

Recent developments at Western



James W. Schmotter, President

As the class of 2017 passed "Through the Gates" on August 25, the 2013 fall semester at Western began with energy and enthusiasm. On that occasion, we recognized again why this university exists: to create Connecticut's future through the education of tomorrow's citizenry and workforce.

The beginning of the semester also reminded us that we compete for students in an ever more competitive admissions marketplace. After years of high growth, enrollment at Western has flattened and experienced declines in some academic areas. To address this and to better position the university to compete, we have reorganized our enrollment management efforts into a new structure led by Associate Vice President Charles Spiridon. This new organization, the Division of Enrollment Services, includes our offices of Admissions, Student Financial Services, Registration, Advising and Publications and Design. Its goal is to elevate Western's image, academic support for students, and overall customer service. This will increase our effectiveness in both recruiting students and ensuring that they graduate. An early sign of progress in student support: an increase in retention of firstyear students from 69 percent to 74.8 percent over the past year.

Two examples of the kind of student success we intend to expand across the university are the Honors Program and our football program. Western now enrolls more than 200 Honors students who are pursuing majors in all of our four schools. This group brings demonstrated academic success at Connecticut's best high schools and has a collective GPA of 3.71. They change the dynamics of the courses they take and, through their intellectual energy and achievements, heighten the university's visibility. Recent Honors graduates are enrolled in some of the nation's best professional schools and doctoral programs.

Football exhibits similar growth. Under the leadership of new coach Joe Loth, participation has swelled from 90 last year to 130 this fall. Coach Loth stresses academic success equally with onfield performance. His philosophy fits perfectly the NCAA Division III model that Western espouses. And, at publication, our Colonials are off to a great start, 5-2 in their first seven games.

All the best from campus,

Jams W. Lhmith

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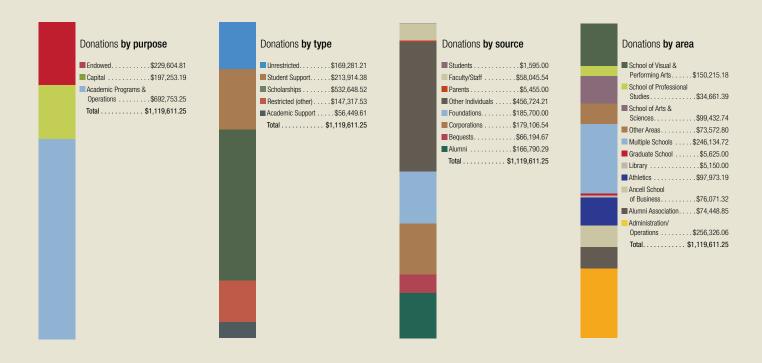
His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama

SVPA building on schedule, honored with design



A Tribute to Newtown





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Members of this group have made an annual financial commitment of at least \$1,000 to the WCSU Foundation without placing restrictions on the purpose of their gifts. These donations are allocated to the university's greatest needs as determined by the president. President's Club donors have placed their trust in the WCSU mission and remain some of our most faithful advocates.



Members of the President's Club gather in the Gallery at Higgins Hall for a recention

Fairfield Hall Society (\$500-\$999)

With their support, these members enhance our students' collegiate experience and invest in our faculty's ever-evolving needs.

WestConn Society (\$250-\$499)

The earliest established giving arm of the WCSU Foundation, this group has for decades supported innovative programs, outreach opportunities and enrichment initiatives.

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By far the largest participating giving group, these alumni, parents and friends provide an invaluable endorsement of a Western education.

Loyalty Society

Members of this group have given to WCSU for at least five consecutive years, regardless of the amount. We count on these loyal donors who heartily believe in the university and do tremendous good through the simple act of contributing annually.

Class of 2012 Senior Class Gift

Each year, the senior class leaves a legacy honoring their years at WCSU by donating to a scholarship for an incoming student. In this way, they pay tribute to the university by making it possible for a student, who otherwise might not be able, to enjoy the same opportunities they were afforded.



Graduating seniors enjoy commencement — the successful culmination of their academic endeavors

The Office of Institutional Advancement has taken great care to ensure that the information contained in this Honor Roll is accurate and complete. However, errors do occur occasionally. If you were a contributor to WCSU between July 1, 2012, and June 30, 2013, and did not receive any goods or services for your contribution, but find your name missing, misspelled, listed under the wrong heading or not in the format that you requested, please accept our sincere apologies. Please note that in the alumni section, alumni are listed without spouses unless the spouse is an alumnus/a also, in which case he/she appears alone in his/her graduation year as well. Also, the total donation amount includes only those donations to the WCSU Foundation and Alumni Association that were tax-deductible. Please help us correct our records by contacting Lynne LeBarron at (203) 837-8188 or lebarronl@wcsu.edu. A correction will be printed in next year's report.

Kennedy receives 2013 Entrepreneur of the Year Award

By Robert Taylor



The foundation of Constantine "Deno" Macricostas (above) and his wife, Marie, supports the annual Entrepreneur of the Year Award luncheon.

Below: Jim Kennedy

Jim Kennedy, founder and chief executive officer of The Network Support Company in Danbury, received the 2013 Macricostas Entrepreneur of the Year Award from Western on Oct. 10 at a luncheon at the Amber Room Colonnade in Danbury.

