Western Connecticut State University’s more-than-100-year history is built on powerful, enduring relationships with community organizations and corporations. These bonds have provided the university with the opportunity to offer students outstanding programs and facilities, while providing the community with well-educated employees to fuel the region’s success.

Boehringer Ingelheim Corp., a powerhouse in the U.S. human and animal healthcare products industry, is one of the university’s strongest partners. WestConn honored Ridgefield-based Boehringer and its commitment to that partnership during the annual WCSU President’s Gala on May 7.

“We are proud to count Boehringer among the university’s greatest allies,” WestConn President James W. Schmotter said. “As we move into the university’s second century, we look forward to continuing to work with all our friends at Boehringer Ingelheim. Together, we will make a difference in the lives of WestConn students.”
With a 3.97 grade point average (G.P.A.), a number of volunteer roles, and a year of study abroad, WestConn junior biology major Galina Filipova is making the most of her education — both in and out of the classroom.

The 19-year-old Oakville resident is the recipient of an Isabelle T. Farrington Scholarship, the School of Arts and Sciences W. Jason and Ellen M. Hancock Scholarship, and a WCSU Alumni Association Scholarship for the 2005-06 academic year. She says these and several other scholarships she’s received since enrolling at WestConn in the spring of 2003 have helped her excel.

“Receiving these scholarships has not only been helpful to my financial situation, but it also has been a great motivation,” Filipova wrote in a recent essay. “Knowing that my hard work and efforts are being recognized has prompted me to perform even better and to aim higher.”

Filipova’s outstanding WestConn G.P.A., which is just shy of a perfect 4.0, is part of her long history as a diligent student: Born in Bulgaria, she moved with her family to Botswana in Southern Africa in 1997. Studying in a foreign country and in a foreign language (English), she went on to graduate from a prestigious private high school in Botswana’s capital city, Gaborone, with a record of outstanding academic achievement in several subjects. Filipova also earned third place in the Botswana National Mathematics Tournament in 2000.

Filipova, the daughter of WestConn Computer Science Professor Dr. Todor Ivanov, has continued her diligence throughout her college career. She’s consistently earned a spot on the School of Arts and Sciences Dean’s List each semester, is a member of WestConn’s honors program and received the Most Promising Biology Underclassman Award.

While in high school, Filipova participated in several sports and was active in many clubs and organizations. Since her family moved to the United States in September 2002, Filipova has continued her volunteerism as a classroom tutor at Watertown High School and a member of the Program Activities Council at WestConn. These good works are among the things that made her eligible for the Isabelle T. Farrington Scholarship, which requires students be “of demonstrated good character.”

Filipova’s volunteerism also earned her praise from Dennis Leszko, a programming assistant in the Student Center/Student Life Office. Leszko serves as the faculty adviser for the Program Activities Council and wrote a letter recommending Filipova for the 2005-06 scholarships.

“Out of the many students who attend a university, there are very few who take full advantage of all the opportunities made available to them,” Leszko said. “Galina Filipova is a student who has used many of those opportunities to grow as a well-rounded student leader.”

Filipova left the WestConn campus in the fall of 2004 to pursue yet another element of her education. She’s participating in a yearlong student exchange program, studying in Amiens, France.

“So far, this has been an amazing experience that has provided me with an opportunity to improve both my knowledge of the French language and culture,” Filipova wrote. “Being submerged in this environment has allowed me to learn and personally experience the French customs and traditions.

“It is thanks to the scholarships that I received that I was able to participate in this program of study abroad — a very valuable experience that I am thoroughly enjoying.”

For more information about ways to help WestConn students excel, call the Office of Institutional Advancement at (203) 837-8298.
People of all ages look to the sky and wonder why it rains, question what causes hurricanes and ask what will happen next.

Twenty-two-year-old WestConn junior meteorology student Carrington “C.J.” Klopfer said his interest in meteorology began with the musings so many of us share.

