Haas Library exhibit will showcase university talent

by Valeria Roth

WestConn’s Haas Library exhibit cases will display for public view the breadth of scholarship and creativity that is on campus, said Associate Director of Library Services Janet Ohles, who is putting together the display. “There is a lot going on here, and we’re really excited about the exhibit. This is only a small sampling because of space limitations,” she said.

The cases and the rest of the exhibit will be on the third floor lobby where visitors enter the library.

Ohles said she’s hoping people will have a chance to peruse the exhibit. “We’re hoping that people from the public will come and see what we have,” she said.

About the exhibit

The cases will contain items submitted by faculty and staff that will be the focal point of an exhibit celebrating President W. Schmotter’s inauguration as WestConn’s second president.

“Since the inauguration, we’ve been doing an exhibit involving the humanities and sciences,” said Ohles. “We’re doing it to showcase the breadth of scholarship and creativity that is on campus.”

The exhibit will be open from Saturday, April 9, through Saturday, April 30, during the library’s regular hours.

The exhibit will be called “It’s exciting to see the diversity and creativity of the university’s faculty and students,” Ohles said. “It is very exciting to see how much people are very productive.”

The cases will be filled with musical scores, CDs and books. “Of course, I can’t put anywhere close to everything, so this is a very small sampling of the breadth of the cases,” she said.

One of the cases will be devoted to the theme of research. “It’s exciting to think about the research that people have done and are doing,” Ohles said.

The exhibit will also contain music and dance performances. “This is an exhibit that involves a lot of sound,” Ohles said.

The exhibit will also contain a display of faculty and staff that will be the focal point of an exhibit celebrating President W. Schmotter’s inauguration as WestConn’s second president.

“It’s exciting to see the level and the breadth of scholarship and creativity that is on campus,” said Associate Director of Library Services Janet Ohles, who is putting together the display. “There is a lot more here than what we’re currently about. And this exhibit is only a small sampling.”

The exhibit will be on the third floor lobby where visitors enter the library.

The many published articles faculty members have submitted are being compiled so that people from the public can peruse them, she said. Books written by faculty members already in the library’s collection will be displayed on a bookcase in the exhibit.

The books in the library’s collection are divided, ranging from the prolific poetry of English professors. Dr. James Scrimgeour and Prof. Lou Orfanella. “The Creation of Jazz: Music, Race, and Culture in Urban America” by Dr. Burton Burton was the associate professor of history and “Teaching Elementary Mathematics: An Active Approach” by Professor of Mathematics Dr. Ronald Kutz.

There are also music scores by composer and Professor of Music Dr. Kevin Isaacs, an origami display by Associate Professor of Computer Science Rona Gurkevitz, as well as history professor emeritus Dr. Herbert Janicz’s book, “A People’s University: The History of WestConn.”

Centennial History of Western Connecticut State University 1993-2003.”

Logan said she will run her dance film on a loop and will display the poster of the actual screening. She created the documentary for the library. She plans to re-interview the dance students next summer to see where their lives and careers have taken them.

WestConn Research Day to prove research has its own rewards

by Shenri Hill

At WestConn, as on many college campuses, research takes place in classrooms, laboratories and in the field. Sometimes the results are revolutionary. Other times they are routine. But the common thread is that awareness of the research often seems to be restricted to the specific students who conducted it, or discipline in which it has occurred. In other words, it may be wonderful work, but there may not be awareness of it.

That’s about to change, thanks to the first WestConn Research Day, which will enable students from across the university to present their research to faculty and colleagues. Beginning at 2 p.m. on Friday, April 22, in Warner Hall, students from a diverse array of disciplines will assemble to share their work. President Schmotter will offer opening remarks, followed by faculty members and attendees from various disciplines.

The idea for Research Day came about as the result of conversations between faculty members, according to Assistant Professor of Psychology Dr. Robin Flanagan.

“I was at Dean’s meeting, Chris Kukik and I started talking about this last summer,” Flanagan said. “We felt that one of the things WestConn was doing well was involving undergraduates in research in programs throughout the university. In psychology, we already have many opportunities for our students to present their research to other psychology students and faculty, and in other departments there were similar outlets — but there was no opportunity for students and faculty to see what was going on in other departments. We’re not a big, anonymous school — it seems like we ought to take advantage of that and help students and faculty talk about their research across disciplines.

