



Nursing grads maintain perfect passing grade

by Irene Sherlock

If it were being graded, WestConn's nursing department would receive an A+. For two years in a row, all Bachelor of Science in Nursing graduates who have taken the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) have passed it.

"That's pretty impressive," said Barbara Piscopo, chair of the department. "We're required by the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing to maintain a minimum 80 percent passing rate. But to have all students pass the exam — we take great pride in that."

According to 2004 graduate Monica Perry, who now works as a cardiac nurse at Danbury Hospital, this "perfect" rate is not surprising.

"The training we got was fabulous.

Everyone was so supportive. The faculty spend so much time making sure you understand the material. I don't know about anyone else, but I felt very prepared to take my boards."

If it were being graded, WestConn's nursing department would receive an A+.

Perry, who now is pursuing a master's in nursing at WestConn, said, "When I considered graduate school, I didn't think of going anywhere else."

Marla Deleppo, a 2005 alumna who

works in emergency medicine at Hartford Hospital, gives high marks to WestConn's faculty as well.

"The test scores are a reflection of the program," she said. "You really get the training you need, particularly in senior year, during your capstone course, where you can choose your specialization. That's when I was introduced to emergency medicine."

Deleppo is referring to the two-day-per-week, 10-week course in which seniors become immersed in a hospital setting.

"Students work with a nurse mentor and receive hands-on experience. Here's where they try on the role of registered nurse," Piscopo said. "WestConn's nursing program is a progressive one," she continued. "Our students receive a

cont'd. on page 4

Manes sheds light on racial tension in France

by Yvonne Johnson

Many around the world were startled by the recent news of riots and racial tension in France, but the mayhem came as no surprise to WestConn Associate Professor of Social Sciences Dr. Averell Manes.

That's because the 44-year-old New Fairfield resident has studied Western Europe, specifically France, and worked in the field of conflict resolution for 20 years. She's lived in France and traveled extensively in Western Europe. And she's the author of a new scholarly book that helps explain France's worst civil unrest in nearly 40 years.

"The rioting has its roots in the colonial experience," Manes said. "Virtually all the European Union (EU) countries are facing similar problems with disgruntled immigrant populations, most of whom remain marginalized by generations of neglect and discrimination."

In her recently published monograph, Manes describes the history and repercussions of the decolonization of French Algeria from 1960 to 2000. Academia Press released Manes' 284-page monograph, "The Pieds-noirs, 1960 - 2000: A Case Study in the Persistence of Subcultural Distinctiveness," in November, the same month the turmoil reached its peak.

Twenty nights of rioting and other violent clashes between thousands of young people, most of them Muslims, and French police began on Oct. 27, resulting in nearly 9,000 torched vehicles and almost 3,000 arrests, according to official reports. Commentators pointed to longtime discrimination and staggering unemployment among the country's large African and Arab communities as central factors in the riots. Protesters repeatedly emphasized the same complaints when they spoke about the disorder.

cont'd. on page 3

Midtown campus to become 'debate central'

by Sherri Hill

For three days in February, the Western Connecticut State University Midtown campus will be bursting at the seams with even more of the region's best and brightest college students than usual. They'll be coming from places like Harvard University, Boston College, Cornell University, Boston University, West Virginia University, the University of Vermont, Bard College, the University of Rochester, Clarion University of Pennsylvania, the University of Massachusetts and Binghamton University.

And they'll all be here to do what they do best: debate.

WestConn will host the Hat City Debates, the Cross Examination Debate Association (CEDA) East Championship and the National Debate Tournament (NDT) District 8 Qualifier from Friday, Feb. 24, through Sunday, Feb. 26, on the Midtown campus. The tournaments are an important step on the road to the annual CEDA National Championship Tournament, which will be held in Dallas, Texas, in April.

CEDA is the primary national association promoting policy topic intercollegiate academic debate. Its annual National Championship Tournament brings together more than 200 individual debate teams from across



WCSU Photo/Peggy Stewart

WestConn's Roger Sherman Debate Society (back row, l-r): Paul Wagner, Derek Thornton, Andrew Urbanski, Chris DeZinno; (middle row, l-r): George Babykutty, Jenn Mancuso, Sara Waterfall, Cara Masline; (front row, l-r): Adwoa Adarkwa, Melinda Tarsi, Assistant Professor of History and Non-Western Cultures Dr. Wynn Wilcox, Assistant Professor of Social Sciences Dr. Christopher Kukuk

the country to compete for the title of national champion. The organization also sets the national policy debate topic for all sanctioned competitions. This year's topic, which will be the subject to be debated at WestConn, is: "The United States federal government should substantially increase diplomatic and economic pressure on the People's Republic of China in one or more of the

following areas: trade, human rights, weapons nonproliferation, Taiwan."

Assistant Professor of Social Sciences Dr. Christopher Kukuk and Assistant Professor of History and Non-Western Cultures Dr. Wynn Wilcox advise WestConn's debaters, who call themselves the Roger Sherman Debate Society (RSDS). In the few years since

cont'd. on page 7

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:

November and December 2005

DEATH PENALTY LOSING FAVOR WITH PUBLIC, SAYS PROFESSOR

WestConn Professor Harold Schramm thinks the death penalty is on its way out. Schramm, a professor of justice and law administration, spent this summer with 19 other scholars at the University of Maryland. They researched the death penalty as part of a program with the National Endowment for the Humanities Institute. "It was life-changing, literally," said Schramm, who has been a teacher for 37 years.

EYES ON THE SKIES: STUDENTS LEARN TO FORECAST WEATHER AT WESTCONN

Jarid Root was fascinated by strong winds and huge downpours as a child and loves thunderstorms. Root's fascination with the weather factored into his choice of

college. The 23-year-old senior is finishing five years of classes at WestConn to earn his bachelor of science degrees in both theoretical meteorology and operational meteorology and weathercasting. The Fairfield native chose WestConn because it's the only school in the state to offer a bachelor's degree in meteorology.

WESTCONN FORUM ADDRESSES TENSION WITH IMMIGRANTS

Years ago while studying immigration as an undergraduate student at WestConn, Joseph Sikora came across a 1940s-era magazine written by an aging Danbury "Yankee." The writer reminisced about turn-of-the-century Danbury, when the factory-owning aristocrats living on Deer Hill Avenue didn't associate with the other Yankees they employed. ... Tensions between longtime residents and people from foreign lands is not new — one of the points that came out of an immigration forum held Thursday at the WestConn Student Center.

WCSU SIGNS ARTICULATION AGREEMENT WITH GOODWIN COLLEGE

(FAIRFIELD COUNTY BUSINESS TIMES)
Due to an articulation agreement signed by WestConn

President James W. Schmotter and Mark Scheinberg, president of Goodwin College in East Hartford, Goodwin graduates now can transfer to WestConn with ease to pursue bachelor's degree studies after obtaining their associate degree at Goodwin.

DANGER IN IRAQ: REPORTER RISKS HER LIFE TO TELL STORIES OF IRAQI SUFFERING AND SURVIVAL

Behind secure walls in Baghdad, 34-year-old New York Times journalist Sabrina Tavernise has a good life with a cook, a swimming pool and comfortable rooms. Her quarters, with generators, a water delivery system and security guards, stand in sharp contrast to her dangerous work — finding stories of Iraqi life after Saddam Hussein. ... "Every time we leave the compound, we have two cars, with a guard and driver in each car. It's a circus act, but we do it," Tavernise said during a talk last week at WestConn.

WESTCONN FINDS A PARTNER IN TEK-AIR

Manufacturer Tek-Air and WestConn have both been in Danbury for years, but they didn't have much to do with each other. Then WestConn started building a new science

building. Ever since, the university and the company have become ever more entwined. Tek-Air, based in Danbury's Commerce Park, is a specialist in making equipment — laboratory hoods — that cleans unsafe fumes out of rooms. WestConn needed dozens of the hoods in its new building on Osborne Street. ... "Since they were right here, we started talking," said Tom Checksfield, general manager of Tek-Air in Danbury. The talk led to Tek-Air offering a scholarship to undergraduate students majoring in sciences or a technical field.

