Greetings.

Since its founding in 1903, Western Connecticut State University has put students first. Today, the collective and individual efforts of all its faculty and staff continue to focus on that goal. This year’s WCSU annual report demonstrates how our student-focused environment also benefits residents of the local community and of the entire state. Well-educated, engaged and determined graduates move into our cities and towns as members of the workforce and volunteers. They participate in the democratic process, donate to charities and start families. Some of their children will attend Western, and thus the cycle continues, with WCSU contributing to both individual and collective success throughout Connecticut.

The annual report illustrates how Western acts as a catalyst for the economy, for academic achievement, for community growth and for the promotion of civil dialogue on crucial issues. You will hear from our students, alumni and friends. You will see how athletics, involvement in community projects, and academic rigor produce student success. And you will get an image of Western as a dynamic, thriving institution that is a vital contributor to both the present and the future advancement and welfare of our society.

Please note as well that this is the second year we have produced the annual report solely as an electronic document. Doing so saves money that we would have spent on paper, printing and postage. Moreover, an online publication allows us to give you information in many formats — in addition to print and photo we also provide video and links to other electronic sources. The only way to get a more comprehensive, up-close picture of WCSU today is to enroll here.

If you have comments or questions about anything you read or hear in the annual report, let me know at schmotterj@wcsu.edu [1]. I look forward to hearing from you.

[2] [3]

LINKS ON THIS PAGE

1. mailto:schmotterj@wcsu.edu
Economic catalyst

From teaching students about managing their finances to contributing to the vitality of important area water resources, Western has an impact on the local economy. And that begins from the moment students decide to enroll here until long after they have graduated and become successful alumni.

Read on ....

- Institute for Financial Literacy
- Candlewood Lake partnership
- Lake Kenosia grant
- Danbury resident enrollment
- Alumni success
- Business leaders

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1. http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/
Institute for Financial Literacy

While the liberal arts form the foundation of a university education, students sometimes need grounding in the art of tangible assets. The Ancell School of Business and Union Savings Bank of Danbury together created the Institute for Financial Literacy (IFL) to teach students about how to manage their money. BusinessWeek reported in July 2009 that “With experts blaming students’ financial woes on risky loans and a lack of understanding of key money concepts, financial illiteracy in America is getting serious attention from universities around the country.” Work on the IFL had already begun and in January 2010, Gary Lemme, a Western alumnus, was named the first director. Lemme had been senior vice president at Union Savings Bank, which has agreed to underwrite the IFL for five years.

“We think hundreds of students will take advantage to learn important financial skills,” Lemme said. “The knowledge they take from the IFL will help to reduce or keep them out of debt, and be better stewards of the money they earn after graduation.”

Digging Deeper

Read a press release
Read an article
Visit the website
View a video with John Kline, president and CEO of Union Savings Bank

LINKS ON THIS PAGE

5. http://www.wcsu.edu/ifl/
From the shores of Candlewood Lake to the laboratories and greenhouses of the Science Building, WCSU faculty and students are having an important and growing impact in preserving Connecticut’s largest lake — and the Danbury area’s primary fresh-water resource — through their deepening research and instructional collaboration with a diverse array of public and private sector partners.

Larry Marsicano, executive director of the Candlewood Lake Authority (CLA), described Western’s expanding research and instructional role in exploring the fresh-water ecology of the 5,420-acre manmade hydroelectric power reservoir as an invaluable scientific and public policy planning resource for the CLA, Candlewood owner FirstLight Power Resources, and the municipal governments of shoreline communities. “Having the university involved is an extremely important component in achieving well-informed and effective natural resource management in this area,” Marsicano observed. “They have the tools, the expertise and the talent to do the necessary research that the Authority cannot do on its own.”

Two WCSU research projects currently in progress seek to test and evaluate strategies for more effective containment and eradication of Eurasian watermilfoil in Candlewood Lake. Seasonal proliferation of thick milfoil growth near or at the surface during summer and early autumn months has caused serious disruption to boating, water sports and other recreational activities on the lake and has had a significant impact on Candlewood’s overall ecological balance as areas of high milfoil concentration have spread along its 60-mile shoreline over the past several decades.

Over the past two years, WCSU student research assistants under the supervision of Dr. Mitch Wagener, professor of biology and environmental sciences, have participated in a pilot study of the use of a type of weevil known to damage and potentially destroy watermilfoil as a biological tool to control the pest weed in shallows near the lake shoreline. WestConn students have assisted in the implantation of milfoil weevil eggs at several underwater test sites in shallows at the north end of Candlewood Lake and have conducted periodic site visits to monitor progress of the milfoil weevils in establishing and growing their populations. Wagener noted that the students’ work will contribute significantly to determining whether weevil populations can survive and build through reproduction to levels sufficiently high to become an effective biological tool in controlling milfoil spread.

Digging Deeper

- [Read a press release](#)
- [Read an article](#)
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- [Visit a website](#)
- [Watch some videos](#)
- [View a Flickr photo gallery](#)

Clockwise from top: Larry Marsicano, executive director of the Candlewood Lake Authority; Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences Dr. Tom Lonergan examines watermilfoil retrieved from the lake; a panel of experts discuss the future of the lake at a Western event; biology students prepare to collect watermilfoil samples from the lake.
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Western uses grant to clean up local water resource

WCSU students and faculty are working with the community to start cleaning up the water and restore balance to Danbury’s Lake Kenosia. Dr. Theodora Pinou, WCSU associate professor of biology and environmental sciences, and environmental consultant Jack Kozuchowski said that the lake suffers from low oxygen, invasive plants and periodic algal blooms.

The university received a $45,000 grant from the Connecticut Institute of Water Resources and $9,000 in donor contributions to conduct testing to determine what and how many nutrients are being loaded into the water after a rainfall. Pinou, Kozuchowski, and two graduate biology students will collect approximately 12 water samples after substantial rainfalls and then send them to a testing laboratory. This baseline study will continue until January. Pinou hopes to apply for a separate grant for storm drains to alleviate water runoff.

"With runoff in a developed area, you tend to get nutrient-loading in the water," Pinou said. Decaying plant material, phosphates from detergents and nitrates wash into the water during heavy rainfall. "We know it’s a problem because we’re not finding the diversity that used to be in Lake Kenosia. Certain fish and the diversity of amphibians and reptiles should be there. A lot of non-native plant life is now colonizing the lake."

WCSU graduate students Nicole Stiteler of Newburgh, N.Y., and Aaron Ferraro of Brentwood, N.H., are eager to get involved with this hands-on research. "I hope that this study actually leads to improved storm water treatment for the lake," Ferraro said. "On a personal level, one benefit of the project is that it’s great to get these ‘workplace’ skills. This internship will allow me to keep my skills sharp while taking classes and looking for employment where I put my experiences to use."

Digging Deeper

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Danbury ranks #1 in enrollment

Danbury ranks #1 in CSUS enrollment, #3 in CSUS alumni residents

Danbury is the home of 1,419 students who are enrolled in one of the four universities of the Connecticut State University System (CSUS) — more than any other city or town in the state.

Being the largest university system in the state, with approximately 36,000 students and 180,000 alumni, CSUS plays an integral role in the education of Connecticut students as well as the state’s cultural life and economic well-being. Currently, 93 percent of CSUS students are Connecticut residents, and no community has more students attending Western, Southern, Central or Eastern Connecticut State University than Danbury.

"The Connecticut State University System focuses squarely on Connecticut, and nearly 9 in 10 of our graduates stay in the state to pursue careers, raise families and contribute to the state’s vitality," said Chancellor David G. Carter. "We're accessible, affordable and provide high quality education, preparing students to succeed in the 21st century knowledge-based economy."