Maskel agreed. “We were talking about a WestConn student who had entered a research paper in a CSI Psychology Conference,” Maskel said. “We thought it would be nice to have a day at WestConn that celebrates research for all students. I know that Eastern has a research day for its arts and sciences students and more than 100 students participated last year. In fact, an Eastern student was offered a job on the spot by one of the judges, due to the quality of the research. My hope is that once out-

Research Day is expected to draw more than 100 students from a diverse array of disciplines.

Below is a sampling of mentions about WestConn that appeared recently in the local media. Unless otherwise noted, the articles appeared in The News-Times.

March 2005
FINE ACTING IN TROUBLING PLAY AT WESTCONN

“Disturbia” is disturbing theatre and the WestConn production, under the steady direction of theatre arts professor Ted Trapani, is an emotional journey into the heart of murder.

This past weekend, the local world of disenfranchised youth a few seasons ago with a savage production of Eric Bogosian’s “suburbia,” has delivered to the world of the lost. ... Trapani, who visited the same world of WestConn students and video production. She also

WestConn President James Schmotter told more than 100 students and faculty to see what was going on in other departments. We’re not a big, anonymous school — it seems like we ought to take advantage of that and help students and faculty talk about their research across disciplines.

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OUTSTANDING IN HIS FIELD

In 1995, Jeff Martin was a 16-year-old junior at WestConn when he got the chance to spend ten weeks in Mexico teaching along the edges of Simon, looking for trouble. “Tom Pluhich asked me if I would go to Mexico with him and I jumped at the chance,” he said. Pluhich, a professor of biological sciences at WestConn, is one of the world’s experts in podostemaceae — a family of about 200 species of trees that grows in fast-flowing streams. “I’ve found 400 species of them from the WestConn library,” he said.

WestConn President James Schmotter said more than 100 students will participate in Research Day on Friday, April 22, which will showcase research from many disciplines.

100 PERCENT OF RIC FRESHMEN FAIL TO

Rhode Island College is home to 76 students. Only 6 of 4 out of every 10 freshmen who earned in 1997 ended up earning a bachelor’s degree from RIC in 2005. John Dunbar, a Rhode Island College sophomore from North Providence, is transferring to WestConn, where he will live in the residence halls. He and his younger brother can afford WestConn for what it costs Ungar to attend RIC.

HEALTH TEACHER ENJOYS CAREER OF DISCOVERY

Karmen Kozicki can be counted among many things: a teacher, a health expert, and a musician. WestConn recently recognized the 52-year-old Dobbsville woman as being a distinguished alumna. As a Connecticut state Department of Education BEST State Teacher, the supervises several student health teachers who also graduated from WestConn. “I’ve seen 44 kids,” Kozicki said. “WestConn has done me proud.”

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Social work receives eight-year accreditation

by Valerie Ruth

The social work department has plenty to crow about. It recently received an eight-year reafirmation of its accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education. And most impressively, it received the stamp of approval without having to file an interim report.

According to department chair Dr. Robert Veneziano, who oversees a majority of colleges and universities, filing an interim report has been the norm in recent years.

“It’s unusual to be re-affirmed without having to do an interim report,” Veneziano said.

Filing an interim report means the accrediting institution had some concerns that needed to be addressed before full accreditation could be given.

“We have been told a majority of programs up for reaccreditation have had to do an interim report,” Veneziano added. “This is a great outcome. We’re very happy.

The social work department received the maximum reafirmation of eight years, it was the only college and university in 2015.

“The Council on Social Work Education is a national association based in Alexandria, Va. The council set standards and maintains policy and program standards, accredits bachelor’s and master’s degree programs in social work, promotes research and for the development and advocates for social work education, according to its website. It is recognized by the Council of Higher Education Accreditation as the sole accrediting body for social work education in the United States.

Veneziano said the council’s accreditation commission site visit team visited the university in October and were lauded by the department’s assessment procedures, the support from the university and singled out several courses for praise.

WestConn’s social work department was first accredited by the Council on Social Work Education in 1984. Since then, the university has received continuous reaccreditation with reaffirmations in 1989 and 1997.

The department has about 125 students who will receive a specialization in social work when they receive their baccalaureate.

Veneziano said the reaccreditation efforts for the social work department for achieving reaccreditation of their baccalaureate program by the Council on Social Work Education’ exclaimed WestConn President James W. Schmotter in a university-wide email.

“This outcome is a result of the excellence of our curriculum, the dedication of our faculty and the commitment of our students,” Schmotter said.

