WestConn works with area communities to protect Candlewood Lake as region’s largest fresh-water resource

From the shores of Candlewood Lake to the laboratories and greenhouses of the Science Building at Western Connecticut State University, WestConn faculty and students are having an important and growing impact in preserving Connecticut’s largest lake — and the greater Danbury area’s primary fresh-water resource — through their deepening research and instructional collaboration with a diverse array of public and private sector partners.

For Dr. Thomas Lonergan, professor and chair of the biological and environmental sciences department, decaying Eurasian watermilfoil roots observed and measured this summer by student researchers in Science Building greenhouse tanks of lake water offered the promise of answering critical questions about how to control and reverse proliferation of the pest weed each summer off Candlewood’s shoreline.

For Andrew Oguma, a 2009 WestConn graduate now preparing to pursue advanced degree studies, Candlewood Lake became his field laboratory during his senior year as he completed a series of snorkel dives at the lake’s north end to monitor the progress of newly introduced populations of a type of weevil known to damage and potentially destroy milfoil at sufficiently high levels of infestation.

For Dr. Theodora Pinou, associate professor of biological and environmental sciences, Project Clear — a program that brings together high school students from five local districts to study fresh-water ecology and conservation at Candlewood Lake and classroom labs at WestConn — has laid the groundwork to build a closer relationship between the university and area schools that ultimately could inspire and educate a new generation of scientists.

For Larry Marsicano, executive director of the Candlewood Lake Authority (CLA), these and other signs of WestConn’s expanding research and instructional role in exploring the fresh-water ecology of the 5,420-acre manmade hydroelectric power reservoir represent an invaluable scientific and public policy planning resource for the CLA, Candlewood owner FirstLight Power Resources, and the municipal governments of shoreline communities.

"Having the university involved is an extremely important component in achieving well-informed and effective natural resource management in this area," Marsicano observed. "They have the tools, the knowledge and the commitment to help us make decisions to protect one of the state’s most important natural assets.”

To read the entire article and learn more about this project, visit wcsu.edu/candlewood.
Conference asks: is it easy being green?

Melissa (Missy) Gluckmann, WCSU international services coordinator, saw an opportunity. She would offer to host the 2009 Connecticut State University (CSU) International Education Conference at WestConn. And she would make it so relevant and interesting that it had to be successful.

It was a big task for Gluckmann, who is the university’s first full-time — and lone — occupant of the International Services office. Today, Gluckmann admitted to letting a doubt or two seep into her consciousness every so often, but she quickly pushed them aside. The Oct. 16 conference — which offered a “green” theme, with all the opportunities that environmental consciousness offers students — was a success.

“It was for students who aren’t sure why they should care about where their food comes from, or where their water bottle ends up if they don’t recycle, or what kind of weather patterns are occurring across the world and why flooding is happening in some parts that never flooded before,” Gluckmann said.

“I wanted the future Doras, Gruyes and Philbricks (Dr. Dora Pinou and Dr. Ruth Gruye, both associate professors of biological and environmental sciences; and Dr. Thomas Philbrick, CSU professor of biological and environmental sciences) and people who think they might want to be policy makers to come to this. But this was not just for students who have a science background. It was discussed in ways that non-scientists can understand, too.”

The conference also emphasized the importance of learning languages other than English as a way to increase one’s chances of success in an international setting.

“I wanted it to be an event that could propel a student’s career and help them realize the career opportunities are not limited to the country you’re in,” Gluckmann said. “I wanted them to see the CONTINUED ON PAGE 8...
WestConn students urged to participate in 2010 Census

By Robin DeMerell

It’s important to be counted — that’s why students at WestConn are being urged to participate in Census 2010. The initiative was announced at a press conference with city officials on September 29 at Danbury’s City Hall.

“WestConn, along with other campuses in the state, will be working hard to encourage all students, but especially our residential students, to complete census forms in April,” said WCSU Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Walter Bernstein. “Those students living on campus will be counted as Danbury residents for the purpose of this census count.”

A committee designed to organize events at WestConn will begin publicizing the census at the end of January, when the spring semester begins. Events will include activities, entertainment and give-a-ways to students.

