Planning for inauguration involves university-wide effort

by Dr. G. Koryoe Anim-Wright

The winter intermission is normally quiet for most of the university. This past intermission, however, was very busy for some. That’s because they are involved in the planning for the inauguration of Western Connecticut State University’s eighth president, James W. Schmotter. The inauguration will begin on Saturday, April 9; the inauguration ceremony will be on Friday, April 15. To allow everyone an opportunity to attend the ceremony, classes will be cancelled beginning at 11 a.m. on April 15.

The Inauguration Steering Committee is one of many committees formed to assist with the university-wide planning. The steering committee, comprised of members of the university and the community, sets the focus and tone, and meets monthly for updates on the progress of the inauguration. Several activities related to the inauguration, the installation committee, made up of faculty and the university’s four academic deans, is responsible for developing the program and sequence of events for the inauguration ceremony; staff members make up the planning committee and are responsible for working out all the details associated with hosting and planning the events taking place during the inauguration day; and a student group is planning and organizing events for WCSU students and alumni.

Just before the semester ended last year, the inauguration steering committee attended chair’s meetings to bring faculty up to-date on plans for the inauguration. “People are working hard on the entire campus to make sure the week and the ceremony are memorable and a great success,” said Assistant Nursing Professor Dr. Koryoe Anim-Wright, who co-chairs the Inauguration Steering Committee with Interim Vice President Dr. G. Koryoe Anim-Wright. “We are especially caught up by the inauguration theme, ‘Changing Lives.’ Everyone involved in the planning wants to make sure that the inauguration is a success and that the activities of Inaugural Week reflect the educational and intellectual diversity of WestConn.”

A community day kicks off the week’s events on Sunday, April 10, at 9:30 a.m. on April 9, WestConn will join the City of Danbury’s Clean City project and engage in clean up projects to enhance the city’s appearance. The university will also develop the program and sequence of events for the inauguration ceremony; staff members make up the planning committee and are responsible for working out all the details associated with hosting and planning the events taking place during the inauguration day; and a student group is planning and organizing events for WCSU students and alumni.

At first glance, WestConn’s “SimMan” looks like a high quality department store mannequin who’s having a bad day. But get closer … close enough to touch him … and you’re in for a surprise. He has a pulse. You can clearly feel it in his left wrist. Place your hand gently on his forehead, and you can feel not only his beating heart, but also the expansion of his lungs as he draws each breath. But far far away, a laptop monitor displays a schematic of “SimMan’s” torso. With a few clicks on the keyboard, nursing instructors can send his heart rate skyrocketing, or throw him into an asthma attack. They can make him complain, moan, and mutter, “go away” to anyone who comes near him.

One thing he can’t tell you is how much he cost: about $23,000. And he’s worth every penny, according to Daley and Assistant Nursing Professor Dr. Karen Couse.

“Human patients have been the standard in nursing education for many years,” Daley said. “We’ve only had access to this kind of technology for about five years, even though physicians, technicians and anesthesiologists have used ‘SimMan’ for about 10 years. Patients now really are consumers.”

Below is a sampling of mentions about WestConn that appeared recently in the local media. Unless otherwise noted, the articles appeared on the internet.

WestConn to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.

WestConn’s Office of Multicultural Affairs will present “Celebrating the King Legacy: Past, Present and Future” at 10 a.m. today in Alumni Hall on the university’s Midtown campus. The program will feature keynote addresses and a panel discussion on King’s legacy.

Hundreds turn out to Aid tsunami victims

Hundreds of people turned out for the first 75 miles of the 100-mile-run to raise money for the victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami.

ASPIRING NURSES TREAT ROBOT’S RESUSCITATION

Sitting on a hospital bed and looking a bit rubbery, George “SimMan” could be considered a distant descendant. Anni,” could be considered a distant descendant. Anni,” could be considered a distant descendant. Anni,” could be considered a distant descendant. Anni,” could be considered a distant descendant. Anni,” could be considered a distant descendant. Anni,” could be considered a distant descendant. Anni,” could be considered a distant descendant. Anni,” could be considered a distant descendant. Anni,” could be considered a distant descendant. Anni,” could be considered a distant descendant. Anni,” could be considered a distant descendant. Anni,” could be considered a distant descendant. Anni,” could be considered a distant descendant. Anni,” could be considered a distant descendant.

