**WestConn can now be found on Facebook**

On Jan. 7, Mark Zuckerberg posted a message on Facebook, the social network he founded in 2004, which said: “Today, we reached another milestone: 150 million people around the world are now actively using Facebook and almost half of them are using Facebook every day. This includes people in every continent — even Antarctica.”

Add Western Connecticut State University to the ever-growing list of Facebook users. The university’s social networking team quietly created a Facebook page during the fall semester and officially launched it on Dec. 15, 2008. On Dec. 14, WestConn’s page had 315 “fans.” A month after the launch, the number stands at 565 — and climbing.

Why Facebook? “An October Inside Higher Ed article sums it up. ‘As colleges try to adapt their more traditional outreach methods to the successive waves of students who live much of their lives online, it’s inevitable that some will start to ask whether they can marshal the ubiquity of social networking to attract applicants, connect to enrolled students and, once they graduate, keep track of them as alumni.’”

A visit to www.wcssu.edu/facebook shows that the outreach points in many directions. There are categories ranging from academic, athletic and student groups, to places for alumni and the incoming freshman class to interact. Institutional videos and planning a Facebook page that shares space with images posted by “fans” of the university. There are discussion boards, event listings and links to features on the WCSSU site. The goal is to provide a vibrant and interesting forum for those with an affiliation or interest in the university to congregate and explore commonalities.

As Zuckerberg posted, “When we first started Facebook almost five years ago, most of the people using it were college students in the United States. Today, people of all ages — grandparents, parents and children — use Facebook in more than 53 different languages and 170 countries and territories.”

WestConn is one of hundreds of universities worldwide to use the social networking platform as a way to reach out to constituents. Judging from the more than 500 people who already call themselves fans of WCSSU, it’s clear that it’s catching on.

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**Professors to give talk on origins of swastika**

By Robin O’Malley

Dr. M. Carol Wilcox, assistant professor of history and non-Western cultures, is planning a discussion this semester on the origins of the swastika — an image nowdays most commonly linked with Germany’s Nazi Party during World War II and a symbol of heinous crimes against humanity.

This is part of an educational effort to get people to understand what its origins were and how it was appropriated by the Nazis,” said Gadkar-Wilcox. The lecture comes on the heels of an on-campus incident last semester in which a student allegedly outlined two swastikas on the wet window of another student’s car. A

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**Committee seeks cost-saving ideas**

**by Paul Steinmetz**

A group of WestConn administrators, professors and students is gathering suggestions for cost-saving ideas large and small. Among the ideas submitted to the WestConnServe committee was a suggestion for all offices to share supplies to reduce waste and spending. As a result, offices will be periodically requested to forward any extra office supplies to Property Management/Shipping and Receiving. Property Management will develop a publicly available list of office supplies it has

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**Media Mentions**

**WESTCONN PART OF STUDENT ENROLLMENT TREND**

WestConn is one of the 10 public colleges in the state that reported record enrollments last year. For some people that fact underscores the critical need for the low-cost quality education that public universities and community colleges provide.

WestConn has 250 more students, according to the fall report of the state Department of Higher Education. The Danbury university has 6,642 fall and part-time undergraduates.

**WESTCONN’S CABARET IS VERY GOOD, WITH ORIGINAL INTERPRETATIONS**

When it is staged at WestConn as the joint effort of the music and theatre arts departments, for alumni and highly talented performers.

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**UNIVERSITY STARTS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

(NEWFAIRFIELD CITIZEN NEWS)

WestConn in Danbury has launched a new initiative called The Hancock Student Leadership Program. Students will learn fiscal and civic responsibility and leadership skills, and will receive internships and training. They will be selected based on their academic achievement and campus involvement, said R. Arnold Moses, a professor of social sciences at WestConn.
Course offers opportunity to study in Nicaragua

**By Robin Cammack**

Known as the land of volcanoes and lakes, the Central American country of Nicaragua is rich in culture and natural resources. That’s what makes it the perfect classroom setting for students from WestConn to immerse themselves in language, culture and biology for two weeks this summer.

