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students' lives
for 115 years**

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FALL 2018

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The Cupola is an official bulletin of Western Connecticut State University and is published by Western Connecticut State University, Danbury, CT 06810. The magazine is distributed free of charge to alumni, friends, faculty and staff. Periodical postage paid at Danbury, Conn. and additional mailing offices.

Change of address: Send change of address to Office of Institutional Advancement, WCSU, 181 White St., Danbury, CT 06810, or email obreros@wcsu.edu. For duplicate mailings, send both mailing labels to the address above.

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WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

Students gather along the roadway that once ran on the west side of Old Main.

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A legacy of vision and change

The journey from one small school building to a renowned university

Founded in 1903, the Danbury State Normal School welcomed its first class of 43 students to begin studies in Danbury High School on Main Street in September 1904. The school's new permanent home, today known as Old Main, opened on September 5, 1905, with an address by founding Principal John R. Perkins to the student body, and in 1906 the first class graduated with diplomas and certificates. These modest beginnings established the roots for what has grown into a great educational, economic and cultural asset to the region and the state of Connecticut — Western Connecticut State University.

The story of WCSU is deeply intertwined with the ebbs and flows of political currents in the state of Connecticut and Danbury's growth and economic volatility, which have helped to shape the university as it is today.

Progressive for its time, the Normal School application did not require disclosure of race and an African American woman, Katherine Butler, was among the school's first students. By 1912, enrollment grew to 362 including the school's first male student, Ralph Wilber Carrington.

Nearly two decades after the Connecticut Board of Education first proposed the construction of boarding facilities at the Danbury school, ground-breaking took place in 1926 for the construction of the first student residence on campus, Fairfield Hall.

The 1930s brought significant changes. As requirements for teachers became more stringent, the school changed its curriculum to a four-year program to provide a well-rounded education in penmanship, music, math and language. This expanded educational mission was reflected in the school's renaming as Danbury State Teachers College in 1937.

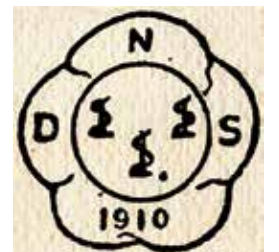
Further growth in enrollment brought the opening of Higgins and Berkshire halls during the early 1950s, and expansion of campus housing with the opening of Litchfield Hall in 1964. At the same time, the institution's focus continued to widen from a traditional curriculum for teacher preparation into a more comprehensive program of post-secondary education encompassing many academic and professional disciplines. This development was evident in the renaming of the institution as Danbury State College in 1959 and as Western Connecticut State College in 1967.

The evolution of a modest Danbury teachers school into a full-fledged university with many undergraduate and graduate degree programs reached its culmination with the renaming of the institution in 1983 as Western Connecticut State University, one



The Danbury Normal School, circa 1910. Now known as Old Main, it is the birthplace of Western Connecticut State University.

of four members of a new Connecticut State University System. Since the reorganization of Connecticut higher education in 2011, WCSU has joined with other state universities and community colleges as part of the restructured Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system.



WCSU logos have also seen many changes over the decades. The Danbury State Normal School adapted a floral emblem logo with the year 1910 displayed on it. The Danbury State Teachers College logo was a silver shield displaying four disciplines of liberal arts study: music, painting, academic and physical education. The 1981-82 Western Connecticut State College catalog bore a Connecticut logo with the words, Qui transtulit sustinet, Latin for "He who transplanted sustains." The most recent university logo is a representation of the cupola that sits atop Fairfield Hall.

In its 115 years, WCSU has produced leaders and agents of change who have made their marks in politics, music, education, literature and sports. Built with vision and endurance over 115 years and changing with the times, WCSU leads more than 5,600 students toward a bright future.

Brand new/ BRAND

WCSU continues its tradition of transformation

Western Connecticut State University moves forward in engaging new students from Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and beyond. On their terms.

As the university increases its reach, it's important to remember that the WCSU brand is more than just a logo. It is how we are recognized. It is how our public perceives us.

Our logo is our face. It is how others visually identify us. Our brand is our promise to our students, to our alumni, to our friends and to ourselves. Our brand is our mission, our values and our vision.

This month, the university will reveal a new brand and logo, called for by the WCSU Strategic Plan, to create a distinct identity for the university, its schools and its athletic programs. The rebranding project was led by Associate Vice President for Enrollment Services Jay Murray, who engaged New Jersey's EFK Group to provide research, exploration and ideas. The Strategic Planning Committee's Implementation team and a representative committee arrived at a recommendation to the President's Council, which was approved.

