammed into an eight-hour run time.

Despite it's flaws, I found myself absorbed by "The Boys," and as a man whose entertainment mostly comes from obscure indie games, arthouse films, and 6.5/10 anime, this show managed to get my attention and hold it all the way through.

C.A.N. Allows Students To Get ‘Bad And Bubbly’

BY JULIA CONANT
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Green stained clothes, glow in the dark goodies and bubbles galore. Central students took to Vance lawn for a night of fun and foam.

Last Thursday, C.A.N. hosted a “Bad and Bubbly Foam Party.” The event featured several bubble and foam themed activities to keep students occupied from 7 to 10 p.m.

C.A.N. member Katie Klinck suggested the idea for the event. She asked a friend at another university what events they put on to get students involved and her friend suggested a foam party. Based on the huge turnout of the “Bad and Bubbly Foam Party,” the idea was a success.

Students all over campus could tell there was an event going on; the blaring music from the DJ could be heard from the Student Center Circle. The sun also happened to be setting as soon as the event started, which meant students got to look up at the pink sky as they began getting bad and bubbly.

Right as students signed into the event with Corq, they were handed a glow stick bracelet. If you followed C.A.N. on Instagram, you could get a white t-shirt with the club’s new logo on it.

The biggest attraction was the foam pit. Foam continuously dispersed from the top of the pit while glow in the dark fluid coated the bottom. Students played keep-it-up with beach balls, tackled each other and fought with light-up styrofoam pipes while coated in foam. By the end of the night, it was obvious



The unicorn photo opportunity was a huge hit at Thursday’s “Bad and Bubbly Foam Party”

JULIA CONANT | STAFF



Students take pictures of each other covered in foam.

JULIA CONANT | STAFF

which students went into the foam pit; their shirts were spattered with light green glowing fluid. But no worries, the dye comes right out of clothes when washed with laundry detergent.

Next to the foam pit was a slip and slide, so students could rinse off after getting all bubbly. Some students had their friends film them while they ran and slid, getting drenched in the process.

On the other end of the lawn was a DIY station where students could decorate a mason jar and pour bubble solution in it. Butterfly, star and letter stickers were available for students to stick on their jar. Bubble wands were also provided so that students could blow their own bubbles at home.

If students wanted to commemorate the night, they could get their photo taken in a unicorn inflatable with a C.A.N. backdrop behind them. A bubble machine was set up so that bubbles littered the photos, truly capturing the theme of the evening.

With so much excitement going on, some students sought out a place to sit down and relax. Cabanas closed off by white curtains were placed at the end of the lawn, away from all of the commotion. Students could sit on the couches and talk amongst themselves until they were ready to head back to the party and become bubbly all over again.

At the end of the night, students walked away barefoot, wet and covered in foam, holding their shoes as to not accidentally dye them. Based on the positive response from students, another event like “Bad and Bubbly” should be expected of C.A.N. next semester.

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Fall Fun At The Karabin Farms



Karabin Farms is home to many farm animals, including goats.

MELODY RIVERA | STAFF

BY MELODY RIVERA
STAFF WRITER

The season of autumn is near and Karabin Farms has already prepared for it.

Saturday, Aug. 31 was the day apple picking season began at the farm. Karabin Farms is known to be Connecticut’s most diverse family farm and is located on 894 Andrews St. in Southington, CT. The farm will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Dec. 23 to prepare for the winter season, according to their website.

Apple picking is one of Karabin Farms’ biggest attractions and it will be available throughout the months of September and October. There are two kinds of bags that are provided to carry apples in that you can purchase in the farm’s store. The peck bag carries up to 12 pounds

and it costs \$18 per bag. The one-half bushel bag carries from a range of 20-25 pounds and it costs \$28 per bag.

When it comes to apple picking, the bags will be the only items that customers would have to pay for. Everything else is free, including a wagon ride from the farm to the apple orchards on Saturdays and Sundays from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A Karabin Farms employee drives a green tractor with a wooden wagon attached to it that is decorated with a red canopy through the forest area. While on the wagon ride, there are many sights for visitors to see. From the growing evergreen trees that could be cut down in time for Christmas to an overview of the mountains to the apple orchard itself, there are many things that can be discovered, including the possibility of finding deer and turkeys. When the ride is over, another Karabin Farms

employee welcomes the visitors to the orchard and tells them which kind of apples are available for picking.

One of the first things that can be seen after walking down the steps of the wagon is a sign that directs visitors to the orchard. The very first step is to twist the apple three times. The second step is to lift the apple so the bottom faces the sky. The third step is to gently pull the apple from the fruiting spur. The final step is to carefully place the apple into your picking bag.

The orchard is organized into many long rows for apple trees and is surrounded by a large fence to keep them safe. Each row has a box in front of it which shows the name of the apples in the particular row and a picture to show what the type of apple looks like. As of now, three rows are available for picking and they contain Zestar, Ginger Gold and Mac apples. The other kinds of apples are Honey Crisp, Cortland, Empire, Macoun, Jonathan, Gala, Yellow Delicious, Red Delicious, Autumn Gala, Cameo, Mutsu, Snow Sweet, Rome and Northern Spy. They should be available for picking over the course of September and October. Once the wagon has arrived, visitors must board with their bags of freshly picked apples to get back to the farm.

While visitors are waiting for the wagon to pick them up for apple picking, they can explore other aspects the farm has to offer. Karabin Farms has a store that contains organic foods, drinks, syrups, preservatives, etc. The store has plenty of apple and pumpkin products that are available for the fall season. There are also other stands where customers can buy apple donuts and drink apple cider as well as other snacks. Karabin Farms also has a bunch of farm animals such as chickens, goats, horses, yak, pigs and geese that visitors can watch.