“Our classroom is a museum and the beach is a place to learn,” said Assistant Professor of World Languages and Literature Dr. Stacey Alba Skar. “When traveling as a part of a course, every place becomes an opportunity to engage in real-world learning.”

“Global Academy in Granada, Nicaragua” will take place from July 25 through Aug. 10 or through Aug. 24, as part of the university’s world languages Spanish courses. The two-week program is open to anyone registering for three-credit Spanish courses SPA 211 or 411. The extended four-week program includes an additional three credits of Community Service and Spanish Language Study for students who register for SPA 298. Travel expenses are $1,350 for the two-week option and $2,550 for four weeks and include airfare, all traveling expenses, private rooms and meals daily with a local family, and all-language immersion, field experiences and textbooks.

Students will stay with families in Granada, the oldest colonial city in the continental Americas with buildings that date back to the early 1500s. Located on the largest lake in Central America, with views of the Mombacho cloud forest and close to the Pacific coast, Granada, Skar said, is the perfect place to connect cultural study with ecological diversity. “Its warmth is not only in its climate and colorful architecture, but in its incredibly friendly people,” she said.

Students will participate in community service and work on education and ecology projects. Assistant Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences Dr. Theodora Pinzó will lead students during the first two weeks with Skar, incorporating her knowledge on the study of sea turtles. One of Pinzó’s projects will focus on the threats to sea turtles.

During the course, students and faculty will learn about preserving turtle eggs and how they are negatively affected by climate change. The first half of the day, students will study language and culture: “Our mornings are given to community service and field experiences in education and conservation projects,” Skar said. The program offers students a real connection to local reality, they will learn about language and culture simultaneously with ecological sustainability. An immersion in community service, which could range from adult literacy to ecological projects, was planned in response to student demand. “They want to connect with the community in Nicaragua to learn about how they really learn about the culture of the region,” Skar said.

In addition to weekly studies, there are also weekend trips planned, including camping on the beach and studying sea turtles when they lay their eggs at Refugio La Flora, reforesting at the Volcano Lake of Laguna de Apoyo, and helping with conservation efforts at the Mombacho cloud forest.

The extended program includes a trip to Otunpe, a nearby island formed by volcanoes.

For more information, call Skar at (203) 837-8485.
Lessons for life: WCSU Teaching Excellence award winner inspires new generation of school leaders

by Haydn Tager

For Dr. Marcia Delcourt, coordinator of WestConn’s pioneering Ed.D. Program in Instructional Leadership, teaching is a continuous exchange between instructor and student — and sometimes the most surprising and valuable lessons are taught by the students.

Delcourt, professor of education and educational psychology and a member of WestConn’s faculty since 1999, recalled her exchange with a budding 11-year-old artist during a research interview conducted in spring 2003. Delcourt has been inspiring and challenging candidates in the Ed.D. in Instructional Leadership curriculum to test the boundaries of their professional and personal potential, and rediscover themselves as part of the learning journey. Fifteen students from three different cohorts who entered the program in the 2003-04 academic year completed their dissertation work and earned their degrees at the WestConn Graduate Commencement in May.

But Delcourt also knows that a vital part of the game is an athlete’s mental conditioning, and he’s put it all down on paper in a textbook published recently and titled “Sport Psychology: Performance, Enhancement, Inhibitory, and Teams.”

“One really emphasizes performance enhancement and performance inhibition, which is when an athlete choke under pressure,” said Gallucci. “This topic is unique with a respect to its psychology and is not often addressed. In addition to preparing physically, the psychological aspect will give you an added benefit in sports performance.”