WCSU President James W. Schmotter said the four universities are part of Connecticut’s economic foundation and will help the state compete in the future.

"These numbers demonstrate how WestConn and the other Connecticut State Universities serve the needs of the students and families of our state," Schmotter said. "I'm gratified that so many Danbury residents recognize the quality and affordability that our CSUS institutions provide."

Danbury also is among the communities with the highest percentage of CSUS alumni in the state. Danbury is ranked third with 3,530 known alumni living in Connecticut, exceeded only by New Haven and Hamden. CSUS graduates are a critical asset to Connecticut’s workforce in such high-demand fields as in nursing, education, and the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

"Everyone in Connecticut knows someone who attended Central, Eastern, Southern or Western, and with good reason," Carter said. "Graduates of these universities are making a difference, everywhere in Connecticut, in communities large and small. The leadership they provide across many fields of endeavor is what makes this state a great place to live, learn, work and stay."

The solid track-record of the four CSUS universities — reflected in a record-setting 6,870 degrees awarded in 2008 and an all-time high in full-time enrollment this year — helps propel Connecticut’s economy and provide the state’s businesses with an innovative, dynamic and well-prepared workforce, possessing the critical thinking skills that are increasingly in demand.

The CSUS universities also provide a significant economic benefit to Connecticut, estimated at $1.84 billion last year. Overall, the CSUS universities are responsible for generating $8 of economic activity for every $1 of state general fund appropriation.

Clockwise from top:
Incoming students line up to participate in the “Through the Gates” ceremony, a university tradition to kick off the new academic year; students meet and mingle during Orientation; parents prepare to send off their students — many of whom are not far from home.

LINKS ON THIS PAGE

Alumni success contributes to region

Despite the current economic climate, Western alumni continue to be sought-after employees and successful business leaders. Whether they graduated in 1972 like David Nurnberger, senior vice president of Human Relations at Boehringer Ingelheim, or 2009 graduate Meredith Liberto, who works as a research scientist at BI — our alumni make their mark in all kinds of arenas. Here are some alumni who caught our eye this year.

Geoffrey Herald ’82 puts out fires — literally — as chief of the Danbury Fire Department. Down the street from the firehouse at City Hall, Mark Boughton ’95 puts out fires of a different kind as mayor of Danbury.

While Stephanie Madonna ’05 scouts locations for the TV series “White Collar,” Joe Mingachos ’90 scouts for talented athletes as head coach of WCSU’s Women’s Soccer Team.

Combining an eye for detail and a way with words are Scott Brunjes ’85, CEO of Mediassociates Inc.; Lisa Siedlarz ’09, an award-winning poet; and art teacher and humanitarian Bryn Gillette ’09.

A WestConn nursing degree can lead to several destinations. Robin Goodrich ’07 now works as an assistant professor of nursing at her alma mater while Sarah Murray ’08 is a nurse at Waterbury Hospital. Both Goodrich and Murray are furthering their nursing educations — Goodrich at Columbia and Murray at WCSU.

Music to their ears: Stephen Price ’09 took his art to a higher level when he used his Fulbright Scholarship to pursue organ studies at Conservatoire National de Region, France. Jonathan Soares ’06, founder and CEO of Q Products, loves the sound of grocery store cash registers ringing up sales of his gourmet marinades and sauces, which can be found in stores from coast to coast.

Digging Deeper

View a list of distinguished alumni
See issues of The Cupola/Alumni News
Watch a video with Gail H. Williams, member of the Connecticut State University System Board of Trustees
Watch a video with Ronald J. Pugliese, member of the Connecticut State University System Board of Trustees

Clockwise from top: Meredith Liberto ’09 does research in one of Western’s science labs; Bryn Gillette ’09 speaks at the WCSU Hearts Haiti luncheon; Danbury Fire Chief Geoffrey Herald ’82 talks to visitors at the firehouse.

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Local Business Leaders

Several of our region’s leaders have something to say about the university as a business partner and neighbor.

Select a video below

Robert J. Yamin, Danbury attorney and alumnus

David W. Nurnberger, alumnus; senior vice president, Human Resources, Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals; and chair of the WCSU Foundation, Inc. board of directors

Moreen Donahue, chief nurse executive and senior vice president, Patient Care Services at Danbury Hospital

M. Farooq Kathwari, chairman, president & CEO, Ethan Allen Interiors Inc.

Anthony Cirone, alumnus and partner at accounting firm Equale & Cirone LLP of Danbury

LINKS ON THIS PAGE

So many things contribute to collegiate success: well-prepared middle and high school students, well-rounded WCSU students who are exposed to athletics, music and the arts along with rigorous academic pursuits, and faculty who are lauded for their research and teaching endeavors. New degree options and course offerings, attainment of accreditation standards and the ever-generously support of corporate and private benefactors have allowed us to continually set the bar high — and surpass it.

Read on ....

- [Accreditation](http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/academics/Accreditation.asp)
- [Bridges/Exploration Academy](http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/academics/Bridges-ExplorationAcademy.asp)
- [Eric Lewis/MSQ performances](http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/academics/EricLewis.asp)
- [Bachelor of Arts in Musical Theater](http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/academics/BAMusicalTheatre.asp)
- [Nuclear non-proliferation](http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/academics/NuclearNon-proliferation.asp)
- [Division III athletics](http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/academics/DivisionIIIathletics.asp)
- [Master of Arts in Teaching](http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/academics/MAT.asp)
- [Green Light Academy](http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/academics/GreenLightAcademy.asp)
- [Continuing Education Credits](http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/academics/CEUs.asp)
- [Board of Trustee Awards](http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/academics/BOTawards.asp)
- [Morganti pledge](http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/academics/Morgantipledge.asp)
- [Chinese and Portuguese language classes](http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/academics/ChineseandPortugueselanguageclasses.asp)
- [Graduate commencement](http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/academics/Graduatecommencement.asp)
- [Wyclef Jean](http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/academics/WyclefJean.asp)
- [University supporters](http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/academics/studentsprofessors.asp)
Accreditation

Accreditation, the process of meeting the highest recognized academic standards, is an ongoing process across campus. In the past year, the Collegiate Commission of Nursing Education renewed its accreditation of the nursing department, and the department of music was similarly recognized by the National Association of Schools of Music. The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business notified the Ancell School of Business that its application for eligibility had been accepted.

And a momentous achievement was reached by the School of Professional Studies and the education department, which was granted accreditation by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), the gold standard of education accreditation.

The NCATE process started in 2004 and concluded with an approval that noted "the unit and its programs meet rigorous standards set forth by the professional education community."

“The quest of colleagues here for NCATE accreditation has proven a journey full of collaboration and improvement — exactly what the process of professional accreditation should be,” said President Schmotter. "Our efforts to meet the national standards that NCATE defines have provided myriad benefits. And the ultimate beneficiaries are our students.”

WCSU faculty members submitted individual reports for 11 degree programs that have received NCATE designation for “National Recognition.” These include the post-master’s certificate program in intermediate administration and supervision, and bachelor’s degree programs in elementary education, health education, and secondary education programs in: history and social sciences; biology, chemistry and earth sciences; English; mathematics; and Spanish.

Digging Deeper

- Read a press release [3]
- Visit a website [4]
- View a Flickr photo gallery [5]

LINKS ON THIS PAGE

3. http://www.wcsu.edu/graduate/accreditations.asp
Bridges/Exploration Academy

The partnership between Western and two local school districts, Danbury and Bethel, to ensure that high school students are ready for college-level courses in math, writing and science, built on its remarkable success with a move into middle schools.

