like mother, like daughter

Centennial graduate Abigail Downes is joined by her mother, Diana, a '96 graduate of WestConn.
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Ellen Myhill ’01 ......................Contributing Photographer

The AlumniNews is made possible by generous
donations like yours through the Annual Fund. For
information about being a donor, contact the Office
of Institutional Advancement at 203-837-8298.

Sharon Fusco ’67, Kay Schreiber ’79, Carolyn & Neil Wagner, both ’52, enjoyed their
week on The American Queen steamship. They cruised along the upper Mississippi
River; from St. Paul to St. Louis.
Now that our Centennial year has come to a close, I would like to thank you for your continued support of Western Connecticut State University. Our Centennial year provided the opportunity for you, our alumni, to reconnect with the university. During our Centennial celebration, the University was able to highlight the achievements and impact of our alumni in the greater Danbury community, in Connecticut and the tri-state area, and even beyond.

Thousands of you returned to campus during this past year and found it a very different place from the campus you remembered. Even those of you who graduated as recently as two years ago told me of the positive changes and pride you experienced while visiting our campus.

As we start our second century, I invite you to return to WestConn often to see the continuing changes. On our Midtown campus, a new $41-million science building is under construction, and we will begin construction of a parking garage near the Haas Library. On the Westside campus, a new addition to the observatory and a new sports stadium will open during the fall 2003 semester. We will continue to expand the Westside campus with a new residence hall, a parking garage and a new student center.

Construction on these projects is scheduled to begin during the coming academic year.

While the Centennial year has ended, there still are numerous opportunities for you to reconnect with your alma mater. I hope you will attend Homecoming: 101, a reunion, a sporting event, one of the dinner theatres, a musical performance, or one of the many academic department activities planned during the coming year.

I look forward to meeting many of you at upcoming alumni and university events.

Meet your Alumni Board

The 2003-2004 Alumni Association Board of Directors listed are representatives of you, the alumni of the university. If you have questions or suggestions for programs, activities or services, please contact the Alumni Office.

Mark D. Boughton ’95 ..............Director  
Gordon Hallas ’90 ..................President  
Theresa Eberhard-Ash ’64, ’72 ....Director  
Amy Marie Tworek-Davis ’98 ......Director  
Neil Wagner ’52 ........................Life Member  
Kay Schreiber ’79 ....................Secretary  
Sharon Fusco ’67 ........................Life Member  
Jack Quinlan ’67, ’93 ..............Director  
Eric Wellmen ’64 ..................(not pictured) Treasurer  
Rich Stabile ’89 ..................(not pictured) Director  
Peter Howbel ’88 ..................(not pictured) Director  
Jan Maria Jagush ’75, ’81 ...........Director  
Tom Crucitti ’69 ..................Vice President  
Virginia Crowley ’69, ’74  (not pictured) Director  
Jeff Heyel ’90 ........................(not pictured) Director
Gifts That Make a Difference

Taking the Pledge

By Richard Gerber
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

WestConn’s Centennial Campaign to raise $4 million passed the $3.4 million mark on March 31. While businesses, foundations and other organizations account for a good portion of the funds already raised to support the Campaign’s goals of student scholarships, faculty development, academic programs, athletics and libraries, the overwhelming majority of contributions were made by individuals — and WestConn’s alumni are the largest constituent of the University’s support network.

Alumni of WestConn, as at most of the nation’s colleges and universities, have always been the backbone of the University's fund drives. But the Centennial Campaign is unique in the history of our university because it is the first time that faculty, administrators, other staff members — as well as those businesses, foundations and other organizations and friends of WestConn — are joining with the alumni in a common effort to increase private support of our public university to levels ten times as great as was the case in the 1990s.

WestConn’s first capital fund drive depends on pledges of support over three to five years to assure that the quality and diversity of educational opportunities here are second to none. For the first time alumni can leverage a $100 gift in honor of the Centennial by pledging that amount each year over several years, thereby showing local businesses and other potential WestConn supporters that the University is worthy of their support as well.

At the conclusion of the Campaign, every pledge of $100 or more each year over three years or more will be included in the Centennial Honor Roll. Pledge forms may be secured by calling 203-837-8298.

The value of a WestConn degree has never been as valuable as it is today. Alumni are taking leadership roles in every field of work, and our graduates are in greater demand in the New York metropolitan area than ever before.

Taking the pledge is the best way for alumni to express appreciation for what WestConn has done for them. It is also the best way to help current students while assuring the continuing growth and strength of your alma mater.

As we enter WestConn 101 (the one hundred and first year of the University’s history), consider a three-year pledge to the Centennial Campaign. It is an investment in your own diploma.

WestConn-made couple to serve as Annual Fund chairs

By Dr. G. Koryoe Anim-Wright

When Lois Stefanelli decided to attend Western Connecticut State College, she did so because she was looking for a school that would offer her a solid college education in nursing. What she hadn’t bargained for was meeting the man she would eventually marry at WestConn.

“I entered WestConn in 1967 and Tom Crucitti was the orientation leader for my class,” she said. “Today, he’s my husband.”

There may not have been an immediate love connection for Lois, but when Tom met her, he knew he had found his life partner.

“She was exactly what I needed,” he said. “All I had to do was convince her of that.”

His powers of persuasion worked. More than 35 years later, the couple wouldn’t have it any other way. Though they both have had very successful careers, they have stayed active and involved with their alma mater. Today, Tom is vice-president of the WCSU Alumni Association Board of Directors and both have made generous contributions to the university.

So, when the university started looking for honorary chairs for the 2003-04 Annual Fund, they didn’t have to look far.

“We choose Tom and Lois because of their commitment and love for the university,” Alumni Relations Director Dr. Caroline Norelius explained. “Also, we wanted to promote another level of leadership for our volunteers, and the Crucittis were on top of everyone’s list.”

Director of Institutional Advancement Michael T. Driscoll agrees.

“The Crucittis are wonderful, considerate, kind and supportive people,” Driscoll said. “It’s an honor to have them serve as honorary chairs.”

Tom and Lois are looking forward to the challenge.

“We hope to use this as an opportunity to share with alumni all the significant changes on campus,” Tom said. “I’m not sure the alumni are aware of all the changes that have been made or of the remarkable developments at the university.”

Lois agreed.