“I’ve been interested in weather — its causes and effects — for a long time,” he said.

Klopfer’s interest was fueled by additional curiosity as the Cromwell resident pursued an associate’s in environmental science degree at Briarwood College. Since transferring to WestConn in fall 2004 to pursue his bachelor of science degree, Klopfer has immersed himself in the subject; he took three meteorology courses at once during the spring semester. He also earned the highest grade point average in his major, making him the recipient of the Jonathan Mottley Meteorology Scholarship for the 2005-06 academic year.

“It’s a wonderful incentive to keep up my grades and keep going for my degree,” Klopfer said of the $1,000 scholarship. “I’m very appreciative because it will help me continue going to school.”

Parents establish scholarship to honor son’s memory, support other meteorology majors

Before his death in March 1996, 28-year-old Jonathan Mottley had turned his entrallment with meteorology into the pursuit of a WestConn bachelor’s degree in the field.

“Weather and meteorology had always interested him,” Jonathan’s father, Lewis Mottley, said during a recent telephone interview.

“He was fascinated by the changes in weather,” added Jonathan’s mother, Mary Ellen Mottley.

In fact, the former Army soldier and New Canaan volunteer firefighter was so focused on his goal that he met personally with then-Meteorology Professor Dr. Melvin Goldstein and asked to join one of his classes in 1995. Goldstein, recognized as “Dr. Mel” and best known as the chief meteorologist for WTNH-TV, was convinced; Jonathan joined the course and he earned an A.

“This was something he really wanted,” Mary Ellen Mottley said.

After Jonathan’s death, Goldstein was among the many WestConn students and faculty members who attended his funeral. Goldstein later suggested the Mottleys create a scholarship fund for meteorology students as a way to honor the young man’s life and support his interest. Goldstein, who regularly contributes a weather column for The Hartford Courant, also suggested the Mottleys team with the newspaper to secure additional funding for the endowed scholarship fund.

“We thought it was a great idea to help students get an education,” Lewis Mottley said.

The first $1,000 Jonathan Mottley Meteorology Scholarship was awarded in 1997. Each year, the junior or senior full-time student with the highest grade point average scholarship in their son’s memory after his 1996 death in a car crash. They said they want the scholarship to help students interested in the same field that fascinated their son.

“We see it as a way to honor students’ accomplishments in the pursuit of meteorology, and it gives them some money to continue their studies,” Lewis Mottley said. “We also hope other students will hear about this scholarship. Our wish is that it might entice more young people to pursue their interest in meteorology.”

Klopfer said he is grateful to the Mottleys and others who have donated to the scholarship fund for their generosity. He urges those who may be thinking about creating or donating to a scholarship fund to understand that their giving has a direct impact on students’ lives.

“Scholarships definitely help a great deal,” he said. “They can make a real difference for students.”

Call the Office of Institutional Advancement at (203) 837-8298 for more information about ways you can support students’ educational pursuits.
Science building on track for fall 2005 opening

Since the September 2003 official groundbreaking, construction has continued on the new $48-million science building on the WestConn Midtown campus.

In the two years since the ceremony, the building has been transformed from a stark exoskeleton of concrete and steel to a stylized three-story structure.

This state-of-the-art science building will house the biology, chemistry, physics, astronomy and meteorology departments. It will replace the 88,000-square-foot Higgins Hall, which was built in 1949, as the home to these departments.

When it opens in the fall of 2005, the three-story building will house the WCSU Weather Center. Offering 122,000 square feet, the new structure will contain science laboratories, general classrooms, lecture halls, an astronomy observatory, a greenhouse, faculty space and administrative areas.

The science building is the first state-funded building project to seek Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

If you are interested in donor opportunities related to the university’s science programs or the science building, call the Office of Institutional Advancement at (203) 837-8279. Donor support options include naming opportunities for laboratories and classrooms, as well as the sponsorship of distinguished and visiting lecturers.

