Since its founding in 1903, Western Connecticut State University has evolved from a normal school to a teacher's college to the multi-faceted university it is today. Change never comes about easily or without significant discussion and as we look ahead, it's important to acknowledge those who have taken a stand to get us to where we are now ... and where we will be going in the future.

This year's WCSU annual report spotlights some of the ways our faculty, staff and students interact with the world around them and the lasting results of those interactions. Whether participating in Banned Books Week events, attending lectures on polarizing topics or speaking out about issues that are important to them, members of the Western community Stand Up for What They Believe In.

The quest for excellence — on our athletic courts and fields; in our classrooms, offices and laboratories — has yielded recognition ranging from statewide achievement awards to a Fulbright scholarship. Because of this, Western's constituents can Stand Up and Be Seen.

It's one thing to say you want to change the world. It's another to make it happen. Whether preparing the next generation of students for collegiate success, supporting community organizations and the individuals they assist or acknowledging the challenges that can be associated with returning to campus as a parent or a veteran, we pay tribute to those who Stand Up and Make a Difference.

Please note as well that this is the third 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 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. I look forward to hearing from you.

LINKS ON THIS PAGE

1. mailto:schmotterj@wcsu.edu
Stand Up for What You Believe In

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- Accepting Environment [2]
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"Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope ... and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance." - Robert F. Kennedy

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1. http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/
Stand Up for What You Believe In!

Save for a couple of minor homophobic occurrences, openly gay WCSU student Kyle Papallo said the university is a "very accepting environment."

University President James Schmotter noted the fact that the university's Gay Straight Alliance was voted best student organization last year is an indication of the university's tolerant environment.

Many Western students said they were saddened and shocked when they heard about Tyler Clementi, an 18-year-old Rutgers University student who killed himself after his roommate streamed footage of him having sex with another man on the Internet. But the WCSU students said they did not think bullying or homophobia was a pervasive problem on campus.

"We're more tolerant," said senior Patrick White, 23, who participated in the Gay Straight Alliance's November 2010 Drag Show.

Still, the Gay Straight Alliance reacted to Clementi's death, which was the sixth gay teen suicide to make national headlines in September, according to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender website dallasvoice.com.

The campus already has "safe-zones," places such as professors' offices and the University Health Service, where students can go for guidance.

Digging Deeper

Read a news article
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The WCSU Gay-Straight Alliance held a Drag Show in November to call attention to tolerance and the need for acceptance.

LINKS ON THIS PAGE

Can we blame the sagging U.S. economy for our involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan? According to Justin Raimondo, co-founder and editor of Antiwar.com, we can. He claimed that American taxpayers have shelled out $1 trillion for combat operations and war-related activities since 2001.

Raimondo, also the author of "Reclaiming the American Right: The Lost Legacy of the Conservative Movement," focused his November 2010 discussion on the status and future of the American antiwar movement and why Americans should care.

"Both parties, being creatures of Washington, believe that the inhabitants of the Imperial City know what's best for the world and are entirely qualified to run it, sending troops hither and thither to repress native revolts with the same hubristic disdain they display for the folks at home," Raimondo said.

The discussion was sponsored by the WCSU social sciences department and the Ridgefield Liberty Cooperative.

Justin Raimondo, co-founder and editor of Antiwar.com, spoke on campus in early November.

Links on this page:
The published works of four faculty members were featured in an author reading on campus in late September. The Faculty Authors Reading was one of several events the university hosted as part of the annual Banned Books Week, which raises awareness of issues such as First Amendment rights, censorship and the freedom to express ideas that are considered controversial. Banned Books Week was from Sept. 27 through Oct. 1.

The Faculty Authors Reading featured Professor of Writing, Linguistics & Creative Process Dr. Edward Hagan, Professor of Education and Educational Psychology Dr. Jane Gangi, Assistant Professor of Nursing Dr. Bozena Padykula, and Associate Professor of Management Dr. Fred Maidment.

Featured books were available at the event for purchase and signing.


Several other events were planned for Banned Books Week on campus including a Banned Books Readathon.

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Stand Up for What You Believe In!

Small classes, innovative programs, accessible full-time professors and enough money to support the facilities at Western should not be sacrificed if the governor consolidates state college governance, urged WCSU students and faculty at an open forum.

About 25 faculty and staff and a dozen students met with state Sen. Beth Bye, D-West Hartford, chairwoman of the Senate Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee.

They discussed Gov. Dannel P. Malloy's proposal to consolidate the state university and community college systems and cut aid to state colleges by about 9 percent.

Bye asked what makes Western special and how it would suffer if the proposal were passed. Small class sizes are important, attendees agreed.

Students also made their voices heard at Connecticut State University System Lobby Day at the state capitol and on the streets of Danbury as "zombies."
Stand Up for What You Believe In!

For his tireless efforts to repeal the death penalty and his commitment to speaking with law enforcement about the issues surrounding it, WCSU Associate Professor of Justice and Law Administration Dr. George Kain was recognized by the CT Network to Abolish the Death Penalty (CNADP).

In September 2010, Kain received the CNADP's Walt Everett Humanitarian Award at the organization's annual meeting in Hartford. The meeting was dedicated to law enforcement and their perspectives on the death penalty. Kain and Terrence Dwyer, assistant professor of justice and law administration at WCSU, sponsored a campus symposium on law enforcement and the death penalty. Kain invited former death-row inmate Juan Melendez to speak about his 17 years in prison for a crime he didn't commit. At the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty's 2010 Conference, Kain spoke about effectively reaching out to the law enforcement community.

Throughout Kain's career, he has exhibited a dedication to serving his community. A retired Connecticut Judicial Branch administrator, Kain has served as both an adult probation officer and a special programs administrator. He also is a member of the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Police Commissioners Association.

Walt Everett, a pastor whose son was murdered at age 24, presented the CNADP award to Kain. Dwyer, who has often worked side by side with Kain in his efforts to educate the public on current issues surrounding the death penalty, also was recognized.

"I still cannot believe that they are giving me this award. Just to have my name mentioned in the same sentence as Walt Everett is an honor," Kain said. "I am very humbled, but very grateful."

Digging Deeper

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Stand Up for What You Believe In!
Dr. Jane Goodall spoke at Western's O'Neill Center in front of a near-capacity crowd. Her talk, "Gombe and Beyond: The Next 50 Years," commemorated the 50th anniversary of the start of her research on chimpanzees in Gombe.

The research Goodall started in Gombe continues to be conducted today, and is the longest continuous study of a group of chimpanzees. "Looking back over 50 years is an extraordinary experience," she said.

When Goodall started, no one knew just how alike humans and chimpanzees were.

"We didn't know how similar the anatomy of the human brain was," and that you can get a "blood transfusion if you match the blood of a chimpanzee," she said. Chimps have a sense of humor and "are capable of rational thought and reasoned thought."

Today Goodall said GPS technology and satellite imagery are aiding greatly in the study of chimpanzees.

"In every chimpanzee group that is being studied, there is a different tool-using technique," which is evidence that chimps pass down knowledge from generation to generation, she added.

Goodall said ever since she read as a young girl about Dr. Doolittle and Tarzan, studying animals in the wild was a dream of hers. Though she got to live that dream for a while, she left "the beautiful forests" in the 1980s in an effort to try to stop them from being destroyed.
Twins Carolina and Camila Bortolleto came to Danbury from Brazil when they were 9 years old. They excelled in high school and graduated with honors from Western.

But the 22-year-old sisters are undocumented immigrants, which means they can't get driver's licenses or jobs to use the skills they worked hard to gain.

They're now part of a movement of Connecticut students working for the passage of the beleaguered federal Development, Relief and Education of Alien Minors Act, which would offer a six-year-long conditional path to citizenship and in-state tuition rates for undocumented students.

The twins were part of the all-day Connecticut DREAM Summit at Yale University and they also helped with a program on the WCSU Midtown campus about undocumented students.

The logo adopted by the Connecticut Dream Act.
By taking a hard line to reduce underage drinking on campus, Western has earned its second grant from the Connecticut Healthy Campus Initiative to continue efforts on awareness and prevention.

The Connecticut Healthy Campus Initiative (CHCI), administered by Wheeler Clinic, is funded by the state Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services with support from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and U.S. Department of Education.

"We had to show that we are succeeding in our prevention strategies," said Sharon Guck, coordinator of the WCSU Alcohol and Substance Abuse program, CHOICES. "We are seeing trends in a positive direction."

The $320,000 grant makes it possible for the university to implement strategies to help reduce binge and underage drinking. Some of these strategies include an alcohol task force, student surveys and guest speakers.

Guck said some of the success is owed to programs in the residence hall and the annual alcohol awareness week. Making changes in the campus environment over recent years has also helped, she said. The university seeks to manage availability and access to alcohol, police the campus and monitor athletic events and on-campus parties.

A survey of Western students indicated that binge drinking decreased six percent from 2006 to 2008 and another six percent between 2008 and 2010. In the 2010 survey, 77 percent stated that in a week they have five drinks or fewer. "Any increase approaching 5 percent is a huge success," Guck said.

Students put car keys on "The Promise Tree" signifying a promise to only drive sober. "The Promise Tree" was the result of a campus campaign created by Romina Rivera and other health promotion and exercise sciences students who organized the program. Rivera’s son was killed by an impaired driver and she interned in the CHOICES office.

Stand Up for What You Believe In!

The entrepreneurial spirit was celebrated in October 2010 at a luncheon honoring Middlebury electrical contractor Paul Dinto and a lecture featuring nationally acclaimed business startup expert and author Barry Moltz.

Dinto, founder and owner since 1987 of Paul Dinto Electrical Contractors, received the 2010 Entrepreneur of the Year Award at a luncheon.

Moltz, author of three books and commentator for national media and a weekly radio show on entrepreneurship, offered his insightful and humorous perspective on key elements for success and failure in business startups when he delivered the Macricostas Lecture.

The award and lecture were funded by grants from the foundation of Brookfield industrialist and philanthropist Constantine "Deno" Macricostas and his wife Marie.


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Clockwise from top: Middlebury electrical contractor Paul Dinto was honored as the Entrepreneur of the Year at a campus luncheon. Business startup expert and author Barry Moltz also spoke about entrepreneurship at an evening lecture on the same day.

LINKS ON THIS PAGE


Copyright © 2011 WCSU, Danbury, Conn. Campus Maps | Directions
Move-in day for the fall 2010 semester began with a campaign aimed at helping students identify patterns that signal potential domestic abuse.

Western was among nine colleges and universities in the state taking part in the Red Flag Campaign. The schools displayed posters that illustrated the "red flags" of relationship problems:

- Emotional abuse, coercion, excessive jealousy, isolation, sexual/physical assault,
- blaming the victim for inappropriate behavior, stalking on the part of the perpetrator and stalking on the part of the victim.

Digging Deeper

- Read a news article
- Visit a website

Clockwise from top:

WCSU President James W. Schmotter was featured on the cover of the "I Stand With You" campaign to end domestic violence and sexual assault.

Glory Blanceagle, an assistant counselor at the WCSU Counseling Center, plants red flags as part of the Red Flag Campaign to call attention to relationship problems.
Stand Up for What You Believe In!

To actively engage and inform WCSU students by raising their awareness of the world around them, the “Step into the World” program provided a hands-on, personal approach to understanding the United Nations through engagement and dialogue about globalization, human rights and other international issues.

Students from the WCSU Honors Program and the campus Newman Center traveled to New York City on March 8, 2011, to visit the U.N. and participate in discussions held in conjunction with the celebration of International Women’s Day. Goals of the “Step into the World” program included the promotion of greater student awareness of their role in the global community, understanding of important international issues, and openness to become involved in justice, peace and environmental issues. Participants in “Step into the World” also met after the New York field trip to discuss their experiences and prepare displays to share what they have learned with the university community.

Digging Deeper

[1] [2]

Visit a website [3]

Clockwise from top:
A trip to the United Nations provides exposure to a wide variety of international issues. Among them, protestors from the Ivory Coast.

The UN Refugee Agency provided one of many displays for students to consider.

Student Amy DiFrancesco stops to consider a biography of Helene Berr while at the U.N.

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Stand Up for What You Believe In!

No taxation without representation. A federal government with limited powers. Remember those words? They are part of the U.S. Constitution and on Constitution Day, WCSU Professor of History and Non-Western Cultures Dr. Kevin Gutzman discussed our country's founding document, the way it was supposed to work and the way it works today.

Gutzman said, "Essentially, the idea of the Constitution was that most political decisions should be made by legislative elections through the state, and that the federal government should be given few powers, such as military and diplomacy," Gutzman said. "The current behavior of the federal government assumes that it has unlimited authority. We have the opposite model from the one we adopted when the Constitution was written."

Digging Deeper

Read a press release

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Stand Up for What You Believe In!

When the Northwest Conservation District presented its annual awards in October 2010, in Kent, Conn., WCSU Professor of Political Science Dr. Chris Kukk was among those honored.

Kukk received the Conservation Educator Award in recognition of his extraordinary commitment to the protection of natural resources and to the creation and sustainability of civil society. Kukk, who spoke at the event about "Local Waters, Global Answers," has traveled extensively and taken Western students to conduct research on global water issues.

Digging Deeper

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Stand Up and Be Seen!

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- Acceleration artwork
- Accreditations
- Art Association Exhibit
- ASCAP Award
- Barnard Awards
- Brooks Breaks Records
- Campbell earns 500th career victory
- Campus signs
- 'Caribbean Pop'
- Cheerleaders Shine
- Civil War Exhibit
- Conn. Choir Director of Year
- CSUS Teaching Award
- Fulbright Scholar
- Goble to head SVPA
- Health Professions Advisor Award
- JFK50
- KCACTF
- Lifetime of Art
- MBA Case Competition
- Melissa Teel leads WCSU to LEC title
- Hole Bole Winners
- Nursing Award
- SVPA Center Receives Bonding
- Swimming & Diving Team Award
- Teaching Excellence Award
- Winning PSA
- WRD

"You can stand tall without standing on someone. You can be a victor without having victims." - Harriet Woods

LINKS ON THIS PAGE

17. http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/seen/HealthProfessionsAdvisement.asp
27. http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/seen/AntiDrinkingandDrivingPSA.asp
With its neon glow, twinkling lights and progressive design, a new sculpture hanging in the Westside Campus Center captures the explosive energy of life at Western.

As part of Connecticut’s Art in Public Spaces program, established by the General Assembly in 1978, the sculpture was selected by a committee from WCSU that reviewed the proposals of three artists. Alice Aycock of New York City was selected based on the overall aesthetic appeal of her work.

According to Tamara Dimitri of the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism, which oversees the artwork for the program, Aycock said the sculpture represents an explosion of energy and light and waves of frenetic activity. “The piece fits well with the architecture,” said Dimitri. “It speaks to the energy of the students and appears to be a piece that will have a timeless quality and will be something of interest for years to come.”

