

the gates

spring 2011

A publication for the Western Connecticut State University community

Former N.Y. Knicks star to address undergraduates

By Sherri Hill

The stats speak for themselves: basketball legend Allan Houston's name will forever hold a place of honor in the NBA record books. Soon, his inspiring words will be part of the memories of the Western Connecticut State University Class of 2011. Houston will deliver the keynote address at the university's 113th undergraduate commencement ceremony at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 22, in the Westside Athletic Complex on the WCSU Westside campus.



Contributed photo

A student-athlete who graduated in 1993 as the all-time leading scorer from the University of Tennessee, Houston was selected 11th overall in the 1993 NBA draft by the Detroit Pistons. He joined the New York Knicks in 1996, where he twice was named an NBA All-Star in 2000 and 2001. Houston's athleticism is credited with helping the Knicks, then the 8th seed, knock off the top-seeded Miami Heat in game five of the first round of the 1999 Eastern Conference quarterfinals. Houston's catch of the inbound pass and successful running jump shot in the lane with 0.8 seconds left netted a 78-77 victory for his team and personal notoriety as the architect behind the 50th greatest playoff moment according to NBA.com.

Houston was a member of the USA men's national basketball team that captured the gold medal at the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia. In his last healthy *continued on page 9*

Praxair CEO to speak at graduate commencement

By Sherri Hill

Stephen F. Angel, chairman, president and CEO of Praxair Inc., will speak to students receiving graduate and doctoral degrees at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 20, in the Feldman Arena of the William O'Neill Athletic and Convocation Center on the university's Westside campus.

Angel joined Praxair in 2001 as executive vice president overseeing the company's businesses in North America, Europe and Asia, as well as its *continued on page 9*



Contributed photo

Commencement 2011



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Two top Western students receive distinguished CSUS Barnard Awards

By Robin DeMerell

WCSU seniors Emily Cole and Bryan Bielefeldt are both familiar faces around campus — and they share the similar philosophy that being involved in campus and community is the only way to succeed.

Because of their commitment to Western, both academically and civically, Cole and Bielefeldt were chosen as winners of this year's Henry Barnard Distinguished Student Award. The award was established in 1988 by the nonprofit Henry Barnard Foundation, now the Connecticut State University System Foundation. Twelve awards are given annually to distinguished students from Western, Central, Eastern and Southern Connecticut state universities.

Cole, 22, is an English major and lives in Brookfield. Bielefeldt, of Waterbury, is majoring in graphic design. Recipients are selected for their academic and leadership qualities and must maintain at least a 3.7 grade point average and have a record of substantial voluntary service to their university and community.

Bielefeldt, a 30-year-old nontraditional student, served in the military for five years in the Airborne Infantry before returning to school. He said he is especially humbled by the award because it means more than just a few dollars in his pocket: he recognizes the honor.

"When I think scholarship, I think money," Bielefeldt said. "I didn't apply for the monetary aspect; I applied for the Barnard Award itself."

Cole's sentiments about the award were similar. "I feel really honored and am very appreciative," said the 22-year-old senior. "It means someone thinks I'm worthy to continue my studies. That's been really inspiring to me

to help me move on. Scholarships are important because when someone feels they've been recognized it makes them work that much harder."

Both students remain actively involved on campus. Cole is past president and member of the English Honors Society, co-chair of the English Society, co-president of the local chapter of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, a Student Government Association senator and chair of the fundraising committee, managing editor of the university magazine "Beyond the Margins" and treasurer and co-founder of the WCSU Golf Club. She also has several part-time positions outside the university.

Bielefeldt has used his skills as a graphic design artist in the University Publications office and for the campus veterans organization.

"I try to be heavily involved with veterans' affairs," he said. He has assisted with financial and registration packets and designed logos and done print marketing for the student veterans' affairs program. "I didn't think of it as community service because I came from there. It seemed like the right place to be."

The recipient of several other scholarships, Cole said that being involved on campus is the best way to learn about yourself and others and to explore areas where you may not otherwise have exposure.

"If you get involved on campus you'll have a lot more fun in class if you feel like you're making a difference outside of it," Cole said. "Pay attention and be a part of the class. You will feel more worthy and like you are contributing to yourself and others. That's how you learn to grow. You have to find opportunities and being involved is a way to find them." ■

WCSU shows diversity with honors course

By Hobson Lopes

Last fall, Western offered an honor's course called the Wunderkammer of Knowledge. The course was built around the idea of the wunderkammer as a metaphor for learning. A wunderkammer is a so-called cabinet of curiosity. It began to appear during the mid-16th century in Europe. Some of the objects that are contained in these collections include art, fossils, unusual biological specimens and objects of reputedly mythological origins.

