Theresa Rangel ’06
Captivates Children’s Imaginations

Also, profiles on:
Stephanie Madonna ’05 • Anthony Woodhouse ’04 • Mary Nimer ’85 • Jonathan Soares ’05
Profiles

Theresa Rangel '06
School of Professional Studies

Stephanie Madonna ’05
School of Visual and Performing Arts

Anthony Woodhouse ’04
School of Arts and Sciences

Mary Nimer ’85
Division of Graduate Studies

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Envisioning WestConn’s future plans

We begin the Fall 2007 semester, and WestConn’s 105th year, with excitement and enthusiasm. Our new Strategic Plan, which I described in an earlier issue of the AlumniNews, is guiding the development of new academic programs and the reallocation of resources necessary to their success. It also is helping us address the demands of our increasing enrollment, which has grown faster than that of any of our sister Connecticut State University institutions. This plan directs us toward the achievement of our vision—an affordable public university with the characteristics of New England’s best small private universities.

This vision, as well as assumptions about enrollment growth and academic program priorities, sets the context for our recently completed Facilities Master Plan, which charts the continuing physical development of our two campuses over the next 10 years. Highlights of this plan include placement of the long-awaited new home for our School of Visual and Performing Arts on the Westside campus and the development of a central quadrangle to achieve a stronger sense of academic community at Westside.

On the Midtown campus, the future includes expansion of Berkshire Hall to provide additional health and recreation space as well as renovations to White Hall and Higgins Hall. The Roberts Avenue School, which WCSU will take over in 2009, will be demolished to create additional green space and make the entire central campus a pedestrian zone. To meet our growing need for student housing, new residence halls are slated for both campuses and a needed renovation of our baseball facility also is planned.

The Master Plan is ambitious and will require substantial state support in bonding. Its full completion may well take longer than a decade. However, its unanimous acceptance by the Connecticut State University System Board of Trustees last March sets in motion the next stage of our university’s development. As we proceed, we build upon the decades of progress and growth that began in Old Main and Fairfield Hall in the early 20th century. This has been an exciting ride and the years ahead promise more of the same. Stay tuned!

Richard A. Stabile ‘89

I hope this message finds you, our alumni and families, in good health and great spirits. We all are looking forward to an interesting, event-packed upcoming year!

The Alumni Association has been finalizing plans for the annual Alumni Golf Tournament, which is coming back to Richter Park Golf Course. Richter is among the country’s top 25 public golf courses and we hope all will come out and participate in the tournament — our biggest fundraiser every year. The event supports alumni scholarships and this year it will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 2. For information, please contact the Alumni Office at (203) 837-8290.

Our scholarship recipients this year represent the best and brightest WestConn has produced. The talent and dedication these students demonstrate in their academic and social lives make us realize how important it is for our Alumni Association to continue its effective and supportive scholarship program.

Our newest Alumni Association Lifetime Member, Kay Schreiber, deserves our sincerest thanks for her many years of service to WestConn, the Alumni Association and the greater campus community. I am not letting Kay leave yet, however. She’ll be working on special projects and gifts to the university in the coming years and I’ll share more about these in upcoming issues of the AlumniNews.

Last but not least, please join us for Homecoming 2007, which begins Monday, Oct. 1, and culminates Sunday, Oct. 7. For a complete listing of events, including information about the homecoming football game, go to www.wcsu.edu. Last year’s homecoming was fantastic, with a great football matchup played in
This fall, WestConn’s Annual Fund campaign will feature new ways to give back to your school. This initiative, called ‘Time, Talent and Treasure,’ asks that you consider the variety of ways to contribute to the university.

“People are always asking about ways in which they can give back to WestConn,” says Dr. G. Koryoe Anim-Wright, vice president for institutional advancement. “Giving back takes many forms and the ‘Time, Talent and Treasure’ concept provides our alumni with many choices and options.”

According to Anim-Wright, alumni can support the university by attending events, volunteering on university committees and boards, hosting an alumni reception or new student event in their home, mentoring a current student, or donating money to a department or program that holds special meaning.

This year’s homecoming activities reflect the new direction. Events include an Alumni Business Showcase, a kick-off reception for the Alumni-Student Mentoring Program and the popular Alumni Golf Tournament.

She notes that there are many creative ways for alumni to support their alma mater and cites the example of an alumnus at a sister university who worked for a major corporation and successfully established an internship program for students from his alma mater. But that wasn’t all: the alumnus encouraged all students who benefited from the internship to sign a promissory letter indicating that they also would establish an internship program.

“The message from the university is simple: we want our alumni to know that they have choices when it comes to giving back to their alma mater. However our alums want to give back, WestConn is grateful to have so many talented alumni willing to support the university.”

For information about donating your time, talent or treasure, or other ways of giving back, contact Dr. G. Koryoe Anim-Wright at (203) 837-8279.

Alumni and prospective donors were treated to delicious hors d’oeuvres, great conversation and music provided by the WCSU Jazz Ensemble on the Hancocks’ tranquil property, which features acres of landscaped gardens.

“Hosting this memorable gathering of WestConn friends and supporters is just the latest of the many ways that Jason and Ellen Hancock have advanced our university,” said WestConn President James W. Schmotter. “We’re continually grateful to them.”

If you are interested in hosting an alumni event at your home or at another venue, call the Office of Alumni Relations at (203) 837-8290.

For information about donating your time, talent or treasure, or other ways of giving back, contact Dr. G. Koryoe Anim-Wright at (203) 837-8279.
## GIFTS

that make a difference

Leave a legacy with your . . .

- House, land or other property
- Bequest in your will
- Trusts that provide you with life income
- Life insurance
- Stocks, bonds and more

For advice about estate planning, call your attorney or financial planner. For more information or to attend a free estate-planning seminar, call Vice President for Institutional Advancement Dr. G. Koryoe Anim-Wright at (203) 837-8279.

Left: Marie and Constantine (Deno) Macricostas, generous supporters of WCSU, were the guests of honor at the 2007 University Ball. The couple has created an endowed chair in Hellenic and Modern Greek Studies, a scholarship, lecture series and entrepreneurial award at WestConn.

Below: Members of the Hawley family (pictured) were honored by President James W. Schmotter and the WestConn Society for their longtime support of the university.