Kennedy, whose pioneering business ventures in computer and information technology services span more than three decades, was recognized for his entrepreneurial achievements as recipient of the annual WCSU award sponsored by the foundation of Brookfield industrialist and philanthropist Constantine "Deno" Macricostas and his wife Marie. "It certainly is an honor to know that others whom I respect believe I have done something worth celebrating," Kennedy said. "However, I know that everything I do is enabled by others, so I understand this is a group accomplishment."

Founded in 1996, The Network Support Company provides a broad range of customized service packages targeted for the specific needs of small and mid-sized businesses, including IT design, upgrade and management; cloud services; managed backup and disaster recovery services; security and firewall protection; technical engineering support; cabling; and Web development. From its Danbury headquarters and three branch offices in the eastern United States, the company serves clients in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Florida and 12 other states.

Kennedy's entrepreneurial drive as a technology pioneer provided the impetus for his co-founding in 1983 of the Personal Computer Technology Group, the first computer rental firm to be established in Connecticut. Recipient of a degree in economics from Amherst College, Kennedy has been sought widely for conference presentations as an expert on emerging technologies in the hospitality industry, and has published several articles on this subject.

Kennedy engages actively in community service in the Danbury area, making important contributions in fields ranging from health care to business education. He serves as chairman of the Board of Directors of the Western Connecticut Health Network in Danbury and as a member of the WCSU Ancell School of Business Advisory Council and the Ability Beyond Disability IT Advisory Board. He is the founding chairman of the Samaritan Health Center, a nonprofit pediatric clinic that provides free services to more than 1,000 children each year whose families lack health insurance and would otherwise be unable to afford primary health care.

"Jim Kennedy's career is a classic example of how the entrepreneurial spirit builds enterprises, creates jobs and economically benefits our region," WCSU President James W. Schmotter observed. "Equally important is the leadership Jim has exercised in our community through his roles with Western Connecticut Health Network and a myriad of other organizations. We are all grateful to him for what he has done, always with humility and grace, for our community."





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JLA Scholar earns President's Award

by Robin Provey

WCSU senior Melissa Mould is this year's recipient of the President's Award. A major in Justice and Law Administration, Mould's nearly-perfect GPA earned her this prestigious honor.

About the award, Mould said: "I felt a sense of accomplishment. I worked really hard and it was a crowning moment. And it's great that the university recognizes students who work hard."

Even though she had childhood aspirations of being in the CIA, Mould first came to the university as a nursing major. Then the Nature of Inquiry class in the Honors Program, taught by Dr. Chris Kukk, professor of Political Science, changed her life.

"Dr. Kukk's introduction speech in this class on his previous background in intelligence service was what changed my path in school to the JLA program," Mould said.

Mould is currently interning for the Federal Bureau of Investigation offices in New Haven.

Mould said the Honors Program taught her to look at issues with a variety of perspectives, which has been especially helpful in her internship.

The President's Award is presented once a year to a student chosen by the university president as an outstanding example of academic excellence.

The Dalai Lama visits WCSU

By Robert Taylor



The Dalai Lama addressed audiences small and large during a two-day visit to WCSU. His talks filled the O'Neill Center and brought national attention to the university.

Below, His Holiness spoke to a group of invited guests before one of his lectures in the O'Neill Center on the Westside campus. His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, spiritual leader of the Tibetan Buddhist community and recipient of the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize for his commitment to international harmony and democratization in his native land, made a historic visit to WCSU to share his universal message of peace and compassion in two talks presented in October 2012.

The Dalai Lama delivered talks on "The Art of Compassion" on Oct. 18 and "Advice for Daily Life" on Oct. 19 before audiences each day of approximately 3,500 in the Feldman Arena of the O'Neill Center on the university's Westside campus in Danbury. Sporting a WCSU cap and speaking with grace, candor, humility and lively good humor, His Holiness established an easy and informal rapport with listeners throughout his talks and in his extended responses during the question-and-answer session that concluded each presentation.

WCSU President James W. Schmotter described the Dalai Lama's visit as "an important milestone in our university's history. These events have galvanized the entire university community, and signaled a new level of public stature for Western." Schmotter noted the opportunities that the Dalai Lama's visit presented for educational enrichment at the university and in the wider area community, "generating interdisciplinary dialogue among Western colleagues that can affect the university's intellectual life for years to come."

The historic visit by His Holiness to Danbury marked the culmination of a process that began in 2010 with discussions between representatives of WCSU and Do Ngak Kunphen Ling (DNKL) Tibetan Buddhist Center for Universal Peace in

Redding. Western and DNKL submitted separate letters of invitation in February 2010, and the Office of His Holiness the Dalai Lama formally accepted the invitation in December 2011.

"We could not have arranged this exciting event without the gracious assistance of the DNKL Buddhist center in Redding," Schmotter observed. "The further development of this cooperative relationship will be a long-lasting result of the visit."

The Dalai Lama is the spiritual leader of Tibet and has lived in exile since 1959 in the northern Indian city of Dharamsala. For more than half a century, the Dalai Lama has visited some 60 countries on six continents, meeting with political and religious leaders, addressing the United Nations, and delivering teachings and talks at colleges and other public forums worldwide.

