

the Cupola

Spring 12

the Kennedy Center shines spotlight on "Sweeney Todd"

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama
to visit in October

WCSU pre-med students
find success

Remembering Dr. Mel





President
James W. Schmotter

Recent developments at WCSU

Past resolution and financial discipline have enabled us to begin the 2012 fiscal year with confidence and optimism. Thanks to concerted efforts to operate within projected budgetary realities, we managed to balance the FY 11 budget and the FY 12 budget looks to be on track as well.

The Danbury region also benefits financially from WCSU. Our recently completed 2011 Economic Impact Study notes that in FY 11 the university created 1,018 jobs, \$123.7 million in output, and added \$40.8 million in regional household income. Each dollar of state appropriations produces \$2.91 in regional output — an excellent return on investment.

This fall we created more green, open space on the Midtown campus and are constructing a world-class facility for the university's School of Visual and Performing Arts at Westside. Gone is the elementary school, no longer in use, that sat in the middle of the university's Midtown campus. An expansive green now connects the Science Building to the rest of the campus.

In recent weeks, we have had much to celebrate, with the confirmation that His Holiness the Dalai Lama will visit our campus to deliver two public talks on October 18 and 19, 2012. This is exciting news not only for the campus community, but for the entire region. This excitement is somewhat bittersweet, however, because we also grieved the loss of our beloved friend, former faculty member and creator of Western's meteorology program, Mel Goldstein. Dr. Mel will not be forgotten.

Schmotter named to NCAA leadership board



WCSU President James W. Schmotter was elected chair of NCAA Div. III Presidents Council at the organization's January 2012 convention in Indianapolis, Ind.

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All in a day's (and night's) work



Many academic institutions have urban legends about a haunted building, infamous alumnus or incredibly generous benefactor. At Western, there's quite a bit of folklore about the professor who never sleeps.

His name is Dr. Paul Hines.

By Sherri Hill

“He is legendary for answering a ringing telephone at 3 a.m. in his office when the caller (often a student up late at night studying) is caught completely by surprise and has to come up with a real conversation rather than a prepared message to leave,” WCSU Professor of Chemistry Dr. Yuan Mei-Ratliff said of the colleague she has known for nearly 20 years.

Dr. Vincent Laurence, who took science classes at Western for three-and-a-half years before attending medical school at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, added, “In addition to teaching, mentoring, volunteering at a local soup kitchen and at his wife’s primary care clinic, he always had time to sit down with a student having difficulty and focus intently on that one person. I don’t know when he slept, but I did observe him once or twice nodding off in his office; he just pushes himself so far beyond what most people even know is possible, and he takes it all in stride.”

That’s why it came as no surprise to Hines’ colleagues and former or current students that he received the 2011 Northeast Association of Advisors for the Health Professions (NAAHP) Award for Lifetime Service.

“Paul is among the most dedicated and diligent pre-med advisers and has been actively involved in the NAAHP for many years,” said fellow WCSU Professor of Chemistry Dr. Russell Selzer. “It is no surprise that his contributions have been acknowledged.”

Forest Robertson, who graduated from WCSU in 2007 with a B.A. in chemistry, was similarly not surprised. “He deserves this honor for all that he has done for the pre-med program, for being an outstanding professor, and for all that he has done for WCSU,” said Robertson, who will defend his Ph.D. in organic chemistry at Dartmouth College this spring.

“I met Paul Hines during my first-year orientation,” Robertson recalled. “I was the nervous freshman who felt lost in this new and scary world of college. Thankfully, Paul Hines and Paula Secondo were there to guide me and assure me that ‘everything was going to be O.K.’”

“Paul was my thesis research adviser and, during my tenure in his research lab, he taught me a significant number of synthetic techniques and skills, which I have carried on into my graduate career,” Robertson said. “As I taught sophomore organic chemistry at Dartmouth College, I adopted something that he would say at the beginning of each term: He and each student were in a three-legged



2007 graduate Forest Robertson is a current Ph.D. candidate at Dartmouth College.

race. He would not drag the student to the finish line, nor would he be a burden that would hold the student back from getting the most of his or her education; he would run right beside the student as a partner, cheerleader and coach.”

Rachel Yonika, a 2010 WCSU graduate with a biology degree, can’t say enough about Hines. “He works so hard,” she said. “He’s a great teacher, a great person; he takes on so much and is there for everybody. I still tell everyone about him.” A December 2011 recipient of a master’s degree in animal science from North Carolina State University, Yonika is preparing to apply to several prominent veterinary schools for admission in fall 2012.

“Paul Hines was my adviser,” Yonika said. “We met in his office and he told me what I needed to do — how I should budget my time, what classes I needed, what kind of paperwork I had to fill out. He was very straight and to the point. He told me I needed to get my grades up for what I wanted to do in the future. And he told me to always make sure I had a backup plan in case my first plan didn’t come through. He made a huge impact on me.”

Speaking of backup plans, Danbury native Trevor Perry enlisted in the U.S. Army at 18 and became a member of the military medical corps. After several years of service, he became a reservist and enrolled as a commuter student at WCSU where he was fortunate to have Hines as his adviser. Unsure what direction to pursue, Perry trusted Hines’ recommendation that he consider majoring in biochemistry.

“A guest speaker came to our chemistry class every week and one week the speaker was from a pharma-

contributed photo



Rachel Yonika '10 is applying to veterinary schools.



Trevor Perry '04 met his wife, Kinsley, when both were calling on a physician’s office as pharmaceutical reps.

ceutical company,” Perry recalled. “They were looking to recruit future employees with both a military and a science background.”

The wisdom of Hines’ suggestion quickly began to make sense.

“Before attending Western, I was not much of a science or math person,” Perry said. “I was more of a business-type person. Dr. Hines challenged me as a sophomore to apply myself to organic chemistry. He knew I wouldn’t give up. That conversation resonated with me and helped push me. When I did my



Dr. Vincent Laurence assists in a scalp closure after excision of a cyst. Inset: Laurence on call in the Emergency Room.

senior research project with Dr. Secondo, Dr. Hines loved my presentation so much. He told me I had a knack for presenting scientific information and that's part of why I ended up in the pharmaceutical industry."

Perry took five years to graduate so he could obtain an American Chemical Society-approved degree in biochemistry. During that time, the WCSU Chemistry Club president was called to service as a participant in Operation Noble Eagle, the security force deployed to protect New York City in the aftermath of 9/11. He missed several weeks of class and remembers that everyone in the chemistry department was very supportive about his deployment.

"The year I graduated from WCSU was the year they broke ground for the new Science Building," Perry said. "There were small classes and everyone knew each other really, really well. It was like a small family and I liked that. I'm not at all surprised by Paul Hines' award — the science departments have really flourished in the new building."

After graduating in 2004, Perry was recruited by the National Institutes of Health, FBI, CIA and Environmental Protection Agency. He followed the pharmaceutical path and now works in strategic account sales for a major pharmaceutical company providing consulting services for their cancer and fertility injectable product lines.

Unlike some of Hines' other advisees who relied on his advice when selecting a major, Laurence — a nontraditional student — came here knowing exactly what he wanted and needed to do.

"I already had an English lit degree from Vassar College and a career for 13 years, and then went back to school in order to fulfill requirements for med school and to learn what I needed in order to score well on the MCAT," Laurence said. "I had an agenda before I showed up. My initial reason for enrolling at WCSU was that it was the closest, cheapest place to take science courses, but I was soon won over by both the quality and professionalism of the department and warm, almost familial feel within it."

Laurence said the care and concern Hines shows his students is not limited to floundering freshmen.

"Dr. Hines has more heart than almost anyone I know. He cares deeply, deeply about all those who come to him with a dream of a career in the health field such as M.D., D.O. or P.A. He kept track of me the whole time I was there, met with me each semester to review progress and provide advice. He also continuously 'took my pulse,' making sure that my heart was still in it, that things were going well for me more generally and that I was making good strategic and tactical decisions all along the way. He went out of his way many times to make sure I had every opportunity to succeed in an incredibly competitive contest. Among the most important pieces of advice he gave me was not to lose faith if I didn't get in the first time I applied, to reassess, and then, if still certain that's what I wanted, to charge forward again with a positive attitude — which, as it turns out, is exactly what happened. His spirit, heart and soul, and his own example, were the most important gifts he gave me."

Laurence was waitlisted at Brown University and the Mayo Clinic after his first attempt to gain acceptance to medical school, but following Hines' advice, he forged ahead by becoming an EMT, conducting laboratory research at Yale and teaching SAT preparation classes at Kaplan in exchange for free MCAT classes. He performed better on the MCAT the second time, applied again, and was accepted to the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health along with five other schools. He's now a second-year resident in the Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery program at the University of California Irvine Medical Center. He credits much of his success to Hines.

"The fact that a state school like Western has had as much success for its students who are competing against graduates from every other school out there for the same limited number of seats at med schools each year can be attributed to several things: Dr. Hines' guidance, mentoring and belief in his students, and the quality of the education available at WestConn."

Hines, who earned his Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania, joined the Western chemistry faculty in 1968, specializing in organic chemistry. In addition to his more than four decades' service on the faculty, Hines has held several administrative positions at WCSU, currently serving as interim assistant dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. The dedication of Hines and his wife, Dr. Ann Hines, to community service in the Danbury area received recognition when the couple received the Ruth Haas Community Leadership Award presented by the WCSU Foundation in 2009.

Hines' colleague, Mei-Ratliff, said the reason WCSU's science-minded students succeed is simple.

"I think that because Paul always gives 200 percent of himself to his students, he sets such a hardworking example and shows so much investment of his time in the students' learning and general well-being, they probably would feel intense shame if they didn't at least apply half the effort that he does. Paul is also very good at making people feel that they matter and they are not just numbers that go through the program. He spends long hours talking with students, learning about them and giving them helpful and insightful advice."

She added that Hines has "literally devoted his whole life, as measured by minutes and seconds and often into late nights and weekends, to WCSU and his students."

No wonder he has no time to sleep. ■

Kennedy Center

Western's department of theatre arts ended the year on a high note.

Fresh off the critically acclaimed three-week run of "Sweeney Todd" and having just staged a 10-Minute Play Festival and a production of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," the department received some exciting news at the end of December.

"'Sweeney Todd' was chosen to be part of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival's (KCACTF) regional festival in Fitchburg, Mass., announced Sal Trapani, co-chairman of the WCSU department of theatre arts. "'The Three Sisters,' the department's spring 2011 production, also was selected as an alternate production. These are great honors for our university and our students and faculty," Trapani added.

WCSU sent 75 students and seven faculty members to Massachusetts to participate in the festival in late January.



Conor Daniel Bartram as Tobias Ragg sings "Pirelli's Miracle Elixir" in Act 1 of "Sweeney Todd."

shines spotlight on WCSU

By Sherri Hill

“There was a packed house of 1,000 for ‘Sweeney Todd’ at the Stratos G. Dukakis Performing Arts Center in Fitchburg,” Trapani reported from Massachusetts. “It was a wonderful performance. The orchestra was fantastic, the acting and singing were brilliant, the technical crew was flawless. The audience stood immediately and kept on applauding. It was a very moving experience for our company.”

The performance was rewarded with the KCACTF Region I Golden Hammer award, acknowledging “outstanding skill and knowledge of backstage theatrical practices.”

“At the same time ‘Sweeney Todd’ was going on, we had our seven Irene Ryan nominees and partners competing in the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Competition,” Trapani said. “We also had two students competing in the Musical Theatre Initiative and six students competing in various technical competitions, adjudicated by theatre professionals from around the country. The winners in these categories will compete for the national awards at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.”

Vincent McCoy was a finalist for the Irene Ryan Region I Acting Award and the recipient of the VASTA Acting Award for Voice and Speech.

Jessica Camarero received Honorable Mention for Costume Design for “The Three Sisters.”

Five students were finalists in Tech/Design/Management: Casey Miko for Stage Management, Julia Mian and Kayla Iorio for Allied Crafts, Jess Almeida for Hair and Makeup, and Jessica Camarero for “The Three Sisters” Costume Design.

