Mission advances partnership with Chinese university

China’s emergence as the world’s fastest-growing economic power at the dawn of the 21st century presents unique opportunities and challenges for Western Connecticut State University. President James W. Schmotter led a WestConn mission to the heart of China this summer to embrace the opportunities and meet the challenges head-on.

Schmotter joined Ancell School of Business Dean Dr. Allen Morton, Assistant Professor of Marketing Dr. Karen Koza and Enrollment Management Officer William Hawkins on an eight-day visit to July to Zhengzhou, capital of Henan province and home to pioneering Sias International University. The WestConn team’s goal was to build on the building research and instructional relationship forged by Morton and Koza with their counterparts at Sias during the previous year, setting the groundwork for more extensive academic collaboration and exchange programs in the future.

Schmotter and Sias University President Shawn Chen formally affirmed the new partnership with the signing of a memorandum of agreement and understanding between the two institutions. The memorandum commits WestConn and Sias to explore ways to strengthen collaborative ties through the development of joint curriculum and research projects, as well as the promotion of student and faculty exchanges for training and scholarly research.

“Sias is excited about the potential of this agreement that our two institutions have a lot in common,” Schmotter said shortly after his return. “We make a particularly good fit because these are two institutions that are growing and developing, and we have aspirations that make sense for this particular time and place in history.”

Sias University offers a unique partnership opportunity for WestConn as a bold departure from the norm among state-controlled higher education institutions in China. Sias has emerged since its founding in 1998 as a model for application of Western principles in Chinese academic administration, and a pioneer in curriculum development blending Eastern and Western educational philosophies. Sias academic departments range from business management, economics and computer science to fine and performing arts, foreign languages and engineering.

The agreement marks an important step forward in realization of the “Practicum in Global Business Environments” project, launched under the leadership of Morton and sponsored by the President’s Initiatives Fund. The project is a collaborative venture to develop joint curriculum and research efforts with the participation of students and faculty from both the WestConn and Sias business management department.

A central objective of the initiative is the organization of at least one marketing project each semester during the 2006-07 academic year, to be conducted in courses offered concurrently at WestConn and Sias. Each project team formed for course inclusion will assign students from both universities, who will use video conferencing, e-mail and other means of communication to collaborate on completion of assignments. Ancell faculty members also will seek ways to

Students learning foreign languages free online

“Learning these languages is a matter of survival,” said Caruso, who also is director of the WCSU Center for Professional Development. “Your students are looking at careers with global corporations.”

Knowledge of foreign languages

M.F.A. graduate publishes his first children’s book

Rolandas Kaulievicius came to America in 1993 to succeed as an artist. He is making good progress.

Kaulievicius, who earned a Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in Illustration from WestConn, said Wednesday’s death of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi signals a dangerous time in Iraq because … “They are going to want to assert themselves quickly,” said Saad. “This is a relief for Iraq and Jordan, but I anticipate the new leader will want to do something dramatic right away.”

WESTCONN ACTORS A SMASH HIT IN ECUADOR

Twenty theatre arts students at WestConn did not anticipate the 2006-07 academic year, to be conducted in courses offered concurrently at WestConn and Sias. Each project team formed for course inclusion will assign students from both universities, who will use video conferencing, e-mail and other means of communication to collaborate on completion of assignments. Ancell faculty members also will seek ways to

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AROUND CAMPUS

Anim-Wright named vice president

by Yvonne J. Johnson

For more than a year, Dr. Koryoe Anim-Wright had been serving as the interim vice president for Institutional Advancement at WestConn. On July 7, Anim-Wright shed the “interim” tag and formally assumed the role.

Anim-Wright, a Watertown resident, had served as interim vice president since the spring of 2005 and was the favored candidate in the recent search to fill the position, President James W. Schmotter pointed out when he announced the selection.

“Under her direction in just one year, our Office of Institutional Advancement has increased the annual fund and other contributions, expanded the visibility of the university in regional and national media, and developed an organizational infrastructure to ensure sound stewardship of investments in WCSU,” Schmotter said. “Koryoe has been a valuable contributor to WCSU over the years in her roles in University Relations, and I look forward to the even greater impact she will make as a vice president.”

Institutional Advancement encompasses Alumni Relations, Development, and University Relations, which includes the Public Relations, University Publications and Design, and University Events offices. Anim-Wright joined the university in December 1997 as director of Public Relations. She was promoted in 2003 to director of University Relations.

Anim-Wright said she expects her years of experience at the university and within University Relations to serve her well as she pursues new goals and objectives for the Office of Institutional Advancement.

“Communicating with our current and potential donors is key to getting our messages across and producing results,” Anim-Wright said. “One of my main goals has been to streamlining and enhancing our donor communication, appreciation and stewardship efforts. Thanking donors in a timely and promptly is one of the most effective ways to let them know how much we appreciate their support, which could lead them to become lifetime partners in WestConn’s success.”

Anim-Wright also aims to increase alumni participation in the annual fund, expand corporate and foundation giving, and sharpen the focus on planned giving. Her long-term goal is to continue engaging alumni, faculty and staff and members of the larger community about the strategic goals of the university and ways they can help.