Gallucci, who has written many journal articles on various elements of sports performance, uses the book in his undergraduate sports psychology courses. He realized through teaching sports psychology that the issues of athletic performance were not well addressed on the undergraduate level. “I wanted to do a work I could integrate in my teaching and fill a void in undergraduate teaching,” he said.

“Sport Psychology” also includes chapters on motivation and well-being — or why people strive to do their best and reach their full potentials, including athletes. Motivation, said Gallucci, is a complicated topic because it is so varied and individual. In addition to being a valuable resource in the classroom, Gallucci also described the book as a “how-to manual” for coaches, gym teachers and athletic trainers.

Gallucci hopes that the book will open doors for athletes and their trainers by overcoming those obstacles that hinder performance.

by Halim DeMarini

A former soccer champion and long-time runner, Professor of Psychology Dr. Nicholas Gallucci knows that training, preparation, skill and effort are all keys to an athlete’s overall performance.

WCSU to celebrate Lincoln bicentennial

by Halim DeMarini

From a one-room cabin in Kentucky to the White House, Abraham Lincoln overcame poverty and lack of a formal education to become one of the greatest and most influential men in United States history. Starting February 12, the university will kick off a year-long series of events to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of our 16th president who will include lectures, debates, simulations and reenactments.

“Lincoln’s story is inspiring. It’s about mobility, advancement and the self-made man and that’s why it is germane to a university setting,” said Dr. Burton Peretti, professor of history and non-Western cultures, who will be helping to organize events. Gov. M. Jodi Rell has asked each Connecticut State University system campus, as well as other state agencies, to recognize the occasion with events that will be of value today.

Peretti said this is a great opportunity to focus on Lincoln’s life and presidency, the Civil War and Lincoln’s image since his death. “And there’s also his time,” said Peretti. “There’s a lot of time and how he would be fit in in 2009? We’ll have events that will have you thinking more about the American past and how it relates to the present.”

“Anything that gets people to talk about history is important,” said Peretti. “Lincoln tried hard to say what the Civil War was about; what we were fighting for and whether it was a power struggle or something higher.”

He said that Lincoln’s efforts to resolve the nation, segueing into a war on slavery, helped to define the U.S. “We still argue about what America stands for,” Peretti said. “The idea of America as a model for liberty and freedom dates back to the Civil War era. Lincoln also tried to make the U.S. a model for the rest of the world.”

Peretti said that events will be scheduled for both the spring and fall semesters. Historians from Stanford and Yale University are expected to visit campus to lecture on Lincoln during the spring and fall semesters. Students from the WCSU’s International Relations Program will also have the opportunity to meet with Mezvinsky, who is also known for the trust he has built with Palestinian and Arab leaders.

“A notable Middle East scholar with an unconventional ideas was the featured guest at a special presentation for WestConn honor students,” said Peretti. “Mr. Mezvinsky presented the 2008 WCSU Teaching Excellence Award. Ms. Delcourt exemplifies all that one hopes for in a faculty member.”

At WestConn’s annual Faculty Recognition Ceremony on Dec. 10, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Linda Rinker presented Delcourt with the 2008 WCSU Teaching Excellence Award. “Dr. Delcourt exemplifies all that one hopes for in a faculty member.”

“Arms out the sophistication in schools in the South Bronx in New York,” she observed. “That young man was so wise, and he was teaching me — that’s really what he did.”

At WestConn’s annual Faculty Recognition Ceremony on Dec. 10, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Linda Rinker presented Delcourt with the 2008 WCSU Teaching Excellence Award.

a notable Middle East scholar with unconventional ideas was the featured guest at a special presentation for WestConn honor students. She addressed the students and the audience through which the Honors Program guides student learning.