George “SimMan” is the latest in state-of-the-art medical simulators designed to teach critical thinking and decision-making skills to health-care providers. Remember the “Resusci-Anni” mannequin on which many of us were taught how to administer cardiopulmonary-resuscitation (CPR)? Well, “SimMan” is the latest in state-of-the-art medical simulators designed to teach critical thinking and decision-making skills to health-care providers.

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By Dr. G. Koryoe Anim-Wright

It may have been a cold January day, but members of the WestConn Community turned out in large numbers for a luncheon in their honor held in Warner Hall, this was the first time the university has hosted the event on its campus.

“It’s really an honor to have our friends with us today,” said WCSU President James B. Raphael, welcoming the group of about 100 luncheon guests. “Let’s continue to come for ways to make this relationship more meaningful.”

According to Schmotter, relationships with donors and the community are important to the university.

“Engaging with the community is critical to our mission and future,” Schmotter said, “but we can’t engage unless we have serious and committed partners from the community.”

The luncheon is the forum for the presentation of the WestConn Society Award, given annually to an individual who has contributed significantly to the Western Connecticut State University. This year’s honoree was Branson Ultrasong Co. President Anthony Pajk. Introducing Pajk to receive the WestConn Society Award, Schmotter credited Pajk as the person most responsible for all the company does for WestConn and the surrounding community. Branson “is a good citizen of the greater Danbury community,” Schmotter said, adding that the company is a wonderful example of community commitment.

“Branson is a model of how we can partner, and I can’t think of a better partner than Tony,” Schmotter said. Members applauded enthusiastically as Pajk accepted the award.

“I get a lot of joy out of being a good corporate citizen, and personal joy in being involved in areas that are near and dear to my heart,” Pajk said, when the applause subsided. He credited his company and staff for allowing him to participate in community initiatives.

“Before you can do any of this, you have to have — great people around you. Branson does. And because of what they do, folks like me get a chance to get involved with the community.”

Pajk recalled his move to Connecticut.

“When my family decided to move here, I knew we were moving into a jewel of a community,” Pajk reflected. “What I didn’t know was that squarely in the jewel, was a diamond, and that diamond is WestConn.”

For Pajk, the relationship between WestConn and Branson goes deeper than a partnership.

“The word partnership seems inadequate here,” Pajk said. “WestConn is woven into the fabric of Branson — you are in our past, our present state and our future. The people of Branson are past graduates, current students and interns. We attend athletic and other events, and we are involved in the arts and we participate in executive programs.”

Pajk called Branson employees “remarkable.”

“They are successful because of their willingness to compete, ability to change and vision for the future,” Pajk said. “However, they remain nameless and never go to the podium for recognition ... I ask the business and community leaders in this room to remember the real drivers of our success, the people in our companies who make it happen moment by moment and day by day.”

By Irene Sherlock

Celebrating the King legacy: past, present and future

Western Connecticut State University is a leader in education and political advocacy and the equal opportunity and full participation in its activities. The university is fully committed to the goal of providing an environment free from discrimination.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

This section is reserved for correcting errors or clarifying statements appearing in the previous Communique. Please report factual errors or issues needing clarification by calling (203) 837-8477 or sending an e-mail to newsnotes@wcsu.edu.

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Vol. 7, No. 5
AROUND CAMPUS

Rare scientific research will flourish, thanks to NSF grant

By Shani Hill

New Milford resident Jeff Martin never imagined he’d be wading knee-deep through rivers in Jalisco, Mexico, when he enrolled at WestConn as a biology student in 1972. But that’s exactly what the then-50-year-old, non-traditional student did during his junior year. Work he accomplished as a Junior Fellow of Biological and Environmental Sciences Dr. Tom Philbrick on a field research trip in Mexico eventually led to what he says is a truly satisfying and enjoyable experience: “The field work in Mexico wasn’t just a ‘day at the beach,’ either; the work was hard and the days long, but it was satisfying and enjoyable,” Martin continued. “Looking back, it was the highlight of my undergraduate work at WestConn, and I would recommend that any student who gets the opportunity should grab it.”

Thanks to the NSF grant, more of Philbrick’s students will get that chance.

