by Shari Hill

When local philanthropists Constantine (Deno) and Marie Macricostas pledged $1.1 million to Western Connecticut State University in 2003, they envisioned several goals, including the creation of an endowed chair in Hellenic and Modern Greek Studies.

That goal soon will become reality pending Connecticut State University Board of Trustees approval for renowned historian Dr. Guy MacLean Rogers to begin an appointment as the Macricostas Chair in Hellenic and Modern Greek Studies for 2006-07.

Once approved, his “Alexander: The Great: Psychopath or Philosopher King” course will be open to the public and there are no prerequisites.

Rogers has been affiliated with Wellesley College in Wellesley, Mass., since 1985, serving as an assistant professor of Greek, Latin and history; associate professor of classics and history; professor of history and classics; and chairman of the history department. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Ancient History, a Master of Arts in Ancient World, and a Senior Certificate in Hellenic and Latin.

Rogers has authored or edited countless academic articles and seven books: “The Sacred Identity of Ephesus: Foundation Myths of a Roman City,” “Black Athena Revisited,” “Boots of the Western Tradition: A Short History of the Ancient World,” “Alexander: The Ambiguity of Greatness” and three volumes in the “Boston: The Greek World and the East” series: “The Greek World, Jews and the East,” “Government, Society and Culture in the Roman Empire” and “The Roman Republic and the Augustan Revolution.” Rogers also has received numerous research grants and awards, and lectures around the world.

His areas of interest include Alexander the Great, Greek and Roman religion, ancient and modern historiography, Greek and Latin epigraphy, and Western civilization.

In announcing Rogers’ appointment, WestConn President James W. Schmotter said, “I can’t think of a better initial appointment for the Macricostas chair than Guy Rogers. He is an internationally recognized scholar in his field and possesses the energy and intellectual versatility that fit WestConn perfectly. He will help us develop the academic intent of the chair in exciting ways that will fulfill the trust that Deno and Marie Macricostas have placed in us through their generosity.”

Deno Macricostas also was pleased. “The chair in Hellenic and Modern Greek Studies at WestConn was established to enhance the academic dialogue between Hellenism and the community at-large,” Macricostas said. “As a preeminent scholar and author, Dr. Rogers is an exciting selection to fill this position. Perhaps more importantly, I am impressed by the professor’s approach to the material — an approach that not only lends authority to that dialogue, but also life and energy. I look forward to a great experience for Dr. Rogers and the students, faculty and friends of Western Connecticut State University in the 2006-07 academic year.”

Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences Dr. Linda Vadon-Goad agreed. She was a member of the search and selection committee that narrowed the field of candidates for the position.

“We are creating a Center for the Study of Culture and Values, and with that in mind we gathered input from all the academic departments that would interact with the Hellenic and Modern Greek Studies Chair,” Vadon-Goad said. “Dr. Rogers was overwhelmingly our first choice. He’s such a scholar, he has so many exciting ideas, and we’re just delighted that he’s going to be here.

“All of us who have read the course description of the first class he’s going to teach are just so excited about it and want to take it,” Vadon-Goad added. “He’s going to bring a richness and diversity and assimilation. Read excerpts from the blog fellow student Elaine Nadal wrote during the debut this August of WestConn’s Global Academy in Puerto Rico.”

Trustees approve new school

The Board of Trustees of the Connecticut State University (CSU) system in June approved formation of a new School of Visual and Performing Arts at WestConn. It will establish WestConn as the premier regional center for cultural, intellectual and artistic excellence.

WestConn’s fourth school will bring together the art, theatre and music departments to allow the university to better promote and grow the art disciplines.

“This new school is a perfect example of how WestConn employs its regional advantage to educate for global realities,” said President James W. Schmotter. “It also will serve as a hub for the many other arts organizations and initiatives in our area. It will complement and collaborate with other impressive cultural resources of our region.”

The school will allow WestConn to:

◆ Offer the highest-quality educational, pro-professional, and professional programming within a liberal arts environment;
◆ Recruit the highest-quality students in the arts disciplines;
◆ Fulfill the role of designated center for the arts of the CSU system;
◆ Attract major funding for scholarships and endowed faculty chairs;
◆ Enhance the cultural life and image of the university and;
◆ Provide significant experiences in the arts for all students in academic programs across the university.

Dr. Carol Hawkes, current associate vice president for academic affairs, has been named the founding dean of the school.

“This is much more than a beginning,” Hawkes said. “This is the culmination of a century of building.

Media Mentions

Below is a sampling of mentions about WestConn that appeared in the local and regional media.

August and September 2006

POLITICIANS FACE CHALLENGES: DANNY KUKK GETS CRITICIZED; CANIDATES LOCKED IN COMPETITIVE RACES

Republican presidential candidate John McCain added a new voice to those supporting the popular Gov. M. Jodi Rell. Kukk said the protests were hurtful to the state’s business and tourism. “It’s not our country’s economy that is at stake,” she said. Kukk, a political science professor at WestConn, adds that running on the same ticket as the ultra-conservative Republican party candidate is difficult to know who will have control, Kukk said.

IMAGE OF YOUTH SPORTS TAKES ANOTHER HIT

The arrest of a football player’s father in the on-field assault Sunday of a 12-year-old player in the opposing team is the latest snag that youth sports programs must resolve if they are to continue to serve children, observers say.

“It’s not out of control, but it’s over the top,” says a nationally known expert on serial killers. “I don’t believe he ever intended to kill,” says a nationally known expert on serial killers. “I don’t believe he ever intended to kill,” says a nationally known expert on serial killers. “I don’t believe he ever intended to kill,” says a nationally known expert on serial killers. “I don’t believe he ever intended to kill,” says a nationally known expert on serial killers. “I don’t believe he ever intended to kill,” says a nationally known expert on serial killers.

