

Western Connecticut State University

Annual Report 2007–2008

creativity in

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creativity in

from our president



James W. Schmutter, Ph.D.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Schmutter". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "J" and a cursive "Schmutter".

May 15, 2008, was a very special day in the history of Western Connecticut State University. On that spring morning in a ceremony on the steps of White Hall, Governor M. Jodi Rell announced approval of capital funding to begin work on planning and construction of our new Visual and Performing Arts Instructional Center. This \$97 million facility will be located on the Westside campus and will provide a home for the School of Visual and Performing Arts. The school, our newest academic unit and the only school of fine arts in the Connecticut State University System, combines the departments of art, music and music education, and theatre arts.

These academic areas, which capitalize on our location close to the cultural resources of the New York metropolitan region, are areas of historic strength at WCSU. Our faculty demonstrate their world-class talents in venues from Provincetown to Prague and from Manhattan to Pyongyang, North Korea. Our visual and performing arts students perform on stages in Edinburgh and Rome and exhibit their works in the galleries of Chelsea. And all enrich the cultural life of the campus and the Greater Danbury region through a marvelous annual array of exhibitions, shows, concerts and performances.

Every day, these students and their faculty mentors demonstrate the centrality at WCSU of creativity, one of the university's "four pillars" I identified in my inaugural address four years ago.

Yet, as this annual report demonstrates, creativity at our university extends far beyond

faculty and students in the fine arts. WCSU colleagues have in the past year inspired us through their creativity in many ways. They have developed new cost-saving approaches for campus-wide energy conservation, forged a promising new partnership with a leading association of African-American scholars, built awareness programs that have produced substantial reductions in student alcohol abuse, and launched a new Master of Arts in Teaching program to serve the state's secondary education needs. In all these endeavors and in many others, we at WestConn appreciate the accuracy of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's observation: "Happiness lies in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort."

This focus on creativity has never been more important for our university and society. In our classrooms, laboratories, libraries and playing fields, we are educating students for lives and careers filled with changes and challenges that we cannot begin to comprehend. In all fields of human endeavor, simple cookbook solutions based on past practices will not suffice. Infusing today's students, who are tomorrow's citizenry and workforce, with the knowledge, skills and aptitudes to respond creatively to change and challenge is a far more timely educational strategy for 2008. It is one we practice every day at this university, as we remind our students of the words of Benjamin Disraeli, "We are not creatures of circumstance; we are creators of circumstance."

I hope you will enjoy in the pages that follow the stories of achievement, accomplishment and creativity at Western Connecticut State University during the 2007-08 academic year.



"I have the greatest job in the world. Every day I am around energetic and talented young adults performing, discussing and studying music. It is a blessing!"

Dr. Kevin Jay Isaacs

Recipient, 2007 WCSU Teaching Excellence Award

Western Connecticut State University has long offered programs for teaching degrees and state teaching certification — helping to fill schools across the state with top-notch teachers. Now the university will offer a

Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) that gives nontraditional students the best of both worlds — a master's degree and a teaching certification — all in one program.

The M.A.T. is for candidates already holding a bachelor's degree who would like to become certified as teachers. The 42-credit M.A.T. program can be completed in 15 months and consists of three secondary (grades 7-12) education areas considered durational short-age areas — biology, math or Spanish.

WestConn undergraduate **Cheyrisse Boone** plans to enter the M.A.T. program after receiving her bachelor's in American Studies-History. After working as a paraprofessional in her daughter's elementary school, "I decided I really liked it," Boone said. Her plans were to take the certification-only program and then go on to complete a master's degree program. Then she heard about the M.A.T.

"This route seemed to be a quicker and easier route for me," said Boone, who juggles family, work and school responsibilities. "I was at the point of feeling overwhelmed and that's when I learned about the program. For the first time, I

could see light at the end of the tunnel."

WestConn graduates more than 17 percent of the state's elementary education teachers.

A vibrant cast of actors, vocalists and dancers performed the rock 'n' roll masterpiece "**Tommy**" to sold-out audiences in the spring.

Professor of Theatre Arts Sal Trapani, the production's director and producer, described "Tommy" as a story "about self-discovery and the perils of fame."

Liz Popiel said in designing the show's sets, she strove to create it "through Tommy's eyes."

"Everything is stark, empty and open," Popiel shared. "I used a lot of Plexiglas and metal and even a stage 'no-no': a shiny floor. When Tommy starts to 'wake up,' color is introduced very brightly through a close collaboration with the lighting designer and the costume designer. In my head, it's Salvador Dali meets Sigmund Freud."

Theatre arts students entered the **Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival**, Region I-New England competition at Fitchburg State College in Fitchburg, Mass.,

Left: A scene from WestConn's award-winning Spring 2008 production "The Cherry Orchard."

(This page) **Center:** Friar Michael Lasky joins students on a trip to the United Nations **Bottom:** The Geneva conference

(Facing page) **Top:** Students Kathryn Kupchik and Brittany Serke received the CSUS Barnard Awards **Right:** Student Jennifer Caraluzzi.



Photos: Adam Schwarz

and won an award for WestConn's production of "The Cherry Orchard," which was voted Best Associate Production of the Region. Trapani said WCSU students were able to obtain such a coveted prize competing against top-notch competition from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine because "we are extremely demanding, we have high standards, we don't accept excuses for missed rehearsals, missed classes or sub-par academic performance in any class. We are professionals and bring professionals to work with our students."

"The New York Showcase, the Edinburgh Festival experience, the Ecuador performance experience, the trips to the United States Institute for Theatre Technology, the New York field trips, our outreach in the community centers and the schools give our students an experience difficult to compete with."

WCSU, partnering with **SIAS International University** in central China, has been working with large, global companies for the past five semesters.

A 12-hour time difference and 7,000 miles between them make no difference for the Ancell School of Business marketing students. While dealing with customer-based issues from Danbury to China, they are preparing to enter



"We are extremely demanding, we have high standards, we don't accept excuses for missed rehearsals, missed classes or sub-par academic performance in any class. We are professionals and bring professionals to work with our students."
Theatre Arts Professor Sal Trapani



the global workplace with seamless evolution. **Dr. Karen Koza**, associate professor of marketing, said students in her spring 2008 marketing management class learned skills that would make them versatile and marketable in today's fast-paced globalized business world.

"My students worked with a leading global retail company doing business in the largest emerging market," said Koza, "delivering project outcomes that they are proud to present to our client company and include in their job portfolios. These real-time experiential projects with our client companies are an asset not only to our students, but to Connecticut's economy."

