**University President James W. Schmotter appointed to NCAA Presidents Advisory Group**

As one of the Colonials’ biggest fans, Western Connecticut State University President James W. Schmotter is a familiar face at the university’s games. But when it comes to growth and participation in sports, Schmotter doesn’t sit on the sidelines. Schmotter’s active participation in the Little East Conference (LEC) and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has recently earned him top recognition. In June, after the retirement of John Nazarian, president of Rhode Island College, Schmotter replaced Nazarian as LEC president for a two-year term.

LEC Commissioner Jonathan Harper said it was only natural to also nominate Schmotter to sit on the NCAA Division III Presidents Council Advisory Group, a term that runs until January 2011. The advisory group represents public and private institutions across the country. It reviews and makes recommendations on a wide variety of issues vital to growth. “I didn’t hesitate to nominate him to the presidents group,” Harper said. “He’s a strong proponent of athletics and understands the role of athletics and the overall community on campus. He has a strong vision and is a fine example for his colleagues.”

The National Collegiate Athletic Association is a voluntary organization through which many colleges and universities nationwide govern their athletics programs. The Little East Conference is an NCAA Division III intercollegiate athletic conference with eight member institutions in New England. “Given Dr. Schmotter’s background as a competitive athlete and his continued interest in intercollegiate sports, particularly those at WCSU, it seems to me that his role at the Little East Conference and the NCAA is a natural fit,” WCSU Athletics Director Ed Farrington said.

As LEC president, Schmotter chairs the presidents’ CEO meetings and is responsible for oversight of the Commissioner’s office. He is the official contact to sign off on official NCAA forms, such as grants. The NCAA advisory group meets several times a year to consider legislative changes brought to the NCAA convention floor as they pertain to Division III on a national level. “Playing intercollegiate basketball at NCAA Division III college was a meaningful experience for me, and I know that WCSU’s student-athletes also benefit from the lessons in discipline, teamwork and personal commitment that competitive athletics teaches,” Schmotter said. “And, as we saw with our Women’s Soccer Team last year, sports can create positive energy and bring the campus together.”

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**Writing department turns one**

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**Department of writing, linguistics & creative process celebrates one year**

**Degree program goes solo to address student needs**

Whether they pen fiction or fantasy, whether they journal or blog, writing has once again taken on renewed importance due to both its inherent creative process and its utility in the ever-growing field of writing, linguistics and historical periods, the writing department studies writing.

By Robin DeMerell

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**Jane Goodall speaks at WestConn symposium**

Even though our very existence depends on water, we don’t think much about it as we turn on the tap at the kitchen sink. But there are many places throughout the world that don’t have access to clean water. So what can members of the local community do about making sure that everyone has clean, fresh, available water?

On Sunday, Nov. 9, WestConn and Roots & Shoots, a program of the Jane Goodall Institute, will host a symposium that will discuss the international water crisis that will address water conservation, sanitation and access. The event is free and open to the public and will be held in the WCSU student center.

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**Media Mentions**

**MATURE STUDENTS NEED SUPPORT**

When her first married college at New York at age 32, she almost quit after one of her first classes was filled with disruptive students. Instead, she created a Web site to help mature students navigate the college scene. For about a decade, “WestConn has hosted a group for its returning students called OFW – Older First Year Students.” It’s important for nontraditional students to have resources when they need help,” says Ogura, vice president of OFW.

**EDGETT’S STUDENTS. WESTCONN, HONOR HER**

Mary Edgett was an inspiring but unconventional teacher whose lasting impression is the classroom is propelling her to the limelight on the eve of her 106th birthday. Former students of the retired Danbury teacher and lifelong resident recently started a scholarship in her name after reading about her in the Alumni News of WestConn, of which she is the oldest living graduate. The scholarship will go to a student studying to become an elementary school teacher. “Why did I become a teacher? Well, there was nothing else to do,” Edgett said in a recent interview in a Danbury nursing home. “I’ve never been perfect. I feel like I never worked a day in my life.”

**WESTCONN RECOGNIZES BANNED BOOKS WEEK**

What if the Harry Potter series was banned from the public library? In fact, Harry Potter was one of the world’s most popular series in recent years was high on the list of books challenged and looked to ban from public access in 2007. It’s one reason that for 17 years, the American Library Association has held Banned Books Week, a celebration of the freedom to choose or the freedom to express one’s opinion even if that opinion might be
English students hit the road to learn about literature

By Robin DeMerell

By retracing the footsteps of some of the country’s finest writers, students at WestConn are becoming road scholars. A new course offered to WestConn undergraduates, “Road Scholar” takes students out of the classroom to learn more about the lives of famous authors and playwrights who helped shape American literature by visiting their homes in and around Connecticut.

“As professors of American literature, we felt that WestConn is ideally situated in the very heart of the region in which American literature came of age and announced its presence,” said Associate Professor of English Dr. Margaret Murray, who came up with the idea for the course with Assistant Professor of English Dr. Donald Gagnon.

In Hartford, the students visited the homes of Mark Twain and neighbor Harriet Beecher Stowe. Stone is best known for her anti-slavery novel, “Uncle Tom’s Cabin.”

“The officials at each site were complimentary about the students’ reading, their understanding of the text and their familiarity with the cultural and literary significance of the works and authors,” said Gagnon. “They all realized the value inherent in making the authors and their works tangible, the product of not only genius but also of rich humanity. Our docent at the Mark Twain house even said he’d like to register for the course!”

The setting for playwright Eugene O’Neill’s “A Long Day’s Journey into Night” is based on the living room of his home in New London. As WestConn student Dusty Zima walked through the home shortly after reading the play, he said it all came alive for him.

