University unveils vision statement, draft of strategic plan

As October drew to a close, the campus community was informed that a much-anticipated draft of the university's strategic plan had been completed. In an e-mail to faculty and staff, President James W. Schmotter wrote, “With greatest enthusiasm, I write to share with you a significant milestone for Western Connecticut State University. We have now completed a draft of WCSU’s strategic plan, a plan that expresses our academic vision and goals, and will provide the context for the work that builds on our strong history and vision and conveys six strategic goals that express our mission."

Our strategic vision and goals will guide decisions for our journey onward and will provide the context for development and implementation of other important work, including our academic plan,” Schmotter continued. “The strategic plan also will inform financial resources, resource planning and allocations as well as plans related to student affairs, enrollment management, physical plant, information technology, fund-raising, institutional identity and marketing. The vision statement and strategic goals reflect ideas and directions developed with the widespread engagement of the university community over the past two years. I encourage your continued participation as we move forward to make our university stronger and more successful in achieving our mission.”

The six strategic goals as outlined in the Strategic Plan are:

**Outstanding Academic Programs: Offer a range of quality academic programs, including featured signature programs, that together educate a diverse student population, and meet the needs of the state and region.**

**Range of Quality Academic Programs:**

- Create opportunities for learning that values and affirms the unique contributions of WCSU’s many constituent populations, recognizes the learning opportunities that differences can create, and strengthens connections among our various community members.

**Range of Quality Academic Programs:**

- Capitalize on our outstanding faculty and its outstanding contributions of the many talented individuals whose leadership and service have contributed to our positive experience of the WestConn.

**Range of Quality Academic Programs:**

- Enrich and protect our location in the greater New York metropolitan area to create a diverse university community that — in its range of quality academic programs and in its enriching and supportive student-focused environment — is characteristic of New England’s best small private universities, but with much more affordable costs.

**Range of Quality Academic Programs:**

- Deliver outstanding value to students through effective management of student financial assistance, thereby ensuring that our student body remains diverse and is comprised of students from all walks of life.

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**Range of Quality Academic Programs:**

- Be guided by the strategic plan as we move to achieve our mission.

The next step in the process was the solicitation of input and feedback in response to the proposed plan at open forums held on each campus on Nov. 29 and 30, and via a publicly accessible online feedback form at www.wcsu.edu/strategicplan.

In his announcement, President Schmotter concluded, “I express sincere gratitude and praise for the outstanding contributions of the many individuals whose leadership and participation have helped us to reach this juncture. We began this journey in

WestConn students go to the polls on Election Day — to work

by Robert Taylor

Junior Colleen Smith, clad in a blue-and-white WestConn shirt emblazoned “College Poll Worker” and perched on a table at the entrance to the gymnasium at Shelter Rock School, fixed her gaze on another voter arriving at Danbury’s Ward 4 polling place on Nov. 7.

“Good morning!” she greeted the woman. “What’s your address, please?”

The voter’s reply set Smith quickly on another path. She glanced toward the gym with a parting smile.

“I want to help,” Smith said, sitting at a table at the entrance to the gymnasium at Shelter Rock School, the morning of Election Day.

LEFT FOR POLITICALLY DEAD, LIEBERMAN RISKS TOP, INDEPENDENTS, GOP VOTERS BACK LIEBERMAN (SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE)

Three months ago, Sen. Joe Lieberman was written off as a candidate that could win the election. His support for the Iraq war had cost him votes. Top Democratic leaders urged him to withdraw from the race. His answer: "I have a job to do." A $160,052 grant award from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) financed a joint effort by the university and the city of Danbury to deploy WestConn students citywide as official greeters at the polls.

The director of WestConn’s “Carrying the Torch” project is Assistant Professor of Justice and Law Administration Dr. George Kain; other team members are Associate Professor of Political Science Dr. Christopher Kuls, Adjunct Professor of Humanistic Studies Rev. Dr. Mark Horton, Assistant Director of Advising Lisa Peck, and Director of Grant Programs Dr. Margaret Lealey.
Amber Wilk’s curiosity sparked creation of a new math class for education majors.