The 2008 Barnard Award recipients from WestConn have a lot in common. For starters, **Brittany Serke** and **Kathryn Kupchik** both grace the Dean's List on a regular basis, spend most of their free time studying and share what's left helping others. But their greatest commonality is crediting WCSU for contributing to their success.

"WestConn is really geared to bettering the students," said Kupchik, of Cromwell, who maintained a 3.73 GPA and received her bachelor's degree in music performance. "The music program is put together to push the students in the right direction.

Serke, of Southbury, graduated with three undergraduate degrees in Spanish, chemistry and biochemistry and a 3.92 GPA.

"There's a huge world of opportunity here," Serke said. "If you take it seriously and excel, you really do have a future."

A dozen students, with Assistant Professor of Social Work **Dr. Kathleen Hinga** and **Friar Michael Lasky**, witnessed history as the United Nations celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its regular session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland.

Two students accompanied Assistant Professor **Dr. Alba Skar**, chair of the world languages and literature department, on a three-week trip to Central America to produce new research on poetry by Guatemalan women.

Freshman **Caitlin Keeler** and sophomore **Karolina Wojteczko** tied for first place in the College I Division of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) state competition. Sophomore **Joshua Lara** took second place and sophomore **Anthony LaBruno** was awarded third. First-place winner of the College II Division for juniors and seniors was junior **Jennifer Caraluzzi**, with senior



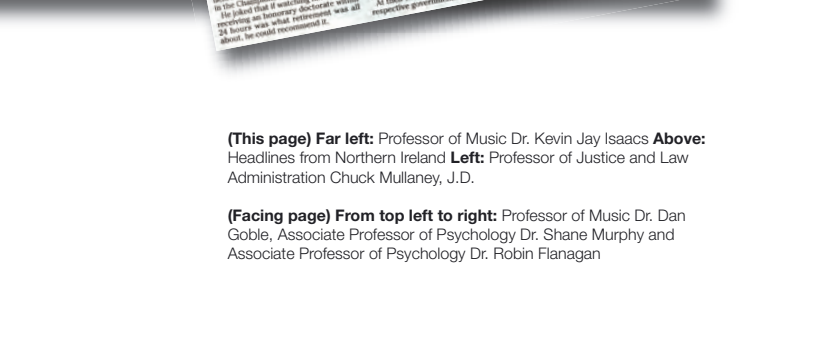
Victoria Chiera in second and senior **Sam Manandhar** was third. Honorable mention was given to senior **Giulia Sanford** and junior **Hernan Berisso**.

At some point in the academic career of every student who studies with Professor of Music **Dr. Kevin Jay Isaacs**, the student will hear Isaacs say, "You're not so great, even though the world has been giving you medals and telling you that everything you do is wonderful. It's just not always true."

But Isaacs says, the point is not to continually seek greatness for yourself, but to "understand how to recognize true greatness around you; then you can surround yourself and others with excellence more often."

His common-sense inspiration of students is one reason Isaacs was honored as the first recipient of the WCSU Teaching Excellence Award presented by Provost Dr. Linda Rinker.

"I am a naturally inquisitive person who enjoys facts and figures," Isaacs said. "Everyone with whom I come in contact I view as equally and insatiably curious as I am. This creates an endless stream of opportunities to share ideas and information. I live in a state of perpetual learning for myself. My family teases me that I can remember obscure facts, but can't re-



(This page) Far left: Professor of Music Dr. Kevin Jay Isaacs Above: Headlines from Northern Ireland Left: Professor of Justice and Law Administration Chuck Mullaney, J.D.

(Facing page) From top left to right: Professor of Music Dr. Dan Goble, Associate Professor of Psychology Dr. Shane Murphy and Associate Professor of Psychology Dr. Robin Flanagan

member directions around town. I have the greatest job in the world. Every day I am around energetic and talented young adults performing, discussing and studying music. It is a blessing!”

Justice and Law Administration Professor **Chuck Mullaney's** research on “The Troubles” in Northern Ireland, pursued during visits to Belfast over the past 12 years, earned him an invitation to attend the Mitchell Conference, a gathering at Queen's University to mark the 10th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement that formally ended the conflict.

“When I started going to Northern Ireland in 1996, the peace process was just getting off the ground,” Mullaney said. “There was still an overarching concern about the paramilitaries, especially the Irish Republican Army. In 2008, Northern Ireland has the local democracy it seems it always wanted. Now, the potholes are being repaired, the kids are being educated, and people in Belfast are shopping, going to restaurants, visiting art shows and hearing great music.”

Several times a year, **Dr. Dan Goble** takes a break from the classroom to perform on the saxophone with the New York Philharmonic — but none of those appearances could match



his February visit with the world-class orchestra to play in a history-making performance in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang.

Goble knew from the opening notes of U.S. composer George Gershwin's “An American in Paris” that they had brought a special gift to their audience at the East Pyongyang Grand Theater, and millions more who heard the concert on state-run North Korean radio and television broadcasts.

“It's no accident we were there with the orchestra to play this piece,” Goble said, given the strong influence of the American-rooted jazz genre in Gershwin's composition. “The majority of the people in this audience had never even heard a saxophone, so the use of the saxophone in this piece was very, very evocative. It was a way for the orchestra to portray the jazz genre in the best way they could in this setting.”

Two WestConn professors were honored by the Connecticut State University System Board of Trustees (BOT) with teaching and research awards.

Dr. Shane M. Murphy, associate professor of psychology, awarded a CSUS BOT Research Award, was recognized for his work in the psychology of sports participation and



achievement. His work includes developing assessment tools that relate psychological skills to human performance, contributions to the development of visualization techniques that enhance human performance, and the translation of research into accessible language to improve lifestyle behaviors and promote better health.

Dr. Robin C. Flanagan, associate professor of psychology, recipient of a CSUS BOT Teaching Award, was recognized as an engaging and effective educator who inspires and guides students to produce and present original research. She was hailed as a valued mentor for students who consider advanced studies, a contributor to programmatic improvements in her department, and a key member of numerous university-wide committees that enhance the educational process at the university.

Dr. Christopher Kukk's selection as a Fulbright Scholar teaching in Estonia during the 2007-08 academic year afforded the WestConn associate professor of political science a rare opportunity to learn first-hand about his cultural roots in a nation that emerged from the shadow of Soviet rule to regain its independence in 1991.

