





Western Connecticut State University

President's Annual Report 2004–2005

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Western Connecticut State University

President's Annual Report 2004–2005

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Lives es

My exciting first year at WestConn brings to mind a comment the American industrialist Henry Ford once made: "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." Our university community has indeed come together, kept together, and worked together to continue to fulfill our mission as "A People's University for the 21st century" that changes lives.

More than 600 members of the extended WestConn community came together during the winter in our "Values and Vision" conversations to share their impressions, hopes and dreams for our future. Faculty and students have come together to create powerful learning experiences — in classrooms, laboratories, libraries, practice halls and athletic fields in Danbury as well as in New York City and locations as far away as Colorado, Romania, and the Mediterranean island of Crete.

As a community, we've kept together through joys and sorrows. Whether it be cheering our men's basketball team to an NCAA berth, marveling the talent of our music and theatre students, or joining to commemorate solemn occasions like 9/11, the people of WestConn have never failed to encourage and support each other.

The pages that follow highlight just a few of the successes that our collective labor — our working together — has produced. These accomplishments reflect all of the varied areas of interest that comprise today's university community. They represent the efforts of faculty, staff, students, alumni, external stakeholders, and the governmental leadership of the State of Connecticut.

Under various names, the institution now called Western Connecticut State University has since 1903 been in the business of changing lives. That work never ends. In fact, it begins anew with each entering class. It's an honor indeed to be a part of such labor.

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President's Message

James W. Schmotter





Top: WestConn's arts & sciences faculty meet with local high school teachers. This partnership's goal is progress in academic standards.

Above: Assistant Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences Dr. Theodora Pinou describes one WestConn student's field research in Greece.

<u>GLIMPSES</u>

"Delivering a weathercast in front of the green screen is like snowboarding or wind-surfing — it looks easy until you try to do it," said Assistant Professor of Meteorology Robert Eisenson. And he should know: Eisenson is a broadcast meteorology veteran and 1989 recipient of the American Meteorological Society Seal of Approval for Television Weathercasting, the highest credential that can be obtained by an on-camera meteorologist. He's been the weekend meteorologist on News12 Westchester since 1995. So when he proposed a collaborative program between the Department of Physics, Astronomy and Meteorology and the Office of Media Services to teach meteorology students how to do actual weathercasts, he was met with great enthusiasm. "What we are doing here is exactly the way it's done in professional television facilities," said Eisenson, who serves as executive producer of The Weather People. "So this is a great experience-building opportunity for these students."

Muddy feet and hands-on experience await students who attend WestConn to become certified to teach biology. Assistant Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences Dr. Theodora Pinou recently took a student to the Mediterranean island of Crete to study freshwater turtle populations. As part of a team of "Traveling Cyberscientists" — a teacher-training/ professional-development program — the student joined other science educators to study whether the loss of native habitat is impacting the turtle population of the island. "This program is very interactive and the teachers who travel to Greece actively participate and contribute," Pinou explained. "It provides practical experience in the science curriculum standards for the State of Connecticut, including strong examples of three of the 11 conceptual themes required by Connecticut's content standards in science: Matter and Energy in Ecosystems, Heredity and Evolution, and Science and Technology in Society. It's perfect for science education students, because it will prepare them content-wise, give them experience in authentic research, and allow them to work side-by-side with trained scientists and veteran teachers in the field."

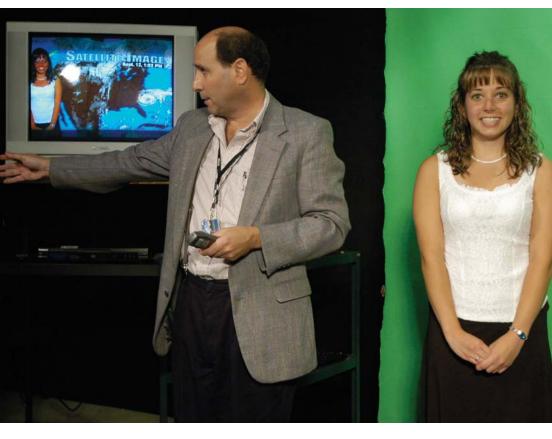
School of Arts & Sciences

Academic Achievement

FACT

- The Bachelor of Science in Meteorology degree, with Theoretical Meteorology and Operational Meteorology/Weathercasting tracks, continues to train meteorology students in many aspects of theoretical and applied meteorology. The program gives students the option of training for careers immediately following graduation or preparing for graduate study in meteorology.
- Assistant Professor of Physics, Astronomy and Meteorology Dr. James P. Boyle continues to work in a partnership he established with the manufacturing technology faculty and students at the Henry Abbott Technical High School. Under this program, students learn to design and fabricate hardware to support scientific experiments. Past projects have included the fabrication of mounting plates and a boom for use on research vessels in the ocean south of Martha's Vineyard and on Long Island Sound.
- The WCSU Weather Center maintains a partnership with Channel 8 WTNH in New Haven, Conn., which allows cross-branding between Channel 8 and the New Haven Register through forecasts provided by the Center.
- The School of Arts and Sciences engaged in a partnership with Bethel and Danbury high schools to "bridge the gap" between high school and college skills expectations that relate to academic standards in English and mathematics. Results from the first year will inform program assessments and modification recommendations for improvement in the upcoming year.

Assistant Professor of Physics, Astronomy and Meteorology Robert Eisenson coaches a student, Jennifer Sutkitis, through a practice telecast.







<u>G L I M P S E S</u>

As WestConn's music education coordinator, Professor of Music Dr. Wesley Ball educates future music teachers at WestConn and beyond. He's been a contributor to the Music Express monthly magazine series published for teachers by Hal Leonard Publications, and he's also written two combination workbooks and compact discs aimed at helping elementary school teachers engage their students in the fundamentals of music. "Music Moves Me: Active Listening Strategies for the Elementary Classroom" and "The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra: Listening Activities for the Classroom" both were written by Ball and published by Leonard. "These are the first teaching materials I've published for working with children in music, which is something I love," Ball said. "There's always an ample supply of music written for children, but not necessarily listening lessons designed to actively involve them. You really need to get children involved as they're listening." With its amplified classroom strategies for teachers and expanded activities for students, Ball's books should strike the right chord with music teachers and students alike.

Associate Professor of Nursing Dr. Colleen Delaney feels strongly about her work at WestConn. "I see myself shaping the future of nursing," Delaney said. "I think it's important to impart to my students the need for a holistic approach; they need to develop care plans that envelop the body, mind and spirit of their patients. Optimal patient outcomes occur when nurses look at the whole person, and I think caring is the essence of nursing. Our students need to be extremely competent and proficient, but they also need to be compassionate."

School of Professional Studies

Top: Interim Coordinator of Ed.D. program in Instructional Leadership Dr. Marcia Delcourt contributes to a school district information exchange in March.

Above: Western Connection Program faculty and staff.

Right: Professor of Music Dr. Wesley Ball (far right) urges his music-education students to engage youngsters in the art of listening.

Academic Achievement

FACTS

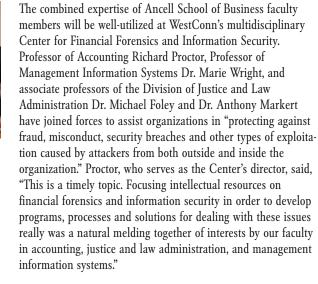
- To help ease the state's nursing shortage, WestConn, Naugatuck Valley Community College (NVCC) and the University of Connecticut (UConn) signed a landmark agreement called the Nursing Pathways Collaborative. This agreement streamlines the way for NVCC nursing graduates to transfer to WestConn for their bachelor's degree in nursing and then to advance to UConn for their master's in nursing. Initiated by the Department of Higher Education, the Nursing Pathways Collaborative serves as a springboard for similar agreements to address the state's critical workforce needs by capitalizing on existing resources.
- About 40 department heads, assistant superintendents, curriculum directors and other key personnel from nine of the 14 school districts in western Connecticut attended a School Districts Information Exchange in March. Participants discussed topics of concern, such as teacher shortage, professional development and student assessment. Discussion also focused on what WestConn's education programs can do to address these issues, and how greater collaboration can be built among educators to better connect the university with area educators.