The cooperation between WCSU and DNKL yielded a full slate of events during 2012 inspired by the central theme of "Creativity and Compassion." Prime Minister of Tibet Lobsang Sangay delivered a lecture on "Democracy in Exile" in February 2012 as part of the WCSU President's Lecture Series. Other programs ranged from presentations on Eastern medicine and Buddhist philosophy to the "World Music" chamber music concert featuring an original composition by Western Professor of Music Eric Lewis. Lewis and Dr. John Briggs, professor emeritus of writing, linguistics and creative process, initiated the early discussions with DNKL members that planted the seed for WCSU-DNKL cooperation in arranging the visit.



Visionaries

This giving group honors those whose cumulative giving over the years exceeds \$50,000. The extraordinary commitment that they have made to WCSU impacts every facet of our university and serves as an inspiration to others.

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Legacy Society

This giving group was established to recognize those individuals who have made a charitable provision for WCSU in their estate plans. By joining the Legacy Society, you can make a significant contribution to benefit generations to come at the university. Please contact the Development Office at (203) 837-8419 to learn more about joining this group.

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Above: President Schmotter greets his Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Below and left: An audience that included Richard Gere, students, supporters and community members responded to the Holinese's massage.



WestConn Society honors Praxair Inc. with the 2013 Community Service Award

By Robin Provey

Praxair received the WCSU Foundation Community Service Award at the 32nd WestConn Society Luncheon held in April at the Matrix Corporate Center in Danbury. The Fortune 300 company is the largest industrial gases company in North and South America and one of the largest worldwide with more than 26,000 employees in 50 countries.

Praxair's mission has been "making the planet more productive" and, as proof of that, the company has made a firm commitment to community engagement and outreach. It is a company focused on establishing sustainable partnerships and lasting change. Employees engage in hands-on community work and development.

The annual WestConn Society Luncheon has been a tradition for more than three decades. The luncheon is a celebration of donors; their contributions make programs and scholarships possible at WCSU. Praxair was selected as recipient of the Community Service Award for its ongoing contributions to the university's students and those of surrounding communities through university-sponsored programs.

Scott Sanderude, Praxair vice president of global market development and marketing, accepted the award at the luncheon. A resident of Ridgefield for 15 years, Sanderude is no stranger to Western.

"I have been a member of the WCSU Foundation Board for some years, and I have seen firsthand the quality of this university. It is a pleasure to be accepting this award on behalf of Praxair today," Sanderude said. "At Praxair we don't just want to give grants; we want to be fully engaged employees and members of a community that makes an impact."

Despite its size and success, Praxair is a company that wants to extend customer service far beyond the purchasing of a product. The business is community-oriented and the volunteer efforts of its employees are recognized worldwide.

"The backbone of community engagement at Praxair is our employees," Sanderude said. "I believe this company has established many opportunities where business meets education. We want to continue giving students the opportunity to further knowledge." ■



Dr. Edwin Wong, associate professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences, engages students in the lab as part of the university's college readiness program called "Building a Bridge to Improve Student Success."

200% Club

Donors who at least double their gifts from one year to the next belong to this giving group. Their growing endorsement from year to year keeps pace with programmatic cost increases the university faces in its pursuit of excellence.

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Meet our board members



Erland Hagman is a longtime local businessman who agreed to chair the WCSU Foundation's comprehensive campaign.



By Robin Provey

Erland Hagman believes that the university is a vital part of the community. A member of the WCSU Foundation Board of Directors, Hagman recently agreed to serve as the chairman of the WCSU Campaign Cabinet.

Hagman said he supports Western because of its critical community role, which includes providing opportunities for students long after they have earned their degrees.

"WCSU has a good foundation to grow its student size and student caliber," Hagman said. "And I want to be part of that success story."

Both of Hagman's daughters have attended Western, and he knows firsthand about the quality of a WCSU education. "The curriculum, new campus and teachers are wonderful and provide a good value for a college investment. I want to support Western and all the good work they do for young minds," said Hagman, founder and owner of Ergotech Inc., a producer of ergonomically beneficial equipment in Danbury.

He earned an engineering degree from Lund University in his native Sweden, an MBA from Pace University and a Ph.D. from Northeastern University. He worked for other companies, including Asea Brown Boveri and Curtis Instruments, before launching his own firm. ■

intercollegiate athletics."

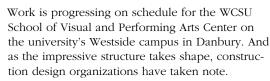


on career as associate vice chancellor

academic affairs at the University of Colorado

SVPA building on schedule, honored with design excellence award

By Sherri Hill



The Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute (CFSEI) announced recently that ClarkDietrich Building Systems — the industry's leading manufacturer of a full-line of drywall studs and accessories, structural studs and joists, metal lath and accessories, shaft wall studs and track, interior finishing products, and connectors and accessories for commercial and residential construction — was honored for its role in the project with a Design Excellence Award at the 2013 CFSEI Annual Expo and Meeting in San Francisco, Calif. The Design Excellence category recognizes small and large projects that exemplify excellence in the structural

cold-formed steel products.

