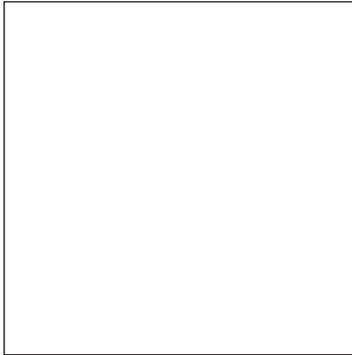


*Employing Our Regional Advantage to Educate for Global Realities*

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2005–2006

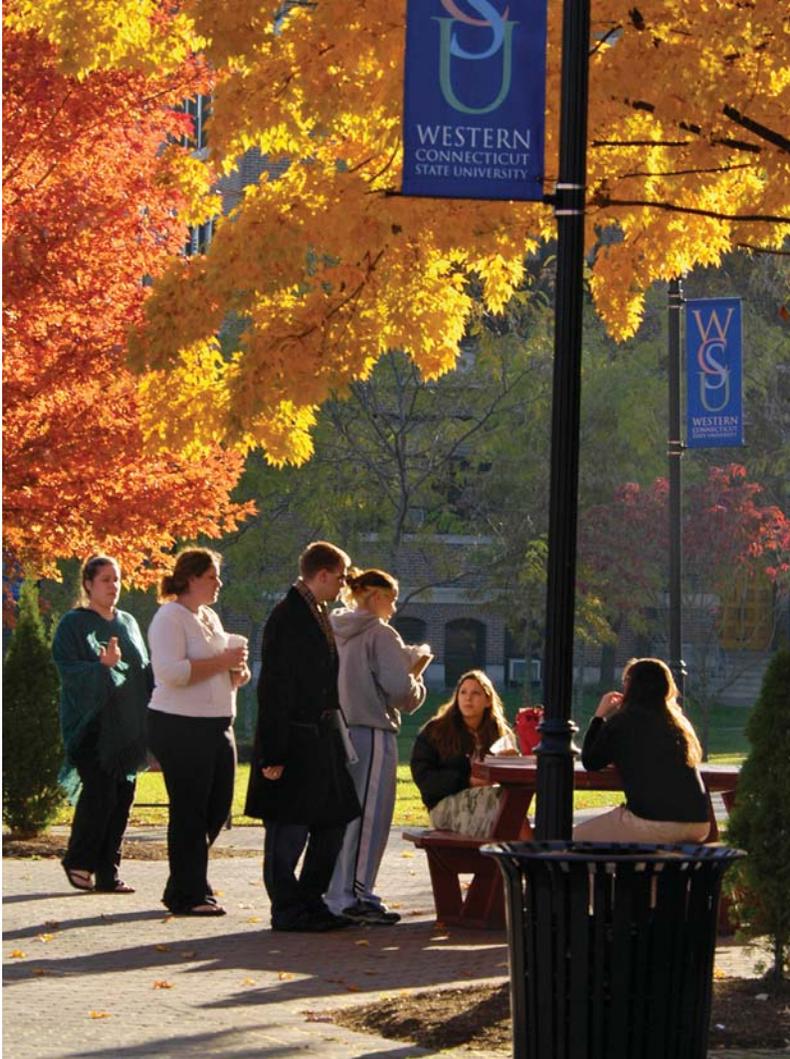
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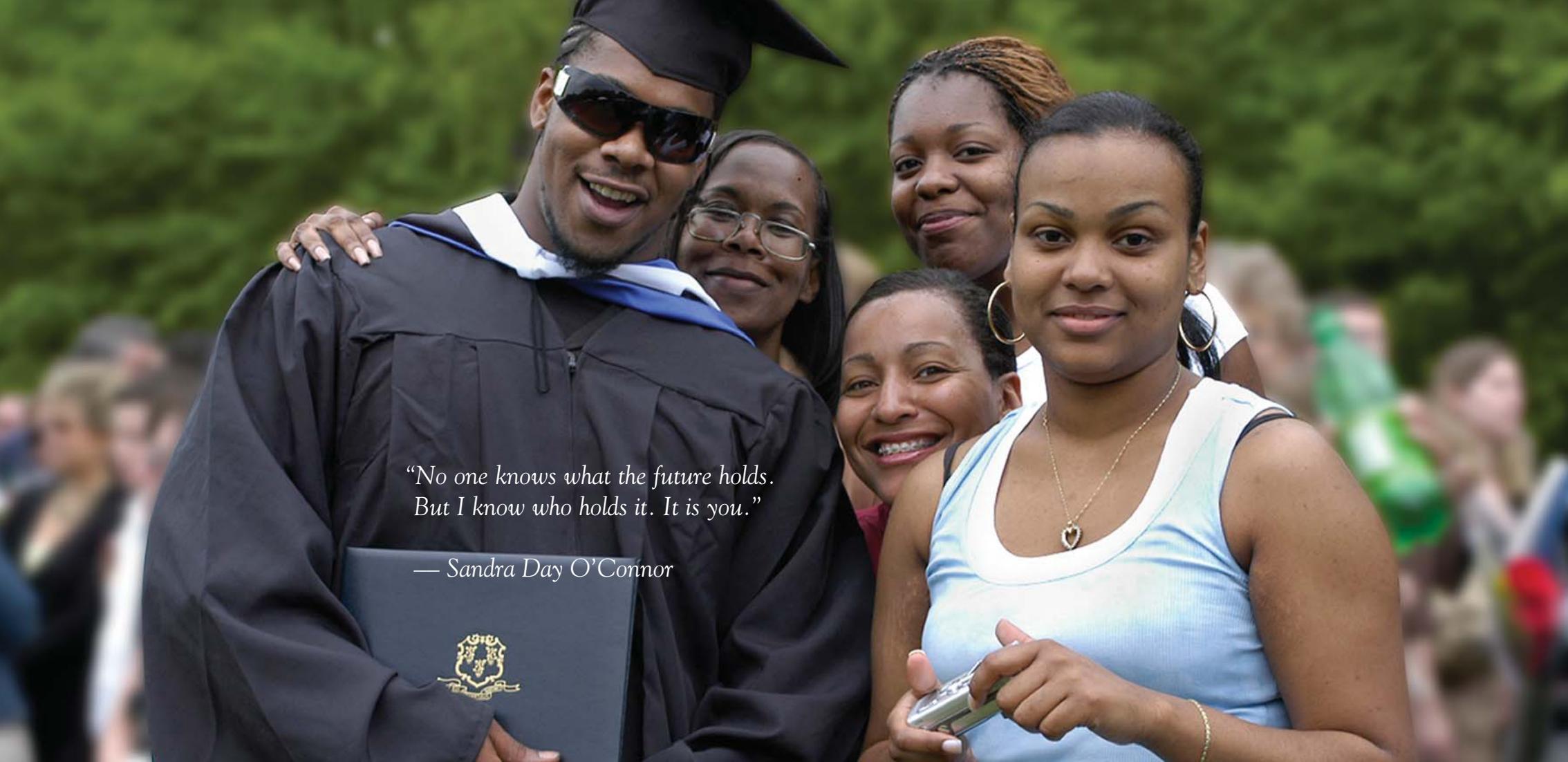


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*Western Connecticut State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity educator and employer, fully committed to the goal of providing equal opportunity and full participation in its educational programs, activities, and employment without discrimination.*





*“No one knows what the future holds.  
But I know who holds it. It is you.”*

*— Sandra Day O’Connor*

*A May 2006 graduate proudly poses with his family.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. James W. Schmotter

FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW, Western Connecticut State University's advertising slogan has been "Stay Near, Go Far!" That slogan resonates because students receive a first-class education here while attending college close to home. But it's also a fact that our geographic location allows us to capitalize upon powerful regional advantages to educate for global realities.

Now more than ever, WestConn is a pathway to the world.

The reasons for this are many. Consider our faculty, who are continually expanding their knowledge and expertise to bring more to the classroom. Or our students, who flourish on our campus and also in our community, where they volunteer and do good work. Both take advantage of our location in Danbury, with its convenient access to the rich intellectual, economic and artistic resources of Fairfield, Litchfield and Westchester counties, and nearby New York City.

But there is even more to our story. In these pages you will read about how our professors, students and administrators have traveled near and far. You will learn how they have brought their new ideas and experiences home to WestConn — from Asia, from Europe, from Latin America, from the boroughs of New York, and from within the city limits of Danbury.

As we continue to stretch our physical and intellectual boundaries with state-of-the-art facilities like the Science Building, and new adventures like our partnership with Sias International University in China, WestConn's students are developing the experience, entrepreneurship, maturity and confidence that will enable them to compete at any level, on any stage, in the global economy. That's our commitment to them and to the State of Connecticut.

The philosopher Plato once observed, "The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future life."