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Theatre arts major Stephanie Madonna dreamed of a career in New York City — theater capital of the world. Not one to dawdle, she began plotting her strategy in her freshman year at WestConn. She’d have a leg up, she knew: most theater hopefuls want to perform on stage, while Madonna preferred the all-important, exciting, behind-the-scenes production end.

“I never saw myself as performer,” she says. “But I love theater and really enjoy the fact that I’m a part of making it happen every night.”

Madonna became a student production manager at WestConn, working lighting and set design, handling props, doing publicity, sewing costumes, running the box office — you name it. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts in 2005.

After graduation, she landed an internship with the prestigious Manhattan Theatre Club (MTC), which develops and presents works by both emerging and established playwrights. Though an administrative job, it was a foot in the proverbial door.

“Then they offered me a promotion,” says Madonna, now assistant production manager for MTC. “Production managers are responsible for everything onstage except the actors. I’m involved in nearly every aspect of the show’s playing space, which means I deal with everyone from producer and director to the scene builders.”

She also reads scripts, attends meetings, stage-manages the rehearsal space and oversees budgets. She even monitors the occasional lumber delivery in gridlocked Manhattan. Her work is collaborative, Madonna says. “Often I act as intermediary between competing interests. The director wants a set that’s beyond our production budget, or an actor might not like a costume design. It helps to be diplomatic in my line of work.”

She describes her occupation as similar to event management. “I deal with the practical aspects of production. Everything is meticulously planned; nothing is random.”

Last spring, Madonna helped mount MTC’s hit production, “Blackbird,” starring Jeff Daniels. “The curtain went up to a littered stage. Each bit of paper had to be purposely placed. Every pencil just so, every cup, every open drawer. I had to make sure it was.”

Madonna will not be forgotten by WestConn’s faculty. “Students like Stephanie are why I teach,” says Professor of the Theatre Arts Frank Herbert. “If we had a department Hall of Fame, Stephanie would be among the first inducted.”

“Stephanie was a pro from the start,” Professor Emeritus of Theatre Arts William Walton recalls. She just knew how to get more from her actors. I was always at ease when she was on the job.”

Herbert concurs. “Stephanie set a very high standard of achievement for everyone that came after her,” he says. “She received the Young Scholarship, an award that recognizes excellence and achievement in theatre arts.”

Madonna seems slightly embarrassed by the praise from her former teachers. “I feel grateful to have had the opportunities that I had,” she says. “I grew — both personally and professionally — from my experiences at WestConn.”
Anthony Woodhouse ’04 powers a career in mathematics

by Irene Sherlock

Anthony Woodhouse dreams of designing the car of the future. Not its aesthetics — the sleek, aerodynamic lines and plush interiors — but the new, 21st-century power train by which it will run.

“I like aesthetics, but I’d rather work to see cars running completely on non-fossil fuels,” Woodhouse muses. “I want to do cutting-edge work that impacts society positively.”

Some would say he’s doing that right now simply by being one of the elite few — only about 1,100 in the entire United States, according to Digest of Education statistics — currently earning a doctorate in mathematics. Woodhouse is pursuing his Ph.D. in that discipline at Michigan State University, where he also is a teaching fellow. Though he hasn’t nailed down a topic yet for his dissertation, he says it will likely be in applied mathematics, specifically numerical analysis and topology, which examines changes in the surface and group theory.

“Applied mathematics is a medium that looks at real-life events and models, and views them in mathematical terms,” he explains. “Computer programmers and accountants, for instance, use concepts of applied mathematics all the time. Also designers, meteorologists, scientists, musicians. Most everyone uses applied mathematics in some fashion or another.”

Given that broad swath, Woodhouse gives consideration to many professional fields that might eventually yield interesting opportunities for him to pursue. Automotive research challenges him with its potential to improve life on a global scale. Then again, so does stem cell research. But he is a patient man. “I’ll see what I want to go on to after I’m done with my doctorate,” he says.

He’s clearly unfazed about the difficulties of earning a doctoral degree; instead, his attitude is more eyes-on-the-prize of the worthwhile, rewarding future he’s willing to work hard to earn. Originally from Kingston, Jamaica, Woodhouse seems to possess that innate combination of gratitude and grit shown by so many who immigrate to this country. These qualities, along with his obviously sharp intelligence, undoubtedly served him well in his studies at WestConn, and continue to do so in his graduate career at Michigan State.

Arriving in Danbury in 2001, Woodhouse lived with his father while further pursuing his education. He already had earned a music-education degree in Jamaica. “I am the middle child between two brothers, Keeston and Daryl,” he explains. “And five of my aunts are teachers. I was born into a family of teachers.”

In 2004, Woodhouse obtained a B.A. in Mathematics from WestConn. Two years later, he earned an M.A. in Mathematics Theory. Now, as a graduate student with a teaching fellow, “I have students of my own,” he says proudly.

Recalling his WestConn experience, he says he particularly loved working with Associate Professor of Mathematics Dr. Barry Mittag. “He inspired me to be all that I can be and this was done while he taught me math.” No doubt recognizing the joy his student took from the subject, Mittag confirmed for Woodhouse what he already felt: that doing math was a most satisfying, admirable endeavor. “Math always gave me pleasure,” Woodhouse says. “Then he cautions, smiling, “Mind you, that does not make me out to be a geek! Math is what I can do but not who I am.”

“Tony was the most fun I ever had in the classroom,” Mittag says of his student. “I watched him grow into a confident man and a mature mathematician.”

Other faculty are quick to praise Woodhouse, as well. “Anthony was a joy to have in class,” says Professor of Mathematics Dr. Josie Hamer, chair of WestConn’s mathematics department. “I could always count on him to be the one to answer a question when most of the class was struggling. I’m so proud of him. He’s going to make a very fine mathematician.”

Woodhouse himself imagines that once he’s conquered the business and/or research arena, he will consider a career in academia. “Perhaps in my old age...” Here he breaks into a grin. “Maybe then I’ll become the professor!”

His friend and inspiring former professor chuckles at Woodhouse’s associations between teaching and old age. “The world of academia,” says Mittag, “would be lucky to have him.”
Theresa Rangel ’06 captivates children’s imaginations

by Irene Sherlock

In one corner of her first-grade classroom, Theresa Rangel has put down a magic carpet. She tells her students that this item of schoolroom décor has the ability to transport them to destinations unknown. Apparently, it also has the power to facilitate a little mind reading.