Schmotter singled out past department chair Steinberg for his leadership of the reaccreditation effort and Veneziano for “the exceptional chapter on assessment that he contributed to the report.”

Veneziano emphasized that the assessment committee was only one of many departments and programs who contributed to the department, faculty, and most of those sections were highly rated as well. He also noted that the site team praised the department for its “dynamic faculty.”

“From our department’s perspective it was only one of the many departments and programs who contributed to the department, faculty, and most of those sections were highly rated as well. He also noted that the site team praised the department for its “dynamic faculty.”

The critics are unanimous: tenor saxophonist Joe Lovano is one of the best in the business. He’s played some of the most famous jazz clubs and festivals in the world, and at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 29, Lovano will bring his incredible talent to WestConn. The Joe Lovano Nonet will perform as part of the 10th Annual WestConn/Litchfield Performing Arts Jazz Festival in Ives Concert Hall in White Hall on the university’s Midtown campus.

Lovano’s discography runs more than four pages, with two-dozen releases of his own and an additional 100 or more on which he has guested with other great jazz groups. This Grammy award-winner has won so many critic and readers’ poll awards for tenor saxophonist of the year in the past 10 years, that’s difficult to keep track.

“It’s fair to say that he’s one of the greatest musicians in jazz history,” wrote Ben Ratliff of the New York Times.

Don Heckman, for the Los Angeles Times, wrote, “Lovano fully justifies the growing view of him as an important, world-class jazz talent.”

“Lovano’s sound on alto saxophone is the most memorable of the whole group. His playing is so intense, so full of passion and emotion, that it is difficult to keep track of his many accomplishments,” wrote Don Ronden.

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Annual jazz festival to feature the Joe Lovano Nonet

by Sherrill Hill

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In an article in the March issue, Dr. Alwan Grooman was incorrectly announced as an associate professor of English. He is, in fact, a professor of English.
Irene Sherlock’s changing lives at WestConn

by Valeria Roth

All good writing is swimming underwater with water and holding your breath.

F. Scott Fitzgerald

Irene Sherlock is coming up for air. The associate director of University Publications & Design and English department adjunct is enjoying a burst of recognition lately. She can be heard reading her descriptive, witty essays about life on WHUS! National Public Radio’s show, after an essay she wrote about her adventures in Internet dating appeared in The New York Times, two writing agents called looking for more.

She wrote her first piece for WHUS! radio about how she fell in love with baseball in mid-life and her struggles to get her egg sandwiches, are all fodder for her pen. She is writing a collection of essays on her Connecticut neighborhood that will include moments of her life at WestConn and in Danbury. She’s also co-editing an anthology about her creative writing life so far,” she says with good humor. The road was long and hard for Sherlock, a former hairdresser. She didn’t start college until she was 26. A beginning English class taught by Professor Emeritus Dr. Janet Dow changed her life.

“I was so excited about my work, which was really awful, trust me,” Sherlock said. “She had me read it...”

She was thrilled by her first book, “I wasn’t geared to ever be a writer, but no cigar has been the story of my creative writing life so far,” she says with good humor.

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Western Connection designated a model program

by Valerie Roth

Western Connection designated a model program by Valerie Roth

Connecticut State Department of Education teacher who coordinates the two-year-old program at WestConn.

Emmett now mentors two special needs students.

"I love it because you get to help other people," she said.

"I can't help but write," she said.

"I went to a meeting and they needed help," Emmett said. "I had new ideas about what they could do."
Dr. Mark Stiger, a professor of anthropology at Western State College in Gunnison, Colo. (second from right), with his students at a WestConn professors see the world as their classroom

context of the culture,” Roberts said, see these renowned instructors and get experience — not just the opportunity to

in local wetlands, Errico will surely get his feet wet as a field biologist, as he helps Pinou and her team attempt to

capture and tag every single turtle of the Manxmoys or littorale species on the island.

Newtown resident Lindsay Goodwick, a junior majoring in anthropology in Stanford who is attending WestConn to become certified to teach biology at the high school level, he will accompany Assistant Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences Dr. Theodore Pinou to the Greek Island of Crete in mid-April. There they will join other turtle populations on the island. While wading in local wetlands, Errico will surely get his feet wet as a field biologist, as he helps Pinou and her team attempt to

upon his return from a weeklong excursion to historic cities including Amsterdam, Allmara, Haarlem, Leiden, Hamburg and Stade. “When I take my students to Europe, we are not like a tour group — we almost live like Europeans while we are there. We get to interact and know students and other people from these places. We see the instruments on which much of the organ making was done in that time period. And we also go to art museums and take in other things from the culture, because you can’t understand any art unless you understand the culture that produced it.”