Middle East scholar engages students

by Dr. Christopher Kukk, who is director of the WestConn Honors Program, Dr. John Brines, professor of writing, linguistics and creative process; Dr. Norton Mezvinsky, a professor of history at Central Connecticut State University, and executive director of the International Council of Middle East Studies; and Dr. Linda Rinker, provost and academic vice president, worked together to bring Mezvinsky to campus. They intend to bring more speakers to campus. Honors students met with Mezvinsky before the lecture and participated in the program by asking him questions that illustrated the modes of inquiry through which the Honors Program guides student learning.
Inauguration captures campus attention

Barack Obama took the oath of office for the President of the United States on the big screen of the Student Center Theater on Jan. 20, with students, faculty, and administrative staff members of the public applauding and in some cases shedding tears of joy.

The ceremony was preceded by a discussion about the future conducted by a panel that included Lionel Bascom, adjunct professor in the department of writing, linguistics and creative process, Dr. Christopher Kukk, associate professor of social sciences, and Mary Connolly, editorial page editor of the News-Times of Danbury.

The discussion ended just before Joseph Biden took the vice presidential oath of office and the crowd of 60 cheered and applauded for the next hour.

“It’s not very often you know exactly when history is going to be made,” said Associate Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences Dr. Abbey Zirik, who helped organize the panel discussion. “This is truly an historic occasion, which is why we wanted the university to mark the day in this way. It’s one of those events people seem to want to get together for.”

Elsewhere on campus, several small groups of students stood staring at the monitors in the lobby of the Student Center on the Midtown campus. Clusters of faculty and staff sat at tables in the faculty dining room, eyes glued to the televisions rolled in for the occasion. Among them were assistant directors in the Financial Aid Office, Melissa Stephens and Amanda Evans, who said they chose to eat lunch and watch the inauguration together.

About a dozen people—a mix of faculty, staff, students and members of the local community—congregated around a TV screen in the lobby of the Ruth Haas Library across campus. “It was a momentous and inspiring event,” said Assistant Librarian Veronica Kenasius.

Mira Nair (cont’d.)

Nair currently is filming “Amelia,” starring Hilary Swank, about Amelia Earhart, and is in pre-production for the film “Shantaram,” starring Johnny Depp.

For the President’s Lecture, Nair will discuss the creative process of portraying as well as the issues she explores in her films: the tug of competing worlds felt by millions of immigrants and ways to bridge the gap between cultures. A natural stage (she began her career in film in front of the camera, not behind) she challenges audiences to think about assumptions, stereotypes and prejudices, and how these manifest themselves in our relationships. Through clips from her films and personal anecdotes, Nair shows how film can challenge racial and gender stereotypes and generational assumptions

This President’s Lecture is co-sponsored by the 2008 “One Book, One Community” partnership. For more information, call (203) 837-8754.
In memoriam: Guido J. Tino Jr., '64

Tino was a soccer referee for 40 years and also worked as a lacrosse umpire. He was very active in the development of youth soccer in western Connecticut, and one of his proudest achievements was being chosen as a soccer referee and assessor for the Special Olympics World Games held in New Haven. "First and foremost he was a volunteer," says Kristine Tino about her husband. "It was in his blood. It's what he believed in." A resident of Sherman since 1971, Tino founded the Sherman Soccer Club and the community garden near Colonial Field, where the club practiced and played. He was a firefighter and emergency medical technician with the Sherman Volunteer Fire Department. He served on the Sherman Parks and Recreation Commission for 30 years and was elected to the Zoning Board of Appeals for several terms. He also was a member of the Democratic Town Committee and the Sherman Veterans Association. At the time of his passing, Tino was the director of the Office of Emergency Management for Sherman, as well as a town constable and justice of the peace.

In addition, Tino volunteered for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Connecticut and at New Milford Hospital, where he also ran the stroke support group, "Different Strokes." He received numerous awards over the years for his contributions to teaching, youth soccer and the local community, including the 2007 New Milford Hospital Heroes Award. "Guido was full of energy," says WCSU Alumni Association Board of Directors member Terry Beehlar Asch '74, '72. "Whatever he tackled, he did so with great dedication." Tino is survived by Kristine, his wife of 40 years, sons Guy and Garth, and five grandchildren.

