WestConn’s new president ready to move university along

By Dr. G. Koryoam Wright

Talk to Western Connecticut State University’s eighth president for a few minutes and you soon realize that you can tell him anything. And that’s okay with Dr. James W. Schmottter, because he wants to learn about you and the campus.

“WestConn is a university on the move. Great things have been accomplished here, especially under Dr. James R. Boach. The potential is great, everyone is excited about the future,”

The excitement is about what WestConn can become.

“WestConn has a rich tradition of serving non-traditional students, as well as first- and second-generation college students,” Schmottter observed. “We are committed to being accessible. That’s what public institutions are in the business of doing, and that’s what WestConn will continue to do.”

From his office window, Schmottter can easily see the many Midtown campus improvements. He’d like to review the master plan for the Westside campus and its goals for the upcoming construction projects.

“One can’t help but notice the obvious investment in the university’s appearance by the state, our donors and the community,” he noted. “A first-time campus visitor is surprised and impressed, and will become even more so with the science building, the proposed Center for the Arts and the other anticipated construction plans.”

The university’s potential is one of the things Schmottter wants the community to know. He also wants to spread WestConn’s net of relationships and visibility by meeting people and developing new partnerships. And, he’d like to take a closer look at the quality of the experience with students and faculty members to ensure that currently highly favorable student satisfaction survey results continue — and even increase.

“I want to see how we can learn from them,” he said slowly. “We need to make sure our students are getting a great experience in and out of the classroom.”

Connecting with students is something Schmottter takes very seriously. In the past, he’s done that by teaching.

“ infinitely important for the leadership of the university to have a direct experience with students. That helps us establish credibility with students and faculty.”

Teaching, Schmottter said, is a great way to get to know students. Though he won’t be able to do that immediately at WestConn, he says he intends to find a way to teach in the future.

Dr. James W. Schmottter

Media Mentions

Below is a sampling of mentions about WestConn that appeared recently in the local media. Unless otherwise noted, the articles appeared in The News-Times.

Summer 2004

WESTCONN RECEIVES MARKETING GRANT WestConn’s marketing department has been awarded a $3,500 grant that will pay for a scholarship for a WestConn student pursuing a degree in interactive marketing. Awarded by the nonprofit Direct Marketing Day Foundation, the purpose is to encourage students to pursue direct and interactive marketing as a career path.

WESTCONN TEAMS GET A NEW LOOK With the newly renovated athletic facilities, new signs have been officially chosen to represent the athletic teams, nicknamed the Colonials.

HAAS LIBRARY DIGS UP HATTING HISTORY For almost 70 years, names were engraved on the book spines of the books that were returned to the library. For the first time, these names have been removed.

SIDEWALKS ON THE COMEBACK TRAIL: COMMUNITIES SEE PATHWAYS AS WAY TO CONNECT

In an effort to put down on the nation’s 5,000 yearly pedestrians and cyclists alone, the U.S. House and Senate are considering measures that would provide millions of dollars to towns for sidewalks, crosswalks and roads with wider shoulders. WestConn’s director of Planning and Engineering, Thomas Cline, agrees that sidewalks provide a healthy lifestyle and are crucial in connecting communities.

WESTCONN TO SPILL COMMUNICATIONS, THEATRE ARTS DEPARTMENTS: STUDENTS NEED TO BE BETTER SERVED

WestConn recently passed many other universities nationwide in creating academic departments with distinct identities by splitting the university communications and theatre arts (CTA) department into two separate entities. Beginning this fall, the department of communications and the department of theatre will operate independently under the direction of different department chairs, serving the specific needs of students in their respective disciplines.

MICHIGAN BUSINESS SCHOOL DEAN TAPPED TO BECOME WCU President (TUE DATED)

The OU Board of Trustees named Dr. James W. Schmottter the eight president of WCU.

CONCERT TO SHOWCASE VERSATILITY OF THE VIOLIN

In July, WestConn hosted a concert with guest violinist Julie Lyndon Inman. The performance showcased the versatility of the violin from its arrival in America as a folk and classical instrument to its central role in jazz, rock and more.

COMBATTING NURSING SHORTAGE

WestConn and Danbury Hospital signed an historic agreement expected to help WestConn enroll and graduate more students from the university’s undergraduate nursing program.

Fight for your right to read

by Yvonne Johnson

You gotta fight for your right . . . to read!

With just a slight deviation of the lyrics from the Beastie Boys’ popular single “Fight for Your Right,” the rock-and-roll tune that energized thousands in the 1980s to fight for their right to party could just as easily serve as the battle cry for the day’s scheduled book events.

WestConn will host the 2004 John Steiner Memorial Award, a national award presented by the American Library Association.

This is the second year WestConn will join the American Library Association (ALA) and organizations around the country to host a series of events highlighting books that have been banned or challenged. All the WestConn events will be held on the university’s Midtown campus. Sponsored by the school’s student-union club events will be free and open to the public.

Books that have been banned or threatened through waning support of works ranging from the Bible to “Little Red Riding Hood” to John Steinbeck’s “Of Mice and Men.” Books typically are challenged or banned for content that explores controversial or sensitive topics, such as sexuality, race or the supernatural, pointed out WestConn Assistant Professor of English Dr. Margaret Murray, one of the organizers of the series.

“It’s important that we read these works, explore the issues at the heart of the challenges, and discuss the greater problems associated with banning books and restricting intellectual freedom,” Murray said. “At the same time, we must always keep in mind that it is merely a small percentage of the population that would restrict our freedoms.”

Observed since 1982, Banned Books Week aims to remind Americans not to take their precious democratic freedoms for granted, according to the ALA Web site. The event stresses the importance of freedom of speech, race or the supernatural, pointed out WestConn Assistant Professor of English Dr. Margaret Murray, one of the organizers of the series.

“It’s important that we read these works, explore the issues at the heart of the challenges, and discuss the greater problems associated with banning books and restricting intellectual freedom,” Murray said. “At the same time, we must always keep in mind that it is merely a small percentage of the population that would restrict our freedoms.”

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Message from Dr. Schmoller

I am humbled to have been selected to lead this great university into its second century, especially when I consider the accomplishments of the seven remarkable individuals who have preceded me. I am particularly grateful to Dr. James R. Roach for the marvelous legacy he leaves us.

