Clinton visits WestConn, thanks children for tsunami aid

by Shen Hsi and Yvonne Johnson

President’s Initiatives Fund to capitalize on university’s regional advantage, educate for global realities

by Yvonne Johnson

“Location, location, location” may be key in business, but WestConn is betting it’s critical in higher education, too.

President James W. Schmotter recently announced the creation of the President’s Initiatives Fund. Established with $100,000, the fund will support new projects the university’s faculty, staff and students propose to capitalize on the institution’s distinct Western Connecticut location and advance global education.

“I want to really engage the incredible creative energies that exist on this campus to come up with ideas that transform us,” Schmotter said. “This is part of our overall effort to move the university forward, and I believe it will stimulate ongoing conversations about what we are becoming as a university.”

“It holds the potential to make an even more relevant educational resource in the greater community,” he added.

The initiative is meant to advance one of the university’s core competencies: the ability to employ its resources of our region, further enhance its innovative partnerships that tap western Connecticut’s cultural, economic, and human resources.

SHOSTAKOVICH MARATHON STRING QUARTET TO PLAY

The Manhattan String Quartet, the foremost interpreter of Dmitri Shostakovich’s chamber music, will perform in concert at WestConn in a free, single-venue performance.

DaSilva, a native of Danbury, will have its first stage reading at WestConn.

STRESS MANAGEMENT PANEL TO OPEN HOLISTIC HEALTH SERIES AT WESTCONN

HOLISTIC HEALTH SERIES AT WESTCONN

The new series of programs at WestConn beginning in October will offer fresh perspectives on strategies to integrate nontraditional and traditional health care practices in a new series of programs at WestConn beginning in October.

WESTCONN HOMECOMING WEEK PACKED WITH EVENTS

WestConn will welcome back alumni for an art show, hall of fame induction ceremony, football game and class reunion dinners as part of its annual Homecoming activities in October.

FREE DICTIONARIES THRILL THIRD-GRADERS

We’re never washing our hands again!” they exclaimed, as they compared palms and giggled. Nancy Johndrow, principal of the Ashford School, the school the girls attend, smiled ear-to-ear. “I thought this was just awesome.” Johndrow said. “This was just an incredibly dynamic experience for these students, and they desire to be recognized.”

There were plenty of smiles from the students who earned a personal thank you from Clinton.
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Round Campus

Agreement to ease transition for Goodwin grads

By Sherry Hill

Thanks to an articulation agreement signed recently by WestConn President James W. Schmotter and Mark Scheinberg, president of Goodwin College, graduates at Goodwin College can now transfer to WestConn with ease to pursue bachelor’s degree studies after obtaining their associate degree at Goodwin.

The groundwork for the new agreement was laid six months ago when Goodwin officials learned they had completed the process of becoming accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

Ann Clark, vice president for administration and academic affairs at Goodwin College, said the timing of Goodwin’s accreditation news couldn’t have been more perfect. She previously had been in contact with Connecticut State University (CSU) System Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Estela Lopez to inquire about partnering with all the CSU campuses, and Lopez had suggested she contact Dr. Lynne Clark, the dean of WestConn’s School of Professional Studies, once Goodwin College was regionally accredited.

Ann Clark and Lynne Clark met for the first time at a Women in Higher Education event at WestConn. On March 4, which Lopez also attended, and the news of Goodwin’s accreditation came the same day of the event.

“As soon as we became NEASC-accredited, we wanted to talk to WCSU,” Ann Clark said. “With the accreditation we could move forward in discussing the possibility of establishing an articulation agreement.”

At a subsequent meeting that included Ann Clark, Lynne Clark and Barbara Piscopo, chair of WestConn’s nursing department, Piscopo determined Goodwin’s associate degree in nursing curriculum was a close match to WestConn’s requirements for the first two years of its bachelor’s in nursing program, paving the way for an easy transition for Goodwin students.

“In Connecticut the majority of teaching affiliations for associate degree programs are with CC community colleges,” Ann Clark said. “This agreement will allow our associate degree students in nursing at Goodwin to continue their studies at WestConn’s School of Human Services at WestConn.”

At the time of the agreement, Lynne Clark reviewed Goodwin’s associate in science degree curriculum in business studies, computer systems technology, and allied health and human services — and determined there might also be potential for a smooth transition for Goodwin students interested in pursuing future bachelor’s-level studies in business, health, computer sciences and human services at WestConn.

“I see this agreement positively benefitting both schools,” Lynne Clark said. “Besides Goodwin’s nursing students pursuing a WCSU R.N.-to-B.S. degree, I see other Goodwin graduates possibly pursuing WestConn degrees in business, justice and law, computer science and health promotion studies. It clearly is a win-win situation for both schools.”

Associate Professor of Nursing and Coordinator of the R.N.-B.S.N. Program Dr. Colleen Delaney agreed.

“This is such a good thing for nursing because it will allow students to go on to their bachelor’s degree,” Delaney said. “In order for nursing to advance, we need to facilitate more R.N.-to-B.S. programs. Currently, two-thirds of nurses are associate degree or diploma nurses, so there’s a real shortage of B.S.-prepared nurses and consequently a shortage of advanced-degree nurses for much-needed faculty positions. Agreements like this will help change that.”

Goodwin confers the second-largest number of associate degrees to nursing students in the state, according to Lynne Clark. “For WestConn’s R.N.-B.S.N. program located in Waterbury would be a convenient commute for Goodwin graduates coming from the East Hartford area.

Ann Clark agreed and added WestConn’s affordability as a CSU System school also may be appealing to Goodwin graduates.

At the end of August, Goodwin graduated its first nursing class of 38 students. It’s anticipated that most will work for about a year in an area hospital before they will be ready to go back to school to obtain their bachelor’s in nursing degree. Because of this agreement, it’s likely many of them will come to WestConn.

Holistic health event addresses stress

by Robert Taylor

Excessive stress has become one of the nation’s most challenging public health crises, and panelists at a recent holistic health forum on stress management at WestConn agreed Americans must adopt successful strategies to cope with everyday strain before this escalating problem overwhelms the health care system.

“Unproductive stress costs more than $200 billion annually in the United States alone,” said Dr. Michael Basso Jr., president of the Connecticut Holistic Health Association (CHHA) and a certified holistic healing practitioner affiliated with the University of Connecticut and Yale University School of Medicine. “More than 50 percent of all medical visits, about 80 percent of all workplace accidents and some 6 million lost workdays have been attributed to excessive stress.”