WESTCONN ARTIST GETS NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Artist Marjorie Portnow traveled to California to capture the azure sky and desert for a small oil painting that will have a new home in a national museum. The associate art professor at WestConn in Danbury won the Henry Ward Ranger Award during an exhibit at the National Academy Museum in New York City. The award allows for the purchase of the painting from Portnow through an endowment Ranger left to the National Academy of Design in 1915 to build a national collection. "It's very thrilling and exciting. It's a great honor," Portnow said Tuesday.

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AROUND CAMPUS

Alumnus makes a splash in world of set design



WCSU Photo/Peggy Stewart

Alumnus Paulo Seixas explains the intricacies of set design during a theatre production class he taught at WestConn.

by Yvonne Johnson

Since earning his Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art with a focus on sculpture and painting from WestConn in 2002, alumnus Paulo Seixas has been making a big splash in the world of theatrical set design.

The 30-year-old Danbury resident who minored in theatre at WestConn went on to be the first graduate student to receive a full scholarship to Brandeis University and earned his Master of Fine Arts in Theatre Design there. He received a great deal of attention for his presentation at the annual, invitation-only "Clambake" exhibition hosted by premier set designer Ming Cho Lee. And Seixas' many current projects include his work as assistant designer on "Finding Nemo, the Mu-sea-cle," a multimillion-dollar stage production scheduled to open in November 2006

at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

Seixas stood out with his work for adaptations of "Master and Margarita," "Don Quixote" and "Hamlet" while at Brandeis. That earned him an invitation to the summer 2005 "Clambake" hosted by Lee, who is co-chair of the design department at the Yale University School of Drama. Lee praised Seixas' work during the two-day New York City exhibition, which gave promising, fledgling set designers from institutions such as Brandeis, Yale and New York University the opportunity to get feedback from Lee and meet veteran designers, artists, producers and others connected to the industry.

"It was great to get feedback from Ming Cho Lee," said Seixas, who tends to be modest and has to be coaxed to share the praise that others heap upon him. "He said I'm very talented and he was impressed with my work."

Seixas met accomplished costume and set designers Skip Mercier and Antje Ellermann at Lee's exhibition. Those meetings led to a number of projects for Seixas, including an offer to serve as an assistant designer and project manager for Mercier. Since then, Seixas has worked on 11 off-Broadway shows, including "The Christmas Carol" for Ford's Theatre, "The Holiday Spectacular" for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and WestConn's fall production of "Nine." As a set designer, Seixas helps interpret the message of the show, using visual elements to facilitate the storytelling.

Through his work with Mercier, Seixas also landed the "big fish" of his career thus far — the assistant designer's job for the 30-minute Disney stage production based on the widely popular "Finding Nemo" animated film.

"The scale of the project is just huge," Seixas said. "It's an amazing opportunity, especially so early in my career, to work on a project of this scope."

Seixas, who started as a pre-med biology major at WestConn, credits several professors with helping him explore his talents and find the path to his success. He praised art faculty members Robert Alberetti, Plonia Nixon and Walter Boelke, along with theatre arts faculty members Frank Herbert, Sal Trapani and Liz Popiel.

"I think the art and theatre programs here at WestConn are outstanding, to say the least," he said. "The professors are exceptional, and I learned so much."

"I really enjoyed having these classes where I could explore what I wanted to explore," he added about his WestConn studies.

Popiel and Seixas collaborated when he designed the set and she designed the costumes for the theatre arts

cont'd. on page 4

Science-at-Night examines variety of topics

by Robert Taylor

The national debate about the teaching of evolution, the unsolved mystery of a devastating viral epidemic in southwest Africa, and effective strategies to promote positive behavior patterns provided the themes for the autumn Science-at-Night series presented at the Science Building on the Midtown campus.

Dr. James Mellett, a retired professor of geology at New York University, offered a spirited and provocative argument why intelligent design (ID) and creationism should not be taught alongside evolution in the science classroom in the opening talk of the series on Oct. 27. New York Times science reporter Denise Grady provided a first-hand report about the recent epidemic in Angola of hemorrhagic fever caused by the deadly Marburg virus in her Nov. 10 presentation. WestConn Assistant Professor of Psychology Dr. Daniel Barrett concluded the fall schedule with his Dec. 1 talk, "How to Increase Teen Drug Use Without Really Trying," an ironic title underscoring the need to rethink strategies of persuasion aimed at curbing drug use and other destructive behavior.

Noting the mounting pressure on state and local school boards to introduce intelligent design as an alternative scientific theory of life's development on Earth, Mellett asserted

ID proponents fail the fundamental test of scientific inquiry. His academic interest in evolution flows from his four decades of research and field work in geology, paleontology and biology. Citing his studies of the geological layers exposed in the walls of the Grand Canyon as evidence that random processes can produce natural order from chaos, Mellett argued the chemistry of life followed a similar path of development over millions of years.

"The underlying philosophy of science is to seek truth, wherever the quest leads."

"The underlying philosophy of science is to seek truth, wherever the quest leads," he said. "Intelligent design at its most extreme sweeps everything away and says it is pointless to pursue knowledge of these things because they cannot be explained. I just can't accept that, because it cuts off scientific investigation."

Drawing upon her reporting from Uige Province in northern Angola, Grady told how an outbreak of the highly contagious Marburg viral infection in the southwest African nation

sparked a massive emergency intervention by Doctors Without Borders and other international medical relief agencies in spring and summer 2005 to contain and arrest the spread of the disease. An intensive campaign following detection of the Marburg outbreak in March to treat hemorrhagic fever cases and prevent further infections succeeded after four months in preventing further deaths, but only after 329 of 374 known victims had died — a devastating 88 percent mortality rate.

"The last death finally occurred in July — and it was gone," she said. "Nobody knows where it came from, and nobody knows where it went."

Grady said the most common theory about the Marburg virus, which kills by attacking and breaking down the body's immune system, suggests it remains dormant in one or more species of bats native to central and southern Africa that may infect humans and other mammals with deadly effect.

Recent studies conducted by researchers in the field of social psychology provided the foundation for Barrett's argument that well-intentioned public service announcements (PSAs) often fail to produce the desired effect in promoting positive behavioral change.

cont'd. on page 7

AROUND CAMPUS

Innovative Shaw teaches students of all ages

by Louise Axelson and Yvonne Johnson

WestConn Professor of Education Dr. Darla Shaw, an elementary education expert who also serves as coordinator of the Masters of Science programs for the School of Professional Studies, is energetic and enthusiastic, bringing innovation in various forms to what she does.

In addition to using her creativity and gusto to teach those who shape young minds in classrooms throughout the region, the Ridgefield resident is a prolific author. She produces training guides that are valued by the educators who read and use the books in their classrooms.

"Each book gives me the chance to share what I know about teaching youngsters by engaging their imaginations and senses," said Shaw, who was a teacher and administrator in Ridgefield schools for 36 years before joining the WestConn faculty 10 years ago.

Her recent publications include "Retelling Strategies to Improve Comprehension" and "Lyrics: A Natural Way to Build Literacy Skills," which focuses on the use of lyrics for teaching because children have natural interest in the words of popular music.

"Kids today are so motivated by music," Shaw said. "The key is to find what motivates or interests them and employ that."

Shaw also is working on another book; this one uses origami, the Japanese art of folding, as a learning tool. Because the art has applications in both reading and math, Shaw is working with her WestConn colleague Associate Professor of Mathematics Dr. Rona Gurkewitz, who also is the computer science department chair.

Shaw's books are produced by the publishing arms of such names as The New York Times, Washington Times and Washington Post. And Shaw was "discovered" a few years ago during a reading conference in Newport, R.I., by Scholastic, the largest publisher of materials for elementary school teachers. When she was approached by Scholastic, Shaw had been making a presentation about "retelling" or repeating information to help students understand and remember what they hear and read in the classroom. The subsequent book, "Retelling Strategies to Improve Comprehension," is about retelling and is especially dear to Shaw.