EXPERTS SAY ‘WASTING TIME’ CAN BE GOOD FOR WORKERS

American employers are spending nearly one in four of their time not focusing on their jobs, according to a survey. But that “wasted” time can sometimes benefit their employees, said local management expert.

EXPERT: NIELSEN LIKELY DIDN’T PLAN ON SERIAL KILLER

A nationally known expert on serial killers says he never intended to kill. “I don’t believe he ever intended to kill,” says a nationally known expert on serial killers. “I don’t believe he ever intended to kill,” says a nationally known expert on serial killers. “I don’t believe he ever intended to kill,” says a nationally known expert on serial killers. “I don’t believe he ever intended to kill,” says a nationally known expert on serial killers.

N Collector — accused in the Labor Day weekend slayings of four people in Noreen and Upton — all goes back to the first killing, says a nationally known expert on serial killers. “I don’t believe he ever intended to kill,” says a nationally known expert on serial killers.

GOOD FOR WORKERS

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President’s Initiatives Fund project update

The President’s Initiatives Fund is a $300,000 fund established to enhance the academic departments and endowed faculty chairs; recruiting the highest-quality students in the arts disciplines; providing significant experiences in the arts for all students in academic programs across the university; and providing diversity and assimilation. Read excerpts from the blog fellow student Elaine Nadal wrote during the debut this August of WestConn’s Global Academy in Puerto Rico.
Foley outlines police perjury issues at Oxford Round Table

By Paul Steinmetz

Consider this scenario: A police officer spots a known drug dealer parked in a neighborhood. As he walks up to the car, the cop notices a packet of powder in the gutter. The officer receives permission to search the dealer and his car but finds nothing. If the package of powder were in the vehicle, he would have to make an arrest that would stick. The fact that the powder was in the gutter makes it likely that a prosecution would at least have enough evidence to proceed to trial.

If you were a police officer whose goal is to get drug dealers off the street, could you justify lying about where you found the drugs?

Some police officers can.

Dr. Michael O. Foley, associate professor and chairman of the Division of Justice and Law Administration, wrote his dissertation on the subject and recently lectured at Oxford University about police perjury.

“Police perjury is a little secret in criminal justice that no one wants to talk about,” Foley said.

Although he did not come up with the percentage of police who perjure themselves, 70 percent of police in one survey he conducted said they believed some officers had lied about arrests.

Other work has shown evidence of pervasive police perjury, too.

In the mid 1990s, more than 30 police officers from New York’s 30th Precinct were arrested for falsifying information. More than 100 defendants were released from prison, and the city paid more than $10 million in civil damages.

Also in New York, the Mollen Commission was formed in 1992 to investigate corruption in the department and coined the phrase “testifying.”

In 2010 the Ramps corruption scandal rocked the Los Angeles Police Department.

Foley, who retired in 1994, wrote a book, “Police Corruption in New York City Policing Department” after 25 years of service, several factors lead police officers to perjure themselves.

“Some of these factors have a department is organized. If officers are promoted more often when they make more arrests or obtain more convictions, Foley’s research found, perjury is more frequent. He also found some officers convinced themselves that convicting criminals was a good reason to lie — so-called “noble-cause corruption.”

Foley found methods to lessen police perjury, too. In addition to removing a connection between the number of arrests and convictions and the likelihood of perjury, he found that continually educate members of the force about the ethics of police work and methods that are illegal.

In addition, Foley said, cops seen by their fellow officers as a “good cop” are less likely to perjure themselves. Foley said the survey he conducted said they believed 70 percent of police in one study thought perjury goes down in departments that continually educate members of the force about the ethics of police work and methods that are illegal.

One reason police perjury is difficult to stop, Foley said, is that other law enforcement personnel see it as a help in fighting crime.

“Everyone knows some lying goes on,” Foley said, including judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys. “They condone it. This is also an international phenomenon, not just an issue in the United States.”

Another reason is the practical application of the Fourth and 14th amendments to the U.S. Constitution. The Fourth Amendment states government agents must have probable cause to search an individual. The Fourth Amendment states the government may not “deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.”

In an investigation, Foley pointed out, a police officer may have met all the requirements for probable cause to arrest someone. A prosecutor must then decide whether the circumstances of the arrest meet the higher standard of proof “beyond a reasonable doubt” required at trial, thereby preserving the defendant’s right to due process.

“It shows where theory and practice don’t quite meet,” Foley said. “I don’t have a good answer for why there are very practical reasons why we have different standards of proof. But the dichotomy between the standard of proof at the time of arrest and then in a prosecution is conducing to police perjuring themselves more.”

Foley conducted his research for his doctoral dissertation, and has continued to do work on police ethics. He directed his efforts to policy reform so long as police perjury is still a problem.

“The first step is to realize that there is a problem,” Foley said.

“It shows where theory and practice don’t quite meet,” Foley said. “I don’t have a good answer for why there are very practical reasons why we have different standards of proof. But the dichotomy between the standard of proof at the time of arrest and then in a prosecution is conducing to police perjuring themselves more.”

WestConn’s music department is warming up for a busy fall and winter schedule. And the music they’ll be making this semester primarily will be performed by composers who hail from the Americas. Here’s a preview of what’s ahead.

Faculty recital/Dt. 9, noon

Music Professor of Dr. Mary-Kelly Walker and Associate Professor of Music Dr. William Raff will perform a recital on viola and piano. Works by Raff include Franz Joseph Haydn, Franz Schubert, and Paul Hindemith and Lowell Liebermann will be featured.

WCSU Jazz Combos/Dt. 13, 8 p.m.

Featuring performers will be the award-winning "Frankenhaus” quintet, conducted by Andrew Brelske, the Jazz Ensemble, conducted by Dave Scott; and the Jazz Orchestra, conducted by David Smaltz.