“We sit on the carpet for reading and if anyone’s mind starts to wander, I’ll tell them, ‘Oh, you’re about to fall off. Don’t fall off!’” She laughs. “I’ll go to great lengths to hold their attention.”

This autumn marks Rangel’s second year of teaching, but she has worked in a school setting, primarily as a paraprofessional, for more than five years. “Teaching is what I always wanted to do, even before I knew I could do it,” she says.

Observing her classroom at the Western Connecticut Academy of International Studies Magnet School, one sees ample evidence of that. Anyone privileged to hear her lead a lesson in mathematics or stress the importance of respect would agree that Rangel possesses what many consider imperative requirements for a first-grade educator: unbridled enthusiasm and a passion for developing the always-promising minds of young children.

Rangel would add that owning a penchant for performance and the instincts of an amateur psychologist also are helpful. “You’re in charge of this classroom and you have to be comfortable commanding a group. And let me tell you, first grade is a tough room to work,” she says. In addition to teaching a myriad of academic subjects, she also includes in her job description the duty to encourage each individual student. Her goal is to make them feel valued, Rangel explains, and she does this in part by utilizing a printed set of class rules that hangs on her wall. These rules affirm the importance of students interacting courteously and respectfully with one another every day. “We are family,” she reminds them time and again.

Family is paramount to Rangel. She and her husband Alejandro live in New Milford with their children, Veronica, 9, and Alejandro Jr., 6. Both children attend the Magnet School located on Western Connecticut State University’s Westside campus.

Somehow she did, making the Dean’s list four semesters in a row. She graduated cum laude from WestConn in January 2006 with a double major in Spanish and elementary education. Rangel also was a member of the WestConn Education Club Honors Society.

She is grateful for the help she received from the Minority Teacher Incentive Grant and the W. Jason and Ellen Hancock Scholarship, and credits Daryl Dennis, from WestConn’s Office of Minority Affairs, for making her aware of available resources.

Her year spent as a paraprofessional put her at ease in the classroom, Rangel says. After Park Avenue School, she was a Youth Development Coordinator at Morris Street Elementary School, where she planned, recruited for and implemented a weekly after-school club for fifth-graders.

“I wasn’t in the market for a first grade job, but during my Magnet School interview I was told there were two teaching positions, world language and first-grade.” Rangel says she wanted the world language, since it fit with her background. “But the principal somehow saw me as a first-grade teacher.”

So, ultimately, did she, but admits she was nervous about teaching first grade. “They’re so young and impressionable. They still have this air of innocence about them,” she says. “It seemed pretty daunting.”

Some knew from the start she’d be up to the task. Professor of Education Dr. Darla Shaw observed Rangel in the classroom during her professional semester. “I saw she was a seasoned teacher even then,” Shaw says. “The magic was already there. The children took in her every word and reacted with such enthusiasm. I am delighted that we can say it was WestConn’s program that Theresa went through and that she’s now representing us at the Magnet School.”

Next on Rangel’s academic agenda is a master’s degree from WestConn. She’d love to put a ‘Ph.D.’ after her name eventually and ultimately be a principal. “I’m not sure how I’ll manage to do all of it,” she says.

Somehow, even without her magic carpet, it seems like Rangel might make that ride.
A Lucky Life
Educator Mary Nimer ’85 Gives Back

by Irene Sherlock

Educating the care of the human body has been at the core of Mary Nimer’s life. A health and physical education teacher since 1976, she has taught at the King Street School in Danbury for the last three years. She has coached high school field hockey and elementary school basketball. Each endeavor presented challenges, but the battle Nimer faced with a life-threatening illness in her 20s was the pivotal personal experience that would inform her life.

“I was lucky in that I was given this incredible perspective on what it means to be seriously ill, then to be well again,” Nimer says, recalling the serious infection that threatened her life. About to give birth to her first child, she was desperately ill and hospitalized when her diagnosis was pronounced.

Though it took years, Nimer did recover. Now, approaching the twilight of her teaching career, when her colleagues are considering the luxury of slowing down, she continues to balance a full plate of personal and professional pleasures and commitments, and does it as if each day could be her last.

“I am so blessed,” she says, describing the months after her diagnosis. Her supportive family and dedicated doctors made recovery possible and she returned to the classroom. She and her husband, Gary, had three more boys.

At some point, I made the decision to do whatever I could to help families dealing with serious illness,” Nimer says. That meant now donning a fundraising hat, now conducting a benefit, now answering an individual’s need for someone to listen.

Long-time friend Theresa Eberhard-Asch says Nimer’s compassion is absolute. “I don’t know where she gets the time,” Eberhard-Asch marvels. “Mary never turns anyone down who needs help.”

“We get back what we put out in life,” Nimer says. She walks that walk with her volunteer work, giving, not getting. Life is precious to Mary Nimer.

Sometimes she’ll spend the night in a hospital chair, sitting with a patient so a family member can spend a night at home. “I want them to know that someone understands what they’re going through,” she says.

Her friend and lifelong mentor, WCSU Professor Emeritus of Psychology Dr. Harold Burke, says Nimer is the “real deal — the sort of person who’s willing to step in and act when something needs to be done.” Burke and Nimer both are graduates of Springfield College. Last year, the college presented Nimer with the President’s Amici Award, in recognition of her lifetime support of the school. She also won the American Heart Association’s Heart of Gold Award and the Character Highlights Award presented by Danbury public schools.

It can’t always be easy, but Nimer is grateful for her opportunities to help others even in the midst of her busy life. Teaching fulfills her, but so does working with her husband, fellow WestConn alumnus Gary Nimer ’76, with whom she operates two Connecticut eateries: Nimer’s White Turkey Pantry in Brookfield and Hawleyville Deli in Newtown. The Danbury couple also owns and manages Get-A-Way Sports, an equipment transportation service for the New York Yankees and other major league teams.

“We’re a sports family,” Nimer laughs. “My son Matthew is a bat boy for the Yankees. As you can imagine, we attend a lot of games.” Matthew is 17, and the Nimers also have Bryan, 27; Christopher, 26; and Jeffrey, 19. All have some involvement in athletics.