“The look of the campus is new and refreshing,” she said. “The area around the Student Center is as nice as any Ivy League campus. I’m proud to call myself a WestConn graduate.”

It’s no wonder then, that when Lois decided to take graduate studies, she returned to WestConn.

continued on page 9
Best and Brightest honored with Barnard Awards

Annually the Connecticut State University (CSU) Foundation hosts the Henry Barnard Awards Dinner to celebrate the accomplishments of outstanding CSU students. WestConn graduates Dianne Hammersley and Erin McDonald were nominated and honored for their outstanding academic accomplishments and their contributions to the university and the community.

Hammersley, a social work graduate with a 3.94 GPA, has served as president of the Social Work Club and has volunteered her time to community groups like the Literacy Volunteers, Multiple Sclerosis Society, the American Red Cross and the United Way. She also has been a language volunteer, a counselor for at-risk youth and has conducted psychosocial assessments of adults. She will pursue graduate work at Fordham University. Accepting her award, Hammersley thanked her family, WestConn Professor of Social Work Patricia Ivry, and Associate Professor of Social Work Marjorie Steinberg, for their “push” and “inspiration.”

McDonald, graduating with degrees in psychology, sociology and anthropology, also thanked her parents and the WestConn community. She has maintained a 3.9 GPA, is a member of the University Scholars Academic Program and Psi Chi (psychology honorary). She has been honored by “Who’s Who” and was presented with the Outstanding Psychology Student Award in 2001 and the Outstanding Student Award in 2002 for her student volunteerism. She has served as the CSU System’s student representative to the Connecticut Board of Governors for Higher Education. She co-founded WestConn’s honors club and Girl Talk, a Danbury-area school program for adolescent girls.

Mark Valenti, president of the Connecticut Student Loan Foundation, forgave over $30,000 in student loans to the award recipients. WestConn President James R. Roach presented Hammersley with a letter notifying her that her loans were forgiven. “I was so shocked to receive the letter, I almost fell out of my chair,” she said, grinning.

Alumni & Friends Circle expands across campus

By Beth A. Molinaro

The Alumni & Friends Circle is a designated area on the Midtown campus. Near Old Main and the majestic old oak tree, it is home to an ensemble of engraved bricks, inscribed park benches, honey locust trees and antique-style light posts.

Now in its fourth year, the Circle was created as a fundraising and campus beautification program for all to share. Six brick paths lead to the Circle, making it highly visible to students, faculty, staff and visitors on a regular basis.

Staff, faculty and class reunion groups have been particularly sentimental and generous with their devotion to the Circle this year. So much so, the Circle needed to expand throughout the Midtown campus. With the relaxing view of the campus quad and its shaded space, five of the six benches behind Fairfield Hall are now donor-designated.

“Donating and inscribing a brick, tree, or bench as a class gift is a wonderful way to remember the friendships we made and the knowledge we gained, and it’s a reminder to us that we are all part of a larger assembly than just our graduating class,” commented Tom Donahue, ’62, Reunion Committee Chair.

Personal sentiment also is inspirational in selecting gifts to honor and memorialize loved ones. Ellie Vitale, a maintenance staff employee of almost seven years, recently purchased three trees and a brick celebrating the lives of beloved family members.

“I just felt I had to do something to leave their mark on this earth. Now, every day I walk across campus or look out a Higgins Hall window, they are with me,” shared Vitale.
For 33 years, Dr. Kathleen Mauks, ’65, has practiced medicine in Danbury, CT. She is a well-known and well-respected internist, having received numerous honors and awards and repeated mention in Connecticut Magazine’s “Best Physicians in Connecticut.” It is, therefore, exciting to us that she received her bachelor’s degree here at WestConn.

Dr. Mauks has had a very interesting life so far. She was born in Hungary, and left that country following WWII, moving to Argentina as a young child. Her family moved to Danbury when she was about 13 and became a naturalized United States citizen at 18. She graduated from Danbury High School, and then began college here at WestConn.

Mauks knew during her undergraduate days at WestConn that she wanted to be a doctor. However, in those years, WestConn did not have all the prerequisite courses she needed to prepare for medical school. So, she negotiated with the faculty and administration at WestConn to alter the courses so that they included the subject matter she needed to prepare for her medical school program.

It was here at WestConn she met her husband to be — a student like herself, Professor of Biology, Dr. Frank Dye! They have two children, John, ’92, and Kathleen, ’95, both alums. She then attended Women’s Medical College of Pennsylvania (now, Drexel University College of Medicine). Following medical school, she interned and did her residency in internal medicine at Danbury Hospital. She shares her practice with her sister and brother-in-law (all physicians). Her father began the practice.

We were most pleased to be able to present our 2003 Centennial Alumna of the Year award to Dr. Kathleen Mauks. This Centennial year, our focus has been on “celebrating our past and imagining our future.” We are grateful to Dr. Mauks for her dedication to health care in our city. It is clear that she cares very much about the future of health care, and she hopes we share her concern for developments she sees as detrimental to good practice. We are proud that we have played a part in Dr. Mauks’ early education, and we are thankful to her for the inspiration to live our lives with such dedication, success, and concern for others.

**A&S Centennial Dean’s Award**

**Michael J. Erickson, ’03**

This year, the Centennial Arts and Sciences Dean’s Award goes to Michael J. Erickson, ’03, who graduated this spring with a bachelor’s degree in Meteorology, with a 3.83 GPA.

After reading the nomination letter written by his faculty, I believe Michael lives and breathes meteorology — and maybe always has! During his junior year of high school, he and his mother visited our Weather Center. He interned all summer and during his senior year on Saturdays at the Weather Center. As a summer intern, his faculty proudly report that Michael had a “voracious appetite for meteorological knowledge.” He even trained to work the “night shift” his freshman year, something no one before him had ever done.

Michael also served as the President of the Meteorology Club for two years — a club that is affiliated with the American Meteorology Society. He is a pioneer member of The Weather People, our student-run television weather-casting program. Michael helped develop the graphics that are used daily in the production of the shows. According to his mentor, Professor Rob Eisenson, Michael is “a natural.” In fact, the first time I had the pleasure of watching The Weather People, it was very clear to me that Michael knew science (and I actually understood why it was snowing — again!).