Four Big Band Combos will be showcased by the Jazz Orchestra, featuring music by Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Benny Goodman, and Glenn Miller.

North campus will be transformed into a 1940s style dance floor and a "Fall Occasion" buffet will be served.

Oktoberfest Jazz/Dt. 27, 8 p.m.

Featuring performers will be the award-winning "Frankenhaus” quintet, conducted by Andrew Brelske, the Jazz Ensemble, conducted by Dave Scott; and the Jazz Orchestra, conducted by David Smaltz.

Four Big Band Combos will be showcased by the Jazz Orchestra, featuring music by Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Benny Goodman, and Glenn Miller.

North campus will be transformed into a 1940s style dance floor and a "Fall Occasion" buffet will be served.
Collar was in his first academic year on the MIS faculty of the Ancell School of Business when he was approached last winter by Dr. Bel Raggad, a native Tunisian and Collar’s former professor during his graduate studies at Pace University in New York. Raggad asked Collar if he would be interested in presenting a paper on the readability of computer programming code — the subject of his doctoral dissertation and a primary focus of his continuing research — to university students in Jendouba, Tunisia.

Collar thought he was kidding at first but I said, ‘Sure, I’ll go!’” Collar recalled. Since Raggad had cautioned him that it would be impossible to confirm arrangements until shortly before the proposed seminar date, “I took a risk, bought an airline ticket and made all the arrangements — and it didn’t turn out, it was going to be a vacation. Just two days before I was due to leave, Bel called me and said, ‘You’re on!’

What followed was an eight-day visit to Tunisia in March, highlighted by Collar’s seminar presentation before a group of highly motivated and well-trained master’s students in information science at the University of Jendouba. Collar, who earned his doctoral degree in information systems at the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2005, said the day-long seminar summarized the methodology and findings of his recent doctoral research.

“I have to admit that when I first arrived there, I was a little nervous,” he said. “I wasn’t sure how I was going to be received. But I have always been a risk-taker, and now the students and faculty at the University of Jendouba know about Western Connecticut State University.”

Whatever differences his hosts may have had with U.S. government policy in the Middle East, Collar’s reception was uniformly warm and respectful during his extensive travels in this predominantly Muslim nation, nestled on North Africa’s Mediterranean coast less than 100 miles southwest of Sicily. From his seminar and many informal meetings and meals with faculty and students at Jendouba and other locations in Tunisia, Collar came away deeply impressed by the commitment and purpose the students brought to their studies.

“There was so much enthusiasm for the research, and these occasions allowed me to turn it around and see what the students there were working on,” he observed. “The government channels a tremendous amount of money into education and, from what I saw, the average Tunisian is very highly educated. It was amazing how much pride they have in their schools.”

After his presentation, students at Jendouba peppered Collar with questions about American higher education and sought information about how to access the WestConn Web site so they could learn more about his university. Throughout his stay, students addressed Collar by his academic title of “doctor” or “professor,” even in informal conversations.

“That’s another sign of how much they value education,” he said. “And boy, are they sharp in math! In some areas of theoretical statistics, they were even getting over my head. They understood me very well.”

The Tunisian seminar provided Collar with his first opportunity to present findings from his doctoral research to an international audience. His research objective is to lay the theoretical and statistical foundations for developing a text-based model to evaluate the readability of computer programming code, much as the Flesch and Flesch-Kincaid tests apply formulas that measure the complexity of written text. The test, he said, is designed to help curriculum developers, educational researchers and educators develop guidelines to assess the suitability of computer education programs for various student populations.

Collar’s seminar highlighted his subject of continuing research — the development of a text-based model to evaluate the readability of computer programming code — which emerged as a concern around the country after the terrorist attacks five years ago.

A hazardous materials drill at the Science Building on Sept. 10 showed that the post-9/11 training for fire departments and other emergency personnel has improved disaster response. It also demonstrated that communications equipment — which emerged as a concern around the country after the terrorist attacks five years ago — now is in place.

The drill simulated a laboratory explosion and release that injured six and killed three. The drill also included a mock chemical spill on Interstate-84 in Waterbury and another incident at an industrial plant in Torrington. Danbury and New Milford hospitals took in victims.

If the drill worked as planned, emergency crews at each of the three sites would be able to talk to each other. They might have figured out if the incidents were related terrorist attacks. In that case, firefighters at each scene also could share information about the chemicals involved, how to deal with them, and whether more attacks were coming.

T.J. Wiedel, deputy fire marshal for the Danbury Fire Department, said all responders to potential terror attacks have been trained since 9/11 to anticipate that the crews who are the first to show up at an incident are also likely to be attacked again, with more explosions or other methods.

Each of the three mock chemical spills were eventually treated as isolated incidents, partly because the new radio system installed by the state didn’t work and the three sites could not talk to each other.

“We bit off more than we can chew when we tried to hook up with Waterbury, Torrington and New Milford,” said Danbury Fire Chief Peter Siecienski. The Northwest Regional Hazardous Material Team, whose members include Luigi Marcone, WestConn’s director of Environmental & Facilities Services, and Pano Koukopoulos, health, safety and environmental affairs specialist, will work with the state Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security to evaluate what went wrong. On the positive side, the portable radios that also are part of the new system did work. And the teams from different agencies involved in the WestConn event, including President James W. Schmotter and his leadership group, responded to the incident in concert.

Marcone said everyone involved expected the drill to be a learning experience, highlighting successes and areas where improvement is needed.

“While this drill was hazardous-materials related, it tested the policies and procedures in place at WestConn and across the state to deal with emergency situations in general,” Marcone said.

