President’s Initiatives Fund recipients named

by Sherri Hill

When Western Connecticut State University President James W. Schmotter issued a challenge to faculty, students and staff to combine their talents, energies and areas of expertise in implementing new initiatives to further advance one of WestConn’s core competencies — the ability to employ the university’s regional advantage to educate for global realities — he expected a good response. After all, this was a key strength identified by stakeholders during the Values and Vision process so we can keep the conversations going with more than just rhetoric,” Schmotter said. “I’m serious about pursuing the observations and priorities that our stakeholders have expressed, and this is a way to do that. I had high expectations that our academic community would propose creative, exciting ideas to advance this particular competency, and I’m certainly not disappointed.

“This is about generating ideas from the bottom-up, which is something universities do well,” Schmotter continued. “I’m especially pleased by the level of collaboration between faculty and staff, faculty and students, and staff and students that characterizes these proposals. That collaboration gives these submissions a richness and impact that is really special.”

The quality of the proposals was so strong, in fact, that the President’s Initiatives Fund, initially seeded with $100,000, was supplemented to provide more than $120,000 in funding for a dozen projects.

Interim Provost Dr. Roy Stewart Jr. chaired the advisory committee that reviewed the 22 proposals that were submitted. The committee then made its recommendations to President Schmotter.

“I was very pleased with the whole process,” Stewart said. “We were impressed with how creative and innovative the submissions were, and how they represented a really good cross-section of the university community.”

The proposals selected to receive President’s Initiatives Fund resources are:

The WestConn European Institute for the Study of Film, Music and Literature Submitted by Assistant Professor of World Languages and Literatures Dr. Galina Bakhtiarova and Associate Professor of History Dr. Michael Nolan, the project encourages students majoring in Film, Music and Literature to cooperate with the College of Fine Arts in Spain to allow students to achieve a master’s degree in European and American interactions.

The World at Our Doorstep: A Series of World Music, Dance and Cultural Events Submitted by Natalie Boyce, Associate Director of Multicultural Affairs and Disability Services Barbara Mattio, Director of the College of Arts, Humanities and Politics, the project aims to bring in more than ten different musical and dance groups from around the world to perform with our students and faculty.

Schmotter signs healthy campus partnership

by Robert Taylor

WestConn President James W. Schmotter recognizes the importance of building a healthy campus culture that discourages alcohol and substance abuse, and he now hopes to work together with higher education leaders from universities and colleges across Connecticut.

Schmotter joined fellow presidents, student affairs administrators and health service coordinators from more than 30 public and private institutions at the University of Hartford to mark the official proclamation on Jan. 20 of the Statewide Healthy Campus Initiative. The initiative is the product of a dialogue among representatives from Connecticut universities and colleges that began in autumn 2004 under the sponsorship of the Governor’s Prevention Partnership and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS).

The initiative commits participating institutions to take coordinated action in implementing substance abuse prevention and intervention programs on campuses statewide, supported by expanded training, data collection, research and collaboration among higher 

WestConn President James W. Schmotter

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.

January and February 2006

WESTCONN TO RECEIVE BOND FOR IMPROVEMENTS
Wells Fargo Bank is expected to get $500,000 in state bond money for campus improvements. The money will be used for new单车ing, new lighting and furniture in the student study area in the Westside Classroom Building, said President James W. Schmotter, vice president for Finance and Administration.

19 YEAR VETERAN NAMED DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF

Boulder Police Department’s Terry Shingarat was named deputy chief Thursday after serving as acting deputy chief since Sept. 16. (Source: 1130 AM, 11/17)
COMMUNIQUE STAFF

Paul Steinmetz
Western Director, University Relations
(203) 837-8771
psteinmetz@wcsu.edu

Yvonne J. Johnson
Assistant Director, Public Relations
(203) 837-8556
ljohnson@wcsu.edu

Shari Hill
Assistant Director to the Dean, University Relations
(203) 837-8774
shill@wcsu.edu

Sheryl Reynolds
Secretary, Public Relations
(203) 837-8466
sreynolds@wcsu.edu

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Shari Hill at (203) 837-8466.