A scholarship has been created to honor Tino. Contributions can be made to The Guido Tino Memorial Scholarship, WCSU Foundation, 181 White St., Danbury, Conn., 06810. Please make checks payable to the WCSU Foundation.

The students we’ve selected this year are the very best WestConn has to offer," said Professor of Social Sciences Dr. R. Averell Manes. "These students were selected from among our top students across the university and are engaged and excelling not just academically, but as part of the campus community as well.”

Introducing the Hancock Student Leadership Program (HSLP) created this year, WCSU students have a unique opportunity to learn enhanced leadership skills, influence their environment and the campus community. The HSLP is a joint program offered by the divisions of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs and is partially funded by the Hancock Scholarship Fund. "The students we’ve selected this year are the very best WestConn has to offer," said Professor of Social Sciences Dr. R. Averell Manes. "These students were selected from among our top students across the university and are engaged and excelling not just academically, but as part of the campus community as well.”

The students are expected to complete a 24-hour training program offered in retreat, evening and online formats that include fundamental leadership, communication and conflict management. During this training, students have the chance to learn leadership skills such as critical thinking, influencing with integrity, public speaking, third-party intervention and group decision-making.

After the training program, participants will work with steering committee mentors to develop individual, group and university leadership projects, which may include being an academic tutor, peer-to-peer mentor, resident assistant, athletic team captain or university newspaper editor.

"We hope the students will become successful role models by learning more about leadership and management styles, fiscal and ethical responsibility, and communication and conflict management," said Manes. "These students will become the leaders of tomorrow in business, politics and the public sector.”

For more information, call Manes at (203) 837-8452.
Fall highlights:

‘Cabaret’

Fifty-two years after the hit show “Cabaret” took Broadway by storm, the WestConn theatre arts department invited theatre lovers to “converge on the music play” all its production of the award-winning play the first three weekends in November.

The show was “big budget,” said Professor of Theatre Arts Tatiana Schmotter, the show’s producer. “We’ve never had anything like this before.”

The show was directed by Associated Professor of Theatre Arts Pamela McDonald to rave reviews.

Symphonic Band performs

The WCSU Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble performed works by Hindemith, John Williams and William Schuman at a fall concert. Brett Bernardi, a senior music education major, was the soloist in a concerto for saxophone and Wind Ensemble by John Williams.

Veterans Day observance

WestConn saluted all those who served in the nation’s military with a Veterans Day observance on Nov. 11.

The ceremony featured two students, and WWII and Vietnam War veterans Jimmy Williams of New Fairfield and Richard LaFenere of Stratford.

The ceremony concluded in front of Old Main with the placing of a wreath of remembrance, followed by a reception for all those attending, including many members of the community.

‘A Christmas Carol’

The WCSU theatre arts department, in cooperation with LaVer Productions, presented the family production, “A Christmas Carol,” in the Bartollas Theatre. Daniel Randazzo, of Trumbull, played Tiny Tim and Andrew Hendrick, of Fairfield, portrayed Scrooge.

A holiday play is staged each year for hundreds of elementary-age children from schools throughout the region featuring local actors and community actors performing the principal roles.

‘Amahl and the Night Visitors’

This year’s presentation of “Amahl and the Night Visitors” was the 145th annual WCSU Opera Ensemble staging of the English-language opera, which has become a local holiday tradition.

Professor of Music Dr. Margaret Ashop was the director and music professor for the production, which featured live music played by a full orchestra. The production featured separate casts of WestConn student and community actors performing the principal roles.

Martin Luther King Jr. observance

Actress Ruby Dee (gladdened with Director of Multicultural Affairs and Affirmative Action Dr. Bryan Samuel and President James W. Schmotter) visited the university to help celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. observance.

Dee mingled at a reception in her honor in Warner Hall before watching the play and speaking in its Concert Hall. The program was arranged by Samuel.