Zima, who returned to WestConn as a graduate student this fall, said the trips added to the experience that the reader has with an author — more than just reading.

“You can make a lot more hands-on connections and get a better feel for what the authors were trying to do,” said Zima. “It’s a quite different thing to walk around where these authors lived. That’s something no book can bring you in the classroom.”

Visits included the Massachusetts homes of Edith Wharton, author of “The Age of Innocence,” and Herman Melville, who wrote the classic whaling tale, “Moby Dick.” Students were required to read one or two works from each of six authors and write several response and research papers. Classes were held twice a week on campus.

“Most of what we read were social commentary works, so it’s important to know how they lived,” said Zima. “It’s surprising how little people know about the authors’ personal lives and that was the whole goal of the class — did that help or hinder with the interaction of that author’s work? I think it’s helpful to know about the author’s life. It’s important to know what was going on in the culture when they were writing.”

Zima said it was a great all-around experience, as the students would bring lunches and talk about the readings during lunch or while riding to the different homes.

“It was a classroom from the minute we left WestConn — it was like a traveling classroom,” he said.

1, 2 (5) Students: Jazmyn Burger, Devon Samaha, Assistant Professor of English Dr. Donald Gagnon, Lani Leary, Christopher Brown, Joe Ruso, Nektarios Konstantinopoulos and Lisa Cantori prepare to hit the road.

Unique and diverse, warm and welcoming — with the world at its doorstep. Those are the words that Rev. Dr. Francis Peter, a Jesuit priest visiting from Loyola College in Maryland, used to describe his first impression of WestConn.

Peter, a reader in Loyola’s undergraduate and postgraduate research departments of English, visited WestConn from Sept. 9 through 17 as part of an international exchange program. In August, four faculty members from Loyola, including Professor of Writing, Linguistics and Creative Process Dr. Anum Govardhan, Associate Professor of Marketing Dr. Karen Koza, and biology faculty Dr. Tom Lonergan and Dr. Ruth Grieve, traveled to the Chennai, India, college to share their expertise with faculty and graduate students.

Peter said by visiting WestConn to speak with faculty and students, he “tested the waters” to measure the feasibility of a symbiotic relationship with WestConn. If first impressions mean anything, Peter said, “this will be a win-win situation.

We have similar visions.”

Those visions include sharing ideas for common projects. For instance, Peter is impressed with the marketing students at WestConn’s Ancell School of Business who take a hands-on approach by working with actual companies, such as last semester’s project with Staples, the world’s largest office products company. “We could mutually enrich each other,” Peter said.

Peter said WestConn was an obvious candidate for collaboration with Loyola because of its diversity and similarity of interests. He said the relationship involves collaboration at all levels — student, management and teaching. “That’s the best part.

There is a very good sync between the two colleges.”

“I’m overwhelmed by the cooperation from the top brass here at WestConn and from the faculty,” he said.

Describing the students he’s met as outgoing and warm, Peter said that he feels the collaboration is more than just a network of shared resources. “It’s not just the paperwork. It’s the binding of the heart.”

Hosting many administrative positions during his 28 years in higher education, Peter has written a dozen books and a number of papers and has conducted more than 360 seminars and workshops all over India and abroad. In addition to his interest in English, Peter is concerned about empowering people through education and is interested in areas such as education reform, evaluation techniques, social equity, collaborative learning, interculturization and diversity.

Peter is the founder and director of RAGE-Loyola (Research Academy for Cumulative Excellence), a center that promotes language-related skills. Peter has a master’s degree in English language teaching from Madurai Kamaraj University and a master’s degree in English language teaching from East Anglia College, London.

Peter said the post-graduate diploma in the teaching of English from the Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages in Hyderabad, and a bachelor of education degree from Madurai Kamaraj University. He completed his Ph.D. at Barathidasan University, Tirchy.

Citing WestConn’s location advantage — a short drive to New York City and surrounded by arts and industry — Peter said the university is a great place for students to thrive. “It’s affordable without the hustle and bustle of a big city. This is a great advantage. This should flourish.”

By Robin DeMerell

A new course offered to WestConn undergraduates, “Road Scholar” takes students out of the classroom to learn more about the lives of famous authors and playwrights who helped shape American literature by visiting their homes in and around Connecticut.

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WestConn hosts Hat City debate tournament

BY TING-YEE LANKEE

Considering the state of today’s economy, should the government be spending or cutting back on money to help the agricultural sector? Should taxpayers be milked to help the dairy farmers? Should less money be splashed out for peanut and tobacco farming? Or should the government be supplying more dough to wheat farmers?

On Oct. 25 and 26, WestConn’s Roger Sherman Debate Society hosted “The Hat City Debates” where students argued both sides of this year’s policy debate: whether to decrease agricultural subsidies in the United States. The debate tournament attracted many of the best teams from the region, including New York University, Harvard University, Dartmouth College, St. John’s University, Baruch College, Cornell University and Marist College. The debates took place in Warner, White, Higgins and Berkshire halls on the Midtown campus.

A total of 100-two student teams from at least 15 schools participated in this year’s debate, said WestConn debate team adviser and WCSU Associate Professor of History and Non-Western Cultures Dr. Wynn Gadkar-Wilcox. The policy debates ran 1½ hours and at the end of six rounds, the winners then qualified for the elimination rounds.

In addition to the policy debates, there were also parliamentary debates, which are less formal with topics that are presented minutes before debate. Prior to the tournament, students decided whether to participate in the parliamentary or policy debates.

For the policy debates, said Gadkar-Wilcox, students prepared by conducting extensive research on agricultural policy about reducing subsidies. “They have to do an impressive amount of technical research,” he said. The key skills, especially in policy debate, include learning the basic points of logic, constructing arguments, examining sources and incorporating evidence.