Our Mission

Western Connecticut State University changes lives by providing all students with a high-quality education that fosters their growth as individuals, scholars, professionals, and leaders in a global society. To achieve this, we:

Offer undergraduate and graduate programs that weave together liberal arts and professional education and instill a desire for life-long learning.

Sustain a vibrant, inclusive campus that connects individuals through co-curricular programs, cultural events, and service to the community.



Attract student-centered faculty who are passionate teachers and accomplished scholars.

Establish partnerships that create opportunities for internships, research, and experiential learning.

Our Values

Excellence. We value outstanding achievement realized through persistence, effort, honest feedback, and self-reflection.

Curiosity. We value the questions that drive learning, innovation, and creativity, which serve as the beginning and the desired outcome of education.

Dialogue. We value the conversations that explore diverse perspectives and encourage shared understanding.

Engagement. We value the interactions with ideas, peers, and community that are essential to a vibrant environment.

Opportunity. We value the possibilities created by affordable, accessible educational environments in which students can grow into independent thinkers and confident leaders.

Respect. We value the right of all people to be treated with dignity and fairness and expect this in our policies, classrooms, and community.

Our Vision

Western Connecticut State University will be widely recognized as a premier public university with outstanding teachers and scholars who prepare students to contribute to the world in a meaningful way.

Our Colors

Our colors have not changed, but are strengthened. Bold, confident and certain. The university will continue to feature the cupola in our publications. It is part of us, but WCSU transforms, again. We stand on the solid ground of our 100+ year legacy. We embrace change. We are change. We welcome the adventure of conquering the next hill. We are Western Connecticut State University, WCSU and WestConn Colonials. We are you.



What's going on at the SVPA this fall

The curtain is rising higher on **Theatre Arts** at WCSU, as the program continues to provide a strong professional training approach to the study of the art and craft of theatre. Accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre, the department earned recognition as the Best Undergraduate Theatre Program in the State of Connecticut by OnStage Blog's "The Acting Life."

The program's reputation for excellence goes far beyond its state-of-the-art performing arts facility. WCSU students and faculty again received numerous honors at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. Students, alumni and faculty also garnered Equity-eligible internships, graduate school opportunities and an Emmy Award in the past year.

Whether in front of an audience or behind the scenes, Theatre Arts faculty continue to provide the professional and personal preparation necessary for students to succeed. As the department continues to build new strengths in faculty and programming, it looks forward to earning new ovations and acclaim.

In dedicating their studies and their lives to disseminating the value of music and music education to their communities, **Department of Music** graduates enable others to empower themselves and affirm that music is an integral part of a classic liberal arts education.

Students are the department's primary focus and in order to enhance their educational experience, two new full-time faculty members have joined the ranks of music educators and professional musicians. Dr. Greg Haynes specializes in percussion performance and instruction, and will direct the

Percussion Ensemble. He is an active performer and composer who recently completed a score for a documentary. Matthew Doiron, who is completing a Ph.D. in Music Education from the Eastman School, previously taught high school band in Maine. He will teach music education, sight singing and conduct the Symphonic Band. Both Haynes and Dorion are tremendous additions to the faculty and to students' educational opportunities in the department.

The WCSU **Department of Art** continues to bring the value of visual arts into clearer focus for students and the community through exhibitions, artist talks and outreach programs. These programs nurture creativity and independence of thought, fundamentally important to all citizens and critical for the successful artist and creative professional.

Recent highlights include Gallery Techniques students' curation of "Redefining Identity" at Brookfield Craft Center, student installation responsibilities for David Adamo's "Chalk Floor" at the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, and alumni involvement in "Sol LeWitt Wall Drawings: Expanding a Legacy" at the Yale University Art Gallery. The WCSU Art Gallery initiated its first open call for exhibition proposals and "The Real Unreal: Realism Now" is one of three selected exhibitions scheduled over the next two years.

In an ever-changing world, the visual arts are vital in developing broader, more empathetic perspectives. The professional artistic training the department offers students empowers them to successfully create and articulate their vision to impact society throughout their creative lives.

UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS:

Uncle Vanya
October 10-21

Andrew Lipka's *The Wild Party*
November 7-18

*The 25th Annual Putnam
County Spelling Bee*
December 5-9

UPCOMING CONCERTS:

Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band
October 14, 3 p.m.