Basso was one of five participants in the panel discussion on strategies for stress relief on Oct. 5 in Warner Hall. The forum was the opening event in the 2005-06 holistic health series at WestConn supported by the university’s Institute for Holistic Health Studies (IHHS) and the Danbury branch of the CHHA.

Dr. Eugene Bucconi, professor of management and former vice president for academic affairs at WestConn, offered the audience a manager’s practical perspective on coping with stress in the workplace. Bucconi said the causes of workplace stress generally fall into one of four categories: the nature of the work, conflict with coworkers, difficulties with a boss, and extraordinary factors such as layoffs and downsizing.

“What really causes stress for you at work is not each of these factors in themselves, but rather that you are not in control of your situation,” Bucconi said. “There are two strategies for you to reduce stress. The first is to learn stress relaxation techniques. The second strategy is to regain control and take action to alleviate the stress.”

Judith Dreyer, a WestConn adjunct professor of health promotion and exercise science (HPES) and owner of Health Food Junction in Westport, Conn., emphasized the close connection between unmanaged stress and physical illness and disease.

Strategies as simple as taking time for proper digestion and a quiet place for a family meal can make a significant difference in draining stress from everyday life. Dreyer said.

Participating in a workshop that was also learned a series of simple breathing techniques for stress relief led by Irene Mardal, director of the Center for Holistic Health at Goodwin College in East Hartford, Goodwin confers the second-largest number of associate degrees to nursing students in the state, according to Lynne Clark. “For WestConn’s R.N.-B.S.N. program located in Waterbury would be a convenient commute for Goodwin graduates coming from the East Hartford area.”

Ann Clark agreed and added WestConn’s affordability as a CSU System school also may be appealing to Goodwin graduates.

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The holistic health series will continue on Thursday, Nov. 17, with a presentation about “Pets and Your Health” by Deana LaOudicpe, a Ridgefield massage therapist and energy therapy master instructor. New Milford hypnototherapist Shaflow Fein will lead a workshop about attitude changes that ease.”
University to offer eminent domain debate on Nov. 2

by Yvonne Johnson

The national battle over expansion of eminent domain — the process by which government seizes private land to build a road, school or other public building — to use it for economic development is squarely centered in eastern Connecticut, but debate of the topic will move to the western part of the state in November.

WestConn will host “Invasion of the Property Snatchers: Eminent Domain” from 4 to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 2, in the Student Center Theater on the Midtown campus. Sponsored by the university’s social sciences department and the School of Arts and Sciences, the event will be free and the public is invited.

“The crux of the issue is whether the government can seize land for economic purposes. Both on a federal and state level, this is becoming more heated and troublesome,” said WestConn Associate Professor of Social Sciences Dr. Averell Manes, who will moderate the discussion. “Those who oppose the expansion of eminent domain argue it’s problematic to take land from one private owner and give it to another private owner who promises to generate revenue. People are fighting to keep their homes and businesses.”

“Those who want to expand eminent domain say it’s the way to improve life for all citizens in the community,” Manes added. “For them, it’s a means to an end that serves a greater good.”

The event will feature brief presentations to be followed by a question-and-answer session. Associate Professor of History Dr. Bionton Peretti will offer historical perspective. Cognizant with WestConn President James W. Schmotter, President of Directors, and their children attend the school. The event is being offered as part of the School of Arts and Sciences “Public Talks” series.

“’It’s my sense that there need to be safe places where people on many sides of an issue can come together for respectful, rational discussion,” said Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences Dr. Linda Valen-Goad. “Therefore, we are very happy to host this dialogue about eminent domain as part of our discussion series this year. I know there is broad community interest, and I’m sure we all will learn something new by listening and taking part in the discussion.”

For more information, call Manes at (860) 837-4452.

WestConn hosts first Huaxia Chinese School in Connecticut

by Shaine Hill

The Huaxia Chinese School is the first in Connecticut. The event is being offered as part of the School of Arts and Sciences “Public Talks” series.

The school’s principal, Jun Xu, a biologist at Ridgefield-based Boehringer Ingelheim, agrees that instruction in Chinese language and culture is vital in today’s global economy. She said the school will be a place where learning is fun, but the students will be taken seriously. Students can expect mid-term exams, and their parents will receive progress reports. Gong, the school’s academic dean, said a lot of time is spent sending e-mails to parents and teachers to keep them informed of schedules and expectations. Running the school is a lot of work, but it’s very rewarding, she added.

A lot of thought went into the selection of the teachers, too. Some hold master’s degrees in education; others have doctorates in scientific fields and work as professionals at area businesses. All received training at the Huaxia Chinese School headquarters in New Jersey before they started teaching, and most have taught similar classes before at other Huaxia Chinese Schools. The Connecticut Huaxia School is the first in this state and the 18th in the nation to become affiliated with the larger nonprofit organization.

While currently open only to children in Chinese language grade levels K-5, the hope is that the school eventually will be able to offer classes at higher levels for children, adults and adults who expressed an interest in Chinese language and culture. Pan said the school could serve as a resource in the community,” he said. “It could be a bridge between the Chinese community, its culture and larger society.

Ellen Xie, a 14-year-old freshman at Bethel High School, is an example of that connection. Her parents, born in Beijing, suggested to their American-
For nearly three decades, the mutual benefits of student and business collaboration have been institutionalized at the Annel School of Business — and now the effort is expanding.

Before the creation of Annel’s Center for Business Research (CBR), individual professors worked with businesses and community leaders to give students the chance to apply classroom concepts to real business situations. Since 1997, the CBR has been central to this work, and now has the capacity to expand, with a $180,000 grant from a New England educational foundation.

The CBR received the Davis Educational Foundation grant over the summer from the foundation started by Stanton and Elizabeth Davis after Stanton Davis’ retirement as chairman of Shaw’s Supermarkets. The funding is expected to allow more students to participate, and it will help Marketing Department Co-Chair Donald Drozdenko, director of the CBR, and his colleagues develop ways to measure the success of the applied student learning program.

The program is required for every M.B.A. student and for undergraduate seniors in a marketing capstone course. The capstone ties together all they’ve learned as undergraduates, challenging them to apply it in an actual business setting.

“It consolidates and really puts in perspective the whole undergraduate curriculum,” Drozdenko said. “The marketing plans done by students are a reflection of what we want the students coming out of our program knowing.”