Wilk is a 24-year-old senior and secondary education major who loves math. When she was a sophomore, she started wondering about why there wasn’t better information about how to teach math in the middle school years. Dr. Paula Maida shared her interest and together they developed a curriculum that became MAT 298, Mathematics in Middle Grades, which Maida is teaching — with Wilk at her side — for the first time this semester.

Teaching middle school students presents many challenges. MAT 298 will help math teachers address them, particularly by building a bridge between math taught in elementary school and skills high school students need to know.

The class helps “the elementary ed majors know where they are going and secondary ed know where they are coming from,” Wilk said.

Maida devotes most of the class to hands-on techniques that would engage sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders. Her students work with Play-Doh, algebra tiles, Sudoku puzzles and other manipulatives.

“It gives students different ways to explain the concepts,” Maida said. “I see the middle school grades as very critical years. These are the years their intellects are changing, socially they’re changing. You want to target them and get them interested in math during these years. You have to turn them on to math. There is a huge potential there, but they can get turned off.”

Early in the semester, Maida’s mathematics education students built models of themselves in 1/15th scale, learning in the process how to teach proportion, measurement and conversion from metric to U.S. dimensions, among other things.

For Wilk, the work with Maida — and the four-inch-thick curriculum that they have collected in a white binder — should give her an advantage when she applies for teaching jobs.

“One of my fears as a future teacher is being asked, ‘How’s your Math Do- it,’” Wilk said. “Now I have a lesson plan for a year.”

Maida predicted that Wilk will be a natural in the classroom. “She will change lives,” Maida said of her student. “She really likes math. She is confident and passionate. Kids will like math because of her.”

More information can be found at (203) 837-8061.
Guck nets second major grant
by Antonio Felice-Schachter

Sharon Guck, coordinator of the Alcohol and Other Substance Abuse Prevention Services, has received a major federal grant awarded through the State of Connecticut’s Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. The $255,000 Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG), financed by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, will be disbursed over three years. The grant, Guck’s second since 2004, focuses on changing campus culture and community awareness.

“This means we have the money to continue the good work that has already begun here on campus,” said Guck. She pointed out that there is more than one entity on campus and in the community to achieve change.

Guck praised the public health model in place at WestConn, which includes a coalition of community organizations and individuals such as grant partner Danbury Youth Services, local treatment facilities, law enforcement, Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton, Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Walter Bernstein and WestConn President James W. Schmotter. She noted that the Residence Life Office and administrators on campus are very supportive and ready to implement programs to ensure the necessary changes for a safe campus.

“Working together we can make a difference,” said Guck. She believes that this was the strength of her proposal and ultimately what helped her to get the grant.

There were 29 other grant recipients in the state.

Guck said the group will be looking to make changes to the “weed environment,” educating liquor merchants and encouraging their cooperation. Policies will be examined and adjusted if necessary, and law enforcement will continue to issue DRTW citations and use sting operations to reduce potential problems.

Guck said the traditional college student drinks to achieve drunkenness, unlike other adults who drink slowly over the course of an evening. This causes them to become drunk in a shorter period of time (binge drinking), which poses a significant public health risk. She notes that drinkers show underdrinking costs Americans $62 billion every year in lost work time, injury and death. More than half of this spending is associated with the consequences of violent crimes such as rape, homicide, assault and drunk-driving accidents.

She also noted that it is only a small percentage of individuals who have clinical drinking problems, the rest are just making bad choices. The bad choices are fueled by student misperceptions of “social norms,” or the perceived expectations of students upon entering the college environment. The reality of young adult drinking habits is actually better than it is perceived to be, and this is important information that needs to be communicated to current students and alumni, as part of the formula for change.

Additionally, $250 million is spent annually by the advertising industry targeting underage drinkers, according to the Center for Science in the Public Interest, Guck said. Advertisers target this age group because the industry has learned that drinkers are very “brand loyal.” Marketers believe they can get young people to become brand-conscious, and therefore loyal to a particular brand.

Several departments will help Guck with this campus initiative. Students in a senior-level marketing class taught by Professor of Marketing Dr. John Cronin will create a marketing campaign, and other faculty members will act as consultants. They include Associate Professor of Psychology Dr. David Barone, who is knowledgeable about using language and social norms, and Associate Professor of New Technology Dr. Robin Flanagan, who is on the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Task Force.