Our journey leads us on an exciting path. Read about the directions the women and men of WestConn are taking in the pages that follow.



A close-up photograph of a man wearing sunglasses and a tan shirt, looking intently at a small green insect he is holding on his finger. The background is a blurred natural setting with green foliage and a blue sky.

*“Only one who devotes himself to a cause with  
his whole strength and soul can be a true master.  
For this reason, mastery demands all of a person.”*

*— Albert Einstein*

# Mastery

*Peter Warny, a naturalist and ecologist, joined Assistant Professor of Biology Dr. Theodora Pinou and public school science educators at the Highstead Arboretum in Redding.*

**MASTERY** involves the command of our faculty over their intellectual domains and the manner in which they share this mastery with their students. Our hallmark has long been, and is today, the caring, personal relationships that students have with faculty. In the classroom, laboratory, library, studio, playing field and faculty office, we change lives the old-fashioned way — one student at a time.

SHARON GUCK KNOWS SHE ALONE CANNOT WIN the battle against substance abuse. So she enlisted WestConn's best student athletes to help wage a formidable campaign.

A \$30,000 grant, awarded to Guck from the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), financed a multi-year "Winning Choices" project that seeks to educate student athletes about the dangers of substance abuse and enlist them as partners in the cause. Male and female athletes representing a wide range of WestConn sports programs have joined other student leaders to plan an ambitious campaign to promote healthy lifestyle decisions. A core group of varsity players underwent training as peer educators to promote positive behavior among first-year athletes.

"I've told the athletes, 'People look up to you whether or not you are ready for that role, so respond to it,'" Guck said. "They're enthusiastic and really genuine. No one has ever asked them to help with a project like this. If you give them the opportunity and the tools and help them along a bit, you'll be surprised what they come up with."

Guck has brought an infectious enthusiasm to her role as coordinator of the WestConn substance abuse prevention program, known as Cultivating Healthy Opportunities in College Environments

(CHOICES). CHOICES' mission is to promote positive lifestyle choices, provide confidential assessments, facilitate counseling and treatment referrals and involve the entire university community in prevention efforts. Since she arrived on campus in March 2004, Guck has addressed issues of substance abuse and healthy behavioral choices at classes, meetings and informal discussions with student, faculty, law enforcement and community groups. Training workshops organized by Guck provide resident advisers in university housing with critical information about substance abuse and signs when intervention is required.

Her office has formed productive collaborations with faculty to integrate alcohol and drug information into courses in nursing, social work, marketing, and health promotion and exercise sciences.

"We have filled a void on this campus," Guck observed. "Previously a faculty member who became aware of a student in class with a substance abuse problem was uncertain where to turn for a referral or help. Now they have a resource and they're using it." ■

DR. KAREN DALEY, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF nursing, led a group of students on a four-day trip to the hospital at Ramstein Air Base in Germany to observe military medicine in action.



*Ramstein Air Base provided a unique learning venue for WestConn nursing students.*



*Peer counselors educate their counterparts about responsible lifestyle choices.*



*The dichroic glass sculpture suspended above the lobby of the Science Building provides a glittering backdrop for special occasions and campus events.*

They learned more than they could have imagined.

The 10 nursing students, along with Daley and assistant professor Joan Palladino, got to Germany partly through the work of a WestConn alumnus, Major Christopher Paige, who graduated from the nursing program in 1993. Paige served in the White House as a nurse to President Bill Clinton and now is serving at Ramstein as the training flight commander of the 86th aeromedical evacuation squadron.

The students went over as potential Air Force recruits, flying on military planes and staying in military housing. When military personnel are injured in Iraq, they are given initial treatment there and then flown to Ramstein, where they get further treatment and are prepared to be flown to the United States.

The student nurses worked in the intensive care, orthopedic and trauma units, set up equipment in airplanes and learned various procedures, such as how blood is stored in a battlefield hospital.

And they found out that, in fact, the war is changing how nurses do their jobs.

“They based their care on these brand-new protocols that no one knew about,” Daley said. “When this all ends, trauma and



*(l-r): President James W. Schmotter, Deputy Speaker of the House Bob Godfrey, Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton, State Sen. David Cappiello, Gov. M. Jodi Rell, Department of Public Works Project Manager Peter McCann, State Rep. Janice Geigler and U.S. Rep. Nancy Johnson at the Sept. 2005 ribboncutting for the Science Building.*

burn treatment are going to be completely enriched in terms of care. We know every war changes nursing, but we didn't know how this war was going to change it. Now we do." ■

IN SEPTEMBER 2005, GOV. M. JODI RELL CAME back to campus to christen the new Science Building, a gleaming 122,000-square-foot, three-story structure containing labs, classrooms, lecture halls, an astronomy observatory, greenhouse and faculty offices that ushered in a new era for education and for environmental construction.

"The good news continues and it just keeps on coming, and I see the pride. We've boldly raised the bar," Rell said.

The celebration brought some familiar faces back to campus, including former WestConn President Dr. James R. Roach, former Vice President for Finance and Administration Richard Sullivan and former Director of Planning and Engineering Tom Carlone. They were joined by a multitude of university, state, local and Connecticut State University System Office dignitaries, many of whom had attended the groundbreaking for the building two years earlier.

Rell summed up everyone's sentiments

when she said, "It's a great time for WCSU, and for me, it's a personal-pride thing. The workmanship on this project tops them all. The nice thing for all of us is when you strive for excellence, you get excellence."

The new building was the first government facility in Connecticut to earn Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Certification, which signifies that it was built and operates to strict energy-saving standards. During design and construction, the university followed a set of criteria to provide for energy efficiencies after the building was occupied, and even mandated recycling of construction debris while it was being built.

WestConn also earned LEED certification for Centennial Hall, the newest residence hall on the Westside campus. Luigi Marcone, director of Environmental and Facilities Services, said the university will build future buildings to the specifications of the LEED process without actually applying for the certification because of the cost.

These were not the only green projects at WestConn.

Marcone led work on a contract in which WestConn receives regular payments in return for agreeing to drastically reduce power consumption on campus during

an emergency.

WestConn received ISO New England's 2005 Demand Response Achievement Award for the project.

Marcone also is part of a committee that created the "WestConnserve" program to encourage daily energy savings with the help of the campus community. Conservation information was handed out to all incoming first-year students at the summer orientations, and the rest of the campus will hear the message throughout the year. ■

WHEN 21-YEAR-OLD JONATHAN SOARES graduated from WestConn this year, he wasn't worried about finding a job after commencement. He's already the president of his own company, Q Products Inc., which markets three flavors of gourmet BBQ sauce. What started out as a kitchen experiment with his mother's basic barbecue sauce recipe has resulted in a new product success story.

Of course, it takes more than being a good cook to mass produce, package, distribute and market a product, and Soares is the first to admit that breaking into the already-saturated retail food industry is a challenge. That's where his education at



Jonathan Soares, a 2006 graduate, with two flavors of his Q Products BBQ sauce, sold in grocery stores across the country.

WestConn came in. As a marketing major, Soares had the benefit of the years of experience his professors had accumulated in the business world.

“My teachers at WestConn have been executives and vice presidents at major companies,” Soares said. “They’ve given me the advice and guidance I’ve needed, and it’s clear they really care. They put in 100 percent, and the one-on-one interaction I got made a big difference.”

He’s applied what he’s learned to everything from the design of his products’ labels to positioning his product to fill a niche — gourmet sauce with a homemade taste for consumers too busy to start from scratch. He created a Web site to market himself and his products, and invested the \$10,000 necessary to start up the business.

While he was a full-time WestConn student, loan officer for Superior Mortgage, and marketing consultant to restaurants and other small businesses, Soares could be found shaking hands and doling out samples at food retailers all over New England.

At a barbecue sauce competition in Kansas City, Soares’ sauces came in 20th in a field of 160 contestants. Today, Jonathan’s Q can be found in more than 1,000 stores, including Stop & Shop, Stew Leonard’s,

Big Y, Caraluzzi’s Food Markets, Geissler’s, Hannaford, Dierbergs and Fairway. ■

A GREAT TEACHER IN HIGH SCHOOL INSPIRED Dr. Theodora Pinou, assistant professor of biology, to become a scientist. Now Pinou has developed a project to ensure that more students will have the same opportunity.

Armed with a \$125,000 grant from the Connecticut Department of Education, Pinou has founded the WestConn Institute of Science Teacher Research (WISTR), which brought 20 public school educators and five WestConn students into the labs of university science professors to learn field research firsthand.

Pinou said the teachers who attended a summer workshop would bring new enthusiasm and knowledge to their students.

“Let’s face it,” Pinou said. “We aren’t going to excite the students unless we excite the conduit — the teachers.”