According to a ClarkDietrich press release, "The

design of new or renovated structures utilizing

According to a ClarkDietrich press release, "The 137,000-square-foot project presented several unique design challenges for the use of coldformed steel including a 96-foot soaring wall, an interior 40-foot plenum, as well as trapezoidal and triangular windows."

Accepting the award, Robert Warr, P.E., LEED AP, director of Engineering Services for ClarkDietrich Engineering Services LLC, said, "Our work on this project truly represents the best of ClarkDietrich's offerings. We would like to extend a special thank you to CONN Acoustics in Newington for trusting us with their design needs. It is only with top-quality contractors like them that we are able to receive this distinguished accolade."

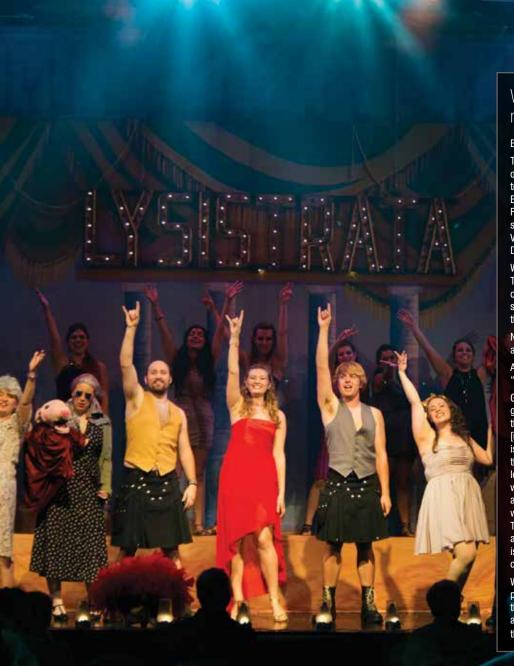
The eagerly awaited SVPA Center will house the university's music, theatre and art programs. WCSU Director of Facilities Planning and Engineering Peter Visentin said the project is about 65 percent complete and is on track for a February 2014 commissioning that will include testing of all mechanical, electrical, plumbing and lighting systems. Visentin said furnishings and equipment are scheduled to be loaded in during spring 2014, with the first classes to be held in the new facility in fall 2014.



The new Visual and Performing Arts instructional center will transform the Westside campus. Top: North light fills the sculpture studio. Middle: The building's central plaza will welcome visitors and tie together the music, theaters and art wings. Bottom: the building's exterior echoes the look of the nearby Campus Center, O'Neill Center and Westside Classroom Building.







WCSU theatre students earn rave reviews on international stage

By Sherri Hill

This summer marked a milestone for the Western Department of Theatre Arts. It was the 10th time faculty and students have traveled to Edinburgh, Scotland, to participate in the renowned Edinburgh Festival Fringe, the largest arts festival in the world. From July 31 through Aug. 11, more than two dozen WCSU students and recent graduates staged "Lysistrata: The Disco Vaudeville Rock 'N 'Roll Musical" at the Gilded Balloon Teviot Debating Hall at Bistro Square in Edinburgh.

WCSU Professor of Theatre Arts and the show's director Sal Trapani said, "For our students, performing in Edinburgh is a life-changing experience in many ways. The shows are a chance for students to perform before a live audience and an opportunity for the public to see how talented our students are."

Not just the public sees our students perform, but international theatre reviewers do, too. And the feedback was fantastic.

A FringeReview post listed Western's production as one of the "Top ten overall recommended musicals."

Geoff of One4Review posted, "Over the years the Fringe has been graced by this company crossing the pond from America to stage their adaptation of historical pieces and given the twist of making [it] into a musical extravaganza. The classical story of Lysistrata is the chosen storyline this time, the tale of how she persuaded the women of Greece to withhold themselves from husbands and lovers in order to force peace negotiations, a ploy that obviously worked. The cast of 20-plus were excellent without exception and as usual there were some amazing singing voices, the set was simple but excellently dressed, and the original music by Sal Trapani enjoyable and fitting to the styles in this title. Trapani is also the writer, director and producer of the piece and his creativity is certainly done justice by this extremely talented young cast. They can sing and dance, tap, and the routines are well drilled."

While at the Festival Fringe, the students also were selected to perform in the chorus of David Greig's "The Events," which won the Carol Tambor Best of Edinburgh Award — the most prestigious award at the festival. "The Events" will be coming to Broadway in the near future.

Foundations & Corporations

Many companies offer a matching gift program for their employees as an incentive to contribute to nonprofit organizations, such as the WCSU Foundation. Please remember to ask your human resources department if your company offers a matching gift program. For more information and a list of matching gift companies, please visit http://matchinggifts.com/wcsu/, call (203) 837-8188 or email development@wcsu.edu.

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Ana Márquez-Greene Music Scholarship Fund (cont'd)

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The WCSU community came together to mourn and to offer support in the aftermath of the December 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings a few miles from campus.

The university hosted a memorial service the week following the tragedy attended by 2,500 in the William A. O'Neill Center. Newtown First Selectman Patricia Llodra and Dr. Janet Robinson, Newtown superintendent of schools, helped lead the service.