“Development is not only about raising money, it’s also about creating lasting partnerships by connecting with donors in a way that’s relevant to them today. Making that happen consistently will open new doors and opportunities for WestConn, and I’m excited about being a part of that,” she said.

Anim-Wright earned her Bachelor of Arts in Communications: Radio/TV Production from Central State University and her Doctorate in Philosophy in Communications and Development from the Union Institute & University, both in Ohio. Anim-Wright also completed WestConn’s Certificate in Direct/Interactive Marketing program.

Before coming to WestConn, Anim-Wright held positions involving grant development and program management, public relations and marketing, and international programs at Central State University for several years. A native of Ghana, Anim-Wright is fluent in French. In one of her roles at Central State University, Anim-Wright served as a Spanish language and cultural ambassador, which featured speakers from the U.S. Agency for International Development, United Nations Development Program, U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Commerce. She also coordinated visits of high-level dignitaries, including ambassadors from Ghana, Mali, Senegal, Togo, Ivory Coast and Gabon, as well as four African presidents.

Anim-Wright also served on a 10-member team of American university researchers selected by the Midwestern Universities Consortium for International Activities to study the feasibility of establishing a national university in Mali, West Africa. She’s a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Public Relations Society of America and National Association of Black Journalists. Anim-Wright’s community service includes former membership on the Board of Trustees of The Horde Foundation and the Board of Directors of the Western Red Cross of Western Connecticut.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

This action is reserved for correcting errors or clarifying statements appearing in the Communique. Please report factual errors or items needing clarification by calling (203) 837-8486 or sending an email to pr@wcsu.edu.

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All WestConn faculty, staff and students are invited to attend the Inauguration Ceremony of Connecticut State University System Chancellor Dr. David Carter on Friday, Oct. 20, on the campus of Central Connecticut State University in New Britain.

WestConn will be prominently featured during the evening’s events. Services is creating the visual presentation that will be shown before and after the ceremony, and the WCSU music department will perform all of the music associated with the ceremony and other inaugural events that day. The selection of our music and media services departments is a strong statement about the caliber of the programs and the strength of the performances by our students, music faculty and staff.

To support Chancellor Carter and the music department’s featured role, the WCSU Inauguration Committee would like the university to be represented by a minimum of 60 members of the campus community, comprised of a combination of faculty, students and staff, to participate in the ceremony. As part of the day’s events, attendees will sign a poster that all of four campuses will be on display.

Free academic regalia will be provided for faculty and administrative faculty who would like to march in the procession. A bus also will be rented to transport participants from the Midtown and WestConn at Waterbury campuses to Central for participation in the ceremony.

For more information, please call WCSU Campus Coordinator Rebecca Woodside at (203) 837-8760 or send an e-mail to westward@wcsu.edu.
M.H.A. program graduates first Norwalk Hospital cohort

by Sherni Hill

What do a pharmacy director, laboratory manager, director of a respiratory care program, or even a human resources professional, physical therapist, dialysis nurse manager, health care consultant and two pharmacists—all professionals who hail from five different Connecticut towns—have in common? They comprise the first cohort graduates of the Master of Health Administration (M.H.A.) program at Norwalk Hospital.

Initiated in fall 2003, the program builds upon the already successful, decade-old M.H.A. program offered at the Analy School of Business on the university’s Westside campus. The 36-credit Norwalk program contains course offerings identical to the Westside program in a location that’s more convenient for residents of lower Fairfield County. Norwalk Hospital has been accredited as a regional WestConn affiliate as a result.

The incentive for the hospital to host classes at its facility is obvious, said Assistant Professor of Management Dr. Neil Dworkin, who coordinates WestConn’s M.H.A. program.

“The benefit to them is that it serves as a retention strategy by giving the managerial staff at the hospital the tools needed to function in a competitive environment,” Dworkin said. “The M.H.A. degree also gives the students more career mobility—maybe not immediately, but in the long run.”

The program includes required courses in organizational behavior, human resource management, health delivery systems, health services financial management, managing health services organizations, health services policy and public health, health services quality management, health policy and strategic management for health services. Elective options include health administration, health services marketing, health care law, selected topics in management, student-developed study and selected courses in the Master of Business Administration and Certificate in Gerontological Studies programs.

Required courses are taught by WestConn faculty at Norwalk Hospital. Electives are offered on the Westside campus weekly.

The program can be completed in as little as three years, but students can take as long as six to complete the degree requirements. The first Norwalk cohort completed the coursework in three, graduating in May 2006. The nine students in the group all worked—some at Norwalk Hospital, said Dennis Selmont, human resources associate at Norwalk Hospital.

“We’re very pleased the program has worked as well as it has and we enjoy our collaboration with WestConn,” Selmont said. “WCSCU has been instrumental in providing high-quality graduates over the years—many who have assumed and maintained leadership positions at Norwalk Hospital.”

The hospital provides classroom space and support services, in addition to offering tuition assistance to qualified associates who enroll in the program.

