

# the Cupola

A magazine for alumni and friends of Western Connecticut State University



art



theatre



music



NEW SVPA BUILDING TAKES CENTER STAGE





James W. Schmotter,  
President

## Recent developments at Western

Professor David Smith, our most senior Music Department colleague, recently told me that during his first year at Western in 1970, President Ruth Haas informed him that within four years he would be moving to the Westside campus. This was one of the very few things that my distinguished predecessor miscalculated, because for the past 44 years, Professor Smith and his colleagues have labored in the friendly, but somewhat worn, confines of White Hall. That all changes this summer!

The day after Commencement, trucks began moving the departments of Art, Music and Theatre Arts to a magnificent new 135,000 square foot facility on the Westside Campus. This new Visual and Performing Arts Center includes a 350 seat music hall, a theatre that puts many on Broadway to shame, gallery space for painting, illustration and sculpture, and a state-of-the-art recording studio in addition to practice rooms, performance spaces, classrooms and faculty offices. It promises to be one the finest facilities of its kind in the Northeast, if not the nation. It will create a setting for our outstanding faculty to provide even more effective instruction to our talented fine arts students.

The new Visual and Performing Arts Center will open for classes with the fall semester, and we will hold a ribbon-cutting on Sept. 4 at 10:30 a.m and a celebration of the talent of our alumni and students on Sunday, Sept. 28 to launch this important new chapter in WCSU's history. Look for formal invitations to these two events.

The opening of this facility reflects Western's significance as the home of the only School of Visual and Performing Arts in the Connecticut State College and University System. But it is important to remember that through our many excellent academic programs, the university plays a far broader role in the region. Students in our largest majors — Justice and Law Administration, Communications and Psychology — go on to careers in many fields that build the region's economy. Graduates of the Ansell School of Business are in demand by corporations across Western Connecticut. Our nursing, social work, education and health promotion students meet important human needs, and science majors go on both to doctoral studies at America's best universities and to graduate study in all of the health professions.

Western is indeed Connecticut's public university of the arts. But, more emphatically, it is the university of the region. As such, we contribute to and draw upon the economic, social and cultural resources of Western Connecticut. It's a winning combination!

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# New SVPA building takes center stage

By Robin Provey

The newest emerging star on the Westside campus of Western Connecticut State University is making final preparations for its grand entrance this fall. On Sept. 28, university officials will hold a ribbon-cutting to officially unveil the new Visual and Performing Arts Center.

With its contemporary brick façade and 80-foot stage-house ensconced in metal siding, the building will be home to the departments of Theatre Arts, Art and Music in three wings. The lobby is at once elegant and busy with its terrazzo floor and hanging lights. Overhead is a walkway that leads into the magnificent concert hall. At 80,000 square feet, the building houses a concert hall and theater, which each seat audiences of 350, as well as dressing and practice rooms, faculty offices and classrooms. The building is equipped with more than \$1 million of audio-video equipment to outfit each space.

WCSU President James Schmotter said that the building is a welcome addition not only to the university, but to the entire community.

Our region already enjoys a rich cultural life and what will happen in the galleries, performance spaces and recording studio of the new Visual and Performing Arts Center will enhance that life immeasurably," Schmotter said. "This facility will become a destination for all — students, colleagues, alumni, friends and neighbors — who desire to be entertained and inspired by the fine arts. That entertainment and inspiration will be on full display in the work of our students and faculty, and I'm certain that the reach of Western's impact and visibility will expand, not only in Connecticut, but across the tri-state area."

Lisa Scails of Danbury's Cultural Alliance of Western Connecticut is eagerly anticipating the new Visual and Performing Arts Center. The Cultural Alliance promotes and advocates for arts, history, and culture as a primary driver of the economy and as an enriching influence for communities.

"What's so wonderful about this new center is that it serves as a centerpiece for the exceptional quality, diversity and creative talent pool at Western," Scails said. "WCSU can continue to extend its reach attracting people of Danbury and throughout the region to be part of the inspiration and the creativity that happens when students are engaged in the arts."

Theatre students will have the rich experience of performing in a venue that rivals some of the great stages. From the expansive costume shop to a multitude of premiere dressing rooms, students will

perform in a professional atmosphere. Art students will have advanced equipment and private studios in which to be inspired. Clean white walls and plenty of area in which to display their art adds to the excitement of creativity. Students will go from the soundproof rehearsal room to the green room and studio to the stage and concert hall to perform in a professional-quality environment.

Three rehearsal rooms include a dance studio with a sprung floor and paneled walls, a studio that simulates the theater's stage; and the Black Box studio that takes the place of the Reimold Theatre on the university's Midtown campus.

Built with state-of-the-art technology and

## SAVE THE DATE

Western Connecticut State University cordially invites you to attend

### Ribbon cutting

September 4, 2014  
10:30 a.m.

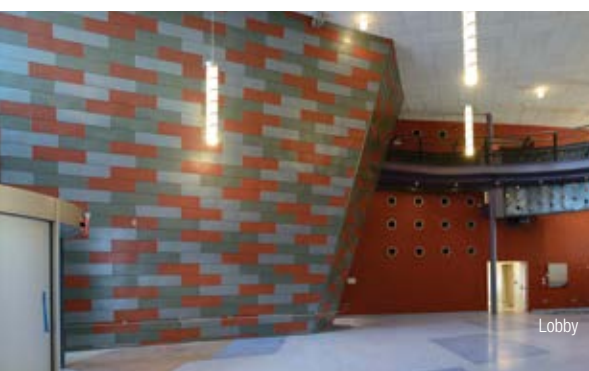
### Visual & Performing Arts Center Gala

September 28, 2014  
2 p.m.

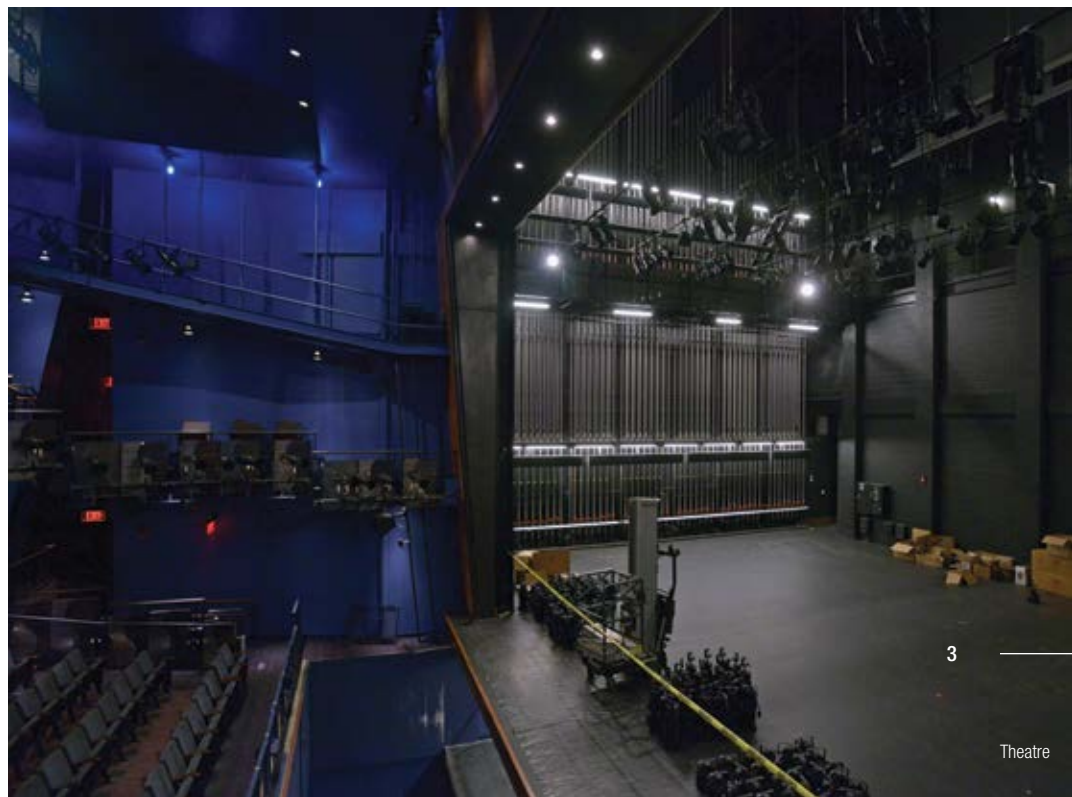
Westside campus,  
43 Lake Ave. Ext., Danbury



