



President's Lecture Series to feature futurist

by Sherri Hill

Visionary. A pioneer. Thought-provoking. The guru of the information age. A techno-prophet. The father of computer-aided systems engineering. These are just some of the ways best-selling author James Martin has been described.

Martin will share his technologically inspired and insightful look into our future as the Western Connecticut State University President's Lecture Series speaker at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 24, in Ives Concert Hall in White Hall on the Midtown campus. The lecture will be free and the public is invited.

"The century ahead presents humankind with unprecedented challenges," said WestConn President James W. Schmotter. "The combination of technological advances, population growth and increasing economic disparity between nations and regions threatens not only cultural and military conflict, but also the continuing

degradation of our planet's fragile environment. We will need to look at the future of our world in different ways, and I can't think of a better

"The century ahead presents humankind with unprecedented challenges."

speaker to stimulate such contemplation than James Martin."

Martin is best known for his 1977 Pulitzer Prize-nominated book "The Wired Society: A Challenge for Tomorrow," which predicted with startling accuracy the arrival of the Internet. But he also has authored more

than 100 textbooks and other works including "The Great Transition," "Technology's Crucible," "Cybercorp: The New Business Revolution" and "After the Internet: Alien Intelligence." Martin's latest book is "The Meaning of the 21st Century: A Vital Blueprint for Ensuring Our Future," in which he looks at the condition of the planet and what he believes needs to happen in order to ensure a viable future.

"Whatever else education achieves, it must equip young people to take responsibility for our future — and to find adventure and joy in being global citizens in a time of historic transition," Martin writes in "The Meaning of the 21st Century: A Vital Blueprint for Ensuring Our Future."

He always has been a future-thinker.

In a June 2001 article in Discover magazine, Brad Lemley wrote, "In 1977, Elvis died, Gerald Ford left the White House, and Bill Gates still banged out

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Scholar to deliver first talk in Macricostas series



Contributed Photo

Dr. Speros Vryonis Jr.

by Robert Taylor

Dr. Speros Vryonis Jr., recognized as one of the nation's most eminent scholars of Byzantine and Hellenic studies, will deliver the first talk in a new lecture series funded by a grant from the foundation of Brookfield industrialist and philanthropist Constantine "Deno" Macricostas and his wife Marie.

Vryonis will speak about "The Mechanism of Catastrophe: The Turkish Pogrom of September 6-7, 1955, and the Destruction of the Greek Community of Istanbul" at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April

6, in Room 125 of the Science Building on the Midtown campus. The talk will be free and the public is invited. A reception and book signing will follow.

"The selection of Professor Vryonis by WestConn's School of Arts and Sciences, and the topic of the 1955 pogroms, brings to light an important and overlooked historical event that continues to have implications to this day," said Macricostas, whose gift of \$1.1 million to the university established the lecture series, an Endowed Chair in Hellenic Studies, a scholarship for students who recently immigrated to the United States, and a business award for regional entrepreneurs.

"As Turkey endeavors to join the European Union, it must come to grips with the darker chapters of its past, so that it can participate as a partner whose values and ideals are compatible with those of all Western societies," Macricostas continued. "Only in exploring these events within an academic environment of free and unbiased expression, and not through the lens of emotionally charged nationalist rhetoric, is it possible to arrive at an understanding of history that contributes to the creation of a better world today, and a more

promising future."

Vryonis has written extensively about the history and culture of the Greek people from Homer to the present, publishing works on the history of Byzantium and Hellenism and the cultural and religious forces that have transformed the region stretching from the Balkans to Turkey for more than two millennia.

He was a longtime faculty member at the University of California at Los Angeles and in 1985 founded the Speros Basil Vryonis Center for the Study of Hellenism. He later became founding director of the Alexander Onassis Center for Hellenic Studies at New York University, retiring as the emeritus Onassis professor of Hellenic civilization. Vryonis is a Guggenheim Fellow, Fulbright Scholar and fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Medieval Academy of America and American Philosophical Society.

He has written and edited numerous books and articles exploring the social and political evolution of the Byzantine Empire, as well as the interaction of Hellenic culture with Slavic and Islamic influences in the region. His book "The Decline of Medieval Hellenism in Asia

■ *cont'd. on page 4*

Media Mentions

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:

February and March 2006

PROFESSOR'S NOVEL TELLS TALE OF 1930s INVASION OF CHINA

Through the eyes of a 12-year-old girl brought to life in his debut novel, Shouhua Qi tells about the horrific Japanese invasion of his hometown in China during the long winter of 1937-38. An associate professor of English at WestConn, Qi is passionate about recounting the historical event. Even though it happened 20 years before he was born, he heard stories from his father and grandfather about the atrocities of war and knew someday he would pour it out on paper.

REPORT LAUDS STUDENT SUCCESS (BROOKFIELD JOURNAL)

Brookfield High School (BHS) continues to post high

scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and send a large percentage of its students to four-year colleges, with WestConn in Danbury and the University of Connecticut (UConn) in Storrs again being the top choices. ... Fourteen students from last year's BHS senior class now attend UConn, which was the second most popular choice, behind WestConn.

HOSPITAL USES SCHOLARSHIPS TO ATTRACT NURSES

As many nurses at New Milford Hospital approach retirement age, hospital officials are poised to bring in the next generation of high-caliber nurses. ... Beginning next fall, the hospital will award two nursing students a \$7,500 annual college scholarship for up to two years to cover tuition and books. In return, the recipients will pledge to work for the hospital for at least two years after graduation. If the student seeks a third year of tuition, the pledge is then for three years. This scholarship, known as the Future Heroes Scholarship Fund, is based on tuition costs at WestConn. And in the future, the hospital intends to add two scholarships a year.

CITY TEACHERS GET LESSON IN SCIENCE (THE ADVOCATE)

Up to 10 teachers from Norwalk middle schools and high schools will participate in research projects with professors from WestConn in Danbury as part of a pilot program that also will recruit teachers from New Haven. Under the program, Norwalk teachers would assist professors performing scientific research in chemistry, biology or physics, while being mentored in teaching and learning techniques by a faculty member of the university's school of education.

STUDENTS IN SERVICE SEE REALITY OF WAR

As most students at WestConn attend class, Spc. Karl Bergquist, a freshman justice and law major, prepares for battle. Bergquist, 18, of Newtown, is on leave from college to train at Fort Bragg, N.C., for a yearlong mission to Afghanistan with the 1st Battalion 102nd Infantry. ... Bergquist is one of about 200 WestConn students who are veterans or active members of the military. ... Despite time away from school, several WestConn soldiers said their

service in the military helped them academically.

WESTCONN'S 'AS YOU LIKE IT' ROLLICKING FUN

The WestConn production of "As You Like It" takes Shakespeare's title to heart. Director Sal Trapani, having apparently taken a cross-campus poll, has generously included student fantasies in his busy, sprawling interpretation of the Bard's forest-set story of rebels, runaways and romance.

IRISHMAN SHARES THE WIND IN HIS PIPES (HARTFORD COURANT)

David Machell has devoted much of his life to helping people overcome alcohol and drug addictions. A professor at WestConn since 1981, the Manchester native has created or contributed to the founding of six state-licensed addiction treatment programs. But university President James Schmotter said that in some circles, Machell is more widely known for his love of the bagpipes and Celtic music. "Every campus has people who do a lot more than just teach and Dave is that person here," Schmotter said.

Values & Vision

Update from
President Schmotter

I'm writing to provide an update on how the planning work that emerged from our Values and Vision process is progressing. Much is being accomplished, and I'm grateful to the many faculty and staff colleagues and students who've devoted their time to these efforts.

Let me begin with a quick historical overview. In fall 2004, we organized the Values and Vision Committee to collect comments, observations and wisdom from members of all of the university's stakeholder groups. More than 70 structured conversations involving more than 600 individuals ensued. These conversations included campus groups such as faculty, staff and students and external constituents from government, business, education and the community. The Values and Vision Committee organized this mass of information into broad themes for our "Stakeholders' Conference" last March. Relying on the dialogue at that meeting, four retreats with administrative and faculty leadership were held over the spring and summer to further prioritize the many ideas that surfaced in Values and Vision. From those retreats came a decision to proceed in fall 2005 with five action teams. These teams are focusing on developing actionable steps to address the following topics:

Strategic Enrollment Management (co-chairs: Vice President for Finance and Administration Maribeth Amyot and Assistant Professor of Psychology Patricia O'Neill)

Improving Student Success (co-chairs: Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences Linda Vaden-Goad and Vice President for Student Affairs Walter Bernstein)

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AROUND CAMPUS

WestConn to host statewide writing conference

by Sherri Hill

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Frank McCourt will deliver the keynote address at a conference for student and community writers from across Connecticut on Saturday and Sunday, May 6 - 7, on the WestConn Midtown campus.