The organizers of “Building a Bridge to Improve Student Success,” commonly referred to as “Bridges,” kicked off the Exploration Academy to bring middle school students onto campus. It’s a recognition that successful preparation for college can begin long before the latter years of high school, especially for students from poor families or other at-risk situations. The effort also is meant to benefit girls who have the aptitude for math and science but are steered away from those fields at a young age.

Participating students studied meteorology by competing in teams of Cyclones, Hurricanes, Snowstorms or Thunderstorms to create their own videotaped weather forecasts; plumbed the depths of pond water; gained understanding of the human body; and discovered how cells move.

At the same time, high school students and WCSU first-year students who were exposed to Bridges continued to excel. Only 6 percent of students beginning at Western in 2009 were required to take the remedial writing class, and 29 percent were enrolled in the math class. That compares to 37 percent in writing and 41 percent for math before Bridges began in the 2004-05 school year.

At the same time, Western hosted its first Young Writers Camp for middle and high school students who practiced fiction, poetry, journalism, memoir and songwriting and worked on their college admission essays.

The success and expansion of Bridges have attracted support from the corporate sector. Praxair, Inc., of Danbury, made a gift of $50,000 to support the program.

“By establishing a framework for effective collaboration between our high schools and the college, Western’s Bridge program creates a positive ripple effect throughout our community,” said Nigel Muir, president of the Praxair Foundation. “The program’s measurable success in helping more Danbury-area students enjoy a successful college career is an investment in our future.”

Digging Deeper

1. View a pdf document
2. Read a blog
3. View a Flickr photo gallery

LINKS ON THIS PAGE

Lewis debuts new Mozart piece in Vienna, MSQ brings gift of music to war-scarred Bosnia

Professor Eric Lewis, violinist with the Manhattan String Quartet since 1968 and member of the WestConn music faculty for more than three decades, took on two formidable challenges — the premiere of a string concerto completed from an unfinished Mozart manuscript, and performance with the MSQ of a new work by a young American composer inspired by Balkan traditional music — during his visits in spring 2010 to Vienna and the war-scarred nation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Lewis was invited by renowned Viennese violinist Eduard Melkus to play the violin part in the April premiere at Vienna's Kunsthistorisches Museum of the “Triple Sinfonie Concertante,” completed by Melkus from a manuscript by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart discovered half a century ago in the archives of the Mozarteum in Salzburg. Lewis, who previously translated into English an article by Melkus on his discovery and work on the unfinished concerto, expressed surprise and delight at the opportunity to debut such a singular piece. “I love it,” Lewis said. “It’s a fresh discovery — appealing, lyrical and exciting.”

In May, Lewis joined WCSU Adjunct Professor of Music and cellist Chris Finckel, violinist Calvin Wiersma and violist John Dexter in the Manhattan String Quartet’s tour of Sarajevo, Banja Luka and Mostar to perform, offer master classes, and build cultural exchanges with professional and student musicians in Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the suggestion of Finckel and supported by funding from the U.S. State Department, the MSQ traveled to Bosnia with composer and University of Arizona Associate Professor of Music Craig Walsh, whose composition incorporating a diversity of Balkan folk music rhythms was written for the quartet to premiere during its Bosnia tour. “Craig is a wonderful craftsman and a great spirit who became just like another member of our group during our rehearsals,” Lewis said. Their intensive efforts to master “a challenging piece that is quite exotic to the Western ear” proved “a very enriching, fulfilling and creative process,” he added.

Lewis and other members of the MSQ were on a mission that transcended their performances, as American cultural ambassadors to a nation born from the breakup of Yugoslavia and severely tested by ethnic warfare and widespread devastation before the Dayton accords restored a fragile peace to the region in 1995. Lewis recalled their performance in Mostar in a concert hall still surrounded by buildings bearing the shell holes and destruction of the war, “still not fixed as if left as a monument. It was a very moving experience.”

A strong believer in the healing power of music, Lewis viewed the MSQ tour as a pioneering visit by American artists to a country whose “cultural infrastructure needs a lot of support” and whose people welcome opportunities for broader cultural exchanges with the United States and Western Europe. In a nation that has suffered centuries of ethnic conflict and where the human cost of the 1990s war remains painfully fresh, “our answer as artists is that this offers a way to stop the cycle of revenge — to make us talk to each other and discover we all have the same needs.”

Like the MSQ’s landmark tour of the Soviet Union during its “glasnost” cultural opening to the West in the 1980s, “this trip was very meaningful,” Lewis said. “In their eyes, we could see a conviction: ‘We will rise, and we want to go places in the world to gain new experiences.’ Their students are quite talented and very open, not so mechanistic or solely concerned with technique. They are already saying interesting things with their music, and I put this down to the rich musical heritage of their country.”
Digging Deeper

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- Read an article [4]

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As Western Connecticut State University continues to expand and grow its reputation as one of the premiere higher learning institutions in a multitude of disciplines, it’s only natural that the university would be the first in the state to offer a bachelor of arts in musical theater beginning in fall 2010.

With a specialized degree in collaboration with the university’s music department, the musical theater program will give students a comprehensive knowledge of and training in all aspects of musical theater. The program will include acting, dance training, individual voice instruction, music theory, keyboard competency, auditioning techniques, voice and diction and theater history.

Theatre Arts Department Chairman Sal Trapani says the program is unique because it offers not only training and performance experience in New York City and internationally but also will provide contact with industry professionals from musical powerhouses all over the world.

“There is no other school in the country that offers the training and the performance opportunities that we do — with a very caring and professional faculty at public university prices,” Trapani said. “Western has all the attributes of a small private institution. The hallmarks of our program are professionalism and a commitment to excellence. This is an exciting time for us. The new degree program is going to make us less of a well-kept secret and more of a force in musical theater education nationally.”

Bachelor of Arts in Musical Theater

Clockwise from top: Musical theater students run through a number with Adjunct Instructor Amy Jones; “City of Angels” was staged in the fall semester.

Digging Deeper

- [Read a press release](http://www.wcsu.edu/newsevents/musicaltheatredegree.asp)
- [Read an article](http://www.ctpost.com/default/article/WestConn-creates-new-musical-theater-degree-707938.php)
- [Visit a website](http://www.wcsu.edu/theatrearts/musical-theatre.asp)

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WCSU students witness history at U.N. nuclear non-proliferation talks

As the world negotiated some of history’s most salient issues at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation talks at the United Nations in May, nearly two dozen Western students were watching.

Twenty-two students along with Associate Professor of Political Science Dr. Chris Kukk, Assistant Professor of Social Sciences Dr. Damla Isik and Friar Michael Lasky of WCSU’s Newman Center, were at the U.N. talks in New York City on May 4 and 13. The talks included leaders from every country. The key issues, Kukk said, are what to do about Iran’s continued development of nuclear weapons systems, the idea of nuclear-free zones, and international nuclear fuel stations. “It’s like the Olympics of international diplomacy,” Kukk said.

More than half the students participating were in Kukk’s junior-level political science course, “Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Negotiation,” last fall. Students in the course interacted via videoconferencing with 25 graduate students from the Geneva School of Diplomacy, simulating non-proliferation treaty talks. The Geneva students were led by Dr. Yuri Narzkine, professor at the Geneva School of Diplomacy and a former Soviet nuclear weapons negotiator.

Kukk said this is an opportunity of a lifetime for his students, especially since the talks only take place once every five years. “This opportunity demonstrates, once again, that our university is not only an institution of higher education where we study global politics but a place where we are actively engaged in international relations. We don’t close doors to opportunities here; we find ways to keep them open.”