“As part of our involvement, we have filed a grant with the Census Bureau for funding to allow us to support formal programs on campus in the spring alerting students that the census is important to them,” Bernstein said. “Even if we do not get these grant monies, we will still be mounting several information programs and getting out the word to all of our students.”

There are more than 1,500 students who live on WestConn’s two campuses and they all will be counted as Danbury residents if they fill out a form in April.

“That’s good for Danbury, because it allows us to increase representation at the state level,” Bernstein said. “The students have to see the value of being part of a community. It’s a civic responsibility students have to fill out the form. We’re big on this and we’re going to support the city in this effort.”

Students in a political science class conducted by Associate Professor of Political Science Dr. Christopher Kukk interact with students in Geneva, Switzerland, via Skype technology.

By Robin DeMerell

WestConn is making the world a smaller, and perhaps better, place by having students use technology that gives them access to people across the globe — giving credence to the university motto “Stay Near, Go Far.”

In September, a group of 300 undergraduate writing students — learning about the history of Liberia and its current conditions — participated in a videoconference with Dennis Hynes of the Academy of Educational Development (AED), a nonprofit organization promoting human and social development worldwide.

The videoconference was led by Professor of Writing, Linguistics & Creative Process Dr. Edward Hagan and Professor of Anthropology Dr. Robert Whittemore and lasted about 50 minutes. Students who had studied Liberia, its history with the United States and its past decades of civil war that left the country ravaged, learned firsthand from Hynes, who has lived in the region since 2006. The students were able to communicate with Hynes by submitting questions to Hagan, who acted as a moderator.

In Dr. Chris Kukk’s junior-level political science course, “Nuclear Non-Proliferation,” students also are learning abroad from their Midtown classroom. Thirteen students from WestConn face off weekly with 25 students from the Geneva School of Diplomacy simulating non-proliferation treaty talks.

Kukk explained there are three ways to connect with people across the globe live and on video: videoconference (such as Skype), satellite link-up and Internet connection with videoconference feature. The videoconference equipment that Kukk uses is sophisticated and utilizes a camera and microphones. “You can see everyone in the room,” Kukk said. “This adds to the group dynamics.”

“These talks happen every five years throughout the world,” Kukk said. “The next one is in May 2010 at the United Nations in New York City and what we’re doing is making a simulation of those talks. Each student represents a country — including Israel, South Africa, North Korea, Iran, the United States, United Kingdom, China and France. After studying each article of the treaty, the students then argue their government’s position. “There are massive disagreements,” Kukk said.

The Geneva students are led by Dr. Yuri Narzkine, professor at the Geneva School of Diplomacy and a former chief Soviet negotiator for nuclear weapons. “He’s lived and breathed this stuff,” Kukk said of Narzkine. “It’s an amazing experience for our students.”
Dr. Richard Frank, oncologist and director of cancer research at the Whittingham Cancer Center at Norwalk Hospital, helped to demystify cancer for about 120 people at a public lecture on Oct. 7 in Warner Hall and shared information from his book, “Fighting Cancer with Knowledge and Hope.”

WCSU Professor of Nursing Dr. Carol Avery met Frank in 2007, several years after her daughter was diagnosed with breast cancer at age 38. In January 2008, Rebecca Avery DiPanni died at age 42, just nine months after cancer was discovered in her liver. She died on her only son’s fourth birthday. Avery said that she wanted Frank to speak at WestConn to give people in the Danbury area — from the nursing department to Danbury Hospital to the entire community at WCSU — an opportunity to learn about his book and his award-winning work.

“Rebecca was the sort of person who would want to help others,” Avery said.

“My daughter, the bravest and strongest person I have ever known, was taken from me much too soon. She was a loving daughter, wife and mother, and cherished friend. As Rebecca’s oncologist throughout her battle with liver cancer, Dr. Frank was a thoughtful and sensitive physician who also found time to show our family that he understood our grief and loss.”

Frank, who is also medical director at Mid-Fairfield Hospice in Wilton, has been recognized for his humanitarian approach and research accomplishments. He addressed what cancer is and how it spreads, how treatment strategies are chosen, how cancer-fighting drugs work to shut down the growth of the disease and how patients can helpfully visualize cancer treatments at work in the body.