Management Professor Dr. Fred Mauder is the CBR chair, and he’s used the program to challenge his students for years. “I have been a major beneficiary of the system,” he said.

Marketing Professor Dr. John Cronin also has championed projects over the years. Students aren’t the only beneficiaries. Businesses that agree to work with the students end up with a marketing plan and a better understanding of the market — for it’s no wonder area enterprises are knocking at WestConn’s door.

“There’s a lot of demand,” Drozdenko said. “If it weren’t for this project, some area not-for-profits wouldn’t have any good strategic marketing plans.”

Assistant Professor of Marketing Dr. Karen Kocz is among those who have focused their students’ energy on helping nonprofit organizations. Her capstone course has been a valuable business input — for free — so the marketing department gets all the time,” said Donna Coelho, the CBR community relations coordinator, who will do most of the hands-on work of bringing students, faculty and businesses into the expanded program.

Coelho said businesses have to be carefully vetted so the needs of the firm or nonprofit group match with students’ academic needs. Coelho has a history of community involvement and has business contacts in the city. That, she said, gives her a good advantage in recruiting businesses and nonprofit groups into the program.

It also is her responsibility to make sure faculty and students are aware of the applied learning program. Drozdenko said getting more students and faculty involved in the applied learning program was one of the primary objectives in seeking the grant.

But it wasn’t the only reason. Measuring the success of academic programs is becoming an ever more pivotal issue in the accreditation process, Drozdenko said. Developing effective methods to assess the impact of programs is a significant additional part of the grant-related work. After all, Drozdenko pointed out, applied learning is not a WestConn innovation.

“What is unique is that we’re emphasizing outcomes research,” he said. “That’s an area we plan to focus on, and it’s probably one of the critical reasons we were successful funding.”

Drozdenko said he sees other academic areas in both the business school and the School of Arts and Sciences as being well-suited for the program. Finance and management information systems would make good candidates, he said.

On the student side, the CBR and Sciences’ economics and communication programs. However, he added, some professors are reluctant to get involved.

“For some faculty members believe it’s an extremely difficult process,” Drozdenko said. “But the center is here to support them.”

Coelho serves as the liaison between faculty and the business sector. “What I’m most excited about is that nonprofit organizations have access to classes that participate. And the center will have students available for assistance,” Drozdenko said.

“This is a tremendous opportunity for faculty, students and community organizations,” Drozdenko said.

This semester, student groups from two different classes will work with Danbury-based Bradstone Ultrasonics Corporation, which has an entire office for advertising and operates worldwide. A class of advertising and integrated marketing students, along with students in Drozdenko’s course focused on e-commerce and the Internet, will work with the company.

WestConn students have completed projects for about 20 nonprofits and manufacturing, service and retail businesses. They have provided comprehensive marketing plans for the Girl Scouts of America; Care Fuel, the Jane Goodall Institute and Top Shelf Sports. Omaha Beef Co., The News-Times, Marcus Daisy, the State of Connecticut, and the city of Danbury are among the businesses and nonprofit organizations assisted by statistical surveys and interactive marketing from WestConn business students.

Coelho said the program has assisted in the university and area community. An area law firm assisted in the creation of the curricular health connection in belly dancing on Thursday, May 18.

Dr. Lisa Davis, recently appointed as the IHHS director, said getting more students involved in community service was a primary objective in seeking the grant. It also is her responsibility to make sure students end up with a marketing plan and a better understanding of the market — for it’s no wonder area enterprises are knocking at WestConn’s door.

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WCSU Weather Center continues to shine

You don't need satellite imaging, a long-range forecast or Doppler radar to know the future is bright for WCSU's meteorology program and the students involved with it.

With local and national attention focused on weather events ranging from Hurricane Katrina to one of Connecticut's wettest Octobers on record, the Weather Center is the only university in the state to offer a Bachelor of Science in Meteorology and the program is one of only a few in the Northeast.

The university's Meteorological Studies and Weather Center gives students the opportunity to use state-of-the-art technology to forecast conditions for utilities, businesses, the media and individuals. It's experience that's winning clients, including the New Haven Register and The Meriden Record-Journal. It's a media/weather operation that forecasting or theoretical meteorology or theoretical meteorology tracks, and other interested students get hands-on experience in a number of ways at the Weather Center, which recently moved from the old Science Building to the new Science Building. They work with Lessor to gather forecast information, prepare the actual forecasts and transmit the information to the Weather Center's clients. They regularly answer calls from reporters looking for comment about prominent weather-related stories, such as hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico or the October rainstorms that caused widespread flooding in the region, and they take calls from area residents.

"Whether it's gardeners calling to ask about planting their tomatoes or media calls about weather events, we provide a tremendous service to the community," Eisenson said. "When there's a snow storm, the phone rings off the hook," Lessor added.

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Marketing skills a key ingredient in student’s success

By Sherri Hill

Jonathan Soares (left), president of Jonathan’s Q, and Matt Giacolone, pictured during a recent barbecue sauce competition, have attracted many customers with their gourmet barbecue sauces.

While his friends were playing with Matchbox cars or outside kicking soccer balls, Jonathan Soares spent a lot of time as a young boy in his mother’s kitchen, watching her cook. Apparently all that observation paid off, because the now-21-year-old WestConn senior recently launched his own line of gourmet barbecue sauces — and they’re already making an appearance on area grocery store shelves.

“The kitchen always intrigued him,” Soares’ mother, Bela, said. “From before the age of 5, I would prop him up on the kitchen counter and he would watch me cook.” Then, when he got older, he would turn my kitchen into a science lab as he experimented with my recipes to improve upon them. He always wanted to know what would happen if he added an ingredient, or took one out.

“I definitely got started in my mother’s kitchen,” Soares agreed. “I used her basic recipes, but I modified them. And I never really measured the ingredients — I just mixed and looked, and mixed and tasted, until it looked and tasted right.” Appropriately, he’s gotten it right, because at a recent product tasting demonstration at Caraluzzi’s Bethel Food Market, Soares sold nearly 90 bottles of Jonathan’s Q gourmet barbecue sauces in three hours. The hardest part for many customers was deciding whether to buy the Gourmet Spicy Cajun BBQ, Gourmet Honey BBQ or Gourmet Hickory Teriyaki BBQ.