In addition to her Springfield College B.S. in education earned in 1976, Nimer received an M.S. in physical education from WestConn in 1985, and a sixth year professional diploma from Southern Connecticut State University in 1990.

The swath of Nimer’s educational path is expanding once again. This fall, she’ll be a student again at WCSU, pursuing a Doctor of Education in Instructional Leadership degree. “It’s so exciting,” she says then adds, characteristically, “I’m looking forward to jumping right in!”

Mary Nimer ’85 is surrounded by her second-grade physical education students at King Street Primary School in Danbury.
by Connie Conway

As a middle-schooler, Jonathan Soares bought his first box of candy at Costco for about $5, portioned out the contents and sold them to classmates, realizing an 80 percent profit on his investment. Then he bought more and did it again. His business venture eventually ended, however, when he was reminded that school was about the business of getting educated, not rich.

No matter. The young entrepreneur never lost his business groove. By age 14, he was working at Double Twister in Danbury where, between shifts, he ran his own landscaping company. The specialty food industry was next, and by the time he was attending the Ancell Business School at WestConn, Soares already had begun to develop and market a line of Italian gourmet products.

He had spent a semester at the University of Rhode Island, but knew he wanted a business program with more one-on-one attention from instructors. “I started thinking about WestConn,” Soares says. “I sat in on a couple of my friends’ classes there, and the kind of close exchange with professors that I saw convinced me that’s where I wanted to be.” He graduated in 2006 with a bachelor’s degree in marketing.

“Work has always appealed to me,” Soares says of his propensity for achievement. “I enjoy teaching myself new things. And of course I love making money.”

That money thing brought him into mortgages, telemarketing part time until he felt ready to step up to loan officer status. He approached his manager about it.

“Takes time to get to that level;” his manager told him. “You need a couple more years.”

Soares went into a kind of stealth mode then, closing five loans for the mortgage company on his own. Not surprisingly, he was promoted.

He tells how he used his off-hours to approach supermarket executives, impressing them with his deliciously tangy barbeque sauce (“a 20-year-old family recipe!”). When they were too busy, he pressed on. And when he did manage to get his product signed up, he knew it wasn’t enough just to have it sitting pretty on their shelves.

“I followed shoppers around until I got them to have a taste of Q.” He says. “That got their attention.” A few times he went into stealth mode again. “I’d hang around the condiments section casually asking people, ‘Have you tried that Q sauce? It’s so good!’ ”

His strategy of creating a persona for his product would involve marketing himself, Soares knew, but his $10,000 startup loan made for a modest budget. So he brought his Jonny Q persona to MySpace, YouTube and onto the radio. Targeting colleges and universities with ads relating Q to his own image, he reached out to his peer group.

Between persistent calls to industry bigwigs, his outreach to consumers and his inventive use of the Internet, Soares’ style was to follow the marketing avenues available to him, not to bemoan the ones out of his reach.

And it worked.

Preliminary incorporation of his company began in May 2005. By that August, Soares had secured Big Y, and by September, Stop and Shop. Stew Leonard’s jumped on board soon after. Q took off like a rocket. Now in his second year of operations, he has launched his company nationally.

“Selling is self-confidence plus being able to build trust,” says Soares, whose father is a sales manager for General Electric. “You develop a pitch — but you have to have honesty and integrity to back it up.” He looks over at the bottle of Q he’s brought along. “It’s taste, packaging and marketing that sells my product. But, long term, it’s up to the customers to decide how good it is.” Meantime, he has mapped plans and cemented connections to drive a number of businesses. As CEO of Innovative Ventures Corp., he’s using the fusion concept of bringing culturally diverse flavors together to create a whole new line of products.

“Jonathan Soares has entrepreneurship in his blood,” says WestConn President James W. Schmotter, who is well-acquainted with this impressive alumnus. “He’s someone to keep your eye on!”
Last spring, the Colonials’ five team programs played 118 games and matches in a short, 62-day span. The women’s softball and men’s lacrosse programs were invited to play in the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) tournaments. First-year Head Coach Heather Stone’s softball squad captured the ECAC New England Championship. Shelby Slie, named ECAC Tournament Most Outstanding Player, finished the season with an impressive 16-5 record, striking out 195 batters in 149 innings during her junior campaign. It was the program’s second ECAC title since capturing the 1997 ECAC North crown.

In other softball news, Meg Cirigliano and Meg Brunell made the ESPN Magazine Academic All-District team. Slie, Brunell, Cirigliano and Cortney Romyns were named to the Little East Conference (LEC) All-Star First Team.

The men’s lacrosse team also appeared in its second ECAC tournament this past spring. After falling to arch rival Eastern Connecticut State University in the semifinals of the LEC Tournament, second-year mentor Jason Ouellet’s lacrosse squad earned the No. 3 seed in the five-team ECAC field.

WestConn was led by Dennis Skarda and Adam Lanehart who finished first and second in scoring last spring. Skarda finished his third season with 16 goals and 34 assists for 50 points while Lanehart led the team with 36 goals along with 13 assists for 49 points. Ron Pac followed closely behind with 31 goals and 48 total points.

Women’s lacrosse, which finished its second season under Head Coach Jen Burrows, went 2-14 and was narrowly eliminated from the LEC Tournament despite a final game, which ended with a 14-11 victory over UMass Dartmouth.

In men’s tennis, Head Coach Alex Aitchison led his team through a 4-5 season last spring. His netters, led by No. 1 singles player Wayne Tentler, finished fourth in the LEC Tournament.

WestConn’s baseball team went 7-26 overall this past spring. The pitching staff, which graduated only middle reliever Rob Molinowski, will welcome back nearly its entire staff next season.

WCSU will host the 2008 and 2009 Nutmeg State Games. Mark your calendars! July 28 - Aug. 3, 2008. For information, visit the Web site at nutmegstategames.org.
Monday, Oct. 1

- **Danbury Heritage Heroes Program.** WestConn will host “Danbury History Comes Alive,” an historical event which pays tribute to seven Heritage Heroes: Marian Anderson, Charles Ives, Zadock Benedict, Mark Twain, P.T. Barnum, Rose Wilder Lane and the Leatherman. 7 p.m., Student Center Theater, Midtown campus. Free and open to the public. Appropriate for children.