What lies ahead is exciting, and I am brimming with enthusiasm about both our distinguished past and the promising future we will build together.

There seems to be a “western” theme in my life and career. I did my doctoral work at Northwestern University, lived during my time at Cornell in a neighborhood known as West Hill, married a graduate of Cincinnati’s Western Hills High School, and have most recently been a dean at Western Michigan University. Now I am “heading west” again, albeit through a geophysical move to the east.

For more than a century, WestConn has enabled students to imagine and to construct new, exciting futures. Together, we will continue to build on this great tradition. All of us in the immediate WestConn community have important roles to play — the faculty and staff certainly, but also the alumni and friends who provide material, intellectual and emotional support while they also serve as role models for our students. And our students must be active partners, engaged in the learning experiences, both inside the classroom and out, that will prepare them for their own journeys “west.”

During my first few weeks, I plan on walking around the campus and getting to know you — the faculty, our students, support staff and administrators — and discussing how we can best work together to advance the mission and role of this university.

I thank you all for the wonderfully warm welcome that has greased my wife, Daphne, and me as we’ve moved to Fairfield County. We look forward to getting to know each and every one of you.

Life's mysteries revealed in comedy

Be prepared to laugh out loud, fear the answers to some critical questions and support a worthy cause this Labor Day weekend at WestConn.

At 8 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 5, WestConn, in association with Centerstage, will present the world premiere of the musical comedy “The Voices in My Head Have Formed a Choir and Someone’s Singing Flat!” in the Student Center Theater on the university’s midtown campus. Tickets will be available at the door for an $8 donation, a portion of which will go to Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, the nation’s leading industry-based, non-profit fundraising and grant-making organization serving people with HIV/AIDS and those coping with a variety of other health issues and life challenges.

WestConn students with valid identification will be admitted free. The public is invited.

This one-man show will feature the comedic genius of 40-year performance veteran Don Matt, who has worked as an actor, singer, dancer, director, choreographer, writer, composer and stand-up comic in touring shows, nightclub revues and in hundreds of television and radio commercials. He’s appeared on Broadway in “Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?” “Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story,” “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum” and “Late Nite Comic.” In addition to his many acting credits, he has also appeared on “The Late Show with David Letterman” more than a dozen times.

Those who attend will hear answers to some eternal questions, such as “What is the meaning of life?” “Can art make a difference?” “How does one find true love?” and “Why does my juice taste so funny after I brush my teeth?”

More information or to reserve tickets, call Assistant Professor of Communications and Theatre Arts Elizabeth Pajala at 837-8643 or the WestConn Office of Public Relations at 837-8466.
This will be the third ceremony the university has hosted as part of the national vow to never forget the victims of 9-11.

For more information, call Machell at (203) 837-8969 or the Office of Public Relations at (203) 837-8446.

Keane receives Quarterly Employee Recognition Award

WestConn recently honored Mary Jane Keane, the secretary for University Health Services, by presenting her with the Quarterly Employee Recognition Award for the fourth quarter.

Keane, a Waterbury resident, has been employed by WestConn since December 2000 and is known for her professionalism in working with students, parents and others who deal with her department. In presenting her with the award on May 25, then-President Dr. James R. Roach called Keane "approachable, responsible, knowledgeable and very responsible."

University hosts Brown vs. Topkea panel

A fifty year after an historic Supreme Court decision declared "separate but equal" public school segregation unconstitutional, WestConn hosted a May 13 event that drew more than 75 people to explore the issue.

"Brown vs. Topkea Board of Education: Looking Back After Fifty Years" included a panel presentation to commemorate the landmark May 1954 Supreme Court ruling that set the stage for integration between whites and blacks in public schools and throughout American society.

"This is one of the most important events of the 20th century," said Dr. Burton Peretti, an associate professor of history at WestConn and one of the four speakers. "It's a decision that still has an impact on us today and that people still are debating.

The panel also featured Dr. Kevin Gutzman, an assistant professor of history at WestConn; Don Schels, a Danbury High School teacher; and Dr. Leslie Lindenaar, an assistant professor of history at the University of Hartford. The Danbury Public Schools Teaching American History Grant from the U.S. Department of Education funded the event. A group of Danbury public school history teachers received the grant to support programs that boost their knowledge and enhance classroom instruction. The school district is partnering with WestConn and a number of other educational institutions and community organizations to provide the programs.

WestConn's community will join in its first summer session

WestConn again will host a solemn ceremony of remembrance for the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on America.

Marking the third anniversary of the tragedy, the ceremony will be at noon on Friday, Sept. 10, on the Quadrangle of the university's Midtown campus. It will be open to the public.

The ceremony will feature bagpiper Dr. David Machell, a professor of justice and law administration; narrator Dr. Haren Schramm, a professor of English and of justice and law administration; and The Color Guard of the WCSU Police Department under the command of Chief Neil McLaughlin. WestConn President James W. Schmotker will serve as the special guest narrator.

Education experts discuss national standards

National and state current practices and policies in education took center stage when a variety of state and local experts met with a group of students, enrolled in the Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.) in Instructional Leadership program at WestConn this summer.

The weekend Ed.D. seminar in late July was the third of the summer for those enrolled in the Doctorate of Education, or Ed.D. in Instructional Leadership program, which is the only one in the state, in the fall of 2003. It is the first doctoral degree program offered by the university.

WestConn Education Professor Dr. Thomas Cordy said the seminar's topic is particularly important to the K-12 educators enrolled in the cohort because the national spotlight is on education reform and standards, such as those resulting from the No Child Left Behind legislation.

The line-up of speakers included WestConn's former interim dean James R. Roach; retired teacher and freelance writer Jerome McGovern; Ridgefield Public Schools Assistant Superintendent Dr. Michael Hibbard; Danbury Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Eddie Davis; WestConn Education Professor Dr. Leah Stambler; Dr. Jack Hasagawa, bureau chief for the U.S. Department of Education Office of Equity and Excellence; and Susan Konrad, executive director for the Connecticut State Department of Education Bureau of Student Assessment. The change ranged from the importance of professional associations to special education in school reform.

For more information about the seminar or WestConn's Ed.D. in Instructional Leadership call the Division of Graduate Studies and External Programs at (203) 837-8244.