Octoberfest Jazz
October 26, 8 p.m.

Chamber Singers and University Choir
November 20, 8 p.m.

Electronic Music Recital
November 28, 8 p.m.

Orchestra
November 29, 8 p.m.

Jazz Combos with Guest
November 30, 8 p.m.

Holiday Pops
December 1, 8 p.m.

Holiday Jazz
December 2, 8 p.m.

Percussion Ensemble
December 3, 8 p.m.

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS:

"The Real Unreal: Realism Now"
September 4-October 14

"?" (A Series of Collaborative Works)
October 25-December 9

For a complete listing of the SVPA fall semester events go to wcsuvpac.eventbrite.com



WestConn Colonials charge forward

Ed Lucas, former boys' and girls' cross-country and track coach at Oxford, Masuk and Shelton high schools, will lead WCSU's **men's and women's cross-country**

programs this fall. Named the Connecticut Post Girls' Cross Country Coach of the Year (2010 and 2011) and the New Haven Register top girls' cross-country coach (2011), Lucas led Oxford's girls' team to a first-place finish in the Connecticut Class SS State Meet (2011) and coached the Naugatuck Valley League Girls Champion (2015). Since joining Masuk High School



Edward Lucas

in 2015, his boys' track team compiled a 35-3-1 record and was Southwest Conference Patriot Division champions the last three seasons. The team was 2016 South-

west Conference Champion and won the 2017 Connecticut Class MM championship. Lucas had an outstanding cross-country and track career at Central, and earned a bachelor's degree in Management. He also holds a master's in Education from the University of New Haven.

Former WCSU guard Charles "Guy" Rancourt ('97) will be the Colonials' 12th **men's basketball** head coach.



Charles Rancourt

Rancourt comes to WCSU following 10 years at Lycoming College, where he took the Warriors to the NCAA Division III Tournament three times, won two Middle Atlantic

Conference (MAC) Commonwealth titles, appeared in six MAC Commonwealth title games and earned two MAC

Commonwealth Coach of the Year honors. Rancourt played basketball at WestConn where, as a freshman, he helped lead the Colonials to the 1994 Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) New England Championship. He earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science from WCSU in 1997.

Roger Knick has been named coach of the WCSU **golf** program, which begins intercollegiate play this fall. Knick arrives at WCSU with a well-established reputation in Fairfield County and the Northeast



Roger Knick

as founder and president of Golf Performance Center in Ridgefield since 2006. The center is the Northeast's No. 1 academy for aspiring young golf athletes, preparing more than

100 athletes over the past 12 years to participate in more than 80 collegiate golf programs around the country. Knick played professionally from 1990-96 and went on to be a golf professional at Grand Cypress Golf Resort and Academy, Redding Country Club and Sunningdale Country Club in Westchester County, New York.

Alex Harrison was appointed this spring to the position of head coach of the



Alex Harrison

successful WCSU **women's soccer** program. During his tenure over the past two years as interim head coach, Harrison led the Colonials women's soccer team to

two Little East Conference Tournament titles and subsequent appearances in the NCAA Division III national championship

tournament, the 12th and 13th in program history. Harrison has compiled a 32-8-4 record overall and 11-1-2 in the LEC during the past two campaigns.

Former NCAA champion Raymond Cswerko has been named assistant coach for the WCSU **men's and women's swimming and diving** programs. Since coming on board, Cswerko has focused on recruiting student athletes to compete in the WCSU men's swimming and diving program that begins intercollegiate competition this fall. A Southern



Raymond Cswerko

Connecticut State University alumnus, Cswerko was a four-time First-Team All-American and 2014 NCAA Division II Champion in the 200-yard butterfly event.

That same winter, he was the runner-up in the 400-yard individual medley at the Division II nationals. Cswerko was a three-time Northeast-10 Swimmer of the Year, a CSCAA Scholar All-American and held eight SCSU records. He earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration with concentration in Management and Operations at SCSU.



Westside Athletic Complex

WCSU alumni help students achieve career success

Student Affairs' Career Success Center and you

The Division of Student Affairs helps students achieve excellence through many co-curricular activities that enhance WCSU's rigorous academics. Programs that reinforce leadership, communication, work ethic, problem solving, teamwork and intercultural fluency prepare students for a constantly changing and challenging work environment. Career management is another important competency that brings all of this together and is supported directly by the division's Career Success Center (CSC).