- The School of Professional Studies received a number of accreditations during the 2004-05 academic year. The nursing and social work departments, as well as the teacher certification and school counseling programs, all received formal notice of full accreditation by their respective accrediting agencies.
- WestConn's Western Connection Program, an initiative that provides age-appropriate experiences for 18- to 21-year-old students with special needs, completed its second successful year. Based on the program's first-year performance, it was chosen as Connecticut's Post-Secondary Research Center for the delivery of transition services in a college setting. This has allowed the program to conduct site improvement activities; provide statewide technical assistance to other programs interested in creating and improving post-secondary services; and collect, analyze, and disseminate data about the efficacy and outcomes of the model of service delivery. Additionally, the program has been designated in a federal grant as a demonstration site for those wishing to develop similar programs. Educators from around the state, including Greenwich and New Canaan public schools, have visited WestConn for an overview of the program.



<u>G L I M P S E S</u>

"Information security is a hot topic right now and it's getting a lot of funding in information technology departments," said Assistant Professor of Management Information Systems Dr. Richard Bassett. "As a result, there are a lot of opportunities in this area and our students have had very little trouble getting a job or elevating the level of their current position." Several of Bassett's students have had their work published in highly respected and recognized industry publications, such as the Information Security Systems Association Journal and the Association for Computing Machinery journal, Ubiquity. "First the students enter their research into the Cyber-Security Challenge competition in Norwalk. Then I work with them to refine the strongest papers for publication. It's a good learning process and it gets them recognition, which is great especially for undergraduates," Bassett said.



Ancell School of Business



Meeting tomorrow's security challenges in technology (I-r): Professor of Accounting Richard Proctor, Associate Professor of the Division of Justice and Law Administration Dr. Anthony Markert, Professor of Management Information Systems Dr. Marie Wright and Associate Professor and Chair of the Division of Justice and Law Administration Dr. Michael Foley.

Academic Achievement

FACTS

- Department of Marketing Chair Dr. Ronald Drozdenko was recently recognized for his role in promoting the marketing profession. The New England Direct Marketing Foundation honored Drozdenko with the Professor Award for Excellence in Direct Marketing, citing him as "an inspirational educator and direct marketing advocate." Two of Drozdenko's students received scholarships from the New England Direct Marketing Association, and another student was named the "Above and Beyond Communications Student Marketer of the Year" by the American Marketing Association of Connecticut. Excellence inspires excellence.
- The Department of Marketing has one of the longest running department-based assessment programs. Using the capstone assessment method, the department made changes to the capstone courses and major revisions to the curriculum. These changes were implemented to strengthen research, technology, and the communication skills of marketing students.
- WestConn was named a member of the Homeland Security/Defense Education Consortium (HS/DEC). The HS/DEC is a network of leading teaching and research institutions nationwide that focuses on promoting education and research in security, especially as it pertains to homeland security and defense. The university's membership in the HS/DEC also will result in WCSU's affiliation with the National Academic Consortium for Homeland Security. This membership further underscores WestConn's commitment to leadership in the field of information technology security.



WestConn's faculty is nationally respected. Marketing Department Chair Dr. Ronald Drozdenko exemplifies why.



<u>G L I M P S E S</u>

Ed.D. student Frank LaBanca has won so many educator awards, he has to stop and think when asked to list them all. The Newtown High School science teacher has been named Connecticut's 2005 Teacher of the Year by the Teachers' Insurance Plan. He's been named the 2000 Radio Shack National Teacher for Science, Math and Technology. LaBanca is a finalist for Outstanding Biology Teacher in Connecticut, a finalist for the Connecticut Education Association Teacher of the Year, and he's on the Subaru Teaching Honor Roll. He's a 1999 GTE Growth Initiatives for Teacher Fellowship winner, and the recipient of a Best Buy te@ch grant and a National Education Association Innovation grant. In 2008, LaBanca will hold one of the first doctorates from WestConn when the initial cohort of students enrolled in WestConn's first doctoral program, the Ed.D. in Instructional Leadership, complete their studies. "WestConn is offering a very unique program — one designed for instructors, not administrators," LaBanca said. "The majority of my fellow students are classroom teachers, and I'm so impressed with the caliber of student. It's amazing to work with some of the best teachers in the region, and we'll take what we learn back to the local community."

The day after returning from a conference in Orlando, Fla., where she was named the 2005 Secondary School Counselor of the Year, Ed.D. student Deborah Hardy was back as chair of the guidance department at Irvington High School in Irvington, N.Y. "Once I considered school counseling as a career, I began a 'crusade' to help the untouched population of kids who don't speak English and don't understand the American educational system," she said. Fluent in five languages, Hardy is a bilingual, bi-cultural school counselor who has obtained master's degrees in counseling and development, and in instructional leadership. She's served as president of the New York State School Counselor Association and co-authored the New York State Comprehensive Program for School Counselors. Hardy is the first — and only — school counselor enrolled in WestConn's Ed.D. program. "The reality is that we all are instructional leaders, one way or another," she said. "Using an interdisciplinary and collaborative approach, we need to better understand, and get a holistic profile, of each student. By bringing the educational piece and the counseling piece together, we can find a more powerful way to educate children."

Division of Graduate Studies and External Programs

Academic Achievement

FACTS

- The M.F.A. in Visual Arts program now attracts applicants from across the United States and abroad. The program annually hosts a number of talented and well-known artists who visit WestConn to interact with, mentor and make presentations to students in the program.
- In the summer of 2005, WestConn will launch the only low-residency M.F.A. in Professional Writing program in the nation. Developed in response to the lack of a multigenre, distance-learning course of study that culminates in a terminal writing degree, this visionary graduate program will soon welcome its first cohort of students. The 60-credit program, licensed and approved by the Connecticut State Department of Higher Education, was designed to meet the needs of individuals who, in many cases, are already working in the writing field. This program will enable students to acquire and demonstrate professional-level proficiency in more than one realm of writing. Students will delve into the creative genres, such as poetry, fiction and creative nonfiction; and the practical genres such as advertising, copywriting, journalism, business writing and Web authoring.





Opposite page: Multiple-award-winning Newtown High School teacher Frank LaBanca is among the first cohort of students in WestConn's Ed.D. program.

Above: Writer in Residence Daniel Asa Rose and M.F.A. student Maeve Ewing.

Left: M.F.A. lecture series guest speaker John Arthur, a leading authority on contemporary American realism and figurative painting.



Professor of English & Justice and Law Administration Dr. Harold B. Schramm is an NEH fellowship winner this year.

Right: WestConn's Distinguished Professor Todd Brewster brings his wealth of experience as journalist, historian and author to the university.

Opposite page: Fulbright Lecturing Award winner Dr. Burton Peretti, an associate professor of history at WestConn, in Germany where he taught courses in American culture last spring.