Despite having treated hundreds, Frank treats each patient as a unique individual, and his philosophy is one he tries to pass on: “Keep trying if you believe in something.” He said some more aggressive cancers may not be considered treatable, but prolonging life at a quality level can be possible.

He also explained in his book and to his patients that cancer diagnosis is important to understand from type and stage, if a cure can be expected, environmental and genetic influences, a patient’s other medical issues and treatment options. It is crucial, Frank said, that the patient and the family members deal with the trauma of having cancer and receive counseling, which is “critical to dealing with this disease.”

“There is nothing more devastating than hearing you have cancer,” Frank said.

“Life stops and you have to understand what it all means.”

WCSU Police Sgt. Richard Montefusco and Officer Arthur Shannonhouse received Exemplary Performance Awards on June 17 during the annual conference of the Northeast Colleges and Universities Security Association.

Montefusco, of Shelton, and Shannonhouse, of Stamford, were honored at the closing banquet of the NECUSA conference at the Mystic Marriott Hotel in Groton. The award recognizes individuals from member institutions who exhibit exemplary performance and professionalism in handling incidents over an extended period, and who have made outstanding contributions to the safety and security of their campus communities.

Director of University Police

Neil McLaughlin Jr. praised Montefusco and Shannonhouse as worthy recipients of the Exemplary Performance Award. “They have made me very proud of their accomplishments, and I am extremely happy and excited that they have been selected to receive this prestigious award,” McLaughlin observed.

In addition to the awards presentations, McLaughlin was elected to a two-year term as NECUSA vice president as a member of the association’s new slate of officers installed at the closing banquet. The conference program on “The Impact of Violence on Campus” also featured WCSU President James W. Schmotter as guest speaker at the luncheon session, and Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Walter Bernstein as a participant in a panel discussion on campus violence issues.

Project provides online search access to archives

Archivist and Special Collections Librarian Brian Stevens has been on a mission since his arrival at WestConn in 2007 to provide researchers with the tools to conduct more efficient and comprehensive online searches of the university’s archival holdings, and now that quest has widened to lay the groundwork for a common online search tool to access summaries of state historical archives across Connecticut.

Stevens has teamed up with WCSU Library Systems Assistant Brian Kennison to engineer the launch this year of the Connecticut Archives Online (CAO) service, an Internet search application hosted at WestConn and designed to unify and simplify searches of historical archives statewide. So far, CAO has brought together finding aids that index and summarize nearly 500 special collections held at WestConn, the Connecticut State Library, and Central, Eastern and Southern Connecticut State universities.

During an interview at his office in the Ruth Haas Library, Stevens set on his desk a large ring binder that held several hundred printed pages summarizing items in one of WestConn’s archival collections.

“In the past, when you were doing research on some aspect of the university’s history, you would probably come in to this office or call and ask, ‘Where do I find information about this?’” Stevens said.

“The archivist either would know where to find it, or would give you a pile of binders like this that you would look through to see if you could find what you wanted. That had been the only way to find out what collections existed here and what was in them.”

One of his first priorities upon assuming his position as university archivist was to implement the conversion of WestConn’s finding aids from paper printouts and files in word-processing applications to Electronic Archival Description (EAD) format. EAD was created in the 1990s in cooperation with the Library of Congress to permit online searches of archival collections. Over the past 15 years, EAD has emerged as the encoding standard used by libraries and archives to develop online search tools.
By Robin DeMerell

Dr. H. Jonathan Greenwald made his mark on WestConn almost at the moment he stepped foot on campus back in 1959. He helped create the university’s Humanistic Studies program and chaired the philosophy department.

Now, nearly two years after his death, the university is benefiting again from Greenwald’s generosity. Greenwald, who lived in Newtown, left more than $220,000 to the university in the “H. Jonathan Greenwald and Dorothy Greenwald Scholarship Fund.” The fund specifically provides scholarships for students in the music program at WestConn.

“In these times of financial challenge, the scholarships that Professor Greenwald’s generosity makes possible are especially important,” said university President James W. Schmotter. “His is a lasting legacy that we will remember at every concert and performance by our talented music students.”