Digging Deeper

- Read a press release
- Read an article
- View a Flickr photo gallery

Clockwise from top:
Students in a political science class conducted by Associate Professor of Political Science Dr. Chris Kukk interact with students in Geneva, Switzerland via Skype technology; outside the United Nations, peace activists proclaim their position; Dr. Yuri Narzkine, a professor at the Geneva School of Diplomacy and a former Soviet nuclear weapons negotiator; Dr. Chris Kukk, Dr. Damla Isik, Friar Michael Lasky of WCSU’s Newman Center, and 22 students attended the U.N. Nuclear Non-Proliferation talks in New York City.

LINKS ON THIS PAGE

Division III athletics

In a Division III environment that emphasizes athletics as part of an entire college experience, one athlete, Francesca Testa, a star on the university swim team and president of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee, came up with an idea designed to guarantee success at the university’s games — Superfan.

Each of 12 teams that play throughout the year has one designated game per season that is dedicated to Superfan. Fans are given Superfan T-shirts to wear during the games and are encouraged to cheer loudly and often. The three most enthusiastic Superfans are rewarded with a gift certificate to the university bookstore.

The idea, Testa said, was a product of her involvement with the university’s Hancock Student Leadership Program. “I’ve been looking for a way to market our athletics and promote school spirit among students and faculty, too.”

Perhaps because of this support, Western athletes put up great numbers across several sports.

- Women’s Tennis won its first-ever LEC Championship and participated in the NCAA Tournament. Coach Stacy Slater was named the Little East Conference Coach of the Year.
- Women’s Basketball captured the LEC title and got to round two of the NCAA tournament. Center Melissa Teel earned the LEC Player of the Year award and was chosen for the USA D-3 Basketball All Star Team. Coach Kimberly Rybczyk was named Little East Conference Coach of the Year.
- In men’s basketball, guard DaQuan Brooks was chosen as the LEC Player of the Year.
- Men’s tennis won its first-ever LEC championship and a bid to the NCAA tournament. Troy Pandolfi was selected as LEC Player of the Year.
- Women’s softball shortstop Danielle Basciano was chosen LEC Player of the Year. Coach Heather Stone celebrated her 200th career win and her 100th win at WCSU.
- Greg Poole, Women’s Volleyball coach, reached his 200th career win.

Digging Deeper

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LINKS ON THIS PAGE

5. http://www.wcsu.edu/sports/
M.A.T. program offers "Urban Experience"

It's no secret that being a teacher is challenging. But in today's climate, teachers are more challenged than ever. For instance, Danbury High School has 2,800 students who speak more than 40 different languages. How does a teacher handle a classroom of students with such disparity in language skills?

In Western's Master of Arts in Teaching program, a new course, "Urban Experience," was developed to expose future educators to a wide range of situations they are likely to face at an urban public school.

From June 2 through 29, the 16 graduate students, who are all majoring in either math or biology, learned through online and classroom instruction and by going into the community to put their skills to the test. Some of the course's themes included how the students think and feel about cultural diversity, online reflective discussion questions, achievement gaps, teacher leadership, and theory of action.

"This course gave students a flavor of the whole urban community," said Dr. Bonnie Rabe, assistant professor in the education and educational psychology department and coordinator of the M.A.T. program. "They know their ultimate goal is taking students from where they are to where they need to be," which is especially challenging for English language learner (ELL) students.

Dr. William Glass, assistant superintendent for the Danbury public schools, co-teaches the course with Rabe. He said a common complaint from public educators to those who teach at the higher education level is "you don't understand what it's like to teach in a city environment." So, Rabe and Glass designed the course to combine both experiences. "It gives students a dual perspective," Glass said.

In addition to instruction on special education, science-based intervention, observation, and student teaching, the candidates learned about bridging achievement gaps. A child living in poverty, Glass said, may only have a 7,000-word vocabulary when he or she enters school, as opposed to a 10,000-word vocabulary for a child of a more affluent family.

"The achievement gap is present from the first day of school," Rabe said.

As part of the course, candidates spent 20 hours performing urban service either by tutoring in the Danbury schools, working at a children's bereavement center or participating in summer school programs in order to develop hands-on skills and learning the multitude of issues that can arise in a diverse population.

Glass said that 70 percent of the state's students are from 15 of the large urban districts, with Danbury being the seventh-largest district and the most culturally and linguistically diverse.

"What a special opportunity for us to be in this richly diverse setting," Rabe said.

Digging Deeper

Visit a website

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3. http://www.wcsu.edu/graduate/mat/
Building ‘green’ cars is just the beginning

By building solar sprint cars, a group of high school students learned “green-collar” skills such as converting engine power from solar to fuel cells on the grounds of Western Connecticut State University last summer. Hosted by nonprofit Green Light Academy, the four-week summer residential program for students in grades 10 through 12 used the university’s classrooms and computer lab, conducted experiments in the Science Building, explored the Westside Nature Preserve and enjoyed the playing fields, gymnasiums and recreational facilities. Taught by experienced professors and certified teachers, the students learned through hands-on skill-building exercises.

Digging Deeper

- Read a press release
- Read an article

Clockwise from top:
High school students worked on prototypes of solar cars as part of the Green Light Academy; Chairman of the Oxford, Conn., High School Science Department Frank LaBanca, a Western Ed.D. alumnus, instructs Green Light Academy participants in the art of racing solar-powered cars.

LINKS ON THIS PAGE

Continuing education credits

Continuing Education Units, or CEUs, provide a new benefit to community members, particularly teachers, who may earn credit to maintain their accreditation by attending various lectures, seminars and other programs offered by the university.

“By offering CEUs, the university is providing a service to school teachers and making WCSU an even more valuable resource to the community,” said Dr. Linda K. Rinker, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. “WestConn provides a wide range of excellent academic programs that are accessible to students first, but also to residents of the region. It is one of our strategic strengths.”

[1] [2]

Digging Deeper

Read a press release [3]

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Western professors honored by Connecticut State University system

Two WCSU professors were honored for outstanding work in their academic fields by the Connecticut State University System and its Board of Trustees. Associate Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences Dr. Theodora Pinou was recognized with a research award for her scholarly work in ecology and the evolutionary development of vertebrates. Associate Professor of Education and Educational Psychology Dr. Kathryn Campbell was recognized with a teaching award for her consistently high standards, guiding support of students and adherence to the principles of critical thinking and scholarly work.

Digging Deeper

Read a press release [3]
Visit a website [4]

Clockwise from top:
(1-r): Associate Professor of Education and Educational Psychology Dr. Kathryn Campbell and Associate Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences Dr. Theodora Pinou were honored by the Connecticut State University System Board of Trustees; (1-r) Chancellor David G. Carter, BOT member John A. Doyle, BOT Chairman Karl J. Krapek, Pinou and WCSU President James W. Schmotter.
The Morganti Group pledges support for student scholarships

The Morganti Group of Danbury pledged $100,000 for scholarships to Western Connecticut State University students in a ceremony in the office of WCSU President James W. Schmotter. Morganti USA President Nabil Takla made the presentation in support of students and the larger community, which benefits from an educated populace.

Digging Deeper

- [Read a press release](http://www.wcsu.edu/newsevents/morgantipledge.asp)
- [Read an article](http://www.newstimes.com/default/article/Morganti-endows-WestConn-scholarship-214905.php)
- [View a Flickr photo gallery](http://www.wcsu.edu/newsevents/westconnection-flickr.asp?setID=72157622665782039)

**LINKS ON THIS PAGE**

5. http://www.wcsu.edu/waterbury/
International Education Conference

In addition to discussions about global warming and climate change, the agenda at the 2009 International Education Conference included investigations of ways to reduce the environmental impact of international travel through the use of renewable energy, carbon neutrality, and carbon-reduction offsets; preparation of CSUS students for 'green collar' jobs; international trends in sustainability education; grants and faculty development available through international education services; and other opportunities and challenges in international education.