LIMPSES

Award-winning journalist, historian and author Todd Brewster was named a "Distinguished Professor" at WestConn. Brewster has an illustrious career in media and journalism that greatly benefits students and the university community. Our students now have the advantage of his vast experience - from his theoretical knowledge to his current and practical involvement with current affairs. Brewster has served as writer, editor, principal correspondent and producer at major media organizations such as ABC, the History Channel and Life. He is co-author, with the late ABC News anchor Peter Jennings, of two best-selling books: "The Century," a history of the 20th century, and "In Search of America," an examination of modern-day America in light of the principles of the Founding Fathers. ABC News made both books into award-winning documentaries, earning Brewster Emmy nominations for his work as executive producer of the two series. Brewster also is a Knight Fellow in Journalism at Yale Law School.

Assistant Professor of Mathematics Dr. Samuel Lightwood likens calculus to learning music or a foreign language. "One of the difficulties people have with calculus is that it's somewhat like a performance art — it requires repetition and practice," Lightwood said. "We're trying to inspire our students to sit down and work, and anything that keeps them there a little bit longer helps." That's why he's been known to present a calculus exam in the form of a three-act play. "The students are given a playbill that describes what the hero of the piece is trying to do. In act one, the students do battle with just themselves, a pencil and paper; in act two, the hero calls upon his trusty sidekick, the calculator; and in act three, he is aided by both the calculator and a computer," Lightwood explained. "By activating a vein of entertainment in some part of the brain that's waiting for the next little twist, I think the three-act test keeps people in the class who might otherwise not have persisted. The best thing you can hope is that students will come to class and something will keep them coming back until the subject grabs them."



Scholarship

FACT

- As part of Archaeology Awareness Month, Professor of Anthropology and Sociology Dr. Laurie Weinstein joined archaeologists across the state in activities to provide information about the field. Weinstein and her students hosted a fourhour open house in the Archaeology Lab and displayed items they unearthed during an excavation last year.
- Connecticut State University Biological and Environmental Sciences Professor Dr. Thomas Philbrick is working on amplifying the scientific community's knowledge about rare river plants. Philbrick's efforts to study and classify these plants provide insights into biodiversity, ecology and conservation issues.
- Thanks to a Fulbright Lecturing Award, Associate Professor of History Dr. Burton Peretti spent the spring 2005 semester at the University of Regensburg, Germany, where he taught two courses in American culture at the 40-year-old national university. While there, Peretti made contacts he hopes will yield new educational exchange opportunities for WestConn faculty and students and their peers in Bavaria.
- Professor of Justice and Law Administration Dr. Kathleen 'Casey' Jordan attended the Sixth Biennial Conference on International Crime, Justice, and Public Order in Bucharest, Romania. She made a presentation on the link between forensic evidence and behavioral aspects in the case of serial killer Kendall Francois. Jordan, an expert on serial killers, appeared on CNN and other media outlets during 2004-05 and participated in more than 50 print and television stories about various court cases or current events involving issues of criminal behavior and the criminal justice system. She covered the trials and sentencing of Scott Peterson, the B.T.K. killer, Lori Hacking's murder in Utah, the Gloria Blanton insanity case, and the Robert Blake murder trial.
- Professor of English & Justice and Law Administration Dr. Harold B. Schramm was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) fellowship to attend an NEH Summer Institute, "Inquisitions and Persecutions in Early Modern Europe and the Americas," at the Center for Renaissance & Baroque Studies, University of Maryland.



<u>Changing Lives</u>



The university recently purchased "SimMan," a mannequin that simulates life. Here, a nursing student listens to a simulated heartbeat.

- For more than 10 years, sociologist Dr. Carina Bandhauer, an assistant professor in WestConn's social sciences department, has been exploring the daily lives of people in El Salvador before, during and after that country's 12-year tumultuous civil war. During this academic year, three students from her "Globalization and Migration" course were so interested in Bandhauer's work they joined her for a two-week trip to El Salvador. While there, the students learned about the history of the communities, discussed ongoing projects and explored the possibility of establishing a sister-city relationship between a new village in El Salvador and the Greater Danbury region.
- Campus Ministry Chaplain the Rev. Mark Horton was selected to participate in the Dartmouth College Ethics Institute Summer Faculty Institute, "Teaching Ethical, Legal and Social Implications of the Human Genome Project."
- English Professor Dr. Edward Hagan completed a project focusing on Standish O'Grady, the writer known as "The Father of the Irish Literary Renaissance." O'Grady's last work before his death was "Sun and Wind," and much of it had never before been published until Hagan's edited compilation. "Sun and Wind" is Hagan's third endeavor focusing on this prolific Irish author and scholar. He wrote "High Nonsensical Words: A Study of the Works of Standish James O'Grady," which was published in 1987 by Whitston Publishing Co. Hagan also edited O'Grady's "To the Leaders of Our Working People" as part of the Classics of Irish History series published by UCD Press and released in 2003 by Dufour Editions.
- Assistant Professor of Chemistry Dr. Jennifer Frederick presented a broad-appeal lecture about "Genomics: Unraveling Fact and Fiction." Frederick discussed the fact that complete sequencing of the human genome was heralded as a crowning achievement of recent science. Her lecture, aimed at non-scientists, explored the topic and the questions it raises, such as "What does this mean?" and "What comes next?"



The National Undergraduate Research Observatory in Flagstaff, Ariz. hosts Dr. Dennis Dawson's astronomy students.

Scholarship

- Professor of Anthropology and Sociology Dr. Laurie Weinstein presented a lecture about the ethnohistory of the Weantinock Indians at the annual meeting of the Archaeology Society of Connecticut. Weinstein's work was supported by grants from various agencies, including the American Philosophical Society and Harcourt Foundation. Former WestConn student Deseree Heme also worked on the research, and their materials have been submitted for journal publication.
- Students enrolled in Professor of Astronomy Dr. Dennis Dawson's "General Astronomy" class have the opportunity to travel to the National Undergraduate Research Observatory near Flagstaff, Ariz.
- Nursing students at WestConn work with the latest in state-of-the-art medical simulators designed to teach critical thinking and decision-making skills to health care providers. The university recently purchased "SimMan," a mannequin that simulates life. With a few clicks on the keyboard, nursing instructors can send his heart rate skyrocketing or throw him into an asthma attack. They can make him complain, moan, and mutter "go away" to anyone who comes near him offering students the opportunity to learn from realistic patient scenarios.

WCSU Campus Ministry Chaplain the Rev. Mark Horton at the entrance to Ridgebury Congregational Church where he is interim minister.



<u>GLIMPSES</u>

CSU Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences Dr. Thomas Philbrick received a four-year, \$400,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The grant will support Dr. Philbrick's research project, "Surveys of Podostemaceae (riverweeds) in Latin America." NSF funding will also help to underwrite the involvement of WestConn students in Dr. Philbrick's research, offering them the opportunity to receive first-hand experience in the technical and conceptual aspects of systematic biology. "What's exciting about this grant is that the funding will enable me to integrate more students into my research and, in some cases, hire students as my research assistants," Philbrick said, adding, "I can get them involved in my work in the laboratory here on campus, but I also can take them to Latin America to conduct their own research related to what I'm doing." Philbrick also received a grant from the National Geographic Society's Committee for Research and Exploration to support his project "Flowering Plants in Waterfalls: Taxonomy and Conservation of Riverweed in Eastern Venezuela."

Dr. Thomas Philbrick's grant awards afford his students opportunities to participate in research studies in Latin America.