"Career learning that engages alumni and regional businesses is a win/win for us all," says CSC Director Kathleen Lindenmayer. The upcoming semester will start with the Career EXP on Sept. 12, an event for career exploration, exposition and explanation, to help students connect directly to employers with questions about how their majors can be used throughout a variety of industries. This event will be quickly followed by Mocktails and Mingling, an etiquette and work-connections event on Oct. 10 and the second annual Financial Services Career Fair, which will include the insurance industry, on Oct. 16.

Among other new initiatives, the CSC is creating a "career studio" for more innovative co-exploration and adding streamlined e-tools for convenient career discovery.

Partnerships and collaborations (for career fairs, posting job/career positions, acquiring an intern, supporting alumni panels, mock interviews, hosting students for industry learning, etc.) are a necessary component to enhance career readiness and support student/alumni employment.

Alumni are encouraged to contact the CSC at careersuccess@wcsu.edu for more information about how they can successfully support, recruit and engage the next generation of WCSU graduates.



Jacqueline Kanuk '18
HPX internship at OrthoConnecticut/Danbury Orthopedics



Oscar Jean-Baptiste '16
Danbury Orthopedics

Biologist makes an impact on his students and community

Provost's Award for Teaching to Dr. Edwin Wong

Associate Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences Dr. Edwin Wong has made important contributions to the university and surrounding communities throughout his two decades on the WCSU faculty — and his colleagues recognize the difference he has made.

Wong has received this year's recommendation by the WCSU Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT) Committee, accepted by Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Missy Alexander, to receive the annual Provost's Award for Teaching. His department chair, Dr. Patrice Boily, described Wong as an innovative and highly effective instructor who enriches his students' educational experience by engaging them actively through a diversity of teaching and learning strategies. The CELT committee also cited Wong's commitment to making his students aware of the connections between biology and their everyday lives.

Recipient of a Ph.D. in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental



Dr. Edwin Wong

Biology from Indiana University, Wong has taught both general biology and advanced molecular genetics courses since joining the WCSU faculty in 1999. His research expertise in molecular biology has produced



Wong working at Candlewood Lake.

extensive collaborations with faculty colleagues and community organizations to investigate microorganisms and invasive species impacting the area's ecosystem. With field study support from students and community volunteers, Wong most recently has been a lead investigator in projects to monitor zebra mussel populations in Lillinonah, Zoar and Candlewood lakes, and to study blue-green algae known as cyanobacteria and the toxins they produce in Candlewood Lake. Weekly water safety reports are conducted by Dr. Wong and his students during the summer months.

Business school earns prestigious accreditation



The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) has granted its premier accreditation to the Ansell School of Business at Western Connecticut State University. The designation places WCSU among the top 5 percent of business schools in the world, said Ansell Dean Dr. David G. Martin. AACSB accreditation signifies that the university meets the highest levels of teaching and student opportunity.

"We are very proud," Martin said. "We thank all the AACSB staff and volunteers who have guided us, as well as our own administration, faculty, students and staff who worked diligently to achieve this great honor."

Since 1916, AACSB has been recognized as demanding the highest quality in business programs it considers for

Ray Lubus to serve as Alumni Association president

Ray Lubus '80 has been elected as president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, striving to bring all members of the WCSU and Danbury area communities together to create positive change and development at the university.

Lubus' goal is to reach out to WCSU alumni through appeals for their volunteer service, creative ideas, and support for the university and its students as employers and community leaders. Speaking from his own experience as Student Government Association president at Western in the late 1970s, Lubus recalled the memorable and dramatic campaign that brought students together with the community and the university administration to win state approval in 1979 for construction of the first classroom building on the Westside campus. He advised students to reach out to alumni, join clubs, and seek hands-on experience outside the classroom.

For more information about the Alumni Association, visit www.wcsu.edu/alumni or call (203) 837-8486.



Ray Lubus

accreditation. The accreditation process ensures that faculty are highly trained, the curriculum is relevant and the university will support the business school's continuous improvement. The organization says graduates of AACSB-accredited schools are more sought-after by employers and receive better salaries.

"We have worked for several years toward AACSB accreditation, but Martin and the Ansell School faculty and staff have led us over the finish line," said WCSU President Dr. John B. Clark.

Dr. Missy Alexander, WCSU provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, noted that the accreditation confirms the excellence of the school in teaching, research, and development of curriculum and student learning.

The Ansell School of Business offers bachelor's degrees in Accounting, Cybersecurity, Finance, Management, Management Information Systems, Marketing, and Justice and Law Administration, as well as master's degrees in Business Administration and Health Administration.

