



WestConn to begin offering Master of Arts in Teaching in spring 2009

by Robin DeMerell

Western Connecticut State University has long offered programs for teaching degrees and state teaching certification — helping to fill schools across the state with top-notch teachers. Now the university will offer a Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) that gives nontraditional students the best of both worlds — a master's degree and a teaching certification — all in one program.

Starting in June 2009, college graduates seeking to change careers and become teachers can earn a master's degree and a state certification to teach biology, math or Spanish in secondary schools.

The M.A.T. is for candidates already holding a bachelor's degree who have decided they would like to become certified as teachers. The 42-credit M.A.T. program will be completed in 15 months from June 2009 to August 2010 and consist of three secondary (grades 6-12) education areas considered durational shortage areas. The university also is seeking approval from the state for an M.A.T. program for primary school teachers.

Undergraduate Cheyrisse Boone will earn her bachelor's degree this fall and plans on entering the M.A.T. program the following June. After working as a paraprofessional in her daughter's elementary school, "I decided I really liked it," Boone said. Her plans were to take the certification-only program and then go on to complete a master's degree program. Then she heard about the M.A.T.

"This route seemed to be a quicker and easier route for me," said Boone, who admits juggling family, work and school responsibilities can be quite a chore. "I was at the point of feeling overwhelmed and that's when I learned about the

program. For the first time, I could see light at the end of the tunnel."

Dean of Graduate Studies and External Programs Dr. Ellen Durnin said students have expressed so much interest in an M.A.T. program that she is thrilled to have met that demand.

"The Graduate Studies and Certification offices have had a high level of demand for a M.A.T. program at WestConn. Last spring, we received 275 phone inquiries about a program which incorporates a master's degree with teacher certification," said Durnin. "When we hosted our first graduate open house in April, we received more requests for information about the proposed M.A.T. program than for any existing graduate programs."

Traditional undergraduate education majors still must complete a bachelor's degree program and then take and pass Praxis I and II, content

knowledge and pedagogy tests in their content areas, in order to teach in public schools in Connecticut. Teachers then have five years to complete a master's degree program.

WestConn graduates more than 17 percent of the state's elementary education teachers. Professor of Education Dr. Bonnie Rabe said this new program is part of the education department's effort to stay ahead of the state's ever-changing regulations. "We're always raising the bar," Rabe said.

According to the Connecticut Department of Education, WestConn is one of four higher education institutions that offer a Master of Arts in Teaching program, Rabe said.

M.A.T. courses will be offered online, in the classroom and as a hybrid combining both formats. "We're trying to incorporate a variety of ways of teaching," Rabe said. "We're not going to compromise our

■ *cont'd. on page 4*



(l-r): Professor of Education Dr. Bonnie Rabe and Dean of Graduate Studies and External Programs Dr. Ellen Durnin discuss the M.A.T. degree program.

WCSU nurses participate in area's first mock disaster drill

by Paul Steinmetz



Participants received a real-time orientation as the pandemic drill was about to get underway.



Student nurses interacted with state and local agencies.



WCSU student nurses, including graduate student Kristen Velsmid (far right) were involved in the simulation.



A first-year WCSU student nurse takes the vital signs of a mock patient in the mobile field hospital.

More than 30 nursing students from WestConn participated in the region's first exercise to test preparedness for an outbreak of pandemic influenza.

During the April 5 drill at Bethel Health Care in Bethel, volunteers were brought in to simulate diagnoses and emergency treatment of influenza cases in such large numbers that traditional medical facilities would be overwhelmed. Activities included triage, transport, essential care and education at a mobile field hospital.

Danbury Hospital and several state and municipal agencies also were involved in the project.

WestConn graduate students Monica Hill and Kristen Velsmid, and a team of 30 undergraduate nursing students worked with Associate Professor of Nursing Dr. Catherine Rice and Assistant Professor of Nursing Jeanette Wigglesworth to create a patient care response team assigned to analyze resources and manage the flow of patients.

The students prepared for the drill by creating simulated patient illness scenarios, documentation tools and evaluative surveys.

"Our nursing students have shown tremendous motivation, dedication, creativity and diligence — and were instrumental in this community service effort," Rice said. ■

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 2008

DREAM WEEVILS

It won't be hard to find Eurasian watermilfoil in Candlewood Lake this year. ... Cortney Marquette of EnviroScience Inc., slid off the authority's pontoon boat into Candlewood's still chilly waters. ... A few minutes later, Marquette returned to the water, bearing zipper-lock bags, twist-ties, and some bug eggs that may lay the cove's watermilfoil low. ... In each little bag, Marquette and her assistants — Mike Zimmerman of EnviroScience and Andy Oguma of WestConn — had watermilfoil cuttings. On each stem there were eggs and larvae of milfoil weevils, a native bug that feeds exclusively on Eurasian watermilfoil. ... Traveling with them were Ellen Healey and Andy Oguma, biology students at WestConn. Working with professor Mitch Wagener, they'll make their work with the weevils their senior project, revisiting the site regularly this summer to count bugs.

ORIGAMI, MORE THAN PAPER CRITTERS (NEW YORK SUN)

Origami, a more than 2,000-year-old traditional Japanese art form, is now considered by many as only a pastime for young children. But the new play "Animals Out of Paper" by Rajiv Joseph, which opened August 4 at the Second Stage Theatre Uptown, presents its modern form: an art field whose principles are used in the complex designs of automobile air bags, collapsible telescopes, or, as in the play, shunts for open-heart surgery. ... A professor of computer science at WestConn, Rona Gurkewitz, lent what she calls a dimpled dodecahedron for the play (a non-folder might call it a star). Ms. Gurkewitz spent three hours constructing its 90 modules, which are folded in two different ways, and joined to create a polyhedron shape. She designed the piece about 20 years ago.

STUDENTS VISIT WESTCONN (VOICES)

As part of "Project Reconciliation - Ghana 2008," college students from Ghana will be staying at WestConn for one week at the end of July to learn skills that will enable them to be

trained arbitrators in the villages that most need help. ... For several days, the students will travel from Danbury to New York City, attending seminars at St. John's University School of Law, the New York Judicial Institute and Fordham University School of Law. Then they will spend one day at WestConn with Dr. Averell Manes, a professor of social sciences, who will teach them the non-legal aspects of resolving conflicts.

FILM FESTIVAL SEEN AS SUCCESS

Nico's Pizzeria and Pasta owner George Korres last month stood in the back of a press conference at the Palace Theater, where Connecticut Film Festival organizers predicted the event would attract about 5,000 people downtown. What a bunch of malarkey, the Main Street pizzeria owner thought. But now that the film festival has come and gone, Korres has a different view. ... Paul Steinmetz, the spokesman at WestConn, said the festival brought 379 people to two screening rooms on the White Street campus. ■

Campus community urged to
OPT IN
for safety

by Paul Steinmetz and Sherri Hill

As part of the university's continuing effort to enhance the safety and security of the campus community, WestConn has established an emergency notification system in conjunction with MIR3 Inc., a leading national firm in emergency notification. The implementation of this system

permits the university to distribute information via telephone, e-mail, text message and/or voice message. The system will be employed in the event of an emergency which poses a substantial threat to the health and/or safety of members of the university community; to alert faculty, staff and students

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CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

In the April/May 2008 issue, Adjunct Instructor Jim Lomuscio was incorrectly identified as being on the faculty of the English department. Lomuscio actually teaches in the department of writing, linguistics and creative process. We apologize for the error.

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one book
one community 

by Paul Steinmetz

WestConn has joined with the Danbury Public Library and the Danbury School District to sponsor "One Book, One Community," an attempt to encourage everyone in Danbury to read the same book this fall.

WestConn has assigned the same book, "The Namesake" by Jhumpa Lahiri, to all incoming freshmen as part of the First-Year Experience.

"The Namesake" chronicles several generations of an Indian family after a young couple immigrates to Massachusetts to start a new life.

All participants on and off campus are invited to participate in book discussions, a lecture by the author,

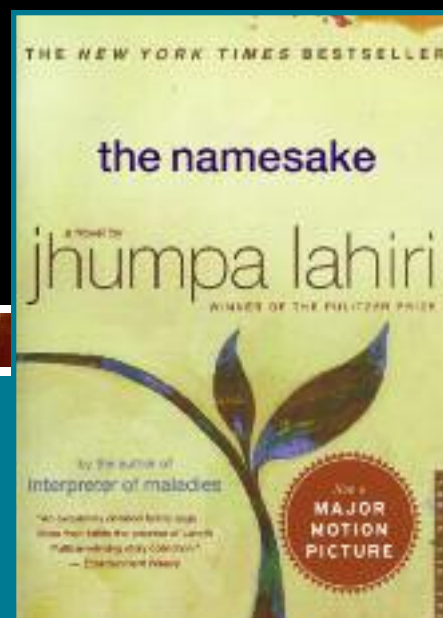
viewings of Indian movies, a presentation by the founder of a famous Indian restaurant in New York, and other events.

Events centered on the themes of the book will run from Oct. 1 through Nov. 5.

In March 2009, Mira Nair, who directed a film based on the novel, will be the keynote speaker in the President's Lecture Series.

Jhumpa Lahiri received the Pulitzer Prize in 2000 for "Interpreter of Maladies," her debut story collection that explores issues of love and identity among immigrants and cultural transplants. "The Namesake" is her first novel. ■

For complete information about One Book, One Community, visit www.onebookdanbury.org or call (203) 837-8754.



"The Namesake" takes the Ganguli family from their tradition-bound life in Calcutta through their transformation into Americans. On the heels of an arranged marriage, Ashoke and Ashima Ganguli settle in Cambridge, Mass., where Ashoke does his best to adapt while his wife pines for home. When their son, Gogol, is born, the task of naming him reveals the troublesome results of bringing old ways to the new world.

Gogol suffers with a name that is neither Indian nor American and grows up with the burden of his heritage as well as his odd name. He stumbles along the second-generation path, strewn with conflicting loyalties, comic detours and wrenching love affairs.

