WestConn, City of Danbury form Charles Ives Authority for the Performing Arts

by Shari Hill

Last spring, Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton announced the formation of a new performing arts authority approved by the Common Council. A joint endeavor between the city and Western Connecticut State University, the Charles Ives Authority for the Performing Arts was created to direct operations at the Ives Concert Park on the university’s Westside campus.

The authority is overseen by a board comprised of nine members: six appointed by the city and three appointed by WestConn President James W. Schmidt. The university’s appointees are Vice President for Institutional Advancement Dr. G. Kentor Anri-Wright, Professor of Music Dr. Fernando Jimenez and Professor of Theatre Arts Frank Herbert. Anri-Wright will serve as the board’s vice chairperson.

Among the first accomplishments of the new authority was the cultivation of a naming sponsor for Ives Concert Park events for the next four years. Ives Authority Chairman Steven Greenberg said the addition of the bank as the first naming sponsor is “huge for the authority.”

“With Union Savings Bank joining WestConn and the City of Danbury, we now have the leading financial institution joining our other leaders,” Greenberg said. “All these community leaders lend such value to our community and our way of life. It’s impressive the way they stepped up to the plate. Ives Concert Park is really great for this city. Our goal is to make it into a junior Tanglewood — a destination for the arts. With support from our partners, we hope to be able to do just that.”

While many think of the concert park as the place to go for summer rock and pop concerts, the venue was founded in the 1970s with the intent that it would provide an outdoor venue for the fine arts. Under the new authority, steps are under way to realize Ives Concert Park’s offerings with the cooperation of WestConn’s School of Visual and Performing Arts, the Danbury Cultural Commission and the Ives Concert Park Authority.

A late September event, billed as the Ives Concert Park Family Fair, showcased for the community the breadth of offerings that might be available at the site in the future. A daylong open house featuring a multitude of multicultural and children’s entertainers culminated with a performance by the Manhattan String Quartet, the interactive puppet show “Pippipalooza” and “Shalamazzo,” a musical-theatre event based on the children’s book by the same name written by WestConn alumnus Joe Shaboo. These events were made possible through the cooperation of WestConn’s School of Visual and Performing Arts, the Danbury Cultural Commission and the Ives Concert Park Authority.

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Students reaped benefits of global expansion

by Irene Sherlock

In the last few years, more WestConn students have been packing their bags to travel the globe. Some are earning credits in the process, but more often, students are using travel to add another dimension to their university experience.

“These days, students are going abroad so their lives can be informed by another culture,” said Dr. Rob Steinmetz, professor of anthropology and coordinator of WestConn’s International Student Exchange Program. “Also, students use travel to become better acquainted with their own heritage.”

Elaine Nadal ‘07 did just that. Of Spanish descent, she participated last summer in WestConn’s Global Academy in Puerto Rico.

“I will never forget my trip to Puerto Rico,” Nadal said. “It was my first time there and I fell in love with my roots.”

Community colleges, WCSU simplify admissions

by Paul Steinmetz

WestConn, Naugatuck Valley Community College (NVCC) and Norwalk Community College (NCC) signed an agreement in June that will allow students at both colleges to transfer easily to the university to work toward a bachelor’s degree.

The agreement will allow transferring students to concentrate more on their education and less on the mechanics of the move between institutions. Often, transferring students lose credits because the school they are moving to does not accept every class from the previous school. That costs the students time and money.

The agreement was signed by NCC President David L. Levinson, NVCC President Richard L. Sanders and WestConn President James W. Schmidt.

Schmidt praised the agreement for the support it will allow the institutions to give students.

“This will be more efficient, more effective,” Schmotter said. “Students will waste less time because they will have access to both institutions at the same time. It just makes so much sense.”

Sanders said students entering his college will find a streamlined admissions system.

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Dr. Christopher Kukk is returning home this fall to his family's native land — 65 years after his father and grandparents fled the Soviet-occupied Baltic state of Estonia to begin a remarkable voyage to freedom in America.