Michael has taken required courses, like Geophysical Hydrodynamics and Atmospheric Physics; he has taken Mathematical Modeling and Differential Equations just for fun. As undergraduate research assistant to Dr. James Boyle (Physics & Meteorology), he worked on the development of new instruments for studying air-sea interaction.

In addition to being an interested and good student, Michael is a very fine person. He is respectful of his fellow students and faculty, quiet and thoughtful in his demeanor, intelligent, trustworthy, hardworking, creative and dedicated.

Michael was selected to receive the Centennial Arts and Sciences Dean’s Award because of his outstanding achievement, breadth of knowledge, and interest in and devotion to his chosen field of study.

We imagine great things for him, and look forward to his many successes to come.

**Thank You from the Dean**

It was my pleasure during our Honors Convocation this year to introduce such bright, achievement-oriented students. But, one...
Research works!

Recent graduates Luzia Guardado and Gilda Meier decided to take what they learned in three semesters of research methods and apply it to their advanced research projects. They each designed research projects that focused on a subject close to their hearts: what helps elementary school children to focus on their schoolwork. They chose to make their projects into something even more challenging, but ultimately more meaningful.

Luzia made arrangements with the principal and several teachers at Danbury’s Park Avenue School, to work with children on challenging mathematical puzzles. She wanted to know whether listening to hard rock music had an effect on children’s concentration. So she had children work on challenging math puzzles while listening either to hard rock, or soft Brazilian music. In order to measure the children’s concentration she had to train teachers and colleagues to observe the children’s behavior and record behaviors that qualified as “distracted.” Luzia was successful in making this project happen, despite many obstacles. She made the arrangements with the school, got the research project approved by WestConn’s Institutional Review Board, and sent an informed consent form in English, Spanish and Portuguese to the parents. She felt it was more important to do research in the classroom, “where it would mean something,” rather than complete an easier project simply to get the requirement out of the way. What did she find? Children exhibited significantly fewer distraction behaviors while listening to the “soft” music. And yes, she does have children at home who claim they can do homework better while listening to hard rock!

Meier was concerned that children are overscheduled these days. She was worried that children with a crowded schedule might not be able to concentrate as well on their schoolwork. She also wanted to do her research with children in a classroom setting because it would be more meaningful. She made arrangements with the principal and several teachers at Brookfield’s Huckleberry Hill Elementary School to work with children during their regular school day. In order to answer her research question, she had to design her own instrument for determining whether or not a child felt overscheduled. Other studies had relied on the self-report of parents. She designed a non-verbal schedule grid for the children to complete. She had the children fill in their normal weekly schedule with stickers symbolizing the activities they normally did before and after school. She used stickers rather than writing so that the measure would more accurately assess the fullness of the child’s schedule rather than the child’s reading or writing ability. To measure concentration, she gave the children challenging math puzzles and measured how long they could focus on them. We can’t wait to find out what the results will be. But in the meantime, we’re very impressed with her methods.

Note: Both students worked under the supervision of Dr. Robin Flanagan, Assistant Professor of Psychology at WestConn.

Parikh found nurturing he needed at WestConn

By Sherri Hill

Sometimes the seeds of a dream are planted but lay dormant until properly nurtured. As a young boy in Gujarat, India, Ketan Parikh acquired the seeds of his dream, but it took many years and several detours before they could take root and finally bloom.

“In India, healthcare is quite different than in the United States,” said Parikh. “For one thing, it is more difficult to obtain. When I was 7 years old, I was in a long line waiting to be seen for a cough. I remember hearing the doctor tell someone with a heart problem, ‘I’m sorry, but we can’t do anything for you.’ The patient was so young; yet he couldn’t be helped. I felt very strongly that I wanted to be able to help people like that someday.”

A few years later, Parikh’s family immigrated to the United States. Despite a limited grasp of English, Parikh worked 70 hours a week in his family’s convenience stores and graduated in the top third of his high school class. He attended night courses at Queensboro Community College and Hunter College, but the long hours at the stores made it difficult for Parikh to fully apply himself to his studies.

Ultimately, Parikh’s father sold the stores and moved the family to Danbury. With that relocation, the unintended dream of a 7-year-old boy had the chance to thrive. At 23, Parikh enrolled as a full-time student at WestConn. Finally, he could envision the possibilities that had eluded him up to that point.

“The way I look at it, WestConn was the best college of the three I attended,” Parikh said. “I got individual attention, the class sizes were small, and I experienced tremendous personal growth.”

Much of that growth came from being pushed to test his limits. Dr. Susan Maskel, WestConn professor of biology and environmental sciences, patiently nurtured and encouraged Parikh — and made it clear she had faith in his abilities.

Ketan Parikh’s senior
Summer is upon us. Ancell School faculty, alumni, and students continue to excel and have accomplished a lot since the last newsletter.

Dr. Harry Schramm (JLA) delivered a lecture on Dante’s Inferno in Maine and presented a paper on the Nike Supreme Court Case at the North Atlantic Region Business Law Association meeting. In addition, Dr. Schramm was able to hear oral arguments on the Nike case at the Supreme Court.

Dr. Karen Koza’s graduate marketing class is writing a case study of Green Chimneys in Brewster, New York. Professor Koza’s other classes are developing marketing plans and studies for area organizations, including Interlude and Habitat for Humanity. She had two papers “Contemporary Channel Conflict: A Processual Viewpoint” and “Building Exit Barriers as a Proactive Strategy for the Management of Conflict” accepted for presentation at academic conferences sponsored by the American Marketing Association.

Dr. Frederick Maidment (Management) published several articles, including “How the United Nations Could Help the Third World,” “Executive Compensation: Are Some Paid Too Much?” and “Drifting Apart: American Perceptions of Europe After 9/11”.

Several faculty recently had papers accepted for publication. SPAR accepted Dr. Richard Montague’s paper “Continuous Communication Disruptors During Systems Development” for publication. Dr. John Kakalik (Marketing) and Dr. Marie Wright (MIS) had their paper “Using the Online Marketplace to Find Qualified Infosec Professionals” accepted for publication by Computer Fraud and Security. Dr. Frederick Tesch and Dr. Stanley Bazan (Management) published a paper entitled “Managing a Department’s Adjunct Faculty: Let Them Eat Sweet Roles” in Academic Leader.