WCSU also received a number of Merit Awards.

For “Sweeney Todd,” Vincent McCoy was honored for Outstanding Choreography, Julia Mian for Outstanding Design and Construction of Masks, the Ensemble for Outstanding Musical and Dramatic Support, the Production Team for Outstanding Execution of Design, and the Run Crew for Outstanding Offstage Performance.

Alumna Danielle Fontaine was honored for Outstanding Prop Design for “The Three Sisters” and the cast of “Seussical, The Musical” was honored for Professional and Quality Student Work.

“Participating in the KCACTF is an incredibly huge undertaking,” Trapani said. “We appreciate the support and generosity that have allowed us to be one of the finest programs in the region, if not in the country.”

The KCACTF was started in 1969 and features 18,000 students from more than 600 institutions. Since its inception, more than 400,000 students have had their work critiqued. ■

A show in a day

Arrive at Stratos Dukakis Performing Arts Center.

Unload bus and prepare to move into theatre.



8 a.m.



9 a.m.

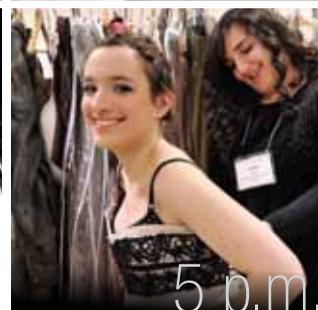
Put up set, hang and focus all lights.



2 p.m.



Technical rehearsal for all lighting cues and sound levels.



5 p.m.



Costume and makeup, complete organization of props and lighting notes.



7 p.m. Performance



10 p.m.

Break down set and move everything out of the theatre.

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Alumnus makes his mark across the globe



contributed photo

Shaun O'Connor '93

By S. Jane von Trapp

Shaun O'Connor always welcomed a challenge from his Ansell School of Business professors during his Master of Business Administration studies at Western — and that self-confidence to seek out opportunities to grow has become the springboard for a successful corporate executive career that has taken him all the way to Abu Dhabi.

“Shaun was the type of student who always took the discussion to the next level,” Professor of Management Dr. Eugene Buccini recalled of O'Connor, his former student in the class “Negotiation and Conflict Resolution” and a 1993 MBA graduate of WCSU. “He wasn't just interested in the ‘what’ but wanted to know the ‘why.’ In the negotiation class, he grasped the concept of collaborative negotiation and used it extremely well. The student's entire grade for the class is based on a one-on-one negotiation with me for their grade, and Shaun received an A — need I say more?”

O'Connor, who last year became chief financial officer of the Tourism Development and Investment Company (TDIC) in Abu Dhabi, credits Buccini,

Professor of Justice and Law Administration Charles Mullaney and other faculty mentors at Western with providing important foundations for a career that has progressed through management positions of increasing responsibility at IBM, AIG, GE Capital, CB Richard Ellis Investors, and now TDIC.

“Not a day goes by in my career that I have not used the skills and knowledge I learned from Eugene Buccini and Charles Mullaney,” O'Connor observed. “The ‘Negotiation and Conflict Resolution’ class, which was probably the most influential class I had, helped me develop and refine skills I still use today, as in structuring complex joint ventures at my new company. In ‘Business Law’ with Professor Mullaney, I learned how to structure arguments and debates to put across my point of view while ensuring they are based on fact, not conjecture.”

Recipient of a bachelor's degree in accounting from Purdue University, O'Connor started out on the accounts payable staff of IBM at its Westchester County site, and took on progressively more challenging finance roles during his seven-year tenure

at the company, including management of a joint venture project. Yet he already was seeking opportunities to gain the skills needed to broaden his career horizon beyond accounting to seek future corporate management positions, and he found an excellent vehicle to achieve that goal in Western's MBA curriculum.

“I was looking for a program that would challenge me intellectually as well as fit my very busy work schedule,” he said. “I felt the program at Western would fit my expectations more fully.”

He and his wife, Traci, also a WCSU MBA graduate, found the program well-suited to the workplace. “The professors were tremendous at putting together a challenging syllabus that would pull in real-world case studies and allow students to relate to current work issues and strategies, while also applying book knowledge to drive points home,” he said. “Throughout my roles in corporate finance, operations and quality control over the years, the ability to leverage school learning and apply those skills to each challenge has allowed me to progress in



my career. My ability to solve problems and develop solutions to restructure procedures has resulted in several promotions over the past 25 years.”

His first break following graduation from Western came with his acceptance of a position with AIG, where he found that his academic studies and IBM experience served him well in becoming a team manager. Three years later he joined GE Capital, where he served for more than a decade in various finance and operations positions that required him to manage large teams of more than 100 employees around the world. His first overseas position was as chief financial officer for the Paris-based GE Capital Real Estate in Europe. In 2008, he was recruited to become global CFO and chief risk officer at CB Richard Ellis Investors in Los Angeles. “CB Richard Ellis Investors allowed me to couple the role of risk manager with my core finance roles and broaden my skill set to include commercial deal structuring while maintaining my global teams and obligations,” he remarked.

In May 2011, O’Connor became CFO of TDIC,

established in 2006 as a developer of major tourism, cultural, commercial and residential real estate in Abu Dhabi, largest in area of the seven emirates that comprise the United Arab Emirates. One of TDIC’s most significant projects is the development of Saadiyat Island, located about one-third mile off the Abu Dhabi coast and site of a diverse array of planned development ventures including a cultural district housing the Louvre Abu Dhabi, Guggenheim Abu Dhabi and Zayed National museums.

“My role was created by TDIC’s board to bring modern financial structuring, controls and leadership to this company,” O’Connor said. “I am responsible for traditional finance tasks such as accounting, planning, treasury and cash management, but also for moving the company from being subsidized by the government to being able to stand on its own financially. I provide financial oversight of the projects we are building and am responsible for structuring new joint ventures and funding to support future development.”

Being a good mentor and teacher are critical to his

success at TDIC, he said. “You need to be able to challenge each individual based on their skills and develop them for their next roles.” With more than 70 nationalities represented in an emirate where expatriates account for 85 percent of the population, he added, “you need to assimilate quickly into the new country’s culture and learn diverse customs and obligations. Sensitivity is key, and patience is a must. While learning a new culture, you also need to learn about your new company and how to interact with new peers and manage your new team — all this without forgetting to use the skills that made you attractive to your new employer.”

For current students and young professionals beginning their careers, O’Connor urges them to embrace challenges as he learned to do at Western and in the corporate world. “Most people never realize how much they can accomplish until they try,” he affirmed. “My role as a manager has been to push people well beyond their comfort zone — once I know what they can achieve, then I stand back and watch them succeed.” ■

From due process and Facebook photos to hard, cold facts and admissible evidence, students in the Division of Justice and Law Administration at Western learned from the highest court in the state what the legal world is really like.

As six justices from the State Supreme Court filed into the university's Westside Campus Center Ballroom on October 19, several hundred people stood at attention — most of them WCSU students. With options in legal studies, paralegal studies, law enforcement, corrections and criminology, the JLA program teaches up to 2,000 students every year.

The court heard oral argument on two cases — one civil and one criminal — as part of an “On Circuit” program designed to give the public a better understanding of the justice system by hearing cases around the state. The appellate court usually hears cases in Hartford.

“The experience for the students took the cold, detached facts they read in many cases and brought to

Justice & law in action:

State Supreme Court hears cases on campus

life the human element and a bit of drama involved in each of the arguments,” said Terrence Dwyer, associate professor of JLA. “This experience was eye-opening for the students in that they were able to witness actual attorneys and judges working out the issues before them and the appropriate legal remedy to the matter before the court.”

WCSU Professor of Legal Studies Charles Mullaney said this event was an educational opportunity for everyone to closely observe a prestigious judicial body and to enhance their understanding of the role and responsibilities of the often-mysterious appellate court system.

The civil case involved an elected town official who refused to perform her duties because of alleged environmental issues. After suing the town of Watertown in 2006, Town Clerk Virginia Stewart was awarded more than \$243,000.

The criminal case involved a violation of probation sentencing based on incriminating Facebook photos. Defendant Alia Altajir is serving a three-year sentence in Niantic women's prison for a 2004 drunken driving accident that killed her 18-year-old friend Dustin Church of Branford.



By Robin DeMerell

In Altajir's case, defense attorney Maura Buckley argued that the Superior Court judge violated her client's due process rights by allowing the prosecution to submit Facebook photos of her during the sentencing hearing. The 26-year-old defendant was sentenced to five years in prison, suspended after a year.

The Facebook photos showed the defendant drinking and partying at various out-of-state locations while on probation; she was not to leave the state without permission. Buckley claimed the photos were inadmissible evidence, even though the court said the photos indicated that the defendant had no remorse. Assistant State's Attorney Timothy Sugrue

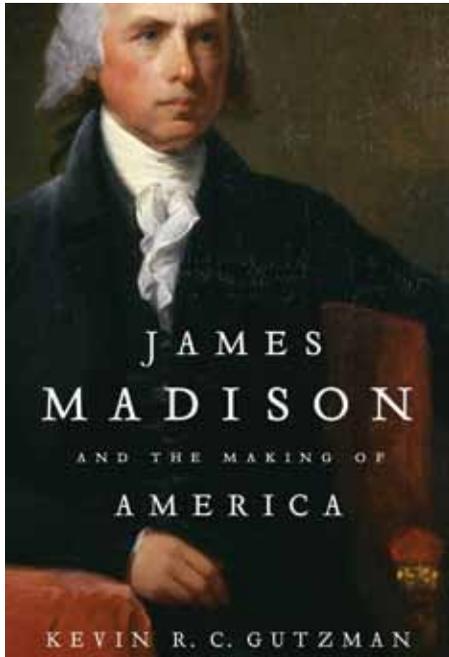
responded to Buckley by stating that the “Facebook page remained a shrine to alcohol and partying” and showed a lack of maturity and responsibility on the defendant's part.

Watching the argument from all sides from a student's perspective, Dwyer said, “definitely put a heartbeat to each of the cases, a person whose particular situation hung in the balance. As a learning experience it was an incredible opportunity for the students to participate, even just as spectators, in the legal system they will one day join in one form or another as practitioners.” ■

For more information, visit www.jud.ct.gov.

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WCSU historian Gutzman explores Madison's legacy in new biography



By Robert Taylor

WCSU historian Dr. Kevin R.C. Gutzman has earned a reputation as a constitutional scholar unafraid of challenging popular assumptions about the origins and evolution of America's founding document, and his new biography of James Madison demands a fresh examination of the fourth president's role in the nation's birth.

Gutzman's work, "James Madison and the Making of America," offers a rich exploration of Madison's legacy, from his emergence as a young Virginian delegate leading the successful campaign for the commonwealth's landmark Statute for Religious Freedom to his lasting influence as Federalist Papers author, congressional leader and president in the shaping of the young nation's political institutions. The biography, which marks the fourth book on American and constitutional history authored by Gutzman, was released by his publisher, St. Martin's Press, on Feb. 14 and was chosen as one of the main selections offered by the History Book Club in February.

Gutzman is the author of the New York Times best-seller "The Politically Incorrect Guide to the Constitution," as well as "Virginia's American Revolution: From Dominion to Republic, 1776-1840." With Thomas Woods Jr., he coauthored

"Who Killed the Constitution? The Fate of American Liberty from World War I to Barack Obama." He has lectured extensively on constitutional founding principles and contemporary issues, and his commentaries have appeared widely in the national broadcast and print media. He is a professor of history and non-Western cultures at Western, where his classes explore constitutional history and the history of the American Revolution, the early American republic and the American South.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Daniel Walker Howe observed that Gutzman's new book is "deeply rewarding for the serious reader who wants a detailed account of James Madison's long public career." Edward Lengel, editor-in-chief of "The Papers of George Washington" at the University of Virginia, remarked, "Gutzman's beautifully written and insightful account promises to become the standard biography of the great Founding Father."