Digging Deeper

Read a newsletter

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New courses in Chinese and Portuguese reflect a changing global balance

In a world where emerging powers such as China and Brazil play an increasingly important role in the global economy, Western is providing students with the opportunity to gain an introduction to the languages and cultural heritage of these influential nations. The WCSU department of world languages and literature now offers an introductory course sequence in Chinese, as well as two Portuguese sequences at the introductory and intermediate levels.

Department Chair and Associate Professor of World Languages and Literature Dr. Galina Bakhtiarova observed that inclusion of these sequences in the WCSU curriculum recognizes the need to raise awareness of Chinese- and Portuguese-speaking nations’ significance in the world’s future economic and cultural development. “Our objective when we teach introductory language courses at WestConn is to enable our students to communicate effectively in the target-language environment,” Bakhtiarova explained. “In all our language classes, we incorporate listening, speaking, teaching and writing skills, and we also provide a very strong cultural element.”

Enrollment in the intermediate-level sequence of the Portuguese curriculum filled quickly due to strong demand from students of Portuguese and Brazilian heritage, reflecting the large representation of these ethnic groups in the Greater Danbury community. In contrast to the two-semester introductory sequences that assume no prior exposure to the language studied, the Portuguese for Heritage Speakers curriculum will be designed specifically for students whose families continue to speak Portuguese at home.

The instructor for both the introductory and intermediate Portuguese sequences will be Dr. Jordano Quaglia, who has taught Portuguese language courses at all levels during his extensive teaching experience at the State University of New York at Albany, Fairfield University and Yale University. Quaglia said the courses at WCSU will emphasize knowledge of Brazilian and Continental Portuguese reinforced by immersion in the language, culture and civilization of peoples of Portuguese heritage.

Instructor Yu Lian offered the two-semester introductory course in Chinese for the first time during the 2009-10 academic year. A native of Beijing who immigrated to the United States in 2001, Lian earned a master’s degree in education at Columbia University and has taught at the Huaxia Chinese School, which offers a weekend program of language and cultural enrichment classes on the Midtown campus for children and teens of Chinese heritage. She holds teaching certification in Connecticut and has been a full-time teacher at a Bridgeport high school for the past two years.

Lian expressed pride in her students’ enthusiasm for learning the language and culture of her native China. She makes a point of taking the educational experience beyond the classroom by planning class participation in special cultural activities to learn more about Chinese arts, history, sports and cuisine, as well as a traditional celebration of the Chinese New Year. “Every day, when a student leaves my class, I want to know that he or she has learned something new about China,” Lian said. “If I can share my enthusiasm with them and get them excited to know more about Chinese language and culture, then they will become motivated to continue learning Chinese after they leave my class.”
LINKS ON THIS PAGE

5. http://www.wcsu.edu/waterbury/
Girl Scouts of Connecticut CEO speaks at graduate commencement ceremony

Jennifer Smith Turner, CEO of Girl Scouts of Connecticut (GSC), spoke to students receiving graduate and doctoral degrees on Friday, May 21, in the Feldman Arena of the William O’Neill Athletic and Convocation Center.

Turner inspired graduates with these words:

"Graduations are so significant; they mark momentous milestones throughout our lives. Think for a moment about a group of young children, poised for their class photograph while in grade school. Can you see the smiling faces, the nervous and anxious hands of those told to sit in front; the shyness of the one child who stands in the back row towering above all the other children; the class clown who wants to put two fingers above the classmate’s head; the pressed smile of the child who is missing two front teeth?

"Think about that image — now look for yourself in that class photo. Do you see the little girl, the little boy whose visage is filled with innocence and playfulness? Do you see the hope and possibility in their faces? Do you remember the feeling of complete trust and wonderment? Can you feel it? Can you hold on to that feeling, that image?"

Clockwise from top: Jennifer Smith Turner, CEO of Girl Scouts of Connecticut, speaks to students during the graduate commencement ceremony; Professor of Writing, Linguistics and the Creative Process Dr. John Briggs hugs a student; graduates respond to Smith Turner.

Digging Deeper

- Read a press release
- Read Smith Turner’s speech
- Visit a website
- Watch a video
- View a Flickr photo gallery

LINKS ON THIS PAGE

5. http://www.wcsu.edu/commencement/
Wyclef Jean speaks at undergraduate commencement

As the world's attention turned to Haiti in the wake of the devastating earthquake there in January, one of the country's native sons became a vocal advocate in support of rebuilding his homeland. Wyclef Jean, multi-platinum recording artist and founder of the charity Yéle Haiti, was the keynote speaker at Western Connecticut State University’s undergraduate commencement on Sunday, May 23.

Before commencement, WestConn President James W. Schmotter said Jean’s talk would prove to be inspirational.

"We’re excited that Wyclef Jean has agreed to speak at our undergraduate commencement ceremonies in May," Schmotter said. “His artistic achievements and his long and impressive record of humanitarian work have recently been underscored by his role in galvanizing the international response to the terrible tragedy in his homeland. I know that he will bring a message that will engage and inspire our graduates and all in attendance.”

Digging Deeper

Read a press release [3]

Read news articles [4]

Read Jean's commencement speech [5]

View a Flickr photo gallery [6]

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University supporters

Western supporters share their unique perspectives on the university.

Select a video below

1. Dr. Frederick Maidment, associate professor of management
2. Lissette Rivas, graduate of the nursing program
3. Emanuela Lima, editor of Tribuna Connecticut newspaper
4. Truman Keys, assistant professor of communication
5. Rawan Hage, media arts major
6. Theresa Eberhard-Asch, alumna and member of the CSUS Board of Trustees
7. Collin Wade and Amanda Forker, music majors
8. Clarissa Bent, management major
9. Anita Rice, chair of the Hord Foundation Inc.

LINKS ON THIS PAGE

Community catalyst

Bringing people together helps strengthen the local community. Whether it’s something to celebrate — like a ‘green’ graduation initiative, the 20th anniversary of the Hubble Space telescope, or a common concern such as Lyme disease or relationship violence — the university is a place where experts and community members alike come to share information and celebrate successes.

Read on ....

- One Book, One Community [2]
- Hubble Space Telescope anniversary [3]
- President’s lecture [4]
- Community Report Card [5]
- Green caps & gowns [6]
- Women’s Center programs [7]
- WCSU Veterans Center [8]
- Lyme disease expert [9]

LINKS ON THIS PAGE

Western joins Danbury library and city schools to promote book reading

Last August, in collaboration with the Danbury Public Library and Danbury public schools, WCSU announced the launch of the second annual “One Book, One Community” (OBOC) project, an effort to encourage everyone in Danbury to read the same book. Although many communities across the country sponsor similar reading programs, this project is one of the few where a city, public school system and a university have formed a partnership to coordinate a community-wide reading initiative.

The co-chairs of the OBOC committee are Library Director Mark Hasskarl and WCSU Provost and Academic Vice President Dr. Linda Rinker.

Last fall’s book selection was the best-selling memoir “Hurry Down Sunshine” by Michael Greenberg, which details the true story of Sally, his 15-year-old daughter, who suddenly descends into madness. From her first episode on the streets of Greenwich Village to her time in a psychiatric ward, Greenberg painstakingly chronicles the effects of mental illness on his family. WCSU assigned the book to all incoming freshmen as part of the university’s First-Year Experience.

In addition to being encouraged to read the same book, Danbury residents and students were invited to participate in a variety of complementary programs. Events included book discussions and a lecture by Greenberg in October.