She added: “I am sick and tired of hearing people say, ‘If you’re not going to be a doctor or go to graduate school, you can be a teacher.’ This is offering a trustee scholarship to students who want to dedicate themselves to teaching science.”

Assistant Chemistry Professor Dr. Jennifer Frederick, Associate Physics



Assistant Professor of Biology Dr. Theodora Pinou instructs public school educators during a WestConn Institute of Science Teacher Research summer workshop.

Professor Dr. James Boyle, Assistant Biology Professor Dr. Ruth Gyure, Assistant Biology Professor Dr. Edwin Wong, and Pinou trained educators from Danbury, Norwalk and New Haven public schools. The teachers will work as research assistants, so the professors will benefit from the extra help, and the teachers learn what it is like to do pure science.

Participants earn credits toward a master's degree, and learning assessment will be supported by the education faculty from the School of Professional Studies. Professor of Education Dr. Marcia Delcourt and her associates will assess the project to see how well teachers learned.

When the project is done, the participants will have covered 14 of the 24 science content standards the state requires to be taught in middle and high schools. And the teachers will leave "with new experiments, new analytical techniques and new skills," Pinou said.

"They can speak from experience instead of just read about it," Pinou said. "Reading allows you to form an opinion. Experiencing it is collecting data, it's living it." ■



WESTCONN FACULTY MEMBERS HAVE ALWAYS known the university's excellence in classroom instruction goes hand in hand with serious and often inspired student research at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

But as the university prepared to celebrate the second annual WestConn Research Day (WRD) exhibition of student-initiated studies in more than a dozen academic disciplines, the event's organizers conceded the quality and breadth of student research took them by surprise.

WRD 2006 featured 68 projects with students presenting their research studies in poster exhibits and seminars. All students participating in Research Day submitted

*A team of alumni judges determined the award winners at the second annual WestConn Research Day.*

their studies in advance to their faculty research advisers for endorsement, and faculty members in turn submitted approved studies to the WRD committee for final review. Disciplines represented included chemistry, accounting, music, psychology, biology, astronomy and nursing. Research was presented on such diverse subjects as exercising stock options, how coloring and drawing affect memory and the use of robotics to ensure medication safety at a hospital.

"It's something that WestConn does well, but not enough people know about it," said Associate Professor of Psychology Dr. Robin Flanagan. "The quality of our student research is another thing that makes this university special." ■



*"You might say  
I live, eat and  
breathe soccer."*

*Joe Mingachos,  
WestConn Women's Soccer Coach*



THREE WESTCONN SOFTBALL PLAYERS WERE honored when the National Fastpitch Coaches Association announced its 2006 Louisville Slugger/NFCA Division III All-Region teams. Junior first baseman Meg Cirigliano and first-year designated player Loren Angiolillo were named to the Second Team and sophomore third baseman Stacey DiMaggio was honored on the Third Team.

The men's soccer team captured the Little East Conference Tournament title and appeared in the NCAA Division II National Tournament. WestConn junior forward Brad Fidler shared the Little East Conference Offensive Player of the Year award and WestConn's Peter Schachter was named Coach of the Year.

The women's soccer team also enjoyed a big year. The team finished second in the Little East Conference and returned to the NCAA Tournament, advancing to the second round. Senior forward Nicole Corbin was named to the Third Team by the National Soccer Coaches Association. ■

SEVERAL ADMINISTRATORS AND FACULTY traveled to China in July to lay the groundwork for at least one marketing project each semester during the 2006-07 academic year. The Practicum in Global Business

*A bus manufacturing facility in China's Henan province was one of the sites visited by a WestConn contingent led by President James W. Schmotter in July.*

Environments, one of the President's Initiatives Fund projects, will lead to courses offered concurrently at WestConn and Sias International University in Henan, China's most populous province.

Future teams will include students from both universities who will use video conferencing, e-mail and other means of communication to collaborate on completion of assignments. Faculty members from the Ansell School of Business also will seek ways to develop and incorporate team-teaching strategies with business department faculty at Sias.

The project builds upon the partnership forged in the spring 2006 semester to team Sias business students with WestConn students in the marketing department's capstone course, Marketing Management 490: Analysis, Planning and Implementation. Under the guidance of Assistant Professor of Marketing Dr. Karen Koza, instructor for Marketing 490, WestConn students overcame logistical and technical problems in communications, and differences in educational philosophy to work with their Sias counterparts to create marketing plans for a Chinese bus company considering a foray into the U.S. marketplace.

President James W. Schmotter led the China trip, accompanied by Ansell School of Business Dean Dr. Allen Morton, Enrollment



Management Officer William Hawkins, and Koza. Other WestConn faculty who are participating in the Global Practicum Project include Professor of Marketing Dr. Ronald Drozdenko; Donna Coelho, coordinator of community relations for the Center for Business Research; Professor of Management Dr. Fred Maidment; Professor of Justice and Law Administration Dr. Charles Mullaney; and Xiaomei Gong, research librarian in the Robert S. Young Library. ■

## IN BRIEF...

Elementary, secondary, health and music education students passed both the Praxis I and II exams at a 100 percent rate. For the third year in a row, the Bachelor of Science in Nursing graduates received a 100 percent passing rate on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses.

Hundreds of college students throughout the Northeast joined a two-day debate competition at WestConn to determine qualifiers for the Cross Examination Debate Association east regionals and the National Debate Tournament. WestConn's Roger Sherman Debate Society has won competitions against such schools as Cornell, Columbia, Dartmouth, Boston College and the United States Military Academy.

Justice and Law Administration Professor Dr. Michael Foley presented the paper "Police Perjury and Public Policy Implications" at the Oxford Round Table on Criminal Law and Justice.

Assistant Professor of Justice and Law Administration Dr. George Kain presented a paper about "Learning In and Out of the Classroom: A Model for the Study of Theoretical and Practical Applications of Service-Learning in Higher Education" at the CSU Faculty Research Conference, Central Connecticut State University.

Management Information Systems Professor Dr. Gregory Jin wrote "Information Technology Professionals' Perceived Organizational Values and Managerial Ethics: An Empirical Study" (with Professor of Marketing Dr. Ronald Drozdenko and Assistant Professor of Management Dr. Richard Bassett), which was accepted for publication in the Journal of Business Ethics.

Associate Professor of Nursing Eileen "Pat" Geraci was honored at the State Capitol as a nominee for Connecticut Nurse of the Year.



*“Creativity can be described as letting go of certainties.” — Gail Sheehy*

# Creativity

*Associate Professor of Art Marjorie Portnow takes students to the scenic Westside campus to impart her expertise in landscape techniques.*

**CREATIVITY** is not only necessary to prepare our students for the challenges of the 21st century, but also is an area in which we have special competence. Perhaps as much as any disciplines here, our programs in the arts take advantage of the talent present in Fairfield, Litchfield and Westchester counties and nearby in New York City. But creativity means more than just the arts. Because of our size, collegiality and history, we have unique opportunities to be creative in the development of interdisciplinary programs of power and relevance.

A NEW SCHOOL WAS WELCOMED ON CAMPUS this year.

The School of Visual and Performing Arts brings together the art, music and theatre arts departments to allow the university to better promote and grow the art disciplines.

The new school, led by founding Dean Dr. Carol Hawkes, establishes WestConn as the premier center for cultural, intellectual and artistic excellence, both in the region and within the CSU system.

“This is much more than a beginning. It is the culmination of a century of building excellence and distinctiveness in the arts,” Hawkes said.

The school will benefit from its location in Fairfield County, home of many artists and friends of the arts, as well as its proximity to the artistic and cultural centers of New York City and Litchfield County. The faculty already counts among its members leading professionals in the arts who offer WestConn students a world-class educational experience. Although it will be 2011 before The Visual and Performing Arts Instructional Center will open on the Westside campus, a unique component of the school already is in hand.

The WCSU Foundation purchased the only organ still in existence in this area played by Charles Ives, the music genius who

was a Danbury native.

Historical accounts indicate Ives played and composed some of his first works as a young man on the organ at the Second Congregational Church in the 1890s.

The addition of the refurbished instrument will distinguish the new center as the only concert hall in the western part of the state with an organ, making it a centerpiece for WestConn’s already flourishing organ program. ■

A TROUPE OF 20 WESTCONN THEATRE ARTS students became the toast of Guayaquil this spring following their performance in Ecuador of a contemporary musical adaptation of the Shakespearean play “Twelfth Night,” part of a collaborative theater project supported by the President’s Initiatives Fund program, Guayaquil’s Teatro de Arte and other Ecuadoran sponsors.