Kevin R. C. Gutzman

After publishing several scholarly journal essays that went "one hundred percent contrary to the 'accepted version' of Madison," Gutzman decided to take on the ambitious task of reevaluating the Founding Father's historical and constitutional legacies in a comprehensive biography.

"What interested me about Madison was the way in which his intellectual and political projects still affect us," he said. "My interest was not so much in Madison as private citizen, but more in Madison as the architect of mileposts in the development of constitutionalism and thinking about government. "James Madison was a highly cerebral man with a towering intellect, an aristocratic politician who devoted his life to the establishment of republican government in America — government by the people, represented by elected officials and legislators responsible to the people who chose them," the author observed. "In more than 40 years of public service, Madison had a notable effect everywhere he served," from the constitutional convention to congressional leadership and his presidential administration from 1809 to 1817. "In every public position

he held, his presence always made a difference."

In many ways, Madison was an unlikely giant of the generation who founded the American republic — slight and short in build, reserved by nature, scarcely audible at times while speaking publicly. Yet at the age of 25 this graduate of the College of New Jersey, now Princeton University, found himself at center stage in the Virginia Constitutional Convention that produced the first written constitution for government in the world. He subsequently drafted the "Virginia Plan" submitted to the federal Constitutional Convention in 1787.

"Madison is often called the 'father of the Constitution,' and his Virginia Plan has often been described as a rough draft of the Constitution. But in fact, it was at marked variance with the Constitution we ended up with," Gutzman observed. Although Madison advanced arguments for ratification of the Constitution in the Federalist Papers and played a central role in drafting the Bill of Rights, he confided to his mentor and friend Thomas Jefferson that "the Constitution was so markedly flawed that it would surely fail within a few years. So perhaps," Gutzman wryly observed, "it would be more accurate to describe him as the 'unhappy stepfather of the Constitution.'"

On the other hand, Madison often is overshadowed by Jefferson as chief architect of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, which inspired the Establishment Clause in the First Amendment, yet it was Madison who gained referendum approval of Jefferson's religious freedom statute in Virginia. "He stood throughout his life for the disengagement of religion from government," the author said.

Madison's most enduring legacy remains his work throughout his public life to shape the young nation's founding ideal of republican government by popular consent, Gutzman observed. "The only reason you have a constitution is to limit the powers of government, and Madison's whole career is all about defining the proper sphere of government. Madison taught the nation what it means to say that the people have consented to government. If you reach the point where it doesn't matter what the people have consented to, it means we have become a government without popular consent." ■



Evan Bernstein '98

By Robert Taylor

Evan Bernstein arrived at Western in 1995 as a sophomore transfer student more passionate about playing lacrosse than pursuing studies in social work — but a dedicated WCSU professor who believed in him and a grandmother who inspired him helped set him on the path to academic and professional success.

Today Bernstein serves as executive director of the American Friends of Migdal Ohr, the New York-based fundraising, marketing and branding arm of one of the largest nonprofits in Israel. Migdal Ohr provides a nurturing home and outstanding formal and Jewish education to Israeli orphaned, disadvantaged and troubled children from across the religious spectrum. Programs and facilities are based on three campuses with the main campus in the town of Migdal HaEmek.

There are also 160 youth clubs in local communities all over the country, reaching more than 20,000 Israeli children annually. The Migdal Ohr model has proven successful at treating the disadvantaged. It repairs the damaged lives of the children and gives them the education and self-esteem they need to grow into successful adults.

Bernstein has never forgotten that he took some of the most important early steps of his journey during long visits at the Brooklyn home of his grandmother, Martha Epstein Bernstein, and during his classroom and field work under the guidance of WCSU Professor of Social Work Patti Ivry. Bernstein recognized the importance of these two remarkable women as role models and mentors with his recent establishment of the Marthas Bernstein and Patricia Ivry Social Work Scholarship for Women. The undergraduate scholarship award will be made

Evan Bernstein '98

helping children in crisis



Migdal Ohr kindergarten students at play.

annually to a woman majoring in social work and entering her senior year who demonstrates financial need, as well as strong potential to achieve academic and professional success.

Since earning his bachelor's degree in social work at Western in 1998, Bernstein's career has advanced with positions of increasing breadth and responsibility in management, administration and development at nonprofit organizations. From his early work at the United Way on hospital fundraising campaigns in New York City, he went on to serve as Arizona director for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, director-level consultant for the fundraising firm Community Counseling Service, and national director of development for the David Project Center for Jewish Leadership. He also

pursued studies while continuing his heavy work schedule to earn a master's degree with a concentration in managing nonprofits from the Harvard University Extension School Graduate Program in Management.

Bernstein's professional success received recognition from his alma mater in 2007, when he received the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award from the WCSU School of Professional Studies. Yet he recalled in a recent interview that he entered Western in 1995 as a good but unmotivated student "more interested in athletics than academics. Then, Patti Ivry became very much a part of my life. The semester before my junior year, she sat me down and read me the riot act. I remember she told me, 'You're not living up to your full potential!'"

What followed was a more challenging program of studies in his final two years at Western that included assignments in the field to work at an HIV clinic as a junior and a group therapy program for substance abusers as a senior. His exemplary performance in the field and the classroom opened fresh opportunities for growth, such as his selection to represent the department at a national social work conference.

“Patti always wanted to make sure that I understood how social work is practiced in the field,” he said. “I embraced her ethic of hard work, and she enabled me to thrive in the program.”

Bernstein said he especially appreciated the personal attention in his studies at Western, noting the benefits of small class size and a quality faculty committed to ensuring that the university’s social work program met the highest academic standards. He cited Ivry as an example of that commitment.

“Patti’s goal has always been to keep Western’s social work program at the highest level,” he said. “She believes in public higher education and in Western, and her work over the years has affected thousands of people as the experience of her instruction and mentoring ripples out through Western’s graduates to the wider community and the world.”

If Ivry provided a motivational spark for Bernstein’s academic and professional progress, his paternal grandmother Martha Bernstein offered the role model of a first-generation Russian immigrant and lifelong resident of the

Sheepshead Bay area who never let the financial hardships that denied her a chance for a college education to narrow her intellectual and cultural horizons. An administrative assistant to top executives who worked into her early 80s, Martha formed a close bond with her grandson Evan from an early age during family visits to her Brooklyn home.

Bernstein has never forgotten that he took some of the most important early steps of his journey during long visits at the Brooklyn home of his grandmother, Martha Epstein Bernstein, and during his classroom and field work under the guidance of WCSU Professor of Social Work Patti Ivry.

“Since I was a small boy, she took on very much a superhero role for me,” he observed. “She was well read and an incredibly cultured woman. We would discuss Chagall, Renoir, Beethoven, Wagner and the Ring Cycle. It wasn’t just milk and cookies — going there, I would see New York and the world in a different way.

“She was always there for me at every stage of my life, in every way,” Bernstein said. “While I was studying at Western, she would take the train to Brewster once a month to visit me on campus, see my dorm, discuss my class on Berlioz.” After his graduation, he took his first job in New York and lived across the street from his grandmother in

Brooklyn, and they remained close until her death two years ago.

“My grandmother and I had a very special bond,” he remarked. “She saw me grow in academic and professional and personal ways. She showed me culture and the world.”

Bernstein credits his two mentors for inspiring him to pursue his professional goal of attaining an executive position in nonprofit management and to fulfill his personal commitment to the Jewish global community through the work of the Migdal Ohr organization in Israel. His vision in dedicating the WCSU scholarship to Ivry and his grandmother is that it will provide motivation for a new generation of Western students to fulfill their potential and their dreams as well.

“To be able to honor Patti and my grandmother in this way is very special to me,” he said. “Patti was the first person who made me believe in myself academically and professionally, and I would not be where I am today if it were not for her. My experience at Western set me up to succeed, and I have never forgotten that.” ■

For more information about the American Friends of Migdal Ohr, visit www.migdalohrusa.org.

To contribute to the Martha Bernstein and Patricia Ivry Social Work Scholarship for Women, visit our online giving page at wcsu.edu/onlinegiving.



(l-r): Evan Bernstein, his cousin Michelle Bernstein, grandmother Martha Epstein Bernstein, sister Tasha Bernstein and cousin Todd Bernstein during a family vacation in the early 1980s at Banner Lodge in Moodus, Conn.



Evan Bernstein (center) is pictured at the WCSU School of Professional Studies ceremony honoring him as recipient of the 2007-08 SPS Distinguished Alumni Award. Department of social work faculty members joining him at the award presentation (l-r) were Associate Professor Marjorie Steinberg, Professor Patti Ivry, Professor Dr. Robert Veneziano and Assistant Professor Dr. Kit Hinga.

Western biology professor taking bite out of Lyme disease

Tracking ticks key to disease control

By Robin DeMerell

Dr. Neeta Connally, assistant professor of biological and environmental sciences at Western, finds bugs fascinating. More specifically, the former Yale research scientist relishes being a bug-detective-of-sorts and focuses her study on infectious insects.

An expert on Lyme disease and other tick-borne maladies, Connally joined the WCSU biology department in 2011 and has been hard at work establishing a research program here on the ecology of the deer tick and disease prevention in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control, the Yale School of Public Health and the state Department of Public Health.

In 2009, Connally co-published the results of a three-year study titled “Peridomestic Lyme Disease Prevention” in the *American Journal of Preventative Medicine*, in which the authors identified effective disease prevention measures. She holds an undergraduate degree in animal biology from Louisiana Tech University, a master’s degree in public health from Tulane School of Public Health and a Ph.D. in environmental science from the University of Rhode Island.

Connally, who teaches full time at the university, is joined in the WCSU research lab by three undergraduate students who work under a grant to collect and track deer ticks at the Nature Preserve on Western’s Westside campus and several western Connecticut towns, including Ridgefield and Newtown. Biology majors Karen Thompson of New Fairfield and Christopher Madden, a sophomore from New Milford, and recent graduate Michelle Dease of Wappingers Falls, N.Y., are busy monitoring area ticks.

“Fairfield County has the largest number of Lyme disease cases in the state,” Connally said. It is estimated that more than 15 percent of reported cases of the disease in Connecticut are in Fairfield County. That statistic intrigues Connally because it begs for local attention — the kind of attention she’s willing to give. “There hasn’t been a lot of current tick research in the region. I’m trying to establish a tick monitoring system here to track changes in tick populations over time.”

Connally’s ultimate goal is to see a decline in the transmission of Lyme through prevention — and

the only way to prevent the disease is to inform people how to protect themselves. Connally said the transmission of Lyme, and other tick-borne diseases, is not immediate. Usually a tick must be on a person’s body for 36 hours before transmission of bacteria occurs. Therefore, the tick specialist said, it is a good idea to bathe within two hours after being outdoors and check for ticks that may have attached onto the body within that 36-hour window. In addition, Connally said, people don’t have to be hiking to be in contact with ticks: “Most people get ticks in their own backyards,” she said.

Connally, who also volunteers as the scientific adviser for the BLAST program (Bathe, Look for ticks, Apply repellent, Spray your yard, Treat your pets) in Ridgefield, said she is hoping that her research at Western will continue to help people from being infected by ticks through environmental measures and education. ■



Neeta Connally

what's on at western?

Come travel with us!



June 8
Culinary Institute of America



July 22 — 27
An American Adventure



August 4
Alumni Family Day



Sept. 30 — Oct. 7
America's Music Cities Tour*



Dec. 8
Bus Trip to NYC

See insert for more details on these trips

*Stop by for a preview of this amazing travel opportunity sponsored by the Alumni Association. March 15, 5:30 p.m., Warner Hall, Midtown campus. Refreshments will be provided. Free. To RSVP, call the Alumni Office at (203) 837-8298.

Save these dates!