Graduate and undergraduate creative writing students from the four Connecticut State University (CSU) campuses, along with outstanding student writers from the state's high schools, will participate in the annual conference on Saturday, May 6, with a second day devoted to writing seminars for the public.

The schedule on Saturday will include small group workshops for registered attendees that will focus on student work in fiction, poetry, nonfiction, screenwriting and journalism. There also will be panel discussions, readings and a book fair, and these events will be free and open to the public. The panels and readings will be at 11 a.m., 1:45 p.m. and 3 p.m. A complete schedule will be online at the official conference Web site, <http://so-mako.sysoff.ctstateu.edu/AcadAff/cwc.nsf> in early April.

McCourt's keynote address will be at 4 p.m. in Ives Concert Hall in White Hall on the Midtown campus. McCourt won the Pulitzer Prize in 1997 for "Angela's Ashes," a gritty portrayal of his upbringing in Limerick, Ireland. His latest book is "Teacher Man," about his 30 years of teaching in the New York City schools. The talk will be free and the public is invited. A book signing will follow.

The conference will continue with more public events on Sunday, May 7. Well-known writers, including Connecticut poet laureate Marilyn Nelson and 2006 National Endowment for the Arts literary fellow Daniel Asa Rose, a visiting writer in the WestConn Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) in Professional Writing program, will conduct 12:30 p.m. seminars in fiction, nonfiction, poetry and screen-writing for pre-registered participants. The afternoon also will include a 3 p.m. panel discussion about "Insights for Marketing Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry and Screenplays," and readings and book signings by the renowned writers.

The Sunday events will be open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis for a \$20 fee. There will be space

for 10 public registrants in each of the seminars conducted by the well-known writers. Once these workshops are filled, attendees will be placed into small, facilitated peer workshops by writing genre. Each of these peer groups will be moderated by a writer from WestConn's M.F.A. in Professional Writing program, who will consider the work submitted by each participant.

A regional book fair with displays from local book, magazine and newsletter publishers also will take place during the conference. Books by faculty members and other poets and writers will be sold at the event.

The deadline to register for student and public participants has been extended to Wednesday, April 5. Sign-up

forms are posted at the official conference Web site and at www.connecticutreview.com under "Creative Connections."

The conference is co-sponsored by the WestConn M.F.A. in Professional Writing program, the Connecticut Review literary journal and the IMPAC-Connecticut State University Young Writers Trust. Grant funds have been received from the CSU system and WestConn President James W. Schmotter. The program has additional support from Drunkenboat.com, an international online journal for the arts. ■

For more information, contact WestConn Professor of English Dr. John Briggs at (203) 837-9043 or Briggsj@wcsu.edu.

New provost/vice president for Academic Affairs named



Interim Provost Dr. Roy Stewart Jr. shows incoming Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Linda Rinker around the Midtown campus in March.

by Paul Steinmetz

WestConn President James W. Schmotter announced the appointment of a new provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

Dr. Linda K. Rinker will join the university July 1 from Kutztown University in Pennsylvania, where she held the same titles since 1996.

"Dr. Rinker brings an outstanding record of accomplishments and leadership to her new assignment with us," Schmotter said. "Her appointment is yet another important step in the journey to fulfill our potential."

Kutztown University has 9,957

students and 470 full-time and 30 part-time faculty. Enrollment has increased 6 percent for the past three years while Rinker has overseen a comprehensive university-wide enrollment management process. By comparison, WestConn has 4,641 students, 223 full-time faculty and 308 part-time.

During Rinker's tenure, which included the job of interim president in the spring 2000 semester, an estimated \$137 million worth of capital projects have been built at Kutztown University, including a new science building completed in 2003.

The school's student retention rate reached 78 percent as Rinker worked with administrators to focus on high-risk students and create an advising center managed by faculty.

Rinker earned her bachelor's in psychology/education from West Chester State College; her master's in counseling psychology from Kutztown University; a master of science in nursing, specializing in nursing administration, from Villanova University; and her Ed.D. in administration/education from Teachers' College at Columbia University. She also is working toward her MBA at Kutztown.

While WestConn searched for a permanent replacement, Dr. Roy Stewart Jr. has been interim provost and vice president for Academic Affairs since July. ■

Eisenson earns broadcasting certification



Assistant Professor of Meteorology Rob Eisenson watches a meteorology student deliver a weather forecast.

by Paul Steinmetz

Robert N. Eisenson, assistant professor of meteorology, has earned the American Meteorological Society's (AMS) Certified Broadcast Meteorologist (CBM) designation, a professional recognition of the quality of his weather broadcasts.

The certification is valuable in Eisenson's role as head of the broadcast meteorology option within the B.S. Meteorology degree program at

WestConn, and also for his job as weekend meteorologist for News 12 Westchester/Hudson Valley.

Eisenson is now the only full-time faculty member at a college or university in the country to be a Certified Broadcast Meteorologist.

The AMS grants the CBM designation to broadcast meteorologists who meet established criteria for scientific competence and effective communication skills in their weather presentations.

"The society's Certified Broadcast Meteorologist designation clearly recognizes that the holders have the educational background and have been tested in their knowledge and communication of the sciences needed to be an effective broadcast meteorologist," said AMS Executive Director Keith Seitter. "The general public can have added confidence in the quality and reliability of weather

presentations made by broadcast meteorologists approved by the society."

Eisenson has a Bachelor of Science in Atmospheric Science from Cornell University and a Master of Science in Meteorology from the University of Utah. He has been with WestConn since 1999 and at News 12 since 1995.

To earn the CBM, broadcasters must hold a degree in meteorology or equivalent from an accredited college or university, pass a rigorous written examination, and have their on-air work reviewed to assess technical competence, informational value, explanatory value, and communication skills.

The AMS is the nation's largest professional society for those in the atmospheric and related sciences. The society, founded in 1919, has more than 11,000 members around the world. ■

For more information, call Eisenson at (203) 837-8989.

AROUND CAMPUS

Funding eases Roots & Shoots growing pains

By Paul Steinmetz

Dr. Rick Asselta doesn't take Roots & Shoots for granted.

The campus environmental program founded by Jane Goodall is a well-known and long-standing part of WestConn life. But with Asselta, the administrator of the worldwide university Roots & Shoots branch retiring this year, and with the continual turnover of student leaders, the program's success is not guaranteed.

A series of three summits was designed to answer the question of what the future might bring.

The first summit was held at the Clearpool Education Center in Carmel, N.Y., on Feb. 10-12, the weekend of the two-foot snowstorm. The main topic was how to encourage and develop "green" campuses, but a general theme of all three summits will be how to attract school administrators and faculty into the organization at campuses around the country, as well as how to generate continuing student interest from year to year.

Luckily, the snow stayed away long enough so that all of the participants representing 22 colleges and universities could arrive. And the storm actually helped in one instance:

"They held the snowshoeing until the end, when there was snow," Asselta said.

Asselta said the practical point of the summit was to disperse ideas.

"The Roots & Shoots program is contingent on people knowing you can have an impact now," Asselta said. "It's not in the future. When it was almost over, I said, 'What are you bringing back?' Each college said, 'There are two or three things that we wanted to do but

didn't know where to start. Now we do."

About 60 colleges and universities participate in Roots & Shoots. By the end of the year, Asselta said, he hopes the number will be more than 100.

The Jane Goodall Institute

established the National Center for University Roots & Shoots at WestConn in 2003. The center is a national project that trains students, faculty and administrators to develop programs for students from elementary school through college in environmental and conservation issues.

The center received a \$198,400 federal grant in 2005 that is being spent on the summits, for technology training, and to develop a new manual and instructional video.

Dr. Howard Russock, a WestConn biology professor and chairman of the Jane Goodall Center on campus, administers the grant. He shares Asselta's concern about the future of Roots & Shoots.

"What you really need is one faculty

■ *cont'd. on page 7*

"The Roots & Shoots program is contingent on people knowing you can have an impact now."