WestConn Theatre Arts Chairman Frank Herbert and Associate Chairman Sal Trapani organized the eight-day visit to Ecuador’s most populous city in late April to present a series of technical and performance workshops at the Teatro de Arte and schools in the surrounding community. The visit was capped by the WestConn student troupe’s staging of “Twelfth Night: The 1960s San Francisco

*Rachel Cuffe and Colleen DiTarando, members of WCSU Off Broadway, a troupe of theatre arts students, staged three performances in New York City of the Pulitzer Prize-winning play, “The Heidi Chronicles.”*





Psychedelic Musical,” which drew an enthusiastic reception at the Teatro de Arte.

Herbert noted the WestConn group left a lasting mark on the Ecuadoran arts scene. In addition to the Teatro de Arte performance before an audience of 800, the workshops led by WestConn faculty and students reached out to as many as 1,500 students from elementary school to university level, and a gala reception sponsored by the U.S. consulate brought the WestConn guests together with leading arts, business and political figures in Guayaquil.

“From my perspective, it was a win-win situation,” Herbert said. “Our students had the opportunity to experience another culture, to perform to a full and appreciative house. We had never presented a theater production to a non-English-speaking audience before, and we thought it would be a terrific opportunity to do so. We received a standing ovation.” ■

ROLANDAS KIAULEVICIUS EARNED A MASTER of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) degree with a concentration in illustration in May. Even before graduation, though, he signed his first book deal.

Kiaulevicius was one of 15 winners in a publishing company’s competition for college

students from across the country.

The book is based on a story about zoo animals who paint designs on their own bodies because there was nothing else to use as a canvas in their cages.

Red Cygnet Press is a new publishing company set up to work exclusively with talented college students.

The young Lithuanian, who lives in Branford with his wife, hopes publication of the story will be the first step in a long career of book illustration.

“I have many ideas,” Kiaulevicius said. “Twenty-four hours in the day is not enough for me.”

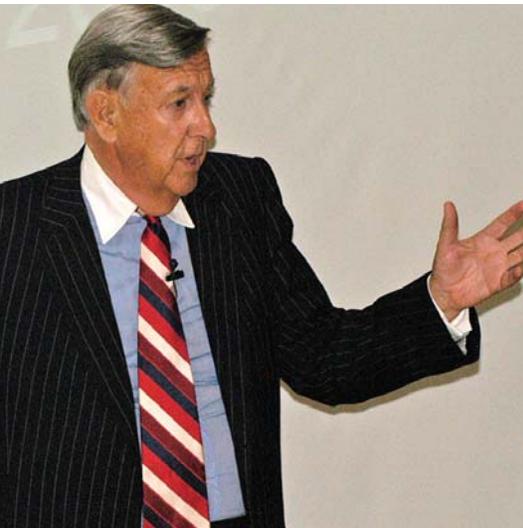
Professor of Art Abe Echevarria agreed with that assessment.

“Rolandas is a super-talented student,” Echevarria said. “He works very fast and he is just an energy source that won’t quit.” ■

VISIONARY. A PIONEER. THOUGHT-PROVOKING. The guru of the information age. A technoprophet. The father of computer-aided systems engineering. These are just some of the ways best-selling author James Martin has been described.

Martin shared his technologically inspired insight into our future as the President’s Lecture Series speaker in Ives

*Rolandas Kiaulevicius, a 2006 graduate and illustrator, was one of the student artists featured in the M.F.A. Thesis Exhibition at Prince Street Gallery in New York. An anonymous donor paid for the opening reception. M.F.A. student Granoff Kaye is also pictured.*



*Futurist James Martin*

Concert Hall.

Martin is best known for his 1977 Pulitzer Prize-nominated book “The Wired Society: A Challenge for Tomorrow,” which predicted with startling accuracy the arrival of the Internet.

Martin is chairman of WatchIT.com, an Internet-based education company; founder and chairman emeritus of Headstrong, a worldwide consulting group; founder and chairman of World Education Corps, volunteers for the 21st century; and founder of the multidisciplinary 21st Century School at Oxford University, whose mission is to “support research on the ideas, methods, policies and practices that address some of the world’s most pressing problems over this century, including some that we can only just see beginning to exist.”

Martin’s key message is that the latest generation — youth who are now in college and high school — must make the right decisions so that civilization can survive.

“It’s not just global warming,” Martin said. “We’re wrecking the character of the planet. I’ve heard it said that the probability of humans living until the end of the 21st century is about 50-50. We’ve got to manage the planet so that it survives.”

But Martin was optimistic: “We’ve got

the money and the technology to make things absolutely glorious.” ■

VALERY CUNNINGHAM’S LAST WILL AND testament signed in Southbury in 1958 contained an interesting provision: Once the named beneficiary was deceased, the remainder of the trust established in the will was to be used “for the creation of musical scholarships for deserving students of music who are willing to devote their talents to the teaching and furtherance of musical education.”

WestConn was a logical choice for the money. Recently, the State of Connecticut Probate Court in Southbury approved the trustee’s request and WestConn received nearly \$125,000 for music scholarships from Cunningham’s estate.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for the university and music department,” said Dr. G. Koryoe Anim-Wright, vice president for Institutional Advancement. “It’s certainly no secret that we have one of the best music programs locally and regionally. To have this validated with Cunningham’s gift means a great deal not only to the university, but to music students who stand to benefit from Cunningham’s generosity for many years to come.” ■



*WestConn’s music and music education students are supported by several generous benefactors.*

NEARLY A HALF-DOZEN WORLD MUSIC EVENTS took place between January and April 2006, thanks to The World at Our Doorstep: A Series of World Music, Dance and Cultural Events series supported by the President's Initiatives Fund. As many as five more are planned between September 2006 and May 2007.

Proposed by former Executive Assistant to the President for Multicultural Affairs Barbara Barnwell, Director of Diversity Programs Daryle Dennis and Judith Cook Tucker, director of the Connecticut Folklife Project, the series seeks to "reflect, and draw upon the ethnic diversity of the college and the community that surrounds it."

The project has brought artists from Peru, Uganda, Puerto Rico and Scotland, among others.

"One of the most satisfying outcomes of this series has been the outpouring of support from each highlighted ethnic group," Cook Tucker said. "They have been issued a heartfelt 'invitation to the party' and are attending the events in strong numbers. Hand in hand with their participation is that of the general public, which has embraced each performance, filling the venues to capacity. Many audience members have expressed delight in joining the celebration of the cultures found in our community. In particular, they have

been excited to be part of a culturally mixed audience, and have been grateful to come onto campus for the events that firmly establish WestConn as a true 'People's University'." ■

PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING AUTHOR FRANK McCourt's keynote talk provided the exclamation point to a story of impressive achievements during the statewide conference for student and community writers held on a May weekend on the WestConn Midtown campus.

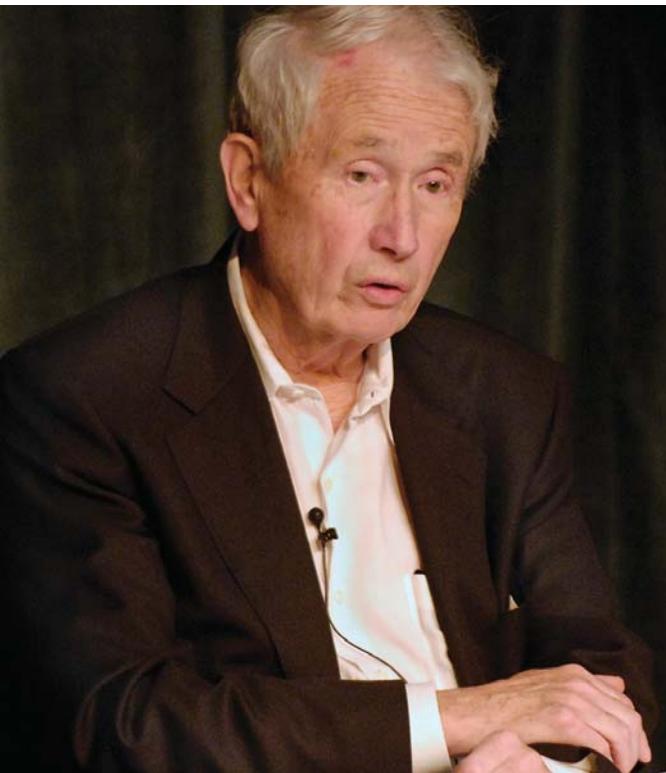
Professor of English Dr. John Briggs, an organizer of the writers' conference and sponsor of the President's Initiatives Fund proposal, said the group workshops, panel discussions and readings, capped by McCourt's lecture, drew a robust registration of more than 120 college and high school students from across the state.

Participants in this year's workshops received critiques of their work from some 45 published writers, including faculty members from the four CSU campuses. A second day of workshops featured prize-winning authors Pete Duval and Daniel Asa Rose, Vivian Shipley and screenwriter Hassan Ildari. Briggs credited the success of this year's conference to the strong participation of faculty members from WestConn and other CSU institutions.