The 15-foot by 12-foot sculpture, which hangs on a board above the Westside Campus Center ballroom, is a patchwork of bright colors. Yellow and orange neon wands are illuminated, a satellite dish in one corner is adorned with a coiled red wire cone, and several computer boards mimic a starry night sky. In Connecticut, Aycock has other pieces installed at Tunxis Community College in Farmington and the Rowland State Government Center in Waterbury.

The state program requires that not less than 1 percent of the cost of the construction or renovation of publicly accessible state buildings be allocated for the commission or purchase of artwork for that building. Aycock’s sculpture for Western was created and installed at a cost of $88,500. Nearly 400 works have been commissioned since the program’s inception, including painting, photography and murals.
The WCSU department of music received reaccreditation from the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM).

Dean of the School of Visual and Performing Arts Dr. Dan Goble spoke of the importance of the reaccreditation.

"An achievement of this magnitude is not possible without the collective contributions of a vast constituency," Goble said. "WestConn's NASM reaccreditation represents the culmination of over 12 years of teamwork within the institution.

Similarly, the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs reported that Western’s M.S. in Counseling program received accreditation for both the Clinical Mental Health Counseling and School Counseling tracks.

Digging Deeper

[1] Visit a website
[2] Visit a website

Clockwise from top: Western’s M.S. in Counseling program received accreditation for both the Clinical Mental Health Counseling and School Counseling tracks. (l-r): Brenda Meyer and Zhenna Hadar, graduate students in the department, discuss an assignment.

Students in the WCSU department of music, recently reaccredited by the National Association of Schools of Music, perform in concert.

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Stand Up and Be Seen!

Fifteen critically acclaimed artists working in diverse media ranging from pastel and oil paintings to ceramics, photography and sculpture were featured in a major exhibition from Oct. 18 through Nov. 23, 2010, at Western.

The show titled "Fifteen Artists, One Exhibition," organized by the WCSU art department in collaboration with the Washington (Conn.) Art Association (WAA), showcased the works of 15 regionally and nationally recognized artists who have taught at the WAA.

Darby Cardonsky was curator for the Higgins Gallery exhibition and for 22 years was co-owner of the former Bachelier Cardonsky Gallery in Kent. She described the WCSU/WAA collaboration as an important event highlighting the university’s role as a regional center for the arts.

"The university gallery is a focal point where great art is displayed, creating discussions and attracting a diverse and energetic audience," Cardonsky observed. "Our mission is to bring exceptional exhibitions to the community surrounding WCSU. This exhibition was made possible by generous funding from an anonymous donor."

The university and the association, founded in 1932, have brought together a remarkable spectrum of works by artists who have exhibited widely in the Northeast, across the United States and abroad. The breadth of experience represented in the show included painters whose careers span four decades or more such as Charles Cajori and Lois Dodd, co-founders of the Tanager Gallery, and Barbara Grossman, a co-founder of the Bowery Gallery, legendary exhibition spaces for New York’s avant-garde artistic community. The exhibition also featured paintings by Eric Aho, Ira Barkoff, Souby Boski, Wolf Kahn, Marija McCarthy and Ruth Miller; works in mixed media by Nancy Lasar; ceramic works by Elizabeth MacDonald and Ann Mallory; sculpture by Philip Grausman; and photography by Judith Petrovich and Carl Weese.

Digging Deeper

- [Read a press release](http://www.wcsu.edu/newsevents/WCSU-WAAartexhibit.asp)
- [Visit a website](http://www.washingtonart.org/)

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Chairman of the Department of Music Jamie Begian received an ASCAP PLUS Award for his work as a jazz musician and composer. ASCAP PLUS is an awards program that provides cash and recognition to established writers whose main activity is outside of broadcast media. ASCAP is the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, of which Begian is a member.

The ASCAP award is the latest in a series of awards Begian's compositions have received. In 2001, he was the winner of the "Charlie Parker Award," presented by the prestigious BMI Jazz Composers Workshop, for his piece "Fuzzy Math." He was nominated for the same award in 2000 with his piece, "Oops!"

Digging Deeper

Visit a website [3]
WCSU seniors Emily Cole and Bryan Bielefeldt were both familiar faces around campus — and they shared the philosophy that being involved in campus and community is the only way to make a difference.

Because of their commitment to Western, both academically and civically, Cole and Bielefeldt were chosen as winners of the 2011 Henry Barnard Distinguished Student Award. The award, established in 1983 by the private development foundation of the CSU system, is given annually to 12 distinguished students from Western, Central, Eastern and Southern Connecticut state universities.

Cole pursued an English major and lives in Brookfield. Bielefeldt, of Waterbury, majored in graphic design. Recipients are selected for their academic and leadership qualities and must maintain at least a 3.7 grade point average and have a record of substantial voluntary service to their university and community.

Bielefeldt, who was a nontraditional student, served in the military for five years in the Airborne Infantry before returning to school. He said he was especially humbled by the award because it means more than just a few dollars in his pocket; he recognized the honor.

"When I think scholarship, I think money," Bielefeldt said. "I didn't apply for the monetary aspect; I applied for the Barnard Award itself."

Cole's sentiments about the award were similar: "I feel really honored and am very appreciative. It means someone thinks I'm worthy to continue my studies. That's been really inspiring to me to help me move on. Scholarships are important because when someone feels they've been recognized it makes them work that much harder."

Both students were actively involved on campus. Cole was past president and a member of the English Honors Society, co-chair of the English Society, co-president of the local chapter of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, a Student Government Association senator and chair of the fundraising committee, managing editor of the university magazine "Beyond the Margins" and treasurer of the WCSU Golf Club. She also held several part-time positions outside of the university.

Bielefeldt has used his skills as a graphic design artist in the University Publications office and for the campus veterans organization.

"I try to be heavily involved with the veterans' affairs," he said. He has assisted with financial aid and registration packets and designed logos and done print marketing for the student veterans affairs programs. "I didn't think of it as community service because I came from there. It seemed like the right place to be."

The recipient of several other scholarships, Cole said that being involved on campus is the best way to learn about yourself and others and to explore areas that you may not otherwise have exposure.

"If you get involved on campus, you'll have a lot more fun in class if you feel like you're making a difference outside of it," Cole said. "Pay attention and be a part of the class. You will feel more worthy and like you are contributing to yourself and others. That's how you learn to grow. You have to find opportunities and being involved is a way to find them."
Western earned three of the five major awards when the 2010-11 All-Little East Men’s Basketball teams were announced by the conference office. Junior guard DaQuan Brooks (Atlanta, Ga.) repeated as the Player of the Year, while freshman guard Jengodi Gates (New Haven) was chosen as the Rookie of the Year. Bob Campbell was selected as the Coach of the Year by his peers to complete the Colonials’ major honorees.

Brooks is just the seventh student-athlete in the history of Little East men’s basketball to defend his top overall player award in back-to-back seasons and first since Plymouth State’s Adam DeChristopher (1998-99). The junior from Atlanta, Ga. piloted Western Connecticut’s offensive attack to a Little East-best 85.8 points per game. He became the 26th player in Colonial history to reach the 1,000-career point mark in the victory over Southern Maine on Dec. 4, 2010. The two-time All-Little East, first-team pick ranked among the conference leaders in 3-pointers made (3.1 pg) and scoring (22.0 ppg), while ranking second in assists (4.3 apg), free throw percentage (.824), and steals (2.0 spg). Brooks reached double figures in the scoring column in each of his 25 starts and eclipsed the 20-point barrier 14 times. He netted a season-high 35 points to lift Western past Cobleskill State on Nov. 15, 2010. Brooks nearly produced a double-double against Plymouth State, scoring 24 points and handing out a season-high nine assists. He was consistently selected as the conference’s player of the week, earning the award seven of the 12 times it was presented. Brooks also received the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) New England Division III Player of the Week award twice.

DaQuan Brooks takes to the air on his way to several major awards in the Little East Conference.

**Digging Deeper**

- [Read a press release](http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/seen/BarnardAwards.asp)
- [Read a news story](http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/seen/BobCampbell500.asp)
- [Visit a website](http://www.wcsu.edu/sports/mbasketball/NewsStories/mb2011LECAllStarTeam030111.html)
- [Brooks scores 1,000th point in WestConn men’s 86-0832](http://www.greenwichtime.com/baseball/article/Brooks-scores-1-000th-point-in-WestConn-men-s-860832.php)
- [Visit a website](http://www.wcsu.edu/sports/mbasketball/index.htm)

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The 2010-11 Colonials men’s basketball season brought two important milestones for longtime coach Bob Campbell as he recorded his 500th career victory and received recognition from his peers as 2011 Coach of the Year for the Little East Conference (LEC).

Campbell reached his 500th career win when the Colonials defeated Plattsburgh State 86-80 in the opening-round game of the November 2010 Manhattanville Tournament. The victory came at the start of a successful 22-6 campaign in 2010-11 – Western’s sixth season with at least 20 victories since joining the LEC in 1994 – earning the Colonials an at-large berth in the NCAA Division III Tournament for the first time since 2005. The Colonials won their first-round game against Salve Regina before falling to Middlebury College in the second round.

The 2010-11 campaign also marked Campbell’s 28th season as Western’s head coach. He remains the coach with the best win-loss record in the Western program’s 64-year history, achieving 519 wins against just 218 losses for a career winning percentage of just over .700. His selection by fellow LEC coaches to receive the 2011 Coach of the Year honors represented the third time he has received the award, and the first since 2003.

Stand Up and Be Seen!

Clockwise from top: (l-r): WCSU Men’s Basketball Coach Bob Campbell and Assistant Coach Ken Berube

Campbell holds the game ball as his parents celebrate with him.

Links on this page:

A new look defined the perimeter of the Midtown campus with construction in fall 2010 of signs and other improvements at two corners on White Street. The project, directed by Peter J. Visentin, WCSU director of Planning and Engineering, resulted in distinguished brick-and-construction-stone signs at Fifth and Eighth avenues, tying together the campus along the length of White Street.

The project also featured four-season foliage with star magnolia, spruce and elm trees, yew and ivy. Elms, which will grow to the same height as the pin oaks on White Street, will also be planted along Eighth Avenue.

"The new signs will reflect the look of the entrance gate on White Street and define the campus along Eighth Avenue with the elm trees," Visentin said. "It will give the campus a more finished look."

The project cost about $200,000, paid for by state bonding, as part of the Connecticut State University System's long-term capital infrastructure investment plan.

The landscape architectural firm of Wesley Stout Associates of New Canaan worked with Visentin on the design. The contractor was Holzner Electric Construction Co. of Bridgeport.
WCSU welcomed renowned Dominican artist German Perez to display his "Caribbean Pop" exhibit from May 7 to 20, in the Ruth Haas Library on the Midtown campus.

Perez gave a brief talk about his work at the May 11 official exhibit opening and also held a book signing.

Perez predominately features issues of Caribbean life, politics and processes of migration to the U.S. in his paintings. His work has been exhibited worldwide and has been adopted as the cover art for several Julia Alvarez books.

WCSU Associate Professor of Sociology Dr. Carina Bandhauer spoke of the importance of Perez's work.

"German Perez's work embodies the spirit of the history and struggles of Caribbean peoples past and present, reflecting, above all, his social conscience and concern for the world," Bandhauer said. "His colorful images depict struggles between innocence and evil, borders and migrants, and reclaim the indigenous identity of the Taino people in what remains a neo-colonial world."

Dominican artist German Perez discusses his work at a May exhibit opening.

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Digging Deeper

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LINKS ON THIS PAGE

When the 2010-11 cheerleading season began, even with Western Connecticut State University replacing more than half of its cheerleaders from a team that had finished second at a national competition the year before, senior captain Amanda Giangregorio wasn’t worried. 

Turns out she had the right idea. 

In late March, Giangregorio and WestConn finished first at the 2011 Cheer Ltd. Nationals at CANAM in the Large Collegiate division. WestConn finished with 123.350 points, beating Competitive Cheerleading at Virginia Tech, and James Madison University, which finished with 119.3 and 117.2 points, respectively.

Stand Up and Be Seen!

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In late March, Giangregorio and WestConn finished first at the 2011 Cheer Ltd. Nationals at CANAM in the Large Collegiate division. WestConn finished with 123.350 points, beating Competitive Cheerleading at Virginia Tech, and James Madison University, which finished with 119.3 and 117.2 points, respectively.

Western's cheerleading squad finished first at the 2011 Cheer Ltd. Nationals at CANAM in the Large Collegiate division.

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Stand Up and Be Seen!

Four Western historians shared their perspectives at a public forum and the Ruth A. Haas Library displayed University Archive materials from the period in the WCSU commemoration during April of the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the American Civil War.

Faculty members of the WCSU department of history and non-Western cultures presented a panel discussion on "The Legacy of Our Civil War: 150 Years After Fort Sumter" on Tuesday, April 12. Participants included Drs. Kevin Gutzman, Leslie Lindanauer, Marcy May and Burton Peretti.

An exhibition of letters, photographs, newspapers and period literature from the Civil War and its immediate aftermath were shown from April 1 through 30 in the main lobby of the Haas Library. Featured historical items were selected from holdings of the University Archives and Special Collections, cosponsor with the department of history and non-Western cultures for the commemorative programs during April.

"The purpose of the panel and exhibit is to mark this important anniversary — the beginning of the Civil War," WCSU Archivist and Special Collections Librarian Brian Stevens observed. "For students, it will serve to bring that historical event into view.

"This anniversary is particularly resonant today as we watch civil wars and revolutions erupting in the Middle East," Stevens added. "These programs provide an opportunity to look at an historical event not as static, but rather as evolving in our collective consciousness, where meanings and perceived ‘truths’ can shift depending on the background and the period in time of the person looking at the event."

Clockwise from top:
Southbury resident Andrew Bleidner stands beside some of the Civil War memorabilia he contributed to the exhibit.
Some of the memorabilia featured in the Civil War exhibit.

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Professor of Music Dr. Kevin Jay Isaacs was named Connecticut Choir Director of
the Year by the Connecticut Chapter of the American Choral Directors
Association at the organization's annual fall conference in October 2010. Isaacs,
associate chair of the music department at Western, was nominated for the
award by a vote from the ACDA Board of Directors, as well as former students.

"I am moved that they had remembered me fondly and respectfully," Isaacs
said. "The best recognition a teacher can receive comes from the people we
instruct, nurture and watch grow into vital and productive adults."

Isaacs studied at Texas Christian University, where he received both a bachelor's
and master's degree in music composition and theory. He earned a Ph.D. in
music composition and choral conducting at the University of Arizona.