It is also his family's native land; 64 years ago,



Kukk's father and grandparents fled the Soviet-occupied Baltic state of Estonia to begin a remarkable voyage to freedom in America.

Kukk's Fulbright assignment at the University of Tartu, one of the Baltic region's elite academic institutions, enabled him to offer four courses and numerous guest lectures on subjects ranging from globalization and environmental policy to democratic institutions and economic reform. He advised his Estonian hosts on plans to build a new curriculum in political economy at the university, which boasts a venerable academic legacy dating back to its founding by King Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden in 1632.

"On so many different levels — my dad's and my grandparents' level, my own and my children's — this experience leaves me filled with wonder," Kukk said. "I went to Estonia with this sense of responsibility to a land that I've never seen, but I know is within me."



Dr. Harold Schramm, professor emeritus of Justice and Law Administration, participated in The Peter Jennings Project for Journalists and the Constitution, lending his legal expertise and guidance as students and career journalists took a series of cases from one side to the other — from gut reaction to a legal interpretation.

Contributed Photo



(This page) Left: Professor Emeritus of Justice and Law Administration Dr. Harry Schramm **Above:** Associate Professor of Political Science and Fulbright Scholar Dr. Christopher Kukk in Estonia

(Facing page) Center: Professor of Theatre Arts Frank Herbert (lower left) and WestConn theatre students with Gov. M. Jodi Rell. **Bottom:** Dean of the School of Visual and Performing Arts Dr. Carol Hawkes, Associate Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences Dr. Abbey Zink and Provost Dr. Linda Rinker applaud Rell's announcement

Connecticut Governor M. Jodi Rell came to WestConn in May to announce that \$12.1 million to fund the design of a **Fine and Performing Arts Instructional Center** on the university's Westside campus had been submitted to the state Bond Commission, which later approved the full funding.

"We want the young people who will study, learn and grow in the years to come to have the finest facilities to help them reach their goals and realize their dreams," Rell said, speaking before an appreciative crowd of faculty, staff and students.


The 169,000-square-foot instructional center is expected to include an 800-seat concert hall, a 500-seat proscenium theatre, a 200-seat recital hall, a 200-seat studio, an art gallery, classrooms, conference rooms, lab rooms, choral and orchestra rooms, 52 practice rooms, rehearsal rooms, a recording studio and office space for faculty and support staff.

This project is part of the 10-year, \$950 million Connecticut State University System "CSUS 2020" capital improvement program that had been forwarded to the Bond Commission, which approved the bond sale.



"WestConn is already viewed as a leader in the region's fine arts scene, and this building will further elevate the university's stature."
Governor M. Jodi Rell

To: Our Friends
From: President James W. Schmutter
Re: Creativity in **Community Engagement**



Every university strives to build strong “town-gown” relations with its neighbors. In the past year, WestConn has been more involved than ever before. When health agencies needed nurses to staff a simulated flu emergency clinic, they turned to WCSU nursing students. Hundreds of music lovers enjoyed a free afternoon of music, dance and theater at the Ives Family Fair held at the Charles Ives Center for the Arts on our Westside campus. And WestConn continues to lead the discussion on ways to improve education at all levels.



“We will ensure that the strategic plan defines this university and how we do our job educating students. It will guide us toward our goal of offering quality academic programs in the arts and professional fields on an arts and sciences foundation.”

President James W. Schmotter

More than two decades after **The Charles Ives Center for the Arts** was founded to honor the memory of Danbury native Charles Edward Ives, the popular venue on the Westside campus returned to its roots by hosting a free community-driven family event that paid tribute to the great composer as well as the diversity of the city from which he hailed.

Activities included multicultural and children’s performers on the main stage, satellite stages and roaming on the lawn. The celebration culminated with a performance by the Ives Festival Orchestra under the direction of WestConn Professor of Music **Dr. Fernando Jiménez**. The program included an eclectic sampling of music intended to showcase the Ives Festival Orchestra’s capabilities, from Aaron Copland’s “Fanfare for the Common Man” to Mozart’s Symphony No. 29 with Ives’ “Variation on America,” to George Gershwin’s “An American in Paris.”

WestConn graduate students **Monica Hill** and **Kristen Velsmid**, and a team of 30 undergraduate nursing students participated in an exercise to test preparedness for an outbreak of **pandemic influenza**.

The drill started in the early morning at Bethel Health Care. Volunteers simulated diagnoses

and emergency treatment of influenza cases. The number of cases was so large that traditional medical facilities would be overwhelmed. Activities included triage, transport, essential care and education at a mobile field hospital.

Danbury Hospital and several state and municipal agencies also were involved in the project.

Dr. Catherine Rice and **Jeanette Wigglesworth**, both associate professors of nursing, created a patient care response team that analyzed resources and managed the flow of patients.

WestConn was a host for **The Connecticut Film Festival**, which drew thousands to Danbury in the spring. A film by a WCSU professor and student videos were among the featured independent films shown at the festival.

President Schmotter hosted a meeting with community stakeholders who participated in the “Values & Vision” process that created WCSU’s **strategic plan**, to reveal the university’s new goals and to explain how the document is guiding all planning.

Hundreds of families gathered and enjoyed themselves at the Ives Family Fair





"We will ensure," Schmotter said, "that the strategic plan defines this university and how we do our job educating students. It will guide us toward our goal of offering quality academic programs in the arts and professional fields on an arts and sciences foundation."

Amy Chua, the provocative author who argues that diversity has helped the United States dominate the world, discussed the state of U.S. power, federal immigration policy and her own experience as a second-generation immigrant as the keynote speaker for the **President's Lecture Series**.

Chua's latest book, "Day of Empire: How Hyperpowers Rise to Global Dominance — and Why They Fall," examines the rare government that has amassed enough military, intellectual and cultural might to dominate the entire world. The author answered questions and signed copies of her books after her talk.

WestConn hosted the first in a series of four traditional, New England-style open town meetings designed by the Connecticut State University System to set in motion a statewide conversation on the subject **"Education Now. Prosperity Tomorrow. Growing Connecticut's future."** The goal was to engage policy makers and citizens to help set a course that will enhance the state's future.



(This page) Far left: Amy Chua Above: Pandemic Flu exercise Left: CSUS Education Now event

(Facing page) From left to right: Volleyball Coach Greg Poole, Men's Lacrosse Coach Jason Ouellet, Women's Soccer Coach Joe Mingachos and Women's Basketball Coach Kim Rybczyk

Led by coach **Joe Mingachos**, the Western Connecticut State University **Women's Soccer** team won the regular season Little East Conference (LEC) title with a 17-2-1 record.