In March, the Executive Forum will host another discussion about the lifecycle of nonprofits.

The Executive Forum at WCSU will celebrate its 10th anniversary this year with a new seminar series that will bring modern management ideas to nonprofit organizations.

The Executive Forum was founded by Professor of Social Work Patricia Ivy and Management Professor Dr. Fred Tesch to provide opportunities for executive directors and their nonprofit agencies to enhance their managerial, organizational and leadership skills.

To help pay for events in the coming year, The Fairfield County Community Foundation recently gave the Executive Forum a $5,000 grant.

Among the Executive Forum’s programs will be a lecture by prominent Dr. Judith Gueron, the immediate past president of a leading social policy research organization, RAND, which evaluates the efficacy of social and government programs.

She is expected to discuss the relation between outcomes and impacts of social programs.

In March, the Executive Forum will host another discussion about the lifecycle of nonprofits.

The Executive Forum’s breakfast series, held every other month, began Sept. 22 with a presentation by WestConn President James W. Schmotter and Dr. Allen Morton, dean of the Ancell School of Business.

“We know what a powerful joy these classes are for our residents at Ridgefield Crossings,” Bilk said. “No doubt about it. They take enormous pleasure and pride in attending. So next came the really big question: Was it replicable? Was this just a ‘Ridgefield Crossings’ sort of thing that is an outgrowth of our highly educated residents — or could independent and assisted living communities elsewhere also benefit from this educational partnership model?” Bilk said.

“We got our answer when our sister community told us their residents were definitely interested.”

The Village at Brookfield Common Director of Sales Debbie Kimball confirmed her community’s interest.

“The residents at The Village at Brookfield Common are very excited to have the opportunity to participate in the visiting professor series in partnership with WestConn,” Kimball said. “The success of BCU has heightened our awareness of the importance of lifelong learning within our community.”

Bilk added, “We think of it like this: WCSU and Ridgefield Crossings are in a committed relationship. That long-term commitment is to whatever it takes to make this a consistently mutually enriching experience for our residents and WCSU faculty. That commitment is what makes the partnership unique: It’s an educational adventure. What we know for sure is this: It has blossomed really fast into something that matters very much to our residents. We know it will do the same at WestConn.”

For more information about the visiting professor series at Ridgefield Crossings and the grant from WCSU, call Assistant Director of University Relations Sherri Hill at (203) 837-8774.

A R O U N D  C A M P U S

Partnership grows to include second senior living community
by Shani Hill

In March 2006, WestConn partnered with Ridgefield Crossings, a senior living community sponsored by Ridgefield Crossings University (RCU), an ongoing series of free, educational lectures on a variety of topics given by WestConn faculty at Ridgefield Crossings. The partnership has proven to be such a success that The Village at Brookfield Common, a sister community, has joined the collaboration.

Beginning this month, Brookfield Crossings University (BCU) will be launched, and The Village at Brookfield Common will join Ridgefield Crossings as a site for the WestConn lecture series. The first talk in the newly expanded partnership will be a discussion on Dec. 7 about “The Art of Mural Painting” by WestConn Adjunct Professor of Art History, Studio Drawing and Illustration.

“We’re creating new universities’ right left,” Schmotter said. “As public university, WestConn has many opportunities — and indeed an obligation — to share the knowledge and expertise of our faculty with a variety of community audiences. Partnerships such as Ridgefield Crossings University are excellent examples of how that happens.”

The idea to bring WestConn faculty to lecture at a senior community came from Ridgefield Crossings resident Dr. Albert Stewart. A former marketing professor at the university, Stewart also twice served as interim dean of WestConn’s Ancell School of Business. As president of Ridgefield Crossings’ resident council, the 87-year-old proposed the creation of RCU and received an enthusiastic response.

“Now the WestConn professors have conducted lectures on a wide range of topics, including local history, changes in education, Shakespearean theater, the history of jazz, the ecology of stone walls, organ music, Buddhism, politics and genomic science.

Ridgefield Crossings Director of Community Relations Tara Blik, who took Stewart’s idea and ran with it, has witnessed the results of RCU first hand. She proposed expanding the program to include The Village at Brookfield Common, a sister community owned by the same parent company.

