collaboration: a shot in the arm for nursing students

In response to the state’s significant shortage of skilled nurses, three Connecticut institutions of higher education have joined forces with the administrators of St. Mary’s Hospital and Waterbury Hospital to form a unique collaboration.

WestConn, Naugatuck Valley Community College (NVCC), and the University of Connecticut (UCONN) have formed the Nursing Pathways Collaborative. It’s a visionary union of resources, pairing the skills of the nursing careers in Connecticut, encourage existing nurses to advance their careers through additional education and provide health care institutions with highly educated nurses. The collaboration also seeks to create a streamlined career path for RN to BSN to MS in nursing degrees, with comprehensive recruitment, admissions, transfer articulation, advising and promotion of programs.

At a ceremony on Sept. 15, representatives from the three educational institutions and Valerie Lewis, commissioner of the Connecticut State Department of Higher Education, affirmed their commitment to a document outlining the collaborative, which all hope will be a prescription for success. “It’s a recognition of the value of nursing education,” said Dr. Laurel Halloran, professor of nursing at WestConn. “Any program that provides expanding educational mobility for nurses will ultimately benefit the public.”

Under the terms of the agreement, seven students are admitted to each cohort, for a total of 21 students each year. All students who have graduated from the program are automatically eligible for centralized transfer to the University of Connecticut.

In addition, the students will have access to a number of resources including a dedicated nurse practitioner, a dedicated academic advisor, and a dedicated clinical preceptor.

EVENTS REMEMBER TrAGEDIES OF 9/11
WestConn will once again host a solemn ceremony on Ground Zero to remember the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack on America.

PLAY MAKES WORLD PREMIERE IN FISHBURN
It’s been a long time since a play by Krystin Plunkett was presented in Fishburn. Her latest work, ‘A Hard Time,” opens the season in the Fishburn Theatre on Friday, Oct. 6.

STUDENTS VOTE AGAIN ON IRAQ WAR
WestConn students remain split on whether to continue the war in Iraq. In a recent election, 73 percent of those who voted chose not to continue the war. However, the majority of students who did vote for continued military action say they believe the war is necessary for the safety of the country.

STUDENT BODY ELECTS NEW OFFICERS
WestConn student government elections were held on Oct. 2. The new officers are President Brian S. Hennessey, Vice President Meghan M. O’Neill, Treasurer John P. F. O’Brien, Secretary Stephanie M. DeCarlo, and Parliamentarian Christopher M. DeCarlo.

NEW IMMUNACATE HIGHER PRINCIPAL EMPHASIZES UNITY
Richard Qu, 2003 WestConn graduate, was named Immunacate’s new principal. He will focus on building unity among students, parents, faculty, alumni and the community.

WESTCONN STUDENTS, STAFF PREPARE FOR ‘EXCITING YEAR’
Classes at WestConn begin with about 3,800 full-time students and 1,850 part-time students. With projects ranging from the new engineering to the Women’s studies and the new science building to new majors, enrollment management director William Herbst said ‘State is becoming more.’

WESTCONN GROUP TO EASE PARENTS’ FEARS
The university has developed a WestConn Parent’s Association to help keep parents aware of campus activities and other information. Joan Robert, the program’s director, and assistant director of student congress-student life, is a regular fixture on campus.

WESTCONN TO HOST GERMAN HIGHER EDUCATION EXPERTS
WestConn is the home of several of the nation’s leading experts in the field of international education, including H. J. “Jack” Elson, the university’s director of international education.

NEW PDG PRESIDENT IS BOTH PARENT, BEDDING TEACHER
Brad Zeigler is the new president of the Parent Teacher Organization for New Fairfield public schools. While leading the PDT, Zeigler will also complete his bachelor’s degree in secondary education at WestConn.

ESL FACULTY GRANTED TO FIELD OF HELPING OTHERS
For the past four years, WestConn graduate Lynn McGovern has been teaching English as a Second Language to the refugee community in Israel, a staff of 25 teachers and more than 2,400 students a year.

‘Will You Decide Election 2004?’
October events to challenge, inform voters

by Yvonne Johnson

During the 2004-05 academic year, the Western Connecticut State University School of Arts and Sciences is set to host a series of events focused on the promises and threats of the future. In October, the series theme will be ‘Will You Decide Election 2004?’

Dr. Arevell Mames and Dr. Christopher Kulik, professors in the university’s social sciences department, are organizing the October events that are part of “The Future: Its Promises and Threats” series. All the events in the series will be free; the public is invited and audience participation will be encouraged.

Mames said the October theme is meant to challenge voters to get informed and involved, for these are critical local and federal elections. The October events also will feature a Get Out the Vote table, with volunteers encouraging those who attend to register and exercise their right to vote.

“This is one of the most important presidential elections of our lifetime, and it’s looking like it’ll be very, very close again. Voter participation will be key for both parties,” Mames said. “We want these events to spark participation.”

The events will begin with “Local Candidates Speak Out: Will You Decide Election 2004?” at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 6, in Room 1 of the Student Center on the university’s Midtown campus. The incumbents and challengers for three area state house and senate posts — the 199th House District, 150th House District and the 24th Senate District — will take audience questions and discuss a number of issues. Mames will moderate as state Reps. Lewis Wallace and Janice Giegler and state Sen. David Cappiello face their respective challengers: Scott Bingaman, Bruce Lees and Howard Hennen.