Recruitment for a second Norwalk cohort is well under way, with open houses and marketing efforts directed at faculty, staff and students at other health care facilities.

The goal is to have 10 or more students in a cohort. As of August, five students have signed on for a second cohort, Dworkin said.

“Potential students are juggling demanding lives and sometimes they’re not sure they can fit a master’s program into their schedules. But the first group of Norwalk graduates proves they can make it through,” Dworkin said. “I’m really proud of the program and the students really like it.”

Ellen Durmin, dean of Graduate Studies and External Programs at WestConn, agreed.

“WestConn’s mission includes serving as an accessible, responsive and creative intellectual resource for the people and institutions of Connecticut,” Durmin said. “Our partnership in delivering our M.H.A. program at Norwalk Hospital demonstrates our commitment to the university’s mission statement and its core values.

“Faculty from the management department in the Ancell School of Business traveled to Norwalk each week to provide our master’s program in a format that was convenient for the hospital employees. Norwalk represents the first of off-site location for the delivery of the university’s M.H.A., with the program delivered to a cohort of 22 students in Nassau, Bahamas, several years ago. Our Division of Graduate Studies continues to be responsive to individual and community needs and collaborates with employers and educational institutions to provide programs that work for our students.”

Art alumni wins competition to publish his first children’s book (cont’d)

Kiaulevicius makes a point during the M.H.A. graduation.

Art alumni wins competition to publish his first children’s book (cont’d)

Rolandas Kiaulevicius

He got the contract as one of 15 winners in a publishing company’s competition for college student writing. The competition was run by a new company, Red Cypret Press, and Kiaulevicius’ book is among the group of winners.

The 28-year-old Lithuanian, who lives in New Haven with his wife, hopes publication of the story about zoo animals with tickle up painting will be the first step in a long-illustrating career.

“I have many ideas,” Kiaulevicius said. “Twenty-four hours in the day is not enough for me.”

WestConn Professor of Art Abe Echevarria agreed with that assessment.

“Rolandas is making some small adjustments to the story,” Echevarria said. “He’s trying to find his way through our lifestyle here, and I think that seeps into this book. Some of the storyline relates to some personal projects and make a change. I do think he has the wherewithal to persevere no matter what comes along. I think his talent is going to support that. He is going to be a very well-received individual in this country.”

Kiaulevicius said he hopes to be hired as an art teacher, with his off hours spent painting and illustrating more books.

To view Kiaulevicius’ portfolio, including illustrations from the book, go to www.rolandasart.com.
Kain helps police commissions

by Paul Steimetz

You might not think much about
the role of police commissioners. But George Kain does.

Kain, a member of the Ridgefield
Police Commission, helped create a
partnership between WestConn and the
Police Commissioners Association of
Connecticut. The partnership has
resulted in two seminars for police
commissioners at WestConn’s Westside
campus, with a third tentatively
planned for Jan. 10.

“It is a great venture between
WestConn and another agency to bring
professional training for police commissions
throughout the state,” Kain said. “It will
improve the relationship between
commissions and their departments.

As the commissioners association is increasing its commitment to professionalism, WestConn is working hand-in-hand with them.”

In about half the cities and towns
in the state, police chiefs report directly
to the mayor or first selectman. In the other
half, the chief reports to a civilian
board, which takes on all tasks from
police functions to budget decisions.

Sometimes they know nothing about police work, often they don’t.

The concept of the police
commission is great because it creates
accountability,” Kain said. “We’re trying to
equip police commissioners so they can
bring a different perspective back to their departments.”

Kain is an assistant professor in the
Division of Justice and Law
Administration (J.L.A.). He has worked as a
protection officer, a judicial
department training officer and an
administrative manager for the
Connecticut Judicial Department.

He holds a bachelor’s in criminal justice from WestConn, a master’s in
counseling and this summer was
awarded his Ph.D. from John Jay
University. He also sits as a security
vice president of the police commissioners’
association across the state.

“My goal is to kick it up a notch,”
Kain said of his role with the
association. “I believe police
commissioners need to be better
educated in laws and regulations of
police departments.”

In May, the association also
awarded a $500 scholarship for the first
time. It went to WestConn junior
Meghan Critiglano, a J.L.A. major in
corrections, probation and parole.

When Kain approached Dean of
the Arts and Sciences Brian Morton
with an idea for WestConn to
host a confab for police commissioners,
Morton said it can’t be done.

“I’ve known Professor Kain for a
long time, and I found it easy to
come to the police commissions’
conferences since I knew the
conferences would be first-rate and
benefit all who attended,” Morton said.

“The conferences, as well as the
genuine expressions of collegiality,
enthusiasm and community displayed
by the attendees, far exceeded all my
expectations. These are some of the
best seminars I’ve attended, and I look
forward to attending and participating
in more seminars in the future.”

The first seminar three years ago
offered a review of the duties and
responsibilities of police
commissioners. Last year,
commissioners were schooled on how
to evaluate a police chief. The seminar
Kain hopes to hold in the fall also may
focus on evaluating and working with
chiefs.