Sixteen students ventured into the unknown by enrolling in this class, taught in part by Professor of Writing, Linguistics and Creative Process Dr. John Briggs and Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Ruth Gyure. The two professors discovered they each had a fascination with wunderkammern and an idea for the class was conceived. Associate Professor of Political Science Dr. Christopher Kukuk took the idea and turned it into a three-credit class. In total, six Western professors and a guest scholar took part in the teaching of the class from the writing, social sciences, biology and music departments.

At the start of the semester, each of the professors shared their wunderkammern so the students could see "what they liked to study and think about," Briggs said.

The students' wunderkammern were different in many ways. While the original cabinets involved actual artifacts and similar items, the class generally used computers to display their items.

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Associate Professor of Music Dr. Marjorie Callaghan, Assistant Professor of Music Dr. Douglas O'Grady, Assistant Professor of Music Jamie Begian, Musical Arts Assistant Laura Piechota, Associate Professor of Music Dr. Fernando Jimenez, Adjunct Instructor of Music Judith Smith, Professor of Music David Smith, Professor of Music Dr. Kevin Isaacs, Professor of Music Dr. Russell Hirshfield and Professor and Chairman of the Department of Music Dr. Dan Goble at the Faculty Recognition Ceremony.

Photo gallery available at wcsu.edu/flickr



David Smith recognized with teaching excellence award

By Robert Taylor

David Smith, an accomplished percussionist and professor of music and music education whose teaching career at Western spans more than 40 years, received the 2010 Teaching Excellence Award at the annual Faculty Recognition Ceremony on Dec. 2.

Smith received the award from then-WCSU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Linda Rinker during the afternoon ceremony in Warner Hall. WCSU President James Schmotter offered remarks, and Associate Professor of Music and Music Education Dr. Marjorie Callaghan introduced Smith for the award presentation.

The program also featured recognition of achievements by Western faculty members, including earned degrees, published works, academic and performing arts presentations, and service activities. Special recognition was given to eight faculty members who earned tenure awards and seven who received promotions during the 2009-10 academic year.

Recipient of a bachelor's degree in music education from Mansfield State College and a master's degree in percussion performance from East Carolina University, Smith joined the WCSU music faculty in 1970. He resides in Danbury with his wife Judith, an adjunct professor in the university's department of music.

While the music program has grown significantly during his four decades at Western, Smith observed, "My approach to teaching hasn't changed over the years. I treat each student as an individual."

Callaghan, who submitted the award nomination, remarked that Smith has earned the respect of his peers and students as a gifted teacher and performing artist.

"Throughout his 41 years of teaching here at WCSU, Dave Smith is and has been a wonderful role model and mentor for students and faculty alike," Callaghan said. "He has high standards and expectations and, at the same time, is kind and empathetic, aware of each student's needs. He motivates his students both by example and by organizing master classes and performances by internationally recognized percussionists."

Smith observed that he encourages his students to continue their learning beyond the classroom. "The students' attendance at regional and national conventions has helped them to progress at a quicker rate," he noted, helping them to gain skills for both ensemble and individual performance.

Smith has performed as principal percussionist with the New Haven Symphony Orchestra, timpanist and percussion principal for the Ives Symphony Orchestra, and timpanist for the Bridgeport Symphony and the Ridgefield Orchestra. In addition to his many percussion recitals at Western, he also has performed solo at the Hartt School of Music in West Hartford, the Manchester (Conn.) Church Community Concert Series, the Hillsdale (N.Y.) Art Gallery and the Five Mile River Concert Series in Norwalk. Professional mentors during his career have included John Beck of the Eastman School of Music, Brad Spinney of New York University, Harold Jones of East Carolina University and Fred Hinger of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra.

Among his performance accomplishments are his recording of David Amram's "Native American Portraits" for National Public Radio and his performance at the International Percussive Arts Society Conference of world premieres of two compositions, for solo marimba and for solo

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Recipients of tenure ('09-'10):

- Dr. Daniel Barrett, associate professor of psychology
- Dr. Donald Gagnon, associate professor of English
- Dr. Thomas Lonergan, professor and chair of the department of biological and environmental sciences
- Thomas Monks, associate professor of accounting
- Dr. Joan Palladino, assistant professor of nursing
- Dr. Theodora Pinou, associate professor of biological and environmental sciences
- Dr. Joshua Rosenthal, associate professor of history and non-Western cultures.