Kukk’s selection as a Fulbright Scholar teaching in Estonia during the 2007-08 academic year will afford the WestConn associate professor of political science a rare opportunity to learn first-hand about his cultural roots in a nation that emerged from the shadow of Soviet rule to regain independence in 1991. His Fulbright assignment at the University of Tartu, one of the Baltic region’s elite academic institutions, will enable him to offer four courses and numerous guest lectures on subjects ranging from globalization and environmental policy to democratic institutions and economic policy. He will advise Estonian hosts on plans to build a new curriculum in political economy at the university, which boasts a venerable academic legacy dating back to its founding by King Gustav Adolf of Sweden in 1624.

As Kukk prepared for the journey to Tartu in September with his wife Elle and three young sons — 9-year-old Cade, 1-year-old Quinn and newborn Cole — he reflected on the many milestones that had brought him back to his homeland.

“’The promotion of this kind of transfer is important for all of us,” Levinson said. “Higher education, and the production of knowledgeable workers, is the backbone of the economy. This agreement will strengthen our ties and more collaboration and we will eventually become a seamless entry of higher education for students.”

Under the terms of the “transfer compact,” students will be able to enroll in one of the community colleges and at WestConn with an associate degree requirements. Acceptance to WestConn Academic Year at the community colleges and the university will work with such students to ensure maximum transfer of credit to satisfy bachelor’s degree requirements. Levinson said that WestConn with an associate degree from the community college and a minimum of 60 credits transferable to the university.

“Over the past five years, WestConn has enrolled an average of 144 students a year from NVCC and 50 from NCC. The agreement will increase those numbers. In March 2007, presidents of the 21 institutions of the Connecticut Community College System and the four universities of the State University System (CSCUS), along with the chancellors of the two systems, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to streamline the transfer process for students. The agreements among NVCC and WestConn and NVCC and CSCUS are the first to follow through on that commitment.”

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“The odyssey for Kukk’s grandparents, and eventually his father Harald Kukk began in 1944 as the Soviet Red Army regained control of Estonia in the closing months of World War II. ‘My father, grandfather and grandmother literally had to leave in the middle of the night to escape from the Communists,’ he said.

Crossing the Baltic Sea in a stolen Soviet vessel, the Kukks took refuge for four years in Sweden as they joined fellow emigrants from Estonia to begin work on a small boat designed for a bold trans-Atlantic crossing to the United States. In 1948, the Kukks and 16 other families boarded the boat — christened ‘The Prolific’ — and set out on the daunting voyage to America. They reached land in North Carolina and, after three anxious months at Ellis Island, Kukk’s father and grandparents were granted entry into the United States. The stark contrast between that flight from Soviet Estonia and his own return to an independent Estonia today is especially moving to Kukk.

“My dad and my grandparents escaped because their freedoms were being taken away,” he observed. “Now I am taking my kids back to a place where anyone can invest and own property, where everyone has the right to vote — the first in the country in the world where people can even vote on their cell phone.” In 2006, he noted, Estonia is first among 159 nations in safeguarding individual freedoms, comparing favorably with the No. 8 ranking for the United States.

A pulsar in U.S. government, international relations and comparative politics, Kukk expects to find a readily audience among Estonian students for his classes on such themes as diplomacy and intelligence, U.S. foreign policy, and international politics of the global environment. He noted his interdisciplinary approach to

Ives Authority (cont’d.)

by the Ives Festival Orchestra, under the direction of WestConn Professor of Music Dr. Fernando Jimenez.

“The orchestra itself is made up of first-rate musicians from Fairfield County and New York City,” Jimenez said. “All the members of the orchestra are well trained in their specialty music faculty participated in the ensemble, as well as several advanced students.”