Edited from material provided by Houghton Mifflin Company. ■

Calendar of Events

Meet the author

Jhumpa Lahiri
Wednesday, Nov. 5
6:30 – 8 p.m.
Ives Concert Hall, White Hall,
Midtown campus
The event is free and open
to the public.

Wednesday, Oct. 1
Event: Film Screening and Discussion of "The World of Apu"
Location: Student Center Theater, Midtown campus
Time: 7 – 9:30 p.m. (film 103 min.)
Discussion Leader: Mark Hasskarl, Danbury Library director

Saturday, Oct. 4
Event: Lecture on "The Evolution of Indian Cuisine" by Suvir Saran, owner and executive chef of Dévi Restaurant, New York City
Location: Danbury Library
Time: 1 – 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 5
Event: Bus trip to Dévi Restaurant, featuring a three-course traditional Indian celebratory meal and discussion of "The Role of Spices in Indian Cuisine" by Suvir Saran
Location: Dévi Restaurant, New York City
Time: Bus leaves at 9 a.m., returns to Danbury at 5 p.m.
Cost: \$65.00

one book
one community 

Wednesday, Oct. 15
Event: Film Screening and Discussion of "Chak De! India"
Location: Student Center Theater, Midtown campus
Time: 7 – 10 p.m. (film 152 min.)
Discussion Leader: Mark Hasskarl, Danbury Library director

Thursday, Oct. 16
Event: Madhur Jaffrey, author of "Climbing the Mango Trees"
Location: Danbury High School Auditorium
Time: 7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 18
Event: Kathak Classical Indian Dance with Rachna Ramya Agrawal
Location: Broadview Middle School Auditorium
Time: 2 – 2:45 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 25
Event: Diwali celebration. Diwali, the Indian Festival of Light, is one of the most anticipated celebrations of India. The afternoon will include traditional Indian music, dancing, fashions, arts and crafts, and food for the entire family.
Location: Bill Williams Gymnasium, Berkshire Hall, Midtown campus
Time: 1 – 4 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 29
Event: Film Screening and Discussion of "The Namesake"
Location: Ives Concert Hall, White Hall, Midtown campus
Time: 7:30 – 10 p.m. (film 114 min.)
Discussion Leader: Mark Hasskarl, Danbury Library director

Wednesday, Nov. 5
Event: Meet-the-Author: Jhumpa Lahiri, author of "The Namesake"
Location: Ives Concert Hall, White Hall, Midtown campus
Time: 6:30 – 8 p.m.

WCSU@Waterbury offers small business management course

by Robin DeMerell

Students majoring in business management at the Waterbury campus now have an option that will make them even more versatile in today's competitive job market.

The WestConn campus at Naugatuck Valley Community College, 750 Chase Parkway in Waterbury, will now offer "Small Business Management" (MGT 406) on Tuesday evenings as part of the Small Business and Entrepreneurial Management option. The course prepares students to lead and manage in a small business environment. Special attention is given to operating small businesses in their early stage. The course also looks at the role of small business in the economy.

Dr. Ellen Durnin, dean of Graduate Studies and External Programs, said there are three options in the business administration bachelor's degree program and Waterbury already offers the Supervisory Management option. With the new addition at Waterbury,

students are able to make the most out of their business degrees.

"The students realized that with this one additional course (MGT 406) they could also satisfy the requirements for the small business management option as well," Durnin said. "It makes them more qualified when they enter the workforce or prepare for career advancement. If they choose to, they will graduate with a B.B.A. with an option in supervisory and small business management."

Durnin said Greater Waterbury is a business community that is made up predominantly of small businesses. She said when the Waterbury campus was established in 2000, its mission was to offer programs that not only provide a solid education for students, but also address workforce needs. "It's a very good fit for the student population and the business community needs for us to be able to offer this option," Durnin said.

There are more than 1,300 undergraduate business students enrolled at WCSU and 80 of them attend classes in Waterbury. (Programs in nursing and criminology also are available.) "That's another benefit of the Waterbury location," Durnin said. "In addition to attracting additional students to the university by offering bachelor completion programs on a community college campus, it offers another course location for our current students."

Also new to the Waterbury campus are two new staff members. AnnMarie Puleo,

assistant director of admissions, will provide admissions counseling for transfer students in Waterbury. Derek Ljongquist, computer support assistant, will provide full-time computer support to students and faculty.

Other new Waterbury additions include Latin I and II courses this past summer, and the recent completion of a nursing lab/classroom in Founders Hall. The nursing classroom includes five simulated hospital rooms, and SimWoman, a computerized "patient" who can communicate symptoms and treatment responses to nursing students. ■



Associate Professor of Management Dr. Fred Maidment conducts a class at WestConn at Waterbury.

WestConn psychology professors receive CSU teaching, research awards

by Paul Steinmetz

The Connecticut State University Board of Trustees honored two WCSU professors for their exemplary work during a meeting on WestConn's campus in April.

Associate Professor of Psychology Dr. Shane M. Murphy was recognized with a Trustees Research Award for his work in the psychology of sports participation and achievement, including assessment tools relating psychological skills to human performance, the contributions to the development of visualization techniques to the enhancement of human performance, and the contributions to the translation of research into accessible language to improve lifestyle behaviors and promote better health.

Associate Professor of Psychology Dr. Robin C. Flanagan received the Trustees Teaching Award for her work in inspiring and guiding students to produce and present original research, being a valued mentor for students considering advanced studies, contributing to programmatic improvements in her department including the latest advances in the field, and serving on numerous university-wide committees to enhance the educational process at the university.



(l-r): WestConn Associate Professors of Psychology Dr. Robin Flanagan and Dr. Shane Murphy at the awards ceremony with President James W. Schmotter and Chancellor Dr. David G. Carter.

Murphy earned a Ph.D. from Rutgers University. He teaches sport, health, media and exercise psychology. He was sport psychologist for the U.S. Olympic Teams at the 1988 Summer Games in Seoul and the 1992 Winter Games in Albertville.

WestConn President James W. Schmotter introduced both professors to the board.

Schmotter said Murphy "is one of our faculty's most productive scholars. His scholarly record is typical of those that one finds at Research One Universities, but what colleagues there often do not have is the strong commitment to student learning that Dr. Murphy brings to his classroom every day. He's one of our

students' most popular professors and there's always a waiting list for his course. I know that because I get calls from parents trying to get their child into his classes."

Murphy said the award was unexpected.

"I feel very humbled by this award since there is so much wonderful research and scholarship going on at WCSU, and to be recognized among many deserving colleagues is a great honor," he said. "One of the areas I have conducted research on is the motivational climate that surrounds great athletes and enables them to excel. I am so lucky to be a faculty member at WestConn, where the 'climate' that supports scholarship allows us to excel."

Flanagan, who earned a Ph.D. from Columbia University, teaches psychology of cognition, experimental psychology and introduction to brain and behavior. Her research interests include instructional media effects, math learning, the ecological context of cognition and non-declarative learning. She works with students on research that focuses on learning, cognition or media effects.

Schmotter told the board that Flanagan "truly epitomizes the student-centered approach to education that has so long characterized this university. She's been a moving force behind the creation of WestConn Research Day, which permits hundreds of our students to exhibit their research in all academic fields, and this

parallels her own approach in the classroom. She challenges her students through inquiry-based learning, and the results of this are seen on Research Day and in the pages of the psychology department's student research journal."

Flanagan also gave credit to the support she gets at the university.

"I'm grateful to be a part of a community that is so dedicated to student learning and achievement," Flanagan said. "I don't think there is anything more important than educating young people to be full participants in the world."

The board also recognized two professors from each of the three other Connecticut State University System universities. ■

For more information, call the Office of University Relations at (203) 837-8486.

President-to-President scholar loves learning

by Robin DeMerell

Like many schoolchildren in the Vietnamese countryside, Nhung Nyugen walked an hour and swam across a river to go to school every day. But unlike many children, Nyugen didn't drop out after middle school to work in the fields. Instead she moved away from home so that she could attend high school.

"Education has always been a struggle," said the 33-year-old Nyugen, who lives in Waterbury with her husband and two children. "But the only way I could find a better life was to study."

This year going to school won't be such a struggle.

Nyugen is this year's recipient of the President-to-President Scholarship awarded jointly by WestConn and Naugatuck Valley Community College (NVCC) in Waterbury. The annual grant pays full tuition costs for an exemplary associate's degree graduate at NVCC to complete the final two years of studies and earn a bachelor's degree at WestConn.

Nyugen, who has an associate's degree in accounting from NVCC, came to the United States in 2001 and spoke not a word of English. She took an ESL class through a local literary program and got a C+ — a grade that disappointed Nyugen so much that she didn't attempt

to learn English again for three years. She decided to try again with English classes when her children, now 4 and 7, got older. "I could not help my children," she said.

At the ESL classes through the Literacy Volunteers of Greater Waterbury, Nyugen became proficient in English and was able to attend college. She eventually became a mentor for Vietnamese ESL students at NVCC. Because of her background, she has been able to give lots of encouragement to her peers. "I worked very hard," she said.

Working toward a bachelor's degree in accounting, Nyugen has already taken three courses and is enrolled as a full-time student for the fall semester. She expects to graduate in May 2009 and then pursue a career as a certified public accountant. She said the university is the right place for her because the faculty has been very supportive, has offered her lots of guidance and encouraged her to interact more with other students.

Grateful for the opportunity to pursue her educational goals without worrying about the expense, Nyugen said the President-to-President Scholarship is like a dream — "I couldn't sleep one night. I kept thinking, 'Do I deserve this?'" By setting an example for others that hard work really does pay off, Nyugen said she feels that she already has started to give back and will always make giving back a part of her life. ■

For more information, call the Office of University Relations at (203) 837-8486.



(l-r): WestConn President James W. Schmotter with this year's President-to-President Scholarship recipient, Nhung Nyugen.