Concert Hall



Lobby



Theatre

to the most up-to-date specifications, the building displays details that are important to those pursuing careers in the professional and performing arts — and for spectators. For instance, a touch-screen in the main lobby shares information on how the building itself is performing with respect to ambient conditions, such as heat and water. Live performances can be seen from the lobby on a large screen monitor.

Not only was attention paid to technological advances and details, but the building was also built with safety and environmental concerns in mind. The light fixtures that hang in the lobby have LED bulbs that will last for 25 years and the structural columns in the lobby have a fireproof coating that will ensure the safety of the building's structure in case of an emergency.

The music wing has myriad practice rooms and classrooms and an acoustically isolated rehearsal room that gives students and their instructors the ability to make the most minute adjustments to the sound of a performance.

"Acoustics is paramount to the whole building, including this room," said Peter Visentin, WCSU director of planning and engineering. The ceiling is designed to

absorb and reflect sounds. The foldable and retractable wall panels are alternate panels of wood and Tectum.

The magnificent concert hall with its mesquite block floor stage and burgundy-and-navy color theme has a pine-beams-on-wood ceiling that improves reverberation time. There are five positions in the expansive room where lights and speakers on winches can illuminate the stage from above or from the floor. A Steinway concert grand piano from Germany graces the stage.

Also with a nod to acoustics, the walls have wood veneer panels in a rich maple-color that alternate with nautical blue walls. The concert hall has two balcony rings that are one-seat deep and have a circular walkway leading into and wrapping around the lobby.

The performance theatre, with its 38-foot wide stage opening, has an orchestra pit that can be elevated to eight inches above the stage or lowered to 20 feet below the apron. With its blue and tan upholstered seats and a balcony and orchestra, "there isn't a bad seat in the house," Visentin said.

Dean of the School of Visual and Performing Arts Dr. Dan Goble said the

center will be an inspiration to the university's already-thriving programs.

"The new Visual and Performing Arts Center, combined with our outstanding faculty, will provide students from Connecticut and the surrounding region with access to a high-quality arts education at a fraction of the cost of a conservatory or private art school," Goble said. "In the new facility, our students will be in an inspiring and professional environment, allowing them total freedom to perform and create at the highest level."

The art wing boasts a 1,500-square-foot gallery with maple wood block floor and custom-made display walls that can be positioned for art display. The wing also has a drawing studio with track lighting, painting studios and an outdoor terrace that is open on two sides and overlooks the campus.

The sculpture studio contains benches and welding hoods and equipment, including giant welding snorkels with adjustable arms. The art wing also has 18 Master of Fine Arts (MFA) art studios that will be assigned to one MFA student each semester. The hallways are lined panels on which students can display their work. ■

## Music Department Alumni Event



Dr. Kevin Isaacs, professor of Music and Music Education, welcomed alumni who visited campus to say goodbye to Ives. The music program, along with the theatre arts and art departments, will move to a new building, opening for the fall semester, dedicated to the visual and performing arts on the Westside campus.

On Saturday, April 26, the WCSU Music Department invited music alumni back to the Middtown campus to celebrate the 19th Annual Jazz Festival. This reception was an opportunity for music alumni to gather and bid farewell to the Ives Concert Hall. White Hall and the Ives Concert Hall have been the home of the Music Department for nearly 45 years. One hundred and fifty alumni, staff and friends reminisced about past concerts, professors and classes prior to attending a great evening of Jazz. Next year, the music department will be in the Visual and Performing Arts Center on the Westside campus. Everyone is looking forward to visiting the new building and attending events in this new facility.



(Above) Martin Sather, a 2006 graduate in jazz studies, played the tenor saxophone at the alumni performance that was part of the Jazz Festival weekend.

(Left) l to r: Professor Dave Smith, Sandra Simpson Kleisner '79, George Hawley '76

# 'Bye to Berkshire'

By Robin Provey

It was the final act for the Berkshire Theatre – the home of hundreds of productions and the starting point of thousands of theater careers. On May 3, more than 200 faculty, students and graduates bid farewell to the stage that for nearly a half century showcased their talents and brought their dreams to reality.

Despite a sometimes tearful adieu, students and faculty at the event said they are looking ahead to the modern and sophisticated atmosphere of the new Visual and Performing Arts Center on the university's Westside campus. The building will open for the fall semester 2014.

The 588-seat Berkshire Theatre on the university's Midtown campus featured the Theatre Department's larger productions and the Reimold Theatre, named after faculty member and longtime actor Rich

Reimold, was used for smaller shows and staged readings.

At the goodbye celebration, barn doors from last year's performance of Shaw's "Major Barbara" hung by the entrance for students to sign their names and favorite production. Dennis Martin, who attended Western from 1972-78, chose "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown." Jeff Miller's favorite was "Equus."

Miller, class of '91, has made a career in theatre arts. He came to Connecticut from Kentucky for the weekend because he wouldn't miss the opportunity to see old friends and professors gathered in Berkshire for one last time.

Former WCSU student Kevin Kelly remembered the early days he attended Western in the early 1970 and he played "Bottom" in Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

"We filled up this theatre every night for six nights of performances," Kelly said. "I wouldn't dream of missing the opportunity to say goodbye to the stage that holds some of my fondest memories." ■

l to r: Karen Randazzo, Bill Walton and Peter Randazzo Professor Emeritus, Bill Walton, implemented the NYC Showcase and Edinburgh Festival trips. Karen and Peter Randazzo were instrumental in the children's theatre shows at WCSU.



(Above) front row: Todd Judson, Rema Sayegh, Rob Kennedy, Vin Roca Back row: Kristen Kylo Roca, Andrea Drobish Kennedy, James Hook, Ellen Whitman

(Below) l to r: Rich & Kathy Reimold with Peter '75 & Karen '74 Marcato. Rich Reimold, Professor Emeritus, founded the theatre arts program at WCSU. Karen & Peter were two of the first graduates from the program.



Professor of Theatre Arts Frank Herbert '74, welcomes everyone to the celebration for Berkshire Theatre.