Natural history is the focus of the biology-based trip to Greece. Pinou and her student will be part of a team of “Traveling Cyberscientists” — a teacher-training/professional development program that supports the collaborative research of Petroco Lycambolis of the Natural History Museum of Crete, and Pinou’s work at WestConn and the Yale-Peabody Museum of Natural History, to survey the freshwater turtle population on the Island of Crete. Errico will join eight science educators from the Barnard Environmental Studies Magnet and also will give him experience in authentic research. Plus, he’ll be working side-by-side with trained scientists and veteran teachers in the field for 12 days.”

Weinstein said. “Dr. Mark Stiger at Western State is a well-known archaeologist who has an ongoing excavation on a 10,000-year-old Paleolithic site. He’s letting my students join his at this 9,000- to 10,000-year-old Paleolithic site, in what will truly be a collaborative program. Then, I’ll be taking the students to various landmarks and heritage museums in the Four Corners area of the southwest, where they will see unbelievable archaeological sites and things they’ve never seen about their communities, challenges and ways of working to ensure the day-to-day meaning of human rights by visiting other cultures to learn about their communities, challenges and ways of working to ensure the welfare of all of their people.

Regardless of the discipline — or the destination — it’s clear that student-faculty field trips make the world WestConn’s classroom.
Students, faculty, staff and young people from the Kent/Catholic Center congregated on the Quad — many decked out in green — to enjoy the sunny day and the sounds of the bagpipes. This was President Schmotter’s first St. Patrick’s Day at WestConn and he had not witnessed an event like this on any of the other college campuses at which he has worked.

The “Buggipiper on the Green” is a great tradition,” Dr. Schmotter said. “What a wonderful way to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day. On a day when we’re all Irish for 24 hours, this really makes us feel that way.”

Speaker discusses ‘The Future of Feminist Text: The Word Made Flesh’

Elizabeth Frost, poet, literary critic and associate professor of English at Fordham University, shared her thoughts on feminist literature and art in March.

Frost’s presentation was sponsored by the M.F.A. in Professional Writing program, the School of Arts and Sciences and the Division of Graduate Studies. It also was part of “The Future: Its Promises and Treats” program, introduced by Frost, M.F.A. in Professional Writing Coordinator Dr. Brian Clements said, “If Elizabeth Frost is representative of a new generation of poet/scholar/critic ... then contemporary poetry and poetry criticism are in good hands.”


Frost then shared slides depicting the work of three female — and feminist — photographers.

Jo Spence, who deftly captured her treatment for breast cancer on film, created “photo-therapy” — the use of photography to reframe and heal old trauma. Barbara Kruger, whose work focuses on combining images and text, Kruger makes powerful statements while eliminating the dissonance between the text and the images. Frost said in her work, the camera hides more than it discloses. And Lorna Simpson, who Frost described as “the youngest and most elusive” of the photographers, Simpson uses her work to investigate racial and sexual stereotypes.

A lively audience discussion about feminism, art and language followed.

The idea for Research Day has been supported by the National Institute of Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse (NIAAA), the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), the National Council on Problem Gambling, and federal, academic and other research sources. INSIGHT will be distributed to mental health professionals, administrative personnel of treatment agencies, legislators, addiction/prevention advocates/advocates, citizens, and other related groups.

“The certificates are given to the most accomplished, hard-working students in the class each semester,” Macchell said. “It’s my way of acknowledging their overall accomplishments towards the course requirements because it’s a capstone course which is very demanding.”

The class focuses on interpretation of statistical research tables and is the last course taught by Dr. David Machell, each received a Certificate of Excellence in Research Methodology in Justice and Law Administration at the end of the fall semester.

“Enigma Machine” to create codes during WWII

Several years ago to hide and scramble health professionals, administrative personnel of treatment agencies, legislators, addiction/prevention advocates/advocates, citizens, and other related groups.

“The certificates are given to the most accomplished, hard-working students in the class each semester,” Macchell said. “It’s my way of acknowledging their overall accomplishments towards the course requirements because it’s a capstone course which is very demanding.”

The class focuses on interpretation of statistical research tables and is the last course taught by Dr. David Machell, each received a Certificate of Excellence in Research Methodology in Justice and Law Administration at the end of the fall semester.