They included: Eric Lewis, Judith Smith, Kerry Walker, Mark Snyder, Gina Caffina, Marjorie Callaghan, Andrew Rogers, David Smith, Patrick Smith, Dan Golbe and Javier Oviedo, and students Megan Burke, Hafez Taghavi, Seth Urceanu, Ed Glaviano, Ashley Williams, Laura Tolman and Chase Brownson.

The Family Fair event was sponsored by the Ives Authority, under the auspices of the City of Danbury and in partnership with WestConn. Sponsors included Union Savings Bank, Savings Bank of Danbury, Ellin, and W. Jason Hancock, the Danbury Cultural Commission and the WCSU Foundation Inc. Numerous local businesses and restaurants contributed to the event, demonstrating the community-wide support to keep Ives Concert Park — and Charles Edward Ives’ memory — alive.

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

Kukk makes long journey from WestConn to homeland

Admissions simplified (cont’d.)
Supervisory management graduates put lessons into practice

Carlos Pacheco didn’t have to wait to graduate from WestConn’s supervisory management program before putting his classroom lessons into practice at his workplace.

Pacheco, a Waterbury resident who works full time as an operations manager at Ward Leonard Electric Co. in Thomaston, said he has applied what he has learned in courses such as Supply Chain Management, Total Quality Management and Managing People to advance his career — and help his employer.

“All of these courses helped me to take my job with my present employer to a different level,” he observed. “And some of the things I’ve learned here have saved my company money. I’ve already set up a couple of programs at work that have made our supply chain management more efficient.”

Pacheco received recognition for his accomplishments in the classroom and the workplace as the recipient of the 2007 WestConn at Waterbury Management Scholarship, awarded annually to a student pursuing a Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A) in Management degree with the supervisory management option.

Dean of the Division of Graduate Studies and External Programs Dr. Ellen Dunrin noted the supervisory management program, offered since 2000 by WestConn at Waterbury on the Naugatuck Valley Community College campus, was founded with students like Pacheco in mind.

“Carlos exemplifies what we do in this program,” Dunrin said during graduation ceremonies for 17 WestConn supervisory management students receiving their B.B.A. degrees last spring.

“He has a full-time job, he is working to support his family, and he has pursued his education, and he has moved ahead in his job and been promoted to a fast-track management program.

“The majority of these students are working while they study,” she observed. “This is just as we envisioned it, providing a practical educational alternative to supply needed skills for the workplace and for professional advancement.”

Dr. Ming Ling Chuang, assistant professor of the WestConn at Waterbury supervisory management curriculum, said the May 10 ceremony to honor graduates — the first ever to be held on the NVCC campus — marked another milestone in the growing popularity of the B.B.A. program in Waterbury. She cited the students for their high academic standards, and their strong sense of commitment and self-motivation to balance their studies with their daily jobs.

“When students come to the Waterbury program, they usually know what they want in their jobs and their professional careers,” Chuang noted. “They really want to learn and they ask practical questions like, ‘How can I use this at my company and in my position?’ They are more mature, and they know exactly what they want.”

Pacheco, who must complete two more courses to meet his B.B.A. requirements, said he has enjoyed the close interaction and lively exchange of ideas with his professors and fellow students in small classes with enrollments averaging 15 or fewer at Waterbury. “What I have learned here is that you can never stop learning,” he said. “Even if you are able to take only one class each semester, it is going to build your professional skills and make you a better person.”

Pacheco has taken special pride in sharing his achievements as a first-generation college student with his wife Silvia and their three children, who joined him at the Anson School of Business honors convocation held on WestConn’s Westside campus in Danbury in early May.

“My whole family has been very supportive,” he said. “I’ll be the first one in my family to get a college degree — it’s a big accomplishment!”