Clockwise from top: A student holds a copy of the One Book, One Community common read: “Hurry Down Sunshine”; author Michael Greenberg discusses his book; students and community members interact with Greenberg on the topic of mental illness.

### Digging Deeper

- [Read a press release](http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/community/)
- [Read news articles](http://www.wcsu.edu/newsevents/DanburyLibraryWCSUandcityschoolspromotebookreading.asp)
- [Visit the website](http://www.onebookdanbury.org/2009/)
- [See the flyer](http://www.wcsu.edu/westconnreport/flyers/Film%20screenings%20flyer_WR.pdf)
- [View a Flickr photo gallery](http://www.wcsu.edu/newsevents/westconnection-flickr.asp?setID=72157622084068837)

### LINKS ON THIS PAGE

1. http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/community/
Hubble Space Telescope

WCSU was the focal point for a 20th anniversary celebration of the launch of the Hubble Space Telescope, which was built in Danbury. The university hosted a family science fair, an educational panel for girls interested in science and technology, a discussion by corporate executives about the future of aerospace, teacher training based on Hubble discoveries, and an exclusive showing of the IMAX movie featuring the latest Hubble repair mission.

Digging Deeper

- Read a press release
- Read a press release
- Read a press release
- Read news articles
- Visit a website
- View a Flickr photo gallery

Clockwise from top:
Paul Bouffard, senior manufacturing engineer at Goodrich ISR Systems, discusses the Hubble Space Telescope; panelists for a discussion about Women in Science and Engineering included (l-r): Rachael Manzer, a science coach in the Suffield School District, president of the Connecticut Science Teachers Association, and in training as a NASA teacher astronaut; and Suzanne Woll, an official with the Society of Women Engineers, who manages a staff of 50 scientists and engineers in the Systems Department of the United Technologies Research Center; the full panel included (l-r): Associate Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences Dr. Ruth Gyure, a scholar in residence for the American Society for Microbiology and a recipient of the Connecticut State University System Board of Trustees Teaching Award; Manzer; Woll; and Valentina Lugo, a graduate of MIT and a mechanical design engineer with Hamilton Sundstrand.

LINKS ON THIS PAGE
President’s Lecture - Story Musgrave

Former astronaut Story Musgrave presented the 2010 President’s Lecture, speaking about America’s exploration of space, the Hubble Space Telescope, and adventure. Here is President James Schmotter’s introduction:

The term “hero” is used often today — and it is probably overused. It usually describes anyone who risks his or her life while protecting others, and I certainly consider those people brave and worthy of our admiration.

And while our speaker today did risk his life with six flights into space, several space walks, and countless other times as an experimental parachutist and jet pilot, to me that is not his most impressive trait.

To me, Story Musgrave is most admirable for his insatiable pursuit of knowledge and his almost constant application of that knowledge.

To tell the truth, Story Musgrave was always inquisitive.

He was born on a dairy farm in Stockbridge, Mass., and according to his official biography, “he was in the forests alone at 3 and by 5 floated his homebuilt rafts on the rivers. He rode combines at 5, drove trucks and tractors at 10 and when alone in remote fields, repaired them by 13.

He dropped out of high school and joined the Marines, where he learned about airplanes.

He figured out that education was important and earned his degree in mathematics and statistics from Syracuse University, a master of business administration in operations analysis and computer programming from UCLA, a degree in chemistry from Marietta College, a doctorate in medicine from Columbia University, a master’s in physiology and biophysics from the University of Kentucky, and a master’s in literature from the University of Houston.

That’s six degrees.

In between, he has flown 17,700 hours in 160 different types of civilian and military aircraft, including 7,500 hours in jet aircraft. An accomplished parachutist, he has made more than 500 free falls -- including over 100 experimental free-fall descents involved with the study of human aerodynamics.

Dr. Musgrave was selected as a scientist-astronaut by NASA in 1967 and first flew on the Space Shuttle in 1983.

His second flight was to service and repair the Hubble Space Telescope in 1993. He performed three space walks and, with his fellow crewmembers, restored the Hubble to perfect vision.

When he retired from NASA, he was one of the agency’s most experienced and accomplished astronauts.

Today he operates a palm farm in Orlando, Florida, a production company in Sydney and a sculpture company in Burbank, California. He is also a landscape architect, a concept artist with Walt Disney Imagineering, an innovator with Applied Minds Inc. and a professor of design at Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California. He has 7 children and three grandchildren.

Story Musgrave demonstrates how to live a full life.

That is how I would describe a hero.

I give you our speaker, Story Musgrave.
Digging Deeper

Read a press release [3]

Visit a website [4]

Watch a video [5]

View a Flickr photo gallery [6]

LINKS ON THIS PAGE

5. http://www.wcsu.edu/hubble/musgrave.asx
Community Report Card

WCSU and several partners have begun to plan for the next installment of the Community Report Card, a comprehensive look at the region’s health care needs.

In preparation, Hartford-based insurer Aetna provided a $15,000 grant to support the project, which is also sponsored by Danbury Hospital, social service and public health agencies, and private sector businesses.

The Community Report Card is a joint project sponsored by Western Connecticut State University to provide biennial reports on the health and well-being of residents in the Greater Danbury and Housatonic Valley region.

The initial Community Report Card was released in January 2009 and measured and evaluated a total of 37 key indicators for factors such as incidence of major diseases, public health, dropout and graduation rates, households below poverty level, pregnancy, suicide, and health insurance access. Towns participating in the Community Report Card project include Danbury, Bethel, Bridgewater, Brookfield, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield and Sherman.

WCSU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Linda Rinker observed after release of the initial report that the project has given governments, health care providers and social service organizations in the region an important new source of information and data to assess the present well-being of the community and to plan and coordinate efforts to address unmet needs.

Danbury Hospital Director of Public and Government Relations Andrea Rynn noted the Report Cards will help to stimulate community discussion and policy action by “giving us a roadmap to move into the future.”

Aetna joins a team of sponsors funding the Community Report Card project that also includes WCSU, the United Way of Western Connecticut, Danbury Hospital, Fairfield County Community Foundation, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Fairfield County Bank, Poland Spring, Savings Bank of Danbury, and Union Savings Bank.

Digging Deeper

Read a press release [3]

Visit a website [4]

Watch a video with Andrea Rynn, Director, Community, Public and Government Relations for Danbury Hospital [5]

LINKS ON THIS PAGE

Western’s class of 2010 received top marks for environmentally smart dress with the debut at the May undergraduate and graduate commencements of “green” caps and gowns made from 100 percent, post-consumer recycled plastic bottles. The new line of graduation wear, named GreenWeaver and manufactured by Virginia-based Oak Hall Cap & Gown, features fabric spun from molten plastic pellets. The company — which also made a donation to the Roots & Shoots environmental and humanitarian program of the Jane Goodall Institute — estimates it uses an average of 23 bottles to make each gown, which means that sales for WCSU’s 2010 commencements recycled approximately 17,000 plastic bottles. "When Western was offered the opportunity to provide environmentally friendly gowns this year to our graduates, we could not pass up the opportunity," said Tammy Hammershoy, WCSU director of Alumni Relations. "It supports the green efforts of the university and allows our students, who are aware of the environment and the planet’s vastly diminishing resources, to be part of the solution."

Digging Deeper

- Read a press release [3]
- Read an article [4]

LINKS ON THIS PAGE

A weekly peer discussion group, "One Man Up," offered to students from March through April focused on men’s role in ending relationship violence. The program gave students the opportunity to discuss and learn about issues of sexuality and violence and to speak up and be heard.