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COMMUNIQUE STAFF

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psteinmetz@wcsu.edu

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Managing Editor
Paul Steinmetz
Assistant Editors
Shari Hill

Production
Lynne J. Johnson
Ellen Myhill

Send comments/suggestions to pr@wcsu.edu

Western Connecticut State University
241-West Road
Danbury, CT 06810
or toll free at CT 1-800-WCSU
www.wcsu.edu

Dr. James Schmotter .......................... Dean, School of Business
Dr. Richard Clements .................. Dean, School of Arts
Dr. Linda Vaden-Goad .................. Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences
Dr. Paul Steinmetz ............. Vice President for Institutional Advancement
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Urmiee Capobianco ...... Chief Information Officer
Dr. Gary Hawkins ......... Enroment Management Officer
Dr. Lynne Clark .......................... Dean, School of Professional Studies
Dr. Walter Craner ............... Dean, Student Affairs
Dr. Ellen Durrin ....................... Dean, Graduate Studies and External Programs
Dr. Allen Manton ......... Dean, Ancell School of Business
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A R O U N D C A M P U S

Writers converge for Winter Literary Festival
by Robert Taylor

Author Daniel Asa Rose surveyed the writers in training before him in WestConn’s Student Center Theater and reassured his audience that a rejection letter does not spell the premature end of a writing career.

“We’re the lucky ones!” he declared at the conclusion of his lecture on Jan. 5 to students enrolled in WestConn’s Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) in Professional Writing program. “We get to sing our hearts out. No one asked us to, per se. But we have a freedom and we get to say the things in our heart. That’s our just reward.”

Rose and other authors who serve as writers in residence and writing mentors in the program joined WestConn faculty members and M.F.A. students on the university’s Midtown campus for an intensive schedule of readings, workshops and lectures during the first week of January. In its inaugural year, the M.F.A. program enrolls 21 students from Connecticut and nine other states. Students pursue studies in a broad range of writing genres through distance learning, and come together for weeklong sessions at WestConn in January and August.

A highlight of the January session was the launch of the university’s first Winter Literary Festival, featuring five public readings and open sign-ins. Authors included fiction and poetry writer Paola Corta, poet Peter Strekfjell, fiction and nonfiction writer Mark Sundeen, poet Cecilia Woloch and WestConn Professor of English Dr. John Briggs.

Dr. Brian Clements, associate professor of English and coordinator of the M.F.A. program, said the festivals each January and August allow students and members of the Greater Danbury community access to accomplished authors.

“Our hope is that many people who are used to going to New York for readings of this type will take the opportunity to enjoy high-quality literary programs in our area,” Clements said.

For M.F.A. students, the January session provided an opportunity to learn from successful writers through workshops and informal dialogue. Fletcher Dean, professorial speech writer and resident of Big Stone Gap, Va., who recently emulated in the master’s program, said he was especially impressed with the personal attention each participant received.

Employee Relations Fred Cady, she thought he was calling to tell her who had been selected Employee of the Quarter for the second quarter of the 2005-06 academic year.

She was right; the only thing she got wrong was who had been selected. Vaden-Goad had been selected Employee of the Quarter for the first quarter of the 2005-06 academic year.

Vaden-Goad chose as Employee of the Quarter

by Shari Hill

When Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences Dr. Linda Vaden-Goad received a phone call from Director of Human Resources Dr. Allen Morton telling her she had been selected Employee of the Quarter for the first quarter of the 2005-06 academic year, she thought she was being thanked for her work.

“They do not put you in a ‘one-size-fits-all’ program,” Dean said. “The collaboration with the mentor, which allows you to develop your own area of exploration in writing, is invaluable. It’s unique that they listen to you and say, ‘What are your goals as a writer? Let’s find a way to make this program work for your goals.’ I’m interested in the whole range of writing and how to apply it in various venues. This is the only program I’ve found that meets those needs.”