In writing the book, Shaw worked with one of her former students, Ellen Shea, who's now a teacher. Shea's third- and fourth-graders at Danbury's South Street School and WCSU University Photographer Peggy Stewart also took part in the project.

"Peggy and I formed a real relationship with the kids," Shaw said. "They felt very, very special."

Shaw also has focused her expertise on Danbury history and shared it in a version that appeals to young people. She coauthored a "child-friendly" history about one-time U.S. senator from Connecticut Lafayette Foster. It was published earlier this year in serialized form in The (Danbury) News-Times and a number of other newspapers across the state.

Foster, from Franklin and Norwich, was president pro tempore of the U.S. Senate when Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. Andrew Johnson became president, putting Foster next in the line of succession, Shaw explained. Thomas Vogt, a Danbury resident and distant relative of Foster, did the research, and Shaw wrote the history.

"I knew children's literature and (Vogt) did the research," Shaw said of the project. "I loved the cooperative element."

Shaw continues to be a student of local history: As she researches the city's once-booming hat industry with Ridgefield historian Irv Jarvis, Shaw has in mind a book for youth called "The Rabbit and the Beaver," featuring the two animals used widely in the manufacture of hats.

"I love what I do," Shaw said. "I

love children's literature and I love children.

"This is my passion," she added. "It's really thrilling to me that I can channel my energy into this and make a difference in my own small way."

Shaw also uses her teaching innovations on her own graduate students, many of whom already work in elementary school classrooms. For the last few years, her students have teamed in a mentoring relationship with WestConn undergraduates studying for their teacher certification with retired Whisconier Middle School Principal Richard Bellesheim.

The undergraduates say each year that the pairing with the graduate students is the best part of their studies, and they look to their mentors for real-world experience. "Without the mentors, the undergraduates have no idea what they're getting into and what it's all about in the real world," Shaw said.

Several undergraduates attending a recent session with their mentors in Shaw's classroom said they particularly value the insight the graduate students share about finding work in a tough market. "It's very competitive around here, especially on the elementary-school level," Bellesheim said. "Talking about it with a graduate student gives them a little more confidence."

Shaw has used activities such as scavenger hunts, spelling bees and poetry writing in her classes, using ingenuity to help students learn. "I've always loved teaching and writing and creating," Shaw said, which is obvious in both her written — and unwritten — work. ■



Professor of Education Dr. Darla Shaw leads undergraduate and graduate education students in a spelling bee.

JetBlue CEO gives a lesson in success



WCSU Photo/Peggy Stewart

JetBlue founder and CEO David Neeleman shares his business savvy with students.

by Robert Taylor

JetBlue founder and chief executive officer David Neeleman paused in mid-sentence after revealing he had dropped out of college, glanced up at his WestConn audience and added quickly with a grin, "Don't you do that!"

His remark brought laughter from the students who comprised most of the audience that filled a Westside Classroom Building auditorium on Nov. 15 to hear Neeleman profile the maverick New York-based airline's trajectory of success since its launch six years ago. His talk was sponsored by the Ancell School of Business as part of the school's fall lecture series.

As Neeleman outlined his strategy in building JetBlue into one of the most profitable and fastest-growing carriers in the domestic market, he clearly relished the opportunity to share his vision with a new generation of entrepreneurs. Moving comfortably into a lively exchange with his audience, Neeleman recalled how as a college student he once felt like "everything had already been invented and there was nothing new I could do." That was before Bill Gates, Michael Dell and other leaders of the

cont'd. on page 7

Manes sheds light on racial tension in France (cont'd.)



WCSU Photo/Peggy Stewart

Associate Professor of Social Sciences Dr. Averell Manes

"People are joining together to say we've had enough," one protester told The Associated Press. "We live in ghettos. Everyone lives in fear."

Manes said many of the rioters are the children and grandchildren of Muslims, known as "Harkis," who sought refuge in France during and after the 1954-62 war for Algeria's independence. These immigrants have settled into the stagnant suburbs of Paris and other cities in France, where they say the government is denying them an ethnic or minority identity.

"A good-sized segment of these people do remain quite distinct and disgruntled," Manes said.

As part of the French ideal for a model society, the government does not recognize French-Algerians or African-French, Manes explained; there are only French. The theory is that this color-blind approach will result in equal treatment for all without discrimination.

"They consider ethnic or minority

identification as crude," she said. "It's considered to be a violation of the 'Principles of the Republic.'"

In practice, Manes said, the "One France" policy means millions of French of Arab and African descent are marginalized and disenfranchised without any special protections such as the ones afforded to minorities in the United States. For example, not one member of the National Assembly is of African or Arab heritage.

"Immigration — and the treatment of immigrants — is the No. 1 problem in the European Union today," Manes said about the economic alliance that unites countries spanning much of the European continent. "The only problem that rivals it is the rapid expansion of the EU to include 25 very diverse nations."

EU countries, such as France, the United Kingdom, Spain and Germany, need immigrants to meet their economic goals, Manes said.

"The leaders of the EU have a choice: They can integrate their immigrants or they can continue to marginalize them," said Manes, who is an advanced practitioner recognized by the Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution. "If they continue to marginalize them, the result will be terrorism, crime, poverty and, frankly, a hypocritical aspect to the Europeans' image of themselves. If they integrate, they must allow the immigrants to become part of mainstream politics and give them equal access to services and all aspects of French life.

"They must realize the reality that their identity has changed; Europe is no longer 'lily white,'" Manes said. "During the riots, the flames shed light on that." ■

For more information, call Manes at (203) 837-8452, send her an e-mail at manesa@wcsu.edu, or call the WCSU Office of Public Relations at (203) 837-8486.

AROUND CAMPUS

School of Professional Studies honors distinguished alumni



WCSU Photo/Peggy Stewart

(l-r): President James W. Schmotter; SPS Distinguished Alumni Award recipients John B. Cheeseman, Erica Buonocore, Milagros Marrero-Johnson, Lois Crucitti, Mark A. Ryan; and Dean of the School of Professional Studies Dr. Lynne Clark

by Robert Taylor

WestConn's School of Professional Studies (SPS) honored five alumni for their contributions to the fields of education, music, social work, nursing and health at the fourth annual Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award ceremony on Nov. 10 in Warner Hall.

Recipients of the 2005 awards are:

- Erica Buonocore, health instructor at Rochambeau Middle School in Southbury, from the health promotion and exercise sciences department;
- John B. Cheeseman, retired headmaster of the Wooster School in Danbury, from the education and educational psychology department;
- Lois Crucitti, public health nurse in the Waterbury school system, from the nursing department;
- Milagros Marrero-Johnson, director of student services for the University of Connecticut School of Social Work, from the social work department; and
- Mark A. Ryan, music teacher at Stratford High School, from the music department.

President James W. Schmotter and

Dean of the School of Professional Studies Dr. Lynne Clark told the award recipients they provide role models for present WestConn students to emulate.

"Each of you exemplifies what we hope our future graduates will strive for — the highest levels of personal achievement and the highest standards of public and professional service," Clark said.

"You're the faces who go on our 'box of Wheaties,'" Schmotter remarked. "You show what we're all about — helping people achieve their dreams and aspirations."

As award recipients came forward in turn to receive recognition, they returned frequently in their acceptance remarks to WestConn's pivotal role in providing academic foundations, guiding personal development and inspiring commitment to professional achievement and personal service. Marrero-Johnson said she discovered her professional career and her purpose as an undergraduate in WestConn's social work program.

"Ten years ago, I never would have thought I would be where I am today," Marrero-Johnson said. "I can attest that

WestConn gave me a quality education to teach others, empowered me to empower others, and changed my life so that I could change the lives of others."