“It really was a wake-up call for a
lot of commissioners, because many
had no idea of the depth of what they
need to do to help a chief do his job,”
Kain said.

The seminars at WestConn, Kain
said, help the association prepare
commissioners for a demanding job.

“You don’t have to be a uniformed
officer to be a good police
commissioner,” Kain said. “But it
helps to understand a couple of things. A lot
of commissioners I really believe sit at
meetings and don’t understand what it
takes to run a police department.”

Professional weather forecasters,
education, researchers, those studying
to join their ranks and weather enthusiasts
will want to attend, said conference
organizer Rob Eisenson, acting director
of the WCSU Meteorological Studies and
Weather Center. Participants must
register at www.wcsu.edu/weatherconference/application.asp. The $30 registration fee ($20 for full-time
students) includes snacks, a buffet lunch
and printed conference materials. Friday,
Sept. 8, is the registration deadline.

“We will host a lot of discussion
about blizzards, Nor’easters, severe
thunderstorms and hurricanes — all of
which affect the tri-state region,”
Eisenson said. “Those interested in
meteorology, professional meteorologists
and weather holtsbies alike, get excited about
these conditions makes meteorology in this area interesting and
will make the conference interesting,
too,” Eisenson added.

Eisenson pointed out that the
keynote speakers, Kocin and Uccellini,
are among the leading experts on winter
weather.

“They literally wrote the book about
severe East Coast winter storms,”
Eisenson said, referring to their
collaborations on “Snowstorms Along the
Northeastern Coast of the United States:
1955-1985” and “Northeast Snowstorms.”

The two meteorologists worked
together at NASA Goddard Space Flight
Center and the National Centers for
Environmental Prediction from 1979 to 1999.

Kocin then served as the winter
weather expert for The Weather Channel
for more than six years. He is a fellow of
the AMS, former chief editor of the AMS
Weather and Forecasting Journal and
contributing editor for Weatherwise
magazine. A Swover, N.Y., native, Kocin
earned his Bachelor of Science in
Atmospheric Sciences from Cornell
University and a Master of Science in
Meteorology from Penn State University.

As director of the National Weather
Service’s National Centers for
Environmental Prediction, Uccellini
heads NCEP’s Central Operations and
eight other centers, such as the Chase
Prediction Center, National Hurricane
Center and Storm Prediction Center.

He earned his doctoral, master’s and
bachelor’s degrees from the University of
Wisconsin, Uccellini has published more
than 55 journal articles and chapters in
books about a wide range of
meteorology topics.

Eisenson predicts the conference
schedule will be a bit more consistent
than the changing weather Twain
lamented; he plans to host the professional gatherings annually as part of
the university’s thriving meteorology
program.

WestConn is the only university in
the state to offer a Bachelor of Science in
Meteorology, and the program is one of
only a few in the Northeast. The
university’s Meteorological Studies and
Weather Center gives students the
opportunity to use state-of-the-art
forecast conditions for utilities, businesses, the media and
individuals. Meteorology majors can pursue operational meteorology or forecasting or theoretical meteorology
tracks at WestConn.

For more information about the conference or the university’s meteorology program, send an e-mail to
helpdesk@wcsu.edu or call at (203) 837-8989.

Shupe is among the students involved in
the university’s meteorology program, send an e-mail
to helpdesk@wcsu.edu or call at (203) 837-8989.

CSU students interested in participating can send an e-mail to Burke at atulya@csu.ca or Cara at
caruso@wcsu.edu.
Connor Trust expands scholarships for WestConn art students

by Yvonne Johnson

For more than a decade, the generosity of one family has been helping WestConn art students continue their studies. Now the legacy of William B. Connor, his daughter Jane (Sippi) Henderson, and his granddaughter, Anne Sippi, will help many more talented art students pursue their dreams.

The bequest recently brought more than $700,000 to WestConn for annual scholarships to students in the art department to enable them to continue their studies in art in either the continental United States or abroad for a period not to exceed two years.

In 1962, Connor established trust funds to benefit Henderson, who studied art at WestConn, and Sippi during their lifetimes. According to university records, administrators received word in 1970 that the remaining money from those trusts would be directed to WestConn after the women’s deaths.

Anne Sippi died in May 1994, the university received about $40,000 and established the W.B. Connor Trust for Anne Sippi Award. The university began in 1996 to present annual scholarships from the endowment, giving the awards to one or two promising students each year with the support often going to summer study. Henderson died in December 2005, and WestConn received the remaining $700,000 from her trust early this year.

Art Professor Abe Echevarria was chair of the art department when the university received the first funding and began providing the scholarships.

“It’s an enormous benefit to our art students,” Echevarria said. “We try to vary the award to benefit students pursuing all the different areas of our program, which include photography, illustration, studio arts and graphic design.

“About a dozen students, including studio artist David Hyde and illustrator Alan ‘A.J.’ Picard, had received nearly $22,000 as of early this year. Illustration major Adam Schmidt, a junior; received the scholarship for 2006-07. Endowed funds are invested to provide income in perpetuity. A portion of the income generated from the principal is used to award the annual scholarships. More money in the endowment is expected to earn more interest. That means more funding for scholarships.