Love Wins returns to support memorial scholarship



Dr. Jimmy Greene

The Love Wins Benefit Concert, a Celebration of Music to Benefit the Ana Márquez-Greene Scholarship Fund at WCSU, returns at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 8, in the Visual and Performing Arts Center (VPAC) on the Westside campus.

The Ana Grace Márquez-Greene Music Scholarship is an endowed memorial music scholarship for incoming WCSU freshmen. Ana, the daughter of Dr. Jimmy Greene and Nelba Márquez-Greene, lost her life at Sandy Hook Elementary School on Dec. 14, 2012.

General admission tickets are \$35; VIP reception tickets are \$50. A limited number of \$20 student tickets are available with a valid WCSU ID at the VPAC box office. For information and tickets, visit wcsupac.eventbrite.com.

Macricostas Family Foundation Speaker, Chris Kelly



Chris Kelly

The 2018 Macricostas speaker will be Chris Kelly, an expert on cybersecurity and online privacy. Kelly will speak on "Privacy, Security and Safety in a Social Media World." The lecture will take place at 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 14 at the Visual and Performing Arts Center on the WCSU Westside campus. The talk is free and open to the public.

As the first chief privacy officer, general counsel and head of global public policy for Facebook, Kelly helped the company grow from its college roots to the ubiquitous communications medium that it is today. His development of the site's safety and security policies around real-world identity and deployment of a highly trained staff for rule and law enforcement are credited as critical elements in the company's success.

Kelly studies how to bridge the gap between tech and society as he helps citizens understand privacy in the digital age and researches what the future might hold.

Technology, workflow and social space upgrades

Major facilities upgrades are underway on both WCSU campuses, according to Chief Facilities Officer & Associate Vice President for Campus Planning Luigi Marcone. "These continuous improvements are made to enhance the students' learning and living experiences as a whole," Marcone said.

Some juggling will be involved since multiple projects are concurrently underway. White Hall will temporarily host a TV production studio and a separate podcast area to meet students' expectations. After the Higgins Hall renovation is complete, the state-of-the-art TV production studio and podcast area will be relocated there and support the growth of the Digital Interactive Media Arts program. The once-scattered

Facilities staff has been reunified in the former Midtown campus Police Department offices, thereby allowing the operations team to better collaborate and improve service delivery.

The Westside Campus Center has benefited from many improvements. An outdoor patio facing the VPA building has been completed where students and staff can enjoy outdoor dining or lounging with picnic tables, umbrellas and Adirondack chairs. Also a new technology resource center has been created in the space previously used as a cardio fitness center.



New Campus Center patio

Dr. Christopher Paone has been appointed as the 2018 Constantine S. and Marie C. Macricostas Endowed Chair in Hellenic and Modern Greek Studies

Paone is an expert in ancient Greek and Roman philosophy with concentrations in ethics, the history of philosophy, logic and social and political philosophy. He earned a Ph.D. in Philosophy at Southern Illinois



Dr. Christopher Paone

University in Carbondale, a master's degree in Philosophy at Boston College and a bachelor's degree from John Carroll University.

As the Macricostas Scholar, Dr. Christopher Paone will teach classes in the Philosophy and Humanistic Studies Department and will assist in planning and hosting the annual Constantine S. Macricostas Lecture who's focus varies based on a rotating schedule of three different topics. Both the endowed scholar and lecture series are made possible through the long time support and generosity of local entrepreneur Constantine "Deno" Macricostas, his wife Marie and the Macricostas Family Foundation.

This new student resource area features a podcast recording space, gaming stations, multi-station access for general computer use, high-volume printing, and a curriculum development space for faculty. "We work hard to stay ahead of student and staff needs, and anticipate instead of reacting to requests," Marcone said.

Students gain opportunities to pursue biology research

Two Western Connecticut State University students are pursuing research work this summer that promises to contribute to understanding about species conservation thanks to the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program offered by the WCSU Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences.

Jasmine Grey, of Naugatuck, and Kayla Deguzman, of Norwalk, are currently working on research studies coordinated by faculty mentors in the Biological and Environmental Sciences Department.

Grey is working with Dr. Hannah Reynolds on development of a new method to detect the fungus that causes White-nose Syndrome in bats, whose populations have been decimated by the disease in the northeastern United States. Deguzman is collaborating with Dr. Theodora Pinou in studies to determine whether treatment to rescue and rehabilitate injured sea turtles found in Long Island Sound affects their navigational mechanisms and behavior after release.