The Connecticut Choir Director of the Year award was first given to Dr. Gerald
Mack, from the Hartt School of Music at the University of Hartford. Other
recipients of the award have included Dr. Jameson Marvin, of Harvard; and
Richard Coffey, artistic director on CONCORA, Connecticut Choral Artists.

"I am thrilled to be included in such company," Isaacs said.

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Dr. Galina Bakhtiarova, associate professor and chairperson of the WCSU department of world languages and literature, received the system-wide Trustee Teaching Award from the Connecticut State University System Board of Trustees.

Bakhtiarova is widely recognized for her contributions to creating a vision for the study of languages, literature and cultures, as exemplified by a rigorous and competitive Spanish language program that advances a proficiency-oriented communicative approach and includes a global immersion component, and for her championing of effective collegial work as a department chairperson.

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1. http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/seen/ChoirDirectorofYear.asp
Stand Up and Be Seen!

As soon as Kevin Gaughan graduated from high school, he headed west to start college far from his New Fairfield home. When he got to Arizona, he started hanging out with the wrong crowd, ignoring his studies and getting into trouble. After his family stepped in, Gaughan returned home to start classes at Western and said the challenging environment and supportive professors made all the difference. After graduating with a 4.0 GPA in 2009, Gaughan enrolled in Western’s graduate program where he also maintained a 4.0 GPA.

But his success story doesn’t end there. Last spring Gaughan, 27, was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study social entrepreneurship in the small, East European nation of Estonia beginning this fall. He and his new bride, Elyse Huseas, will live abroad for 18 months.

“This research will result in helping underprivileged people by using ground-breaking types of business models,” said Gaughan, who earned his master’s degree in history from WCSU in August 2011. “By trying to find connections between universities, communities and social entrepreneurship, we can learn how a university can extend itself to the community to benefit everyone.”

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1. http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/seen/CSUSTeachingAward.asp
After an extensive national search, Western Connecticut State University named Dr. Dan Goble, of Danbury, dean of its School of Visual and Performing Arts (SVPA). Goble has served as chair of the WCSU department of music since 2005, as associate chair of the department from 1998 to 2004, and as director of the university’s Jazz Studies program from 1994 to 2005.

"I am honored and excited to have been chosen the next dean of the School of Visual and Performing Arts at WCSU," Goble said. "My primary goal as the dean will be to execute the collective vision of the students, faculty, staff and alumni of the School of Visual and Performing Arts, which since the establishment of the school in 2006 has been to be a place where students throughout the region, and especially residents of Connecticut, can receive an outstanding education in the arts without being encumbered by the high costs associated with a conservatory. Our faculty members in the departments of art, music and theater put students first, providing them with an education in the arts that is second to none in the area. The opening of our new state-of-the-art facility in 2014 will further establish WCSU as the university of choice in the arts and arts education. I look forward to leading the School of Visual and Performing Arts at this exciting time."

Goble, a highly respected saxophone player, mastered his craft with lessons from Roger Greenberg, Thomas Kinser, Harvey Pittel and Albert Regni. He obtained a Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Music Education at the University of Northern Colorado and a Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts at the University of Texas at Austin. Goble has performed with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, the New York City Ballet Orchestra, the New York City Opera Orchestra, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, the Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra, the New York Saxophone Quartet, the Harvey Pittel Saxophone Quartet, the New Haven Symphony and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic. He has numerous publications and recordings.

In addition to being an outstanding role model for aspiring musicians, Goble has significant administrative abilities, including the development and management of the department of music budget, curriculum and staff; participation in the department’s accreditation and reaccreditation by the National Association of Schools of Music; and enrollment management activities for the department.

Goble succeeds Dr. Carol Hawkes as SVPA dean. Hawkes has served in that role since the creation of the school in 2006.
Professor of Chemistry Dr. Paul Hines was honored in 2011 by the Northeast Association of Advisors for the Health Professions. The organization presented Hines with an award for lifetime service.

Hines, who earned his Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania, joined the Western chemistry faculty in 1968, specializing in the field of organic chemistry. He serves as the pre-health professions advisor at Western, working with a faculty committee drawn from several academic departments to guide undergraduate students in preparing for graduate study in a wide range of health-related professional fields.

In addition to his more than four decades' service on the faculty, Hines has held several administrative positions at WCSU, currently serving as interim assistant dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. The dedication of Hines and his wife, Dr. Ann Hines, to community service in the Danbury area received recognition when the couple received the Ruth Haas Community Leadership Award presented by the WCSU Foundation in 2009.

Digging Deeper

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Professor of Chemistry Dr. Paul Hines, honored by the Northeast Association of Advisors for the Health Professions for his lifetime service, works with Yinnet Espinal, a senior majoring in biochemistry who plans to become a physician assistant.

Stand Up and Be Seen!

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Stand Up and Be Seen!

The 50th anniversary of the election and inauguration of President John F. Kennedy was celebrated with the observation of JFK50, two events in the Ruth Haas Library on the Midtown campus.

On November 9, 2010, the anniversary of Kennedy’s election, former Danbury Mayor James E. Dyer, a collector of Kennedy memorabilia since the age of 10, showed authentic campaign and inauguration artifacts, Kennedy election fliers, JFK autographs and other items.

On Feb. 3, 2011, Dyer displayed inaugural memorabilia and gave a talk about his recollections of Kennedy, followed by a lecture by several faculty members about Kennedy’s influence on the country.

“This collection has been fun to compile over the years and has historical significance,” Dyer said. “I met a lot of wonderful people at collection shows, including Caroline Kennedy and John F. Kennedy Jr. at Municipal Arts Society of New York events. It’s been an exciting dance with history.”

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Clockwise from top: Former Danbury Mayor James E. Dyer shared his JFK memorabilia and spoke about the former president on the 50th anniversary of Kennedy’s election.

Students stop to examine some of the items contained in the JFK50 exhibit.

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Stand Up and Be Seen!

WCSU sent 22 students and faculty to the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF) Region 1 competition in Fitchburg, Mass., in January 2011. Multiple Western representatives won awards, and several more were honored — helping to add to the reputation the university's theatre arts program has earned over the years.

"We’ve had finalists for the nationals, and one student won in sound design," said Professor of Theatre Arts Sal Trapani. When asked about what those unfamiliar with this achievement might relate the victory to, Trapani said, "It is the equivalent of going to the Division I Final Four Basketball Tournament or the College World Series."

Matt Bagley, a senior from Danbury, won the Irene Ryan Acting Award for the region. With the help of Conor Daniel Bartram, a junior from Hamden, Bagley won a $500 scholarship for the achievement and went on to win the Dell’Arte International School for Physical Theatre Scholarship at the KCACTF finals in Washington, D.C.. This $6,000 award toward a year of training in the Professional Training Program, or the MFA program, was the largest monetary award given out at the competition.

"I was beyond excited when we found out that we won the region. It was unreal," Bartram said.

Jes Almeida, a senior from Stratford, was announced as the regional winner in the Hair & Makeup category and also traveled to Washington, D.C. for the national competition.

"Many people don’t realize the effort and hours upon hours of hard work designers, directors, stage managers, actors and technical staff put into making these performances happen," Almeida said. "To be recognized by the Kennedy Center feels equally amazing."

Among the students to gain recognition during the regional competition were Lauren Sarnataro, of Waterbury, runner-up in Stage Management; and Allison Gauthier, of Southington, and Andrew Hendrick, of Fairfield, finalists for the Musical Theatre Initiative Award. Eight additional students were cast in full-length and one-act play readings, and Erik Tonner, adjunct faculty member and alumnus, received a Merit Award for Innovative Staging of a Play for "As Bees in Honey Drown."

"It is a great accomplishment for our program and the students who are part of it, our alumni, the rest of WestConn's student body and all faculty and administration," Trapani said.

The KCACTF was started in 1969 and features 18,000 students from more than 600 institutions. Since its inception, more than 400,000 students have had their work critiqued.

Clockwise from top: Theatre arts students Matt Bagley, Jes Almeida and Conor Daniel Bartram achieved success at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

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Because of his metaphoric and narrative style, artist John Wallace has been coined a storyteller — and his bold, original paintings have captivated art audiences for more than five decades.

From Feb. 17 through March 10, 2011, Wallace, a former art professor, exhibited his paintings at the university's Higgins Gallery.

"John Wallace has been an inspiration and a mentor to generations of students at WCSU," said Western Professor of Art Margaret Grimes, describing his paintings as ambitious and stunningly original. She said the artist’s more recent works "blend astronomical, astrological and mythological elements in an expression of the infinite and spirituality."

Wallace, who received a B.F.A. from Washington University and an M.F.A. from Indiana University, taught at Western from 1982 through 2009 and was co-coordinator of the M.F.A. program from 2000 thru 2009. He also studied at Skowhegan, where he received a Margaret Tiffany Blake fellowship for creating a fresco in the choir loft of the South Solon Meeting House, which is now a historic landmark. He is also the recipient of a Huntington Hartford Fellowship and a Roswell Museum Fellowship. He passed away on April 15, 2011.
Stand Up and Be Seen!

Four students in the Master of Business Administration program at WCSU have earned the top prize in a nationwide competition to design a new leadership volunteer institute for the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).

WCSU students Rachid Chtioui, Kathleen Lindenmayer, Thomas Loughman and Stacey Miller prevailed against MBA student teams from Golden Gate University, the University of California at Northridge, and the University of Texas at Dallas to receive the award in the AARP/IW Group MBA Case Competition announced on April 25, 2011. The WCSU Ancell School of Business will receive a prize of $10,000 in recognition of the winning case study for a leadership volunteer institute, which the students presented in summer 2011 to AARP senior management at the organization’s national headquarters in Washington, D.C. Arrangements for the competition were coordinated and sponsored by Bill Imada, chairman and CEO of IW Group, an advertising and public relations firm specializing in the growing Asian-American market in the United States.

The award marked the capstone of an intensive project that required research on AARP's mission and organization, design of a national leadership volunteer institute consistent with AARP’s priorities, and analysis of instructional and financial requirements to propose a high-impact and cost-effective program. The students collaborated closely with their faculty adviser and school liaison for the project, Associate Professor of Marketing Dr. Karen Koza, and with Ancell School of Business Dean Dr. Allen Morton.

"I am particularly proud of our students and commend them for their ability to design, research and cost out a nationwide training institute for AARP in a period of approximately six weeks,” Morton observed. “Karen Koza deserves praise for guiding our students through this difficult and time-consuming task, and for creating an outstanding learning opportunity for our students.”
Stand Up and Be Seen!

Western student athletes strive each year to set the bar high for excellence — but few in recent WCSU sports intercollegiate competition have matched the accomplishments of 2011 graduate Melissa Teel. Teel capped a memorable career as center of the women’s basketball team by leading the Colonials for the second consecutive year to the second round of the NCAA Division III Tournament, closing the 2010-11 season with a 24-4 record. The 2011 WCSU Female Athlete of the Year became the first women’s basketball player in Colonials history to post more than 1,000 points and 1,000 rebounds in her career. Her personal achievements included her selection as a Women’s Basketball Coaches Association/State Farm Division III All-American, one of numerous league, regional and national all-star team honors received during her senior year.

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Most people who know that 10 to the 23rd power equals 1.0 times 10²³ also knew that Oct. 23 was National Mole Day, a day for chemists to celebrate the chemistry unit of measure.

To celebrate the day, four chemistry majors from Western participated in the 2010 "Mole Bowl," a science competition held at Fairfield University. Competing against about a dozen other students from Fairfield and Sacred Heart universities, the WCSU team took first place in the event after correctly answering nearly all 40 questions posed. The win earned them $300 and the trophy — a stuffed mole.

Brandon Litwin, David Ermert, Rebecca Greene-Cramer and Felix Sathoud display their trophy - a stuffed mole.

**Digging Deeper**

- [Read a news article](http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/seen/MelissaTeel.asp)
- [Visit a website](http://www.housatonictimes.com/articles/2011/01/06/opinion/letters/doc4d2637b214456104558527.txt)
- [http://www.moleday.org/](http://www.moleday.org/)

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1. http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/seen/MelissaTeel.asp
Dr. Karen Crouse, WCSU associate professor of nursing and chair of the nursing department, received the Vera R. Keane Award for Outstanding Service to the Connecticut Nurses Association (CNA) at the organization's 104th annual convention in October 2010.

Crouse, a former vice president of the CNA, joined the Western nursing faculty in 2002 and has served as department chair since 2007. A board-certified emergency nurse and family nurse practitioner, she has conducted research on topics including the experience of newly licensed Registered Nurses in emergency departments, nursing response to death in emergency departments, and the emergence of retail health care organizations in the United States.

Crouse earned an Ed.D. in educational leadership from the University of Hartford, a post-master’s professional certificate in health care management from the University of New Haven, and a master’s degree in nursing from Sacred Heart University. Prior to entering the academic profession, she practiced nursing at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston and in the adult emergency department at Yale-New Haven Hospital. In 2005, Yale-New Haven honored her as the recipient of its Nightingale Award for nursing excellence.

Digging Deeper

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WCSU professors cheered the news that the long-awaited Visual and Performing Arts Center had been granted state funding, with construction expected to begin this fall.

WCSU President James Schmotter learned in March 2011 that Gov. Dannel P. Malloy has approved bonding for the $80 million building, which has been on the university’s wish list for 20 years and in planning for about eight. Schmotter said he understood it was one of two “shovel-ready” projects in the Connecticut State University System that received Malloy’s go-ahead.

"It's been a long struggle for us, so this is really exciting," Schmotter said. "The design work is done. The faculty have been working with a team of architects for two years."

Schmotter said the building is an important part of the university's 10-year master plan, which is now in its fourth year.

Western, which has the only School of Visual and Performing Arts in the state university system, plans to break ground in fall 2011 and open the building in 2014. The 135,000-square-foot facility will be sited on the existing parking lot between the Westside Student Center and the O'Neill Center.

Plans call for the $80 million building to feature a 337-seat concert hall, a 330-seat theater, design studios and a gallery for the art department. A two-story central lobby will serve as a gathering space for the facility, with access to the quadrangle and outdoor loggia.
The College Swimming Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) has recognized the Western Women’s Swimming and Diving team with Scholar All America status. The achievement is based on the team’s cumulative 3.11 grade point average for the fall 2010 semester.

Head Coach Jill Cook said it takes a lot of talent and dedication to be a successful athlete and scholar.

“Our team has shown that having a successful balance of academics and athletics has helped them develop discipline in the classroom,” Cook said. “Our women’s swimming and diving team can excel in the classroom as well as in the pool — as evidenced by their recent performance at the New England Intercollegiate Swimming and Diving Association Championships.”

WestConn went 6-3 this past season and finished in a program-best third place in the Little East Conference Championship and sixth in the New England Intercollegiate Swimming and Diving Championship.