Buonocore, who received a bachelor's degree in health education in 2001, teaches health classes for grades 6 through 8 at Rochambeau school and has joined with another teacher in developing a new health curriculum for the Region 15 school system. A member of the 143rd Military Police Company of the Connecticut Army National Guard, she served with her unit in Iraq during 2003 and 2004 as a medical noncommissioned officer, returning to the United States in April 2004. Drawing from her WestConn experience as a four-year member and senior captain of the university softball team, she has coached softball programs at the University of New Haven and St. Joseph's College in West Hartford.

"You show what we're all about — helping people achieve their dreams and aspirations."

Cheeseman earned his WestConn master's degree in community counseling in 1992 as he pursued his longtime career as a teacher, coach and administrator at the Wooster School. An Illinois 909native and Princeton University graduate, he worked during the 1960s as a copywriter and reporter before entering the teaching profession, first at Lake Forest (Ill.) Academy and since 1974 at the Wooster School. After tenures as director of studies and college guidance and director of development and admissions, he became Wooster's seventh headmaster in 1996 and served until his retirement in July 2003.

Crucitti's present Waterbury elementary school position caps a lifelong nursing career that began in 1971 when she joined the staff of

Waterbury Hospital after earning a bachelor's degree as a member of WestConn's second nursing class. Her professional experience as a registered nurse has covered a wide range of fields including intensive and cardiac units, neuro-trauma and surgical care, and emergency, operating and delivery room nursing. She returned to WestConn to complete her master's degree in nursing in 1997, and remains an active participant in Alumni Association and Alumni Nursing Society activities.

Marrero-Johnson, recipient of a bachelor's degree in social work in 1995, completed a master's program at the University of Pittsburgh and served from 1996 to 2004 as director of community services at The Salvation Army of Greater Hartford. A Danbury native, she combines her present role as director of student services at the University of Connecticut School of Social Work with active involvement in community-based programs including the city of Hartford's Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Commission, End Hunger Connecticut, and Community Partners for Food.

Since earning a bachelor's degree in music education at WestConn in 1985, Ryan has pursued a richly varied career as both a performing musician and music educator. Recipient of a master's degree in performance from Yale University in 1988 and music doctorate from SUNY-Stony Brook in 1995, he directed the Connecticut Yankee Chorale from 1989 to 1996 and has served as music director at St. John the Evangelist Church in Watertown for the past 13 years. Ryan has been a music instructor in Connecticut public schools for 16 years, and currently teaches theory classes and directs four instrumental ensembles as a member of Stratford High School's music faculty. He served for seven years as an adjunct professor in WestConn's music department. ■

For more information, call the School of Professional Studies at (203) 837-9500.

Nursing graduates maintain perfect passing grade (cont'd.)



WCSU Photo/Peggy Stewart

(l-r): Nursing students Mia Callas, from the class of 2005; Jennifer Shutak and Monica Perry, from the class of 2004, at the 2004 Sigma Theta Tau nursing honor society induction. They passed their nursing boards, as did all of their classmates.

complementary mix of academic and clinical preparation. By the time they complete their capstone course, they're well-acclimated to the program and ready to enter the nursing profession."

Piscopo said the department would not be able to boast its NCLEX-RN success rate or maintain its high standards were it not for the support of WestConn's administration.

"There's a national shortage of nurses. The university recognizes that in order to prepare more students for the field, we need additional nurse

educators. We're very lucky that President Schmotter and Dean Clark have been very supportive of hiring new faculty."

Piscopo explained how the NCLEX-RN represents a culmination of all aspects of the program. "Our goal is to teach the applications of nursing principles so that students can apply these findings in a variety of ways — both on the exam and then in the field."

Assistant Professor of Nursing Dr. Karen Daley said among nurses across the region, WestConn's reputation for

excellence is well-known. "Many facilities want to hire our graduates," she said. "The quality of instruction is a great part of that, of course. But the students themselves work very, very hard."

Daley said in the last two years, graduates have applied for and been hired in positions for which specialized training is required: emergency room and intensive care, to name just two. Many graduates from other programs do not have the opportunity to receive this type of specialized training, she said. But at WestConn, they do.

"Students can elect to train in a specialized area, as Marla and Monica did. This gives them a huge edge when applying for jobs."

Daley said Deleppo was excited because she and some other new hires were asked to diagnose SimMan. A mannequin that simulates life, SimMan is a state-of-the-art "patient" designed to teach critical thinking and decision-making skills to health-care providers. WestConn purchased a SimMan last year.

"Marla had used SimMan in the lab and knew what to expect, but none of the other nurses did," Daley said. "She felt pretty good about that." ■

For more information, call the nursing department at (203) 837-8556.

Alumnus makes a splash in world of set design (cont'd.)

department's "Nine" production.

"It was a real thrill to work with a former student as a colleague," she said.

Popiel has decades of professional design experience and said Seixas has the vision and talent to add many more successes to his career.

"Especially with Disney, he has a whole world of opportunity open to him," she said. "He'll go as far as he wants to in this field."

"WestConn should be very proud of him. We need to keep looking for his name in credits," Popiel added.

For Seixas, the key is that he's happy doing what he's doing.

"You have to be passionate about your work," he said. "I'm passionate about design, and it's something I'm going to continue to pursue. In order to be successful, I believe you need to find the right combination of being good at what you do and being persistent." ■

For more information, call the art department at (203) 837-8410, Popiel at (203) 837-8843 or the Office of Public Relations at (203) 837-8486.

ALUMNI & DEVELOPMENT

Music lovers encourage students by establishing scholarships



WCSU Photo/Peggy Stewart

(l-r): Professor of Music Dr. Kevin Jay Isaacs; Music Department Chair Dr. Dan Goble; CCS Scholarship recipients Michael Carnaroli, Meagan Johnson, Jordan Rose Lee, Noelle Chave, Herman Berisso; and CCS Scholarship Committee member Mario Mesi

by Sherri Hill

Thanks to the generosity of some area music lovers, students majoring in music and music education have — and will — become the beneficiaries of several newly created scholarships and an endowed scholarship fund.

Five WestConn students recently were named the recipients of \$1,000 scholarships from the Connecticut Choral Society (CCS), an ensemble of auditioned singers founded in 1980 in Woodbury. All majoring in music education — voice or classical voice — the five scholarship recipients are: freshman Herman Berisso, freshman Noelle Chave, sophomore Meagan Johnson, junior Michael S. Carnaroli and senior Jordan Rose Lee.

Through its scholarship program, CCS has provided financial assistance to

area high school students aspiring to attend college to pursue voice studies since 1998. It's part of the group's mission "to provide a music resource for Connecticut, to encourage singing and performing choral music of the highest artistic quality, and to stimulate greater appreciation and enjoyment of choral music."

This is the first time funds have been allocated to musicians already enrolled in college, said Nancy Liedlich, of Southbury, who chairs the CCS Scholarship Committee. CCS selection criteria required, among other things, that the candidates be voice students with extraordinary talent who live in Connecticut.

"We have given more than \$23,000 in scholarships to high school students since 1998, and will continue to do so," Liedlich said. "But we also wanted to benefit some college students who were serious musicians and who probably were going to go into a career in music."

The students got to meet and thank their benefactors at a reception prior to a late November performance by the WCSU Concert Choir, a 110-voice, nonauditioned ensemble, and the WCSU Chamber Singers, a select group of 20 vocalists. Members of CCS and the students' families were part of a large and extremely appreciative audience at the concert, which featured the most personal and meaningful selections of Music Professor Dr. Kevin Jay Isaacs' 25-year choral career.

Woodbury resident Mario Mesi, a member of the CCS Scholarship Committee, was involved in the group's decision to fund the five student scholarships and was present at the November scholarship reception and choir concert. He was so impressed by his interaction with WestConn's music faculty and students that he facilitated the establishment of a new endowed scholarship fund also to benefit the music department.

"WestConn has made us feel so comfortable," Mesi explained, when asked about the decision to fund an endowment. "Why go digging for another place at which to create a scholarship, when I believe we've already struck gold in the first place?"