A 1-0 win over Hamilton College in the Division III sectional finals at Williams College earned the team a berth in the Final Four of the National Collegiate Athletic Association Women's Soccer Championships in Orlando, Fla.

The Colonials lost 3-0 to eventual champion Wheaton College of Illinois, but the contest marked the first time any WestConn team had advanced to the NCAA semifinals. Mingachos was named LEC Coach of the Year.

Volleyball coach **Greg Poole**, Women's Basketball coach **Kim Rybczyk**, and Men's Lacrosse coach **Jason Ouellet** were also named LEC Coach of the Year in their respective sports.

The **Women's Softball** team played in the regionals of the NCAA Tournament.

Men's Lacrosse won its first LEC championship and advanced to the NCAA Tournament.

Campus radio station **WXCI** celebrated its 35th anniversary with a gathering of former disc jockeys and other personalities.



WXCI, started in 1973, is a student-run station located on the Midtown campus. It remains the second largest college radio station in Connecticut. The station, at 91.7 FM, features a wide array of music genres and on the weekends broadcasts WCSU sports events, including football, basketball and hockey games.

WestConn students participating in the **Wx Challenge**, a nationwide weather forecasting

competition, achieved a strong top-10 performance in a field of 50 universities and colleges ranked in the 2007 fall semester.

The fall 2007 Wx Challenge attracted weather forecast submissions from more than 1,300 college students nationwide. Nine WestConn students posted a cumulative team score surpassing results for 41 public and private universities across the United States, many with undergraduate enrollments several times larger than WCSU.

The Wx Challenge requires each participating student to forecast maximum and minimum temperatures, precipitation and maximum wind speeds for selected cities.

The **CHOICES** office, WestConn's alcohol and substance abuse prevention program, showed real progress in creating awareness about the dangers of alcohol abuse on campus. The university saw a 28 percent decrease in the number of students receiving alcohol assessments and screenings last year.

WCSU President James W. Schmotter approved grants from the **President's Initiatives Fund** totaling \$116,000 to faculty, students and staff for projects that advance the "learning opportunities that differences can create." These special projects help further one of the university's core competencies to educate students for global realities.

The projects include: lecture and music series, a program to learn about human conditions through the lens of the United Nations, development of a public television series that will focus on differences, demonstrating to students the diversity in the Danbury community by sampling ethnic foods at local eateries, and a one-on-one mathematics mentoring project with local school children.



(This page) Far left: Actors Alexis Bledel and Michael Rady during filming of "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2" Above: Jazz concert Left: WCSU Police Sgt. Rick Montefusco works with a student during an Alcohol Awareness Week event



(Facing page) Top: Biology professor Dr. Tom Lonergan Center: Internship at the Capito in Hartford Right: A Master of Fine Arts student works on his self portrait in his studio Bottom: Emergency Notification System program was initiated on campus



As the result of legislation signed by Gov. M. Jodi Rell that makes it financially advantageous for motion picture studios to film in Connecticut, a production company filmed scenes for **“The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2”** on WestConn’s Midtown campus.

With the cooperation of many departments and offices, scenes involving actress Alexis Bledel were shot for several days on the Quadrangle and in the third-floor art studios in White Hall, one of the original buildings on the Midtown campus.

During a visit to India led by Provost and Academic Vice President Dr. Linda Rinker, WestConn signed agreements with three institutions of higher education — **Reva Group of Educational Institutions in Bangalore, Mahendra Educational Trust in Salem, and Loyola College in Chennai** — that are expected to lead to faculty and student exchanges as well as other forms of cooperation.

Some 2,900 undergraduate and graduate students, alumni, faculty and staff visited the **Career Development Center** for services, a 12 percent increase over the previous year.

Students in the **Master of Fine Arts in Visual Arts** program visit gallery and museum shows every month, enriching their classroom experiences.

In response to gun violence at universities across the country, WestConn — in coordination with the Connecticut State University System — installed an electronic **notification system** that alerts students, faculty and staff to emergencies and weather-related closures of the campuses. Messages can be sent out via phone calls, text messaging and e-mail. Family members can be included in the notification network.





The system improves communication to the campus community which is offered protection by the WCSU Police Department and many support organizations, such as the Counseling Center, the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention program, the Greater Danbury Women's Center campus office and others.

Major financial support for the **Educational Achievement & Access Program**, included a five-year grant of \$250,000 and a four-year grant of \$800,000 for the Upward Bound Program.

Deborah Cohen joined the university as coordinator of the **Office of AccessAbility Services**. Some of the office's new initiatives include: hiring a writing specialist to assist students, creation of an assistive technology lab room in Haas Library, placement of assistive technology computers in the Westside Campus Computer Lab and implementation of an Americans with Disabilities Act audit of campus facilities.

In May, a group of 15 teachers, administrators and principals became the first graduates to earn a WCSU **Doctorate of Education in Instructional Leadership**.



(This page) Far left: Reading of an Ed.D. dissertation Above: Graduates at the Graduate Commencement ceremony Left: President Schmotter with Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, who addressed the graduates

(Facing page) Left: Student graduates with undergraduate degree Right: Farooq Kathwari, chairman, president and CEO of Ethan Allen, Inc., delivered the address at undergraduate commencement



"My view of education was enriched and expanded," said Ed.D. graduate Matt LaBanca, a science teacher and chair of the science department at Oxford High School. "The beauty of it was that I feel I can offer the profession more now than I could have four years ago in terms of being able to influence teachers and the teaching enterprise."

The doctoral candidates were among 250 graduate students to earn their degrees in 2008. For the second year, the university offered a separate graduate commencement ceremony. Keynote speaker Richard Blumenthal, the Connecticut attorney general, spoke to students about leadership and cited examples from among the graduates.

At the undergraduate ceremony, Farooq Kathwari, chairman, president and CEO of Ethan Allen Interiors Inc., told the graduates that "the new world has brought us many opportunities and also the potential for many conflicts. Globalization has raised the expectations of people all around the world — and if the expectations are not reasonably met, we will have more conflicts. And today, conflicts even in faraway places impact our lives here at home." Kathwari, who was recognized by the U.S. government with the 2007 Outstanding American by Choice Award, was given a WCSU Doctorate of Humane Letters, honoris causa.



To: Our Friends
From: President James W. Schmutter
Re: Creativity in **Embracing Diversity**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JWS", is positioned to the right of the email header text.