Philbrick also recently received an $8,495 grant from the National Geographic Society to further his research. For more information about both grants, call Philbrick at (203) 837-8773.

Professor travels the world to teach Western-style writing

WestConn Associate Professor of English Dr. Anam Govardhan is an expert in the instruction of English as a foreign language. He holds two Ph.D. degrees—one from Madras University for his comparative study of British and Indian writers, and the other, from Northern Illinois, for his discourse analysis of American and international student writers.

The Bethlehem resident has traveled the world to share his knowledge about teaching English as a foreign language with other governments and educational centers. He serves as an expert for testing agencies such as the College Board, and Educational Testing Service for their Graduate Management Admissions Test and the Test of English as a Foreign Language. In fact, his expertise is so great that Govardhan can read a student’s written work and tell you not only what region of the world that student is from, but also pinpoint the student’s specific country of origin.

Yet as a child, Govardhan was never taught how to write.

“When I’m from they do not teach students to write as they do in the United States, the one thing I learned from my father was that the belief there is that by reading these works, students will learn how to write,” he explained. “I was educated in this manner end up capable producing well-written works, they often do so in a style that is not well-received by professors at American universities or Western business associates, Govardhan has found.

“Non-Western writers, however, rely on the principle that the purpose of their prose is to share information. They propose that the writer must be a basic understanding of the topic they are addressing, so they write about it in a circuclar manner, echoing the oral tradition of storytelling that is the prevalent manner of communicating in their native country.

“Another time, I was on a plane and the pilot came over the intercom and said, ‘I’d like to welcome Dr. Govardhan to the flight.’ It turned out both were former students of mine.”

Govardhan has worked as an Indian-language newspaper writer; he’s been called to consult on English for Newsmakers in Telugu, one of three Indian dialects he speaks, and he’s even dabbled in computer programming. “I’ve never thought about teaching that you can’t do good and equipment or computers to do good and meaningful science. As Tom (Philbrick) said, ‘Students typically return from these research trips with very different views about biology than before they left’.”

Martin agreed. “The trip was a wonderful opportunity,” he said. “I learned that it doesn’t take an expensive lab, or equipment or computers to do good and meaningful science. As Tom (Philbrick) said, ‘Students typically return from these research trips with very different views about biology than before they left’.”

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Dr. Anam Govardhan
Non-science majors easily sink their teeth into Everyday Chemistry

by Shari Hill

There are some students out there who will categorize themselves as maths-science types. Others foresee no need to have ever taken a physics or chemistry course in their high school, and may even have been interested in a career in law enforcement or music. There are also some students who don't dream, as the saying goes, of going to Harvard or MIT. In this group, chemistry and physics may not be at the top of their list of high school courses they take. The students in this group, who have the most fun, are the non-science majors. These students get excited about the concept of chemistry, which is the study of the properties and behavior of matter. They are also interested in the history of chemistry, and how it has evolved over time. They are also interested in the role of chemistry in society, and how it has been used to solve problems and improve the quality of life. Many students in this group are interested in the chemistry of food, and how it affects their health and well-being. They also enjoy the chemistry of art, and how it is used to create beautiful objects. They are also interested in the chemistry of the environment, and how it affects the health of the planet.

There is a saying that "chemistry is the language of the universe." This is because the language of chemistry is mathematics, and the mathematics of chemistry is based on the principles of quantum mechanics. The principles of quantum mechanics are based on the concept of the wave-particle duality of matter, which states that matter can exist in both wave-like and particle-like behavior. This concept is important because it allows us to understand the behavior of matter at the most fundamental level. The principles of quantum mechanics are also important because they allow us to develop new technologies, such as the laser and the transistor, which are essential to modern society.

In this issue of Everyday Chemistry, we will be exploring the chemistry of food, the chemistry of art, and the chemistry of the environment. We will also be exploring the history of chemistry, and how it has evolved over time. We will also be exploring the role of chemistry in society, and how it has been used to solve problems and improve the quality of life. We will also be exploring the chemistry of the universe, and how it has been used to understand the nature of matter and energy.