The endowment, named The Schoolmasters Special Scholarship in Memory of Joel Kannegeiser, pays tribute to the lifelong educator whose work positively impacted countless special-needs students in the tri-state area. The \$11,000 gift will be allocated as a \$1,000 immediate-use fund to be utilized at Isaacs' discretion for the benefit of the WCSU Concert Choir, and a \$10,000 endowment managed by the WCSU Foundation and Office of Institutional Advancement. The endowment will be distributed as \$500 or \$1,000 scholarships to Connecticut resident, full-time music or music education majors with extraordinary singing or musical talent, a high grade-point average and financial need.

"The Kannegeiser family and Joel's friends and professional colleagues wanted to find a way to commemorate the important work Joel did as an educator and a volunteer," Mesi said. "He came from a family of teachers and used his talents to work with children in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. Joel was a member of the CCS and always liked to sing, so endowing a scholarship for future music teachers seemed like a fitting way to honor his memory."

Isaacs was effusive when speaking about the scholarships.

"Scholarships, especially valuable donations like these, are a validation of the high standards of teaching and performing that are typical of the work of the students and faculty in the WCSU music department," Isaacs said. "In addition, keeping the best of Connecticut is a high priority for WestConn, and this money shows the teachers and students of the state they are valued."

Music Department Chair Dr. Dan Goble agreed.

"These scholarships are a milestone in our efforts to increase awareness throughout the state and region about WestConn's strong music program," he said. ■

For more information about opportunities to create and support student scholarships, call the Office of Institutional Advancement at (203) 837-8298.

Annual wine-tasting benefit brings community to WestConn

by Robert Taylor

As Warner Hall resounded with the clink of wine glasses and conversation on a chilly November evening, Bethel businessman and WestConn scholarship sponsor Anthony Caraluzzi surveyed the guests at the Seventh Annual Holiday Wine Tasting with evident satisfaction.

"After seven years, I think we've perfected it!" said Caraluzzi, owner of Caraluzzi's Food Markets in Bethel and Georgetown. "The venue is fabulous, the food is great, and the vendors tell me it's the best wine tasting they do all year. I don't think I would change anything."

A sellout crowd of 250 guests joined Caraluzzi and WestConn President James W. Schmotter to sample fine wines from around the world, enjoy an inviting array of foods from local purveyors, and lend their financial support to the popular annual fund-raising event. Proceeds from admission fees, a brown-bag sale of mystery wines and a silent auction raised more than \$12,000 to benefit the Caraluzzi Scholarship Endowment.

Nutmeg Discount Liquors in Bethel and its wine distributors provided more than 90 wines to try. Food stations featured the offerings of Caraluzzi's Markets, La Zingara, Mr. Sushi and Sodexo. A jazz duo featuring an alumnus and a current student from the WestConn music department provided background music.

Schmotter circulated among the participants to welcome them to the event and thank them on behalf of the university community for their support. He noted the annual wine tasting has become a "signature event" bringing the WestConn and Danbury communities together each fall, raising about \$104,000 for the Caraluzzi endowment over the past seven years.

"One of our strengths as a university is the way we use our regional advantage to educate students,"

Schmotter observed. "Part of that advantage is found in friends like the Caraluzzi family, who step up to the plate and help to change young people's lives through education. This is a great example of town-gown relations at its very best."

Through proceeds from the annual wine tastings and major donations from the Caraluzzi family, the scholarship endowment has funded 31 scholarship grants totaling \$25,600 since 2001. Caraluzzi said the endowment, created to commemorate the 50th anniversary of his father's founding of the Bethel market, recognizes his business's commitment to the community and close

links with WestConn, where many of his student employees have pursued their college studies.

Jennifer Caraluzzi Dimyan, vice president of Nutmeg Liquors, expressed pleasure that the annual event had again drawn a capacity crowd to Warner Hall.

"The fact that all these people turn out to help student scholars is overwhelming," Dimyan said. "It's a sign of the community's support for the school." ■

For more information about the Caraluzzi Scholarship Endowment and other scholarship programs, call the Office of Institutional Advancement at (203) 837-8298.



WCSU Photo/Peggy Stewart

A guest at the popular annual event to benefit student scholarships prepares to sample some wine.

Winning raffle ticket results in scholarship



WCSU Photo/Peggy Stewart

Robert Schappert with some of Roger Winward's albums
by Sherri Hill

He's never been enrolled at the university located about 20 minutes from his Putnam Lake, N.Y., home — but in many ways, Robert Schappert is a student here. He can tell you bits of WestConn trivia that are impressive: things like the required courses for a health education major and facts about student scholarship opportunities.

"I'm not interested in generalities — I like to learn about the details," Schappert said. "I told Dr. Schmotter, 'I'm studying your university and I hope you don't mind.'"

The result of Schappert's research is a fondness for WestConn, and he's created several scholarships to benefit students at the university. A \$500 annual scholarship to benefit an undergraduate teacher education student bears his name. The recipient is chosen from the education department, which is housed within the School of Professional Studies (SPS).

"Robert has become a true friend of the SPS with his more than generous scholarship giving," Dean of the School of Professional Studies Dr. Lynne Clark said. "He is a man who understands the importance of a college education."

Schappert's most recent scholarship is a \$250 annual award for a student majoring in music education that pays tribute to musician Roger Winward of the '60s British rock group Five Steps Beyond. Schappert met Winward and his wife, Lesley, fellow jukebox enthusiasts, at a hobby and collectible show in England in 1992. The friendship blossomed to include an annual visit to London by Schappert until Winward's death last October from a heart attack.

The idea to pay tribute to Winward by naming a scholarship in his memory occurred to Schappert while he was attending a WCSU Colonials football game this fall. At the game, Schappert bought \$5 worth of 50-50 raffle tickets — and won \$200. He decided to put his windfall right back into the university.

When the stadium announcer broadcast that the winner of the raffle would use the funds to create a scholarship for a WestConn student, the crowd's response was overwhelming. That inspired Schappert to add to his winnings, and fund a scholarship for a music education student named in honor of his friend.

"What has impressed me the most is the fact that 100 percent of the money donated goes directly to the scholarship recipient," Schappert said. "That's part of what inspired me to establish The Roger Winward Memorial Scholarship: to give financial assistance to a deserving WestConn student with an interest in music education, which will continue Roger Winward's legacy." ■

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Conversations about HIV/AIDS prove enlightening



WCSU Photo/Peggy Stewart

Dean of the School of Professional Studies Dr. Lynne Clark talks with HIV/AIDS educators at the multicultural event.

WestConn students, faculty and staff received a rare glimpse into another culture's approach to HIV/AIDS — and offered their own insights about the international pandemic — during a November forum sponsored by the School of Professional Studies and the department of health promotion and exercise sciences (HPX).

Two "Conversations Between Cultures About HIV/AIDS" sessions — one for students and another for faculty

and staff — provided the chance to discuss HIV/AIDS with three Russian citizens. The Russians, Irina Martynova, Alexander Matveev and Elena Trotsyuk, are HIV/AIDS prevention educators. They were volunteering at the Interfaith AIDS Ministry of Greater Danbury as part of a U.S./Russian research initiative sponsored by the International Research and Exchanges Board.

In addition to giving members of the WestConn community information about the situation in their country, the Russians also gleaned information about American HIV/AIDS education, attitudes toward those affected by the disease and more. They and others from Russia participated in several such events across the country as part of the research initiative.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for us to look at another culture and learn about how they are dealing with a similar issue," said Assistant Professor of HPX Denise Colaianni, one of the organizers of the WestConn event. ■

Video spurs lively discussion about higher education

Overcrowded lecture halls. Juggling work and classes. Being taught by teaching assistants instead of professors. Those are just some of the complaints voiced by college students in the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) special "Declining By Degrees: Higher Education at Risk," which premiered on PBS last June. Not all the issues raised apply to WestConn — but the broader subject of higher education in America is worth exploring — so a screening of the first hour of the documentary, followed by a lively faculty-student discussion, took place in Warner Hall in November.

