Campus response to Hurricane Katrina immediate, inspiring

WestConn President Dr. James W. Prazeres is one of many WestConn faculty, staff advisers enrich student life at WestConn.

For the past 10 years, Keith Prazeres has been playing rugby wherever he can find a club to join, and he is eager to share his love of the sport with a new generation at WestConn.

That's why he jumped at the opportunity to move up this fall from assistant to staff adviser of WestConn's highly successful men's rugby team. The 30-year-old Prazeres, still an active player for the Danbury Mad Hatters club, anticipates new challenges for the WestConn team as it competes in Division II this season after claiming the New England Regional championship and third place in the national tournament.

Prazeres is one of many WestConn faculty and staff members who contribute every day to student life outside the classroom. During working hours, Prazeres can be found at his desk in Old Main, tackling his financial duties as assistant to the coordinator of bursar services. After hours, he regularly practices with the WestConn rugby club, trains, practices with the WestConn team and walks the sidelines with players both home and away. His presence makes a difference to the student athletes.

“When the team went to the national tournament last spring, we got a group together to go down to South Carolina to support the club,” he recalled. “Seeing them develop on and off the field makes it all worthwhile.”

Prazeres draws from his own experiences in rugby as a player for armed forces teams during his service in the U.S. Navy, and for the WestConn program in the late 1990s. His perspective as a player has taught him that the spirit of the game continues long after the match is over. Newcomers to the game who ask his advice can expect his hearty recommendation to try out for the club.

“You’ll make some of the best friends for the rest of your life,” he said. “No one comes to practice and says they don’t want to be here. Even if you decide it’s not for you, we still want you to come out as a club supporter and a friend.”

Assistant Professor of Meteorology Rob Eisenson also finds his role as a faculty adviser allows him to share a lifelong passion — but the students he serves is what makes him perform snowballs to rugby balls. Since joining the WestConn faculty in 1999, Eisenson has worked closely with students who share his fascination with weather to make the Meteorology Club a popular organization to discuss forecasting, take field trips and build professional contacts for future employment.

“For me, being a meteorologist is an opportunity for learning and networking. For the students it’s an opportunity for learning and networking as well,” Eisenson said. “These are skills that don’t go away.”

Eisenson encourages his students to be “anti-climatologists,” meaning to speak out against climate change denial. For the students, this means they can be advocates for policy and science instead of mediators of policy and science.

“This is a positive way to encourage critical thinking, which is the foundation of science,” he said.

WestConn students Tony Napoleon (left) and Chris Hennessy took on an internship and law administration Chuck Maloney makes a contribution to the American Red Cross.

Other departments quickly joined in, and so students can call up textbooks online during class and access set up and classroom desks designed for laptops, computers and other materials. WestConn has been a leader in developing study spaces that are equipped with technology and conducive to study.

As the aftermath of the hurricane became clear, many university offices became aware of the need to help displaced students in Louisiana. Louisiana State and New Orleans universities — and our Office of University Admissions responded. Accommodating these displaced students became a priority, and even before Gov. M. Jodi Rell asked the Connecticut State University (CSU) System to assist in that effort, WestConn was taking steps to do so. Six students affected by the hurricane are now registered and taking classes here.

Enrollment Management Officer William Hawkins said there was never any doubt WestConn would do whatever was necessary to help them. “We were fortunate to be in a position to help these students,’ Hawkins said. “Where they were from in Connecticut — their proximity to us, the courses we offer and where they were in their educational process all came together and enabled us to enroll them.’

Other departments quickly joined the endeavor, finding ways to offer financial aid and housing, if needed, to the students in distress. Many had fled Louisiana by boat, killed or lost their jobs, lost their homes, lost everything. Six students affected by the hurricane are now registered and taking classes here.

At the same time, WestConn’s Shipping and Receiving department became a staging ground for the collection of donated relief items such as bottled water, batteries, blankets, tarps, tents, phone cards, and nonperishable foods. The university will transport the donations to the appropriate state distribution centers.

Wanting to do something more, senior marketing majoring Chris Hennessy set up an AmeriCorps donation station in the student Center. Hennessy sought donations of supplies from local businesses and created an information booth that included a television news feed. The weekend, he moved the booth to the Westside Athletic Complex for the students’ game. His creativity and dedication had resulted in donations of more than $4,000 as of press time.

“I will continue working to get it just past $5,000, so we can be matched by a corporation and have a total of $10,000,” Hennessy said. “I couldn’t sit still on this.”

Two couches are still covered with plastic in the lobby of the campus on Oct. 3. He’s coming to thank Connecticut homeowners, businesses, and students for their contributions.