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When WestConn’s Buildings and Grounds Patrol Officer Mauro Ongaro suits up in the “RedMan” defensive tactics training suit, he is able to demonstrate self-defense techniques to female students, faculty and staff, who looks more like a futuristic offender than someone who upholds the law. The individuals who comprised the discussion groups took their assignment quite seriously, said Vaden-Goux. "The interviews have been incredibly valuable to us in Arts and Sciences,” she said. “I have participated in interviews with students, alumni and faculty, and it has given me a much clearer idea of how others see WestConn, its history, strengths and promise. These conversations are giving us a very practical set of ‘fix-it’s for our school, and they have further provided us with ideas for groups that need to be included in ongoing conversations for positive change.”

Task force members Delaney, Rozzo, Rosocco and Santizo are compiling the responses, coding them to identify primary themes, and conducting qualitative analysis of the data. The results will be summarized and presented at the Stakeholders Conference on Saturday, May 5. It involves a lot of work, but Delcourt said the group believes it’s an important mission on behalf of WestConn’s new president and the university. “Our job is to make the thousands of units of data useful,” she said. “In order for this project to be successful, we have to code, organize, categorize and refine the data so that it is accessible and useful for President Schmotter’s purposes.” As a result of all the effort expended, WestConn will obtain information about its self-identity and how the university is perceived in the community. Additionally, Dr. Schmotter believes that by identifying oft-mentioned opportunities and challenges, WestConn will find insight into its future direction.

“We’ve come a long way since our beginning as a small, local teachers’ college,” Schmotter said. “What we learn from the Values and Vision conversations will help us determine where the next leg of our collective journey will take us.”

The Values and Vision Stakeholders Conference will be from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 5, in Warner Hall on the Midtown campus. For more information about the Values and Vision Task Force, call Dr. Marcia Delcourt at (837) 9127.

When WestConn’s and B&G Officer Maz Ongaro, has been able to initiate the program and has offered two sessions of the training. “We also have two other officers who have expressed an interest in becoming instructors and who will be certified before the fall semester,” McLaughlin continued. “I am extremely proud of the initiative shown by these officers and their caring concern for our community.”

For more information about R.A.D. classes, call (837) 9127.
Students recognized for operations management expertise

Two WestConn students won recognition and received cash awards for their papers about operations management issues at the recent Educational Society for Resource Management APICS Region 1 meeting in Naugatuck, Conn.

WestConn hosts community reception

More than 65 members of the Danbury African-American community gathered in Warner Hall on February 5 for a community reception to welcome President Schmotter. Attendees were from a number of local organizations including The Ford Foundation, the United Way and P.R.I.D.E. Members of the WestConn Dance Team, under the direction of Assistant Professor Khalida Logan, performed an interpretive dance scene during the event.

Coelman lectures on Black History

As part of the Black History Month celebration, WestConn Adjunct Professor of History George Coelman offered a film and lecture on “Africa: The Shaping of Africa and its Psycho-Cultural Impact on Black Americans.”

“During the past talks, African-Americans and the world know very little about Africa as an entity and the countries that comprise it,” Coelman said as he paced the White Hall classroom. “Few would have me tell me about the leader of Canada, France, or England, but very few know the name of one African leader.”

“African-Americans need to do more to solidify their relationship with the continent,” Coelman said. “In spite of the fact we regard Africa as our motherland — we buy kente, braid our hair, buy different kinds of adornment — we spend less than one tenth of one percent of our disposable income on Africa and things African.”

When it comes to Africa, Coelman continued, most aren’t aware of its food and customs.

“We have been systematically socialized, consciously or unconsciously, towards the attitudes we hold and the behaviors we exhibit toward Africa. … To the extent that we can debunk these myths, that is the goal of this course.”

WestConn professor offers glimpse into the unknown

Adjunct Professor of History John Palencsar, an author and respected Lewis and Clark scholar, discussed “Journey into the Unknown” during a recent campus lecture. The presentation was offered as part of the yearlong “The Future: Its Promises and Threats” series sponsored by the School of Arts and Sciences.

WSCU to host ‘Bagpiper on the Green’

WestConn will host the 24th annual “Bagpiper on the Green” to honor St. Patrick’s Day. Professor of Justice and Law Administration (JLA) Dr. David MacMillan will play the pipes and flutes, and Professor of Music David Smith will play the drums. JLA Professor Charles Mullaney and Dr. Michael Foley, the JLA department chairman, will offer narration. Performances will be at 10:30 a.m. in the “fishbowl” on the university’s Westside campus, and at noon on the Quadrangle on the Midtown campus.