"The event was everything we hoped it would be," said Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences Dr. Linda Vaden-Goad. "The documentary presents such striking images of the best and worst of college life, and the students on our panel really captured the complexity of the issues well. The students, both those on the panel and in the audience, asked questions of each other and the faculty. The faculty asked questions of the students.

"I know that I learned a lot, and I think it is clear from the energetic discussion that we need to have more events of this sort that are conversational in nature with our students. I'm looking forward to the second hour of the documentary, to be

shown in the spring, and the conversation that will follow!"

Associate Professor of Psychology Dr. Rondall Khoo, who helped organize the event, agreed.

"This is an issue that concerns people," Khoo said. "We had quite a few students, faculty and administrators participate, and it was good to see everyone asking questions and getting involved."

Faith Hunt, a senior psychology student and member of the WCSU Honors Program, was one of four students who spoke about key elements of the documentary in a panel discussion.

"Overall, it was really good for faculty and students to talk and interact about these problems and try to come up with solutions together," Hunt said. "It was great to have that kind of interaction — you don't usually get to evaluate your teachers and tell them what you think about their teaching. The video really brought out issues I had never thought about before, and participating in the discussion was very worthwhile." ■

The "Declining By Degrees: Higher Education at Risk" video, DVD and companion book are available for purchase at www.decliningbydegrees.org/buy-book-dvd.html.

Chamber Music Concert



WCSU Photo/Peggy Stewart

Associate Professor of Music Dr. Russell Hirshfield accompanies Professor of Music Dr. Margaret Astrup as student Juan Mesa looks on. The chamber music performance was one of several noon concerts offered by the music department.

Executive Leadership Institute offers inspiration



WCSU Photo/Peggy Stewart

Lorrie Greenhouse Gardella, chair of the Saint Joseph College department of social work, addresses Executive Leadership Institute participants.

The WestConn Executive Forum hosted the Executive Leadership Institute, a leadership development experience for executive directors of area nonprofit organizations, in October. Patti Ivry, director of the

Executive Forum, and Fred Tesch, assistant director, emceed the events.

The three-day forum included presentations by Professor of Management Dr. Eugene Buccini; Dean of the Ansell School of Business Dr. Allen Morton; Dean of Graduate Studies and External Programs Dr. Ellen Durnin; LouAnn Bloomer, president and CEO of The Bridge to Independence and Career Opportunities and Professor of Management Dr. Fred Tesch.

Lorrie Greenhouse Gardella, chair of the department of social work at Saint Joseph College, closed the event by saying, "Build hope and then keep it alive in yourself, your community and your organization, and do it by building and cultivating relationships." ■

Famed author Deford reads, shares insights

Frank Deford has led a life of highs and lows, and examples of both extremes are reflected in his work.

Deford is a senior contributing writer for Sports Illustrated, regular correspondent for HBO's "Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel" and weekly commentator on National Public Radio's "Morning Edition." He is the author of 14 novels and nonfiction books, two of which have been made into films.

Deford has won both an Emmy and a George Foster Peabody Award. He also has lost his then-8-year-old daughter, Alexandra, to cystic fibrosis.

At a November reading hosted by the Master of Fine Arts in Professional Writing program, Deford read excerpts from three of his books, "each for a different reason," he said. First, he shared portions of his most recent novel "An American Summer," set during the polio scare in 1950s Baltimore. Deford then read excerpts from his poignant

memoir about his daughter's illness and death, "Alex: The Life of a Child." Finally, not wanting to end on a sad note, Deford had the audience laughing out loud as he read from "The Old Ball Game," a recent nonfiction work about the 1905 New York Giants baseball team. ■

For more information about the M.F.A. in Professional Writing program, call Brian Clements at (203) 837-8876.



WCSU Photo/Peggy Stewart

Student Justin Mazzaresse talks with author Frank Deford.

Veteran's Day



WCSU Photo/Peggy Stewart

Members of the WCSU Veteran-Civilian Alliance, a student organization, pose proudly in front of an Army National Guard Black Hawk helicopter that landed on the Westside campus during WestConn's Veteran's Day celebration.

Congratulations!

Schlicht letter published in journal

In a letter to the editor of Archives of Internal Medicine, a journal published by the American Medical Association, Assistant Professor of Health Promotion and Exercise Sciences Dr. Jeffrey Schlicht refuted the results of an article published previously in the renowned publication. Schlicht argued that publication of the article, which reported study findings comparing the National Cholesterol Education Program

diet with a diet lower in carbohydrates and higher in protein, did a disservice to the Archives and the public because of its flaws in study protocol, making the findings speculative. Schlicht's letter can be found in the Oct. 10 issue. ■

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

Transfer student has high aspirations for internship

by Hanna Kiviniemi

Elonzo Young finally has found his true match. Even though he grew up in Danbury, he always knew he wanted to attend one of the Connecticut state universities.

He recently transferred to WestConn from the University of Maryland.

"I like being close to home with my family and I like being able to work a lot," Young said. He found it hard to concentrate on his studies and work while attending school in Maryland.

Young was raised by his father, who always has been an influence in his life. His father strongly encouraged him to go to the University of Maryland, so that's where Young enrolled.

WestConn was his first transfer choice when he realized he wasn't working to his full potential in Maryland because he was homesick. He wanted to prove to his father that he had grown and matured and could work hard, while being close to home.

Business management has become Young's interest, stemming from the family business. He currently works as a manager at Dollar Emporium, a business owned by his aunt, Sheryl Hill.

Gail Hill Williams, another of Young's aunts, is an alumna of WestConn. She graduated from the Ancell School of Business in 1987. She

now is on the Connecticut State University System Board of Trustees (BOT) and is a member of two BOT committees: student life and development.

"Elonzo is a very hard-working and giving person," Williams said. "He loves to be with his family and wants to be part of the WestConn community because of the small environment."

This strong, influential background with business has left Young eager to learn more about management.

"I really want to get a good education," he said. "I really want to get a good education," he said. "I think an internship in business, maybe at Boehringer Ingelheim, would help me out a lot."

WestConn's Career Development Center (CDC) offers all types of business internships and co-ops to students, in areas such as accounting, finance, management information systems, human resources and general/business management.

Anthony Ciarleglio, director of cooperative education, said the co-ops and internships the CDC establishes are not a short-term or superficial observation into an organization. They are "hands-on," pre-professional positions that last for the entire semester at a minimum of 10 hours per week.

"Many of the organizations we

work with, business and non-business, use co-op internship students to assist the professional staff, handle project work and as a method of pre-screening and training a potential employee," Ciarleglio said. "Participating students also write reflective papers, keep a journal, submit evaluations and attend a series of co-op seminars that are conducted by our office."

Young said he plans to visit the CDC. "I'd like to get more information about internships because I already know someone from Boehringer. I've heard a lot of good things about internships."

These good things come from all the right places.

"WestConn's cooperative education internship program is a tremendously effective way for our students to begin career planning prior to graduation, and a way to establish and build upon capacities that will assist in starting a career after graduation," Ciarleglio said. "Many students have told me that Co-op Program participation was the best experience of their WestConn academic career."

"I often echo the old Nike commercial when talking to students about co-ops: I tell them to 'just do it' and to not wait until their senior year."

Young is three credits shy of his sophomore year. After one semester, he

will be eligible for a co-op and/or internship.

"This will give me time to get information on the different types of business internships," he said. ■

For more information, call the Career Development Center at (203) 837-8263.



WCSU Photo/Ellen Myhill

Elonzo Young enjoys business; he works as a manager at Dollar Emporium.

Midtown campus to become 'debate central' (cont'd.)

the group was formed, its members have amassed an impressive array of statistics. WestConn's debaters were the only team to have at least one squad advance to the final rounds in every tournament in which they competed during the 2004-05 season, and students Josh Flores and Melinda Tarsi were named 18th and 21st speakers, respectively, in their division at the 2005 national tournament. RSDS alumni have a 100 percent acceptance rate to graduate and law schools, and they all have received scholarships or fellowships to further their studies.