*Donald Heller, the Hurdy-Gurdy Man, performed during International Education Week in November.*

“Writers tend to see themselves, and are seen, as working in their garrets in a solitary exercise,” Briggs noted. “That certainly happens, but in other respects it’s also about collaboration, gathering information, just knowing other people are going through the same kind of agonies you’re going through. What we hoped to do at many different levels was to foster a sense of community among writers in Connecticut among students, faculty and professional writers.”



Pulitzer Prize-winning author Frank McCourt spoke at the Writers' Conference in May.



## IN BRIEF...

WestConn's Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) in Professional Writing program — the only low-residency M.F.A. writing program in the country — kicked off its inaugural year with 21 students from Connecticut and nine other states. Gay Talese was the featured author for the Summer Literary Festival.

The fourth Arts and Sciences Lecture Series featured presentation and discussion of the film “Declining by Degrees” on the current state of higher education. WestConn was one of eight schools in the country to hold open discussions about the film.

WestConn's faculty from Education, Music, Science, World Languages and Mathematics worked with the Danbury School District to write a global world curriculum for the International Academy, a kindergarten through fifth grade magnet school on WestConn's campus. The academy will serve as a laboratory school for doctoral students in the Ed.D. program in Instructional Leadership, and as a professional development site for WestConn's elementary education/Spanish majors.



Theresa Rangel, a 2006 graduate, teaches her class at the magnet school.

*“We should acknowledge differences, we should greet differences,  
until difference makes no difference anymore.” — Dr. Adela Allen*



*(l-r): Dan DeMelo, Sidrah Wahidy, Adam Ayala, Huyen Nguyen, Manish Kantawala and Joseph Kocovic teamed up to form United Diversified Consulting in their Finance 490 class.*

## *Diversity*

The exposure to — and better yet, the valuing of — human **DIVERSITY** enhances learning. Living in Danbury, Connecticut, with all of our tapestry of different people, we experience this every day. We can take better advantage of this tapestry by deepening our community partnerships, by continuing to increase the diversity of the people who work and study here, and by reaching further afield to bring more representatives of other world cultures to our academic community.

NINE WESTCONN STUDENTS VISITED BANGLADESH during the January 2006 intersession with Adjunct Professor of Anthropology Jean Hatcherson to study the cross-cultural aspects of health care in a country that is torn by disease and crisis.

The students began their trip with a visit to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where a surgical team helped patients with burn injuries and cleft lips.

“People [of Bangladesh] were very happy to see us interested in their life,” Hatcherson said. “It’s meaningful to educate students and lay the groundwork of other cultures. The social exchange of being giving and generous will help dispel cultural misperceptions. Students should know what’s going on around the world. I want to bring my students beyond the text and allow them to explore the health care and gender issues.” ■

WEEKENDS ON THE WESTCONN CAMPUS AREN’T what they used to be. Classrooms that once stood idle waiting for Monday now resonate with the sounds of chalk on the blackboard, repetition of phonetic phrases, ethnic music, dance moves, Tae Kwon Do and more. Listen closely, and it quickly becomes evident that the voices don’t belong to college students — they belong to children. Listen again, and you’ll realize they’re speaking Chinese.

From 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturdays during the school year, WestConn is home to the Huaxia Chinese School. More than 70 students, ranging in age from 4 to 15, come from all over Connecticut and adjacent New York towns to learn to speak and write Mandarin, the predominant dialect in China, and participate in the practice of Chinese culture.

The school exists because of the dedication and hard work of volunteers, several of whom are WestConn employees, and the willingness of the university’s leadership to give the group a home. The school may eventually be able to offer classes to older children, adults and all members of the community who express an interest in Chinese language and culture. ■

LONG BEFORE IMMIGRATION BECAME A national hot-button issue, it was a heated topic of discussion right here in Danbury. Social Work students held two seminars on campus in recognition of that fact. At one event, members of Danbury’s immigrant community were invited to share their perspectives. Another featured city and state officials, including Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, to discuss community and legal issues presented by the local immigrant population.

In December, representatives from the Hispanic Center of Greater Danbury and the Brazilian Community Council of



WestConn anthropology students observed a medical team at Dhaka Medical College Hospital in Bangladesh.



WestConn hosts the Huaxia Chinese School during the school year.



A student studies the Vietnam Week exhibit on loan from the Smithsonian Institution Affiliations Program.

Connecticut were joined by Senior Adjunct Professor of Social Sciences Jack Sikora for a frank discussion about the history of immigrants in Danbury and the more current environment, which had resulted in a war of words played out in the local newspaper and a sizable community demonstration march.

At the April forum, Blumenthal gave his support to continued immigration into the country, while local housing and emergency officials, and Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton, discussed what they are doing to respond to zoning, safety and political issues.

Director of Diversity Programs Daryle Dennis attended both forums and said it is naive to believe a divisive issue like immigration somehow will resolve itself.

“We need to challenge ourselves to educate the community,” Dennis said. “We need to keep this discussion going.” ■

A SMITHSONIAN AFFILIATES EXHIBITION depicting daily life in six Vietnamese communities, a concert by renowned musician Pham Duc Thanh, and an academic conference exploring the controversial history between Vietnam and America were among the highlights of “Vietnam Week” in late November and early December. Sponsored by the Office of the President, Office of Grant Programs,

history department and WCSU International Center, the free events brought hundreds to the Midtown campus to discuss, reflect and simply listen.

Assistant Professor of History and Non-Western Cultures Dr. Wynn Wilcox organized the series, saying he wanted to give students in his senior seminar about Vietnam and the West another learning opportunity. The events also provided glimpses into Vietnamese culture for western Connecticut’s large Vietnamese population, as well as others who wanted to learn more about the country and its people.

“The Smithsonian exhibit is interesting because people aren’t aware of the ethnic and religious diversity of Vietnamese culture; there are more than 40 different ethnic minorities in Vietnam and this exhibit shows that diversity well,” Wilcox said. “Monochord player Pham Duc Thanh provided a rare opportunity for people to hear a live Vietnamese musical performance at WestConn and learn about traditional Vietnamese instruments. And the academic conference challenged the participants to consider the historical interpretations of the Vietnam War.”

The “Mekong Lifeways: The Stories of Six Communities” exhibition was presented in collaboration with the Smithsonian



(l-r): Professor of Theatre Arts Sal Trapani, Kayla Kuzbel, Adjunct Instructor Jay Stollman, Matt Grills and Lauren Ferrara performed at Ridgefield Crossings' third anniversary party.

Institution Affiliations Program, the Vietnam Museum of Ethnology, and the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. WestConn is a Smithsonian Affiliate Institution. ■

THANKS TO A NEW PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN WestConn and Ridgefield Crossings, a senior living community with independent and assisted-living style apartments, area residents can expand their knowledge about a variety of topics in classes taught by WestConn professors, in Ridgefield, for free.

Interested in local history? How about theater or music? Want to learn about another religion or find out what lives in the crevices of the stone walls that surround your yard? Then Ridgefield Crossings University (RCU) is the place to be for monthly seminars on these and a wide variety of topics.

RCU is the result of a proposal by 86-year-old Ridgefield Crossings resident and former dean of the WestConn Ansell School of Business (ASB) Dr. Albert Stewart. Stewart taught business and marketing courses at WestConn for many years after his retirement from Union Carbide; he also served two stints as interim ASB dean. A resident of Ridgefield Crossings for about a year, Stewart chairs the resident council and proposed the creation of a



*“That’s what this partnership provides: we continue to get an education from the experts, and the WestConn professors have an opportunity to share their knowledge with the community.”*

*Dr. Albert Stewart  
Former dean, Ansell School of Business*

continuing education series in the community.

According to Ridgefield Crossings Director of Community Relations Sara Bilik, other resident council members embraced the idea wholeheartedly, so she and Stewart called WestConn. Bilik described the residents at Ridgefield Crossings as highly educated and deeply committed to ongoing learning. She said the idea that WestConn would share its professors and students with the seniors living there was an instant hit. It also made perfect sense to invite the rest of the community to benefit from the partnership.

“We see this as a unique opportunity for seniors and others who live in the area to enjoy topical seminars given by WestConn’s outstanding academic faculty,” Bilik said. “Ridgefield Crossings and WestConn plan to continue this partnership, ensuring that these terrific lectures remain available — at no cost — to our neighbors of all ages.” ■

TO THE MEMBERS OF UNITED DIVERSIFIED Consulting, their differences were not remarkable at first glance.

True, they quickly realized they all came from different backgrounds, but these students in Professor Bruce Collins’ finance class were accustomed to working within a diverse population.

It was only when they started getting to know each other that they understood something unique was going on.

“We noticed the other groups were all one nationality,” said Joseph Kocovic. “Then our group came together and we all spoke different languages.”