Federal Road in Brookfield, at 10 a.m. He will be at Ridgefield Crossings (64) Dunbar Road in Ridgefield, at 2 p.m. The lectures will be free and the public is invited. Space is limited, call (203) 775-8696 to reserve a seat in Brookfield (203) 411-2555 to reserve a seat in Ridgefield.

WestConn President James W. Schmotter has been an active supporter of the partnership with Ridgefield Crossings, and welcomed the new relationship with The Village at Brookfield Common.

“The idea to bring new universities’ right left,” Schmotter said. “As public university, WestConn has many opportunities — and indeed an obligation — to share the knowledge and expertise of our faculty with a variety of community audiences. Partnerships such as Ridgefield Crossings University are excellent examples of how that happens.”

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For more information about the visiting professor series at Ridgefield Crossings and the grant from WCSU, call Assistant Director of University Relations Sherri Hill at (203) 837-8774.

Grant to help Executive Forum move into next decade
by Paul Shinnett

The Executive Forum at WCSU will celebrate its 10th anniversary this year with a new seminar series that will bring modern management ideas to nonprofit organizations.

The Executive Forum was founded by Professor of Social Work Patricia Ivy and Management Professor Dr. Fred Tesch to provide opportunities for executive directors and their nonprofit agencies to enhance their managerial, organizational and leadership skills.

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She is expected to discuss the relation between outcomes and impacts of social programs.

In March, the Executive Forum will host another discussion about the lifecycle of nonprofits.

The Executive Forum’s breakfast series, held every other month, began Sept. 22 with a presentation by WestConn President James W. Schmotter and Dr. Allen Morton, dean of the Ancell School of Business. They discussed WestConn’s approach to strengthening community partnerships.

Tesch and Ivy also are planning a celebration for the 10th anniversary of the Executive Forum, which has brought many such groups together after only a few years.

“I’ve learned a lot about management and Fred has learned about social and human services,” Ivy said. “The interdisciplinary aspects have been important for the organizations, but also for us professionally and personally.”

The Fairfield County Community Foundation promotes the growth of philanthropy to strengthen local communities and the region. Since 1992, individuals, families, corporations and organizations have established charitable funds and contributed to existing funds that support community and economic development, children and families, cultural organizations, health and human services, and the arts. With assets approaching $78 million, the foundation annually awards more than $7 million in grants. In addition, the foundation provides philanthropic advisory services, community philanthalists, nonprofits and community leaders, and develops initiatives to address critical community issues.

For more information, visit www.fcfoundation.org, or call (203) 837-8637.
WestConn students go to the polls on Election Day — to work (cont’d.)

WestConn qualified for the grant as one of just 19 universities and colleges nationwide selected for project funding under the Help America Vote College Poll Workers Program administered by the EAC, an independent agency created under the 2002 Help America Vote Act to improve voting systems and election administration nationwide. Kain said the 26 student poll workers are blazing a new frontier in WestConn collaboration with the area community.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to get WestConn students involved in the community,” Kain said on Election Day as he watched senior Kate Shea, junior Jo Sharra and sophomore Sam Cooper keep pace with a steady incoming stream of voters at the Danbury War Memorial Ward 5 polling place. “You can just see how important this is, and you can imagine the backup and confusion there would be if they weren’t here to help.”

The participating students, recruited this fall from classes taught by Kain and Kukk, worked eight-hour shifts in teams of two or three to provide continuous coverage from the polls’ opening at 6 a.m. to their close at 8 p.m. They participated in a series of training sessions during October to prepare for their Election Day assignments, including a briefing on Oct. 26 from Danbury City Clerk Jean Natale and Democratic Registrar of Voters Margaret Gallo.

“This is the most important thing you can do on Election Day,” Natale told the students. “People often come into the polling places somewhat confused, and it’s wonderful for you to be able to help them. Your job is to help as many people as you can — get them into the polling place and get them out as smoothly as possible. Make sure you have a great day!”

On Election Day, Shea paused during a brief lull in voter arrivals at the War Memorial entrance and admitted it was “a little rough” rising to arrive at her station at 5:45 a.m. But she had found her experience thoroughly enjoyable, she quickly added.