The United Way of Western Connecticut conducted several workshops on campus to help residents, first-responders and victims' family members and friends work their way through the issues that arose from the shootings. Speakers included the principal of Columbine High School and the founder of Voices of September 11th. Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani presented the conference keynote speech. As pictured above, Giuliani met with WCSU President James W. Schmotter.

Below, Vice President Joe Biden visited campus as the keynote speaker at a conference on issues involving gun violence and mental health. The conference, hosted by U.S. Sens. Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy and U.S. Rep. Elizabeth Esty, attracted 400 residents, state and local politicians, mental health experts and faith leaders. The discussions focused on ways to reduce gun violence, protect children and make our communities safer. After the conference, Biden met with families of shooting victims as well as survivors of other gun violence in Connecticut.



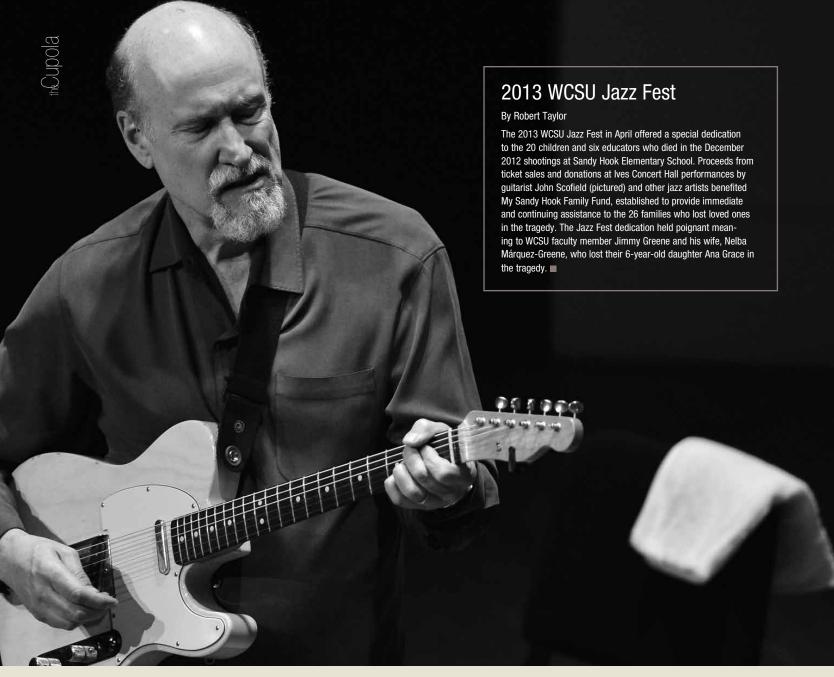
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WCSU faculty member Jimmy Greene receives Governor's Arts Award

By Robert Taylor

Jazz artist and WCSU faculty member Jimmy Greene was among three 2013 recipients of the Governor's Arts Award honored at a presentation ceremony and concert on June 15 during the International Festival for Arts and Ideas in New Haven. Greene, an internationally acclaimed saxophonist, composer and bandleader, led a performance by the Jimmy Greene Quartet at the New Haven festival.

The Governor's Arts Award recognizes outstanding service to the arts in Connecticut. "I am supremely honored to receive the Governor's Arts Award for 2013," Greene said. "I am blessed to have learned at the feet of such giants of the arts in Connecticut and to have lived most of my life here. There is a vibrant, inspirational community of musicians and artists here in Connecticut, and I am proud to be a small part of it."

Greene, a Hartford area native and graduate of the Hartt School at the University of Hartford, joined the WCSU faculty in August 2012 as an assistant professor of music and assistant coordinator of jazz studies. Since his debut in 1997 on the New York jazz scene, he has gained a reputation as a prolific recording artist, leading sideman, widely traveled concert performer and innovative composer of jazz scores.

Greene also was featured with an impressive array of renowned jazz performers including trumpet virtuoso Wallace Roney and guitar legend and bandleader John Scofield at the 18th annual WCSU

Jazz Fest from April 25 through 27. The WCSU professor performed at the Jazz Fest opening concert in the "Friends of Jimmy Greene" program on April 25 with pianist Xavier Davis, saxophonist Kris Allen, drummer Quincy Davis, trombonist Steve Davis, and trumpeter, arranger and composer David Weiss with other members of his David Weiss Sextet. Roney, a celebrated trumpeter who learned his craft from jazz greats including Miles Davis, performed as guest artist with the WCSU Jazz Orchestra on April 26. Scofield, acclaimed as one of the foremost jazz guitar performers and composers of the past half-century, was joined by drummer Bill Stewart and bass player Steve Swallow in concert as the John Scofield Trio on April 27. ■



Assistant Music Professor Jimmy Greene performed with several fellow professionals to raise money for My Sandy Hook Family Fund.

WCSU to award first scholarship in honor of Ana Grace Márquez-Greene



In memory of Ana Grace Márquez-Greene, a 6-year-old victim of the December shootings at

Sandy Hook Elementary School, Western awarded a four-year scholarship to an incoming freshman this fall and will continue to support music students every year thereafter.

Ana was the daughter of Jimmy Greene, a saxophonist and music professor at Western, and Nelba Márquez-Greene, a family therapist. She is also survived by a brother, Isaiah. Just days after the murder of their daughter, the Greenes asked WCSU to create a scholarship fund as a way to honor Ana's life.