Tuesday, Oct. 2

- **Alumni Association Golf Tournament.** 10 a.m. shotgun start (scramble format), Richter Park, 100 Aunt Hack Rd., Danbury, Conn. $700/foursome or $175/person. Reception immediately following tournament at Café on the Green. Open to the public. To register, call (203) 837-8290.
- **WCSU Field Hockey vs. Framingham State.** 6 p.m., Westside Athletic Complex, Westside campus. Free and open to the public.
- **President’s Welcome and Roundtable Discussion: Freedom of Expression.** Freedom of expression is becoming an important issue in American life and in politics. Join us for a discussion about how and why this issue is often misunderstood and must be protected. WCSU President James W. Schmotter will moderate. Panelists include: Professor Emeritus of Justice and Law Administration Dr. Harry Schramm, Assistant Dean of Arts & Sciences Dr. Abbey Zink, News-Times Editorial Page Editor Mary Connolly and Connecticut State University Student Trustee Andrew Wetmore. Reception immediately following. 7 p.m., First floor, Warner Hall, Midtown campus. Free and open to alumni, students, faculty and staff.

Wednesday, Oct. 3

- **Reflections: WestConn Then and Now.** WestConn Professor Emeritus of History Dr. Herbert Janick, Chief Information Officer Lorraine Capobianco ’77, Vice President Emeritus for Finance and Administration Richard Sullivan and Harriet Rosenberg ’61 will share WestConn recollections and Janick’s book, “A People’s University: The Centennial History of Western Connecticut State University 1903-2003.” Reception and tour of the Science Building immediately following. 5:30 p.m., First floor, Warner Hall, Midtown campus. Free and open to alumni, students, faculty and staff.
- **Alumni-Student Mentoring Reception.** Are you currently mentoring a WestConn student or would you consider becoming a mentor? Then join us for a kick-off reception for WestConn’s new Alumni-Student Mentoring Program. Learn how the mentoring program benefits WestConn students. 5:30 p.m., Westside Campus Center Grand Ballroom, Westside campus. Free and open to alumni, students, faculty and staff. Sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations, Career Development Center and Alumni Association.
- **WCSU Women’s Soccer vs. Westfield State.** 7 p.m., Westside Athletic Complex, Westside campus. Free and open to the public.

Thursday, Oct. 4

- **Ancell School of Business (ASB) Distinguished Alumni Dinner.** Help celebrate outstanding alumni from the ASB. 5:30 p.m., Westside Classroom Building, Room 218, Westside campus. Cost. Open to the public. RSVP to (203) 837-9600.
- **Faculty vs. Student Basketball Game.** 7 p.m., Bill Williams Gymnasium, Berkshire Hall, Midtown campus. Free and open to the public.
- **Steven Neuwirth Lecture Series — Speaker TBA.** Help us honor the life and scholarship of the late WestConn Professor of English Dr. Steven D. Neuwirth. A specialist in Early American literature and American history, Neuwirth made significant contributions to academic program development at WestConn from the 1980s until his retirement in 2003. 7:30 p.m., Science Building, Room 125, Midtown campus. Free and open to the public. RSVP to (203) 837-9400.
- **Coffeehouse.** Join members of the university community for this popular Thursday evening ritual. 8 p.m., Alumni Hall, Midtown campus. Free and open to alumni, students, faculty and staff. Featuring Brianne Chasanoff ’03.
Friday, Oct. 5

• **Hall of Fame Dinner.** Help celebrate the accomplishments of alumni athletes, coaches and supporters who are being inducted into the 2007 Athletic Hall of Fame: Philip Bergen '92 (soccer), Patrick Hackett '87 (football), Nicholas Mongillo '85 (football), former WCSU Women's Basketball Coach Jody Rajcula and WCSU supporter Leon Stolle. 5:30 p.m., Westside Campus Center Grand Ballroom, Westside campus. $50/person. Open to the public. RSVP to (203) 837-8290 by Sept. 28.

• **Oktoberfest.** Celebrate Homecoming in style at the Oktoberfest celebration. 6 p.m., Quadrangle, Midtown campus. Free and open to alumni, students, parents, faculty and staff. Food and beverages provided.

• **WCSU Ice Hockey vs. UConn.** 7 p.m., Danbury Ice Arena, 1 Independence Way, Danbury, Conn. Cost. Open to the public.

• **Mentalist Banachek.** Featured on “CNN Live” and the “Today” show, Banachek, the world’s leading mentalist, continues to amuse and amaze audiences with astonishing acts of ability and humor. 8 p.m., Ives Concert Hall, White Hall, Midtown campus. Free and open to alumni, students, parents, faculty and staff.

Saturday, Oct. 6 Homecoming Day

• **Athletic Hall of Fame.** Visit WCSU’s Athletic Hall of Fame. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., O’Neill Center, Westside campus. Free and open to the public.

• **Alumni and Friends Circle Rededication.** 9:30 a.m., Alumni & Friends Circle (brick circle outside of Old Main), Midtown campus. Free and open to alumni, students, parents, faculty and staff.

• **Alumni Breakfast.** Enjoy a full breakfast buffet. 10 a.m., Westside Campus Center Grand Ballroom, Westside campus. $5/person; children under 2 eat free. Open to alumni, students, parents, faculty and staff.

• **Homecoming Tailgate Party.** Gather with friends for a tailgating party prior to the Homecoming football game. 10 a.m., O’Neill Center Parking Lot, Westside campus. Open to alumni, students, parents, faculty and staff. Must be 21 years or older.

• **Homecoming Football Game:** Colonials vs. William Paterson, noon, Westside Athletic Complex, Westside campus. $6/general admission; $4/55 and older and children under 12. Open to the public.

• **Alumni Hospitality Tent.** (Across from Westside Athletic Complex.) 2 p.m., Westside campus. $5/person. Open to alumni, students, parents, faculty and staff. Must be 21 years or older. Featuring the band Future Tense.

• **Alumni Business Showcase.** (Next to Alumni Hospitality Tent.) Come meet alumni business owners. 2 p.m., Westside campus. Free and open to alumni, students, parents, faculty and staff.