“You can tell you’re really helping people, and people have been very appreciative for the most part,” she said. “A lot of them thought they knew where to vote but, when we tell them, it’s like a light went on, and they thank us for helping.”

Working alongside Shea, Cooper observed his service as a poll worker had been a “great learning experience,” providing an opportunity to engage directly in the electoral process. “I’m learning the demographics involved in voting, using skills in public relations, and getting a first-hand look at how the voting system works.”

At the Shelter Rock School polling place, Smith said she found her experience especially meaningful because the 2006 election marked the first in which she has participated as a registered voter, casting an absentee ballot in her home town. As a student in Kukk’s American Government class, “I’ve become very aware how important voting is, so I made sure they sent me that absentee ballot!” Smith said.

“I’ve never been around an election or a polling place until now so this has gotten me out here, involved and active in the process,” she added. “It’s been great to see how it works.”

Kain noted the college poll workers program has been designed to engage participating students in a “service-learning” exercise that requires them to discuss and evaluate their experience at the polls through course work and written assignments measuring what they have learned. An important element of the service-learning approach is the requirement for all students to make regular journal entries about their experience, using an online system coordinated by Peck.

Reflecting on the students’ performance, Kain confirmed that the response at the polls had been “overwhelmingly positive.” As an example, he noted the student team at one polling place volunteered an idea to improve check-in signage — and the election moderator implemented the proposal immediately.

“As I spent time at the polling places, I observed our students shine in every way,” Kain said. “The election officials at every location were overjoyed to have them, and amazed at how well our students performed. Their contribution did not go unnoticed by the voters, who conveyed their compliments directly to our students and to the election moderators. The moderators told me this was the smoothest they had ever seen the voting process unfold.”

Kain said he already has initiated discussions with the Danbury Registrar of Voters Office about the prospective utilization of WestConn students to educate voters about the new optical-scan technology that will be introduced at city polling places beginning with the November 2007 election. He noted city officials have encouraged WestConn to seek a renewal of EAC grant funding for 2007 to support continuation of the college poll workers program for this purpose, and he expressed optimism that this year’s pilot project will plant the seeds for long-term collaboration between the university and the city in future electoral cycles.

Observing the WestConn poll workers from her desk a few feet away on Election Day, War Memorial Assistant Director Karla Byerson shared her delight at the students’ presence at the polls.

“I think they’re very professional, courteous, polite and helpful,” Byerson said. “I’ve heard people say often that it’s been very helpful to have them here. It’s very nice, very refreshing to see!”

“It allows us to show one of the things we do best at WestConn — student concern and student involvement with the community,” Kain agreed. “It’s a win-win situation for everyone.”

For more information about the poll workers program, call Kain at (203) 837-8514.
American Democracy Project comes to WCSU

American Democracy Project comes to WCSU
by Paul Steinmetz

The American Democracy Project at Western Connecticut State University is a campus initiative established to promote civic engagement on campus and among undergraduates.

Adjunct Professor of Humanistic Studies Susan Bysiewicz addressed students on Election Day, encouraging them to participate in the electoral process.

Under the project’s broad umbrella—promoting democracy is not just about voting in elections. It also means getting involved in community programs that help people.

The first big undertaking for the committee is to conduct an audit of WestConn activities that can be connected to the ADP goals. For instance, the ADP committee already cosponsored the keynote speaker at Banned Books Week in September and worked with faculty members who obtained a grant to train WestConn students to work at local polling places on Election Day.

Members of a year-old American Democracy Project initiative at Montclair State University in New Jersey visited the Midtown campus in October to educate the WestConn community on how they overcome roadblocks and their plans to continue building. Noted the project provides an opportunity to strengthen town-gown connections.

Horton attended an ADP annual conference in June where he learned that it takes two to three years for new ADP projects to become full partners in the life of a campus. After the audit, the WestConn committee will explore ways to integrate ADP goals into the university’s curriculum. The third year usually is spent making everyone on campus aware of the project and its goals.

But even in its infancy, committee members hope, the project will provide opportunities for students and staff to develop their own rich experiences and make the campus a place where discussion and intellectual argument is encouraged.