Information security association rewards four WestConn students

The Connecticut Information Systems Security Association (CT ISSA) recently awarded scholarships to four WestConn students pursuing degrees in the university's management information systems department. The scholarships are part of the organization's effort to further diversity within the ranks of trained information security professionals in Connecticut.

CT ISSA Advisor Donna Rinnchouk presented the scholarships to fledgling resident Ashley Gular, New Fairfield resident Eric Bevacqua, New Fairfield resident Erin Mikkelsen and New Fairfield resident Ellen Murphy during the 2003-04 academic year.

Can getting a college education be like landing on "Fantasy Island"? Well, maybe not. But attending WestConn can certainly be an opportunity to make your dreams come true, says Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Carol Hawkins.

At that end, Hawkins has arranged for Dr. Richard Light, author of the best-selling "Making the Most Out of College: Students Speak Their Minds," to visit the university on Wednesday, Sept. 22.

Two interactive sessions with Light will be held in the Student Center on the Midtown campus. Students can attend a noon session, and faculty and professional staff will attend the 3:30 p.m. session.

Hawkins arranged the visit after serving on several educational committees with Light, who is director of the Harvard Assessment Seminars, a consortium that brings together faculty and administrators from 245 colleges and universities to carry out research about college effectiveness.

"We were very excited about it," Hawkins said. "We are eager to do everything we can for our students to help them learn and enjoy their whole university experience.

Light is a professor in the Harvard Graduate School of Education and director of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. At Harvard, Light is the founder and chair of the Young Faculty Leaders Forum and chair and director of a project at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences called "The Educational Impact of Changing Student Demographics in Colleges and Universities."

Hawkins said she was familiar with Light's decade-long research into finding what is most helpful to students in making the most of their college experience, including what helps them learn and what helps them relate to faculty and fellow students.

Light's 2003 best-selling book has been an important reference for WestConn's universitywide task force reviewing general education, she added.

"He is not someone who just looked at statistics; he went out and interviewed students," Hawkins said, describing Light as "a very engaging person."

Some of Light's findings indicate successful students study in groups, are involved in extra-curricular activities, manage their time wisely, continually work to improve their study skills and talk often with their professors. Hawkins says a well-rounded education includes contact with other students, development of a support network.

"It shouldn't be in isolation," she said. "I think personally it is extremely important for young people to think about what are they are trying to get out of this, what are their goals, what do they really want to learn. It is surprising to me to find out how many students are reluctant to approach a faculty member."

Hawkins said she was intrigued when WestConn President James W. Schmotker talked metaphorically about "going west" on Aug. 2, his second day in office. She agreed.

"It really is a quest," she said of learning. "College is a place where you come to hope to realize your dreams. That is what we are here for, to help students do that."

Hawkins also said she is pleased Light's visit is sponsored not just by academic affairs but by the Division of Student Affairs as well.

Hawkins says sessions with students and staff, there will be follow-up by the Center for Excellence in Learning and Instructional Technology program at WestConn and another sponsor of the talk.

"The center will sponsor a forum where the faculty and professional staff can come together to discuss what we learned," she said.

For more information, call Hawkins at (203) 837-8651.
Assignment helps students augment business acumen

by Sherr Hill

Richard Reilly is a man with many good ideas: his own, and those the Sandy Hook resident is smart enough to solicit from others. So when he was looking for ways to expand his business, a mobile quick lube service called On The Spot Car Care, Reilly sought advice from what he considered an obvious source: graduate students studying strategic management at WestConn.

Reilly, a 2002 graduate of WestConn’s Master in Business Administration (M.B.A.) program, knew from personal experience the brainpower he would find in the Westside campus classroom, he had taken the capstone course for the M.B.A. program himself.

“Many of the students in the M.B.A. program here could just as easily have gone to Harvard,” Reilly said. “WestConn happens to be a great place to work, so they go here — and get just as good an education.”

Maybe better, as Reilly pointed out, the small class sizes at WestConn allow for more personal interaction between the business owner and the business students than can take place during an actual Harvard Business Review. And WestConn’s M.B.A. students, for the most part, are seasoned middle managers with significant work experience on their resumes.

In an ingenuous partnership with the University’s Center for Business Research, WestConn’s M.B.A. students are given the opportunity to work on an actual management project based on an actual business or marketing idea, with input from a pool of executives-in-residence. “The purpose of the Center for Business Research is to link students with the business community and outside organizations,” said Dr. Ron Dzidenko, the center’s director and chair of WestConn’s marketing department. “We contributed to this project by providing executives-in-residence who assisted the students with their presentations. We’ve also helped in the past by providing project ideas and assisting in project selection.”

M.B.A. Coordinator Dr. Fred Tesch, who serves as the admissions and academic advisor to students in WestConn’s M.B.A. program, added that the projects are selected based on what will give the students the most learning opportunities.

“The quick lube service provided a very interesting business for our students to study. It had a lot of snap to it,” Tesch said.

This was the third year students enrolled in the strategic management course taught by Associate Management Professor Dr. Stanislav Mazur. Mazur is credited in this assignment. Reilly worked on such a project during his final semester as an M.B.A. student. After graduating and launching his business, Reilly asked Mazur if he’d thought On The Spot Car Care would be a good topic for a project.

During his first visit to Bazan’s class, Reilly provided the students with information about the company. He also spent countless hours afterwards communicating with them by e-mail.

“I gave my PowerPoint presentation and handed out a brief that included profit-and-loss statements for the business, just as would be done for a Harvard Business Review,” Reilly said. “Then, the students asked a lot of really insightful questions.”

Those questions continued when Reilly returned to the classroom several weeks later. The students, organized in small teams, had begun to contemplate a number of potential strategic directions for his company.

“The teams had to develop a set of actionable recommendations that could be implemented by the business,” Bazan said. “That could include a suggestion that the business refrain from expanding, or even that it close. It was interesting how the groups came up with a wide array of recommendations.”

At the final class, each team had 10 minutes to define its key strategic issue and its recommendation as to how to address it.

Presentations were high-quality and detailed, and they provided:

Black was a Professor of Marketing Dr. Ronald Dzidenko. Adjunct Professor of Marketing Robert Grollie and Associate Professor of Management Dr. Frederic Maldonado. (Middle) Business owner Richard Reilly, Professor of Management and M.B.A. Coordinator. Dr. Frederick Tesch and Dean of the School of Business Dr. Allan Morton. (Front) Associate Professor of Management Dr. Stanley Bazan.