A TRUE ‘DREAM’: FACULTY, STUDENTS

For more information, contact the Center for Community Engagement and Service at 860-343-0690 or email jacobs@westconn.edu.

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Midtown Coffeehouse an immediate hit

by Diana DiSilvestro

Getting off to a great start, WestConn’s Thursday Evening Midtown Coffeehouse has brought in a full house each week since it began in early September.

Sponsored by the Division of Student Affairs, the venue was developed to entertain the university community, as well as to provide a place to perform on campus. The coffeehouse, located in Alumni Hall on the Midtown campus, features quality performances from WCSU students, faculty and staff.

Every Thursday night, members of the WestConn campus can showcase their talents on stage in an intimate atmosphere. The coffeehouse opens at 9 p.m. and starts with open mic, where anyone who has registered can perform. One student recently showcased his skills playing the bagpipes.

Another performer, Brenton Vaughan, a junior majoring in jazz guitar, came down to perform a song he wrote.

“This place is great,” Vaughan said. “I know the person who organized this, so I decided it would be a good place to play, and I would definitely come back.”

Other students seemed to agree with Vaughan because by 9:30 p.m., there wasn’t an empty seat in the house. Student Government Association Vice President of Finance George Babykutty also came down to show his support.

“I came to listen to local and good music,” he said. “The atmosphere here is amazing; it invites you like no other place.”

Even President Dr. James Schmidt took time out of his busy schedule to check out the new venue. “I am delighted at the turnout,” he said. “It’s great to see students coming on campus on a Thursday night. I hope it becomes a WestConn tradition.”

Open mic is followed by the opening and featured acts. People who are interested in performing during open mic are asked to be there by 8:30 p.m. Open mic also serves as a way to audition to be a featured act.

The coffeehouse welcomes bands, soloists, comedians, actors, poets and other performers. Organizers also are seeking student organizations, residence floor presidents or university departments interested in sponsoring a coffeehouse night.

The Midtown Coffeehouse will be hosted every Thursday during the semester and is only open to the WestConn community. Admission will be free and light refreshments will be served.

For more information, call the Office of Student Affairs at (203) 837-8700.
WestConn German Studies Center to host events

by Sherri Hill

Why would a scholarship foundation that aims to provide post-secondary educational opportunities to minority students be interested in second- and third-grade elementary school students in Danbury? After all, about a dozen years will pass before these young students are ready to even begin contemplating college, much less begin looking for a scholarship.

Deborah Calhoun, director of the Hord Academy, said the answer is simple.

“Fostering student success at a young age will help elevate their abilities throughout their education,” Calhoun said.

That’s why the Hord Foundation, established in 1993 to “promote the education and enhance the career opportunities of young people of African-American descent by providing post-secondary school scholarships,” has created the Hord Academy to “support students during their K-12 school experience.”

The impetus for the Hord Academy actually began when Hord Foundation members were reviewing scholarship applicants from local high school students.

“The grade point averages on some of these applications were not where we would have liked them to be,” Calhoun said. “So we decided to start working on improving reading and language abilities in the early elementary grades.

“Those are our little scholars — the 7- and 8-year-olds.”

WestConn German Studies Center

Lectures by experts on German culture and politics, and a Swiss-German film with English subtitles are among the events being offered this spring semester from the WestConn German Studies Center. The events will be free and the public is invited to attend.

On Thursday, Oct. 27, a representative from the German Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in New York will speak at 6:30 p.m. in Room 202 of the Student Center on the Midtown campus.

“Elections in Germany: Do the Results Matter for Trans-Atlantic Relations,” will address previously closed German-American ties that were damaged as a result of Germany’s strong opposition to the 2003 U.S. war on Iraq.

Dr. Anne Titz, a lecturer in the department of modern languages and literature at Fordham University, will discuss “Film: A German Sense of Elements of Anarchism in Contemporary American Relations with Germany” and “Sternenberg,” a film from Switzerland directed by Ernst Lubitsch and Billy Wilder.

“Sternenberg,” a film from Switzerland in German with English subtitles, will be screened at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 2, in Viewing Room 1 in White Hall on the Midtown campus.

The film tells the tale of Franz Engi, who returns after 30 years to the village where he grew up. He’s shocked to find his old neighbors have turned to far right politics.

The WestConn German Studies Center seeks to provide a channel for German-speaking countries. It is affiliated with the WestConn International Center.

For more information, call Renata Lustig, the center’s director, at (203) 837-8443.

Westside Nature Preserve

It won’t be long before the leaves will begin their vibrant autumn show, which makes it a great time to visit the Westside Nature Preserve (WNP).