Student interns learn from lawmakers in Hartford

by Robin DeMerell

Lawmakers do read every letter that comes across their desks. Groups voicing their concerns do get heard. And people who care do make a difference. That's just part of what eight students learned in their roles last spring as legislative interns for the 2008 General Assembly Session in Hartford.

From attending energy forums to researching constituent concerns, senior political science major Jennifer Lohan said the experience was eye-opening. The Ridgefield resident was the only student among the WCSU group with a full-time internship. She worked a full five days with long-time Sen. Joseph Crisco (D-Woodbridge), whose district includes Hamden, Derby and Naugatuck.

An administrative day was one where Lohan helped respond to constituent letters, a process that typically required her to do research at the Capitol library and then respond accordingly by letter. "Those days were exciting because I was the only one here and I got to represent him," Lohan said.

Other days, Lohan said, the Capitol building often was packed with groups waiting to give personal testimony about issues before lawmakers — from paid firefighter union members and emergency technicians

to teachers and nurses.

"It's refreshing to see people speak on issues and see that their voices are important," Lohan said. She said these individual perspectives sometimes have serious impact by showing the personal side of an issue. "It shows how important this level of government is — for people who want to make a difference in the world or see others make a difference in the world. They bring a voice and a personal aspect to the process."

Although her interest is in international relations, Lohan said the internship has been invaluable, bringing to life what she has learned here. "It's interesting to see what you read in textbooks in reality — when you see it actually happen," she said.

The opportunity to work in an office environment was helpful to her and the other interns. She said she was able to participate so much because of the knowledge and confidence instilled in her at WestConn. "My classes at WestConn totally prepared me for my experience," Lohan said.

The other students at the Connecticut General Assembly, all part-time interns, were Christopher Eide, of Newtown; Samantha Fournier, of Danbury; Kenneth Neal Jr., of New Fairfield; Joshua Nolan,

■ cont'd. on page 8

The road from 'Good Friday': Mullaney reflects on Northern Ireland



Professor of Justice and Law Administration Dr. Chuck Mullaney

by Robert Taylor

When Chuck Mullaney visited Belfast in 1996 on his first research trip to Northern Ireland, the bitter legacy of nearly three decades of violent civil conflict known as “The Troubles” cast a long shadow over the political and social landscape, and fledgling negotiations among fragmented Catholic and Protestant factions mediated by former U.S. Sen. George Mitchell seemed to hold scant prospect of achieving peace.

In late May, when the WestConn professor of justice and law administration returned to Belfast, he revisited a cosmopolitan and economically revitalized urban center where leaders of the former warring parties to the conflict sit side-by-

side in the legislative assembly — and where the history of “The Troubles” has become a popular tourist attraction.

“When I started going to Northern Ireland in 1996, the peace process was just getting off the ground. There was still an overarching concern about the paramilitaries, especially the Irish Republican Army (IRA),” Mullaney recalled. Behind him in his small office on the Westside campus, the walls are lined with bookshelves packed with hundreds of works on Northern Ireland.

“In 2008, Northern Ireland has the local democracy it seems it always wanted to have,” he observed. “The potholes are being repaired, the kids are getting educated, and people in Belfast are shopping, going to restaurants, visiting art shows

and hearing great music.

“I won’t say everyone is happy as a clam, but I’ll tell you this: From 1996 to 2008, peace has become entrenched in Northern Ireland — and that is a huge difference,” he said.

Mullaney’s exhaustive research on “The Troubles,” pursued during frequent visits to Belfast over the past 12 years, earned him the prized invitation to attend the Mitchell Conference, a gathering at Queen’s University on May 22 and 23 of Northern Ireland and international political leaders, academics and community organizers marking the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Good Friday Agreement that formally ended the conflict.

The Mitchell Conference focused on the lessons of Northern Ireland for resolution of the world’s most violent and intractable civil conflicts today. A decade of sometimes halting, but persistent, political dialogue and negotiation since the Good Friday Agreement has laid the political, economic and social foundations for what Mullaney views as a viable and lasting peace. He is convinced Northern Ireland’s experience has relevance to warring parties from Iraq and Palestine to the Balkans and the Basque region of Spain.

“The process that led to the Good Friday Agreement and its aftermath is a template for conflict resolution in addressing the more stubborn areas in the world today,” he affirmed. Just as negotiators in Northern Ireland were informed and inspired by the “epic and heroic peace process in South Africa” in the early 1990s, he said, Israeli and Palestinian representatives now

are studying the Northern Ireland process in search of a new roadmap to peace. While he conceded that “I always balk when someone brings up the Middle East,” he argued even the violent centuries-old history of religious and ethnic division in Iraq is not beyond hope of reconciliation.

“The fact that you have so many parties to the conflict is much the same situation as George Mitchell found in Northern Ireland,” Mullaney observed. “He understood the beauty, simplicity and elegance of getting representatives of the eight parties together — first unilaterally, then bilaterally, and finally multilaterally. They were dealing with 1,000 years of history, and still they pulled it off.

“I don’t accept when people say that the Middle East just has too much history of conflict and religious hatred,” he said. “If two or more parties reach the point where they decide that peace is better than conflict, you’ve got the start of a peace process.”

Mullaney has spent more than a decade cultivating dozens of personal sources on “The Troubles” and the political aftermath, drawn from the ranks of Northern Ireland’s former paramilitary fighters, police officers, journalists, clergy, community activists and college professors.

“I’ve been one of the few U.S. professors who have tried to talk to the people on the street about ‘The Troubles,’ the kind of people who will tell you what is really going on,” he noted. Even after a decade of peace, he finds that his sources will share information and observations frankly only in face-to-face conversation — never by phone or e-mail.

Vestiges of “The Troubles,” such as the euphemistically named “peace walls” separating urban Protestant and Catholic

enclaves, serve as a reminder that peace has not healed all the wounds or ended the divisions of the 30-year conflict. De-facto segregation in housing and schooling at the elementary and secondary school levels remains common, Mullaney said, and “some of the old hatred still exists” between individual members of the Protestant and Catholic communities.

Yet Northern Ireland’s premier higher education institution, Queen’s University, site of the Mitchell Conference, offers a striking example of the changing times. Where only a handful of Catholics pursued college studies a decade ago, “Queen’s today is one hopping university — and ironically, its student population now is more Catholic than Protestant,” the WestConn professor noted. The economic revitalization of Northern Ireland, spurred by an influx of business investment, also has given rise to “a vibrant middle- and upper middle-class Catholic population in the Greater Belfast area, a decided jump for many professional Catholics,” he added. “They’re getting their piece of the pie.”

The revival of the tourism industry throughout Northern Ireland also has given birth to one of the more improbable manifestations of peace — Belfast’s “terror tour.”

“You go downtown and pick up a black cab — it has to be black — and they are usually operated by ex-prisoners from the IRA,” Mullaney said. The two-hour tour covers sites of the marches, major armed conflicts, bullet-scarred buildings and murals from the period of “The Troubles,” with a running commentary throughout. “They have boxed up their little war and Disney-fied it, and I tip my hat to them,” he said. ■

For more information, contact Mullaney at mullaneyc@wcsu.edu.

M.A.T. (cont’d.)

quality, and we’ll stay on top of what the field is demanding.”

What’s also unique about the program is that it’s not an internship program, as are many of the M.A.T. programs throughout the state. These programs require candidates to work full time for one year in a public school, which offsets tuition. Instead, the M.A.T. program requires students to student teach for 15 weeks during the spring semester of the program.

Rabe said the university’s education department worked hard to make it possible for candidates to continue working full time if they choose as they go through the program. The M.A.T. program allows students to work during the day and attend classes in the afternoon and evening. “With our online and hybrid courses, people can work anytime on their coursework,” Rabe said. All the courses will be set up so that students do not have to attend class during daytime work hours. “We are the only university offering all of our coursework in this program in the afternoon and evening.”

Because the program is designed for career-changers

with bachelor’s degrees, there generally will be some work to do before entering the program. Some students may have to take undergraduate courses that are prerequisites for the M.A.T. or make up any undergraduate courses that are outdated.

Rabe said the attrition rate for new teachers is high. Nationwide, schools lose up to 50 percent of incoming teachers within their first five years of teaching. She said because the students have similar backgrounds and are all working toward the same goal, they are able to support each other and are more likely to stick with the program than if they were doing it alone.

Education Department Chair Dr. Theresa Canada said she finds that the potential M.A.T. candidates are professionals who discover mid-career that they really want to be teachers.

“These students come with a different perspective. They have a different kind of energy where they want to be teachers, and they bring that energy into the classroom,” said Canada.

“Plus, they discover later in life that they want more meaning in their lives.”

Canada said the new program is better than what is currently in place because a

typical certification-only program is individual. It’s then up to the students to map out their own paths toward earning a master’s degree or an additional 30 credits beyond the bachelor’s degree within five years. There are currently 300 students enrolled in the certification-only program.

Since 2003, WestConn has offered an education doctorate program in instructional leadership, which completes a full continuum of educational offerings. Canada hopes WCSU’s education department continues to grow in that direction by offering even more options for educators.

“This program links to our strategic goals of offering a range of quality academic programs by an outstanding faculty to meet the needs of the community at an affordable cost,” Durnin said. “We are excited about beginning this program and look forward to working with this new population of adult learners and the school districts that will employ them.”