...continued on page 5

Tutor’s wisdom benefits students who use Writing Lab

by Sherr Hill

When Ridgefield resident Louise Kobl’s children were grown, she decided to go back to college for a master’s degree in English. An avid reader and aspiring writer, Kobl had graduated from the all-women’s Wells College in Aurora, N.Y., with a Bachelor of Arts in English, and obtained her teacher certification at Syracuse University. She worked at the Manhattan building that once served as IBM’s international headquarters and taught elementary school in Utica, N.Y.

But one of Kobl’s most educational and challenging experiences took place in the American Literature class taught by the late Dr. Steven Newworth, who was an English professor at WestConn.

“Real and critical writing is all about,” Kobl explained. “He homogenized my essays,” she said, laughing. “Then he worked with me, and ended up teaching me a great deal.”

English Professor Dr. Karen Jambek, Kobl’s thesis adviser, also played a vital role in Kobl’s accomplishments.

“Working with Dr. Jambek was a writing course in itself,” Kobl said. “It gave me the confidence to go on and work with students on my own.”

Kobl received her master’s in English from WestConn in 1995, an impressive accomplishment on its own, but even more so when you consider it had been more than 40 years since she had been in a college classroom. Now, she shares her experience with a new generation of students who seek her assistance in the university’s Writing Lab. The Writing Lab in Berkeley Hall offers one-on-one tutoring for students who want help with ideas, organization, grammar or other intricacies of writing.

Tutors sit at tables and talk with students about their projects, asking a lot of questions in an attempt to ignite inspiration. The room also holds about a dozen computers, which are ready when the creative juices start to flow.

Students call for an appointment or stop by to sign up for a time slot with Kobl or one of the graduate assistants who staff the Writing Lab.

“Louise is a favorite here. People ask for her, specifically,” said Assistant Professor of English Thomas Zink, who oversees the Writing Lab. “She’s an example of one of the great things about WestConn, the commitment of our alums to the university.”

Senior Ernesto Rodriguez of Danbury is one of many students who have benefited from Kobl’s assistance. As a freshman, Rodriguez, who majors in justice and law administration (JLA) and Spanish, lacked confidence in his writing abilities — in part because English wasn’t his primary language.

“I grew up in a Spanish-speaking home, and I wanted to advance my skills when I came to my writing,” Rodriguez said. “I needed some help organizing my papers, and I also wanted to make sure my grammar and writing structure made sense. I think how you write is really important because people will interpret it as an indication of your intelligence.”

The support he received as a freshman brought him back to the Writing Lab several times after that, and he has recommended the lab to his friends. Rodriguez even developed his own unique approach to working with the tutor.

“If I have a really important paper, I will sit down with more than one of the tutors to get different feedback,” he said. “Some people have certain strengths, such as grammar and structuring an essay; others give a lot of insight about what you want to convey and what writing style you want to use. Louise has really helped me out a lot in terms of structure and checking to make sure that I answered all the questions and focused on the key points without leaving anything out.” Rodriguez added.

Rodriguez said those were especially important considerations for a paper he was writing for JLA Professor Dr. Harold Schramm’s Constitutional Law class, noting that Schramm also is an English teacher “so he has high expectations and will catch writing problems.”

Kobl smiles because she can relate to Rodriguez’s concerns. She said tutoring is especially rewarding because most of the students who utilize the lab are courteous, receptive to suggestions and grateful for the help.

“Plus, it’s always something different every day,” Kobl said. “I’ve assisted with all kinds of essays and papers. My favorites are the Introduction to Fiction assignments, because there is so much to work with and it’s wonderful to see what the students think about some of the great authors like William Faulkner.”

During her nine years in the Writing Lab, Kobl estimates she’s assisted more than 400 students, some who are repeat customers.

“I always tell the students, ‘This is your paper. You can only give suggestions, ’” Kobl said. “And I never receive a guarantee: I’ll say, ‘I think you’ve got some very good ideas here’ and give encouragement to the students. Usually they take my advice.’

Some of that advice may end up in a project Kobl is working on that covers a subject she knows quite well — basic writing with an emphasis on vocabulary and diction.

And what about that paper Kobl helped Ernesto Rodriguez write for Constitutional Law? Rodriguez reports he received a “B” and he’s quite pleased.

“Louise’s input definitely made a difference,” Rodriguez said. “Dr. Schramm almost never gives ‘A’s’ and I know the grade would not have been as good as it was without her help. I think it’s great that she does this. Any time someone volunteers to help someone especially helping young people with their education — that’s a wonderful thing.”

For more information, call Zink at (203) 837-4839 or the Writing Lab at (203) 837-8728.
The Ruth A. Haas Library has earned its first national award, which recognizes the library’s extensive collection of biographies about the lives of great humanitarians and its strong partnership with the American Postal Workers Union (APWU).

The library is the 2004 recipient of the John Sessions Memorial Award presented by the Reference and User Services Association, a division of the American Library Association (ALA). According to its Web site, the ALA is the oldest and largest library association in the world, with more than 64,000 members. The award is named in honor of John Sessions, former co-chair of the AFL-CIO/ALA Joint Committee on Library Service to Labor Groups. Supported by a donation from the AFL-CIO, the honor recognizes a library or library system “that has made a significant effort to work with the labor community and by doing so has brought recognition to the history and contribution of the labor movement to the development of the United States.”

“The Haas Library has brought to life the labor history of the Danbury area through its special collection, The Danbury Hatter’s Biographical Project,” said Linda Dausch, a member of the award committee. “Additionally, the library’s cooperation with the APWU has put the library on the road to developing one of the strongest working-class and labor history collections in the Northeast.”

WestConn Director of Library Services Ralph Holbauge said he’s pleased this national award acknowledges two particularly noteworthy elements of the library’s efforts.