The CSCAA is the oldest coaches organization in America. In addition to Scholar All America Awards, the CSCAA recognizes All America swimmers and divers at the national championships every year.

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Stand Up and Be Seen!

David Smith, an accomplished percussionist and professor of music and music education whose teaching career at Western spans more than 40 years, received the 2010 Teaching Excellence Award at the annual Faculty Recognition Ceremony on Dec. 2.

Smith received the award from WCSU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Linda Rinker during the afternoon ceremony in Warner Hall. WCSU President James Schmotter offered remarks, and Professor of Music and Music Education Dr. Marjorie Callaghan introduced Smith for the award presentation.

The program also featured recognition of achievements by Western faculty members, including earned degrees, published works, academic and performing arts presentations, and service activities. Special recognition was given to eight faculty members who earned tenure awards and seven who received promotions during the 2009-10 academic year.

Recipient of a bachelor’s degree in music education from Mansfield State College and a master’s degree in percussion performance from East Carolina University, Smith joined the WCSU music faculty in 1970. He resides in Danbury with his wife Judith, an adjunct professor in the university’s music department.

While the music program has grown significantly during his four decades at Western, Smith observed, “my approach to teaching hasn’t changed over the years. I treat each student as an individual.”

Callaghan, who submitted the award nomination, remarked that Smith has earned the respect of his peers and students as a gifted teacher and performing artist.

“Throughout his 41 years of teaching here at WCSU, Dave Smith is and has been a wonderful role model and mentor for students and faculty alike,” Callaghan said. “He has high standards and expectations and, at the same time, is kind and empathetic, aware of each student’s needs. He motivates his students both by example, and by organizing master classes and performances by internationally recognized percussionists.”

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Stand Up and Be Seen!

Students from Western produced the best video public service announcement (PSA) aimed at increasing awareness of the dangers of underage drinking. The video was selected by a panel of judges to win top prizes in a statewide contest for college students, sponsored by the Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of Connecticut (WSWC).

The winners were announced at an awards ceremony held at the University of New Haven on April 26, 2011. Entrants were asked to write, film, and produce a 30-second television public service announcement creating awareness about the dangers of underage drinking. The winning PSA was broadcast on Fox 61, NBC Connecticut, and WTNH-8.

Thirty-two teams consisting of more than 100 students from WCSU, Central Connecticut State University, Eastern Connecticut State University, Quinnipiac University, University of Hartford, University of New Haven, University of Bridgeport, Fairfield University and Sacred Heart University registered for this year’s competition to create an original PSA for the contest.

Members of the first place WCSU team, "J Team Productions," included Robert Adams, Joshua Gregorio, Joey King and John Patrick Sheehan, all students in COM 146 - Basic Video Production. Their adviser was Assistant Professor of Communication Dr. J.C Barone.

"I'm very proud of what this fairly new Media Arts major (three years old) is doing!" Barone said.

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2. See a TV news report
3. View the winning video

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3. http://www.ctnow.com/videobeta/?watchId=b0ae8bf3-a870-4abc-a110-2b7575dbf475
4. http://www.ct.edu/newsroom/releases/students_from_western_central_produce_top_video_public_service_announcement/
The seventh annual WestConn Research Day (WRD) held on May 12, 2011, showcased 33 student research projects representing a wide range of academic disciplines including biology, chemistry, psychology, management information systems, communication, world languages, history and social sciences. Undergraduate students Phanuel Mariano and Pierce O’Donnell shared the 2011 Provost’s Prize, awarded annually at the closing session of WRD to provide $1,000 toward student expenses for future presentation of an original research project at a professional conference. The prize recognized research conducted by Mariano and O’Donnell under the faculty guidance of Professor of Mathematics Dr. Josie Hamer on the topic, “The Modeling of Repeater Coordination by an Area Optimization Approach.”

The WRD 2011 program featured a poster exhibition of research projects in the Science Building Atrium, as well as a Student Center luncheon where several student researchers offered presentations of their projects to invited guests from WCSU faculty and staff and the Danbury area business and civic community. Projects accepted for display at WRD required prior review and approval by the student’s faculty adviser.

WRD 2011 and the Connecticut State University Psychology Day program, also held on May 12 on Western’s Midtown campus, cosponsored a keynote lecture by Harvard Medical School Professor of Ophthalmology and Radiology Dr. Jeremy Wolfe, a pioneering researcher in the field of visual attention. Wolfe has received international recognition for his ground-breaking research exploring how human vision and the human brain manage complex tasks ranging from security scanning at airports to pathology diagnoses from CAT scan and MRI imaging. In his lecture at the WCSU Science Building, he discussed findings from his research in a talk titled, “Dancing Chickens and iPods Stored in Honey: Why Visual Attention Research Matters.”

Dr. Susan Maskel, professor of biological and environmental sciences and cochair of the WRD 2011 organizing committee, observed the annual event provided an important reminder that students are engaged in research in all fields of academic study at Western.

“Even in times of hardship, research is essential for economic progress and personal development,” Maskel remarked. “We need to have people who know how to conduct proper and rigorous research for the benefit of the economy and society. We must continue to teach the next generation of researchers.”

Assistant Professor of Management Information Systems Dr. Emilio Collar, cochair of the WRD 2011 committee, emphasized that the diversity of projects displayed served to demonstrate that research is not limited to laboratory studies in the physical sciences. “Many of our students become interested in areas with which they were previously unfamiliar because they participated in WestConn Research Day,” he said. “It’s not just about research in the lab, but also about how we apply research findings in the real world.”

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1. http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/seen/AntiDrinkingandDrivingPSA.asp
Stand Up and Make a Difference

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"My actions are my only true belongings. I cannot escape the consequences of my actions. My actions are the ground upon which I stand." - Thich Nhat Hanh

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5. http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/difference/MiddleSchoolReadiness.asp

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Western presented its 14th Cabaret to benefit the WCSU Child Care Center on April 13, 2011, at the Westside Campus Center Ballroom.

The Cabaret was initiated in 1996 in response to increased interest on campus to provide a child care center. The first Cabaret was held in order to raise awareness and support startup of the center, which opened in September 1997. The event has been held since then to raise funds to provide child care grants to help WCSU students offset the cost of child care.

Since the opening of the center, more than $58,000 in grant money has been awarded to 122 students, which has helped offset up to 30-40 percent of their costs.

Jennifer Torres was able to come back to WCSU with a 3-year-old child because of the center, and with the help of the grant.

"It was wonderful. I knew my daughter was close and safe," Torres said. "I knew she was well taken care of. They do so much."

WCSU Career Development Center Director Maureen Gernert, chair of the WCSU Child Care Board of Advisers, spoke of the helpfulness of the Cabaret to help support Western students who use the Child Care Center.

"The WCSU Child Care Center allows the parent to be a successful student and have a safe learning environment while in school," Gernert said. "It is through the generosity of our students, faculty and staff that we coordinate the event each year to help pay for the expenses at the WCSU Child Care Center."

Always a popular campus event, the Child Care Cabaret entertains while raising funds for the WCSU Child Care Center.
Stand Up and Make a Difference!

The Connecticut Science Center and Connecticut State University System (CSUS) launched the i4 Initiative with an opening ceremony at the Connecticut Science Center in Hartford. The i4 initiative, as the collaboration is called, brings science applications developed by faculty at Central, Eastern, Southern and Western Connecticut state universities to Science Center visitors. The i4 initiative showcases the science research and applications currently underway at the four CSUS universities through a variety of in-house and online programming at the Connecticut Science Center.

Throughout civilization, people have navigated the landscape using local knowledge and the help of specific tools. Theodora Pinou, associate professor of biological and environmental sciences at Western, has collaborated with Dr. Scott Graves, assistant professor in the science education and environmental studies department at Southern, on an activity that will highlight the application of modern navigation and telemetry. Pinou has done current research on sea turtles and their seasonal, annual and lifetime migration routes. This activity will highlight how these movements reveal things about the turtle’s behavior.

Visitors learned how sea turtles are tagged with satellite transmitters to monitor post nesting migration and how telemetry assists in understanding turtle behavior and ecology. These results contribute to modeling changes in global weather patterns in the ocean and the conservation of marine biodiversity.

Digging Deeper


A group of volunteers with vast expertise in technology is working to help local nonprofits transform often haphazard back-office systems into solid computer-based foundations for success.

The group, called Technology Solutions for Non Profits, or TS4NP, analyzes an organization’s software and hardware capabilities and then builds solutions for an array of deficiencies, including networking, fundraising and accounting support, and security. Two part-time staff members handle client support and developing education materials.

TS4NP is the brainchild of the Greater Danbury Non Profit Resource Center, the Danbury Area Computer Society, the local Funders Group and The Network Support Company and has been in operation since July 2010. It is chaired by 30-year IBM veteran Sandra Rankin, who in addition to soliciting nonprofit customers is developing relationships with funding agencies.

"It’s a cookie-cutter offering to clients, a canned back-office suite," Rankin said. "We provide programs that our research shows they ought to use. We store and back up information, manage their IT and provide training on how to use the programs. And we can’t find anyone else in the country who is doing this."

TS4NP sets up nonprofits with Microsoft Office, email and a calendar, a donor management program called GiftWorks that helps with fundraising, and QuickBooks to manage finances. Data for each participating nonprofit are protected behind a firewall, stored on a remote server and backed up every night.

"Most of these agencies have part-time bookkeepers who send information to the treasurer," Rankin said. "In many cases, the bookkeeper has all the information on his personal computer. They are one hard-drive failure away from a major disaster."

Four agencies — Renewal House, which provides transitional housing, support and services for older (58-plus) homeless individuals in the Western Connecticut region; Housatonic Valley Cultural Alliance; Danbury Youth Services; and Ives Concert Park — have signed on for services.

The Meserve Foundation and Union Savings Bank have each contributed $12,000 to pay for assessments of nonprofits’ computer capabilities and solutions that include software, hardware and training. Western provides the server, the secure data center and some training materials for the nonprofits to use as their computer operations are improved. Other local funders providing support for program delivery costs are United Way of Western Connecticut, JP Morgan Chase, Savings Bank of Danbury, Pitney Bowes Foundation and First County Bank.

These financial supporters are part of the Greater Danbury Funders Group, a voluntary association of government, private sector and nonprofit organizations who collaborate to positively change the local community and who support TS4NP. Karl Epple of the Meserve Foundation, co-chair of the Funders Group, said the financial support will help small nonprofits achieve IT independence.

"The funders feel it’s a great way to leverage the funding, to improve the capacity," Epple said. "Anything we can do to help capacity building we favor and fund. The process of putting technological capability into the individual nonprofits allows them to become more efficient, to gather more data and analyze it more effectively. When you look at the typical small nonprofits, they struggle to get the right information. Usually they are making decisions on gut feeling. TS4NP can change that for nonprofits."

The Funders Group also supports software training as a key component.
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Jane Goodall’s Roots & Shoots organization and Bridges of Peace and Hope presented “Joining Hands Around the World,” an evening of world music, dance and stories, on Nov. 13, 2010, in Ives Concert Hall. The event featured Thula Sizwe, a 10-man Zulu song and dance group from South Africa; Ghanaian drummer Kofi Donkor; international drum and dance ensemble Sankofa; and singer-songwriter and peace educator John Farrell. Local elementary school students also performed. The event included presentation of the 2010 Bridges of Peace and Hope Heroes Award to Pamela Rogalin, a teacher at Whisconier Middle School in Brookfield.

Clockwise from top: Ghanaian drummer Kofi Donkor performs. Singer-songwriter John Farrell at the microphone. Danbury elementary school students join Farrell onstage for a group song.

Links on this page:
2. http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/difference/MiddleSchoolReadiness.asp
The Connecticut State University System (CSUS), which includes Western Connecticut State University, has collaborated on a series of activity pages for middle school classroom use aimed at encouraging students to begin taking the steps necessary to prepare for college.

The series, called "Middle School Steps 2 College," includes a variety of interactive activities, key facts and discussion points, suggested ways to learn more about college preparation, and suggestions on how to use available resources at home, school and in the community.

The college readiness series is divided into four steps: "Find Someone 2 Help," "Push Yourself," "Find the Right Fit," and "Figure Out the Finances." The material can be downloaded from the CSUS website at www.ct.edu/initiatives/readiness/#know.

Studies in recent years have found that the middle school years can be pivotal. A report by ACT found that "making sure all eighth-grade students have attained the knowledge and skills that put them on target to becoming ready for college and career is the single most important step that can be taken to improve their college and career readiness."

The series was originally developed as a collaborative initiative between CSUS, KnowHow2Go, and the Hartford Courant's "Newspapers In Education" program. It has been published by the Courant and used in numerous classrooms across the state. KnowHow2GO is a national public service campaign that combines education, community-based and government partnerships to raise awareness among low-income and first-generation students in grades 8 through 10 about preparing for college. Connecticut's KnowHow2GO initiative is coordinated by the State Department of Education, Department of Higher Education, and a coalition of public and private organizations, including the CSUS.

"We can't wait until high school to put college on students' radar screens," said Theresa Eberhard Asch, a member of the executive committee of the CSUS Board of Trustees, and a former middle school assistant principal. "We do a disservice to our children if we do not prepare them adequately to succeed in college and establish a solid foothold in the 21st century economy."

The "Middle School Steps 2 College" series was endorsed by the Department of Higher Education and State Department of Education. The activity pages, which can be used in classroom, community center or at-home discussions, urge students to "take on the tough classes" in school.

The CSUS Board of Trustees voted last year to strengthen admission requirements for Central, Eastern, Southern and Western. The new standards, which include English, math, science, social studies and world languages, are slated to take effect in 2015. See www.ct.edu/initiatives/admission for more information. The CSUS website (www.ct.edu) also highlights a number of initiatives currently under way to assist middle school and high school students in preparing for college, including programs developed in recent years at each of the universities in collaboration with educators in local communities.

Digging Deeper

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Hundreds of people from all walks of life gathered at Western for the area’s fourth annual Danbury Project Homeless Connect 2010.

More than 50 providers offered everything from medical referrals and blood pressure screening to haircuts and counseling on employment, housing and legal issues on Dec. 10 in the Bill Williams gymnasium. The event, which included a free breakfast and lunch, was organized by the Danbury Continuum of Care and the Danbury Housing Partnership, in conjunction with the National Project Homeless Connect.

Several dozen WCSU students from various student organizations, including the Latin American Students Organization, IMPACT and the Social Work Club, dedicated the entire day toward helping out at the event that was opened to anyone who wanted information on area social services.

Jessica Sciuto, a junior, spent the day helping guests find their way to particular booths. Jessica interned last year with Catholic Charities and said she enjoyed the opportunity to work again with homeless people.

“It’s important to work with the homeless because it could happen to anyone. Everyone is at risk,” she said. “It’s important to help the less fortunate.”