Dr. Carol Hawkes, dean of the School of Visual and Performing Arts, and a member of the ADP committee, emphasized the need to promote diverse viewpoints, which is both the value and the difficulty of the American Democracy Project.

“We want the disputation without the pressure,” Hawkes said, “and that’s going to be tricky.”

The American Democracy Project counts 211 schools as members. The ADP was started four years ago by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities when members became aware of a decrease in volunteerism, voting and other vital signs of democracy. The New York Times also is a partner in the project.

For more information about the ADP, go to the group’s Web site at www.wcsu.edu/american democracy.
Etiquette dinner educates, entertains

Speaking to 80 students dressed in business attire in Warner Hall, Ann Marie Sabath said, “My goal is to make all of you accomplish your goals and be successful. The only thing we have is our reputations. It does not matter what we are, just what we do.”

Sabath travels the country leading etiquette seminars for her company, At Ease Inc., and visited WestConn on Oct. 18. The event was hosted by the Career Development Center (CDC) and the Office of Student Center/Student Life.

“The program ‘Putting Your Best Fork Forward’ was held for the first time in over 20 years last fall, was a great success — so much so that the CDC’s hook for advertising the event was ‘back by popular demand.’”

Samuel Kwapong, a senior who attended last year’s event, returned because “I had fun and learned a lot, like business dress codes, different ways of handling a fork and how to eat bread at a business lunch.” He said you should ask the person with whom you are dining a question, then put the bread in your mouth while you respond.

For others, like Kimberly Brown, this was her first time at the seminar. Brown works closely with the CDC, which helped her secure an internship at an accounting firm last summer. She went on dining interviews for the internship, but felt very uncomfortable and wanted to be more at ease and confident in that setting. CDC Director Maureen Gernert urged her to attend because she received a lot of positive feedback from students who attended the previous year and found what they learned very practical and helpful.

Sabath laced her discussion about “Key Ways for Enhancing Your Professional Style” with pithy statements while answering questions from the audience about dress and grooming. Students asked questions like, “Is it appropriate for tall women to wear heels in a business setting?” Yes, but not stilettos — and that goes for tall or short women. “Is cologne or perfume appropriate in business settings?” Yes, but only enough so that you are the only one who knows you are wearing it.

Sabath also covered the basics of connectors in business conversations, urging students to ask more questions than they share about themselves because “people see you as interesting when you are truly interested in them.” She also explained the basics of neurolinguistics. People fall in one of three categories: They are either visual, feeling or auditory. Seventy-five percent of people are visual, so Sabath suggested that thank-you cards should become part of a businessperson’s religion. Seeing a thank-you note makes a lasting impression on a visual person and, with three-quarters of the population being visual, it is a good habit to get into. She also stressed responsiveness. To be responsive, “always be the first person to arrive, never keep someone waiting; when you are early, you are really on time.” And to achieve that punctual habit, Sabath shared that “the trait of successful people is to write down the time they have to leave, not arrive.”

The lecture was followed by a 10-minute mingle to practice some of the skills learned. Then students were led into a dining room where chicken and linguini with peas was served. Edmund Breitling’s favorite part was the dinner. “I thought I had good manners, but I realized I was really a bump;” he said. He was glad that his girlfriend had made him attend the dinner, where he learned the difference in dining etiquette between American and European styles. A difference he was not aware of prior to the event.

For more information, call Gernert at (203) 837-8266.

Price honored as distinguished alumnum by alma mater

Adjoint Instructor of Music, Applied Voice and Opera Ensemble Perry Price has led an eminent career for 40 years as a leading tenor on the opera stages of more than 20 countries worldwide. As a result, Price is being recognized this year for the second time in his career (the first in 1987) by his alma mater, Texas Lutheran University. He is honored with the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Price’s career aspiration as a young man was to be a high school choral director. He traces his love for opera to a serendipitous encounter while in college; when a kindly gentleman offered him a seat at a symphonic performance in San Antonio. The man, William Weiderhold, later visited Germany and a chance encounter all those years ago had led to this.