Oct. 1
WCSU Alumni Association's
27th Annual Golf Tournament

Join us for a great day of golf. 10 a.m. shotgun start (scramble format), Richter Park. \$700/four-some (\$175/person). Sponsorship opportunities are available and appreciated. Proceeds from tournament fund WCSU student scholarships. For more information or to make a reservation, call the Alumni Office at (203) 837-8298 or email alumni@wcsu.edu. Players of all levels welcome.



16th Annual
Golden Circle Luncheon, Sept. 14



Homecoming 2012, Oct. 13

what's on at western?



Feb. 29 – March 4 & March 9 – 11, times vary, **“Lysistrata by Aristophanes,”** Berkshire Theatre, Berkshire Hall \$20

March 7, 8 p.m., **Percussion Ensemble,** Ives Concert Hall
White Hall

March 9, 8 p.m., **Jazz Combos,** Ives Concert Hall, White Hall

March 14, 8 p.m., **Chamber Music,** Ives Concert Hall, White Hall

March 15, 8 p.m., **Orchestra,** Ives Concert Hall, White Hall

March 28, 11:30 a.m., **WestConn Society Luncheon**
Matrix Center, Danbury Call (203) 837-8279

March 30, 5:30 p.m., **A Night at the Opera w/Dinner**
Warner Hall \$35/person

March 30 – 31, 8 p.m., **“Carmen,”** Ives Concert Hall, White Hall
\$15; \$10/seniors & students

April 1, 3 p.m., **Jazz Combos,** Ives Concert Hall, White Hall

April 3, 8 p.m., **Piano Recital,** Ives Concert Hall, White Hall

April 4, 6 p.m., **Alumni Association Annual Meeting**
Alumni Hall

April 10, 8 p.m., **Chamber Singers/Concert Choir,**
Ives Concert Hall, White Hall

April 12, 7:30 p.m., **Child Care Cabaret,** Westside Campus Center
Ballroom (WS) \$15; \$5 WCSU students w/I.D.

Visit wcsu.edu for more information and a complete calendar of events.

what's on at western?



WCSU Department of Music presents the
17th Annual Jazz Festival
April 26 – 28

April 19, 8 p.m., **Orchestra**, Ives Concert Hall, White Hall

April 21, 3 p.m., **Saxofestivus**, Ives Concert Hall, White Hall

April 23, 8 p.m., **Percussion Ensemble**, Ives Concert Hall
White Hall

April 26 – 28, 8 p.m., **Jazz Festival**, Ives Concert Hall
White Hall, \$

May 2, 8 p.m., **Symphonic Band/Wind Ensemble**
Ives Concert Hall, White Hall

May 5, noon – 3 p.m., **Family Day BBQ**, Midtown campus
Quadrangle \$5/person

May 11, 7 p.m., **Graduate Commencement Ceremony**
Feldman Arena, O'Neill Center (WS)

May 13, 10:30 a.m., **Undergraduate Commencement
Ceremony**, Westside Athletic Complex (WS)

May 17, TBD, **"Almost Maine,"** location in NYC TBD \$

June 6, 6 p.m., **Alumni Association Meeting**, Alumni Hall

June 8, TBD, **Culinary Institute Bus Trip**, Hyde Park, N.Y.
\$91/person

July 22 – 27, **Trip on American Queen Steamboat**
\$1,695 – \$2,795/person

Aug. 4, 11 a.m., **Family Day at Lake Compounce**, Bristol, Conn.
\$35/person

Visit wcsu.edu for more information and a complete
calendar of events.

Please join us

March 30

Carmen: A Night at the Opera

Join alumni, faculty, staff, parents and friends for A Night at the Opera featuring a special dinner followed by the department of music's presentation of "Carmen." Dinner, 5:30 p.m., Warner Hall; Opera, 8 p.m., Ives Concert Hall, White Hall, Midtown campus. \$35/person. For more information or to RSVP, call the Alumni Office at (203) 837-8298.

Carmen



May 5

Family Day BBQ

Alumni and new graduates will enjoy food, music, games and entertainment from noon to 3 p.m. on the Midtown campus Quadrangle during the Family Day BBQ. There also will be an alumni tag sale, with proceeds to benefit the WCSU Alumni Association. The event is open to the WCSU community only. \$5/person.



May 11

Graduate Commencement

The WCSU Division of Graduate Studies will host a commencement ceremony at 7 p.m. in the Feldman Arena of the William O'Neill Athletic and Convocation Center on the university's Westside campus. Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman will deliver the commencement address. Graduate students who are eligible to receive their master's or doctoral degrees in January, May or August this year and their guests will be invited to the ceremony, with a reception to follow. For more information about this event, please visit wcsu.edu/commencement.

April 6

Alumni Association Annual Meeting

The WCSU Alumni Association will hold its annual meeting at 6 p.m. in Alumni Hall on the Midtown campus. The meeting is open to graduates of the university only.

April 13

CMEA Reception

The WCSU Alumni Association will host a reception at 6 p.m. for graduates of the university who are attending the Connecticut Music Educators Association Conference. The reception will be in the Riverside Lounge of the Connecticut Convention Center, 100 Columbus Blvd. in Hartford. This event is free and open to WCSU alumni, faculty and students.



April 18

Alumni Nursing Society Reception

WCSU will host a reception for nursing alumni and seniors graduating from the WCSU nursing program at 4 p.m. in Warner Hall on the Midtown campus. The student nursing class of 2012 will present its senior projects and the alumni nurses will vote on the best presentation. The event will be free and open to senior nursing students, nursing faculty and graduates of the university's nursing program only.



May 5

Sweethearts Honored

It's no secret that many a coed has fallen in love in the hallways and classrooms at Western. That's why the Alumni & Friends Circle program has designated a location as the "Sweethearts" area — to acknowledge these many couples and show support of the long-term love commitments that first began here. On WCSU Family Day, Saturday, May 5, the university "Sweethearts" area will be dedicated officially with the unveiling of a granite marker. The area designated in 2007 is located directly behind Fairfield Hall.

The A&F Circle program was created in 1999 by two alumni with the installation of a circle and benches outside Old Main. The Sweethearts area was added in 2007 and the third area added in 2009 is the Global Studies circle in front of Berkshire Hall. The Friends of the Observatory is on the Westside campus near the observatory. The three areas on the Midtown campus feature engraved bricks, inscribed benches, trees and lightposts. The A&F Circle rededication ceremony takes place each year to celebrate the growth of the circle and to welcome new additions.

To purchase a Sweetheart brick by April 1, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (203) 837-8298.



May 13

Undergraduate Commencement

WCSU will host its Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony at 10:30 a.m. at the Westside Athletic Complex Stadium on the university's Westside campus. The public is invited. This event will be outdoors and will take place rain or shine. Alumni who would like to participate in the academic procession should call the Alumni Office at (203) 837-8298. For more information about this event, please visit wcsu.edu/commencement.

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama to visit WCSU

WCSU, in cooperation with Do Ngak Kunphen Ling (Tibetan Buddhist Center for Universal Peace) in Redding, announced that His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet has accepted an invitation to visit and present talks on Thursday and Friday, Oct. 18 and 19, at the university.

The announcement by WCSU President James W. Schmotter marked the culmination of a process that began in 2010 with discussions initiated between Do Ngak Kunphen Ling (DNKL) officials and two WCSU faculty members — Professor of Writing, Linguistics and Creative Process Dr. John Briggs and Professor of Music and Music Education Eric Lewis.

The Dalai Lama will speak at public forums from 1:30 to 3 p.m. on Oct. 18 and from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Oct. 19 in the Feldman Arena in the O'Neill Center on the Westside campus. The events will be open to the public, and tickets will go on sale at a future date.

For more information, visit wcsudalailama.org.

Darico Siveman, photography



(l-r): Pictured at the signing ceremony are: Geshe Lobsang Dhargye, resident teacher at DNKL; Janine Coover, vice president of the DNKL board of directors; Professor of Writing, Linguistics and Creative Process Dr. John Briggs; President James W. Schmotter; Susan Altabet, president of the DNKL board; WCSU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Jane McBride Gates; and Lobsang Nyandak, representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama at the Office of Tibet in New York.

Illustration by Ailissa DeGregorio '12

Western brings East to campus

By Robin DeMerrell

This fall, Western brought both a Tibetan display of ancient medical paintings and a series of Tibetan medicine workshops to campus in anticipation of the October 2012 visit from the Dalai Lama.

Through the month of September, the Institute of Holistic Health Studies at WCSU in collaboration with Dr. Tashi Rabten of the Tibetan Medical Association displayed a collection of historical Tibetan medical paintings in the Ruth A. Haas Library on the Midtown campus. The art collection is a re-creation of the famous Blue Beryl, a set of 80 medical paintings completed 300 years ago in Tibet. Traditional pigments were used to re-create the paintings that served as medical textbooks.

A second series of Tibetan medicine workshops will take place this spring, and the President's Lecture on Feb. 21 will be delivered by Dr. Lobsang Sangay, prime minister of Tibet.

For more information, visit wcsu.edu/president/lecture-series.asp and wcsu.edu/newsevents/Tibetanmedicineworkshops.asp.

Nurnberger sees critical role for Foundation

By Robert Taylor

David Nurnberger has entered his fourth year as chairman of the WCSU Foundation Board of Directors more convinced than ever that the Foundation must play a critical role in preserving the university's academic achievements and ensuring a Western education remains affordable and accessible to a new generation of students.

"The primary role of the Foundation board is to ensure that we have the private funds to support the university's mission, particularly at a time when the availability of public funding is decreasing," Nurnberger observed. "The need for scholarship resources has become especially critical. Western and the Foundation have a real opportunity to make a difference."

The WCSU Foundation, established in 1971, is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to raising and managing private charitable donations for the benefit of the university and its students. As a member of the Foundation board since June 2000 and chairman since March 2008, Nurnberger has witnessed first-hand how the university's private fundraising efforts in collaboration with the Foundation have made an important contribution to promoting student access and diversity and advancing Western's margin of excellence.

"I'm really pleased with the growth of the Foundation in the time that I've been there, and this growth gives us an opportunity to offer more scholarships to more students," he said. He identified two fundamental goals in the Foundation's work to expand scholarship resources: "We need to provide scholarship support to more students who are in financial need. At the same time, I would like to see us reach the position where we can offer more substantial scholarships to the brightest students. Our goal should be to attract and keep these students by assuring them that they won't have to worry about whether they will have the funds to continue their education over four years."

Nurnberger retired in January 2011 as senior vice president for human resources at Ridgefield-based Boehringer Ingelheim after a management career spanning 35 years in the nonprofit and corporate sectors. He and his wife Nancy earned bachelor's degrees from Western in 1972 and recently established the David and Nancy Nurnberger Scholarship Fund to award annual grants to education students who plan to pursue teaching careers. ■

WESTCONN SOCIETY



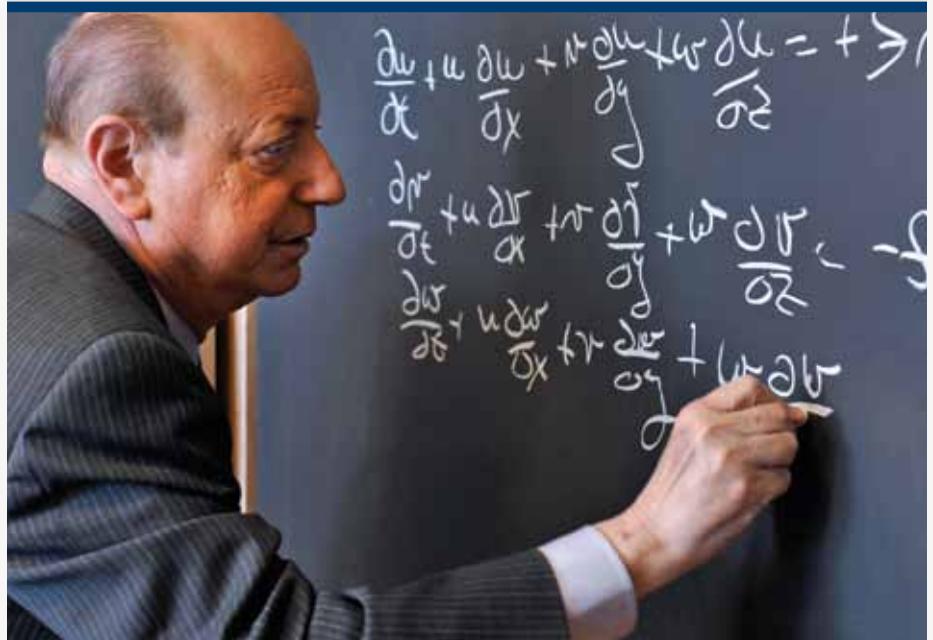
You are cordially invited to attend the 31st Annual WestConn Society Luncheon honoring WCSU Foundation Community Service Award recipients

Nancy and David Nurnberger

Wednesday, March 28, 11:30 a.m.