As Karabin Farms has officially begun to prepare for the season of autumn and has recently started their tradition of apple picking, they are also getting ready to begin another attraction that their farm is known for. Pumpkin Harvest is estimated to be available around September 14 and will have a bunch of pumpkins ready to take until Halloween.

A Hypnotizing ‘Devils Den @10’

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JULIA CONANT
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Looking for a fun way to spend a late night at Central? How about watching a bunch of your peers unknowingly make a fool of themselves.

Last Thursday’s “Devils Den @ 10” event brought hypnotist Doug Thompson to campus for a humorous show that had the crowd constantly clapping and laughing.

To see who was capable of being hypnotized, Thompson first conducted a test for the whole audience. He had everyone clasp their hands together, stick their pointer fingers out and hold them an inch apart. Then he said to imagine a magnet pulling the two fingers closer together. If your fingers actually got closer and touched, you were supposedly able to be hypnotized.

After this exercise Thompson asked for volunteers. A handful of willing students ran on stage. Thompson asked the crowd for complete silence as he prepared the students to be hypnotized. He told the volunteers on stage to relax and to only pay attention to the sound of his voice.

Once the process was over, Thompson messed with the students a bit. He made some think they were the best river dancers in the world, some thought they were in a band and he made one student think their name was Jojo. Every time Thompson referred to “Jojo” as a different name, “Jojo” became furious and corrected him, yelling that his name was Jojo.

Thompson also made the students believe a monkey was on stage with them. He told them the monkey might have fleas and lice, throwing a stuffed monkey directly at some students. They flipped out and got as far away from the monkey as they could. Then Thompson told the students that the monkey got run over.

All of them were visibly upset, and one girl dropped to her knees crying.

To lighten the mood, Thompson said the students were part of a dance contest

that Christopher Walken would be judging. The crowd cheered as the students on stage showed off their dance moves. “Walken” (Thompson doing an impression of Walken) didn’t end up saying who won the contest because all of the students got a call on their “cell phones” (shoes). The students all took their shoes off and held them to the sides of their faces.

The show ended with the students all taking a shoe selfie together. As “Jojo” took the photo, the students simultaneously said, “I pooped my pants!”

Regardless of whether the audience believed in hypnotism or not, most of them left the show giggling and recounting their favorite moments. Thompson also made the students believe a monkey was on stage with them. He told them the monkey might have fleas and lice, throwing a stuffed monkey directly at some students. They flipped out and got as far away from the monkey as they could.

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JULIACONANT@MY.CCSU.EDU



The hypnotized students fight to impress “Christopher Walken” in a dance contest.



A hypnotized student mourns the loss of an imaginary monkey.



“Jojo” becomes angry with Thompson for not referring to him as Jojo.



All of the students believed their shoe was a cell phone.

Fantasize Smartly

BY SHWAR ZAIDI
STAFF WRITER

We are all guilty of it. Sometimes you catch yourself daydreaming in the middle of class and then miss half of what the teacher was saying. Sometimes you listen to a song and feel like you are in a movie. Other times you meet new people and you invent a world where you create the person’s personality and make up what they say or do. There is nothing wrong with fantasizing. However, sometimes we all cross a line and we begin to obsess over the ideas we create in our heads. So we need a reality check.

Understand why you are thinking about it.

There are reasons for everything. Whatever it is, you should understand why you are thinking about it and what’s the underlying cause. If you are always thinking about making a healthy friendship, then maybe you are not satisfied with your current friend group. If you are thinking about someone crushing on you then perhaps you are longing for a relationship or someone to admire you. Once you recognize the reason why you are overthinking, it becomes much easier to stop thinking so much.

Understand that those thoughts are because you want something and it’s okay.

You do not need to feel ashamed of whatever you are fantasizing. Remember, we all are guilty of it. You don’t need to stop daydreaming about what you want to do. Fantasizing is normal, if you try to stop, you might as well stop watching movies and stop listening to music. Repressing your feelings and thoughts is only going to hurt you; beating yourself up will not get you anywhere. Learn to accept that the reason you are fantasizing is that you are human and have needs and desires that you fulfill in your mind.

Understand that reality is different.

Often, people mistake their fantasy world for reality. When you mix those two up, you will put your emotions into a dangerous field. You need to be aware of the difference between your fantasy and reality. Your fantasy is something you create in your head. Just because someone in your head is your best friend doesn’t mean in reality they will respond the same way in real life. You think you got an A on that test in your fantasy but failed it in real life. The

world is not controllable, but if you acknowledge the difference, you will feel less pressure and disappointment.

Understand that you shouldn’t obsess.

Excess of anything is terrible. If you are fantasizing every minute of your life, such as zoning out in your class or friend’s conversation, then maybe take a step back. Understand you may be crossing a line. If you daydream a little too much and start living in your fantasy, it could be hazardous. Acknowledgement is one way that can help you stop. When you acknowledge why you are obsessing over a particular fantasy, it means you want it sincerely, and you should give it a try and pay attention in real life. Sometimes, people want to live in their fantasy because they like the control that reality lacks, but you have to tell yourself you can’t live in a world based in your head. That maybe reality has something better to offer. You may or may not have your fantasy come true, but if you stick to it, you will start losing interest on what life has to offer and may miss out on opportunities.

If you want it, you can make it happen.

