Creative Activity

CELEBRATING STUDENT-CENTERED FACULTY WHO ARE PASSIONATE TEACHERS AND ACCOMPLISHED SCHOLARS.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-21
Dear Colleagues,

It is with great pride that I present the 2020-2021 issue of Creative Activity at Western Connecticut State University. While I am always proud of the impressive work developed and presented by our faculty, the work this year represents an overwhelming effort in the face of the chaos and uncertainty presented by COVID-19. Whether adjusting projects to adapt to limits on travel, completing projects with less than optimal access to archives, or learning to present work effectively in the many virtual formats that emerged this year, this document makes it clear that creative activity of all kinds continued. Bravo.

As always, this document represents the wonderful breadth and variety of insights that emerge from an engaged university. Each discipline sees the world differently, as does each scholar. This is the beauty of the very notion of a university. Nevertheless, it does create a challenge in terms of style. The style employed here is a compromise, drawing on the varied disciplinary style guides (MLA, APA, Chicago) to create a unique approach for this document. Despite this mishmash of styles, you will see that students are indicated with an asterisk (*) before their names throughout. It is lovely to see those collaborations continue, even as we managed much of what we do remotely.

While not included here, I want to also note that we were very fortunate to secure several external grants this year. These, too, represent effort worthy to be recognized as scholarship, but the timing and details of each don’t fit well in this document. I look forward to reports on the work that results from these funds as they move to presentations, performances, and publications. Congratulations to all who have secured these funds in 2020-2021.

Thank you all for your efforts this year. I remain impressed and humbled each time I construct this document.

Dr. Missy Alexander
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
CONGRATULATIONS TO
DR. KRISTIN GIAMANCO
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, BIOLOGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Kristin received her BA in Biology with minors in Chemistry and Mathematics from Bryn Mawr College in Bryn Mawr, PA. As an undergraduate, Kristin received fellowships to conduct research at Stony Brook University in the field of Geochemistry and SUNY Upstate Medical University through the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program in Neuroscience. Then, she went on to complete her PhD in Neuroscience at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, NY, where her work focused on elucidating the molecular composition and structure of the neuronal extracellular matrix. Kristin joined the Brain and Mind Research Institute at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York, NY to complete her post-doctoral training where she studied the molecular factors regulating cell division in the developing mammalian brain. Kristin’s work was funded by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, a division of the National Institute of Health. During this time, Kristin was also an Adjunct Professor at Marymount Manhattan College where she taught the laboratory portion of General Chemistry as well as biology courses for non-science majors. Through this experience, Kristin recognized her passion for teaching undergraduates in the traditional classroom setting as well as in the laboratory. Kristin joined the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences at WCSU in 2016. Her major teaching assignments include upper-level courses such as Developmental Biology and Cell Biology. In her scholarly work, Kristin seeks to understand how a particular cell cycle gene, cyclin D2, modulates progenitor proliferation in the embryonic mouse brain. In addition, Kristin’s laboratory is developing cell culture models to better understand the structure and assembly of the perineuronal net, a specialized substructure of the neuronal extracellular matrix. Kristin recently received tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor.
Accounting

**Jin Sun Ahn**


**Guy Rotondo**


Finance

**Carol Huang**


**Wenguang Lin**


**Lai Van Vo**


Justice and Law Administration

Mohsen Alizadeh


Hasan T. Arslan


Terrence Dwyer


(2021, February). Quota System (Short Play). Presented by the Players of Utica Theater.


Casey Jordan


George F. Kain

(2021, December 8.) Invited Panelist. Journey of Hope Virtual Conference to end the Federal Death Penalty.


Rainer Kroll


**Tom Miller**


**Divya Sharma**


**Management**

**Pauline Assenza**


Stan Bazan


Kevin Burnard


Mohinder Dugal


**Alexandra Galli-Debicella**


**Yaseen Hayajneh**


**Dan Weltmann**


**Management Information Sciences**

**Richard Montague**

with Nugent, P. D. (2020). Leveraging Dramaturgical Analysis to Understand the Transition from Face-to-Face to Virtual Environments. *Proceedings - International Association for Computer Information Systems*. 
**Paul Nugent**


**Tom Yoon**


**Marketing**

**Xiaoqi Han**


**Karen Koza**


**Ben Oumil**

Biological and Environmental Sciences

Neeta Connally


Joshua Cordeira

Kristin A. Giamanco

(2020). Going Remote: An Online Adaptation to Using a Primary Cell Culture Model to Study the Neural Extracellular Matrix. CourseSource.

Rayda Krell


Michelle Y. Monette


C. Thomas Philbrick


Theodora Pinou


Hannah Reynolds


Carlos E. Santibáñez-López


**Stephen Mitch Wagener**


**Chemistry**

**Helena Prieto**


**Forest Robertson**

Brian Stankus


Communication and Media Arts

J. C. Barone

(2020, May 28). Telly Award Winner for Join Us! Recruitment Video Produced for the New Milford Police Department.