Freshmen Mayra Alvarez and Bupha Thach, both LASO members, said the event was a great way to help others and get involved. “The people are really happy to be here,” Thach said.

“They were friendly and we made each other laugh. It was a good time for them,” Alvarez said. “They know by coming here that people care about them.”

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- View a Flickr photo gallery [5]

The area’s fourth annual Danbury Project Homeless Connect 2010 provided information and services for homeless individuals from the area.

Stand Up and Make a Difference!

In association with the American Cancer Society, the WCSU community raised approximately $37,000 at the April 8 - 9, 2011, Relay for Life at the O’Neill Center on the Westside campus.

More than 30 clubs and organizations were represented at the event by teams of students, faculty and alumni, who took turns walking for 12 hours.

Digging Deeper

1. Read a news article
2. Read a news article
3. Visit a website
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The WCSU community raised approximately $37,000 at Relay for Life events held on campus in April.

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1. http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/difference/ProjectHomeless.asp
Relying on community support, volunteers and lots of donations, most nonprofit organizations struggle just to make ends meet. In order to reach their goals of helping others, many are looking toward the Internet as a valuable tool in reaching more people and garnering more support.

A group of marketing students at WCSU spent a semester working with six Danbury area nonprofits to assist with their social networking needs.

WCSU Professor of Marketing John Cronin, who teaches “Advanced and Integrated Marketing Communications,” said there were 30 undergraduate students working on the project. Students sat down with clients, found out what their wants were, and then assessed their needs.

“Most had Facebook pages, but there are a number of Internet vehicles today,” Cronin said. “There are a lot of social networks they were not aware of.”

James Lang, president of Dream Come True of Western Connecticut, a nonprofit, all-volunteer agency that fulfills wishes for children diagnosed with life-threatening illnesses, spoke at an initial meeting with the students in September. He said that since all of Dream’s marketing is done by volunteers, he hoped that the Western students would help to increase the number of online donations and attract more volunteers.

Brian Smith, program director of the Ridgefield Boys and Girls Club, said a tight budget and people in his organization wearing many hats are what motivated him to look to Western’s business students for help in his marketing and website needs.

“We enjoy the help. This is exciting for us,” Smith said. The club would like to promote itself through this project, Smith said, but he would also like to create an interactive community where parents, students, club volunteers and club alumni could all share ideas and communicate on a regular basis.

WCSU student Jeanne Donovan said it was a great learning opportunity to work with the Boys and Girls Club of Ridgefield.

“It was exciting to be able to assist a company in our community and because of the hands-on experience we got,” Donovan said. “I think we helped the club boost local participation by making it more public through social networking websites.”

Last spring was the first time Cronin designed a marketing course around assisting local nonprofit groups; the project was a success, so he continued it this semester. However, for the past 20 years the university has worked with large companies, such as IBM, to improve their marketing strategies.

Digging Deeper

Read a press release
Read a news article
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From sports writing to screen writing, the 2011 Young Writers Conference at Western offered plenty of workshops for teens. From July 24 through 29, students in grades 7 through 12 spent five days learning to write in their favorite genre. Workshops included:

- Writing the short story
- Introduction to writing poetry
- Advanced poetry writing
- Sports writing
- Human interest writing
- Screen writing
- Reading body language
- Public speaking
- Song writing
- Writing the college admissions essay
- College interview

The workshops were led by published writers and all students had an opportunity to see their work in print in the 2011 conference journal.

Digging Deeper

- Read a press release
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5. http://www.wcsu.edu/youngwriters/
WCSU honored armed forces veterans for their service to country at the annual WCSU Veterans Day observance on November 11, 2010.

The Veterans Day program in Ives Concert Hall featured remarks by veterans, as well as representatives of the university and the city of Danbury. Patriotic music selections were performed by the WCSU Wind Ensemble under the direction of Dr. Fernando Jimenez, associate professor of music and music education.

Two honor guards representing the WCSU Police Department and Western students led processions at the start and the conclusion of the indoor program. The honor guards’ concluding procession moved from White Hall to the flagpole in front of Old Main, where a student laid a wreath of remembrance and WCSU President James W. Schmotter read Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address. The outdoor ceremony ended with a benediction by Friar Brad Heckathorne, chaplain of the university campus ministry, and the playing of “Taps” by the WCSU Wind Ensemble.

Veterans who spoke during the Ives Concert Hall program were Marine Cpl. Aaron Atwood; retired Navy Capt. Kathleen Lindenmayer; and Army Spc. Harry Neveski, vice president of the WCSU Student Veterans Organization. Additional remarks were offered by Schmotter; WCSU Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Walter Bernstein, Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton and Western student Timothy Kaiser.

The WCSU Wind Ensemble opened the program with performances of “Fanfare for the Common Man” by Aaron Copland and the national anthem. Other Ensemble selections featured during the program included “A Letter from Mom,” with narration by Deborah DelVecchio; “Armed Forces Salute;” and “Stars and Stripes.”
Danbury attorneys Robert and Dianne Yamin were recognized for exemplary professional and public service at the 30th annual WestConn Society Luncheon on March 25, hosted by the WCSU Foundation.

The couple, partners in the law firm of Yamin & Yamin, accepted the foundation’s Community Service Award at the luncheon at The Matrix in Danbury. The luncheon also featured introductory remarks by WCSU President James W. Schmotter and a keynote talk by Mayor Mark Boughton on "Governing in the 21st Century."

"Through their involvement in the community, both as public servants and as volunteers, Bob and Dianne have improved conditions throughout Connecticut," Schmotter said. "They are seemingly tireless and are great boosters of Danbury. The Yamins are exemplars of community service."

Danbury attorneys Robert and Dianne Yamin are introduced by WCSU President James W. Schmotter at the annual WestConn Society Luncheon, held March 25. The Yamins were honored for their community service at the event.
Stand Up and Be Heard

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• Allan Houston [3]
• Consumer Insights [4]
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"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen." - Winston Churchill

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11. http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/heard/PresidentsLectureSeries.asp
17. http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/heard/WomensHistoryMonth.asp
Dr. Abubaker Saad, professor of history and non-Western cultures at WCSU, was a Libyan diplomat and worked in Gadhafi’s office as the dictator’s personal interpreter. He fled his homeland after taking part in a failed coup attempt in the 1970s and has taught at Western Connecticut State University since 1996.

“The plot we planned had 500 people. I was able to get out with six others. You know what happened to the other 500? Executed summarily,” he said.

In the wake of Middle Eastern unrest, Saad became the commentator of choice for many media outlets.

Digging Deeper

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2011 Annual Report for Western Connecticut State University
The stats speak for themselves. Basketball legend Allan Houston’s name will forever hold a place of honor in the NBA record books. His inspiring words also will be part of the memories of the WCSU Class of 2011. Houston delivered the keynote address at the university’s 113th undergraduate commencement ceremony on May 22.

A student-athlete who graduated in 1993 as the all-time leading scorer from the University of Tennessee, Houston was selected 11th overall in the 1993 NBA draft by the Detroit Pistons. He joined the New York Knicks in 1996, where he twice was named an NBA All-Star in 2000 and 2001. Houston’s athleticism is credited with helping the Knicks, then the 8th seed, knock off the top-seeded Miami Heat in game five of the first round of the 1999 Eastern Conference quarterfinals. Houston’s catch of the inbound pass and successful running jump shot in the lane with 0.8 seconds left netted a 78-77 victory for his team and personal notoriety as the architect behind the 50th greatest playoff moment according to NBA.com.

Houston was a member of the USA men’s national basketball team that captured the gold medal at the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia. In his last healthy season (2002-03), Houston finished as the 10th leading scorer in the league. He was named one of The Sporting News’ “Good Guys in Sports” on four occasions.

Injuries forced Houston off the court in 2005, but not before he amassed records as one of the NBA’s all-time greatest long-range shooters (#11 in three pointers made) and one of the all-time leading scorers in Knicks history (#2 in three pointers, #4 in total points and #8 in scoring average). After a few unsuccessful comeback attempts, Houston was appointed to a management position with the Knicks as assistant general manager. He also has been an international ambassador for the NBA, a spokesperson for the National Fatherhood Initiative and an ESPN analyst.

In addition to the impact he made on the court, Houston has been a leader off the court as well. He created the Legacy Foundation, which focuses on facilitating individual and collective growth through initiatives that restore a strong family unit, provide economic empowerment through entrepreneurship, encourage education and life skill development, and enhance spiritual growth. The organization has served more than 1,500 participants nationwide with programming related to fatherhood and entrepreneurship. Because of his philanthropy, Houston was named 2007 “Father of the Year” by the National Fatherhood Initiative. Tulane University honored him as “Social Entrepreneur of the Year” in 2008 and Houston received the President’s Council on Service and Civic Engagement Award from the Obama Administration last year.

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8. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QGA7-h2358Q
Edwin Roman, director of consumer insights in the Research and Analytics division at ESPN in Bristol, Conn., shared his strategic insights on Nov. 2, 2010, in the Ballroom of the Westside Campus Center.

Roman has executed research studies for internal clients across several different ESPN divisions, including sales, marketing, programming, production and communication. His experience includes designing questionnaires and transferring the data acquired into actionable recommendations. His work serves to provide deeper consumer insights for the management of the multinational, multimedia sports entertainment company.

Before joining ESPN, Roman conducted consumer trends research for RoperASW, where he analyzed macro-level trends and category-specific insights across a broad range of industries. Currently, he serves on the Board of Directors for the New York chapter of the American Marketing Association.

WCSU Professor of Marketing Dr. Ben Oumlil invited Roman to speak on campus.

"The students will appreciate his expert perspectives and insights about current trends in sports marketing," Oumlil said. "He also has the ability to encourage and inspire them to pursue their dreams and career aims."

Digging Deeper

View a Flickr photo gallery [3]

© (1) © (2)

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"In today's sharp sparkle, this winter air, anything can be made, any sentence begun. On the brink, on the brim, on the cusp, praise song for walking forward in that light."

Those words are the last stanza from "Praise Song for the Day," written by Elizabeth Alexander, the inaugural poet for President Barack Obama. On Feb. 23, 2011, Alexander was at Western to share her inspiring words.

Describing her work as vivid and colorful, Carolyn Lanier, chief diversity officer in the university's Multicultural Affairs and Affirmative Action Office, said that Alexander "makes poetry accessible. I like the word 'accessible' for her because she evokes memories and makes connections and people can understand the story she is telling."

Lanier, who invited Alexander, believes that students, faculty and the public all benefited from the event, which was designed to celebrate both Black History Month in February and Women’s History Month in March. "I hope she piqued their interest in poetry and also in learning more about the African-American experience," Lanier said.

Alexander, chairman of the department of African American studies at Yale University, is the first recipient of the Alphonse Fletcher Sr. Fellowship for work that "contributes to improving race relations in American society and furthers the broad social goals of the U.S. Supreme Court's Brown v. Board of Education decision of 1954." She also is the 2007 winner of the first Jackson Prize for Poetry, awarded by Poets and Writers. Other awards include a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, two Pushcart Prizes, the George Kent Awards and a Guggenheim fellowship. Most recently, Alexander was named an Anisfield-Wolf Book Award winner for her lifetime achievement in poetry.
Stand Up and Be Heard!

The Roger Sherman Debate Society and Western Connecticut State University hosted the fourth annual Hat City Debates on Feb. 26 and 27, 2011, at the WCSU Midtown campus. The debates included the Northeast Regional Tournament and district qualifier for the National Debate Tournament. Sessions were held in various academic buildings throughout the Midtown campus.

The debates showcased the Northeast's top competitive debaters in policy and parliamentary style. The policy resolution of the debate was, "Resolved: The United States Federal Government should substantially increase the number of and/or substantially expand beneficiary eligibility for its visas for one or more of the following: employment-based immigrant visas, nonimmigrant temporary worker visas, family-based visas, human trafficking-based visas." The parliamentary resolution was created 15 minutes before each round.

Western hosted more than 400 students from schools around the region, including Boston University, the University of Massachusetts and the United States Military Academy.

Digging Deeper

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Clockwise from top:
WCSU hosted the fourth annual Hat City Debates, providing a forum for policy and parliamentary debate.
Debaters prepare their arguments.
Before the oration: research.

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It's no secret that year after year, Western stops at nothing to showcase the best jazz artists as featured performers for the university's annual jazz festival. The 16th Jazz Fest, which ran from April 28 through 30, 2011, was no exception.

Internationally acclaimed tenor saxophone player Benny Golson performed with the WCSU Jazz Orchestra under the direction of Assistant Professor of Music Jamie Begian on April 29, in Ives Concert Hall in White Hall on the university's Midtown campus.

Following two WCSU student ensembles, Darcy James Argue’s celebrated 18-piece big band, Secret Society, was featured in concert on April 30.

A native of Philadelphia, Golson has played in the bands of Benny Goodman, Dizzy Gillespie, Lionel Hampton, Earl Bostic and Art Blakey. A performer who is said to “blow audiences away,” the 82-year-old musician has performed in the United States, Europe, South America, the Far East and Japan for decades.

Golson received a Mellon Jazz Living Legacy Award in 2007 and a Recording Academy "Salute to Jazz Honors Giants of the Genre" in 2005, as well as numerous Grammy nominations.

Bob McCullough of the Boston Globe wrote, "Virtually every solo by Golson is a textbook tour de force." John S. Wilson, jazz critic for the New York Times, agrees. "I have known Benny Golson as one of the most complete musicians of the past 25 years. He is a composer with an unusually brilliant melodic sense."

Critics are similarly impressed with Darcy James Argue, crediting him with developing a "nearly perfect creative synthesis between tradition and innovation" (John Eyles, BBC.com). Argue's compositions were described as "ambitious, sprawling, mesmerizing" by Juan Rodriguez, of the Montreal Gazette; and Ben Ratliff of the New York Times noted his "big, broad musical vocabulary." Time Out New York's Hank Shteamer added, "Argue draws on the full spectrum of modern rock, jazz and classical music" in a way that "handily transcends pastiche."

A lot of the buzz was generated by Argue's Grammy-nominated debut recording, "Infernal Machines," featuring his 18-piece big band, Secret Society. The record was included on more than 100 best-of-the-year lists and won Best Debut honors in the 2009 Village Voice Jazz Critics Poll. Argue and Secret Society topped three categories in the 2010 DownBeat Critics' Poll (Rising Star, Big Band; Rising Star, Composer; and Rising Star, Arranger) and were the recipients of two 2010 Jazz Journalists Association Jazz Awards (Large Ensemble of the Year and Up & Coming Artist of the Year). The group has played high-profile concerts in New York and other U.S. cities, as well as in Europe.