Faculty members earned grants for many purposes, including faculty development, summer curriculum, and research. WestConn awarded grants to the following faculty during the 2002/2003 academic year: Drs. Joe Brooks and Wright (MIS); Drs. Ronald Drozdenko and Koza (Marketing); Drs. Michael Foley, Kathleen Casey Jordan and Schramm and Professors Tony Markert and Charles Mullaney (JLA); and Dr. Ozgur Kan (Finance).

Aancell alumni and students also earned professional and academic accolades.

Congratulations to Janet O’Neil (Accounting, 2002), who passed all parts of the CPA exam on her first attempt. MIS students performed well at an information security demonstration and expo at Norwalk Community College. Charanjit Brar, James Curran, and Niketa Master won second place with their presentation “Information Warfare: Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP).” Jay Master, Doug Muckell and Tarek Reslan received honorable mention for their presentation, “Trojan Horses: SubSeven.” Stephanie Weissmann and Kari Tomascak earned honorable mention for their presentation “Digital Signatures.”

The School hosted a number of exciting events during the spring semester. David Neeleman, the CEO and founder of JetBlue Airways, delivered the Ancell Lecture in April. Mr. Neeleman talked about the vision and leadership principles that he used to found and operate one of the most profitable companies in the airline industry. The Division of Justice and Law Administration held a celebration dinner in honor of Dr. David Machell’s 10 years of service as chair.

The Marketing Department held their annual meeting in May with their advisory board and discussed long-range trends in the marketing profession and marketing education. Ancell alumna Gail Hill Williams, ’87 is a member of the Marketing Department’s Advisory Board. Dr. Bazan’s class, Management 506, conducted their second interactive case study of a local business. Local business executives assisted the students in their preparation of a business plan and feasibility analysis.
research project was done only because it was a requirement," Maskel said. "He knew he had to do it, but he came to me repeatedly with questions or reasons why he couldn’t do it. I finally told him to stop doubting himself and just do it," she said.

The irony is that the one thing Parikh hated most — research — turned out to be something at which he excels, and truly enjoys. In 1992, he received the Best Undergraduate Biological Research Award from the WestConn Society of Sigma Xi, which recognizes scientists for their research achievements or potential.

Parikh graduated with a bachelor’s degree in biological sciences in 1992. He worked as an analytical chemist at Nestle in New Milford.

But he dreamt of attending medical school. So, after obtaining U.S. citizenship in 1993, Parikh enrolled at Ross University in Dominica, West Indies. He obtained clinical rotations at several teaching hospitals in the United States, excelled on his medical board exams and graduated from Ross in June 1997 as a doctor.

Parikh was then accepted to the Primary Care Internal Medicine Residency Program at the UConn School of Medicine.

After a three-year residency, Parikh became a Fellow in Cardiovascular Medicine, also at UConn. As part of that fellowship, Parikh conducted cardiovascular research at Hartford Hospital. It was the fulfillment of the dream he had envisioned as a child in India — to help sufferers of heart disease.

Last spring, Parikh, his wife, Falguni, their two children, Zill and Jay, and Parikh’s mother, Ranjan, moved to Harrisonburg, Va., where he joined a private practice cardiology group. Even in private practice, Parikh said, research will continue to be a major focal point of his work.

Dr. Linda Vaden-Goad, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, said, “After a lot of thought, my husband Bob and I selected a light post because we wanted the illumination to serve as a tribute to all those involved with arts & sciences.”

The greatest financial marker of the year came when the Alumni Association Board of Directors voted to purchase the dedication stone to commemorate the Circle.

“Designs are already in the works, and we plan to unveil this focal point at the rededication ceremony this fall,” said Kay Schreiber, chair of University Gifts.

“The board feels strongly that alumni are the heart of every university, and our alumni are no exception. We also feel that it is important to give back to the school that helped us prepare for our future lives with family, work and friends.”

Each year, the Circle is rededicated to celebrate the its growth and the breadth of the university. Sixty new inscriptions will be dedicated at 10 a.m. on Oct. 18 at the Alumni & Friends Circle during Homecoming.

For more information or to receive a brochure about the Alumni & Friends Circle, call Beth Molinaro in the Office of Institutional Advancement at 203-837-8743.

For more information or to receive a brochure about the Alumni & Friends Circle, contact Beth Molinaro in the Office of Institutional Advancement at 203-837-8743.

“A good undergraduate experience ensures that the individual will return for graduate studies,” she said. “Now that we have a doctoral program to offer, our alumni have an even greater reason to reconnect with the university.”

For Tom and Lois, the challenge will be to make sure the alumni are not offended by evening calls. They are hoping a new commitment in the annual fund campaign for this year will eliminate that problem.

“We all hate telemarketing calls from strangers at dinner,” Tom said. “What we want to do is have students call our alumni and ask them to make gifts to the university.”

Lois thinks the idea of students making the calls continues the idea of reconnecting alumni to the university.

“The students will be able to give alumni current information about campus events during a pledge call,” she said. “This is one call we hope our alumni will enjoy receiving after dinner, the call that connects them to their own student days and provides an opportunity to give back to WestConn.”
Tuesday, October 14
6:30 pm
All Alumni Art Show Opening & Meet the Artists Reception
Warner Hall

7 pm
Men’s Soccer vs Albertus Magnus
New Westside Athletic Stadium

Thursday, October 16
6 pm Dinner
8 pm Showtime
8th Annual Cabaret to benefit WCSU Childcare Center
Colorado Brewery, Danbury

Friday, October 17
5:30 pm
Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Banquet
5:30 pm social, 6:30 pm dinner and program
Sheraton Hotel Ballroom

7 pm
Men’s Soccer vs Rhode Island College
New Westside Athletic Stadium

Saturday, October 18
9 am
1963 Class Coffee
Memorabilia drop-off; Warner Hall

10 am
Alumni & Friends Circle Rededication
Old Main area, Midtown campus

10 am - 1:00 pm & Halftime
Hall of Fame open; O’Neill Center

10:30 am – Noon
Alumni Art Show Gallery Open
Warner Hall; Midtown campus

11 am
Pre-Game Oktoberfest Tent Begins
Alumni – Fans & Friends Welcome
All Reunion Groups
New Westside Athletic Stadium Entrance

