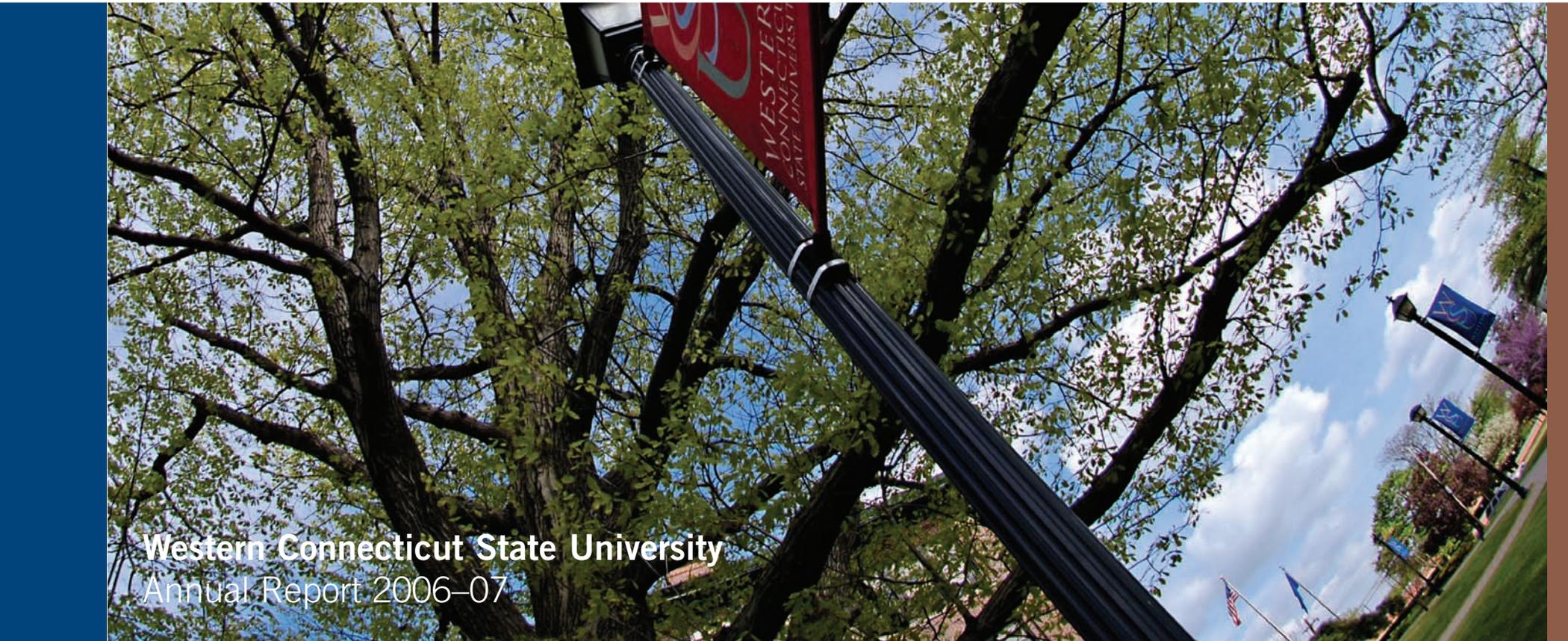




Vision/Strategy/Discovery

The shape of things to come.



Western Connecticut State University
Annual Report 2006–07

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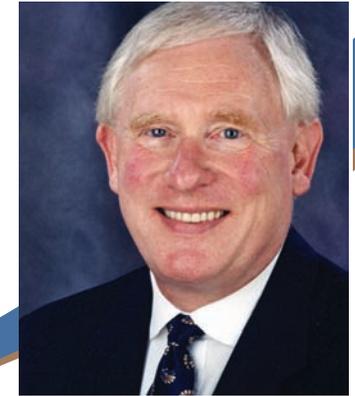
Vision/Strategy/Discovery

The shape of things to come.

Message from the President

The 18th-century English diarist Dr. Samuel Johnson once observed, “Sir, a man may be so much of everything that he is nothing of anything.” That can happen to institutions of higher learning, too. Thus for the past three years, we at Western Connecticut State University have engaged in a process to determine what we are — and what we will be — as we begin our second century. Beginning with our “Values and Vision” conversation in 2004, we have engaged hundreds of WCSU constituents in the task of creating a roadmap for the years ahead. The result of that collective engagement is the new university vision and strategic plan that the University Senate ratified unanimously in March 2007.

(continues at right)



Our new vision emphasizes six strategic objectives based on the university's historical strengths, on its recent accomplishments, and on realistic aspirations. These six goals organize the content of the pages that follow in this Annual Report. They focus on:

Outstanding faculty. From our earliest days as Danbury Normal School, a dedication to advancing student learning has been the foundation of this university. It is a foundation laid by individual faculty members in their classrooms, libraries, laboratories, practice rooms and playing fields. And this foundation has never been firmer than it is today.

Location. WCSU both contributes to and benefits from its location in Fairfield County, a region rich in economic and human diversity and within easy reach of New York City's marvelous educational resources. With each passing semester, we are more purposefully employing the advantages of this location in pursuing our institutional goals.

Diverse university community. The rich tapestry of people, ideas and cultures that comprise the WestConn and Danbury communities provides untold resources to advance learning. Our intent is to capitalize even more energetically on these resources.

Range of quality academic programs. As a comprehensive public university featuring highly competitive professional programs on a strong arts and sciences base, WCSU meets the needs of the state and region within the context of a global environment. We educate our students, the future workforce and citizenry of the state, not only for their

first jobs, but also for lifetimes of productive contribution to society.

Student-focused environment. As more and more students choose to live on campus and participate fully in their undergraduate experiences, we foster a holistic approach to their intellectual and social development. We know that such development often occurs outside the classroom, and we work at creating both a community and a culture that nurture it.

Affordability. We are committed to delivering outstanding value to students through effective management of the university and the provision of financial assistance, thereby maintaining the affordability and access of a mid-sized public university while creating the quality experience of the best private institutions.

The elements of this vision, and the strategic plan that will over the years immediately ahead implement it, define what Western Connecticut State University, one of the most dynamic, fastest-growing public institutions in the Northeast, is—and what it will become. As the pages that follow demonstrate, we are well on the way to fulfilling this promise.

We invite you aboard on our exciting journey!

Western Connecticut State University

capitalizes on its

outstanding faculty

and its

location

in the greater

New York metropolitan area

to create a

diverse university
community

that — in its

range of quality
academic programs

and in its

enriching and supportive

student-focused
environment

— is characteristic of New England's best

small, private universities

but with

much more
affordable costs.

Outstanding Faculty

With advanced degrees that bear the names of some of the world's finest universities, our faculty are passionate about education. They continually challenge their students not only to think and learn, but to do. Reaching for the best in their students, they shake them up on new ways to approach immigration reform; on the sheer enormity of astronomy; or on how harmony collaborates with rhythm in music composition. They inspire our nursing students to achieve national excellence and press our archaeology and sociology students to dive head-on into addressing, first-hand, how poverty on a global level is the singular responsibility of each of us. For whether the subject is cyberspace, Shakespeare, the criminal mind or the moments in history that still seed our tomorrows, WestConn faculty open whole worlds of knowledge and possibility to their students, and they do it each and every day.



Guy MacLean Rogers

Dr. Guy MacLean Rogers, the Macricostas Chair in Hellenic and Modern Greek Studies, is a three-time Fulbright scholar, a Fellow of the American Research Institute in Turkey, an Honorary Fellow of the Department of History at University College London, and a Senior Fellow at the Harvard University Center for the Study of World Religions.

“As chair, I have taught a number of courses that give students an opportunity to learn about the very long time span of Greek history, as well as the profound cultural influences that Hellenic civilization has had on the ancient and modern worlds,” Rogers said. To help members of the university and the wider public understand those influences, Rogers organized a number of events during the year, including lectures, films, and visits to museums with significant collections of Greek artifacts.