The first element is “The Danbury Hatter’s Biographical Project.” The collection contains 461 historical research projects that detail the lives of about 200 members of the United Hatters of North America AFL involved with the Danbury Hatters Strike in 1902. Before his retirement, Dr. Herbert Janick had students in his Introduction to Historical Research courses develop the biographies about those involved in what once was Danbury’s primary industry. From 1982 to 1999, the students created the projects, which document the hatters’ lives, contain copies of supporting documents that range from census records to school records to obituaries, and log the student’s research. Some of the projects even include copies of relevant photos.

“The projects gave the students a rare opportunity to work with primary research materials while delving into local history,” Holbauge said. “Now, the biographies serve as a unique resource for the university’s students and faculty, as well as residents of the Danbury area.”

The award also recognizes the library’s ongoing partnership with the APWU area local. In August 2001, the union made an initial donation of working-class and labor history books and videos to the library. The union members also voted to make an annual $1,000 contribution to the library, recognizing the need to offer materials that “remain timely and pertinent to today’s students and their research needs.” As an emeritus history professor and local authority on labor history, Janick works with library staff to select additional materials to be purchased.

“One of the things that is particularly notable about the APWU gift is that it’s mostly publications printed by university press,” Holbauge said. “These publications are often well-researched and of scholarly value to students and researchers interested in this area.”

“This is an example of the possibilities that can be cultivated when the library and the university work with individuals and organizations in the community,” he added.

Association Director of Library Services Janet Oliés accepted the Sessions award on June 28 during the ALA Annual Conference in Orlando, Fla.

“You really have to be doing innovative, creative things to receive a national award of this caliber,” Oliés pointed out.

Previous recipients of the award include the Martin Luther King Library at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, the Detroit Professionals Library and The Institute of Industrial Relations Library.

For more information about the award or the Haas Library’s collections, call the library at (203) 837-0100 or the WestConn Office of Public Relations at (203) 837-8446.

Schmottter (cont’d.)

“Teaching always reminds me of the business we are in,” he said. “Educating students is the core mission of the university, and the leadership needs to remind itself of that on a regular basis.” Since being named president, Schmottter has been very busy. He attended the alumni golf outing in July, met with some of the university’s key stakeholders, and joined the alumni on a trip to Yankee Stadium. Yes, he is a Yankee fan, and going to Yankee Stadium was “a real treat” for him.

“I grew up in the Midwest in the ’50s and ’60s, and you either were a Yankee fan or a Yankee fan I fell into the Yankee fan category.”

His Yankee roots were further strengthened when he moved to Kalamazoo, Mich., where Yankee shortstop Derek Jeter attended high school.

Baseball, however, is not Schmottter’s only pastime. “One of my most serious hobbies is writing fiction,” he noted. He stumbled onto his love for writing quite by chance, during his tenure living on campus at Lehigh University.

“It was a weekend that Daphne [his wife] was away,” he explained. “The students were gone, and the campus was very quiet. I entered our second bedroom, which had been transformed into a study, and sat down to write. Next thing I knew, it was 2 a.m. and I had all these characters in the room with me.”

Schmottter and his wife both share a love for cooking. When it comes to ensuring the availability of those unorthodox or unpopular viewpoints to all who want to read them.

“Those who ban books infringe on one of the most sacred of American freedoms, the freedom of the press,” said Assistant Professor of English Dr. Michael Chappell, another organizer of the WestConn events. “This freedom is key to our identity as Americans and to the preservation of a democratic society. Without it, we lose our importance to the rest of the world as a symbol of hope and freedom.”

The activities will include a read-a-thon of banned books from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 28, outside the Student Center. Participants will read 10-minute selections from books on the ALA’s list of the 100 most-banned books.

Members of the university’s Roger Sherman Debate Society are set to debate book banning at noon on Wednesday, Sept. 29, in Room 202 of the Student Center.

The theatre arts department will present a costume reading of selected scenes from “Inherit the Wind,” which dramatizes a 1925 trial about an Ohio gardener, however, he simply says, “Daphne enjoys gardening, I just do it.” He also loves to read, and recently read Dannie Abchir’s biography of President John Adams, a book he says he should have read a long time ago.

For now, though, Schmottter is focused on WestConn and hopes to lead in a way that encourages everyone to be his or her best self.

“There are lots of clichés about leadership, but one resonates especially strongly for me,” he said. “It’s from the book Leadership is an Art” by Max De Pree.

De Pree is the former CEO of Herman Miller and the founder of Herman Miller’s company. In his bestseller, De Pree writes that leadership encompasses three things: explaining reality to people, thanking people for what they do, and creating an environment within which everyone rises to his or her potential.

“The president of a university is the one person that has to see the whole picture and how it all fits,” Schmottter said. “And you get that by talking to people, thanking people for a job well done, not surprising them, and engaging in effective and consistent communication.”

Schmottter doesn’t plan on spending a lot of time in his office. His plan is to walk around campus and get to know what everyone has to say about moving the university forward.

So if you happen to meet President Schmottter in a hallway or walking across campus, engage him in a conversation about WestConn. Chances are, that’s exactly what he’s looking for.

Banned books (cont’d.)

ban on teaching evolution, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 30, in the Reinold Studio Theatre in Berkshire Hall. The production will be directed by Professor Emeritus Bill Walton and produced by Theatre Arts Chair Frank Herbert. Assistant Professor of English Dr. Shouhua Qi will discuss the Japanese invasion of China and the history of its capital city, Nanking, during World War II, and Murray will join English Professor Margaret “Izzy” Sullivan to discuss the Harry Potter series. Plans also are underway for a poetry reading featuring the works of campus and local poets.

If it rains, the Sept. 29 read-aloud will move inside the Student Center, Lounge. Members of the public who want to participate in the poetry reading can call Chappell at (203) 837-0096. Those who want to read a selection during the read-aloud can call Murray at (203) 837-9120.

Business acumen (cont’d.)

compared to a published case study,” Drizdenko said. “The students really face the same types of issues that small business owners are confronted with all the time.”

Bar is agreed. “The benefits of these projects is that they allow the students to combine their business experience with the theories and techniques that they’ve learned in the M.B.A. program, in order to solve real world business problems.”
With Rotary Club grant, Fox to take his expertise humor on the road
by Sheri Hill

Drive into almost any town in America, and one of the first things you’ll see is a sign informing you where the local Rotary Club meets. Unless you’re a member, the sign might not register and you may forget about it before it appears in your rearview mirror.