Of course, it takes more than being a good cook to mass produce, package, distribute and market a product, and Soares is the first to admit that breaking into the already-saturated retail food industry is a challenge. That’s where his education at WestConn comes in. As a senior marketing major, Soares said he’s had the benefit of the years of experience and academic knowledge that have accumulated in the business world.

“My teachers at WestConn have been executed on the value proposition at major companies,” Soares said. “They’ve given me the advice and guidance I’ve needed, and it’s clear they really care. They put in 100 percent, and the one-on-one interaction you get makes a big difference.”

Soares almost missed out on the experience, because even though his guidance counselor at Danbury’s Immaculate High School suggested he look into WestConn, Soares wanted to venture a little farther from home. He enrolled at the University of Rhode Island, but decided after one semester it wasn’t right for him.

He went to Rhode Island, and came home at Christmas break saying he didn’t want to go back,” Bela Soares said. “He decided to try WestConn, and we left it up to him. I think he’s been very happy with the education he’s received, and his professors have shared a lot of their knowledge with him.”

“Not a better education here, and for $20,000 less,” Soares added.

He’s applied what he’s learned to everything from the design of his product’s labels — black, with a metallic Q to reflect light and catch shoppers’ eyes — to his slogan — “You can’t have BBQ without the Q” — to positioning his product to fill a niche — gourmet sauce with a homemade taste for consumers too busy to start from scratch.

He created a Web site to market himself and his products, and invested the $10,000 necessary to start up the business from his own funds. When he’s not busier than a full-time WestConn student, loan officer for Superior Mortgage, and marketing consultant to restaurants and other small businesses, Soares can be found shaking hands and doling out samples at food retailers all over New England. Big Y World Class Markets and Stew Leonard’s may be the next area markets to carry the Products line. Soares also is eyeing gourmet food shops in several states.

“Assistant Professor of Marketing Bob Giacolone, one of Soares’ instructors, isn’t surprised by his student’s success,” Soares said. “Jonathan is a go-getter.” Giacolone said. “A lot of students are very creative, but Jonathan took his innovation and creativity in developing the product to the next level. It’s like perseverance that’s paying off. This really is a two-tier achievement — has creation of the product itself and his marketing of it.”

At a recent barbecue sauce competition in Kansas City, Soares sauces came in 20th in a field of 160 contestants.

“That included the major name brand sauces,” Soares said proudly. “I’ve tasted all my competition, and my sauce is unlike any of the others. Mine has that homemade taste.”

That homemade taste started in Bela Soares’ kitchen, which was the subject of a feature story about her cooking that ran about 15 years ago in The News-Times. So what does mom think of her son’s variation on her original recipe?

“A parent hates to admit it when their kids are right, but my son has improved upon my recipe,” she said, laughing.

Despite his aversion to working from a recipe, Soares had to write his book down so his manufacturer, Onofrio’s Ultimate Foods LLC, of New Haven, could produce it. The Davidson Co. in Cheshire serves as his distributor. The sauces retail at $4.99 for a 15-ounce bottle.

Bela Soares said the entire family is thrilled with the success of the business, and she’s especially glad the sauce is being made somewhere other than the kitchen in her new Milford home.

“Let me tell you one thing about Jonathan,” she said. “He loves to cook, but close your eyes — he hates to clean up!”

For more information about Q Products Inc., visit www.qproductsinc.com or send an e-mail to jsoares@qproductsinc.com.

By Robert Taylor

The death penalty may have been an appropriate sanction for criminal offenders 500 years ago, but Professor of Justice and Law Administration Dr. Harold Schramm believes it is time for the U.S. Supreme Court to review the rulings on the death penalty and the uncertainty how newly installed Chief Justice John Roberts will rule on this.

“I am hopeful the Supreme Court will continue to look at this,” he said. “I don’t think it will be a 180-degree about-face. But we’ve made progress up to this point, and there’s no reason to think that the momentum in society will not be reflected in the court.”

His research into Supreme Court citations of the Inquisition as a reference for standards of punishment produced some 20 rulings in the past century that typically emphasized its violation of human rights. Yet he also noted a historical irony in the fact that imposition of the death penalty was relatively rare during the Inquisition.

Schramm is preparing two papers based on his research this summer, and he’s incorporating many of the topics from these studies into the lectures and curricula of his constitutional law classes this autumn. Now in his 27th year as a teacher, he said his research program has invigorated and energized him in the classroom.

“Everything I do, I try to find some application to the classroom because I am primarily a teacher,” he said.
Several WestConn students and the individuals who have made a tangible — financial — difference in their lives recently came together and got to know each other.

The Office of Institutional Advancement hosted its second annual reception to introduce a number of the donors who have created student scholarships through the WCSU Foundation Inc. to the 2005-06 recipients of those awards. The event is intended to help donors and scholars put faces and a bit of personal interaction with the names of those on the other side of what could otherwise be a remote or form process.

“I think there’s no way to make a difference in higher education that’s more palpable or more real than to give a scholarship,” WestConn President James W. Schmotter said during the reception, praising the donors for their generosity and the scholars for their hard work to earn the support.

“Whatever help we can give our students through the generosity of our friends is greatly appreciated.” More than 50 donors, scholars and other members of the university community took part in the September reception in Warner Hall. Those in attendance included donors Jason Hancock, Isabelle Farrington, Dr. Linda Vaden-Goad, Tom Crucitti and many others.

Senior meteorology student Carrington “C.J.” Klopfer and his benefactor, Lewis and Mary Ellen Mottley, were among the crowd. The Mottleys established the Jonathan Mottley Meteorology Scholarship after their 28-year-old son, who was a WestConn meteorology major, died in a 1996 car crash. Klopfer holds the highest grade point average in his major, which earned him the $1,000 Mottley scholarship for this academic year.

The Mottleys traveled from their home in Washington, D.C., for the reception and were thrilled to meet Klopfer.

“We feel very strongly about scholarships in general and financial scholarships in particular,” Lewis Mottley said. “We’re really looking forward to meeting the young man who’s carrying on our son’s legacy.” The Mottleys already had seen a photo of Klopfer, so they easily picked him from the crowd and introduced themselves; it was an introduction Klopfer said he’d been anticipating for a while.

“It’s nice to be able to meet them,” he said. “I wanted to meet them and thank them personally.”

The Mottleys left the couple on a tour of the university’s new Science Building, home of the university’s meteorology program and a structure the couple said their son would have loved to explore.