Laurie Weinstein

Dr. Laurie Weinstein, professor of anthropology and chairperson of the department of social sciences, often works with students to uncover local examples of historically significant archaeology, but she also works on more recent history. Students in Weinstein’s Cultural Resource



(opposite): A student focuses in on the sun with a solar-filtered telescope as Professor of Astronomy Dr. Dennis Dawson looks on.

(l-r): Dr. Laurie Weinstein and Dr. Bethany Morrison walk through a Revolutionary War site near the WestConn campus.



(l-r): CSUS Board of Trustees (BOT) Chair Lawrence McHugh, WestConn President James W. Schmotter, Assistant Professor of Biological & Environmental Sciences Dr. Ruth Gyure, Associate Professor of English Dr. Shouhua Qi and CSUS BOT Academic Affairs Chair John Doyle at the ceremony for the CSUS teaching and research awards during which Gyure and Qi were honored.

Management course surveyed notable buildings in the region and submitted nominations to the Historic Preservation and Museum Division of the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism. The class is part of an 18-credit minor in cultural resource management that Weinstein developed.

“We live in a throwaway society. It’s always new, new, new,” Weinstein said. “We don’t want to preserve things that are old; we would rather put up a strip mall. I hope students learn the importance of preserving the past, our identity.”

Emilio Collar

Dr. Emilio Collar, assistant professor of management information systems, had been working as a faculty member in the Ansell School of Business for less than a year before accepting his first invitation to speak at an international conference. Collar presented a paper on the readability of computer programming code — the subject of his doctoral dissertation and a primary focus of his continuing research — to university students in Jendouba, Tunisia.

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

Ruth Gyure

Dr. Ruth A. Gyure, assistant professor in the department of biological and environmental sciences, was recognized by the Connecticut State University System (CSUS) with a teaching award for her work as an inspiring educator known for stressing inquiry-based learning methods, advocating the introduction of highest level courses, inspiring students in their independent research and exerting leadership in assessment of student learning.

Gyure is director of WCSU’s medical technology program and has involved students in research at both the graduate and undergraduate level, relating her own research involving phytoremediation of mercury in the soil left from the hatting

industry to local/regional problems in the environment.

“I teach with many gifted and dedicated teachers, so to receive this award makes me feel extremely appreciated,” Gyure said. “I continually strive to integrate the science of discovery with the science of teaching; a very progressive ‘marriage’ in our department and one that I hope continues to benefit my peers, our university, and most importantly — the students.”

Shouhua Qi

Dr. Shouhua Qi, associate professor in the department of English, was recognized by the CSUS Board of Trustees for research and writing. The board especially noted Qi’s work to build a bridge of cross-cultural understanding by means of fiction and non-fiction, particularly contributions to publications in the United States and China, and numerous scholarly papers and presentations in the two languages.

Qi’s second book, “Red Guard Fantasies and Other Stories,” is a compelling collection of short stories that reflect on the post-Cultural Revolution of China. Partially an autobiographical account of Qi’s own experiences, “Red Guard Fantasies” contrasts the traditional values and lifestyles of China against the urban, fast-paced country it has become. Qi’s debut novel, “When the Purple Mountain Burns,” was published in 2005.

(opposite): Associate Professor of Communication Khalda Logan-Eaton cheers on the dance team she coached at WestConn.

(right): Chairman of the Music Department Dr. Dan Goble plays the soprano saxophone.

Pat Geraci

The state of Connecticut, through its various agencies, employs about 2,500 nurses. A dozen of them, however, stand above the rest as a result of being nominated for 2006 “Connecticut Nurse of the Year.”

One of those nominees is WestConn’s Associate Professor of Nursing Pat Geraci, who was honored at the Fifth Annual State Nurse of the Year Award ceremony at the State Capitol. The award recognizes nurses for initiative — anticipating and responding to customers’ needs; advocacy — exhibiting creativity and persistence when dealing with customers’ needs and desires; team support — taking risks in suggesting and implementing new teams’ ideas; application of nursing theory — based on current nursing standards of practice; and empathy, genuine concern, and flexibility.



Geraci said she was honored to be nominated by her colleagues and included in the ceremony especially since one of her fellow nominees was a former student of hers at WestConn.

“This is a reflection of what I love to do and I’m blessed to be able to do,” Geraci said. “It’s further validation that the role of education is important, and it’s everything I went into nursing for and then some.”

Dan Goble

Martin Sather, a saxophone player, came all the way from Alaska to study music at WestConn.

“When I was growing up and started playing saxophone, I went to a month-long music camp in Fairbanks,” Sather said. “Professor of Music Dr. Dan Goble taught there, and I would see him almost every summer — since I was 12. He was a great teacher and a good person to learn from because of both his ability to play and his ability to teach. He’s a very valuable educator in the national teaching community.”

“The faculty at WestConn were some of the best I had throughout my career as a student.”

*Dr. Ana Ribiero '95,
Postdoctoral Associate at The Rockefeller
University in the Laboratory of
Neurobiology and Behavior - Pfaff Lab*



Sather, who won a national award as an outstanding jazz soloist as a senior at WestConn, added, “Out of any place in the country I could have studied, I wanted to come to WestConn to study with Dan Goble.”

Khalda Logan-Eaton

When Associate Professor of Communication Khalda Logan-Eaton succumbed to cancer last March, a stunning sense of loss swept the university community and all those who had known her. Only 39 at the time of her death, Logan-Eaton already had accomplished more than most can aspire to in a lifetime twice as long — yet left behind so much unfulfilled promise.

Not only a professor at WestConn, Logan-Eaton also was an alumna, adding a Bachelor of Arts in media communications, cum laude, to the Bachelor of Science in biology/pre-med that she had obtained previously at Adelphi University. She subsequently went on to receive a Master of Arts in media ecology and a Master of Fine Arts in dance, both at New York University. In addition to her duties as a tenured associate professor of communication at WestConn, Logan-Eaton also was a principal dancer with the nicholasleichterdance company in New York, and mentored the WCSU Dance Team.

Her husband Michael Eaton and other family members have created the Khalda Logan Inspiration Scholarship at WestConn. The annual scholarship will be awarded to a WestConn student who “embodies the compassion, spirit and drive that Professor Khalda Logan displayed throughout her life.”

Location

For more than 100 years, WestConn has contributed to the growth and vitality of the western Connecticut region. Once a modest teacher-training college, it has grown into a flourishing university with two unique and beautiful campuses in Danbury and a presence in the city of Waterbury. Classes are kept small, promoting participation and individual instructional attention. The university's facilities mix tradition and history with a visionary sensibility, as is reflected in the "green" Science Building recently built at Midtown and the Campus Center on the Westside. And with its highly desirable location in upper Fairfield County, WestConn capitalizes on its proximity to the artistic, cultural and commercial centers of New York City and Boston by drawing faculty from leading professionals in these fields, thus offering its students a world-class educational experience.



Celebrating home-grown talent

Betty Ann Medeiros, a student in the Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) in Visual Arts program, painted a mural of singer Marian Anderson and composer Charles Ives that has been permanently installed near the entrance of Ives Concert Hall.

The mural captures signature moments in Anderson's career, depicting scenes of her performances at the Lincoln Memorial and a Paris opera house. Ives' image is accompanied by sheet



(opposite) M.F.A. student Betty Ann Medeiros adds finishing touches to the mural of Charles Ives and Marian Anderson which now hangs in White Hall.

(left) Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton, a WestConn alumnus, examines the university's Economic Impact Report.

(below) Finance Professor Dr. Sara "Sally" DeLoughy explains WestConn's economic impact on the region at a press conference.



music of several compositions including "Emerson" and "Variations on America," along with a burst of fireworks over the American flag signifying his reputation as "the father of American music." Anderson lived in Danbury for many years and Ives was born and lived in Danbury.

"The mural depicts the contributions they made and their love for their particular art forms," Medeiros said. "In this mural, I tried to make my own contribution through my art as well. Even though I'm not a musician, a composer or a singer, I can relate to Anderson and Ives as artists."