“Research shows that men on a college campus can play a pivotal role in changing the attitudes of other young men regarding violence in relationships,” said Sharon Guck, WCSU coordinator of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention Services. “In my experience, opening up a dialogue with these young men can be the first step in raising awareness, changing attitudes and ultimately their behaviors.”

Digging Deeper

- Read a press release [3]
- Visit a website [4]
- Visit a website [5]

Women’s Center of Greater Danbury brings new program to WCSU

Links on this page

Western has smoothed the transition to the classroom for men and women who served in the U.S. armed forces with the opening of the university’s new Veterans Center on Veterans Day in November 2009. The center, on the second floor of the Student Center, provides approximately 100 veterans who currently attend WestConn with access to computers and a quiet place to study and talk. “It’s great to have a place to come to where we can feel comfortable,” said Jeremy Mack, president of the university’s Student Veteran Organization and member of the Connecticut Army National Guard. The SVO, the Division of Student Affairs, the Financial Affairs Office and other university services strive to meet the diverse needs of veterans in realizing their academic objectives at Western and preparing for future careers.

A Veterans Honor Guard participates in the annual Veterans Day activities on campus.
In March, Western welcomed Connecticut State Entomologist Dr. Kirby Stafford, an internationally recognized expert on Lyme disease and the ticks that carry it, who discussed the origins and nature of the disease and means to prevent its infectious spread to humans.

“Fight the Bite: Ticks and Lyme Disease” was presented as part of the WCSU “Science at Night” lecture series. Stafford’s lecture outlined various methods to achieve effective personal protection and control tick infestations in and around the home. He has authored and coauthored more than 50 articles published in scientific journals. In 2004, he published a popular handbook on tick management to raise awareness among public health authorities, pest control professionals and the general public about practical strategies to contain the spread of Lyme disease and other infectious diseases borne and spread by ticks.

Digging Deeper

Read a press release

Read an article

Visit a website

Biology students take advantage of the sprawling Westside Nature Preserve to catch insect specimens for categorization and study.

LINKS ON THIS PAGE

Catalyst for Civil Dialogue

Sometimes the most controversial topics are the ones that offer the greatest opportunity for finding common ground. Through roundtable discussions, film screenings and ongoing dialogue, WCSU provides the setting in which civilized discourse enables understanding.

Read on ....

- Multicultural Fair [2]
- WCSU Hearts Haiti [3]
- Ashley Hyde Fulbright [5]
- Abigail Disney film [6]
- Tres Vidas [7]
- Anti-death penalty symposium [8]
- Marathon for poverty [9]
- The Black Man Cometh [10]
- "Crossing Borders" [12]

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Western hosts Multicultural Fair

For the second year Western was host to a regional Multicultural Fair on the Midtown campus. The IMPACT club and Danbury High School's Peer Leadership Program worked with the WCSU Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Girl Scouts of Connecticut to make the fair a success.

Groups representing the full range of diversity in the community participated. The event showcased arts and crafts, businesses, services and food from a wide variety of local eateries.

Flags from more than 100 countries were on display and more than a dozen cultural and ethnic groups performed.

Reflecting Danbury's cultural diversity, many countries and ethnicities were represented at the Multicultural Fair.

Digging Deeper

View a Flickr photo gallery

LINKS ON THIS PAGE

1. http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/civil/
Western heads up Haitian relief efforts

When the WCSU community members learned of the earthquake that devastated a large area of Haiti, they rallied together to provide financial aid through a series of fundraising events. “WCSU Hearts Haiti” raised $10,000 to donate to Yéle Haiti, a foundation started by multi-platinum recording artist and Haitian native Wyclef Jean, who was this year’s undergraduate commencement speaker.

A variety of creative awareness-raising and fundraising events contributed to the cause. The first step was the creation of a Facebook page in late January. More than 560 members of the Western community became fans. In February, bracelets displaying Haiti’s national colors were sold for a suggested donation of $1 in various locations on campus. In March, WestConn faculty and staff members each donated $5 to wear jeans to work. Other events included a bake sale held by the campus ministry, the Newman Club and a Zumba exercise class.

“WCSU Hearts Haiti” hosted a March 31 luncheon featuring Haitian delicacies in Alumni Hall. More than $6 of the $15 that was charged per person was contributed to the campaign. On April 21, the Manhattan String Quartet performed a benefit concert in Alumni Hall. The suggested contribution of $20 was donated towards “WCSU Hearts Haiti.”

Clockwise from top: Professor of Music Eric Lewis writes a check to show his support for WCSU Hearts Haiti; Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Walter Bernstein, Director of Multicultural Affairs Carolyn Lanier and President James W. Schmotter each donated $5 to the cause on Wear Your Jeans to Work Day; Western sold bracelets to raise funds for Haiti...

Diagnig Deeper

1. Read a press release
2. Read a press release
3. Read an article
4. Visit the Facebook page
5. View a Flickr photo gallery

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Henry Louis Gates Jr. panel discussion

When a police officer arrested Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr. at the Harvard professor’s home, a national debate erupted that caught the attention of President Obama as well as everyday citizens.

Certainly one factor in the case — that the professor is African-American and the police officer is white — contributed to interest in the conversation. But the role of citizens in protecting their neighborhoods, the responsibility of police in carrying out their duties, and the limits, if any, on freedom of speech all became part of the national dialogue.

Western helped to put the incident into perspective with a panel of educators, journalists, police and residents. Dr. George Coleman, deputy commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Education, chaired the event, held in Ives Concert Hall.

Coleman pointed out that when famous people speak insensitively about race, the collective community calls for a national dialogue, “as if race is an overlooked aspect of the national curriculum and the faux pas is the result of the chapter being skipped over or the violator not being in school that day.”

The panel’s general consensus was that for race to be less of an issue, people have to spend more time getting to know each other and understanding the different perspectives that each race has about freedom in America.

Kerri Forrest, a senior producer based in Washington, D.C., for "The Early Show" on CBS, said that what most people want is respect.

“We have worked so hard to be part of the whole and when someone challenges that, it hurts,” Forrest said. “We need to consider what it’s like to be a black man arrested in his own home. We need to consider what it’s like to be a white police officer who is doing his job and called a racist. A lot of discussion is needed in our own community. There’s a lot of hurt passed on from generation to generation.”

Digging Deeper

[Read a press release](http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/civil/WCSUHeartsHaiti.asp)

[Read an editorial](http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/civil/AshleyHydeFulbright.asp)

[View a Flickr photo gallery](http://www.wcsu.edu/newsevents/WCSU-WestConntohostdiscussiononHenryGatesincident.asp)

[The Root](http://www.theroot.com/views/accident-time-and-place?auto=true)

View a Flickr photo gallery

**LINKS ON THIS PAGE**

For Ashley Hyde her intellectual curiosity, imagination and creativity were piqued as an undergraduate student at Western, especially in her social sciences courses with Dr. Rob Whittemore and political science courses with Dr. Chris Kukk. From her initial major in biology to core courses in anthropology and courses in international relations, Ashley was able to develop a research project that was likely one of the best proposals Fulbright received. The knowledge and confidence that she gained as a student helped shape her desire to help others, but it was a trip to Cape Verde in 2009 that solidified her decision to make a change in the world.

As part of the trip, sponsored by the Humanitarian Travel Club, Hyde took part in assisting with medical aid, tutoring students and helping deportees reintegrate into society. “That trip really spurred my interest there. There are an increasing number of people being deported from the United States,” Hyde said. “Housing and employment are a problem and there is a huge cultural issue, a stigma, with being a deportee. No one in the community wants to help them.”