Matrix Corporate Center
39 Old Ridgebury Road, Danbury, Conn.

For information or to purchase tickets, contact Sue Wolf in the WCSU Office of Institutional Advancement at wolfs@wcsu.edu or (203) 837-8279.



Remembering Dr. Mel

Dr. Mel Goldstein, "Dr. Mel" as he was known to hundreds of thousands of television weather viewers, died Jan. 18, 2012, at the age of 66. His passing is marked with great sadness at Western, where he was an institution. Dr. Mel courageously battled multiple myeloma, a form of cancer, for more than 15 years. Because of his deteriorating health, he had retired recently after 25 years at WTNH News Channel 8.

"While Dr. Mel has touched the life of nearly everyone in Connecticut over the past four decades, his imprint on WCSU has been especially significant," said President James W. Schmotter. "Not only did Dr. Mel begin our meteorology program — still the only one of its kind in the state — and our weather center, he was an inspiring mentor for generations of students. And the memories of all of us who had the good fortune to spend time with Dr. Mel will never fade. You could not help feeling better about the world and its future when you were around him."

For more information about Dr. Mel, visit www.wcsu.edu/newsevents/drmelpassing.asp. To give to the Dr. Mel Goldstein Scholarship, visit www.wcsu.edu/onlinegiving.

WCSU annual giving program gets a makeover

By S. Jane von Trapp and Robin DeMerell

Annual giving appeals made by a university or other not-for-profit organization often confuse the most savvy donors. What does it mean to give unrestricted money to an organization, where does the money go and who decides how it's spent?

This year, parents, alumni and friends of the university will notice a marked change in the university's approach to asking for gifts by direct mail and by phone to help lessen the confusion. At WCSU the needs are great, and they reach across all areas from scholarships and pianos to guest lecturers and computer equipment. State support has been cut back to less than 35 percent and tuition must be kept at affordable levels. Those two revenue streams do not allow for the enhancements required to run an excellent, accredited university. Annual giving is an essential part of the equation.

When giving to the Annual Fund, donors allow the people who know best — President James Schmotter, Provost Jane Gates, university deans and faculty — to make the choices as to where the needs are greatest.

As part of the fund's new direction, four WCSU students — Lindsey Jones, Chris Dalton, Grant Schneider and Cassandra Woods — posed for portraits for mailings and talked about what their experiences at Western mean to them. While the four students represent different disciplines and various funding priorities, the common threads are a commitment to making a difference after graduation and the recognition that others are helping them reach their goals through donations to the university.

In concert with the mailed letters and appeals, this year's phonathon will be leaner in an effort to keep costs down with two callers following up on the mailed appeals. Alumni and students are busy making thousands of calls to update contact information, offer information about events on campus, share and learn about experiences at Western and make appeals in support of annual giving.

For the first time in Western's history, parents are being asked to join in the Annual Fund through mailings. Jane and Tom Curley, parents of WCSU student Matthew, are representing the Parents Fund this year. Joe Giaquinto '70 is representing the alumni annual giving effort, and President Schmotter has written to those in the giving clubs and other past supporters. Those who do not respond by the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2012, will receive all four mailed appeals, each picturing a different student and selected funding priorities spanning the university. However, donors do not need to wait to receive all four to make a donation (this saves paper and postage) or to visit the website to learn about the difference that donations make to students such as Lindsey, Chris, Grant and Cassandra. Their stories can be found at wcsu.edu/ia/gifts-at-work.asp. ■

To make your gift to the university online, visit wcsu.edu/onlinegiving.

Clockwise from top left: Music Performance major Lindsey Jones; Finance, Investments & Markets major Chris Dalton chatting with Dean of the Ansell School of Business Dr. Allen Morton; Nursing student Grant Schneider; and Computer Science major Cassandra Woods.



■ For giving opportunities at Western, visit wcsu.edu/onlinegiving

Meet Our New Board Members

A new fiscal year has brought new faces and ideas to the WCSU Foundation Inc. and WCSU Alumni Association boards.

For a glimpse at who will serve the university as board members, see the brief profiles below. For more information, visit wcsu.edu/ia/foundation.asp or wcsu.edu/alumni/bod.asp.



Alumni

Joshua Flores '05, '10

Flores gained plenty of experience as a student leader, so it's only natural that he has stepped forward to become one of the youngest members of the Alumni Association board.



Foundation & Alumni

Joe Giaquinto '70

Giaquinto is impressed with the growth in enrollment and diversity in academic disciplines at his alma mater. "I really like what's happening at Western," he said.



Foundation
Erland Hagman

"Hard work and education are the keys to a successful life," said WCSU supporter Erland Hagman, "which is why the university is such a vital part of the community."



Foundation
Tracy Horosky

"I was honored to accept a position on the board," said Horosky. "I'm a huge advocate of public education and am doing what I can to improve it."



(left image, l-r): Sitting at the anchor desk on the Election Eleven set are student Michael O'Shaughnessy, Assistant Professor of Social Sciences Dr. Patricia Crouse, Professor of Political Science Dr. Christopher Kukk and Assistant Professor of Communication Dr. Jay Brower.

(image above, l-r): Andrew Wetmore '10, a candidate for councilman of Danbury's 3rd Ward, is interviewed by students Mathew Ramey and Steven Marucci.

Danbury, surrounding towns get election coverage from WCSU

By Laura Borgio

For the first time in WCSU history, a class of communication students covered the local elections for selected towns in Fairfield, Litchfield and New Haven counties on live television. From 8 to 11 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2011, students reported on Danbury and 14 surrounding towns out of the Charter Communications Cable Access Studio, 9 Commerce Road in Newtown.

Airing on channel 21 and reaching the nearly 65,000 households that subscribe to the Charter network, the live program, "Election Eleven, WCSU News," covered election outcomes for Bethlehem, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Danbury, Kent, Monroe, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Roxbury, Sherman, Southbury, Trumbull, Washington and Woodbury.

Assistant Professor of Communication Dr. JC Barone was both the creator of the news show and instructor for the class that produced it. "We provided an exciting and important community service and gave our students an excellent opportunity," Barone said.

The live show, part of the course "Live News and Election Broadcast," was the result of a collaboration between Charter Communications, WCSU's Office of University Computing and WXCI 91.7, the campus radio station. On the night of the live program, WXCI 91.7 provided a simulcast and University Computing supplied the Internet broadcast.

"I am honored to have worked with so many talented people," said Barone.

The class was comprised of communication/media arts majors and professional writing/journalism majors. The live program employed students both behind and in front of the cameras, depending upon the position that each student held. The entire live show was operated, produced and directed by students with Barone as lead producer and several WCSU faculty members serving as anchors. The student field reporters and faculty anchors covered

the election results, candidates and party platforms in a CNN-News style.

Assistant Professor of Communication Tammy McVey-Camilleri worked with the student reporters as a journalism coach throughout the semester. The class also partnered with a group of political science and economics professors and students for research purposes.

flickr™ To see more photos, visit wcsu.edu/flickr.

The anchors chosen for the three-hour program included Dr. Christopher Kukk and Dr. Patricia Crouse from the social sciences/political science department and Dr. Truman Keys and Dr. Jay Brower from the communication department. They provided commentary and analysis on the races, candidates and certain hot topics. Field reporters and camera crews were stationed in Newtown, Brookfield and Southbury and also at the Danbury Democratic and Republican headquarters. ■



Western hosts regional NEPCA conference

By Robin DeMerell

For one weekend this fall, the Northeast Popular Culture Association brought topics from science fiction and folklore to social media and Lady Gaga to the Western campus.

On Nov. 11 and 12, nearly 100 scholars from 70 universities presented their research and work at this year's NEPCA conference held on the Midtown campus. Scholars represented schools such as Yale University and Boston College and came from as far away as India and Germany.

The NEPCA is a regional affiliate of the American Culture Association and the Popular Culture Association. Since 1992, the association has promoted the study of pop and American culture by bringing together scholars of various intellectual disciplines. Among the works presented

at this year's conference were "Eating La Famiglia: Consumption of Authenticity in Italian-themed Restaurants" and "Image as Spiritual Hologram: Lady Gaga & Alexander McQueen, Royalty of a Different Fashion."

Friday's program concluded with a presentation by featured guest lecturer William H. Foster III, a professor of English from Naugatuck Valley Community College in Waterbury. A long-time comic book collector and researcher, Foster has written 15 books and nearly a dozen plays. He appeared as an expert commentator for CNN News and National Public Radio. ■

For more information about NEPCA, visit users.wpi.edu/~jphanlan/NEPCA.html.



WESTERN'S ALUMNI & ADMISSIONS VOLUNTEER EFFORT

Western graduates help WAAVE in new students

By Robin DeMerell

When it comes to firsthand knowledge about the advantages of a great education, who knows better than a graduate of Western Connecticut State University?

That's why the university recently created WAAVE — Western's Alumni and Admissions Volunteer Effort. The new recruitment program enlists the expertise of alumni to volunteer once or twice a year at local college fairs, where they can assist Undergraduate Admissions staff to promote the university.

The presence of alumni at the college fairs helps to personalize the admissions process by providing potential Western students with information not only about the university but about the college experience. Alumni are able to share how Western has helped make them successful individuals.

This fall 21 alumni attended the college fairs with

the university's admissions counselors and, so far, more than 70 alumni have signed up for future recruiting efforts.

"Programs like these are successful because parents and students feel confident with the feedback they receive from former students on their college experience at the school they attended," said WCSU Alumni Relations Director Tammy Hammershoy. "Programs such as this are important because they give alumni an opportunity to give back to their alma mater in a way that is meaningful to them. Alumni volunteers are important to our overall success as a university. There is no doubt that we will continue to grow this program and bring even more success in semesters to come." ■

For more information or to volunteer, call (203) 837-8298.



During the calm before the storm, students gathered for the traditional Entering the Gates ceremony.

Welcome Weekend includes wild weather

By Robin DeMerell

For some 900 freshmen beginning their college careers at Western, it was an induction not to be forgotten. As Hurricane Irene barreled up the coastline on move-in weekend, the first day of classes was eventually cancelled and students were soon sent back home to weather the storm with their families.

But before the mighty storm hit, hundreds of freshmen were able to ceremoniously enter through the gates of Western for their first time on Friday, Aug. 26. Although the skies were sunny and clear, many students and their parents were on edge knowing that the storm was ripping up southern coastal states as it made its way to Connecticut, forcing many students to miss the ceremony.

President James W. Schmotter told the freshmen that they could all take a lesson from Hurricane Irene.

"You never know what life will throw at you, so learn as much about life as possible," Schmotter said to the crowd that gathered for the ceremony. "Become comfortable with new places and new people, but you can't do it all at once — it's a step-by-step journey to success."

Such was the journey of moving onto campus. Move-in day proceeded as scheduled, but the university ended up closing its doors after the Friday freshman dinner, sending everyone home to prepare for the hurricane. Move-in day for returning students was moved from Saturday to Monday and all weekend events were cancelled in anticipation of storm aftermath and clean-up needs.