A former member of the Montreal jazz scene, Vancouver native Argue moved to Brooklyn in 2003 after earning a master's degree in Boston while studying with legendary composer/arranger Bob Brookmeyer. Among the awards he has received are the BMI Jazz Composers' Workshop Charlie Parker Composition Prize and the SOCAN/CAJE Phil Nimmons Emerging Composer Award. Argue has received grants from the Jerome Foundation, the American Music Center, Meet The Composer, the Aaron Copland Fund for Music and the Canada Council for the Arts.

Since 1995, the WCSU Jazz Fest has brought leading jazz artists to Danbury each spring for a three-day program that combines concert performances with a series of music clinics offering master-class instruction and critiques for music students at Western and at schools in the Greater Danbury area. Golson and Argue joined professional jazz artists who hold full-time and adjunct faculty positions in the WCSU music department to conduct performance clinics during the festival.

"Having these great guest artists, one an acknowledged jazz legend and the other a rising star, 'up close and personal' provides our students an invaluable insight into the expectations of what a professional musician is and does," Begian said. "The energy level leading up to the festival is sky-high, and I’m always proud of how our students rise to the occasion and demonstrate the
quality of the program here at WestConn.”

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1. http://www.wcsu.edu/president/annualreport/heard/HatCityDebates.asp
As Western 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 theatre beginning in fall 2010.

"We have been attracting a lot of theatre students with backgrounds in acting, singing and dancing," said theatre arts department chairman Sal Trapani. "As we added musical theatre classes, students began clamoring for more and more musical theatre instruction. After a long process, we have come up with what we think is a groundbreaking and unique program."

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

The program is unique, Trapani says, 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. "WestConn 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 theatre education nationally."

Digging Deeper

Read a news article

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Stand Up and Be Heard!

A collaboration between the department of theatre arts and the department of music has yielded several show-stopping musical-theatre productions. "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" was a highlight of the 2010-11 season. "Seussical, The Musical" wowed audiences.

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Campus Maps | Directions
Stand Up and Be Heard!

As nanotechnology leads the pack in the techo-world, Western is gearing up to make “nanotech” an integral part of its science programs.

According to Assistant Professor of Chemistry Dr. Chris Yen, Western is incorporating the study of nanotechnology by branching out in several areas, including the development of several courses on the subject. Nanotechnology is the study of matter on an atomic and molecular scale. Yen said the technology generally deals with the development of new advanced materials in nanoscale. The first course, “Introduction to Nanotechnology,” is scheduled to be offered for in spring 2012, with more courses being added in both the biology and chemistry departments.

Thanks to a federal grant from the Department of Energy, the university’s chemistry department will soon purchase a Raman spectrometer. Named after Indian physicist C.V. Raman, who earned a Nobel Prize for his discovery of the Raman effect, the instrument is important to researchers in identifying molecules and material.

The grant was awarded to the Connecticut State University System to be used to advance nanotechnology education at all four state universities. The CSUS is promoting continued growth in this area and hopes to have all four institutions share in a comprehensive program. While equipment and other courses will be implemented at the other universities, Western will be the only one with a Raman spectrometer.

"Nanotubes and nanowires are an essential element to next-generation solar cells and solar-to-fuel conversion," Yen said. "In order to show and further study these nanotubes and their properties to students, we need the Raman spectrometer. Nano is the future of technology, and we need to stay on top of that."

WCSU also participated in the 18th Annual Connecticut Microelectronics and Optoelectronics Consortium on March 16, 2011, in New Haven. Discourse included nanoelectronics and nanophotonics, and technological industry giants such as United Technologies and Pitney Bowes also participated.

Digging Deeper


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During fall 2010, the annual "One Book One Community" program to encourage everyone in Danbury to read the same book featured "The Things They Carried," one soldier's personal account of life during the Vietnam War.

Residents were invited to join freshmen at Western and Danbury High School students as they read and studied the book and engaged in several special activities to complement the theme of the book.

The highlight was an appearance by the book's author, Tim O'Brien, on Oct. 26, 2010, in Ives Concert Hall.

"The Things They Carried," a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award, is described as a fictional account of O'Brien's experience in Vietnam, where he spent a 13-month tour as a soldier. He was sent home in 1970 with a Purple Heart. O'Brien now lives in Texas with his family and teaches creative writing at Texas State University.

Additional "One Book" events in October included a luncheon of Vietnamese foods at the dining hall in the WCSU Midtown campus Student Center; viewings of several movies related to Vietnam and the war, with facilitated discussions; book discussions at venues around Danbury; a panel discussion featuring veterans from several wars talking about the issues they faced when they returned home; an essay contest; and a monthlong effort to collect and deliver care packages to soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

During October, collection bins were at all of the program sites for donations of personal and snack items to be sent to soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Fairfield County-based nonprofit group, "Project from the Heart," coordinated transport of care packages sent to individual soldiers.

The program concluded with a celebration of Veterans Day on Nov. 11 at the WCSU Midtown campus.

Clockwise from top: Pulitzer Prize finalist Tim O'Brien talks about his book, "The Things They Carried."
O'Brien signs books.

Digging Deeper

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10. http://repository.wcsu.edu/obocphoto_2010/
Beloved meteorologist Dr. Mel Goldstein was the featured speaker for the WCSU President's Lecture series on March 29, 2011.

Goldstein has been studying weather all his life. He started a meteorology club when he was in the 8th grade, and decades later the club is still in existence. He went on to receive a Bachelor of Science in meteorology from Penn State University, and then M.S. and Ph. D. degrees in meteorology from New York University. He developed a severe storm prediction index that is utilized by numerous electric utilities across the country, and he has been a consultant to a number of large firms including IBM, Union Carbide, General Electric, Detroit Edison, Philadelphia Electric, Northeast Utilities and United Illuminating.

Dr. Mel always intended to teach. He fulfilled this goal when he joined the WCSU faculty in 1970, and he accomplished much during his time at the university. He founded the first university Weather Center in New England at Western, and pushed for creation of Connecticut's first Bachelor of Arts in Meteorology.

His media career began soon after he started teaching at WCSU. Dr. Mel started on a single local radio station and by 1976, his broadcasts were on dozens of radio stations across the country. At that time, he began doing television weather. In the 1980s, his forecasts were seen nationwide on the Satellite News Channel, an all-news cable effort of ABC and Westinghouse.

He became chief meteorologist at WTNH-TV, Connecticut's ABC affiliate, in 1986 where he is now seen doing the noon forecasts. Dr. Mel wrote a weekly column for the Hartford Courant in Northeast Magazine for 20 years and also authored "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Weather."

Dr. Mel has received a number of awards, including the President's Medal at WCSU for his years of teaching and community service, the Connecticut Bloomer Award for his contributions to the state of Connecticut, and a nomination for an Emmy for a series of education vignettes about the weather. In addition, he has received honorary doctorate degrees from Albertus Magnus College and Mitchell College, and he has received the President's Award from Quinnipiac University. For eight consecutive years, Dr. Mel has been voted Connecticut's best television weatherperson in a reader's poll of Connecticut Magazine.

He has begun a foundation for research into multiple myeloma, bone marrow cancer, at the Yale School of Medicine. Dr. Mel is battling this form of incurable cancer, and his proceeds from the "Complete Idiot's Guide to Weather" have been donated to that fund. He has served as a director on several boards, including the Connecticut Academy for Education, the Long Island Sound Foundation and the Ronald McDonald House.

When he is not predicting the weather and telling people about it, Dr. Mel can be found playing jazz on his piano at his home overlooking Long Island Sound. He lives in Guilford with his wife Arlene. They were married as undergraduates at Penn State in 1965. They have two daughters, Laura and Melodie.

He says, "The weather belongs to all of us. It is very democratic. All we need to do is look upward and learn." And for anyone needing good weather for that outdoor wedding or graduation, he says, good-naturedly, "Just remember, I am in prediction, not production."
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Stand Up and Be Heard!

The highly informative and popular WCSU lecture series “Science at Night” brought a diverse array of speakers from academia and business to Western during the 2010-11 year to address science-related themes of policy significance and public interest.

An important theme addressed during the 2010-11 series was the potentially harmful environmental impact caused by invasive plant and shellfish species in the fresh-water lakes of Connecticut and the Northeast. Dr. Leslie Mehrhoff, director of the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England at the University of Connecticut, discussed the spread of non-native plant species and their damaging effects on the state’s biodiversity in a lecture on Sept. 23. The “Science at Night” series also sponsored a public forum on Nov. 15 to explore environmental implications of the recent discovery of the invasive zebra mussel species in several western Connecticut lakes. Speakers at the forum included Nancy Balcom, associate director of the Connecticut Sea Grant Program at UConn/Avery Point; Peter Aarrestad, director of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Inland Fisheries Division; and Ethan Nedeau, owner and principal aquatic biologist of Biodrawversity, an ecological consulting firm.

Emerging technologies were explored in “Science at Night” lectures on the subjects of solar energy and drug discovery. In his Nov. 18 lecture, chemical engineer and solar power specialist Dru Bacon discussed the costs and environmental impact of solar and wind energy development, offering comparisons with power generated from traditional sources including coal, oil and natural gas. Dr. E. Michael August, senior principal scientist in the High Throughput Biology Group at Ridgefield-based Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, reported on April 21 on current technological breakthroughs that have enabled pharmaceutical researchers to increase exponentially the scale and accuracy of screenings to identify prospective new drug compounds for therapeutic treatment.

“Science at Night” lectures during the year also offered scientists’ insights on themes of popular interest ranging from severe storms to maple syrup. Connecticut meteorologist Jim Bishop shared lessons and video recordings from more than a decade’s experience in chasing tornadoes, thunderstorm supercells and other severe weather events in his lecture on Feb. 17. WCSU Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences Dr. Thomas Philbrick celebrated the arrival of spring on March 17 with his lecture providing a scientific perspective on the biology of maple syrup production and the reasons behind the recent decline of sugar maple forests in the eastern regions of North America.

Digging Deeper

Read a press release [3]

Read a press release [4]

Read a press release [5]

View a Flickr photo gallery [6]
Author Sherman Alexie’s latest work, "War Dances," has been called heartbreaking and hilarious, brazen and wise — and he has been called a rock star among writers. Those same words can be used to describe the well-known writer’s life, from brain surgery as an infant, to schoolyard taunting and a brief, but memorable, battle with alcohol.

On March 14, 2011, Alexie spoke about his life and work at a lecture in Ives Concert Hall. Prior to the lecture, there was a screening of "Smoke Signals," an independent film written by Alexie. A reception and book signing followed the presentation. The evening’s events honored the life and scholarship of the late Professor of English Dr. Steven D. Neuwirth, a specialist in early American literature and American history who made significant contributions to the university’s academic program development from the 1980s until his retirement in 2003.

“Sherman Alexie is a ‘rock star’ among his generation of writers for all of the right reasons,” said Dr. Abbey Zink, WCSU Interim Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. “He exploded onto the literary scene by writing about what he knew best — life on the Spokane Indian Reservation — in ways that are profound, but accessible and witty, yet poignant. Students in my classes over the years have connected with his voice and his explorations of identity. He also is known as a fantastic speaker.”

Alexie, a Spokane/Coeur d’Alene Indian, grew up on the Spokane Indian Reservation with hopes of becoming a medical doctor, a dream that was set aside after he discovered a love and talent for poetry at Washington State University. In 1991, the prolific writer received the Washington State Arts Commission Poetry Fellowship and a year later was awarded the National Endowment for the Arts Poetry Fellowship. "War Dances” won the 2010 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction.
Stephen F. Angel, chairman, president and CEO of Praxair Inc., spoke to students receiving graduate and doctoral degrees on May 20, 2011.

Angel joined Praxair in 2001 as executive vice president overseeing the company’s businesses in North America, Europe and Asia, as well as its health care division. He was named president and chief operating officer in 2006 and became chairman in 2007.

Prior to joining Praxair, Angel worked for General Electric, beginning in 1979. After several promotions, he became general manager of GE’s power equipment business, directing eight business units and six joint ventures in four countries.

Angel is a director on several boards, including PPG Industries, the U.S.-China Business Council and the American Chemistry Council. He also is a member of the Business Roundtable and the U.S.-Brazil CEO Forum.

A native of Winston-Salem, N.C., Angel holds a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from North Carolina State University and an M.B.A. from Loyola University in Baltimore, Md.
Stew Leonard Jr., president and chief executive officer of the Norwalk-based grocery retailer that bears his family’s name, discussed “Managing Business Excellence in a Challenging Economy” at a lecture in March 2011 before an audience of about 100 students and faculty at the WCSU Ancell School of Business.

Leonard, who succeeded his father, Stew Leonard Sr., as president of the company in 1987, now manages stores in Norwalk, Danbury and Newington, Conn., and Yonkers, N.Y. Founded in 1969, Stew Leonard’s has been named by Fortune Magazine for 10 consecutive years over the past decade on its annual list of the “100 Best Companies to Work for in America.” The company’s commitment to excellence in customer service was featured as an example in management expert Tom Peters’ books “A Passion for Excellence” and “Thriving on Chaos.”

Leonard’s lecture at WCSU focused on the importance of building loyalty among customers and employees. An essential element of creating an environment for excellence in customer service is a commitment to promoting extensive employee involvement in addressing business issues, he said. Comparing management dialogue with employees to a tennis match, he noted, “the key is keeping the volley going. The original server isn’t the one with the ideas — it’s the fifth, 20th or 30th volley where the solution comes up.”

Digging Deeper

Visit a website

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Whether pursuing studies in the classroom or scanning monitors and delivering broadcast reports before the green screen at the university’s Weather Center, meteorology students at Western not only learn the science and mechanics of predicting weather, but also the presentation skills needed to convey their forecasts effectively.

Students pursuing the Bachelor of Science in meteorology — the only bachelor’s degree program in meteorology offered at a Connecticut university — have the choice of concentrations in theoretical or operational meteorology. Theoretical courses in meteorology and atmospheric science are designed to provide the foundation for prospective careers in government weather services, environmental research and related subjects. The operational, or “weathercasting,” option offers experience in the Weather Center delivering live radio forecasts and taping television forecasts.

Western’s Meteorology Club is recognized as a chapter of the American Meteorological Society and WCSU students compete annually in the National Collegiate Weather Forecasting Competition.

During the academic year, the meteorology department welcomes middle and high school students from Danbury and Bethel to the Western campus to participate in weekly sessions exploring weather forecasting and hurricane research under the guidance of WCSU faculty and students. This outreach initiative is offered as part of the university’s Building a Bridge to Student Success program. The Junior Weather People program admits students recommended by science teachers at Broadview and Rogers Park middle schools in Danbury, and Bethel Middle School. Danbury and Bethel high school students with an interest in science work with Dr. Albert Owino, WCSU director of meteorological studies and the Weather Center, to study fundamentals of hurricane development and forecasting.