Siecienski pointed out that a crew of Torrington firefighters were on scene to join the Danbury rescue crew that wore full protective gear to enter the building and pull out victims. Even though the two departments had never worked together before, they relied on the training they have received over the past five years and executed the rescue seamlessly.

“Hazmat teams are labor intensive,” said Rey Rodriguez, the hazmat coordinator for the Danbury Fire Department. “We mixed and matched and it worked very well.”

The drill helped WestConn anticipate what kind of information it would need if a disaster of that scale does happen on campus. For instance, the names of injured students and faculty were not quickly available, which raised questions of how to handle calls from worried families. Schmotter formed a committee to look at the issue and report back.

Gathering resources for counseling students and staff, training needs and campus concerns were among other issues Schmotter’s team discussed.

Siecienski predicted the regional team would schedule more drills.

“We had many more pluses on my sheet than minuses,” he said. ■

WestConn participates in area ‘hazmat’ drill

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Program offers students new perspectives on ‘TEAM Leadership’

From the athletic field to the classroom, WestConn is building a new generation of students destined to assume leadership roles in business, government and society — and a growing number are receiving valuable training for that challenge thanks to the university’s Student Center/Student Life Office.

Now entering its third year at WestConn, the Together Everyone Achieves More (TEAM) Leadership program challenges undergraduate students of all class levels to explore and develop their leadership potential through an eight-week series of workshops, offered in the fall and spring semesters. Each workshop focuses on specific skills and characteristics integral to individual and group leadership, presented in an informal and interactive setting designed to engage students in discussion, problem-solving and teamwork.

Dennis Leszko, assistant director of Student Center/Student Life and coordinator of the TEAM Leadership program, said the fall 2006 series of weekly workshops will begin Oct. 10. In an effort to broaden program participation during the 2005-06 academic year, Leszko said the Student Center/Student Life Office will present a weekend retreat in late October designed to cover the fundamental aspects of leadership training also offered in the weekly workshop series.

“We’ve come to a point in the program’s evolution where we are offering greater options to provide more opportunities for student participation,” he said.

Thirteen students received certificates of recognition at WestConn’s annual student leadership banquet last May upon successful completion of the leadership development program during the 2005-06 academic year. Leszko noted that scheduling conflicts with evening classes and other co-curricular activities prevented many prospective participants from joining, and he expressed hope that the weekend retreat will offer a workable alternative for these students.

The TEAM Leadership program has evolved since its introduction in fall 2003 as a series of workshops offered exclusively by Student Center/Student Life Office staff into an expanded collaboration involving experts from Student Life, the university faculty and the Danbury community. New workshops offered during the spring 2006 semester featured Assistant Director of Career Development Lisa Garanzza, on networking; Assistant Counselor Dr. Katrina Smith, on self-esteem; Pati Cohen-Hecht, executive director of The Volunteer Center of Danbury, on community involvement opportunities; and Student Center/Student Life Director Dr. Paul M. Simon, on “Stop the Hate” anti-discrimination strategies and practices.

Simon and Leszko offer workshops on topics including group dynamics, meeting and parliamentary procedures, and a group exercise simulating a real-life “survival at sea” crisis. The Student Center/Student Life Office and the Career Development Center will cosponsor the second annual “etiquette dinner” presented by business consultant Anne Marie Salath of Ease Inc. at 5 p.m. on Oct. 18 in Warner Hall. Students must register in advance at the CDC office in the Student Center; the dinner fee is $7.

Program participants have access to a small resource library composed of books and periodicals about leadership-related themes, currently maintained by the office at the Student Center on the Midtown campus. The Westside Campus Center will house an expanded Leadership Resource Library when the center opens for the spring 2007 semester.

Leszko views TEAM Leadership as an important first step toward tapping into and developing the full leadership potential of WestConn students.

“Our hope is one day to offer a four-stage leadership program where we would provide freshmen with the basics, and then offer enhanced leadership training at the sophomore, junior and senior levels,” he said.

In its present form as a program in fundamental skills for all class levels, he added, “students already receive exposure to a lot of the elements they will be running into in the workplace such as group dynamics, group decision-making, meeting agendas and parliamentary procedures. Much of what we teach even at the beginning level deals with skills such as job-related networking and helping students to become more comfortable with other people in business and social situations.”

WestConn faculty and staff can nominate students who would benefit from the leadership development program. Students who wish to participate may apply directly by contacting Leszko at (203) 837-8214.

For more information, call Hawkes at (203) 837-8851.

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by Robert Taylor

When he first arrived nearly 50 years ago as a freshman at Danbury State College — then known as Western Connecticut State University — Bernard Reidy could scarcely have imagined the journey ahead for himself and for the university that continues to benefit from his lifelong commitment to academics.

A 1963 graduate with a bachelor’s in business administration, Reidy has come a long way from his beginnings as a teacher in the Monroe, Conn., school system to his present role as the chief fiscal officer for the Archdiocese of New York. In a recent interview at Old Main — the historic Midtown campus building where he once sat for classes as an undergraduate — he credited his studies at Danbury State for setting him on a path to personal fulfillment and professional success.

“It was a unique experience,” Reidy recalled. “We were very much a family on campus. Class sizes were small, and you got to know just about every student on campus and every faculty member. Some of my best friends today are friends I made as an undergraduate.”

“It was a good experience and it served me well,” he said. “That’s one reason I’m anxious to stay involved in this university.”

A Danbury native who now resides with his wife Nancy in Newtown, Reidy feels a special debt of gratitude to his alma mater. WestConn has reaped the benefits of his longstanding financial support and volunteer service. Seven years ago he was tapped by then-President Dr. James R. Roach to join the WCSU Foundation Board; and since then he has collaborated with his board colleagues to advance the physical and academic development of WestConn.