Luckily, the campus did not lose power because of the hurricane, which dumped upwards of eight inches of rain on the area, but the university had plans to house residential students who were not able to leave for the weekend in several buildings on the Westside campus that are equipped with emergency power. ■



'Operation Jungle Red' raises awareness

A program that raises awareness of senseless violence on college campuses in the wake of the Virginia Tech University shooting was launched at WCSU in October.

"Operation Jungle Red" (OJR) was created three years ago at Miami University in Ohio by students in a men's health course. The goal of OJR was to start conversations about the acts of violence — including sexual assault, social media violence, domestic violence and campus violence — committed by men. Another goal was to raise awareness of how men are socialized and to focus on the impact of that socialization on society. It also serves to remember the victims of violent acts.

OJR events took place at WCSU throughout the month of October — Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Students and faculty who wanted to participate took the pledge against violence. In doing so, they received a free T-shirt or wristband. They also painted their pinky fingernail "jungle red" and were encouraged to join an informal discussion on violence. A specific topic was presented each week; sexual assault, social media violence, domestic violence and campus violence. ■

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Local teachers trained to enrich science and math education for children

By Robert Taylor

More than two dozen teachers from elementary schools in the Danbury area were peering through microscopes in a WCSU laboratory during a class last year when they came face to face with the hidden world of genetics — and the infinite potential to educate children in the sciences.

WCSU Associate Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences Dr. Theodora Pinou recalled how the school teachers responded to the thrill of viewing

cells under the microscope as she explained how those cells continuously replicate DNA and divide to produce identical copies of themselves.

“It was an amazing moment,” Pinou recalled. “All of a sudden, their world had become the cell — that was life! Understanding how life works at the microscopic scale was very empowering for these elementary school teachers.”

Pinou’s life sciences instruction on the theme, “Define the Limits of Your Eyes,” comprised the second of a four-part series of WCSU courses specifically designed to prepare elementary school teachers to become math and science education coaches for other faculty members at their schools. Other courses in the series were taught by Associate Professor of Mathematics Dr. David Burns, Professor of Chemistry Dr. Russ Selzer and Assistant Professor of Physics, Astronomy and Meteorology Dr. Albert Owino.

The courses were offered as part of a three-year program in science and math education enrichment at the elementary school level, supported by a grant from the Connecticut Department of Education. Twenty-six teachers from elementary schools in Danbury, New Milford and Newtown and the Bridgeport Diocese school system participated in the inaugural effort to train science and math teaching coaches for elementary school faculties. Participants

earned WCSU credits for each course completed and were to receive a certificate in teacher coaching from the Department of Education.

Selzer said that in a technological world where so much of daily life is shaped by scientific principles and processes, “the irony is that so many people have no clue what it’s all about — we’re just the end users.” Strengthening science education beginning in the early grade levels will promote enhanced public understanding of a wide range of science-related issues, from the prospective societal benefits of scientific advances to the potential environmental risks posed by technological development, he noted. “It’s important for kids to gain perspective on these subjects and more detailed knowledge of what science is all about,” he said.

For Pinou, the promotion of expanded math and science education in first through fifth grades is essential to broaden the vocabulary and perspective of young children and prepare them to analyze subjects with greater precision.

“The importance of providing science education at the elementary school level is to develop skills in problem-solving and improve literacy,” she observed. “By showing how the vocabulary of reading is anchored in scientific terminology, you can teach students to make conversational terms more concrete, quantitative and precise.”

Pinou noted elementary school education in the life sciences should address the molecular and genetic building blocks of life as well as the visible world of animals and plants. “Life sciences lessons should be about more than just lions and giraffes,” she said. “The essence of the life sciences is to be found in the small things — how they work, live and develop.”

Selzer structured his course to focus on providing the teachers with a survey of basic principles, an overview of elements and compounds and other introductory material designed to offer a well-rounded perspective on chemistry. The course also included laboratory experiments involving observation of chemical reactions as well as density measurement to prove that a golden substance produced from a penny through “alchemy” was not real gold.

For teachers who felt that they lacked a sufficiently comprehensive or current foundation in the sciences, Selzer said, “my intention was to make chemistry more inviting to them and assure them that these subjects are not so difficult if you spend the necessary time to explore and delve into them.” ■



Teachers from local public school systems participated in a weeklong inquiry-based program at WCSU taught by staff from The Connecticut Science Center. Sen. Richard Blumenthal visited Western to learn more about the federally funded program.

“Farewell, My Subaru” author comes to Western

As part of the area’s fourth annual “One Book, One Community,” author Doug Fine talked about his experiences of moving to New Mexico to live off the land at a lecture on Oct. 25.

Dressed in corduroy jeans and a cowboy hat, the journalist formerly from the Northeast shared his eco-adventures with an audience that filled the Ives Concert Hall to capacity. The community-read is a collaboration of the university, the Danbury Public Library, the Danbury Public Schools and the Wooster School.

In his book, Fine details the yearlong experience of living with as little carbon fuel as possible. He turned his New Mexico ranch into a green environment and raised two goats to sustain organic food production. Fine’s major lifestyle changes included buying goats for food production, driving a veggie-oil consuming truck and putting solar panels on his ranch.

“Sustainability is not a political issue; it’s a patriotic issue,” Fine said. ■



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WCSU information security courses gain NSA recertification

By Robert Taylor

Western's Ancell School of Business (ASB) recently received federal reaffirmation of its important commitment to strengthen information technology security through comprehensive education in safeguards to protect the nation's critical IT systems infrastructure.

The Committee on National Security Systems (CNSS) of the National Security Agency in July issued its recertification of courses offered by the ASB management information systems (MIS) department as part of the MIS information security management (ISM) option. The federal agency found that five core courses offered in the ISM option are in full compliance with the National Standard for Information Systems Security Professionals, also known as CNSS Standard 4011.

CNSS certification, previously awarded to WCSU's Ancell School in 2006, validates that the MIS curriculum meets tough federal standards for training professionals in the field of information systems security. The recertification announcement noted that the five courses — Information Systems Concepts, Database Applications in Business, Information Systems Security, Information Assurance, and Fundamentals of Data Communications — met recertification criteria covering a diverse range of 256 topics related to telecommunications and IT systems security.

WCSU is the only institution in Connecticut, and one of fewer than 200 institutions nationwide, to gain certification for meeting one or more of the information assurance training standards established by the CNSS. MIS Professor Dr. Marie Wright observed that Ancell has made a strong commitment over the past decade to "the development and implementation of the ISM program, years before other schools recognized the importance of information security education.

"Information security is focused very much on protecting the nation's critical infrastructures," she said. "Ninety percent of our critical infrastructures are owned and operated by private businesses in areas such as telecommunications, banking and financial systems, and the production and storage of oil and gas."

An important element of Western's ISM program is its integration of the human and technological aspects of information security. "The program incorporates both behavioral and technical perspectives of security and is intended to offer a broad perspective," the ISM curriculum statement notes. "The purpose

of the program is to elevate the importance of the behavioral aspects of security, while continuing to recognize the importance of technological security controls."

The CNSS recertification enables the university to issue certificates of educational compliance with Standard 4011 to all graduates who earn a Bachelor of Business Administration in MIS with the ISM option. Graduates from this program in recent years have found this credential to be a helpful addition to their resumes in securing employment in areas

such as network information security, database and information management and similar positions in the corporate world.

"We are a nation at risk," Wright observed. "Achieving recertification from NSA adds credence to our security program and helps to establish important career pathways for our students. We see this recertification as a real benefit to our students, to the school and to the entire university. We're quite proud of that." ■

For more information, visit wcsu.edu/asb/mis.

WCSU to offer doctorate to experienced nurses

New program responds to national nursing shortage

By Robin DeMerell

The nursing department at Western already boasts a thriving partnership with Danbury Hospital and near-perfect scores on the state licensing exam in recent years. Classes are filled to capacity as some prospective students wait for years to get into the top-rated program.

Now WCSU will be just one of a handful of universities across the country to offer an Educational Doctorate in Nursing Education. Not only will this benefit students wishing to continue their education, but it also will provide more teaching staff, meaning that Western will be able send more qualified nurses into the workforce.

The nursing doctorate program is in collaboration with WCSU's sister school, Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven. The initiative was designed to help address the state and national shortage of nurses and nursing faculty.

"The Ed.D. in nursing program responds to a critical shortage of qualified nursing faculty in

the State of Connecticut and nationally," said Dr. Catherine Rice, chairperson of the WCSU nursing department. "The Ed.D. in nursing online program is a unique venture between WCSU and SCSU nursing programs developed to meet the needs of the workforce."

The Ed.D. in Nursing Education will require students to complete 51 credits, including hands-on experience in teaching. A total of 25 students will be accepted into the program in early 2012 with students divided between the two universities.

This is Western's second doctorate program. The Ed.D. in Instructional Leadership graduated its first cohort in May 2008. That program is one of only 15 doctoral programs in the country to focus on instructional leadership. ■

RN-to-BSN student Liz Denby-Callahan (right) presents health-related information during the WCSU Health Fair. The university's Ed.D. in Nursing will offer growth opportunities to experienced nurses like Denby-Callahan.





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Entrepreneur of the Year

WCSU honors Dr. John Murphy with Macricostas award at annual luncheon

By Robert Taylor

Dr. John Murphy, president and chief executive officer of the Western Connecticut Health Network, received the 2011 Macricostas Entrepreneur of the Year Award from WCSU at a luncheon on Oct. 5. Funding for the award is provided by a grant from the foundation of Brookfield industrialist and philanthropist Constantine “Deno” Macricostas and his wife Marie.

Murphy, a neurologist and Newtown resident, joined the Danbury Hospital administration as executive vice president in 2008 and became the hospital’s president and CEO in July 2010. Danbury Hospital reached an affiliation agreement with New Milford Hospital in October 2010 to form Western Connecticut Healthcare, Inc. Western Connecticut Health Network was formed by Danbury and New Milford hospitals to organize a coordinated network of providers, services and health care sites.

As president and CEO, Murphy’s responsibilities have ranged from strategic planning and establishment of organizational goals to management of growth and financial performance of health care services. His position requires close collaboration with physician and nursing leadership at Danbury and New Milford hospitals to ensure the network’s operational management supports mission objectives including quality care, patient safety and service excellence.

A native of New Jersey and recipient of a bachelor’s degree in biology at Fordham University, Murphy began his medical studies at Rutgers Medical School and gained election to the American Osteopathic Association, the national medical honor society. He completed his internship in internal medicine at the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and his residency in neurology at the New Jersey Medical School.

After moving to Danbury in 1989, Murphy entered professional practice in clinical neurology as a member of Associated Neurologists in Danbury and

also has been active in clinical research and medical education. He served for two decades on the medical staff of Danbury Hospital, including three years as president of the medical staff. He was a member of the hospital’s board of directors for 15 years, including a four-year tenure as board chairman.

“Our mission is to advance the health and well-being of the community in partnership with those whom we serve,” Murphy said. “It’s

the driving force behind everything we do.”

Murphy has received numerous professional honors over the past two decades, including frequent citations in regional and national “Best Doctor” listings for his field as well as selection to receive the Melville G. Magida Award presented by the Fairfield County Medical Association. He currently resides in Newtown with his wife Nancy and their four children. ■

Who, Me?

Expert warns that narcissism is on the rise

Today’s “Generation Me” (or Generation Y) is more confident, entitled — and miserable than ever, says Dr. Jean Twenge, a psychology professor at San Diego State University and author of numerous psychology books.

Twenge gave the President’s Lecture on Nov. 10 to a packed Ives Concert Hall. Twenge’s talk, “The Age of Entitlement and What We Can Do About It,” focused on narcissism and its increase in today’s young adults, including many college students.

In a lively and engaging presentation, Twenge said that narcissists are not simply self-centered individuals. Rather, they have an inflated sense of self and superiority, a feeling of entitlement and a willingness to take advantage of others. They are overconfident, materialistic and lack empathy.

Categorizing narcissism as a personality trait, Twenge explained that narcissism is not merely a problem of overweening self-esteem; instead it crosses the line into overconfidence with nary a hint of insecurity.