“Now that we have this additional funding, we’ll be able to enhance the studies of even more students,” Echevarria added. ‘We’ll be able to draw wonderful talents who might not otherwise have the financial support they need to attend our program.”

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

President’s Club launches

by Paul Steinmetz

Friends of WestConn gathered in the antique surroundings of the former library in Old Main to inaugurate a brand-new effort President James W. Schmotter hopes will propel the university into the future.

Schmotter and David Numbarger, a member of the WCSU Foundation Inc. board, introduced the President’s Club, a new opportunity to contribute to WestConn in exchange for access to privileges available only at the university.

Speaking to about 70 supporters, Schmotter listed some of the dramatic changes on campus in the past several years: the quadrangle that replaced a place of antiquated classrooms and libraries, and one of the best Division III athletic facilities in the Northeast sitting on what used to be farmland on the Westside campus.

“Our task now is to fashion our path through the next stage of our journey,” Schmotter said. “But to achieve our full promise, we cannot rely solely on tuition revenues and the state. We need to make strategic decisions, and we need to be efficient and effective in our operations. And we’ll need continuing investment from supporters like those of you who have gathered today. If we do all of that, we can create some very special experiences for students and achieve the vision of being a ‘Public Private.’”

The President’s Club is one part of the approach. A $1,000 contribution gains membership, which includes VIP tickets to annual university events, receptions with the important speakers who come to campus, and rundtable discussions where the future of the university will be discussed.

“We have much going for us: outstanding faculty, outstanding programs like those that will commence our new School of Visual and Performing Arts, a steadily improving physical plant and excellent educational technology,” Schmotter said. “With your help and the help of others, wonderful things are happening at this university, and we’ve only just begun to realize our potential. We thank you all and we look forward to your continued help to us in doing just that.”

For information about joining the President’s Club, call the Office of the President at (203) 837-8460.

Childcare Center gets surprise grant for improvements

by Paul Steinmetz

A $71,000 grant to the WCSU Childcare Center housed in Alumni Hall will pay for a new playground surface, a private space for teachers to meet with parents, a security system and other work to bring the program up to date.

Arlene Salvador, who has been the center’s director for nearly a year, said everyone will welcome the makeover at the center, which celebrates its 10th anniversary in September.

“We are thrilled to this grant and a change in things here,” Salvador said. The money was offered by a member of the WCSU Foundation Inc., who came to campus and presented the gift.

“Without the support of the state’s fund for early childhood readiness centers, the usual state fund only pays for operational costs, but an extra $4 million was found late last year and offered for grants to any of the centers that could submit a proposal for capital projects before the end of 2005.

Salvador had only about a month but, working with members of the crescency board and Director of Planning and Engineering Thomas Curran, she submitted the proposal in time. It was one of 39 accepted out of 76 applications.

Everyone involved was surprised as the proposal received all the money Salvador requested.

“We never thought we’d get the whole thing,” said Juleen P. Flanigan, director of early childhood services for Education Connection.

Money to run the center flows through Education Connection, a not-for-profit agency that serves school districts and educational agencies. WestConn provides the building, supplies, utilities, Internet connections and the like.

Students also get work-study jobs at the center and WestConn classes ranging from anthropology to psychology interact with the staff and students.

“This is a real collaboration between the members of the university community, with its academic departments, students, faculty and staff, that provides additional programs and resources for the children,” said Maureen Casey Gernert, the director of the university’s Career Development Center and chairwoman of the Childcare Center board. She lauded “the fact that our students also have the opportunity to get real-world experience.”

The center is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and can serve up to 32 children between the ages of 3 and 5 at any one time. It primarily accepts children of WestConn staff and students, but children from surrounding towns are admitted when space is available.

Work on the improvements will begin next month and be completed by the beginning of the spring semester.

For more information, call the Office of Institutional Advancement at (203) 837-8298.
Halloran named to editorial board

Professor of Nursing Dr. Laurel Halloran has been named to the editorial board of Advance for Nurses Practitioners, a peer-reviewed journal. She also pens their Career Center column. With a circulation to more than 60,000 nurse practitioners, the publication claims to be “the only journal to combine scientific articles with authoritative coverage of the issues that matter to the profession.” Its articles focus on relevant clinical topics such as pediatrics, women’s health, asthma and diabetes. Features also include patient education handouts and columns about professional topics.

Geraci nominated for ‘Connecticut Nurse of the Year’

James W. Schmotter and nursing department chairwoman Dr. Barbara Piccopo. “It was very exciting to see one of our nurses recognized during National Nurses Week in this way,” Cratty said. “It was a big honor for her and the university is very proud of her.”

Roberts featured in Yale alumni publication

Assistant Director of Media Services Scott Volpe (right) accepts his award from President James W. Schmotter. Scott Volpe is a good guy. In addition to whatever other rewards that gets him, Volpe’s demeanor and approach to coworkers earned the assistant director of Media Services the WCSU Employee of the Quarter award at the end of the spring semester. Professor of Education Dr. Darla Shaw nominated Volpe.