Recipients of promotion ('09-'10):

- Dr. Galina Bakhtiarova, to associate professor of world languages and literature
- Dr. Patrice Boly, to professor of biological and environmental sciences
- Dr. Kevin Gutzman, to professor of history
- Dr. Russell Hirshfield, to professor of music and music education
- Dr. Yuan Mei-Ratliff, to professor of chemistry
- Russell Gladstone, to librarian
- Peter Algarin, to trainer III.

Please note: Recipients of tenure and promotion for academic year '10-'11 will be announced in May.



Lewis bids farewell to MSQ

By Robert Taylor

For more than 40 years as a member of the Manhattan String Quartet, Eric Lewis has taken an extraordinary odyssey spanning thousands of miles and centuries of chamber music works by some of the world's greatest composers. Now his tenure as the quartet's first violinist is nearing its end — the prelude to a new musical journey of Promethean possibilities in the years to come.



Contributed photo

This summer the WCSU professor of music will bid farewell to the MSQ when the quartet returns to Bosnia and Herzegovina — where the quartet undertook a landmark cultural mission in May 2010 — to perform in the inaugural Sarajevo Chamber Music Festival. But Lewis, who turned 65 in February, has no thought of setting down his bow: Rather, his departure from the rigorous demands of MSQ rehearsal and performance will offer the liberating opportunity to pursue a rejuvenating diversity of fresh musical challenges.

Even as he prepares for his final tour with the MSQ, Lewis has begun to explore fresh opportunities for musical performance and education with the chamber music ensemble Prometheus and chamber music orchestra Elysium. While his association with Prometheus dates back to its founding as a piano quartet in 1995, Lewis said he will expand his commitment as the group embarks on an ambitious schedule for 2011. Elysium, formed in the 1990s as the Camerata Strings, is in the process of reorganizing and soon will provide another outlet for his robust creative energies.

Prometheus will reunite him in performance with his brother Roy on violin, along with Norman Carey on piano, Stephen Stalker on cello, and Ronald Gorevic on viola. With Elysium, Lewis welcomes the opportunity for more joint performances with his wife, Katherine Dorn Lewis, also an accomplished violinist and his partner as featured artist.

"I have a sense of renewal and regeneration, the spirit that the Greek gods revered in Prometheus," he said. "I'm just enjoying a rebirth of energy and interest at the prospect of playing again with venerable friends, some of whom I've been playing with since the age of 12."

Lewis and his colleagues in Prometheus shared their passion for chamber music with the WCSU and Greater Danbury communities during a special daylong program this spring. The university celebrated "A Day of Chamber Music with Prometheus" on April 17 that featured the quintet in concert, as well as a master class for student instrumentalists and a public seminar on artistic creativity. ■

Photo gallery available at wcsu.edu/flickr

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Dr. Mel Goldstein recollects childhood fascination with weather

By Paul Steinmetz

Dr. Mel Goldstein, longtime chief meteorologist at WTNH-TV and a former professor at WCSU, presented the annual President's Lecture before a full house in the Science Building.

Goldstein, who is well-known in Connecticut, focused his talk on his early years, when he lived on the coast of Massachusetts and watched storms develop over the ocean.

His mother cultivated a happy atmosphere in their house, where laughter was the norm. Sometimes, the love of laughter and weather came together.

"In 1954 I was waiting for my dad to get

home and Hurricane Carol came along," Goldstein said. "Mom and I watched the roof of our house fly off — and we were still laughing. We asked ourselves: 'Do you think Dad will be able to get home?'"

Goldstein was diagnosed 15 years ago with a form of bone cancer called multiple myeloma. He has lived far longer than expected with the disease and speaks frequently as an optimistic expert on the subject.

"I used to be eight inches taller," Goldstein said while describing the effects of the disease. "People ask me what happened. I say, 'At least I am this much above ground!'" ■

WCSU students win 'Mole Bowl'

By Robin DeMerell

Most people who know that 10 to the 23rd power equals 1.0 times 10²³ also know that October 23 (otherwise known as 10/23) is National Mole Day, a day for chemists to celebrate the specific chemistry unit of measure.

To celebrate the day, four WCSU chemistry majors participated in the "Mole Bowl," a science competition held at Fairfield University. Competing against about a dozen other students from Fairfield and Sacred Heart universities, the WCSU team took first place in the event after correctly answering nearly all 40 questions posed. The win earned them \$300 and the annual trophy — a stuffed mole.

Accompanied by Assistant Professor of Chemistry Dr. Nicholas Greco, the WCSU team members were Felix Sathoud, Rebecca Greene-Cramer, Brandon Litwin and David Ermert.