## What does the Berkshire Theatre mean to you?

"I've been in theatre 24 years, and I carry this place with me every day. Every time I direct a show, I think back to what I learned here and I think about this stage. In a way, I've never left here."

*Jeffrey Miller*  
'91 communication/theatre arts

"This place means everything to me. My whole career was spent here doing a production in the fall and in the spring and musicals in between. I'm sad to see it close."

*Rich Reimold*  
Professor Emeritus, Theatre Arts

"This is my home away from home – instant family. I had so many valuable experiences. Everything I learned here has carried me through my life. I'm a better person for having come here."

*Laurie Brown*  
'89 communication/theatre arts

"Berkshire Theatre is a house of creativity. No matter how big or small, the magic of what happens here will always be here. The new Visual and Performing Arts Center will have more opportunities and it will be a new experience, but we will miss it here – we live here."

*Dhafir Jackson*  
Theatre performance student

"As a student graduating 40 years ago, I found my life's work in Berkshire. For the last 24 years, I have worked to shape the present and future of the department from which I came. I have had good fortune twice here and look forward to the next milestone in the evolution of Theatre Arts at Western with the opening of the new SVPA building in the fall. The recognition of the arts at this level is a tribute to all of our students and faculty as one collective body over the last 45 years. Grateful for the past, looking forward to the future."

*Frank Herbert '74*  
Professor of Theatre Arts

- Robin Provey



## WCSU installs electric vehicle charging stations

By Sherri Hill

Thanks to a grant from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), WCSU has recently installed four electric vehicle (EV) charging stations on the Midtown and Westside campuses. The EV units, which can fully charge a vehicle in two hours, are available not only to the campus community, but to the public as well — free of charge.

WCSU Interim Associate Vice President Luigi Marcone applied for the EnergizeCT grant that partially funded the installation of the units.

"I thought it would be a great opportunity to be a good civic community partner," Marcone said. "On campus we are trying to focus on being green and we want to support those individuals who are doing the same by driving electric cars."

The university will be designated as a participant in the EV Connecticut Electric Vehicle Charging Solutions program. Signs designed by the state Department of Transportation will alert motorists to the presence of the EV charging units — two in the White Street Garage on the Midtown campus and two in the Centennial Hall Garage on the Westside campus. Western also will be noted as a free EV charging provider on state Web portals and other websites, such as the U.S. Department of Energy and motor clubs.

A press release distributed by Gov. Dannel Malloy's office on Nov. 4, 2013, explained the rationale behind the EV charging station grants.

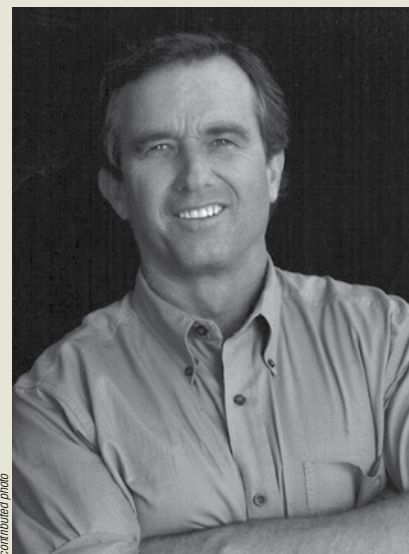
"Our goal is a network of charging stations that allows anyone driving an electric vehicle to travel anywhere in our state with total confidence that they will be able to recharge their car battery when necessary," said Malloy. "The grants we are announcing today will bring us one step closer to that goal by adding to the nearly 100 charging stations that are already available and putting more of them at restaurants, businesses, colleges, medical centers, municipal parking facilities and other convenient locations for the public.

"These grants will help fulfill my vision of a cheaper, cleaner and more reliable energy future for the families and businesses of our state," Malloy said. "A recent federal Department of Energy study shows that it costs less than half the expense of using gasoline to operate an electric vehicle — and the availability of more charging stations helps provide a wider choice of vehicles for our residents."

Confirming the university's selection as a grant recipient, DEEP Commissioner Daniel C. Esty wrote, "I applaud your foresight in recognizing the exciting new opportunities presented by the widespread introduction of electric vehicles (EVs) into Connecticut's motor vehicle fleet. Your efforts are helping to put us on a path towards greater energy independence and ushering in a time when motorists need not spend a single dollar on gasoline and instead refuel with locally generated electricity from domestically produced fuels. You are also helping to alleviate one of the greatest barriers to the widespread introduction of EVs: fear of running low on power and being unable to recharge before completing a trip. In fact, your charging stations bring us one step closer towards our goal of providing publicly accessible EV charging stations within a 15-minute (or less) driving radius of any location in Connecticut. With your help, we are replacing 'range anxiety' with range confidence!" ■



A newly installed fuel cell is powering the science building on the Midtown campus.



contributed photo

### ENVIRONMENTAL LECTURE AND BOOK-SIGNING:

Sept. 30 at 7 p.m.

The Jane Goodall Center at WCSU will host Robert F. Kennedy Jr. for a lecture and book-signing at 7 p.m. in Ives Concert Hall in White Hall on the university's Midtown campus, 181 White St. in Danbury. Kennedy's reputation as a resolute defender of the environment stems from a litany of successful legal actions. He was named one of Time magazine's "Heroes for the Planet" for his success in helping Riverkeeper lead the fight to restore the Hudson River. The group's achievement helped spawn more than 160 Waterkeeper organizations across the globe. A book-signing will follow the lecture. The public is invited. Tickets will be \$10 for the public, \$5 for WCSU faculty and staff, and free for WCSU students with valid I.D. For tickets, call (203) 837-TIXX.

# Students experience the botany of everyday life

By Robert Taylor

From kneading bread dough and creating chewing gum to transforming raw coffee beans into a dark roast ready for brewing, students at Western Connecticut State University are learning that botany is a hands-on subject that can be experienced throughout everyday life.

Dr. C. Thomas Philbrick, Connecticut State University Distinguished Professor and professor of biological and environmental sciences at WCSU, shares his passion for the origins, cultivation and myriad uses of plant life as instructor for *Plants and Society*, a biology course tailored to introduce students from any academic major to botany. If some students enroll in part to meet their general education requirement for science lab credit, they will complete the course with a newfound appreciation for the plant world around them.

"It's the most enjoyable course I teach because it introduces plants and the human uses of plants to students who already have been introduced to them, but may not know it," Philbrick said. "This course takes everyday experiences and translates them into a scientific context that's relevant to their lives."

Far from introducing botany as a textbook lesson that can be taught solely through classroom lectures, Philbrick invites his students to get their hands covered with flour, sticky with tree sap and scented with a hint of licorice as they learn to turn products derived from plant life around the globe into common foods and beverages.

During one lab exercise, students combined, heated and worked various ingredients with plant origins including molasses,

sugar, licorice root and star of anise to create licorice sticks. A similarly demanding task required students to heat, flavor and roll out long strips of chicle, a natural gum base harvested from trees in Central America and Mexico, to be cut into home-made chewing gum.

The bread-making exercise offered students the opportunity to compare breads created from different dough mixtures using white, spelt, rye, oat or barley flour, measuring the amount that each type of kneaded dough rises during its rest before baking. An additional experiment to remove starch from a separate sample held under cold water, leaving only gluten protein in the remaining dough balls, allowed students to study how higher gluten levels affect bread rising. "When they graphed the measurements, we found that the more gluten was present in the dough, the higher the bread rose," Philbrick observed.