WCSU Photo/Peggy Stewart

Primatologist and environmentalist Dr. Jane Goodall will return to WestConn in April.

Roots & Shoots Summit schedule

The Roots & Shoots University Program based at WestConn will host a National University Summit April 21 through 23. The purpose will be to share activities, successes and goals, and to develop a stronger and expanded university program. The program will be open to all interested students and faculty.

Schedule of Events

Friday, April 21

6 p.m. Welcome Dinner
7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Gathering at the campfire and getting-to-know-you activities

Saturday, April 22

8 a.m. Breakfast
9 – 9:30 a.m. Introduction of participants and presenters
9:30 – 11:00 a.m. "Roots & Shoots on the Campus: the Who, What, When, Where, Why and How" of University Roots & Shoots Programs - Dr. Rick Asselta, coordinator of the Roots & Shoots University Program and Hans Cole, director of Outreach and Leadership for the Jane Goodall Institute
11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. "Eco Team: A Program Empowering College Students to Engage in Elementary Environmental Education" - Stan Cross, Warren Wilson College.
12:45 - 1:45 p.m. Lunch activity (surprise)
2 – 3 p.m. Hiking and nature program
3 – 4:30 p.m. "What's Working? Program Successes and Works in Progress" - Dr. Rick Asselta
4:45 – 5 p.m. Children's Conference on the Environment - Laurel Kohl, Eastern Connecticut State University
5 – 6 p.m. Professor/Mentor presentations: "How Roots & Shoots is Being Used by Instructors in the Classroom, Service Learning, Roots & Shoots Courses and Other Related Programs"
6:30 p.m. Dinner
7:30 – 9 p.m. Campfire stories, songs, fun activities and Gideon, a guest musician from Uganda

Sunday, April 23

8 a.m. Breakfast
9 – 11 a.m. University students meet with Dr. Jane Goodall, sharing what they are doing, hope to do, and getting Jane's thoughts and suggestions.
11:15 – 11:45 Lunch
noon – 1 p.m. Wolf ambassador Atka from the Wolf Conservation Center
1:15 – 2 p.m. Planning for the future

Monday, April 24

9 – 10 a.m. Dr. Jane Goodall meets with local students in grades 3 to 5
10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Goodall meets with local students in grades 6 to 12
Students will ask questions and discuss issues with Goodall and view displays of Roots & Shoots groups' accomplishments in the O'Neill Center.
2 – 3:30 p.m. Goodall will lead a college symposium in Alumni Hall



WCSU Photo/Peggy Stewart

College students from across the Northeast attended the first Roots & Shoots University Conference held at WestConn.

Midtown, Westside campuses going 'green'

by Paul Steinmetz

Luigi Marcone shut down WestConn on July 27.

He didn't get in trouble, either, because everyone had agreed beforehand that if a call for help came from the consortium that runs the New England energy grid, Marcone would flip the switch to cut off power to 13 WestConn buildings.

The demand for energy on July 27 was a record because of the heat. Under a contract with a private company that acts as a power clearinghouse, WestConn agreed to cut its electricity usage by 2.2 megawatts in an emergency, enough to power roughly 2,200 homes. In return, the school receives regular payments.

"We get paid every month just for being on call," said Marcone, the director of Environmental and Facilities Services. "It's a great opportunity for the university to make some money and help out the community."

Because of Marcone's work, WestConn received ISO New England's 2005 Demand Response Achievement Award, along with Pitney Bowes, Stop & Shop Supermarket Co., and the State of Connecticut Office of Policy Management.

Marcone collected the award at a ceremony in Boston on Feb. 23.

"It's a no-brainer," Marcone said. "Either you get paid to turn on your generators before the blackout or you turn on your generators after the blackout and don't get paid. We have a summer snow day. What we do is call the radio stations and close the university for that day. Our commitment

is Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m." Two residence halls are included in the shutdown plan. Generators keep the lights on, but not the air conditioning.

That is only one way the university is going "green."

The new Science Building was the first government building in Connecticut to earn Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification.

During design and construction, the university followed a set of criteria to provide for energy efficiencies after the building was occupied, and even mandated recycling of construction debris while it was being built.

Marcone said LEED certification is expensive but "in the long-term it's going to save money."

WestConn is about to earn LEED certification for Centennial Hall, the newest residence hall on the Westside campus.

Marcone said the university will construct future buildings to the specifications of the LEED process, but to save money will not apply for the certification.

Marcone is also part of a committee to encourage daily energy savings with the help of the campus community.

"We're trying to put together a set of mechanisms to make sure people are not just more energy-conscious but more energy-efficient," he said.

It's not just a feel-good gesture. WestConn's spending on electricity will be approximately \$2.4 million by the end of the fiscal year. That's compared with \$1.55 million the year before.

"You can plan for rising energy costs but the increase this year was nothing we could forecast," Marcone said. Some money can be saved in the long run by replacing old equipment and always buying energy-efficient appliances. But the Energy Council, which Marcone cochairs with Dr. Linda Vaden-Goad, the dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, also reminds students, faculty and staff there are other ways to reduce power consumption.

"We send out reminders before every break to turn off computers and monitors every time you're out of the office for more than a day," Marcone said. "There are substantial energy savings. And it doesn't hurt the computers. We're trying to remind people tactfully without being overbearing." ■



WCSU Photos/Peggy Stewart

Top: Centennial Hall on the Westside campus
Bottom: The Science Building on the Midtown campus
Both facilities were built to obtain LEED certification as "green" buildings.

AROUND CAMPUS

Grant program creates science excitement in Danbury schools

By Paul Steinmetz

President George W. Bush is pushing science education. His 2007 budget would pay for 70,000 high school teachers to get extra training in math and science.

Gov. M. Jodi Rell is pushing science education. Her budget proposal includes money to pay off college loans of science teachers who agree to work in Connecticut.

But WestConn professors like Dr. Edward Duncanson, assistant professor of education and educational psychology, are way ahead of the political leaders.

Duncanson and Dr. Helga Jensen-Ruopp, the K-12 Science Program coordinator for Danbury schools and former WestConn adjunct, spent time during the summer and fall teaching science to Danbury elementary-grade teachers, with teacher follow-up provided in the classroom during the spring.

With a \$105,000 federal Funding Initiative for Post Secondary Education grant, the project also supplied each of

the teachers' schools with hands-on science kits that can be used over and over in the classroom.

Many elementary school teachers, Duncanson said, only took a couple of science classes when they were students themselves and "do not have a broad background of science knowledge. Science education, with the national standards, is supposed to be a hands-on experience, not a memory-out-of-the-book experience."

The science kits given the schools contain all the equipment needed to teach 15 different science units to meet several of the national science and Conn. State Department of Education science standards for third through fifth grades. Chemical testing and rocks and minerals are taught in third grade; electricity, magnets and motors in fourth; and the principles of sound in the fifth grade.

Jennifer Lalvay, who graduated from WestConn with a bachelor's in elementary education and social science in 2001, is one of 30 teachers who volunteered to be science liaisons at their schools. Now Lalvay is using the

science kit in her classroom and assisting other elementary school teachers.

During a class in March, Lalvay's class of 21 fourth-graders at Pembroke Elementary School built flashlights.

As the children worked in groups of two to build flashlights with parts provided from the kit, Lalvay explained the value of the project.

"Schools have to concentrate so much on literacy and numeracy" that it is difficult to concentrate on other large subjects. But starting in 2007, questions about science will be included on the Connecticut Mastery Tests given to all fourth-, sixth- and eighth-graders.

"We want to get the kids into an inquiry strategy," Jensen-Ruopp said. "Hopefully they're doing some higher-order thinking and learning that science is fun."

Lalvay acknowledged that before she was trained on how to use the science kits, she taught similar lessons out of a textbook.

"This year, they will think about what they did, do some reading about what they did, incorporate it into their thinking and writing," Jensen-Ruopp said. "It's almost like an engineering pathway because you're showing them things that can work and they feel comfortable with them."

"Danbury probably now has a head-start over other districts because of this," said Dr. Lynne Clark, dean of the School of Professional Studies. "If we don't excite kids in science at the elementary level, if there is no solid foundation by the time they get to the end of fifth grade, they will have progressively lower

■ *cont'd. on page 7*

Pinou inspires science teachers

By Paul Steinmetz

A great teacher in high school inspired Dr. Theodora Pinou, assistant professor of biological and environmental sciences, to become a scientist. Now Pinou has developed a project to ensure that more students will have the same opportunity.