Rebecca Greene-Cramer, president of the university's Chemistry Club, said that the bio-chemistry and chemistry courses at Western helped prepare her for the big win.

"It was basically general knowledge from



(l-r): Brandon Litwin, David Ermert, Rebecca Greene-Cramer and Felix Sathoud display their trophy: a stuffed mole.

our classes," she said.

Sathoud, vice president of the Chemistry Club, said questions included knowing how to draw a compound structure and analyzing the structure of molecular molecules.

The team plans to use the winnings to help fund a trip to an American Chemical Society conference in Anaheim, Calif., this spring. ■



Stew Leonard Jr. captivates faculty and students during his Ancell School of Business lecture.



Stew Leonard Jr. addresses WCSU business students

Stew Leonard Jr., president and CEO of the grocery and wine store chain that bears the family name, spoke to 100 Ancell School of Business students and faculty about building loyalty among customers and employees.

Leonard said the company's success, which includes a decade on Fortune Magazine's "100 Best Companies to Work For," is based on employee involvement to address business issues.

He compared the process of developing valuable ideas to a game of tennis.

"The key is keeping the volley going," Leonard said. "The original server isn't the one with the ideas. It's the fifth, sixth, 20th or 30th volley where the solution comes up. Everyone asks, 'Where did you get this idea?' Well, we were playing tennis." ■

Photo gallery available at wcsu.edu/flickr



Just where do those pies come from?

By Hobson Lopes

Have you ever wondered where the pizzas come from for the "Pizza with the President" program? The Domino's Pizza located on Tamarack Avenue in Danbury, owned since 1985 by Bob Parker, is the answer.

When James W. Schmotter became the eighth president of Western, Parker sent him a letter of congratulations with an idea for a program. Schmotter initiated Parker's suggestion, which eventually became what we now know as "Pizza with the President."

Parker estimates that since the fall 2004 semester when "Pizza with the President" began, his donation to Western has been about 200 to 300 pizzas.

A former chairman of the Charles Ives Center, Parker's personal story reads as though it were written for the movies. He started with the Domino's Pizza company when he was a college student in North Carolina. Parker went into a management program and became an assistant manager, and then managed the Domino's loca-

tion at his school.

In 1981, his supervisor was coming to Danbury to franchise the restaurant and Parker came along. In total, Parker has owned seven Domino's over his career, including his stores in Danbury and Waterbury.

In his spare time, Parker umpires Division-1 baseball, something he has done for the past 15 years. Parker also is a family man. He has two young boys, aged 5 and 7, who love playing sports — which keeps him busy.

Parker also has made donations to Danbury and Ridgefield high schools for banquets and special events for the past 10 years.

"There are a lot of things we can do that others can't," Parker said. "People develop a certain comfort level that it will get taken care of."

And taken care of they will be, as this program has helped students express their feelings and thoughts with the administration at Western, and has become a symbol at the school. ■



Making strides:

Department of music receives NASM reaccreditation

The WCSU department of music recently received reaccreditation from the National Association of Schools of Music.

“An achievement of this magnitude is not possible without the collective contributions of a vast constituency,” said Department Chair Dr. Dan Goble. “WCSU’s NASM reaccreditation represents the culmination of over 12 years of teamwork within the institution, beginning with the decision of the University Planning and Budget Committee in 1998 to support the initial application for accreditation. While the entire department of music, administration, and numerous other colleagues were instrumental in the process, there also were a number of individuals, past and present, who were key to this success.”

WCSU President James W. Schmotter echoed Goble’s enthusiasm:

“How pleased was I to receive a copy of NASM’s formal letter of Dec. 21, 2010, affirming accreditation of our music programs! While hardly surprising, this is the culmination of much hard work on the part of the music department. It also publicly certifies what we all know: that music and music education students at WCSU receive an educational experience second to none. And this reality attracts larger numbers of even more talented students to our classrooms, practice rooms and performance venues every year. It’s a virtuous cycle, and my hat is off to all in the department who keep it going.” ■

Isaacs receives prestigious honor

Professor of Music Dr. Kevin Jay Isaacs was named Connecticut Choir Director of the Year by the Connecticut Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) at the organization’s annual fall conference in October. Isaacs, associate chair of the department of music, was nominated for the award by a vote from the ACDA Board of Directors, as well as former students.

“I am moved that they had remembered me fondly and respectfully,” Isaacs said. “The best recognition a teacher can receive comes from the people we instruct, nurture and watch grow into vital and productive adults.”

Isaacs studied at Texas Christian University, where he received both a bachelor’s and master’s degree in music composition and theory. He earned a Ph.D. in music composition and choral conducting at the University of Arizona.