The fund has so far raised more than \$75,000, the majority donated by individuals touched by Ana's story. Many businesses matched donations given by their employees and several groups from across the country held fundraisers for the scholarship.

"This scholarship will allow us to memorialize Ana each year and also help a music student attend the university and concentrate on his or her studies instead of financial concerns," said Dr. Dan Goble, dean of the School of Visual and Performing Arts. "It is the right way to honor Ana."

- Paul Steinmetz

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Tomorrow's leaders start here at Western

By Robin Provey



A generous gift from W. Jason Hancock, above, and Ellen M. Hancock provides support for the Hancock Student Leadership Program

Below: Student Jessica Coraizaca-Macancela is a Hancock Scholar who is interning with administrators in the In its fifth successful year, the Hancock Student Leadership Program is starting the academic year with a diverse and dynamic group of future leaders.

"We are especially pleased with the diversity of this year's cohort," said Dr. R. Averell Manes, professor of Political Science and Conflict Studies and director of the Hancock Student Leadership Program. "I am looking forward to watching these young future leaders thrive in professional environments, serving as WCSU ambassadors to the community."

The Leadership Shadowing Field Experience and Leadership Project incorporates leadership styles and philosophies, management skills, accountability and organizational change.

From September through December, five selected students are shadowing area professionals, an experience that places them at an advantage in the workplace after graduation. The program gives students real-world experience in their chosen fields and in what it takes to be a leader.

Jessica Coraizaca-Macancela, a secondary education Spanish major from Danbury, is shadowing Dr. William Glass, deputy superintendent of Danbury schools; Katelyn Gavagan of Torrington, who is majoring in music education, is shadowing Margaret Capen, a board-certified music therapist at the Southbury Training School; Everett Redente,

a social work major from Danbury, will work as a legal assistant for the Transgender Rights Project; and Dena Virzera, a justice and law administration major from Brookfield, will shadow Assistant State's Attorney Sharmese Hodge.

As part of the program, they are also reading four leadership texts: "Quiet" by Susan Cain, "Tipping Point" by Malcolm Gladwell, "The Medici Effect" by Frans Johansson, and "Lean In" by Sheryl Sandberg.

"I look forward to hearing about their experiences and watching them grow more fully into the realization that they are leaders," Manes said. "This year, we will be conducting some follow-up research with our previous four cohorts and look forward to hearing how the program helped shape their lives."

The HSLP is a joint program offered by the divisions of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs at WCSU and is partially funded by the Hancock Scholarship Fund. Ellen M. Hancock and W. Jason Hancock donated \$1 million to Western in 2001 to establish the Jason and Ellen Hancock Student Endowment Fund. The fund's annual income provides need-based student scholarships, student leadership initiatives and initiatives to integrate the creative arts with technology. ■



New Donors

This giving group includes those who donated for the first time in 2012-13. We welcome you to the fold and hope you will renew your support each year.

Suzanne Fand

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Verne Sedlacek, president and CEO of Commonfund, delivered the 2012 President's Lecture and has appeared since as a guest lecturer at the Ancell School of Business.

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Feast of the Seven Fishes

The second John F. Azzariti Memorial Lecture, presented in honor of Azzariti by his wife, Katie, and WCSU, featured a "Feast of Seven Fishes" a traditional holiday event celebrated in Italy. World languages instructor Patrizia Farina presented a lecture on the historical meaning of the tradition, after which a meal featuring cod, smelts, squid and eel was served. WCSU theatre arts students serenaded the audience with Christmas carols sung in Italian.

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WCSU's Jane Goodall Center hosts talk by Cousteau

By Sherri Hill



Innovative scientist Jane Goodall endorsed the founding of the Jane Goodall Center at WCSU 10 years ago.

Below: In addition to presenting a lecture in Ives Concert Hall, explorer Fabien Cousteau discussed issues with student members of the Roots and With a newly designed website and an ambitious agenda, The Jane Goodall Center for Excellence in Environmental Studies (JGC) kicked off the fall semester on Sept. 19 with a lecture by deepocean explorer Fabien Cousteau. Before the talk, Cousteau mingled at a VIP reception with donors who had made gifts to support the work of the JGC.

The grandson of famed oceanographer Jacques Cousteau, Fabien engaged the WCSU audience with an explanation of his plans for "Mission 31," a research endeavor that will enable him and several other aquanauts to examine not just the physical and psychological effects of underwater living, but the impact of climate change. "Mission 31" comes 50 years after his grandfather spent 30 days living in an underwater village at the bottom of the Red Sea, and Cousteau will follow in his footsteps with a similar project twice as deep and one day longer that was scheduled to begin a mere 11 days after his appearance at Western.

Professor of Archaeology Dr. Laurie Weinstein chairs the Jane Goodall Center. She explained the history of the center and how guest speakers like Cousteau are selected.