Noon
Dedication of the Alumni Centennial Time Capsule; Westside Campus

Noon
Volleyball vs Johnson & Wales
O’Neill Center

1 pm
Colonial Football vs Coast Guard
New Westside Athletic Stadium

2 pm
Westside Nature Preserve Walk
Led by Dr. Frank Dye ’63
Meet at the Alumni Tent

Half-Time and Post-Game Festivities
the Alumni Tent

6 pm
1963 40th Reunion Banquet
Warner Hall

6 pm
Resident Assistant Reunion
Pinney Hall Banquet Room

Alumni Night: Colorado Brewery, CityCenter

Sunday, October 19
1963 Class Reunion Brunch
Sheraton Hotel

For more information, call 203-837-8266
Home
Volleyball, Men's Soccer and Football
See the schedule

Away
Volleyball
Wed, October 15, at Wesleyan, 7 pm
Women's Soccer
Tuesday, October 14, at Western New England, 4 pm
Saturday, October 18, at Rhode Island College, 1 pm

Reunions
1963 40th Reunion
Resident Assistant

Reunions in the works

Reservation Deadline: October 3

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Sub-Total $ ______

10% discount for Alumni Association Member & 1 Guest (-10%)
Yes! I want to become a member of the Alumni Association (+$25)

Enclosed Total $ ______

Charge my credit card:
Visa __ MC __ Discover __
No. ________________________ Exp ________

Name(s) & WCSU Grad Year(s)

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Daytime Phone Number

E-mail address for ticket confirmation

Tickets will not be mailed; check-in at your first event for all ticket distribution.

For more information call the Alumni Office at 203-837-8298

Reservations received after Oct. 3 are subject to seating availability.
SPS recognizes student excellence

The School of Professional Studies congratulates its 2002-2003 graduates and student honorees. We wish our graduating seniors and master’s students the very best in their professional careers, and their pursuit of advanced studies and life long learning.

The School held its 34th Student Honor's Convocation on May 7th where over 65 students were recognized for their achievements. With the support of Alumni, students received a collective total of $34,000 in scholarships. In addition, 28 students were inducted into Nursing, Social Work, and Education’s Honor Societies this year.

With immense pleasure, the School is highlighting some of its honorees and graduating seniors in this issue. These students represent the School’s students who embody WestConn’s mission statement, and its principles and values. These students represent both the School’s traditional and non-traditional students, who come from culturally and ethnically diverse backgrounds, who strive for academic excellence, and who provide outstanding service to their communities and professions.

We thank these students for letting us share their profiles and achievements with you.

Social Work Department hosts annual Beatrice Nemzer Symposium


The program featured four Bachelor of Social Work graduates whose degrees from WestConn served as the springboard to careers in different fields of practice within the profession. Professor Emeritus Beatrice Nemzer served as moderator for the panel. Speakers included: Doha Khoury, ’87, who has had a varied career in mental health services, including inpatient and community based services, and a private practice; Daphne Mills Perkins, ’93, who has focused her career in the criminal justice field, working in the Public Defenders Office; Ray Zalaski, ’97, who is working in the public sector, Dept. of Social Services, in senior adult services; and Bill Draxdorf, ’99, whose senior field internship prepared him for a position in community based AIDS/HIV services.

Khoury, Perkins and Zalaski were able to complete MSW programs in shorter time periods because of their BSW degree. All remarked on the strong professional and academic foundation they received in WestConn’s social work program.

The Symposium is an annual event, begun during Professor Nemzer’s tenure in the department, to advance the knowledge of its students and graduates, addressing contemporary social welfare issues or services. Professor Nemzer noted that the very first symposium featured the field of gerontology, and the audience included many older adults seeking more information about resources. It was identified as a growth area for social work careers. This Fall semester, the course ‘Social Policies in Gerontology’ is being offered in the Advanced Certificate Program in Interdisciplinary Gerontological Studies by the Department of Social Work. For more information, contact the department at 203-837-8400.

Elizabeth DeSouza ’03: Living a Dream

Unlike many college seniors, Elizabeth DeSouza, did not have the luxury of a nearby family or being a full-time student. Her family lived in Portugal and she had to go to college part-time, working some 38 hours or more a week at Macy’s and a local bank.

Liz came to Danbury when she was six years old and spent a short time attending South Street Elementary School where she learned to speak English. She then returned to Portugal until she was twelve years old. At that time, Liz’s family moved back to Danbury where she went to Roger’s Park Middle School and Henry Abbott Technical High School, majoring in computer design. Her dream, however, was always to be a teacher.

After graduating from Henry Abbott Technical High School, Liz and her family returned to Portugal. Liz still maintained her dream and realized that the only way for her dream to come true would be to move back to Danbury on her own, work to support herself and save enough money for college tuition.

Paul Riley ’03: Giving of his talent and energy

Paul Riley is a husband and father, a musician, a former Marine and an aspiring Music Educator. He began studying at WestConn when his 10-year-old daughter was just a newborn. In January 2003, he left his full-time career in the recording industry to fulfill his full-time student teaching requirement. As Paul states, “Teaching has been the most exciting experience of my life.”

Paul abandoned college nearly fifteen years earlier, opting for the maturing effect of the United States Marine Corps where he began developing a career as a touring musician. During the 1980’s he was fortunate enough to perform with many of the most popular recording artists in music, including Darryl Hall and John Oates, De La Soul, Joan Jett, Cheap Trick, Taylor Dane and Paula Abdul. However, he never found this personal success to be fully rewarding. In 1990, he gave up working as a touring musician and took a part-time job working in the warehouse for a fledgling CD recording company. That same year, he also met his future bride. Over the course of the next few years, Paul got married, he and his wife started a family, and his warehouse job developed into a career in the recording industry. Paul worked on the production and release of over 300 recordings, televisions broadcasts and film projects. It was during this period of his life that Paul decided to reconsider his education.

Upon registering for his first course at WestConn, Paul had no idea where his education would take him. Throughout his course of study at the University, Paul has enjoyed some of the finest instruction he ever encountered. It was the guidance and advice of one of these instructors, Dr. Dan Goble, which helped him discover his desire to teach. Both of his parents were educators, and to them his decision to join their profession came as no surprise! Paul was the Treasurer of the University Chapter of the Music Educators National Conference. He was also an active member of the WCSU Jazz Club. He is deeply involved in his children’s education, and serves as Chairman of the Diocese of Bridgeport Elementary School System Board of Education. He also teaches music at St. Joseph School in Danbury.