The students were part of Collins’ Finance 490 class, in which all the financial learning — topics like currency options, hedging, foreign operations — from previous semesters is tested in numerous group presentations.

All the members of United Diversified were either immigrants or the children of immigrants who fluently speak the language of their heritage as well as English.

They included Huyen Nguyen, of Vietnam and Danbury; Manish Kantawala, India and Danbury; Dan DeMello, Portugal and Carmel, N.Y.; Joseph Kocovic, Serbia/Montenegro and Valhalla, N.Y.; Sidrah Wahidy, Pakistan and Brookfield; and Adam Ayala, Puerto Rico and Danbury. All of them are finance majors who graduated in May.

Business schools generally push students to work together in groups, rather than individually, and Wahidy said in the case of United Diversified Consulting, understanding that the whole was greater than the parts was an important part of the lesson.

“We had different backgrounds and different religions, too,” Wahidy said. “And different personalities. The accidental formation of such a diverse group happens in places like WestConn. WestConn is where people of various backgrounds and differences can come together to sail toward the journey for a better future.” ■

“ON A SCALE OF ONE-TO-TWO, I WAS HOPING for a seven — and we got a 12,” said Friar Mike Lasky of WestConn’s Newman Center, describing how things went when he and Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Walter Bernstein took nine WestConn students to New York City in March to learn firsthand about human rights issues.

The five-day New York trip, a President’s Initiatives Fund program, was the result of a collaboration between WestConn and Franciscans International, a non-governmental organization that “works on behalf of the poor for peace, justice and the care of creation at the United Nations in New York and Geneva.” Timed to coincide with International Women’s Day on March 8, the trip offered participating students the opportunity to learn about women’s issues in the context of a larger global reality, Lasky said.

The group toured the United Nations and



(l-r): Friar Mike Lasky of the Newman Center and students Melissa Reid, Veronica Swain and Sharon Mascarenhas visited the United Nations in March.



Dr. Speros Vryonis Jr.

received a briefing at the U.S. Mission to the U.N. They attended discussions about international women's issues, heard about human rights issues from Franciscan missionaries, enjoyed a performance of the Tony Award-nominated Broadway musical "The Color Purple" and made a pilgrimage to Central Park's Bethesda Fountain — the first major commissioned work of art in New York City created by a female artist, Emma Stebbins, in 1868.

The students also served lunch at the Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen — one of the largest in the world — and rolled up their sleeves at a youth program at the Henry Street Settlement, a social services, arts and health care resource on Manhattan's Lower East Side.

"One student was blown away by what she witnessed at the soup kitchen," Bernstein said. "She never realized people live this way and being made aware of this was helpful to her. That's what is so powerful about experiential education in real-world settings."

Lasky agreed.

"It really opened the students' eyes to the plight of the poor in ways they had not imagined," Lasky said. "Educating the whole person includes a spiritual dimension and these students came away with an understanding of the fundamental dignity of the human person." ■

DR. SPEROS VRYONIS JR., AN EXPERT ON Byzantine and Hellenic history, delivered the first talk in a new lecture series funded by a grant from the foundation of Brookfield industrialist and philanthropist Constantine "Deno" Macricostas and his wife, Marie.

Vryonis connected the past to the present as he described the events chronicled in his latest book, "The Mechanism of Catastrophe: The Turkish Pogrom of September 6-7, 1955, and the Destruction of the Greek Community of Istanbul." The text details how the Turkish government ordered and led the destruction of Greek businesses, homes and churches, a rampage that effectively drove the Greek community from Turkey and included the circumcision of adult Greek men, particularly priests.

Vryonis pointed out that the Turkish government's treatment of its Greek citizens and other groups reverberates today. He said that as Turkey tries to gain entry into the European Union, the process is forcing change in the Turkish constitution and the governmental structure to reflect Western mores.

"The treatment of Turkish minorities remains on center stage," Vryonis said.

The Macricostas gift of \$1.1 million to the university was to establish the lecture series, an Endowed Chair in Hellenic Studies, a scholarship for students who recently immigrated to the United States and a business award for regional entrepreneurs. ■

CATHERINE CRIER MADE A LASTING IMPRESSION as WestConn's 2006 commencement speaker.

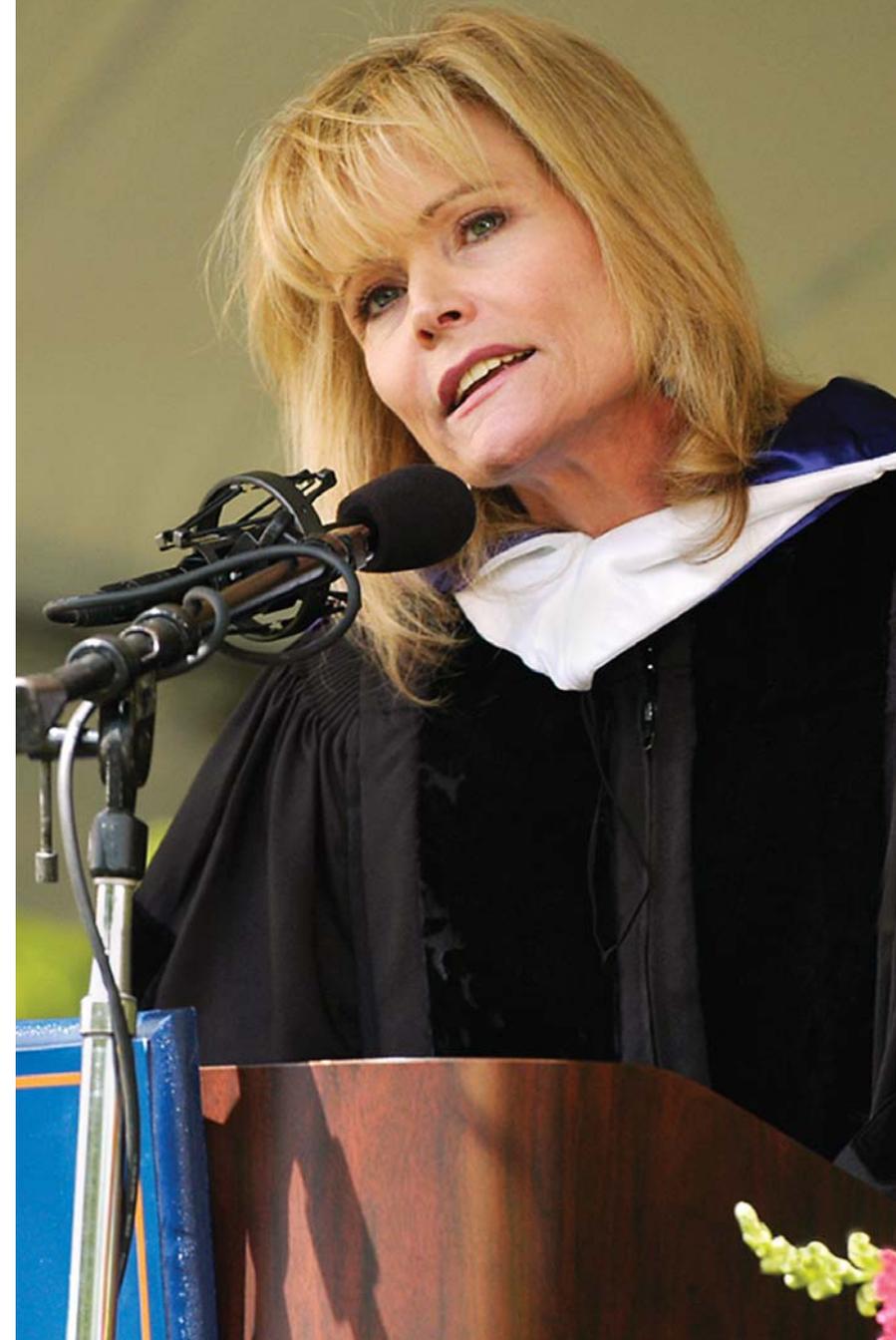
The host of "Catherine Crier Live" urged graduates to become active members of American democracy. She also criticized President Bush's actions in the "War on Terror," which brought boos and catcalls from some graduates and their families.

But Crier continued, concluding: "I am going to add my voice to the many other commencement speakers who call upon you to take up the torch, to confront the many challenges of our time and to make the world a better place. But I must say to you that these

are not platitudes, they are mandates. You can try to remain safe by ignoring the warning signs. You can join the 'system' and hope to get yours before things tumble out of control. Or you can use your knowledge to wield the power of a free people to protect and defend this great democracy and the rule of law. Choose wisely, because our future is literally in your hands." ■

DOCUMENTING THE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE in the Greater Danbury area over the past century is the primary focus of *The Challenges of Global Community: Immigration, Assimilation and Diversity*, an oral history project supported by the President's Initiatives Fund.