WestConn recognized 17 students in the WestConn at Waterbury supervisory management program who fulfilled requirements to receive Bachelor’s of Business Administration degrees. Graduates who attended the May 10 event at Founder’s Hall on the Naugatuck Valley Community College campus are, left to right: Diron Stewart, David Milay, Christine Rattttoe, Corinna Ioanina, Elizabeth Sanger, Andrew Kaplan, Wayne Terrell, Natasha Bell, Ethan Heil, Cara Spragg, Hanna Xhema, Ryan Geise, Justin Duda, Natasha Tracey. Graduates not pictured are Olubusayo Akin, Shannon Underhill and Matthew Woolley.
Students reap benefits (cont'd.)

For the second year in a row, students from the University of Puerto Rico – Mayagüez’s Community Institute It was a great experience for everyone,” Skar said.

This and other projects have been made possible through the President’s Initiative Fund, unraveled last year. Theatre arts students have traveled to Guayaquil, Ecuador, where they performed an adaptation of “Twelfth Night.” Students from WestConn’s music department, also in China this summer for a cultural and educational exchange with Sias International University. They presented three performances in 10 days, including a faculty/student recital on an audience of more than 1,000, and a performance of “Pirates of Penzance” before 1,000 appreciative music lovers. The music department later joined Ancell School of Business faculty on a six-day tour of China, including stops in Shanghai, Beijing and Harqin.

In a different part of the world, WestConn’s European Institute for the Study of Arts, Humanities and Politics was in session at the College for International Studies in Madrid, Spain. Led by Assistant Professor of World Languages and Literature Dr. Natalia Bakhtiarova and Assistant Professor of History Dr. Michael Nolan, this language, culture, literature, and arts. Attendees included with host families, attended classes, visited museums, and attended concert and theatre performances. The institute culminated in a four-day trip to Andalusa, with visits to Granada, Seville, Cordoba and a flamenco show in the caves of Sacromonte.

While travel affords an introduction to another culture, some excursions originate with the intent of improving the material, social and cultural welfare of those in need.

WestConn’s Alternative Winter and Spring Break trips have always included humanitarian efforts around the globe. During last year’s break, students accompanied by Adjunct Professor of Anthropology Jeanine Hinchberger and Professor of Education Dr. Darla Shaw traveled to Brazil where they contributed to a biodiesel preservation project. On another trip to Bangladesh, volunteers explored the community-level differences in health care. And during a trip to Cambodia, students at the Wheelbarrow Day Center where they helped to create a curriculum.

For more than 10 years, students in WestConn’s theatre and dance departments have been involved in the biennial production staged at the renowned Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland. Professor of Theatre Arts-Sal Trapani blogged about the festival. “This is why people come to Edinburgh,” Trapani wrote. “If you are adventurous and search things out. Edinburgh will renew your faith in the theatre as an art form that can touch your soul.”

Pacete wins Provost’s Prize for research

by Robert Taylor

WestConn biology major Joy Pacete never imagined she was ready to pursue a major until her faculty adviser invited her to rise to the challenge. At first, I wanted to start out as a lab assistant,” recalled Pacete, a Danbury resident who just entered her senior year. "But Dr. (Theodora) Pinou approached me with a job as a research assistant for the summer of 2006 and, thankfully, she has been there for me to make this happen.”

"I still remember the first question I asked her,” said Pinou, assistant professor of biological and environmental sciences. “Are you organized? Do you work hard? Can you fall in love with this? She seemed scared of my questions at the time, but now she believes me. Joy is definitely a hard worker.”

Pacete’s hard work paid off with her selection to receive WestConn’s first-ever Provost’s Grand Prize, created by Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs Dr. Linda Rinker to provide the opportunity for a continuing student to present research findings at a professional meeting. She was one of 12 students who received awards at the third annual WestConn Research Day (May). The event featured 70 poster and oral presentations by 90 undergraduate and graduate students who profiled their research projects in 12 academic disciplines ranging from management and nursing to the humanities and natural sciences.

WestConn alumnus judges selected 11 student participants to receive WRD 2007 Awards for Excellence in Research. The award-winning studies covered diverse subjects such as metal contamination levels in imported green tea, bacterial communities in Connecticut forests and gardens, and the use of bar coding in implementing more efficient administration of medications.