The Connecticut Choir Director of the Year award was first given to Dr. Gerald Mack, from the Hartt School of Music at the University of Hartford. Other recipients of the award have included Dr. Jameson Marvin, of Harvard University; and Richard Coffey, artistic director of CONCORA, Connecticut Choral Artists.

“I am thrilled to be included in such company,” Isaacs said. ■

DAVID SMITH RECEIVES TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD *continued from page 3*

snare drum, by Milton Babbitt. He has recorded performances on CRI and Desto Records with the New England Contemporary Ensemble, and has performed with the Paul Whiteman Band across the United States and in Italy.

Smith’s stature in the WCSU department of music speaks both to his accomplishments as a musician and his personal gifts as an educator and colleague, Callaghan noted.

“Dave is a supportive member of the department, and his presence can be seen at nearly every recital and department event,” she said. “He is a warm, positive human being, willing to go out of his way to help both students and colleagues. Dave has the genuine

admiration and respect of past and present students and faculty.”

For his part, Smith emphasized that the music department’s growth over the past four decades has not diminished the faculty’s commitment to teaching. “The current faculty is very talented and dedicated to the students in the department,” he said. “The quality of our student performances in recitals and ensembles reflects this dedication.

“I am honored to receive this year’s Teaching Excellence Award,” he added. “There are many faculty members at Western who are deserving of this award. It has been a pleasure to work with everyone here over the years.” ■

Programs and faculty recognized for excellence



Chemistry department receives grant to study nanotechnology

By Robin DeMerell

As nanotechnology leads the pack in the technoworld, WCSU is right alongside as it gears up to make “nanotech” an integral part of its science programs.

According to Assistant Professor of Chemistry Dr. Chris Yen, Western is incorporating the study of nanotechnology by branching out in several areas, including the development of several courses on the subject. Nanotechnology is the study of examining matter on an atomic and molecular scale. Yen said the technology generally deals with the development of new and advanced material in nanoscale. The first course, Introduction to Nanotechnology will be offered for the first time in fall 2011, with more courses to be added in both the biology and chemistry departments.

Thanks to a federal grant from the Department of Energy, the university’s chemistry department will soon purchase a Raman spectrometer. Named after Indian physicist C.V. Raman, who earned a Nobel Prize for his discovery of the Raman effect, the instrument is important to researchers in identifying molecules and material.

The Raman spectrometer will be in use at the university by the end of the spring semester.

The grant was awarded to the Connecticut State University System and is to be used toward nanotechnology education at all four CSUS universities. The CSUS is promoting continued growth in this area and hopes to have all four institutions share in a comprehensive program. While equipment and other courses will be implemented at the other universities, Western will be the only one to date with a Raman spectrometer.

“Nanotubes and nanowires are an essential element to next-generation solar cells and solar-to-fuel conversion,” Yen said. “In order to show and further study these nanotubes and their properties to students, we need a Raman spectrometer. Nano is the future of technology, and we need to stay on top of that.”

WCSU was invited to participate in the 18th Annual Connecticut Microelectronics and Optoelectronics Consortium held March 16 in New Haven. Topics included nanoelectronics and nanophotonics, and technological industry giants United Technologies and Pitney Bowes also participated. ■

M.S. in Counseling receives reaccreditation

The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs reported recently that Western’s Master of Science in Counseling program has received accreditation for both the Clinical Mental Health Counseling and School Counseling tracks.

In a memo announcing the accreditation, President James W. Schmotter wrote, “This result testifies both to the quality of the educational experience we provide students in these programs and to the diligence and dedication of our faculty.”

Dr. Theresa Canada, chairperson of the department of education and educational psychology, agreed.

“This accreditation is a confirmation of the quality of both our school counseling and mental health options. It validates the expertise of our faculty and the preparation of our students.” ■

Grant supports water contamination study

By Hobson Lopes

Science fair students from the Barnard Environmental Studies School (BESS) in New Haven helped study samples of water for mercury in a visit earlier this year for a biology laboratory exercise at WCSU. The water samples were collected from the West River in New Haven last fall and were dehydrated and frozen until the day of the exercise. The project sought to find

the mercury concentration levels and how they change through food webs.

WCSU Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Theodora Pinou said the students didn’t touch the samples, but helped during the examination. The event was designed to encourage the students to become stewards of the environment by learning how to monitor changes. It also taught the students how to analyze dissolved oxygen and temperature concentration in samples, and how to document what they saw.

The daylong project also helped show teachers how to quantify mercury and how it cycles into the environment. Another goal of the exercise was to show teachers how to use their classroom time effectively.