Professor of History and Non-Western Cultures Dr. Burton Peretti, one of the lead faculty coordinators for the project, said initial project meetings have focused on planning specific course assignments during the 2006-07 academic year dedicated to recording oral histories of immigrants and their descendants in the Greater Danbury region. The goal of these assignments, already confirmed for four classes in the fall semester, will be to train students in oral history technique and methodology, and to begin the collection of immigrant interviews that will become the basis for cre-



ation of a Western Connecticut oral history archive.

Peretti noted the project team also is exploring alternative technologies to determine the most effective choice for recording, transcribing and storing oral histories. An oral history Web page designed by WestConn librarians Jenny Innes and Veronica Kenausis will facilitate Internet access during field research, and Adjunct Professor of History Shannon Doherty attended a conference in July on use of digital technology in oral history collection to gather useful information for future recordings.

WestConn faculty and student participants in the project met with area historical society and immigrant community representatives this summer to organize for collection of oral histories over the coming year. Coordinated class assignments to document the immigrant experience in the region in turn will enable the university “to establish an online oral history repository by June 2007,” Peretti said. A conference to be convened at the conclusion of the project will provide an opportunity for “participants and the wider university community to share the sum of the project’s accomplishments,” he added.

In addition to Peretti, faculty coordinators of the immigration project include

Associate Professor of History Dr. Marcy May and Professor of Sociology Dr. Steven Ward. ■



(l-r): John R. Moore and Robert J. Bepko, members of the Master of Health Administration Norwalk Hospital cohort, developed a pharmacy robot to decrease dispensing errors.

## IN BRIEF...

Management professors Dr. Stanley Bazan, Dr. Eugene Buccini and Dr. Frederick Tesch offered management development training for Boehringer Ingelheim and Cendant Mobility. Justice and Law Administration Professor Dr. George Kain coordinated a development seminar for the Connecticut Police Commissioners. Professors Tesch and Buccini conducted a workshop for the executive directors of Danbury area nonprofits.

Nine students completed the Master of Health Administration program presented by WestConn at Norwalk Hospital. The university and hospital are actively recruiting for a second cohort.

WestConn is one of only 12 institutions in the country to offer an Ed.D. in Instructional Leadership, and the second cohort of students — made up of local educators — began the four-year program to prepare themselves to “influence, create, and lead system-wide change.”

The National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS) is a national honors organization open to first-year students and sophomores. The new WestConn chapter, with more than 200 members, provides volunteers at the homeless shelter in Danbury, and also sponsors food, office supply and book drives. In addition, members interact with high school and middle school students, helping them learn just how important it is to obtain a college education.



*“To improve the golden moment of opportunity,  
and catch the good that is within reach, is the great art of life.” — Samuel Johnson*

# Opportunity

*Art student Adam Schmidt, the recipient of a scholarship from the William B. Connor estate.*

**OPPORTUNITY** manifests itself in several ways at WestConn. We must continue to be true to our roots as an institution that emphasizes the importance of affording access — for first-generation college attendees, for the sons and daughters of recent immigrants, and for career changers trapped in today’s turbulent economy. The second manifestation of opportunity is the ability we have, in our unique region, to develop innovative partnerships that benefit our students, the university and the community.

THE UNIVERSITY BALL HONORED ROY AND Ginny Young, who have supported WestConn for more than 20 years. Their work for the university began with funding for the Robert Young Library at the Ansell School of Business and continued with Roy Young serving as president of the Corporate College Council and chairman of the WCSU Foundation Board. The Youngs created the Young Family Theatre Scholarship Endowment in 2000. In a fitting honor to the Youngs, the ball was the most successful ever, with more than 200 university supporters attending.

West Redding resident Isabelle Farrington, a longtime WestConn benefactor, was the event’s honorary chair. Co-chairs were Ron and Janice Pugliese, of Naugatuck, familiar faces year after year at the annual fund-raising events the university has hosted. Pugliese is a 1974 WestConn graduate. He also is a member of the Connecticut State University (CSU) System Board of Trustees where, among other responsibilities, he chairs the system-wide development committee. ■

FOR MORE THAN A DECADE, THE GENEROSITY of one family has been helping WestConn art students continue their studies. Now the legacy of William B. Connor, his daughter, Jane (Sippi) Henderson, and his granddaughter,

Anne Sippi, will help many more talented art students pursue their dreams.

A bequest from the Connor estate brought more than \$700,000 to WestConn for annual scholarships “to students in the art department to enable them to continue their studies in art in either the continental United States or abroad for a period not to exceed two years.”

In 1962, Connor established trust funds for Henderson and Sippi, with the remaining proceeds to go to WestConn after the women’s deaths.

After Anne Sippi died in May 1994, the university received about \$40,000 and established the W.B. Connor Trust for Anne Sippi Award. Henderson died in December 2005, and WestConn received the remaining \$700,000 from her trust early this year.

Art Professor Abe Echevarria was chair of the art department when the university received the first funding and began providing the scholarships.

“It’s an enormous benefit to our art students,” Echevarria said. “We try to vary the award to benefit students pursuing the different areas of our program, which include photography, illustration, studio arts and graphic design.” ■



*Isabelle Farrington was the 2006 University Ball honorary chair.*



(l-r): Stephanie O'Brien, Chris Merkle, Jody McCauley with some of the canned goods collected by students inducted into the WestConn chapter of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

AS THE EARLY REPORTS OF THE DEVASTATION caused by Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf Coast started to appear on 24-hour news channels and Internet news bulletins, WestConn faculty, students and staff took note. Individual acts of concern sparked collaborative efforts, and soon faculty and students were working together toward a common goal: to make a difference in the lives of those affected by the deadly storm.

As the aftermath of the hurricane became clear, more than a dozen phone calls and e-mails came in from Connecticut residents enrolled at Gulf Coast colleges like Tulane University, Louisiana State University and New Orleans University — and accommodating these displaced students became a priority.

Many students had fled Louisiana without transcripts, test scores, or anything to prove their academic status — but our Registrar's Office helped them find the classes they needed in the subjects they wanted to pursue. Our Shipping and Receiving area became a staging ground for the collection of donated relief items such as bottled water, batteries, blankets, tarps, tents, phone-cards, and non-perishable foods. And the university then transported the donations to the appropriate state distribution centers.

During spring break, a small band of

seven WestConn students and two advisers traveled to hurricane-ravaged Mississippi. They knew they would do good work. What they didn't know was that the experience would affect them so deeply they would immediately make plans to head back to continue their work.

"No PowerPoint presentation or photographs or sensitivity sessions could prepare us for what we saw," said Friar Mike Lasky, chaplain at the university's Catholic campus ministry also known as the Newman Center.

The Newman Center crew cleared debris from lots, tore down damaged roofs, put up wallboard and painted. They also helped in other ways.

"You do the physical work but a lot is just visiting with people and hearing their stories," Lasky said. "People would stop us on the street to thank us." ■

FRIENDS OF WESTCONN GATHERED IN THE antique surroundings of the former library in Old Main to inaugurate a brand-new effort that would add another facet to the university's fundraising.

President James W. Schmotter and David Nurnberger of the WCSU Foundation introduced the President's Club, a new opportunity to contribute to the university in exchange for



(l-r): Students Tony Napoleone and Chris Hennessy watch as Professor of Justice and Law Administration Dr. Chuck Mullaney makes his contribution to the AmeriCares donation station at the Westside Athletic Complex during a Colonials game.

privileges that include an annual invitation to an exclusive donor event and special invitations to VIP receptions.

Speaking to a gathering of about 70 supporters, Schmotter listed some of the dramatic changes on campus in the past several years: The quadrangle that replaced a parking lot on the Midtown campus, state-of-the-art facilities like the new Science Building that have taken the place of antiquated classrooms and libraries, and one of the best Division III athletic facilities in the Northeast sitting on what used to be farmland on the Westside campus.

“Our task now is to fashion our path through the next stage of our journey,” Schmotter said. “But to achieve our full promise, we cannot rely solely on tuition revenues and the state. We need to make strategic decisions, and we need to be efficient and effective in our operations. And we’ll need continuing investment from supporters like those of you who have gathered today. If we do all of that, we can create some very special experiences for students and achieve the vision of being a ‘Public Private.’” ■

JETBLUE FOUNDER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE officer David Neeleman paused in mid-sentence after revealing he had dropped out of

college, glanced up at his WestConn audience and added quickly with a grin, “Don’t you do that!”

Neeleman, in a talk sponsored by the Ancell School of Business as part of the school’s fall lecture series, profiled the maverick New York-based airline’s trajectory of success since its 1999 launch.

