Alumni News

The magazine for alumni and friends of Western Connecticut State University
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Where Music takes her

BRIANNE CHASANOFF’S DUAL CAREER


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WestConn poised to become ‘University of the Arts’

Two years ago at WestConn, we reorganized the university’s academic structure to create our new School of Visual and Performing Arts (SVPA). The move combined the departments of art, music and theatre arts, making this the only such school in the Connecticut State University (CSU) System. Recognizing our long history of distinction in these fields, the school underscores WestConn’s position as the “University of the Arts” in the CSU System. The approval this summer of funding for our new $90 million SVPA Instructional Center further affirms this status. Scheduled for opening in 2014 or 2015 on our Westside campus, this facility will take our efforts in the visual and performing arts to even higher levels of excellence.

Early results of our newest academic unit have not disappointed. Under the leadership of its founding dean, Dr. Carol Hawkes, the faculty and students of the SVPA have been accomplishing wonderful things. The 2,000-square-foot gallery we opened last year in Higgins Hall provides our student artists with much-needed exhibition space. Our Master of Fine Arts in Painting and Illustration program continues to attract students from around the nation. Under the tutelage of our faculty and noted regional artists, students regularly exhibit their work at venues in Manhattan and in Connecticut. Faculty members continue to place their work in prominent locations, as well.

Our music faculty and students continue to excel. Five classical musicians studying at WCSU performed last summer in the Rome Festival Orchestra, a prestigious ensemble of upperclassmen and professional musicians from all over the world. In October, our Opera Ensemble, under the direction of Professor Margaret Astrup, performed on a program with international opera soloists at Carnegie Hall. Such achievements reflect the influence of our music faculty, who bring their own professional performance experience into our practice studios and onto our stages every day. Notable among them are Professor Eric Lewis, who appears in venues around the world with the Manhattan String Quartet, and department of music Chair Dr. Dan Goble, who performed in February 2008 with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra during its historic trip to North Korea.

Each year, our talented and dedicated artists share their gifts with the WestConn community in a vast array of concerts, recitals, productions and gallery shows, all of which are open to the public.

In 2007, WestConn’s theatre students again performed at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland, as well as here on campus and in New York. Their production of “The Cherry Orchard” was voted Best Associate Production of Region 1 at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. Such success is no small credit to our talented students and the dedicated faculty who teach both the theory and practice of that craft. Typical of this combination is the work of Associate Professor of Theatre Arts Elizabeth Popiel, who won an Emmy in 2007 for her set design on “Good Morning America, Weekend Edition.”

Between Two Worlds:
An Evening with Mira Nair

Mira Nair is one of the most formidable directors working in film today. Her first feature film, Oscar-nominated Salaam Bombay!, won 25 international awards, including two at the Cannes International Film Festival for “Best First Feature” and “Most Popular” entry. Her other films include Mississippi Masala, Monsoon Wedding, Hysterical Blindness (winner of three Emmy Awards) and Vanity Fair. Each of Nair’s movies deals with issues of race, class, gender, inter-generational strife, cultural appropriation and displacement. Of The Namesake, Nair says the tale “… encompasses the millions who have left one home for another, who have known what it means to combine the old ways with the new world.”

Tuesday, March 31, 7 p.m.
Western Connecticut State University
181 White Street, Danbury
Ives Concert Hall, Midtown campus
This event is free and open to the public.

For more information, please call (203) 837-8754.
More than 350 students, parents, donors, faculty and staff participated in a new approach to celebrating student scholarship in the grand ballroom of the Westside Campus Center.

In the past, the schools of Arts and Sciences, Professional Studies, Visual and Performing Arts and the Ancell School of Business all acknowledged their scholarship winners in separate ceremonies in the spring.

This year, scholarship winners from the schools, along with the Division of Graduate Studies, were honored at a single ceremony during Homecoming Week. At the same time, donors were invited to meet the students who have benefited from their generosity. The effect was to show WestConn’s best efforts in an even brighter light.

“We have clearly advanced the impact and energy in this event, and I know that there were complex organizational and logistical challenges to be overcome in doing,” said President James W. Schmotter. “The setting was perfect and the emotions genuine.”

Students and other guests gathered in receptions for the separate schools in rooms throughout the Campus Center before coming together for a ceremony in the ballroom. Each student honoree was acknowledged by name and collected a certificate to applause from the audience.

“Promoting education is important because it is an investment in the very thing that counts most for our country’s future: the educated population,” Dr. G. Koryoe Anim-Wright, vice president for Institutional Advancement, said as she opened the ceremony. “The audience seated here tonight represents our future leaders and our future source of entrepreneurship and growth. The investment in education by our donors is an important gift that allows WestConn to continue providing students with the key to social mobility. And for many of our students, these awards keep them on the path of higher education and an independent life.”

Donations keep arriving from those who wish to recognize a beloved former teacher, WestConn’s oldest living alumna, Mary Edgett ’24.

To date, the Mary Edgett Endowed Scholarship has received a number of gifts totaling $10,036. Beginning this fall, the scholarship will be awarded to a WestConn elementary education major.

“The establishment of this fund is a true representation of what WCSU is all about,” says Dr. G. Koryoe Anim-Wright, vice president for institutional advancement. “Recognizing Miss Edgett brings us full circle and emphasizes that while we continue to grow, our foundation rests on the strength of the university — our programs, our alumni and our students.”

The scholarship originally was championed by the late Guido Tino ’64 (See “In Memoriam,” p. 15) who contributed the first $1,000 to the fund. “Miss Edgett kept Guido in at recess to improve his penmanship,” says Tino’s wife, Kristine.

“They say you always remember the teachers who make you work the hardest and Guido never forgot Miss Edgett. He was very fond of her.”

Contributions can be made to the Mary Edgett Endowed Scholarship, WCSU Foundation, 181 White St., Danbury, Conn., 06810. Please make checks payable to the WCSU Foundation/Mary Edgett Endowed Scholarship. Or donate online at www.wcsu.edu/alumni; or call (203) 837-8279 to provide credit card information.
Institutional Advancement

Quantity Item
4" x 8" engraved brick ($100 each)
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Print the message you wish to engrave below. Use all capital letters. Bricks can accommodate up to three lines with 16 characters per line; spaces, punctuation and symbols count as a character. Trees, benches and light posts have double the space: use a separate piece of paper.

Indicate how you would like to contribute to WestConn (select one):
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- School of Arts and Sciences
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Ordered by:
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Check one:  Alumni & Friends Circle  WestConn Sweethearts

Your total enclosed $_____

Total enclosed $_____

Indicate the quantity next to the item you are ordering.