Who says your fantasy must be a fantasy? If you like someone and are thinking about them, why don’t you have a chat with him/her and get to know him/her? If you want a good grade in a particular class, then work hard and get that good grade. If you want to become a famous singer, then go audition. Usually, we want to stay in our fantasy because we fear rejection of reality. Yes, rejection is possible, but there is also a chance that your dreams can come true, and you will never know until you get a reality check and start making progress.

But know not everything can become real.

If you are fantasizing about flying up in the sky, don’t try to do that. Sometimes we must accept certain things are just your thoughts and nothing more. If you keep fantasizing about a person who keeps rejecting you or is emotionally unavailable, it’s okay to let it go. Understand that sometimes something better will happen, and that fantasy is only hurting you, giving your false hopes and disappointing yourself. Sometimes, you have to let go of the toxic thoughts. Once you understand that you can do better, that fantasy will disappear. But it’s okay to give yourself time to heal.

OPINION

The 1975's Debut Still Holds Up



The 1975's debut album is still worth a listen six years later.

CLASH MAGAZINE

BY CAROLYN MARTIN
ASSISTANT ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
EDITOR

I cannot believe this album is six years old now. I got into The 1975's discography backwards, starting with their second album first rather than this one. However, this was the sound track to my life near the end of my sophomore year in high school. I don't remember a time when a song off it wasn't in heavy rotation.

"The 1975": This gets you prepared for what's to come. It lets you know something big is about to start and you should be there and listen.

"The City": This song is almost as iconic as the band itself. What's amazing about this song is it sounds different driving at night verses listening to it in your room in the afternoon.

"M.O.N.E.Y.": One of my three favorite songs off the album. It just sounds so different from anything really anyone has released before. I think that's what really drew me in.

"Chocolate": A classic. Even if you don't normally listen to the 1975 there's a good chance you've heard this song. Now while I wasn't a fan in 2013 when this came out this song has the capability of taking me back to the time when they were just starting out.

"Sex": It's a pretty good song. It will definitely get you moving. The beat is infectious. My favorite part is the very end. The beat of the song changes slightly and I can't help but want to jump around.

"Talk!": The song starts off with the "why you talk so loud" and I've definitely wanted to ask certain people that question. This is a song I've listened to when I was

going through a rough patch but also just because it's a good song. The ending is probably my favorite part because all the vocals overlap each other and it sounds so cool.

"An Encounter": Honestly, I don't play this track. It's just an instrumental, and while it adds to the album as a whole I'm not going to pick it over another song (that has lyrics).

"Heart Out": I'm not sure why but I always have felt that "Heart Out" and "Settle Down" are supposed to be placed next to each other; if you play "Heart Out" you need to play "Settle Down" next. I don't know why, but I've always found that the two tracks are similar or connected in some way.

"Settle Down": This is such a fun and upbeat song. I love it. This track gets a fair amount of play and whether I'm in

my room or in my car, I'll be singing and dancing to it.

"Robbers": This song, according to Matty Healy (singer, guitar) is for the fans and always will be. It was dedicated to us every night of their recent tour. This song means so much to many of their fans. Now I don't personally have a deep connection with this song, but I do enjoy it and recommend to listen to it if you haven't.

"Girls": One of my favorite songs off the album. I am so sad they have stopped playing it live because that means I will never hear it live. But this is definitely a song that I play often and will continue to do so for eternity.

"12": Another instrumental track. While these tracks do so well live as transitions this again isn't a song I choose to play.

"She Way Out": This song is a BOP. I was lucky enough to hear this live when I saw them back in May and I have been grateful ever since. It has always been a favorite of mine and I recommend checking it out if you haven't.

"Menswear": Honestly this song is so underrated. I'm guilty of not playing it enough. It just came on shuffle the other day so now I'm going to make sure it gets the rotation it deserves.

"Pressure": I need to play this one more. I don't tend to choose it often, but I'm always happy to hear it when it comes on shuffle.

"Is There Somebody Who Can Watch You": The most heartfelt/heart wrenching song off the album. It's somber tone is probably why I don't play it that often. But it is still a lovely song.

This album put The 1975 on the map and caused this album, as well as their other releases to be the soundtracks to our lives.

@CAROLYNNMARTIN

Word Search: September 11

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

Word List

1. KARABIN
2. BUBBLY
3. JUICE
4. HYPNOTIST
5. FUCIGNA
6. BRAWNER
7. ATKINSON
8. PATRIOTS
9. TYSHAUN
10. PINCINCE
11. ESPORTS
12. REIS
13. ANGEL
14. TRAINING
15. DOLEGALA

Atkinson Exemplifies Women's Soccer's Standard

BY RYAN JONES
SPORTS EDITOR

If you follow a Central Connecticut women's soccer game closely, you just might be able to spot Tess Atkinson. That's not to say the junior forward doesn't get much playing time, on the contrary she's been an integral part of the Blue Devils' squad this year. Atkinson can be easily missed by the untrained eye because she's never in the same spot for long. Constantly darting up and down the field, Atkinson shuts down and aggravates opposing players with her hustle better than anyone on the pitch.

It comes as no surprise that Atkinson finds ease in out-hustling the other players on the pitch, she's got some motivation for it. At all of her games on CCSU's Soccer Field, she's got a big crowd cheering behind her, but also has some extra support from home.

Coming out of Berlin, Connecticut, Atkinson explained how "my parents come, my friends come, so the little mix of both on top of all the support we get here, that's the best part of playing here at Central."