Reidy observed the foundation’s mission is to raise awareness of academic development of WestConn to advance the physical and academic development of WestConn, and since then he has collaborated with his board colleagues to advance the physical and academic development of WestConn.

Reidy continues lifelong commitment to WestConn

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Wine lovers and community invited to Holiday Wine Tasting

by Daan Oltemaske

It’s said that wine is best sipped with friends and, if that is the case, you won’t want to miss the Eighth Annual Holiday Wine Tasting at WestConn. The 2006 Holiday Wine Tasting benefit will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 12, in Warner Hall on the Midtown campus. The donation is $75 per person.

Proceeds from the annual wine tasting support the Caraluzzi Scholarship Endowment. Anthony Caraluzzi, owner of Caraluzzi’s Food Markets in Bethel and Georgetown, created the $38,000 in scholarship grants for WestConn students since 2001. The wine tasting raised about $104,000 for the endowed scholarship.

Dr. Schmotter is a man with a great deal of enthusiasm and focus on the university. He views President James W. Schmotter as a worthy successor who has brought his own vision to guide the next stage in WestConn’s development.

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2006 Homecoming festivities

WestConn Day

Oct. 6

● The annual Golden Circle Luncheon to honor WestConn alumni who graduated more than 50 years ago will be held at 11 a.m. in Warner Hall on the Midtown campus. The cost is $25 per person.

● A rededication ceremony will be at 9:50 a.m. at the Alumni & Friends Circle near Old Main on the Midtown campus. The annual ceremony will be free and open to the public.

The Colonnades will face the College of New Jersey at noon.

The WCSU Alumni Association will host a Hospitality Tent at 10 a.m. in the

WestConn Athletic Complex parking lot on the Westside campus. Snacks and beverages will be free for alumni and their guests to enjoy before the noon kickoff of the homecoming game versus College of New Jersey.

The WCSU Alumni Association will host the Class of 1961 45th Reunion at 9:30 a.m. at the Alumni & Friends Circle near Old Main on the Midtown campus. The cost is $25 per person, which includes dinner.

For more information about Homecoming events, call Interim Director of Alumni Relations Tammy Hammershoy at (203) 837-8290.

For reservations and information, call the Office of Institutional Advancement at (203) 837-8290.
WestConn offering new ESL program

WestConn is now offering an English-as-a-Second-Language program that will help immigrants who wish to further their studies by pursuing a higher degree, increase their business marketability, or master the language for advancement purposes. The classes will be goal-oriented and will include study of grammar, listening, reading comprehension and constructive conversation techniques.

The program would be appropriate for working adults and those interested in pursuing higher education.

The four-part English for Academic Purposes program (classes can be taken individually) consists of an intermediate class called Effective Speech and Pronunciation; an advanced class, The English Experience; a correct speech/conversation class, We remember ... WCU pays tribute five years later; and a Speaking class, Effective Speech and Pronunciation; and the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Exam Preparation class.

A certificate of achievement will be given to students who successfully complete the courses. Classes begin on Sept. 6, and will run a full semester, finishing in mid-December. The cost is $550, which includes tuition, registration and books. No placement exam is needed. For more information, call the coordinator, Marcia Ancell, at (203) 837-8244.

Effective Speech and Pronunciation, and the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Exam Preparation class. Classes are in the evening, beginning at 6:30 to 6:45 p.m., and last 1 1/2 to two hours.

An advance registration is required for all classes. For more information, call the coordinator, Marcia Ancell, at (203) 837-8244.

The poirot of the notes by David Macell’s bagpiping drew participants to the annual Sept. 11 memorial on the WestConn campus Tuesday. “I’m proud to see many people participated in the WestConn event. “We remember every day, but we’re important for us to remember. Even though it was five years ago, it’s as fresh in our minds as it was yesterday. The senior class of 2005 put on their uniforms to make a strong haunting echo of the heavens on the day of the attacks.”

Nearly 300 members of the WestConn community and area residents joined to remember the fifth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on America under a cerulean canopy dotted by clouds waving on the breeze.

Macell, a professor of justice and law administration, played “Amazing Grace,” “America (My Country, ‘Tis of Thee)” and “God Bless America,” bringing many in the crowd to tears.

The WCSU Police Department Color Guard added patriotic flair, and President Jack J. Wright, and Schenkl, an international educator and New York tour guide, will revisit the German immigrant experience in the United States in the lecture “Kleindeutschland: A Stroll Through 18th and 19th Century New York City.” Schenkl will discuss famous artsman, revolutionaries and entrepreneurs, as well as daily life in the German neighborhood in New York.

The buoyant documentary film “Brass on Fire,” to be shown at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1, in Viewing Room 1 of White Hall, traces the journey of discovery of two German music lovers who introduced the world’s fascination playing gypsy brass band,” now known as Fanfare Ciocarlia, to the international music scene. It is in German and Romanian with English subtitles.

The events will be free and open to the public. For more information, call Dr. Renate Ludanyi at (203) 837-8446.

Ancell MIS program gains renewed federal recognition

The Ancell School of Business (ASB) has become an important player in the federal campaign to strengthen national security through comprehensive education in safeguards to protect the nation’s critical information systems.

The Committee on National Security Systems (CNSS) of the National Security Agency (NSA) recently reaffirmed this special relationship by recertifying that courses in the management information systems (MIS) curriculum with the information security management option have achieved 100 percent compliance with the National Standard for Information Systems Security Professionals (CNSS Standard 4011). WestConn is one of 143 institutions whose curricula have achieved full compliance with a national information security standard.

The CNSS issued its original certification to WestConn in 2004, and the renewed authorization will enable the university to issue certificates of educational compliance with the 4011 standard through June 2010 to all AB graduates who earn a Bachelor of Business Administration in MIS with the information security management option.