Grey and Deguzman competed successfully in a process open to applicants from WCSU and other colleges for the two SURF positions awarded by a department faculty review committee. Both recipients welcomed the opportunity to gain experience in field and laboratory research working closely with experienced mentors over a two-month period.

Grey said that her research project mentored by Reynolds seeks to “develop a sensitive and inexpensive method to detect the fungus that causes White-nose Syndrome in bats. The method that we create will aid bat conservation efforts, which will be beneficial for the agricultural industry.” She explained that improved detection techniques to combat a disease that has killed millions of bats over the



Jasmine Grey

past decade offers an opportunity “to make a difference in the world,” not only in supporting bat conservation but also in preserving bat consumption of insects as a natural means of pest control that diminishes the agriculture industry’s dependence and expenditures on insecticide use.

She expressed gratitude to Reynolds for supporting her research interests and serving as her mentor in two separate studies. “This project will assist me in reaching my goal of attaining a Ph.D. in a field in microbiology,” Grey said. “Grades are important, but they aren’t everything. Gaining research experience will separate me from the crowd.”

Deguzman’s research work focuses on use of data generated from satellite GPS tracking of the movements of rehabilitated sea turtles released back into Long Island Sound. The objective of the project is to determine whether or not these turtles, which had washed ashore after suffering injuries and dangerous drops in body temperature, exhibit normal functioning of navigation mechanisms and capacity to withstand long migrations from Long Island Sound to warmer southern seas.



Kayla Deguzman

“I chose to pursue this research opportunity because I see the importance and the continuous need for conservation biology,” Deguzman observed. “This project will allow me to advance my research skill set and gain hands-on experience working with conservation biologists.”

“This research project is much more than just an opportunity to gain new skills,” she added. “There are five species of Long Island sea turtles, and all of them are either threatened or endangered. I hope to contribute new information to ongoing research to preserve sea turtle populations and increase our understanding of these species.”

Deguzman noted that several Biological and Environmental Sciences Department faculty members have inspired her pursuit of conservation research, for supporting her research interest and helping her “develop my scientific writing voice.” She credited Pinou with helping her to find focus in her academic pursuit of biology studies and inspiring her to apply for the SURF fellowship. “I’m very grateful to have had Dr. Pinou to challenge me to become a better biologist,” she said.

Upward Bound students climb toward success

High school students in the Upward Bound program at WCSU think of Jessica Coronel as a “mom.” Coronel, who coordinates the program as assistant director of Pre-Collegiate and Access Services at WCSU, may have a special connection because she was once in exactly the same spot as her students: shy, unsure and with little understanding of how college might benefit her. Upward Bound is a collaboration between WCSU and Danbury High School. It serves high school students whose parents didn’t attend college, and whose families lack substantial resources. The program is designed to help students position themselves to graduate from high school and then succeed in college.

Upward Bound is one of three offerings at WCSU to help students gain the skills to go to college. The university also provides EXCEL for middle school students and the Education Access and Achievement Program, which prepares high school students for college with a summer curriculum supplemented with support and academic counseling throughout the year.

Here is a sampling of Upward Bound students:

Alexa Rodriguez was unfocused when she entered high school and remembers being extremely shy. Upward Bound gave her the confidence to start speaking up in class and to think of herself as a leader. She knew she wanted to be a teacher, and through the program earned internships in other high school classrooms. She graduated No. 4 in her class, was accepted to four of the five colleges she applied to, and is now a WCSU sophomore in the Education program as well as an aide to Coronel in Upward Bound.

Kevin Quizhpi graduated from Danbury High School a full year early and will enter WCSU this fall as a Justice and Law Administration major. He also has an internship at the Danbury Courthouse.

Barkha Bhausar will be a senior at Danbury High School this year and is ranked No. 1 in her class. She expects to major in nuclear engineering in college.

Linda Thach will enter Yale in the fall as a pre-med biomedical engineering major.

All the students give credit to Coronel for their success.

“Jess was in Upward Bound,” Thach said. “She knows what goes on. She is someone we’re comfortable speaking to. She’s like a mom.”

Coronel works with high school teachers and guidance counselors, as well as students and their parents, to ensure progress is being made.

“We do a lot of building up and telling them, ‘We want you



Jessica Coronel (center) with current and former students.

to be the best that you can be,” Coronel said. “The main goal is academics — not only to go to college, but to stay in college and get into good schools.”