Grants

FACT

- As of May 2005, WestConn faculty and staff had received nearly \$1.5 million in external funding grant awards. Approximately \$1.4 million in funding requests are pending.
- Through the Connecticut State University (CSU) System Office, WestConn received a grant of \$105,020 to underwrite an Advanced Science Enhancement Certificate Program for elementary teachers in the Danbury Public Schools. The award represents WestConn's share of the U.S. Department of Education Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education. This is money set-aside to support a system-wide initiative to address teacher shortages in mathematics, science, world languages, and/or special education.
- Through the CSU System Office, the nursing department has received funding from the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority (\$5,250) and the Office of Workforce Competitiveness (\$15,000), with an additional grant of \$50,000 from the Connecticut Department of Higher Education, all toward support of a collaborative WestConn and Southern Connecticut State University MS in Nursing in Education program.
- Department of Marketing Chair Dr. Ronald Drozdenko and Donna Coelho, coordinator of community relations for the Center for Business Research, received a grant of \$183,775 from the Davis Educational Foundation. The grant will support a three-year project focused on "Strengthening Educational Objectives with Real-Time Business and Community Projects." The Davis Educational Foundation was established by Stanton and Elisabeth Davis after Mr. Davis' retirement as chairman of Shaw's Supermarkets, Inc.
- The SBC Foundation's Excelerator Grant Program has awarded two grants totaling \$20,000 to the Executive Forum of Western Connecticut State University. The Executive Forum of WCSU is a collaboration that involves WestConn's Department of Management, the Department of Social Work and the local non-profit community.

• Coordinator of Substance Abuse Prevention Programs Sharon Guck received a \$30,000 award from the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). The grant will help to underwrite a collaborative multi-year project, "Winning Choices," that features significant involvement of athletes in an alcohol abuse prevention program on campus.



Sharon Guck, coordinator of substance abuse prevention programs at WestConn.

Members of the Executive Forum of WCSU (I-r): Terry Blackmer, executive director, Family Counseling Center, Professor of Social Work Patricia Ivry, director, Executive Forum of WCSU; LouAnn Bloomer, President/CEO TBICO; and Patricia Zachman, executive director, Women's Center of Greater Danbury.





Music major Timothy Doran in performance.

<u>GLIMPSES</u>

Sometimes the best advice comes from your roommate. At least that was the case for music major Timothy Doran. "When I first came to WestConn I saw what was going on around campus, and some of the programs didn't really cater to what I liked," Doran said. "I'd go back to my room and complain to my roommate about it, until one day he said, 'Fix it.' So I did my best to do that." Doran, already a member of the Music Educators National Conference, joined the Student Life Committee and became president of the Student Center Board. He ran for, and became, the Student Government Association (SGA) external vice president — and his SGA peers voted him to a two-year term as student trustee to the CSU System Board of Trustees. "My advice to incoming students is to make your own connection with WestConn," Doran said. "Find your own path or niche."

Assistant Professor of Communication Khalda Logan advises WestConn's Dance Team. "Dance has always held a special place in my heart since I was a child," Logan said. "It was a way to gain discipline, confidence and supplied a creative outlet. My dance training afforded me wonderful opportunities, and I hope the training I give my dancers brings the same to them."

Student Excellence

The Roger Sherman Debate Society, under the tutelage of Assistant Professor of Political Science Dr. Christopher Kukk, continued to win awards and accolades. During the 2004-05 academic year, the society participated in a number of debates with prestigious debate teams, even competing against the oldest debate team in the world from Cambridge University in the United Kingdom. The list of competitors WestConn has defeated is a "who's who" of well-established, professionally coached, scholarship-funded teams. Cornell University, Fordham University, the University of Rochester (when they were ranked number one in the country), the University of Vermont and West Virginia University are just some of the experienced teams that were outdebated by the WestConn group. According to Kukk, WestConn students have, as an aggregate, an intellectual appetite that is insatiable. "I don't know of many universities where students ask for readings over breaks, where students write extra papers to simply improve their writing and where students volunteer to spend their weekends intellectually sparring with their colleagues," Kukk said. "Who wouldn't look forward to going to work each day if they were a professor with such students?"



Members of the university's winning Roger Sherman Debate Society (I-r): Josh Flores, Erin Barnes, Tyler Balding and Michael Cohen.

<u>Changing Lives</u>



Students' project analyses are reviewed during WestConn Research Day.

Right: Recipients of the CSU Henry Barnard Award, Steven Ortiz and Michelle Nelson, with Dr. Schmotter after the presentation ceremony.

Opposite page: Christopher Hennessy, president of the student chapter of the American Marketing Association.

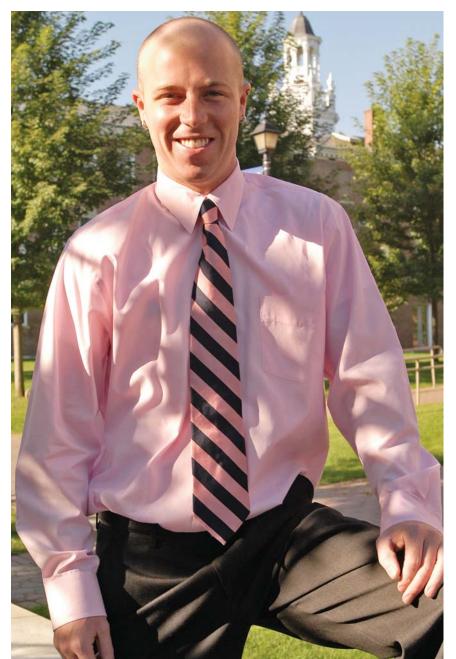
FACTS

- Christopher Hennessy, president of the student chapter of the American Marketing Association, was named Student Marketer of the Year by the Connecticut American Marketing Association Professional Chapter.
- WestConn student Will Michael is the host and producer of a half-hour cable television show he created. Launched in 2003, "Connecticut Naturalist" is broadcast to more than 300,000 homes in Connecticut and New York via public-access cable. His audience is growing, thanks to positive viewer feedback and his hands-on approach to educating others about nature. Recently, Michael was named a "Connecticut Youth Hero" by U.S. Senator Joseph Lieberman.
- Management Information Systems students Kathleen Yerks, Pasha Billimoria, Erin Palomba, David White, Eric Miller, and Richard DeLand won scholarships from the Connecticut Information Systems Security Association. Additionally, Palomba and Jennifer Windels placed third in the annual cyber security competition held in Norwalk.
- Four-week rankings released by the National Collegiate Weather Forecasting Contest placed students in Assistant Professor of Physics, Astronomy and Meteorology Robert Eisenson's "Operational Forecasting and Weathercasting" class in fourth place out of 41 participating schools. WestConn students ranked ahead of Cornell University and MIT.
- Students in the spring semester marketing management class developed a marketing plan for the Western Connecticut Chapter of the American Red Cross (ARC). The plan focused on ARC's collaboration with Lifeline, a service providing emergency contact to elderly and disabled people. The students presented the plan to ARC and Lifeline.
- WestConn's Research Day, held in April, provided students with a forum to present their research to faculty and their peers. Students who participated in Research Day submitted 100-word abstracts describing their research. Research results were presented during the conference.
- WCSU students recently established a chapter of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NCSC) on campus. NCSC is the nation's only honors organization exclusively for college freshmen and sophomores. The chapter now has more than 140 members.



Student Excellence

- Two nontraditional students, Jeanne Billett of Redding and Monica Sievel of Newtown, formed WCSU's Non-Traditional Student Organization. The organization's mission is to initiate peer group contact and facilitate transition to academic life by serving as a support system for nontraditional students.
- Graduating seniors Michelle Nelson and Steven Ortiz were recipients of the prestigious Connecticut State University (CSU) Henry Barnard Awards. The CSU Foundation presents the awards annually to distinguished students from all four CSU institutions. The selected students have maintained at least a 3.7 grade point average and have a record of substantial voluntary service to their university and community.
- Accounting student Ron Estrada placed first in a nationwide forensic accounting simulation.