What you may be missing is the fact that there’s a lot of good going on in those Rotary meetings, which aren’t just nationwide — they’re worldwide. And some of that benevolence is happening right here at WestConn. Just ask Adjunct Political Science Instructor Dr. Edward Fox, a recent recipient of a Rotary Foundation University Teachers Grant.

“I’ve been awarded a grant to teach at la Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica in the School of International Relations during the spring semester of 2005,” Fox said. “This is a great honor, and part of my charge in receiving this grant, along with using the funds and travel expenses there, is to spread the word about programs like this offered by Rotary International.”

There’s no doubt Fox will make an excellent ambassador for spreading some of his good-natured humor abroad, he wants to get the word out that there are significant underutilized assets that would benefit both students and faculty, if more people knew about them. One place to start would be online at www.rotary.org.

According to the organization’s Web site, Rotary is “an association of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.”

The organization administers a variety of grant-based scholarships and programs, including Rotary Grants for University Teachers, such as Fox received, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Greenwich, Conn. The goals of such grants are “to build understanding while strengthening higher education in low-income countries through the exchange of teaching methods and ideas between teachers at grant recipient’s home and host institutions, and advance development in low-income countries by sponsoring educators to teach subjects of practical benefit to the host country,” according to Rotary materials.

In the past 20 years, more than 350 university professors from around the world have educated college-level students and conducted professional projects in developing countries as a result of this program. During the 2003-04 academic year, three dozen educators from nine countries shared $400,000 in grant funds. Fox will contribute to the contributions of Rotarians in their sponsor districts.

Fox will be one of 28 university professors from 19 countries to receive such a grant in 2005, and the only recipient who will teach in Costa Rica. With the enrollment of 17,000 students, the National University of Costa Rica, located in Heredia, is the second largest university in that nation. It is a lot like WestConn in many ways. The university offers a full range of disciplines and it is very competitive. All of its students are commuters.

“This will be so much more than a teaching assignment,” Fox said. “It will give me an opportunity to enhance the image of America as a world leader. Global citizenship, the FISNUT Act, human rights and individual rights are all areas that impact how others look at us. I can help them understand the responsibilities — and the costs — that go along with being a world leader. I can promote that we’re not as bad as we appear to be.”

The benefits truly will be two-sided, Fox explained. Not only does he hope that his Costa Rican students derive new insights, but the professor Fox will be a Costa Rican student as well. The students also will reap the rewards of his experiences when he returns to the classroom.

“As a result of my involvement in this program, exciting things will go into my own teaching,” Fox said. “Sometimes as a nation we don’t always go about things the right way, and it will be interesting to incorporate into my curriculum how this is perceived outside of the United States.

“I just hope I can achieve half of what some of the previous great grant recipients have accomplished,” Fox said. “Some of what’s been done is truly amazing.”

Fox’s ambassadorial efforts are already underway. He’s made contact with his two host country Rotarian advisers: one is a native Costa Rican who heads the country’s national insurance company and the other is a transplanted German-American who operates an eco-tour business on the

WestConn will host a distinguished group of university presidents and higher education ministry directors from Germany this month as part of a program conducted annually by the Institute of International Education (IIE).

This year’s annual IIE Fulbright Educational Exports Seminar will run from Sunday, Sept. 19, to Friday, Sept. 24. The program, “Charge Management in Higher Education — The Transformation of U.S. Universities,” will feature speakers and panel discussions at locations in and near Washington, D.C., and New York City, including WestConn.

Campus in Washington, the foreign educators will visit the U.S. Department of State, IIE offices and the German Embassy for a special program that will include opportunities for participants to take field experience visits at either Georgetown University or George Washington University. While in New York, they will convene at IIE headquarters, and then break into field teams. On Thursday, Sept. 23, one team will spend the day making observations at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and the other will visit WestConn.

“This will be the third year that WestConn will work with the IIE and the German-American Fulbright Commission to introduce German university leaders to the people, structures and strategies successfully used by U.S. universities to advance our educational objectives,” said WestConn Vice President for Institutional Advancement Richard Gerber.

“WestConn was asked to participate again because of the excellent reviews we received the past two years,” Gerber explained. In previous sessions, the meetings have provided an overview of topics related to fundraising, including the mechanics of solicitation, alumni affairs, corporate giving, public relations and information management.

“At WestConn we have just brought in new leadership in the President’s Office, this is an ideal opportunity for us to share with our German counterparts the ways in which we will manage the significant changes that will be seen on campus in the coming years,” Gerber added.

The IIE is an organization that seeks to increase communication and the sharing of knowledge across borders in order to reduce conflict and advance people’s lives.

For more information, contact Gerber at (837) 89865.

WestConn, Danbury Hospital partner to educate more nurses
by Yoonee Johnson

With ongoing concerns about the nursing shortage in Connecticut and the need for faculty to educate more nursing students, WestConn and Danbury Hospital recently formed a partnership meant to help WestConn enroll and graduate more students from the university’s undergraduate nursing program. Under the historic agreement, one of the hospital’s nurses will serve as a faculty member in WestConn’s nursing department.

The partnership will include a $150,000 grant from the Connecticut State Department of Higher Education, the initiative is set to begin in January 2005 and run through December 2006. It’s meant to help an additional 20 nurses, 10 each academic year, earn their bachelor’s degree in nursing. WestConn’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Nursing programs, as well as a program to prepare registered nurses (RNs) pursue their Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

For years, the university and hospital nursing departments have worked together closely. The hospital is the major clinical site for WestConn nursing students as they gain hands-on experience with patients, and WestConn’s graduates often become Danbury Hospital nurses. But this effort is historic because it’s the first time the two institutions have agreed to “share” a staff member.

Danbury Health Systems Inc. President and CEO Frank Kelly and former WestConn President James R. Boach signed the agreement during an event on the university’s Midtown campus. Representatives of the university’s nursing faculty and the hospital’s nursing staff, Sen. David Cappiello and state Rep. Janice Giegler were among those who attended the June 22 signing.

“This action represents another step in the tradition of WestConn and Danbury Hospital to work together to serve the community effectively and for the betterment of the community,” Kelly said.