Coronel arrived in the United States as a 12-year-old immigrant from Ecuador who spoke English with little confidence.

“I was so shy,” she said. “I didn’t speak in class because I didn’t want to mess up my English. Ninth grade was horrible.” A Danbury High School teacher saw Coronel’s potential, though, and helped her apply to Upward Bound in the 10th grade. In her last three years of high school, she became active in student government and was elected president of her class. She graduated from WCSU with a B.S. in Education and recently completed a master’s degree in higher education counseling. She has been the director of Upward Bound at WCSU for four years.

Students who are accepted to the program receive extra tutoring from high school guidance counselors and are enrolled in an annual six-week program at the university, where they learn skills in teamwork and leadership.

“They all lack something when they start, social skills or the ability to overcome shyness,” Coronel said. “Some are refugees who have nothing.”

Quizhpi said Upward Bound has given a boost to his entire family.

“My dad is really proud,” he said. “He saw it as something he wanted, but couldn’t have for himself.”

WCSU & ISEP have fostered study abroad for 25+ years

Western Connecticut State University aims to provide the academic preparation and hands-on experience to enter a global society ready to make meaningful contributions as tomorrow's professionals and leaders — and offers a wealth of programs that invite students to make the world their classroom.

For more than a quarter century, WCSU has been a member of the International Student Exchange Program, which enables students to study abroad through the ISEP network around the world. WCSU students may apply to study for a semester or a full year at one of some 300 ISEP member institutions worldwide at no additional cost beyond what it costs to go to WCSU.

Many WCSU students also take advantage during their undergraduate and graduate programs of study-abroad initiatives organized and led by members of the university faculty in disciplines ranging from nursing and management to foreign languages, art and education.

The Department of Nursing recently introduced a study-abroad option with a nine-day trip this spring to Thessaloniki, Greece, with a group of 16 students led by Assistant Professor of Nursing Dr. Monica Sousa and Professor of Nursing Dr. Cathy Rice. The students were able to observe at public and private hospitals, elderly community centers, fertility clinics and nursing schools, which led to lessons and conversations about the differences in health care and nursing education and practices between the United States and Greece.

In May, WCSU Associate Professor of Management Dr. Cindy Chuang and Assistant Professor of Management Dr. Alexandra Galli-Debicella mentored a group of three recent M.B.A. graduates, four current M.B.A. candidates and one undergraduate management major on an 11-day trip to Taiwan. Conducted in partnership with Soochow University of Taipei as part of a course in international supply chain management, the program allowed students to learn first-hand from corporate executives about operations, logistics and innovations at multinational companies in Taiwan that conduct extensive business in both the Asian and North American markets.

Dr. Galina Bakhtiarova, chair of the WCSU Department of World Languages and Literature and professor of Spanish, annually leads a study-abroad excursion to Spain, with this year's trip from mid-May to mid-June taking a student group to Malaga, Barcelona and Costa Brava. The immersion experiences include both language study and introductions to the rich artistic and cultural treasures of Spain.



Nursing students visited Thessaloniki, Greece, as part of their studies of health care and nursing education.

Another study-abroad tradition at WCSU is the trip to Florence organized by Patrizia Farina, a native of Italy and adjunct professor of Italian language at WCSU. In winter 2018, Farina led a three-week tour that included classes at the Florence University of the Arts as well as immersion in Italian language and culture, visits to Florence's historical and artistic landmarks, and field trips to centuries-old villages in Tuscany.

Three recent WCSU graduates who accepted appointments this year to teach English as a second language at educational institutions in the Far East expressed a common debt of gratitude to WCSU for the academic and practical training gained through study-abroad experiences during their undergraduate studies. Anthony Asmar, who earned a B.A. in Spanish and B.S. in Justice and Law Administration in 2017, is fulfilling a one-year assignment at the Nanjing Studio English Classroom, educating students ages 5 through 15. Tyler Poeti, who earned a B.A. in Spanish in 2017, recently began a one-year appointment as an English teacher at a Kids and Teens Center for children ages 3 to 17 operated by EF Education First in Shanghai. Mark Paskell, who graduated this year with a B.A. in History, will begin his assignment this fall in Japan as an assistant language teacher in the elementary, middle and high school program managed by the educational company Interac.

For more information on ISEP and other study-abroad programs, contact International Services Coordinator Donna Warner at warnerd@wcsu.edu.