Award recipients included: Valeria Aliva, of Bethel; Marth Bednar, of Woodbury; Annika Castaneda, of Wilton; John Curran, of Carmel, N.Y.; Mimi Davis, of Brookfield; Stephanie Foroukh, of New Milford; Robert Forest, of Norwalk; David Gera, of New Fairfield; Christine Lener, of Danbury, David Melillo, of New Milford, Robert Cohen, of Newton, and Laura Telman, of Litchfield.

As a member of the student team assisting Pinou in her research, Pacete discovered her passion in a project that sought to determine whether a significant correlation between the nesting patterns of a sea turtle population at Teopa Beach in Mexico’s Pacific coast and the phases of the lunar cycle. Armed with nest data for the Olive Ridley turtle species spanning a period from 1985 to 2003, she set to work plotting nesting patterns against two tidal phases:

cont’d. on page 7
Lisa Cantoni has not taken the typical or easy road to begin studies this fall for a bachelor’s degree in English at WestConn — but the lessons she has learned along the way have only strengthened her will to succeed in her career and her life.

The New Britain resident’s remarkable road back from depression and an obsessive-compulsive disorder that interrupted her high school education five years ago received recognition with her recent selection as the 2007 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 NVCC associate’s degree graduate to complete the final two years of studies to earn a bachelor’s degree at WestConn.

“Ms. Cantoni’s academic record and personal characteristics are indeed impressive, and we are pleased to accept her for this award,” WestConn President James W. Schmotter wrote to NVCC President Richard Sanders. “The academic performance of former President-to-President award winners has been outstanding, and I have little doubt that Ms. Cantoni will continue this record of accomplishment.”

Cantoni finished her associate’s degree studies with a near-perfect grade point average of 3.98, and received the NVCC 2007 Alumni Distinguished Student Award recognizing outstanding academic and extracurricular achievements. A member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society, she was a member of the NVCC Human Services Club and served as president of the Ambassador Club, an organization that promotes the community college to students in the greater Waterbury area.

She has balanced her studies with a part-time job as a hotel guest service representative and active participation in a wide range of community service activities. She has volunteered as a tutor and group study leader for middle and high school students, a coaching assistant for a Prospect youth softball team, and a peer counselor and instructor in critical-thinking skills at correctional facilities in western Connecticut.

Cantoni’s accomplishments are all the more impressive in view of her difficult but ultimately successful struggle to cope with trichotillomania, a disorder marked by the compulsive desire to pull out one’s hair. Cantoni withdrew from Holy Cross High School in Waterbury just two months before her scheduled graduation in 2002. She recalled how her family and friends helped her to acknowledge her condition and accept professional counseling to learn how to cope with it, enabling her to earn her high school diploma in 2003 and enroll in fall 2004 at NVCC.

“I would not change the things I went through; the memories I have of my challenges and difficulties have given me strength and courage to fight back, do my best, and be happy doing it,” Cantoni said. “I want to work hard in school and do well. I think the drive to want to be there is truly essential. The same applies to deciding a future career — a person will work harder and be happier she is in a career that she is building toward.”

Cantoni’s love of books and the literary creative process has inspired her goal to become an editor at a publishing house, with particular interest in children’s literature. She plans to major in English with a concentration in literature, and is considering a second concentration in writing to deepen her understanding and appreciation for creation of original literary works.

NVCC Assistant Professor of Communication Lisa Kaufman, Cantoni’s faculty adviser, noted in her recommendation letter for the award that her former student displayed an uncommon passion for reading and writing and talent for self-expression in her compositions.

“I would consider her truly gifted in her writing and speaking abilities,” Kaufman said.

NVCC Associate Professor of English Dr. Patricia Pallis expressed admiration for Cantoni’s academic record and volunteer service as she has learned to cope with adversity.