The discussion will focus on education, the economy, security, motivation and promise. The event will be videotaped and broadcast on Coast Cablevision at a later date.

On Wednesday, Oct. 13, the university will screen Michael Moore’s controversial documentary film about the United States, 9/11” at 7 p.m. in the Student Center Theater on the Midtown campus. Mames and Kulik will then lead a discussion of the film and its possible repercussions for the federal election.

“Students Speak Out: Will You Decide Election 2004?” will give students and others the opportunity to share their views at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 27, in the Student Center Theater. A panel of students who identify themselves as Democrats, Republicans, Green Party Members, Libertarians or Independents will discuss a number of issues and answer audience questions. Mames will moderate.

Kulik urged those who are interested in or feel affected by wide-ranging everyday issues, such as economics, crime, education and the environment, to participate in the October events.

“If you think your immediate future and the future of your children is important, you’ll attend these events,” Kulik said. “Politics is the framework through which action is taken, the way to be part of that action is to get informed and vote.”

That series is meant to encourage discussion and urge participants to consider differing viewpoints. Professors Linda Van Vranken, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, and Mames, in September, the series included two events in an interactive drama titled “Who Really is the Enemy?” and a presentation where Dr. Stephen Healey, concl. on page 4
Peretti to teach American culture in Germany

by Shirani Hill

An intriguing change of scenery lies ahead for Associate Professor of History Dr. Burton Peretti. In about five months, he’ll leave familiar surroundings of his Brookfield home and Warner Hall office on WestConn’s Midtown campus, and move temporarily into a downtown apartment near the university — of Regensburg, that is — in Bavaria, Germany. Thanks to a Fulbright Lecturing Award, Peretti will spend the spring 2005 semester at the University of Regensburg, where he will teach two courses in American culture at the 30-year-old national university.

For Peretti, the grandsons of German immigrants, residing in Regensburg for four months will provide a glimpse back to its roots. Also it will be all at the future, as he makes contacts and forms relationships with his academic counterparts while he observes the similarities and differences that exist between German and American cultures. He hopes the contacts he makes will yield new educational exchange opportunities for WestConn faculty and students and their peers in Bavaria.

“As a teacher of American Studies, more and more I find myself thinking about what other societies are like,” Peretti said. “What are their priorities and what do they stand for? I need to be better served in other cultures in order to teach about ours. We have very different traditions, but many of the same interests and concerns.”

American Studies is a popular course of study in Germany. Peretti said, because there’s been such a big American presence there since World War II. Academically, the focus traditionally is on American literature and culture, but Peretti plans to introduce his students to urban life in specific U.S. cities and to American music, particularly jazz.

“Jazz clearly is an export of American culture,” Peretti said. “Yet it’s extremely popular in Europe — especially in Germany. Many attending the Bavarian Jazz Archive is located right in Regensburg, interestingly enough, and I’ve already been in contact with their curator. There will be several jazz festivals in the spring, when Fasching is in progress, including a very large festival in Munich. I hope to attend as many as I can to see how American jazz has been adapted and what it means to them.”

Regensburg clearly is a mix of old and new. Located in southeastern Germany near the Danube River and the Bavarian Forest, Regensburg is the fourth largest city in Bavaria. Its more than 145,000 inhabitants pride themselves on living in “Germany’s best-preserved medieval city” — with intact 13th-century houses and a stone bridge crossing the Danube that dates to the 1100s. The town’s structures were largely untouched by allied bombers during World War II, so its 2,000-year-old architecture is quite impressive. In contrast, the town also boasts sizable BMW and Siemens plants, and the university has become a center for research in technology, medicine and industry.

“Important events should make it very interesting to be over there,” Peretti said. “I think it will be important for me to convey that there is a great deal of openness and lifestyle — that there is no single American point of view. It also will be important to break the cliché that Americans are not that interested in the rest of the world. We need to try to understand their way of life and show that we are interested in their perspectives and experiences.”

While he’s really looking forward to living and working in Regensburg, there are things Peretti will miss in Connecticut. First on the list are his wife and children, who will remain here at least part of the time he’s away. He’ll also miss having a car — in Regensburg he would have to get around by public transportation. What he won’t miss, he said, are places like McDonald’s. That’s because he’s exposed to much of our culture, he knows he’s likely to find one somewhere near the campus, even in an historic city like Regensburg.

While he’ll be teaching his classes in English, Peretti acknowledges he’s going to have to tone his German a bit to make it easier to get around. Although, it appears that getting his bearings may not be as much of a problem as you might think — many of the hotels and restaurants in Regensburg begin their Internet driving directions with “Turn left at the McDonald’s.”

Bandhauer draws students into infothek in work at El Salvador

by Yvonne Johnson

For more than 10 years, sociologist Dr. Carina Bandhauer, an assistant professor in WestConn’s social sciences department, has been exploring the daily lives of people in El Salvador before, during and after that country’s 12-year tumultuous civil war. Now, the Southbury resident’s interest in the country and the rural Salvadoran village of El Charcón has drawn students to get involved — and is attracting attention far beyond the university’s campus.

