



THE CUPOLA

Western Connecticut State University

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SPRING 2020

The Cupola

On the cover

Two new observers of campus life — permanently installed in the landscape of the Visual and Performing Arts Center — were created by Kent artist Joy Brown.

Brown finds inspiration in traditional Japanese wood-fired ceramics.

"For 40 years, my work with clay has challenged and nurtured me, enriched and transformed my life," Brown said. "The work has evolved from vessels and animal shapes to the human-like forms and abstract wall reliefs of recent years. The changes have come out of my relationship to the materials and process — the clay, kiln, firing, and my changing intentions. For the past 20 years I have also been working in bronze — most recently in China, where I've made larger-than-life figures for public spaces. My figures speak to me of that peaceful place in myself — calm, open, aware."



Joy Brown working in her Kent studio creating one of a pair of sculptures that now reside on the Westside campus near the School of Visual and Performing Arts.

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Night for the Arts: a celebration of art, music and theatre

Western Connecticut State University is celebrating Marian Anderson, a Danbury resident during the height of her fame as an internationally recognized singer, with a commitment to name the School of Visual and Performing Arts in her honor.

The university moved closer to this goal during “Night for the Arts” on Saturday, Nov. 2, 2019.



The special event showcased each of the departments in the school — Music, Theatre Arts and Art — with student performances and exhibits. The Black Box Theatre was transformed into the Marian Anderson Café featuring her music and historic video footage. After enjoying an elegant assortment of hors d'oeuvres and libations, guests circulated between each of the venues, and the evening was capped off with a jazz band and swing dancing.

Anderson was one of the most celebrated singers of the 20th century. As an African-American woman, born in 1897, her life and career were frequently met with racism and adversity. Despite this, her talent was recognized by audiences all over the world and she is widely recognized as a civil rights icon. Her quiet elegance paved the way for countless women and African-American artists who came after her. The Marian Anderson School of Visual and Performing Arts will be rooted in Anderson's sense of integrity and regard for all people. Students from all backgrounds will be considered for admission — including those talented students who did not have access to traditional arts programs in high school.

SVPA Department of Art earns national accreditation

Over the past four years, the faculty and staff of the WCSU Department of Art have been working on earning accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.



Catherine Vanaria, associate professor of Art and chair of the department, worked closely with her colleagues to answer questions, guide tours for the visiting accrediting team, and make suggested adjustments. In May 2019, the department received notification that its accreditation had been approved.

The department offers a Bachelor of Arts in Art with concentrations in graphic design, photography, painting or illustration, and a Master of Fine Arts in Visual Art. NASAD accreditation signifies that both programs meet all of the high standards set by the association.

The program is now one of five accredited departments in the state.



With accreditation, Vanaria said, “We will have more prospective students looking at us. We will see a shift upward in enrollment. That’s going to be very exciting.”

Professional Writing student latest to earn Fulbright award

Waterbury native Krysta Scriven had never traveled beyond the eastern United States before attending WCSU as a freshman in 2015. Scriven, who graduated in May 2019 with a Bachelor of Arts in Professional Writing and a minor in Linguistics, racked up plenty of frequent flier miles during her four years at WCSU with educational experiences that included stops in Bulgaria, England, France, Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands, Greece and Ireland.

Thanks to her receipt of a Fulbright Fellowship, Scriven returned to Bulgaria in September 2019 to serve as an English language teaching assistant at a top-rated high school in Vidin, Bulgaria. She is the sixth WCSU student in the past decade to earn a coveted Fulbright award.

Scriven, a graduate of Waterbury's Kennedy High School, initially enrolled at WCSU as a science major, but soon switched her focus to writing and later added a minor in linguistics.

"I started with what I thought would make money and be practical," she said. "I switched to what I like and enjoy."

While at WCSU, Scriven participated in the university's Kathwari Honors Program; had an internship in the WCSU Office of Publications and Design; and served as a Teaching Assistant, a Student Ambassador in the Admissions Office and an RA in a residence hall. She was also a member of the National Society for Leadership and Success and won the Ronald K. Goodrich



Krysta Scriven '19

Award for Outstanding History-Based Research Essay and the Peter Lyons Award for University Service.