Planned Giving benefits you and your alma mater

The programs at Western Connecticut State University depend upon your good will. There are many easy giving options from which you can choose — strategies that will enhance your personal well-being as well as WCSU.

Go to www.wcsu.edu/IA and click on “Giving Opportunities.” Our “Build Your Gift” planner will help you make decisions about the type of charitable gift you would like to make. By answering a few basic questions, this interactive tool steps you through the process of narrowing your choices. It’s easy to use!

If you already have gift options in mind, click on “Compare Gifts” to see how your choices match up or click on “eBrochures” to request specific information about a planning option.

For more information about planned giving, contact Dr. G. Korye Anim-Wright at (203) 837-8279 or e-mail animwrightk@wcsu.edu with any questions.

Leave a legacy with your …
- House, land or other property
- Bequest in your will
- Trusts that provide you with life income
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- Stocks, bonds and more

Join the Alumni & Friends Circle

(Above, l-r): Master of Fine Arts students Renee Rossi and Jill Sarver receive congratulations after receiving the W.B. Connor Trust (for Jane Henderson) Scholarship. Shaking hands with Rossi is Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Walter Bernstein.

(Top): Jason Hancock ‘81 (second from left) poses with three recipients of the W. Jason and Ellen M. Hancock Student Scholarships. (l-r): Nick Bussett, Matthew Bagley and Jennifer Billingsley.

(Bottom): Justice & Law Administration major Holly Spehar (center) talks about receiving the Gino Arconti JLA Scholarship. To her right is Gary Hawley, whose family sponsors the Hawley Family Endowed Scholarship for Ancell School of Business students.

(Above, l-r): Master of Fine Arts students Renee Rossi and Jill Sarver receive congratulations after receiving the W.B. Connor Trust (for Jane Henderson) Scholarship. Shaking hands with Rossi is Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Walter Bernstein.
Bobby Akbar: Living an American tradition of service

By Irene Sherlock

If you want something done, ask a busy person to do it.

That’s what they say, and it’s a safe bet someone like Bobby Akbar ’01 would fill the bill. Ultra-busy and mega-committed to a variety of causes and passions, he still keeps his primary focus on his whirling dervish of a family: wife Kasheema, 11-year-old son Tahje and daughter Tahjeah (they’re twins), and daughter Asiyah, 7.

Report card day is apparently no problem in the Akbar household. “All ‘A’s this time,” Akbar proudly reports. He pauses to think about it. “Maybe when your dad’s a teacher, you know grades are important,” he says.

How about an award-winning teacher? Akbar’s fifth-grade class at Franklin Elementary School in his hometown of Rahway, N.J., was excited last year when word came down that their Mr. Akbar was among six others honored by the New Jersey Department of State Amistad Commission.

“For an exemplary job of promoting high achievement and integrating African-American history into their curriculum,” reads the award.

You bet he’s “exemplary.”

Akbar’s tone may be modest, but we know the topic he won the award for is close to his heart. “African-American history is American history,” he says. “It’s not separate. My goal is to show that there’s a rich history of tradition in this community.”

As coordinator of the Black History Month celebration each year at Franklin Elementary, he more than does his part to bring this important message of respect and achievement to our next generation.

Throughout the year, students in Akbar’s class research and report on Rahway citizens who have been successful in sports, education and community activism. One honoree, Rahway High School alumnus Earl Clark, is now a star player on the University of Louisville basketball team.

Students blog with Clark about his college experience and keep up with his career. “We use geography to keep track of his road trips and use math to discuss basketball statistics,” Akbar says. It’s a stroke of teaching genius.

Akbar clearly understands that children can be lured into learning in many ways. Last year, he launched a ‘contest’ in which the students who read the most books would be invited to compete in the school’s March Madness basketball tournament. Refereeing one of those games was none other than the celebrated Earl Clark.

“It’s important for these young people to see how things are relevant to their lives,” Akbar says. “But I also want them to see more than that which is readily available to them.”

“Bobby was always very aware of the greater world beyond himself,” says WestConn Enrollment Management Officer Bill Hawkins, who befriended Akbar while he was a student here. “He loved sports and learning, and he’s obviously managed to combine those two things.”

These days, in addition to teaching, Akbar also coaches varsity football at Rahway High School. His title there is assistant head coach and defensive coordinator. Here, too, he has sought to blend his two perspectives. His book, “What It Means To Wear The Red And Black, 100 Years of Rahway High School Indians Football,” was written last year as a facts-and-figures compilation highlighting the history of Rahway Football.

“I wanted to pay tribute to my high school alma mater and to acknowledge the history and tradition of Rahway football,” Akbar says. Currently he is at work on another book, a comprehensive view of all sports at Rahway High School.

“A classic example of the indomitable spirit — that’s Bobby,” says Professor Emeritus of Communication and Theatre Arts Bill Walton, a favorite instructor of Akbar’s. “He has a passion for learning and helping others. He certainly grew as an individual while he was a student here.”

This kind of self-discovery and evolving is a meaningful concept to Akbar. It was during his time at WestConn that he began to pursue deeper insights, determined to act on his sense of responsibility to become the best person he could be. Ultimately it would lead him to decide to take on a new and meaningful surname.

Cont’d. on page 14
Tammy Hammershoy: A blueprint for success

By Connie Conway

Tammy Hammershoy ’97 loves her alma mater.… She also has a tendency to apply a great deal of enthusiasm to any job involving WestConn alumni. The two qualities add up to a blueprint for success that we all benefit from with Hammershoy aboard as director of the Office of Alumni Relations.

“I love what I do,” she says, reflecting on the challenge of trying to knit together new events, evolving traditions and an expanding alumni membership. “I end one project, then jump into another. I’m never bored. Literally never.”

Part of it is her strong belief in this university as a place where every student is perceived as unique. That’s what initially drew her to WestConn.

“I grew up in Norwalk and wanted to stay in Connecticut,” Hammershoy explains. “I applied and was accepted to the University of Connecticut, then realized that one-on-one attention from my professors would be important to me. WestConn is pretty famous for that.”

Entering as a resident student in 1988, Hammershoy lived in Litchfield Hall, majored in English with a concentration in writing, and found wonderful rapport with her professors. “They gave us real insight into literature and writing, even into ourselves. I gained the confidence to write in my own voice.”

In her junior year, however, she felt the need to take some time off. “It was one of those ‘go and find myself’ moments,” she recalls. She gives credit to the retail management job she took for helping to develop her talent for organization.

A few years later, it was time to finish her degree. Hammershoy returned to WestConn and worked at the student newspaper, where she met her husband-to-be, Todd McInerney ’97.

She also worked at the New Milford Times where one of her responsibilities was the police beat.

“I really didn’t like the intrusive part of that job,” she says frankly. “The last straw was when I had to call a man who had lost his wife in a car accident. It was horrible. I quit the next day.”