Economic Impact Report

With 2,165 jobs created, \$71.6 million in income generated, and \$213.6 million in goods and services purchased in 2005-06, there's no disputing WestConn is a driving force in the economic strength and vitality of the region.

Dr. Sara "Sally" DeLoughy, co-chair of WCSU's finance department, authored the report. DeLoughy said the money the university pays for goods and services from local suppliers and for wages to employees circulates in the region's economy, creating more demand for goods and services and for labor. She estimated the organization's economic impact by totaling the university's regional purchases of goods and services, the number of jobs it directly creates and the wages it pays employees. DeLoughy applied those figures to multipliers used by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis to estimate the total impact on regional jobs, income, and output of goods and services.

"We play a major role in the area, and I think it's important people know that — and be proud of it," WestConn President James W. Schmotter told university representatives, local leaders, businesspeople and members of the media who gathered in February at a Danbury restaurant to review the findings.

Master Plan

WestConn's 10-year master plan, calling for broad physical upgrades to both campuses, was unanimously approved in March by the Board of Trustees of CSUS.

Under the plan, a performance center to house the new School of Visual and Performing Arts would be built on the Westside campus next to a new parking garage. A pedestrian quadrangle would be designed in place of the existing parking lots between the Westside classroom building and the William O'Neill Athletic and Convocation Center.

On the Midtown campus, Roberts Avenue School would be replaced with another quadrangle. A new residence hall and parking garage would be built, and Higgins Hall, Berkshire Hall and White Hall would be renovated. For a slideshow of the plan's details, go to www.wcsu.edu/newsevents/publication/bot.pdf.

Partnership grows with senior living communities

In 2006, WestConn partnered with Ridgefield Crossings, a senior living community, to create Ridgefield Crossings University (RCU), an ongoing series of free, educational lectures on a variety of topics given by WestConn faculty.



(l-r): Charles Ives Authority for the Performing Arts member Donald Weedon and Savings Bank of Danbury (SBD) president Hal Wibling walk the lush grounds of Ives Concert Park before the Ives Family Fair, which SBD partially underwrote.

The partnership has proven to be such a success that The Village at Brookfield Common, a sister community, has joined the collaboration.

Now, WestConn professors conduct lectures at both facilities on topics that have included local history, changes in education, Shakespearean theater, the history of jazz, the ecology of stone walls, organ music, Buddhism, politics and genomic science.

Ives Concert Park

Last spring, Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton announced the formation of a new performing arts authority approved by the Common Council. A joint endeavor between the city and WestConn, the Charles Ives Authority for the Performing Arts was created to direct operations at the Ives Concert Park on the university's Westside campus.

The authority is overseen by a board of nine members: six appointed by the city and three appointed by WestConn President James W. Schmotter. Among the first accomplishments of the new authority was the cultivation of a partnership with Union Savings Bank, which will serve as a naming sponsor for Ives Concert Park events for the next four years.

“All these community leaders lend such value to our community and our way of life,” said Ives Authority Chairman Steven Greenberg. “Ives Concert Park is really great for this city. Our goal is to make it into a junior Tanglewood — a destination for the arts.”



M.F.A. Art Show

One of WestConn's strategic advantages is its proximity to New York City, which affords the university access to world-renowned talent. Every year, the Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) Painting and Illustration program shows the work of its graduating students in a Thesis Exhibition, held at Blue Mountain Gallery in Chelsea.

Gulgun Aliriza of North Salem, N.Y., was one of the students in the M.F.A. program to show her work.

Aliriza said: "I believe that artwork should be developed from the direct, bold and deliberate interaction with the subject matter and the dialogue between materials and the artist's intuition."

For more examples of the artists' work, visit www.wcsu.edu/graduate/mfa-exhibit.asp.



(above): An example of the artwork created by WestConn's Master of Fine Arts students.

(left): A picture-perfect autumn afternoon provided the backdrop for the first performance of the Ives Festival Orchestra.

"Our proximity to New York and the fact that the faculty work in the city allow our students to see the industry from a professional perspective. Our students are able to easily take advantage of all that the city has to offer. Also, our annual New York Showcase features our best students for the professional world to see."

Professor of Theatre Arts Sal Trapani

Diverse University Community

Students come to WestConn from across town or across the state. They arrive from other countries or from next door in New York or Rhode Island. Some have traveled the length or breadth of the United States to get here while others have a short commute. Above all, each is an individual — some with distinct ethnic identities, speaking different languages; others a blend of many nationalities and backgrounds. All races are represented, as is every economic variation. And any broad-brush description of the “typical” WestConn student would be frustrated by the myriad differences in spirit, talent and personality that make each one unique.



Agreement with Women's Center

The Women's Center of Greater Danbury Inc. agreed to provide services on campus, including programs for students, faculty and staff to address issues such as relationship violence, sexual assault, gender image and gender equity.

The venture was initiated by Dr. Linda Rinker, WestConn's provost and vice president for academic affairs. "This is something that has been part of our vision for some time and is now coming to fruition," Rinker said. "We will begin work on the activities, the services and programs for our young people, our faculty and staff — our university community."

Jillian Lane, a graduate student in the Master of Science in Community Counseling program, was named the campus advocate for the WestConn Women's Center. She provides individual and group counseling, advocacy and risk assessment, safety planning and referral to campus and community resources.

Trip to Puerto Rico

For Dr. Stacey Alba Skar, chairperson of the world languages and literature department, the

debut of WestConn's Global Academy in Puerto Rico was about much more than a two-week immersion in the Spanish language. It was about experiencing the richness of Puerto Rican culture and society and bringing that experience home to classrooms across Connecticut.

Inspired by preparations for the opening of the Western Connecticut Academy of International Studies Magnet School on the university's Westside campus, Skar brainstormed with Professor of Education Dr. Darla Shaw to craft a proposal for a multi-disciplinary program designed to deepen cross-cultural understanding among current and future teachers at the elementary, middle and secondary school levels. The project was endorsed with a grant from the President's Initiatives Fund.

Blog excerpt by Elaine Nadal

"I traveled to the island along with 15 students and two faculty members from Western Connecticut State University on August 7 to uncover the richness of my Borinquen. I have never been to Puerto Rico and one of my goals was to grow a deeper understanding of my heritage and my roots.

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



Dr. Stacey Alba Skar speaks with students who accompanied her to Puerto Rico.

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



(opposite): WestConn students and faculty admire Puerto Rico's natural beauty.

(left): WCSU student Elaine Nadal blogged about her experiences in Puerto Rico.

(right): Jillian Lane, Women's Center campus advocate

SIAS International University

Wei Yongsheng, Wang Dandan, Zhu Xuran and Hu Zhihua — students visiting from the SIAS International University in China — joined the cast of the music department production of the Gilbert and Sullivan opera “The Pirates of Penzance.” The SIAS students were on campus as part of an exchange program that began with a collaboration between the Ansell School of Business and the Chinese university.

Middle school science fair

Do balls bounce higher when warm? Will olive oil prevent apples from browning? Do pets have a dominant paw? These were just some of the many intriguing scientific questions studied by Bethel Middle School 7th and 8th graders who presented their Science Fair projects in the Science Building atrium. WestConn faculty, administrators and students were on hand to interact with the Bethel students, ask questions about their work and encourage their scientific inquisitiveness.

Nearby, parents of the middle schoolers flipped through WestConn course offering catalogs and marveled at the university’s impressive science facility.

CSUS Faculty Research Conference

Researchers from the four campuses of the Connecticut State University System (CSUS) converged at the Science Building to share scholarship and ideas with colleagues at the 10th CSUS Faculty Research Conference in October 2006.

The CSUS Faculty Research Conference featured more than 100 presentations by some 135 faculty members and doctoral candidates from Western, Southern, Central and Eastern Connecticut state universities. The conference showcased faculty and doctoral research in some 20 disciplines represented at the conference, including education, psychology, mathematics, chemistry, biology, engineering, nursing, business, communications, history, English and library science.