African Film Festival a success

Contemporary cinema created by African artists offered audiences a global perspective in February, during the ninth annual Festival of African Films in celebration of Black History Month. Screenings of six films were free and open to the public, and were followed by open discussions.

SimMan (cont’d.)

of healthcare; and they don’t like us practicing on them. At the same time, as nurses on the floor, we’re asked to react very quickly to situations. With the SimMan, student nurses can make mistakes, re-think, back up and make it right. The problem-solving and the practice build not only competence, but also confidence.”

Another benefit is that the hands-on experience nursing students can acquire at “SimMan’s” bedside will be indispensable when they go looking for a job. Daley said almost all of the area hospitals test nurses before hiring them. These tests are often conducted on a “SimMan.”

“We certainly don’t want patients seeing a ‘SimMan’ for the first time when they are being tested for a job,” Daley said.

Professor of Anthropology Dr. Robert Whittemore, the festival’s organizer, provided some interesting observations about what the film screenings have brought to campus, and the larger Danbury community, in the past nine years.

“To date, we have shown 38 films, representing more than 20 sub-Saharan or Saharan countries of origin,” Whittemore said. “The represented countries are well-distributed across the continent and as part of the African diaspora, we have also shown a film from Guyana in South America. ‘SimMan,’ added, “The ‘SimMan’ will be an interactive and the students really appreciate it. It ties all the pieces together so the students can see the big picture, but nobody can get hurt because it’s not a real patient. It reinforces that they have to assess the patient, not the monitors. It also gives the students a better sense of what the clinical environment feels like, and can make real situations when they are working nurses much less frightening.”

Carvalho is Employee of the Quarter

Western Connecticut State University Associate Registrar Isabel Carvalho, of Danbury, received the Employee Recognition Award for the second quarter of the 2004-05 academic year from President James Schmotter. Carvalho, a WestConn alumna, was cited for her dedication in responding to students’ needs.
The inauguration: University Computing

said. “It’s wonderful because it shows the best possible light,” said UP&D Director Jason Davis. “We made sure that we present WestConn in a favorable light.”

From the start, the ball has been renamed the President’s Gala. The new name more accurately reflects that the evening is not only a dance: there’s also a gourmet meal, a silent auction and a chance for all those who support the university to join together in a common celebration.

The committee also decided to create a theme for this year’s event that will provide inspiration for future President’s Galas.

“We wanted to select an ongoing theme that would continue as the years go forward,” said Honorary Committee Co-Chair Theresa Eberhard-Arch, a WestConn alumna and a member of the Connecticut State University System Board of Trustees. Her motive is simple, she said. “This year the gala will be called An Evening of Diamonds & Dancing,” and that will be carried through to not only the decorations and all the details, “but it will really be wonderful.”

April inauguration (cont’d.)

campus,” said Ron Pugliese, a member of the Connecticut State University System Board of Trustees and a steering committee member.

“WestConn students don’t plan to be left out of the celebration. Elizabeth Dyer, the student representative on the steering committee, has been working closely with the students leaders and groups to develop activities she is sure will interest her peers.

“With the planning of a number of student-oriented events,” Dyer said. “This includes a commemorative groundbreaking of the Westside Campus Center, a special dinner, and a drive-in movie at the O’Neill Center pool on Friday night.”

For more information about the inauguration, visit www.wcsu.edu/inauguration.

Interim Director of Alumni Relations Mary FIGUEROA, also a member of the committee, agreed. “You often hear how WestConn is really a jewel or a diamond in the rough, so we’re starting with ‘Diamonds & Dancing’ this year,” she explained. “Next year, it may be ‘Rubies & Rhythm,’ or ‘Jade & Jazz.’ The gemstones really point to the fact that this is a premier event not only for the university, but also for the Greater Danbury community.