Born in 1915, Greenwald, who grew up in Missouri, served in World War II after joining the U.S. Army Air Corps as a radio and radar operator. He once looked forward to a career as a violinist, but after breaking his fingers playing football, he headed in a different direction. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Kansas, a master’s degree in education from the University of Vermont and a doctorate in psychology and education from Harvard University. He began a career as a freelance photographer and then began teaching at the Rhode Island School of Design in 1954, where he was chairman of art education. Before coming to WestConn, he worked for the state of Rhode Island as an art consultant. He retired from the university in 1985 and continued his passion for photography, traveling widely in Europe and exhibiting in galleries in Connecticut. His wife Dorothy was also devoted to music.

A violin made in Germany that belonged to Greenwald is a permanent part of the university’s music department and is a “community” violin used by musicians at university performances.

For more information, call the Office of Institutional Advancement at (203) 837-8298.

Durnin chairs successful forum

Dr. Ellen Durnin, dean of Graduate Studies and External Programs, chaired the 2009 Business Women’s Forum held at the Connecticut Convention Center in October. Robin Roberts, of the ABC News show “Good Morning, America” (pictured above with Durnin), delivered the event’s keynote address to a crowd of nearly 600.

WestConn students participate in national rally for equal rights

A contingent of 42 WestConn students who are members of the Gay/Straight Alliance traveled by bus to the nation’s capital on Sunday, Oct. 11, to participate in the National Equity March.
Candlewood Lake project (cont'd.)

expertise and the talent to do the necessary research that the authority cannot do on its own.”

Two WestConn research projects currently in progress seek to test and evaluate strategies for more effective containment and eradication of Eurasian watermilfoil in Candlewood Lake. Seasonal proliferation of thick milfoil growth near or at the surface during summer and early autumn months has caused serious disruption to boating, water sports and other recreational activities on the lake, and has had a significant impact on Candlewood’s overall ecological balance as areas of high milfoil concentration have spread along its 60-mile shoreline over the past several decades.

Under the faculty supervision of Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences Dr. Mitch Wagener, Oguma and fellow biology major Ellen Healey literally took the plunge last year into research collaboration at Candlewood as the WCSU student research assistants in a pilot study of weevil use as a biological tool to control Eurasian watermilfoil growth in shallows near the lake shoreline. The Ohio-based ecological consulting firm EnviroScience, which has pioneered use of weevil implantation at lakes in the Northeast and Midwest, donated an initial population of some 9,000 milfoil weevil eggs to be established during summer 2008 on milfoil stems at three underwater test sites in waters at the north end of Candlewood Lake near Sherman. Wagener last year selected Oguma and Healey for the important research assignment to assist EnviroScience biologists in the initial implantation, and to conduct followup site visits and lab work to monitor milfoil weevil population trends. The weevil field and lab research has been continued by students Jason Conn and Allison Ford during the current academic year.

The initial studies conducted by Oguma and Healey during 2008 showed that where stocking had occurred, the weevil population had maintained itself, but there weren’t enough to cause noticeable damage because there was just too much milfoil out there,” Marsicano observed. Plans for EnviroScience implantation of additional weevil eggs in a $15,000 project funded by lake owner FirstLight were postponed until 2010 due to relatively late and below-average regeneration of milfoil growth during summer 2009. Wagener noted it will take further research to determine whether weevil populations can survive and build through reproduction to levels sufficiently high to become an effective biological tool in controlling milfoil spread.

In contrast to the new biological strategy of using weevils to control milfoil, winter drawdowns of the water level of Candlewood Lake have been implemented by the power company for several decades, generally on a biennial basis, in part as a tool to reduce regeneration of milfoil and other underwater vegetation during the following spring and summer. Significant variations in the extent to which milfoil has grown back after recent drawdowns have raised questions as to the effectiveness of this eradication strategy, however, and Lonergan approached Marsicano following a WestConn presentation on the weevil study to propose a new research collaboration between the university and the CLA to seek a definitive answer to these questions.

“I decided to organize a research project to consider the question, ‘Is milfoil effectively killed by freezing and drying its roots?’” Lonergan said. He introduced the project as part of the new Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) curriculum, geared to provide an opportunity for MAT graduate students preparing for future teaching positions in biology to participate in a group research project demanding rigorous inquiry into a real-world scientific question.