To prepare for the parliamentary debates, Gadkar-Wilcox said students are encouraged to follow current events and read everything from the New York Times to The Economist. “It shows off their general knowledge, whereas the debate of the policy debates highlight their research skills.

“Debate is a way of measuring your abilities to prove either side of an argument. It helps students focus their minds so that they can understand positions they have not otherwise considered when looking at an issue,” WCSU debate team member Schuyler Merritt said. “Most importantly, our debate team accomplishes this with the deep sense of team pride, camaraderie and good humor, which is often found on athletic teams.”

Last year, WestConn’s debate team was ranked 12th highest for master’s-level public universities nationally. Regionally, in the university’s National Debate Tournament district, WestConn’s debate team ranked at No. 11 in New England regardless of size and type of university.

For more information, call Gadkar-Wilcox at (203) 837-8656. A debate argues his point during the Hat City Debates at WestConn in October.

New biology department chair has lifelong interest in science

By Robin DeMerell

This fall, Lonergan started a new career as the head of the biological and environmental sciences department at WestConn after 30 years at the University of New Orleans.

“I knew since I was 5 — if it crawled, jumped or flew, I chased after it,” said Lonergan, who holds a bachelor’s degree in biology from SUNY-Albany and a Ph.D. in cellular biology from the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign. He also did post-doctoral work in developmental biology at Yale University and conducted research on the biochemistry of the biological clock.

Lonergan, who joined the university in August, said he always wanted to head a biology department and said he was attracted to WestConn when he learned the university was looking for someone with biotechnology experience. That’s where his expertise in stem cell research comes in, said Lonergan. He has the state a stem cell initiative program and funding is available to support faculty research. “Dr. Lonergan has the background, experience and drive to help us achieve the vision we have for our department,” Professor of Biology Dr. Thomas Philbrick said.

In addition to heading the department, Lonergan also will be teaching — something he has always enjoyed. “I love teaching — watching the proverbial light bulb go off,” he said. “When a student says, ‘I’m better than I was when I walked in the door,’ that’s what I’m here for.”

Lonergan said that WestConn is similar to the University of New Orleans, which also is part of a state university system. “I felt I could bring my skills running here,” Lonergan said. “The curricula are similar between the two universities from both an administrative and a teaching standpoint.”

In addition to establishing a successful stem cell research program, Lonergan said his goal is to be “an excellent chairperson — one who listens to colleagues and assumes the role of a team leader, not the boss.”

Lonergan said biology is important, especially in today’s climate. “You can’t get away from that reality.”

For more information, call Lonergan at (203) 837-9894.
WestConn still building bridges to help students succeed

By Moira Dunbar

For many high school students who don't make the grade, a college education is out of reach. But after 30 years as an educator, Marjorie Salem, an adjunct professor of English at WestConn, is seeing a big change.

A former Bethel High School teacher, Salem now is a liaison between WestConn and high schools in Bethel and Danbury for the "Building a Bridge to Improve Student Success" program. For the past several years, the Bridges program, a partnership between the university and the two high schools, has helped dozens of students struggling in English and math get the help they need before they get to WestConn.

By reducing the need for remediation at the college level — which is both costly and time-consuming — students can tackle these issues while still in high school. Salem said the program makes college a possibility for every student.

Because of the Bridges program, Salem said, many students who weren't college bound are now succeeding at WestConn. "It opens then eyes. They wouldn't otherwise understand their potential," Salem said. "We're able to identify them and do some intervention at the high school level. You really do see these students grow."

The Bridges program was started five years ago by WestConn professors and teachers at Danbury and Bethel high schools who together developed classes and testing to address remedial learning. Through the program, students at both high schools are tested in English and math during their junior year. Students who don't place well on the tests can receive help to improve their skills before they graduate from high school.

Salem said there is now more emphasis on writing and math skills at the two high schools because, through the Bridges program, they realized that students needed better preparation. This is not only to get into college, but to be successful throughout college and later in their careers.

The program, Salem said, is a great source of communication between the high school teachers and college professors and gives the high school teachers a greater understanding of what is expected of their students at the college level. "They were surprised at the level of rigor expected at WestConn," Salem said. And, she added, about a third of students needing remedial help by the time they reach WestConn has significantly decreased, thanks to the Bridges program.

For more information, call Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences Dr. Linda Vaden-Goad at (203) 837-9040.
Institutional Advancement highlights:

**Philanthropy Day**

By Robert Taylor

Dr. Julius A. Elias found time throughout his distinguished career as a popular teacher and visionary administrator at the University of Connecticut to share his lifelong passion for opera with his students and colleagues. Thanks to his family’s benevolence, the Ruth A. Haas Library and the School of Music recently acquired the Julius A. Elias Collection — a vast personal library of opera performances spanning five decades that includes approximately 5,000 LP records, as well as several hundred video tapes, published scores and reference works. He will share his passion with present and future generations of students and faculty at WestConn.

**Golden Circle Luncheon**

Alumna Helen Patchway Froble ’58 donates this “Golden Circle” picture frame to the School of Visual and Performing Arts’ Dr. Carol Hawkins beaks on Froble’s door as a “Diamond Ring” member at the School’s 15th annual Golden Circle luncheon on Sept. 24 in Warner Hall on the Midtown campus. This beauty is bestowed on alumni who have contributed 70 years or more. About 40 people attended the luncheon, including alumni from the classes of 1945 through 1951, a university official and members of the WCSU Alumni Association. Alumni, parents of alumni and community members. “Everybody had a great time,” said Dean of the School of Visual and Performing Arts Dr. Carol Hawkins. “It was a fantastic evening with a lot of people and activities.”