An appearance in a documentary film about the life of El Salvador, a summer trip with a group of WestConn students to the country itself, an upcoming event featuring a Salvadoran artist, and an effort to create a “sister city” relationship between Greater Danbury and a new village in the Central American country will be just some of the recent developments stemming from Bandhauer’s work.

For the last 30 years, those who are interested in El Salvador and its people will get to learn more from an activist who survived the civil war that ravaged the country until 1992 and is taking steps to improve the lives of her family and others. Bandhauer has arranged for Salvadoran organizer Teresa Pérez to discuss “Allied With the U.S. Against Our Will: A Salvadoran Woman Speaks Out” from 1 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 13, in the Student Center Theater on the university’s Midtown campus. The event will be free and the public is invited.

El Salvador is one of the few countries that allied itself with the United States in the War in Iraq. Bandhauer pointed out. Pérez will speak about the continued presence of Salvadoran troops in Iraq. She will talk about whether Salvadorans want to be allied with Americans in the war, speak about their realities in the global economy and address how any individual can organize for a more democratic world. The event is sponsored by the School of Arts and Sciences as part of its yearlong “The Future: Its Threats and Promises” series, and by the WCSU International Center and the University Endowment Fund. Pérez is the mother of two teenage children and lives in San Salvador. She currently is a “sister city” relationship between Greater Danbury and a new village in the Central American country town of San Miguel just one of the recent developments stemming from Bandhauer’s work. It was Pérez’s work with those who are interested in El Salvador and its people who led to the creation of a community forum for Salvadorans to discuss their experiences and their lives. Bandhauer has arranged for Salvadoran organizer Teresa Pérez to discuss “Allied With the U.S. Against Our Will: A Salvadoran Woman Speaks Out” from 1 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 13, in the Student Center Theater on the university’s Midtown campus. The event will be free and the public is invited.

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Appellate Court will be in session at WestConn

Falling leaves, live music to fill the air

Plans are underway for the Connecticut Appellate Court to hold an all-day session in Ives Concert Hall in White Hall on Thursday, Oct. 28. While the details are still being ironed out, it has been confirmed that a panel of judges will hear arguments in three cases pending before the Connecticut Appellate Court. The hearings will be open to the public, and the day promises to be an extremely enlightening opportunity for those who attend.

Professor of Justice and Law Administration (JLA) Dr. Harry Schramm is one of the organizers of the much-anticipated event.

The court is working on outreach programs to take actual judges and lawyers around the state to give people a first-hand look at how the system works," Schramm said. "The idea is to open a somewhat unknown part of the judiciary to students and the public.

will be a great opportunity to see the way in which the Appellate Court operates."

The Connecticut Appellate Court and Supreme Court have gone on the road in the past — to Eastern Connecticut State University, Fairfield University and Litchfield High School — as part of the state judicial branch's ongoing initiative to educate students and the public about the role of the court system.

"We’re obviously delighted that the court will hold session here," Schramm said. "This is a cross-county, interdepartmental event. It can be used as a learning opportunity for students studying speech, political science, history, business law — really, in almost every area. The court covers and applies to all aspects of life. This is really a great opportunity for an inside view."

Family donates photos of university’s founding father

Anyone interested in getting a more first-hand glimpse at the life of the man known as WestConn's “founding father” and an early player in the region's history now can do just that, thanks to a donation from the family of John Perkins.

Perkins was the first principal of the Danbury Normal School, which later evolved to become WestConn. Before taking on that role, Perkins was the principal of Danbury High School, and he's often credited with propelling the effort that led to the normal school's opening in 1903. His great-granddaughter, Elizabeth Perkins MacGregor, made a trip to the university this summer to donate three photos that depict Perkins' life and a family genealogy to the university Archives and Special Collections, housed in the Ruth A. Haas Library on the Midtown campus.

MacGregor, her husband, Patrick; their teenage children, Shannon and Alex; and a family friend made the trip after visiting with her parents, Bruce and Alice Perkins, in Ohio. They found the large, framed pictures of Bruce Perkins' grandfather in the attic and wanted to donate them, along with a family genealogy MacGregor created. The Florida resident said she own interest in the story on page 5

The WCSU Symphony Band and Wind Ensemble will take the stage on Tuesday, Nov. 9, with a program featuring works by Copland, Hindemith and Brahms, as well as a salute to our veterans.

Sunday, Nov. 14, will feature another performance by the WCSU Jazz Combos, whose members also captured outstanding soloist and four honorable mention solos at the Villanova Jazz Festival. The combos will perform works by Sonny Rollins, Charlie Parker and Thelonius Monk.

A noon concert on Wednesday, Nov. 17, will feature Volodymyr and Victoria Koshuba, father and daughter pianists from the Ukraine.

A recital on Thursday, Nov. 18, will feature performances by nearly a dozen

WestConn’s music department has something for everyone this semester with a versatile combination of events for music lovers to enjoy. Unless otherwise indicated, performances will be at 8 p.m. in Ives Concert Hall in White Hall on the Midtown campus. The public is invited. Most of the events are free, and donations to the music department will be accepted.