As a professional writing major, she worked as a tutor in the university's Writing Center. It was there, during her freshman year that she first saw a poster for a travel opportunity with long-time Adjunct Professor of Social Sciences Dr. Jeannie Hatcherson to volunteer over the summer to work at an orphanage in Bulgaria. Scriven said she saw the poster around the same time she was formally changing her major.

"I was in the midst of thinking about changing my major, and I was a little lost at the time," Scriven said. "The trip cemented my career choice — working with children. It also led to the discovery

that I'm really into linguistics. I taught myself Bulgarian so that I could better communicate with the children there and help them more."

After her Fulbright year in Vidin, Scriven plans to head to Guatemala as part of a sea turtle conservation effort and to teach local children English. From there, she plans to obtain a Master of Arts in Teaching in order to move to Dubai to teach English there.

"There are so many beautiful and fascinating countries," Scriven said. "I want to be an English teacher all over the world. I want to be a nomad."

WCSU Student Fulbright Program recipients

Krysta Scriven '19 is the sixth WCSU student to earn a Fulbright scholarship in the past decade.

Past Fulbright Scholars include:

Stephen Price '09 who studied sacred music in France

Ashley Hyde '09 who studied immigration in Jamaica

Kevin Gaughan '11 who studied social entrepreneurship in Estonia

Katie Marsan '13 who studied folk music in Estonia

Allison Vas '17 who taught and studied education in Estonia



Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, the Fulbright program is the largest U.S. international

exchange program offering opportunities for students, scholars and professionals to undertake international graduate study, advanced research, university teaching and teaching in elementary and secondary schools worldwide.

Biology student wins Goldwater Scholarship

Biology major Jasmine Grey is the first WCSU student to win an award from the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation, a national recognition.

Grey is the only one of the 10 Connecticut awardees to study at an institution in the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system. The scholarship, awarded by the Barry Goldwater Foundation, was created by the U.S. Congress to honor the 30-year U.S. senator and Republican presidential candidate. The scholarships go to sophomores and juniors who intend to pursue research careers in the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering.

Now in her senior year, Grey is an



active student. She participated with a WCSU team that won a university chemistry competition three years in a row, and worked with Dr. Hannah Reynolds, assistant professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences,

on a research project to develop a new method to detect the fungus that causes White-nose Syndrome in bats. Grey is a captain on the WCSU women's soccer team and was named conference Defensive Player of the Year in 2019.

Last summer she was accepted into a Research Experience for Undergraduates program at Cornell University. She worked in the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics on a recently discovered micropeptide in the reproductive system of male fruit flies.

"This research will assist me in reaching my goal of attaining a Ph.D. in a field in microbiology," Grey said.

She plans to study diseases and methods of identifying and stopping them.

Two students receive Barnard Distinguished Student Award

Layra Caridad Valdes Ramirez and Victor Namer were the recipients of the 2019 Henry Barnard Distinguished Student Award for their outstanding academic achievements, on-campus participation and dedication to community involvement.

Ramirez, a Biochemistry major with a Biology minor, graduated in 2019 with a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry. She is now pursuing a Doctor of Medicine in dentistry and research, and spent the last summer volunteering in a dental office in Cuba.

Namer earned a bachelor's degree with dual majors in Psychology and Political Science and a minor in Conflict Resolution. He plans to start his career in the fields of social work, homelessness, mental health and/or local or state politics, while considering his post-graduate degree options.

Namer and Ramirez are both graduates of Danbury High School and were members of WCSU's highly selective Kathwari Honors Program. Each graduated with a GPA above 3.9 and an impressive list of awards, accomplishments and scholarships.