“This is a very good addition,” Canada said of the M.A.T. program. “It makes us more holistic; I’m hoping this is the beginning of a progression.” ■

2008 WRD Provost Prize award winners



WestConn psychology majors Alexis Carrera, of Norwalk, and Jeanne Mello, of Danbury, have been named winners of the 2008 WestConn Research Day (WRD) Provost’s Grand Prize, presented at the closing WRD awards ceremony on May 8 in the Science Building on the university’s Midtown campus. The prize-winning project, one of 44 student research presentations during the WRD seminar and poster sessions, offered conclusions from a study of students asked to remember a random series of words introduced while they were performing a highly involved task — in this case, playing the video game “Guitar Hero II.” The Provost’s Prize, established in 2007 by WCSU Provost Dr. Linda Rinker, affords the opportunity for continuing students to make a research presentation at a professional meeting in their field. WestConn Associate Professor of Psychology Dr. Robin Flanagan served as faculty adviser for Carrera and Mello’s project. ■



More than 900 students received undergraduate degrees as their friends, families and loved ones filled the football stadium on Sunday, May 18, for WestConn's 110th commencement. Farooq Kathwari, chairman, CEO and president of Ethan Allen Interiors, told the graduates, "The new world has brought us many opportunities and also the potential for many conflicts. Globalization has raised the expectations of people all around the world — and if the expectations are not reasonably met, we will have more conflicts. And today, conflicts even in faraway places impact our lives here at home." Kathwari, a noted humanitarian and advocate for peaceful coexistence, was awarded a Doctorate of Humane Letters, honoris causa. ■

At the university's second annual separate commencement ceremony for students receiving graduate-level degrees on Friday, May 16, more than 230 students received their degrees in the Feldman Arena in the William O'Neill Convocation Center. Fifteen educators also received the university's first doctoral degrees: the Ed.D. in Instructional Leadership. (See story below). State Attorney General Richard Blumenthal was the commencement speaker. ■

First doctoral candidates receive degrees



(left): Students have reason to celebrate.

(below): President James W. Schmotter congratulates a graduate.



by Robin DeMerell

A group of 15 teachers, administrators and principals became the first graduating class to earn doctorates in education from WestConn. These graduates will bring their knowledge and learning into the community to better help educate students.

Prior to graduating, the candidates gave 30-minute presentations on their dissertations and answered questions from a panel for another half-hour. Candidate Frank LaBanca presented his dissertation on the "Impact of Problem Finding on the Quality of Authentic Open Inquiry Science Research Projects" in March.

"My view of education was enriched and expanded," said LaBanca, a science teacher and chair of the science department at Oxford High School. "The beauty of it was that I feel I can offer the profession more now than I could have four years ago in terms of being able to influence teachers and the teaching enterprise."

WestConn received final approval from the state Board of Governors to institute the Education Doctoral Program in Instructional Leadership in 2002, and the first class of students was admitted in September 2003.

The program is for educators who want to explore issues related to leadership in schools, curriculum and instruction, reflective practice and methods of inquiry related to school settings. Graduates of

this program will be able to apply advanced curricular systems and strategies in classrooms and schools. They also are prepared to be instructional leaders within their districts, able to assist with many decisions related to academics and assessment.

LaBanca said that while all the students are working in demanding positions, balancing jobs, classes and families, and then researching and writing their dissertations, the support of the instructors at WestConn was crucial to their success.

"We're lucky to have some of the professors that we had. The expectation was that you will do this — and we'll provide you with those structural supports you need to succeed," LaBanca said.

Nicholas Kowgios, an Advanced Placement English literature and composition teacher and English department

chair at the North Salem Middle/High School, said the most substantial impact that the program had on his role as an educator has been in establishing a connection between empirical research and curriculum reform.

"The entire faculty provided a sound understanding of both quantitative and qualitative research and its role in the decision-making process in schools," Kowgios said. "An equal emphasis was placed on the need for educators to connect pedagogy to sound educational theory."

The other graduates are Patricia Cosentino, Pauline Goolkasian, Christine Salon, Stacy Bernstein, Lori Kolbusz, Jennifer F. Mitchell, Rima Zelvis, Jessica Devine, Annmarie Spatola, Deborah Hardy, Joan McGettigan, Patricia Anekwe and Susan Shaw. ■

For more information, call the Office of Graduate Studies at (203) 837-8244.

Fairfield Hall Tea and Tour scheduled

After two years of reconstruction, Fairfield Hall — the university's first residence hall — is back in service.

While every room was gutted and reconfigured, the charm of the building, which includes the turn-of-the-century grand lobby, has been retained.

To accommodate WestConn's thriving growth, Fairfield Hall will become coed for only the second time in the building's history. Except for one year in the 1960s, the residence hall has been reserved for female students.

Starting this fall, the main part of the building will house female students and the



Reminiscent of the 2002 Centennial Tea, Fairfield Hall's history will once again be celebrated with a tea when the newly renovated residence hall reopens this fall.

newer "annex" will be reserved for males. A Tea and Tour of the new Fairfield Hall will be at 1 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 17. ■

For more information, call the Office of University Relations at (203) 837-8486.

Join us as we celebrate WestConn's oldest living alumna, Mary Edgett, at a reception to support the Mary Edgett Scholarship.

A Special Invitation

Westside Campus Center
Grand Ballroom
Westside campus
\$50/person
Call (203) 837-8298
to R.S.V.P. or for more information.

5 p.m.,
Wednesday,
Oct. 8

Save these dates!

**Monday, Sept. 29
Alumni Golf Outing**
Join us for a great day of golf at Richter Park Golf Course, while helping to raise money for WestConn student scholarships. 10 a.m., Shotgun start (scramble format). Open to the public. To register, call (203) 837-8290

**Saturday, Oct. 25
Gourmet Lunch at the Culinary Institute of America!**
Join the WCSU Alumni Association for an afternoon of elegant dining. Please R.S.V.P. by Sept. 25. For more information, call (203) 837-8298.

**Sunday, Nov. 2
Tenth Annual Holiday Wine Tasting**
4 - 7 p.m. • Grand Ballroom Westside Campus Center • \$50/per person • Proceeds to benefit the Caraluzzi Scholarship Fund

**Friday, Nov. 7
Alumni Dinner Theatre**
Dinner: 5:30 p.m., Warner Hall • Show: 8 p.m., Berkshire Theatre Midtown campus
Price: TBA
203) 837-8290



Sousa receives Patriot Award

WestConn IT Lab Support and Training Assistant Joe Sousa recently received a Patriot Award, established by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) to recognize civilian employers who offer exemplary support to members of the National Guard and Reserve who work under their supervision. Sousa (center) displays the DoD Certificate of Appreciation conferred by the Connecticut Army National Guard as he stands beside Derek Roy, the WCSU student and National Guard member who nominated him for the award. President James W. Schmotter (right) joined Sousa and Roy for the presentation.



Seniors stage Portfolio Show

Graduating seniors in the art department of WestConn's School of Visual and Performing Arts exhibited their portfolios of original works last spring in the Higgins Gallery in Higgins Hall on the Midtown campus. The two-week exhibition of student paintings, photography, illustration and graphic design began with an opening reception for the artists on April 30.



Ives Fine Arts Series features Shakespeare, 'Puppetpalooza,' 'Shalamazoo'

WestConn theatre arts students and alumni joined community theatre actors to stage two productions on July 18 and 19 of William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," presented as part of the Fine Arts & Family Series at Ives Concert Park on the Westside campus. Taking advantage of the natural beauty of the Ives Concert Park location, the theatre troupe turned the classic comedy into a family occasion, inviting children attending to participate in creative dramatic crafts and games before the show and then inviting them to become part of the evening's production. The series also featured family entertainment including the interactive puppet show "Puppetpalooza" on July 13; lower right, 14-month-old Cristian Pote, son of Rob Pote, assistant director of ConnCAP, Upward Bound and Excel programs at WCSU, meets a star from the performance.



Child Care Cabaret

Mike Minard, Dan Mustin and Communication Department Chair Dr. Bill Petkanas returned by popular demand for another gig as the "house band" for the 11th Annual Child Care Cabaret, presented April 10 in the Westside Campus Center Ballroom. The cabaret, which featured a variety of musical acts by WCSU faculty, staff and students, raised funds to support scholarships for WCSU students who require day care for their children as they pursue their studies.



Spring & summer highlights

Run/Walk for Health

The Institute for Holistic Health Studies (IHHS) and the WestConn HPX Club staged the five-kilometer "Community Fun Walk/Run 2008" on April 19 to benefit IHHS scholarships and raise funds for future institute programs. The Walk/Run was followed by a health fair presented by WestConn students and faculty of the health promotion and exercise sciences department in the Westside Campus Center.



Caraluzzis honored at University Ball

Longtime WestConn benefactors Anthony and Roberta Caraluzzi were honored at the 22nd Annual University Ball on May 3. The Caraluzzis, respected owners of Bethel Food Market, Georgetown Market and Nutmeg Liquors, have supported the WCSU Foundation Inc. and the Caraluzzi Scholarship Foundation along with many other charitable causes. Enjoying the festivities at "Escape to Tuscany" were (l-r): Anthony Caraluzzi, Roberta Caraluzzi, Jennifer Dimyan, Mike Dimyan, Amy Caraluzzi and Mark Caraluzzi.



Rinker offers appraisals

Harry Rinker (right), host of the nationally syndicated antiques and collectibles call-in radio show "Whatcha Got?," inspects a painting to establish a valuation during his Verbal Appraisal Clinic on April 3 at the Westside Campus Center Grand Ballroom. Rinker, author of the recently published book, "Sell, Keep or Toss? How to Downsize a Home, Settle an Estate and Appraise Personal Property," conducted the clinic to benefit student travel-study scholarships in the School of Arts and Sciences.



M.F.A. students stage New York show

Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences Dr. Linda Vaden-Goad (center) joins other friends of the arts during the June 19 opening reception at the Blue Mountain Gallery in New York City for the WestConn Master of Fine Arts Emerging Artists Show. The exhibition featured works by 2008 graduates of the WCSU M.F.A. programs in painting and illustration, who also staged a thesis exhibition during April at the Higgins Gallery in Higgins Hall. Participating painters included DeAnne Matheny and Kevin Dwyer, of New Milford; Carla Lindsey, of Torrington; Michel Belknap, of Newtown; Phil Lique, of New Haven; and J.D. Richey, of Danbury. Featured illustrators were Anna Myers, of Danbury; and Sarah Mahan, of Oswego, N.Y.