Alumnus earns prestigious Elie Wiesel prize

Before graduating with his Bachelor of Arts from WestConn in May, Tristan Fuchsi won a prestigious award presented by Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel.

Fuchsi, a West Pedding resident, took third in the Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics Essay Contest for his 10-page “Speaking for Themselves: Aphasia and the Poem of Witness.”

The essay details Fuchsi’s effort to share his grandfather’s story after a stroke robbed the elder Fuchsi of his ability to speak.

Language was not something I could give to my grandfather; although through me, he could receive his voice. The responsibility to speak for others, likewise, and the ability to perceive stories that echo with his own, is a gift that I have begun to receive through him. I am learning that to speak for another is to let that one speak for herself,” Fuchsi wrote.

His was one of about 4,000 entries submitted by full-time undergraduate juniors and seniors at accredited four-year colleges and universities in the United States for this year’s annual competition. According to The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity Web site, the contest is designed to “challenge college students to analyze the urgent ethical issues confronting them in today’s complex world.”

A diverse committee reviewed the essays and a jury that included Elie Wiesel chose the winners. Wiesel and his wife established the foundation shortly after Wiesel received the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1986 for his literary and human rights activities.

Congratulations!

Ed.D. student LaBanca wins blog award

Newtown High School science teacher Frank LaBanca, a student in WestConn’s Ed.D. in Instructional Leadership program, was named one of the four winners of the Best of the Education Blog awards presented by eSchool News and Discovery Education. LaBanca’s “Applied Science Research” blog won in the Classroom Instruction, Students category.

The blogs were judged on personality, usefulness, writing style, usability and design, frequency, relevancy, interactivity, fulfillment of purpose, appropriateness and whether judges would recommend the blog to others.

LaBanca posts on his site, “I am obligated to prepare my students for the 21st-century workforce, and regardless of whether or not my students become practicing scientists, they need the skills, knowledge and dispositions to succeed in a technology-centered world.” If you have an announcement about a recent appointment to a board, an award or other professional accomplishment you’d like to share in this section, please e-mail the information to pr@wcsu.edu.

Roberts featured in Yale alumni publication

Adjunct Professor of Music Stephen Roberts (pictured) was featured in a “Where Are They Now?” profile in the March/April issue of the Yale Institute of Sacred Music’s Prism publication. Roberts received a Master of Music degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1977.

In addition to whatever other rewards that gets him, Volpe’s demeanor and approach to coworkers earned the assistant director of Media Services the WCSU Employee of the Quarter award at the end of the spring semester. Professor of Education Dr. Darla Shaw nominated Volpe.

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As WestConn President James W. Schmotter had hoped, the anticipated fall 2006 enrollment numbers, ideas and possibilities were high around campus when the recipients of the President's Initiatives Fund were announced in January. Nearly nine months later, seven of the dozen programs selected to receive funding have launched and the rest are on the way.

"I'm delighted with the progress of the projects funded by the President's Initiatives Fund," Schmotter said. "In New York, Puerto Rico and China, as well as in Danbury and beyond, these efforts are providing engaging learning experiences that are indeed changing our students' lives.

The following projects have been launched.

Step into the World in New York City
"On a scale of one to 10, I was hoping for a seven — and we got a 12," said Friar Mike Lasky of WestConn's Newman Center, describing how things went when he and Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Walter Barnette took nine WestConn students to New York City in March to learn firsthand about human rights issues.

The five-day New York trip was the result of a collaboration between WestConn and Franciscan International, a non-governmental organization (NGO) which "works on behalf of the poor for peace, justice, and the care of creation at the United Nations in New York, WestConn and Greensboro," Schmotter said to conclude with International Women's Day on March 8, the trip offered participating students the opportunity to learn about women's issues in the context of a larger global reality.

Together they traveled the United Nations (U.N.) and received a briefing at the United States' Mission to the U.N. "They attended a variety of international women's issues, heard about human rights and immigration issues from Franciscan advocacy workers, enjoyed a performance of the Tony Award-nominated Broadway musical "The Color Purple" and made a pilgrimage to Central Park's Bethesda Fountain — the first major commission work of art in New York City created by a female artist, Anna Steinberg, in 1666 — and much more.

The World at Our Doorstep: A Series of World Music, Dance and Cultural Events
Nearly a half-dozen events took place between January and April, thanks to "The World at Our Doorstep: A Series of World Music, Dance and Cultural Events." As many as five more are planned between this September and next May.

The concept for the project took root when Associate Professor of World History and University Relations Dr. Jeffery Schacht and Professor of Anthropology Dr. Robert Whiting began brainstorming ideas about ways to get more students involved in campus life outside the classroom, to expose them to yet another culture, supporting students with an incentive to attend extracurricular events in order to "paying them a passport to Paideia," a Greek term for the intellectual idea of "educating man into his true form." The concept of this "life-changing" experience can attend the WestConn European Institute for the Study of Arts, Humanities and Politics at the University of Puerto Rico in San Juan. The three-week program next June will feature classes in Spanish language, arts, culture, history and politics at the college for international studies and at museums and historic sites in Toledo, Cordoba, Granada and Seville.