Her plans to help others earned Hyde a Fulbright scholarship in January. In the fall, she will move to Jamaica for a year to conduct research on alternative methods of integration for deportees. At the end of the year after her study is completed, Hyde will earn a Master of Science in public health or international relations from the University of West Indies, which will advise and oversee her project.

Digging Deeper

1. Read a press release
2. Read an article

Ashley Hyde ’09 became the second Western student to obtain a Fulbright Scholarship.

LINKS ON THIS PAGE

Abigail Disney talks about saving the world

Philanthropist and producer Abigail Disney hosted a showing of her documentary “Pray the Devil Back to Hell” and told the story of its filming to students and community members.

Disney, the granddaughter of Roy Disney, a cofounder of the Walt Disney Co., made the film about a group of women who helped to bring peace to war-torn Liberia.

Disney said she wanted to tell the story of these individuals who made a difference through personal action.

“If this story is not remembered, it would be a huge crime against these women,” Disney said. “We chose not to forget this one.”

She made a point to the students in the audience:

“The deal is, no one expects you to save the world by yourself. What you have to do is become part of the collective — the constructive movement — that moves forward to make a difference. Together you can save the world.”

Abigail Disney discusses her documentary, “Pray the Devil Back to Hell.”

Abigail Disney talks about saving the world

Digging Deeper

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Read an article [4]

Visit the film’s website [5]

Watch a video [6]

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“Tres Vidas”

WCSU celebrated the lives and achievements of three notable Latin American women of the 20th century — Mexican painter Frida Kahlo, Salvadoran peasant activist Rufina Amaya and Argentinean poet Alfonsina Storni — in a performance by the Core Ensemble of “Tres Vidas” at Ives Concert Hall in October 2009. Renowned for its performances worldwide since its founding in 1993, the Core Ensemble portrayed the lives of Kahlo, Amaya and Storni through the acting of Georgina Corbo and musical accompaniment of cellist Tahirah Whittington, pianist Hugh Hinton and percussionist Michael Parola. The performance set their stories against the background of traditional Mexican folk songs and Argentinean popular and tango music.

Digging Deeper

Read a press release [3]
Visit a website [4]

LINKS ON THIS PAGE

Western holds anti-death penalty symposium

Juan Melendez spent more than 17 years on Florida’s death row for a crime he didn’t commit. In 2002, he was released after a judge found no evidence linking him to the murder. Now Melendez travels throughout the country and Europe telling his incredible story of injustice, courage, faith and hope. Last November, he spoke at Western and ignited interest in the local community.

In April, Associate Professor of Justice and Law Administration Dr. George Kain and Assistant Professor of Justice and Law Administration Terrence Dwyer held a panel discussion on the hot debate. Speakers included Kain, as panel moderator; Dwyer, a former New York State Police Major Crimes Investigator; Connecticut Superior Court Judge Hon. Charles Gill; Branford Police Chief John DeCarlo; Gregg Everett of the Connecticut Board of Parole; Rev. Walter Everett, retired minister and surviving family homicide victim member; and James Diamond, criminal defense and former state’s attorney.

"Western is getting more involved in this death penalty issue," Kain said. “The public needs to be educated because the facts are changing.”

Digging Deeper

- Read a press release
- Read an article
- Visit a website
- View a Flickr photo gallery

Clockwise from top: A large audience listened attentively as Juan Melendez spoke about his time on Florida’s death row; Melendez speaks; the back of Melendez’s t-shirt.

LINKS ON THIS PAGE

Faculty, staff and students ran circles around Western

Charlie Chatterton, an associate professor of health and physical education at Eastern Connecticut State University, pledged to run 1,000 miles and take a million strides to help the 40 million people in the United States living in poverty last year. And he was going to run 26.2 of those miles around WCSU’s Midtown campus on Dec. 3 when a sudden flu virus stopped him in his tracks.

But that didn’t stop Western faculty, staff and students who collected money and ran or walked the 1-mile course — some running nearly 10 miles — around campus. The event was coordinated by WCSU’s Newman Center, the Social Work Club and the HPX Club. More than $500 was collected and turned over to various charities including Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Holy Family Home and Shelter and the City of New Orleans Recreation Department.

Digging Deeper

Read a press release

View a Flickr photo gallery

LINKS ON THIS PAGE

It was standing-room only at "The Black Man Cometh" lecture held in February at Western. Based on playwright Eugene O'Neill’s "The Iceman Cometh," the lecture was written and presented by Associate Professor of English Dr. Don Gagnon in Higgins Hall. ""The Iceman Cometh' is used to measure O'Neill’s vision of race in America," Gagnon said. "For a white writer to actually engage black issues on a serious level was particularly noteworthy."

O'Neill’s prior efforts, no matter how well-intentioned, Gagnon said, were not always successful in creating a greater sensitivity and value to African Americans. Through the creation of Joe Mott’s character, he said, O'Neill overcame earlier challenges with an accurate portrayal of early American experience. "O'Neill did overcome much of his racist thinking."

Digging Deeper

Read a press release [3]
Acclaimed author, essayist and cultural commentator Eric Metaxas shared lessons and insights drawn from his new biography of the 20th century German theologian and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer when he presented the annual Macricostas Lecture in April 2010 at WestConn. Metaxas, author of “Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy,” discussed the life of the Christian theologian whose active participation in the anti-Nazi “Confessing Church” movement and the anti-Hitler German Resistance before and during World War II ultimately led to his arrest and execution in April 1945. He observed that, for Bonhoeffer, “one’s life must be one’s theology, and one’s theology must be one’s life. If you don’t live the things you claim to believe, you don’t really believe them at all.”

The lecture, presented by the School of Arts and Sciences as part of the lecture series funded by the foundation of Brookfield industrialist and philanthropist Constantine “Deno” Macricostas and his wife Marie, marked a homecoming for Metaxas, who attended public schools in Danbury during the 1960s and 1970s. A Yale University graduate, Metaxas has earned international acclaim over the past three decades as a cultural and religious commentator, humor essayist, poet, reviewer, children’s book author, national radio show editor, and nonfiction writer. His previous works include a New York Times bestselling biography of the British statesman William Wilberforce.

Digging Deeper

- [Read a press release](http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/civil/BlackManCometh.asp)
- [Read an article](http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/civil/CrossingBorders.asp)
- [Visit a website](http://www.ericmetaxas.com/)
- [View a Flickr photo gallery](http://www.wcsu.edu/newsevents/westconnection-flickr.asp?setID=72157623890467986)

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"Crossing Borders"

Students in Assistant Professor of Social Sciences Dr. Damla Isik’s anthropology class learned more about the world through intimate discussions on race, religion and other socio-cultural issues at the April screening of “Crossing Borders” directed by German filmmaker Arnd Wächter, who was at the screening held in the university’s Science Building on the Midtown campus. The film documents the story of four American and four Moroccan college students who travel together through Morocco and probe into Muslim and American views of each other.

The documentary has received global attention, winning awards in United States film festivals including the Illinois International Film Festival and the Honolulu Film Festival. In Greece, the film was featured in the Thessaloniki Documentary Festival.

The film was followed by a Q&A with Wächter.

Digging Deeper

- Read a press release
- Visit the film's website

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Financial Summary

Revenues

- Tuition & Fees: 40.6%
- State Appropriation: 35.0%
- All Other Revenues: 12.2%
- Auxiliary Enterprises: 12.2%

Expenses

- Operations: 22.1%
- Academic Support: 7.7%
- Auxiliary Expenses: 8.1%
- Other: 5%
- Student Services: 8.9%
- Institutional Support: 15.2%
- Student Financial Aid: 9.3%
- Instruction: 28.2%

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Your donations to the WCSU Foundation allow us to offer scholarships, departmental support and other special projects that benefit our students.

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