For all intents and purposes, the institutions are obvious. WestConn will gain a faculty member needed to attract and educate more nursing students; the hospital will be able to hire more nurses with bachelor’s degrees to fill open positions, and more of its RNs may choose to earn their bachelor’s degrees at WestConn. Dr. Lynne Clark, dean of the WestConn School of Professional Studies, said the effort also may have an impact on patients in the Greater Danbury area.

The proposal seeking funding for the partnership cited a 2003 study published in The Journal of the American Medical Association. The study confirmed that the outcomes for patients are better as the level of education of nurses is increased, noting a 10 percent increase in the proportion of nurses holding a bachelor’s degree in some settings was associated with a 5 percent decrease in patient deaths.

Mary Nolan, vice president of nursing at Danbury Hospital, said the hospital also stands to gain more than potential employees or employees with more training from the affiliation. Hospitals can achieve “magnet certification” when they show a commitment to educating nurses, she said. The exchange also stands to benefit the Danbury Hospital nurse who is picked to teach at WestConn, she said.

If the partnership is successful, the institutions plan to pursue additional funding to continue it. For more information, contact Gerber at (837) 89865.
WestConn earns federal recognition for security courses

by Yvonne Johnson

WestConn will host a September appearance by two well-known Greek-American comedic performers to support a scholarship fund, established by the Macrouritas Family Foundation, for promising young area students. Basile and Jimmy “Super Greek” Santis will perform at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 25, in Ives Concert Hall in White Hall on the Midtown campus. Tickets are $30 for adults and $20 for students with valid I.D. Children under 12 will be admitted free. Proceeds will benefit the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) Chapter 95 Macrouritas Scholarship Fund. To buy tickets in advance, call (860) 550-2700. Tickets also will be sold at the door.

Basile is nationally known for his comedic routines focused on stories of life in Greece. His “How to Grow Up Greek in America” performance is described as “extremely funny,” and his stories about Acrocentric pronunciation and eccentric family members resonate with people of all ethnic descents and nationalities. Basile and Santis collaborated on “Men in Skirts,” which includes parodies of popular songs from the "70s through today. "Greeks Will Rock You" and "Men in Skirts" are among the hilarious offerings on their CD.

Kip Kyprianou, president of AHEPA Chapter 95, said those who attend the fundraiser are sure to laugh. “It will be a great night of fun,” he said of the event organized by Chapter 95, which is the Danbury branch of AHEPA.

AHEPA is an international Greek-American organization, with chapters in the United States, Canada, Australia and Greece. AHEPA aims to promote awareness of Hellenism, education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence. The Chapter 95 Macrouritas Scholarship Fund was established nearly 10 years ago with a donation from Constantine (Demo) Macrouritas through the Macrouritas Family Foundation. Since its establishment, more than 50 students have received the scholarship to support undergraduate studies at an accredited institution of higher learning.

The handful of students who receive the scholarship each year are chosen by a selection committee that evaluates the applicants’ academic performance, community involvement and financial need. Applicants must be a member of AHEPA, the child of an AHEPA member or a member of the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church of Danbury.

Macrouritas, founder and chairman of Brookfield-based Photonics Inc., is a longtime supporter of higher education who believes education is “the key to every individual’s future.” He has served on the board of the WCSU Foundation for more than 15 years, and his $1.1 million pledge to the Foundation for the university’s Centennial Capital Campaign is the largest ever received by WestConn. The gift will establish and support the Constantine S. and Marie C. Macrouritas Chair in Hellenic and Modern Greek Studies, the Macrouritas Scholarship Endowment for foreign-born students, the Constantine S. Macrouritas Lecture Series and the Macrouritas Entrepreneurial Endowment. This endowment will fund entrepreneurial projects and activities for students in the Auncell School of Business and will establish the Constantine S. Macrouritas Entrepreneur of the Year business award.

For more information about the certification, call Wright at (203) 837-0514 or the WestConn Office of Public Relations at (203) 837-4846. For more information about the security- and technology-related offerings, call Montague at (203) 837-0514 or Gunki at (203) 837-4846.

The Danbury branch of the Connecticut Hellenic Health Association (CHHA) and WestConn are teaming up to offer a number of beneficial health events during the 2004-05 academic year.

The first event on the schedule is a panel discussion focused on "Case Studies Using a Holistic Health Medical Model.” The discussion, with a question-and-answer session, will be on Tuesday, Sept. 14, in Warner Hall on the university’s Midtown campus. Several area holistic health practitioners will present case studies related to their holistic approaches to heart disease, osteoporosis, fatigue, obesity, heartburn and diabetes. Dr. Thomas Worden, an integrative health and wellness chiropractic practitioner for 22 years, will moderate the discussion.

Dr. Mitch Prywes, an acupuncture practitioner, will offer a presentation about pain management, on Tuesday, Oct. 12, in Alumni Hall on the university’s Midtown campus.

The public is invited to all the scheduled events, which will be on the university’s Midtown campus, 181 White St., in Danbury. The presentations will be from 7 to 8:30 p.m., registration and networking will begin at 6:30 p.m. Admission will be $5 for CHHA members, $10 for non-CHHA members, and $1 for senior citizens. WestConn students and staff with valid I.D. will be admitted free.

CHHA Danbury’s mission includes presenting and supporting the philosophy and practice of holistic health care while educating the public and promoting the awareness of holistic practices.

For more information, call CHHA Danbury Branch Director Dr. Jeannette Tedesco at (203) 793-0808 or (203) 837-8612.

Narragansett border Fox already sees a potential collaboration between WestConn’s Roots & Shoots program and the eco-tour operator, and plans to establish a direct relationship between the respective WestConn and National University departments.

Previous corporate business has taken him to Latin America and he’s made family visits to Costa Rica, so the territory is familiar — as is the language. Whether or not his quick-witted humor will translate well remains to be seen.

“On one, he Costa Rican appreciate humor,” Fox said, laughing. “They’re quick and witty, and they’re a very warm, receptive people. They may even find a program that has my students here at home. I always strive for a class laugh, or at least a smile in my teaching — it’s healthy.”

Fox isn’t wasting any time translating his sizable repertoire of one-liners into Spanish to prepare for his new audience. Instead, he’s beginning to compile a database of regional New England Rotary scholarship recipients so students and teachers alike can share their experiences and inspire others to apply for grant funds.

Rotary Ambassadorial and scholarship recipients may contact Fox at info@FoxCounsel.com and add their names to the list.