The need for additional space to conduct some lab exercises at times has sent students into the hallways of the Science Building, or even outdoors when students tackled the especially redolent assignment of roasting raw coffee beans from Redding Roasters in Bethel. Using two kinds of vintage popcorn makers — one variety that generates its own heated air, and a "Whirley Pop" lidded pot with crank placed on a portable gas burner — students learned how professionals produce different coffee varieties through careful control of roasting time and temperature.

"When you roast coffee, you do it by the color of the beans and by the sound of the two distinct 'cracks' of the beans during roasting," Philbrick explained. "The timing of the cracks and how long they last depend on the temperature, so if you can control the temperature, you can control the roast."

Following a practice run, each student attempted several roasts of varying durations, which were allowed to air out to release excess carbon dioxide overnight before a few containers of beans were ground, brewed and sampled. Philbrick wryly admitted that some samples failed the tasting test, "but I believe the students got a great deal out of this exercise!"



(l to r) WCSU students Victor Massaro and Anthony Caridi work with samples of apple sauce prepared during a plants and society lab taught by Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences Dr. Thomas Philbrick.

Each lab exercise is rooted in the fundamental line of inquiry for all subjects covered in the class, he noted. "Our aim is to critique where each of these plants comes from, what part of it we use, why we use it, and where and how the plant is grown today." During the class segment devoted to the apple, he said, students learn about different varieties through blind tastings and prepare apple jelly, sauce and cider. At the same time, they discover that the apple has been traced to origins in central Asia, and that apple trees were first planted widely in the United States not to consume their fruit but to make hard cider.

"One theme of our class is the movement of plants around the world by humans," Philbrick said. "Of all the plants cultivated for food in Connecticut today, none are native to this state, and the majority are not native to our country." Other topics addressed in the course include the social and economic contexts of trading in plant commodities.

One of the most important lessons that students take away from *Plants and Society* is an enhanced awareness and understanding of the plants that make up so much of the food they consume every day, Philbrick said. "Students who go through this course will not look at these foods the same way anymore." ■

# WCSU/WOS project opens new career opportunities for veterans

By Robert Taylor

U.S. Air Force Reserve veteran Alisha Stevens discovered the invitation to start a new career on Craigslist, while Air National Guard veteran Mitchell Smith's journey to explore new job prospects began with a surprise phone call. Their paths converged at Western Connecticut State University in a pioneering program collaboration during 2013 with Workforce Opportunity Services (WOS) and Prudential Financial Inc. that has opened new horizons for Connecticut veterans of the U.S. armed forces seeking fresh opportunities for employment in corporate America.

"I had been out of school for six months and couldn't get a callback from my job applications," recalled Smith, whose five years' military service included deployments in Qatar and South Korea. "Then I got a phone call out of the blue from Patrick and my reaction was, 'This is too good to be true — this can't actually be happening to me!'"

His caller was Patrick Spurgeon, program and client service manager for WOS. Founded by Dr. Arthur Langer of Columbia University, WOS is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to the goal of organizing collaborative programs among higher education institutions, community organizations and private businesses to prepare veterans and other underserved populations for employment in the corporate workplace.

The six-month program of instruction

offered at Western at Waterbury, culminating in the WCSU award of Certification in Project Management, was designed to place participating veterans as full-time consultants working at Prudential subsidiaries in Hartford and Shelton. The program at Western marked the first time that a Connecticut university has joined forces with WOS and a private sector partner to prepare veterans for corporate employment opportunities.

WOS and Western invited 27 prospective participants for pre-screening evaluation and ultimately accepted 14 veterans to begin the program in March 2013.

Stevens and Smith were among 10 veterans who successfully completed the custom-designed classes offered by Western in project management, analysis and design, problem-solving and decision-making, mentoring and business writing. Program graduates were employed by WOS to serve as full-time consultants at Prudential Retirement in Hartford and Prudential Annuities in Shelton, and Prudential committed to offering full-time positions to each of the program graduates after allowing sufficient time for each consultant to build job skills and acclimatize to their new corporate environment.

WCSU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Jane McBride Gates observed that the university and WOS shared a common interest in bringing to Connecticut the opportunity for local veterans to utilize the WOS VETalent Project

Management Program as a bridge to employment in the civilian sector.

"This type of collaboration provides what we often refer to as the public good," Gates remarked. "This program demonstrates the value of fostering an interrelationship among the nonprofit, private and public sectors. We have come together to have a positive impact on the economy, to enable participants to pursue higher education certification, and to recognize the value of our veterans' contributions in the workforce in a way that we often have failed to do in the past."

The 10 veterans who finished the six-month program celebrated their accomplishment with their families and representatives from Western and WOS at an Oct. 16 graduation ceremony marked by the recurring theme that "this experience seemed too good to be true," said WCSU Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Ann Atkinson. "Prudential has borne the cost of the program, and the students have been asked to demonstrate their passion and their commitment to succeed. We worked together to make sure that any impediments that may have stood in the way of veterans' success in the program have been removed."

Stevens has assumed responsibilities at Prudential as an information technology project manager, gaining valuable IT experience in budgeting, resource development and other fields as she weighs future career options in corporate finance. Noting that many employ-



ers remain reluctant to hire veterans or accommodate deployments for reservists on active duty, she urged more corporate executives to follow Prudential's lead in taking advantage of the work ethics and skills instilled in armed forces veterans. "The military provided me with the discipline to work productively," she said.

Smith had anticipated he would follow in his father's footsteps in pursuing a civilian career as a pilot before Spurgeon's invitation to join the WOS program at Western challenged him to consider business project management as his vocation. "Everyone at Prudential has been very supportive in allowing me to work on strategic initiatives, shadow project management, update project plans and schedules, and help with project evaluations. Slowly but surely, I am gaining more responsibilities."

"I am convinced that we need more programs like this for veterans," Gates said, "and I am very interested in looking at another type of certificate that we can offer in cooperation with WOS and a private sector partner in the future." ■

Pictured at the Workforce Opportunity Services VETalent Project Management Program graduation held in October 2013 at the Western at Waterbury campus are (l to r): WOS Program and Client Service Manager Patrick Spurgeon; graduates Mitchell Smith and Elizabeth Adcock; Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Jane McBride Gates; graduates Frank Cima and Mark Cowell; WOS Founder and Chairman Dr. Arthur Langer; graduate Kenny Chitacapa; Glenn Siegmund, vice president of IT planning and strategy for Prudential Financial; and graduates Angel Cortes, Alisha and Margaretta Affeldt.



Veteran Affairs Coordinator LT. Matthew Kuchta talks with Board of Regents President Gregory Gray at WCSU this past spring.

## Student-veterans at WCSU seek help from one of their own

When Lt. Matthew Kuchta welcomes an armed forces veteran to his office at Western Connecticut State University, he knows from personal experience the challenges, confusion and isolation that his visitor may be experiencing in making the difficult transition between military and academic life.

Kuchta, who earned his B.S. in Justice and Law Administration from Western in 2010, has been an officer in the Connecticut Army National Guard since 2011 and became the veterans affairs coordinator at WCSU in December 2013. As a military officer in active service who also is firmly grounded in knowledge of the university and of the federal programs created to help veterans pursue a college education, he possesses the capability to assist student-veterans in negotiating each step in the long path to a university degree.