Clements said the M.F.A.’s broad reach in writing genres recognizes the scarcity of opportunities for graduates of creative writing programs in today’s job market.

“Our program addresses that reality by providing students with the marketable skills of journalism, technical writing and practical writing,” Clements said. “It’s a unique program in that it is devoted to the study of both creative writing and practical writing.”

The professional career of Mark Sundeen, a writer in residence for the M.F.A. program who offered one of the featured readings during the Winter Literary Festival, exemplifies the diversity of the program. Sundeen’s eclectic body of writing includes the books, “The Making of Tom” and “Car Camping,” as well as numerous articles in national periodicals, poetry, and Web writer and editor for Howard Dean’s 2004 presidential campaign. During one reading, Sundeen taught students how to apply fiction-writing techniques and

cont’d. on page 4

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psteinmetz@wcsu.edu

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Professor's African experiences inspire annual film festival

by Robert Taylor

New York Times correspondent Sabrina Tavernise has witnessed the raw brutality of insurgent attacks and suicide bombings since she was assigned to Baghdad in summer 2005, but it was the quiet desperation of ordinary Iraqis that brought him back to Senegal, together with his wife and daughter. Since earning his Ph.D. in anthropology at the University of California at Los Angeles, Whittemore has maintained both his academic specialization in African ethnography and his personal ties to the continent, moving in to the local population. Since earning his Ph.D. in anthropology at the University of California at Los Angeles, Whittemore has maintained both his academic specialization in African ethnography and his personal ties to the continent, moving in to the local population.

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By Yoanne Johnson

With riveting photos of the Melong Delta, a discussion of diverse interpretations of the historical events that link Vietnam and America, and a world-class performance of traditional Vietnamese music, “Vietnam Week” recently brought the history and culture of that country to life at WestConn. A Smithsonian affiliated exhibition depicting daily life in six Vietnamese communities, a concert by renowned musician Pham Duc Thanh, and an academic conference exploring the controversial history between Vietnam and America were among the highlights of the series in late November and early December. Sponsoring the WestConn Office of the President, Office of Grant Programs, history department and the WCSU International Center, the free events brought thousands to the Midtown campus to discuss, reflect and listen.

Assistant Professor of History and Non-Western Cultures Dr. Wynn Wilcox organized the series, saying he wanted to give students in his senior seminar about Vietnam and the West another learning opportunity. The events also provided glimpses into Vietnamese culture for Western Connecticut’s large Vietnamese population, as well as others who wanted to learn more about the country and its people.

“The Smithsonian exhibit is interesting because people aren’t aware of the ethnic and religious diversity of Vietnamese culture. There are more than 40 different ethnic minorities in Vietnam and this exhibit shows that diversity well,” Wilcox said. Monochord player Pham Duc Thanh provided a rare opportunity for people to hear a live Vietnamese performance. The Six Communities of Six Communities exhibition was presented in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution Affiliations Program, the Vietnam Museum of Ethnology, and the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. WestConn is a Smithsonian Affiliate.

The “Vietnam and the West: New Approaches” academic conference featured a keynote address by Cornell University Asian Studies Chair Dr. Keith Taylor, who described “The Strange Intersection of American and Vietnamese History.” A professor of Vietnamese cultural studies at Cornell, he interjected in the area started during his service with the U.S. Army in Vietnam in 1970-71.

“Taylor explored the concept that ‘American historians have become committed to a particular narrative of Vietnamese history and the Vietnam War because their interpretation of subsequent U.S. history depends on it. I didn’t have any doubts about the cause we were fighting for in Vietnam at that time, and I still don’t,” Taylor said. “I did have doubts about the methods we were using in Vietnam at that time, and I still do.