Paul says, “I would never have been able to realize my educational endeavors if not for the support of my family, especially my wife Amanda, who has sacrificed more than even I will ever know. Her patience and love are what inspired me to further my studies and embark on a new career.” Paul looks forward to continuing his education as a graduate master’s student at WestConn.

As Dr. Jimenez, Chair of the Music Department, states, “Paul has an incredible spirit to help others, as well as, an exceptional work ethic. I first met Paul when I arrived at WestConn in 1997. At that time, the Music Department was without any trombone players for the Jazz Band. Paul would come directly from his work to assist us (before he was a WestConn student). Many times he would schedule his lunch or dinner times around our rehearsals just so he could assist us. About three years ago, Paul’s wife became critically ill but he never wavered in his commitment. I cannot think of any other student who has been so committed to our department and WestConn.”

Music News

As we go to press, WestConn received great news: the Music Department received full accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) for a five-year period.
Division of Graduate Studies enters a new era with Ed.D.

Dr. Ellen Durnin
Dean
Graduate & External Programs including WestConn at Waterbury

Western Connecticut State University has always been known for the quality of its undergraduate programs, but the graduate programs were always small, few in number, and not given the level of exposure that the baccalaureate programs received. All of this has changed dramatically in the last few years, and this past academic year, WestConn’s Centennial has been a banner year for graduate programs.

The big news on campus was the final approval of WestConn’s Ed.D. in Instructional Leadership in December 2002. This is a groundbreaking event for the university, since it bestows doctoral-granting status to the university for the first time. The faculty members of the Education and Educational Psychology department put many hours in to the application and approval process, and WestConn’s administration has provided support for the new program throughout the process.

The new Ed.D. in Instructional Leadership will be the only program of its kind in the state of Connecticut, and joins twelve other such programs in the United States. The focus of WestConn’s degree will be to develop leadership skills and mentoring abilities in its students, allowing them to become master teachers, and to bring cutting-edge curriculum and assessment educational initiatives to their peers. This differs from the traditional Ed.D. programs that typically seek to prepare teachers to become principals, superintendents, or to hold other administrative positions.

WestConn will accept 20 to 25 students into the first doctoral cohort, and they will pass through a rigorous admissions process. Students will be experienced educators, who have been recognized for their leadership ability by their colleagues. Studies will be concentrated in the summer, with ongoing course work throughout the fall and spring semesters. The graduates of the program will be leaders in their fields, and will help their school districts address the legislative and educational challenges they will face in upcoming years.

Applicants had until August 1st to submit materials to be considered for the fall 2003 cohort, and the next group will be accepted in fall 2005. The program will kick off in October with an orientation session and a social activity. November events include an evening speaker on instructional leadership and its importance to educational reform, and doctoral student participation in a leadership assessment activity. The students will receive feedback about their “emotional intelligence quotient,” and will create a leadership development plan for their use throughout the program.

WestConn has worked closely with its Ed.D. Advisory Board at each step of the process. The group’s membership includes: Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton, Western Connecticut Superintendent Association President and Bethel School District Superintendent Dr. Gary Chesley, Danbury Assistant Superintendent Dr. William Glass, Dr. Sandra Kase from the New York City Chancellor’s office, Dr. Arthur Langer from Columbia Teachers College and Rosemary Coyle, president of the Connecticut Education Association. The active involvement of these practitioners has been critical to the quality and relevance of the university’s first foray into doctoral education.

The Division of Graduate Studies is also proud to announce the accreditation of our Masters of Fine Arts program in January 2003.

WestConn’s MFA program grants degrees in Painting and in Illustration; and consists of regular critiques, study and dialogue with a diverse faculty, and a guest speaker/critic series.

BEF Story continued on page 16

NEASC Announcement Requesting Third-Party Comments

Western Connecticut State University will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit October 19-22, 2003, by a team representing the Commissions on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. WCSU has been accredited by the Commission since 1954 and was last reviewed in 1993.

The Commission is one of eight accrediting commissions in the United States that provide accreditation on a regional basis. Accreditation is voluntary and applies to the institution as a whole. The Commission, which is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, accredits approximately 200 institutions in the six-state New England region.

WCSU has been engaged in a process of self-study, addressing the Commission’s Standards for Accreditation. An evaluation team will visit campus to gather evidence that the self-study is thorough and accurate in preparation for their recommendation on the continuing status for the University. The Commission itself will take final action.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the institution to:

Public Comment on Western Connecticut State University
Commission on Institutions of Higher Education
New England Association of Schools and Colleges
209 Burlington Road
Bedford, MA 01730-1433
E-mail: che@neasc.org

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution. Comments will not be treated as confidential. Written, signed comments must be received by October 22 to guarantee they will be considered. Comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person providing the comments.

The Commission cannot settle disputes between individuals and institutions, whether those involve faculty, students, administrators, or members of other groups. Individuals considering submitting complaints against an affiliated institution should request the separate Policy and Procedures for the Consideration of Complaints Made Against Affiliated Institutions from the Commission office.
WestConn’s athletics structure

Like you, we at WestConn Athletics are extremely proud of our student-athletes, our professional and experienced coaching staff, our medical and support personnel, and all of our friends throughout the community who help to maintain an athletics program that is so valued by the University and its alumni.

Over the past few years our athletics program has undergone broad-based growth in sports programs offered, increased participation among student-athletes, and upgrades of our athletic and recreational facilities on campus.

During this rapid period of growth and with athletic spirit at an all time high, this is also time to remind ourselves of the purpose and scope of athletics at WestConn. WestConn (a Division III, non-scholarship institution) as well as other schools within our conferences share a mission to provide model programs that encourage student-athletes to reach their highest potential on the field, in class and at home.

With this shared philosophy as to the importance of athletics on campus, we hope to enhance recruiting and admissions, financial support and expand community interest throughout the region as well.

WestConn competes in two athletic conferences: The Little East Conference which is comprised of eight New England based public colleges that offer competition in a variety of sports with the notable exception of Football and The Freedom Football Conference, composed of seven institutions (five private and two public) and span a geographic region from Long Island, New York to Plymouth, New Hampshire.