“Deep down inside, they think they are awesome,” Twenge said. They don’t care about emotionally close relationships and, in extreme cases, a narcissist can be violent and aggressive.

Quite the contrary from popular belief, said Twenge citing several lengthy studies, narcissism is not necessary to succeed in today’s competitive world. Narcissists are more likely to drop out of college; today’s business leaders are generally the product of hard work and humility.

“Self-esteem does not cause success,” she said. ■

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WCSU provost honored by NAACP

McBride Gates named one of 100 Most Influential Blacks in Connecticut



WCSU Provost Dr. Jane McBride Gates has been named as one of the 100 Most Influential Blacks in Connecticut for 2011 by the state conference of the NAACP. McBride Gates was honored at a Dec. 10 luncheon at the NAACP's 46th Annual State Convention at the Hartford Hilton. Author, civil rights activist and comedian Dick Gregory was the keynote speaker.

Prior to joining the WCSU community in July 2011, McBride Gates was dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Savannah State University in Georgia since 2002. Nearly 4,000 students attend Savannah State, part of the University System of Georgia.

In 2006-07, McBride Gates served as interim vice president for Academic Affairs at Savannah State, Georgia's oldest Historically Black University. Before relocating to Georgia, she was a tenured faculty member, chair of the political science department, and interim associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Arkansas State University.

McBride Gates earned her bachelor's from Arkansas State; a Master of Public Administration from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville; and a Ph.D. in political science from Southern Illinois University, with major degree areas in public policy, organizational behavior and Chinese politics. She also has pursued advanced management training at Harvard.

Grimes elected member of National Academy



Professor of Art Margaret Grimes has recently been elected a member of the National Academy in New York City. The National Academy is a museum, art school and honorary association of artists and architects dedicated to "creating and preserving a living history of American Art."

"I feel honored to be elected into the oldest and most distinguished artists association in the United States and to be asked to contribute a painting to the museum's collection," Grimes said. "As a landscape painter, I feel a particular closeness to the National Academy, which was founded by painters from the Hudson River School. Members of that group also founded the Metropolitan Museum. I feel I am part of an ongoing legacy."

Grimes has had her work exhibited in museums and galleries including the National Academy of Design, the Philbrook Museum, the Newport Museum and the Rahr-West Museum. For more than a decade, she has exhibited a one-artist show at the Blue Mountain Gallery in New York City. She is the recipient of the Benjamin Altman Prize from the National Academy of Design and a lifetime appointment as a Distinguished Professor at Western, where she has been the coordinator of the MFA program since 2000.

McLaughlin named president of regional organization



Neil McLaughlin, director of the WCSU police department, was installed recently as president of the Northeast College and University Security Association (NECUSA) at its 58th Annual Conference in Annapolis, Md.

McLaughlin has been director of the WCSU police department since December 2001 and became an active member of NECUSA the same year. NECUSA, organized in 1953, is the oldest professional campus law enforcement and public safety organization in the country. McLaughlin has served on the organization's board since 2006 as a director at large, secretary and vice president.

During his installation, McLaughlin reflected on his years in campus law enforcement. "We must recognize that safety and security are everyone's responsibility on campus, but we play the unique role of providing leadership and guidance to our communities to ensure that the quality of campus life is preserved and enhanced."

■ For giving opportunities at Western, visit wcsu.edu/onlinegiving

Simons named President-to-President Scholar

By Robin DeMerell



Mikailah Simons always knew she wanted to go to college, but family obligations delayed her dreams for quite a while.

The 24-year-old Woodbury woman was homeschooled and then helped her single

mother raise her baby sister, so going away to college was not an immediate option. When her sister was old enough for school, Simons enrolled at Naugatuck Valley Community College in Waterbury — going to classes with other people for the first time in her life. She earned a spot on the dean's list every semester and in May received her associate degree from NVCC.

This fall, Simons again enrolled in college — this time at WCSU. Simons was chosen as this year's recipient of the President-to-President Scholarship awarded jointly by Western and NVCC. The annual grant pays full tuition costs for an exemplary associate's degree graduate at NVCC to complete the final two years of studies and earn a bachelor's degree at Western.

Simons has heard lots of good things about Western and was thrilled to earn the award. "I was so happy I cried," Simons said. "It's such a competitive scholarship."

With hopes of someday teaching college, Simons plans to major in sociology and anthropology. Her love of different cultures was evident at NVCC where she joined both the black student union and Hispanic student union and started the college's Asian student union. ■

contributed photo



In August, WCSU Police Officer Jim Leclercq (left) helped save the life of a student on the Westside campus who stopped breathing. Leclercq was one of several individuals honored on Oct. 16 at the City of Danbury Fire Department Awards Ceremony.



Class of 1961 • 50th reunion



Class of 1971 • 40th reunion

contributor photo



Eight members of the university community were inducted into the 2011 Athletic Hall of Fame. (l-r): John Crescione '87, basketball; Ronald Gleissner '90, football; Richard Myers '93, coach; Dr. Craig Foster, support (team doctor); Amy (Matthews) McKenna '00, women's basketball; WCSU President James W. Schmotter; James Bastura '91, baseball; Mark Williams '78, who accepted the award in honor of his father, the late Bill Williams, athletic director; and Jaymie (Rosario) Bercedoni '02, volleyball.



WestConn Sweethearts '61 will celebrate their 50th anniversary

For graduates Brenda and John Zmary, being WestConn Sweethearts keeps fond memories alive. The Newtown couple will celebrate their 50th anniversary in July — and it all started here on campus.

“We got engaged on graduation day in 1961,” said Brenda, recalling when John nervously pulled out a ring moments before diplomas were handed out. “He did surprise me. When he took out the engagement ring box, I thought it was a charm for graduation.”

Both retired area schoolteachers, John and Brenda Zmary majored in elementary education at Western. They met in their sophomore year after attending WCSU basketball games with a group of students. The couple also took an art course together, even though Brenda said John is not artistically inclined.

Brenda said being a WestConn Sweetheart gives her and her husband a special relationship with their alma mater. And they have three bricks in the Alumni Circle, one which commemorates the date of their engagement and graduation.

“It's great fun to stay involved because it brings back so many memories,” Brenda said. “It was a very wonderful time.” ■

Tell us about yourself!

Visit wcsu.edu and click “Stay Current” to submit online. You can also send your information and photos to Tammy Hammershoy, Office of Alumni Relations, Old Main 302, Danbury, CT 06810

1970s

Jeffrey Smith '75 (BS, Music Ed.), '82 (MS, Music Ed.) had his name installed on the Norwalk High School Alumni Wall of Honor in October. Smith, a 1971 NHS graduate, returned in 1982 to bring the music department and marching band program to national prominence. Under Smith, the marching band went undefeated from 1982-2010 and won 171 competitions.

Maryann (Gagon) Sheehy '76 (BS, Sec. Ed./Eng.), '83 (MS, Sec. Ed.) was named assistant principal at Joel Barlow High School in Redding. She served as dean of students and director of Student Activities there for the past three years.

1980s

Jill Kwiatkowski '81 (BS, JLA) has been promoted to major with the Tampa, Fla., Police Department. During her 29 years with the Tampa PD, she has worked in patrol, as a Street Anti-Crime officer, DUI officer and Internal Affairs detective.

Christopher Vichiola '82 (BA, Anthropology/Sociology) has worked as a mental health counselor since 1982. He is a black belt in the martial art of the ninja in Japan and is currently seeking a master's degree in psychology counseling. He was a supporter of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Lois Gold-Morrissey '85 (BS, Nursing) founded Geron Nursing & Respite Care Inc. in 1988. Now run by her son, Michael, the business has grown to serve Fairfield and Litchfield counties, Conn., and Dutchess and Putnam counties, N.Y., providing nurses, certified nurses' aides,

personal care attendants, homemakers, companions and sitters.

Ival Stratford-Kovner '86 (MS, Sec. Ed.), '02 (MFA, Art) exhibited her charcoal and pastel drawings of the Newtown-based 2nd Company Governor's Horse Guard at the Blue Mountain Gallery in New York in August.

Joseph LaCava '87 (BBA, Finance) was appointed a full-time PGA Tour caddie for Tiger Woods. He has spent nearly three decades on tour and has caddied in the past for Dustin Johnson and Fred Couples.

Michael H. Pagliaro '83 (BBA, Management), an IBM program manager, was honored with the Corporate Advocate of the Year award given to a U.S. corporation or one of its employees who demonstrate excellent leadership on behalf of American Indian/Alaskan Native businesses and the economic development of tribal communities.

1990s

Patrick Paolini '90 (BBA, Marketing) was named senior vice president of Fox Station Sales in October after serving as VP-GM of Fox's WTXF Philadelphia for the past two years. He now oversees the national sales effort for all 27 Fox owned-and-operated stations.

Kari (Palacko) Moncrief '92 (BS, Elem. Ed.) relocated to Cary, N.C., with her husband, Jeff, and children, Sophia, 8, and Evan, 5. They enjoy the beach, mountains and everything in between. She loves being a stay-at-home mom.

William McKenna '93 (BBA, Management) was named acting chief of the Middletown

Police Department after serving for six months as deputy chief.

Shaun O'Connor '93 (MBA) was appointed chief financial officer for the Tourism Development & Investment Co. in Abu Dhabi, where he is responsible for all financial operations of the company, as well as IT solutions.

Richard Robinson '93 (BS, JLA) was promoted to lieutenant by the Newtown Police Department in January following a reorganization of the department. He has been with the Newtown PD for 13 years.

Theresa (Tavella) Quell '94 (MSN) is assistant dean for the Fairfield University School of Nursing, chair of the Norwalk School Based Health Centers Advisory Council, and completed her second term as president of the Connecticut Nurses Association in October. Also in October, her name was added to the Norwalk High School Alumni Wall of Honor.

Domitila (Corte-Real) Pereira '96 (BS, Med. Tech.) became an assistant principal at Danbury High School in September after serving the school for 14 years: 12 as a bilingual science teacher and two as head of the ESL and World Languages department.

Thomas Scot Cregan '97 (BA, Comm. & Theatre Arts) was cast as "specialty background" with the Screen Actors Guild for "Black Knight Returns" due to his military experience and ability to handle firearms. Cregan, a Navy Reserve lieutenant commander who recently returned from a year in Afghanistan, was cast as a Gotham National Guard Soldier.

Eric Peterson '97 (BS, JLA) was promoted to lieutenant by the Plainville Police Department. A 14-year veteran of the department, he was one of five sergeants who sought the position.

Kellyanne (Dohan) Koemp '99 (BA, History) started her own jewelry business called Sunflower & Ladybug Jewelry. Check her out on Facebook.

Rute Mendes '99 (BS, JLA) has been practicing with Ventura, Ribeiro & Smith in Danbury since 2004. She works closely with the Brazilian Consulate General in Hartford providing counsel and legal advice in various matters. A major part of her practice involves representing victims of sexual assault, molestation and wrongful death. She is vice president of the Portuguese Cultural Center in Danbury, and serves as an adviser to the Mock Trial class in WCSU's Division of Justice and Law Administration.

2000s

James Hook '00 (BA, Comm. & Theatre Arts) was cast as "specialty background" with the Screen Actors Guild for "Black Knight Returns" due to his military experience and ability to handle firearms. Hook, a former Marine, was cast as a Gotham State Police Officer.

Dr. Bryan Luizzi '00 (MS, Instr. Tech.) was named principal at New Canaan High School. Most recently, he served as principal and assistant principal at Brookfield High School. For more information, visit wcsu.edu/ia/luizzi.html.



Clockwise from top left:

Terry Eberhard Asch '64, '72 (center) mingles with Phyllis (Halpine) Kriksciun and Mary (Travaglini) Mitchell, both from the class of 1939, at the Golden Circle Brunch & Tea.

Class of 1961 classmates Ronnie Strand (left) and Brenda (Hartigan) Zamary (right) crown the Homecoming King and Queen during the half-time festivities.