"Debate is a great community and our students are phenomenal," Kukuk said, explaining that many of the details and advance preparation required to host the CEDA qualifier are being handled by the students themselves. "This is the biggest tournament on the whole East Coast, and we were selected unanimously by the participating teams to host it," Kukuk said. "Having it here is a very big deal; WestConn will be 'debate central.'"

Wilcox, the team's assistant coach, agreed.

"This is a very significant regional tournament," Wilcox said. "We're hosting it for two reasons: to provide a service to the teams in our region — many of which are major debate programs — and to demonstrate that WestConn is a major player in collegiate debate."

Debate Society member Cara Masline, a junior majoring in communication, is proud to list some of the top-rated schools that WestConn has defeated.

"New York University, Cornell, Bard, Binghamton, West Virginia and the University of Vermont — we have beaten all of them," Masline said. "Vermont is like the 'Holy Grail' of debate. The fact that we beat them says a lot, especially since we don't have graduate students doing our research for us, or a debate class for credit like

some of the other schools."

Melinda Tarsi, president and captain of the group, agreed.

"Every member of the Roger Sherman Debate Society is thrilled to be able to host such an important tournament here at WestConn," said Tarsi, a senior with a double major in political science and justice and law administration. "We feel this is our chance to show the university community — as well as debaters from other schools — what we do to promote academic life here at WCSU. And even though we have collected many individual and team awards over the years, we look forward to this tournament being our greatest accomplishment yet, and one that we are anxious to share with the entire community."

The tournament will feature six rounds of cross-examination policy debates at the novice, junior, varsity and NDT levels. Competition will simultaneously take place across the Midtown campus in White Hall, Berkshire Hall and Science Building classrooms. The operations center for the tournament will be based in the lobby of Warner Hall, where teams will register and those who wish to observe the debates can obtain a schedule of the matches.

Round One will begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 25. There are five rounds planned for Saturday, with the last debate scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m. The competition will resume at 8 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 26, and will run well into the afternoon, depending upon the need for elimination or run-off rounds. A full schedule of the pairings will be available in Warner Hall. ■

For more information, visit the debate team Web site at <http://people.wcsu.edu/wilcoxw/rsds.htm>, or call Kukuk at (203) 837-8247 or Wilcox at (203) 837-8565.

Science-at-Night examines variety of topics (cont'd.)

Barrett faulted recently aired anti-marijuana PSAs targeted at teenagers as counterproductive because they tended to exaggerate the prevalence of teen drug abuse. One study of teens who had viewed the PSAs found that respondents believed more than two-thirds of their peers used marijuana, when other surveys of teen use suggest the actual ratio is well below 50 percent, he said.

"The more exposure they had to these ads, the higher the tendency for teen-agers to use drugs," Barrett observed. "One explanation is that these PSAs are changing the perception of

social norms among teens: When they are told this is a really bad problem, they assume that most teens must be using marijuana."

By contrast, Barrett cited the "Who's Norm" campaign conducted at WestConn during the current academic year as an example of how effective promotion of positive norms — specifically, the documented fact that most students avoid the harmful practice of binge drinking — can be employed to promote responsible behavior among all students. ■

For information about future Science-at-Night events, visit www.wcsu.edu/science-at-night.

JetBlue CEO gives a lesson in success (cont'd.)

computer revolution changed the face of global business and society, and proved the world awaits an entrepreneur who distinguishes himself from the pack, he said.

"It's all right to have anxiety, because that drives you to do your best," he said. "But don't worry about finding opportunities, because there are plenty out there. I've come to realize that business by and large is very mediocre — and this is good news for you!"

In an industry decimated by mounting losses and bankruptcies in recent years, Neeleman said he sought to emulate the successful strategy of Southwest Airlines in providing point-to-point service that has enabled JetBlue to hold down operating costs and air fares. At the same time, JetBlue sought to set itself apart from Southwest by offering seat assignments, satellite television and other in-flight amenities on a fleet of new Airbus mid-sized aircraft. From its inaugural New York/JFK-Fort Lauderdale route launched in February 2000, JetBlue has expanded steadily to build a transcontinental network now serving 32 cities in the United States and the Caribbean basin.

Neeleman emphasized the firm's overriding commitment to customer service, coupled with its invitation to employees to become stakeholders in the company's success, laid the foundations for its dramatic expansion.

"We decided we didn't want to be just an airline — we wanted to be a customer service company that happens to be an airline," he said. "Everything about JetBlue is about customer service, and that's because of our employees. We train them right, compensate them right, and 80 percent of our employees are also our shareholders. There's a correlation between people who own a 'piece of the Rock' and the way they treat their customers."

As JetBlue continues a brisk expansion that will add up to 3,000 new employees to its workforce within a year, Neeleman said his top priority is to hire qualified persons with a customer-friendly attitude. "I don't care if you're a pilot who has 15 million flight hours — if you don't have a good attitude, we don't want you at JetBlue," he said. "If there's one thing you can change, it is to get a really positive attitude." ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

FEB. 1 & 3 WestConn will present "The Best of Ten Years of African Films" during the tenth annual Festival of African Films in celebration of Black History Month. The festival will begin with the screening of "Wend Kuuni" ("God's Gift") by Gaston Kaboré at noon on Wednesday, Feb. 1, in the Student Center Theater on the Midtown campus. This 70-minute film in More with English subtitles also will be shown at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 3. To reach a diverse African audience, Kaboré minimized dialogue and utilized the measured rhythms of African oral tradition to tell this Mossi folk tale. The screenings will be free and open to the public. For more information, call (203) 837-8461.

FEB. 2 WestConn will host a 5 p.m. planetarium show, followed by telescope viewing of Saturn, the waxing crescent moon and the winter sky from 6 to 8 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.

FEB. 7 Renowned illustrator Walt Reed will discuss the history of illustration at 11 a.m. in Viewing Room 1 of White Hall on the Midtown campus. Reed founded Illustration House, a gallery dedicated to the preservation of American illustration, and became a pioneer in the resale of original illustrations. Together with his son, Roger, Reed wrote "The Illustrator in America 1860 – 2000," a definitive historical reference. The event will be free and open to the public, and it will be presented as part of the university's Master of Fine Arts slide lecture series. For more information, call (203) 837-8881.

FEB. 8 & 10 WestConn will present "The Best of Ten Years of African Films" during the tenth annual Festival of African Films in celebration of Black History Month. At noon on Wednesday, Feb. 8, and at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 10, a double-feature presentation of short films will be screened in the Student Center Theater on the Midtown campus. "La Petite Vendéuse de Soleil" ("The Little Girl Who Sold the Sun") by Djibril Diop Mambety, and "You, Africal!" by Ndiouga Moctar Ba, each have a running time of about 45 minutes. "La Petite Vendéuse de Soleil," a 1999 release, is in Wolof with English subtitles. This second part of an unfinished trilogy of dramatic shorts entitled "Tales of Little People" is Mambety's final masterpiece. "You, Africal!" from 1993, is in Wolof and French with English subtitles. It commemorates the 1994 West African tour of Senegalese performing artist Youssou N'Dour. The screenings will be free and open to the public. For more information, call (203) 837-8461.

FEB. 8 The WCSU psychology department and psychology club will screen "Ordinary People" at 3 p.m. in the Student Center Theater on the Midtown campus. The second film in the "Psych Cinema" series, the screening will be free and the public is invited. "Ordinary People" was Robert Redford's directorial debut, a moving story about a family struggling with the death of their eldest son. The film earned four Oscars: Best Picture, Best Director, Best Supporting Actor and Best Screenplay Adaptation. For more information, call Dr. Shane Murphy, psychology club adviser, at (203) 837-9398.

FEB. 11 – 12 WestConn will host the Western New England Home Show from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the William O'Neill Athletic and Convocation Center on the Westside campus. Home improvement companies will display their products and answer questions during the two-day event. Tickets will be \$6 for adults, \$5 for senior citizens and free for children under 12. Attendees can save \$1 off the cost of an adult ticket by bringing a nonperishable food item for the Giving Pantry to the event. Call Dennis Jenks at (860) 563-2111 for more information.