MIS Professor Dr. Marie Wright, who coordinated the application for CNSS recertification, noted WestConn successfully demonstrated compliance with national standards in a core curriculum including five MIS courses: Information Systems Concepts, Database Applications in Business, Information Systems Security, Information Assurance and Fundamentals of Data Communications. In addition to Wright, faculty members participating in the certified MIS curriculum are Assistant Professor of Management Dr. Richard Wright, Massett Adjunct Professor Lawrence Immoh, Professor Dr. Gregory Jin, Massett Assistant Professor Dr. Emilio Collar, Director of Student Life Dr. Paul M. Simon and Massett Department Chair and Professor Dr. Richard Montgomery. Wright credited Montague for his leadership and support in maintaining the curriculum focus on information security.

Wright observed WestConn business graduates in the MIS program typically enter the workforce in positions responsible for network information security, database and information management, and similar positions in the corporate world.

“We feel this recertification helps our students gain a more competitive edge in the marketplace,” she said. “When they can put on their resumes that their MIS courses have received the NSA seal of certification, it is a credential they can present as an advantage when they go out job-hunting.

“We see this recertification as a real benefit to our students, to the school and to the entire university,” she added. “We’re quite proud of that.”

For more information, call Wright at (203) 837-9344.

Alumnus receives award from flight nurses group

Christopher Paige, who earned his bachelor’s in nursing from WestConn in 1995, received the Katz-Mason Award from the Air & Surface Transport Nurses Association (ASTNA). According to the award, presented to an active member of ASTNA who is a registered nurse, has demonstrated exceptional leadership and has had a positive impact on flight transport nursing on a global scale.

Paige, a training flight commander of the 86th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron at Ramstein Air Base in Germany, accepted the award at the recent ASTNA annual conference. After WestConn, Paige earned his MS-N/P/F from the University of Colorado. An Air Force officer, he is a certified flight nurse/flight nurse instructor. He’s also a former senior White House nurse. Paige was the winner of a 2003-04 WCSU School of Professional Studies Distinguished Alumni Award.

If you have an announcement about a recent appointment to a board, an award or other professional accomplishment you’d like to share in this section, please e-mail this information to pubs@wcsu.edu.
Two October events to highlight mediation issues

by Vinnie Johnson

“The Ethical Dilemmas in Mediation” and “Mediation and the Courts” will be the focus when WestConn hosts two October events.

The “Ethical Dilemmas in Mediation” brown-bag luncheon will be from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 24, in Room 103 of Warner Hall on the Midtown campus. Danish lawyer Pia Deleuran and photojournalist Sisse Jarner will provide a “visual dialogue collage” to stimulate discussion.

“Mediation and the Courts” will be held at 7 p.m. in Room 240 of the O’Neill Library on the Midtown campus. Macricostas Chair of Modern Greek Studies, Dr. Manes said both events will offer insight for those who want to foster community improvement.

For more information, call Manes at (203) 837-9452.

Macricostas Chair named (cont’d.)

spontaneous to the curriculum that we all will benefit from.”

Rogers said he is looking forward to working at WestConn.

“I am delighted to be coming to WestConn during 2006-07 as the Macricostas Chair in Hellenic and Modern Greek Studies,” Rogers said. “As chair, I will teach a number of courses that will give students an opportunity to learn about the very long time span of Greek history, as well as the profound cultural influences that Hellenic civilization has had on the ancient and modern worlds. To help members of the university and the wider public understand those influences I also am organizing a number of events to be held during the year, including lectures, films and visits to museums with significant collections of Greek artifacts.

For me personally, taking up the Macricostas chair at WestConn this year represents a timely homecoming,” Rogers added. “I grew up in the beautiful hills of Western Connecticut and it was there that my own passion for the study of Greek history was kindled. Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Macricostas, I now have a very welcome chance to share my life-long passion for the study of Greece with members of the WestConn and Danbury communities.”

Deno Macricostas is the founder and chairman of the board of Brookfield-based Photronics Inc., a manufacturer of photomasks, which are used in the process of making computer chips. The Macricostas’ gift to WCSU also included plans for a scholarship fund, a lecture series and an award for entrepreneur of the year.

For more information, call Vaden-Goad at (203) 837-9400.

Collar shares MIS research findings (cont’d.)

to generate reading ease and grade-level scores for text documents in word-processing programs. My research seeks to establish the basis for determining variables to construct formulas for the readability of programming code,” he said. “In Word, you can calculate the readability of text as you write. My goal is to develop formulas that, based on the reading difficulty score, will tell you the level of training you need to understand a programming code.

Collar observed the realization of this goal will require years of further research, but noted the application of readability measures to programming code holds the promise of achieving significant reductions in the time and expense required for programmers to maintain software code.

“IT (information technology) industry knows how difficult it is to maintain and read programming code;” he continued. “Some studies in the past have produced promising leads, others have not been as fortunate. I’ve chosen this subject because I wasn’t satisfied with the research that was out there.”

Collar said his seminar overseas has significantly increased his knowledge of the topic and helped him determine the direction his research should take. Collar plans to finish his doctoral degree in 2007.

For more information, call Collar at (203) 837-8903.

Impressions: blog by Elaine Nadal, photos by Peggy Stewart

Islands: Latinos. Palm trees. Beaches. Sunsets. These are some of the perceptions that many have of Puerto Rico, the enchanting island. However, this tropical paradise filled with exotic foods, beautiful beaches and fresh fruits has much more to offer than just tourist attractions. I traveled to the island along with 15 students and two faculty members from WestConn in August to uncover the richness of my Borinquen heritage. I have never been to Puerto Rico and one of my goals was to grow a deeper understanding of my heritage and my roots.