“Of course, this is all very controversial, but that’s just what you want in a keynote address,” Taylor joked. “That’s the beautiful thing: We can continue to argue these points. That’s why I went to Vietnam in the first place. That’s why I was willing to die.”

The final element of the series, “A Musical Evening with Pham Duc Thanh,” combined an informing history lesson with a masterful performance on several traditional Vietnamese instruments.

Writers converge for Winter Literary Festival (cont’d.)

The proposals selected to receive President’s Initiatives Funds (cont’d.):
While serving on board a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier in the Pacific theater during World War II, Neil Wagner decided that when his tour of duty was over, he was going to attend college to become a teacher. “I saw how the guys on the ship with high school degrees struggled and had menial jobs, and I decided that if I could help some former high school graduates from high school to get a better life, I wanted to do that,” he said.

Looking at college brochures with a friend, a blue-and-white booklet caught Wagner’s eye. It was from Danbury State Teachers College. Neil liked what he saw and enrolled, becoming one of the first— if not the first— Long Islanders to attend. Laughing about it now, Neil remembers he “got a lot of grief” about his accent and all those “intrusive R’s.”

Carolyn Contins, a Bronx native whose parents moved to Rowayton, Conn., after she graduated from high school, came to Danbury State Teachers College because of recommendations from her parents’ friends. “In those days, it was either teaching or nursing, and teaching was the thing that most people pursued, so that’s what I decided to study,” Carolyn recalled.

One day during Neil and Carolyn’s sophomore year, they found themselves sitting across the aisle from one another in a statistics class. “She looked like she might need a little help with the material,” Neil remembered. “Yes, I looked like a deer in the headlights,” Carolyn said, laughing. Neil offered his assistance, Carolyn accepted ... and the rest, as they say, is history.

Neil, married and started a family right after graduation, opened a creamery; they make ice cream, specializing in agriculture. She was the writer. Ferris always had enjoyed writing, and at the age of 39, decided to attend college. She chose WestConn because it was close to home and was affordable. Once here, she was surprised to meet others in similar situations. “I was attending WestConn, I became aware of numerous non-traditional students who came to WestConn for a variety of reasons,” Ferris said. “I met several women, many of whom were having to start over.”

After graduating in 1986 with a Bachelor of Arts in History, Ferris became a journalist and freelance writer specializing in agriculture. She was the Connecticut state commissioner of agriculture from 1995 to 2003. Ferris, with her husband Charles D. Ferris III and sons Brendan and Charles IV, currently owns and runs Ferris Acres Dairy Farm in Newtown. In 2004, the family opened a creamery; they make and sell ice cream on-site.

Because it was important to her to stay involved with the university, Ferris joined WestConn’s Centennial Committee and helped plan the university’s 100th year celebration in 2003. While on this committee, Ferris began remembering her experiences at WestConn. That led her to create the Fresh Start Scholarship. Ferris established the $500 scholarship because she wanted to create something for older, female students. The scholarship reflects Ferris’ experience at WestConn, and her desire to make the road a little easier for those who follow in her footsteps.

“First, I wanted to give back to my alma mater because the courses I took and the professors I met truly provided a life-changing experience,” she said. “Second, I connected the scholarship to a degree program — versus simply learning new skills — because I think the studies involved in working toward a degree, especially those in the humanities, are fundamental to living our lives more gratifyingly.”

“Shirley is a supporter of a number of her alma mater because the courses I took and the professors I met truly provided a life-changing experience,” she said. “Second, I connected the scholarship to a degree program — versus simply learning new skills — because I think the studies involved in working toward a degree, especially those in the humanities, are fundamental to living our lives more gratifyingly.”

“This scholarship gives me the opportunity to give someone else a helping hand,” she added, noting that she has pledged to match donations from others.