A life well-lived leads to planned giving decision

The decision by Rudy Behrens to leave a significant amount in his will to fund scholarships for WCSU music students is a testament to his generosity and belief in his own powers.

"I don't know of any other place to give money that deserves it so much," said Behrens, who with his wife Mary has been a longtime donor. "I want these kids to not owe a lot of money when they graduate."

He chose planned giving as the best way to convey a large gift in support of scholarships because he doesn't believe anyone else can invest his money as well as he does.

"It's not that I don't trust the other investors," Behrens said, "but I trust myself more."

His support for music students is rooted in his own experience as an undergraduate at Rutgers University shortly after World War II. Behrens came from a musical family — a grandmother was an opera singer, and he remembers riding in the car with his parents as they sang two-part harmony in the front seat.

The line for Rutgers Glee Club tryouts stretched around the block, Behrens recalled, and he only got to audition on the second day. But he was accepted, and "I have many memories of how wonderful it was."

For the approximately 25 concerts they performed each year, club members wore full-dress tails during the first half of the show, singing classical songs. In the second half, they sang college fight songs and popular tunes while dressed in Rutgers blazers.

Behrens started playing the piano as a child and still performs at the Ridgewood Country Club in Danbury. A noted quipster, he said he asked his wife to drive him to the print shop so he could have business cards made that advertised "Elevator Music for the Tone Deaf."

"Mary wouldn't do it," he said.

In addition to sharing a love for music, Behrens said he hopes students who receive the Mary and Rudy Behrens Scholarship will excel in class and join him in following the advice of WWII Admiral William "Bull" Halsey, who said, "When the

learning stops, the dying begins."

While Behrens had a long career as a chemist, his first job was as a newspaper carrier. He recounted that he was paid \$2 a week. "I'd put \$1.90 in the bank," Behrens said. "I'd take the remaining 10 cents to the local soda fountain. I'd sit there like a king and have a chocolate soda and Drake's Cakes."

He also enrolled in a heavy course load of more than 20 credits partly because they were tuition-free over a certain number.

Of course, he wants students to represent their university well as they perform on campus and around the region, just as he did as a member of the glee club.

"I want these music kids to sing out the praises of WCSU as the No. 1 university for music," Behrens said. "It shouldn't be ridiculous to think that way. Be proud of the school you're going to."

For more information about planned giving, please contact Lynne LeBarron, Institutional Advancement at (203) 837-8188 or lebarronl@wcsu.edu.

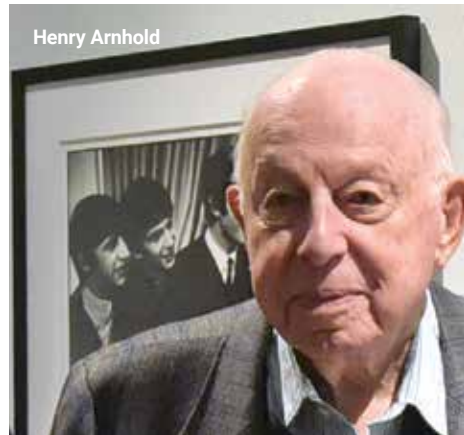


Rudy Behrens, shown with his wife Mary and WCSU Music students, performed on the piano in the Hagman Concert Hall.

HONOR ROLL 2017-18

\$100,000 & above

Henry Arnhold **P**
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Western Connecticut State University Alumni Association

Dear Friends,

As members of the class of 2022 arrived this fall to begin their journey, the entire Western Connecticut State University community was greeted with plenty of news. The Ancell School of Business has been approved for accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, the Theatre Arts program has been named Best Undergraduate Theatre Program in Connecticut, and there is new leadership at two schools: Dr. Michelle Brown has been named the dean of the Macricostas School of Arts & Sciences and Dr. Barry Eckert is the interim dean of the School of Professional Studies.

Some things haven't changed: Your donations transform the lives of students and the fabric of our community.

This Honor Roll of Donors recognizes the generosity of hundreds of people to the WCSU Foundation from July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018. Your commitments allow us to fund areas where we see the most need, such as scholarships, student research, and programs and conferences for students.

Thank you for spreading the word about WCSU, so that we may continue to share the treasure of a quality education with our students.



Ronald Pugliese '74 Chair, WCSU Foundation, Inc.

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Mary Jean Rizzo-Reberio with family and friends at the ribbon cutting for the newly designed and up-dated Think Tank.

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