Work on the extension of the University Boulevard on the Westside campus has begun, so the approach to the WNP has changed. Here’s how you can get there:

From the softball field parking lot, follow the signs into the woods. At the entrance to the woods, pick up a self-directed tour brochure from the brochure box. Each number in the brochure refers to a station at which there is a numbered post. Face the post when reading the station description. Continue the trail beyond the softball field into the woods. Eventually, you will walk through a break in a stone wall; immediately turn right. Soon, on your left you will see a sign with the number 14 and an arrow on it; turn left there into the woods. The first signpost you come to will be for Station 14, the self-guided tour there. The sequence will be 14, 13, 12, 11, 20, 19, 18, 17, 16, 15 (whenever you come to an intersection turn right).

When you pass Station 15, you will be back near Station 14, where you started — just back-track to the softball field parking lot. This trail has the shape of a horseshoe around the Central Valley, which is wetland.

The view changes almost daily, so visit as often as you can.

For more information and a preview of what you will see at the WNP, visit www.ecu.edu/enviro today.
Carlone's legacy built on patience, planning

by Robert Taylor

When Tom Carlone stepped down as WestConn's director of planning and engineering in August, he was a believer — and he had won over his fellow skiers at Westown as well.

Carlone recalled that when he first arrived at the university more than 16 years ago, the administration faced an uphill battle to persuade fiscally strapped state authorities and legislators to continue the uphill battle to persuade fiscally strapped state authorities and legislators to continue the university's master plan for campus facilities. Past failures to secure state funding for projects proposed in the early 1980s left many staff and faculty members doubtful these construction priorities would ever be realized.

“When I am doubting Thomas by nature and I found a certain amount of skepticism that any funding would be forthcoming,” Carlone said. “This project that proved the skepticism wrong was the William O’Neill Athletic and Convocation Center. That gave folks the idea that — with the support of the governor and local legislators — the state was actually going to invest in this place and get some things done.”

During his tenure in the Office of Planning and Engineering, Carlone played a central role in preparing and updating the university’s master plan for facility development, as well as managing projects in the appropriation pipeline or under construction.

“During Tom’s time here, he has participated in or directed completion of $20 million in capital improvements,” Amyot said. “He influenced the transformation of the physical campus that many people are excited about today.”

Carlone learned early on that WestConn’s foresight as one of the first state universities to introduce master planning provided a critical edge in the competition for scarce state resources.

“When the state began to give more priority to funding capital projects at public universities in Connecticut, we already had documented our needs and were well-positioned to take advantage of that,” he said. “All the projects that were well-positioned to take advantage of that were well-positioned to take advantage of that.”

Carlone’s patient stewardship helped bring about a series of new buildings and renovations that have transformed WestConn’s physical appearance. These include the new science building, the Westside Athletic Complex, the White Street parking garage, and the Centennial and Pinney residence halls.

“WestConn is a more significant object on the New England athletic landscape than it was 10 years ago,” Carlone said. “Growth is expected to continue for many years to come.”

One of the most visible changes in WestConn’s appearance during Carlone’s tenure also was initially one of his most controversial projects — the removal of parking from the heart of the Midtown campus. Students who now stroll the walkways crossing the grass-covered Midtown campus Quadrangle can thank Carlone that they are not dodging cars on the way to class.

“My idea was to make the campus a more quiet and contemplative place that was more appropriate to an academic environment,” he said. “It wasn’t even a parking lot.”

Carlone, who lives in Avon with his wife and three children, left WestConn at the end of August to open his own architectural firm in Kensington. Among his first projects is the development of an adult residential community.

“Once again, he is using his WestConn experience in steering projects through municipal and state oversight agencies to negotiate bureaucratic hurdles successfully and win over the doubting Thomases,” Carlone said. “I’ve found that patience and perseverance in dealing with the bureaucracy is always helpful,” Carlone said.

## Around Campus

### Student-athletes put their muscle behind substance abuse prevention campaign

By Robert Taylor

Sharon Guck knows she cannot hope to win the battle alone.

She is the assistant director of health promotion and education in the Office of Student Life, and she leads WestConn’s CHOICES program.

“CHOICES is a peer-to-peer program,” said Guck. “Student-athletes are trained to be ambassadors of healthy behavior, to make their fellow students aware of the dangers of substance abuse and enlist them as partners in the cause.”

Male and female athletes representing a wide range of WestConn sports programs have joined other student leaders to plan an ambitious campaign this fall to promote healthy lifestyle decisions.

Guck maintains an infectious enthusiasm to her role as coordinator of the WestConn substance abuse prevention program, known as Cultivating Healthy Opportunities in College Environments (CHOICES).