• **Street Fair.** Support WestConn’s student organizations at this Homecoming tradition. 2 p.m., Westside campus. Food, beverages. Free and open to alumni, students, parents, faculty and staff.

• **Tour of the Westside Nature Preserve.** 3 p.m., Westside campus. Free and open to the public.

• **Alumni Ice Hockey Game.** 5 p.m., Danbury Ice Arena, 1 Independence Way, Danbury, Conn. Cost. Open to the public.

• **WCSU Field Hockey vs. UMass Dartmouth.** 6 p.m., Westside Athletic Complex, Westside campus. Free and open to the public.


Sunday, Oct. 7

• **WCSU Women’s Soccer vs. Plymouth State.** noon, Westside Athletic Complex, Westside campus. Free and open to the public.

For more information about Homecoming, call (203) 837-8290 or visit www.wcsu.edu/homecoming.
Tuesday, Oct. 2, 2007

The Alumni Association’s Golf Tournament is coming home! Join us for a wonderful day of golf while helping to raise money for WestConn student scholarships. Gather your friends for some fun on the green!

Golf Anyone?

Richter Park Golf Course,
100 Aunt Hack Road, Danbury, Conn.
8:30 a.m. . . . . . . . . Check-in and continental breakfast
10 a.m. . . . . . . . . Shot gun start (scramble format)
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lunch on the Turn
3 p.m. . . . . . . . . Awards reception at Café on the Green
$700/foursome; $175/individual. Sponsorships also are available. Open to the public. To register, call (203) 837-8290.

Stabile (cont’d.)

perfect weather with food and entertainment before and after the game. This year we’ll hold a pre-game breakfast and an after-game concert. The alumni tents will be just outside the stadium and there will be food and beverages to enjoy. We cater to all students and alumni as well as their families, so if you have small children as I do, bring them along for a terrific day of fun and show off your Colonial pride at the same time. For more information about Homecoming 2007, contact the Alumni Office at (203) 837-8290. I hope to see you there!

Kick-off reception for Alumni-Student Mentoring Program

Become a mentor! WestConn’s new Alumni Mentoring Program is designed to match successful alumni with students interested in their particular field. If you would like to share your expertise with a WestConn student, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (203) 837-8290 or e-mail mentoring@wcsu.edu.

Please join us for a kick-off reception for WestConn’s new Alumni-Student Mentoring Program at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 3, Westside Campus Center Grand Ballroom, Westside campus. This venture is a joint initiative between the Alumni Office, the Alumni Association and the Career Development Center. For information, visit our Web site: http://www.wcsu.edu/alumni/mentoring_program.asp.

Activate your membership to the Alumni Association!

Did you know that active members of the WCSU Alumni Association can save on goods and services at many businesses in the Greater Danbury area? For a list of participants, visit www.wcsu.edu/alumni/usave.asp.

In addition, active membership entitles you to: Ives Concert Park discounts; career services at WCSU; WCSU library privileges; university fitness centers, weight rooms and pool privileges; participation in university recreation classes and open gym hours; insurance & credit card discount offers; WCSU merchandise discounts (as featured in the AlumniNews); alumni locator service; and invitations and discounts to special university and alumni events.

If you would like to become an active member of the Alumni Association, or to have your business included in the WCSU-Save program, call (203) 837-8290 or e-mail alumni@wcsu.edu.
WestConn Sweethearts Dinner – Theater Event

Did you and your spouse meet at WestConn? If so, you’re one of our many WestConn Sweethearts and we’re creating a special series just for you! Please e-mail us at alumni@wcsu.edu or call (203) 837-8290 so we can count you among WestConn’s Met & Married couples!

WestConn alumni who attended the “Met and Married” dinner theatre enjoyed a happier ending than the stars of the theatre arts department’s production of “Romeo & Juliet: A Rock and Roll Love Story.”

WestConn Alumni Directory

www.wcsu.edu/alumni/alumni_directory.asp

The 2008 WestConn Alumni Directory, to be published in January ’08, will be the most comprehensive register published to date. For a limited time, WestConn alumni will be able to purchase a beautiful, hardbound, library-quality volume of the directory. To secure your copy or to have your contact information included in this edition, please call Alumni Research, Inc. at (800) 299-1230 or e-mail alumni@wcsu.edu.

Ives Concert Park Family Fair

An Open House featuring the Ives Festival Orchestra

Sunday, Sept. 23
Gates open at 2 p.m.

An afternoon of family fun featuring:

Local artists and musicians, culminating with a 5:30 p.m. performance by the Ives Festival Orchestra under the direction of Fernando Jiménez. Plus, children’s activities throughout the afternoon.

Free!

Open to the public

You may bring a picnic meal and non-alcoholic beverages or purchase refreshments and light food on site. The event is located at the Ives Concert Park on the Westside campus of Western Connecticut State University, Lake Avenue Extension, Danbury.

For more information, visit www.ivesconcertpark.com or call (203) 837-9227.
1940s
Jennie (Wasilewski) ’49 and Richard M. O’Grady ’62 are retired from the Norwalk Board of Education. Jennie is busy with Delta Kappa Gamma and Richard is teaching adult education in Norwalk.

1950s
Kurt Singer ’51 recently was conferred emeritus status after teaching English and philosophy at Lyndon State College for 28 years. He retired in 2002. Singer also has published numerous collections of poetry, some of which can be found at the WCSI library.

1960s
Ansley Morrow Starr ’66 retired in 2007 after serving almost 33 years with the U.S. Army in both a civilian and military capacity.

1970s
Jim Bott ’69, nearing the end of his professional career, plans to take a more active role in Zen retreats at the Monastery in Mt. Tremper, N.Y.

1980s
Josephine Verner ’80 is enjoying retirement in Bethel, Conn.

1990s
Steven Fasoli ’90 now teaches middle school band after teaching high school band for more than 13 years.

2000s
Bobby Akbar ’00 teaches fifth grade at Franklin Elementary School in Rahway, N.J. He was one of six teachers honored in 2007 at the governor’s mansion by the New Jersey Amistad Commission for his exceptional job of integrating black history into the curriculum.