Director of Institutional Advancement Michael Dritsoll said anyone can contribute money to the fund and support non-traditional students. Scholarship recipients can be full-time (12 or more credits) or part-time (three to 11 credits) undergraduate, female students who are 30 to 55 years old as of the beginning of the fall semester for which they receive the scholarship. Recipients must be new, first-year students who have no more than 25 credits. Grade point average (GPA) will not be considered for the first semester, but the students must achieve a minimum 3.0 GPA to receive the scholarship for the second semester.

“Shirley is a supporter of a number of different charities,” Dritsoll said. “We look forward to working with her; the scholarship and her future endeavors.”

No doubt recipients of this new scholarship will appreciate Ferris’ experiences and her desire to give others a “fresh start.”

For more information about how to establish a scholarship, or to find out how to contribute to the Fresh Start Scholarship, call Dritsoll at (203) 837-8419.
Alpha Delta Pi raises money to serve children in need

The WestConn Alpha Delta Pi (ADPi) sorority’s annual “Dream Week” fund raiser during the week of Oct. 17 raised $720 to benefit the Ronald McDonald House Charities. There are 195 Ronald McDonald

McLaughlin, Ferrante guide public safety association

The International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA) recently conferred affiliate status to the newly formed Connecticut Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators. WCSU Chief of Police Neil McLaughlin Jr. is president of the state group and WCSU University Police Sgt. Ron Ferrante is treasurer. The state association’s 42 members include the four Connecticut State University System campuses; University of Connecticut; University of Hartford; University of New Haven; Yale, Wesleyan, Quinnipiac and Sacred Heart universities; and a number of community colleges. With more than 1,000 higher education institutional members and more than 1,600 professional members, IACLEA is the largest campus and university police and public safety management organization in the world.

Students earn Certificate of Excellence

Four justice and law administration students have been awarded the university’s Certificate of Excellence in Research Methodology. The certificate is an annual award given to students who demonstrate superior motivation, persistence and discipline in the university’s demanding 400-level Research Methodology in Justice and Law Administration course. The recipients of the award for the fall 2005 semester are all seniors: Bethel resident Tina Boyle and Jamie Ortiz, and Danbury residents Candice Grose and Joseph Ross. This research methodology course helps students learn technical research writing through a series of exercises.

For more information about the Certificate of Excellence, call Professor of Justice and Law Administration Dr. David Machell at 837-6996.

Chemical Society chapter earns national award

The WCSU American Chemical Society (ACS) Student Affairs chapter recently received a Commendable award from the national organization for its activities during the 2004-05 academic year.

The ACS Student Affairs program supports undergraduate students and faculty in promoting professional development, mentoring, and peer support for undergraduates majoring in the chemical sciences. The WestConn chapter was one of 62 that received the Commendable award.

Chemistry Department Chair Dr. Paula Seconds is the faculty adviser. In addition to being recognized by their peers, the students’ accomplishment also will be published in Chemical & Engineering News, the society’s official national news magazine, and in Chemistry, the Student Affiliate magazine. The award-winning chapters will be honored at the 231st ACS National Meeting in Atlanta on March 26.

Prominent painter concludes fall art lecture series

Robert Birmelin, one of the country’s most widely recognized figure painters, recently visited WestConn to talk about his paintings, which have been described as “mysterious and enigmatic.” He was among the six acclaimed artists who served as guest lecturers this fall. The presentations were part of the Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) visiting artists program.

Art Professor Margaret Grimes, coordinator of WestConn’s M.F.A. program, was delighted that Birmelin joined the lecture series. This was his first talk at WestConn.

Several M.F.A. students met him when he was a visiting artist at the Vermont Studio Center,” Grimes said. “They found him very interesting and requested that he speak here.”

During his talk, Birmelin showed examples of his work.

“There are two themes that alternate in my work that I can’t get away from,” Birmelin said. “The first is the aspect of being among others in an urban setting, moving through an environment. The second is my memory of images from the past places I’ve been...”