By Sherri Hill

Golden Circle luncheon brightens gloomy day

President James W. Schmotter takes a break during the Golden Circle Luncheon.

The ninth annual Golden Circle Luncheon took place on a rainy, dreary day, but Warner Hall was aglow with the warmth of friends getting together to remember old times on Oct. 7. The luncheon, which celebrates alumni who graduated more than 50 years ago, featured a fond look back and an anticipatory glance forward at the institution known to most of those in the room as Danbury State Teachers College.

Interim Director of Alumni Relations Mary Figueroa welcomed the “new kids on the block” — the Class of 1955 — to the luncheon, and stopped to acknowledge those in the room who were celebrating birthdays; there was more than one nonagenarian present.

WestConn President James W. Schmotter highlighted some of the areas of growth and change the university has recently undergone, including new buildings on both campuses and numerous new programs. But the biggest reaction from those in attendance came when he said the university now has about 6,000 students; 4,000 attend full-time, and 1,700 live on campus. Many attendees commented that in contrast, their entire graduating class consisted of around two- to three-dozen students.

The alumni enjoyed a video presentation narrated by Schmotter, which shared the stories of several faculty members and one nontraditional student. Tom Crucitti, president of the Alumni Association, spoke next and shared the story of his own nine-year Danbury State College experience.

Class of 1945 alumna Aloise Heller Mulvihill sat with her best friend, Marie Patton Benicewicz, also a 1945 graduate. Benicewicz taught in Watertown, Oakville, Woodbury and Danbury schools, finally retiring from the Danbury school district in 1984. Mulvihill started her career teaching sixth grade in a one-room schoolhouse in Newtown, and went on to teach at the Hawley School, St. Joseph’s Parochial School, and Roberts Avenue and King Street schools in Danbury.

“It’s nice to come here and see people you haven’t seen for a long time,” Mulvihill said. “My life has been all about what happened when I was a student here. I met Marie [Benicewicz] here, and I met my husband through her. My family, my children and my life all came from meeting Marie on this campus.”

By Sherri Hill

Homecoming features art, class reunions, football victory

A tailgate party, art show, Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony, winning football game and class reunion dinners were among the highlights for the hundreds of alumni, students, family members and others who took part in the WCSU 2005 Homecoming festivities in October.

The WCSU Alumni Association and other university organizations hosted a wide range of Homecoming events that appealed to WestConn supporters of all ages. And the Colonials made their supporters proud with a 30-17 victory over the College of New Jersey in the Homecoming football game.

Way to go, Colonials!

Ruth Henderson named to M.F.A. advisory board

Ruth Henderson, shown here at the inauguration ceremony for WestConn President James W. Schmotter, is an active supporter of the WCSU community.

Ruth Henderson recently was named a member of the WestConn Master of Fine Arts in Visual Arts Advisory Board. Since the start of the M.F.A. program at WestConn, she has been an active supporter, hosting exhibitions of faculty and student work at the Silo Gallery at Hunt Hill Farm in New Milford.

Way to go, Colonials!
Forum raises awareness about human trafficking

by Robert Taylor

Anti-slavery and women's rights activists recently joined public officials in a forum at WestConn to illuminate the plight of human beings worldwide trapped in an invisible and corpse of citizen action to address this modern-day scourge.

Participants in the "Combating Sex Slavery Here and Now: An Exploration of Human Trafficking" forum provided legal, diplomatic and social perspectives on the many forms human trafficking takes at the international, national and local levels. The forum in the Student Center Theater was organized as part of the "Women Engaging Globally" series sponsored by the Center for Women Policy Studies, the League of Women Voters, and the Women's Environment and Development Organization. Local cosponsors for the forum included WestConn and 19 other institutions and organizations in the Greater Danbury area.

Keynote speaker Carmen Lomellin, executive secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women for the Organization of American States, said governments in the Americas were slow to recognize the reality and magnitude of the human trafficking problem. U.S. State Department estimates place the number of human beings ensnared in human trafficking worldwide at 800,000 to 900,000 victims, with independent estimates running higher.

"Trafficking is a modern form of bondage and an egregious violation of human rights," she said. "Yet it's an issue that many felt was not relevant to our hemisphere when we started working on it five years ago. It is happening all around us, and if we look, we will see it."

Much of the difficulty in crafting an effective international strategy to combat human trafficking is the daunting complexity of the problem and its close links to business and political interests in many countries, Lomellin said. One of the most severe forms of human trafficking abuses is the thriving international market for sex tourism, which typically depends on a far-reaching network of club, bar and hotel owners, shippers, attorneys and corrupt bureaucrats who cooperate in the sexual exploitation of young women and children. Other common human trafficking practices include the entrapment of illegal immigrants into forced labor, the involuntary surrender of infants for adoption, and illegal trafficking in human organs.

Human traffickers prey upon the most vulnerable and desperate individuals in Third World countries by offering the illusory promise of employment and economic security. Lomellin said.

In a regional panel discussion following the keynote talk, Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton said the city's experience with human trafficking as a real and growing problem mirrors trends in the state and nation. Boughton cited police efforts to identify and take action against involuntary servitude of illegal immigrants for sex acts and hotel owners, food, landscaping, housecleaning and other service sectors. Danbury Chief of Police Alan Baker affirmed police officers are taking proactive steps to interdict human trafficking. He said inadequate staffing and training, coupled with the lack of a comprehensive immigration strategy, have frustrated enforcement efforts.

"We need to make sure our state and federal laws work together to punish traffickers and extend assistance to their victims," Stillman said. "It is time for public policy makers to respond to the horror of human trafficking."

Panel moderator Skata Sliwa, an anti-slavery activist who founded the Freedom Now news service to raise awareness about human trafficking, asserted some 27 million "modern-day slaves" are trapped in the bondage of forced labor worldwide, touching every continent and every region of the United States. Much of this human trafficking takes place in the Greater Danbury area.

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MSQ shares joy, anguish of Shostakovich quartets

Two years after the soggy September 2003 ground-breaking ceremony for the new Science Building on WestConn’s Midtown campus, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to officially open the new facility. In the time that has elapsed between the ground-breaking and today, a gleaming 122,000-square-foot, three-story structure containing science labs, classrooms, lecture halls, an astronomy observatory, greenhouse, faculty space and administrative areas has emerged.