Pinou, with a \$125,000 grant from the Connecticut Department of Education, has founded the WestConn Institute of Science Teacher Research (WISTR), which will bring 20 public school educators and five WestConn students into the labs of university science professors to learn field research first-hand.

Pinou hopes the teachers she works with will bring new enthusiasm and knowledge to their students.

"Let's face it," Pinou said. "We aren't going to excite the students unless we excite the conduit — the teachers."

She added: "I am sick and tired — sick and tired — of hearing people say, 'If you're not going to be a doctor or go to graduate school, you can be a teacher.' This is offering a trustee scholarship to students who want to dedicate themselves to teaching science."

Students who receive the institute's scholarships must agree to become teachers. Pinou has begun to look for more money to expand the program for another four years, and to reach students in high schools as well.

Assistant Chemistry Professor Dr. Jennifer Frederick, Associate Physics Professor Dr. James Boyle, Assistant Biological and Environmental Sciences Professor Dr. Ruth Gyure, Assistant Biological and Environmental Sciences Professor Dr. Edwin Wong, and Pinou will train educators from Norwalk and New Haven public schools. The teachers will work as research assistants, so the professors will benefit from the extra help, and the teachers will learn what it is like to do pure science.

Participants will earn credits toward a master's degree, and learning assessment is being supported by the education faculty from the School of Professional Studies. Professor of Education Dr. Marcia Delcourt and her associates will assess the project to see how well teachers are learning.

When the project is done, the participants will have covered 14 of the 24 science content standards the state requires to be taught in middle and high schools. And the teachers will leave "with new experiments, new analytical techniques, new skills and equipment," Pinou said.

"They can speak from experience instead of just reading about it," Pinou said. "Reading allows you to form an opinion. Experiencing it is collecting data, it's living it."

Which is just what a great science teacher needs to inspire students. ■

For more information, call Pinou at (203) 837-8793.

Scholar to deliver first Macricostas series talk (*cont'd.*)

Minor and the Process of Islamization from the 11th through the 15th Century" is a seminal work in the field.

Vryonis turned the focus of his scholarly research recently to a more contemporary subject, a historical analysis of the 1955 pogrom that marked a violent end to a centuries-old tradition of tolerance for Hellenic and other minority cultures in Istanbul, the former seat of the Byzantine Empire. In 2005 he published "The Mechanism of Catastrophe: The Turkish Pogrom of September 6-7, 1955, and the Destruction of the Greek Community of Istanbul," acclaimed by critics as the most extensive study to date on the events before, during and immediately after the

wave of attacks that devastated the businesses, homes and churches of the minority Greek population in Turkey's most populous city.

The Constantine S. Macricostas Lecture Series at WestConn will feature speakers on Hellenism, entrepreneurship, and cultures of the world — three fields of interest that mirror Macricostas's own personal and professional life. An emigrant from Greece in 1954, he founded Photronics in 1969, building the company into a multinational provider of photomasks for the semiconductor industry. ■

For more information, call the Office of University Relations at (203) 837-8486.



WCSU Photo/Peggy Stewart

Jennifer Lalvay, a WestConn alumna, works with students in the fourth-grade class she teaches at Pembroke Elementary School. Using science kits provided by a federal grant and a WestConn education program, the students made flashlights.

Values & Vision

Update from President Schmotter

(*cont'd. from page 1*)

Strengthening WestConn's Comparative Advantages (co-chairs: Dean of Graduate and External Programs Ellen Durnin and Associate Professor of History Burton Peretti)

Fully Utilizing Summer and Intersession Terms (tri-chairs: Associate Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences Katy Wiss, Dean of Student Affairs Walter Cramer and Professor of Psychology Norine Jalbert)

Developing Model to Assess Costs of External Partnerships (co-chairs: Dean of the Ansell School of Business Allen Morton and Librarian Vijay Nair)

The action teams have all been meeting regularly and will complete their work by mid-April by submitting reports with recommendations supported by background information. The content of these reports will form the basis for the draft of a strategic plan for the university. This plan document will be drafted by Clinton Sidle, a consultant with whom we have been working on this project in earlier retreats. The first draft will be processed by university leadership and University Planning and Budgeting Committee members at a retreat in late May and will be further honed over the summer for presentation and debate by the entire university community next fall.

In the weeks ahead, each action team will be posting abstracts of their work on our Web site. These abstracts were distributed at the March 15 University Senate meeting. The action teams also will be holding open meetings for dialogue on their ideas in April. Times and places will be announced. Please continue to check the Web site for additional information about this process.

These colleagues are working together both to construct a framework for WCSU's future and to address some of the most important issues that our community identified in the Values and Vision process. I think you'll find their conclusions sound and their ideas stimulating, forward-looking and even occasionally provocative. These will form the basis for constructive university-wide dialogue in the months and years ahead.

Thanks as always for your interest and engagement.

James W. Schmotter

ALUMNI & DEVELOPMENT

Twentieth annual University Ball to celebrate the arts

by Sherri Hill

WestConn's annual ball is a premier event in terms of the occasion itself and the funds it generates for the WCSU Foundation Inc. This year, as the Ball marks its 20th anniversary, that tradition will continue. The 2006 University Ball will be at 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 6, at the Ethan Allen Hotel, 21 Lake Avenue Extension in Danbury.

Isabelle Farrington, a longtime WestConn benefactor, is the event's honorary chair. Co-chairs Ron and Janice Pugliese have been familiar faces year-after-year at the annual fund-raising events the university has hosted. Pugliese is a 1974 WestConn graduate. He also is a member of the Connecticut State University (CSU) System Board of Trustees where, among other responsibilities, he chairs the system-wide development committee.

"My role as chair of the development committee is to work closely with the four Connecticut state universities in raising funds," Pugliese said. "Our mission is to make sure we have the ability to offer a quality education at an affordable price. The Board of Trustees is extremely proud of all the CSU schools, but I have a very special place in my heart for WestConn."

Pugliese said one very effective way to show off the university and highlight its students — and in doing so, raise funds — is at the annual University Ball.

"The Ball is a great opportunity for people to get together in a bit of an upscale atmosphere and show their support for this great institution," he said. "The 20th year is a milestone. It will be a great social event that will provide a way to contribute to one of the most worthwhile causes there is: the education of our students."

"I honestly believe in this mission, and so do many other people," Pugliese continued. "I put my money where my mouth is, and I'm a strong supporter, both as a trustee and an alumnus."

In addition to the fine food and great music by local band "Higher and Higher," many guests say the Ball's silent auction is a highlight of the evening.

"It's a tremendous opportunity to bid on a variety of extremely interesting art, trips, golf, gift certificates and vacation homes," Pugliese said. "Janice and I have acquired some really wonderful, unique pieces of art at the Ball in the past."

Art will play a focal point in the evening, as the theme this year is "Celebrating the Arts at Western Connecticut State University." Longtime supporters Roy and Ginny Young will be honored for the more than two decades of philanthropic support their family has provided WestConn.

"Our involvement with WestConn began with the establishment of the Robert S. Young library at the Ansell School of Business, to honor the memory of my brother Bob," Roy Young said. "Our continued support was inspired by the energy, enthusiasm and excellence of the students and dedicated faculty, particularly those in the theatre arts department. We look forward to WestConn's continued growth and exciting future and we hope to be part of it."

The public is invited to the black-tie event, which will begin at 7 p.m. with a cocktail hour. Dinner and dancing will be at 8 p.m. Individual tickets at \$200 are still available. Corporate tables can be purchased for \$4,000. For those who are unable to attend but still want to support the university, a gift can be made directly to the WCSU Foundation. ■

For more information about the University Ball, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at (203) 837-8298.



Ron and Janice Pugliese at the 2004 University Ball.

WCSU Photo/Peggy Stewart

Local architect donates records to Haas Library



WCSU Photo/Peggy Stewart

Archives and Special Collections Librarian Mary Rieke (left) and former archivist Meg Moughan (right) with Lewis Zurlo

by Hanna Kiviniemi

This past fall, WestConn's Haas Library accepted the donation of the records of the Danbury architectural firm, Lewis Zurlo Associates. The gift is an important addition to the Archives and Special Collections, which maintains and provides access to the records of organizations and papers of individuals reflective of the history of Danbury from 1900 to the present.