M.F.A. students add color to area corporations

For several weeks this past semester, employees of Cartus corporation in Danbury were given the opportunity to enjoy artwork by graduates of the university’s Master of Fine Arts program.

From Oct. 10 through Nov. 22, the 50 pieces of artwork from nine students in the program grace the halls of the local headquarters of the international relocation company.

And the university is hoping that the art soon will be on display at another local business.

“It was beautifully displayed through the hallways of the main floor — it was filled with artwork,” Director of Development Karen Wright said. “The idea behind this project is that the employees work in an atmosphere that is aesthetically pleasing.”

Not only is the art program a benefit to the corporations, it is an opportunity for students to show off their efforts; and potential buyers may contact the students directly to purchase the pieces. Most of the pieces were oil paintings, but there are other mediums including photography.

Cartus has been displaying “art on loan” from various local artists since 2000. Wright and Vice President for Institutional Advancement Dr. Koryoe Ann-Wright knew that was the first place to contact. “This is a way to bridge a relationship with area corporations and do something that includes our art students,” Wright said.

Wright hopes that as the program grows, it will include undergraduate students as well. “It’s an excellent showcase opportunity for our students,” Wright said. “It shows what they are learning in the quality programs that WestConn offers.”

‘Everyone’s Partners’ partnership produces a hit

WestConn, the Alternative Center for Excellence (ACE) and Roberts Avenue School staged a performance this fall at the Midtown Coffeehouse featuring a variety of acts including singing, Irish and Portuguese dancing, poetry reading, and storytelling.

WCSU Professor of Education Dr. Darla Shaw, Joanne Tolles and Nancy Berman from A.C.E worked together to create this special event, which was funded by a winter grant. The grant was directed to four different levels of students who wrote and mentored each other. The three coordinators developed the idea last summer as a way to not only teach education students, but to encourage younger children to use music as another tool for language.

Shaw and 15 of her education students collaborated with 12 high school students at A.C.E in teaching the fourth-grade elementary school students songs and dances as well as assisting them in writing their stories, lyrics and poetry.

“The partnership was a really nice mix, and we will continue to work together,” said Shaw. She also emphasized her vision of not just having students sit in a classroom but for them to go out and experience the real world.

When the education major from Sherman, assisted the children with the diversity song along with Barry Finch. “The program was ‘Who is my partner’ and it was really pleasant with the students, and I definitely believe this should be held again,” Fide said.

A DVD of the stage presentation along with photos and the writings from all those who contributed to the project will be published in a hard-cover book by Utopia online publishing. A Web site also will be established dedicated to all the writing pieces. WestConn professors and the Danbury school system will be able to utilize the Web site for various programs expansion and continuous writing.

“I have been working with A.C.E for 12 years,” Shaw said. “And we all believe that music, literature and lyrics speak more to children, and we encourage them because it is more their language.”

Math tutors help middle schoolers make the grade

When the math scores at the local middle schools weren’t adding up according to the latest test results, Danbury officials turned to WestConn’s math department for help.

Danbury Assignment Schools Superintendent William Glass contacted the university earlier this school year about becoming involved with helping the younger students reach their goals in math. Less than two months ago, a program was in place.

Two days a week, seven students from the university work with pupils at Rogers Park and both Broadview middle schools.

The students, mostly math majors, spend a full 45-minute class period or longer tutoring the middle schoolers so that they can achieve higher scores on the mandatory Connecticut Mastery Tests (CMTs) given to all sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders throughout the state.

“These are students in danger of not doing well on the math exams,” said Associate Professor of Math Dr. David Burns, who heads the university’s math department and works with the university students.

“They want to make sure these students don’t lose ground,” Burns said.

Professor Dr. Josee Hamer said the program, which allows the pupils to receive valuable one-on-one instruction, is advantageous from every angle.