WestConn hosts honors ceremonies

Hundreds of proud WestConn students received awards and scholarships when the university’s three schools and the Division of Graduate Studies hosted honors convocations before the May commencement exercises.

The Honors Convocation is a major university event, one that celebrates outstanding academic achievement and permits faculty and administrators the opportunity to emphasize academic excellence as one of the university’s major priorities. Each year, departments present awards to students; students also receive scholarship awards contributed by donors.

“At the end, we give out the dean’s award to the outstanding student in the business school, and this student talks about his or her accomplishments, what he or she has learned and what WestConn means to them,” said Dean of the Ancell School of Business Dr. Allen Morton.

“They are excited about it, too,” said Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences Dr. Linda Vaden-Goad. “It is really very exciting for us, and one way we celebrate what we do.”

The dean also praised the “generosity of our community and different individuals” who donate scholarship funds. Vaden-Goad said instead of giving birthday presents, she is giving scholarships in her father’s and brother-in-law’s names.

“ ‘I started to think about the kinds of things they care about and decided to do it,’” she said. “ ‘They are excited about it, too.’”

Dean of the School of Professional Studies Dr. Lynne Clark also commended various donors whose generous contributions add to the success of the ceremony.

“The School of Professional Studies awarded some 45 scholarships to students on May 4,” said Clark, adding that those who attended the ceremony included faculty members, students who received scholarships and other academic awards, and their parents and family members.

The WCSU Alumni Association Inc. also presents awards to deserving students each year.

Donor Jason Hancock and graphic design student Lynn Ullman, a scholarship recipient, know first-hand about the importance of recognizing student achievement.

Center for the Arts

WestConn’s proposed Fine and Performing Arts Center will provide performance space, including an 800-seat concert hall, a 500-seat proscenium theatre, a 200-seat recital hall, and a 200-seat studio. It will include classrooms; conference rooms; labs for graphic arts, sculpture, painting, ceramics and photography; choral and orchestra rooms; 52 practice rooms; a recording studio and rehearsal rooms; and space for theatre instruction. The facility also will offer public gathering spaces to support its use as a fine and performing arts center.

If you are interested in donor opportunities related to the Center for the Arts, call the Office of Institutional Advancement at (203) 837-8279.
Our Donors

Our thanks to all the university’s supporters. This list represents donations received between Jan. 1 and March 31, 2005. If your name is missing or misspelled, please call (203) 837-8279. Your gift is important to us. Thank You!
Creating a scholarship is as simple as one, two, three & four!

This year WestConn awarded more than 60 student scholarships from funds created by donors like you, with most of the awards ranging from $500 to $1,000 each.

You can create your own scholarship with an annual contribution in the amount of your choice, usually $500 to $1,000. Or, you can create an endowment that will generate a predictable income to provide the scholarship funds. Endowments usually start at $10,000; we recommend $20,000 to generate a good-sized scholarship that can make a real difference.

The key word with WestConn scholarship funds is flexibility. You can make a series of smaller contributions, one large gift or a combination of the two. You can choose your favorite academic area, require a specific grade point average, emphasize community service, or combine all three.

We manage scholarships for the highest academic performance in a particular major. We also offer them for international students, graduate students and undergraduate students. We can design a scholarship program based on nearly any special interest you or a loved one prefers. Athletic scholarships are one exception; NCAA regulations prohibit them in our division.

To get started today, please take these three simple steps:
1. Call Director of Institutional Advancement Michael Driscoll at (203) 837-8419.
2. Tell Driscoll about your preferences and discuss your options.
3. Make your gift.

As the fourth and final step, you’ll be able to take pride in knowing you are helping WestConn students achieve their dreams!
Commencement gives degree candidates something to celebrate

Beginning at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 22, the dreams of nearly a thousand men and women will become reality when they receive bachelor’s or master’s degrees during the 106th annual WestConn commencement exercises.