On Friday, Oct. 8, the award-winning WCSU Jazz Combos, under the direction of WestConn’s outstanding jazz faculty, will perform jazz standards by the likes of Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie and Charlie Parker. WestConn’s small jazz combos recently captured second-second- and fourth-place awards at the Villanova Jazz Festival in Villanova, Pa.

The WCSU Symphonic Band, conducted by Music Instructor Albert Montecalvo, will present a program of music by Bernstein, Sosza and Persicetti on Wednesday, Oct. 15.

WestConn’s Keyboard Club will present a recital of award-winning pianist Fabio Parrini on Thursday, Oct. 14. A native of Italy, Parrini studied at the Conservatory of Padua and won national competitions before studying at Boston University as a Fulbright scholar. His performances throughout the United States and Europe have netted him numerous accolades and awards. He will perform compositions by Scarlatti, Debussy, Rachmaninoff and Schumann. Ticket prices will be $10 for adults, and $5 for senior citizens and non-WestConn students. It’s free for WCSU students with valid ID.

Friday, Oct. 29, will feature the extremely popular Oktoberfest Jazz concert. The program will feature big band standards from the libraries of the Buddy Rich, Louis Bellson, Matt Cattinburg and Count Basie bands. In keeping with tradition, concertgoers are invited to attend in a Halloween costume if they are so inspired.

The WCSU Keyboard Club will present award-winning pianist Fabio Parrini on Thursday, Oct. 14. Keyboard Club President Stephanie Keils, a junior from Waterbury, said the club’s decision to invite Parrini was based on its desire to bring a global and multicultural musical experience to Connecticut. Parrini has performed extensively in Italy and throughout Europe. Currently in his second year, the Keyboard Club, advised by Professor of Music Dr. Russell Hirtlefeld, was named Most Outstanding New Club by the Student Government Association last year.

The WCSSU Opera production of GianCarlo Menotti’s “Amahl and the Night Visitors” will be staged on Friday, Dec. 10, and Saturday, Dec. 11. Music Professor Dr. Margaret Astrup will direct this classic holiday opera, with orchestra conducted by Dr. Fernando Jimenez. Tickets will be $10 for adults, and $5 for senior citizens and children under the age of 12. WestConn students with valid ID will be admitted free.

At 7 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 12, the popular WCSU Holiday Jazz concert will heat up audience-members’ holiday moods with exciting renditions of timeless holiday classics. For more information, call 837-6490 or log to www.wcssu.edu/music.
WestConn marketing students a hit in real world

by Valerie Roth

Students in WestConn Professor John J. Cronin’s Advanced Advertising and Integrated Marketing Communications class last spring got a chance to get away from the textbooks and plunge into the “real world” of business.

Cronin invited a Danbury business into his classroom, so his students could study first-hand how the business worked and propose an advertising communication plan for the company.

“It’s a technique Cronin has used very successfully before," said Cronin. "They do a better job at teaching the important things, and driving them home to the students in a way that they won’t soon forget," said Cronin, a WestConn professor since 1990. "I’ve met students five or 10 years after they graduate, and they start by saying, ‘Remember me, I was on the winning Company X advertising team.’ They may have forgotten everything else they learned in the course, but they remember their experiences in the project.”

In this case, Cronin asked business owner Sherman Tao, of Body Rub Inc., to be the guinea pig for his class. The company, located in the North Street Shopping Center in Danbury, makes and markets hand-held massage machines used by diabetic patients, sports trainers and chiropractors. Tao said his company, which sells products worldwide, is soon moving into a new building on West Kenosia Avenue.

Cronin said four teams of students competed with each other to win the client’s choice as best team.

“This contest simulates the ‘real world’ in advertising, when several agencies compete to win a new account by making presentations,” Cronin said. In this case, the winning team was comprised of students Laura Gelbin, Janise Knight, Fred Maidment and Silvia Weiss.

Tao said he was pleasantly surprised and delighted by the depth of the work done by the WestConn students. "They were absolutely diligent and provided very valuable information," Tao said. “I was impressed with their professionalism. I may use their suggestions, which were very realistic — not just a theory on paper.”

Tao said the winning team’s presentation was “quite sophisticated.” He may incorporate several of the students’ ideas, including entering into a distribution agreement with another company that makes similar products. Cronin said the exercise provides students with many skills.

“In a narrow sense, it gives them something important to put on their resume and to talk about in job interviews,” he said. “In a broader sense, the project shows all the students that it requires hard work to succeed. It exposes them to business people. It impresses on them that there are losers as well as winners in the business world.”

“Like all business school projects, it forces students to cope with schedule conflicts, shirkers who don’t do their fair share of the work, communication difficulties, ambiguities in their assignment, and all the other problems they’ll encounter when working in teams,” he added.

Cronin said the course is very popular, drawing students from graphic arts, communications and other majors in addition to marketing students from the Ancell School of Business.

In the past dozen years, IBM, Duracell, Combe (the maker of Grecian Formula), several advertising agencies, a bank, an insurance agency, the Ives Center, and even departments at WestConn have become clients. Cronin said, “Most of the time, I simply phone a company and do a little selling of the idea,” said Cronin, a former advertising executive. “The important thing is to ask them.”

“I really appreciate the students’ help,” Tao said. “It is valuable for a small business to have WestConn students take an interest in their workings.”