"The Jane Goodall Center for Excellence in Environmental Studies was created at WCSU in 1995 when Dr. Goodall and Dr. William Cibes, then-president of the Connecticut State University System, signed a compact creating our center," Weinstein said. "Since that time, Jane has come to Western many times to lecture, teach and be a part of various symposia and activities on campus. The university also served as the national hub for Jane's Roots & Shoots educational program from 2005-12. As part of our continuing mission to protect the earth, promote awareness of environmental issues and connect Western students with the wider community, we decided to bring in well-known ocean conservationist Fabien Cousteau.

"Like many people, I grew up watching his grandfather's program, 'The Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau,' and the travels of the Calypso. Jacques was one of the first conservationists to sound the horn about how human populations were destroying their environment. Fabien continues the conservationist work started by his grandfather and we are honored to have him here on campus."

Other fall events sponsored by the Jane Goodall Center for Excellence in Environmental Studies included a trip on Sept. 21 to the United Nations for International Day of Peace events, and a discussion about creating a permaculture garden on campus on Oct. 9 led by Ryan Harb, a certified permaculture designer and instructor, LEED accredited professional and permaculture faculty member at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. For more information about these events, visit wcsu.edu/goodall/events.asp.



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Center for Compassion, Creativity and Innovation founded



The second compassion conference featured several panels on human behavior and emotion.

Above left, Scarlett Lewis, whose son was killed in the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings, and Dr. Casey Jordan, professor of Justice and Law Administration, participate in a discussion on education. Below, Dr. Chris Kukk, the center's director, thanks Augie Ribeiro, representing the Portuguese Cultural Center, where the conference was held.

By Robin Provey

A wise man once said that human beings should "widen our circle of compassion." That wise man was Albert Einstein and he was referring to a societal effort to close the gaps that divide and overcome separateness.

Western supports the idea of people working together to share ideas and offer support whether to students, faculty or the community at large. That's why the university officially became a "University of Compassion" in October 2012, as an acknowledgement during the visit of the Dalai Lama.

Now the university is home of the Center for Compassion, Creativity and Innovation, which means that serves the university as a research hub for the local community to link people and organizations together to alleviate some societal issues. Dr. Christopher Kukk, professor of political science and director of the Honors Program, said the center could also be a hub for research to help other universities and cities cultivate compassion. Not only is this a boon to the campus community, but the City of Danbury has followed Western's lead by becoming a "City of Compassion."

Students who nurtured the notion of compassion on campus and in the community hail from the WCSU Compassion and Creativity Club. The club is a grassroots effort in that "we were started from the ground up — we started with students," Kukk said.

This spring the University Senate voted to make WCSU the second university of compassion in the country which was followed by its recognition as the CCCI. Western is one of two universities in the country, recognized by Compassion Action Network as a compassionate university.

At the end of June, it became official when the Board of Regents approved the Center. The Center has a governing board and an advisory board of community members, mostly area business leaders.

"This will help us to weave compassion in more meaningful ways throughout the community," Kukk said. "When we became a university of compassion, not only were we hoping to have it become a more important part of our everyday activities on campus, but it's spilled over into the community. In one way, we helped Danbury become a city of a compassion. Our students have brought compassion into the community by working on projects that have raised money for local charities."



WCSU graduate leads nonprofit helping state's new Americans

By Robert Taylor



WCSU graduate Angela Rossi Zurowski recalls the summer internship interview in 2005 that introduced her to the International Institute of Connecticut, the Bridgeport-based nonprofit organization she now directs in providing wide-

ranging services to new immigrants and refugees statewide.

"The executive director handed me a post-it note with an address for an apartment building in Waterbury where a Somali Bantu refugee family had arrived the previous day," Zurowski remarked." She told me, 'Go there and see if they need food - if they do, take them to the grocery store. If you like it, come back tomorrow and the job is yours.' I did, and the rest is history."

During the past eight years, the Waterbury resident has acquired an impressive breadth of skills and experience that provide strong foundations for her present leadership role at the institute. Her first IIC staff positions as caseworker and later director in the refugee resettlement services department prepared her to assume steadily widening responsibilities in coordinating website design and startup, grant application submissions, and community outreach and education activities. She undertook the demanding task of mastering the complexities of U.S. immigration law to provide representation for clients who otherwise could not afford legal counsel, and became director of programs and development prior to her

appointment in December 2010 as executive director of the IIC.

The institute, headquartered in Bridgeport with offices in Stamford, Derby and Hartford, annually serves more than 7,000 recently arrived foreign-born immigrants, refugees and victims of human trafficking who reside in Connecticut. IIC provides a wide range of programs including resettlement services, immigration and naturalization assistance, interpreter and translator support, English as a Second Language classes, job training and placement, and legal and personal counseling.

Zurowski earned her bachelor's degree in political science at Western in 2001 and has not forgotten the educational foundations she gained in courses taught by Dr. R. Averell Manes, professor of political science and associate chair of the WCSU Department of Social Sciences. "My classes with Dr. Manes in political science, conflict resolution and mediation pushed me to think outside the box. and critically analyze in a way that led to better decisions," she observed. "I learned to love research and writing as a result of her brilliant teaching."

"Angela has been very successful in living her values and working in a position that builds and improves the community and effectively uses her skills and knowledge," Manes said. "Angela has become a community leader, a role model and a strong global citizen. She exemplifies how well an education from WCSU can prepare a student for a meaningful career."■



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WCSU graduate turns brutal attack into chance to help others

By turning a horrific experience into an opportunity to help others, WCSU graduate Kate Costabile shares her experience of being a rape victim through public speaking, and she plans to use her WCSU degree to build a lifelong career of public service.