In anticipation of the ceremony, a sizable gathering of faculty, staff and quite a few students congregated in front of the impressive glass entrance. Students also looked down at the proceedings from the windows of second-story study lounges. The celebration brought some familiar faces back to campus, including former WestConn President Dr. James R. Roach, former Vice President for Finance and Administration Richard Sullivan and former Director of Planning and Engineering Tom Carbone. They were joined by a multitude of university, state, and local Connecticut State University System Office dignitaries, many of whom had attended the groundbreaking as well.

Gov. M. Jodi Rell, the final official to speak from the podium, had the audience laughing when she said, “Next time, I want to go first, because they’ve already said everything that needs to be said.” But she summed up everyone’s sentiments when she added, “It’s a great time for WCSU! and for me, it’s a personal pride thing. The good news continues and it just keeps on coming, and I see the pride. We’ve boldly raised the bar. The workmanship on this project tops them all. The nice thing for all of us is when you strive for excellence, you get excellence.”

Rell added that in a knowledge-based economy, you need students who are prepared, and that’s what’s being done at WestConn.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

**Historical musicologist shares insights**

A presentation about “Jewish Liturgical Music in Germany: Tradition – Assimilation – Identity” drew a diverse audience to Alumni Hall at the end of September. Offered by the WCSU Program on Jewish Studies, the subject was something new in the organization’s 20-year history, said Dr. Renate Ludanyi, the center’s director.

After reading an extensive — and only partial — list of the guest speaker’s accomplishments and credentials, Ludanyi introduced musicologist and organist Dr. Tina Frühaufl to talk about “Jewish liturgical music in Germany.”

Führauf, who holds a Ph.D. in Historical Musicology from the Follewang-Hochschule in Essen, Germany, said she had managed to find a way to combine her studies in German literature, psychology and organ music in her research of Jewish liturgical music in her native country. Growing up as a German Christian, she said she was intrigued to learn her early 20th-century organ music also was played in Jewish synagogues. She studied Hebrew and music to connect more closely with both the origins of organs in Jewish worship, finding evidence of organ-like instruments dating to the Second Temple in Jerusalem.

Using a casette player and a PowerPoint presentation, Frühaufl played organ music audio clips, explained the historical significance and showed examples of both the architecture and placement of pipe organs in Jewish houses of worship in Prague, Venice and various German cities from the 1400s through the late 1930s. Some of Germany’s best and largest organs were built in synagogues, she said. That is, until the Nov. 9, 1938, Kristallnacht or “Night of Broken Glass,” when more than 200 Jewish instruments were destroyed by German citizens at the urging of the Nazi regime.

It was a startling revelation to many members of the audience who through the course of Frühaufl’s talk were just beginning to learn about and appreciate the organs and the music they created, only to realize most of them were destroyed in a single night.

Adjunct Professor of Music Stephen Roberts, who works with WestConn’s organ students each year to show them some of Europe’s remaining great organs, attended Frühaufl’s talk. Two of his students sat with him. After the presentation, organ student Juan Mesa was thoughtful.

“I never knew things like this went on,” Mesa said. “Where I’m from, in Chile, it is 80 percent Catholic, so I was not exposed to Judaism, Jewish music or what happened in Germany.”

**Sun shines at Science Building ribbon cutting**

The Manhattan String Quartet (MSQ) launched its 2005-06 season commemorating the composer’s contribution to the string quartet genre with a free marathon of four concerts at WestConn. The MSQ, called the foremost interpreter of Shostakovich’s quartets, launched its 2005-06 season marking the 100th anniversary of Shostakovich’s birth. The composer won international acclaim and created his works amid birth. The composer won international acclaim and created his works amid.

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Joy and sorrow, hope and despair, bliss and pain are woven together in Dmitri Shostakovich’s 15 quartets, and the Manhattan String Quartet (MSQ) masterfully took listeners through every note — and powerful emotion — of the Russian’s works during a single-day marathon of concerts at WestConn. The MSQ, called the foremost interpreter of Shostakovich’s quartets, launched its 2005-06 season commemorating the composer’s contribution to the string quartet genre with a free marathon of four concerts on Sept. 23 in Alumni Hall. 2006 will mark the 100th anniversary of Shostakovich’s birth. The composer won international acclaim and created his works amid tremendous political strain in the former Soviet Union before his death in 1975.

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M.F.A. series brings renowned artists to campus

by Hanna Kuivinen

Several highly acclaimed artists who create illustrations, abstracts, landscapes, portraits and still lifes are taking part this semester in the WestConn Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) in Visual Arts visiting artists program. The series began in September and will run until the end of November.

Three remaining artists will show slides and speak about their work as the series comes to a close. Each talk will be at 11 a.m. in Viewing Room 1 in White Hall on the Midtown campus. The slide lectures are free and the public is invited.

On Tuesday, Nov. 1, Susanna Coffey will discuss her self-portraits that have been described as “intense, highly focused and compelling, and have given a unique original voice to this classical artistic tradition.” She is the recipient of many honors, including a Guggenheim Foundation Award, several awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award and a National Endowment for the Arts Award. Ken Johnson of The New York Times wrote, “With delightful theatrical flair, Ms. Coffey appears in all sorts of guises — by turns, she looks like a medieval abbess, a scary goddess or a woman on the verge of a nervous breakdown.”

Award-winning illustrator Michael Whelan will discuss his artistic process on Tuesday, Nov. 15. During the last 24 years, Whelan has gained a reputation as the premier science fiction and fantasy illustrator in the genre. He is a 13-time HUGO (World Science Fiction) Award winner and three-time winner of the HOwARD (World Fantasy) Award for Best Artist. He also was awarded the “Super Hero” for Best Professional Artist of the last 50 years. Many publications have named Whelan as one of the 100 most influential people in the field. Whelan is a member of the M.F.A. Advisory Board.

On Tuesday, Nov. 29, Robert Birmelin, one of the country’s most highly acclaimed painters, will lecture about his paintings, which have been described as “mysterious and enigmatic.” “My first task is to create a world that I, the artist, can believe in,” Birmelin said. “The second is to fashion that world so that others can also enter into it. After all, art is, finally, a social act, a transaction between persons, real and depicted.”

Birmelin has lectured widely on his work and taught for many years at Queens College.

An Professor Margaret Grimes, coordinator of WestConn’s M.F.A. program, said of Birmelin, “We’re delighted that this well-known figure painter has agreed to join our lecture series. His upcoming talk is his first appearance at WestConn. Several M.F.A. students met him when he was a visiting artist at the Vermont Studio Center, found him very interesting and requested that he speak here.”