The study was sponsored in part by a Toyota Tapestry Grant, which is awarded to only 50 organizations each year. ■



Photo gallery available at wcsu.edu/flickr

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Teachers and students from the Barnard Environmental Studies School in New Haven worked in WCSU’s biology labs to analyze water samples taken near their school for mercury concentration.



Jazz Festival to feature Benny Golson, Darcy James Argue's Secret Society

By Sherri Hill

It's no secret that year after year, Western stops at nothing to showcase the best jazz artists as featured performers for the university's annual jazz festival. And this year's event, the 16th Jazz Fest, which will run from Thursday, April 28, through Saturday, April 30, promises to be no exception.

Internationally acclaimed tenor saxophone player Benny Golson will perform with the WCSU Jazz Orchestra under the direction of Assistant Professor of Music Jamie Begian at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 29, in Ives Concert Hall.

Following two WCSU student ensembles at 7 p.m., Darcy James Argue's celebrated 18-piece big band, Secret Society, will be featured in concert at 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 30, also in Ives Concert Hall.

Ticket prices for each concert are \$15 for adults, and \$10 for senior citizens and students; WestConn students with valid identification and student participants in the festival will be admitted free. Tickets can be purchased at www.wcsu.edu/tickets, or by calling (203) 837-TIXX.

A native of Philadelphia, Golson has played in the bands of Benny Goodman, Dizzy Gillespie, Lionel Hampton, Earl Bostic and Art Blakey. A live performer who is said to "blow audiences away," the 82-year-old has performed in the U.S., Europe, South America, the Far East and Japan for decades.

According to his website, "Benny Golson is the only living jazz artist to have written eight standards for jazz repertoire. These jazz standards have found their way into countless recordings internationally over the years and are still being recorded."

At a music industry event in 2005, it was noted that Golson has composed more than 300 songs for acts as diverse as Miles Davis, Peggy Lee, Dusty Springfield and The Monkees. He's also scored some recognizable pieces for television, including "M*A*S*H," "Mannix," "Mission Impossible,"

"Mod Squad," "Room 222," "Run for Your Life," "The Partridge Family," "The Academy Awards," Bill Cosby's last TV show and television specials for ABC, CBS, NBC and the BBC.

Golson received a Mellon Jazz Living Legacy Award in 2007 and a Recording Academy "Salute to Jazz Honors Giants of the Genre" in 2005, as well as numerous Grammy nominations.

Bob McCullough of the Boston Globe wrote, "Virtually every solo by Golson is a textbook tour de force." John S. Wilson, jazz critic for the *Montreal Times*, agreed. "I have known Benny Golson as one of the most complete musicians of the past 25 years. He is a composer with an unusually brilliant melodic sense."

Critics are similarly impressed with Darcy James Argue, crediting him with developing "a nearly perfect creative synthesis between tradition and innovation" (John Eyles, BBC.com). Argue's compositions were described as "ambitious, sprawling, mesmerizing" by Juan Rodriguez, of the *Montreal Gazette*; and Ben Ratliff of the *New York Times* noted his "big, broad musical vocabulary." *Time Out New York's* Hank Shteamer added, "Argue draws on the full spectrum of modern rock, jazz and classical music" in a way that "handily transcends pastiche."

A lot of the buzz was generated by Argue's Grammy-nominated debut recording, "Infernal Machines," featuring his 18-piece big band, Secret Society. The record was included on more than 100 best-of-the-year lists and won Best Debut honors in the 2009 *Village Voice* Jazz Critics Poll. Argue and Secret Society topped three categories in the 2010 *DownBeat* Critics' Poll (Rising Star, Big Band; Rising Star, Composer; and Rising Star, Arranger) and were the recipients of two 2010 Jazz Journalists Association Jazz Awards (Large Ensemble of the Year and Up & Coming Artist of the Year). The group has played high-profile concerts in New York

and other U.S. cities, as well as in Europe.

A former member of the Montreal jazz scene, Vancouver native Argue moved to Brooklyn in 2003 after earning a master's degree in Boston while studying with legendary composer/arranger Bob Brookmeyer. Among the awards he has received are the BMI Jazz Composers' Workshop Charlie Parker Composition Prize and the SO-CAN/CAJE Phil Nimmons Emerging Composer Award. Argue has received grants from the Jerome Foundation, the American Music Center, Meet The Composer, the Aaron Copland Fund for Music and the Canada Council for the Arts.