**Alumni Golf Outing**

More than 60 alumni and friends attended the WCSU Alumni Association’s 24th annual Golf Outing held Sept. 29 at a prestigious Richer Park in Danbury. This year’s events, the Alumni Association’s largest fundraiser, resulted in more than $10,000 for the Alumni Scholarship Fund. A great day of golf was had by all who attended.

**Big Apple dinner cruise**

It was one of the last beautiful days of summer that more than 125 people joined the WCSU Foundation on a dinner cruise around New York City. The “Fvkee” left Port of Manhatan’s West Side shortly after 9 p.m. on Sept. 20. While dining on gourmet food and sipping drinks, guests took in some of the city’s most spectacular sights, including Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty, Governor’s Island and the New York City Waterways by artist Gaila Eilar. Director of Alumni Relations Tammy Hammershoy said it was a fantastic evening with a diverse group of people that included faculty, staff, students, donors, alumni, parents of alumni and community members. “Everybody had a lovely time,” said Hammershoy.

**Scholarship award reception**

More than 500 students, parents, donors, faculty and staff participated in a new opportunity to celebrate student scholarships in the Grand Ballroom of the WCSU Student Center. In the past, the school’s Office of Institutional Advancement has sponsored an annual Scholarship Award Reception. As of this year, staff from WestConn’s Office of Institutional Advancement will join in the celebration. This year, a total of 248 new, renewed and increased scholarship awards were presented. A total of 248 scholarships were awarded to students in the following disciplines: Business Administration, Education, Criminal Justice, and Allied Health.

**Culinary Trip**

A successful bid-bidding was the perfect backdrop for the Alumnae Association’s trip to the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) in Hyde Park, N.Y. About 30 people boarded a bus on Oct. 25 for a four-hour-long trip that was well worth it. At the CIA’s Executive Restaurant, guests were treated to cream of mushroom soup and Monte Carlo salad before the main course of beef tenderloin wrapped in puff pastry with mushroom duxelles. The meal was topped off with a flourless chocolate cake covered in chocolate mousse. The group then headed for Poughkeepsie, N.Y., to tour Lucille Glaze, the Rabanella villa also owned by Samuel F. Morse, inventor of the electromagnetic telegraph. The historic home and 100-acre property were operated by the public in 1899 after the death of its last owner, Anna Lee Young.

**Lifelong passion for opera inspires Elias collection gift**

The Elias collection is interesting because it offers a largely unknown level of the Haas Library. “There will be performances in here that have not been put on CD, and may in fast play better on vinyl,” Elias, who died Feb. 25 at the age of 82, served UConn as dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences from 1974 to 1988 and as acting vice president for academic affairs from 1988 to 1990. Born in England, he served in the aftermath of World War II as chief of the voluntary agencies liaison division of the International Refugee Organization, where he directed efforts to assist Jewish orphans and victims of the Holocaust in arranging for resettlement in Israel. He immigrated to the United States in 1952 and pursued college studies at Columbia University in New York, taking his first academic appointment in 1960 on the faculty of the City College of New York and earning his Ph.D. in philosophy from Columbia in 1965.

**New program aims to enhance leadership skills**

By Robin DeMerell

Starting this fall, students with a minimum of 30 undergraduate or six graduate credits will be nominated by members of the WCSU community, or self-nominated, based on academic background, leadership potential and extracurricular involvement. No prior leadership experience is required.

The HSLP is a joint program offered by the Divisions of Business and Economics, as well as the School of Business and Public Management.

**Philanthropy Day**

By Robert Taylor

Dr. Julius A. Elias found the time to participate in a new opportunity to learn enhanced leadership skills. Through this year’s Hancock Student Leadership Program (HSLP), a new program designed to acknowledge, promote and foster diverse student leadership on campus, at least 20 students will be selected each academic year to participate.

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**Readathon**

Students Christina Kalafut and Jessica Costello participate in the Readathon as part of WestConn’s annual Banned Books Week celebration.

**Conn. Film Festival press conference**

President James W. Schmotter (far right) joined (l-r) Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton, Film Festival organizer Tom Cutruzzola, State Rep. Jason Bartlett and State Rep. James Amann at a press conference in the Palace Theater on Main Street, Danbury, to discuss how grants from the city and the state of Connecticut will boost next year’s Connecticut Film Festival, which will be held for the second time in Danbury, with WestConn serving as one of the viewing venues.

**Diversity Events**

**Diversity lecture series**

(jodikwee from left): Loung Ung, author of “First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers,” shared her account of surviving the Khmer Rouge on Oct. 30 in the Student Center Theater. A reception and book signing followed. Sept. 11 featured the hit off-Broadway production “Platanos and Collard Greens,” a romantic comedy that addressed stereotypes, prejudices and urban myths that exist between African Americans and Latinos, within the context of hip-hop, humor and satire. Dr. Marcelo Suarez-Onoro, of the Harvard Immigration Project, discussed “Rethinking Immigration” in a Diversity Lecture Series talk on Sept. 17 in the Student Center Theater.

The events in the series were sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Affirmative Action.

**Steven D. Neuwirth Lecture**

Dr. Darius Rejali, a nationally recognized expert on government torture and interrogation, was the keynote speaker of the Steven D. Neuwirth Annual Arts and Sciences Lecture. Neuwirth, a longtime professor of English and specialist in Early American literature and history who died in February 2004, helped to establish the university’s Honors Program and served as its first director. Pictured, left to right, are: Neuwirth’s widow, Margaret Solomon; President James W. Schmotter; Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences Dr. Linda Vaden-Goad; and Rejali.