Theatre arts to stage playful, interactive mystery

Audience to decide ending in ‘The Mystery of Edwin Drood’

by Yvonne Johnson

Theatregoers will get to play a role in an interactive “who-dunit?” experience when the WestConn theatre arts department stages “The Mystery of Edwin Drood” in November. Rupert Holmes’ musical based on an unfinished novel by Charles Dickens enlists the audience to help the actors devise a new ending during the second act of each performance.

The first show of the newly independent theatre arts department at WestConn will open in November. Performances will be at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday on Nov. 4-6, 11-13, and 18-20 in the Berkshire Theatre on the Midtown campus. Ticket prices will be $18 for adults and $15 for senior citizens, children and non-WestConn students. WestConn students will be admitted free with valid identification.

“The idea of this show is that, unlike anything else, you have to come and be a part of it. You have to come and be a part of the story,” said Theatre Arts Professor Sal Trapani, the show’s associate producer. “It’s a wonderful marriage of a great, unfinished literary work and a lively form of theatre.

“It gives the audience an opportunity to see something a little different and a bit off-beat,” he added. The show is being staged with the cooperation of the university’s music department. Produced by Theatre Arts Department Chair Frank Herbert and directed by Assistant Professor Pam McDaniel, the show will bring to life Holmes’ Victorian melodrama that picks up the thread of Dickens’ last novel. His untimely death left Dickens’ tale about the Christmas Eve disappearance of a wealthy young man unfinished until Holmes took up the story and invited theatre audiences to take part. During the show, one of the cast members tells the audience that it’s a “musical with some dramatic interludes.”

Music Department Chair Fernando Jimenez will conduct, Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts Liz Popiel will design the sets and student Jamie Records is the show’s costume designer. Loretta Bayne, an adjunct in the health promotion and exercise sciences department, is the choreographer. Music Professor Dr. Margaret Atsop and Boyd Schliefer, a music department voice instructor, are providing the voice coaching.

This will be the first show staged since WestConn’s communications and theatre arts departments split earlier this year to best serve the needs of students in their respective disciplines. Herbert said he expects the change to give both departments the opportunity to focus on their individual fields, strengthening specific offerings, recruitment efforts and more.

“We’re inviting everyone to come out to support the show,” Herbert said. For ticket and other information, call the Berkshire Theatre Box Office at (203) 837-8752.
Roman approaches teaching, writing, living all the way

by Sheri Hill

“We have to keep at it — and you have to meet it in the middle,” MacGregor explained.

That’s the advice WestConn History Professor Dr. Eric Roman offered recently when talking about writing. And he should know: Roman had just finished his sixth book, a more than 700-page volume titled “Austria-Hungary and the Successor States — A Reference Guide From the Renaissance to the Present, published last year.

But it could just as easily have been his advice about life. After all, the almost-80-year-old native of Hungary has led a life that has required him to go much farther than halfway on many occasions, simply in order to survive.

On New Year’s Day in 1943, Roman, then 19, was taken from the southeastern corner of Hungary and marched to a concentration camp in Mauthausen, Austria. By the time U.S. forces liberated the camp in May 1945, several Roman victims had endured inhuman conditions, forced labor and abuse at the hands of the Nazi guards. Those who did not die of exhaustion in the rock quarry were experimented upon, tortured or shot. Many perished in one of Mauthausen’s “gas chambers.

Between 1938 and 1945, more than 115,000 people died at the camp. Roman was at Mauthausen for five months. In that time, he lost his entire family, including a twin sister.

He survived the ordeal only to be stricken with typhus, which was rampant in the death camps and claimed many lives.

After convalescing for six months in a field hospital, Roman was transferred to a relocation camp in an Austrian province.

“Once I had recovered, we were taken back to Hungary,” Roman recalled. “It was October 1945, and the trip took several days. It ended in Budapest, and then I took a train home — only to find it was no longer my home.”

In his absence, Roman’s family had been forced to leave. He was unable to reclaim it, so Roman moved into an apartment and tried to resume his life.

But a new threat loomed: Later that year, more than a million Austrian Jews were stationed in Hungary, imposing communist rule on an already ravaged population.

“Where the communists in power, political life was in reverse,” Roman said. “Then, in 1948, I ran into a man whom I had known in the camp. He asked me to walk with him across the border to Austria in the middle of the night in order to escape the Nazi concentration camp. We did so at the end of June. As expected, we were arrested by the Austrian border police and had to pay a bribe in order to go free. But we were able to get to the Rothschild Hospital in Vienna, where we were assisted by a Jewish and organization in making our way to Paris. “I never thought I would arrive in Paris, and it was one of the most rewarding experiences in my life,” he continued. “It was the first time I was on free land. Paris was the capital of free Europe and I knew it as such.”

Roman found work as a tailor and enjoyed the freedoms that Paris offered, but he yearned to go to the United States. In mid-1949, it became possible to immigrate to France, so he and his friends applied for visas.

“At that point, we didn’t care what country we were going to, as long as it was across the water,” Roman said. “When we arrived in the bay of Rio de Janeiro, there was a terrible storm, and although I had been fain all along, I got seasick right there at the end,” he said, laughing.

Finding humor in the face of hardships is something Roman does well. “It’s the key to everything, regardless of the situation. When he discovered his only living relative, his mother’s cousin, lived in Montreal, he got a visitor’s visa and flew to Canada.