Class Notes
In memoriam
Margery B. Benno ’81, Southbury, Conn.
Lucerna M. Bocciarelli ’58, Branford, Conn., 2004
Philip Carter ’66, Alexandria, Va., June 2000
Paula B. DeJonge ’76, Cromwell, Conn.
Virginia M. Ebersole ’78, Fishkill, N.Y.
David W. Elwell ’76, Old Lyme, Conn.
Thomas M. Ferrazza ’79, Dover, Vt.
Theodora G. (Ficocello) Couture ’86, Stuart, Fla., Jan. 12, 2007
Jaisey W. Jallah ’45, Fontana, Calif., 2006
Khalida D. Logan-Eaton ’96, Danbury, Conn., March 13, 2007
Mary A. (McKone) Kelly ’39, Canaan, Conn., Nov. 8, 2006
Ethel B. Moore Scofield ’46, Pound Ridge, N.Y.
Helen A. Phelan ’71, Bantam, Conn.
Paul C. Robakiewicz ’80, Wallingford, Conn., 2006
Ruth (Sachs) Walens ’67, Woodbury, Conn., June 19, 2005
Virginia “Ginny” A. (Saso) Losito ’65, Danbury, Conn., Feb. 12, 2007
Andrew Stimweiss ’78, South Kent, Conn.
Helen J. (Wells) Warner ’70, Danbury, Conn., March 3, 2007
Stanley J. Zablocki ’71, Brockton, Mass.

Wedding bells
Heather Babbiton ’02 and Jeffrey Tomchik
Lisa Cutrone ’06 and Joseph Sousa ’06
Kristen Gooding ’07 and Curt Ciccone
Jessica Findorak ’02 and Christopher Kelly
Suzanne Hereth and David J. Kozlowski ’99
Jennifer Presser ’98 and Matthew Gies
Jenna Rao ’06 and Christopher Murphy ’06
Claudia Grajales and Javier Silva ’94

And baby makes …
Karen (Adams) ’92 and Todd Mockler welcomed the birth of their son, Shane Elias, on Feb. 27, 2007.
Nuchette (Black) ’98 and Kirkpatrick Burke welcomed the birth of their son, Kaleb Nathaniel, on June 30, 2006.
Jennifer M. (Cesca) ’99 and Allen Light welcomed their son, Trevor James, on Sept. 15, 2006.
Carrie (Cilfone) ’97 and Greg Scalzo welcomed the birth of their twin boys, Vincent and Luccio, on Sept. 1, 2006.
Eileen and Tom Delehanty ’85 welcomed the birth of their son, James Thomas, on June 21, 2006. He joins sister Nora Eileen.
Kimberly and Steven Fasoli ’90 welcomed their fourth child, Lily, in July 2006. She joins siblings Marissa, Matthew and Kayley.
Alexandra Mease ’90 and her husband, Owen White ’91 welcomed their fourth child, daughter Whitney, on June 2, 2006.
WestConn Sweethearts Jane (Shevlin) ’96 and Michael Walsh ’98, ’07 welcomed the birth of their daughter, Madeleine Jane, on July 12, 2006. She joins brother Jack.
Judith Tantillo ’95 and Timothy Meehan welcomed their son, Michael James, on January 30, 2007.
WestConn Sweethearts Amy (Tworek) ’98 and Jason Davis ’97 welcomed the birth of their daughter, Chelsea Marie, on March 26, 2007. She joins sisters Abigail and Gretchen.
Fred Watson ’92 and his wife welcomed their daughter, Willow, on Dec. 5, 2006.
Rebecca Woodward ’88 and Ed Yezierski welcomed the birth of their son, Zach, on March 22, 2007.

Left: Alumni who graduated from the university 50 plus years ago celebrated their reunion at Mac’s Halfway Restaurant in Danbury in July. For 16 years, the group has met for this annual event.

Tell us about yourself

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name (maiden, if applicable)</th>
<th>Graduation year</th>
<th>Spouse’s name (maiden, if applicable)</th>
<th>Spouse’s graduation year</th>
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Employer

Home address

E-mail

Information for class notes

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.
### Calendar of events

#### Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008

**All ABOARD!**

Join us on Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008, for our fall dinner cruise on World Yacht, New York's premier dining cruise line. Come aboard and take in the spectacular views of New York City at night.

Sights will include Ellis Island, Liberty Island, Governor's Island, U.S.S. Intrepid and the Statue of Liberty.

Interested? Let us know by Dec. 31, 2007 so that we may reserve your spot. Please RSVP to (203) 837-8290 or e-mail alumni@wcsu.edu. Tickets are $100 per person. Discounts are available for groups of 10 or more, so plan your group today!

**Bon Voyage!**

#### Friday, Sept. 28, 2007

**An evening honoring Dr. Mel Goldstein**

6 to 9 p.m.
Grand Ballroom
Westside Campus Center

The WCSU Foundation, WTNH-News Channel 8 and MyTV9 proudly invite you to join us for an evening honoring Dr. Mel Goldstein, professor emeritus of meteorology and WTNH meteorologist.

For more information or tickets to this event, please call the Office of Institutional Advancement at (203) 837-8279.

#### Sunday, Nov. 4

**Ninth Annual Holiday Wine Tasting**

4 to 7 p.m.
Grand Ballroom
Westside Campus Center

$50/per person

Proceeds to benefit the Caraluzzi Scholarship Fund.

#### Monday, Oct. 1 to Sunday, Oct. 7

**Homecoming Week**

See pages 12 and 13 for details.

- **Nov. 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17**
  - Theatre Production – “The Cherry Orchard”
  - Presented by the theatre arts department
  - 8 p.m., Berkshire Theatre, Midtown campus.
  - Tickets: $17; $12 for seniors and students; WCSU students free with valid I.D.
  - Box office: (203) 837-8732.

- **Sunday, Nov. 4**
  - Wine Tasting
  - 4 to 7 p.m., Westside Campus Center Grand Ballroom, Westside campus
  - $50/per person

- **Wednesday, Nov. 14**
  - SPS 30th Anniversary Year Distinguished Alumni Recognition Ceremony and Reception Celebration
  - 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., Warner Hall, 1st floor, Midtown campus

#### Thursday, Nov. 30

**Bus Trip to Culinary Institute of America for Dinner**

Bus leaves exit 1 of I-84 at 4:30 p.m.

For pricing and reservations, call (203) 837-8290.