From the mid-1970s to early 1990s, Birmelin found his principal inspiration in the streets of New York, where he was fascinated by the crowds. His large paintings are about movement, focus and the suggestion of the relationship between the depicted figures and the painting’s viewer.

“I’m interested in the experience of selective noticing in a complex environment,” Birmelin said. “All of my artwork comes out of careful observation.”

In 1983, the busy city life began to fade from his artistic hand. Birmelin said the subject eventually exhausted him: He wished to explore inner memories of his past.

Birmelin began painting images of a domestic life that suggest permanent restlessness of the mind in contemplation of the past.

A recipient of many grants, scholarships and awards, Birmelin has lectured widely on his work and taught for many years at Queens College.

Robert Birmelin talks about his work during an art slide lecture hosted by the M.F.A. in Fine Arts program.

Professor of Justice and Law Administration Dr. David Machell has acquired a new set of custom-made, silver engraved bagpipes from renowned bagpipe maker McCallum of Scotland.

The bagpipes were purchased with money bequeathed to Machell by his father, who passed away last year. In his honor, the new bagpipes will be named the Ernest R. Machell Memorial Highland Bagpipes.

Weather permitting, these pipes will make their WestConn debut on Thursday, March 16, during the 25th annual “Bagpiper on the Green” performance. (See ad on page 8.)

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

Congratulations!

Machell obtains custom-made bagpipes

Highland Bagpipes.

WestConn student Whitney Nelson, of Barefield, Mass., recently received an honorable mention in the Drakeprime and Buono International Plane Competition in Oradell, N.J. Nelson, a second year music major, was one of four pianists to receive an honorable mention from a field of 215 applicants. It was her first competition. Nelson, who has been playing since the age of 6, is a 2004 graduate of Beverly High School. She also is a graduate of the renowned National Piano Teachers.

Robert Birmelin talks about his work during an art slide lecture hosted by the M.F.A. in Fine Arts program.
Non-traditional student reaches out to help hurricane victims

By Hanna Kiviniemi

Senior psychology major Krista LaFrance, a non-traditional student from New Fairfield, received a call for help in New Orleans. Hurricane Katrina devastated the city, and LaFrance wanted to go to college too, but she was working 12-hour shifts as a patient access associate in order to save money for school. She had just graduated from the University of Bridgeport with a degree in health care administration.

LaFrance joined the Air National Guard because she wanted to continue serving after active duty. It was natural for her; her father was in the Army for six years. During her time at college, she volunteered for disaster relief and was interested in helping others. When LaFrance moved to New Orleans to help with relief efforts, she was able to continue her studies in a more meaningful way.

LaFrance said she had a lot of experience with disaster response from her work in the military, but it was still emotionally challenging. She worked with a team of Army medics and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), and they were called to help in New Orleans.

LaFrance and her team worked on the streets of New Orleans, helping people who were hurt by the hurricane. She worked with residents of the area to help them recover and find housing. They also assisted with the relief and recovery mission.

LaFrance said she had mixed emotions during the deployment. She was deployed to El Barrio, a lower-income neighborhood, where she saw all around her, from both the military and the civil community. She helped residents of the area to find housing, food, and support. She also worked with local organizations to help people recover from the storm.

LaFrance said she had a lot of support from her family and friends during the deployment. Her father was in the Army for six years, and he was able to provide her with financial support. She also had support from her classmates and professors at the University of Bridgeport.

LaFrance said she learned a lot from the experience and she was able to use her skills to help others. She also learned that she wanted to pursue a career in public health or disaster response.

LaFrance said she was proud to be a part of the relief efforts. She said, “New Orleans is close to my heart and it was a joy to help cut people who were in need. If it wasn’t for school, I’d want to go back. I will never forget the humanitarianism and goodwill that I saw all around me, from both the military and the people. It was the best experience in my life.”

Schmottker signs healthy campus partnership (cont’d)

By Hanna Kiviniemi

“Preventing high-risk alcohol and drug use has top-level priority in the state,” Lohan said. “We need to find a different focus. We need to be interrupted again.