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Women, opportunities, the future the focus of March events

According to the National Women’s History Project Web site, “Women Change America” was selected as the 2005 Women’s History Month theme because it “honors and recognizes the role of American women in transforming culture, history and politics as leaders, writers, scientists, educators, politicians, artists, historians, and informed citizens.” So it was fitting that two events held on campus in early March, during Women’s History Month, were focused on professional women, their careers and achievements.

On Friday, March 4, the Connecticut Women in Higher Education Network and “Do your homecountry on Education (ACOE) Office of Women in Higher Education convened in Warner Hall for the “Pathways to Success for Women’s Career Advancement Forum.” During the day-long event, female faculty, administrators and guests were treated to enlightening speakers and an engaging panel discussion. A week later, another Warner Hall audience enjoyed a reading and discussion by author Miranda Beverly-Whittemore.


Perez then joined Vice Chancellor of the Connecticut State University System Estela Lopez, Dean of Students Emeritus from Framingham State College Cynthia Forrest, previous speaker Phillips and Chair of WestConn’s Mathematics Department Josie Hamer, in a panel discussion titled “Best and Worst Practices Panel: Lessons Learned from Multiple Perspectives.” Each offered valuable advice from the perspective of a job seeker or decision-maker.

“Prepare and become an expert about the institution at which you will be interviewing,” Lopez suggested. Hamer agreed.

“Avery-Whittemore’s novel (posing for the photographer in the pictures aren’t naked, the pictures aren’t selling. But at the same time, we can’t raise issues about what we consider moral, censorship and questions about art,” she added.

Whether top-level administrators at institutions of higher learning, a search professional or a new novelist not long out of college herself, the women who spoke at Warner Hall in March exemplified what Women’s History Month celebrates: elevating the aspirant and the opportunities of women.

Events for Inaugural Week, April 9 - 15

Author Miranda Beverly-Whittemore discusses her first book, “The Effects of Light,” at a “The Future: its Promises and Threats” event sponsored by the School of Arts and Sciences in March.

Saturday, April 9
10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Danbury/WestConn Community Day: Various locations on WestConn’s campuses and throughout the City of Danbury. Focus on the Quad to follow at 2 p.m.

All Day, Exhibitions in the Ruth Haas Library, Midtown campus

Monday, April 11
5 - 7 p.m., Reception for WSCU Photo Show and WSCU Authors’ Bibliography, Warner Hall, Midtown campus

Tuesday, April 12
10 a.m., Ceremonial Groundbreaking, Westside Campus Center, Westside campus

10:50 a.m., Groundbreaking: Western Connecticut Academy for International Studies, Middle River Road, Danbury

2 - 3 p.m., Conversations with President Schmoller, Student Center, Midtown campus

For WSCU students only

3 - 4 p.m., Poetry and Dance Presentation, Harambee students Student Center, Room 202

4:30 - 6:30 p.m., Special Dinner, Student Center, Midtown campus

For WSCU students only

Wednesday, April 13
5:30 - 5:50 p.m., Beatrice K. Nemzer Symposium, Pinney Center, Westside campus

Thursday, April 14
5 - 7 p.m., Poster presentations about “Our Dynamic Communities: Unique Faculty/Community Partnerships,” Warner Hall, Midtown campus

7 p.m., Teaching American History lecture: Blanche Weissn-Guest, an Eleanor Roosevelt biographer, will speak about “Eleanor Roosevelt, Women and Power,” Student Center Theater, Midtown campus

Friday, April 15
11 a.m., Faculty/Emeriti/Delegates Brunch, O’Neill Center, Westside campus

For Pensioner members only

12:30 p.m., Academic processional forms, O’Neill Center, Westside campus

1:30 p.m., Inauguration Ceremony, O’Neill Center, Westside campus

3 - 5 p.m., Reception, O’Neill Center, Westside campus

6 p.m., An Evening at the Opera: A Reception, Warner Hall, Midtown campus

For WSCU alumni only

8 p.m., WSCU Opera, Irene Concert Hall, White Hall, Midtown campus, Admission Best and Worst Practices Panel participants (l-r) Donna Burns Phillips, associate director of the American Council on Educactions Office of Women in Higher Education; Maria M. Perez, president of Perez-Arton Consultants; Cynthia Forrest, dean of students emeritus at Framingham State College; Estela Lopez, vice chancellor of the Connecticut State University System, and Professor and Chair of the WCSU Department of Mathematics Dr. Josie Hamer.