"I'm here to help student-veterans, from their first day here to graduation and beyond," Kuchta said during a recent interview at his office in Old Main on the university's Midtown campus. "I help them with the transition process. The fact that I am an active service member means that they know who I am and where I'm coming from. They'll say, 'He knows what I'm going through — what it's like to do basic training, to be away from my family, to be a veteran on a college campus.'"

Kuchta's goal since assuming his present WCSU position has been to serve as a "primary point of contact" who provides student-veterans with clarity, consistency and coordination in guidance dealing with a wide range of topics ranging from veterans education benefits to university academic and support services. He often serves as one of the first WCSU representatives who greets veterans on campus, briefing new arrivals on veterans benefit programs and walking them through admissions, financial aid, registrar, health service and other university offices that will get them started on the road to a Western education.

"One of the biggest challenges for veterans returning from service is that they don't really know where they fit in anymore," he observed. Typically student-veterans enter college at an age five to 10 years older than a traditional freshman, and "they had to grow up fast in the service with the tasks that they were given and the duties that they had to perform."

One measure of the significant demand for assistance is the estimated total of approximately 150 WCSU students who currently receive some form of veterans education benefit. Kuchta expects that number to rise to more than 200 in the fall 2014 semester, and he is stepping up efforts to reach out to additional veterans enrolled at WCSU who may be eligible for benefits but have not yet come forward to apply.

Kuchta said veterans at WCSU are brought together through programs organized by the university's Student Veterans Organization (SVO), comprised of past and current service members. The Student Veterans Lounge in the Student Center on the Midtown campus also provides a much-needed "oasis to interact with other student-veterans." At the same time, he noted, it is important for the WCSU community to as a whole to value the contributions of student-veterans to the diversity and vitality of university life.

"We have many experiences to share, insights gained during our service and interactions with so many different cultures," he added. "We can bring a lot to the table, and we would welcome the opportunity to do so without being afraid of being stereotyped as a veteran."

Looking forward, Kuchta's first priority is to expand Western's outreach to veterans with a view toward increasing student-veteran enrollment. "We're in the building phase now and, if we continue to build it, they will come to Western," he said. He also aims to promote private donations to the SVO as a means to broaden the funding base for veteran-related programming at WCSU.

Kuchta has initiated efforts to persuade the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to place a VA staff member on the WCSU campus to serve as a representative for the Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership (VITAL) program, which seeks to improve veterans' successful transition to academic studies by raising awareness of veteran-related issues and establishing a collaborative relationship between regional VA medical services and higher education institutions. "I want Western to be one of the universities in the forefront in Connecticut in offering and promoting this program," he said. ■



Linda Rohatsch, TJ Lobraico Jr.'s mother, discusses the scholarship created in her son's memory with President James W. Schmotter

# Scholarship honors 'service above self'

By Sherri Hill

TJ Lobraico Jr. was a carefree 10-year-old when the attacks on the World Trade Center occurred during the morning of Sept. 11, 2001.

A dozen years later on an early September evening in Afghanistan, Lobraico made the ultimate sacrifice in service to his country during his second tour of duty with the New York Air National Guard as a participant in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Recently, Lobraico's mother Linda Rohatsch, chief operating officer of Urgent Care of Connecticut, reflected on her son and the values that he carried from his childhood into his early adulthood. Ironically, the conversation took place on May 15, the day the 9/11 Memorial and Museum was dedicated in Manhattan.

"Even before 9/11, we were a very patriotic family," Rohatsch said. "Memorial Day was always important to us as a day to acknowledge the service and sacrifices that are made by many families on behalf of our country. But 9/11 is why TJ chose to serve."

Rohatsch, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from WCSU in 1998, is a Lt. Colonel in the Air National Guard. She commands the 105th Medical Group at Stewart Air Base in Newburgh, N.Y., the same base that TJ was assigned to, and served a tour of duty in Balad, Iraq. TJ's father, Todd James Lobraico, is an Air Force veteran of the first Persian

Gulf War who serves as a master sergeant with the 105th Security Forces Squadron. He also is a Stamford police officer.

In addition to his mother and father both continuing to serve their country, TJ has even deeper roots in military service with his stepfather, Dr. Rob Rohatsch; and his grandfathers, Frank Lobraico and Bob Rohatsch, all proud veterans of the military.

It came as no surprise, given his family history, when TJ announced his plans to enlist. He joined the New York Air National Guard in 2008 after graduating from New Fairfield High School

After his first tour of duty, he enrolled at Western to pursue a degree in Justice and Law Administration in preparation for a career in law enforcement, like his father.

"He loved going to school at Western," Rohatsch said. "He had a job and his classes, and he greatly enjoyed both."

TJ volunteered for his second deployment in 2013, this time to Afghanistan. Due to his previous experience on his first deployment, TJ knew the dangerous mission they faced. A staff sergeant in the 105th Security Forces Squadron, he was assigned to a Reaper team tasked with patrolling areas outside the base near Bagram Airfield. He died a hero at the age of 22 after saving several members of his squadron when they were ambushed on Sept. 5, 2013.

"We decided as a family immediately that

we didn't want flowers at the funeral," Rohatsch said. "We asked ourselves, how do we not let people forget him?"

The answer became clear: a memorial scholarship.

"We wanted to help a student — someone in their junior year of college, possibly a commuter and definitely committed to graduating," Rohatsch said. "We wanted to help someone like TJ. The scholarship could make or break it for that student."

It was also important to the family that the recipient, like TJ, had demonstrated active participation in community service and held a part-time job. Qualified applicants are required to submit a short essay that answers the question, "What does service above self mean to you?"

The TJ Lobraico Memorial Scholarship will provide a \$5,000 scholarship annually, beginning in the 2014-15 academic year, to a Western student who meets the stated criteria.

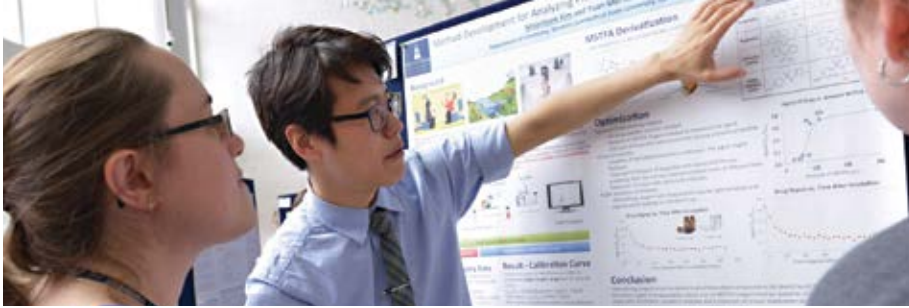
"We're excited about the scholarship," Rohatsch said. "Our goal is to get it endowed by the end of the year. We want his legacy to last. Someday, years from now, it will be TJ's sister and her children awarding the scholarship."

For more information about the SSgt TJ Lobraico Memorial Scholarship, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at (203) 837-9805. ■



## 2014 WCSU Alumni Association Scholarship Recipients

This year the WCSU Alumni Association awarded over \$20,000 in scholarships to deserving WCSU students. The funds for these scholarships are a result of generous gifts from our Alumni and through fundraising events such as our cap and gown sales for commencement and the annual Neil Wagner Golf Tournament. We encourage our alumni to consider giving to the association to help support these scholarships. Please visit our web page for all your alumni needs: [wcsu.edu/Alumni](http://wcsu.edu/Alumni).