“Diversity is the nucleus of an institution, the heart of every university. For diversity to thrive, there must be an atmosphere of respect, tolerance, and a commitment to fairness. At WestConn, the emphasis is on civility, safety and freedom. These are some of our values.”

Larry Hall, Director of University Admissions



Executive Forum

The Executive Forum at WCSU celebrated its 10th anniversary with new seminars and lectures that bring modern management ideas to nonprofit organizations.

The Executive Forum was founded by Professor of Social Work Patricia Ivry and Management Professor Dr. Fred Tesch to provide opportunities for executive directors and their nonprofit agencies to enhance their managerial, organizational and leadership skills.

Last year's programs included a lecture by economist Dr. Judith Gueron, the immediate past president of a leading social policy research organization, MDRC, which evaluates the efficacy of social and government programs.

Future of multiculturalism

In October, Felipe Luciano, co-founder of the Young Lords Party and veteran journalist with television and radio media in New York City, delivered a guest lecture titled "Multiculturalism in America: Where Do We Go from Here?"

Reared in New York City's East Harlem community, Luciano co-founded the New York-based chapter of the Young Lords Party, a Puerto Rican organization that waged political action campaigns in Latino communities of New York City for health care and sanitation improvements, investigation of police brutality allegations and other community reforms.

(opposite, top): Bethel Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gary Chesley talks with a Bethel Middle School student about her project.

(opposite, bottom): A Bethel Middle School student explains her project to a WestConn student.

Right (l-r): Wei Yongsheng, Wang Dandan, Zhu Xuran and Hu Zhihua, students visiting from the SIAS International University in China, joined the cast of "The Pirates of Penzance" at WestConn.



An Emmy-winning news reporter for New York's NBC, CBS and Fox television stations and a talk show host on New York radio, Luciano also has enjoyed success as a poet, a contributing writer for The New York Times and other regional publications, and a motivational speaker and lecturer who has addressed forums at major universities, Fortune 500 companies and labor organizations.

Middle East discussion

In January, David Saranga, consul for media and public affairs at the Israeli Consulate General in New York, discussed the current situation in the Middle East and explored the complicated search for a peaceful solution.

Rosalind Kopfstein, an adjunct professor of social sciences at WestConn and social worker at the Jewish Family Service, a Jewish Federation agency, said she hoped that Saranga's talk would create a forum for dialogue.

"David Saranga was here to dispel some of the misinformation and to bring forth the Israeli perspective on the events taking place in the Middle East," Kopfstein said. "There have been a number of presentations providing the Palestinian point of view, so it's important to offer the other perspective."

Discourse about immigration

Last winter, the university campus became a neutral site for a discussion about immigration rights. The WCSU Latin American Student Organization and the Danbury-based Stop the Raids group created a forum to discuss immigration rights. Following that, the Danbury chapter of the Connecticut Citizens for Immigration Control, which advocates crackdowns on illegal immigration, conducted another forum.



WestConn Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Walter Bernstein said the university did not endorse any viewpoint on immigration but would help advance communication about an emotionally charged issue that's being discussed in Danbury, on Capitol Hill and across the country.

“The university is committed to hosting workshops, forums, conferences and other programs that deal with significant issues of the day,” Bernstein said. “In its role as an institution of higher learning, the university serves as an impartial venue so both sides of an issue can be heard.”

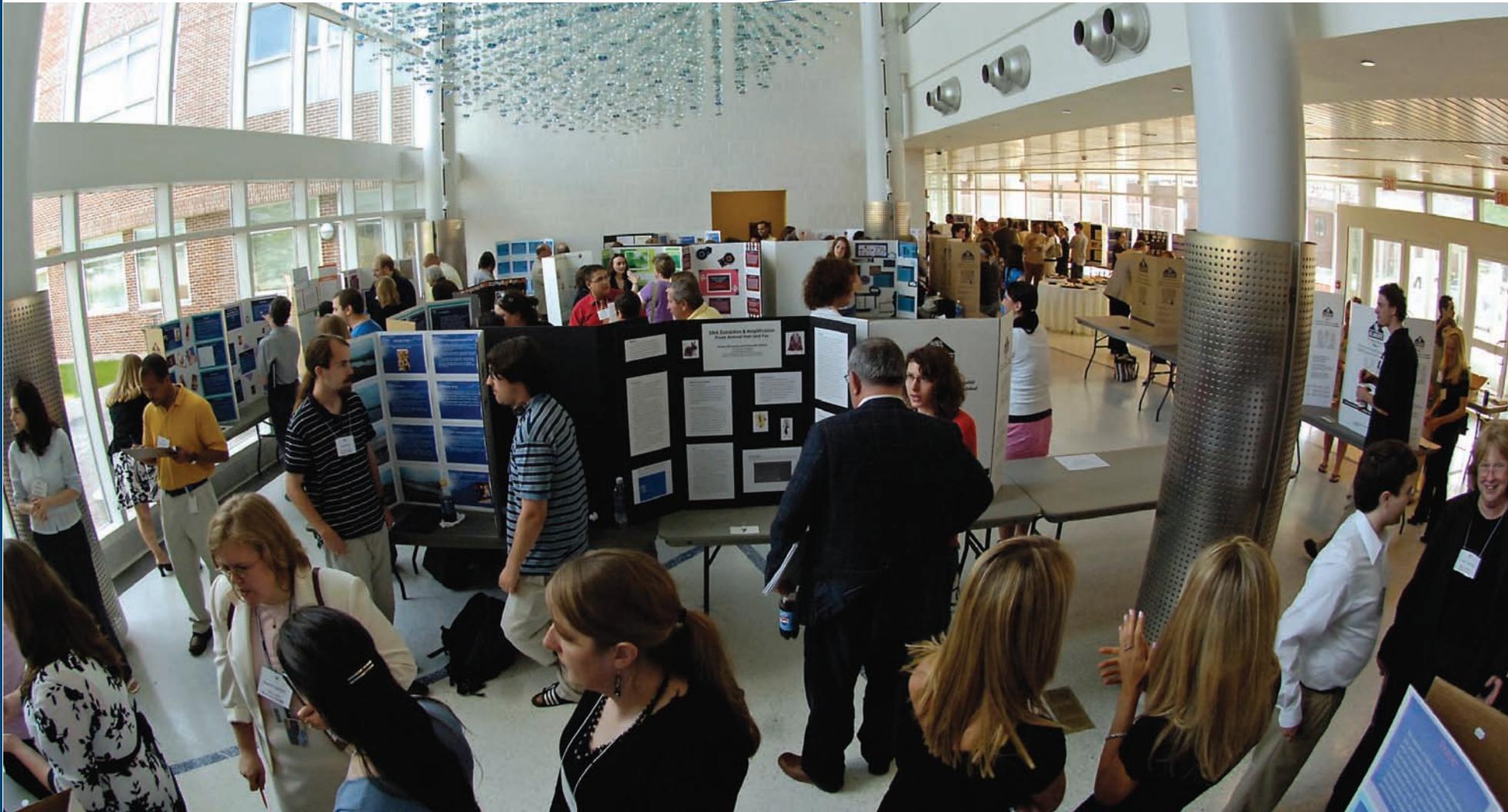
(opposite): The issue of immigration drew participants to two forums on the Midtown campus to discuss all aspects of the topic.

(right): David Saranga, consul for media and public affairs at the Israeli Consulate General in New York, answered questions about Middle East politics during a forum in Warner Hall.



Range of Quality Academic Programs

Once a small school that taught the community's teachers, WestConn now is an impressive university with degree programs in a broad range of 21st century disciplines. From the associate level to undergraduate baccalaureate and graduate degree studies, to a doctorate in educational leadership, programs are designed for the modern student. WestConn graduates represent all facets of professional life. They are educators, biologists, social workers, artists, justice-and-law professionals, marketing specialists, historians and community leaders. The career success of so many of this university's alumni is perhaps the best expression of the superb education and preparation students have the opportunity to receive at WestConn.