“I flew from Rio to Toronto to Montreal — in November. Can you imagine? Roman asked incredulously. “From the beautiful beach to the freezing cold...”

After a brief stay in Canada, Roman crossed the border into New York state — and America — for the first time.

He ended up in Washington Heights, N.Y., and again found work as a tailor. He also found Eva, a woman he had known casually back home in Hungary. Their acquaintance led to love and marriage.

Roman and his wife began their life together by enrolling at Hunter College in New York City, where he focused on learning how to speak and write in English.

“You have to have a goal and a purpose,” he said. “So after Hunter College, I went to New York University (NYU) to obtain a master’s degree in international relations, and I got it in a year.”

He then entered NYU’s doctoral program in history, and began to write:

“My first book was in Hungarian because my English still wasn’t good enough,” Roman explained. “It was set in France in World War II and it was fiction, but a lot of it was based on my own experiences.”

Roman went on to receive a Ph.D in European history from NYU in 1965 — exactly 20 years after his liberation from the death camp. Soon after, he found his first job as a professor at what was then called Danbury State College — now Western Connecticut State University.

History Professor Emeritus Dr. Jack Leopold has worked with Roman at WestConn — and he says, “Eric is a very unique man.” Leopold said. “He has a lot of guts and determination, as well as European finesse. He’s always working, writing and teaching. On top of that, our graduate program in history would have existed without all his efforts.”

Roman has published six books:

“The Best Shall Die...” “After the Trial,” which was made into the 1974 TV movie “Death Sentence” starring Cloris Leachman, “A Year as a Lion,” “Hungary and the Victor Pioneers.” The Stalin Years in Hungary,” and his recent work, “Austria-Hungary and the Successor States.”

“His book is a fantastic work to have been done by just one person. It’s an encyclopedia,” Leopold explained. “He’s from the region and knows the area, and he provides a wonderful narrative history with facts about the individuals involved in making the history.”

“Leopold is not alone in his praise. Literary reviewers and former students are equally effusive.

Booklist described Roman’s work as “talented audience to the most important and public library collections because (it) contain[s] such expansive material in compact form.”

American Reference Books Annual reported, “The author is an American professor of history of Hungarian origin, the author of scholarly studies as well as novels, and well qualified to produce such a work.”

Danbury resident Barry Botis, a non-traditional student pursuing a master’s degree in history at WestConn, agreed.

“I’m fortunate to have taken two of Dr. Roman’s classes, and both were excellent,” Botis said. “His lectures provided a lot of pertinent information and his new book was the definitive volume on all one needed to know about Austria-Hungary. Dr. Roman is not only a historian, but also a philosopher about life, and his students got new insights from a man who witnessed the good, bad, and the ugly.”

A brain injury in 2005 has delayed Roman’s completion of his seventh book, but he has eight chapters written and plans to get back to it soon. He also hopes to return to the classroom soon.

In the meantime, Eva is overseeing his recovery.

“This has taught me how unexpected events can be,” Roman said of his illness. “But I’m getting better and stronger, and I plan on teaching again soon.”

From the looks of things, he’s tackling this setback the way he’s dealt with all the challenges in his life: He’s meeting it more than halfway.

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Great-granddaughter of WestConn’s first leader makes donation (cont’d.)

history and genealogy played a role in the decision to make the donation.

“We knew the Wanaque was the first principal of the normal school and thought the university might want to have pictures of him and his life,” said MacGregor.

All the pictures are well-preserved. The first shows Perkins in his late teens or early 20s. The second shows him during what likely was the time he served as principal of Danbury Normal School. In the third picture, Perkins is wearing a suit and necktie as he stands along the bank of a river. It offers some insight into the dress of the time and supports accounts that the educator was an avid outdoorsman known for his adventurous spirit.

When Perkins died in 1923, some questioned whether the institution that he began as a teaching training school had flourished under his leadership would be able to operate without him. But it continued to flourish, grew, and eventually became WestConn. The university’s rich history was the focus of a special enlargement ceremony in 2002-03. MacGregor and her family said they wanted to make their contribution to preserving the university’s past.

MacGregor presented the materials to University Archivist and Special Collections Librarian Megoghoul, who said archival materials from the institution’s earliest days are scarce.

“We’re trying to make the archives as comprehensive as possible, so every donation helps,” Moughoul said.

WestConn to host ribbon-cutting

WestConn will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 5, for the new 350-bed residence hall and 425-total student housing complex on the Westside campus. Gov. M. Jodi Rell plans to participate.

Students in the hall have a living/study area, bathroom, and a small kitchen area to accommodate four students. The building also has a community laundry facility, a large lounge area, and vending machines.

The public is invited to attend. For more information, call (203) 857-8486.
Educators add author, editor to credentials

by Shari Hill

They have vastly different areas of expertise, but Associate Professor of Music Dr. Wesley Ball, English Professor Dr. Edward Hogend, and Psychology Professor Dr. Lisa Rene Reynolds have something in common besides teaching. Recently, they’ve all also recently had works published.