**Diversity lecture series**

**University Mace**

Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences Dr. Frank Geiss leads faculty and administrators as he carries the University Mace during the Entering the Gates ceremony for new and returning students. Geiss took over the Mace as the university’s faculty member with the most longevity following the retirement of Professor of Social Sciences Dr. Thomas Bodenrader, who carried the Mace for more than a decade.

**Solemn Ceremony of Remembrance**

On Sept. 11, WestConn held a solemn ceremony of remembrance for the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on America at noon on the Quadrangle of the Midtown campus. The event featured a bagpiper, patriotic readings by President James W. Schmotter and Professor of Justice and Law Administration Terry Dwyer, and the WCSU Police Color Guard (pictured).

**WestConn Wednesdays**

WestConn’s Student Government Association invited the campus community to participate in a new tradition this fall: the wearing of clothes, hats, etc., emblazoned with the university’s name or logo to demonstrate pride and build school spirit.
Politics hot topic on campus

Politics was a hot topic on campus this semester. Wesleyan held a Mock Presidential Debate on Oct. 21. Participants included (l-r) State Party Chair Rep. Chris Healy for the Republican perspective and former U.S. Senate candidate Ned Lamont, representing the Democratic viewpoint. A panel of local media professionals and students posed questions about major policy areas. Assistant Professor of Political Sciences Jim Bellocq served as moderator.

Faculty and students alike participated in the democratic process, from joining in campaigns to moderating the Cappiello-Murphy debate, as Associate Professor of Political Science Dr. Christopher Kukk did on Oct. 29 at the Portuguese Cultural Center in Danbury.

Ives Concert Park Family Fair

The Ives Authority, under the auspices of the City of Danbury and in partnership with WestConn, hosted “The Ives Family Fair,” a daylong family event at Ives Concert Park on the Westside campus. The event featured community artists and musical acts, followed by the Ives Festival Orchestra, under the direction of Professor of Music Dr. Fernando Jiménez, which performed “Peter and the Wolf” with the Connecticut Ballet.

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Etiquette Dinner

The WCSU Career Development Center hosted the popular “Putting Your Best Fork Forward” Etiquette Dinner in the Ballroom of the Westside Campus Center on the Westside campus on Oct. 14. Ann Marie Sabah, a professional etiquette consultant, discussed “Key Ways to Enhance Your Professional Style” and “Dining Etiquette.” Tips for successful networking and effective communication also were presented to an enthusiastic student audience.

Visiting professor

Linda Rodriguez Guglielmoni, a professor from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez (right), was one of many notable authors and poets to speak during the annual Summer Literary Festival hosted by the Master of Fine Arts in Professional Writing program. Guglielmoni spoke of creating a partnership exchange between her university and WestConn.

APICS honors students

(left) Assistant Professor of Management Douglas Stevens, Association for Operations Management (APICS) President Lee Hendrix, student Anita Edwards, Associate Professor of Management Dr. John Coleman, student Lauren Mattegat and Dean of the Ancell School of Business Dr. Allen Morton at the dinner honoring operations management students for their award-winning essays in the APICS writing contest. Mattegat coauthored the second-place paper and Edwards coauthored the third-place winner.

Hockey Team remembers fallen coach

Peggy Morrissey, longtime partner of WCSU/Hockey Team Assistant Coach Ken Robinson (inset), holds a jersey autographed by members of the team. Robinson was an accomplished journalist who won many regional and national awards while a sports reporter with the Record Journal in Meriden. A hockey player himself, he previously was head coach for Yale’s ACHA Hockey Program, as well as CCSU’s program, where he brought them to the ACHA National Tournament. Robinson, who was with the WCSU Hockey Team for four seasons, died suddenly in May.

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**Art show exhibits students’ goodwill**

By ROBYN LAMARRE

It is the child without a home. It is the child without enough food and water. It is the child without the guidance and nurturing of two loving parents. These are the images economic and political analyst Scott Schwarz brought to WestConn students Adam C. Gillette and Bryn Gillette on July 29. Through Sept. 9, their work was on display as “Inspired Images,” an exhibit of photos taken by Schwarz, a political science major, and paintings by Gillette, a fine arts graduate student.

Schwarz, who traveled to Ghana this past spring as part of the university’s Humanitarian Travel Club, said he shot 20 rolls of film during the 10-day trip. He chose 18 black-and-white photos for the art show. They’re the strongest images. They’re very personal portraits of the children,” said Schwarz, a 25-year-old German and Italian national who lives in Norwalk. He prefers using a medium format camera to digital and prefers black and white over color.

“I like people to focus on the content, rather than the color. Cai Gillette, who is working on his Master’s in Fine Arts in painting, traveled to Haiti twice this year. He visited two homes for orphaned children and captured the essence of the children and the coastal villages in his work. He hopes that people who see the beauty beneath the chaos in his colorful paintings of Haiti.

“If I could say it in words, I wouldn’t have painted it,” said Gillette. “These people saw the beauty right in the midst of the situation and have incredible beauty beneath the chaos in his coastal villages.”

Schwarz, too, was moved by the dozens of children, who ranged in age from 3 months to 18 years, he met at the Ghana orphanage. Most of them orphaned, some abandoned by indigent parents, the children were genuine and curious. The children brought these qualities even more to the surface, Schwarz said.

“If you point a camera here, people smile. The children there have more of a sincerity, an honesty,” he said. Schwarz said in order to make up for the many things they lack, the children are very inventive.

“Though the children are in a sheltered place, they still face great obstacles from inadequate food and water access to lack of secondary school tuition and school supplies,” said Schwarz.

“The children themselves are the sweetest and nicest children I have ever met. They’re incredibly inquisitive and many of them have exceptional talents like drawing and drumming. They have this innate sense of sharing, from the water bottles we gave them, to the toys we brought with us.”