The fun continued as we had the privilege to converse with Raul Morris, a poet, writer, educator and social worker. Morris enlightened us with his discourse on politics, oral traditions, the ghetto and drug abuse. This amazing lyricist connected these relevant issues with music, specifically hip hop, rap and reggaeton. Morris also gave credit to the African culture for its contribution to Puerto Rican music. He added that music is a reflection of one’s thoughts, experiences and beliefs. I can honestly say that I agree with that.

I have had many influential teachers in the past. One of them was my third grade teacher who in her free time taught me how to speak English. This changed my life. I want to be a teacher and an example to the teachers who lack tolerance and understanding for those students who do not speak English fluently.

In W.A.L.K.S., a private school in Mayaguez, I was able to do teacher shadowing and to experience what it is like to be an educator. I worked with Teacher Saadia. She was phenomenal! She allowed me to introduce myself and to help her direct the class. I brought a collage to share with the students about my hobbies and about my family members. The students asked questions and shared some information about their goals and interests. They were so well behaved, intelligent and friendly. Some even gave me hugs. I did not have to worry about demonstrating too much affection because the Spanish culture is very affectionate.

Photos: from top: University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez EPR Professor Dr. Angel Rivera informs students about “Politics and Economics in the Caribbean”; UPR Biology Professor Dr. Dimaris Agosta explains the ecology of the state forest of Maricao; local resident Don Umberto Neto embraces the group, inviting them into his home on the beach; students explore Viñales valleys of El Centro de Investigacion de Turismo in Pinar; Erin Kennedy with a student at the “Politics and Economics in the Caribbean” lecture series and an award for entrepreneur of the year.

Local Organizing Committee:
Colleen Delaney, Nursing delaneyc@wcsu.edu
Marcia Deloney, Education deloney@wcsu.edu
Questions? Please contact Colleen Delaney.

President’s Initiatives Fund project update

To be held at Western Connecticut State University 181 White Street, Danbury, CT 06810 Saturday, October 15, 2005
Online registration only http://wcsu.edu/adv/facultyconference

8th Connecticut State University Faculty Research Conference

Advancing Scholarship Across Disciplines

To be held at Western Connecticut State University 181 White Street, Danbury, CT 06810 Saturday, October 15, 2005
Online registration only http://wcsu.edu/adv/facultyconference

Local Organizing Committee:
Colleen Delaney, Nursing delaneyc@wcsu.edu
Marcia Deloney, Education deloney@wcsu.edu
Questions? Please contact Colleen Delaney.
OCT. 3 ART SLIDE LECTURE: Illustrator Tom Kidd will discuss his work at 11 a.m. in Viewing Room 1 of White Hall on the Midtown campus. The event will be free and open to the public, and it will be presented as part of the university’s Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) slide lecture series. For more information, call (203) 837-8887.

OCT. 3 POLITICAL SCIENCE LECTURE: Longtime radio professor and expert on the impact of satellite networks and HD stations from 5:25 to 6:25 p.m. during a political science class in Room 202 of White Hall on the Midtown campus. The talk will be free and open to the public. It is one of several scheduled during the semester for the World Governments, Economies and Cultures course taught by Adjunct Instructor Scott Benjamin. For more information, call Benjamin at (860) 212-2146, ext. 129.

OCT. 4 TELESCOPE VIEWING: WestConn will host a special viewing of planets with solar-filtered telescopes from 3 to 5 p.m., at the Science Building Observatory on the Midtown campus. The event will be free and open to the public. For more information, call (203) 837-8672.

OCT. 4 ARCHAEOLOGY LECTURE: Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton will discuss American Revolution and important events, places and people in Danbury’s past at 5:30 p.m. during an archaeology class in the floor Archaeology Lab in Warner Hall on the Midtown campus. The public is invited. For more information, call Walker at (203) 837-8672.

OCT. 4 STRING CONCERT: The Manhattan String Quartet will perform Beethoven’s Op. 18, No. 3; Op. 131; and Op. 18, No. 3 in Alumni Hall on the Midtown campus. The public is invited, and the concert will be free with a suggested donation to support string music programs at WestConn. For more information, call (203) 837-8505.

OCT. 4, 11 & 15 & 22 POWER HOUR: The Newman Center will host the Hour of Power (daily) by 9 p.m. in the Newman Center, Gym, Warner Hall on the Westside campus. The devotional time will be free and the public is invited. For more information, call (203) 744-5846.

OCT. 5 POLITICAL SCIENCE LECTURE: Former White House researcher Bill Curry will discuss his work at 11 a.m. in Room 202 of White Hall on the Midtown campus. The discussion will be free and open to the public. It is one of several scheduled during the semester for the Cultural Politics course taught by Dr. Laurie Weinstein. For reservations or more information, call Weinstein at (860) 212-2146.

OCT. 5 12, 19 & 26 COFFEEHOUSE: WestConn will present the Midtown Coffeehouse on Thursday evenings in Alumni & Friends Circle near Old Main on the Westside campus. The Coffeehouse will include open mic performances at 8 p.m., followed by a featured act at 9 p.m. Admission will be free for WestConn students, faculty and staff. Call (203) 837-9970 for more information.

OCT. 6 GOLDEN CIRCLE LUNCHEON: The annual Golden Circle Luncheon to honor WestConn alumni who graduated more than 50 years ago will be at noon in Warner Hall on the Midtown campus. The cost is $25 per person. For more information, call the Alumni Office at (203) 837-6920. See tour on page 5.

OCT. 7 WEATHER CONFERENCE: WestConn will host the first Tri-State Weather Conference in the Science Building on the Midtown campus. The public is invited; registration is required. The $30 registration fee ($20 for full-time students) includes lunch, snacks and conference materials. For more information, call (203) 837-9890 or visit www.wcsu.edu/csufrc. See ad on page 7.