Ball’s first solo endeavor — he’s been a contributor to various projects — is a combination workshop and compact disc aimed at helping elementary school teachers engage their students in the fundamentals of music. “Music Moves Me — Active Listening Strategies for the Elementary Classroom” is the first volume of what will be a multi-volume series written by Ball and published by Hal Leonard. It’s a spin-off from the ‘Music Express’ monthly magazine series Ball already contributes to for Hal Leonard, and will feature amplified classroom instruction and expanded activities for students.

“This is the first teaching material I’ve published for working with children in music, which is something I love,” Ball said. “There’s always ample supply of music written for children, but not necessarily lessons designed to actively involve them. You really need to get children involved as they’re listening.”

Volume One of “Music Moves Me” features information, activities and listening strategies for the musical selections on the accompanying CD, which include “Stars and Stripes Forever,” “Pavane for the Compost Man,” “Everybody Wants to Be a Cat,” Holst’s “The Planets,” and selections from Tchaikovsky’s “The Nutcracker Suite” and Verdi’s “The Four Seasons.”

Ball is at work on the next volume, which will feature works by American composers, and will be published in time for the 2005-06 academic year. For more information, go to www.HalLeonard.com.

“I hope this workbook will be used by both music and general classroom teachers,” Ball said. “Active listening means having students write a story to fit with music from ‘The Planets’ show how easily the lessons plans on the book can integrate into the themes of a general curriculum — while at the same time helping children see that there’s music in life.”

No stranger to having his name in print as an author or editor, English Professor Dr. Edward Hogend has published a completed a project he began two decades ago, focusing on Stanislav O’Grady, the writer known as “The Father of the Irish Literary Renaissance.”

O’Grady’s last work before his death was “Sun and Wind,” and much of it had never before been published until Hagan’s edited compilation, including introduction and notes, was released this spring as part of the Classics of Irish History series by University College Dublin (UCD) Press. It was released in the United States by Dufour Editions this summer.

“I first started work on ‘Sun and Wind’ many years ago,” Hagan said. “When O’Grady died in 1928, his son published a book in which he said his father was working on an autobiography. I found O’Grady’s grandson in South Africa, and he sent me a sizable sheaf of his father’s papers. They required an immense amount of sorting and research and included three distinct works and numerous small pieces. Some of it had been published during O’Grady’s lifetime, but most of it has never been published until now.”

O’Grady’s writings were usually published as serial installments in the daily or weekly newspapers of 19th-century Ireland, so Hagan’s first step was to track down the various publications in an attempt to compile the bulk of O’Grady’s work. But a large piece — a chapter called ‘Arcadia’ — was missing. After many years of searching for ‘Arcadia,’ I found that it was finally donated to the New York Public Library by its last owner,” Hagan said.


Adjoint Psychology Professor Dr. Lisa Rene Reynolds has written “Coming Out & Covering Up: Catholic Priests Talk About Sex Scandals in the Church.” Released this summer by Dead End Street, LLC, it’s Reynolds’ first solo book publication, and it addresses a difficult topic in a sensitive way by making extensive use of the author’s expertise in psychological research.

“I’m not a religion expert,” Reynolds explained. “But as a Catholic and the mother of three young daughters, I am raising Catholic, I was having a difficult time understanding what was behind all the scandals in the church.”

Programs win awards for quality, innovation

by Yvonne Johnson

Two WestConn programs recently earned awards for innovation and quality from the Connecticut Quality Improvement Award (CQIA) Partnership, which recognizes excellence in Connecticut organizations.

The Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.) in Instructional Leadership and the advanced certificate in Interdisciplinary Gerontological Studies programs — both launched during the 2003-04 academic year — each earned a silver 2004 entry-level CQIA Innovation Prize.

Founded in 1987 using the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Performance Excellence criteria, the CQIA Partnership aims “to advance innovative programs that improve quality, performance and marketplace competitiveness,” according to the organization’s Web site. All public and private, for profit and not-for-profit organizations in Connecticut are eligible to apply for the awards.

The Innovation Prize recognizes accomplishments during the first stages of quality improvement while fostering continued innovation. Each applicant must describe the opportunity or problem involved, the innovation that addresses the opportunity and the numerical results of the innovation. The applications then are judged by 15 examiners who are trained using a system similar to the Baldrige Award, which is presented by the president of the United States to businesses and to education and health care organizations that are judged to be outstanding in areas such as leadership, process management and business results.

“Winning applicants exemplify the creativity and talent of Connecticut organizations, said Sheila Carmine, assistant director of the CQIA Partnership.

“CQIA Innovation Prize winners embody the critical intellect that is the foundation of Connecticut’s long-term growth,” she said. “By applying this Connecticut intellect, each of the prize winners is focused on helping humanity and improving our lives with novel and superior products and services. They are creating better health services, improving resource use, widening communications, enhancing education and increasing safety for all of us.”

WestConn’s 60-credit Ed.D. in Instructional Leadership program is the only one in the state’s designed primarily for K-12 educators, focuses on instructional leadership and makes WestConn one of only 15 universities in the United States offering such a program. The 12-credit advanced certificate program in Interdisciplinary Gerontological Studies is a response to the swelling of the state’s senior citizen population, that population’s increasing need for care and a well-documented shortage of professionals with training in older adult services. Designed for working professionals in health care and human service professions, the program features courses offered by the departments of nursing, social work, recreation, management and health promotion and exercise sciences.