Neeleman recalled how as a college student he once felt like “everything had already been invented and there was nothing new I could do.” That was before Bill Gates, Michael Dell and other leaders of the computer revolution changed the face of global business and society, and proved the world awaits an entrepreneur who distinguishes himself from the pack.

“It’s all right to have anxiety, because that drives you to do your best,” Neeleman said. “But don’t worry about finding opportunities, because there are plenty out there. I’ve come to realize that business by and large is very mediocre — and this is good news for you!” ■

WESTCONN CONTINUES TO EXPAND ITS wireless network access to students, faculty, and staff with high-speed data connections in many locations on the Westside and Midtown campuses that are frequented by students and



*“It’s all right to have anxiety, because that drives you to do your best.”*

*David Neeleman  
JetBlue CEO*



*(front row, l-r): NVCC President Dr. Richard L. Sanders, President James W. Schmotter (back row, l-r): NVCC Chair of the Department of Arts Dr. Elena Rusnak, NVCC Dean of Academic Affairs Dr. Pat Bouffard, Dean of the School of Professional Studies Dr. Lynne Clark and Chair of the Music Department Dr. Dan Goble at the signing ceremony.*

faculty. Locations include the Haas Library, Young Library, Student Center, Warner Hall and the Science Building. Select “hot spots” in and outside of other campus buildings are being added and indicated by “hot spot” signs. New locations will be added based on student and faculty input. Wireless also is being incorporated into new construction projects such as the Westside Campus Center. ■

IT HAS LONG BEEN TRUE THAT THE MAJORITY of all the music teachers in Connecticut get their degrees at WestConn — but there is a great need for more. Music teachers are in demand and positions are often difficult to fill because of a shortage in the field.

So the presidents of WestConn and Naugatuck Valley Community College (NVCC) signed an agreement that will make life easier for students who want to teach music. It allows community college students to transfer their credits from NVCC to WestConn in the music education program. WestConn and NVCC are the only public schools in Connecticut with such an arrangement.

“It’s a model of what we should be doing. That’s why it’s so exciting,” said President James W. Schmotter.

Such partnerships often benefit nontradi-

tional students returning to the classroom after a stint in the workforce, or students who must work many hours while attending school.

“The transfer agreement will provide a seamless transition for NVCC’s music students into WestConn’s music education program,” said Dr. Lynne Clark, dean of the School of Professional Studies.

The agreement is similar to other compacts, such as the articulation agreement signed with Goodwin College in East Hartford that allows Goodwin graduates to transfer to WestConn with ease.

Dr. Barbara Piscopo, chair of WestConn’s nursing department, determined that Goodwin’s associate degree in nursing curriculum was a close match to WestConn’s requirements for the first two years in its bachelor’s in nursing program, paving the way for Goodwin students interested in pursuing an RN-BS degree in nursing at WestConn.

At the same time, Clark reviewed Goodwin’s associate in science degree curricula in business studies, computer systems technology, and allied health and human services — and determined there might also be the potential for a smooth transition for Goodwin students interested in pursuing other bachelor degrees at WestConn.



New York Times reporter Andrew Revkin

“This is such a good thing for nursing because it will allow students to go on to get their bachelor’s degree,” said Associate Professor of Nursing and Coordinator of the RN-BSN Program Dr. Colleen Delaney. “Currently, two-thirds of nurses are associate degree or diploma nurses, so there’s a real shortage of B.S.-prepared nurses and consequently a shortage of advanced-degree nurses for much-needed faculty positions. Agreements like this will help change that.” ■

NEW YORK TIMES ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTER Andrew Revkin brought his decades-long journalistic search for sustainable-development strategies in a fragile ecosystem to WestConn as part of the “Science at Night” lecture series sponsored by the School of Arts and Sciences.

Revkin has reported and photographed stories ranging from the destruction of the Amazon rainforest to the impact of global warming on the polar environment.

“It’s only when you step back that you can see the imprint on climate,” Revkin told an audience of about 120. “We have to come to grips with this problem. Sociologists say that you can’t impose worry on people, that it must come from within. We have to find a

way to convince people that global warming must be acted upon promptly.” ■

MORE THAN 1,500 STUDENTS, PARENTS AND educators from 300 Connecticut Association of Schools institutions gathered in the William O’Neill Athletic and Convocation Center on Oct. 3 to hear former President Bill Clinton, a special U.N. envoy for tsunami relief, personally thank them for their efforts. The students raised about \$300,000, which was matched by the international relief organization Brother’s Brother Foundation to build a model school for 1,500 in Sri Lanka.

Clinton offered plenty of praise when he took the stage before the audience that included some 500 WestConn students, faculty and staff, telling the youngsters they’ve improved the lives of the people they’re not likely to ever meet.

“I promise you, you changed their lives, and their lives will be more like yours now because of what you did,” he said. “You gave them a chance to be part of the future you want for yourself.

“I hope you’ll look for opportunities to do more of the same in the future,” Clinton added, mentioning the need for aid to the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. “It will make all the difference in the world.” ■



*“I hope you look for opportunities to do more of the same in the future ... it will make all the difference in the world.”*

*President Bill Clinton*

## IN BRIEF...

The Connecticut Department of Higher Education unanimously approved a bachelor of science in health promotion studies, with options in wellness management and community health, in the department of health promotion and exercise sciences.

The mathematics department offered a first-year seminar for the first time for new students. Taught by Drs. Ed Sandifer and Sam Lightwood, 13 students in the fall and seven in the spring met the faculty, learned about their research and presented their own work with the assistance of faculty.

A collaboration with Danbury High School offered a 24-credit certificate program to 17 teachers in the field of American history.

The Center for Financial Forensics and Information Security completed its first full year of operation and formed various subcommittees to help fulfill its mission to serve as an educational resource center for community organizations, teaching faculty, students and professionals in financial fraud and identification prevention, valuation and economic loss issues, information security, Sarbanes-Oxley compliance, economic terrorism identification and prevention, and prosecution of fraud and terrorism perpetrators.

TWO NEW BUILDINGS WILL BENEFIT STUDENTS in the coming year:

A \$17 million, 49,000-square-foot campus center on the Westside campus will open in 2007 to provide a dining area and cafeteria, meeting rooms, offices, lounges and a large multi-purpose room with exercise equipment.

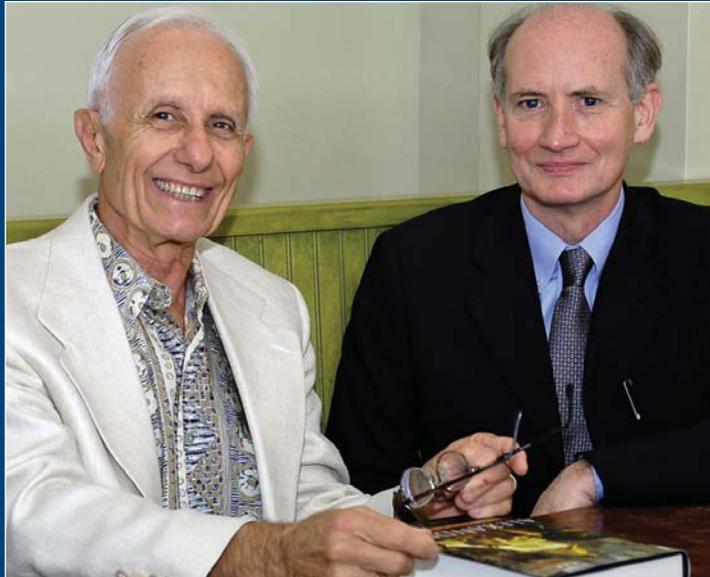
Also, in fall 2006, a four-story, 800-car garage was completed on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Osborne Street. The \$12.5 million project, reserved for student drivers, will relieve parking congestion on the Midtown campus.



(above): The Westside Campus Center



(left): The student parking garage



# New Faces

*Clockwise from top left:*

Betsy McDonough, Presidential Assistant, Office of the President

Dr. Linda K. Rinker, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. G. Koryoe Anim-Wright, Vice President for Institutional Advancement

(l-r): Philanthropist Constantine "Deno" Macricostas and Dr. Guy Rogers, the Macricostas Chair in Hellenic and Greek Studies. A gift from Macricostas and his wife, Marie, resulted in the creation of the endowed chair.



*"We make a living by what we get,  
but we make a life by what we give."  
— Winston Churchill*

## Major Donors

Faculty and students from WCSU's theatre arts department celebrate at the 2006 University Ball honoring Roy (standing, fifth from right) and Ginny (third from left) Young.

The following pages represent our donors who contributed more than \$100 or made in-kind donations during the 2005-2006 year. A complete listing of all donors may be requested by calling the Office of Institutional Advancement at (203) 837-8279. Thank you to all of our donors — your support of the university is important to us.

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## **President's Annual Report for 2005–2006 Western Connecticut State University**

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