She graduated soon after and received an offer to work at WestConn in the Office of Student Activities and then later as a university assistant for Public Relations. But soon she was hired away from that department into a full-time position in University Computing.

“It was hardly a straight line to Alumni Relations director,” she admits. “But I really did learn how the university works!”

These days Hammershoy stays focused on the wide-ranging and diverse group of alumni she serves, bringing members back to campus whenever and however she can. Their presence, she knows, underscores how much the university’s stunning expansion owes to graduates who have been both grateful for, and responsive to, WestConn’s mission as a “people’s university.”

She loves the “fun” aspect of her job, too. “Like our wonderful WestConn Sweethearts program — married alumni couples who first met and dated at WestConn. We have identified more than 900 couples so far, and find more and more each semester.” She and husband Todd could be poster kids for the group, she laughs.

Meanwhile, the couple’s son, Liam, and daughter, Aine, are waiting in the wings as potential future alumni. Hammershoy says she would love it if that happens. But the wait may be a bit long. The kids, though adorable and no doubt as smart and energetic as their mom, are ages 4 and 3, respectively.

“We would be a WestConn legacy family,” she says. “Now that would certainly be something to write home about.”

Participate in Commencement 2009!

Attention alumni: We need you! Please join us Commencement weekend, beginning with cap and gown distribution on Friday, May 22, 3 - 7 p.m. in the Campus Center, Westside campus. Stay and enjoy our Graduate Commencement at 7 p.m. in the O’Neill Center on the Westside campus. On Saturday, catch up with fellow alumni at one of the activities we’ll have planned for you. Then on Sunday, May 24, don a cap and gown and help us celebrate our most recent graduates by joining in the academic procession. A commencement breakfast begins at 8 a.m. in the Westside Campus Center, followed by academic dress at 9 a.m. in the O’Neill Center. The Undergraduate Commencement procession will begin at 10 a.m.

Academic regalia will be provided to all participating alumni. For more information, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (203) 837-8290.
Meant to be together:

Lois & Bill Weiss

By Irene Sherlock

That old truism about the course of true love never running smoothly is a bit of an understatement when it comes to Bill ’61, ’70 and his wife, Lois ’61, ’71, ’78 (Heckler O’Hara) Weiss. In point of fact, after starting up in 1958, it sputtered and didn’t run at all for a while.

A long while.

Let’s start at the beginning. Flash back to the late ’50s: the two WestConn students were dancing the Lindy together at live music clubs like Danbury’s Avalon and Armando’s.

“We did love to dance,” says Lois, recollecting how they managed to fit that favorite pastime into their college days.

“And we loved live music,” adds Bill, her husband of 10 years. The two met while attending what was then Danbury State Teachers College, and they were quite taken with one another. At the time, Bill had served four years in the Air Force and was now finishing his degree on the G.I. Bill.

“He’d been out in the world and seen a lot of life,” says Lois, explaining one of the things about Bill that intrigued her but also set him apart from her own experience. “I was only just beginning to taste my independence.” Their religious differences gave her pause, as well.

So the couple split up. Each earned a B.S. in Education from what had become Danbury State College and both worked as educators all their professional lives. They went on to meet new people, each ultimately marrying and settling down in the Danbury area.

Lois earned an M.A. in Education and a Professional Diploma of Advanced Study in Reading from WestConn. She then graduated from the Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) Administration and Supervision Program.

Meanwhile, Bill had taken on earning an M.S. in Education from WestConn and a sixth year diploma in Administration and Supervision from SCSU. He taught middle school science for 31 years in the Danbury school system.

After a full and successful 31-year career of teaching, he retired, becoming a frequent attendee at WestConn’s basketball and baseball games. He had played baseball himself at WestConn, where he was considered an outstanding catcher.

For a time, Bill and his then-wife, Thyra, enjoyed their new life, but then she became ill and ultimately passed away.

That night after dinner, Bill brought his ‘new date’ home to her house. “I got out my old 45 records,” she says, “and we rolled up my living room rug.”

She leans forward, drops her voice and looks a little mischievous. “My grown daughter came home and couldn’t believe that her not-so-young mother was dancing with her old boyfriend in the living room!”

They were engaged six months later. While Lois taught her last semester of school, Bill planned the wedding. The reception was held at Anthony’s Lake Club and Lois reports it was a lively success.

“The band was Higher and Higher. They played ’50s and ’60s songs the whole time!” Lois recalls. Their trivia group threw an after-reception party for the couple, who later honeymooned on the magnificent QE2.

“As it happened, Bill knew that Lois had lost her spouse early on, but he’d heard little else about her. “I ran into a friend of hers,” he says. The friend was going to a party that night. “She told me Lois was giving the party and invited me to come along.”

“I was a bit put out about that little unplanned invitation,” Lois recalls. She worried it would be an awkward evening. But she needn’t have: Sparks flew almost immediately. The nice kind of sparks, she says.

As Bill remembers it, they had a good time. So he asked her on a date.

“We went to King Neptune’s. It was about 40 years after we’d first met.” Lois’ voice takes on a tender note as she says this. You just know this is a story the two love to tell about reconnection and getting a second chance at love.
Fall scores!

By Richard Gregory ’97

WestConn’s women’s soccer team retained its status as one of the nation’s elite this past fall by returning to the NCAA Division III national tournament for the fourth consecutive season.

Head coach Joe Mingachos ’90, an All-American sweeper on the WestConn’s men’s soccer team in 1989 and a member of the WCSU Hall of Fame, guided the Colonials to a 15-4-3 overall record this past fall and their third straight Little East Conference title, courtesy of a 2-1, come-from-behind victory over rival Eastern Connecticut in the championship game. Jillian Duran scored the go-ahead goal with less than nine minutes remaining in that game and goalkeeper Shannon Cawley made sure the lead held up. Nicole Sieber scored the Colonials’ other goal late in the first half off a pass from Catherine Nathans to tie the score 1-1. WestConn defender Amanda Genova received the tournament’s Most Valuable Player award.

The Colonials carried the momentum from that thrilling victory right over into the national tournament, where they beat Skidmore in the first round. After 110 minutes of scoreless soccer, the teams resorted to a shootout to determine a victor. WestConn edged Skidmore 5-4 in the shootout on goals by Genova, Duran, Lauren Francisco, Nathans and Felicia McGarry. After Cawley stopped Skidmore’s final attempt, she was swarmed on the field by her celebrating teammates.

The WestConn men’s soccer team, meanwhile, posted an 8-10-2 record under the guidance of coach Peter Schachter. Daniel Sanchez was the Colonials’ leading scorer with 11 points (five goals, one assist). Goalkeeper Daniel Michalowski started 19 of 20 games for the Colonials and received first-team All-Little East Conference honors. Defender Damion Noble earned second-team All-LEC recognition.