“Both of these programs were developed in response to community, regional and national needs,” said Dean of Graduate Studies and External Programs Dr. Ellen Dornin. “We at the university understand and value the distinctiveness of these two programs, but having them recognized by such a prestigious organization reinforces that.”

Dean of the School of Professional Studies Dr. Lynne Clark agreed.

“These are highly innovative curriculum programs that serve as models to other institutions of higher education,” Clark said. “We are indebted to the faculty who developed these programs that readily serve to meet the teacher, and health and human service workforce needs in the western region of Connecticut.”

The WestConn programs are among one platinum, 21 gold and 80 silver winners to be recognized with plaques at the CQIA Partnership’s 17th Annual Conference on Quality and Innovation on Wednesday, October 13, in Westbrook.

For information about the E.D. in Instructional Leadership and the advanced certificate in Interdisciplinary Gerontological Studies, call (860) 877-8244.
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5K, Hall of Fame induction, more planned for Homecoming

by Terrie Johnson

In addition to an outstanding football game, the annual Campus-to- Campus 5K, the WCSU Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony, the Alumni Art Show, and much more will be offered during WestCon’s annual Homecoming festivities in October.

WestCon will host its Homecoming activities, with a number of special alumni- and student-focused events planned throughout the week. The events begin on Sunday, October 17, through Saturday, October 23. The activities will be on the university’s main campus or the Westside campus.

The following selected events are among those planned:

• The annual WSCU Campus-to-Campus 5K will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, October 17, on the Westside campus and end at the Midtown youth campus. New this year will be a wheelchair division. The registration fee is $15 per person. $20 after Oct. 8. Proceeds will benefit wellness programs for WestCon students. Call (203) 877-8852 for registration and other information.

• The annual WestCon Alumni Art Show will open with a meet-the-artists reception at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 19, in Alumni Hall on the Midtown campus. It will be on display through Friday, Nov. 19. It will be free and open to the public. For more information, call (203) 857-8466.

• Free public tours of the WestCon Midtown campus will be offered at 3 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 22. For more information, call (203) 837-8290.

• The 2004 WSCU Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be on Friday, Oct. 22, at the Portuguese Cultural Center, 66 Sandalwood Road in Danbury. Hall of Fame classes are comprised of individuals who are among the most outstanding athletes, coaches and supporters in the university’s history. The 2004 inductees include athletes Paul Ellis, ’94 and Andrea Frank, ’98; Gary E. Lemme, ’60; Angela Mele, ’91; and Wendy Pataneau-Baker, ’03; and supporter Joseph Bagley. A 5:30 p.m. reception will be followed at 6:30 p.m. by dinner and the program. The cost is $50 per person. The public is invited. To make a reservation or get more information, call (203) 857-8298.

• The WSCU Homecoming festivities will culminate with the Colonials vs. Montclair State football game at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 23, in the Westside Athletic Complex on the Westside campus. Reserved alumni seating for the game costs $6 per person. Also that day, the university will host a re dedication ceremony at 10 a.m. at the Alumni & Friends Circle near Old Main on the Midtown campus. Each year, the circle is re dedicated to celebrate the growth of the area. The ceremony will be free and open to the public. The Athletic Hall of Fame will be open to visitors from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the William O’Neill Athletic and Convocation Center on the Westside campus. The Oktoberfest Tent, featuring delicious food and beverages, will be open from 11 a.m. until the end of the football game to benefit the Westside Athletic Complex on the Westside campus. The public is invited.

For more information, call (203) 837-8290.

A number of class reunions and other sporting events also are scheduled. For more information about Homecoming, call the Alumni office at (203) 837-8509.

Talking to my own priest about my concerns was helpful, but I also wanted to hear the perspectives of priests in other parishes and at different levels in the church hierarchy.

Drawing upon her training as a psychologist, Reynolds formulated an in-depth and straightforward questionnaire and sent it to 64 Fairfield County parishes. Forty-one percent responded, and Reynolds said she was especially amazed by the degree to which the respondents revealed deeply personal emotions and experiences.

“What began as a personal quest for understanding turned out to be so much more,” she said. “It was very interesting to find that the majority of these priests are wonderful men who struggle to find more meaning in life, even as they wrestle with their own demons.”

Reynolds said her book is not intended to answer all the hounding questions about the Catholic Church’s recent highly publicized scandals.

Instead, she said she hopes it will serve to promote dialogue and understanding.

Meanwhile, she’s working on several other projects, including finishing her first fiction novel and awaiting publication of the children’s picture book she wrote. “My Little Firstborn,” which deals with adjusting to a new baby in the house. Also pending publication are a series of children’s sports books she wrote to motivate reluctant readers, and two professional journal articles she’s penned.

Additionally, she is conducting research for a scholarly work about female role models and how women treat the other women in their lives. A practicing family therapist, Reynolds has previously contributed to a book and been published in psychological journals. For more information, visit www.drlisareynoldsmd.com.

Authors (cont’d)
Inside this issue:

‘Will You Decide Election 2004?’

During the 2004–05 academic year, the WestConn School of Arts and Sciences is host to a series of events focused on the promises and threats of the future. In October, the series theme will be ‘Will You Decide Election 2004?’