And the community comes out to support the event in impressive numbers. Last year, more than 200 people attended the $200-per-person ball at the Hilton Hotel in Southbury. Corporate tables purchased for $3,500 by area businesses accounted for nearly two-thirds of the guests, which is testament to the strong relationships WestConn has built with its corporate partners. But it is also a testament to the importance of these kinds of associations, the university will recognize RubiKohlmeier, whose name is synonymous with RubiKohlmeier during this year’s President’s Gala for its more than 20 years of corporate support for the university’s work.

Eberhard-Arch acknowledged the important of, and appreciation for, corporate partners, but expressed a desire to see more of her fellow alumni participate in the event. “I would like to see more people participate in the event. I’d like to see more people take advantage of the opportunity to attend the gala because it’s a prestigious event. It’s an opportunity to see old friends and form new friendships and interact with the faculty and high-profile members of the community. It’s an elegant evening of dancing and dining to a wonderful, well-known band. I think we’re very lucky that WestConn hosts this event, because it’s the only Connecticut State University campus that has a President’s Gala.

Those who attend also will get to enjoy a great meal, but on wonderful silent auction items donated by more than 100 businesses and individuals, and have a memorable evening. FIGUEROA said the silent auction accounted for about one-third of the $40,000 the event netted last year and predicted this year’s auction would have some truly unique and desirable items up for bid.

“This year we will once again have a wonderful variety of items to bid on,” she said. “Included will be international trips, jewelry, home furnishings, gift baskets, and certificates for the theatre and restaurants. We’ll also have incredible, original artwork donated by several alumni artists, as well as some of WestConn’s art faculty.

There will be dozens of tempting treasures on which to bid at the President’s Gala, but only those who attend the event can participate in the silent auction. For those who are unable to attend but still want to support the university, an outright gift can be made directly to the WCSU Foundation.

For more information about the President’s Gala, contact FIGUEROA at (203) 837-8652 or Dyer at (203) 837-8279.

Friday, April 15

3 - 4 p.m., Third Annual Holistic Health Fair, Berkshire Gym, Midtown campus
2 p.m., Picnic on the Quad
10 a.m. – 4 p.m., WCSU Photo Show, Warner Hall, Midtown campus

Wednesday, April 13

8 p.m., WCSU Opera, Ives Concert Hall, O’Neill Center, Westside campus
3 - 4 p.m., Conversations with President Schmucker, Student Center, Midtown campus
5 – 4:30 p.m., WCSU Photo Show, Warner Hall, Midtown campus
5 - 7 p.m., WCSU Gala, Photo Show, Warner Hall, Midtown campus
2 p.m., Poetry and Dance Presentation, Haranbee students Location TBD

Tuesday, April 12

3 - 4:30 p.m., Beatrice K. Nemzer Lecture Series, Student Center Theater, Midtown campus
4:30 – 5:30 p.m., Special Dinner, Student Center, Midtown campus
3 – 4 p.m., Poetry and Dance Presentation, Haranbee students Location TBD
2 p.m., Conversations with President Schmucker, Student Center, Midtown campus