She's got family in the stands, but the most important thing to Atkinson is her family on the field. As a junior, she finds having a close bond off the field with her teammates is the most beneficial aspect to their play on it, especially for the younger players.

"We always do things like go out to get ice cream together, just always hanging out as a team," Atkinson explains. "That's so important when you're on the field, that team chemistry. Taking those young ones under our wings, making them feel welcome is another very important part of our responsibility."



Now a junior, Tess Atkinson (above) is one of the leaders on CCSU women's soccer.

CCSU ATHLETICS

But bonding isn't the only way Atkinson is teaching the young Blue Devils. While it doesn't always show up in the scoresheet, the midfielder's unwavering effort is something she looks to pass on to her teammates.

"With our team, one of our main lessons that we try to show each other is hard work," Atkinson said. "We show hard work, dedication and practice on the field and in the classroom. That's such an important virtue for us upperclassmen to teach the younger players coming in. Showing it on the field is the most important thing you can do. You give 110% when you come off you, feel better

about yourself and the work of your team."

The rewards from Atkinson's hard work and dedication are exemplified in the Blue Devils' success on the field, with no better example than last season. Losing only two games throughout the year, CCSU steamrolled their competition en route to the program's ninth Northeast Conference Championship.

She already has a NEC Championship under her belt, but the junior is as hungry as ever for more. On her goals for the season, Atkinson details the obvious while preaching the essentials.

"Obviously we want another ring,

but it doesn't come without the hard work that we're talking about," Atkinson said. "I think there's still things we need to work on, but what team couldn't improve? If we just keep the hard work and determination, we can win it again this year."

For the Connecticut native and the rest of the Blue Devils alike, the chance to put that hard work to the test is now. With only one game remaining before the ever-important conference play, the Blue Devils will soon be getting another shot at a perfect NEC season.

@RYANJONES385

Pincince Plays Pivotal Role For Volleyball

BY RYAN JONES
SPORTS EDITOR

The role of a walk on freshman is rarely anything of. On an already deep team like Central Connecticut volleyball, it can be hard to separate from the pack of likewise talented athletes. In her short time at CCSU, Molly Pincince has been able to do just that and has quickly found her niche on the Blue Devils' squad.

Before the season was even underway, head coach Linda Sagnelli was quick to praise the development of the four freshman on the roster. After not having any rookies on the team last year, Sagnelli admired how the newcomers, "got thrown right into the mix and just started at the pace that we were already at."

And the results for them have been worthy of Sagnelli's praise so far, with

Pincince being no exception.

"[Pincince] just goes back there and has nerves of steel, you don't often see that in a freshman," Sagnelli said. "She has that role on our team, a really critical role of the serving specialist on that second unit."

Pincince secured that role largely in part due to her impressive play at this past weekend's UConn Challenge Tournament.

In Friday's game against Iona, Pincince came into a tie game with the Gaels. She served on five consecutive plays for the Blue Devils and played a huge role in 9-1 run. This run helped secure the set victory for CCSU and ultimately the match.

It was clear just how important her role would be in the team's following game. In the second set of Saturday's match against UConn, Pincince came into serve late, more specifically for

match point, as the Blue Devils led 24-21. While this is still out of conference play, getting put into that big of a role in the second weekend of tournaments shows Pincince's potential.

Still humble despite her good play so far, Pincince explained that it feels good to have a role like that on the team, but made sure to add that, "I also know that everybody plays a role just like that whether they're on the court or not, everyday at practice."

The comradery of the Blue Devils is what initially brought Pincince to Central Connecticut, something she still sees today.

"It really just felt like a family," Pincince said. "It felt like a home."

While the added competition a team with depth brings to one another, Pincince is quick point out the positives to such a talented group.

"It's really special," Pincince said. "We're a very deep team and it's really cool to know that if someone is having a not so great day, someone else can go in."

Sagnelli had high praise for Pincince and her fellow rookies following the UConn Challenge, explaining how "the new players have folded right into our offense and our system so well. It seems effortlessly."

The freshman likewise accredited Sagnelli for her development on the team.

"They're very good coaches and I'm very grateful to be a part of this entire experience," Pincince said. "It's been great so far."

As the season continues and the roster shakes itself out to its set lineups, Molly Pincince will continue to work towards making herself an integral part of it.

@RYANJONES385

CCSU Weekly Sports Schedule



Football

- Saturday, Sept. 14, 2 p.m. @ Valparaiso

- Saturday, Sept. 14, 6:30 p.m vs. Rhode Island

Women's Soccer

- Sunday, Sept. 15, 1 p.m. @ Seton Hall

Volleyball

- Friday, Sept. 13, 4 p.m. vs. Saint Peters
- Saturday, Sept. 14, 4 p.m. vs. Bucknell

Jake Dolegala's Road To NFL

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1

has real natural throwing ability for a quarterback. I'm really really excited we got him here, he's an awesome kid and he's doing a great job for us."

"From day one, he was one of the guys that put his head down and goes to work and what Jake brings is an excellent work ethic, an awesome attitude, he's an absolute pleasure to have in the building," Johnson continued.

Dolegala's Central career concluded with him sitting atop the all-time ranks in passing yards (8,129) and touchdowns (48) in school history.

Playing for the Blue Devils was worthwhile for Dolegala, he would tell you, "Central is a great school, it's got a great football program there," but would also agree that "it didn't help to be in an Football Championship Subdivision school" in the draft process.

When evaluating Dolegala, Johnson admitted the level of competition was a tough thing to evaluate.