Sabrina Marques receives Provost's Teaching Award

Assistant Professor of Art Sabrina Marques, in accepting the Provost's Teaching Award, spoke of lessons she brings to the classroom to help students realize truth and hope in their lives. Marques delivered this talk at the university's fall opening meeting:

On July 2, 1998, the summer after my sophomore year in college, my father left the office in New York City on foot to run an errand to the bank, only to return on his hands and knees crawling, covered in blood.

His employees were screaming, thinking he had been shot in the head. What we learned is that he was walking next to his office building and a metal tool from a construction site fell and broke my father's skull and damaged his right frontal lobe. He woke up after being unconscious for 20 minutes to an empty alley. The construction workers had fled.

An ambulance was called, and hours later my father had brain surgery. I will never forget the moment I visited him in his room before the surgery — he was not focusing on himself, but rather, he asked me how I was doing. His gaze was different and he had an eerie and innocent calmness about him.

This experience changed my life. I now had to learn to understand my "new" father. Damage to his frontal lobe caused short-term memory loss, a change in his personality, and an inability to regulate his behavior and emotions. As a result of these many changes, I began to fiercely hold onto the lessons he taught me while growing up, before this injury. As an educator, I carry many of my father's lessons into my classroom.

My Papi was born in Portugal and had only a fourth-grade education, yet he taught me the value of self-education and being intentional with your curiosity. He asked questions that would lead to innovative ideas. Rather than seeing it as a burden, he found enjoyment in solving problems.

His questions typically involved connecting with people and their problems to find effective solutions. When I was growing up, a common occurrence when going to a restaurant



Sabrina Marques with a student

with my father would involve ordering a dish with shrimp. He would then ask the owner: "Where did you get your shrimp from?"

His question about where the shrimp was from would lead him to say, "Maybe I can get you a better price on that." Full disclosure — he had no personal investment in the seafood industry. He owned a typewriter business. My father showed me that education goes beyond the material that is being taught. It means caring about how others succeed.

There are two things my father has continued to offer me throughout my life: truth and hope. I believe if I don't tell my students the truth, they will spend their lives looking for a world that doesn't exist. But hope without truth is just fantasy. My motive goes beyond lessons in color theory and painting, to a more pressing goal: to invite hope into the classroom. Hope fosters resilience; it is the magical force that enables students to adapt

and heal emotionally from their adverse experiences.

The kind of classroom I try to create becomes one that values compassion, humor and hard work. That we can try to understand one another and the variables we face in life, and learn the strength and influence our voice can have in this world.

Through my father I have learned that adversity is a problem to solve. My father was an orphan, academically uneducated, and a Portuguese immigrant who built a successful business in New York City. Even though my father had misfortunes and difficulties in his life, he always looked for creative ways to make life better than it was. He took adversity as an opportunity to grow, to make something out of nothing.

After all, what are we asking our students do every day when they walk into our classrooms? We are asking them to honor the experiences they have accumulated in their lives. We are asking them to focus on the hopeful task of building a better future for themselves and for those whose lives they will touch.

Frank Dye '63 continues to teach, write and contribute



Dr. Frank Dye

As Dr. Frank Dye says with a smile, even a retired professor can still contribute.

In his case, Dye – an emeritus professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences – has written two books that reflect his deep understanding of essential human processes, much of it learned during his life's work at WCSU.



"The Dictionary of Stem Cells, Regenerative Medicine and Translational Medicine" published by Wiley is a reference for professors and researchers. It includes the terminology, major discoveries and significant scientists in developmental biology and embryology.

"Human Life Before Birth, 2nd edition," was first published in 2000 and the newest edition incorporates advances in understanding of human development that have occurred in the past 20 years.

The publisher, Taylor and Francis, describes the textbook as presenting "essential information about human embryology in an accessible form. Starting with the biological basics of cell anatomy and fertilization, the author moves through the development of specific organs and systems, before addressing the social issues associated with embryology."



In addition to his writing and research, Dye, a WCSU alumnus who began teaching at his alma mater in 1967, continues as an adjunct in the Biology Department. He envisioned and created the nature preserve on the Westside campus. The Daughters of the American Revolution honored Dye with a national award last year for his work in preserving "the natural resources of our country, its soils, minerals, forests, waters and wildlife."