<u>GLIMPSES</u>

"What are you? What's your wish and fear? What color do you think you should be?" WestConn Theatre Arts Professor Sal Trapani asked a fifth-grade student at Danbury's Hayestown Elementary School who was attempting to depict a character from nature for her classmates. It's part of a concept called "playmaking," which Trapani teaches his theatre arts students, who then use it to teach the grade-schoolers. "This does so much for literacy, sentence structure, writing and composition," Trapani said. "It can involve themes, such as science or the environment, and it teaches the students about dialogue, action and conflict. It's a great way for kids to be creative, express themselves and work with an adult mentor. And it's just amazing how the young kids relate to my students, who become re-energized and remotivated by working with them. It benefits them both."

Who'll teach tomorrow's nurses? "Many of our nurse educators are close to retirement, so we'll be losing them soon," said Dr. Barbara Piscopo, chair of WestConn's nursing department. Now WestConn students can prepare for faculty jobs at nursing schools, thanks to a new partnership with Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU). The collaboration will allow students to take nurse educator courses online beginning in the fall of 2005. "It's a win-win situation for both institutions. It just made sense to combine our resources," SCSU Nursing Department Chair Cesarina Thompson said.

WestConn students train with Jeanette Bjurback-Lupinacci, a Danbury Hospital nurse and a visiting assistant professor at WestConn.



Community Engagement

WestConn is also working with Danbury Hospital to tackle the nursing shortage. The hospital has assigned a nurse from its staff to serve on the WestConn faculty, which will allow the university to train as many as 20 more students in the undergraduate nursing program. Teamwork like this is making WestConn part of the cure to the nursing crisis in Connecticut and the nation.

WestConn held court — literally — when the Connecticut Court of Appeals convened on campus to hear three cases pending on the appellate docket. And while Connecticut's Supreme and Appellate Courts regularly go on the road to expose the public to the inner workings of the judicial system, this was the first time a sitting justice — Judge Thomas G. West — heard cases at his alma mater and then celebrated his impending retirement from the bench. The Division of Justice and Law Administration (JLA) Professor Dr. Harold Schramm and Associate Professor Dr. Michael Foley hosted the event. "We were very excited to have the Connecticut Court of Appeals on our campus," Schramm said. "It was a great opportunity for students to see a real appellate court in action. The judges were amazing in their preparation, and it really showed off the court in its best light." Foley said having Judge West as presiding judge served as an especially wonderful role model for the students to see. "It showcased WestConn as a center for academic excellence in the community," Foley added. "The day was enormously beneficial for our students, as well as the more than 180 high school students who attended. The question-and-answer sessions really helped them understand what was going on, and why."



WestConn alumnus and Appellate Court Judge Thomas G. West (left) receives the appreciation of JLA students after "holding court" on campus.



SCSU Nursing Department Chair Dr. Cesarina Thompson (left) and WestConn Nursing Department Chair Dr. Barbara Piscopo discuss plans for the collaborative nurse educator program.



Associate Professor of Communication Karen Raftery at WestConn's ceremony honoring Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy.

<u>GLIMPSES</u>

"WestConn is an integral part of the Danbury community," said Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton, '95, a WestConn alumnus. "It's a center for the arts, for learning, and for individual growth and professional development. It's a place that not only encourages discussion of key issues, but also often leads the discussion. As mayor, I'm honored and proud to have such a great relationship with the flagship university of the state university system; it's been great to see the growth of such a wonderful institution."

In an effort to boost its enrollment, the Girl Scout Council of Southwestern Connecticut asked WestConn to help develop a marketing plan for its organization. The goal was to create a campaign to draw girls to scouting. The Girl Scouts got some great ideas, and the marketing students who prepared the proposals reaped the benefits of gaining real-world experience. Thanks to a three-year, \$183,000 grant, WestConn's Center for Business Research (CBR) will be able to expand its focus on similar service-learning projects. "The Davis Foundation Grant will help the CBR to achieve its objective of involving more students and faculty in community service projects," said CBR Director Dr. Ronald Drozdenko. "Additionally, the grant will facilitate the development of performance-based assessment measures that will be both academically sound and relevant to the goals of real business and not-for-profit organizations."

WestConn's 5K run in October drew more than 200 participants from the region.



Western Connecticut

FACT

- Members of the Ancell School of Business faculty provide training and leadership for local organizations and businesses. While some faculty conducted management development training for the Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc., others served on advisory or governing boards for community, regional, and national groups and organizations.
- The university hosted a January event to explore trade relations between the United States and Brazil, one of South America's economic powerhouses and a central figure in ongoing negotiations to create the Free Trade Area of the Americas. J. Jaime Melo, a Brazilian who is a consultant in international business relations, discussed "Doing Business with Brazil." Melo, who has worked in the United States and Italy, addressed the Brazilian business climate, governmental support for international trade, economic trends and foreign investments.
- WestConn's "Diversity at the University" program brought fifth-graders from Danbury's Morris Street, Roberts Avenue and Great Plain elementary schools to the university in hopes of getting them interested in college. The program is part of the university's ongoing effort to inform potential students and their families about the opportunities available at WestConn.
- The Office of Multicultural Affairs and Disability Services hosted "Celebrating the King Legacy: Past, Present and Future" in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday. The event was attended by members of the university and Danbury community, as well as students and teachers from Danbury High School and ACE, the Alternative High School. Panelists addressed the historical contributions and impact of King's legacy.
- The Campus-to-Campus 5K brought runners and walkers out in force on Sunday, Oct. 17, 2004.
 More than 200 participants from throughout the tri-state area joined in this event, which started on the Westside campus and finished on the Midtown campus.

<u>PRESENTATIONS</u>

- Dr. Robert H. Frank, author of the 1995 New York Times Notable Book of the Year for "The Winner-Take-All Society," was the 2004-05 President's Lecture speaker. Frank is the Henrietta Johnson Louis Professor of Management in the Johnson Graduate School of Management at Cornell University. "The Winner-Take-All Society," co-authored with Philip Cook, an economist at Duke University, was included in Business Week's list of the 10 best books for 1995.
- Humanitarian, environmentalist and United Nations Messenger of Peace Dr. Jane Goodall brought words of reflection and hope during a May visit to the campus. Goodall spoke about her work with her beloved chimpanzees at Gombe, in Tanzania; her grass-roots humanitarian efforts worldwide; and her travels that have taken her around the world as an environmental educator for more than 20 years. Before Goodall's muchanticipated evening appearance, a multitude of earth-friendly, family events were held on campus. The events celebrated families, communities and the environment.

Author and Cornell Professor of Management Dr. Robert Frank was the President's Lecture speaker.



<u>PRESENTATIONS</u>

• "Women Change America," the theme for the 2005 Women's History Month, was chosen to honor and recognize the role of American women in transforming culture, history and politics as leaders, writers, scientists, educators, politicians, artists, historians, and informed citizens. WestConn hosted two events that focused on professional women, their careers and capabilities. The first was sponsored by the Connecticut Women in Higher Education Network and the American Council on Education Office of Women in Higher Education. During the daylong "Pathways to Success for Women's Career Advancement Forum," female faculty, administrators and guests were treated to two enlightening speakers and an engaging panel discussion. A week later, author Miranda Beverly-Whittemore treated audience members to a reading and discussion of her debut novel.



David Farber, Holocaust survivor, lectures at WestConn.

Computing Conference participants review literature on technology's uses in the classroom.