"I think the team struggled at times, Jake was under pressure quite a bit and I think the receiving core dropped a good amount of passes," Johnson said. "He didn't get a lot of help, but coaches did a good job getting the ball out quickly and allowing him to create plays."

Even at the FCS level and through the struggles, Johnson still noticed one of Dolegala's biggest strengths and even believed "he was good enough to be an FBS Power Five Conference player."

"The thing with Jake is that he's got real, real, real, arm strength, that's what I saw on tape but you really only saw it once or twice a game at Central," Johnson said.

Seeing those plays here and there at Central is what "peaked" Johnson's interest in the 6-foot-7-inch quarterback. His interest only increased after attending Dolegala's Pro Day.

"That's when I really bumped up his grade, it was special," Johnson admitted. "It was like hearing a pitcher's fastballs pop off the catcher's glove, that's what it sounded like when the ball hit the receiver's hands. It was special."

On a day that "every team was represented," according to Johnson. It seemed that every scout there was present for the Buffalo University players.

"Everyone was there for [former Buffalo quarterback] Tyree Jackson and he struggled throwing the ball that day," Johnson said. "Every NFL team was represented there because of Buffalo's players and then there this tall drink of water from Central Connecticut State who is stealing the show."

In many people's eyes, the Pro Day is where Dolegala really made his money and impressed scouts in part because he looked better than a higher-touted QB.

However, Dolegala did not look at it as a competition.

"It wasn't a competition between me and him, I wasn't comparing myself to him. I was just trying to show scouts what I can do," Dolegala said.

Showing people what he can do seemed to be a reappearing theme in Dolegala's road to making an NFL roster, it was his goal no matter what stage of the process he was on.

After not receiving many reps in rookie mini camp, Dolegala received a full day's worth of reps to run the offense on the very last day.

"It was a good day, I finally got an opportunity to get a couple of reps and I think I showed these coaches a little bit of my ability and from there I think I continued that momentum into summer and I was in my playbook, training hard and just ran with my opportunity," Dolegala shared.

According to Benglas.com, Dolegala "was given the opportunity to direct four offensive drives and went 12-for-17 with touchdown passes to Cody Core, Trayveon Williams, and Josh Malone."

A performance that also impressed Pro-Bowl running back Joe Mixon. "That boy looked good," Mixon said via Benglas.com. "I like him. He's nice."

In training camp, Dolegala once again did not receive many reps despite his minicamp performance.

"He didn't get a ton of reps in the spring. We drafted a QB in the 4th round [Ryan Finley], we had Andy [Dalton] and our backup Jeff [Driskel]," Johnson said.

"Jake had to be patient and wait for his opportunity, which came in the third and fourth preseason games. But I think when he got his opportunities in the last couple games, he took hold of it."

Playing in the team's last two



Former Central Connecticut Jake Dolegala, now of the Cincinnati Bengals throws a pass against the Indianapolis Colts.

GETTY IMAGES

preseason games, Dolegala finished 37 of 53 (69.8%) for 347 yards (6.5 AVG) and two touchdowns.

"What I saw in college and at the Pro Day showed up in the preseason," Johnson said. "Good feet, excellent size, excellent arm strength, a very natural throwing motion and a good feel for the game."

Dolegala definitely believes he is on the roster partly due to showing his abilities in the final two preseason games, telling Benglas.com, "it was great, I think I left it all out there on the field," but he is also thankful for the mentors who taught him along the way.

"I had two really good mentors in Andy [Dalton] and Jeff [Driskel] so kudos to them for being such good role models," Dolegala said.

"They've helped with things like answering questions about certain defenses or some checks we have to make and things like that."

Going forward, Dolegala is also going to benefit from being in the same meeting room as fellow rookie Ryan Finley, according to Johnson.

"Ryan is very, very smart, goes through progressions really well, sees the

field really well and I think they're going to complement each other well in the meeting room."

Despite making the opening day 53-man roster, Dolegala understands his spot on the team isn't guaranteed.

"I have to stay patient but there are always things to improve on," Dolegala said. "The speed of the game is obviously different than what it was at Central, the defensive looks are a lot different and I think film study is always important as a quarterback and that will never stop throughout my career."

Johnson feels that while Dolegala has all the physical tools, his mental game is going to have to catch up if he hopes to sustain a long NFL career.

"I think the mental part of the game is still a work in progress for him because it's a totally different deal than what he was doing at Central," said Johnson.

To make the NFL and sustain a career in the NFL, a player needs rare attributes, according to Johnson. He feels that Dolegala has everything from the size, unteachable skills and the drive to be there, which could lead the former Central product to a long NFL career.

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Cross Country Kicks Off Season With A First Place Finish

BY RYAN JONES
SPORTS EDITOR

Central Connecticut's cross country teams were back in action last week after a long summer of training. Traveling to New York for the Marist College Invitational, many key returnees for the Blue Devils asserted themselves back into the mix for both the men's and women's teams, while the younger runners also made their presence felt.

The women's side, who hoisted the Northeast Conference Championship last season, were able to crack into the top 10 in the 5K. Senior Megan Brawner finished the race with a time of 18:55.4 for sixth place. For her efforts, Brawner was named NEC Player of the Week.

"It's a nice way to start my senior year," Brawner said. "I'm just excited for the team and hopefully defending our team title at home."

The next Blue Devil to follow Brawner was sophomore Ashley Dana, finishing with a time of 6:19.1. Finishing three seconds after Dana was fellow sophomore Kaitlyn Stevens. The reigning NEC Individual Champion, Angie Rafter, did not race in the 5K, but is a huge part of the reason the Blue Devils were voted in the preseason to win the NEC.