In field hockey, WestConn went 2-15 under coach Dani McDonnell. Meredith Stuart was the leading scorer for the Colonials with 18 points (eight goals, two assists) and was named to the All-Little East Conference first team. Sara Lefevre added 15 points and Melissa Berardi had nine.

The WestConn volleyball team went 19-9 under the direction of coach Greg Poole and reached the semifinals of the Little East Conference tournament. Middle-hitter Rebecca Stein earned first-team All-Little East Conference honors for her efforts; she led the Colonials with 279 kills and 133 total blocks. Outside hitter Natalie Crosby earned second-team All-LEC recognition; she was second on the team with 260 kills.

The WestConn football team went 2-8 this past season with coach John Burrell at the helm. The Colonials’ wins came against Buffalo State and Morrisville State. WestConn quarterback James Williams completed 165 of 301 passes for 1,089 total yards. John Zervos caught 35 passes for 335 yards and Allan Bowen grabbed 29 passes for 365 yards. Linebacker Chad Milling led the defense with 83 tackles and 6.5 sacks to earn All-NJAC defensive honorable mention, while center Mike Leonard earned All-NJAC second team offense recognition.
**By Connie Conway**

“How long have I been singing? Well ...”

Brianne Chasanoff ’02, just off stage after doing a set at a local coffeehouse, settles into a brief but thoughtful silence. She has to reach back to her childhood for an answer to the question.

“Pretty much as long as I can remember, I guess.” She laughs softly. In spite of her quietness, there is a melodic resonance in Chasanoff’s voice. It’s especially present in the songs she writes and offers her audiences in live performances or on her CDs.

She seems to have a natural ease with the deeper subjects in life. Lyrics from her haunting song, “Here Forever,” written for her late grandmother whom she adored, speak about love and loss with a power both delicate and fierce:

“Swing set’s too small, suddenly I can’t fly as high ... And I lose you one more time as the picture slowly dies ...”

Music has always been Chasanoff’s chief passion in life, she says, and clearly performance and teaching are her preferred methods for pursuing it. Her delight in opening the world of music to youngsters is obvious when she speaks of the classes she taught at the Green Chimneys schools in Brewster, N.Y., and teaches now at Pawling Elementary School, a few miles north of there.

“The kids get so involved in it. To them, learning music is discovering a new language,” she says.

She sounds self-deprecating, but she’s telling the truth.

For college, WestConn was her choice. “For very obvious reasons,” says Chasanoff. “The music education program is just outstanding. Once I got there, I started wanting to do it all again. Jazz ensemble, brass ensemble, opera, chorus ... Finally Dr. Astrup had to bring me back down to earth.”

That would be WestConn Professor of Music Margaret Astrup. She advised Chasanoff it was time to focus on one instrument only, besides her voice.

She chose piano. “But I did get to accompany lots of other students in recital,” she adds brightly. “Watching them rehearse with their teachers taught me so much!”

After graduating, Chasanoff went on to earn her master’s degree at SUNY Purchase. These days she lives happily with her two musical disciplines: teaching eager young students or performing live at regional venues ranging from WestConn’s own coffeehouse (where she’ll be appearing on May 7th) to the Towne Crier Cafe in Pawling, N.Y.

Rosenberg relaxes following a rigorous teaching career

By Irene Sherlock

Each Friday at the Holiday Diner, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics Ed Rosenberg — lifelong teacher and writer — and his wife, Harriet, have a standing lunch date with friends who also happen to be retired WestConn colleagues.

“We’re the relaxed ones in the place,” Rosenberg says. “Some of us still teach. Some are writing, others relaxing. Let’s just say we’re enjoying ourselves.”

Enjoying himself is something Rosenberg does even while working hard, which he’s done most of his life. He was a freshman at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. Rather than await the inevitable draft, he signed up for the U.S. Army Air Force Meteorology Reserves. Called up in 1943, he completed the Air Force program in June 1944.

In the service, he worked as a forecaster at Air Force bases in Texas, India, China and upper New York State. After his discharge, he completed a B.S. in Meteorology at MIT. He then worked for a wholesale medical supply company while earning an M.B.A. from the New York University Graduate School of Business Administration. In 1955 he obtained an M.A. in Teaching Social Science from Columbia University Teachers College.

Rosenberg began teaching at WestConn (then from Columbia University Teachers College) in 1956. “The faculty was small and all voted on collegial matters,” Rosenberg says.

As the school expanded, it was decided that a representative body should handle such matters. Ultimately, the University Senate was born.

After a colleague declined the position, Rosenberg was asked to serve as WestConn’s first senate president. “I really didn’t want the position, but I did not feel I could turn it down,” he says.

So he became senate president, all the while remaining active with many campus and community commitments, which included founding WestConn’s men’s soccer team in 1957.

Rosenberg had played soccer in middle school, high school, college and in amateur leagues. “Most of the team had never played the sport before,” he says of his early coaching days. At first, informal games were scheduled against neighboring colleges. Club soccer then paved the way for a varsity team formed in 1960. Rosenberg coached soccer for 10 years.

He also did a lot of teaching: history and economics for a few years and gradually more mathematics courses until that became his sole academic focus.

Then, in 1976, Rosenberg took a two-year leave. He and his wife packed up to teach in a most unlikely place: Tehran, the capital of Iran. There, at a K-12 private school, Harriet taught English, social science and English as a second language. Rosenberg taught mathematics and became department chair.

Not explained to them ahead of time was how the couple would also fall in love with the Iranian people. (See sidebar.)

Rosenberg remains close with many former students. One, Dr. Darius Rejali, was last year’s keynote speaker at the Steven D. Neuwirth Annual Arts and Sciences Lecture at WestConn. A nationally recognized expert on government-sanctioned torture and interrogation, Rejali says he is always amazed and pleased to find Rosenberg sitting in the audience at one of his lectures.

“He swears my first experience in torture was in his math class,” Rejali says wryly. On the other hand, he adds that Rosenberg was an avid attendee and fan when he (Rejali) played Malvolio in Shakespeare’s “Twelfth Night” in Tehran.

Coming home — with memories

After spending two years in a vastly different culture than the one we had lived in for most of our lives, it was a shock to return to the States and to the routine of our Western lives.

We had become accustomed to Moslem life, in which women are second-class citizens, though my wife, also a teacher, was affected by this far more than I. Thank goodness for the students and the welcoming faculty who were stimulating and enjoyable! Also, it was exciting to travel by foot or car throughout the city.

Indeed, we were tourists who made ourselves at home for the duration of our stay.