Clockwise from top:
Director of the Weather Center Dr. Albert Owino works with Emily Roehler, vice president of the Meteorology Club.
Kerri Copello, a May 2011 graduate of the meteorology program, is already working as an on-air meteorologist at Fox 31 WFXL-TV in Albany, Ga.

Digging Deeper

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7. http://www.wcsu.edu/weather/Photos_from_Picnic_2010_Spring.asp
Western celebrated Women’s History Month with several events in February and March 2011. The events focused on achievements of women who have excelled in poetry, mentoring, exploration, business and criminal justice.

Assistant Professor of History and Non-Western Cultures Dr. Katherine Allocco, chair of the Women’s History Month planning committee, spoke of the importance of the events at Western.

"Women's History Month is a celebration of great women who have made important contributions to society and culture and who have served America in a number of capacities," Allocco said.

Among the events scheduled were a lecture by Barbara Hillary on March 9, Hillary, a cancer survivor who has explored the Arctic and Antarctic, spoke of her experiences.

Other events included:

- Feb. 23, Elizabeth Alexander, inaugural poet for President Barack Obama.
- March 3, a screening of "The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo." Winner of the Sundance Special Jury Prize in Documentary and the inspiration for a 2008 U.N. resolution classifying rape as a weapon of war, this film, shot in the war zones of the Democratic Republic of Congo, shattered the silence that surrounds the use of sexual violence as a weapon of conflict.
- March 4, a screening of "Hildegard Von Bingen," a German film about the life of the 12th-century mystic.
- March 10, a screening of "In Sickness and in Health." This film documents the debate over same-sex marriage in America.
- March 16, a panel discussion about "Women and Business." Panelists included Professor of Nursing Dr. Barbara Piscopo; Jessica Gamache, a graduate student studying history; 2010 graduate Shauna Morasco; Assistant Professor of Nursing Joan Palladino; and political science student Debra Salvato.
- March 16, a panel discussion about "Women and Justice." Prior to the discussion, there was a screening of a music video featuring Haley Noelle singing her song, "Break Me," about domestic violence.
- March 17, a discussion about Irish novelist Sydney Owenson (Lady Morgan): "'The Wild Irish Girl' and Revolutionary Rhetoric."
- March 17, the Midtown Coffeehouse in Alumni Hall presented an hourlong open mic performance, followed by a series of writers, poets and musicians on the theme of women.
- March 31, a lecture and reading to celebrate Martha Talburt, Mentor of the Year.

Clockwise from top:
Barbara Hillary was a featured speaker during Women's History Month.
A panel discussion about "Women and Justice" was proceeded by the screening of a music video about domestic violence.
Stand Up and Be Counted

**Revenues**

- **Tuition and Fees**: 41.3% ($54.1 million)
- **State Appropriation**: 33.6% ($44 million)
- **All other revenues**: 13.2% ($17.3 million)
- **Auxiliary Enterprises**: 11.9% ($15.6 million)

**Expenses**

- **Instruction**: 28.5% ($38.4 million)
- **Student Financial Aid**: 10.3% ($14 million)
- **Institutional Support**: 12.8% ($17.1 million)
- **Other**: 2% ($2.8 million)
- **Operations**: 23.2% ($31.3 million)
- **Academic Support**: 6.8% ($9.1 million)
- **Auxiliary Expenses**: 7.7% ($10.3 million)
- **Student Services**: 8.7% ($11.7 million)
This annual Honor Roll of Donors acknowledges Western’s loyal givers and recognizes contributions made by generous first-time donors, as well.

Your donations to the WCSU Foundation allow us to offer scholarships, departmental support and other special projects that benefit our students. Your investment helps sustain this university, making it possible for these worthy students to earn a quality education that allows them to make a positive difference in the world in which they work and live.

We are grateful for your decision to support WCSU and hope we can continue to count on your pledge for 2011-12. Thank you for supporting the WCSU Foundation.

Best regards,

David W. Nurnberger, Chair
WCSU Foundation, Inc.
how we give

President’s Club ($1,000+)
Members of this group have made an annual financial commitment of at least $1,000 to the WCSU Foundation without placing restrictions on the purpose of their gifts. These donations are allocated to the university’s greatest needs as determined by the president. President’s Club donors have placed their trust in the WCSU mission and remain some of our most faithful advocates.

Fairfield Hall Society ($500-999)
With their support, these members enhance our students’ collegiate experience and invest in our faculty’s evolving needs.

WestConn Society ($250-499)
The earliest established giving arm of the WCSU Foundation, this group has for decades supported innovative programs, outreach opportunities and enrichment initiatives.

Century Club ($100-249)
By far, the largest participating giving group, these alumni, parents and friends provide an invaluable endorsement of a Western education.

Visionaries
This giving group honors those whose cumulative giving over the years exceeds $50,000. The extraordinary commitment that they have made to WCSU impacts every facet of our university and serves as an inspiration to others.

Legacy Society
This giving group was established to recognize those individuals who have made a charitable provision for WCSU in their estate plans. By joining the Legacy Society, you can make a significant contribution to benefit generations to come at the university. Please contact the development office at (203) 837-8419 to learn more about joining this group.

200% Club
Donors who double their gifts from one year to the next belong to this giving group. Their growing endowment from year to year keeps pace with programmatic cost increases the university faces in its pursuit of excellence.

New Donors
This giving group includes those who donated for the first time in 2010-11. We welcome you to the fold and hope you will renew your support each year.

Loyalty Society
Members of this group have given to WCSU for at least five consecutive years, regardless of the amount. We count on these loyal donors who heartily believe in the university and do tremendous good through the simple act of contributing annually.

50th Reunion Gift
The Class of 1960 honored their beloved former Deans of Women and Men, Claire G. Trisch and Alfred T. Geddes, by contributing to their memorial scholarship fund. Recipients have demonstrated financial need, and the scholarship is open to all majors.

Class of 2011 Senior Class Gift
Each year, the senior class leaves a legacy honoring their years at WCSU by donating to a scholarship for an incoming student. In this way, they pay tribute to the university by making it possible for a student, who otherwise might not be able, to enjoy the same opportunities they were afforded.

Foundations & Corporations
Many companies offer a matching gift program for their employees as an incentive to contribute to nonprofit organizations, such as the WCSU Foundation. Please remember to ask your human resources department if your company offers a matching gift program. For more information, call (203) 837-8419 or e-mail development@wcsu.edu.

Endowed & Restricted Scholarship Funds
The endowment is an investment fund that remains intact. Donors designate their gifts to many areas, including scholarships, faculty professional development and honorary faculty chairs, programs, athletics, the arts and building projects. The funds generate income that is both reinvested and partially spent according to the bylaws of the WCSU Foundation. Endowment provides a foundation upon which WCSU can grow and be perpetuated. It is supported by foundations, corporations and individual donors. Restricted funds are named funds that are not invested as endowment; instead, donors contribute annually to the scholarships.

Alumni Association Golf Tournament
Players & Sponsors
All proceeds from the 25th Anniversary Golf Tournament, in 2010 at Richter Park in Danbury, benefitted the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund, from which annual awards are made to students based on achievement, diversity and financial need.

A. Isabelle T. Farrington ’43, director emeritus of the WCSU Foundation, Inc. Board, was recognized at the 2006 University Ball.

Present at the 2010 President’s Club Reception were (clockwise, l-r): B. Foundation Board member Ed Boone of Branson Ultrasound Corp.; C. Gail Hill Williams ’87 and Mary Behrens; D. Patricia and Donald Weeden with Rudy Behrens; and E. Kathleen Azzuriti and Foundation Board member Theresa Eberhard Asch ’64, ’72.
leadership

Please note that total giving includes donations to the WCSU Foundation and Alumni Association that were tax-deductible.

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Donald & Patricia Weeden
Westchester Hebrew High School
Fredric & Monica Wheeler
Harold C. Wibbing
Robert ’79 & Dianne Yamin

Our apologies to Thomas ’69 and Lois ’71 Crucitti who should have been included as leadership donors in the 2010 Honor Roll of Donors in the $1,000-$4,999 category, and should have received designation as President’s Club members.

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Donald & Patricia Weeden
Westchester Hebrew High School
Fredric & Monica Wheeler
Harold C. Wibbing
Robert ’79 & Dianne Yamin

Danbury attorneys Robert and Dianne Yamin were recognized for exemplary professional and public service at the 30th annual WestConn Society Luncheon in March, hosted by the WCSU Foundation.

Attendees included (clockwise, l-r): A. Honoree and Foundation Board member Robert Yamin ’79, former Foundation Board member Hal Wibbing of Savings Bank of Danbury, Honoree Judge Dianne Yamin and Foundation Board member Gary Hawley ’78, president of Hawley Construction; B. Jay Lent, president and CEO, Union Savings Bank; C. Foundation Board member M. Farooq Kathwari, chairman, president and CEO, Ethan Allen Interiors Inc., Dr. Daphne Jameson and President James W. Schmottter; D. Foundation Board member Mary Jean Rebeiro ’87 and Phyllis Boughton, WestConn Society member and wife of Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton ’95; and E. Foundation Board Chair David Nurnberger ’72 and former Interim Vice President for Institutional Advancement Fredric Wheeler.
This giving group honors those whose cumulative giving over the years exceeds $50,000. The extraordinary commitment that they have made to WCSU impacts every facet of our university and serves as an inspiration to others.

Prominent supporters who have been honored by WCSU include (clockwise): Roy Young, former Foundation Board member, and wife Ginny; Constantine ‘Deno’ Macricostas, director emeritus of the WCSU Foundation, and wife Marie; and Anthony Caraluzzi, former Foundation Board member, and wife Roberta.

200% club
Donors who double their gifts from one year to the next belong to this giving group. Their growing endorsement from year to year keeps pace with programmatic cost increases the university faces in its pursuit of excellence.

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(top) Professor Emeritus of Meteorology Dr. Mel Goldstein, who founded Western’s Weather Center and meteorology program, gave the keynote address at the 2011 President’s Lecture Series. Here he poses with meteorology students, (far left) current Director of the Weather Center Assistant Professor Albert Owino and (far right) Assistant Director of the Weather Center Gary Lessor.
(bottom) At the reception held in Dr. Mel’s honor, (l-r) WLAD AM/98Q FM Manager IV Goldstein greets Arlene Goldstein, Dr. Mel’s wife, while Robert M. Ogotzner looks on. Dr. Mel, who has had a longstanding relationship with WLAD, continues to report the weather for several Connecticut radio stations.

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Building a Bridge
to improve student success

(left) At a recent ‘Coffee and Conversation’ hosted by the president’s office, (l-r) Dudley Williams, director of district education strategy in the GE Asset Management Group in Stamford, Conn., chatted with Interim Dean of Arts and Sciences Dr. Abbey Zink and Susan Neumann, vice president of Corporate Communications and Public Relations at Praxair, Inc., in Danbury. Neumann is president of Praxair Foundation, the primary sponsor of the Bridges program, of which “Camp College” is a part. “Camp College” introduces sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-graders to a college setting.

(below) Assistant Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences Dr. Patrice Boily introduces middle-school children to a laboratory setting.

Freshman Kassandra Woods recently was awarded a Praxair Scholarship, a full four-year scholarship to WCSU.
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50th reunion gift
The Class of 1960 honored their beloved former deans of Women and Men, Claire G. Trisch and Alfred T. Geddes, by contributing to their memorial scholarship fund. Recipients have demonstrated financial need, and the scholarship is open to all majors.

Alumni who participated in this year’s academic processes included (l-r) June Jones ’56, Ned Moore ’59 and Sharon Fusco ’67. Robed in gold are members of the Golden Circle (graduated 50 or more years ago).
Kevin Freyer, Student Government Association president and member of WCSU’s Foundation Board, checks in with Alumni Association (AA) President Jan Maria Jagush 75, ’81, who gave the greeting and passed the flag to the incoming class at this year’s “Entering the Gates” ceremony.

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Ronald Russo ⊗
August Serra ⊗
Nancy Tatensorian ⊗
Joan Wolfe ⊗

Class of 1966
Los-Jean Berry ⊗
Mary Bonaccorsa ⊗
Jean Courtier ⊗
Patricia Egan ⊗
Michael Flanagan ⊗
Theodore Johnson ⊗
Marie Troha ⊗
Cynthia Vaslasy ⊗
Betty Jan Wanszuk ⊗

Class of 1967
Donald Amorosa ⊗
Edwin Amorosa ⊗
Melanie Ballard ⊗
Roy Bouffard ⊗
Alice Carolan ⊗
Daniel DeRosa, Jr. ⊗
Sarah Guyaz ⊗
Daniel DeRosa, Jr. ⊗
Alice Carolan ⊗
Roy Bouffard ⊗
Edwina Amorosa ⊗
Theodore Johnson ⊗
Marie Troha ⊗
Cynthia Vaslasy ⊗
Betty Jan Wanszuk ⊗

Class of 1969
Paul Montalto ⊗
Gary Lemme ⊗
Sarah Guyaz ⊗
Daniel DeRosa, Jr. ⊗
Sarah Guyaz ⊗
Daniel DeRosa, Jr. ⊗

Class of 1970
Ronald Arthille ⊗
Claire Bergin ⊗
Karen Chamborin ⊗
Joyce Clark Harmon ⊗
Lynn Hennessey ⊗

Class of 1971
Enoch Anchorage ⊗
Mary Lou Anchorage ⊗

Class of 1972
Richard David ⊗
Joseph Durkin ⊗
Leigh Galanis ⊗
Diane Hassell ⊗
Charles Leedy ⊗
Theresa Lucenti ⊗
Alan Muter ⊗

Class of 1973
Les Andrews ⊗
Joseph Ancanti ⊗
Shirley Benson ⊗
Karen Deaigrande ⊗
Deborah Chester ⊗
Joseph Dellamarggio ⊗
Frederick D’Maria ⊗
Rita Dzienzeko ⊗
Francine Fleischman ⊗
Deborah Foote ⊗
Janet Fuedathial ⊗
Bernadette Garino ⊗
Douglas Goodrich ⊗
Mark Grazer ⊗
Marilyn Greene ⊗
Sharon Haley ⊗
Robert Hopkins ⊗
Brendan Jügel ⊗
Cynthia Jügel ⊗
Joyce Jügel ⊗
Olga Leavitt ⊗
Mary Lascinsky ⊗
Jeff Lazzaro ⊗
Jeanette Lutze ⊗
Garrett Lyke ⊗
Catherine Macchioni ⊗
Diane Major ⊗
Karen Mann ⊗
Elizabeth McDonough ⊗
Eileen Mitchell ⊗
Marta Moret ⊗
Susan Moritt ⊗
Karl Olsson ⊗
Salvador Pandolfi ⊗
Doris Parry ⊗
Eugene Quarrie ⊗
Victoria Reinhart ⊗
John Setaro ⊗
Shirley Smith ⊗
Roberta Struski ⊗
Joseph Taylor ⊗
Allan Weir ⊗
Julie Wright ⊗