Jessica J. Eckstein


Jackie Guzda

Katie Lever


Bill Petkanas


Caroline Waldbuesser


Computer Science

Bill Joel


**English**

**Heather Levy**


**Shouhua Qi**


**History**

**Wynn Gadkar-Wilcox**


**Kevin Gutzman**


**Leslie Lindemauer**


**Joshua Rosenthal**


**Mathematics**

**Stavros Christofi**


**Michael Shoushani**

(2020, September). Invited Talk. *Navigating the Abrupt Shift from An In-Person to an Online Course*. University of Delaware Math Department’s Teaching Seminar.


**Xiaodi Wang**


**Philosophy and Humanistic Studies**

**Stuart Dalton**


**Anna Malavisi**


Psychology

Maya Aloni

(2021, February 24). Guest Lecture. Let’s Discuss It: Research-Based Techniques for Initiating and Sustaining Engaging Class Discussions. Graduate Student Psychology Teaching Practicum, University of Toledo, Toledo, OH.


(2020, November). Presentation. Let’s Discuss It: Research-Based Techniques for Initiating and Sustaining Engaging Class Discussions. Online Teaching of Psychology Conference, Danbury, CT.

Social Sciences

Carina Bandhauer


Christine Hegel-Cantarella


with Hartmann, C., Crosby, B., and Marin, J. (2020, June 21). Informal Recyclers are Essential to a Just and Green NYC; Here’s 7 Things We Must Do to Help Them Survive. Gotham Gazette.


Manoj Misra


Oluwole Owoye


Zuohong Pan


Jessica Schofield


H. Howell Williams


Writing

Brian Clements


Anthony D'Aries


Bonnie Denmark


Oscar De Los Santos


Edward Hagan


M. Stewart Lewis

John Roche


World Languages and Cultures

Galina Bakhtiarova


Stacey A. Hawkins


Education and Educational Psychology

Adam Brewer


with Kuhn, S. (2020, November). Invited Speaker. Active Student Responding to Increase Student Engagement in Asynchronous Online University Courses. Online Teaching of Psychology Conference, Danbury, CT. (online event).

Theresa Canada


**Marsha Daria**


**Marcia Delcourt**


with *Kuslis, M., Goolkasian, P.E., Issa, R., and Wozniak, S. D. (2021, April). Poster Presentation. Predictors of Educator Wellness and Burnout. WCSU’s Education and 7th Instructional Leadership Conference, Danbury, CT.*

with *Moyer, L., LaBanca, F., and Roe, K. (2021, April). Poster Presentation. An Exploration of Therapy Dogs in Educational Settings as Told Through the Experiences of Multiple Stakeholders. WCSU’s Education and 7th Instructional Leadership Conference, Danbury, CT.*
Nicole DeRonk


with * Fox, T. R., T. J. Stewart, D. L. Cothran, (2021, April). Presentation. Students’ and Educators’ Perspectives on Student Connectedness to School: Social Support, Engagement, and Belonging. Education and Educational Psychology Conference with the Seventh Instructional Leadership Conference. Danbury, CT.


(2020, May). Panelist. Demystifying the Digital Pedagogy of Teaching Online. CELT Western Connecticut State University, Danbury, CT.


(2020, November). Panelist, Online Teaching of Psychology Conference. Western Connecticut State University, Danbury, CT.


Andrew Hull


Stephanie Kuhn

(2021, February). Invited Speaker. Evaluating the Effects of Behavioral Skills Training to Decrease Interfering Behavior and Increase Adaptive Behavior with Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder on a University Campus. Texas Association for Behavior Analysis, Online.


with Brewer, A. (2020, November). Invited Speaker: Active Student Responding to Increase Student Engagement in Asynchronous Online University Courses. Online Teaching of Psychology Conference, Danbury, CT. (online event).

**Gabriel Lomas**


**Davide Mariotti**

(2021, April 10). Presentation. Digital Technologies: Tele Mental Health and Opportunities for Health Education. Annual Education Department Conference, WCSU.

Patricia Michael

(2021, February). Panelist, Reflections (so far) on Implementing Video Observation to Support Candidate Development AACT Annual Conference, Virtual.

(2021, March). Co-Facilitator, Identifying Clinical/Fieldwork Opportunities for Teachers in Training: Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) and District Collaboration and Partnership. CSDE Talent Office Virtual Conference.


Lorrie-Anne Monte

(2021, April 10). Presentation. Addressing the Needs of Students with Gifted and Talented Potential. Annual Education and Educational Psychology Conference, WCSU.


Catherine O’Callaghan


**Jody Piro**


with *Prendergast, S., Stewart, T.J., and Cordero-Davis, A. (2021, April). Presentation. Middle Level Teachers’ Perceptions of Educating and Supporting Students who Have Experienced Trauma: An Exploratory Case Study*. Seventh Instructional Leadership Conference. Danbury, CT.