For more information about the lecture series, call (203) 837-8410.

WestConn builds a bridge to area high school teachers

by Robert Taylor

The transition to college can be especially challenging for new students whose writing skills fail to make the grade, and WestConn is building a bridge to area high schools to smooth the path to academic success.

Twelve instructors from Bethel High School spent a day at WestConn’s Midtown campus on Oct. 3 to attend writing and literature classes and meet with English department faculty members to share experiences and ideas about how to prepare their students for college-level courses. Assistant Professor of English Dr. Abbey Zink, director of the WestConn Writing Lab and coordinator of the “Building a Bridge” program for English instruction, told her guests from Bethel the most important benefit of these exchanges over the past three years has been a better understanding on both sides of how to narrow the writing gap.

“This program is an opportunity for us to work together to see what’s going on in the high schools and at the college level, and then to see what we can do on both sides of the bridge to make the transition easier and cut down on the number of students needing remediation,” Zink said. “All of us are working toward the same goal.”

WestConn introduced the “Building a Bridge” program in cooperation with Bethel and Danbury schools as a response to stiffer requirements in the Connecticut State University System for student proficiency in English and mathematics. In science courses with low placement test scores in either field must take and pass a noncredit course designed to achieve core introductory course proficiency levels. The recent increase in students enrolled in WestConn’s basic writing skills course underscores the need for more dialogue between high school and university English instructors, Zink said.

English Department Chair Dr. Peter Lyons, who teaches a section of the Basic Writing Skills course, provided the visiting Bethel teachers with an overview of the curriculum and methodology for building skills through sentence combinations, grammar exercises, essay writing and revisions. Daily writing assignments completed in and out of class provide a basis to evaluate each student’s progress, and Lyons said his zero tolerance for repetition of basic grammatical errors has gotten his class’s attention.

His experience in the class also has given him a deeper appreciation of the job English teachers at Bethel and other high schools have done in preparing their students, he added.

“I’ll go into my class after a meeting like this, and they’re moaning and groaning about their assignments,” he said. “I’ll tell them, ‘I’ve been talking to all of your high school teachers, and they tell me they’ve gone over all of this with you already.’ All of these students have the experience where they say, ‘Al-kah — that’s what they were talking about all these years!’”

After a busy morning schedule of classes, the Bethel teachers reconvened after lunch for a workshop presented by Professor of English Dr. Karen Jambick on the importance of developing skills for grammatical and punctuation conventions. The day’s program concluded with an opportunity to sit in on Professor of English Dr. Anam Govardhan’s Habit of Writing class, the core introductory course for mastery of college-level courses.

The visiting teachers came away with a sense of shared purpose in working with their counterparts at the university level to strengthen their students’ language and writing skills. They noted that many students do not write very well, do not understand their language very well, and do not speak very well, and they commented on the need for more dialogue between high school and university English instructors, Lyons said.

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Dr. Walter Cramer has worked on college campuses for nearly 30 years as both an administrator and educator. He’s served as coordinator of a collegiate performing arts festival, run a number of student activities, associate professor of communications and dean of students. He’s worked at Goldsmith College, in Indiana; at a university, in Washington, D.C., and Regent’s College, in London, and he’s held posts at Landmark College and The School for International Training, both in southeastern Vermont.

So when he came to WestConn as the new Dean of Student Affairs in January 2005, Cramer knew what to expect in terms of his job description and the way things work on a college campus. What he didn’t envision was how quickly he would feel like part of the WestConn family.

“The biggest thing for me was to get right out and away and go to as many organizations’ meetings and programs as I could to get a feel for the campus,” Cramer said. “There are all kinds of interesting activities here like concerts, lectures and theatrical productions, and I find there are many more I will discover this semester.”

Cramer quickly added to the list of things to do when he unveiled WestConn’s latest form of entertainment: the Midtown Coffeehouse, which runs from 9 p.m. to midnight on Thursday nights in Alumni Hall on the Midtown campus.

“We have an amazing amount of talent here,” Cramer said. “And we can show some of it off at weekly open mic nights where students, faculty and staff can take the stage and entertain each other. We’ll have featured performers, too. What we want is to give the students a chance to stick around at the end of the week.”

If there’s ever an empty spot at the microphone, Cramer can ably occupy it. He graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Music and Theatre from the University of Pittsburgh, and he has a master’s in music conducting from the Indiana University School of Music. He’s an accomplished singer in both musical theatre and opera.

“As a student, working in student affairs was the last thing on my mind,” Cramer said. “My mother was a teacher — I wanted to teach music and theatre.”

While pursuing his master’s degree at Indiana University, he was offered a fellowship to reside in a living-and-learning center staffed by graduate students from various disciplines.

“The more I got involved there, the more I really liked the work,” Cramer recalled. “I kept performing, but found myself taking on administrative roles and really enjoying what I was doing.”

As a result, Cramer began to work toward a doctoral degree in higher education — not music or theatre as he once had envisioned. He obtained an Ed.D. in Higher Education from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

“As much as I love teaching theatre and music, I really enjoy the breadth of a student affairs job,” Cramer said. “So when I saw the opportunity at WestConn, I was intrigued. The fact that WestConn is very student-centered was key.”

“And when I met President (James W.) Schmotter and saw his vision, and talked with (Vice President for Student Affairs) Dr. (Walter) Bernstein and heard his commitment to students and the Student Affairs staff, I was sold,” Cramer added. “This is a wonderful place, and the potential is even greater to imagine.”

Bernstein already is singing Cramer’s praises.

“Dean Cramer brings to the university a strong background in student affairs, a unique understanding of the academic/intellectual missions of the university and a commitment to student advocacy,” Bernstein said. “He already has made a solid contribution to WestConn’s drug and alcohol awareness program, Student Life Committee and Housing/Residential life programs. He is eager to enhance campus life and has many ideas that over the next several years will dramatically impact student life on campus.”

Cramer feels at home in southwestern Connecticut and will feel even more so when his wife and younger children, Charles, Oliver and Rebecca, finish the family’s relocation from Vermont to the Danbury area. His older daughter, Blanche, is a junior at Brandeis University.

“There’s a real sense of family and positive relationships on this campus,” Cramer said. “When I first got here, people were extremely warm and welcoming to me, and I am really impressed by the sense of community. I hope I can continue to build on that.”