# NEASC renews Western's accreditation

By Robert Taylor

Western Connecticut State University has received notification from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) that the association's Commission on Institutions of Higher Education has approved the renewal of Western's accreditation certifying that the university remains in compliance with NEASC's rigorous standards.

In a letter dated June 4, Commission Chair Jean Wyld informed WCSU President James Schmutter of the action taken on April 25 to continue the university's accreditation. The Commission's decision followed a two-year process of self-study conducted by the university community and a site visit to Western in fall 2013 by a NEASC team of faculty and administrators from colleges across New England, who submitted their report to the Commission in November. Western has held NEASC accreditation continuously since 1957.

The Commission commended the "comprehensive and well-written self-study" submitted by WCSU and noted with approval the university's clear articulation of its mission and its open and transparent structure of shared governance. Wyld's letter singled out a diversity of accomplishments since NEASC's last major accreditation review of Western a decade ago including the establishment of the School of Visual and Performing Arts, introduction of a new education doctoral program in instructional leadership, a 100 percent pass rate for WCSU nursing students in the state board examination, and adoption of a tiered, competency-based model for general education by the University Senate.

"As demonstrated through the self-study and acknowledged by the (NEASC) team, WCSU is committed to the comprehensive

assessment of institutional effectiveness," Wyld said. "We note with favor that more than 650 members of the campus community are involved in various planning initiatives, and the academic program review process was recently modified to include the assessment of program viability and alignment with the university's strategic plan."

Wyld praised Western's highly qualified faculty comprised of "active, engaged scholars and practitioners," observing that the university's mission is carried out successfully through "effective and excellent teaching." The Commission also recognized the university's provision of a wide range of academic and student services.

"We share the judgment of the team that there is much to celebrate in the university's growth and development over the last decade," Wyld wrote. "With a highly respected and able president, a new, energetic and competent senior leadership team, and dedicated faculty and staff, Western Connecticut State University is well positioned for future success."

In keeping with its policy requirements for periodic accreditation reviews, NEASC has requested Western to submit a fifth-year interim report for its consideration in fall 2018. The Commission indicated that the interim report should give specific emphasis to achievement of enrollment, retention and graduation goals, assessment of student learning outcomes, implementation of the university's strategic plan, and evaluation of the impact of higher education governance changes in the state of Connecticut. The Commission also instructed the university to submit a separate report in spring 2016 to provide an update on the implementation of a new online Ed.D. in Nursing Education program that is being offered in a collaboration between WCSU and Southern Connecticut State University.

NEASC has scheduled its next comprehensive evaluation of WCSU for fall 2023. "The Commission hopes that the evaluation process has contributed to institutional improvement," Wyld wrote. "It appreciates your cooperation with the effort to provide public assurance of the quality of higher education in New England." ■

## WCSU announces appointment of Ancell School of Business dean



Dr. David Martin has been appointed as the next dean of the Ancell School of Business at Western Connecticut State University to begin in July.

Martin is currently the dean and professor of finance at the St. John Fisher College School of Business

in Rochester, N.Y., position he has held since July 2010. He earned a B.A. in history from Long Island University, an M.B.A. from Western Illinois University and a Ph.D. in business administration from Saint Louis University with a major in finance.

"I am very excited to join the Ancell School of Business with its high-quality programs in business and in justice and law administration," Martin said. "I am convinced that the faculty, staff, and administration are committed to providing a first-class education to their students as well as to being a significant resource to the regional business and justice communities."

During his tenure at St. John Fisher, Martin has, among other things, supported and encouraged the development of two new majors in marketing and human resource management, created a joint Doctor of Pharmacy and Master of Business Administration program and launched the first college-wide travel study-tour. From 2008 to 2010, Martin served as the associate dean of the School of Business at LaSalle University in Philadelphia.

"David Martin has demonstrated his ability to lead faculty colleagues in developing academic programs that meet the needs of business stakeholders," WCSU President James Schmutter said. "I look forward to the new linkages he will forge for the Ancell School within the Fairfield County business community." ■

- Robin Provey



Two aspiring teachers, Jessica Coraizaca and Nicole Chalk, shown here with President James W. Schmutter, received the Henry Barnard Distinguished Student Awards, the top student award given annually by the Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education.

# WCSU fall sports



The football team hopes to capture a berth in the NCAA Division III Tournament after last year's strong 7-2 season that included a win in the Eastern College Athletic conference Northeast Bowl.

The artificial turf playing surface at the Westside Athletic Complex, (WAC) was replaced this spring to prepare it for as much as 18 hours a day of play and practice as the football, men's and women's soccer and field hockey programs begin their pre-season camps beginning mid-August.

The women's volleyball and tennis teams also will start practices then as fall athletics start even before students return for classes.

The Colonials are members of the Little East Conference in 13 of their 14 athletics programs.

## Football

The revived football program joined the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference last fall after many years in the Freedom Football Conference and as an affiliated member in the New Jersey Athletic Conference.

Almost immediately the gridders made their presence known in the MASCAC and after a 7-2 regular-season finish, went on to capture the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Northeast Bowl with a 48-35 victory over Salve Regina University.

Third-year Head Coach Joe Loth expects to build off 2013's success and challenge for the MASCAC crown and a berth in the NCAA Division III Tournament.

Western appeared in the national championships in 2001. It was the last of three showings in the NCAA football tournament.

Loth and the Colonials need to replace several key starters from last year's team, notably Octavias McKoy, one of the best running backs in the nation in all divisions.

Against Worcester State University on Oct. 26, McKoy broke the NCAA all-divisions single-game rushing mark with 455 yards and five touchdowns. In his final season, he rushed for 1,833 yards and a national-best 28 touchdowns and was among Division III's best in nearly every rushing category. McKoy is the most decorated player to come through the program, with numerous national honors including being a finalist for the Gagliardi Trophy, Division III's equivalent to the Heisman Trophy. He made live appearances on ESPN's Sports Center and a face-to-face interview on the Yes Network. For nearly two weeks, he was the nationally recognized face

of Western Football.

Returning for his senior campaign will be signal caller Will Arndt. A year ago, the 6-2 quarterback from Newtown completed 141 of 228 passes for 1,757 yards and 13 touchdowns. He was a distant second to McKoy with 52 rushing yards a game and nine running touchdowns.

Joining Arndt on the offense will be his top two targets in wide outs Connor Falaguerra and Alex Altermatt. They combined for 69 catches and nine of Arndt's 13 TD tosses.

Sophomore Eddy Williams will be called upon during pre-season camp to earn the starting running back job. In his first collegiate season, he carried the ball just 33 times for 248 yards and three scores.

Senior Tory Mack will be moving back to running back for his final season. Early in 2013, Mack carried the ball 29 times for 150 yards and four touchdowns and caught 11 passes for an additional 81 yards. In week four against Bridgewater State University, a 49-26 victory, Mack moved to the defensive backfield, a position he played as a high school standout at Stratford High School.