“I know she has come a distance to get where she is,” Pallis wrote. “These personal struggles help to define who she is, and certainly are part of her determination to succeed. Her academic work and personal accomplishments attest to her diligence and growth as an individual.”

While Cantoni emphasized she can offer no simple prescription to students who must overcome their own personal crises, she added, “I believe it is very important to talk to someone you can trust because you need to acknowledge that something isn’t right, and that you want to help yourself. It is so easy today to lose balance and let stress overwhelm you. You have to take care of yourself before you can be devoted to something else,” she affirmed. “I got back on track and was able to return to school only after I realized that I couldn’t do it all on my own, and that I did need help. It all comes down to, ‘Know thyself’! I really think that this is a key to personal happiness.”

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“We will long remember Eric’s service here,” President James W. Schmotter observed in his recommendation letter to support student scholarships.

Dr. Eric Roman quietly passed the torch of his passionate love of teaching to a new generation of students when the longtime professor of history died in California at the age of 85 on May 9. Faculty and administration colleagues, former students and friends in the Greater Danbury community celebrated his life at a memorial service on the university’s Westside campus on July 1.

Memorial donations may be made to the WCSU Foundation (Attn: Dr. Koryoe Anim-Wright), 181 White St., Danbury CT 06810.

Endowed Scholarship Fund.

More than a dozen wine distributors will be joined by Namieg Discount Liquors, Carluzz Market, Mr. Sushi, La Zingara restaurant in Bethel and Sodexo to provide a feast for the palate at an annual event. The ever-popular silent auction and brown bag raffle also will offer the opportunity to support student scholarships.

For more information, call the Office of Institutional Advancement at (203) 837-8079.

Wine-tasting tradition continues with ninth annual event

Mark your calendars now for WestConn’s Ninth Annual Holiday Wine Tasting, which will be from 4 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 4 in the Grand Ballroom of the Westside Campus Center on the university’s Westside Campus.

This popular event will provide access to one of the most popular fall events as friends, alumni and supporters come together to enjoy good food and fine wine while supporting the Carluzz Endowed Scholarship Fund.

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Mark your calendars now for WestConn’s Ninth Annual Holiday Wine Tasting, which will be from 4 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 4 in the Grand Ballroom of the Westside Campus Center on the university’s Westside Campus. This popular event will provide access to one of the most popular fall events as friends, alumni and supporters come together to enjoy good food and fine wine while supporting the Carluzz Endowed Scholarship Fund.

More than a dozen wine distributors will be joined by Namieg Discount Liquors, Carluzz Markets, Mr. Sushi, La Zingara restaurant in Bethel and Sodexo to provide a feast for the palate at an annual event. The ever-popular silent auction and brown bag raffle also will offer the opportunity to support student scholarships.

For more information, call the Office of Institutional Advancement at (203) 837-8079.
WestConn, Danbury High work to keep students 'Upward Bound'

Our "Centennial Baby" Alexandra Chakar has turned 5, and she took her first step toward a WestConn degree when she arrived on Aug. 31 for the first day of kindergarten classes at Shades Rough Elementary School in Danbury. Alexandra — who was selected to receive a four-year scholarship to WestConn thanks to her timely arrival as the first baby born at Danbury Hospital on the university's centennial anniversary date of Sept. 14, 2002 — quickly adjusted to her new school and "she's really gotten into the swing of it," reported her mother Mirta. Mirta and her husband Charles, a 1994 WestConn alumus, are looking forward to watching Alexandra's future progress. "She's on her way," her mother said, "and hopefully it will take her straight to college!"

In June, a group of German high school students undertook American studies at WestConn, thanks in part to Dr. Renate Ludanyi, professor of world languages and literature and director of the Center for German Studies, who helped coordinate "The International Experience — A Rite of Passage," which enabled high school students from Germany to immerse themselves in American culture.

"America plays a big part in the world," Ludanyi said. "The reason the students were brought here was to straighten out their confusion about our country."