Red River Project
Plans are well advanced for introduction of customized curriculum offerings in Vietnam for the spring and summer terms and public policy during the 2006-07 academic year to prepare participants undergraduate students for the Global Business Environment project. See story on page 3 for more information about this project.

Danbury Global History Project
Professor of Education Dr. Carol Sowa has been building bridges between the campus and the community through her teaching work. With the help of the President's Initiatives Fund, she brought some of Danbury's youngest and oldest citizens together in a surprising society of multiple pan-African cultures, presented within the framework of a comprehensive language immersion experience. The Global Academy concluded with a week of pedagogical workshops, field observation and teacher shadowing at the Emmie Albert Learning Academy in Danbury.

Students will get a chance to perform in the WestConn Newest Alumni Society’s “Passport to Paideia” series, which features cultural and educational programs. WestConn students looking for a “life-changing” experience can attend the WestConn European Institute for the Study of Arts, Humanities and Politics at the Universidad de Puerto Rico in San Juan. The three-week program next June will feature classes in Spanish language, arts, culture, history and politics at the college for international studies and at museums and historic sites in Toledo, Cordoba, Granada and Seville.

Thematic Guest Speakers in English 101
Professor of English Dr. Edward Hogan was forced to cancel his course this spring due to injuries sustained in an auto accident December 2005. The project will provide free guest speakers to English 101, 200 and 201 courses.

For complete information about all these projects, please visit www.wcss.edu/news/events/fip-update.asp

Schmotter heads WestConn mission to advance Chinese university partnership (cont'd)

develop and incorporate team-building exercises with business departments at the University of Puerto Rico.

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p.m. WestConn students, faculty and staff will be
Thursday evenings in Alumni Hall on the Midtown
growth while facilitating the transition to university life.
Midtown campus. Part of the university’s Orientation
“Welcome Week” for new and returning students from
near the Midtown campus. The event will be free and open to the public.
For more information, call the Office of University Relations at (203) 837-8446.

SEPT. 3: MASE; The Newman Center will host a
Move-in Mass at 4 p.m. in Alumni Hall on the Midtown
campus. The worship service will be free and the public is invited. For more information call (203) 837-8446.

SEPT. 3 - 10 WELCOME WEEK: WestConn will host “Welcome Week” for new and returning students from
Sunday, Sept. 3, through Sunday, Sept. 10, on the Midtown campus. Part of the university’s Orientation Program, “Welcome Week” provides students and their families with a set of shared experiences, setting the tone for student academic success and personal growth while facilitating the transition to university life. Call the Office of Student Life at (203) 837-8415 for more information.

SEPT. 4: ALUMNI NIGHT: The WestConn B&B will host an alumni reception from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Alumni Area of the Ives Concert Park on the Midtown campus. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call (203) 837-8990.

SEPT. 4 - 8 IRISH FESTIVAL: WestConn will host the Eleventh Annual Greater Danbury Irish Festival from 4 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 4, and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 5, in the center, 7 Eighth Ave., near the Midtown campus. The festival will feature Irish entertainment, Irish arts and crafts, Irish goods and services, and Irish food and beverages. Admission is $7.50 per person per day; $7.50 children 12 and under are admitted free. A three-day advance pass is available for $15. For more information, call the Danbury Area Board of Directors at (203) 730-8121 for tickets and more information.

SEPT. 5: PLANETARIUM SHOW AND TELESCOPE VIEWING: WestConn will host a planetarium show, “Exploring Summer Skies,” followed by telescope viewing of Jupiter, Neptune, Uranus, the andromeda Galaxy and the summer Milky Way from 8 to 10 p.m., at the Westside Observatory and Planetarium on the Westside campus. The event will be free and open to the public. More information can be obtained from the Office of Institutional Advancement at (203) 837-8446.

SEPT. 10: CONCERT AND PICNIC: The WCSU Alumni Association will host a concert and picnic event at 5:15 p.m. in the Alumni Area of the Ives Concert Park on the Midtown campus. The costs will be $15.71 per person for a lawn ticket or $44.10 for a reserved seat. There will include a picnic dinner and a ticket to “The Cast of Bradmane.” These ticket prices reflect a 10 percent discount from the regular ticket price. For more information, call the Ives Concert Park Box Office at (203) 837-9256 or visit the Box Office Room 200 in the Westside Classroom Building. For more information, call Interim Director of Alumni Relations Tammy Henneman at (203) 837-8296.

SEPT. 11: ART SLIDE LECTURE: Painter Sheila Geoffrion will discuss her work at 11 a.m. in Viewing Room 1 of White Hall on the Midtown campus. Critics have said of Geoffrion’s nature paintings, “By the power of her attention and art, she lifts the weeds around her feet for higher consideration.” She has a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Pennsylvania and her work is exhibited in the collections of the Farnsworth and Portland Museums of Art, as well as in many private collections. The event is free and open to the public, and it will be presented as part of the university’s Master of Fine Arts slide lecture series. For more information, call (203) 837-8672.