Rafter has similar goals for this season. "Team titles and winning NECs," Rafter said. "Having it on our home course would be really special for us, so that'd be great."

Head coach Eric Blake had high praise for the upperclassmen on the team, and explained how they even took some of the load of coaching off his back.

"I tell the new comers to follow the older athletes," Blake explained. "If they do that, they're gonna do pretty good job. I'm pretty lucky that I have great leaders on the team."

With almost a full month between the Marist College Invitational and the CCSU Ted Owen Invitational, the Blue Devils have a lot of time to recover and continue working.

"We put a lot of emphasis on the course," Brawner said. "We're always here, so we always know the ins and the outs and what our weaknesses are. By the time NEC comes around, we're prepared."

Senior Roberto Piotto led the way for the men's team. He finished first overall in the men's 5K with a 19:13.8 time, averaging a 5:09.5 mile time.

"It feels great, it was a good feeling beating a field of very talented runners," Piotto said. "Knowing I gave it my all at the end is really a great feeling of accomplishment."

Piotto's goals for the season are similar to those from the race., keep training hard and keep giving 110%, because that's all I

can do in the races."

Another senior, Richard Grudzwick, would finish next for the Blue Devils, securing a finish at 13 with a 19:33.7 time.

"We've got good teams on both sides," head coach Eric Blake said. "The women have some really good returners, very very strong team. We have some good freshmen. I really like what the team's been doing from effort to practice, it's been going well."

"We've got a good month's stretch just to train," Blake said. "It's nice knowing that we can really focus on the end of the season. The season's kind of pushed back with our conference meet the first weekend in November."

The extended break in races will not create any rust on the Blue Devils, according to Blake. "Everyone's fitness is going to get better from now until then. We don't need to rush the process either, we have the time."

@RYANJONES385

Volleyball Rolls Out New Offense In Weekend Tournament



CCSU Volleyball now sits at 2-4 on the season.

CCSU ATHLETICS

BY RYAN JONES
SPORTS EDITOR

Moving quickly but coordinated, Central Connecticut volleyball's offense was clicking in the UConn Challenge Tournament. Despite looking like an experienced pack, CCSU was implementing a brand new offense learned just that week, using it in-game for the very first time. The new-look Blue Devils walked out of the tournament with one win in three matches, but looked to be primed for the upcoming Northeast Conference part of the schedule.

The first of CCSU's games - played at UConn's Gampel Pavilion - was against the Boston College Eagles. The Eagles, who were headlined by the tournament's MVP Amaka Chukwujekwu, proved to be the toughest of the three opponents CCSU faced.

CCSU fell behind early in the first set and were only able to draw within four as the Eagles quickly jumped out to a 1-0 set lead over the Blue Devils.

After a shaky first set, the Blue Devils came to play in the second. With both teams knotted at three, the Blue Devils snapped off a 7-1 run to take an early lead.

Senior Madelyn Kaprelyan picked up four kills in the set as Central pulled away with a 25-20 set victory. Kaprelyan would finish the game with 10 kills, 19 assists and 13 digs, her first triple-double of the season.

The third set saw the Blue Devils trail by as much as 14 as they dropped the go ahead set. As head coach Linda Sagnelli noted, this team is not one to give up. Primed to play spoiler in the fourth, the Blue Devils had the set all but decided leading 20-15. The Eagles stormed back, however and battled with the Blue Devils to the last point. With neither team letting up, Boston College was able to pull away with a 29-27 set victory, securing the match win.

"I thought we did a lot of good things," Sagnelli said. "We introduced a faster paced offense this week and even though we didn't come away with a win this morning, I was very happy with some of the things I saw."

One positive note was the play of libero Ashlyn Eisenga. She had a career high 27 digs for the Blue Devils against the Eagles and was named to the All-Tournament Team.

"She touches everything that comes

her way," Sagnelli said. "She's a hard nose volleyball player. She doesn't care where the ball is, she's just gonna go get it.. she's just an incredibly heads up player that's going to keep the ball off the floor on our side."

In their second game of the day, Sagnelli's Blue Devils matched up with her coaching alma matter Iona in a game that saw a laser-focused CCSU team.

The Blue Devils were perfect in the first set, not committing a single error while forcing nine on the Gaels. The opening set was not a runaway at first, however. With the game tied at seven a piece, freshman Molly Pincince entered the game to serve for the Blue Devils. She served on five consecutive Blue Devil points as they ran away with the first set.

"Coming into the first two weekends of the season, we are giving chances to people to get onto the court," said Sagnelli. "Molly is a really big positive for the team, you don't expect that from a freshman, especially not in the second weekend."

The increasingly better play from the younger players on the team helped craft a team that is incredibly deep at multiple positions. To the Blue Devils coach, this makes the team stronger.

"I told them in the locker room," Sagnelli said. "We're a team of 15 and 1 through 15 has to be accountable to each other and ourselves."

The Blue Devils continued to dominate the Gaels and won the next two sets by 11 and seven respectively. Samantha McCreath posted a double-double for CCSU with her 13 kills and 10 digs, while senior Erin McDermott led the way distributing the ball with 22 assists on the day.

Central Connecticut's lone match on Saturday saw a face off between interstate rivals in the UConn Challenge's namesake. The Huskies have outplayed the Blue Devils in many of their previous matches, holding an all-time 24-7 record over CCSU (per CCSU Athletics).

The Huskies quickly stretched an early lead in the first set over the Blue Devils. 10 errors and a hitting percentage of -.051 made the lead insurmountable for CCSU,

as they lost 25-12.