The students had an intense workload with daily assignments involving lecture topics ranging from first impressions of America to immigration, the United States government, global warming and American jazz.

Jeanine Lakatos, an adjunct professor of English and an English professor in the program, said, "The students had a cultural interchange of ideas. They wanted to be immersed in the English language and American culture — and they were."

The students also enjoyed cultural tours and were brought to some of the largest tourist attractions in the country, such as the Statue of Liberty and the United Nations in New York. But it was in Danbury that the students fully realized they were in the United States. "Walking down Main Street, it hit them — they were in America," Lakatos said. "They said Danbury reminded them of the American towns they see in movies."

"The students we are getting here are students who seek a college degree. They demonstrate a commitment to knowledge, to trying to attain their goals. Our 'Centennial Baby' is looking forward to watching Alexandra's future progress. "She's on her way," her mother said, "and hopefully it will take her straight to college!"

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German students experience America at WestConn

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WestConn Institute for Science Teacher Research brings learning outdoors

\[\text{Congratulations!}\
\text{Clements recognized for journal, poetry}\n
Master of Fine Arts in Professional Writing Coordinator Dr. Brian Clements has been recognized for his prose poetry journal "Sentence." In addition to glowing reviews of the publication, four poems featured in "Sentence" have been selected for inclusion in "The Best American Poetry 2007" edition. "Four poems from one journal in any given year is rare; especially for a journal as new as 'Sentence,' and especially since the anthology contains 75 poems out of the tens of thousands published over the previous year," Clements said.

A poetry manuscript he's written, "Disappointed Psalms," also was awarded the Colombian Poetry Prize and will be published in 2008. If you have an announcement about a recent accomplishment or award or other professional accomplishment you'd like to share, please e-mail professa@wcsu.edu.

Assistant Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences Dr. Dora Pinou, who runs the WISTR program, said the purpose of the program is to "try to identify living organisms based on what they had seen in class using preserved specimens. For some students, it was their first time visiting a vernal pool."
For me, the juxtaposition of grants, need-based scholarships and revenue-based scholarships and revenue assets provided us a broad-based community-wide initiative to support the Brown family in a manner that is consistent with our mission of providing access to higher education to the citizens of Connecticut." Anim-Wright said. "Additionally, an education is one of the key factors to improving one’s quality of life and in that spirit, it was important for WCSU to participate in an opportunity that would further enrich the lives of the Brown children."

Schmott said he agreed quickly to help the children because the university, as a state institution, should serve students who might not be able to get a college education elsewhere.

"These three students, through no fault of their own, found themselves in a difficult situation," Schmott said. "I felt it was appropriate for WestConn to provide them some help to get back on their feet. I look forward to seeing them on campus."

A campus that will probably already look familiar by the time they get here, since they can see it in the summer 2008 release, "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2."

Schmott added that the show will be a much-needed boost for the Brown family.

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Monday, Oct. 1
- Danbury Heritage Hero Program. 7 p.m., Student Center Theater, Midtown campus. Free and open to the public. Appropriate for children.

Tuesday, Oct. 2
- Alumni Association Golf Tournament. 10 a.m. shotgun start, Richter Park, 100 Ave. Hark Rd., Danbury. $100/ foursome or $25/individual. Reception immediately following tournament at Cater on the Green. Open to the public. To register, call (203) 837-8290.
- WCSU Field Hockey vs. Framingham State. 6 p.m., Westside Athletic Complex, Westside campus. Free and open to the public.
- President’s Welcome and Roundtable Discussion: Freedom of Expression. 7 p.m., First floor, Warner Hall, Midtown campus. Free and open to alumni, students, faculty and staff.
- Alumni-Student Mentoring Reception. 5:30 p.m., Westside Campus Center Grand Ballroom, Westside campus. Free and open to alumni, students, faculty and staff.
- WCSU Women’s Soccer vs. Westfield State. 7 p.m., Westside Athletic Complex, Westside campus. Free and open to the public.