As Director of Multicultural Affairs Bryan Samuel says an institution cannot be passive about diversity. That is why he has been reaching out to the local community and to diverse national organizations. We are showing everyone the best of WestConn and how the university can work with them. The speakers who came to campus over the past year through our new Diversity Lecture Series have started discussions about who we are as Americans and where we are going. That is a discussion we will continue, with our students, our faculty and our community.



“If the Supreme Court decision was the vehicle of change in our American educational system, then the Little Rock Nine could very well be considered the designated drivers.”

Carlotta Walls LaNier,
Member, Little Rock Nine

As part of an effort to increase the number of underrepresented populations graduating with four-year degrees, WestConn met with current **Latino students** and members of the local community who could speak authentically about how the university should proceed.

“Our effectiveness in educating students from underrepresented groups should be measured by their academic success, not just by access to our curriculum,” said President Schmotter. “We aim to partner even more purposefully with local community organizations to achieve this goal.”

WCSU defined initiatives to increase access, improve retention and support academic success for its Latino/Hispanic student cohort, primarily first-generation students from low-income backgrounds. **Project IMPACT** (Improving Minority Paths to Achievement through Community Transformation) takes a student-focused approach to broad-based community transformation with a project team that includes academic and student life campus leaders, and representatives from local schools and community organizations.

The initiative is being launched at a time when college retention is a major higher education issue, especially for low-income students and students of color who are now the fastest growing segments of New England’s population.

To energize the affirmative action process during faculty searches, **Dr. Bryan Samuel**, director of multicultural affairs, is taking a new approach.

Instead of relying only on advertising in publications aimed at minorities who might be looking for work, Samuel and WCSU are partnering with multicultural organizations including a group of African American women in higher education, the **Sisters of the Academy (SOTA)**.

While the effort does not involve explicit offers for open faculty positions, Samuel’s theory is that as members become familiar with WestConn, many will apply for positions as they become available.

SOTA’s April symposium brought nearly 100 African American doctoral recipients and candidates to campus for the group’s inaugural research symposium. Dr. David G. Carter, chancellor of the Connecticut State University System, was the keynote speaker at the three-day event.

The SOTA mission is to create an educational network of black women in higher education in order to foster success in the areas of teaching, scholarly inquiry and service to the community; to facilitate collaborative scholarship among black women in higher education; and to enhance members’ professional development.

Left: Student taking part in an immigration forum held on campus
Right: Dr. Bryan Samuel, director of multicultural affairs, alongside Connecticut State University Chancellor Dr. David G. Carter (left), in a conversations with members of the Sisters of the Academy at an event held on campus.



"I reached out to them because it was a good idea," said Samuel. "I think of it as ripples in a pond that spread out from the center. I want to give them an opportunity to increase their knowledge about WCSU. If we show them information about our institution, you're bound to see some return to our institution. The return might not be immediate. But it's a ripple."

With Hispanic/Latino students representing more than 6 percent of WCSU's total enrollment, the university joined the **Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)**. Established in 1986 with a founding membership of 18 institutions, HACU represents more than 450 colleges and universities committed to Hispanic higher education in the United States, Puerto Rico, Latin America, Spain and Portugal. Hispanic students benefit from HACU through internships, scholarships, college retention and advancement programs, pre-collegiate support and career development opportunities and programs.

Carlotta Walls LaNier, one of the original "Little Rock Nine" who integrated Little Rock High School in Arkansas, attracted a large audience to Ives Concert Hall when she spoke in honor of Martin Luther King Day. "If the Supreme Court decision was the vehicle of change in our American educational system," LaNier said, "then the Little Rock Nine could very well be considered the designated drivers."



(This page) Above: Author Harriet Washington Left: President Schmotter speaks with Carlotta Walls LaNier

(Facing page) Top: Protestant Chaplain Mark Horton sits alongside a student as she asks a question at the American Democracy Project event.

Author and bioethicist **Harriet Washington** discussed her award-winning book “Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present” as one of several events in celebration of Black History Month. Washington’s book profiles the medical atrocities

perpetrated upon black citizens from the slavery era to the more recent U.S. Public Health Service’s syphilis experiments in Tuskegee, Ala.

WCSU was selected as one of 15 universities

in the country to participate in a test of Deliberative Polling sponsored by the **American Democracy Project**, a program of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

About two dozen students took part in the first Deliberative Polling experiment, a process in which participants are questioned about their views on a specific subject before engaging in a discussion led by a moderator with knowledge of the subject. After the discussion and presentation of facts, participants are polled again and the results are compared.

“It was fascinating to work with people as they dealt with their ideas, their prejudices and their aspirations, to see whether we could bring them together at the end of the day to find potential solutions,” said Mark Horton, chaplain of the university’s Christian Ministry and chairman of the committee that guides the American Democracy Project on campus.

“I want to give them an opportunity to increase their knowledge about WCSU. If we show them information about our institution, you’re bound to see some return to our institution.”

Dr. Bryan Samuel,
Director, Multicultural Affairs



To: Our Friends
From: President James W. Schmutter
Re: Creativity in **University Advancement**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JWS", positioned to the right of the header text.

Support of the university manifests itself in many ways, not only through gifts of money, but also through donations of time and specialized knowledge by hundreds of graduates and friends. All gifts benefit students. In these pages you will hear from donors who believe in WestConn as well as from students who are able to study here — and to enjoy enriching academic experiences, both on campus and around the world — because of the generosity of others.



“In his quest for knowledge, his hard work and his dedication, David Strout was an obvious choice for this year’s President’s Award.”

President James W. Schmutter

David Strout could have found many reasons to give up on his quest for a college education at WestConn, from his difficulties in high school to his mother’s illness.

But Strout, of New Milford, is no quitter — and this year the university has recognized the WestConn senior for his determination, tenacity and perfect academic record as the recipient of the WCSU President’s Award. In May 2009, he expects to cap his journey at WestConn when he graduates with a bachelor’s degree in professional writing, with a creative writing option.

“In his quest for knowledge, his hard work and his dedication, David Strout was an obvious choice for this year’s President’s Award,” said President Schmutter. “In addition, his experience at WCSU epitomizes the access to educational opportunity that this public university has always afforded. We open many doors, and some students — like David — literally burst through them to achieve truly marvelous things.”

Strout’s remarkable path to the President’s Award has an improbable beginning, when, after struggling in high school, he quit in his junior year and found a full-time job in construction. A short time later, Strout took a General Educational Development (GED) test and passed with a nearly perfect score.