If the resounding success of his Midtown Coffeehouse is any indication, Cramer already struck the right chord with WestConn students.
NOV. 1  Suzean Cafery will discuss her self-portraits at 11 a.m. in Viewing Room 1 in White Hall on the Midtown campus. Cafery’s portraits have been described as “interesting, highly focused and compelling, and have been a unique originality and a new vitality to this classical artistic tradition.” 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) 837-8500. See story on page 10.

NOV. 3 – 5, 10 – 12 & 17 – 19 The WestConn theatre arts department will present “Nine: The Musical,” in the Berkshire Theatre and Berkshire Hall on the Midtown campus. Performances will be at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday on Nov. 3 – 5, 10 – 12 and 17 – 19. 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 ID. Call the Berkshire Theatre Box Office at (203) 837-8752 for ticket and other information.

NOV. 3, 10, & 17 WestConn will present the Midtown Coffeehouse at 9 p.m. on Thursday evenings in Alumni Hall on the Midtown campus. The Coffeehouse is open to WestConn students, faculty and staff only. Admission will be free. Call (203) 837-9700 for more information. See story on page 10.

NOV. 4 WestConn will present Professor of Psychology and Director of the Women’s Studies Program at the University of Connecticut Dr. Mary Creeden and Michaela Kaufman, a graduate student at the University of Connecticut, at 4 p.m. in the Student Center Theater in the Student Center on the Midtown campus. They will discuss their current field-sponsored field study in Nepal, where they investigated trafficking and other forms of gender abuse. The talk is part of a series of “PsychMatters: Invited Lectures” to be offered by the psychology department this year. It will be free and open to the public. For more information, call (203) 837-8470. See story on page 10.

NOV. 5 The 3rd Annual Traditional Christmas Tree Ring Outs Over Scenes of Country Life: The Farm & The Woods” exhibition, curated by WestConn’s Master of Fine Arts Coordinator Margaret Grimes, will be on display from Saturday, Nov. 6, through Saturday, Dec. 11, for the “Lights & Sounds at the Silo” series. The opening reception will be from 3 to 5 p.m. on Nov. 6, at the Silo Gallery at Hart Hill Farm, 44 Island Road in New Milford. The exhibition will include work by students, faculty, alumni and board members of the NFAA, program at WestConn. The first in a series of exhibits focused on aspects of nature in western Connecticut, this show will examine the farm — its buildings and barns, pastures, animals and machinery. The series featuring fine art exhibitions and Sunday literary readings is hosted by WestConn and the Silo. All the events will be free and open to the public. Call the Silo at (860) 352-0303 or visit the Silo’s website for more information. WestConn students, faculty and staff are invited. For more information or tickets, call the Office of Institutional Advancement at (203) 837-8510. See story on page 10.

NOV. 7 The WCSU Women’s Basketball Tip-Off Breakfast will be from 7:15 to 8:30 a.m. in Warner Hall on the Midtown campus. The event will be free and open to the public. For more information, call (203) 837-9018.

NOV. 8 The WCSU Alumni Association will host a dinner- theatre event at 6 p.m. in Warner Hall on the Midtown campus. The cost will be $40 per person, which will include dinner and tickets to the theatre arts department production of “Nine: The Musical.” For more information or to make a reservation, call Interim Director of Alumni Relations Mary Figueroa at (203) 837-8290. See story on page 10.

NOV. 9 WestConn will present the PBCO documentary “Declining by Degrees: Higher Education at Risk,” followed by a panel discussion, at 6 p.m. in Warner Hall on the Midtown campus. The video portraits the problems college students face, including being demographically dropped from the college experience, having to work long and hard to accomplish their degree and taking classes in large lecture halls. Sponsored by the School of Arts and Sciences as part of the yearlong “Public Talks” series, the event will be free and open to the public. For more information, call Adjunct Instructor Scott Benjamin at (860) 210-2146, ext. 129, or (203) 837-8572. See story on page 10.

NOV. 10 The WCSU School of Professional Studies will host its annual Distinguished Alumnus Achievement Awards ceremony and Reception from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Warner Hall on the Midtown campus. University students, faculty and staff are invited. For more information, call (203) 837-9700.

NOV. 11 Adjunct Instructor Scott Benjamin at (860) 210-2146, ext. 129, or (203) 837-8572.

NOV. 12 The Career Development Center, will discuss cooperative education programs from 5:25 to 6:25 p.m. during a political science class in Room 204 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, Economics and Cultures course taught by Adjunct Instructor Scott Benjamin. For more information, call Benjamin at (860) 210-2146, ext. 129, or (203) 837-8572. See story on page 10.

NOV. 13 WestConn will present its 24th annual Holiday Wine Tasting to benefit student scholarships from 4 to 7 p.m. in Warner Hall on the Midtown campus. The cost will be $50 per person, and there will be a silent auction. Proceeds will support the Caraluzzi Scholarship Endowment. Reservations are required. For more information or tickets, call the Office of Institutional Advancement at (203) 837-8510. See story on page 10.

NOV. 14 NOV. 15 Science fiction illustrator Michael Whelan will discuss his artistic process at 1 p.m. in Warner Hall on the Midtown campus. The performance will be free and open to the public; donations to the music department and has together developed a distinct culture. The exhibit will be free and open to the public. It is presented in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution’s Affiliations Program and the Vietnam Museum of Ethnology. WestConn is a Smithsonian affiliate. For more information, call Assistant Professor of History and Non-Western Cultures Dr. Wynn Wilcox at (203) 837-8565.

NOV. 15 The WCSU Concert Choir, a 110-voice, nonauditioned ensemble, and the WCSU Chamber nonauditioned ensemble, and the WCSU Chamber Combined Choir, a 60-voice, nonauditioned ensemble, will present a fall concert at 7:30 p.m. in Warner Hall on the Midtown campus. The event will be free and open to the public; donations to the music department will be accepted. Call (203) 837-8350 for more information. See story on page 10.

NOV. 16 The WCSU Student Government will present a reading by non-WestConn students and faculty and staff only. Admission will be free. For more information, call (203) 837-8612.

NOV. 17 The Institute for Holistic Health Studies will present “Inside this issue:

More than 1,500 students, parents and educators from 300 Connecticut Association of Schools institutions gathered in the William O’Neill Athletic and Convocation Center on Oct. 3 to hear former President Bill Clinton, a special U.N. envoy for tsunami relief, personally thank them for their efforts.

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C O N T I N U E D ...