Inevitably though, we returned to the States, easing our reverse culture shock by stopping in Vienna, Budapest and London.

In the fall of 1978, I started teaching again at WestConn. As always, classes were 50 minutes long, three times a week: in local jargon, 12 semester hours. The new kid on the block, I had no committee assignments.

At Community School I had taught five classes, five days a week: 25 meetings, 45 minutes each class, plus I had the responsibilities of department chair. What would I do with all my time? Thirteen less classes a week and no outside obligations. I floated around the WestConn campus.

Look! There’s Nita Burch (a young, attractive music teacher in Iran)! No, it’s a student, slightly older than most. And oh! There’s Mansour Akhaven (a bright, troublesome student)! Ach, it’s an American fellow. Whoa! Isn’t that Tina Bahadori (a pretty, charming, capable 10th-grader)? Nuts, another undergrad.

How I missed the people at Community! How I wanted to be with them, again — still. Such depressing cases of mistaken identity: seeing the ghosts of those I wanted to see.

Fortunately, inefficiency eventually took over all my spare time. Parkinson’s Law applied: work expands to fill the time allotted. I became “busy,” and by the time the spring semester arrived, I was back to recognizing people at WestConn, not mistaking them for someone else. But I still missed my Iranian friends, though we were lucky at having left six months before revolutionary fervor and the Shah’s cancer forced him to leave the country. Eventually, the school was taken over and its staff and students dispersed, many to the United States.

Ed Rosenberg

Cont’d. on page 14
A: Cheerleaders rally the crowd at the Homecoming game.
B: There was fun for all at the Street Fair that followed the game.
C: Avid fans cheer on the Colonials during this year’s Homecoming Game.
D: Queen Marlene Rodriguez and King Allen Redmond were crowned during Homecoming festivities.
E: WCSU Colonials in action!
F: Under the Alumni Hospitality Tent are (l-r) Sarah Koenig '07, Caitlin Clarkson '06, Joseph Dzamko '06 and Mark Pisano '04.
G: Gail Hill Williams and her children, Shaun, 9, and Kimberleigh, 3.
H: Adjunct Professor of Anthropology Jeannie Hatcherson models a dress originally worn by her mother, as seen in the photo she’s holding, during the Fairfield Hall Tea and Tour Fashion Show.

I: Attendees at the Fairfield Hall Tea and Tour Fashion Show include Agatha (Valigursky) Polowy ’58 and Elizabeth (Timmons) Nkonoki-Ward ’58.

J: Artist Rolandas Kialevicius ’06 talks about his work at the Alumni Art Show.

K: (l-r) Attendees at the Homecoming 2008 Reunion Gala included Greta (Feldtmose) Mitchell ’58, Agatha (Valigursky) Polowy ’58, Mary Ann (Kubina) Maraia ’58 and Marthe (Froeliger) Ereminas ’58.

L: (l-r) Attending the Reunion Gala were JoAnne Gauss, Interim Director of Development Karen Wright, Kitch Gorman ’63, Tony Gorman ’63, Kenneth Saloom ’63 and Ronald Gauss ’63.

M: (l-r) Also attending the Reunion Gala were Dean ’73 and Leslie ’73 Coutsouridis and Joan DaSilva-Heit ’78 and William Heit.

N: Alan Danvers and his son, Bennett, participate in the Campus-to-Campus 5K.
Rosenberg (cont’d.)

“He has always been a supporter,” Rejali says. “He still sends me soundtracks of ‘Twelfth Night’ productions. Who remembers and celebrates a student’s high school dramatic career 30-plus years after the fact?”

Ed Rosenberg, that’s who.

“What can I say?” Rosenberg asks.

Rosenberg and his wife’s six children have dedicated a brick and a park bench marker in WestConn’s Alumni & Friends Circle to celebrate Rosenberg’s life-long affection for WestConn.

Retired since 1989, Rosenberg still teaches and publishes in his field. He and Harriet travel when they can. He also continues his long-time volunteer work at the Danbury Hospital Emergency Room. And, of course, there’s always his standing Friday lunch dates with his very relaxed colleagues, penciled lovingly on his calendar.

Akbar (cont’d.)

“I was taking a course in African-American literature with (Professor of Anthropology) Rob Whittemore,” he recalls. “We were discussing an African tribe of people, each of whom named themselves. I liked that idea. I knew that in African history, a king called Akbar was said to be one who served his people well. He seemed like someone I could identify with and aspire to be like.”

He changed his name to Akbar. What did not change was the fact that the roots of public service had always run deep in his family. “My grandfather, whose name was Harvey Williams, was a councilman,” he offers with quiet pride.

Last November, Akbar himself ran for the same seat, winning city council with two-thirds of the vote. “I’m very excited to be part of an effort to revitalize this town and make it place a better place to live,” he says.

He credits this same grandfather for inspiring him to work hard and set goals. Despite the load of two full-time jobs — and the birth of twins that year — Akbar graduated from WestConn in 2001 with a double major: a B.S. in Elementary Education and a B.A. in Communication and Theatre Arts.

“Bobby always showed himself to be smart, outgoing and a natural leader on campus,” says Daryle Dennis, assistant dean of the Office of Student Affairs. “He remains committed to giving something back to his community, whether it’s here at WestConn or back home in the classrooms of Rahway. We’re very proud to have him as an alumnus.”

Connect With Us

As part of our Connect With Us series, vice president for Institutional Advancement Dr. G. Koryoe Anim-Wright met with (l-r) Henry (Hank) Dawson ’52 and his wife, Gigi, and Ronald A. Seri ’71 (right) with his girlfriend, Dianne Bryan. Both alumni shared ideas about ways to connect with alumni in the Florida area. They also shared stories about their time at WestConn, reflected on the growth and impact of the university and provided constructive feedback about current programs and events. Anim-Wright is behind the camera.

“A: Al ’67 and Joan ’68 Mead enjoyed themselves at last fall’s Dinner Cruise around the Big Apple.

B: (l-r) Mary (Walsh) Burke ’43, Doris (Gale) Mason ’43 and Nancy Lenihan ’43 celebrated their 65th reunion at the Golden Circle Luncheon held in September.

C: Interim director of Development Karen Wright (in orange) mingles with students and alumni at last summer’s New Milford Alumni and New Student Send-Off Barbecue, hosted by director of Alumni Relations Tammy Hammershoy ’97.

D: Guests at the Alumni Dinner Theatre.

E: Attendees at the Holiday Wine Tasting.

F: At the Alumni Golf Tournament last fall, players include foursome (l-r) Chet Gage ’68, Paul Montalto ’69, and golf co-chairs Neil Wagner ’52 and Tom Crucitti ’69.
WestConn remembers Richard Asch

Donations can be sent to the WCSU Foundation, 181 White St., Danbury, CT 06810. Make checks payable to the WCSU Foundation. You may call (203) 837-8279 to provide credit card information.