For more information about the call, visit Kyprianou at (203) 837-0514 or the WestConn Office of Public Relations at (203) 837-4846.
TUES. 14. WestConn and the Danbury branch of the Connecticut Holocaust Health Association (CHHA) will present a panel discussion about "Case Studies Using a Holistic Health Model," from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in Warner Hall on the Midtown campus. Several area holistic health practitioners will present case studies of their holistic approaches to heart disease, cancers, fatigue, headaches and digestive disorders. Registration and networking will begin at 6:30 p.m. Admission will be $10 for CHHA members, $15 for non-members, and $1 for senior citizens. WestConn students, faculty and staff with valid I.D. will be admitted free. For more information, call CHHA Danbury Branch Director Dr. Jeanette Tedesco at (203) 753-0685 or (800) 837-8612.

TUES. 21. The WCSU ice Hockey Team will hold tryouts at 7 a.m. at the Danbury Ice-Arena, 1 Independence Way in Danbury. All players must be matriculating students, aged at least a 12-year-old. Cost is $200 for tryouts. For more information, call Mark Allen at (203) 837-9016.

WED. 22. Dr. Richard Light, author of "Making the Most of College," will offer two free interactive sessions for WestConn students, faculty and staff in Rooms 201 and 202 of the Student Center on the Midtown campus. The session for students will be from noon to 1 p.m., the session for faculty and staff will be from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Light has visited more than 100 colleges and conducted more than 400 interviews with students, faculty and staff to answer questions such as "What can students do to be a better college experience?" and "What can faculty and staff do to help them?" For more information, call Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Carol Hawkes at (203) 837-8881. (See story on page 2.)

THUR. 23. Paula Streit, a business consultant who sought the Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate last year, will speak about his opponents to the North American Free Trade Agreement from 5:25 to 6:25 p.m. during a political science class in Room 214 of White Hall on the Midtown campus. The discussion will be free and open to the public. It is one of several scheduled during the semester for the World Governments, Economics and Cultures course offered by Eric Schmitt. For more information, call (203) 837-8542.

THUR. 23. WestConn will host an all-day event with a distinguished group of university presidents and higher education ministry directors from Germany. The visit is part of a program sponsored by the Institute of International Education. For more information, call Vice President for Institutional Advancement Richard Gerber at (203) 837-9050. (See story on page 6.)

SAT. 11 & SUN. 12. The First Arts on the Quad celebration will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Saturday, Sept. 11, and Sunday, Sept. 12, at the Quad on the Midtown campus. Nearly 50 professional artisans and craftspeople, as well as local artists and children’s entertainment, will help fund scholarships for WestConn students. Admission will be $4 for adults. Children under 11 will get in free. For more information, call (203) 837-8632. (See story on page 2.)

TUES. 14. Landscape painter Allan Solomon will discuss his work at 4:30 p.m. in Vincent Room 1 in White Hall on the Midtown campus. His work can be found in prestigious collections such as The Metropolitan Museum, the National Academy of Design, and the Yale University Art Gallery. The event will be free and open to the public, and it will be presented as part of the university’s Master of Fine Arts lecture series. For more information, call (203) 837-8413.

MON. 27. — SAT. 2. WestConn will host a celebration of Banned Books Week with a number of free, public activities on the Midtown campus. The events will include a poster show on noon weekdays in Room 202 of the Student Center. A round-up of banned books will be from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 28, outside the Student Center. If it rains, the event will move into the Student Center Lobby. Participants will read 10-minute selections from books on the American Library Association’s list of the 100 most banned books. Members of the university’s Roger Sherman Debate Society are set to debate book banning on noon Wednesday, Sept. 27, in Room 202 at the Student Center. The theatre arts department will present a costumed reading of selected scenes from “Inherit the Wind” by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee, during a 1970 trial about an Ohio town of teaching evolution, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 28, in the Reisfeld Studio Theatre in Berkley Hall. Other events planned throughout the week include poetry readings by campus and local poets. For more information, call Dr. Margaret Murray at (203) 837-9120 or Michael Chappell at (203) 837-9366. (See story on page 1.)

TUES. 28. Fred Mason, a nationally known portrait artist, will discuss his work at 11 a.m. in Vincent Room 1 in White Hall on the Midtown campus. Mason’s portraits hang in most of the 50 states and several foreign countries. The subjects of his portraits include corporate executives, education leaders, military officers and publishers. The event will be free and open to the public, and it will be presented as part of the university’s Master of Fine Arts lecture series. For more information, call (203) 837-8410.

THUR. 30. David Faber, a Holocaust survivor and author of “Because of Rome: A Holocaust Survivor’s Memoir,” will discuss his autobiographical book from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in Warner Hall on the Midtown campus. A reception and book signing will follow. The event will be free and open to the public. For more information, call (203) 837-8574. (See this story.)

THUR. 30. WestConn President Dr. James W. Schmidt will discuss his career in higher education and his plans for WestConn from 5:35 to 6:25 p.m. during a political science class in Room 214 of White Hall on the Midtown campus. Schmidt assumed the WestConn presidency in October 2005. The discussion will be free and open to the public. It is one of several scheduled during the semester for the World Governments, Economics and Cultures course. For more information, call (203) 837-8410.

THUR. 30. Holocaust survivor David Faber, will be the speaker in this year’s School of Professional Studies Distinguished Lecture series on Thursday, Sept. 30, in Warner Hall on the Midtown campus. His lecture will be from 7 to 8 p.m.; a book signing and reception will immediately follow the lecture. Faber will discuss his highly acclaimed autobiographical book “Because of Rome: A Holocaust Survivor’s Memoir.”

When Faber was 15, he witnessed the brutal murder of his family by Nazi soldiers in Poland during World War II. He promised his dead mother he would survive and tell the world about the horrors committed against him and his family. Faber survived eight concentration camps, and was liberated by the British from Belsen-Blogen concentration camp in April 1945. By this time, he was 18 years old and weighed a mere 72 pounds.

Today, Faber lectures throughout the country about his experiences during the Holocaust. During his lectures, he relates the Holocaust to events of recent years, emphasizing the dangers of hatred, as well as the need for mutual understanding and compassion.

For more information, call (203) 837-8576.