FEB. 11 WestConn will host a 5 p.m. planetarium show, followed by telescope viewing of Mars near the Pleiades star cluster, Saturn, the moon near full and the winter sky from 6 to 8 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.

FEB. 14 Radio professional Tom Zarecki will discuss XM and Sirius satellite radio from 5:25 to 6:25 p.m. during a political science class in Room 209 of White Hall on the Midtown campus. It is one of several scheduled during the semester for the World Governments, Economies and Cultures course taught by Adjunct Instructor Scott Benjamin. For more information, call Benjamin at (860) 210-2146, ext. 129, or (860) 354-3521.

FEB. 15 & 16 WestConn will present "The Best of Ten Years of African Films" during the tenth annual Festival of African Films in celebration of Black History Month. "Karmen Gei" ("Carmen") by Joseph Gai Ramaka will be screened at noon on Wednesday, Feb. 15, and at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 16, in the Student Center Theater on the Midtown campus. To the more than 50 film interpretations of Prosper Mérimée's novella, adapted in Bizet's celebrated opera, add Ramaka's remarkable rendition. Senegalese music and choreography, and saxophonist David Murray's contemporary jazz score are interwoven throughout this retelling of the conflict between the desire for freedom, and the conventions and human limitations which constrain that desire. This 2001 film from Senegal has a running time of 82 minutes; it is in French and Wolof with English subtitles. The screenings will be free and open to the public. For more information, call (203) 837-8461.

FEB. 16 WestConn will host a 6:30 p.m. telescope viewing of Mars near the Pleiades star cluster, Saturn and the winter sky 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.

FEB. 17 – 19 WestConn will host the Gymnastics Revolution Aquafina Team Challenge 2006 at the William O'Neill Athletic and Convocation Center on the Westside campus. Sessions will be at 5:20 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 17; and at 8:20 a.m. and from 12:20 to 5:20 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 18 and 19. The public is invited to this amateur gymnastics competition featuring gymnasts from the Northeastern United States. Adult tickets will be \$12 for a daily pass or \$20 for a weekend pass. Children's tickets will be \$6 for a daily pass or \$10 for a weekend pass. For more information, go to www.gymnasticsrevolution.com/2006TeamChallenge.

FEB. 21 Sculptor Natalie Charkow Hollander will discuss her work at 11 a.m. in Viewing Room 1 of White Hall on the Midtown campus. A review of her work in The New York Observer stated, "She brings to contemporary sculpture a conjunction of gifts that in modern times have seldom — if ever — been joined with such authority and invention." Hollander has received a Fulbright Scholarship and a Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award. She is a member of the National Academy of Design. The event will be free and open to the public, and it will be presented as part of the university's Master of Fine Arts slide lecture series. For more information, call (203) 837-8881.

FEB. 21 WestConn President James W. Schmotter will discuss the impact of technology on global commerce 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. It is one of several scheduled during the semester for the World Governments, Economies and Cultures course taught by

Adjunct Instructor Scott Benjamin. For more information, call Benjamin at (860) 210-2146, ext. 129, or (860) 354-3521.

FEB. 22 & 24 WestConn will present "The Best of Ten Years of African Films" during the tenth annual Festival of African Films in celebration of Black History Month. "Ndeysaan" ("Oh, Life!") by Mansour Sora Wade will be screened at noon on Wednesday, Feb. 22, and again at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 24, in the Student Center Theater on the Midtown campus. This 2002 film from Senegal tells the mythic tale of the village of Timbering, perched on the edge of the sea where a mysterious fog prevents its residents from casting their nets for the fish they rely upon for subsistence. With a running time of 91 minutes, the film is in Lébou and Wolof with English subtitles. The screenings will be free and open to the public. For more information, call (203) 837-8461.

FEB. 22 WestConn Associate Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences Dr. Mitch Wagener will discuss "Leaves, Stone Walls and Landscapes: Studies in Long-Term Ecology in Western Connecticut" at 4 p.m. in Room 219 of 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.

FEB. 24 The WCSU Jazz Orchestra 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.

FEB. 25 WestConn will host a 6:30 p.m. telescope viewing of Mercury, Saturn, the winter sky and the early spring sky 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.

FEB. 27 – 28 The world-famous Harlem Globetrotters will display their usual fun and showmanship during a game at 7 p.m. at the William O'Neill Athletic and Convocation Center on the Westside campus. Tickets will be \$78 for Magic Circle seats, \$45 for VIP seats, \$27 for reserved seats with backs and \$20 for reserved bleacher seats. Tickets are available through TicketMaster at (203) 744-8100 or www.ticketmaster.com.

FEB. 28 New Haven Mayor John DeStefano will discuss Connecticut's economy 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. It is one of several scheduled during the semester for the World Governments, Economies and Cultures course taught by Adjunct Instructor Scott Benjamin. For more information, call Benjamin at (860) 210-2146, ext. 129, or (860) 354-3521.

MARCH 2 WestConn will host a 6:30 p.m. telescope viewing of the waxing crescent moon, Saturn, the winter sky and the spring sky, 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.

MARCH 2 – 4 & 9 – 11 The WestConn theatre arts department will present an adaptation of William Shakespeare's "As You Like It." Performances will be at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday on March 2 – 4 and 9 – 11, in the Berkshire Theatre on the Midtown campus. Ticket prices will be \$18 for adults, \$15 for senior citizens, children and non-WestConn students. WestConn students will be admitted free with valid ID. For tickets, call the Berkshire Theatre Box Office at (203) 837-8732.

MARCH 2 The WCSU Symphonic Band and Wind 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.

MARCH 7 Illustrator Raul Colón will discuss his work at 11 a.m. in Viewing Room 1 in White Hall on the Midtown campus. Colón's color pencil and watercolor illustrations have appeared in The New York Times, Time magazine, The New Yorker and the Wall Street Journal. His commissioned theater posters, annual report covers and advertisements have been awarded both Silver and Gold medals from The Society of Illustrators. The event will be free and open to the public, and it will be presented as part of the university's Master of Fine Arts slide lecture series. For more information, call (203) 837-8881.

MARCH 7 Former congressional candidate Charlotte Koskoff will discuss the North American Free Trade Agreement 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. It is one of several scheduled during the semester for the World Governments, Economies and Cultures course taught by Adjunct Instructor Scott Benjamin. For more information, call Benjamin at (860) 210-2146, ext. 129, or (860) 354-3521.

MARCH 10 The WCSU Jazz Combos 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.

MARCH 11 – 12 WestConn will host the I-95 Boat Show from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 11, and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 12, in the William O'Neill Athletic and Convocation Center on the Westside campus. The public is invited to the show, which will feature 2006 boats, personal watercraft and water sports equipment. For ticket prices and additional information, call Robert Modente at (203) 775-1212.

MARCH 11 WestConn will host a 6 p.m. planetarium show, followed by telescope viewing of the waxing gibbous moon, Saturn, and the winter and spring sky from 7 to 9 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.

MARCH 11 Caribbean and Latin American music artists Trio Surcari will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the Student Center Theater on the Midtown campus. The event, co-sponsored by WCSU and the Connecticut Folklife Project, is part of the continuing World Music, Dance and Culture Series. It will be free and the public is invited. For more information, call (203) 748-1131.

MARCH 14 Lisa Temkin, assistant director of the WCSU Career Development Center, will discuss cooperative education programs 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. It is one of several scheduled during the semester for the World Governments, Economies and Cultures course taught by Adjunct Instructor Scott Benjamin. For more information, call Benjamin at (860) 210-2146, ext. 129, or (860) 354-3521.

MARCH 16 WestConn will host a 6 p.m. planetarium show, followed by telescope viewing of the moon near full and Saturn from 7 to 9 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:

If it were being graded, WestConn's nursing department would receive an A+. For two years in a row, all Bachelor of Science in Nursing graduates who have taken the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) have passed it.



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