Haas Library Director Ralph Holibaugh said Zurlo's documents are a significant contribution regarding Danbury history.

"Architectural history is very much a part of what people are doing and are interested in," Holibaugh said.

From 1978, Lewis Zurlo worked mainly on Main Street in Danbury. His buildings include the Galleria and the Palace View Apartments. His collection also contains several drawings that to this day remain unbuild.

"This is a fact of life with architecture," Zurlo said. "There are two main reasons why some projects fall apart. First, some people can't afford it. Second, the economy goes certain ways to change people's minds."

"There are two major projects I've worked extensively on in the past that haven't seen any physical results," Zurlo continued. "In 1983-84, I joined a competition to rebuild eight acres of downtown Danbury. I did a wood model for the entire eight acres. Unfortunately, my model came in second place. Then, in 1987-88, I worked on drawings for Sandpit Condominiums on Germantown Road. The drawings include 360 luxury condominiums, with swimming pools and an underground parking lot. It's a beautiful set of drawings, all done in ink. Unfortunately, there wasn't enough funding for this project."

Zurlo said he wanted to wind up his business, but he didn't want to throw out his drawings. After several years of thinking about what to do, Zurlo came into contact with WestConn Professor of History Emeritus Dr. Herb Janick, whom he met when Janick invited him to join the Danbury Preservation Trust in 1978.

Janick teaches a WestConn class about architecture every spring, Building America. He recommended that Zurlo donate his collection of drawings to the Haas Library archives.

"I thought that donating the papers to the facility would be the right thing

to do," Janick said. "Lew couldn't destroy his papers because he knew some of his clients might have to use them in the future. Lew is proud of what he has done. He had been searching for a way to preserve his materials, and this was the best way."

Zurlo agreed.

"This was a very important decision in my career," Zurlo said. "I knew this would help with the physical preservation of Danbury's history."

The records will be available in the near future for viewing, said Mary Rieke, the library's part-time professional archivist, who is in the process of sorting through Zurlo's drawings.

"Lewis gave us the inventory of everything, which people will be able to use," Rieke said. "Once the collection is processed, then we'll welcome patrons to view his records."

"These records fit in quite nicely with our two current collections," Rieke added. "We have the Danbury Preservation Trust records and the Truman Warner collections, which were part of the Danbury Redevelopment Program."

In addition to the historical value of the documents, Zurlo's gift to the university recently was appraised at nearly \$640,000. ■

For information about the Haas Library's Archives and Special Collections, call Rieke at (203) 837-9111. To learn more about making a gift to the university, call the Office of Institutional Advancement at (203) 837-8298.

Benefactor bequeaths funds for creation of music scholarships

By Sherri Hill

A last will and testament signed in Southbury in 1958 contained an interesting provision: Once the named beneficiary was deceased, the remainder of the trust established in the will was to be used "for the creation of musical scholarships for deserving students of music who are willing to devote their talents to the teaching and furtherance of musical education."

For about two years after the death of the beneficiary, the estate of Valery Cunningham continued to earn interest, as the trustee sought an appropriate recipient in accordance with her wishes. The WestConn Office of Institutional

Advancement was contacted by the trustee, seeking information about the university's music education programs. Director of Institutional Advancement Michael Driscoll responded to the request.

With assistance from the music department, Driscoll provided background information about the university and its music education programs, citing such points of pride as the fact that WestConn has the largest number of alumni who are certified music teachers in the state and that the program is fully accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music. As a result, the trustee petitioned the court to settle the estate by naming

WestConn the recipient of the remainder of the funds.

Recently, the State of Connecticut Probate Court in Southbury approved the trustee's request and WestConn received nearly \$125,000 for music scholarships.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for the university and music department," said Dr. G. Koryoe Anim-Wright, interim vice president for Institutional Advancement. "It's certainly no secret that we have one of the best music programs locally and regionally. To have this validated with Cunningham's gift means a great deal not only to the university, but to music students who stand to benefit from Cunningham's

generosity for many years to come."

Music Department Chair Dr. Dan Goble is excited about the outcome.

"This represents a milestone for the music department at WestConn," Goble said. "The Cunningham Trust will allow us to award two \$1,000 scholarships to talented students. These awards will be renewable for up to four years, and will be the cornerstone of what will be an intense campaign for scholarship endowments in the arts at WCSU." ■

For more information about creating a scholarship, call the Office of Institutional Advancement at (203) 837-8298. To learn more about the music department, call Goble at (203) 837-8354.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Forum looks at 'Brave New World'



WCSU Photo/Peggy Stewart

(l-r): Connecticut Appellate Court Judge Barry Schaller and Distinguished Visiting Professor Todd Brewster discussed the 'Brave New World' where science and law intersect during a lively March forum held in the Science Building. Topics ranging from stem cell research to reproductive rights to using medical technology in the war on terror were discussed.

Martin Luther King Jr. remembered at campus event



WCSU Photo/Peggy Stewart

A diverse audience came together to attend a Martin Luther King Jr. tribute in January.

On a cool January morning, the WestConn community came together to share thoughts of remembrance and appreciation.

"My dream was not only made possible, but virtually assured by the actions and reactions to Dr. Martin Luther King's movement," said Principal Edward Robbs of Broadview Middle School in Danbury.

For the second year in a row, WestConn hosted a celebration of King's life. Despite the intersession break, Warner Hall was crowded with faculty and staff, university and high school students.

Director of Diversity Programs Daryle Dennis introduced the theme of the event.

"We have a dream," Dennis said. "The preservation and pursuit of the dream was Dr. King's legacy to us."

Barbara Barnwell, executive assistant to the president and director of Disability Services and Multi-Cultural Affairs, offered the welcoming address. "It is really important to take this time of reflection to think about King, who lived and died for equality," she said.

President James W. Schmotter called for the celebration of a life that was driven by the ideas of "love for your neighbor, peace over war, and principles over politics."

A panel discussion followed, moderated by Ancell School of Business Dean Dr. Allen Morton. He gave an assignment to the audience, asking members to read three of King's best-known speeches: "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," "I Have a Dream" and "I Have Been to the Mountaintop."

Panelists included Network Specialist Ethal Rollins, Enrollment Management Officer Bill Hawkins, University Police Chief Neil McLaughlin, and Robbs.

The son of a Pullman porter, McLaughlin recalled his childhood shame and embarrassment about his father's job. His father believed he needed "to take care of the family, and then continue the struggle for freedom and dignity." McLaughlin repeated the desire to provide for and nurture the future generation. "I believe we have made it better, but we still need the dream," he said. ■

Schmotter shares thoughts at Henderson tribute



WCSU Photo/Peggy Stewart

WestConn President James W. Schmotter joined a host of dignitaries, including Gov. M. Jodi Rell and musicians Peter Appleyard, Gene Bertocini, Sara Caswell, Anat Cohen, Ray Kennedy, Sherrie Maricle, Tommy Newsom, Bucky Pizzarelli and Noriko Ueda, at a jazz tribute in honor of Skitch Henderson. The January event, "Skitch Henderson: A Man and His Music," was held at New Milford High School.

WCSU police sergeant returns from yearlong Army Reserves deployment in Kuwait

Patricia Hawkins was born and raised in Jamaica, she moved to America in 1982, and has lived in Danbury ever since. Serving her country and community comes naturally to her. She has been working at the WCSU police department for 15 years and was promoted to sergeant in 2003.

A master sergeant in the Army Reserves, Hawkins has been serving her country for the past 17 years. She was deployed to Kuwait for a year — November 2004 to November 2005. Her office is at the brigade level; she helped with running missions in Kuwait and was responsible for assisting the units in Iraq with anything they needed.

"I have a very 'reservist' way of thinking," Hawkins said. "I have no

feelings for the war. If someone of power says I have to do something, I support it.

"I saw a lot in Kuwait that I wasn't expecting," Hawkins added. "In comparison to Iraq, Kuwait is a very wealthy country."

A 1998 graduate of the University of Connecticut, Hawkins received a Bachelor of Arts in Communications. She currently is finishing an internship with WestConn's Community Counseling Program. Upon completion, she'll have a Master of Science in Counselor Education. "I really enjoy WestConn because it's a small community," Hawkins said. "We have such a nice campus. It's the place for me." ■

Logan's dance troupe performs with Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra at music director's debut



Contributed Photo

Assistant Professor of Communication Khalda Logan, doing one of the things she loves: dancing.