Loth confirmed that four of five offensive linemen will be return-

ing for 2014, headed by 6-7, 320-pound left tackle Johnnie Medina. Joining Medina across the front will be Maleek Riley (Jr., 6-1, 290 lbs., center), Mark Wildman (So., 6-2, 270 lbs, right guard) and Jordan Smith (Sr., 6-1, 310 lbs., right tackle).

Defensively, sophomore Brian Birdsell and senior Chris Elser top the list of returning linebackers. Birdsell had 26 tackles in his first season. Elser, a fullback at the start of 2013, will move to linebacker.

The secondary will feature the 2013 MASCAC Defensive Rookie of the Year Devante Credle and Jacob Jean-Baptiste. They combined for 75 tackles and eight interceptions a year ago.

Western begins defense of its ECAC title with the first of six home games on Sept. 6 when it hosts non-conference opponent Hartwick College at 5 p.m. at the WAC.



Celia DeVoe

## Women's Soccer

The women's soccer team, under the guidance of 18-year Coach Joe Mingachos ('91), look to improve on a 10-10-1 campaign. Mingachos is well known as one of the most successful coaches in Division III with an overall mark of 268-79-25 at the Colonials' helm. His teams have averaged nearly 16 wins a season and have appeared in 10 NCAA championships, including

a Final Four showing in 2007.

Western welcomes back all but two players from last year's squad as second-leading scorer Ariana D'Aurio (eight goals in '13) and midfielder Erica Moran graduated in May.

Heading the list of returners is 2013's top scorer Celia DeVoe. In her first collegiate season, she scored four goals and assisted on 12 others for 20 total points.

Seniors Sarah Menta and Michele Reggiano and junior Camille Lawson return after solid performances in Western's defense a year ago.

Junior forward Emily Newhard will be called upon to bolster Mingachos' offensive attack. Last season, she was third on the team, along with Menta, with 13 points.

Newhard and Lawson earned All-LEC First Team recognition a year ago.

Alison Rettenmeier, one of three freshmen goal keepers in 2013, returns after a stellar initial season. She started all 21 games and made 101 saves and had an impressive 1.27 goals-against average.



Karissa Smith

## Women's Volleyball

The Western volleyball squad will look to improve on its 25-9 2013 record this season.

# preview

By Scott Ames

The team brings back an abundance of experienced players in their quest for an LEC Championship. Standing in its way is quite possibly the most demanding schedule in Western's history.

According to third-year Coach Don Ferguson, the Colonials will challenge themselves by competing against national and regional powerhouses such as Whitman College, Middlebury College, Williams College, Salisbury University, Connecticut College and intra-league rival University of Massachusetts Boston.

The roster will be composed of both experience and youthful talent with five seniors, four sophomores and three incoming freshmen. Many of the returning members made significant advances during the non-traditional season this spring and will be looking to make an impact this fall.

Sophomore Karissa Smith, a 5-11 outside hitter, was named to the Little East Conference All-Conference team as a freshman. She joins Nina Wojtkiewicz, a two-sport standout (volleyball and softball) at Western and the 2013-14 WCSU Alumni Association Female Athlete of the Year; Heather Williams a 6-0 middle hitter; Jenny Hogan, Western's leading setter the past three seasons; and Caitlin Van Camp, a 5-11 all-around force both offensively and defensively.

## Men's Soccer

Head Coach George Kostelis embarks on his fourth season at the men's soccer helm when the Colonials host Curry College at the WAC on Aug. 30.

Kostelis will look to senior Phil Dagostino and a pair of sophomore standouts to get the Colonials back to a winning tradition.

From 1988 to 2003, Western won 212 games — an average



Phil Dagostino

— and appeared in either the NCAA or ECAC Tournaments nine times. It returned to the NCAA in 2005 after going 13-5-3, but has won just 35 games since then.

A year ago, Dagostino was named to the All-LEC Second Team after scoring a team-high five goals for 10 total points.

Sophomores Vigan Pacuku and Aislan Sartori enjoyed a solid freshman campaign in 2013. They combined for six of the team's 20 goals last fall.

Junior goalie Bobby Stevel, a Second-Team All-LEC honoree last season, returns this season. A year ago, he started 18 games and registered a 1.90 goals-against average with a pair of shutouts.

## Field Hockey

Western brought its field hockey program back in 2005 after a 14-year hiatus, with Dani McDonnell as coach.

Starting — and especially restarting — an intercollegiate program from scratch has always proven a monumental task but McDonnell enthusiastically believes the Colonials can be successful in the region and the Little East Conference.

Expected to help her accomplish this is a large list of juniors for the upcoming campaign.

Lauren Allen, Heidi Odenwaelder, Jenny Cappello, Kristy Matasavage and Caitlin Ogrizovich combined for 15 goals and 46 points — or nearly half the team's totals in 2013.

Highlighting last year's season was the standout performance of freshman goalie Kristy Trotta. The Danbury native started 16 of 18 games and had an impressive 3.16 goals-against average while making 135 saves.



Shawn Stillman

## Tennis

Western alum Shawn Stillman ('94) returns for his second year as head coach of the women's tennis program.

Just three years ago, Western women's tennis went 13-1, won the Little East Conference regular-season and tournament championships and made the program's first appearance in the NCAA National Tournament.

Stillman welcomes back his entire roster this fall and has added a group of five new players: three current Western students and a pair of incoming freshmen. ■



Nina Wojtkiewicz, 2013-14 WCSU Alumni Association Female Athlete of the Year



## WCSU student-athletes dedicated to achievement

Whether they're on the field or in the classroom, there are many students at Western Connecticut State University who are at the top of their game and 16 of those students are members of the university's esteemed Honors Program.

WCSU freshman Karissa Smith, named this season as Little East Conference Rookie of the Week, plays on the university volleyball team and maintains a strong GPA as a member of the Honors Program.

"I think all of our student athletes do an amazing job. To be able to balance the demands of a competitive college athletics schedule that includes practices, team meetings, travel, competition dates and community service with a challenging academic course load is extremely difficult," said Don Ferguson, who coaches the WCSU volleyball team. "Many of the student athletes here at Western bring with them a history of time management and success in the classroom, while many others are experiencing this intensity for the first time. To be successful at both, you must be a person who values both academics and athletics and understand that you have to work hard in order to achieve success in either."

The other Honors Program student-athletes are: Kristy Trotta (field hockey), Danbury; Melissa DiNino (basketball), Waterbury; Thea Martin (soccer), New Fairfield; Alexandra Sabith (softball), Meriden; Lydia Walter (softball), East Haddam; Jennifer Hogan (volleyball), Franklin Square, N.Y.; Cady Cordes (volleyball), Nevada; Path Bhavsar (tennis), Danbury; Karen Velez (tennis), Danbury; Katherine Robison (swimming/diving), Wallingford; Brennan Diaz (football), Oxford; Michael French (rugby), Middlefield; Andres Jimenez-Frank (soccer), Naugatuck; Nicole Mair (rugby), Milford; and Meaghan Gustafson (soccer), Newington.

In 1987, the Honors Program at Western was founded to foster and nurture academic excellence among outstanding students in all four schools of the university. It is built on the fundamental assumption that knowledge is an open set of questions and ideas to be explored, rather than a closed set of facts to be memorized. ■

- Robin Provy

for more information, visit [wcsu.edu/sports](http://wcsu.edu/sports)

# Alumnus gives back by establishing "Better Thinking" Scholarship

By Sherri Hill

"Better Thinking." That's the tagline and corporate philosophy embraced by media planning and buying company Mediassociates, located in Sandy Hook. It's also the name of a new scholarship created at Western by Mediassociates President and CEO Scott Brunjes.