Monday, April 11

5 – 7 p.m., WCSU Gala, Photo Show, Warner Hall, Midtown campus
8 p.m., WCSU Gala, Photo Show, Warner Hall, Midtown campus
2 p.m., Conversations with President Schmucker, Student Center, Midtown campus
10 a.m. – 4 p.m., WCSU Photo Show, Warner Hall, Midtown campus
5 – 4:30 p.m., WCSU Gala, Photo Show, Warner Hall, Midtown campus
5 – 7 p.m., WCSU Gala, Photo Show, Warner Hall, Midtown campus
2 p.m., Conversations with President Schmucker, Student Center, Midtown campus
5 – 4:30 p.m., WCSU Gala, Photo Show, Warner Hall, Midtown campus
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>MAR. 1</td>
<td>Lisa Tenkin, the assistant director of the Career Development Center at WestConn, will speak about the university’s Cooperative Education work- study program from 2:30 to 6:25 p.m. during a political science class in Room 214 of White Hall on the Midtown campus. The discussion will be free and open to the public. For more information, call (860) 210-2146, ext. 129.</td>
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<td>MAR. 3</td>
<td>William Grickle, the senior vice president and general counsel at Gerber Scientific, will speak about China’s economy and its trade relations with the United States from 5:25 to 6:25 p.m. during a political science class in Room 214 of White Hall on the Midtown campus. The discussion will be free and open to the public. For more information, call (860) 210-2146, ext. 129.</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAR. 5</td>
<td>WestConn will host a 6 p.m. planetarium show, followed by telescope viewing of the early spring sky 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. Call (203) 837-8672 for more information.</td>
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<td>MAR. 5</td>
<td>The WCSU Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble will perform at 8 p.m. in the Concert Hall in White Hall on the Midtown campus. Karl King’s “The Trombone King,” “Vincent Persichetti’s “Divertimento for Band” and Robert Smith’s “Songs of Sailer and Sea” will be among the featured selections. The event is free and open to the public; donations to the music department will be accepted. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.wcsu.edu/music">www.wcsu.edu/music</a> or call (203) 837-8700.</td>
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<td>MAR. 5 - 10</td>
<td>The WestConn Theatre arts department will present “The Distance from Here” from 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, March 5 - 10, in the Berkshire Theatre on the Midtown campus. Ticket prices will be $18 for adults and $15 for senior citizens, children and non-WestConn students. WestConn students will be admitted free with valid I.D. Call the Berkshire Theatre Box Office at (203) 837-6732 for ticket information. Only Visa and MasterCard will be accepted for telephone orders. NOTE: The play contains strong language and nudity and is recommended for children. See advertisement.</td>
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<td>MAR. 6</td>
<td>WestConn will host the Connecticut Women’s Network in Higher Education Spring Forum from 10 a.m. to noon in the Student Center on the Midtown campus. Registration will begin at 10 a.m. The program will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call Dean of the School of Professional Studies Dr. Lynne Clark at (203) 837-9559, or Dean of the Division of Graduate Studies and External Programs Dr. Ellen Dunn at (203) 837-8386.</td>
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<td>MAR. 6</td>
<td>WestConn will host a Stakeholders Program Dr. Ellen Durnin at (203) 837-8386.</td>
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<td>MAR. 7</td>
<td>The Newman Center will host a free dinner from 5 to 6 p.m., in the center, 7 Eighth Ave., near the Midtown campus. The event will be free and open to WestConn students, staff and faculty. For more information, call (203) 837-9446.</td>
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<td>MAR. 7</td>
<td>WestConn President James Schmotter will speak about the university’s programs from 5:25 to 6:25 p.m. during a political science class in Room 214 of White Hall on the Midtown campus. The event is open to college-level Roots &amp; Shoots participants only. For more information, call (203) 837-8445.</td>
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<td>MAR. 7</td>
<td>WestConn will host the 24th annual “Bipperg on the Green” to honor St. Patrick’s Day. Professor of Justice and Law Administration JLA Dr. David Machell will play the pipes and flutes, Professor of Music David Smith will play the drum, JLA Professor Charles Mullaney and Dr. Michael Foley, JLA department chairman, will offer narration. Performances will be at 10:30 a.m. in the “Bipperg” on the Westside campus, and noon on the main street of the Farmington Center. The performances will be free and open to the public. For more information, call Machell at (203) 837-9445.</td>
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<td>MAR. 7</td>
<td>WestConn will host a special viewing of the first quarter moon 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.</td>
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<td>MAR. 8</td>
<td>WestConn will present the Technology, the Internet and the Future” at 6 p.m. in the Student Center Theater on the university’s Midtown campus, 181 White St. in Danbury. John Patrick, an author and former IBM executive, will discuss how the future of the Internet is not evenly distributed, and how most of the things that will be profound over the next few years are already here in some places, for some people. Offered as part of the continuing “Science-at-Night” and “The Future: Its Promises and Threats” series, the event will be free and the public is invited. For more information, call Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences Dr. Thomas Phipps at (203) 837-8773.</td>