- Seventy-seven-year-old Holocaust survivor David Faber visited the university to discuss the horrors committed during the Holocaust. For more than two hours, Faber recounted details of atrocities he observed and personally suffered as a young man in Poland during the rise of the Third Reich. Faber's work for more than 15 years has included traveling the country to speak to educational, civic and religious groups about the Holocaust and the horrific effects of hatred.
- Blanche Wiesen Cook, a distinguished professor of History and Women's Studies at the John Jay College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, visited WestConn and discussed her most recent book, "Eleanor Roosevelt: Volume Two." During her lecture, Cook shared Roosevelt's commitment to the principle of greater dignity and security for all women and men. Cook has edited and contributed to several anthologies, and her book "The Declassified Eisenhower" was listed by The New York Times Book Review as one of the notable books of 1981. For more than 20 years, she also produced and hosted her own program for Radio Pacifica, originally called Activists and Agitators, and later re-titled Women and the World in the 1990s.
- WestConn hosted the 10th CSU Academic Computing Conference. Open to faculty, instructional and administrative personnel of the CSU System and the Connecticut/Technical College System, the conference provided a forum for sharing information related to the use of computing in higher education.
- The Institute for Holistic Health Studies and the Danbury branch of the Connecticut Holistic Health Association sponsored "The Power of Intuition and Positive Energy to Heal: An Evening with Dr. Judith Orloff." Orloff discussed her new book, "Positive Energy," in one of several informative presentations held during the 2004-05 academic year.
- WestConn hosted an International Education Week in November. The week-long celebration featured open forums and workshops, performances, dance classes, symposiums and discussions, an honors seminar and a live band.

Western Connecticut

<u>HONORS</u>

- Two WestConn programs recently earned awards for innovation and quality from the Connecticut Quality Improvement Award (CQIA) Partnership, which recognizes excellence in Connecticut organizations. The Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.) in Instructional Leadership and the advanced certificate in Interdisciplinary Gerontological Studies programs, both launched during the 2003-04 academic year, each earned a silver entry-level CQIA Innovation Prize. Founded in 1987 using the Malcolm Baldridge National Quality Award for Performance Excellence criteria, the CQIA Partnership aims to advance innovative programs that improve quality, performance and marketplace competitiveness
- WestConn's Child Care Center was reaccredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, allowing the center to retain its position as a member of a select group of child care facilities that have obtained national accreditation.

- The Ruth Haas Library earned its first national award, the John Sessions Memorial Award presented by the Reference and User Services Association, a division of the American Library Association. The award recognizes the Haas Library's extensive collection of biographies about the lives of area hatters and its strong partnership with the American Postal Workers union.
- In early November, WestConn received the 2004 Organization of the Year award from the Midwestern Connecticut Council on Alcoholism (MCCA). The university's Substance Abuse and Prevention Program was honored for efforts in confronting and controlling the growing problem of underage binge drinking.

WestConn's youngest "students" celebrate the reaccreditation of the Child Care Center.





May 22, 2005

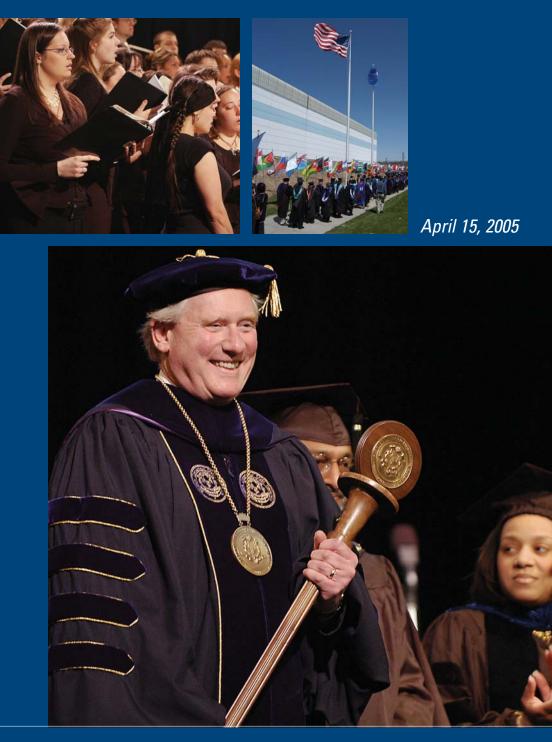






Commencement

Celebration



The Inauguration



Frank Herbert, chair of WestConn's lively theatre arts department.

<u>GLIMPSES</u>

Juan Mesa, a talented organist from Chile, was looking for a school to study music. "I contacted the American Guild of Organists (AGO), asking for assistance in finding a college that I could attend and afford in the United States," Mesa said. The AGO forwarded Mesa's e-mail to several organ teachers across the country. Stephen Roberts, an adjunct professor of music at WestConn, responded to Mesa as soon as he received the e-mail. "He was very sincere about the difficulties I would face," Mesa said. "But he was also positive and willing to do whatever was necessary to help me. He encouraged me to apply for an academic merit scholarship, which I got." From Roberts' perspective, "I was delighted when I received Juan's message. I want to build a first-rate organ class. Juan's talents contribute considerably to the program."

Costume, make-up, script ... passport? For the past decade, students in WestConn's theatre arts department have auditioned for roles in the biennual production staged at the renowned Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland. "This has been an amazing opportunity for our theatre students — to participate in and see the world's largest theatre festival," said Theatre Arts Department Chair Frank Herbert. "It's an amazing resumebuilder. We've played to international audiences, participated in workshops with some of the most interesting people and witnessed great performances. Our students have received critical acclaim for the shows we've presented over the years."



Beautiful Ives Concert Park on the Westside campus, where our M.F.A. and undergraduate art students love to paint.

The Arts

FACT

- The theatre arts department staged productions that truly exhibited the great talent of the students and faculty. Based on an unfinished novel by Charles Dickens, the fall production of "The Mystery of Edwin Drood," a playful, interactive, mystery musical, came to life on the Berkshire Theatre stage through a wonderful performance by our students.
- If you're an avid music lover, treat yourself to one of WestConn's musical performances. This year, the music department offered jazz programs, a Veterans Day Concert, opera performances and choral music. Audiences couldn't get enough of the wonderful music that filled Ives Concert Hall during spectacular and spirited performances.
- The October Alumni Art Show featured work from artists in studio art, illustration and graphic design.
- "Your place, or mine?" That question took on new meaning during the Craig Lucas play, "Blue Window," staged by WestConn's theatre arts department at the Urban Stages theatre in New York City. This marked the 12th year WestConn's theatre students have staged productions in New York. The play, about urban life in New York City for several young professionals in their 30s, ran for three days.
- Tenor saxophonist Joe Lovano, described as one of the greatest musicians in jazz history, headlined this year's spring jazz festival. The Joe Lovano Nonet performed as part of the WestConn/Litchfield Performing Arts Jazz Festival, marking a decade of world-class jazz on WestConn's campus. The fall Oktoberfest Jazz concert included big-band standards by Buddy Rich, Count Basie and others.

- Audiences were given a rare treat at the WCSU Concert Choir's "A Choral Prism: Global Perspectives in Song" performance. The morethan-100-voice choir was conducted by Music Professor Dr. Kevin Jay Isaacs. The choir was accompanied by Pat Lutnes on piano and the WCSU Percussion Ensemble, led by Music Professor David Smith. The 14 works on the evening's program had source musical material from 10 countries, texts from 12, and composers or arrangers from seven. The works were performed in eight different languages.
- Throughout the year, renowned fine artists visited the campus and presented slides on their work. Guest speakers also interacted with M.F.A. in Visual Arts students while on campus.