Brunjes, a 1985 WCSU graduate with a degree in Communication and Media Arts, explained the rationale behind "Better Thinking": "We're all about the people who work here and the importance of delivering value to our clients in terms of better marketing ideas, better data optimization, and better results. We have to out-think our competition to do a better job for our clients and in turn, for our own business."

Brunjes established the Mediassociates

"Better Thinking" Scholarship at Western for several reasons. The recipient of an academic scholarship when he was a student, Brunjes recalls how beneficial it was as he balanced commuting to campus, working 20 to 30 hours a week and his studies.

"I'm very grateful for how my education at Western has helped me achieve whatever level of success this company has achieved," Brunjes said. "I need hard-working employees who have a great work ethic and I see a big difference in prospective employees who have had everything handed to them versus those who have had to work for it.

"For Mediassociates, without fail, WCSU graduates have been some of our strongest hires," Brunjes continued, "and we're thrilled with the people who work for us who attended the university. We're a people business, and to us, hiring is one of the most important decisions we make. Creating the scholarship is a good way to give back as an alumnus, and it also provides a way to increase our visibility with the graduating students."

The Mediassociates "Better Thinking" Scholarship is available to a full-time senior student who is majoring in marketing, interactive marketing or communication-media studies. A minimum overall GPA of 3.0 and a GPA of 3.25 in the student's major is required. Also required is the submission of a short essay that

addresses either "What do you hope to accomplish by choosing your field of study?" or "How has 'Better Thinking' helped you accomplish a personal goal?"

Assisting Brunjes in the selection of the annual recipient of the \$2,000 scholarship will be a committee that currently consists of the five WCSU alumni who also work at Mediassociates.

"The five employees determined the essay questions, and they will be the ones managing the selection process," Brunjes said. ■



Assisting in the selection of the annual recipient of the \$2,000 scholarship will be a committee that currently consists of the five WCSU alumni who work at Mediassociates. Committee members pictured (l-r) are: Online Media Buyer Brian Poe, Account Coordinator Tyler Ventrella, Digital Media Coordinator Laura Nadriczny, Mediassociates President/CEO Scott Brunjes and Junior Broadcast Buyer Tyler Gore. Not pictured: Accounting Manager Lisa Koeppel.



Alumni Day Trip:

**Alumni Family Day at Lake Compounce**  
Saturday, Aug. 2

Spend a fun-filled day with your family and fellow alumni at Lake Compounce in Bristol, Conn. Cost is \$38/person (children 3 & under are free). Price includes admission, parking, all-you-can-eat lunch buffet, unlimited free soda, unlimited use of rides, shows and attractions (except the Skycoaster), unlimited access to Crocodile Cove and a complimentary return visit ticket. Call (203) 837-8298 to RSVP or e-mail [alumni@wcsu.edu](mailto:alumni@wcsu.edu).



**The Neil Wagner WCSU Alumni Association Golf Tournament**  
Monday, Sept. 29

10 a.m. shotgun start (scramble format)  
Richter Park, 100 Aunt Hack Road, Danbury

The Alumni Association is proud to host his 29th annual event in support of WCSU student scholarships. All players are welcome to join us for a great day of golf. Sponsorship opportunities are also available and appreciated. For more information or to make a reservation, call the Alumni Office at (203) 837-8298 or e-mail [alumni@wcsu.edu](mailto:alumni@wcsu.edu).



Alumni Day Trip:

**Tarrytown, N.Y., and the Legend of Sleepy Hollow**  
Saturday, Oct. 18

Join us for this fall trip to Tarrytown, N.Y., for a day of fun, festivities and haunted enchantments. The day includes a guided tour of Sunnyside, Washington Irving's historic home; a visit to the Old Dutch Church to hear about the Legend of Sleepy Hollow; and a viewing of the Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze in Croton-on-Hudson. Cost is \$109/person. For more information or to make a reservation, call (203) 837-8298 or email [alumni@wcsu.edu](mailto:alumni@wcsu.edu).

## LOUISA MAY ALCOTT'S LITTLE WOMEN THE MUSICAL

The Office of Alumni Relations cordially invites you to attend our Fall Dinner Theatre featuring the WCSU Department of Theatre Arts production:

Little Women, The Musical  
Friday, Nov. 14, 2014

Dinner is at 5:30 p.m. in the President's Reception Room (WS 218) followed by the production at 8 p.m. in the new Westside Theatre, School of Visual & Performing Arts, WCSU Westside campus, 43 Lake Ave. Ext. Danbury, CT 06811

The cost is \$55 per person. Price includes dinner and show.

A dinner buffet and complimentary wine will be available. For more information or to make a reservation, call (203) 837-8298 or email [alumni@wcsu.edu](mailto:alumni@wcsu.edu).

for more information, visit [wcsu.edu/alumni](http://wcsu.edu/alumni)



## Memories from 2013



On Friday, Oct. 18, more than 180 alumni and friends attended the 2013 Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony held at the Amber Room Colonnade to celebrate the accomplishments of the inductees. Congratulations to: (l to r): Tom Crucitti '69, Men's Soccer; Tina Shanahan O'Mara '98, '05, Women's Basketball; Nicole Corbin '06, Women's Soccer; James Krayseke (First WCSU Football Coach); Joseph Giaquinto '70, Football, Men's Basketball, Baseball, Men's Soccer; Alicia O'Brien '83, '95, Softball Coach/Associate Athletic Director; Christin Morgatto Peloso '05, Women's Basketball

**flickr**

To find more photo memories of Homecoming 2013, visit [wcsu.edu/flickr](http://wcsu.edu/flickr).



### Saturday, Oct. 25, 2014

WCSU alumni, students and families are invited to a multitude of events taking place on Homecoming Day including:

- **Alumni Hospitality Tent**  
2 p.m., Westside campus
- **Homecoming Barbecue**  
2 p.m., Westside campus
- **Street Fair**  
2 p.m., Westside campus
- **Class of 1964's 50th Reunion Dinner**  
4 p.m. cocktail-jazz hour/5 p.m. dinner  
Westside Classroom Building Room 218, Westside campus. Cost is \$60 per person and includes complimentary beer, wine and soft beverages. Cash bar available. Formal invitation will be sent during the summer. RSVP by Friday, Sept. 12, 2014.
- **Homecoming Football Game**  
Colonials vs. Worcester State  
5 p.m., Westside Athletic Stadium

### Don't forget to "Like" us on Facebook

[facebook.com/groups/WCSUAlumni](https://facebook.com/groups/WCSUAlumni)

*The place to keep pace with WCSU Alumni.*



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the fund for Western

Thanks to donors like you, Western Connecticut State University can create an environment that allows students to find their passion.

Thomas Pickel (right/below, at the annual WRD Western Research Day) learned of his aptitude for chemistry after taking courses as a freshman. Today he is a Ph.D. candidate at Emory University, receiving full tuition while studying organometallic chemistry.

Your investment in the Fund for Western helps to ensure students get the best education possible.

Gifts to the Fund for Western:

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- Ensure faculty innovation
- Strengthen WCSU's community partnerships and service

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