Class of 1974
Anne Baran ⊗
Gary Boscaccio ⊗
Kenneth Borsari ⊗
Mary Jo Costabile ⊗
Rosemary DeSanctis ⊗
Chester Gage ⊗
Imogene Jaykus ⊗
Joseph Jaykus ⊗
Joseph Kelly, Jr. ⊗
George Lamperti, Jr. ⊗
Diane Leinach ⊗
Joan Courtney ⊗
Robert Ongonan ⊗

John McMahon ⊗
David W. Nurnberger ⊗
Nancy Nurnberger ⊗
Donna Ray ⊗
Sydney Reithkamp ⊗
George Szegiti ⊗
Viola Watson ⊗

James Mille ⊗
Dale Mitchell ⊗
Richard Palazzo ⊗
Roger Pollock ⊗
Ronald Puglione ⊗
Franklin Renz ⊗
Edward Seagraves ⊗
Lorraine Salton ⊗
Diane Smith ⊗
Clauce Wallace, Jr. ⊗
John Wrenn ⊗
Elaine Zarcone ⊗

Class of 1975
Marilyn Austin ⊗
Anne Beauty ⊗
Emile Buzaid, Jr. ⊗
Bruce Cavanaugh ⊗
Paul Cesca ⊗
Jean Collins ⊗
Maria Cray ◆ ⊗
Kathleen Dunn ⊗
Louise Freund ⊗
Maria Luisa Getze ⊗
Deborah Gogletto ⊗
John Gogletto ⊗
Damey Haley ⊗
Kathleen Hannigan ⊗
Lynn Hennessey ⊗
Thomas Higgins ⊗
Gwinnie Hopko ⊗
Jim Maria Jagush ⊗
Bengt Kirksand ⊗
Helena Lakos ⊗
Catherine Larson ⊗
Eric Larson ⊗
Susan Littlefield ⊗
Peter Marcati ⊗
E. Marie Mas ⊗
Cheryl McDowell ⊗
Margaret O’Keefe ⊗
Kay Palacco ⊗
John Pytel ⊗
Alexander Rooney ⊗
Marianne Seymour ◆ ⊗
Jeffrey Smith ⊗
Beverly Sorenson ⊗
Barbara Teller ⊗
Donna Varriero ⊗
Roger Wright ⊗

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Susan Beebe-Skapis ⊗
Susan Canuma ⊗
Kathleen DeShields ⊗
Stephan Durci ⊗
Maia-Lisa Fink ◆ ⊗
Ann Fitzgerald ⊗
Stephen Galle ◆ ⊗
Linda Gallowsy ◆ ⊗
Gary Gilotti ⊗
Sharon Girard ⊗
Alfred Glazer ⊗
Marilyn Gordon ◆ ⊗
Eileen Horsh ⊗
Richard Graziano ⊗
Nancy Grimes ⊗
Laura Gross ⊗
Deborah Heon ⊗
Glenn Herzig ⊗
Robert Hopko ⊗
Cynthia Johnson ◆ ⊗
Carol Jones ◆ ⊗
Joseph Kect ⊗
Katherine Loehe ⊗
Jonathan Los ⊗
Jon Lovelott ⊗
Maria Magalhaes ⊗
Paul Nickoloff ⊗
Richard Nigro ⊗
Wendy Pandolfi ⊗
Susan Petitch ⊗
Linda Poerres ⊗
Ola Roman-Bates ⊗
Samuel Rubin ⊗
Eugene Salka ⊗
David Selbert ⊗
Marian Senator ⊗
Jessie Steiner ⊗
Kathleen Turner ⊗
Mary Walsh ⊗
Mary-jo Whitlock ⊗
Karen Williams ⊗

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Rosaline Adams ⊗
Lorraine Armada ⊗
Michael Blake ⊗
Andrea Brandi ⊗
Barbara Brooks ⊗
Lorraine Capobianco ⊗
Serena Coutsomb ⊗
Kevin Crigan ⊗
Elaine Czy ⊗
Deborah Gale ⊗
Nellie Gaughan ⊗
Joan Giannone ⊗
Stephanie Gilotti ⊗
Gordon Harris ⊗
Linda Harris ⊗
Charles Hutchins ⊗
Margaret Imbro ⊗
Walter Keenan ⊗
Kerri Kissel ⊗
Anita Lynch ⊗
Joyce McCarthy ⊗
Mary McCormack ⊗
Margaret McKerrow ⊗
Ann Mulcahey ⊗
Christina Noce ⊗
Katharine Polario ⊗
Robert Pytel ⊗
Daniel Rovelli ⊗
Mornell Smith ⊗
Joseph Strilowich ⊗
Judith Telesmanick ⊗
Linda Wrenn ⊗

Class of 1978
Allan Abetislo ⊗
Carmella Amodeo ⊗
Diane Andrews ⊗
Gilbert Brown ⊗
Jeanne Campenchoil ⊗
Barbara Castrataro ⊗
Patricia Dollmarinsk ⊗
George Elser ⊗
Brenda Fejley ⊗
John Ferrante ⊗
Barbara Garham ⊗
Barbra Greenawy ⊗
Norma Gly ⊗
Gary Hand ⊗
Frederick Lobello ⊗
Dorothy Mellott ⊗
Margaret Miller ⊗
The Alumni & Friends Circle rededication ceremony is held annually on the Midtown campus near Old Main and the old oak tree. The circle houses an ensemble of engraved bricks, inscribed benches, trees and light posts. This year's participants gathered near the circle after the ceremony.
Students celebrated at this year’s undergraduate commencement ceremony.

class of 2011

senior class gift

Each year, the senior class leaves a legacy honoring their years at WCSU by donating to a scholarship for an incoming student. In this way, they pay tribute to the university by making it possible for a student, who otherwise might not be able, to enjoy the same opportunities they were afforded.

Sebbie Achabiar  Anthony Belanger  Stephen Benzon  Bryan Bieletick  Heather Bedington  George Class  Holly Colbert  Peter Cordes  Erin Damato  Colleen Ditter  Matthew Donofrio  Katherine Ellis  Amanda Forker  Kristin Fruechteich  Ana Garcia-Blasquez  David Greiner  Lawrence Hallock, Jr.  Blake Irving  Danielle King  Tyler Madwed  Karen Nagy  Lauren Post

Bernard Orenstein  Timothy Salviter  Frances Shaver  Ryan Soto  Diana Vogel  Mounria Stott  Tony Zatzick

Class of 2005

Barry Boriss  Carrie Bonita  Stephenie Browne  Barbara Cahill  Karine DeGroot  Margaret Robbins  Samantha Flynn  Vanessa Fretas  Debra Hooebeck-Livingston  Susan Kelly  Joann Komiluk  Charles Pomeroy

Class of 2006

Helen Anne Thomson Babykuty  Angela Bednarchak  Reese Bernal  Karen Chance  Michelle Kellrens  Nora Lee  Heide Lock  Jason Miller

Michael Lombardi  Matthew Lupoli  Helen Meyer  Kevin Olean  Donna Polpizin  Georgios Psarofagis  Henry Ridd  Thomas Ronicinske, Jr.  Britany Sore  Susan Shaw

Class of 2009


Class of 2010

Bryan Anderson  Laura Barker  Katina Bartlowski  Robert Bilovico  LuAnn Binton  Marco Cardellino

2011 Class Gift co-chair Bianca Lucchesi was one of several seniors who promoted the “Leave Your Mark” campaign, which encouraged students to donate toward the Senior Class Gift. At one event, seniors left their special mark on personally decorated cupcakes, raising $225 for the Scholarship Fund.

Century Club  WestConn Society  Fairfield Hall Society  President’s Club  Loyalty Society  Senior Class Gift
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foundations & corporations
*corporate matching gifts

Many companies offer a matching gift program for their employees as an incentive to contribute to nonprofit organizations, such as the WCSU Foundation. Please remember to ask your human resources department if your company offers a matching gift program. For more information, call (203) 837-8419 or e-mail development@wcsu.edu.

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Westco Scientific Instruments, Inc.
Wooster School
The Morganti Group, Inc.

(above) At this year’s WestConn Society Luncheon, President James W. Schmotter chats with Foundation Board Vice Chair Gerry Robbotti and his wife, Martha.

(left) WCU Graduate Studies Administrative Assistant Susan Donnelly ’04, ’11, a recent Bachelor of Business Administration graduate, poses with her son and fellow graduate Kevin Busch ’11 at this year’s undergraduate commencement ceremony.

faculty & staff

Each year, many university employees at WCSU donate financially to the WCSU Foundation. Apart from their daily involvement at WCSU, their contribution underscores their commitment to enrich the university.

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endowed & restricted scholarship funds

The endowment is an investment fund that remains intact. Donors designate their gifts to many areas, including scholarships, faculty professional development and honorary faculty chairs, programs, athletics, the arts and building projects. The funds generate income that is both reinvested and partially spent according to the bylaws of the WCSU Foundation. Endowment provides a foundation upon which WCSU can grow and be perpetuated. It is supported by foundations, corporations and individual donors.

Restricted funds are named funds that are not invested as endowment; instead, donors contribute annually to the scholarships.

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Robert ‘79 & Dianne Yamin

Mario Mesi, who has created five scholarships at WCSU, posed with some of his nursing scholarship recipients at last year’s Student and Donor Scholarship Reception. Pictured are (l-r) Laura Giovannoli, Mario Mesi, Janey Danyew, Alexandra Cameron-DelNigris and Assistant Professor of Nursing Bozena Padykula.

Ayako Piera
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Pinney, Payne, P.C.

WestConn Society

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Hancock Student Endowment Fund
W. Jason ‘81 & Ellen Hancock

Hancock Student Leadership Program
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W. Jason ‘81 & Ellen Hancock

John F. Azzariti Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Thomas ‘97 & Amy ‘98 Davis

John Tamas Memorial Scholarship

Dante Cirilli/Grolier Direct Marketing Scholarship
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David & Nancy Nurnberger Endowed Scholarship
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W. Jason ‘81 & Ellen Hancock

Fiorita, Kornhaas & Van Houten, P.C.
Accounting Scholarship
Fiorita, Kornhaas & Company, P.C.

Gail P. Shaker Memorial Scholarship

W. Jason Hancock ’81, who with his wife, Ellen, created the Hancock Student Endowment Fund and funded the Hancock Student Leadership Program, posed with Danielle Basciano, recipient of the Jason and Ellen M. Hancock Student Scholarship.

Dante Cirilli/Grolier Direct Marketing Scholarship
Dante & Diane Cirilli

David & Nancy Nurnberger Endowed Scholarship
David W. ’72 & Nancy ’72 Nurnberger

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Harold C. Wiblig

Hancock Student Endowment Fund
Aetna Foundation
W. Jason ‘81 & Ellen Hancock

Fiorita, Kornhaas & Van Houten, P.C.
Accounting Scholarship
Fiorita, Kornhaas & Company, P.C.

Gail P. Shaker Memorial Scholarship

W. Jason Hancock ’81, who with his wife, Ellen, created the Hancock Student Endowment Fund and funded the Hancock Student Leadership Program, posed with Danielle Basciano, recipient of the Jason and Ellen M. Hancock Student Scholarship.
In attendance at last year’s Student and Donor Scholarship Reception are (l-r) Solangel Medina, recipient’s mother; Hind Takla and husband and Foundation Board Member Nabil Takla, president and CEO of the Morganti Group, Inc.; Morganti Group Scholarship recipient Johnnie Medina; Ron Brookfield, group vice president of the Morganti Group, Inc.; and the recipient’s father, Jose Medina.

Amanda Nagurney (center) received the Union Savings Bank – Sturdevant Family Endowed Scholarship at last year’s event. Nagurney is flanked by donors Richard and Marie Sturdevant.
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Mario Mesi  
In memory of Alfred E. Gippianni
Daniel ’82 & Brenda ’78 Figley  
In memory of Bernadette Cunningham
Edward & Ruth ’39 Wilson  
In memory of William Curran
Patricia Kelly ’60  
In memory of Ralph “Topper” De Christoforo
Mario Mesi  
In memory of Patricia Kelly ’60
Mario Mesi  
In memory of William Curran
Patricia Kelly ’60  
In memory of Mark Rosenbaum
Joseph ’62 & Gloria Sanchez  
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Emilie & Theresa ’00 Buzaid  
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<td>4” x 8” engraved brick ($100 each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>20’ tree with engraved marker in ground ($500 each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Park bench with engraved brass plate ($1,000 each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Light post with engraved brass plate ($2,500 each)</td>
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alumni association golf tournament
players & sponsors

All proceeds from the 25th Anniversary Golf Tournament, in 2010 at Richter Park in Danbury, benefitted the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund, from which annual awards are made to students based on achievement, diversity and financial need.

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WCSU Recreation Department
WCSU Student Affairs
Webster Bank, N. A.
Wells Fargo Home Mortgage

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Sandia Anderson-Howell
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David Arconti
James Arconti ’83
Thomas Arconti ’89
Bob Arconti
James Baltor
Ed Boone
Chris Broox ’09
Wes Brown
Patrick Bushey
Harry Callhoun
Kathy Callhoun
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Jeffrey Fawcett
Scott Fawcett ’88
Brendan Freihich
Chester Gage ’68
Nick Giaquinto
William Girard ’68
Steven Goetsch
John Grip
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Albert Mead, Jr. ’68
Tony Mercaldo
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Robert Mitterando III
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Paul Montalto ’69
Frank Mooney
Kim Moss
Stephanie Moss
Dan Mullane
Doug Murray
Rick Nappi
Dick Novia
Chris O’r
Jason Ouellet
Jenn Ouellet
Lou Owen
Bryan Peterson
George Petruney

Enjoying the day are golfers (l-r) Jennifer Rynearson ’99 and Maura Keenan ’97.

Participating at last year’s Alumni Association 25th Anniversary Golf Tournament were (l-r) new Foundation Board member Joe Giaquinto, Jr. ’70, Jim Arconti ’83 and Foundation Board member Tom Crucitti ’69. Alumni Association Board Members Giaquinto and Arconti were honorary co-chairs of the event. Alumni Association Board Member Crucitti was golf tournament co-chair.

(i-r) Golfer Lou Owen and 2011 Honorary Golf Tournament Chair Al Mead, Jr. ’67

Jon Piasaceki
Nicholas Piazza ’10
Jody Rajula
Dave Recondemrad
Matt Rich
Rob Rebe
Joe Rokalala
Anthony Rizzo, Sr.
Mike Rodrigo
Jennifer Rynearson ’99
Matt Salamon
John Salerno
Shawn Sanford
Wayne Shenend
Raymond Shipen ’71

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