In memoriam: Guido J. Tino Jr. ’64

Long-time WestConn supporter and life-long volunteer Guido J. Tino, Jr., died Nov. 21, 2008, at Hartford Hospital.

A teacher for 36 years in the New Fairfield and Danbury School systems, Tino earned a B.S. from WCSU, an M.A. from Fairfield University, and a sixth year certificate of advanced study from the University of Bridgeport. He also spent a year in York, England, as part of the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program.

Tino was a soccer referee for 40 years and also worked as a lacrosse umpire. He was very active in the development of youth soccer in western Connecticut, and one of his proudest achievements was being chosen as a soccer referee and assessor for the Special Olympics World Games held in New Haven.

“First and foremost he was a volunteer,” says Kristine Tino about her husband. “It’s what he believed in.”

A resident of Sherman, Conn., since 1971, Tino founded the Sherman Soccer Club and the community garden near Colonial Field, where the club practiced and played. He was a firefighter and emergency medical technician with the Sherman Volunteer Fire Department. He served on the Sherman Parks and Recreation Commission for 10 years and was elected to the Zoning Board of Appeals for several terms. He also was a member of the Democratic Town Committee and the Sherman Veterans Association. At the time of his passing, Tino was the director of the Office of Emergency Management for Sherman, as well as a town constable and justice of the peace.

In addition, Tino volunteered for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Connecticut and at New Milford Hospital, where he also ran the stroke support group, “Different Strokes.” He received numerous awards over the years for his contributions to teaching, youth soccer and the local community, including the 2007 New Milford Hospital Heroes Award.

“Guido was full of energy,” says WCSU Alumni Association Board of Directors member Terry Eberhardt-Asch ’64 ’72. “Whatever he tackled, he did so with great dedication.”

Tino is survived by Kristine, his wife of 40 years, sons Guy and Garth, and five grandchildren.

A memorial endowed scholarship has been created to honor Tino.

Contributions can be made to theGUIDO TINO MEMORIAL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP, WCSU FOUNDATION, 181 WHITE ST., DANBURY, CT 06810. Please make checks payable to the WCSU Foundation. You may call (203) 837-8279 to provide credit card information.

In memoriam: Margaret “Peggy” Will-Koschel ’51

(Above): Pictured at last year’s dinner cruise event (l-r): Assistant Professor of Nursing Joan Palladino, Beth Koschel, Peggy Will-Koschel ’51 and her son, WestConn’s Associate Director of Property Management Kevin Koschel ’84.

(Inset): Archive photo: Yearbook

Peggy Will-Koschel Memorial Endowed Scholarship; or you may call (203) 837-8279 to provide credit card information.

WestConn remembers Richard Asch

Terry Eberhardt-Asch ’64, ’72 and Richard Asch on last year’s Dinner Cruise around New York City.

Our condolences go out to Alumni Association Board member Terry Eberhardt Asch ’64, ’72 on the passing of her husband, Richard Asch, on Nov. 20, 2008. A senior sales manager for Boehringer Ingelheim until retirement last year, Asch’s hope was to dedicate time and energy toward fundraising for his wife’s alma mater. He and his wife were regular attendees at WestConn events.

“He greatly admired Dr. Schmotter,” says Eberhardt Asch of her late husband. “He felt the university was moving in the right direction and he wanted to help in any way he could.”

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1960s  
Ellen (Turkowski) Masterson ’62 is loving every minute of retirement. She and her husband, Joseph, enjoy traveling and spending time with their seven grandchildren. Masterson enjoyed the article on Fairfield Hall in the fall issue of AlumniNews, having lived in the dorm from 1958 to 1962.

Marcelene Vingo ’64 retired from the Norwalk school system. She stays busy with various service projects and is active at her church.

Jean Allen Courtney ’66 retired in June 2008 from the Guilford, Conn., school system after 33 years teaching English and English as a second language.

1970s  
James M. Milne ’74 is helping to complete a beautiful gym for the Boys & Girls Club of Ansonia, Conn.

Lenore S. Niedzielski ’74 retired from education in 1995. She finds mentoring in Danbury, Conn., rewarding work.

In 2003, Joseph P. Nolan ’74 retired after 28 years as teaching vice principal from Barnard School in Waterbury, Conn. He has three children: Matthew, Marta and Joe, who was killed in Iraq on Nov. 18, 2004.

Dr. Timothy Ring ’74 recently returned from Myanmar as part of a humanitarian relief effort. He is a psychologist with trauma specialty and has worked at Ground Zero, and with Hurricane Katrina and Cyclone Nargis victims.

David R. Carlson ’79 recently retired from teaching in Bristol, Conn. He was appointed captain and band master of the First Company Governor’s Foot Guard Band of Hartford, Conn., the oldest continuously active military unit in the United States.

Susan Boland Shepherd ’79, mother of five, is pursuing a Ph.D. in Nursing from University of Massachusetts (UMass) Worcester. She received an MPH at UMass Amherst. Her interests include pediatrics and community mental health. In 2006, she and husband, Robert, divorced after 23 years of marriage.

1980s  
Deborah Bugryn ’80, ’89 earned a B.S. and M.S. in Nursing from WestConn. In 1991, she obtained an A.P.R.N. and currently is the director of Cardio-Pulmonary Services at Bristol Hospital. She and husband Frank have four children, ranging in age from eight to 16. Bugryn also owns a retail dance and cheer store in Watertown, Conn.

Last summer, Irene Sherlock ’84, ’91 was writer-in-residence for a weekend workshop in the Adirondacks. She enjoys teaching in the undergraduate and graduate writing programs at WestConn.

Raymond T. Campbell ’85 completed the ING Hartford Marathon on Oct. 11, 2008.

Lois P. Boisits ’87 enjoys spending time with grandsons John, Edward III and Graham, and granddaughter Elizabeth.

Valerie O’Rourke ’87 is pursuing an M.S.W. at Fordham University in N.Y. Her son attends college at Springfield College, Mass.

Robert Ciani ’89 introduced www.JoinTheDot.com, a nonpartisan organization with a goal to generate social good among Americans and individuals from around the world.

1990s  
Michael P. Kane ’90 is president of the Connecticut Chiropractic Association.

Intensive care unit nurse Cathy Hunt ’92 recently received the Nightingale Award and is president of her local chapter of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses. She and husband Bill, married 23 years, have a son Billy, 13, and a daughter Stephanie, 11.

Edward S. Abdella ’93 is a professor of history at Mississippi State University.