OCT. 7 PLANETARIUM SHOW/TELESCOPE VIEWING: WestConn will host a 6:30 p.m. planetarium show, “The Outer Solar System,” followed by telescope viewing of the Moon near Full, Jupiter, Uranus, star clusters and planetary nebulae from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., at the Westobee Observatory and Planetarium on the Westside campus. The event will be free and open to the public. For more information, call (203) 837-8672.

OCT. 7 FACULTY RECITAL: Professor of Music Dr. Kerry Walker and Associate Professor of Music Dr. Russell K interviewer will perform a recital on flute and piano at 2 p.m. at The Actors’ Chapel, St. Malachy’s School, 328 West St., New York, N.Y. The concert will benefit the Wind Music Fund. The public is invited. For more information, call Walker at (203) 837-8532. See story on page 2.

OCT. 7 GERMAN STUDIES WORKSHOP: The WCSU German Studies Center will present an educational workshop at 7 p.m. in Room 206 of the Student Center on the Midtown campus. The event will be free and open to the public. For more information, call Adjunct Instructor Scott Benjamin at (860) 212-2146, ext. 129.

OCT. 7 MEDIATION DISCUSSION: The WestConn Midtown campus will host its annual Oktoberfest Jazz concert at 8 p.m. in Alumni Hall. The performance will be free and open to the public, and it will be sponsored by the music department. Call (203) 837-8530 for more information. See story on page 2.

OCT. 7 HOSPITALITY TENT: WestConn will conduct reenactments of historical Danbury ghost stories at 5:30, 7 and 8:30 p.m. in a walking tour that will originate at Warner Hall on the Midtown campus. The tours will be free and open to the public. For more information, call Dr. Renate Ludanyi, professor of anthropology at (203) 837-8453. See story on page 2.

OCT. 7 POLITICAL SCIENCE LECTURE: Former U.S. Department of State political scientist Stephen Armitage will discuss political science class in Room 202 of the Student Center on the Midtown campus. The discussion will be free and open to the public. For more information, call Department Head Professor of Political Science Dr. Laune Weinstein at (203) 837-8453.

OCT. 8 GERMAN STUDIES LECTURE: Dr. Faline Fox, an archaeologist with Historical Perspectives, will discuss her work at 11 a.m. in Viewing Room 1 of White Hall on the Midtown campus. The event will be free and open to the public; space is limited and reservations are required. For reservations or more information, call Professor of Anthropology Dr. Laurie Weinstein at (203) 837-8453.

OCT. 8 MEDITATION DISCUSSION: Stamford lawyer Pie Dekorte and Charles A. Pribilsky, known as the father of meditation in Connecticut, will discuss “Meditation and the Guru” at 7 p.m. in Room 102 of Warner Hall on the Midtown campus. The event will be free and the public is invited. For more information, call Professor of Education Dr. Dara Sharr at (203) 837-8453. See story on page 2.

OCT. 8 PLANETARIUM SHOW/TELESCOPE VIEWING: WestConn will host a 6:30 p.m. planetarium show, “The Outer Solar System,” followed by telescope viewing of Neptune, Uranus, star clusters, planetary nebulae and the Andromeda Galaxy from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., at the Westobee Observatory and Planetarium on the Westside campus. The event will be free and open to the public. For more information, call Adjunct Instructor Scott Benjamin at (860) 212-2146, ext. 129.

OCT. 8 PLANETARIUM SHOW/TELESCOPE VIEWING: WestConn will host a 6:30 p.m. planetarium show, “The Outer Solar System,” followed by telescope viewing of Neptune, Uranus, planetary nebulae, the Andromeda Galaxy and the Pleiades star cluster from 9:30 p.m. at the Alumni & Friends Circle near Old Main on the Midtown campus. The performance will be free and open to the public. For more information, call Director of Institutional Advancement Mike D人生 at (203) 837-8419. See box on page 5.

OCT. 9 MEDIATION DISCUSSION: The WestConn Midtown campus will host its annual Oktoberfest Jazz concert at 8 p.m. in Alumni Hall. The performance will be free and open to the public, and it will be sponsored by the music department. Call (203) 837-8530 for more information. See story on page 2.

OCT. 9 OCTOBERFEST JAZZ: WestConn will host its annual Oktoberfest Jazz concert at 8 p.m. in Alumni Hall on the Westside 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. See story on page 2.

OCT. 9 HORN DAY: The WCSU music department will present the annual Horn Day at 10 a.m. in the Student Center 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. See story on page 2.

OCT. 9 ART SLIDE LECTURE: Portrait artist Grace Dedova will discuss her work at 11 a.m. in Viewing Room 1 of White Hall on the Midtown campus. The event will be free and open to the public, and it will be presented as part of the university’s 85th anniversary series. For more information, call (203) 837-8881.

OCT. 9 10 MEDICAL SEMINAR: Dr. Agrin Permeti, a Marie Curie postdoctoral fellow in the department of ecology and evolutionary biology at Yale University, will discuss “An Integrative Approach to the Differentiation of An Agamous” at 4 p.m. in Room 218 of the Science Building on the Midtown campus. Offered as part of the continuing “Research Seminar” series hosted by the department of biological and environmental sciences, the event will be free and the public is invited. For more information, call Adjunct Assistant Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences Dr. Theodore Finzi at (203) 837-8791.

OCT. 9 11 MEDICAL SEMINAR: Dr. Moritz Dinh, an assistant professor of pathology at Yale University School of Medicine, will discuss “Research in the Drug Discovery of Rare Diseases” at 4 p.m. in Room 218 of the Science Building on the Midtown campus. Offered as part of the continuing “Research Seminar” series hosted by the department of biological and environmental sciences, the event will be free and the public is invited. For more information, call Adjunct Assistant Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences Dr. Theodore Finzi at (203) 837-8791.