Not knowing what to expect when he traveled thousands of miles away from home, Schwarz said he is grateful that WestConn Adjunct Professor of Anthropology Jeannine Hutcherson, founder of the travel club, asked him to bring his camera along. “If it wasn’t for her, I wouldn’t have taken the pictures,” Schwarz said. “She specifically asked me to document the trip.”

**Ongoing seminar series explores diversity of biological research**

In Science Building Room 219, admission is free, and the public is invited to attend the lectures and the tea reception immediately following each talk.

Dr. Tiffany Doan, assistant professor of biology at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU), presented the second lecture in the series on Oct. 22. Doan’s research has focused on the evolution and ecology of tropical organisms, specifically reptiles and amphibians.

“My principal research program examines the evolutionary and ecological processes that affect the lizard family ‘Gymnophthalmidae,’ which inhabits the Andes Mountains and the Amazon Basin of South America,” Doan explained in research notes on her CCSU Web page. “Other projects include conservation biology and the impact of tourism on amphibians in the southeastern Peruvian rainforest, a description of a new species of snake from Central America, and an examination of the genetic and morphological diversity of rain forest toads.”

Four lectures are scheduled during the 2009 spring semester at WCSU.

• Jan. 24: Fairfield University Assistant Professor of Biology Dr. James Bardi, a specialist on environmental toxicology, will present “Blood and Gut: Neonatal Allergic Sensitization to Rattlesnake Predation.” Bardi observed on his Fairfield University Web page that “California ground squirrels, which have been the subject of extensive research into their natural history and population structure, provided a natural experimental system to explore the effects of evolutionary history and ecological context on defenses to venomous predators.”

• Feb. 25: Dr. Yvonne Beakins, associate professor of science education and environmental studies at Southern Connecticut State University, will lecture on “Sediment Metal Contamination in Connecticut Harbors: Does It Harm Marine Organisms?”

• March 11: Dr. Patrick Beebe, a specialist in environmental chemistry and politics, will continue the discussion on marine pollution along the southern New England coast.

• April 8: Dr. Vincenzo Delucca, assistant professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences Dr. Thomas Enright, will conclude his series with “The Ecological Importance of Sea Turtle Conservation.”

A specialist on evolutionary biology and the adaptation of vertebrates, Pinou traveled this August with a group of WestConn students and instructors from Wooster School in Danbury and the University of Ghana to the Pacific coast of Mexico in Jalisco state, initiating a research study to track the migration of the Ridley turtle species native to the region.

For more information, contact Assistant Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences Dr. Ciera Price at (203) 837-8793.

Ongoing seminar series explores diversity of biological research

There it was — between the pages of a library book, well-worn after many years. After a young girl clear across the country found a Boy Scout program for an event in 1933 at a famous Manhattan hotel, she turned it over to PBS television’s “History Detectives.”

After being contacted by the Oregon girl, the show’s detectives set out to investigate, among other things, if President Franklin Delano Roosevelt — a well-known supporter of the Boy Scouts — was at the event. That’s when they turned to WestConn Professor of History and Non-Western Cultures Dr. Burton Peretti.

Peretti, chairman of the university’s department of history and non-Western cultures, appeared on an episode that aired July 14. His first brush with television fame was filmed in February at the New York Public Library, just two days after the birth of his second child.

The PBS program, which airs Mondays at 9 p.m., attempts to solve historical mysteries by separating fact from myth and exploring challenges that connect local folklore, family legends and interesting objects.

According to the show’s Web site, traditional investigative techniques, modern technologies, and plenty of legwork are the tools used by the History Detectives team of experts to give new — and sometimes shocking — insights into national history. The hosts of the program are a high-energy quartet of renowned experts in the world of historical investigations. Their expertise ranges from architecture, popular culture and sociology to archeology, collectibles and genealogy.

People contact the show with objects or artifacts and ask them to research the history behind them. The show’s detectives then interview people and travel all over the country if need be in search of the answers. The show is not sponsored by the Boy Scouts.

Peretti said the charity ball that he was asked to research was the Waldorf-Astoria. FDR was a well-known supporter of the Boy Scouts. But, said Peretti, during the era of the Great Depression, FDR had myriad economic issues to contend with.

By delving into the archives of the New York Times, Peretti was eventually able to confirm that the economic issues were indeed pressing and on that particular April 1933 evening, he was at the White House hammering out details of an economic plan.

Peretti said it’s great that programs such as “History Detectives” can add so much color and detail to historical events and objects.

“It’s great to reach a large public like that,” said Peretti. “Not many like to see the value in showing what historians have done. It’s grounded in real concerns of the time.”