In February, Assistant Professor of Communication Khalda Logan returned from a serious illness to one of the things she loves best: dancing.

"This was my first time back on stage and it probably is one of my last major performances with the company as I transition to a part-time member," said Logan, who is being treated for cancer. "The feeling of being on a stage with a full, 70-person adult chorus; a 30-person, Grammy award-winning youth chorus and the entire Brooklyn Philharmonic was exhilarating. Nicholas Leichter and the company nicholasleichterdance is part of a creative and diverse family. I am so proud to be a member."

Logan's performance came on the opening night for the philharmonic's new music director.

"He seems to be an artist who loves to push the envelope and create outside of the box," Logan said. "I just remember thinking to myself backstage about how wonderful it was to hear all of these beautiful sounds and to actually become the music on stage. It was magical. I've had a rough year and at times I thought I would not be able to ever walk up a flight of stairs, let alone dance. But now I think dance is partially what is saving me. When I dance I don't think about being tired, or being in pain, or even how long I have on earth. As a matter of fact I don't think at all, I just do. I dance. I connect with my dance family that I love. I share my happiness with the audience and feel the power streaming back to us on stage. I feel something similar when I'm in a class teaching my students."

Logan said coming to WestConn to teach her classes, work with student groups and interact with "my wonderful and supportive colleagues" is playing a big role in her recovery. She also recently got married and said her husband Mike is "absolutely amazing and has the same outlook as me."

Since her diagnosis, Logan has spent a lot of time engaged in research to learn more about her illness, and from that comes clarity and strength to fight. "I think I'm doing great and the concert with the philharmonic was just another reminder for me about how great I'm doing," she said. ■

Congratulations!

Ohles' work as Web editor yields 2006 Thomson Scientific/Frank Bradway Rogers Information Advancement Award

In addition to her duties as associate director of library services at the Haas Library, Janet Ohles has been a New York Online Access to Health (NOAH) editor for more than six years. The NOAH Web site recently received the 2006 Thomson Scientific/Frank Bradway Rogers Information Advancement Award from the Medical Library Association.

The award will be presented to the editors at the national conference in

May. In addition to editing two health topics for this Web site, Ohles has made other contributions, including reorganizing health topics and reviewing prospective editors' pages for acceptance. ■

If you have an announcement about a recent appointment to a board, an award or other professional accomplishment you'd like to share in this section, please e-mail the information to pr@wcsu.edu.

AROUND CAMPUS

Like father, like son: WestConn education is a family affair

by Robert Taylor

WestConn senior Matthew LaPak will be ready to follow in his father's footsteps in the information technology (IT) field when he graduates this year from the Ansell School of Business.

But it is Matt's father, Dennis, who has followed in his son's footsteps in pursuit of a bachelor's in management information systems (MIS) at WestConn.

Seated at the kitchen table in his Newtown home, Dennis recalled the long road to a bachelor's degree.

"My life at WestConn started in 1976, but I only went for a year before I took some time off to sort things out," Dennis said. "Then I went to Norwalk State Technical College and got an associate's degree in 1980."

He was married soon after, and with his wife Maureen began a family that includes Matt, 22; Tim, 21; Tucker, 16; and Molly, 8. For 25 years, he's had a successful IT career, serving since 2000 as IT manager at the Partner Reinsurance Company of the U.S.

In 2001, Matt enrolled at WestConn to begin his undergraduate studies, and the following year Dennis decided to finish what he began so long ago.

"Three years ago, I finally decided for my own personal fulfillment to finish my bachelor's degree," Dennis said. "This time around, I'm more mature. I have 20-plus years of work experience, and it definitely makes it mean more than when I was 18 or 19 years old."

Returning to school has posed a

formidable challenge for the elder LaPak, who maintains a full-time job that demands long hours and overseas travel.

"I work 50 hours a week and I have to travel to Switzerland periodically, so I have to coordinate everything and get my papers in on time," he said.

Dennis said he applies on-the-job experience to classroom tasks such as his recent role as group leader on a team project in his Fundamentals of Data Communication course.

"It's so much easier to do a paper or classroom assignment if you can relate it to something in real life," he said. "At the same time, I'm already integrating my course work into what I'm doing on the job."

While Dennis returned to WestConn with a clear objective of completing a business administration degree with MIS major, Matt took several semesters before he settled on the same degree goal. The younger LaPak said his turning point came when he took Assistant Professor of Management Dr. Richard Bassett's Information Systems Concepts.

"I liked it and just stuck with it," Matt said. "I felt it was good to know about business and computers, and thought I could apply it to finance, marketing and other things."

Both father and son cited Dr. Richard Montague, professor and chair of the MIS department, as one of their best and most challenging teachers.

"As painful as it was, Dr. Montague's class has definitely helped me with systems analysis work, so I've already put that to use," Dennis said.

Because Dennis takes classes in the evening, father and son rarely cross paths on the Westside campus, though Matt conceded his father has helped him with some difficult assignments.

This spring the LaPak family will be preparing to celebrate one WestConn graduation, and looking forward to another several years down the road.

"My son will graduate in the spring," Dennis said. "I have seven or eight classes left to take, and I hope to graduate before I have grandkids!" ■

School's in session at 'Ridgefield Crossings U'

by Sherri Hill

It's no secret that WestConn faculty can be found in classrooms outside of the Midtown and Westside campuses. Through partnerships with local school districts, the Silo Gallery, Danbury and Norwalk hospitals and more, our professors and adjunct instructors share their expertise with a multitude of students and members of the public. Beginning in March, a whole new group of people have begun to benefit from a newly forged partnership between WestConn and Ridgefield Crossings, a local senior living community with independent and assisted-living style apartments.

It's a collaboration in celebration of the fact that you are never too old to learn something new, and the idea came from someone who should know: 86-year-old former dean of the Ansell School of Business (ASB) Dr. Al Stewart. Stewart taught marketing courses at WestConn after his retirement from Union Carbide; he also served two stints as acting ASB dean. A resident of Ridgefield Crossings for about a year, he chairs the resident council and

proposed the creation of a continuing education series at the facility.

According to Ridgefield Crossings Director of Community Relations Sara Bilik, the rest of the resident council embraced the idea wholeheartedly, so she and Stewart called WestConn. Bilik said Ridgefield Crossings residents are highly educated and deeply committed to ongoing learning, and the idea that WestConn would share its professors was an instant hit.

"Our residents are so sharp," Bilik said. "And increasingly, they've been requesting more on-site, advanced learning opportunities. This partnership with WestConn is a dream come true."

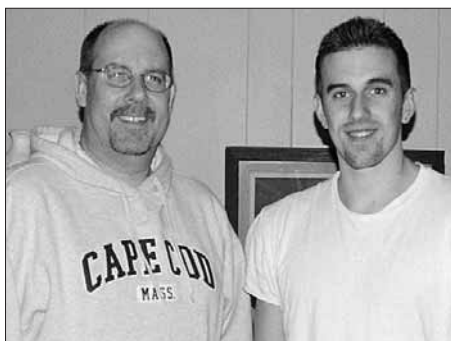
On March 10, Ridgefield Crossings University (RCU) held its inaugural class. In attendance were about 30 residents, including Stewart. Also there were Bilik and President James W. Schmotter. Conducting the class was Adjunct Professor of English Jim Lomuscio, who spoke about his book "Village of the Damned."

Attendees were rapt as Lomuscio spoke about events that took place in Valley Forge, Conn., during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Many in the

room reacted audibly as he touched on historical moments they remembered — like the construction of the Merritt Parkway, the flooding of several Connecticut valleys for the creation of lakes and reservoirs, and Gov. Wilbur Cross. But it wasn't only the history that hit home with the residents. There was a flurry of discussion about current events like eminent domain and the Supreme Court decision in Kelo vs. New London.

Residents were happy to hear Lomuscio would hold class again two weeks later. Some said they would invite their children and friends. The second session will be open to the public, too. The plan is for a different professor to speak twice each month — once in the afternoon for residents, and a second time in the evening so that members of the public can attend. All the classes are free. ■

In April, RCU will feature Professor of Theatre Arts Sal Trapani. In May, it will be Coordinator of Disability Services and Adjunct Professor of Anthropology Jack Sikora. Associate Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences Dr. Mitch Wagener will speak in June. For more information about RCU, call Sherri Hill in the Office of University Relations at (203) 837-8774.