Central Connecticut played like a different team in the second set. The team moved as one unit as opposed to six players, getting to every ball and controlling the pace of the game. They forced a match low .163 hitting percentage from UConn while posted a .227 percentage for themselves, their best in the game. Junior Emma Henderson scored six kills for the Blue Devils and also had a service ace in the set as they narrowly took the second set 25-23.

The third set seemed reminiscent of the first, as the Huskies were able to churn out a sizable lead on the Blue Devils in the blink of an eye. The Huskies led by as much as 10 as they secured their second set victory.

Freshman Isabelle Roufs gave the Blue Devils a one point advantage over the Huskies early in the fourth set. The Huskies quickly answered back with a strong run to regain and extend their lead, defeating the Blue Devils 25-15 in the set to win the match.

"We couldn't get out of our own way today," Sagnelli said. "Was just a collection of mental errors and we'd rather be collecting points. Kudos to where it is deserved, UConn is a very tough team, but I thought we should have competed a lot better."

The Blue Devils showed a fast-paced and exciting offense and their chemistry on the court made the transition to the new scheme seem second nature.

"We want to say this is how we play, and here's the ball," Sagnelli said on the new offense.

She reiterated the importance of the learning process and that her players, "have to understand that it's okay to take risks, it's okay to take chances and mistakes are going to happen. That's a part of the game. It's the aggressiveness that we really want to see, and I'm really proud of the team."

The Blue Devils will have the chance to further adjust to their new scheme this weekend, as they host the CCSU Invitational Tournament on Friday and Saturday. [@RYANJONES385](#)

Week Two Fantasy Football Picks

BY THE RECORDER SPORTS STAFF

With Week Two of the NFL season upon us, members of The Recorder's sports staff have predicted who will shine, surprise and disappoint in Fantasy Football.

Trevi Alickolli, Assistant Sports Editor

SURE THING: Nick Chubb, RB Browns @ Jets

The Cleveland Browns are coming off a huge blowout loss against the Titans where Baker Mayfield attempted 38 passes, threw three interceptions and only scored 13 points. Browns need to establish the run going forward with Chubb being the focal point of the rush attack and I believe Cleveland should and will give Chubb 20+ carries against the Jets.

SLEEPER: David Montgomery, RB Bears @ Broncos

The Chicago Bears opened the season looking completely lost on offense. They were a pass-heavy team (45 pass attempts) and Montgomery only received six carries Week 1. During the offseason, the Bears were gushing over how much they loved Montgomery and if they want to get back to a dominant team, they should give Montgomery a lot more carries. The backfield work should be his with Tarik Cohen serving mainly as a slot receiver.

BUST: T.Y. Hilton, WR Colts @ Titans

Hilton had a huge Week 1 performance (8 rec, 87 yards, 2 TDs) but he'll be facing a Tennessee defense that's extremely deep in the secondary with the likes of Malcolm Butler, Logan Ryan, Adoree Jackson and Kevin Byard. If Odell Beckham Jr. and Jarvis Landry struggle against that group, expect Hilton to struggle as well.

Ryan Jones, Sports Editor

SURE THING: George Kittle, TE 49ers @ Bengals

Kittle might not have had his usual numbers against the Buccaneers in Week One, but missed out on potentially three touchdowns that were called back because of penalties. Kittle and the 49ers will get their offense rolling against the Bengals on the road.

SLEEPER: John Brown, WR Bills @ Giants

A flyer pick for week one's games, John Brown put together an amazing week one to validate another shot in the starting lineup of any fantasy team. He torched the Jets for 123 yards and a score, and faces a Giants secondary that is fresh off giving up 100+ yards to two separate Dallas wide receivers in week one.

BUST: Todd Gurley RB, Rams vs. Saints

This Saints team is going to be on a revenge tour in their week two matchup of the NFC Championship. On top of the Saints extra incentive to play hard, Todd Gurley looked

nowhere near 100% in week one, where his carries were split with Malcolm Brown, who scored twice to Gurley's one touchdown on the day.

Dan Fappiano, Editor-in-Chief

SURE THING: Baker Mayfield QB, Browns @ Jets

Mayfield is too talented of a quarterback to struggle two weeks in a row. Playing on Monday Night against a Jets team coming off a brutal loss to the Bills, Mayfield will prove that he is the game-changing Fantasy Football quarterback.

SLEEPER: Adrian Peterson RB, Redskins vs. Cowboys

Peterson was a healthy scratch Week One. However, after Derrius Guice went down with another injury, AP should be getting RB1 touches for Washington. With the Cowboys being a division rival, it'll be key for Washington to establish the run early, opening up touches for AP.

BUST: Aaron Jones RB, Packers vs. Vikings

After rushing for just 39 yards against a tough Bears defense, Jones will now face an equally tough run defense in Minnesota. The Vikings allowed Falcons' starter Devonta Freeman to gain just 19 yards in Week One. Jones could get hot at any moment, but don't expect him to against the Vikes.

CLEVELAND.COM



Quarterback Aaron Winchester, (above) helped led CCSU with 75 rushing yards in the victory. JULIA JADE MORAN | STAFF



Central forced their second defensive touchdown of the year against Merrimack. JULIA JADE MORAN | STAFF

CCSU Football Hangs On Against Merrimack

BY TREVI ALICKOLLI
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

It's late in the fourth quarter. More than 5,000 Central Connecticut football fans can be heard cheering for their team as they prepare to close out a blowout game. With less than six minutes to play and the Blue Devils up by 16, some can be seen filtering out of their seats, looking to beat the foot traffic as CCSU marched to its second victory in as many games.