For more information, contact Peretti at (203) 837-9398.
thoughts. By taking in different her writing is not designed as she prefers to develop the her novels are not plot-driven thing as writer’s block in a like writing. “There’s no such controversial stories for the said the 56-year-old mother to make a living as a writer,” she said. Quindlen talked to the students as a novelist and columnist, — and said none of them thinks it’s easy. After talking briefly about her life as a reporter and then as a novelist and columnist. Quindlen talked to the students about the realities of being a writer. “It’s hard to figure out how to make a living as a writer,” she told the 36-year-old mother of three: Quindlen said she developed an early penchant for writing and “fell into” journalism in high school, contributing columns and stories for the school’s newspaper. Being a newspaper reporter with Quindlen,Often, she would read Man and later writing for The New York Times, Quindlen said her journalism experience prepared her for being a novelist. She learned to write even during times when she didn’t feel like writing, the same way she writes as such thing as writer’s block in a newswroom,” she said. Quindlen, who published her first novel at age 35, said her novels are not plot-driven as she writes to develop the characters. Her favorite author is Charles Dickens, whom she says is one of the most lyrical of smaller description who brings everything to life. As a columnist for Newweek, Quindlen often writes about family, current events and political issues. “We need to talk kitchen-table talk. That’s how we make a democracy as a columnist,” she said. The author explained that her novels are not plot-driven as she writes to change hearts or minds, but to share her opinions and thoughts. By taking in different emotions and private thoughts, “sometimes it takes you to a place you wouldn’t go if you relied on ethics and politics.” Quindlen started as a columnist in 1990 and said she’s been given great latitude. Although women tend to want to bring people together, Quindlen said, writing to please everyone doesn’t enhance our understanding. Rather than writing for her audience, she writes what she believes. She makes phone calls and checks facts, she said, and reads her work and then reads it out loud. “If it doesn’t sound like yourself, start over... and find your rhythm. That’s invaluable in terms of setting and holding your reader.” She’s a citizen whose voice needs to be heard, she said. “As a columnist, you can’t have the arrogance to think above it all, you have to have the confidence to use your gift as the voice and opinions of others.” She also warned students not to write for their audience — which could be the 19-year-old who’s been reading the New York Times since grade school or the senator who didn’t like your last column. “There’s a danger of homogenizing everything. Thinking of an audience can stop you from writing what you really want to write.” After one student asked if Quindlen felt her ideas were original, Quindlen shot back that “there are no more original ideas left. What you bring to the table that is unique is yourself, your style, your point of view: As a columnist, I’m always trying to advance the argument somehow. It requires you to go further and further and further.” In addition to her supportive readers, Quindlen’s supportive readers. Quindlen said she received plenty of mail from unhappy readers. One letter reminded her in mind and her children still tease her about it years later. It read: “When you look in the mirror, do you see the face of Satan?” She has learned to accept that not everyone is going to like her. She says that writing what you believe can make you unpopular. “But you have to get over it or you can’t write the things you need to write,” she said. “People feel like you’re standing up for them.” As a student asked her whether newspapers will survive the future of ever-increasing technological advances and whether people will continue to read books, Quindlen supported the written profession. “Now (is) one of the most fraught and dynamic moments for the written word.” Although no one can predict the landscape of writing and how it will change in the future, she said people need to write, to keep their shoes in good shape, their hair buckle. Girls were warned not to wear high heels, Quindlen said, and people need to write, to keep their shoes in good shape, their hair buckle. Girls were warned not to wear high heels, Quindlen said, and people need to write, to keep their shoes in good shape, their hair buckle. 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WestConn employees find innovative ways to save money on gas using Rideshare

WestConn hosts West African college students

Although the West African country of Ghana has been a democratic society for decades, in some of the small villages access to the judicial system is difficult. Disputes can lead to dishonesty at best and violence at worst. A clash over leadership or property can last close to 100 years without a proper channel of conflict resolution. As part of Project Reconciliation — Ghana 2008, college students from Ghana stayed at WestConn for one week at the end of July to learn skills that will enable them to be trained arbitrators in the villages that need help.

“The Giving to Ghana Foundation, Inc.,” a nonprofit organization, has committed to addressing the needs of residents in Sunyani and sent 20 students from the Catholic University of Ghana in Sunyani to WestConn. For several days, the students trained first-hand in New York City, mostly to attend seminars at St. John’s University School of Law, the New York Judicial Institute and Fordham University School of Law. Then they spent one day at WestConn with Professor of Political Science Dr. Averell Manes, who taught them the non-legal aspects of resolving conflicts.

The students looked at case studies from Ireland and South Africa, the development of arbitration in the United States and the resolution of conflict. They also participated in mock arbitration and mediation, which included non-legal verbal communication skills, problem solving, listening and information sharing. Manes said much insight and positive change can be gained from conflict and its management.

“Conflict is an inevitable feature of human interaction and the benefits can be substantial,” Manes said. “When students from Ghana came to WestConn, they took home a strong belief that people have the right and the ability to resolve their own conflicts. A third party can be essential in facilitating outcomes that are efficient, effective and truly based in the needs of the individuals involved in the conflict.”

Congratulations!

Secondo, student ACS chapter honored

WestConn’s American Chemical Society (ACS) Student Affiliates chapter has been selected to receive a ‘Commendable Award’ for its activities during the 2007-08 academic year. ACS Vice President Dr. Bruce Bursten wrote, “Professor Paula Secondo, faculty adviser of the chapter, deserves special commendation. Few faculty members are willing to make the great commitment of time and energy that a successful chapter requires.”

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Theatergoers find that at WestConn, 'Life is a Cabaret'

``What good is sitting alone in your room? Come hear the music play. Life is a Cabaret, old chum, come to the Cabaret.'" — by Sondheim

``Well... what are you waiting for?''

Fourty-two years after the hit show 'Cabaret' opened at the Broadway Theatre and took Broadway by storm in November 1966, the WestConn theatre arts department is bringing to the school’s theatre-lovers to 'come hear the music play' at its production of the multi-tony-winning play the first three weekends in November.

The show ran for 3,165 performances on Broadway, but local theatre enthusiasts will only have nine opportunities to be transported back in time to 1930s Berlin.

Performances will be Thursday, Nov. 6, and at 8 p.m. on Opening Night, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 21 – 23 and Sunday, Nov. 24. There will be a matinee at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 15. The public is invited.

Tickets will be $22 for adults, and $18 for seniors and non-WestConn students with valid ID will be admitted free.

``The show in a lot of ways parallels what’s going on in today’s society,’’ Bagley said. "Hopefuly the audience will see the connection in our current political and economic situation to 1930s Berlin.’’