The CHOICES mission is to promote positive lifestyle decisions, provide confidential assessments, facilitate counseling and treatment referrals, and involve the entire university community in prevention efforts.

Since she arrived on campus in March 2004, Guck has addressed issues of substance abuse and healthy, behavioral choices at classes, meetings and other events and through collaborations with faculty, law enforcement and community groups. Training workshops organized by Guck provide valuable information for students, faculty and other concerned groups.

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Carlone learned early on that WestConn’s foresight as one of the first state universities to introduce master planning provided a critical edge in the competition for scarce state resources.
WestConn will host the Seventh Annual Holiday Wine Tasting to benefit the Caraluzzi Scholarship Endowment from 4 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 13, in Warner Hall on the Midtown campus. For a donation of $50 per person, guests may sample fine wines from America and abroad while enjoying hors d’oeuvres and musical entertainment by a WestConn alumni jazz ensemble. Other highlights of the event will include a silent auction of donated goods and services, and a limited offering of wrapped “mystery wines” available for purchase.

Anthony Caraluzzi, owner of Caraluzzi’s Food Markets in Bethel and Georgetown, created the endowment in 1999 to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the family business by his parents. Generous donations by the Caraluzzi family, supplemented by more than $100,000 raised by the annual wine tasting, have built an endowment that has financed scholarship awards totaling $25,600 awarded to 2 students since 2001. Caraluzzi’s daughter, Jennifer Caraluzzi Dimyan, vice president of Nutmeg Discount Liquors in Bethel, explained her father became interested in funding scholarship awards as a means to assist local youths who often work to meet college expenses. “Because so many students who attend WestConn also are employees of our stores and work while getting their degrees, we decided it would be nice to offer local students scholarships to attend college,” she said. “My father was impressed by the school and decided to give a permanent endowment in the Caraluzzi name.”

Distributors of Nutmeg Liquors will supply the wines for the tasting. Sponsors supplying food for the evening include Caraluzzi’s Markets, La Zanaga Restaurant in Bethel, Mr. Sushi in Bethel, and Sodexo.

Due to the popularity of the annual event, reservations will be limited to 250 guests.

For reservations or additional information, call the Office of Institutional Advancement at (203) 837-8298.

Guests enjoy the food, wine and each other’s company while supporting student scholarships at the Sixth Annual Holiday Wine Tasting event in 2004.

WCSU Homecoming festivities scheduled for Oct. 7-15

Oct. 7 The annual Golden Circle Luncheon to honor WestConn alumni who graduated more than 50 years ago will be at noon in Warner Hall on the Midtown campus. The cost is $20 per person.

Oct. 11 A public reception for the James R. Roach Lecture Award will be at 4 p.m. in the Ruth Haas Library on the Midtown campus. The recipient of this year’s award is the American Production and Inventory Control Society, whose donations of production and management texts have made WestConn’s collection in this field among the most comprehensive in the state. Call (203) 837-9199 for more information.

The annual WestConn Alumni Art Show will open with a meet-the-artists reception at 6:30 p.m. in the Ruth Haas Library on the Midtown campus. Admission is free and open to the public. The exhibition will be on display during library hours through Sunday, Oct. 25. For information, call (203) 837-8466.

Oct. 15 A dedication ceremony will be held 9 a.m. at the Alumni & Friends Circle near Old Main on the Midtown campus. The annual ceremony will be free and open to the public.

The 2005 WCSU Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be at 10 a.m. in Warner Hall on the Midtown campus. The cost is $50 per person and the public is invited. For reservations and information, call (203) 837-8298.

An alumni tailgating party will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Westside Athletic Complex parking lot on the Westside campus. Sponsored by the WCSU Alumni Association, it will feature music provided by a disk jockey. Admission is free and open to the public. Kickoff for the homecoming football game against the College of New Jersey will be at 1 p.m. at the Westside Athletic Complex.

The WCSU Alumni Association will host several class reunions on the Westside and Midtown campuses. All reunions will begin at 6 p.m. and include dinner, at a cost of $40 per person.

The 50-year Reunion for the Class of 1955 will be in the President’s Reception Room on the Westside campus. The association also will host reunions for the class of 1960, in Alumni Hall on the Midtown campus; the class of 1975, in the Science Building on the Midtown campus; the class of 1990, in Pinney Hall on the Westside campus; and the class of 1995, in Warner Hall on the Midtown campus.

For information, call Interim Director of Alumni Relations Mary Figueroa at (203) 837-8298.

WestConn alumni go to top-notch graduate schools

By Valerie Roth

“big name” undergraduate schools. Babington’s alma mater may not be as “big” a name in some circles, but the 24-year-old Bethel resident says her WestConn undergraduate experience put her on equal footing with alumni from well-known institutions.