“Our students get the experience of working in the schools and with teachers in the classroom,” she said. “The middle school students get the extra help they need and the school district, hopefully, will achieve its goals.”

Burns said there are about 60 pupils at Rogers Park and both receiving help from WestConn students. The middle school students currently are preparing for CMT’s given in March. The results of the exams will be available at the beginning of the next school year.

“I’m glad we found a way to get our students into the middle schools,” Burns said. “It’s a place where we lose the kids. This program is our way of helping to make this a better situation.”
**Spring Athletics Preview**

The WestConn spring athletic programs have been cooped up since January inside the O’Neill Center readying for their upcoming seasons.

**SOFTBALL**

The softball program seeks to return to the NCAA Tournament, the pinnacle it has achieved nine times since 1995, including last season’s appearance in the East Regionals. The Colonials will have plenty of offensive firepower with the return of shortstop Loren Angelikko who batted .520 with a home run, eight triples and 12 doubles. She drove in 55 runs in her third season. Senior sluggers Megan Mammone and Amy Hattman return after stellar freshman campaigns with both belting six home runs. Head Coach Heather Stone will have to replace two-time Little East Conference Pitcher of the Year and NFCA All-Star pitcher Shelby Sle who graduated with several Colonials’ pitching records in 2008. Veteran hurlers Kara Cullinane and Brittany Connors will pitch in the Colonials’ opening tournament in at the Dot Richardson Tournament in Clermont, Fla., the week of March 19-26.

**MEN’S LACROSSE**

Head Coach Jason Ouellet, the 2008 Little East Conference Coach of the Year, guides the men’s lacrosse program to its first NCAA Tournament after winning the Little East Conference Tournament title convincingly over Plymouth State. The Colonials have gotten many of Ouellet’s three seasons at the helm. He welcomes back several NEC All-Stars, including Rockefeller of the Year Adam Larcheit and A.J. Barbari. The duo combined for 92 goals and 107 ground balls a year ago. Goal keeper Kyle Wood returns in net after a standout junior campaign. Veterans George Tsirigotis, Jason Rosenlender and Troy Stroz will be joined by talented transfers Bryan Gowan and Sean Macey. The men’s lacrosse season opens at home on Saturday, March 7, when it hosts Castleton State at the Westside Athletic Complex at 2 p.m.

**BASEBALL**

John Sue’s troops went 17-25 a year ago and appeared in the Little East Conference Tournament. After winning 10 more games than they did in 2007, WestConn hopes to continue to improve and be one of four teams competing in the NEC. Final Four come May. Returning starters Billy Armstrong and Joe Mangano combined for six of WestConn’s wins on the bump a year ago. Armstrong went 4-5 with an impressive 2.93 earned run average. Joe Postemsky and Matt Perper will be the team’s top relievers. Postemsky appeared in a team-high 21 games a year ago while Perper’s senior season was cut short with a thumb injury. He will be the Colonials’ starting first baseman and will be called upon to close the door in the late innings. All eight lineup spots will be filled with experienced personnel, including 2008 Little East Conference All-Star Nick Ross in left field. The baseball team opens the 2009 campaign with a three-game stint against Emory and Henry in a double header at Virginia Tech on Saturday, Feb. 14, and a single game at Ferrum on Sunday, Feb. 15.

**WOMEN’S LACROSSE**

The WestConn women’s lacrosse team appeared in the 2008 Little East Conference Tournament under Head Coach Jen Burrows. The Colonials welcome back four key returners, including LEC All-Star Kara Kruczkiewicz in the midfield. She led the team with 54 goals and 87 ground balls in her second season. Ashley Caruso will lead the WestConn attack after registering 41 goals and a team-high 11 assists a year ago. Catherine Haase and Whitney Fairchild will provide experience this season. Talented transfers Lauren Poope, Stephanie Orgovan and Kaitlyn Mo will team up with newcomers Brunnna Miterando, Jessica Bouwham, Jessica Bain and Kaitlyn Arentz this season. WestConn opens the 2009 campaign at the Westside Athletic Complex at 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 12, against Kean University.