**Katherine Roe**

with *Moyer, L., M. A. B Delcourt, and F. LaBanca. (2021, April). Presentation. An Exploration of Therapy Dogs in Educational Settings as Told Through the Experiences of Multiple Stakeholders. Seventh Instructional Leadership Conference, Danbury, CT.

**Tricia J. Stewart**


with * Fox, T. R., Cothran, D.L. and N. G. DeRonck. (2021, April). Presentation. Students’ and Educators’ Perspectives on Student Connectedness to School: Social Support, Engagement, and Belonging. Education and Educational Psychology Conference with the Seventh Instructional Leadership Conference. Danbury, CT.

with *Prendergast, S., J. Piro and A. Cordero-Davis. (2021, April). Middle level teachers’ perceptions of educating and supporting students who have experienced trauma: an exploratory case study. Education and Educational Psychology Conference with the Seventh Instructional Leadership Conference. Danbury, CT.

with *Trungadi, S. G., Evans, L., and *Spencer, E. (2021, April). Presentation. Personalized Learning and Educators’ Perceptions of Student Agency and Empowerment: A Case Study. Education and Educational Psychology Conference with the Seventh Instructional Leadership Conference. Danbury, CT.


Health Promotion Studies

Ethan Balk

(2021, April). Stress Eating: Why We Do It. WCSU Nursing Faculty Development Series, Virtual.

Denise Colaianni


Krista Heybruck


Robyn Houseman

Jeffrey A. Schlicht


Emily Stevens


Nursing

Eileen Campbell


(2020, April). Podcast Panelist. Faculty on the Frontlines during the COVID Epidemic. Center for Excellence in Learning & Teaching, WCSU.

Linda Dalessio


Mary-Ellen Doherty


(2020). Trusting My Instincts to Protect Mothers. *Nursing for Women’s Health: Evidence-Based Practice for Women’s Health, Childbearing & Neonatal Care*, 24(2),152-154.


**Jeanette Lupinacci**

(2020, October). Presentation. *Incivility, Misconceptions, and Ways to be Mindful*. CT League for Nursing


**Bozena Padykula**


**Theresa Puckhaber**


**Catherine Rice**


**Social Work**

**Deneen Harris**

Karen McLean


Lorraine Moya Salas


(2020, February). *Interrupting the Cycle of Oppression*. Mark Twain Speakers Series, Redding, CT.

**Sharon Young**


Art

**Darby Cardonsky**


**Sabrina Marques**


**Ken Scaglia**

(2020-2021). Traveling Exhibition. FreeWheeling. Appearing at:

(2021, May 11 - August 21). The Bascom Center for the Visual Arts; Highlands, NC.


(2021, June 1 – September 12). Art Museum of South Texas; Corpus Christi, TX.


(2020, October 18, - 2021, May 2) The Ella Carothers Dunnegan Gallery of Art, Bolivar, MO.
(2020, July 13 - August 23). The Michele and Donald D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts; Springfield, MA.

(2020, February 29–May 10). The Morris Museum of Art; Augusta, GA.

**David Skora**

(2021-2023). Invitational Sculpture Exhibition. The University of South Dakota; Vermillion, South Dakota.


(2020-2021). Invitational Sculpture Exhibition. NBOSS 23rd Annual North Bennington Outdoor Sculpture Show; North Bennington, Vermont.

(2020-2021). Invitational Sculpture Exhibition. 2nd Annual Bennington Museum Outdoor Sculpture Garden; Bennington, Vermont.

(2020-2021). Invitational Sculpture Exhibition. The 8th annual Meredith Sculpture Walk. The greater Meredith Program; Meredith, New Hampshire.

**Melissa Ralston-Jones**


**Jack Tom**


**Catherine Vanaria**


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**Music**

**Margaret Astrup**


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**Jamie Begian**


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**Matthew Doiron**


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**Jimmy Greene**


(2021). Performances and Clinics for:

- Skidmore Jazz Institute Virtual Summer Clinic
- WCSU Jazz Festival
- CMEA Eastern Regional High School Jazz Master Class
- Litchfield Jazz Camp Virtual Master Class
- DePauw University, Virtual Master Class and Panel Discussion,
- Birdland, Scullers Jazz Club, and Vandoren Online VandoJam Livestream Performance


**Greg Haynes**


**Russell Hirshfield**


**Fernando Jimenez**


**Laurel Larsen**


**Jeremy Wiggins**


**Theatre**

**Justin P. Cowan**


**Donald P. Gagnon**


(2021, April). Guest Lecture. *August Wilson and “Fences.”* Emmanuel College, Boston, MA.


**Tim Howard**


(2020, July). Master Class. Musical Theatre Song Interpretation. Governor’s School of Kentucky.

**Elizabeth Popiel**


**Sal Trapani**


OUR MISSION

Western Connecticut State University changes lives by providing all students with high quality education that fosters their growth as individuals, scholars, professionals, and leaders in a global society.