WCSU Photo/Robert Taylor

(l-r): Dennis and Matthew LaPak

Funding eases Roots & Shoots growing pains (cont'd.)

member and one administrator at each university who is committed to keeping it going," Russock said. "Then you need every senior and junior who is involved to bring in a freshman or sophomore. It takes constant attention."

The next summit will be in April, featuring the return of Jane Goodall to campus. That several-day event will discuss ways to integrate Roots & Shoots programs into a college curriculum, develop service projects, and continue work with students in elementary and secondary grades.

"We're talking about Earth Day being Earth Week, and cooperating with

Eastern and Central instead of competing with them," Asselta said.

The third summit will include college mentors and administrators from Roots & Shoots and the Jane Goodall Center.

"It will be an evaluation," Asselta said. "Where do we go in the future, and if there is a future. I retire in December. What we hope when we are done is that we have a strong college program, with mentors and faculty involved. Then it's up to the colleges." ■

For more information, call Asselta at (203) 837-8726.

Grant program creates science excitement in Danbury schools (cont'd.)

achievement levels in science as they move through the middle and high school levels."

At the end of class, Lalvay had her students write down the sequence of steps they took to complete the flashlight, draw a diagram and label it, and write a sentence or two about what they learned. And they all had working flashlights to experiment with.

"I have magnets and motors to do at the end of the year," Lalvay said. "I can't wait!" ■

President's Lecture Series to feature futurist (cont'd.)

business correspondence on a typewriter. Most Americans had never seen a personal computer, much less a laptop. Meanwhile, James Martin looked into the future and saw the Internet, as well as computers in everyone's pockets. In his book 'The Wired Society,' he proclaimed that by the year 2000, computers and other devices linked by fiber optics, telephone lines and radio waves would allow millions of people to exchange electronic mail, shop for merchandise, trade stocks, work at home, take classes, pay taxes, plan vacations, and entertain themselves. He added that entrepreneurs who jumped in early would reap vast fortunes."

Martin has a master's degree in physics from Oxford University and numerous honorary doctorates. In 2002, Computerworld ranked him the fourth most influential person in the computer industry. Martin has been a member of the software Scientific Advisory Board of the U.S. Department of Defense, has advised the British government about telecommunications, and has provided consulting services for AT&T, IBM, Honeywell, Texas Instruments and Xerox.

He is chairman of WatchIT.com, an Internet-based education company; founder and chairman emeritus of Headstrong, a worldwide consulting

group; founder and chairman of World Education Corps, Volunteers for the 21st Century; and founder of the multidisciplinary 21st Century School at Oxford University, whose mission is to "support research on the ideas, methods, policies and practices that address some of the world's most pressing problems over this century, including some that we can only just see beginning to exist."

The 21st Century School, launched at Oxford in 2005 thanks to a sizable grant from Martin, encompasses 10 research institutes: The James Martin Institute for Science and Civilization, the Institute for the Future of the Mind, the Oxford Institute of Ageing, The e-Horizons Institute, the Institute for Emergent Infections of Humans, the International Migration Institute, the Environmental Change Institute, the Oxford Future of Humanity Institute, the Programme on Ethics of the New Biosciences and the World Education Institute.

In March 2006, Martin received the Sheldon Medal at Oxford in recognition of the funding he provided for the creation of the 21st Century School. It was one of the largest gifts ever received by the university. ■

For more information, call the Office of University Relations at (203) 837-8486.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All listings are subject to change. Please call to confirm.

APR. 2 NONTRADITIONAL STUDENT GATHERING: The WCSU Nontraditional Student Organization, Older Wiser Learners, will host a "Library & Latte" event from 1 to 3 p.m. on the Fifth Floor of the Haas Library on the Midtown campus. Dr. Katrina Smith, an assistant counselor in the WCSU Counseling Center, will discuss stress management. The event will be free and open to WestConn students only. For more information, call Dawn Fletcher at (203) 837-8576.

APR. 2 POLITICAL SCIENCE LECTURE: WestConn will host political activist Doris "Granny D" Haddock at 3 p.m. in Ives Concert Hall in White Hall on the Midtown campus. The event will be free and open to the public. For more information, call Professor of Communication Dr. Katy Wiss at (203) 837-8260.

APR. 3 - 7 FILM & VIDEO FESTIVAL: The Second Annual WestConn Film & Video Festival, sponsored by the communication department and the Media Production Society, will feature screenings, workshops and talks by directors about independent filmmaking. Festival events will be at 7 and 8 p.m. in Warner Hall and the Student Center Theater on the Midtown campus. The events will be free and the public is invited. For information and a complete festival schedule, visit www.wcsu.edu/com or call Assistant Professor of Communication Khalda Logan at (203) 837-8489.

APR. 3 PERCUSSION CONCERT: The WCSU Percussion Ensemble will perform at 8 p.m. in Ives Concert Hall in White Hall on the Midtown campus. The performance will be free and open to the public; donations to the music department will be accepted. For more information, call (203) 837-8350.

APR. 4 POLITICAL SCIENCE LECTURE: Attorney Paul Edelberg will discuss China's economy from 5:25 to 6:25 p.m. during a political science class in Room 209 of White Hall on the Midtown campus. The discussion will be free and open to the public. For more information, call Scott Benjamin at (860) 210-2146, ext. 129.

APR. 4 GERMAN STUDIES LECTURE: The WCSU German Studies Center will present "German-American Relations: A New Beginning in an Old Marriage?" at 6:30 p.m. in Alumni Hall on the Midtown campus. Dr. Werner Schmidt, Consul, Press Relations, for the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany, will be the featured speaker. The talk will be free and open to the public. For more information, call Dr. Renate Ludanyi, the center's director, at (203) 792-2795.

APR. 5 CAREER FAIR: The Career Development Center (CDC) will host the 11th annual WCSU Career Fair from 1 to 4:30 p.m. in the O'Neill Center on the Westside campus. More than 50 employers are expected to attend the fair, which will be free and open to WestConn students, alumni, faculty and staff. For more information, call the CDC at (203) 837-8263.

APR. 5 PIANO CONCERT: The WCSU Keyboard Club will present Awadagin Pratt at 8 p.m. in Ives Concert Hall in White Hall on the Midtown campus. Tickets will be \$15 for adults, and \$10 for seniors and non-WestConn students. Admission will be free for WestConn students with valid ID. For tickets and more information, call (203) 837-8350 or visit www.wcsu.edu/tickets.

APR. 6 MACRICOSTAS LECTURE: Dr. Speros Vryonis will speak about "The Mechanism of Catastrophe: The Turkish Pogrom of September 6-7, 1955, and the Destruction of the Greek Community of Istanbul" at 7:30 p.m. in Room 125 of the Science Building on the Midtown campus. The talk will be free and the public is invited. Call the Office of University Relations at (203) 837-8486 for more information. See story on page 1.

APR. 6, 13, 20 & 27 COFFEEHOUSE: WestConn will present the Midtown Coffeehouse at 8 p.m. on Thursday

evenings in Alumni Hall on the Midtown campus. The Coffeehouse is open to WestConn students, faculty and staff only. Admission will be free. Call (203) 837-9700 for more information.

APR. 7 PSYCHOLOGY LECTURE: Wesleyan University Professor of Psychology Dr. Scott Plous will discuss "Will the War on Terror Succeed? Clues from Psychological Research" at 2 p.m. in Room 125 of the Science Building on the Midtown campus. The talk is part of a series of "PsychMatters: Invited Lectures" to be offered by the psychology department this year. It will be free and the public is invited. For more information, call WestConn Assistant Professor of Psychology Dr. Shane Murphy at (203) 837-9368.

APR. 7 JAZZ CONCERT: The WCSU Jazz Combos will perform at 8 p.m. in Ives Concert Hall in White Hall on the Midtown campus. Featured combos will be the Scott I Sextet, the Ruffles Quintet, the Siegel I Quintet and the Scott II Quintet. The concert will be free and open to the public; donations to the music department will be accepted. For more information, call (203) 837-8350.

APR. 8 SCOTTISH TARTAN DAY CELEBRATION: MacTalla Mor will perform Scottish and Celtic music and dance to celebrate Scottish Tartan Day at 7:30 p.m. in the Student Center Theater on the Midtown campus. The event is part of the World Music, Dance and Culture Series, co-sponsored by the WestConn Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism and the Connecticut Folklife Project. Reservations are suggested and may be made by e-mail at info@ctfolklife.org or by phone at (203) 748-1131. Admission will be free; donations will be accepted.