**MEN’S TENNIS**

Second-year Head Coach Rituschas Venupagol guided the netters to a 6-4 overall record in his first season. Five players return for another season, including Matt Fogel and Patrick Marcek. Fogel went 7-4 at number two singles and combined with senior Wayne Tenter to go 7-1 at number one doubles in 2008. Marcek won eight of 10 matches including going a perfect 7-0 at No. four singles. The men’s tennis team opens its season at John Jay College at 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 26.

**Cost-saving ideas (cont’d.)**

in its stockroom and employees will be encouraged to consult this list prior to ordering item(s).

Other ideas are not as easily put to work. Many employees suggested a four-day work week as a way to save energy costs. At the moment, Gov. M. Jodi Rell is requiring all state agencies to be open seven days a week. In addition, the Connecticut State University system also insists on full coverage to support students.

Some ideas require in-depth investigation. One professor suggested replacing proprietary software on campus with open source software for learning management systems, content management systems, and electronic portfolios. The idea is under consideration by members of University Computing.

President James W. Schmotter created the committee in the fall semester in response to the Connecticut fiscal crisis, which might result in a 10 percent cut in state contributions to the university’s 2009-10 fiscal budget.

“WestConn colleagues were coming to me with suggestions for saving money,” Schmotter said. “So I thought we should formalize the process and solicit ideas from everyone, evaluate them and put the best practices into use. We won’t find millions of dollars of savings, but everything helps when we face a budget situation like this.”

The cost-saving measures put into place as a result of suggestions from campus are displayed at wcsu.edu/ WestConn/save. The WestConn site includes a form to submit more ideas, which go directly to committee co-chairs Mark Case, director of administrative services, and Paul Steinmetz, director of university relations. In addition, all members of the committee will accept ideas and bring them before the full group for discussion.

We have thought of many great suggestions,” Case said. “Some of them were no-brainers, others require a little more work to put into place. But everyone has been open to making these ideas work when we bring them the suggestions. It’s satisfying to be part of an effort that can make a difference.”

**Educator inspires (cont’d.)**

“She is extremely rigorous in her expectations of me, yet at the same time she has given me the intellectual freedom to pursue my ideas and passions,” LaBianca said. “As director of the Ed.D. program, she has ushered in a new era for the education department,” complementing WestConn’s traditional strength in teacher training with a program “where advanced thought in instructional pedagogy takes place with a dedicated faculty and experienced practitioners.”

Deconurt brings to the Ed.D. program more than two decades’ experience as a teacher, published author and editor in professional journals, and researcher on a wide range of education topics including curriculum analysis and evaluation, inquiry techniques for teachers and students, development strategies for gifted students, and evaluation of student learning outcomes. She previously served on the faculties of the University of Virginia and McGill University in Toronto, receiving the Teaching Innovation Award from the Royal Bank of Canada and the Early Scholar Award from the National Association for Gifted Children.

She considers the preparation of new doctoral students for the challenging work ahead to be an important part of her teaching mission, and her expectations of her students at WestConn are just as rigorous as those she set for advanced-degree candidates at the research institutions where she previously taught.

“I offer the same courses and have the same expectations as anywhere I have ever taught,” Deconurt said. “Doctoral work is always more than what the students expected going into it. They learn so much about themselves, things that they never would have expected to learn, and that is the joy of going through this process. My job is to help them move to the highest level they can reach.”

Recording her reflections on the program’s first five years in the “Memory Book” published in May 2008 for the pioneering Ed.D. graduating cohort, Deconurt urged her students to build on their achievements at WestConn.

“Upon your return, your good students will come to support you, and give you the recognition you expect from others. For more information, call the Provost’s Office at (203) 837-8400.”
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