Articulation Agreement

WestConn, Naugatuck Valley Community College (NVCC) and Norwalk Community College (NCC) signed an agreement that allows students at both colleges to transfer easily to the university to work toward a bachelor's degree.

The agreement will allow transferring students to concentrate more on their education and less on the mechanics of the move between institutions. Often, transferring students lose credits because their new school may not accept every class from their previous school. Consequently, students lose time and money.

President James W. Schmotter praised the agreement for the support it will allow the institutions to give students.

"This will be more efficient and more effective," Schmotter said. "Students will have access to both institutions at the same time. It just makes so much sense."



National Science Foundation

Dr. Kathie L. Olsen, deputy director of the National Science Foundation (NSF), took a crash course in collaborative teaching methods when she visited WestConn to learn about "Building a Bridge to Improve Student Success," a program coordinated by WestConn and Danbury and Bethel high schools. The project teams WestConn professors and high school teachers who work together to test and prepare high school juniors and seniors to enter college ready to succeed in English and math — and avoid remedial classes in those subjects.

As a result, the number of remedial students from Danbury and Bethel has dropped by more than 20 percent in the last three years.

Olsen said the Bridge project represents the spirit of the mission of the NSF, which encourages the study of science. She noted some universities offer difficult science and math courses that discourage students from majoring in those subjects.

"We're trying to change that," Olsen said. "Our attitude is, if you have an interest in a subject, how can we help?"

"I grew — both personally and professionally — from my experiences at WestConn!"

*Stephanie Madonna '06,
recipient of the Young Scholarship Award
and current assistant production manager
for the Manhattan Theatre Club*



(opposite): WestConn Research Day showcases student research.

(left): National Science Foundation Deputy Director Dr. Kathie Olsen visits Dr. Ruth Gyure's biology lab.

(top): (l-r) Norwalk Community College President David Levinson, WCSU President James W. Schmotter and Naugatuck Valley Community College President Richard Sanders sign an articulation agreement in June 2007 that will facilitate NCC and NVCC student transfers to WestConn.

(above): Administrators from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez visited WestConn to explore future partnership opportunities.

University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez

President James W. Schmotter and Dr. Jorge Ivan Vellez-Arocho, chancellor of the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, signed an agreement to explore future partnerships between the two schools. The venture grew out of the visit to Puerto Rico by Assistant Professor of World Languages and Literature Dr. Stacey Alba Skar and Professor of Education Dr. Darla Shaw, who led the Global Academy in Puerto Rico, a scholarly immersion in the language, culture and educational opportunities in Puerto Rico for WestConn students and professors.

Immediately after the signing, the two presidents discussed a possible exchange of student musical performances.

President Schmotter said, “This is an example of what I think will be a very productive partnership.”

Management Information Systems

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

The Committee on National Security Systems (CNSS) of the National Security Agency recently reaffirmed this special relationship with its recertification that courses in the management information systems (MIS) curriculum with the information security management option have achieved 100 percent compliance with national standards,

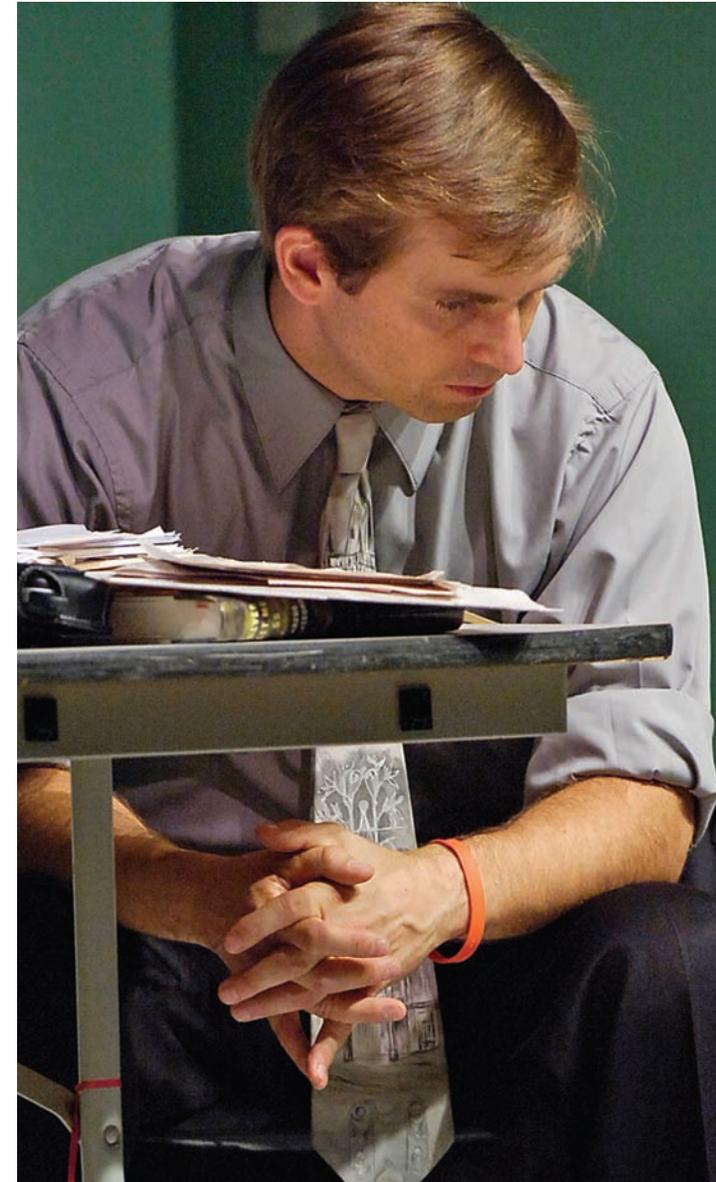
making WestConn one of 143 institutions whose curricula have achieved full compliance.

“Information security is focused very much on protecting the nation’s critical infrastructures,” said MIS Professor Dr. Marie Wright. “Almost 90 percent of our critical infrastructures — telecommunications, banking and financial systems, oil and gas production and storage — are owned and operated by private businesses. We focus a lot on technical controls, but we also have to address the human element. Much of the time, good security is an awareness issue.”

Politics, Ethics and Science of the Genome

The unprecedented political, ethical and scientific challenges confronting humankind at the dawn of the “genome century” was the theme of a fall panel discussion entitled, “The Politics, Ethics and Science of the Genome.”

Panelists offered perspectives from their respective disciplines on the field of genomic research, a new frontier of scientific exploration focusing on the DNA composition and sequencing in humans and other living organisms. An informal question-and-answer session followed the presentation, which kicked off a year-long discussion on the topic.



(opposite): (l-r) Dr. Henry Lee; Dr. Timothy H. Breen with President James W. Schmotter; Brian Cashman

(right): Associate Professor of Social Sciences Dr. Christopher Kukk offered the political perspective on genomic research.



Speakers

Each year, a number of luminaries enlighten and entertain packed houses with their talent, expertise and insight. Some highlights of the past year included the following:

- The President’s Lecture Series was presented by respected historian Dr. Timothy H. Breen, who explored the passions that ignited the American Revolution and their present-day relevance.

“In our fondness for ‘Founding Father’ stories, we’ve removed the people from our own revolution,” Breen said. “We’ve removed the discussions about the emotions of revenge, anger, betrayal and passion that played a role in our insurgency.”

Breen is director of the Center for Historical Studies and the William Smith Mason Professor of American History at Northwestern University in Illinois.

- Dr. Henry Lee, the legendary forensic scientist, appeared as part of the university’s Science-at-Night lecture series sponsored by the School of Arts & Sciences. Using his characteristic mixture of self-deprecating humor and common sense



approach to forensics, Lee shared insights into the innovative crime scene investigation (CSI) techniques that he has pioneered as the founder of the Connecticut State Police Forensic Science Laboratory.