“I was a biology major, with a minor in psychology,” said Babington, who graduated from the WestConn honors program in 2002. “Most of the students who are in this program have come from bigger name schools. When talking with them and starting the program together, I realized how totally prepared I was by the courses at WestConn.”

Babington is not alone in her experience. More and more WestConn students are going on to celebrated universities for graduate education. Assistant Director of University Admissions Rich Myers said.

“Some say we serve as a training ground for the major universities,” Myers said. “Some people mistakenly get the impression (our students) are first-generation college students, they can’t do much, they can only ‘go to WestConn. But our alumni are accepted at Harvard, Yale, and several esteemed law schools. WestConn is actually preparing these students for the other universities.”

WestConn alumni have gone on to graduate-level programs at Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Georgetown and Juilliard. Some examples include well-known instrumentalist and WestConn Adjunct Professor of Music Andrew Rodgers, who received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at WestConn and went on to The Juilliard School. Another well-known musician, Joseph Mola, went from WestConn to graduate studies at Columbia University.

The many WestConn alumni who have gone on to earn professional acclaim also include Dr. Ralph Brabanti, the James B. Duke Professor of Political Science Emeritus at Duke University and a world-renowned Pakistani expert, and Dr. Cecilia McHugh, who served on board the research vessel Endeavor and received her Ph.D. at Columbia University after being one of only 25 students accepted each year by the marine geology program at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory at Columbia.

Babington said WestConn fully prepared her for graduate work at such a highly competitive post-graduate school, adding that she even had taken an immunology course that a lot of her fellow Yale students hadn’t taken. “My WestConn course work was challenging, and I feel very prepared for the program I’m in now,” added Babington, who expects to graduate with a master’s degree in medical science.

Alumnus Daniel Richland, who is a law student at Hofstra University, agreed with Babington’s assessment.

“I was very pleased with the quality of (WestConn’s) political science department,” 25-year-old Richland said. “I think they have some excellent professors who are very good, very knowledgeable and very approachable.”

“That is part of the benefit of WestConn,” Richland added. “Students can interact with professors because the class sizes are relatively small. By contrast, I have class sizes of 110 (at Hofstra).”

For more information about supporting WestConn’s first-rate educational offerings, call the Office of Institutional Advancement at (203) 837-8298.

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For information, call Interim Director of Alumni Relations Mary Figueroa at (203) 837-8298.

The Seventh Annual Holiday Wine Tasting set for November

by Robert Taylor

Alumnus Andrew Rodgers went on to study at the Juilliard School of Music after graduating from WestConn. Now he’s an adjunct professor in WestConn’s music department.

Heather Babington is studying to be a physician’s associate at Yale University. The prestigious two-year program was difficult to get into, with the majority of the program I’m in now,” added Babington, who expects to graduate with a master’s degree in medical science.

Alumnus Daniel Richland, who is a law student at Hofstra University, agreed with Babington’s assessment.

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Constitutional scholar discusses Ten Commandments

by Robert Taylor

Constitutional scholar Paul Finkelman presented the case for removing Ten Commandments displays from public property nationwide in his keynote “Constitution Day” talk in WestConn’s Alumni Hall on Sept. 14.

Finkelman, the Chapman Distinguished Professor at the University of Tulsa College of Law, challenged the constitutional basis for the U.S. Supreme Court decision in June allowing the Texas state government to retain a granite monument display of the Ten Commandments on the grounds of the capitol in Austin. The court ruled at the same time that a Ten Commandments display at two Kentucky courts violated the Establishment Clause of the Constitution as a government effort to promote religion.

In Finkelman’s view, the court’s divided 5-4 majorities in both cases sought to draw a legal distinction that would have surprised the framers of the Constitution. The First Amendment clause stating, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion,” represented a clear rejection of biblical law as a foundation for the legal code of the American nation, he said.

“The framers of the Constitution understood when the government gets into the business of religion, people get hurt and the government ultimately is harmed,” he said. “So they knew the best thing was to maintain separation between church and state.”

Finkelman rejected the argument advanced by proponents of public displays of the Ten Commandments that its moral code is universally embraced and thus favors no specific religion. In fact, he asserted, non-Western religions set out no comparable code of conduct for believers, and the Jewish, Catholic and Protestant religions differ significantly over the translation, order and numbering of the Ten Commandments in their sacred texts.

“This is about whose religious traditions you want to follow,” he said. “When you translate the Ten Commandments into English and put them in the state courthouse, you are taking sides in some very old religious debates. My contention is that you cannot be taking sides when you are the government.”