Wendy (Doe) Abrams ’93 earned an M.S.N. in the family nurse practitioner program at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Conn. She works in Boston in geriatrics and internal medicine and lives in Medway, Mass., with husband, Russ, and their three children: Rachel, 6, Ryan, 4, and Jillian, 2.

Thomas J. Saadi ’93 was appointed operational training chief officer of the 4th Legal Support Organization, U.S. Army Reserve JAG Corps.

Diane E. Bell ’94 is looking forward to her wedding in April 2009 and is relocating to Dutchess County, N.Y.

Kristine Collin ’98 has worked at the UConn Health Center in Farmington, Conn., as assistant nurse manager in the intensive care and cardiac step-down unit for 21 years. She is married and has two children, 18 and 15.

Shawn O’Brien ’98 opened Excel Fitness, a personal fitness facility specializing in personal training, memberships, yoga, group fitness, nutrition and customer service. During Homecoming week, O’Brien delivered a complimentary talk to students about the importance of exercise and nutrition.

Jeanine F. Reckdenwald ’98 was appointed Bristol Hospital’s new assistant vice president of Human Resources last September. She and husband Dave have three children and reside in Watertown, Conn.

Laura Meyers Giordano ’99 works as a client services consultant at Cartus, a relocation company located in Danbury, Conn. Married in July, she and her husband live in Danbury.

2000s  
Jessica Gosselin ’00 was recently promoted to Web director at three Cox Radio Milford, Conn., stations. Before that he produced WPLR’s “Smith & Barber: the Morning Show” and “Chaz & AJ in the Morning.” His overnight radio show on WPLR was featured by the New York Times as one of the best overnight radio shows in the area.

Kimberly S. Mitchell ’00 was named Brookfield, Conn.’s public school Teacher of the Year. She works at the Whisconier Middle School where she organized a campaign to provide nonperishable goods to the town food pantry and sold bracelets to benefit the displaced in Darfur. She and husband-Brian live in Danbury.

After graduating from WestConn and completing an M.S. in Nursing at the University of Phoenix, Vikki Delay ’01 worked as a pediatric staff nurse at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center in Hartford, Conn. Currently, she is a pediatric psychiatric nurse at Wellspring Foundation in Bethlehem, Conn.

Larissa Lacman ’02 graduated from WestConn with a B.S. in Justice and Law Administration and cum laude from Quinnipiac Law in 2005.

After practicing probate law in Connecticut, she recently moved to Palm Beach, Fla., where she was hired as director of legal research for NCCI Holdings Inc. in Boca Raton.

Kathryn Tong ’04 is a health occupations educator at Danbury High School and teaches in the nursing assistant program as well as the Health and Bioscience Academy. Her students do clinical training at Danbury Hospital.

William N. McCord III ’05 was hired by Bucknell University in Pennsylvania as a football coach for the corner back unit. McCord, who formerly coached at WestConn, Franklin & Marshall College in Pennsylvania and Southern Regional High School in New Jersey, was a four-year letterman and starting corner back while attending WestConn.

WestConn Sweethearts Dorri Bova ’05 and Jose Mendes ’02 met in 2000 and married in 2006. They recently purchased their first home and are enjoying married life with their dachshund, Penny.

Aileen Murphy ’05 was sworn in as a police officer for the Newtown, Conn., Police Department on July 2, 2008.

Megan Gagliardi ’07 has been working at Danbury Hospital as a cardiac/telemetry registered nurse since June 2007.

Jennette Acampampora ’08 is a Department of Children and Families case manager working in a therapeutic group home for adolescent boys. She is pursuing a M.S.W. at the University of Connecticut and dating WestConn alumnus David Miller ’06.

Steven Siencienski ’08 was sworn in as a police officer for the Newtown, Conn., Police Department on July 2, 2008.
And baby makes …
Stephanie Cinque ’02 and Tim McInerney welcomed their second child, Alexis Noel, on Christmas Day. She joins brother, Chase, 2.

Kerilynn ’94 and Gordon Hallas ’90 celebrated the birth of their fourth child, daughter Brynne Leigh, on June 28, 2008. Brynne joins siblings Baylee, Brayden and Brooke.

Amanda Marsilio ’01 and Ara Burlinson welcomed their first child, Caleb Jovan, on Nov. 8, 2007

Erin and Brendan ’96 O’Marra welcomed their second child, Garrett Graham, on Feb. 19, 2008. He joins sister, Kayla Rae, 3.

Valerie Ventura and Thomas J. Saadi ’93 welcomed the birth of twins Jacob and Sabrina on Aug. 22, 2008

Judith Tantillo ’94 and Timothy Meehan welcomed their second child, Lauren Marie, on Oct. 23, 2008. She joins brother, Michael, 20 months.

Wedding bells
Colleen Sullivan and Daniel Balash ’01, July 6, 2008
Claudia DeGrazia ’01 and Matthew Worwood, October 2008
Laura Meyers ’99 and Christopher Giordano, July 19, 2008
Monica Perry ’04 and Sergio Sousa, Oct. 25, 2008
Michelle Tarzia ’98 and Shawn McNamara, Oct. 18, 2008

In memoriam
Deanne (Vassak) Abbots ’64, Danbury, Conn., Nov. 5, 2008
Shirley H. Barta ’52, South Norwalk, Conn.
Celestine D. Bassford ’47, Norwalk, Conn., Nov. 26, 2008
Ida L. Best ’86, Danbury, Conn.
Nelson P. Bowden ’98, Stratford, Conn.
Alice (Benjamin) Camp ’28, Brewster, Mass.
Mary A. Carr ’29, Bantam, Conn., Jan. 11, 2008
Barbara I. Cizik ’87, Brewster, N.Y.
Socrates S. Clonaris ’70, New Milford, Conn.
David M. Coughlin ’83, Los Angeles, Calif., July 2, 2008
Robert G. Doyle ’66, Torrington, Conn., June 24, 2008
Mary L. Engstrand ’74, Hodges, S.C., May 1, 2005
Jane E. Falis ’62, Danbury, Conn., July 2, 2008
Gail A. Gaines ’70, New Milford, Conn.
Ethel (Frost) Hurbut ’40, Roxbury, Conn., April 5, 2008

Tell us about yourself

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Use additional paper if necessary. Please print or type and return to Office of Alumni Relations, WCSU, 181 White Street, Danbury, CT 06810.

☐ Yes! I want information about the Alumni Association Board and its volunteer committees.
☐ Yes! I want to help organize an event in my area.
☐ Yes! I would be interested in sponsoring an internship with my company.