As Lee discussed the breathtaking diversity of forensic science technologies that have now become indispensable tools in criminal investigations, he reminded his audience that such breakthroughs have freed police and prosecutors from excessive dependence on traditional but imperfect investigative practices such as lineups, witness testimony and suspect interrogations.

“The purpose of the criminal justice system is to make sure that society is protected, but at the same time to protect individual rights,” Lee said. Reliance on interrogation techniques to extract confessions has not always produced justice, he noted, “because many innocent people get convicted and many guilty people never get caught.”

- Last fall, New York Yankees General Manager Brian Cashman — the youngest and longest tenured Yankee GM in recent history — discussed baseball, winning and life in general before an



appreciative crowd at Ives Concert Hall.

“You never know who is watching you,” he advised the WestConn audience, many of whom were students. “Do everything to the best of your ability.”

That note hit home with WestConn sophomore Zach Shagi. “He’s really doing what I would love to do, work in sports,” Shagi said. “He really proved that if you go for your dream, great things can happen.”

- Novelist Roger Boylan; memoirist Elizabeth Cohen; essayist and poet J.D. Scrimgeour and his father, biographer and poet James R. Scrimgeour, were among the authors who presented public readings of their works during WestConn’s annual Winter Literary Festival.

The festival offered the university and Greater Danbury communities an opportunity to hear selected poetry, fiction and nonfiction readings by nationally renowned authors who serve as faculty members, writers in residence or writing mentors for the university’s Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) in Professional Writing program, sponsor for the event.

Enriching and Supportive Student-Focused Environment

WestConn has always been in the business of nurturing the spirit of “*I can.*” The university provides environments that support as well as challenge — from academics to services such as career counseling, from clubs and organizations that establish connections, to outreach programs that inspire a global outlook. WestConn graduates know that they can achieve all they envision.



Women's soccer

Year in and year out, Head Coach Joe Mingachos, a 1991 WestConn graduate, sets high goals for the women's soccer team. The 2006 season was no different: Win the Little East Conference (LEC) regular season, win the LEC Tournament, and appear in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Tournament.

The team did make the national tournament and won its first game — and created excitement on campus, finishing with a 20-2-1 record and a No. 18 ranking in the NCAA Regional National Division III final poll.

Sophomore forward Catherine Nathans, who led the LEC with 22 goals and eight assists, was named to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America All-American (NSCAA) Third Team. Nathans, Jessica Gomes, Kim Crayco and Jenna Cappellieri were named to the NSCAA All-New England Team.

Westside Campus Center

A tasty, hot meal, a quiet study area, and a spot to gather with friends and classmates are just a few of the amenities WestConn students are enjoying at the new Westside Campus Center.



Gov. M. Jodi Rell, Connecticut State University System Chancellor David G. Carter and President James W. Schmotter led students, faculty and staff, alumni and other dignitaries in January in cutting the ribbon to officially open the 49,000-square-foot building.

Throughout the day, students were the focus of the festivities, which included a “Deal or No Deal”-style student trivia contest, men’s and women’s basketball games against Eastern Connecticut State University and more.

Schmotter said the center is meant to provide a “focal point” for university life on campus.

The three-story, \$17.8-million facility offers the more than 1,000 students living on the Westside campus — as well as commuter students, faculty, staff and visitors — food service, a cardio-fitness center, multipurpose meeting and conference rooms, student activity space, lounge areas and other facilities to enhance campus life.

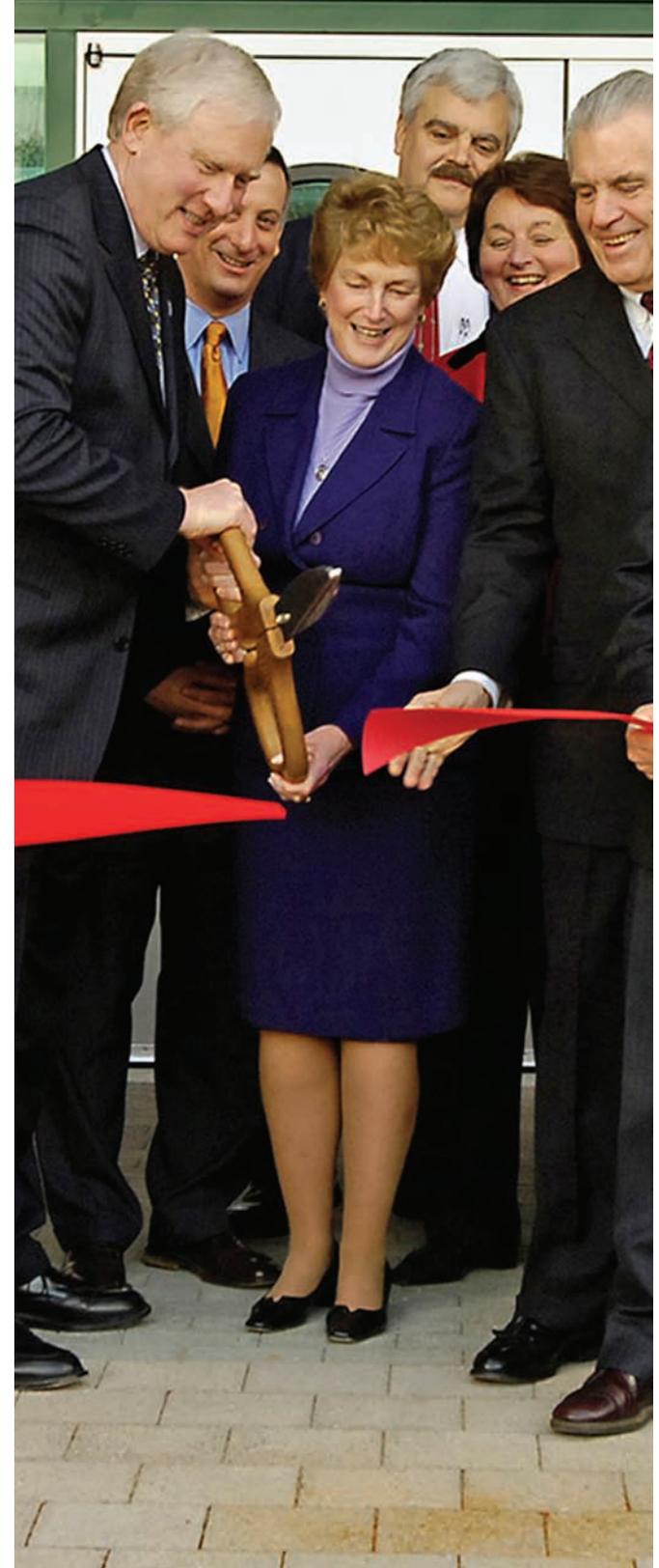
Midtown Coffeehouse

WestConn’s Midtown Coffeehouse opens every Thursday night to entertain the university community and provide a place to perform on campus.

(opposite): 2006 and 2007 Little East Champions: WCSU Women's Soccer

(left): Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Walter Bernstein welcomes guests to WestConn's new Westside Campus Center.

(right): WestConn President James W. Schmotter and Connecticut Gov. M. Jodi Rell cut the ribbon for the Westside Campus Center as State Senator David Cappiello, State Rep. Bob Godfrey and State Rep. Janice Geigler look on.



The coffeehouse, which begins at 8 p.m., starts with open mic where anyone who has registered can perform. One student showcased his skills playing the bagpipes. Open mic is followed by the featured act.

Dr. Jane Goodall

World-famous scientist Dr. Jane Goodall returned to WestConn to continue her outreach to students and the community. Goodall also observed the success and growth of the National Center for University Roots & Shoots, which she entrusted to WestConn several years ago.

When Goodall first visited WestConn in 2001, there were nine university Roots & Shoots groups. Now, there are 140 offices in the United States and Canada.

Climate control signing

President James W. Schmotter joined more than 300 leaders of higher education who signed the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment, an agreement to work toward controlling global warming.

“WestConn puts the student first. I practice football six hours a day. It’s really helpful that the computer labs are open 24 hours a day so I can write my papers when it works for me. Also, my teachers and coaches are really helpful. This is a great place to be.”