Literary Festival

Novelist, memoirist and biographer Don Snyder (right) conducts a workshop for graduate students in the Master of Fine Arts in Professional Writing program, who gathered on campus the first week of August for lectures, readings and informal exchanges with WCSU faculty, writers-in-residence, mentors and peers. The M.F.A. program offered public readings by Snyder, Web journalist Jason Leopold, essayist and author Charles P. Pierce, novelist Dan Pope and other acclaimed writers during the WCSU Summer Literary Festival from Aug. 4 through 9.



'Images of War'

Professor of Music Dr. Kevin Jay Isaacs conducts the April 20 performance by the WCSU Concert Choir and Chamber Singers of "Images of War," featuring nine compositions on the theme of war integrated with a continuous slide show of war- and military-related images selected by Isaacs. Classical, traditional American and contemporary works were presented by 120 student singers, accompanied by Adjunct Professor of Music Patricia Lutnes on piano.

Connecticut Film Festival

WestConn screening venues at Ives Concert Hall and the Student Center Theater attracted large audiences of filmgoers who flocked to Danbury this spring to attend the Connecticut Film Festival. The festival featured movies written and directed by independent filmmakers, presented at sites across Danbury from May 20 through 25.



WCSU Photos/Ellen Myhill

Namath talks football

Legendary New York Jets quarterback Joe Namath returned to WestConn to offer his insights and experience to young athletes from the Greater Danbury area during a weeklong summer football camp held in early July on the university's Westside campus.



Tuskegee Airmen visit WestConn

Flight Officer Connie Nappier (left) and Lt. Col. Spann Watson, veterans of the legendary "Tuskegee Airmen" who broke the race barrier during World War II to become America's first black aviators, shared their experiences of military service in Africa and Europe and segregation at home in a lecture presented on April 28 at the Student Center Theater. Nearly 1,000 African-American airmen trained at the Tuskegee Army Air Field to serve in the U.S. Army Air Corps from 1941 to 1946. President Bush recognized the Tuskegee Airmen's service to the nation with award of the Congressional Medal of Honor to members of the group in March 2007.



Animation Camp

Local middle school students came to WestConn to receive an intensive introduction to the creative art and latest technological advances in computer animation during a summer camp sponsored by the university's Center for Graphics Research from Aug. 3 through 8. The Summer Computer Animation Camp, featuring instruction and mentoring by WCSU faculty and students, marked the latest initiative by the CGR, which also staged its seventh annual animation festival last April to showcase creativity in student animation films.



WCSU Opera performs Puccini works

WestConn student Yvonne Cheng (right), of Stamford, sings an aria during her performance of the title role of "Suor Angelica," one of two one-act operas by Giacomo Puccini presented on April 10 and 11 in Ives Concert Hall by the WCSU Opera Ensemble under the direction of Professor of Music Margaret Astrup. The role of Sister Angelica also was performed by WestConn student Victoria Chiera, of Ridgefield. The program paired "Suor Angelica" with "Gianni Schicchi," two of the operatic trio of works known as Puccini's II Trittico.



Jazz Fest tradition continues

The April 25 concert by Grammy-nominated saxophonist and jazz legend Jimmy Heath, pictured during his performance, highlighted three days of varied and vibrant music during the 13th Annual WestConn Jazz Festival from April 24 through 26. Heath performed in Ives Concert Hall with the WCSU Jazz Orchestra under the direction of WCSU Assistant Professor of Music Jamie Begian. Heath and other featured performers including jazz keyboard great Cedar Walton also offered clinics for WestConn music students during the festival.

Schramm participates in Peter Jennings Project for Journalists and the Constitution at National Constitution Center in Philadelphia

by Robin DeMerell

There are two sides to every story — and Dr. Harold Schramm, professor emeritus of justice and law administration, has taught his students that for years.

Schramm, who recently participated in the Peter Jennings Project for Journalists and the Constitution, lent his legal expertise and guidance as students and career journalists took a series of cases from one side to the other — from gut reaction to a legal interpretation.

Held last spring at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, the event brought together 30 high school and mid-career journalists who argued cases under the watchful eyes of some of the nation's most prominent legal figures. Participants included U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Chief Judge of the State of New York Judith Kaye and Elena Kagan, Dean of Harvard Law School.

"We were able to get people to realize the difficulties between gut reaction to a situation and then a more generalized legal examination," Schramm said.

The Peter Jennings Project was named for the late, long-time anchor and editor of ABC News "World News Tonight." A Canadian native, Jennings had a deep interest in the Constitution

and became a U.S. citizen at age 65. The project looks at the Constitution and how it applies to the news today with leading journalists, jurists, scholars and political leaders. Schramm was invited by project director Todd Brewster, a former adjunct professor at WestConn who taught film, political science and constitutional law.

Through a variety of programs, participants experienced how the constitutional discussion is not limited to the domain of the court system, academic exchange and high school civics classes, but reaches into the fabric of daily life and affects what journalists write, broadcast, edit and produce.

Some of the career journalists included editors from the Washington Post and the Atlanta Constitution and ABC News correspondent Lynn Sherr. The current legal issues ran the gamut from women and the law to affirmative action and terrorism and torture.

During the weekend event, Schramm led a group of six students and six journalists assigned to discuss an eminent domain case in New London, Conn. In this case the city gave privately owned land to a semi-private developer. The argument was that the government shouldn't take property and give it to a private company for economic development; the land



Professor Emeritus of Justice and Law Administration Dr. Harry Schramm

was to be used for high-rises and a hotel, among other things. His group thought it was outrageous and unfair for the town to take the land. "It was 'take from the poor and give to the rich,'" Schramm said.

After a two-hour discussion, Schramm's role was to give them the legal argument. The court decided in favor of New London because it determined that New London knew what was best for the city. The legislators did their job, which took 10 years, with plenty of notice and due process. If the court interprets the law, Schramm said, it agreed with what New London did.

Then his class was sent off for the evening. After hours to rethink the case and discuss

their gut reaction versus the legal argument, the group voted again. This time six out of the 12 had changed their minds in favor of the legal decision.

Schramm said the experience gave students a great perspective of how courts work to decide cases — and that cases are not determined simply on public policy.

"The idea is to give students an update on key issues in the law, but to give them a sense that reading a case is a technical process rather than a result-

oriented process," Schramm said. He said it was valuable to hear other people's views and get a sense of the Constitution and its limits.

"I think they learned from each other," Schramm said. He enjoyed seeing the senior journalists treat the students as colleagues. "It was awesome. I felt lucky to be able to go. The thing I took away was the incredible earnestness of the people there. They were involved, happy and committed to being there." ■

Skar, students study Central American poets

by Robin DeMerell

By immersing themselves in poetry, people and a passion for learning, a professor and two students spent three weeks in Central America gaining a unique perspective on women and writing.

As part of a research project, Assistant Professor Dr. Alba Skar, chair of WestConn's world languages and literature department, accompanied by Spanish majors Stephanie Mills and Katherine Alberto, spent the first two weeks of the trip at the VII Annual International Poetry Festival in Costa Rica. Skar said a dozen poets from Argentina, Nicaragua, Chile, Mexico, Iraq, Cuba, Egypt, Spain, Gambia, the Dominican Republic and the United States each had a book published at the festival, which started at the end of May. There also were 20 to 30 local poets from Costa Rica.

At the festival, which draws more than 1,000 people each year, poetry was read in plazas

and schools. Skar spoke at a local secondary school about literature and memory in Latin America. Then the women traveled to Guatemala and spent several days meeting with and interviewing three local women poets. The interviews are part of Skar's project to produce new research on poetry by women writers from Guatemala. Despite the growing number of female poets in Central America, few of them are known outside of their native countries.

"One of the key roles of cultural research is to advance knowledge and facilitate connections across borders, both geopolitical and linguistic," Skar said. "Unique experiences outside of the classroom can have a tremendous impact on students' understanding of the world. These experiences also greatly enrich my own world perspective that I can take back into the classroom."

Skar's research will focus on the contemporary literature of three Guatemalan writers: Rosa

Maria Chavez Juarez, Carolina Escobar Sarti and Maya Cu. Skar said these women represent a new generation of literary voices in Latin American women's writing. Their poetry redefines today's Guatemalan women and presents themes such as voice versus silence, urban violence and the country's violent political history, said Skar.

"By studying, writing about and presenting women poets, they become more well-known outside Central America," she said.

In addition to Skar's research, the students also are conducting their own research. Mills is writing about urban life, poetry and the representation of words in the city, which in this case is political since newspapers present censored opinions. She engaged in reading, talking to poets, and studying graffiti, a local form of communication. "Two of the most common phrases were written to help the female population. One graffiti writing read, 'Women in resistance,' and the other said, 'We decide,'" said Mills. "With this graffiti, motivation is available to all women all over the city. Women are encouraged to take control and empower themselves. They are fighting back against the oppression of the past to build a better future."

Alberto is writing about poetry and nature. Both students are fluent in Spanish and will



(l-r): WCSU students Katherine Alberto and Stephanie Mills, Assistant Professor of World Languages and Literature Dr. Alba Skar, and Guatemalan poet Rosa Maria Chavez Jurarez in Guatemala.

Nursing students help renovate home



Contributed photo

(back row, l-r): Lori Dilport, Lois Scheier, Melissa Ericsson, Associate Professor of Nursing Dr. Karen Daley, Diane Kurimai, Lynn Seng, Evan Weiss, and (front, l-r): Suhki Bajwa and Kathryn DiBona inside a closet they constructed at a Habitat for Humanity site. The project earned the students the Best Project prize at a Nursing Alumni Society event in April.

by Paul Steinmetz

WCSU nursing students were more than eager to help replace a 200-year-old house with a condominium building — and they got class credit, too.

Seniors Evan Weiss, Diane Kurimai, Lori Dilport, Kathryn DiBona, Lois Scheier, Suhki Bajwa, Lynn Seng and Melissa Ericsson spent three days working on the project with Bridgeport Habitat for Humanity.