The Student Government Association sponsored a carnival during the Street Fair that took place on the Westside campus on Homecoming Day.

The WCSU Alumni Association raised \$17,000 for scholarships at its annual golf tournament. Pictured (l-r) are: Ronald Pugliese '74; Neil Wagner '52; 2011 Golf Chair Al Mead '67, '69; and Tom Crucitti '69.



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2000s, cont'd.

David McGuire '01 (BA, Contract Maj.) was named 2012 NAPA/ASE Parts Specialist of the Year by NAPA Auto Parts and the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence. McGuire, store manager/general manager of the Danbury store, is the 13th person to receive this national recognition award, presented annually to an outstanding automotive parts specialist in the NAPA system.

Ryan SanAngelo '01 (BA, Comm. & Theatre Arts) read from his book "Bye Bye Balloon" during a July event at the Danbury Library. His first book, "Spaghetti Eddie," began as a class project at WCSU.

Jason Ginsberg '02 (BBA, Fin. Management) was promoted to vice president, corporate services, of Union Savings Bank in Danbury after serving the bank for four years as market manager, branch manager, assistant branch manager and retail banking officer.

Lloyd Williams '02 (BA, History), '04 (MA History) became engaged to Erica Haakensen. They are planning a September 2012 wedding.

Douglas Fuchs '03 (MS, Justice Admin.) was elected to lead the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, becoming one of the youngest presidents in the organization's 77-year history. He is an adjunct professor at WCSU, teaching an introductory course in criminal justice. For more information, visit wcsu.edu/ia/fuchs.html.

Gulgan Aliriza '07 (MFA, Art) exhibited her work at the Silo Gallery in June.

Matthew Bartlett '09 (BM, Music, Classical) discussed his book series "The Gettysburg Chronicle" during the New Milford Library's One Book, One Lake program in July.



contributed photo

Brian and Helen (Taylor) '01 McCormack, married Sept. 17, 2011.

Jeffrey Shpunt '09 (MBA) and **Danielle Pelillo '11** (BBA, Interactive Marketing) became engaged during the holidays. They will be married on July 27, 2012.

Laura B. Hayden '11 (MFA, Professional Writing) wrote "Staying Alive: A Love Story," a memoir about her search for meaning after the untimely death of her 49-year-old husband. In 1995, her essay "Saved by the Belle" took first place in the First Annual Mark Twain Days Essay Contest on American Politics & Government. "Nesting," an essay from her memoir, received an honorable mention from Connecticut Review.

Lauren Post '11 (BBA, Marketing), earned her certification in junior development by Professional Tennis Registry, a global organization of tennis teachers and coaches. Lauren took a four-part examination and earned the "professional" rating.

And baby makes...

Valerie (Remokitis) '99 and Michael Cesca welcomed the birth of daughter, Chloe, born on Sept. 30.

Timothy Sohn '01 and his wife, Joy, announced the birth of their daughter, Megan Elizabeth, on Aug. 2.

Wedding bells

Kelly Hastings and Spencer Carlson '07, May 15, 2011

Helen (Taylor) '01 and **Brian McCormack**, Sept. 17, 2011

Cherish Lynn (Valente) '01 and **Jerry Dachenhausen**, May 13, 2011

In memoriam

Peter A. Bartholomew '83, Danbury, Conn., Feb. 3, 2010

Marion W. (Weeks) Beecher '43, Winchester Center, Conn., Feb. 11, 2011

James A. Boyd III '09, Hoover, Ala., Dec. 17, 2011

Mary Burcaw '88, Bridgewater, Conn., Nov. 30, 2011

Peggy L. Catterson '85, New Fairfield, Conn.

Louis J. DePaul '63, Danbury, Conn., June 7, 2011

Daniel C. DeRosa '09, Danbury, Conn., Sept. 29, 2011

Thaddeus Florczak '76, Pompano Beach, Fla., June 24, 2010

Barbara S. Frost '59, South Paris, Maine, Sept. 25, 2009

Jeffrey C. Gautrau '01, Danbury, Conn., Sept. 4, 2011

Florence D. Hossan '53, Indianapolis, Ind., Nov. 3, 2011

Miriam L. (Lipscomb) Hubka '69, Salisbury, Md., June 9, 2011

Jean C. Hutchinson '61, Sharon, Mass., July 29, 2011

Georgiana "Georgia" M. (Kalos) Katsegeanes '57, Stone Mountain, Ga., May 21, 2011

Mary J. (Mulrooney) Marshall '52, Simsbury, Conn., June 18, 2011

Richard L. Montesi '56, New Canaan, Conn., June 12, 2011

John J. Morrisroe '48, Nov. 7, 2011

Abe G. Najamy '51, Danbury, Conn., Aug. 23, 2011

John P. O'Donnell '99, Norwalk, Conn.

Anthony J. Rotunda '73, Brewster, N.Y.

John C. Soper '95, Washington, Conn., June 18, 2011

Maude S. (Smith) Stackhouse '32, Bakersfield, Calif., Aug. 17, 2007

Mark E. Teofilo '83, West Haven, Conn., December 18, 2011

Diana M. (Gerow) Waterbury '84, Danbury, Conn., June 13, 2011.

Peter Widney '76, Danville, Calif., June 30, 2011

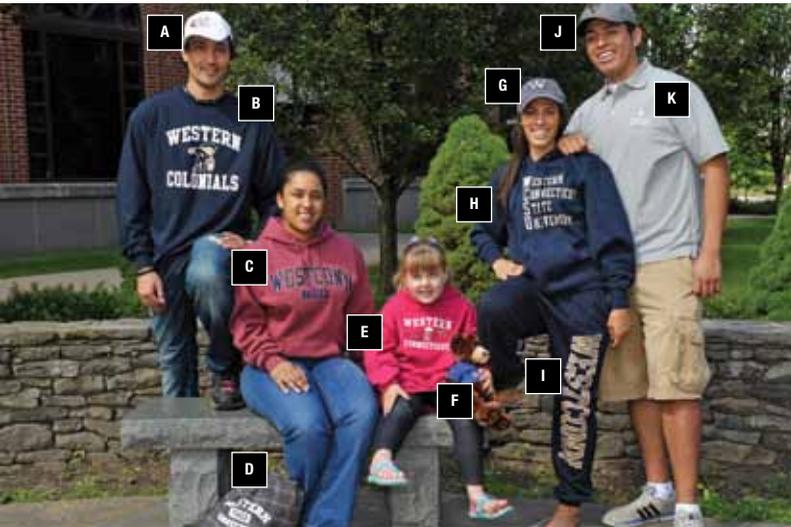
55th reunion for '57



contributed photo

Class of 1957 Class Reunion Oct. 13

Members of the Class of 1957 will celebrate their 55th class reunion on Homecoming Day with an informal luncheon under the Alumni Hospitality Tent. The classes of 1955-62 are invited to the celebration.



(l-r): Alex Larsson '10; Jasmin Noel '11; Aine McInerney (parents: WestConn Sweethearts Todd McInerney '97 & Tammy Hammershoy '97); Allyson Greenwood '10; Andres Sovero '11



Clothing and accessories

- A. WCSU Heat Gear Stretch Fitted Cap: \$29.98. (Under Armour) M-XL. Navy or white.
- B. Western Colonials jersey tee-shirt (Champion): Specify LS or SS \$21.98 / \$18.98. S-3X. Navy. Football or soccer (LS); baseball, basketball or lacrosse (SL).
- C. WestConn alumni hooded sweatshirt: \$39.98. (Champion). S-2XL Granite heather or bleached (cardinal heather).
- D. WCSU Carolina Sewn Flannel Backsack: \$14.98. Gray/pink tweed, navy or black.
- E. WCSU Youth Colonial Hooded Pullover Sweatshirt: \$27.98 (Champion). XS-XL. Raspberry or navy.
- F. Max the Bear: \$19.98. Brown, black or white.
- G. WCSU Adjustable Original Cleanup Washed Twill Hat: \$19.98 (Twins 47) one size. Gray.
- H. WCSU Full Zip Hooded Sweatshirt: \$39.98 (Jansport). S-2X. Navy, brown or gray.
- I. WestConn Banded Sweatpants: \$27.98 (Champion). S-2XL. Granite, heather or navy.
- J. WCSU Colonial Houndstooth Hat: \$21.98 (Twins 47) one size. Charcoal gray.
- K. WCSU polo shirt: \$29.98 (Club Colors). S-4X. Navy or light gray (ash).
- L. "WestConn Babies Rule" Onesie (infant bodysuit): \$10.00 (Precious Cargo). 6, 12 or 18 months. Lt pink or lt blue.

WCSU alumni desk accessories

- Seal with school name and "Alumni" engraved on black and gold. Masterpiece medallion.
- M1: Desk set w/solid brass business card holder and ballpoint pen; 10" x 1/2" x 3/4" (base): \$49.95.
- M2: Desk box, black suede lining, magnetic closure; 9" x 6" x 2 1/2": \$44.95.
- M3: Letter sorter; 10" x 3" x 4": \$34.95.
- M4: Paperweight, genuine marble; 3" x 3" x 7/8": \$22.95.
- Personalize desk set or box, additional \$4.95. See order form below for shipping costs.
- Diploma frames
- N1: Campus Scene Edition: panoramic photo of Fairfield Hall mounted above diploma; seal and school name gold embossed on black and gold matting; high-gloss galleria cherry molding: \$167.95.
- N2 & N3: Regency or gallery style, seal and school name gold embossed on black and gold matting: \$119.95.
- N2: Gallery-cherry. N3: Regency-mahogany. Both: gold inner lip. Signature style.
- N4: 23K bezel engraved medallion, black and gold matting, gold embossed WCSU, cherry, \$144.95.
- Specify N1, N2, N3 or N4. For pre-1998 styles, call Office of Alumni Relations (203) 837-8298. Photo frames in above styles: \$44.95 (vertical or horizontal).

For photos, descriptions and other styles or to purchase frames and desk items online: wcsu.edu/alumni, click on Alumni Marketplace.

- O: WCSU license plate holder: \$19.98.
- Furniture and accessories
- P. WCSU Rocker or Standard Chair (not shown), Heritage Lamp (not shown); additional cost to personalize. For information/photos, call (203) 837-8298 or visit standardchair.com. \$360.
- P1: Boston Rocker or Standard Chair: solid maple, satin black finish w/laser engraved WCSU seal: \$360.
- Heritage Lamp: maple hardwood and satin black finish w/laser engraved WCSU seal; black parchment shade w/gold trim: \$210.



order form

Name _____
 Address _____
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 Daytime phone no. w/area code _____
 Email address _____
 Alumni ID no. _____ (Number in address panel on back of magazine)

Delivery in four weeks or less. Proceeds generated from Marketplace sales help fund alumni programs, events and initiatives. For more information, call (203) 837-8298.

Item total \$ _____
 — 10% Alumni discounts \$ _____
 Tax (6.35% Conn.) \$ _____
 Subtotal \$ _____
 Shipping* \$ _____
 Total \$ _____

*Shipping Costs: wearable merchandise: \$6.95 first item and \$1.95 each additional item; diploma frame: \$18.95; paperweight: \$6.95; photo frame, desk set, desk box, and letter sorter: \$9.95 each.

Item (letter)	Color	Price	Description (use additional sheet for more items)

Send check with order to:
WCSU Alumni Marketplace
 181 White Street, Danbury, CT 06810

All items are taxable, including apparel.



Office of Institutional Advancement
181 White Street
Danbury, CT 06810

Address Service Requested



11.11.11

The WCSU Student Veterans Organization planned a number of activities to commemorate Veterans Day throughout the week of Nov. 7, that ended on Veterans Day, Friday, Nov. 11, 2011. The events included a panel of veterans discussing their experiences, a screening of "The Hurt Locker," a PowerPoint presentation and discussion about readjustment, presentation of the Veterans History Project, participation in the National Roll Call event and the placement of 6,314 American flags — one for each U.S. service member killed in Iraq and Afghanistan — on the Midtown campus.