Joining the 764 bachelor’s candidates and 193 master’s candidates on the athletic practice field on the Westside campus will be WestConn’s newly inaugurated eighth president, Dr. James W. Schmotter, who will preside over his first commencement ceremony at WestConn.

During the ceremony, Dr. Jack S.C. Fong, chairman of the department of pediatric medicine at Danbury Hospital, will be the 2005 Presidential Medal recipient. Fong will be recognized for his strong support of the university and the community, as well as his tireless dedication to promoting quality education and health care for Danbury residents.

Bruce Goldsen will receive the Distinguished Alumni Award. Goldsen, who earned a bachelor’s degree in communications & theatre arts from WestConn in 1982, is president and co-owner of Jackson Radio Works in Jackson, Mich.

President Schmotter will deliver the commencement address.

Boehringer support continues

WestConn and Boehringer have teamed up for more than 25 years. The relationship formally began when Boehringer first donated equipment and chemical abstracts to the university. Donations of equipment and chemical abstracts continue to be an important component of the alliance that so richly benefits students.

Then, in 1986, Boehringer became one of the first corporate donors to the university, providing a $100,000 donation to establish WestConn’s first state-of-the-art biochemistry lab. Understanding the importance of maintenance, Boehringer also established an endowment fund to support the facility’s ongoing operation in Higgins Hall. The Boehringer Ingelheim Biochemistry Laboratory has been the major teaching laboratory for students in WCSU’s biochemistry program, with both formal laboratory classes and undergraduate research projects conducted there. Since then, Boehringer has reaffirmed its support many times.

This partnership is key to the continuing growth and success of WestConn students’ scientific study. One example is the university’s new $48-million science building, scheduled for completion later this year. The facility will house WestConn’s biology, chemistry, physics, astronomy and meteorology departments. The finished structure will offer classrooms, research laboratories, lecture halls, a greenhouse, an observatory, and the WCSU Weather Center.

Giving opportunities abound

library services, supplies, programs or specific departments.

There are also ways to make your gifts go further: The State of Connecticut is considering a new program to supplement endowment gifts, and many companies will add to gifts made by employees, their spouses or retirees. Contact your human resources office about your company’s matching policy.

Call the Office of Institutional Advancement at (203) 837-8298 for more information about giving opportunities.

Mottleys establish scholarship

in the meteorology major receives the scholarship. Twenty-two-year-old Carrington “C.J.” Klopfer, a junior meteorology major, is the recipient of the scholarship for the 2005-06 academic year.

“We believe education is so important,” Mary Ellen Mottley said. “We see the scholarship as a way to invest in a person, that person’s education and that person’s future.”

Lewis and Jonathan Mottley were both members of the New Canaan Volunteer Fire Company, so his parents also established a fund in Jonathan’s memory to support education of the department’s members.

Lewis Mottley said he hopes his family’s story will help others see the benefit of supporting scholarships. “We all know that students are faced with a number of challenges,” he said. “They’re working incredibly hard, so providing recognition and some support is really important.”

Call the Office of Institutional Advancement at (203) 837-8298 for more information about establishing a scholarship.
Save the Date

Mark your calendars and please join us for the following upcoming events:

May 20 & 21, Dinner theatre for “Blue Window” play, 7 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. theatre production, Alumni Hall, Midtown campus, $15 for play only, $35 for dinner & play

May 22, Commencement, 10:30 a.m., Westside campus

July 19, Alumni Golf Outing, 1 p.m., Watertown Golf Club, $175 per person

Sept. 28, Scholarship Donor/Student Reception, Warner Hall, Midtown campus

Oct. 15, Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, 10 a.m., Warner Hall, Midtown campus

Nov. 13, Wine Tasting, 4 - 7 p.m., Warner Hall, Midtown campus, $50 per person

Jan. 18, WestConn Society Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Warner Hall, Midtown campus

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