Then he thought about WestConn, where he filled out an application and handed in letters of recommendation. In light of his less-than-perfect academic career, Strout was offered a probationary semester, which didn’t offer financial aid.

“Since I couldn’t get financial aid, that meant going to school was no longer on the table,” Strout said. Rather than give up, Strout persisted to tell university officials that he would make an ideal student and was given a chance in the fall of 2005 as a full-time student. He earned a 4.0 grade-point average in his first semester.

But the struggles for Strout weren’t over. His mother suffered a series of layoffs from her professional jobs and then was diagnosed with cancer. Strout worked several jobs while attending classes to help her pay bills. In early 2006 his mom — his biggest supporter — became more ill and was in and out of the hospital a lot. She died that April.

Strout said he had two weeks to move out of the apartment he shared with his mother. He wound up sleeping on friends’ sofas and moving around a lot. He once again thought about quitting school to find a full-time job.

Then he thought about his mom. “She would have been so unhappy to know that,” he said. If



"If I could do anything for her, it would be to not let that go, to stay in school."

After a brief extension on his final exams, Strout finished the spring semester before the fall semester started. Since then he has received full scholarships to attend school.

"I couldn't be here without financial aid," Strout said. He said the President's Award was the crowning glory. "I look at the President's Award as 'You made it with flying colors.' I got everything I aimed for and a 4.0. The capstone on all that has been the President's Award."

Strout said his experience at WestConn has changed his life. He's become a better writer and more informed about what's going on in the world from Iraq to the rain forests of South America. And he's met dedicated people who "value the college experience."

"That academic atmosphere is one of my favorite places to be," said Strout. He said the professors at WestConn helped him to become who he is today. "You'll get back everything you put into it. The professors are there for the students and really care about teaching. You have so much opportunity to make the most out of your experience here."

WestConn honored longtime professor **Dr. Mel Goldstein** at the Westside Campus

Center ballroom with the establishment of a scholarship for meteorology students.

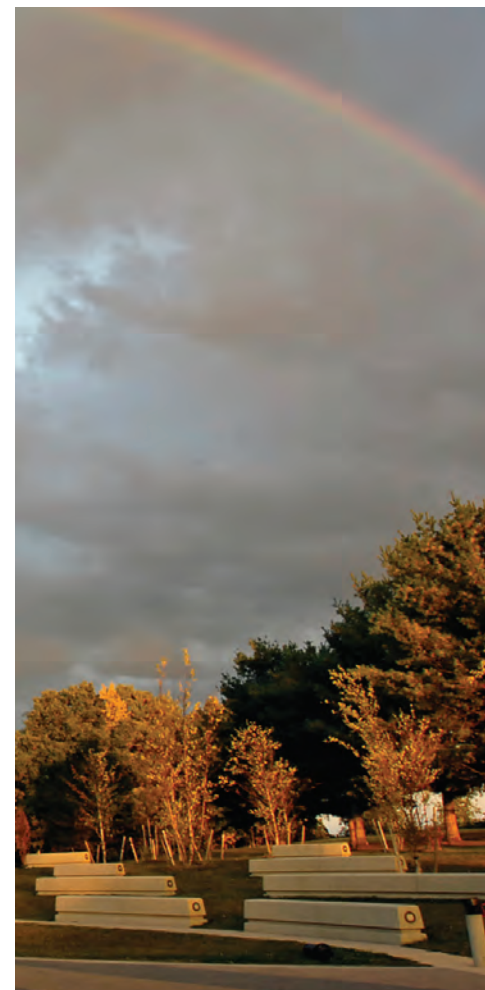
J.J. DePasqua, a junior meteorology student, was the recipient of the first **Dr. Mel Goldstein Scholarship**.

Goldstein taught at WestConn for 27 years and has been chief meteorologist at WTNH since 1986. He also has inspired countless people as a survivor of multiple myeloma, a type of bone cancer.

"Dr. Mel is a treasure to this community, to WestConn and to the state of Connecticut," said Dr. G. Koryoe Anim-Wright, vice president for Institutional Advancement. "His many years in meteorology have made him a household name in Connecticut and beyond. Finding a way to appropriately say thank you is not easy, but we hope this event conveyed, in a small way, to Mel and his family the love, respect and admiration the university and the community at large have for him and his work."

Goldstein earned a master's in meteorology at Penn State University and his Ph.D. from New York University.

Dr. Mel, as he was known thereafter, always intended to teach. He fulfilled his goal when he joined the WestConn faculty in 1970 and accomplished much during his time at the university. Goldstein founded the first



(This page) Top: Longtime professor Dr. Mel Goldstein **Above:** Rare double rainbow stretches across the Westside Campus Center on the evening of the Dr. Mel Goldstein Scholarship Reception.

(Facing page) Top: Caitlin Clarkson and Dr. G. Koryoe Anim-Wright greet Isabelle Farrington at the 2008 University Ball **Left:** The Caraluzzis gather for a family photo at the 2008 University Ball **Right:** Harold C. Wibling, President of the WSCU Foundation Board of Directors



university Weather Center in New England at WestConn, and pushed for creation of Connecticut's first Bachelor of Arts in Meteorology at WCSU.

The **2008 University Ball** honored Tony and Roberta Caraluzzi for their family's contributions to the university and Greater Danbury communities. The ball's theme, "Escape to Tuscany," highlighted an evening program of fine dining, dancing and a silent auction to raise academic enrichment and scholarship funds for the university.

The WestConn Society honored **Harold C. Wibling**, president of the 2007-08 WCSU Foundation Board of Directors and president and chief executive officer of the Savings Bank of Danbury, with the Distinguished Community Service Award at a March ceremony.

The **New England Chapter of the Association of Energy Engineers** recognized WestConn for its innovative program to monitor energy use and identify opportunities for improved energy efficiency in 14 buildings on the university's Midtown and Westside campuses.

The university has saved more than \$123,000 in natural gas and power costs since putting the EnerNOC system in place in 2007. By

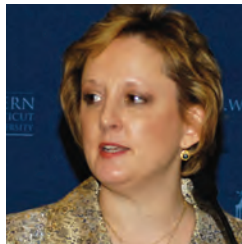


implementing conservation and automation improvements and monitoring electric use in 14 buildings, the university has decreased electric consumption by 6.2 percent. And a recycling program has reduced trash disposal by about 38 percent.

President Schmotter signed the **American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment**, pledging to take significant steps to address global warming by reducing the university's greenhouse gas emissions and ultimately reach climate neutrality.