Our student-athletes and our coaching staff continue to make significant accomplishments each season.

Join us often this fall for the contests held in the new Sports Stadium on the Westside Campus.

Hall of Fame inductees announced

Scott Gentle was a hard-throwing relief pitcher for the Colonials baseball team from 1990 through 1992 before being drafted in the fourth round of the 1992 Major League Baseball Amateur Draft by the Montreal Expos.

Michelle Tarzia ’97 was one of the most powerful hitters ever to play softball at Western Connecticut State University. During her four-year playing career from 1994 to 1997, she set numerous records including hits (206), runs (127) and batting average (.419).

Don McGran ’81 scored 1,202 points during his four-year playing career on the WestConn Men’s Basketball team. When he graduated in 1981, he was ranked fifth on the all-time scoring list.

Jennifer Dayton ’85/MS ’98 was one of the most balanced players to put on a Colonials basketball uniform, ever. She is currently fifth on the all-time scoring list with 1,178 points; fourth with 364 assists and second with 312 steals.

Ralph LoStocco ’54 was a two-sport standout at WestConn from 1950 through 1954. He will be inducted as a baseball player where he was a four-year letter winner for Harvey Jessup. During his four-year pitching career, he recorded a 16-9 mark for Danbury Teachers College, which played around 10 games per season.

Frank Muska is this year’s “support person” inductee. He believes strongly that athletics plays a very important part of the total university experience. He is currently a professor in the Justice and Law Administration department here at WestConn.

Nominate Someone! See form on page 16
Stay connected!
The Alumni Office is asking alumni to send in their e-mail addresses, as well as street address updates, new telephone numbers and other information by:

emailing: westconnalumni@wcsu.edu
calling: 203-837-8298
faxing: 203-837-9627

Get more online!
www.wcsu.edu/alumni

WCSU Athletic Hall of Fame Nomination Form

Anyone can make one nomination per year. The deadline for the 2004 ceremony is February 1, 2004. Complete the form below and mail to WCSU Institutional Advancement Office, 181 White Street, Danbury, CT 06810. Call 203-837-8298 for more information on Hall of Fame nominations.

I nominate _____________________________________________________________
Sport ________________________________________________________________

❑ Coach   ❑ Player   ❑ Support Person

Include details....years, honors, etc.!

Nominator Information:
Name _________________________________________________________________
Address _______________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

Day Phone _____________________________________________________________
Evening Phone __________________________________________________________
E-mail address __________________________________________________________
In 1997, at the age of 18, she returned to Danbury and entered WestConn as a part-time student until 2002 when she was required to enroll full-time to complete her student teaching requirement. After three years of working at a local bank and other jobs, Liz began supporting herself, at a job she loved, as a pre-school teacher at KinderCare in Danbury. Dr. Marsha Daria, Associate Professor in the Education Department, had this to say about Liz and her work with the students at Kindercare, “Liz has always been passionate about working with children.”

Liz did her student teaching in the second grade at Stadley Rough Elementary School in Danbury where she often assisted in an English as a Second Language capacity, and served as a wonderful role model for the young students. Outside her many jobs and student teaching, Liz has been very active in the Portuguese community. She is a folkloric dancer, and takes part in the village festivals of her culture. Liz is very proud of her ethnic roots and glad to be in a community where her culture is embraced.

As Dr. Darla Shaw of the Education Department states, “WestConn and the Danbury communities have a Grow Your Own Teacher Partnership Program where ethically diverse students who have gone through the Danbury Public School District return upon graduation from a WestConn teacher certification education program to be employed as teachers in the very schools where they were once elementary and secondary education students.

“Liz is hoping to be one of these students. She hopes to be hired by the Danbury Public School District where she sees herself mirrored in so many of its students.”

Alumni Time Capsule

The Westside Campus Alumni Clock has a time capsule in its base. The Alumni Association is asking alums for ideas and items to include in the capsule. What do you think Alumni will find interesting about WestConn’s first 100 years at the celebration of its bicentennial? Please email your ideas and description of items to westconnalumni@wcsu.edu by October 10. A subcommittee of the Board of Directors will review and select items to be included. Items not selected will be returned to their owner by the committee.

Stay Current!

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Use additional paper if necessary. Please print or type and return to Alumni Office, WCSU, 181 White Street, Danbury, CT 06810. If you include photos, please also include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you would like them returned.

- 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 developing an internship site with my company.
**1970s**
Lygia Lee Arcaro BSN ’79 moved to Virginia in 2002 and continues to be employed at the Dept of Veterans Affairs. She was recently promoted to the position of Assistant Chief, Nursing Service for Education and is pursuing a Ph.D. in Health Sciences from Touro University International.

**1980s**
Dr. Glen T. Wegge BM ’83 is an Assistant Professor of Music at Luther College, IA. He and his wife, Denise, have a 4 year old son named Everett.

Dr. Andrew Blair Staley BA ’84, an assistant professor of Leadership and Management at Mary Washington College, received the James Monroe Center Faculty Award, which was presented this year for the first time to recognize an exceptional faculty member who demonstrates excellence in teaching and professional leadership and who has served at the James Monroe Center for at least two years. Dr. Staley teaches courses on accounting, business research methods, economics, and quantitative analysis, among other subjects.

**1990s**
Lisa Franchina BA ’96 has written the book *An Act of Contrition*. This is a haunting confessional memoir of adolescence and adulthood. Told through a series of short stories, prose, poetry, journal entries and dreams, the book is an honest and unforgiving scrapbook of observations.

David Fish BS ’97 relocated to Washington, D.C., after graduation to find work in the field of Criminal Justice. He has been employed by the Federal Pretrial Services Agency in D.C. for almost five years. Fish has been married for four years and has two children — Evan is two years old and Julia is one.