On the first day the students learned framing and how to build a double closet. On the next two days they laid flooring and did site cleanup.

"It was a very challenging week but thanks to Evan, who

has a great deal of construction experience, we did well," said Associate Professor of Nursing Dr. Karen Daley, who worked with the students.

On the first morning, the students got a thank you from one of the residents of the future condominium who stopped by to tell them how much he was looking forward to his new home.

The site supervisor said the students were among the hardest-working volunteers he has ever worked with.

Students volunteered as part of the requirements for the senior practicum course. They displayed pictures of their project at the Alumni Welcoming Gathering for the Nursing Alumni Society. ■

Student interns (cont'd.)

of Danbury; Rebecca Singer, of Sandy Hook; David Roman, of Danbury; and Sara Waterfall, of Danbury.

"This program attracts primarily political science, history and government majors, but any student may apply," said WCSU Director of Cooperative Education Dr. Anthony Ciarleglio, who is campus adviser for the program. The internship is part of WestConn's Cooperative Education Program, which helps undergraduate students gain experience related to their major. Although most internships are paid, the legislative internships are not paid, but students earn between six and 12 credits, depending on their weekly hours.

"You can read and write about a career, but you can't apply textbook learning or see a particular field firsthand until you work in it. It gives students a better idea for career planning

purposes and it's a risk-free way to test out a career," Ciarleglio said. WestConn has been sending students to intern at the Connecticut General Assembly for more than 25 years. Each year about 90 interns are selected from among all state universities and colleges, public and private.

To qualify, students must have earned 45 credits, maintain a good academic standing and express a genuine interest in the program. The application requires two essays. The final determination is made by a legislative committee after interviewing student applicants. This year all eight students who applied were chosen.

"It's a competitive program," Ciarleglio said. "The fact that 100 percent of WestConn's applicants were selected attests to the quality of education that students get at WestConn." ■

WestConn students visit United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva

by Robin DeMerell

As the United Nations celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its regular session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, a dozen WestConn students witnessed some of that history.

From May 30 to June 17, the students, accompanied by WCSU Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Social Work Field Education Dr. Kit Hinga and Friar Michael Lasky, traveled to Switzerland as part of a human rights course.

"My hope is that this experience deepened students' understanding of human conditions different from their own, and that this understanding will move the students as individuals in their choices toward activism and careers," said Hinga.

Part of this year's President's Initiatives Fund, "Step into the World of Geneva" exposed students to human conditions and experiences through the rich and diverse lens of the U.N. Students participated in formal classes, attended daily open sessions of the Human Rights Council, dialogued with various nongovernmental organizations

(NGOs) and met with U.S. representatives and delegates to the U.N. The students enjoyed access to all the meetings of the U.N. Council.

After being briefed on culture and attending a five-hour orientation, students were exposed to French — one of Switzerland's four official languages — by Jamie Gelbtuch, a freelance cross-cultural trainer from Westchester County. French is the primary language spoken in Geneva, an international city with 38 percent of its population foreign nationals.

By learning simple words and phrases, such as "bonjour," "merci," and "s'il vous plait," (hello, thank you and please), students not only made the experience easier for themselves, but they were considered respectful.

"We felt it was important to give the students basics in French. People are more receptive to you if you show interest in their culture," said Melissa Gluckman, WCSU's international services coordinator. "We're looking at the world through our cultural lens."

Students reflected daily with WCSU professors and faculty from the Geneva School of

Diplomacy and International Relations as well as staff from various NGOs. These learning opportunities featured exposure to human, political, economic, cultural, religious and geographic differences in our world.

The 12 participating students were selected out of 29 who applied. Students were required to write essays that included why they were interested in the program. The three-credit course required students to keep journals and prepare a multi-media presentation of their experience.

The students who went to Switzerland have majors that range from political science to music education. Four of the students are studying social work: Barbara Bowers, Nikki Singer, Nicole Fortier and Olivia Schulze.

"Part of the profession is to be aware and involved and to learn about advocacy," said Singer. The other students are Nate Cullerton, Jenna Sommo, Dan Lovallo, Fahima Chowdhury, William Kadeg, Adam Schwartz, Dave Rothlfing and Mike Carlo.

A music major, Lovallo said he wanted to take advantage of the opportunity to learn about



Congressman Chris Murphy visited WestConn in July to hear about the WCSU student trip to the Human Rights Council in Geneva. Pictured are (back row, l-r): William Kadeg, Mike Carlo, Nate Cullerton, Friar Michael Lasky, Dave Rothlfing, (front row, l-r): Assistant Professor of Social Work Dr. Kit Hinga, Murphy, Nikki Singer and Fahima Chowdhury.

another country "and how human rights are affected in another country." Kadeg, also a music major, said he thought the experience would round out his education at WestConn because he's been so focused on the music program.

Gluckman said this was a unique opportunity for students not only from a cultural

standpoint, but especially in light of the council's 60th anniversary and WestConn's connection with the Geneva School of Diplomacy and International Relations. "It's truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said Gluckman. ■

For more information, call Hinga at (203) 837-8779 or Lasky at (203) 837-3240

WestConn students, faculty study turtle migration in exotic locations



WCSU senior Jeff Pioli spent Spring Break in Crete, where he studied the population demographics of the *Mauremys rivulata* turtle species native to the Mediterranean island's wetland regions.

by Robert Taylor

WCSU students this summer joined instructors from WestConn, the Wooster School in Danbury and the University of Guadalajara at a field camp on Mexico's Pacific coast to begin a long-term project to track the epic migratory journeys of the Ridley turtles native to the region.

WestConn Assistant Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences Dr. Theodora Pinou, coordinator for the turtle migration research project at La Gloria field camp in the west central Mexican state of Jalisco, accompanied six WCSU undergraduate students majoring in secondary education during the two-week summer program from Aug. 1 to 15. Also participating in the program were research team members from Wooster School and the University of Guadalajara.

Pinou has traveled to La Gloria for the past five years to study several thousand Ridley turtles that nest on this remote

beach site, working closely with La Gloria camp director Antonio Trejo and colleagues at the University of Guadalajara and the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale University. Until now, the remoteness of the camp and the scarcity of available funding have limited the researchers' capacity to study migration patterns for the native turtle species. This year's pilot project marked an important step forward as researchers for the first time planned to attach satellite transmitters to the shells of nesting turtles at La Gloria and begin long-term tracking of these turtles' migration.

This breakthrough has been achieved thanks to grants awarded by the Crane Foundation of Stamford, Conn., and the Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Preservation in Riverhead, N.Y., supplemented by funding from the Wooster School. A recent Crane Foundation grant of \$3,360 financed the purchase of one satellite transmitter, along with costs for a Science-at-Night

lecture at WestConn. Wooster School purchased two additional transmitters for the project. The Riverhead Foundation's participation, announced by foundation Director Robert DiGiovanni, will cover the ongoing costs for satellite time to track transmissions generated automatically each time the monitored Ridelys surface for air during their Pacific journeys between nesting grounds and food sources. This continuous monitoring will enable researchers in Danbury and Guadalajara to establish the turtles' geographical pattern of migration.

Pinou noted the project should settle the present disagreement among researchers as to whether the Ridley population native to the Jalisco region migrates along the Pacific coastline to feeding sites, feeds in the open ocean and then returns to nest, or undertakes a marathon trans-Pacific round-trip journey. "We won't really know until we have put transmitters on these turtles," she said.

Pinou is collaborating at WestConn with Assistant Professor of World Languages and Literature Dr. Alba Skar to create an interdisciplinary program of research that places emphasis not only on the scientific study of turtle navigation and migratory patterns, but also a project-based instructional model designed to facilitate scientific and language learning. This cross-disciplinary focus is reflected in the decision to select three students each from biology and Spanish concentrations in the secondary education curriculum.

"We will get a lot of good science from this project," Pinou observed, "but the real beauty of

this project is that, on top of that, we look to develop a model for the contextual learning of language. The idea is to explore how we can embrace diversity and the project complements this goal very well, as it will involve secondary education students who plan to become Spanish teachers. This research will give them an opportunity to integrate conservation, science and social diversity in the learning of Spanish.

"This program will help to give the students confidence to teach the sciences and to integrate their language skills into their instruction," she added. "Our goal is to address the misconceptions about multicultural and gender differences in the sciences."

Pinou noted the selection of La Gloria for the project reflected confidence in the field camp management's commitment to provide a safe

and secure on-site environment for the research team. In a region where poverty and hunger heighten the risk of poaching in turtle nesting grounds, "our students were in an environment where fundamental issues of conservation are right up front," she observed.

With the cost of a single satellite transmitter to monitor turtle navigation currently estimated at about \$3,400, Pinou is seeking additional funding from university and outside sources to expand the tracking program and provide a more comprehensive map of migration patterns. Donors to the project will have the opportunity to access tracking maps online — "and they will be able to name their turtle if they like," she said. ■

For more information, call Pinou at (203) 837-8793.



INSPIRED IMAGES: WESTCONN STUDENTS GIVE BACK THROUGH THEIR ART

Alumni Hall, Midtown campus
August 30 - September 9

Reception: Wednesday, Sept. 3, from 4 - 7 p.m.

Featuring Adam Schwarz and Bryn Gillette

Campus police host crime prevention course

Most campus crimes happen within seconds — a stolen laptop, a smashed car window, a ransacked dorm room. But, said WestConn police Sgt. Richard Montefusco, when it comes to crime, a little education goes a long way.

For two weeks in March, the campus police department hosted a crime prevention certification seminar that drew 30 police officers from all over the country and Canada. Participants included four area officers from Naugatuck, Bethel and New Milford and five officers from WestConn. The program was overseen by University Police Director Neil McLaughlin.

The seminar has been offered since 1972 by the American Crime Prevention Institute, and previously had been offered exclusively in Louisville, Ky. Held this year at the university's Westside campus, the seminar ran the gamut from landscaping and lighting systems to car theft prevention and security for campus libraries. After course completion, the officers were certified as crime prevention specialists.