Lucy Voves, founder and president of Church Hill Classics in Monroe, was honored as the first winner of the Macricostas Family Foundation Entrepreneur of the Year award, a program funded through the WCSU Foundation.

"I love being an entrepreneur and I am passionate about my business," Voves said as she accepted the award. "In my mind, there is nothing better than having the opportunity to do something you enjoy and build a great team of people as part of a fast-growing company. I am excited to begin working with the students and administration of the Ansell School of Business and I hope to be a source of inspiration and encouragement."



(This page) Above: Donor Marilyn Glen Left: Lucy Voves

(Facing page) Top: Steve Greenberg and his mother, Anne Greenberg Left: Khalda Logan-Eaton



“My pride in Danbury, being a lifelong resident, and having roots here that go back to my grandfather, is the impetus for my planned-giving decision.”

Marilynn Glen

When **Marilynn Glen** decides to get involved, she throws herself into the project with complete devotion. Luckily for WCSU, the university is the recipient of some of Glen’s enthusiasm.

“My pet project is theatre arts,” Glen said. “Truly this is such an enjoyable experience for anyone who comes here. It is nothing short of excellent. It’s one of the programs I feel wedded to. It never ceases to amaze me all the fine talent, the cultural activities people can avail themselves of.”

In discussing WestConn’s planned giving program with Dr. G. Koryoe Anim-Wright, vice president for Institutional Advancement, Glen decided to write a bequest to the university into her will.

Glen wants to ensure some of her money goes to an institution she has grown to love.

“My pride in Danbury, being a lifelong resident, and having roots here that go back to my grandfather, is the impetus for my planned-giving decision.” Glen said. “I consider myself quite fortunate that I have the opportunity to do estate planning that provides for institu-

tions like WestConn that have made a tremendous impact on the community.”

Khalda Logan-Eaton was an associate professor of communication, an alumna and a principal dancer with the nicholasleichter-dance company in New York who also mentored the WCSU Dance Team. When Logan-Eaton succumbed to cancer at 39, her husband, Michael, was determined to find a way to share a piece of his wife’s life with those who loved her and those who didn’t even know her. The annual Khalda Logan Inspiration Scholarship is awarded to a WestConn student who “embodies the compassion, spirit and drive that Professor Khalda Logan-Eaton displayed throughout her life.”

WestConn offered the first **Steven D. Neuwirth Annual Arts and Science Lecture** in October 2007 with a discussion about how religious pluralism can become the foundation for achieving lasting peace at the community and global levels.

The series was created to memorialize the WestConn professor of English and specialist

in Early American literature and history who died in February 2004. Neuwirth helped to establish the university’s Honors Program and served as its first director; he also contributed significantly to the organization of a multidisciplinary American Studies curriculum at WestConn. Jenan Mohajir and Noah Silverman, members of the Chicago-based Interfaith Youth Core, presented the first lecture.

Steve Greenberg became involved with WestConn as it prepared its strategic plan.

“I got to know the university’s functions and the vision for the university through the strategic plan process, especially the future construction of the Visual and Performing Arts Instructional Center,” Greenberg said. He wanted to benefit WestConn in other ways and decided on an arts donation.

For a Mother’s Day gift, he made a donation in his mother’s name to establish a fund that will be used to buy supplies for art students. The donation reflects Anne Greenberg’s lifelong career as an artist in several forms.

Anim-Wright noted that a donation in honor of a loved one is a way to ensure a legacy.

“I imagine that Mrs. Greenberg’s good work and dedication to art inspired Steve in many ways,” Anim-Wright said. “Now Steve has helped to inspire WestConn art students into the future. It seems like the perfect gift.”



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 John & Alicia '82 Snakard
 Maurice & Caren '64 Snook
 Mark Snyder
 Ronald & Julie '86 Sorcek
 Richard '89 & Giorgia Stabile
 Alex Standish
 Robert & Barbara Stellner
 Heather Stone '94
 Douglas & Irene '88 Stukshis
 Richard & Bernadette '84 Stypula
 James Sweeney
 George & Maria Sweetin
 Robert & Barbara '64 Talarico
 Joan Taylor
 Taylored Business Solutions
 Jack & Suzanne Testani
 The McGraw-Hill Cos.
 The Northrop Grumman Litton
 Foundation
 The Wachovia Foundation
 D.N. Thold
 Guido Tino '64
 Michael '87 & Jodi '87 Tobin
 Joseph '70 & Ann Tomaino
 Vincent Tomkalski '67
 Bruce Travis
 Geoffrey '89 & Michelle Tremont

Albert Trimpert '80
 United Technologies
 Stephen Vale '78
 Lori Verderame
 Verizon Foundation
 Axel Von Metzsch
 David & Helen '55 Wahlstrom
 Don Westergren
 David & Shannon '93 Whelan
 Whirlpool Corp.
 Josiane Whitson '93
 Anna May Wiede '77
 Fritz Wieting '51
 Margaret Williams '87
 Donald Wilson '64
 James & Mary Ann Wohlever
 James '81 & Susan Wolf
 Kathleen Yomazzo
 Chad Yonker
 David & Lee Zackrisson
 John '61 & Brenda '61 Zamar
 Dennis & Anna '79 Zancan
 Harry & Jennifer Zdziarski
 Dawn Zuccarelli '87

Emeriti Club

Barbara Barnwell
 David Brooks
 Irene H. Conley
 Michael G. Erlich
 Linda L. Gerber
 Joan C. Harrison-Boughton
 Catherine A. Hickey-Williams
 John J. Jakabauski
 Herbert F. Janick
 Kalpataru Kanungo
 Delmore Kinney
 Kathleen E. Mahoney
 Hugh R. McCarney
 Robert J. Merrer
 Helen E. Mizer
 Paul F. Mulligan
 Eugenia Ostopchuk
 James A. Pegolotti
 Richard Reimold
 Phyllis G. Ross
 Jack Rudner
 Harold B. Schramm
 Mary L. Sergi
 Neil E. Wagner
 John N. Wallace

James R. Wohlever

Matching Gift Companies

Barnes Group Foundation Inc.
Business & Legal Reports Inc.
Entergy Corp.
GE Foundation
Goodrich Corp.
IBM Matching Grants Program
MasterCard International
Merrill Lynch & Co. Foundation Inc.
National Semiconductor
Pitney Bowes
The McGraw-Hill Cos.
The Northrop Grumman Litton Foundation
The Wachovia Foundation
United Technologies
Verizon Foundation