WestConn Alumni Directory

The 2008 WestConn Alumni Directory is the most comprehensive issue to date. Alumni can purchase this beautiful, hardbound volume of the directory or buy a basic or premium online subscription. Alumni directories are on sale for $34.99 while supplies last. Contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (203) 837-8298 or e-mail alumni@wcsu.edu.
Midtown campus (See article, page 3)

7:30 p.m., Ives Concert Hall, White Hall, and Bombay! Mississippi Masala, Monsoon director, writer and producer: An Evening with Mira Nair, renowned film President’s Lecture Series March 31

Box office: (203) 837-8732

WCSU students free with valid I.D. and students; www.wcsu.edu/tickets.

campus. Tickets: $18; $15 for seniors 8 p.m., Berkshire Theatre, Midtown Presented by the theatre arts department Theatre Production – “The Tempest” 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14 (Two performances March 4 (7:30 p.m. Gala Reception), 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14 (Two performances — 2 & 8 p.m.) Theatre Production – “The Tempest” Presented by the theatre arts department 8 p.m., Berkshire Theatre, Midtown campus. Tickets: $18; $15 for seniors and students; www.wcsu.edu/tickets. WCSU students free with valid I.D. Box office: (203) 837-8732

May 2 University Ball Join us for an evening of dancing and celebration. 7 p.m., Feldman Arena, O’Neill Center, Westside campus. Black Tie, $200/person. (203) 837-8279

May 3 President’s Lecture Series An Evening with Mira Nair, renowned film director, writer and producer: Salaam Bombay! Mississipp Masala, Morescon Wedding, Vanity Fair and The Namesake 7:30 p.m., Ives Concert Hall, White Hall, Midtown campus (See article, page 3)

April 1
WCSU Alumni Association Annual Meeting 6 p.m., Alumni Hall, Midtown campus

April 3
CMEA Music Reception A complimentary reception for alumni attending the 64th annual CMEA In-Service Conference and All State Music Festival. 6 p.m., Riverside Lounge, Conn. Convention Center, 100 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, Conn.

April 5-11
Southern Charm Enjoy beautiful landscapes, traditional cuisine and historical landmarks of the South. Highlights include Historic Charleston, Boone Hall Plantation, Beaufort, Savannah, Factors Walk, Jekyll Island and St. Simons Island. For more information, call Kay Schreiber ’79 at (203) 790-8342.

April 20
Alumni Association Scholarship Dinner A complimentary dinner for the 2008 Alumni Association Scholarship recipients and their families. 5:30 p.m., Alumni Hall, Midtown campus

May 22
Cap and Gown Distribution 3 to 7 p.m., Westside Campus Center, Westside campus

May 23
Graduate Commencement 7 p.m., Feldman Arena, O’Neill Center, Westside campus

May 24
Undergraduate Commencement 10:30 a.m., Athletic Stadium, Westside campus (Continental Breakfast at 8 a.m.)

July 26
New Milford Alumni and Student Send-Off Barbecue Join alumni and new students for a complimentary barbecue at the home of WestConn Sweethearts Tammy 97 (Hammerhooy) and Todd 97 McInerney. 2 to 4 p.m., 33 Sterling Dr., New Milford, Conn. E-mail alumni@wcsu.edu or call (203) 837-8298.

August 6
Alumni Family Day at Lake Compounce Spend a fun-filled day with your family and fellow alumni at Lake Compounce in Bristol, Conn. $30 per person (No charge for children 3 & under) (203) 837-8298.

March 4 (7:30 p.m. Gala Reception), 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14 (Two performances — 2 & 8 p.m.) Theatre Production – “The Tempest” Presented by the theatre arts department 8 p.m., Berkshire Theatre, Midtown campus. Tickets: $18; $15 for seniors and students; www.wcsu.edu/tickets. WCSU students free with valid I.D. Box office: (203) 837-8732

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May 6
Alumni Nursing Society Reception A complimentary reception for nursing alumni and seniors graduating from WCSU’s nursing program. 4:30 p.m., Westside Campus Center Ballroom

May 7
Singer Brianne Chasanoff ’02 WestConn Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., Alumni Hall, Midtown campus

May 22
Cap and Gown Distribution 3 to 7 p.m., Westside Campus Center, Westside campus

May 23
Graduate Commencement 7 p.m., Feldman Arena, O’Neill Center, Westside campus

May 24
Undergraduate Commencement 10:30 a.m., Athletic Stadium, Westside campus (Continental Breakfast at 8 a.m.)
A. WestConn Alumni Hat: $15.98 (Cobra). Available in navy or khaki.
B. WestConn Alumni Crewneck Sweatshirt: $24.98 (Champion) S-2X. Available in navy only.
C. WestConn Infant Tee-shirt: $14.98 (College Kids) 6m, 12m, 18m. Available in white, pink or gray.
D. WestConn Alumni Tee-shirt: $14.98 (Champion) S-2X. Available in blue or gray.
E. WestConn Toddler Sweatpants: $24.98 (Champion) S-2X. Available in blue or gray.
F. WestConn Zip-hood Toddler Sweatshirt: $29.98 (College Kids) 2T-5/6. Available in pink, white or gray.
G. WestConn Alumni Hooded Sweatshirt: $34.98 (Champion) S-2X. Available in navy only.
H. WestConn Alumni Hat: $15.98 (Cobra). Available in navy or khaki.
I. WestConn Alumni License Plate Holder, $16.98.
J. WCU Alumni License Plate Holder, $16.98.
K. WCU Alumni men’s and women’s watches $79.95 each (Quartz). Time and day. Brown leather band. Comes in high-gloss cherry-finish jewelry box.
L. WCU Alumni Desk Accessories, seal and school name with “Alumni” engraved on black and gold. Masterpiece medallion.
M. Diploma frames: M1: 23K jewelry-quality medallion, black and gold museum-quality matting, gold embossed WCU Alumni, cherry, $137.95. M2 & M3: Regency or Gallery style frames: $114.95, seal and school name gold embossed on black and gold museum-quality matting. M2: Gallery; cherry, M3: Regency; mahogany. Both: gold inner lip. Signature style frame.
N. Campus Scene Edition showcases a beautiful panoramic photo of Fairfield Hall mounted above diploma with seal and school name gold embossed on black and gold museum-quality matting and features a high-gloss Galleria cherry moulding, $144.95.

Please specify M1, M2, M3 or M4. For pre-1998 styles, call Alumni Relations at (203) 837-8290. More information and photos. Visit www. wc su.edu/alumni for more information and photos. Call (203) 837-8290 to order.
Parents: If the address label lists a son or daughter who no longer lives at this address, please notify the Office of Alumni Relations of the correct address. Send to: Office of Alumni Relations, WCSU, 181 White Street, Danbury, CT 06810 or e-mail alumni@wcsu.edu.

Please visit www.wcsu.edu/openhouse to get more information, directions, and complete the online registration form.

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