Freshman Wayne Neal, awarded New Jersey Athletic Conference Offensive Rookie of the Week five times

“Managing the effects of human economic activity on our planet’s climate will be one of the greatest challenges our students will face during their lives and careers in the 21st century,” Schmotter said. “It is only appropriate that universities like WestConn demonstrate a proactive engagement with this issue. And do it today.”

Presidents and chancellors who sign the document commit their institutions to:

- Develop a plan within two years to attain climate neutrality as soon as practical. The plan would include an inventory of emissions, target dates, specific actions and tracking mechanisms.
- Complete two or more specific actions from a list of steps to reduce greenhouse gases.
- Make the plans, greenhouse gas inventory and periodic progress reports publicly available.



Poll worker grant

WestConn undergraduates served as poll workers at Danbury precincts during the Nov. 7, 2006, general election thanks to a grant award from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

Assistant Professor of Justice and Law Administration Dr. George Kain, director for the federally funded project, said the grant of \$16,032 financed a joint effort by the university and the city of Danbury to provide enhanced information services to voters at the polls on election day.

Nearly 30 students trained for nine hours before the elections. They served as “greeters” assigned to direct arriving voters to the correct voting precinct at each poll and answered basic questions about voting mechanics, referring substantive registration issues to the appropriate election official.

Colleen Smith, a history and education major, said the project benefited her in the classroom and on a personal level. “I’ve become very aware how important voting is, so I made sure they sent me that absentee ballot!” Smith said. “I’ve never been around an election or a polling place until now so this has gotten me out here, involved and active in the process. It’s been great to see how it works.”

(opposite, top): Alumni Hall hosts the Midtown Coffeehouse on Thursday evenings.

(opposite, bottom): The Club, a Seattle’s Best Coffee Shop, opened its doors in the Westside Campus Center.

(right): WCSU students participated in the 2006 general election as poll workers.

NEA internship

Over the years, WestConn’s Career Development Center has provided thousands of internships that offer invaluable work experience and job opportunities for our students.

Last year, Ashley Cwikla worked for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in the organiza-

tion’s Office for Accessibility and the Office for Arts Education in Washington, D.C. Cwikla, who is legally blind, performed such tasks as updating the resource lists for the NEA Web site and reviewing applications from state and regional affiliates for accessibility compliance standards. A flutist, she also had a special opportunity to play with the National Symphony Orchestra.



Commencements: Graduate, Undergraduate & Waterbury

WestConn at Waterbury

Waterbury resident Carlos Pacheco works full time as an operations manager at Ward Leonard Electric Company, Inc. in Torrington. A student in the WestConn at Waterbury supervisory management program, he was the recipient of the 2007 WestConn at Waterbury Management Scholarship.

“All of these courses helped me to take my job with my present employer to a different level,” Pacheco said. “And some of the things I’ve learned here have saved my company money. I’ve already set up a couple of programs at work that have made our supply chain management more efficient.”

He was recognized during the supervisory management program’s graduation ceremony held at Naugatuck Valley Community College’s Founder’s Hall.

Graduate Commencement

During a standing-room-only event in the Ives Concert Hall, WestConn held its first separate commencement for graduate students. President James W. Schmotter invoked Charles Ives in his keynote address:

“To be Ivesian is to be an enthusiast and a humanist, to look for the social value in things, to recognize flaws and failures without letting them cloud what is good and true. To be Ivesian is to not play it safe, to look for the bigger picture and not submit to categories such as ‘scholarly’ or ‘popular.’ To be Ivesian is to see music and life as

one story. The creativity, character and dedication you’ve shown in earning your graduate degrees here, often in the face of conflicting commitments and irritating distractions, demonstrate that you can hold at least two (and probably more) opposed ideas in your mind and still function very effectively. You have, in short, been Ivesian all this time without even knowing it.”

Undergraduate Commencement

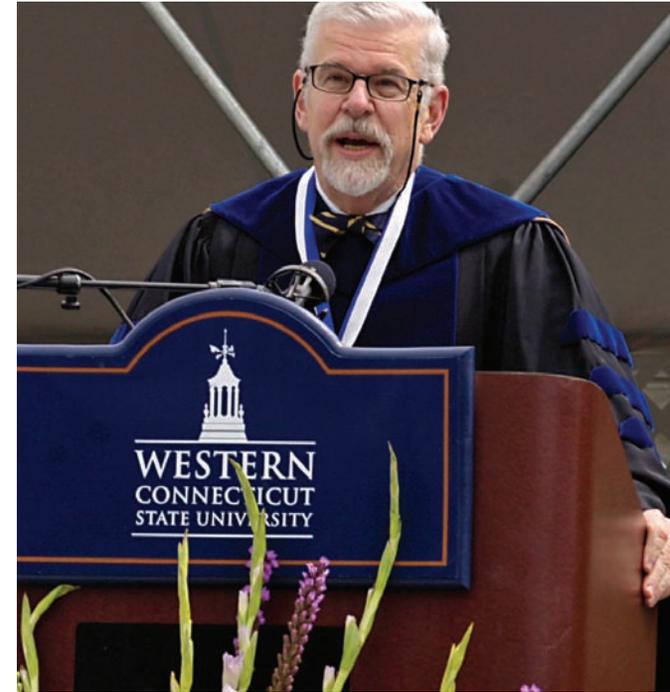
For the first time, undergraduate commencement was held at the stadium in the Westside Athletic Complex, a venue that provided a suitable setting for such a grand event. Professor Emeritus of Justice and Law Administration Dr. Harold Schramm, who retired after 38 years at the university, gave the keynote address.

“It’s bittersweet for you and for me to leave WestConn,” Schramm said. “Whether you are conscious of it or not, we are all a part of this institution. Although we move on, it remains a part of us. And it gets better as time passes. It is a far better place today than it was when I first came, and I am sure that it will continue to be even better after we’re gone. You can be proud of your WestConn degree. You have worked hard for it and it gives you well-deserved bragging rights. You are off to do great things.”

(top): Master of Science in Community Counseling degree recipients Julie Harris (center) and Bill Gillotti (right) pose for a photo together.

(right): (l-r): Master of Science in Justice Administration graduate Melissa Jones, Professor of Justice and Law Administration Dr. Casey Jordan and Jones’ mother at the graduate commencement ceremony.





(above): Professor Emeritus of Justice and Law Administration Dr. Harold Schramm delivers the Undergraduate Commencement Address.

(left): Theatre Arts graduate Jerrial Young celebrates with Associate Professor of Theatre Arts Elizabeth Popiel.

Affordability

In every area of endeavor as an institution of higher learning, WestConn has evolved. It has achieved the status of a forward-thinking public university with a reputation for academic excellence that rivals many small private colleges. It has “prospered” in ways defined not by rich appointments or slick social standards, but by students who have accessed their true intellectual and career potential to go on to full, successful lives. Today, this university offers nationally recognized programs in the arts and sciences, teacher education, the fine and performing arts, and professional studies and business. And — as always — WestConn's tuition is a fraction of what you would pay at any private university.



Wine Tasting

About 125 supporters attended the Eighth Annual Holiday Wine Tasting held in November 2006 to benefit the Caraluzzi Scholarship Endowment.

The event has contributed more than \$100,000 to the endowment, which totals about \$500,000. More than 40 Caraluzzi scholarships have been given to students in the past several years — including 10 in 2006-07.

“This has become one of the most fun and important events we have each fall,” said President James W. Schmutter. “It’s important for the students because a lot of them are facing financial hurdles and these scholarships help some of them work two jobs instead of three or one job instead of two. And it’s a great example of how we partner with our friends in the community.”

WestConn Society Club

More than 100 members of the WestConn Society Club gathered in the Grand Ballroom of the new Westside Campus Center to honor an individual and a family who have supported the university for years.



The Hawley family — patriarch Ervie and his sons, David and Gary, along with other members of the clan — were honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award for Service to the university and the community.