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<td>MAR. 9</td>
<td>WestConn Assistant Professor of Psychology Dr. Daniel Barret will present “Why Can’t I Persuade Others? Social Influence, Motivation and Culture” at 4 p.m. in Room 208 of the Student Center on the Midtown campus. The discussion will be free and open to the public. For more information, call (203) 837-8472.</td>
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<td>MAR. 9</td>
<td>The School of Professional Studies (SPS) will host its second annual Adjunct Appreciation Dinner to recognize the efforts of SPS adjunct faculty members at 4:30 p.m. in Warner Hall on the Midtown campus. For more information, call (203) 837-8472.</td>
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<td>MAR. 9</td>
<td>The School of Professional Studies will host an Information Exchange Session with area school districts at 4 p.m. in Warner Hall on the Midtown campus. For more information, call (203) 837-9500.</td>
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<td>MAR. 9</td>
<td>Tony Canfariello, the director of WestConn’s Cooperative Education Program, will speak about the work-study options available to students from 5:25 to 6:25 p.m. during a political science class in Room 214 of White Hall on the Midtown campus. The discussion will be free and open to the public. For more information, call (203) 837-2146, ext. 129.</td>
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<td>MAR. 10</td>
<td>The WCSU German Studies Center will present “International Communication and Body Language: Challenges in American-European Communication” at 7 p.m. in the Student Center Theater on the Midtown campus. International lecturer Johannes Collura, former chairman of the JLA, will discuss the importance of recognizing and understanding body language differences in diverse cultures so that non-verbal messages can be read and understood. The discussion will be free and open to the public. For more information, call (203) 837-9445.</td>
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<td>MAR. 10</td>
<td>The Alumni of Ridgefield and Danbury, WestConn and Danbury Hospital will present a student leadership workshop on “Body Image” from 9 a.m. to noon in the Student Center on the Midtown campus. Stacy Raymond, Ph.D., and Nancy Salem, R.D., C.D.E., will discuss anorexia, bulimia and obesity causes, symptoms and solutions. Advance registration is required for this event, which will be free and open to the public. For more information or to register, call (203) 438-8766, or (203) 775-3447.</td>
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<td>MAR. 11</td>
<td>The WCSU Jazz Combo will perform at 8 p.m. in the Concert Hall in White Hall on the Midtown campus. The concert will be free and open to the public; donations to the music department will be accepted. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.wcsu.edu/music">www.wcsu.edu/music</a> or call (203) 837-8350.</td>
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<td>MAR. 12</td>
<td>WestConn will host a special viewing of the planet Mercury 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.</td>
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<td>MAR. 12</td>
<td>WestConn will host a special viewing of the planet Mercury 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.</td>
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<td>MAR. 12</td>
<td>Costas Lake, the Director of International Relations to the Connecticut State Department of Economic and Community Development, will speak about China’s economy and its fast-growing export sector from 5:25 to 6:25 p.m. during a political science class in Room 214 of White Hall on the Midtown campus. The discussion will be free and open to the public. For more information, call (203) 837-8672.</td>
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<td>MAR. 13</td>
<td>WestConn will present writer Elizabeth Frost, who will discuss “The Future of Feminist Text: The Whole Female Text” at 5:30 p.m. in Warner Hall on the Midtown campus. Offered by the School of Arts and Sciences, the Division of Graduate Studies and the M.F.A. in Professional Writing Program, the lecture also is part of “The Future: Its Promises and Threats” series. It will be free and the public is invited. For more information, call M.F.A. in Professional Writing Coordinator Dr. Brian Clements at (203) 837-8676.</td>
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<td>MAR. 16</td>
<td>The Newman Center will host a free dinner from 5 to 6 p.m., in the center, 7 Eighth Ave., near the Midtown campus. The event will be free and open to WestConn students, staff and faculty. For more information, call (203) 837-9446.</td>
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<td>APR. 1</td>
<td>The WCSU German Studies Center will screen the eighth episode of “Heimat,” a film set in Munich from 1960 to 1970 that portrays Germany in the aftermath of World War II. The event is open to college-level Roots &amp; Shoots participants only, for more information, call Dr. Renate Ludany, the center’s director, at (203) 837-8445.</td>
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<td>APR. 2</td>
<td>WestConn will host a 6 p.m. planetarium show, followed by telescope viewing of the early spring sky, Saturn and Jupiter 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. Call (203) 837-8672 for more information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>APR. 2</td>
<td>WestConn will host a 7 p.m. reception on the 1st Floor of the Ruth Haas Library on the Midtown campus, to open the exhibit “Discoveries: An Exhibit of the Recent Art of Ken Kemar.” The Ridgedale native’s work will be on display during the library’s scheduled hours through April 30. The reception and exhibit are free and the public is invited. Call (203) 837-9107 for more information.</td>
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