Thirteen MAT students under Lonergan’s supervision visited Candlewood Lake in June to collect watermilfoil samples harvested by a team of volunteer divers and returned to the Science Building for study. Samples were trimmed to their root systems; half of the specimens underwent freezing at minus-5 Celsius with the remaining half subjected to thorough drying, each for varying periods of time ranging from 24 hours to three weeks. The root samples were then restored to large aquarium tanks of water drawn from Candlewood Lake and maintained at normal lake temperatures and natural-light conditions in the Science Building greenhouse. Student researchers maintained a regular laboratory schedule during the summer to monitor decay or regeneration of the sample root systems through a series of measurements of root biomass, as well as testing for salt leakage as a chemical indicator of root damage.

“What we have found is that even 24 hours of drying or freezing seriously damages the roots, and 48 hours does severe damage from which they do not recover,” Lonergan observed. These promising initial findings underscore the need for further research to determine how variations in conditions during Candlewood Lake drawdowns — such as the severity and length of sub-freezing periods, the extent and duration of snow cover, and the size and length of the drawdowns themselves — influence their effectiveness in limiting milfoil regeneration the following summer, he said. Lonergan this fall will conduct a second round of sample collection, testing and analysis, seeking to determine if milfoil roots harvested at the end of the growing season develop chemical defenses against freezing during the ensuing winter months. Looking forward, he recognized

“WestConn has the tools, the expertise and the talent for the Candlewood Lake research that will help us to achieve informed and effective natural resource management in this area.”

— Larry Marsicano, executive director, Candlewood Lake Authority
it will take years and additional funding to complete the research required to explore the diverse aspects of Candlewood Lake drawdown effectiveness in curbing milfoil growth.

The important role of WestConn MAT students in Candlewood Lake research will provide experience, knowledge and motivation for them to share their interest in freshwater ecology and resource preservation in the classroom when they move on after graduation to new science teaching positions in Connecticut schools. A successful model for engaging young students in such research is the Project Clear program at Candlewood Lake, a cooperative teaching venture that currently brings together about 125 high school students from the Brookfield, New Milford, New Fairfield, Sherman, Bethel and Danbury districts for joint field and classroom studies designed to raise awareness about fresh-water ecology. Funded by an interdistrict grant from the Connecticut Department of Education and administered by Education Connection, the regional education service center for western Connecticut, Project Clear “gets youth of different socioeconomic backgrounds engaged and working together to understand the ecological, conservation and social issues pertaining to the lake,” Marsicano explained.

WestConn’s role in Project Clear is currently limited to making Science Building instructional facilities available for the program’s classroom sessions and providing an opportunity to meet WestConn faculty and students. Pinou, who coordinates secondary education outreach for the WCSU biology department, envisions a more extensive collaboration bringing together the university, area secondary schools and the general community in an expanded Project Clear serving as a model for natural resource study and science education.

“We need to build collaborative relationships between our students and area high school students, between high school teachers and university faculty, between our faculty and researchers in the field,” she said. “My dream would be to provide a model that brings together local school districts, the university, and agencies and community groups interested in fresh water conservation at Candlewood Lake, to ask how we in this region can care better for this natural resource.” Toward that end, Pinou hopes to secure National Science Foundation funding to support the development of student internship and mentoring programs at WestConn within the framework of an expanded Project Clear. WestConn interns would have the opportunity to participate in studies and research related to conservation of the Candlewood Lake watershed, and to serve as mentors for Project Clear participants from area school districts.

Marsicano said the evolving research relationship between WestConn and the CLA, FirstLight and municipal governments of the towns bordering Candlewood Lake will make an important contribution to informed and scientifically grounded decisions on management and public policy issues related to the lake.

“The beauty of academic research is that it’s apolitical and objective,” he observed. “They go where the research leads them.”

One of the benefits in this collaboration is that, when you are engaging the power company and local communities in trying to develop strategies for environmental management, it has more impact and credibility when you have the research of a university behind you,” he said.
WestConn begins its 106th year with excitement and energy," said university President Dr. John T. Barone. "WestConn begins its 106th year with excitement and energy," said university President John T. Barone. "This year we have the largest enrollment in our history with 4,830 full-time undergraduate students. Despite state budget pressures, special retirements and hiring freezes, we have been able to staff the courses and develop the educational programs that our students will need to prepare for their futures. That’s why this university exists.”