APR. 8 TELESCOPE VIEWING: WestConn will host a telescope viewing from 7:30 to 10 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.

APR. 11 ART SLIDE LECTURE: Painter Jim Peters 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 Master of Fine Arts slide lecture series. For more information, call (203) 837-8881.

APR. 11 MUSIC PERFORMANCE: WestConn faculty members David Machell, Howard Rovics and Harold Schramm, with guest artists from The Hurdy-Gurdy Band, will present "The Pipes of Silver" at 7:30 p.m. in Alumni Hall on the Midtown campus. The concert will be free and the public is invited. For more information, call Machell at (203) 837-8696.

APR. 11 CHOIR CONCERT: The WCSU Concert Choir and the WCSU Chamber Singers will perform at 8 p.m. in Ives Concert Hall in White Hall on the Midtown campus. The selections will feature music appropriate to Lent and spring. The choir also will celebrate the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth with a performance of several of his works. The concert will be free and open to the public; donations to the music department will be accepted. For more information, call (203) 837-8350.

APR. 12 PSYCHOLOGY FORUM: Associate Professor of Psychology Dr. Rondall Khoo will discuss his research at 4 p.m. in Warner Hall on the Midtown campus. Khoo's talk is part of a series of "PsychMatters: Faculty Forums" to be offered by the psychology department this year. It will be free and the public is invited. For more information, call the department at (203) 837-8470.

APR. 13 SCIENCE-AT-NIGHT PRESENTATION: Baldwin Wong, of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), will discuss "NIH Research: Recent Progress and the Future Promise of Stem Cells" at 7 p.m. in Room 125 of the Science Building on the Midtown campus. Offered as

part of the continuing "Science at Night" series, the event will be free and the public is invited. Call Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences Dr. Thomas Philbrick at (203) 837-8773 for more information.

APR. 13 PLANETARIUM SHOW AND TELESCOPE VIEWING: WestConn will host a 7:30 p.m. planetarium show, followed by a telescope viewing from 8:30 to 10:30 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.

APR. 18 POLITICAL SCIENCE LECTURE: Former U.S. Commerce Department official Steve Arlinghaus will discuss the European Union from 5:25 to 6:25 p.m. during a political science class in Room 209 in White Hall on the Midtown campus. The discussion will be free and open to the public. For more information, call Scott Benjamin at (860) 210-2146, ext. 129.

APR. 19 PSYCH CINEMA SCREENING: The WCSU psychology department and psychology club will screen "Identity" at 3 p.m. in the Student Center Theater on the Midtown campus. The third film in the "Psych Cinema" series, the screening will be free and the public is invited. For more information, call Psychology Club Advisers Dr. Shane Murphy at (203) 837-9398 or Dr. Daniel Barrett at (203) 837-8869.

APR. 20 FUND-RAISING EVENT: The WCSU chapter of Colleges Against Cancer will host a "Hoops for Hope" basketball tournament at 3 p.m. in the O'Neill Center on the Westside campus. Funds raised will support the American Cancer Society. Send an e-mail to wcsu-cac@hotmail.com for entry fees and information.

APR. 20 RIDGEMOUNT CROSSINGS UNIVERSITY (RCU) EVENT: Professor of Theatre Arts Sal Trapani will discuss his staging of "Twelfth Night" at 4 p.m. at Ridgfield Crossings, 640 Danbury Road in Ridgfield. RCU is a partnership between WestConn and the senior living facility in Ridgfield. For more information, call Sherri Hill in the Office of University Relations at (203) 837-8774. See story on page 7.

APR. 21 IMMIGRATION CONFERENCE: Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal will keynote the Immigration in the Danbury Region Conference, to be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Room 201 of the Student Center on the Midtown campus. Registration is open to WestConn students, faculty and staff only. Forms are available in the social work department and should be submitted by Wednesday, April 5, to Room 101 of White Hall. Registration is \$10. For more information, send an e-mail to shaughnessy001@student.wcsu.edu.

APR. 21 - 23 OPERA: The WCSU Opera will present "The Merry Widow" at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, April 21 and 22, and at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 23, in Ives Concert Hall in White Hall on the Midtown campus. Admission will be \$15 for adults and \$10 for senior citizens and children 12 and under. WestConn students with valid ID will be admitted for \$5. For information, call (203) 837-8350 or visit www.wcsu.edu/tickets.

APR. 22 PLANETARIUM SHOW AND TELESCOPE VIEWING: WestConn will host a 7:30 p.m. planetarium show, followed by a telescope viewing from 8:30 to 10:30 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.

APR. 24 SYMPOSIUM: Dr. Jane Goodall will deliver the keynote address "Wildlife and Development: Problems and Prospects" at a 2 p.m. symposium in Alumni Hall on the Midtown campus. Sponsored by the WestConn Jane Goodall Center, the event will be free and open to WestConn students, faculty and staff only.

Call Professor of Anthropology and Sociology Dr. Laurie Weinstein at (203) 837-8453 for information. See schedule on page 3.

APR. 24 PRESIDENT'S LECTURE SERIES: Futurist James Martin will discuss "The Meaning of the 21st Century: A Vital Blueprint for Ensuring Our Future" as the President's Lecture Series speaker at 7:30 p.m. in Ives Concert Hall in White Hall on the Midtown campus. The talk will be free and the public is invited. For more information, call the Office of University Relations at (203) 837-8486. See story on page 1.

APR. 25 - 27 COMPUTER ANIMATION FESTIVAL: The WestConn Center for Graphics Research will host AniFest '06 — featuring computer animation and graphics — in the Student Center on the Midtown campus. All the events will be free and open to the public. For more information and a festival schedule, visit <http://cs.wcsu.edu/cgr> or call Center for Graphics Research Director Dr. William Joel at (203) 837-9353.

APR. 25 ART SLIDE LECTURE: Painter Kinuko Craft will discuss her 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 Master of Fine Arts slide lecture series. For more information, call (203) 837-8881.

APR. 25 POLITICAL SCIENCE LECTURE: New Haven Mayor John DeStefano will discuss Connecticut's economy from 6:45 to 7:15 p.m. during a political science class in Room 209 of White Hall on the Midtown campus. The discussion will be free and open to the public. For more information, call Scott Benjamin at (860) 210-2146, ext. 129.

APR. 25 HOLISTIC HEALTH EVENT: The Institute for Holistic Health Studies at WestConn and the Danbury branch of the Connecticut Holistic Health Association will present a belly dancing class at 7 p.m. in Alumni Hall on the Midtown campus. Registration and networking will be at 6:30 p.m., and the program will begin at 7 p.m. Admission will be \$5 for CHHA members, \$10 for nonmembers, and \$1 for senior citizens and non-WestConn students with valid identification. WestConn students, faculty and staff with valid ID will be admitted free. For more information, call (203) 837-8612.

APR. 26 SCIENCE SEMINAR: Yale University Ph.D. candidate Geff Stopper will discuss "Hedgehog Function in the Evolution of Amphibian Limb Development" at 4 p.m. in Room 219 in the Science Building on the Midtown campus. Offered as part of the continuing "Research Seminar" series hosted by the department of biological and environmental sciences, the event will be free and the public is invited. For more information, call Assistant Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences Dr. Theodora Pinou at (203) 837-8793.

APR. 27 - 29 JAZZ FESTIVAL: The 11th Annual WestConn/Litchfield Performing Arts Jazz Festival will feature three concerts in Ives Concert Hall in White Hall on the Midtown campus. A Clinicians Concert will be at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 27. The WCSU Jazz Orchestra with Slide Hampton will be at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 28. Tickets for these concerts will be \$10 for adults, and \$5 for senior citizens and students. At 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 29, the Chick Corea Trio will perform. Tickets will be \$30 for adults, and \$20 for senior citizens and students. WestConn students with valid ID will be admitted free to all events. For more information, call (203) 837-8350 or visit www.wcsu.edu/tickets.

APR. 27 TELESCOPE VIEWING: WestConn will host a telescope viewing from 8:30 to 11 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.

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

COMMUNIQUE



► Inside this issue:

I'm writing to provide an update on how the planning work that emerged from our Values and Vision process is progressing. Much is being accomplished, and I'm grateful to the many faculty and staff colleagues and students who've devoted their time to these efforts.

Values
& Vision
Update from
President
Schmutter



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