In the summer of 2004, Lohan championed a mission to help the Appalachia Mountains in Kentucky for Notre Dame High School in Fairfield, Conn. Impressed by what she saw, she volunteered for HOMES Inc., an organization similar to Habitat for Humanity, which provides affordable housing in Letcher County, Ky. Volunteer groups come from all over the country to help lower the cost of constructing the houses by providing labor.

Lohan returned to Kentucky in the summer of 2005 to lend a hand to HOMES. “I went to Kentucky because the health educator in me saw the importance of the safe, clean environment we would be building for the clients of HOMES,” Lohan said. “I also felt that the opportunity to work with a volunteer group all over the country would be an amazing life lesson for a future teacher.”

Lohan did a variety of tasks for the volunteer agency. She oversaw groups at worksites, including demolishing traveled, building homes and running equipment. Her time in Kentucky greatly influenced her decision to volunteer again through the Red Cross to help the victims of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

“I was having a hard time after Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast,” Lohan said. “I felt this incredible responsibility to finish my education, but at the same time, I needed to follow my heart and my faith, and volunteer my time.”

She took a leave of absence from student teaching to join the Red Cross “Help Now” program. Lohan volunteered in Austin and Beaumont, Texas, from Sept. 24 to Oct. 27, delivering hot food, helping clients find information about their belongings, overseeing the loading of supply trucks and driving trucks and forklifts.

“Through my volunteer work, I learned that we cannot rely on the federal government to solve our problems,” Lohan said. “We must educate the public about how to prepare for a disaster, which the Red Cross has been doing for years. Seeing the thousands of Americans who put their lives on hold to volunteer their time made me realize that we need to keep things moving. We make me hope that there is a wave of positive change flowing across the United States.”

Upon her return from Texas, Lohan completed her student teaching at Danbury High School and graduated from WestConn in December 2005.

For more information about WestConn’s CHoices program, call Guck at (203) 837-8899. For more information about the Statewide Healthy Campus Initiative, visit the Governor’s Prevention Partnership Web site at www.preventworkstc.org.
All listings are subject to change. Please call to confirm.

MAR. 1 – APR. 2 WesConn will host a series of events to commemorate Women’s History Month. For a complete listing, please visit the WCSU home page at www.wcsu.edu.

MAR. 1, Connecticut Appraiser Lodge Barry Schiller will discuss “Life Science and the Law: Making Sense of a Brave New World” at 7 p.m. in Room 125 of the Science Building on the Midtown campus. The talk will be free and the public is invited. For more information, call the Office of University Relations at (203) 837-8486.

MAR. 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.

MAR. 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, March 2 – 4 and 9 – 11, in the New Theatre on the Midtown campus. Price: tickets will be $11 for adults, $8 for seniors, children and non-WestConn students. WestConn students will be admitted free with valid ID. For tickets, call the Berkey Theatre Box Office at (203) 837-8713, or visit Tickets.com at www.tickets.com. A ticketed handling charge will apply to tickets purchased at a location other than the Berkey Theatre Box Office.

MAR. 2, The WCSU Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble will present their annual spring concert at 8 p.m. in Kess Hall in White Hall on the Midtown campus. The performance will be free and open to the public. For more information, call (203) 837-8350.

MAR. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 WestConn will present the Midtown Café Coffeehouse at 8 p.m. on Thursday evenings in Alumni Hall on the Midtown campus. The Coffeehouse will be open to WestConn students, faculty and staff only. Admission will be free. Call (203) 837-9700 for more information.

MAR. 7, Former congressional candidate Charlotte Folklife Project, is part of the continuing World Music, Women in Higher Education, American Council on Education, will host its second annual Connecticut History Month event at 11 a.m. in Warner Hall on the Midtown campus. A series of events will be free and open to the public. For more information, call (203) 837-8881.