During the ceremony, alumnus Maria Tomarino Patilie, class of 1981, addressed the crowd briefly and passed the 2013 class flag to her daughter, Kristi Marie Parille, of the class of 2013.

Among the many activities planned for students during “Welcome Week 2009” were informational sessions on date rape, movies and a “Clubs Carnival” introducing the various student organizations at WestConn.

**Professor has three-act play performed in China**

When a young American soldier becomes a prisoner during the Korean War, he chooses to seek refuge in Red China at the time of armistice to chase his dreams of a better world. The play is narrated by Private First Class Simon Mackenzie, who disappears in the Shanghai Theater Academy in March 2008, Tong Ruimin of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences in New York in April 2008, and the WestConn Professor has three-act play performed in China.

**WOMEN NEED TO NEGOTIATE MORE: WESTCONN’S ELLEN DURNIN SAYS SKILL IS WOMAN’S UNLIMITED (REPUBLICAN AMERICAN)**

Life is a constant negotiation. The bargaining goes on whether you want to do something or not you choose to participate. Not negotiating a salary means leaving $4,000 on the table, says Ellen Durnin. We have some goals for our lives in the community. This year, against the backdrop of economic woes across the country, more families change the state university over private colleges.

**UNIVERSITY PUMPS MILLIONS INTO ECONOMY**

WestConn’s chief goal is education, but nobody can deny that it’s also an economic powerhouse — providing thousands of jobs and pumping millions of dollars into the area every year. “Around the country college towns tend to have very stable economies,” said university President James Schmotter. "We need to think of several advantages of traveling and teaching overseas with a family.

**WESTCONN WELCOMES ITS BIGGEST CLASS**

The university prepared for this back-to-school ceremony at WestConn moved inside because of rain Friday, but that didn’t dampen the excitement of about 900 parents and students on hand for orientation. The new students moved into dorms at WestConn in the morning with help from school athletes. They heard words of advice from top administrators as the Danbury university prepared to begin classes Monday for its largest pool of students in history.

**TOWN AND GOWN: WESTCONN BUILDS UPON A LEGACY OF CULTURE, OPPORTUNITY**

In the Middle Ages, university students often performed minor clerical duties in their schools and were given that set them apart from citizens of the town, creating a distinction labeled “town and gown.” There were no gowns at Danbury’s WestConn when it began more than 100 years ago, and today few boundaries exist between its campus and the community. This year, against the backdrop of economic woes across the country, more families change the state university over private colleges.

**THE ADVANTAGES OF TEACHING OVERSEAS WITH A FAMILY**

**INTL EDUCATION CONFERENCE:**

Several speakers from outside the area interacted with the conference via the Web. In addition to discussions about global warming and climate change, the agenda included investigations of ways to:

- Reduce the environmental impact of international travel through the use of renewable energy, carbon neutrality and carbon-reduction offsets;
- Prepare CSUS students for “Green Collar” jobs;
- Determine international trends in sustainability education; and
- Develop grants available through international education services.

**MEDIA MENTIONS**

A sampling of local media stories that mention WestConn. All appeared in The News-Times unless otherwise noted.

**STATE SCHOOLS, ENROLLMENT RECORD LEVELS**

As the 2009-10 academic year gets under way, the Connecticut State University System, which includes Central, Eastern, Southern and Western Connecticut State universities, will have a record number of students attending classes. Officials say the record-breaking numbers (an increase of between 3 and 5 percent above a year ago) stem from larger growth on the freshman level, increases in the number of transfer students and improved retention of students.

**WESTCONN COMMENDED FOR FORUM ON GATES CASE**

WestConn was recommended for sponsoring a significant discussion on race relationships based on the events surrounding Harvard professor Henry Gates’ encounter with the local police at Cambridge, Mass. This forum represents dollars of work by the many students of the university’s commitment to community-relevant interactions and its ever-increasing status as a moral and intellectual leader to the area. With respect to the distinguished panel’s perception of the incident, the various views were interesting. My personal reaction differed somewhat from theirs in that I felt the primary dynamic of the situation consisted of two powerful authority figures, projecting huge egos and influence in their respective fields, confronting each other.