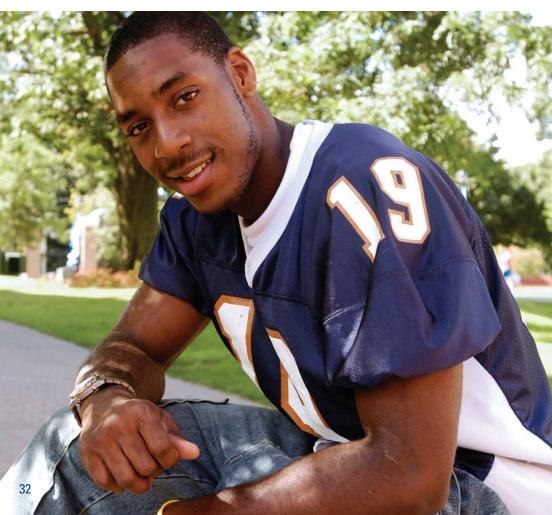


Famed tenor sax player Joe Lavano "blows the room away" during WestConn's spring jazz festival.

<u>GLIMPSES</u>

Nineteen is the number on Jermar Rountree's football jersey, and it also seems to be the number of places you can run into this active and involved elementary education major on campus on any given day. When not suited up to play free safety for the NCAA Division III WCSU Colonials, Rountree serves as treasurer of the Education Club, a senator for the Student Government Association, a member of the Program Activities Council, a Peer Educator and a member of the Student Athletic Advisory Council. Recently he was asked to join the President's Athletic Advisory Council, which he described as "a prestigious feeling, being in a room with faculty and administrators and being given an opportunity to speak." Why so many activities? "If I'm not doing anything, I feel lazy," Rountree explained. "It's good to always be active." Rountree knows he's a role model for his fellow students, too. "I do a lot of positive things, but I don't think I'm better than anyone. I want people to see me doing things so they are inspired to get involved."

Jermar Rountree, an outstanding WestConn student, shines in everything from sports to academics to university-community involvement.



Athletics

FACT

- Two WestConn student clubs, ice hockey and rugby, took the region by storm. WestConn's rugby team, a Division III club, defeated Tufts University to become the 2004 Northeast Champions. This was the team's fourth northeast champion title since 1988. The hockey club's games were well-attended by WestConn and the Danbury community. Playing at the Danbury Ice Arena, the Colonials finished the season with an overall record of 17-10-1. The club finished as regular season champions, winning the Northeast Collegiate Hockey Association Western division.
- The Women's Soccer team is the 2004 Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Division III New England Womens' Soccer Champions! At the tournament, the Colonials posted their secondstraight upset, defeating host and second-seeded Brandeis University, 4-2. Senior back Christie Gillis was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player.
- WestConn senior center Brice Assie's accolades keep coming in. The Bridgeport, Conn., native, who led the Colonials to the second round of the NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Championships in early March, was named to the National Association of Basketball Coaches Division III All-Northeast Region and ECAC New England All-Star First Team. Assie, a 6'6" powerhouse, averaged 19.5 points, 8.8 rebounds and blocked 77 shots in his final season for the 24-5 Colonials. Earlier in the year, Brice was named to the D3hoops.com All Star First Team.
- Men's Basketball Coach Robert Campbell scored his 400th victory last fall and the championship of the Courtyard by Marriott Tip-Off Tournament. Campbell is the Colonials' longest tenured head coach. In 21 years, he has lifted the program to unprecedented success and recognition. He has the highest winning percentage of any coach in the program's 58-year history, with an overall record of 422 wins. He also has guided the Colonials to numerous regional and national rankings.



<u>GLIMPSES</u>

Chemistry Professor Dr. Paul Hines looks across campus at the silhouette of the science building with anticipation. "We're very excited about the new science building," he said. "The up-to-date facilities will allow WestConn to reach parity with other universities that share our size and mission and allow an efficiency that we heretofore have not experienced. But the move itself is staggering." Thousands of fragile pieces of glassware in the form of beakers, test tubes and slides; delicate instruments that will require recalibration; active biology cultures and temperaturesensitive chemistry equipment all have to be identified, inventoried and packed. "We'll probably use two- to three-thousand large crates and more bubble wrap than you've ever seen to accomplish this," Hines said. "But in the end, it will be worth it and the result will be fantastic."



Above: The new Science Building both reflects and inspires enthusiasm for discovery.

Right: Professor of Chemistry Dr. Paul Hines and Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences Dr. Linda Vaden-Goad invite visitors to tour the new Science Building.



Infrastructure

FACT

- The architectural program phase for the new Center for the Fine and Performing Arts is complete, and the architects and construction engineers for the design phase have been chosen. It is estimated that the building will be completed by 2010. In the spring, a consultant issued a report with suggestions for collaborations among the departments of arts, theatre and music prior to and after the opening of the building.
- WestConn broke ground for the university's 49,000-square-foot Westside Campus Center in April. The \$17-million center will be the first such facility on the university's Westside campus. Meant to serve as the student union and hub of student life on the Westside campus, the threestory building will provide a full-service cafeteria and dining area, game room, fitness center, multipurpose meeting and conference rooms, student activity space, lounge areas, and related campus- and student-life facilities. The center is scheduled for completion in fall 2006.
- Last year, WestConn opened a new residence hall on the Westside campus. The hall, named Centennial Hall by WestConn students, includes a new 350-bed residence hall and 425-car parking garage. Suites have a living/study area, bathroom(s), and a small kitchen area. The suites can accommodate four to seven students. The building includes community laundering facilities, a large lounge area, a computer technology lab, a fitness center, a game room and vending machine area.
- The Student Technology Training Center conducted more than 75 workshops. Additionally, more than 70 one-on-one tutorials for students were hosted in such diverse areas as the basics of computing, Photoshop, PowerPoint, Word, Excel, Publisher, Quark, Illustrator, FrontPage, Access and Lotus Notes. Students received individual assistance from student lab managers and assistants.
- WestConn soon will roll out the Infinet Quik Pay environment. Quik Pay is an e-billing and e-payment solution which will allow students and authorized payers to view account information and make credit card and e-check payments online.

WestConn's Student Technology Training Center is cutting-edge in content and student-oriented in design.





- The university Web site was redesigned and restructured. Changes were made to align the look and structure of the site with current university standards, to reorganize existing content and improve navigation and the overall usability of the site.
- Centennial Hall received an Award of Merit in the 2005 Connecticut Building Congress Project Team Award. The award was for a project in the "above \$10-million construction cost" category.
- The Midtown Campus Parking Garage is a 800-car, pre-cast parking garage to be built on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Osborne Street. The project cost is estimated at nearly \$9.8 million. Anticipated completion date is fall 2006.
- WestConn continued to deploy standard technology in classrooms to achieve the ambitious goal of all classrooms being technology-equipped by July 2007. By fall 2005, 105 classrooms will be equipped with technology.
- WestConn offers wireless network access to students, faculty and staff in selected locations on the Westside and Midtown campuses. Locations include the Haas Library, Young Library, Student Center, and portions of the Westside Classroom Building. New locations will be added based on student and faculty input. Wireless options will also be incorporated into new construction projects, such as the Westside Campus Center.



Right: Construction has begun on the new Westside Campus Center.

Below: Architectural rendering of the new Westside Campus Center.

Infrastructure



Left: WestConn's Web site, www.wcsu.edu, is sporting a sharp new look. The redesign provides optimum navigation ease and links to many university resources.

Below: Our newest student residence, Centennial Hall, is an award-winning example of WestConn's commitment to advancing a strong and progressive infrastructure.



Changing Lives

<u>GLIMPSES</u>

World-renowned photographer Tom Millea graduated from WestConn in 1972, and the impact of his university experiences continues more than 30 years later. "I've learned that my time spent at WestConn ended up coloring the way I've lived my life in a very profound way," Millea said. "For me, college wasn't something I went through for four years and just forgot about. Some of the professors here started me on my career as a photographer and I've followed that path through my life. They took me under their wings, and without their influence, I would not be what I am today. It wasn't about what I learned — it was about them showing me the ways that I could find my own path. They taught me how to learn."