The campus police department, together with city and state police, has mapped out plans for handling extreme emergencies on campus. Montefusco said having the police anticipate such situations makes it easier for them to respond. But, he added, they also have to educate students, staff and faculty.

"Our job is to educate the public what to look for, who to report to, and what to do about it," he said. "We are also educators here in the police department."

In fact, Montefusco said, he would like to see it mandatory that incoming freshmen come through the police department to learn about safety and the campus and what to do — and what not to do.

"People want to feel safe," Montefusco said. "It's a necessary evil to be one step ahead of crime." A seasoned police officer, Montefusco said the program opened his eyes to the ways the university can be proactive against crime. "It won't eliminate crime, but it will reduce risks and opportunity," he said. "Safety is everyone's responsibility."

McLaughlin said anticipating what types of crimes and where they are likely to happen on campus helps make the campus a safer place.

"There are three things you need to commit a crime," McLaughlin said, "desire, ability and opportunity."

With that in mind, WestConn police strive to reduce the opportunity by making certain crimes more difficult to commit on campus. For instance, trees and bushes are trimmed away from buildings and outside lighting is ample. There are lighted phones in the parking garages for emergencies. McLaughlin said there are also

closed-circuit televisions across both campuses to monitor buildings, parking lots and garages.

In addition to examining these lessons in depth, police officers also learned during the course about preventing acts of violence at student social events, crime prevention for international students and Internet crimes.

And even if a more serious crime is committed on campus, the chances are it will get solved because of the steps the university police have already taken. "We solve a lot of crime here with video," said Montefusco, who said he learned even more about closed-circuit television through the seminar.

Like everything else in society, Montefusco said crimes tend to follow socio-economic trends and the police need to stay abreast of what's current. He said the officers learned at the seminar that some of the leading "trends" in campus crime today include: drug-facilitated sexual assault, theft, burglary, larceny (i.e. laptops, cell phones), an increase in aggressive violence and active shooter situations.

There are an average of 300 criminal acts reported on campus each year, the majority of which are not serious offenses. "What do you do to minimize those risks?" Montefusco asked. But he already has the answer. ■

Hines honored as employee of the semester



(l-r): Dr. Ann Hines, Professor of Chemistry Dr. Paul Hines and President James W. Schmotter

He's the professor who burns the midnight oil. He's the man on the campus known to many as the man-on-the-go, the "Energizer Bunny," a wonderful colleague, a tireless educator and a champion of students.

So when Professor of Chemistry Dr. Paul Hines was chosen as "Employee of the Semester," it came as a shock to no one — except him.

"I'm sure there's 40 other people who should have gotten this but me," Hines said at a breakfast on May 8 where he was presented with an award. Nearly 100 people packed into Alumni Hall on the university's Midtown campus on a rainy spring morning to honor the man who has been a fixture at WCSU for nearly 40 years.

"I think there's no one who's worked harder at this university over the years than Paul Hines," President James W. Schmotter said. "His continued commitment to the university and the students is truly remarkable."

Former campus police officer Eddie Stephens, who was on the university's Welcoming

Board, nominated Hines to an overwhelming approval by other committee members, for his dedication and hard work. "It seems like he's here 24 hours a day," said Stephens. "He goes that extra step to make sure the students get the help they need."

"This is the finest person at the university," said Dean of Arts and Sciences Dr. Linda Vaden-Goad. "Paul sees in each person that special gift they bring — that's worth everything in a university."

Schmotter said that Hines, also the associate chairman of the chemistry department, exemplifies the core vision and mission of the university to educate students and put the students first.

"All accolades directed

toward Paul are clearly earned," Schmotter said. "He's helped change the lives of students. There are special people who define an institution — that person here is Paul."

Finally, when Hines was presented with the award, he wore a sincere look of gratitude — not so much for the award, but for the opportunity to be at WestConn.

"I'm honored to be allowed to stand in the midst of all these people — not only the professors, but the custodians, the police officers — they're all good people. They're in the trenches, and they keep this place alive," Hines said. "Being among them — that's the honor for me. It really is." ■

Nutmeg Games come to Westside campus



Athletes from all over the state of Connecticut converged on Danbury for the Nutmeg Games this summer. A number of events were held on WestConn's Westside campus. ■

Film shot on campus has local premiere



(l-r): WCSU senior Emily Fromm, of Monroe, and Bethel High School senior Rebecca Hill pose in front of a poster for "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2." Both appeared as extras in the film, which was shot last summer on the university's Midtown campus. At the sold-out August 6 premiere at Bethel Cinema, the audience cheered when Fromm, Hill, WCSU President James W. Schmotter and familiar Midtown campus locations appeared on-screen. ■

Students bring business closer to home



Presenting their work relating to Staples at a recent Case Conference are (l-r): Jeff Shpunt, Associate Professor of Marketing Dr. Karen Koza, Charlie Price, Shingai Majuru and Assistant Professor of Marketing Dr. Ben Oumlil.

A 12-hour time difference and 7,000 miles between them make no difference to Ansell School of Business students working with peers in Asia. Dealing with customer-based issues from Danbury to China has prepared them to enter the global workplace with real-world experience.

Associate Professor of Marketing Dr. Karen Koza said students in her spring 2008 marketing management class learned skills that will make them versatile and marketable in today's fast-paced business world. "Our students will enter a technologically sophisticated job market," said Koza, "and they need skills that fit today's global workplace."

Communication tools used by Koza's students in their virtual collaborations include e-mail, discussion boards that act as blogs and videoconferencing. Some of these technologies provide the ability to "see" their virtual partners and client company face-to-face. "It is always more engaging to talk to someone you can see," Koza said, "and it provides an important tool to build relationships across distance."

WCSU, partnering with SIAS International University in

central China, has worked with large, global companies for the past five semesters. The students acquire skills through "real-time" experience in global strategic marketing planning, project management and team coordination. The companies ultimately benefit from a more knowledgeable work force and from customized projects.

This past year, Staples, the world's largest office products company with more than \$18 billion in annual sales and 2,000 stores worldwide, allowed students to research growth options for Staples in China.

Through the Staples project, students learned the marketing planning process and researched industries, competitors and customers in China.

"My students worked with a leading global retail company doing business in the largest emerging market," Koza said, "and delivered project outcomes that they were proud to present to our client company, to peers at a Society for Case Research Conference, and include in their job portfolios."

In addition to learning about target markets, Koza said her students assumed leadership roles, developed cultural sensitivity, time and project management skills, and used information communication technology for "shrinking" distance as part of a diverse "virtual" team.

No other university in Connecticut runs real-time experiential projects using virtual global teams at the undergraduate and graduate levels, Koza said. "These real-time, experiential projects with our client companies are an asset not only to our students, but also to our economy." ■

Congratulations!

Peck named emerging leader mentor

Lisa Peck, assistant director of WestConn's Academic Advisement Center, has been named an Emerging Leader Mentor for 2008-10 by the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA). Peck also serves as the NACADA Advising Adult Learners commission chair for 2007-09. ■

If you have an announcement about a recent appointment to a board, award or other professional accomplishment you'd like to share, please e-mail pr@wcsu.edu.

Recent meteorology graduate predicts a bright, sunny future



A crew from The Weather Channel visited campus last spring to tape a feature segment about WCSU meteorology student Michael Lombardi (left).

by Robin DeMerell

Recent graduate Michael Lombardi loved weather as a child — he even made his own forecasting instruments using bicycle parts and milk cartons. But instead of following his dreams of predicting rain and snow, Lombardi earned an M.B.A. at Columbia University and worked in the corporate world for 25 years.

After several years of hard work, 85 credits and countless classes later, Lombardi received his Bachelor of Science degree in meteorology on May 18.

"I think about how fortunate and grateful I am to have had this experience," said the 56-year-old Lombardi, who formerly worked as a chief financial officer overseeing global merchandising and licensing. But

he tired of the daily grind — often leaving work in the early morning darkness and returning again in the dark more than 12 hours later. He was burned out.

"I always had a passion for the weather," Lombardi said. "I loved the weather, but then I had my career. I made a decision I wanted to study meteorology."

Lombardi's passion for weather is so evident that the producers at cable television's The Weather Channel got wind of it recently. On May 6, students gathered in windows at the Midtown campus Science Building to peer at the television crew that came to film Lombardi for a segment that later aired on the cable channel.

In 2004, Lombardi started researching meteorology programs that would be a close

commute from his home in Westchester County, N.Y., and found that WestConn was the right fit.

"It offered what I needed," Lombardi said. "The program gives you a full range of exposure. This is the only full-fledged, operational meteorology program in the New York metropolitan area. It seemed like the kind of place I could learn about weather forecasting and analysis."

The first university weather center in the Northeast, WestConn's Weather Center was started more than 25 years ago by Dr. Mel Goldstein, who taught at the university for 27 years. A household name, Dr. Mel is chief meteorologist at WTNH. The Weather Center is fully outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment to help students gather data for forecasts broadcast daily on WestConn's student TV weather forecasting show.

Lombardi said he enjoyed the rigorous scientific program because it enabled him to study a wide range of other subjects, including physics and chemistry. "I think it enriched the experience. We learned at a fairly deep level all the science that underlies weather," Lombardi said. "When we leave here, we're well-educated scientists."

As part of his studies, Lombardi got up at 3:30 a.m., three mornings a week, to intern at WCBS in Manhattan to help with forecasts that begin airing at 5 a.m. There he studied weather situations, prepared graphics and animated maps and organized weather presentation for four on-air segments. He said one of the benefits of

WestConn's meteorology program was learning about the weather and how to analyze it, not just report it.

"The Weather Center is a real commercial venture, not just a theoretical thing where you're learning in a test tube. You're learning skills and how to work in the real world," Lombardi said.