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**International Education Conference (cont’d.)**

common thread and import it.”

About 100 people listened to keynote speaker Michael Despines, climate resilience campaign coordinator for Friends of the Earth, based in Washington, D.C. Despines promotes policy solutions “that support domestic and international populations most at risk from climate change.”

The committee that planned the conference solicited proposals for papers during the summer throughout the CSU System. In keeping with the green theme, no brochure was printed for participants and the font used to print the posters used less ink than normal.
WestConn M.F.A. grad brings writers together with anthology

By Robin DeMerell

Writing is a lonely profession — that’s why Anne Witkavitch, a graduate of WestConn’s Master of Fine Arts in Professional Writing program, is trying to bring writers together under an anthology. And the response has been overwhelming.

Witkavitch, who earned her M.F.A. in 2007 after 20 years in the corporate world, started a home-based communications consulting business to satisfy her passion for writing. Then she started “Press Pause Now,” through which she created a coaching and retreat program for women who want to reshape their career paths as writers. The latest session was held Oct. 3 in Litchfield.

“It’s a chance for women to rethink, refocus and reenergize,” said Witkavitch, who lives in Bethany. “We tend to focus on the real big picture and everyone else’s needs. We don’t press that ‘pause’ button.”

The anthology she is compiling is a chance for women to tell their stories of how they “switched gears” and decided to fulfill their passions to become writers. “Women have great stories to tell,” Witkavitch said. To date, she has received 24 stories from women all over the country with “excellent writing credentials.” Submissions for the book were accepted until late September.

“I think women support and encourage each other through those stories,” Witkavitch said, stressing that the timing of the book is fitting. “This is a time when we’re dealing with a recession and both men and women have been taking stock of their lives and recognizing that this is a good opportunity to pursue other avenues.”

Witkavitch, who is teaching undergraduate writing courses this fall at WestConn, hopes that the book will appeal to a wide audience but expects it will attract the most attention from women who are 35 to 55. “I do think this is primarily for women who have had life experience and come to that point where they have decisions they need to make to fulfill themselves.”

For more information, visit the anthology Web site at www.ppnanthologyseries.wordpress.com.

COS membership opens new grant opportunities

By Robert Taylor

WestConn faculty and staff now have online access to comprehensive information on more than 400,000 research funding opportunities worldwide with the university’s recent decision to become a member of the Community of Science (COS), a leading provider of Web-based services designed to assist researchers in searching and locating available grants, collaborating with colleagues in their field, and promoting their work through the COS system.

The WCSU Office of Grant Programs noted COS services include a continuously updated database announcing grant, fellowship and other research funding opportunities around the world, as well as customized weekly e-mail alerts highlighting those grants that meet the specific research and related criteria submitted by individual COS members. Other services include a searchable database of nearly 2 million published scholars, profiles of more than 480,000 researchers from more than 1,600 institutions worldwide, and access tools for individual members to post summaries of their research work and their professional resumes.

WestConn faculty and staff members may access the COS database of research-funding opportunities directly from any computer on the university’s Midtown and Westside campuses. Input of the URL www.cos.com will trigger recognition of the WestConn IP address and provide automatic authorization to access COS database services. WestConn students are invited to access the COS system for information on research, study-abroad opportunities, database collections and other useful academic resources.

WestConn faculty, staff and students also have the option of establishing a personal “COS Workbench” by setting up an individual username and password, which are required for accessing the system from computers off campus and for enabling the user to save funding records and search information. A personal COS Workbench may be arranged at no cost by clicking the “New User? Register Free” icon on the homepage at www.cos.com. The individual user will gain access to the funding opportunities database and weekly e-mail alert service by confirming affiliation with WCSU.

In its announcement of university access to COS services, the Office of Grant Programs observed that the partnership will make many new and exciting opportunities available from the wide variety of funders featured in the searchable COS databases. The staff of the Office of Grant Programs will assist faculty and staff with grant submissions.

For more information, call the Office of Grant Programs at (203) 837-8281.
WestConn’s football team celebrates 40 years on the field

In 1969 Richard Nixon was president, the first astronauts landed on the moon, and WestConn was still a college. That same year, a group of athletes formed WestConn’s first football team.