SEPT. 12: 10TH ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY: WestConn will participate in and host a portion of a three-part solemn memorial service of remembrance for the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on America. The ceremony will feature President James W. Schmeltzer playing the main theme for “Allan Newman: A Day of Remembrance,” performed by the WestConn Wind Ensemble. For more information, call (203) 837-8696. See story above.

SEPT. 14: DISCUSSION: The Newman Center will host a discussion about the book “The End of College” by Kevin Carey at 6 p.m. in the center, 7 Eighth Ave., near the Midtown campus. The event will be free and open to everyone. For more information, call (203) 837-8696.

SEPT. 14: 20TH TELESCOPE VIEWING: WestConn will host a special viewing of the Sun with solar-filtered telescopes from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Science Building Observatory on the Midtown campus. The event will be free and open to the public. For more information, call (203) 837-8672.

SEPT. 20: TELESCOPE VIEWING: WestConn will host a special viewing of the Sun with solar-filtered telescopes from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Science Building Observatory on the Midtown campus. The event will be free and open to the public. For more information, call (203) 837-8672.

SEPT. 20: POLITICAL SCIENCE LECTURE: Dean of the Andel School of Business Dr. Allen Mamon will speak about “The Middle East: A Strategic Global Economic Region” during a political science class in Room 202 of White Hall on the Midtown campus. The event will be free and open to the public. For more information, call (203) 837-8672.

SEPT. 27: LAW DISCUSSION: WestConn will host “After Kelo: Debating eminent domain at 7 p.m. in Room 125 of the Science Building on the Midtown campus. The attorneys Wes Horton, who represented Susette Kelo, in Kelo v. City of New London will discuss the controversial 5-4 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that affirmed the taking of Kelo’s property by New London officials. Renowned journalist Todd Bresnich, founder of “The Connecticut Project for the Constitution,” will moderate. The discussion will be free and open to the public. For more information, call the Office of University Relations at (203) 837-8486.

SEPT. 27: APPLICATION DEADLINE: Applications for Academic Leave are due by 5 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 28. All applications should be sent to Esther Boris in Room 14 of Old Main on the Midtown campus. Call (203) 837-9418 for more information.

SEPT. 27 - 30 BANNED BOOKS WEEK: WestConn will host a celebration of Banned Books Week with a number of free, public activities on the Midtown campus. For more information, call Assistant Professor of Communication Dr. Lisa Davis at (203) 837-8909 or Assistant Professor of Psychology Dr. Daniel Barrett at (203) 837-8869.

SEPT. 29: TELESCOPE VIEWING: WestConn will host a telescope viewing of the waxing crescent Moon near the star Antares, Neptune, Uranus, the andromeda Galaxy and the summer Milky Way from 6 to 8:30 p.m., at the Westside Observatory and Planetarium on the Westside campus. The event will be free and open to the public. For more information, call (203) 837-8672.

OCT. 3: ART SLIDE LECTURE: Award winning illustrator Tom Kidd will discuss his work at 11 a.m. in Viewing Room 1 of White Hall on the Midtown campus. Kidd received a scholarship to Syracuse University, where he studied for two years before pursuing his fantasy Illustrations full-time in New York. His work, which is done in books, comic books, films, theme parks, entertainment products and figures, has won him numerous awards and nominations, including three Chekey Awards, a Golden Poppy and four Hugo nominations. The event will be free and open to the public, and it will be presented as part of the university’s Master of Fine Arts slide lecture series. For more information, call (203) 837-8881.

OCT. 3: POLITICAL SCIENCE LECTURE: Longtime radio professor Tom Zarecki will discuss the impact of satellite networks and HD stations from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. during a political science class in Room 202 of White Hall on the Midtown campus. The discussion will be free and open to the public. For more information, call Scott Benjamin at (203) 810-2114, ext. 129, or (860) 354-3521.

OCT. 4: TELESCOPE VIEWING: WestConn will host a telescope viewing of Jupiter with solar-filtered telescopes from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Science Building Observatory on the Midtown campus. The event will be free and open to the public. For more information, call (203) 837-8672.

OCT. 4, 11, 18 & 25 HOUR OF POWER: The Newman Center will host the Hour of Power (holy hour) at 9 p.m. in the center, 7 Eighth Ave., near the Midtown campus. The devotional Mubr be free and the public is invited. For more information, call (203) 744-5846.

OCT. 5: POLITICAL SCIENCE LECTURE: former U.S. President Jimmy Carter will speak about the American presidency from 5:25 to 6:25 p.m. during a political science class in Room 202 of White Hall on the Midtown campus. The discussion will be free and open to the public. For more information, call Scott Benjamin at (203) 810-2114, ext. 129, or (860) 354-3521.

OCT. 10: BANNED BOOKS WEEK: WestConn will host an author reading, “Exploring Summer Skies,” followed by telescope viewing of Jupiter, Neptune, Uranus, and the andromeda Galaxy from 6 to 8 p.m., at the Westside Observatory and Planetarium on the Westside campus. The event will be free and open to the public. For more information, call (203) 837-8672.