Gary Hawley accepted the award for his family. “It’s all about changing lives for the better and giving someone a chance to excel,” Hawley said.

At the event, Dr. Carol Hawkes, founding dean of the new School of Visual and Performing Arts, also was recognized with the Outstanding Service and Support Award.

Hawkes described herself as “sort of flabbergasted at this wonderful award,” which she accepted on behalf of the artistic spirit that the School of Visual and Performing Arts represents.

“We need artists,” Hawkes said. “We really help ourselves when we support them. We need to draw upon what artists can give us.”

University Ball

Longtime WestConn supporters Constantine “Deno” and Marie Macricostas were celebrated for their philanthropic accomplishments at the 2007 University Ball.

“We’re honoring Deno and Marie for their outstanding support of WCSU and their impressive



philanthropic endeavors in our local community and beyond,” said Vice President for Institutional Advancement Dr. G. Koryoe Anim-Wright. “Deno is an outstanding businessman who has made significant contributions to both industry and philanthropy through extraordinary achievement and leadership.”

Macricostas, founder and chairman of Brookfield-based Photronics Inc., has been a member of the WCSU Foundation Inc. board for about 20 years, serving as an ambassador to expand awareness and support of the university. Through their Macricostas Family Foundation, the couple pledged \$1.1 million to the university in 2003, the largest gift in WestConn’s 104-year history.

“We believe in education, and we believe in Western Connecticut State University,” Deno and Marie have said.

(opposite): Vice President for Institutional Advancement Dr. G. Koryoe Anim-Wright and Meteorologist Dr. Mel Goldstein, a former WCSU professor, share a light moment with meteorology student J.J. DePasqua.

(left): Marie and Constantine “Deno” Macricostas arrive at the 2007 University Ball.

(above right): WestConn President James W. Schmutter presents the Distinguished Alumni Award for Service to the members of the Hawley Family.

The ball is the premier fundraiser for the WCSU Foundation, generating about \$500,000 in the last decade. The Foundation relies on proceeds from the ball to continue support for university programs, scholarships, and initiatives that directly benefit WCSU students, faculty and staff.

Boehringer Ingelheim Laboratory

WestConn celebrated an important partnership with the dedication of the Boehringer Ingelheim Biochemistry Laboratory and the Boehringer Ingelheim Chemistry Library in the university's Science Building.

The event included the presentation of a research paper by a WestConn chemistry major and a new student award — also sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim — to recognize academic excellence in biochemistry.

President James W. Schmotter unveiled plaques recognizing Boehringer Ingelheim's contribution to the university, followed by faculty-led tours of the Science Building and a reception.

The Science Building, which opened in 2005, allows WestConn to offer a quality education in a facility that houses state-of-the-art instrumentation. The facility was one of 40 projects — and one of two recognized in the higher education category — selected for “Best of 2006” honors by a panel of experts for an annual awards program conducted by New York Construction magazine.

Alumni support

Alumni continue to support the university through events that include the annual golf outing, dinner theatres, fundraising campaigns and more. New this year were Visioning Visits, where alums from around the country gathered with representatives of the university to discuss WCSU happenings and ways to enhance the student experience.

Verbal appraisal clinic fundraiser

Last spring, Harry Rinker, a nationally recognized antiques and collectibles expert, conducted a Verbal Appraisal Clinic for the School of Arts &

“Receiving a scholarship is like the ultimate pat on the back. It reminds us that all those late nights do pay off and there is someone else who knows how hard we are working. It’s a burst of encouragement to keep pushing though and a reminder that we are appreciated.”

*Caitlin Clarkson '07,
pursuing a graduate degree in history
at WestConn*



Sciences (A&S). The proceeds of the packed event raised scholarship funds for A&S students who need financial support for studies abroad.

Rinker has authored more than 55 books and has appeared on hundreds of regional and local radio and television shows. He currently hosts “Whatcha Got,” a nationally syndicated radio call-in show that airs Sunday mornings.

Friends of the University

In June, W. Jason Hancock ’81 and his wife, Ellen, hosted a reception at their home in Ridgefield for current and prospective members of the President’s Club. Alumni and prospective donors were treated to delicious hors d’oeuvres, great conversation and music provided by the WCSU Jazz Ensemble on the Hancock’s tranquil property, which features acres of landscaped gardens.

“Hosting this memorable gathering of WestConn friends and supporters is just the latest of the many ways that Jason and Ellen Hancock have advanced the university,” said President James W. Schmotter. “We’re continually grateful to them.”



(opposite): Caitlin Clarkson, a member of the Student Government Association and an editor of the Colonial Yearbook, and recipient of the WCSU Foundation President’s Award.

(above): WestConn’s Barnard Scholars Forest Robertson and Amber Wilk with President James W. Schmotter.

(left): Ellen and W. Jason Hancock, longtime supporters of WCSU, hosted a garden party at their home for current and prospective members of the President’s Club, a new association of university donors.

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Nathaniel & Doris '49 Bushaw
Helen Buzaid '83
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Paula Chipman
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John & Marie '57 Cochran
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Computershare
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Anthony '06 & Carol '02 Conte
Constance Conway '96

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Adelino DosSantos '84
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Susan Gankos '83

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Lawrence & Sharon '76 Girard
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Brant & Wilma Jeffreys
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Fritz Wieting '51
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Margaret Williams '87
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Marie Wright
Albert Yankey
Dennis & Anna '79 Zancan
Jared & Amy Zerman
Joseph '79 & Jodi Zukoski

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Michael Meken
Marjorie Echols

University Ball

Adam Broderick
Adrienne
Robert Alberetti
Arthur Murray Dance Studio
Ballpark at Harbor Yard
Big Y
Bob's Discount Furniture
Bodies in Tune
Bogey's Formal Wear
Boston Billiard Club
Boston Museum of Science

Brookfield Craft Center
Brookfield Family Chiropractic
Brooklyn Botanical Garden
Café on the Green
Candlewood Marketing Corporation
Cappiello Jewelers
Nancy Cassidy
Chuck's Steak House
Churchill Classics
Ciao! Café & Wine Bar
Connecticut Beardsley Zoo
Connecticut Student Loan Foundation
Tom & Lois Crucitti
Crystal Rock Water Company
Dawn's Pizzazz
DRC Publishing
Dream Maker Bath & Kitchen
Driscoll's Florists
Abe Echevarria
Ethan Allen Hotel
F & M Electric
Fairgrounds Wine and Spirits
Eugene Goetz
Golf Quest
Marion Hamilton
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Gail Hill-Williams
Hunt Hill Farm Trust
Ives Concert Park
J & R Tours
John's Best Pizza
George Kain
Rolandas Kiaulevicius
Nancy LaBonne
Jurg Lanzrein
Marriott Spring Hill Suites
Mobil 1 Lube Express & Car Wash
Congressman Chris Murphy
New Sorrento Italian Restaurant
New York Pops
Plonia Nixon

Nutmeg Discount Liquors
OMI by Lise
Onsite Insights
Optimum Wellness Spa
Joann Paiva-Borduas
Palace Theater, Waterbury, CT
Pepsi Bottling Company
Physician Health & Injury Center
Putnam Imaging
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Ricci's Salon
Ricci's/Hero For Men
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Williams-Sonoma
Rebecca Woodward
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Roy & Ginny Young

Alumni Association Golf Outing

Barnes & Noble College Booksellers
Coca-Cola Beverages
Tom & Lois Crucitti
Crystal Rock Water Company
Foxwoods Resort and Casino
Golf Digest
Mary Green
HSBC
Ives Concert Park
Liberty Mutual
Newtown Savings Bank
Optimum Wellness Spa
Ricci's Salon
Star Distributors
WCSU Institutional Advancement
Greg Williams & Gail Hill-Williams

Annual Wine Tasting

Jennifer Dimyan
Michael Driscoll
Finishing Touches
George Kain
Newtown Savings Bank
Wayne Shepperd
WCSU Finance & Administration
WCSU Theatre Arts Department

Western Connecticut State University
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