This year marked the 40th anniversary of the university’s football team, which was celebrated the weekend of Oct. 2. The celebration kicked off with a reception on Friday evening at the Hall of Fame in the O’Neill Center on the Westside campus. On Saturday, teammates and fans had a continental breakfast at the President’s Box in the Westside campus Athletic Stadium followed by an 11:30 a.m. lunch at the same location.

Celebrants, pictured at left, then watched the Colonials play against Morrisville State from the President’s Box.
A. A panel discussion about the Henry Louis Gates incident featured (l-r): Professor Emeritus of Justice & Law Administration Dr. Harold Schramm; Professor of Economics Dr. Oluwole Owoye; community leader Alice Hyman; Kerri Forrest, senior producer of “The Early Show” on CBS; David Dear, publisher of The News-Times; Glenn Cassis, executive director of the Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission; and Danbury Chief of Police Al Baker. The panel was moderated by Dr. George Coleman, deputy commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Education.

B. Education students reenacted characters from children’s banned books for Banned Books Week.

C. Area high school students who participated in the Young Writers Conference last summer had an autograph party to celebrate the publication of their written work.

D. “Tres Vidas,” based on the lives of Mexican painter Frida Kahlo, Salvadoran peasant activist Rufina Amaya and Argentinean poet Alfonsina Storni, was a National Hispanic Culture Awareness event.

E. Abigail Disney screened her documentary “Pray the Devil Back to Hell” for the Steven D. Neuwirth Arts & Sciences Lecture in September.

F. (l-r): Erland Hagman, father of the late WCSU student Veronica Hagman, interacts with scholarship recipient Emily Gardner during the Student Scholarship Reception.

G. WestConn received the 2009 Business Supports the Arts award from the Housatonic Valley Cultural Authority.
Theatre Arts at WestConn presents
a smash hit Broadway musical
City of angels

November 4 – 21
(203) 837-8732 or wcsu.edu/tickets

Dates and times are subject to change. Check our online events calendar to ensure the event you are interested in is still scheduled. All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. For more information about these and other events, please call the Office of University Relations at (203) 837-8486 or visit wcsu.edu.

Need directions? Please visit wcsu.edu/directions.

Please join us for these exciting cultural events:

**Dec. 1 ART SLIDE LECTURE:** Painter Bill Sullivan will discuss his work at 11 a.m. in Viewing Room 1 of White Hall on the Midtown campus. The event will be free and open to the public, and it will be presented as part of the university’s Master of Fine Arts slide lecture series. For more information, call (203) 837-8881.

**Dec. 3 INTERNSHIP FAIR:** Student interns in WestConn’s health promotion and exercise sciences department will present an overview of their internship experiences from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first floor of Warner Hall on the Midtown campus. The event will be free and the public is invited. For more information, call (203) 837-9612.

**Dec. 3 COFFEEHOUSE:** WestConn will present the Midtown Coffeehouse at 8 p.m. in Alumni Hall on the Midtown campus. The coffeehouse will include open mic performers at 8 p.m., followed by the featured act, the WCSU Jazz Band, at 9 p.m. Admission will be free and the public is invited. Donations to sustain the Coffeehouse will be accepted. Call (203) 837-9700 for more information.

**Dec. 5 PLANETARIUM SHOW AND TELESCOPE VIEWING:** WestConn will host a 4:30 p.m. planetarium show, “Winter Skies,” followed by telescope viewing of Uranus, the winter sky and the Pleiades star cluster, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the Westside Observatory and Planetarium on the Westside campus. The event will be free and open to the public. For more information, call (203) 837-8672.

**Dec. 8 PROMOTION & TENURE LUNCHEON:** WestConn will host a Promotion and Tenure Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. in Alumni Hall on the Midtown campus. The luncheon is by invitation only. For more information, call (203) 837-8486.

**Dec. 8 FACULTY RECOGNITION CEREMONY** WestConn will host a Faculty Recognition Ceremony that will include the presentation of the third Teaching Excellence Award at a reception at 4 p.m. in Warner Hall on the Midtown campus. The ceremony will be free and open to WestConn faculty and staff only. For more information, call (203) 837-8486.