An ironic footnote to the Texas case is that the version inscribed on the Austin monument, one of several thousand donated by the Fraternal Order of Eagles to cities across the nation in the 1950s and 1960s, is the standard Lutheran translation, he added.

“I imagine most Texans would be surprised the state legislature has endorsed the Lutheran version of the Ten Commandments,” he said.

Finkelman recognized religion plays an important role as a guide to ethical and moral conduct for himself and most Americans, but argued it is in the interest of believers to discourage any government role in religion. This is precisely why the framers of the Constitution abandoned the colonial practice of placing religious restrictions on public officeholding and other rights, he said.

“They understood the only way they could protect their religion was if the government left that to them and trusted them to do what they wished without interference,” he said.

“The tragedy is that some people of deep religious faith today don’t understand that if the establishment of government gets into religion, ultimately religion will be the loser because it will be corrupted by government.”

Warner Hall exhibit displays foundation of our freedoms

by Sheri Hill

For two weeks in September, visitors to Warner Hall could observe six tall, rectangular columns standing upright in the lobby. The four-sided structures resembled the footings of a yet-to-be-constructed building, which was aptos, since they exhibited letters, documents, artifacts and images depicting the foundation of our nation.

“The Freedom: A History of US” exhibit contained reproductions of historic American documents arranged into six thematic sections: The Founding Era; Young Republic; The Nation Dividing; The Firebell in the Night; The Union Threatened: The Union Preserved; Emancipation; and Epilogue: The Price of Freedom. The collection included a rare 1776 printing of the Declaration of Independence, a draft of the U.S. Constitution, letters written by George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass; and posters, photographs, daguerreotypes and speeches. Funded by General Electric, the exhibit featured reproductions of materials from two private collections of documents and photographs — the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and the Preserve-Kunhardt Collection. Many of the items have not been available to the public prior to their inclusion in this exhibit, which was presented in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution Affiliations Program.

Four years later, 9/11 ceremony still stirs feelings

by Sheri Hill

As the sound of distant bagpipes grew closer, Finkelman made his way to the Warner Hall community drew together in a solemn ceremony of remembrance for those whose lives were lost in the tragic Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack on America. At noon on Sept. 12, faculty and staff, students and local residents stopped to recall and honor the heroes and the victims not only of 9/11, but also of the recent devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf Coast.

The University Police Department Color Guard took center stage at the center of the Midtown campus Quadrangle, awaiting the arrival of the bagpiper, Professor of Justice and Law Administration (JLA) Dr. David Machell. Waiting with the Color Guard were President Dr. James W. Schmotter and the University Police Department Color Guard. Dr. Machell played the bagpipes, as President Dr. David Machell plays the bagpipes, as President Dr. James W. Schmotter and the University Police Department Color Guard listen.

In his introduction of the keynote speaker, WestConn Distinguished Visiting Professor Todd Brewer noted Finkelman’s appearance represented an opportunity to stimulate constitutional dialogue. Congressional legislation approved in 2004 mandates federally funded schools and colleges provide instruction about the Constitution on or near Sept. 17, the anniversary date of its signing in 1787. Hereafter described this year’s “Constitution Day” observance at WestConn as a first step toward forming a Center for the Study of the Constitution in Danbury.

Finkelman praised WestConn for its interest in establishing such a center as a worthy contribution to informed public debate of constitutional issues.

“In the end, that is the strength of the Constitution,” he said. “It is not owned by the Supreme Court, or the Congress, or the President — it is owned by all of us.”

For more information about the Center for the Study of the Constitution, call the Office of Public Relations at 203-837-8486.

“Four years later, 9/11 ceremony still stirs feelings.”

WestConn is a Smithsonian affiliate. Professor of English and of Justice and Law Administration Dr. Harry Schramm, asked students in his Constitutional Law class to view the exhibit.

“I think it’s important to show these materials to students, so they can visualize them and make them ‘real,’” Schramm said. “We often talk about letters and documents in the abstract and any particular illustration goes a long way toward conveying concrete impressions. I liked the scope of the exhibit and the diversity of the materials.”

As the crowd parted to allow Machell and the others to solemnly depart the Quad, the common sadness was palpable. Elizabeth Ellii, a communication major from Danbury, summed up how she felt.

“I find Sept. 11 extremely emotional,” Ellii said. “I still remember where I was. It’s really hard to get over.”

In the end, that is the strength of the Constitution,” he said. “It is not owned by the Supreme Court, or the Congress, or the President — it is owned by all of us.”