Since 1995, the WCSU Jazz Fest has brought leading jazz artists to Danbury each spring for a three-day program that combines concert performances with a series of music clinics offering master-class instruction and critiques for music students at Western and at schools in Greater Danbury. Golson and Argue will join professional jazz artists who hold full-time and adjunct faculty positions in the WCSU music department to conduct performance clinics during the festival. Golson's clinic will be at 5 p.m. on Friday, with Argue following suit at 4:15 p.m. on Saturday.

"Having these great guest artists, one an acknowledged jazz legend and the other a rising star, 'up close and personal' provides our students an invaluable insight into the expectations of what a professional musician is and does," Begian said. "The energy level leading up to the festival is sky-high, and I'm always proud of how our students rise to the occasion and demonstrate the quality of the program here at WestConn." ■

This year's Jazz Fest is sponsored by the WCSU Student Government Association, the WCSU Jazz Club, and the Connecticut State University System Activities in the Arts Program. For more information, contact Jamie Begian at (203) 837-8637.

HONORS COURSE *continued from page 2*

Briggs enjoyed the chance to teach this class with other professors.

"It was an unusual opportunity to teach in an interactive setting with my colleagues — other exciting thinkers," Briggs said. "It was great to hear what students made of what we were talking about."

Olivia Schulze, a senior majoring in social work, presented a different twist with her wunderkammer. She wanted to focus on who she is, and what has made her the way she is. For that, she brought in her family.

"I appreciate my family and love them for who they are," Schulze said. She went through photo albums and picked out pictures that meant the most to her. She then invited her family — without telling them why — to the class so they could see how she felt about them.

"It was a really interesting class. It was a different style of learning and eye-opening," Schulze said. "It took us out of our comfort zone and gave us an awesome perspective."

Briggs was impressed with Schulze's presentation, calling it "quite remarkable."

The idea is that knowledge is an ever-changing process. Briggs said the growing influence of the Internet has heightened "tension with knowledge that is organized and passed on as a fixed thing," Briggs said. "It's the making of knowledge."

A wunderkammer can help that process much as it did in the 16th century: Instead of artifacts like sea shells, stones and works of art, our cabinets of curiosity are changing with the times. ■

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

The WCSU Career Development Center announced recently that several students applied for, and received, positions in this session's Connecticut General Assembly Legislative Internship Program. Among those selected were Kelli Boucher, majoring in political science; Danielle Kral, English; Carmel Lynn, history; Elizabeth McCullers, justice & law administration (pictured here with State Rep. Janice Geigler); and Nicole Struth, political science.



ANGEL *continued from page 1*

health care division. He was named president and chief operating officer in 2006 and became chairman in 2007.

Prior to joining Praxair, Angel worked for General Electric. After several promotions, he became general manager of GE's power equipment business, directing eight business units and six joint ventures in four countries.

Angel is a director on several boards, including PPG Industries, the U.S.-China Business Council and the American Chemistry Council. He also is a member of the Business Roundtable and the U.S.-

Brazil CEO Forum.

A native of Winston-Salem, N.C., Angel holds a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from North Carolina State University and a Master of Business Administration from Loyola College in Baltimore, Md.

Praxair is the largest industrial gases company in North and South America, with 2010 sales of \$10 billion. The company produces, sells and distributes atmospheric, process and specialty gases, and high-performance surface coatings. ■

HOUSTON *continued from page 1*

season (2002-03), Houston finished as the 10th leading scorer in the league. He has been named one of The Sporting News' "Good Guys in Sports" on four occasions.

Injuries forced Houston off the court in 2005, but not before he amassed records as one of the NBA's all-time greatest long-range shooters (#11 in three pointers made) and one of the all-time leading scorers in Knicks history (#2 in three pointers, #4 in total points and #8 in scoring average). After a few unsuccessful comeback attempts, Houston was appointed to a management position with the Knicks as assistant general manager. He also has been an ambassador for the NBA, a spokesperson for the National Fatherhood Initiative and an ESPN analyst.

In addition to the impact he made on the court,

Houston has been a leader off the court as well. He created the Legacy Foundation, which focuses on facilitating individual and collective growth through initiatives that restore a strong family unit, provide economic empowerment through entrepreneurship, encourage education and life skill development, and enhance spiritual growth. The organization has served more than 1,500 participants nationwide with programming related to fatherhood and entrepreneurship. Because of his philanthropy, Houston was named 2007 "Father of the Year" by the National Fatherhood Initiative. Tulane University honored him as "Social Entrepreneur of the Year" in 2008 and Houston received the President's Council on Service and Civic Engagement Award from the Obama Administration this year. ■