“This is my first reading at a college,” she said, as she came to the Warner Hall podium.

Beverly-Whittemore then read three excerpts from her novel and responded to audience questions. When asked what relevance “The Effects of Light” might have in relation to Women’s History Month, she said, “Everywhere you look, there’s an image of half-naked girls. Sex sells. But at the same time, we can’t show or acknowledge it. There’s a double standard. Even though the girls (posing for the photographer in the novel) are naked, the pictures aren’t sexual,” the daughter of WestConn Professor of Anthropology Dr. Robert Whittemore explained.

“We have freedom to depict what we see in this country. I think my novel raises issues about what we consider moral, censorship and questions about art,” she added.

Whether top-level administrators at institutions of higher learning, a search professional or a new novelist not long out of college herself, the women who spoke at Warner Hall in March exemplified what Women’s History Month celebrates: elevating the aspirant and the opportunities of women.

All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. For more information, please visit www.wcsu.edu/inauguration.
Organisms that Live on Them” at 7 p.m. in the Environmental Sciences. Dr. Theodora Pinou will discuss the metro Danbury area and state economies from 5:25 to 6:25 p.m. in Room 214 of White Hall on the Midtown campus. For more information, call (203) 837-9345, ext. 129.

The Institute for Holistic Health Studies at WestConn and the Danbury branch of the Connecticut Holistic Health Association will present “The Power of Intuition and Positive Energy to Heal: An Evening with Judith Orloff, M.D.” at 7 p.m. in the Convant Hall in White Hall on the Midtown campus. Dr. Orloff will discuss her new book, “Positive Energy,” and a book signing will follow. Tickets will be $20, plus tax for all to attend and handle. WestConn students with valid I.D. will be admitted free. For tickets, call (837) 8800.

WestConn will host a 7 p.m. planetarium show followed by a telescope viewing from 10 to 11 p.m. at the Westside Observatory and Planetarium on the Westside campus. Call (837) 8672-6200 for more information.

WestConn will present the Child Care Cabinet at 7:30 p.m. in Warner Hall on the Midtown campus. The public is invited. Tickets will be $15. WestConn students with valid I.D. will be admitted free. For more information, call (203) 837-9350.

WestConn will host the CSI Academic Competitions Conference from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Westside Classroom Building on the Westside campus. For more information, go to www.cs.wcsu.edu/AcaCompConf.

WestConn will host the 29th annual Child Care Community Conference from 5:25 to 6:25 p.m. in Room 214 of White Hall on the Midtown campus. For more information, call (203) 837-9350.

The WCSU Roger Sherman Debate Society will host a debate at 12:45 p.m., Room 201, Student Center, Midtown campus. For more information, call (203) 837-8350.

The WCSU Music Department will present a performance of “Imaginazione” at 7 p.m. at April 19, and at 7 p.m. on April 20, at the Student Center Theater, Westside campus. Call (203) 837-8499, or go to www.wcsu.edu/music.

Bill Curry will present “Bill Clinton’s efforts to promote integrated trade from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m., at the Westside Observatory and Planetarium on the Westside campus. Call (203) 837-9350 for more information.

The WCSU Percussion Ensemble will present a reception and exhibit are free. For more information, call (203) 837-9345, ext. 129.

The Career Development Center will host the Roots & Shoots East Coast University Conference, “Our Dynamic Communities” from 5 to 7 p.m. in Warner Hall on the Midtown campus. The performance will be free. For more information, call (203) 837-8410.

The Institute for Holistic Health Studies at WestConn and the Danbury branch of the Connecticut Holistic Health Association will present “The Power of Intuition and Positive Energy to Heal: An Evening with Judith Orloff, M.D.” at 7 p.m. in Convant Hall in White Hall on the Midtown campus. Dr. Orloff will discuss her new book, “Positive Energy,” and a book signing will follow. Tickets will be $20, plus tax for all to attend and handle. WestConn students with valid I.D. will be admitted free. For tickets, call (837) 8800.

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WestConn will present a lecture about teaching American history at 7 p.m. in the Student Center Theater on the Midtown campus. Blanche Wison, a journalist, will speak about “Beaver Newtwood, Roosevelt, and Power.” For more information, call (203) 837-8244.

The WCSU theatre arts department will host a panel discussion of “Art and the Americas,” from 5 to 7 p.m. in Room 214 of White Hall on the Midtown campus. For more information, call (203) 837-8350.

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