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THURSDAY

## NEW BRITAIN

# Dr. Bruno Ficili, Italian colleague of CCSU, gets nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize

Special to The Herald

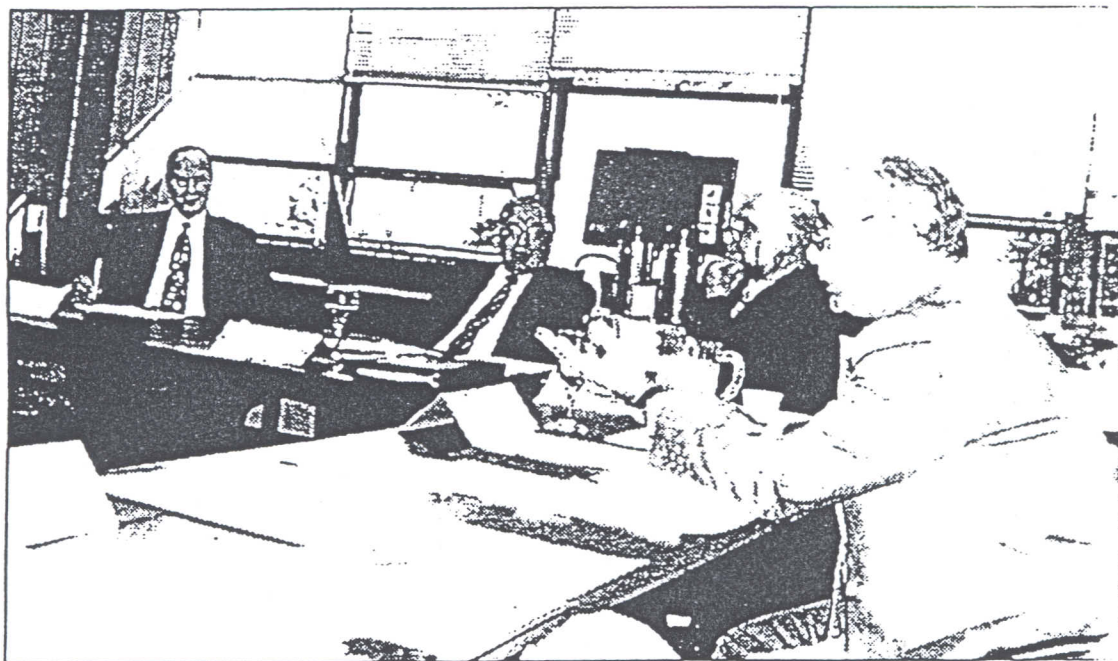
NEW BRITAIN — Dr. Bruno Ficili, a noted Italian educator and a leading partner in Central Connecticut State University programs in Sicily, has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Among leaders in many fields supporting the nomination is U.S. Rep. Sam Gejdensen (D-2nd), who hailed "Dr. Ficili's devotion to furthering international peace and working on behalf of his fellow man."

"Dr. Ficili has organized over the course of many years peace conferences that have attracted government officials, educators, journalists and economists from around the globe," Gejdensen stated. "Due to his persistence, the 10th International Education for Peace Conference was held on the former missile base at Cosimo, Sicily. On ground that once housed soldiers and missiles, conference participants discussed the urgency of educating today's young people about peace."

The veteran Congressman, who is the ranking member of the House Committee on International Relations, cited an example of Ficili's leadership in advancing peace worldwide being exercised to resolve a delicate international situation: "When the Libyan government imprisoned four innocent Sicilian fishermen who strayed into Libya's territorial waters due to inclement weather, Dr. Ficili intervened and helped to return the men safely to their home country."

Richard J. Balducci, former speaker of the state House of Representatives, former state senator and currently a member of the Connecticut State University system's board of trustees, has worked with Ficili on educational and cultural pro-



CCSU PHOTO

Dr. Bruno Ficili, left, 1999 Nobel Peace Prize nominee, is shown during a recent campus meeting with CCSU colleagues, including Dr.

Richard L. Judd, second from left, president of CCSU, and Richard J. Balducci, right, of the CSU system's board of trustees.

grams that benefit CSU and Italian students. "Already an outstanding, highly decorated and internationally recognized educator, Dr. Ficili's talents for diplomacy and consensus building make him ideally suited for the great achievement he has grown into, that of peacemaker to a troubled world," Balducci said.

"Since 1986, when Dr. Ficili presided over the first International Education for Peace Conference, he has been a tireless advocate for peace in the world. That conference is now an annual event. Dr. Ficili's sincerity and impartial dedication have gained him such enormous stature that he has been able to meet with leaders in Iraq, Croatia and Bosnia in efforts to halt fighting in those countries. He has participated in mediation efforts between Singalese

and Tamils in Sri Lanka, as well as between Turks and Kurds. And, when not mediating peace efforts, he has helped deliver needed supplies troubled areas. Dr. Bruno Ficili is truly a man of peace."

Dr. Richard L. Judd, president of Central Connecticut State University, which recognized Ficili's work by awarding him an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree in 1996, called Ficili "the living embodiment of a quote made famous by the late President Dwight D. Eisenhower: 'I like to believe that people in the long run are going to do more to promote peace than are governments. Indeed, I think that people want peace so much that one these days governments had better get out of their way and let them have it.' When that day of the citizen-peacemaker comes, Dr.

Bruno Ficili will already have a place in the forefront of the growing international peace movement. Like the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Dr. Ficili is a visionary who understands that obstacles can be overcome by persistence and continuous dialogue.

"He has sought to reason with democrats and ruthless dictators alike, and been inspired by meeting with such renowned peace advocates as Pope John Paul II.

"He has been guided by an inner sense that such contacts will, over time, produce results and he has seen the fruits of his labors.

"Dr. Bruno Ficili is dedicated to creating world peace. And we at Central Connecticut State University support his efforts and are proud to call him our friend."