Gifts In Kind

University Ball

Adam Broderick Salon & Spa
Adrienne Fine American Dining
Bob Alberetti
Arthur Murray Dance
Artworks Inc.
Bailey's Backyard Café
Beardsley Zoo
Beautiful Faces-Westport
Bluefish
Boston Billiard Club
Lynn Bricker
Bridgewater Chocolate
Brookfield Craft Center
Brooklyn Botanic Garden
Café on the Green
Cake Haven
Capiello
Caraluzzi Family
Carbone's-Hartford
Chris Durante Framing Studio
Chuck's Steak House
Costco
Virginia Crowley
Tom & Lois Crucitti
Connecticut Children's Museum
Danbury Maron Hotel
Durant's Tents & Events
Abe Echevarria

Emerson Resort & Spa
Exhale Spa
F&M Electric
Famous Pizza
Marilynn Glen
Dan & Patty Goble
Noreen Grice
Harney & Sons Tea Co.
Hawley Contruction Corp.
Frank & Nancy Herbert
Hollandia
Interlaken Inn
Ives Concert Park
JetBlue Airways
Joe's Salon & Spa
John Kane Photography
JR Bus Tours
Jurg Lanzrien
Le Chateau
Lia Schorr
Lillian August
Long Wharf Theater
Maritime Aquarium
Mike's Auto Salon
Mitchell Oil
Mobil 1
Mohawk Mountain
Molten Java
Mystic Aquarium
New Britain Rock Cats
New Victory Theater
Plonia Nixon
Joann Paiva-Borduas DDS
Palace Theater
Party Depot
Petals
Joanne Peyser
Pilot Pen Tennis Tournament
Ricci's Hair Salon
Richter Park Golf Club
Ridgefield Playhouse
Ritz Carlton
Robert J. Reby & Co. Inc.
Rue de Sean
Safilo USA
Joseph Shaboo
Sheraton Danbury Hotel
Shubert Theater
Some Things Fishy
Soup 2 Nutz
Stamford Center for the Arts

Stamford Symphony Orchestra
Stepping Stones Museum for Children
Peggy H. Stewart
Mounira Stott
Take Time Relaxation
The Gift Cottage
The Silo at Hunt Hill Farm
Thomaston Opera House
Two Steps Downtown Grill
Tyler Hord NY Collection
US Tennis Association
Robert & Linda Vaden-Goad
Cathy Vanaria
Vespa of Ridgefield
Walmart
Warner Theater
WCSU Alumni Association
WCSU Bookstore
WCSU Music Department
WCSU Office of Alumni Relations
Westport Country Playhouse
Nancy White Cassidy
World Yacht

Wine Tasting

A New Beginning Salon & Day Spa
Adam Broderick Salon & Spa
Jen Caraluzzi
Dental Associates
Dubl Twister Ice Cream Shop
George Kain
Luc's Restaurant
Mohegan Sun
Nutmeg Discount Liquors
Old Heidelberg German Restaurant
Plain Jane's Restaurant
Restore Spa
Roger Sherman Inn
Slocam & Son
Southwest Café
The Opera Café
WCSU Office of Finance & Administration
WCSU Office of Institutional Advancement
White Silo Winery

Golf Outing

Coca-Cola
Crystal Rock
Golf Digest
Liberty Mutual

Other

Geoffrey Drummond
Mike Marques Photography
Lisa Peck
Eugene Waluschka

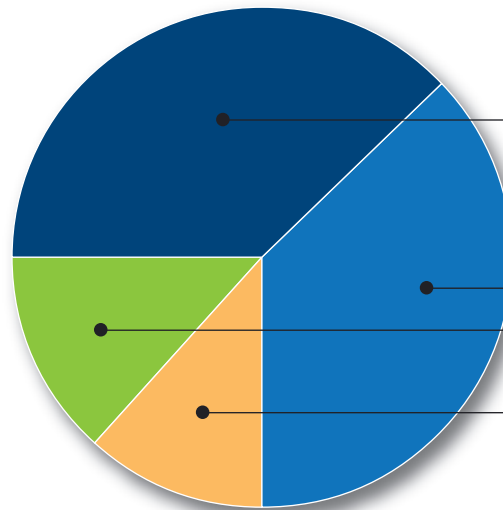


A new initiative, **The Hancock Student Leadership Program**, (HSLP) is designed to acknowledge, promote and foster diverse student leadership on campus. From learning fiscal and civic responsibility to mentoring and tutoring peers, students at WestConn are preparing to become leaders of tomorrow.

"The students we've selected this year are the very best WestConn has to offer," said Professor of Social Sciences Dr. R. Averell Manes. "These students were selected from among our top students across the university and are engaged and excelling not just academically, but as part of the campus community as well."

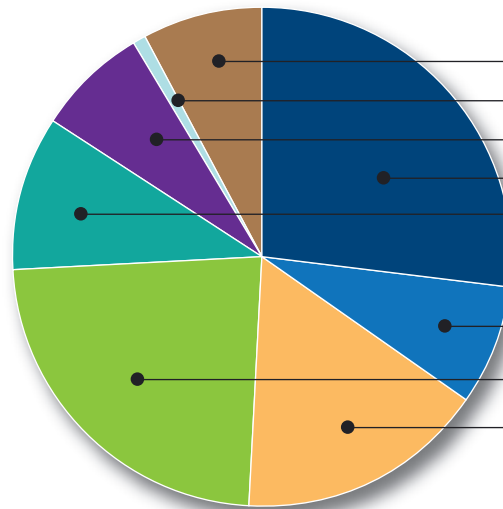
The HSLP is a joint program offered by the Divisions of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs at WCSU and is partially funded by the Scholarship Fund created with donations from W. Jason and Ellen M. Hancock.

financial summary



revenues

State Appropriation	\$42.3M (38.0%)
Tuition & Fees	\$41.4M (37.2%)
Auxiliary Enterprises	\$12.9M (11.7%)
All Other Revenues	\$14.6M (13.1%)
<hr/>	
Total Revenues	\$111.2M (100.0%)



expenses

Student Financial Aid	\$8.5M (7.7%)
Other	\$1.0M (0.9%)
Auxiliary Expenses	\$8.0M (7.2%)
Instruction	\$30.2M (27.2%)
Student Services	\$11.1M (10.0%)
<hr/>	
Academic Support	\$8.6M (7.7%)
Operations	\$25.7M (23.1%)
Institutional Support	\$18.0M (16.2%)
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Total Expenses	\$111.1M (100.0%)



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