Wednesday, Oct. 3
- Reflections: WestConn Then and Now. 5:30 p.m., First floor, Warner Hall, Midtown campus. Free and open to alumni, students, faculty and staff.
- Alumni-Student Mentoring Reception. 5:30 p.m., Westside Campus Center Grand Ballroom, Westside campus. Free and open to alumni, students, faculty and staff.
- WCSU Women’s Soccer vs. Westfield State. 7 p.m., Westside Athletic Complex, Westside campus. Free and open to alumni, students, parents, faculty and staff.

Thursday, Oct. 4
- Ansell School of Business (ASB) Distinguished Alumni Dinner. 5:30 p.m., Westside Classroom Building, Room 2108, Westside campus. Cost. Open to the public. RSVP to (203) 837-8370.
- Faculty vs. Student Basketball Game. 7 p.m., BUV-Williams Gymnasium, Berkshire Hall, Midtown campus. Free and open to the public.
- Steven Noseworthy Lecture Series. 7:30 p.m., Science Building, Room 125, Midtown campus. Free and open to the public. RSVP to (203) 837-8480.
- Coffeehouse. 8 p.m., Warner Hall. Free and open to all visitors, students, faculty, and staff.

Friday, Oct. 5
- Hall of Fame Dinner. 5:30 p.m., Westside Campus Center Grand Ballroom, Westside campus. $125/person. Open to the public. RSVP to (203) 837-8290.
- Oktoberfest. 6 p.m., Quadrangle, Midtown campus. Free and open to alumni, students, parents, faculty and staff. Food and beverages provided.
- WCSU Ice Hockey vs. UConn. 7 p.m., Danbury Ice Arena, 1 Independence Way, Danbury. Cost. Open to the public.
- Mentalist Banachek. 8 p.m., Presents Concert, White Hall, Midtown campus. Free and open to alumni, students, parents, faculty and staff.

Saturday, Oct. 6
- Athletic Hall of Fame. Noon to 4 p.m., O’Neil Center, Westside campus. Free and open to the public.
- Alumni and Friends Circle Rededication. 9:30 a.m., Alumni & Friends Circle brick ceremony. Outside of Old Main, Midtown campus. Free and open to alumni, students, parents, faculty and staff. Must be 21 years or older.
- Alumni Breakfast. 10 a.m., Westside Campus Center Grand Ballroom, Westside campus. $12/person. Children under 2 free. Open to alumni, students, parents, faculty and staff.
- Homecoming Tailgate Party. 10 a.m. O’Neil Center Parking Lot, Westside campus. Open to alumni, students, parents, faculty and staff. Must be 21 years or older.
- Alumni Hospitality Tent. Tomorrow from Westside Athletic Complex. 7 p.m., Westside campus. $10/person. Open to alumni, students, parents, faculty and staff. Must be 21 years or older. Featuring the Great American Tapestry. 
- Alumni Business Showcase. (Hosted in Alumni Hospitality Tent) Come meet alumni business owners. 2 p.m. Westside campus. Free and open to alumni, students, parents, faculty and staff.
- Street Fair. 2 p.m., Westside campus. Food, beverages. Free and open to alumni, students, parents, faculty and staff.
- Tour of the Westside Nature Preserve. 3 p.m., Westside campus. Free and open to the public.
- Alumni Ice Hockey Game. 5 p.m., Danbury Ice Arena, 1 Independence Way, Danbury. Cost. Open to the public.
- WCSU Field Hockey vs. UMass Dartmouth. 6 p.m., Westside Athletic Complex, Westside campus. Free and open to the public.
- Class Reunion Gala. 8 p.m. Westside Campus Center Grand Ballroom, Westside campus. Invitation only, $65/person. RSVP to (203) 837-8370.

Sunday, Oct. 7

For more information, call (203) 837-8290 or visit www.wcsu.edu/homecoming.