A SPECIAL HONOR

WCSU Men's Basketball Coach Bob Campbell was recognized for his 500th career win on Nov. 19, 2010. Celebrating with him here is President James W. Schmotter.



scene on campus



A



B

This page:

A. Former WCSU Art Professor John Wallace exhibited his paintings in the Higgins Gallery from mid-February to mid-March.

B. Described as a “rock star” among writers, author Sherman Alexie enthralled an Ives Concert Hall audience in March with his frank discussion about his Native American heritage and his writing process. [flickr](#)

C. Andrew Hendrick and Amy Bentley in the theatre department’s spring production, “Three Sisters,” described by a local theatre critic as “a stunning show.” [flickr](#)

D. As Assistant Professor of Justice and Law Administration Melissa Fenwick looks on, Chanesa Bent, a correctional counselor at Garner Correctional Institute in Connecticut, talks about her work during a “Women and Justice” event held during Women’s History Month in March. [flickr](#)

Where noted, photo galleries are available at [wcsu.edu/flickr](#)

[flickr](#)



C

C



D



This page:

A. Math students and WCSU President James W. Schmotter celebrate "Pi Day" on March 14. [flickr](#)

B. Exonerated death-row inmate and activist Shujaa Graham spoke of his experiences during one of a series of anti-death penalty lectures held in the spring semester. [flickr](#)

C. WCSU student Daniel Ravizza testifies at the state capitol during the Connecticut State University System's Lobby Day. [flickr](#)

D. Elizabeth Alexander, the inaugural poet for President Barack Obama, spoke about her work and signed books on Feb. 23. [flickr](#)

E. The Spring Thesis Show for the Master of Fine Arts in Art program drew an appreciative crowd.



WCSU Photo/Sophie Duarte



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Yamins honored with award at WestConn Society luncheon

More than 100 business and community leaders participated in the 30th WestConn Society Luncheon honoring Robert and Dianne Yamin with the WCSU Community Service Award.

Robert Yamin, a Western graduate who was the first WCSU alumnus to graduate from the Harvard School of Law, is a member of the WCSU Foundation board of directors as well as a leader in several other community organizations. Dianne Yamin is Danbury's Judge of Probate, chairman of the Greater Danbury Chamber of Commerce and a leader in many community groups. Robert Yamin, in accepting the award, reminded the audience of the university's important place in the community.

"No cause you can contribute to or volunteer for in our area has a greater multiplier effect or creates more synergy than this university," Yamin said. "It's at the core of our culture, our economy, and of course our educational community, and none of those spheres of our collective lives would be the same without a robust WestConn." ■



Photo gallery available at wcsu.edu/flickr

flickr™



Clockwise from top left:

(l-r): Interim Vice President for Institutional Advancement Fredric Wheeler, President James W. Schmotter, Robert and Dianne Yamin, WCSU Foundation Inc. Chairman David Nurnburger and Vice Chairman Gerard Robilotti.

Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton addresses the audience at the WestConn Society Luncheon.

(l-r): Dianne Yamin and Robert Yamin

(l-r): WCSU Director of Development Jane von Trapp chats with attendees at the luncheon.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNIZED

Birte Selvaraj, administrative assistant to the dean of Student Affairs, was named Employee of the Semester for the spring 2011 semester.



Marketing Club wins YouTube contest

By Hobson Lopes

The WCSU Marketing Club won an award in late 2010 in the American Marketing Association "AMA Saves Lives" YouTube video contest. The objective behind the contest was to encourage organ donation. To date, Western has helped garner more than 3,500 registrations and over 130,000 page views.

"Seeing that this was for the Marketing Association, I used my mind to think of the best marketer and salesman on the planet — the late Billy Mays," said Nicholas Wolf, a freshman who wrote, produced and acted in the award-winning video. "He was the guy always selling stuff on TV to save you money; I used his character to help save lives."

Wolf's contest-winning video topped submissions from Ohio State University, the University of Pennsylvania, Penn State University and North-

eastern University. The win sent Wolf to the AMA conference in New Orleans, La., where his video finished third out of more than 500 entries.

"I realized that Nick had the potential to develop a competitive video after viewing his past productions on YouTube," said Ron Drozdenko, professor and chair of the WCSU marketing department.

"I was pleasantly surprised when his AMA video exceeded my expectations. Not only was it well-produced and entertaining, it effectively delivered the message of the importance of organ donation."

Also at the AMA conference, the WCSU Marketing Club was recognized for excellence. There are 310 collegiate chapters in the AMA and Western's chapter was recognized as one of the top 25 internationally and received a bronze trophy. The club also received an award for being the most improved chapter of the year and was recognized for its Marketing Week activities. ■