**In Memoriam**
- 1930 Clara Pfeiffer Semsel, Stamford, April 5, 2002
- 1931 Clotilde Valeri Troy, Simsbury, June 11, 2003
- 1939 Emma-Gene Stolle Howes, Danbury, June 2, 2003
- 1939 Marian Newton Plumb, Litchfield, January 10, 2003
- 1940 Marjorie Keeler Bradford, Stamford, June 18, 2003
- 1942 Elizabeth Klipp Yackulics, Wilton, October 15, 2002
- 1953 Robert Rugg, Fairfield, December 20, 2002
- 1956 Harry W. Scalzo, Danbury, April 4, 2003
- 1958 Carole Quilty McQuillan, Sterling Heights, MI; June 11, 2002
- 1971 Mabel Schleiger Crozier, Phoenix, AZ; June 17, 2002
- 1972 Linnea Brown Gugel, Brookfield, April 22, 2003
- 1991 Franklin Buckalew III, Manchester, June 18, 2003
- Dr. Bigelow Paine Cushman, former English Professor; April 9, 2003
- Judith Grandahl, Mathematics Professor; 1967-2002

**And Baby Makes....**
Jason Davis BA ’97 and Amy Marie (Tworek) Davis BA ’98 welcomed Abigail Morgan on August 17, 2003.

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**Donate the easy way.**
Help save us money on returned mail by updating your address information.
- **é-mail:** westconnalumni@wcsu.edu
- **online form:** www.wcsu.edu/alumni/
- **phone:** 203-837-8298
- **fax:** 203-837-9627

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**ClassNotes**

**October**
- 3 Golden Circle Luncheon, alums out 50+ years, Warner Hall, 11 am

**Homecoming Week, 2003**
*(see center spread for full schedule)*
- 14 All Alumni Art Show Opening, Warner Hall, 6 pm
  - Men’s Soccer vs Albertus Magnus, Westside Athletic Stadium, 7 pm
- 16 Cabaret, Benefit for the ChildCare Center, Colorado Brewery, 6 pm (dinner)
  - 8 pm (showtime)
- 17 Hall of Fame Induction Banquet, Sheraton Ballroom, 6 pm
  - Men’s Soccer vs Rhode Island, Westside Stadium, 7 pm
- 18 Alumni & Friends Circle Ceremony & Reception, Old Main, 10 am
  - Oktoberfest Pre-Game Tent & Festivities Begin, 11 am
  - Dedication of the Alumni Clock Time Capsule, Westside, 12 noon
  - Volleyball vs Johnson & Wales, O’Neill Center, 12 noon

**Colonial Football vs Coast Guard,**
- Westside Stadium, 1 pm
- Westside Nature Preserve Guided Walk, 2 pm (Tentative)
- Class of ’63 40th Reunion Banquet, Warner Hall, 6 pm
- Resident Assistant Reunion, Pinney Hall
- Oktoberfest Pre-Game Tent & Festivities Begin, 11 am
- Dedication of the Alumni Clock Time Capsule, Westside, 12 noon

**November**
- 5 WestConn Society Luncheon, Ethan Allen, 12 noon
- 6 Young Alums Night Norwalk, All ’93-’03 Grads Welcome
- 16 Wine Tasting, Warner Hall, 4-7 pm
- 22 “Kiss Me Kate” Dinner Theatre, Warner Hall, 6 pm, Berkshire Theatre, 8 pm

**January**
- TBA Stamford Area Alumni Reunion

**March**
- 13 “Twelfth Night” Dinner Theatre, Warner Hall, 6 pm, Berkshire Theatre, 8 pm (show)

**May**
- 1 University Ball
- 23 Commencement

**June**
- 5 All Alumni Picnic/Alumni College

**July**
- 6 Alumni Golf Outing, Watertown Golf Club
- TBA 5K Run
WestConn Marketplace

These selections are brought to you from a variety of University sources. Thanks to Peter Stumpf in the WCSU Bookstore and Richard Sullivan, Vice President for Finance & Administration for making this selection possible.

Call today to place your order!  
203-837-8298

A Reversible Hooded Jacket/Sweatshirt (nylon/cotton) with logo, by Yikes! $49.99 S-XXL
B Baseball style shirt by Gear Sport, $9.98 M-XXL
C Pull-Over WestConn Hooded Sweatshirt with logo & front pocket, by Gear Sport $39.99 S-XXL (This logo style also available as a short sleeved gray T-shirt, $16.99 S-XXL)
D WestConn T-Shirt & Hat Combo, M – XXL $24.98
E Colonials logo adjustable cotton hat $17.98
F WCSU logo adjustable cotton hat, $17.98. Colonials logo on back, also available in blue w/copper stitching
G WCSU Alumni long sleeved Sweatshirt, medium weight, $39.99 M-XXL (also available in short sleeved T-shirt, $16.98 S-XXL)
H Diploma Frames: Regency or Gallery styles: $115, seal and school name gold embossed on black and gold museum double matting, (H3) Regency: mahogany, (H2) Gallery: cherry, both: gold inner lip 23K, (H1) Signature style frame: $150
I WCSU Boston Rocker or Standard Chair– Classic Maple & Black with engraved seal, $295*
J WCSU Afghan, Full Color, 5’x8’, $50
K "A People’s University: The Centennial History of Western Connecticut State University 1903-2003" authored by Dr. Herbert Janick, Faculty Emeritus; hardcover edition: $30, softcover edition: $15. All copies ordered will be signed by the author. (Allow some extra time for book orders)
L WCSU Cat’s Meow Collectible–an authentic, $19.99 (Be sure to specify Fairfield Hall, White Hall or Old Main)

*Shipping Costs: $5 first item; $1 each additional item; chairs: $25; diploma frames: $10

Please note that all proceeds will be donated to the Alumni Scholarship Fund.

Make checks payable to and send orders to: 
WCSU Alumni Association, 181 White Street, Danbury, CT 06810
Address Service Requested

Parents: If the address label lists a son or daughter who no longer lives at this address, please send the WCSU alumni Office the correct address. Send to: WCSU Alumni Office, 181 White Street, Danbury, CT 06810 or e-mail westconnalum@wcsu.edu

Fore!

Centennial Alumni Golf Outing a success!

A. Gordon Hallas with President Roach at the dinner that evening.
B. Patrick Torre, MBA ‘01 follows his shot.
C. Carts & players gathering - getting ready to start golfing!
D. Ron Pugliese ’74 (r) Chair of the Golf Outing Committee presents WCSU Alumni Association President Gordon Hallas ’90 with a check for more than $9,000 to benefit the Alumni Association’s Scholarship Endowment.


Alumni Time Capsule!

WCSU Alumni Association seeking items to include... see page 17 for details!