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**Save the date…**

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Friday, Sept. 14

Golden Circle Luncheon

Noon, Warner Hall, Midtown campus

$30/per person

For more information, call the Alumni Office at (203) 837-8290.

**Sunday, Sept. 23**

Ives Concert Park Family Fair

Free daylong family events at Ives Concert Park

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Marketplace

Name ______________________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________________
City, state, ZIP ______________________________________________
Daytime phone no. w/area code________________________________
E-mail address _______________________________________________
Active alumni discount no. _____________ (The number on your Alumni Association Membership Card)

Item (letter)      Color      Price      Description     (use additional sheet for more items)
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
Item total $_________________

10% alumni discount $_________________
Tax (6% CT) $_________________

Subtotal $______________ + Shipping* $______________ = Total $__________________

Make checks payable to and send orders to: WCSU Alumni Marketplace, 181 White Street, Danbury, CT 06810

Shipping is $6.95 for paperweight and $8.95 for all other pieces.
N. Diploma frames:
N1: 23K jewelry-quality medallion, black and gold museum matting, gold embossed WCSU, cherry, $137.95.
Photo frames are also available in the above styles for $44.95 (your choice: vertical or horizontal). For more detailed photos and descriptions of diploma/photo frames and desk accessories, visit: www.diplomaframe.com.
O. WCSU Boston rocker or standard chair – classic maple and black with engraved seal, $295.

Shipping Costs:
wearable merchandise: $6.95 first item and $1.95 each additional item, chair: $25; diploma frame: $17.95; paperweight: $6.95; photo frame, desk set, desk box, and letter sorter: $8.95 each.

A. Infant Romper: $21.98 (The Kids Company) 6m, 12m, 18m. Available in yellow or blue. Sizes and quantities limited.
B. WCSU Alumni Crewneck Sweatshirt: $34.98 (Gear) Sm — XXL. Available in grey only.
C. WestConn Tee-shirt: $14.98 (Champion) Sm — XXL. Available in navy or charcoal.
D. WestConn Hooded Sweatshirt: $49.98 (Champion) Sm — XXL. Available in grey or white.
E. Infant Tee-shirt: $14.98 (College Kids) 6m, 12m, 18m. Available in grey or white.
F. Toddler Tee-shirt: $14.98 (College Kids) 2T — 5/6T. Available in white or grey.
G. Infant Onesie: $19.98 (The Kids Company) 6m, 12m, 18m. Available in blue or pink. Sizes and quantities limited.
H. WCSSU Alumni Tee-shirt: $14.98 (Champion) Sm — XXL. Available in grey only.
I. WestConn Sweatpants: $24.99 (Champion) Sm — XXL. Available in yellow, navy, grey, or red.
J. WCSU Polo Shirt: $49.98 (Champion) Sm — XXL. Available in navy, grey, red, peach or yellow.
K. WCSU Blanket: $29.98 (MV Sport) 54in. x 84in. Available in clouds (shown), grey, navy, red, peach or yellow.

L. WCSU men’s and women’s watches $79.95 each (Quartz). Time and day. Brown leather band. Comes in high-gloss cherry-finish jewelry box.
M. WCSU Alumni Desk Accessories, seal and school name with “Alumni” engraved on black and gold. Masterpiece medallion. High-gloss cherry finish.
M1: Desk set: $49.95. Attached solid brass business card holder and ball point pen. 10” x 1/2” x 3/4” (base)
M2: Desk box: $44.95 Black suede lining and magnetic closure. 9” x 6” x 2 1/2”
M3: Letter sorter: $34.95. Keep your mail organized. 10” x 3” x 4”
M4: Paperweight: $22.95. Genuine marble. 3” x 3” x 7/8”

Personalization is available on desk set and desk box for additional $4.95.

N. Diploma frames:
N1: 23K jewelry-quality medallion, black and gold museum matting, gold embossed WCSU, cherry, $137.95.
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O. WCSU Boston rocker or standard chair – classic maple and black with engraved seal, $295.

(l-r): Ashley Gregory (parents: Rich ’97 & Nicole (Lovallo) ’03); Daryle Dennis ’79; Michael Dennis (parents: Daryle ’79 and Marie (Collins) ’92); Amy (Tworek) Davis ’98; Gretchen and Abigail Davis (parents: Amy ’98 & Jason ’97); Chase McInerney (mom: Stephanie ’02); Stephanie Cinque McInerney ’02; Neil Wagner ’52

Shipping Costs:
wearable merchandise: $6.95 first item and $1.95 each additional item, chair: $25; diploma frame: $17.95; paperweight: $6.95; photo frame, desk set, desk box, and letter sorter: $8.95 each.
Top Left: Norman Pearlstine, former editor-in-chief of Time, Inc. and author of the new book “Off the Record: The Press, the Government, and the War over Anonymous Sources,” was the kick-off speaker for WestConn’s 2007 Summer Literary Festival sponsored by the Master of Fine Arts in Professional Writing Program and the Division of Graduate Studies.

Top Right: For several days in July, the WestConn Midtown campus became a movie set for exterior shots of the filming of “The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2.” As light and sound technicians stand by, stars Alexis Bledel and Michael Rady act out a scene on the quad. For more information, visit the Web site at www.wcsu.edu/newsevents/.

Below: Gloria Brown and her children, Bobbi, 17; Fred, 16; and Jana’e, 14, were burned out of their house in Bridgeport, Conn., a year ago. Brown’s family was nominated for a new house through the ABC show “Extreme Makeover.” In addition to a new home, the children will receive a tuition and fees package from WestConn, should they decide to attend the university. For more information, visit the Web site at www.wcsu.edu/newsevents/makeover.asp.

Above: The Charles Ives Authority for the Performing Arts, a joint endeavor between the City of Danbury and Western Connecticut State University, has acquired a new partner in Union Savings Bank, which will serve as a naming sponsor for Ives Concert Park events for the next four years. Commemorating the new partnership are (l-r): Ives Authority Executive Director Elizabeth Durkin, Union Savings Bank Executive Vice President and COO Jay C. Lent, WestConn President James W. Schmotter, Ives Authority Chairman Steven Greenberg, WestConn Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Ives Authority Vice Chairperson Dr. G. Koryoe Anim-Wright, and Union Savings Bank President and CEO John C. Kline.