However, Merrimack had a different agenda and did not go down without a fight. The Warriors drove down the field, scored a touchdown, recovered an onside kick and then proceeded to score again to tie the game at 37.

When all the momentum seemed to be against them, CCSU received the ball with about 50 seconds left in the fourth quarter and for the second week in a row, the Central drove right down the field to set up kicker Francis Cole in prime position for the potential game-winning 44-yard field goal.

Cole delivered, giving his team the 40-37 last-second win, just as he did a week ago against Fordham University. Cole seemed to be ready for the pressure of another game-winning kick.

"I seem to kick better with the game on the line," Cole said with a laugh.

The Blue Devils escaped with the win, but as far as head coach Ryan McCarthy is concerned, they should have never been in that situation in the first place.

"I think the game should've been over long before the last two seconds on the clock. We really had chances to really just put them away and I'll take responsibility," McCarthy said.

McCarthy also acknowledged his team's struggles on offense passing the ball and took responsibility for that as well.

"I think we need to give [Aaron Winchester] things to get him going quicker," McCarthy said. "But we have to improve on the passing game."

The Sep. 7, 2019 home opener was the first time McCarthy stepped on Arute Field as a head coach. He would describe the night as "a roller coaster."

"It felt great initially, then it went poorly, then it got better, then, in the end, it got worse and then at the very end, everything was right in the world," McCarthy said with a smile on his face.

On offense, the passing game struggled at times but still managed nearly 200 yards. The rushing attack remained potent.

Central put up 474 total yards of offense and was led by Winchester and wide receiver Tyshaun James. Winchester had 199 yards passing and two touchdowns to go along with 92 rushing yards. James caught four passes for 95 yards, one TD and also rushed for two scores.

"It's just the coaches game plan for me," James said. "They want to get the ball in their best athletes' hands and I feel like that's what we were trying to do today."

Even McCarthy emphasized the role James has with the team.

"We made it an emphasis to target him as many times as we could and he was carrying the football," McCarthy said. "He's too talented of an athlete and today he played to his potential."

The defense looked strong for three and

a half quarters. The Blue Devils defense held the Merrimack rushing attack to only nine yards the entire game despite facing a "very athletic" quarterback according to McCarthy.

"I really believed and our defensive staff believed that we were going to control level one, we felt like we had an advantage with our defensive line," McCarthy said.

The defense scored for the second straight week, as safety Dj Exilhomme scooped up a fumble and returned to the house for a touchdown.

Going forward, McCarthy is hoping that the team will learn multiple lessons from their matchup with Merrimack.

"We've learned that our kids don't quit, they never think they're out of the game," McCarthy said. "Our kids are resilient and believe that no matter what the score is or how much time there is they believe they have a chance to win."

The Blue Devils will ride the momentum of being 2-0 into a four-game away slate that begins Saturday, Sept. 14, against the Valparaiso Crusaders. Kickoff is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. @ATREVI013

Women's Soccer Remains Unbeaten At Home After Win Against Iona



With a win against Iona, CCSU women's soccer is now 2-2-2 on the year.

CCSU ATHLETICS

BY GEORGE ATTWOOD
STAFF WRITER

Central Connecticut women's soccer continued their winning ways at home with a commanding 4-0 victory over Iona. With the win, CCSU women's soccer remains unbeaten at home as Northeast Conference play nears.

Head coach Mick D'Arcy was impressed with the team's shutout victory, but stressed that not all games will be at home.

"It's important to be a good home team but you have to be able to win games on the

road as well," D'Arcy said. "Scoring goals and getting a shutout builds confidence and that's what we are looking to build off."

Central started the game strongly thanks to the wing play by junior Jenna Rae Covello. This continued spell of pressure led to three free kicks near the Iona goal, but Central were unable to convert any of its chances.

It looked like Central might rue their missed opportunities as Iona broke forward, but it did little to trouble Central's freshman goalkeeper Caitlin Murphy, who did not have to make a save all game.

With eight minutes remaining in the first half, CCSU broke the deadlock after a sustained spell of pressure. Last year's NEC Rookie of the Year, Roma McLaughlin shot from outside the box and the ball somehow found its way into the net.

As time expired Central almost doubled their lead. However, despite a slight fumble from the goal keeper, they were unable to put the ball in the net.

Almost immediately after halftime the Blue Devils had doubled their lead thanks to a goal by Giavanna Inzerillo.

This set a trend for the second half as Central made use of their wingers and pinned Iona in their half, creating multiple scoring chances.

The Blue Devils were able to score two more goals in quick succession, outshooting Iona 19 to three.

The first scored was by Allyson O'Rourke into the bottom corner with the second being an emphatic header by Taylor Smith from a corner kick which sealed the game for Central. Four different Blue Devils scored in the victory.

D'Arcy was impressed to see his team shine on both sides of the ball.

"Scoring goals gives everyone confidence and getting the shutout gives confidence too and that's what we need to build off," D'Arcy said.

Central's win came off of a loss to Albany. The team's second defeat of the season already matched their total from last season. D'Arcy felt it was important for his team to get this win and regain their momentum.

"It's important in times of success but it is more important when the chips are down, you need to be able to look around and know your teammates have your back," D'Arcy said.

The Blue Devils are now on a five game road stand starting at Seton Hall on Sept. 15. They next play in New Britain on Oct. 6 when they host NEC opponent St. Francis Brooklyn.