For more information about the Center for the Study of the Constitution, call the Office of Public Relations at 203-837-8486.
Students, faculty, guests featured in fall music offerings

WestConn responds to Hurricane Katrina (cont’d.)

and watch things happen and do anything I realized a long time ago that people want to help, but often they don’t know how. By doing this I have given them a medium to donate easily.

Service and leadership are integral parts of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars mission, so students being inducted into the organization’s WestConn chapter also did their part by bringing cans and nonperishable items to their induction ceremony in mid-September. A Sept. 17 concert featuring Indian percussionist Sandip Burman also became an opportunity to assist the hurricane victims. All profits from the on-campus event were donated to the American Red Cross and the Southern Arts Foundation, which serves musicians, artists and arts organizations in the Gulf Coast area and is actively involved in relocating and supporting them now with a special fund.

Adjunct Professor Judith Tucker, founder of the Connecticut College Scholars Program, organized the concert and served as master of ceremonies.

“This event was created as a Daniel Pearl Music Day Harmony for Humanity concert,” she explained. “When Hurricane Katrina struck, I decided to transform it into a fund-raiser. Area bands and willing volunteer raffle items, volunteers gave their time on the day of the event and the Berkshire Theatre was secured through the generosity of (Theatre Department Chair) Frank Herbert. Members of the WCSU International Student Association, and their adviser, (Director of Multicultural Affairs) Daryle Dennis, helped out as well. We all felt the satisfaction of working together to support this relief effort.”

Faculty, staff advisers enrich student life (cont’d.)

The Meteorology Club maintains an active schedule during the school year, including meetings twice a month, social outings and a June field trip to the weather station atop Mount Washington in New Hampshire. Eisenson accompanied 15 club members last spring to the annual Northeastern Storm Conference in Vermont, helping secure grant support to offset part of the students’ costs for the event.

“For most students, it’s their first exposure to a scientific conference,” he said. “It’s good for the university to have our students representing WestConn.”

Eisenson credits the club’s success to active student participation and strong leadership by the current president Jared Root.

“My role is to guide and advise,” he said. “I leave the rest to the students, it’s their club. That’s one of the reasons I go back to when they were kids, and their passion for weather binds the club members together.”

Faculty and staff members who volunteer as advisers often find they have much to learn from the students they help. Tammy Hammershoy, who maintains a brisk workload pace as a technical support analyst at University Computing, said her role as adviser to the Alpha Delta Pi sorority last year provided a welcome opportunity to connect with socially committed WestConn students.

“I love students and the interaction with students,” Hammershoy said. “That’s one of the reasons I got involved. If you’re on a college campus, why not take advantage of that youth and energy? Even if you have a job where you don’t have daily interaction with students, you can still find ways to reach out and be a part of that community.

“Sometimes you just say, ‘I have to do that,’” she explained. “It’s one of the greatest benefits of working here.”

Faculty provide health care, fitness tips (cont’d.)

rates suggest modest improvements with strength training.

“We’re trying to determine whether changes in strength have a practical meaning for the elderly,” he said. “Independence is really the issue. Your goal is really not whether you keep your independence, but whether you can stay out of a nursing home by avoiding falls that may result in a hip fracture or other injury.”

Strength training offers clear psychological, emotional and social benefits for the elderly, Schlicht said. He cited the example of a woman who was severely disabled by a stroke when she first joined his Danbury exercise class in spring of 2001.

“She started the class, her reliance on her cane has diminished, she has gained more movement in her left side, and now she is actively pursuing physical therapy,” he said. “I have great respect for her for coming religiously to class to do something that was not easy. Now she is living a full life — she even got married recently!”

Through more cost-effective health care management and exercise programs to promote wellness, WestConn professors are providing fresh insights into improving the health status of the community, and the physical well-being of individuals.

For more information, call the Fitness Center at (203) 837-8100.

COMMUNIQUE 7

AROUND CAMPUS

WestConn music students perform at Oktoberfest 2004

Solos, combos and large groups of musicians will perform a wide variety of musical genres at WestConn this fall. And with offers like these, WestConn’s music department clearly has something for everyone. 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 and most events are free. Donations to the music department will be appreciated.

October will get off to a great start when Margarita Nuller, a pianist from St. Petersburg, Russia, will conduct a piano masterclass for music students at noon on Friday, Oct. 1 in Room 101 of White Hall. The class will be free and open to the public.

On Monday, Oct. 7, the award-winning WCSU Jazz Combos will perform music by Miles Davis, Sonny Rollins, John Coltrane and others.