WestConn alumni couples who want to enjoy dinner before their theatre experience on Friday, Nov. 7, can buy a combination dinner-theatre ticket for $45. The Alumni Dinner-theatre will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Warner Hall on the university’s Midtown campus. A limited number of tickets are available for the dinner theatre. To make a reservation, call the Office of Alumni Relations at (203) 857-8290.

For tickets or more information, call the Box Office at (203) 837-8449 or go to www.wcssu.edu/tickets.

Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts Liz Popiel discusses the set design for 'Cabaret.'

Elias served for 12 years as managing editor of the Journal of the History of Ideas and authored numerous scholarly articles and several books, including "Plato’s Defense of Poetry" and "The Antecedents of Nazism: Weimar.’’ He retired from the UConn faculty in 1992, and remained a frequent lecturer as a professor emeritus offering courses on philosophy, aesthetics and ethics, and as a professor of music who taught graduate seminars in opera. It was his intellectual and artistic interest in opera that many of his colleagues recalled with special fondness, Sherry Fisher wrote in the UConn weekly Advance.

'Elias was an opera aficionado,' Fisher said. 'His friends and colleagues talk about his vast collection of opera records, tapes and DVDs, with multiple copies of a given opera performed by different singers. He translated about a dozen operas into English for Columbia Records and other companies, gave graduate seminars in music on the department on major composers, and published articles on operas,' she noted.

'After he retired in 1992, he continued to teach opera at UConn and at the University of Hartford, and he took groups to New York and to Europe to study opera.'

Stevens observed that his preliminary survey of the collection that it reflects the passion of an avid collector who was widely noted to specialize in a given recording label, singer or orchestra. He wanted to build a comprehensive library of the opera performances of his time. He notes that his collection also includes VHS recordings of operas and performances and a small number of earlier 78 LP recordings dating as far back as the 1920s. The LPs will require re-recording to preserve the performances and to identify the fragility of the original disks.

The Elias family’s decision to donate the opera collection to WestConn has provided a wide-ranging survey of 20th century operatic history that will be made available for future listening and research at the university. Stevens has compiled and published a finding aid to enable the public to browse titles of LP holdings in the collection via the Web that will facilitate searches for a specific work, performance, conductor, orchestra or vocalist, and has added the collection to the library’s CONSULS catalog.

Stevens observed that the true value of individual recordings in the collection may become known only after music researchers have had time to explore the list of holdings for operatic gems. "The longer we have this collection, and the more people see the finding guide online, the better the chance that people will see a particular recording in the list and identify it as a rare find,” he said.

When the legendary soprano Beverly Sills died in July 2007, Elias offered a hint of the treasures in his collection in the remembrance he submitted to Sills’ online guestbook: ‘I have most of her recordings, and especially cherish some of the Strauss items her Zerbinetta in ‘Ariadne,’ a rare video of a concert performance in Boston under (Orr) Leinwand, and the finest ‘Brecht Uber Mein Haupt’ among the many I have.’

Access to the Elias collection may be arranged by appointment with Stevens, who may be reached in the archives department of the Haas Library by phone at (203) 857-8992 or e-mail at stevensb@wcsu.edu. Visitors may listen to LPs or view videotapes in a listening/viewing room that Stevens has established in the archives area. In addition, visitors may use the new room to listen to the archives’ other LP collections, which include materials received from Ruth Steinkraus-Cohen and a number of spoken-word recordings.

The Elias collection finding aid is available online at http://library.wcssu.edu/archives/units/archives/findingaids/elias.xml. For more information, call Stevens at (203) 837-8992.
Music events - November & December 2008

NOV. 9 ORCHESTRA: The WCSU Orchestra will perform at 7:30 p.m. in Ives Concert Hall in White Hall on the Midtown campus. The performance will be free and open to the public; donations to the music department will be accepted. For more information, call (203) 837-8350.

NOV. 11 VETERANS DAY OBSErvANCE: WCSU will host a Veterans Day Observance, featuring a keynote address by author Dr. Jefferson Wiggins at noon in Ives Concert Hall in White Hall on the Midtown campus. For more information, call (203) 837-8606.

NOV. 12 PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE: The WCSU Percussion Ensemble will perform at 8 p.m. in Ives Concert Hall in White Hall on the Midtown campus. The performance will be free and open to the public; donations to the music department will be accepted. For more information, call (203) 837-8350.

NOV. 13 PIANO RECITAL: Students in WestConn’s music program will present a piano studio recital at 8 p.m. in Ives Concert Hall in White Hall on the Midtown campus. The event will be free and open to the public; donations to the music department will be accepted. Call (203) 837-8350 for more information.

NOV. 19 SYMPHONIC BAND & WIND ENSEMBLE: The WCSU Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble will perform at 8 p.m. in Ives Concert Hall in White Hall on the Midtown campus. The program will include a variety of music, including works by Beethoven, Brahms, and other composers. For more information, call (203) 837-8350.

DEC. 5 JAZZ COMBOS: The WCSU Jazz Combos will perform at 8 p.m. in Ives Concert Hall in White Hall on the Midtown campus. The program will feature music byjuice, Count Basie, and other jazz greats. For more information, call (203) 837-8350.

DEC. 14 HOLIDAY JAZZ: WCSU’s Holiday Jazz, featuring Frankinez, conducted by Andrew Beals, will feature music by The Ink Spots and other holiday favorites. For more information, call (203) 837-8350.

Dates and times are subject to change. Check our online events calendar to ensure the event you are interested in is still scheduled. All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. For more information about these and other events, please call the Office of University Relations at (203) 837-8486 or visit www.wcsu.edu.

Need directions? Please visit www.wcsu.edu/directions.