Costabile was just 13 years old when she was held at gunpoint and attacked. The police officers who assisted her inspired her to earn a bachelor's degree in justice and law administration. After graduating last May, Costabile is seeking a career in law enforcement.

"I respected the officers who dealt with my case and said I want to put on a badge and a uniform and earn that same respect." she said.

The 21-year-old Oxford resident is a regular speaker for "Jane Doe No More," a nonprofit organization based in Naugatuck that is committed to shortening the time from crime to healing by creating awareness, breaking stigmas and dispelling myths about sexual assault.

Costabile said that when she was 13, she communicated with a 39-year-old man on a social media website and that he stalked her by showing up at school events. It wasn't long before the man, who was sentenced to 10 years in prison, forced her into his car and assaulted her.

"I blamed myself and didn't talk about it after it happened," said Costabile. Group therapy helped initially and eventually she went to individual counseling and said she finally got to a place where she could move forward again. It was then that she felt the need to share her experience.

- Robin Provey

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William Druschell



The WCSU Alumni, Admissions and Student Affairs offices offered a series of "send-off" events that provided families like this a relaxed, casual environment in which to meet alumni, faculty, staff, current students and President James W. Schmotter and to ask their need-to-know questions before their first-year student headed off to campus in the fall.



Jane W. Harrison Monica P. Sousa m

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Community mourns student killed in Afghanistan

On Sept. 5, Staff Sgt. Todd James "T.J." Lobraico, a member of the New York Air National Guard, was killed in action near Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan. Lobraico was a student in the Justice and Law Administration Division at Western, pursuing a degree in law enforcement. The 22-year-old solider was on his second deployment.

At the request of his family, public calling hours and the funeral were held Sept. 12 and 13, respectively, in the Feldman Arena of the O'Neill Center. Lobraico was remembered as a heroic young man with a great sense of humor who was determined to follow in his father's footsteps as a police officer.

– Sherri Hill

WCSU grad student has great ideas for invention and business



(I-r): President James W. Schmotter, Michael Carpanzano and Management Professor Fred Maidment celebrate Carpanzano's win.

By Robin Provey

Michael Carpanzano had a great idea. His ingenuity — coupled with what he's learned through the Master of Business Administration program at WCSU — recently earned him a top prize and the probability that his invention will someday be found in every household across the country.

The invention, "nuplug," earned Carpanzano first place in the personal business model category in a competition sponsored by The Entrepreneurship Foundation in Fairfield. The statewide competition attracted business plans and product ideas from undergraduate and graduate students from every university and college in the state. The win-

ning model was selected from 10 finalists in December 2012.

Carpanzano explained that "nuplug" is an extension cord that clamps onto furniture for "smart" device charging convenience, allowing the user to comfortably use the device as it is charging. The 32-year-old Sherman native said his business model was developed under the mentorship of the MBA program, from which he graduated in May. Carpanzano is the owner of Sherman Building Design, a residential construction contracting firm in Sherman.

While entering nine more competitions during his final semester, Carpanzano, a single father, said that getting his MBA from Western allowed him to be close enough to home to run his business and raise his young son.

"I like to pursue higher learning and thought getting my MBA would help me be a more savvy business owner," he said, adding that the faculty at the Ancell School of Business helped him refine his ideas and put him on a successful path.

"It's very easy for professors to lose sight of the real reason they are here. The one thing I can say about this school is that there are professors here who care," he said. "It shows in their curriculum, their attitudes and the way they run their class. And it's made it worth it."



Eric Wellman '64

The contributions of Eric Wellman, class of '64, to WCSU started back in the 1960s, when he served as Student Government Association president during his senior year and vice president of his junior class as a Western student. Wellman's contributions continued long after he graduated: An active member of the Alumni Association, he served as its president from 1975-78 and as treasurer for nearly 20 years.

Wellman passed away in April 2013. His wife, Diana, has established a WCSU scholarship in his memory. ■

Robin Provey









Alumni Association changes golf tourney name to honor Wagner

Neil Wagner's list of WCSU affiliations is a long one: The Class of '52 graduate was a lifetime member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and former dean of the University Center for Lifelong Learning, president of the Faculty Association, chair of the Varsity Governing Board, class adviser and member of the university governance committee. Wagner passed away in May 2013. A former co-chairman of the Alumni Golf Tournament, this year's tournament was dedicated to his memory and the Alumni Association established a WCSU scholarship in his name. The event going forward will be known as the Neil Wagner WCSU Alumni Association Golf Tournament.

Wagner lived in Danbury with his wife, Carolyn, also a Western graduate. He was often seen at university social functions and events, both on and off campus and, while his presence is missed, his legacy continues in many ways. ■

Robin Provey

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Alumni Association Golf Tournament Players & Sponsors

All proceeds from the 27th annual golf tournament in 2012 at Richter Park in Danbury benefited the WCSU Alumni Association Scholarship Fund, from which annual awards are made to students based on academic achievement, extracurricular activities and community service on and off campus.

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