On Monday, Oct. 10, Adjunct Professor of Music Albert Montecalvo will conduct the WCSU Symphonic Band in a program containing two very diverse offerings. Russian composer Boris Rothkevich’s recently discovered “Symphony No. 4,” which Montecalvo described as “heroic-sounding, very intense and brooding,” will be featured. At the other end of the spectrum, the Symphonic Band will perform the more upbeat “A Copland Portrait,” a compilation of works by American composer Aaron Copland’s most popular works.

WestConn will host its annual Oktoberfest Jazz concert featuring the WCSU Jazz Orchestra, Frankfurt sax and the WCSU Jazz Ensemble on Friday, Oct. 14. The program will include the music of Gordan Goodwin, Sonny Rollins, Jamie Begin, Oliver Nelson and many others.

An upcoming offering will be the featured soloist on baritone Watters. Music Professor Dr. Dan Goble will conduct the WCSU Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble will perform on Tuesday, Nov. 8. Featured composers will include Johann Sebastian Bach, Charles Ives, Robert Young and Mark Watters. Music Professor Dr. Dan Goble will be the featured soloist on baritone saxophone.

Wednesday, Nov. 9, will feature a noon performance by faculty from WestConn’s choicest music departments. Professor of Music Dr. Margaret Astrup will sing, Associate Professor of Music Dr. Russell Hirshfield will play piano, Adjunct Professor of Music Jo-Ann Sternberg will play the clarinet and Associate Professor of Music Dr. Marijanne Gallagher will play the french horn.

The award-winning WCSU Jazz Combos will perform at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 13. Under the direction of WestConn’s jazz faculty, the performance will include jazz standards by Bill Evans, Michael Brecker and others.

WestConn students will present a Piano Studio Recital on Wednesday, Nov. 16.

Monday, Nov. 21, will feature performances by the WCSU Concert Choir, a 110-voice, non-auditioned chamber choir, and the WCSU Chamber Singers, a select group of 20 vocalists. Adjunct Professor of Music Patricia Latines will accompany on piano. The concert theme is “Conductor’s Favorites.” Professor of Music Dr. Kevin Isaacs has compiled the most personal and meaningful selections of his 25-year choral career into a concert that will highlight music spanning more than four centuries. Featured will be works by Britten, Rumaninoff, Bruckner, Groce, Granin and Lauh dent. The concert will then close with theousing gospel favorite “Praise His Holy Name” by Keith Hampton.

To provide resources relative to the hurricane relief effort, the university also created a Web page containing links to news and information from the Governor’s Office and the CSU System Office, as well as stories about our own faculty and staff printed by The News-Times. To view the page, go to www.wcsu.edu/newsevents/katrina.asp.

Student volunteers staff a table at the Sept. 17 concert that featured Indian percussionist Sandip Burman. Donations to the American Red Cross were accepted, and a raffle raised funds for the Southern Arts Foundation.

The 11th annual WCSU Opera production of GianCarlo Menotti’s “Amahl and the Night Visitors” will be staged on Friday, Dec. 9, and Saturday, Dec. 10. Music Professor Dr. Margaret Astrup will direct this classic holiday opera. Tickets will be $10 for adults and $5 for senior citizens and children under the age of 12. The popular WCSU Holiday Jazz concert will entertain the audience with exciting renditions of timeless holiday classics.

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For more information, call Golman at (203) 837-9384 or Schlicht at (203) 837-8677.
WestConn welcomes Hurricane Katrina. The WestConn Student Support Program, in conjunction with the University’s Office of Institutional Advancement, will host a Telethon Fundraiser for the Class of 1960 in Alumni Hall on the Midtown campus. The event will be free and open to the public for more information, call the Office of Institutional Advancement at (203) 837-8928. See page 5 for more information.

The WestConn Executive Forum will host the Executive Leadership Institute, a leadership development experience for executive directors of nonprofit organizations, from Wednesday, Oct. 26, through Friday, Oct. 28, at the Pinney Hall Conference Center on the Westside campus. Advanced registration for the program is required and enrollment is limited. For more information, call Birla Senaraj at (203) 837-8341.

The WestConn German Studies Center will present “Electronics in Germany: Do the Results Matter for Trans-Atlantic Relations?” at 6:30 p.m. in the Student Center Theater on the Midtown campus. The event will be free and open to the public. For more information, Dr. Renate Ludanyi, the center’s director, at (203) 837-8873.

WestConn will present “Science, Evolution, Creationism and Intelligent Design” at 7 p.m. in Room 125 of the Science Building on the Midtown campus. Renowned New York University Professor of Geology James S. McElheny will address the ways science and religion frequently appear to clash, especially in the realms of earth and life history. Offered as part of the continuing “Science at Night” series, the event will be free and the public is invited. For more information, call (203) 837-8672. See story on page 7.