Alumni

FACT

- The School of Professional Studies held its third annual Distinguished Alumni Ceremony and Reception, where an alumnus from each department was honored. The school also hosted three other alumni events during the academic year.
- More than 100 golfers and 25 volunteers were on-hand for the annual Alumni Association Golf Outing at the Watertown Golf Club. The event raised about \$8,000 for scholarships.
- The annual Golden Circle Luncheon honoring alumni who graduated through 1954 drew many guests. About 70 attended the fall event.
- The Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony honored six members. More than 200 were on-hand to honor the inductees.
- Alumna Irene Sherlock can be heard on National Public Radio (NPR) reading her poignant, witty essays about life. Sherlock, who is the associate director of University Publications & Design and an adjunct lecturer in the English department, wrote her first NPR piece about how she fell in love with baseball in mid-life and her struggles to choose a team.
- In conjunction with the annual conference of the Connecticut Music Educators, the Alumni Association and the Office of Alumni Relations sponsored a cocktail reception at the Westin Hotel in Stamford for WCSU music alumni.
- The Alumni Association sponsored "An Evening at the Opera" as part of their contribution to the Inauguration Week festivities. Alumni and friends were invited to a cocktail party and opera performance.



WestConn alumna Irene Sherlock's essays continue to delight National Public Radio listeners.

Photographer and WestConn graduate Tom Millea is internationally respected for his work.



Changing Lives



WestConn Professor Emeritus Dr. Albert Stewart is a long-time champion of accessible education as key to society's success.

<u>GLIMPSES</u>

Those who support the university do so for a variety of reasons. Upon his retirement from Union Carbide, Professor Emeritus Dr. Albert Stewart taught marketing and international salesclasses at WestConn. He also served as acting dean of the Ancell School of Business for 15 years. His wife, Colleen, shared his passion for education and was an adjunct instructor in the university's education department. "WestConn is a stellar school; it's improving steadily and it's a great asset to the community," Stewart said. "Higher education plays an important role in improving society, and WestConn serves all segments of the community. That's why I support this university."

Registrar Emeritus Henry Tritter explained his motivation. "WestConn helped my wife, Susan, fulfill her lifelong dream of a career in nursing, and I spent most of my professional career here," he said. "We decided that endowing a scholarship to assist talented students in nursing — for obvious reasons and in theatre arts — for all the years of enjoyment we derived from the program. We thought it was a good way to say thank you for all the university has given us."

"When I began my career and my company was in its infant stages, I found Danbury to be a hospitable environment to grow a business," said Deno Macricostas, founder and chairman of Brookfield-based Photronics Inc. "From banks and governmental offices, to the people who worked at those institutions, I encountered a cooperative and supportive spirit that helped me realize my potential as an individual and as an entrepreneur, and enabled my company to grow into a regional, national, and, eventually, a global organization. And so I suppose the reason I chose to support WestConn is to pay a debt of gratitude to the community that has been so good to me. That said, the extent of my support is due to what I believe is the tremendous value the university brings to the community and to the quality of education it provides to our young people. I place hope in the notion that the support I lend helps the university to shape new community leaders who will contribute to a positive climate like I encountered."



University archivist Meg Moughan (left) accepts historic memorabilia from Elizabeth Perkins MacGregor.

Donors and Supporters

<u>FACTS</u>

- A September reception to introduce a group of scholarship donors to the appreciative student recipients who benefit from their generosity was attended by about 60 donors and students. During the evening, attendees heard personal reflections from some donors and several student recipients.
- The WestConn Society Luncheon was held in the newly renovated Warner Hall, marking the first time this event was held on campus. Branson Ultrasonics President Anthony Pajk received the WestConn Society Community Service Award at the luncheon.
- More than 250 guests enjoyed the Sixth Annual Holiday Wine Tasting to benefit WestConn student scholarships. The event, a combination social gathering and fund-raiser, generates proceeds for the Caraluzzi Scholarship Endowment, created in 1999 by Bethel Foods owner Anthony Caraluzzi and his wife, Roberta.
- Throughout the year, the WCSU Foundation, Inc. generously provides monetary support to local nonprofit organizations, as well as campus initiatives, centers and programs.

- Under the auspices of the WCSU Foundation, WestConn has hosted a university ball for the past 18 years. The 2005 ball, renamed the President's Gala, accurately reflected that the evening is not only a dance. There's also a gourmet meal, a silent auction and a chance for all who support the university to join together in a common celebration. About 250 guests attended this year's black tie event that helped raise more than \$50,000 for the Foundation.
- Elizabeth Perkins MacGregor, the great-granddaughter of the first principal of Danbury Normal School, donated three pictures that depict Perkins' life and a family genealogy to the Ruth Haas Library.
- In an effort to enhance donor communications, the Office of Institutional Advancement launched a new publication, WestConntributors. The office also developed a Web site for donors and alumni.

Marie and Deno Macricostas (Mr. Macricostas is founder and chairman of Photronics, Inc.), along with other generous donors, are feted in September by a grateful WestConn.

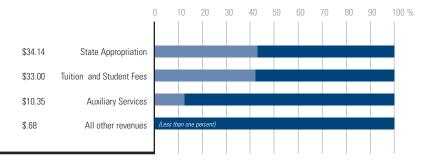






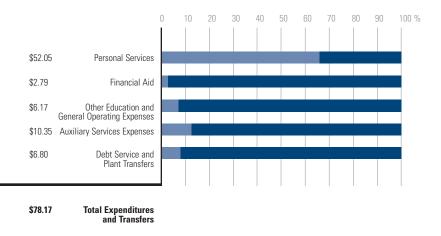
President Schmotter welcomed four new people to his management team this past year, including two on an interim basis (I-r): Dr. Walter Cramer, dean, Student Affairs; Dr. G. Koryoe Anim-Wright, interim vice president, Institutional Advancement; Maribeth Amyot, vice president, Finance and Administration; Dr. Roy Stewart, interim provost/vice president, Academic Affairs.

New Faces





Total Revenues



All amounts shown in millions of dollars. Bar graph represents percentages of the total.

Financial Report 2004-05



Western Connecticut State University

President's Annual Report 2004–2005

Annual Fund

The Annual Fund supports WestConn throughout the year, most notably with scholarships and other forms of student assistance. Some gifts are designed by the donors to support a particular academic school, major, or department, such as Athletics. Other gifts honor academic achievement or consider students' financial need.

Most annual fund gifts are unrestricted and help sustain alumni activities.

This donor list reflects gifts made to the Annual Fund and purchases of engraved bricks, trees and benches for the Alumni & Friends Circle. All donations reported were received between July 1, 2004, and June 30, 2005. If your name is misspelled or missing, please contact Michael Driscoll, director of Institutional Advancement, at (203) 837-8419 or e-mail driscollm@wcsu.edu.

Thank you for your donation to WestConn.

Leader (\$1,000 - \$2,499) Thomas '69 & Lois '71 Crucitti Ruth-Ann Flynn '70 Carol Hawkes

Partner (\$500 - \$999)

Ronald Drozdenko '74 Deborah Gross '79 Stacy Havener '98 Arthur Willman '77

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Many items raise funds at the University Ball Auction; others are distributed at various events, or are used by students and employees on campus.

University Ball 2005

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Wine tasting

Nutmeg Liquors Sodexho Dining Services Bethel Food Market Emerald City Café La Zingara Nöbe



2005 President's Annual Report Western Connecticut State University

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