Greeted "Hey Lombardi," by one of his 20-something classmates, Lombardi said he did his best to fit in, while keeping in mind that he's also a role model. He ate lunch with some of the students and they talked about what they were studying and, of course, the weather. But he also wanted to "fit in" by having an open mind and absorbing as much as he could from his professors.

"When I entered a

classroom, I didn't know any more or any less — I was an equal," Lombardi said. But he said his business experience and communication skills were assets, and he also brought with him good work habits and discipline.

Lombardi said staff and faculty at WestConn were helpful and supportive, helping him transfer credits and choose classes that fit into his major and his schedule.

Although Lombardi said he took some big risks to reach his goal, including a temporary loss of income, it was worth it. He thinks his new degree can open many doors. "Find your passion, something you can do the rest of your life," Lombardi said. "Give some meaning to your life." ■

Central America (cont'd.)

help transcribe the interviews recorded with Skar into English.

"Rather than expecting the world to speak our language, traveling with the tools of bilingual and bicultural proficiency allows us to listen to the world around us, both in words and through cultural practices," Skar said. "People miss a great deal when they travel in English only to countries that have other dominant languages and cultures. This is true whether you travel for business or pleasure."

Mills, who lives in Danbury, said another significance of the trip was being able to listen to the views and ideas of people from Costa Rica and

Guatemala. "When you travel in one language only, you miss so much of the experience of going abroad and your perspective never grows. A broad perspective will always enrich my experiences," said Mills.

Skar planned to present her work in August in a talk at the JALLA international literary conference in Santiago, Chile. She said that traveling for study is an important component to education and quite different from traveling for pleasure. "You take a cultural understanding from your time and exchanges with people," Skar said. "It was a total immersion process." ■

For more information, call Skar at (203) 837-8485.



A Solemn Ceremony of Remembrance

Thursday, Sept. 11
Noon
Midtown campus
Quadrangle

Applications for Academic Leave are due Monday, Sept. 29.

All applications should be sent to:

Esther Boriss
Administrative Services
UH 009

Applications will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 29. Please contact Esther Boriss, chair, Academic Leave Committee, at (203) 837-8758 if you have any questions. ■

Opt-in (cont'd.)

of weather-related closings; and during routine testing.

When an emergency is declared, the WCSU Police Department and members of the president's Emergency Management Team will respond. Further communication to the campus and surrounding community will be made through the WCSU Web site and other methods, including local media.

Although the system is optional and voluntary, the university strongly urges each member of the campus community to take advantage of the Emergency Notification System. It's easy to 'opt in': Simply enter your contact information using the WCSU Emergency Notification System data input page, which is accessible via the WCSU home page by clicking the "Opt in for Safety" link. You may also provide contact information for other persons you wish to receive notifications via the WCSU Emergency Notification System, such as a parent or spouse.

The safety of students is the top priority of all members of the WestConn community. We are also committed to

keeping the members of the university community aware of important — and, at times, urgent — matters through multiple communication channels. Those channels include text messaging, e-mail, Web postings, phone calls or dial-in messages, loudspeakers, video monitors and in-person communication.

Any message sent during routine testing will be identified as such.

The system is designed to provide students, staff and faculty with an additional layer of security and protection in emergency response, in conjunction with already well-established emergency communication methods, such as university-wide broadcast e-mails, online updates via the university homepage, public address systems/sirens and coordinated use of public media outlets.

In determining the method by which notification is to be made, please be aware that you, and those persons you additionally list, may incur charges for receiving cell-phone and text messages sent via the WCSU Emergency Notification System. By providing contact information for purposes of

receiving emergency notifications via the WCSU Emergency Notification System, you are acknowledging that you, and those persons you additionally list, will be responsible for the payment of any charges assessed by the carrier.

The university has arranged to provide the Emergency Notification System as part of a broader system for notifying members of the campus community of emergencies by which they may be affected. However, the university cannot and does not guarantee that any particular message will be received by every person who has provided contact information.

The effectiveness of this notification system depends upon individuals providing accurate and up-to-date personal contact information. Please be sure to update your information whenever your cell phone or other data changes, so that the Emergency Notification System will have the most current information, which will better enable us to contact you. ■

For more information, call the Office of University Relations at (203) 837-8486.

what's on at westconn

9/11,17 10/22

Diversity performance, lecture series



9/11 - "Platanos and Collard Greens," 5 p.m., Ives Concert Hall, White Hall, Midtown campus.

9/17 - **Marcelo Suarez Orozco** - "Rethinking Immigration," 5 p.m., Student Center Theater, Midtown campus.

10/22 - **Author Loung Ung**, 5 p.m., Student Center Theater, Midtown campus. (203) 837-8278

9/18

Science at Night

Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences **Dr. Tom Philbrick** will discuss "Exploring for Plants in Tropical Waterfalls" at 7 p.m., Room 125, Science Building, Midtown campus. (203) 837-8773

9/18-20

Theatre Fundraiser

WCSU theatre arts will present "The Cemetery Club" at 8 p.m. in the Reimold Theatre, Berkshire Hall, Midtown campus. Tickets are \$20; proceeds will support the Reimold Scholarship. (203) 837-TIXX.

9/21

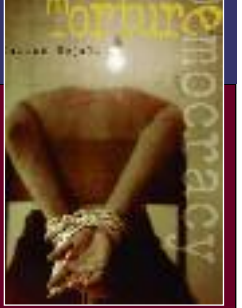
Ives Family Fair

The Ives Family Fair will begin at 2 p.m. at the Ives Concert Park on the Westside campus. Featuring the Ives Festival Orchestra under the direction of **Fernando Jimenez** and numerous multicultural performers, it will be free and open to the public. (203) 837-9226 or www.ivesconcertpark.com



9/25

Steven Neuwirth Arts & Sciences Lecture



Reed College Professor of Political Science **Dr. Darius Rejali** will discuss his book, "Torture and Democracy," at 7 p.m. in Room 125, Science Building, Midtown campus. (203) 837-9400



Homecoming 10/13-10/19

Monday, Oct. 13

Alumni Art Show (through Oct. 19). Open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., First Floor, Warner Hall. Free and open to the public. Reception on Friday, Oct. 17, 3:30 to 6 p.m. **WCSU Women's Tennis vs. Salem State**. 3:30 p.m., Westside campus.

Tuesday, Oct. 14

The History of the Westside Campus. Join us for a discussion led by **Mitch Wagener**, associate professor and chair of the biological and environmental sciences department. 5:30 p.m., Westside Campus Center Grand Ballroom, Westside campus. Refreshments provided. Free and open to alumni, faculty, staff, students and parents.

Wednesday, Oct. 15

Financial Planning Seminar. 5:30 & 6:30 p.m., First floor, Warner Hall, Midtown campus. Refreshments provided. Free and open to alumni, faculty, staff, students and parents.
Film Screening and Discussion: "Chak De! India." Danbury Library Director **Mark Hasskarl** will lead the discussion. 7 p.m., Student Center Theater, Midtown campus. Free and open to the public.

Thursday, Oct. 16

Student/Donor Reception and Scholarship Ceremony. 6:30 p.m., Westside Campus Center Grand Ballroom, Westside campus. Free and open to alumni, faculty, staff, students and parents.
WCSU Faculty Jazz Concert. 7 p.m., Ives Concert Hall, White Hall, Midtown campus. Free and open to the public.

Friday, Oct. 17

Fairfield Hall Tea & Tour. 1 p.m., Fairfield Hall, Midtown campus. Refreshments provided. Free and open to alumni, faculty, staff, students and parents.
Alumni Art Show Reception. 3:30 p.m., Warner Hall, Midtown campus. Refreshments provided. Free and open to alumni, faculty, staff, students and parents.
Class Reunion Gala. A special welcome to the reunion classes of **1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993 and 1998**. 6 p.m., Westside Campus Center Grand Ballroom, Westside campus. \$75. Invitation only. R.S.V.P. to (203) 837-8290.

Carlos Alazraqui and Cedric Yarbrough from the Hit Show "Reno 911." 8 p.m., Ives Concert Hall, White Hall, Midtown campus. \$5/students; \$20/general admission. Open to WCSU alumni, faculty, staff, students and parents.

Saturday, Oct. 18

WCSU Athletic Hall of Fame. Open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Hall of Fame, front of O'Neill Center, Westside campus. Free and open to the public.
Alumni & Friends Circle Rededication. 9:30 a.m., Alumni & Friends Circle (brick circle outside Old Main), Midtown campus. Free and open to the public.
Homecoming Tailgate Party. 10 a.m., O'Neill Center parking lot, Westside campus. Open to the public. Must be 21 years or older.
Homecoming Football Game: Colonials vs. Cortland State. Noon, Westside Athletic Complex, Westside campus. \$6/general admission; \$4/55 or older and children under 12. Open to the public.

Alumni Hospitality Tent. (Across from Westside Athletic Complex.) 2 p.m., Westside campus. Cost. Open to alumni, faculty, staff, students and parents. Must be 21 years or older.

Alumni Business Showcase. (Next to Alumni Hospitality Tent.) Meet alumni business owners. 2 p.m., Westside campus. Free and open to alumni, faculty, staff, students and parents.

Street Fair. 2 p.m., Westside campus. Free and open to the public.

Sunday, Oct. 19

5K Road Race. 8 a.m. Begins at the Westside campus and ends at Midtown campus. Cost. Open to the public. For more information, call race coordinator **Amy Shanks** at (203) 837-8609.

For a complete list of Homecoming events and updates, visit www.wcsu.edu/homecoming.

Dates and times are subject to change. Check our online events calendar to ensure the event you are interested in is still scheduled. All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. For more information about these and other events, please call the Office of University Relations at (203) 837-8486 or visit www.wcsu.edu.

Need directions?

Please visit www.wcsu.edu/directions.



COMMUNIQUE

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY



► Inside this issue:

WestConn has long offered programs for teaching degrees and state teaching certification — helping to fill schools across the state with top-notch teachers. Now the university will offer a Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) that gives nontraditional students the best of both worlds — a master's degree and a teaching certification — all in one program.



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