MAR. 8, The Newman Center will host a free dinner at 5 p.m. in the, 7th Floor, near the, Midtown campus. The event will be free and open to WestConn students, staff and faculty only. For more information, call (203) 744-5846.

MAR. 10, The Connecticut chapter of the Office of Women in Higher Education, American Council on Education, will host its second annual Connecticut Women in Higher Education forum, “Successful Career Pathways for Women,” in the Michael J. Adanti Student Center Theater at Southern Connecticut State University, 501 Church Street, New Haven. Advance registration is required by Friday, March 3. Check in at the event will begin at 9 a.m.; the program will run from 10 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. To register or for more information, call Dean of the School of Professional Studies Dr. Lynee Clark at (203) 316-5166, or visit www.wcsu.edu.

MAR. 10, The WCSU German Studies Center will screen “Go for Zucker” at 7 p.m. in Screening Room 1 of White Hall on the Midtown campus. A panel discussion will follow at 8 p.m. The film is in German with English subtitles. The screening will be free and open to the public. For more information, call Dr. Renate Vartanyan, the center’s director, at (203) 316-2795.

MAR. 10, The WCSU Jazz Combos will perform at 8 p.m. in lies Concert Hall in White Hall on the Midtown campus. The featured combos will be the Begian II, the Begian I Sextet, the Rattles I Quintet and the Tomlinson I Quartet. Selections to be played will include traditional jazz classics and original student compositions. The performances will be free and open to the public. For more information, call (203) 837-8672.

MAR. 11 – 12 WestConn will host the 1956 Boat Show from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, 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 boats, personal watercraft and water sports equipment. For tickets and show information, call Robert Modeste (at 203) 775-1212.

MAR. 11, WestConn will host a 6 p.m. planetarium show, followed by telescope viewing of the waning gibbous moon, Saturn, 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.

MAR. 11, 2011 – 2016 The WCSU Instructor Scott Benjamin. For more information, call Benjamin at (860) 210-2146, ext. 129.

MAR. 12, Professor of Psychology Dr. Nicholas Galucci will discuss the psychology department this year. It will be free and open to the public. For more information, call the psychology department at (203) 837-8470.

MAR. 14, The Newnan Center will host a free dinner at 5 p.m. in the, 7th Floor, near the, Midtown campus. The event will be free and open to WestConn students, staff and faculty only. For more information, call (203) 744-5846.

MAR. 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.

MAR. 19, In her third hourlong series of “PsychMatters: Invited Lectures” to be offered by the psychology department this year. For more information, call Assistant Professor of Psychology Dr. Patricia Athans at (203) 837-9843.

MAR. 20, The WCSU Tutoring Resource Center will host workshops offering strategies for success at 12:30 and 3:30 p.m. in Room 104 of Berkshire Hall on the Midtown campus. The hourlong sessions will include tips on time management and how to communicate effectively. The workshops, the center at (203) 837-9245.

MAR. 20, Dr. Karen Crow-Sanchez, a postdoctoral associate in the department of biological and environmental sciences at Yale University, will discuss “Molecular Evolution of Hox Genes in Aphanopyletus Fisher” at 4 p.m. in Room 219 of the Westside Observatory and Planetarium on the Westside campus. She will be 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. Theodore Pinau at (203) 837-9703.

MAR. 30, WestConn will host a 6 p.m. planetarium show, followed by telescope viewing of Saturn and the constellations Leo, Bootes and Virgo 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.

Inside this issue: WestConn President James W. Schmotter recognizes the importance of building a healthy campus culture that discourages alcohol and substance abuse, and he now is in the fight together with higher education leaders from universities and colleges across Connecticut.

As You Like It

Tuesday, March 16

WestConn will host the 25th annual “Bagpiper on the Green” Noon, Quad, Westside campus

The event will be free and open to the public.

WestConn will host a spring show, “The Celtic Winds” 30 30 p.m. “Fishingbowl” Westside campus

The event will be free and open to the public

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