“We were very excited about the honor of having Perry Price with us this year, for the second time in his career,” said Dr. Fernando Jimenez, who sang “America the Beautiful,” the WCSU Choral Singers, with Patricia Luttrell at piano, directed by Dr. Kevin Jay Isaacs; and the WCSU Jazz Combos. WestConn’s Media Services Department provided video and slide shows for the ceremony, and photographers Peggy Stewart and Ellen Myhre recorded the event photographically.

Congratulations!

The WCSU Percussion Ensemble has been invited to perform at the eastern division Music Educators National Conference. Performers were selected based on a submission of an audition tape. Thirty groups from Connecticut submitted tapes, but the pool of candidates included the entire Northeast, so WestConn was selected from a substantial number of entries. Nineteen WestConn students who are members of the Percussion Ensemble are scheduled to perform. They will play “Concerto for Percussion Ensemble” by David Gillingham and a new piece “Unnecessary Roughness,” composed by Professor of Music Dr. Kevin Jay Isaacs.

Price has been a distinguished alumnus by his alma mater, Des Moines Opera and international opera companies of Rome, Venice, Palermo, Lisbon, Antwerp, Stuttgart, Nuremberg, Augsburg and the Canadian Opera in Toronto, to name a few.

After several years, Price returned to Houston while on hiatus from his performing schedule in Europe and looked up Weiderhold.

“He was really thrilled that this chance encounter all those years ago had led to this,” Price said.

But the payoff was when Weiderhold later visited Germany and was in the audience for another performance of “Madame Butterfly” — this time with Price in the lead. “I thought it was a wonderful way to repay Weiderhold’s kindness all these years later,” said Price.

In addition to a distinguished career as a tenor, Price teaches Master voice classes at the University of British Columbia, the famed Opera School at the Ockanickon Festival in British Columbia, and summer classes at the Symphonic and Opera Academy of the Pacific.

He has been an adjunct in the music department for eight years.

For more information, call Price at (203) 837-8358.
communique

A L U M N I  &  D E V E L O P M E N T

October 2004 with the Values and Vision initiative to clarify WestConn’s identity and to identify key opportunities. We held a series of joint retreats between the University Planning and Budgeting Committee and Extended President’s Advisory Council team to develop shared views on important planning issues. Six Action Teams then evaluated and made recommendations on strategic areas needing university commitment and attention; implementation of many of these recommendations is under way. Most recently, the Strategic Planning Steering Committee organized the preceding work into a planning document designed to support our strategic vision. You will find attached an impressive list of faculty, staff and students who dedicated their wisdom, creativity, energy and time to this endeavor.


For more information, go www.wcsu.edu/strategicplan.

About 125 supporters attended the Eighth Annual Holiday Wine Tasting held on Nov. 12 to benefit the Caraluzzi Scholarship Endowment. The event has contributed more than $850,000 to the endowment, which totals about $500,000. More than 40 Caraluzzi scholarships have been given to students in the past several years — including 10 in 2006-2007. “This has become one of the most fun and important events we have each fall,” said WestConn President James W. Schmotter. “It’s important for the students because a lot of them are facing financial hurdles and these scholarships help some of them work two jobs instead of three or one job instead of two. And it’s a great example of how we partner with our friends in the community — and we never partner with anyone better than Tony Caraluzzi.”

Guests at the tasting, held in Warner Hall, sampled dozens of fine wines while enjoying hors d’oeuvres from La Zingara Ristorante of Bethel, Caraluzzi’s Food Markets, Mr. Sushi at Bethel Food Market and jazz performed by WestConn students and alumni. “The more we can raise with events like this, the better we can do for our students,” Caraluzzi concluded.

Guests at ‘The Full Monty’ Opening Night dinner-theatre event fill up on good food, conversation

Eighth Annual Holiday Wine Tasting attracts wine aficionados, scholarship supporters

Homecoming 2006 highlights

a) Colonials’ wide receiver Adamis “Pito” Gonzalez has his own fan club in the stands of the Westside Athletic Complex during WestConn’s Homecoming victory over The College of New Jersey by a score of 10-3.

b) The WCSU Cheerleaders get the crowd revved up during a halftime performance.

c) A Westside campus Street Fair was a popular stop post-game. Among the many offerings were food booths, items for purchase and entertaining activities.

d) Professor Emeritus Bill Walton (second from right) poses with several WestConn theatre arts alumni after the football game.

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