WCSU student, alumnus attended last summer's International Diplomacy Forum at the United Nations

Victor Namer, a 2019 graduate from Danbury, and Bakhtawar Izzat, a Bethel resident now in her junior year, were among 200 emerging young professionals from more than 50 countries who assembled for interactive workshops, solution-based discussions, negotiation exercises, career advice and networking relating to opportunities in global diplomacy.

Namer is now a tenant relations specialist at the Connecticut Institute for Communities in Danbury, working with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to help low-income tenants find housing. He also recently joined the Young Professionals Council, a group organized by the Greater Danbury Chamber of Commerce. As a member of the membership committee,



Left to right: Namer, Former United Nations National Security Council President Kishore Mahbubani and Bakhtawar Izzat

Namer works with WCSU to create programming for students to explore employment opportunities.

Izzat is a current Kathwari Honors student pursuing a degree in Political Science with a minor in Business Administration. She is a certified NASPA peer educator, a peer leader for First Year

students at the Career Success Center, and social media manager for the WCSU Rotaract Club.

Professor of Social Sciences Dr. Averell Manes nominated the pair.

Manes said that while she made sure all social sciences students were aware of the opportunity, "I specifically invited Baki and Victor because I thought they would be so perfect for it. When notified of her acceptance to the forum, Izzat ran to her mother with the news.

"She is the backbone of everything I do and my biggest supporter," Izzat said. "I told her that I was extremely honored to represent our university and the United States. Knowing that I can make some sort of difference globally, and learn while I am at it, is a privilege that I am greatly honored to have."

Bedoukian Labs works to support WCSU students

The scent of a freshly mowed lawn and the comely wisp of excitement expressed by a tick may not seem related in any way, but when the chemical building blocks of each are broken down, Dr. Robert Bedoukian finds similarities.

He is the president of Bedoukian Research, a longtime Danbury-based company founded to create flavors and fragrances. Its products go into perfumes and foods, where they might evoke the smell and taste of, say, walnuts. They also become key ingredients in other products like laundry detergents.

The constant search for new products based on chemical analysis has prompted Bedoukian to support and work with WCSU's Chemistry and Biology departments.

Bedoukian contributes every year to the Chemistry Department, which utilizes the money for equipment, supplies and other student-facing uses.

"We do it to support the local university and to help the local labor supply," Bedoukian said. His company hires WCSU graduates with bachelor's degrees in chemistry every year to perform research and production duties.

Dr. Russ Selzer, chair of the WCSU Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, said Bedoukian's support has been constant and vital to helping students during their studies and in preparation for the job market.

"Our department has enjoyed a sustained relationship with Dr. Bedoukian and his organization," Selzer said. "Bedoukian Research through the years has contributed generously to many facets of our department, including support toward the purchase of instrumentation, student research and other departmental activities. In addition, many of our graduates work at Bedoukian as chemists and Bedoukian employees take courses in our department and even teach as adjunct faculty. Our department and the university are truly fortunate to have a person like Dr. Bedoukian who is so devoted to the quality of chemical education and the success of WCSU."

Bedoukian also works with the WCSU Tickborne Disease Prevention Laboratory, overseen by Dr. Neeta

Connally, associate professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences.

Connally and her colleagues and students study ticks, including those that transmit Lyme disease, and have begun to test whether plant-based fragrances, or manufactured chemicals that mimic pheromones produced by insects, might be effective as tick repellents.

"Plants make repellents or toxins that work against insects," Bedoukian said. "Some look better than DEET," the artificial chemical now most commonly recommended for protection against ticks. Insects also produce pheromones, natural chemicals that might be reproduced in a lab to attract pests to traps.

About 25% of the company's business is in pheromones and the potential for growth is enormous, Bedoukian said. In addition to pheromones' attractiveness

as a non-poisonous alternative to pesticides, they also don't harm beneficial insects. At the moment, pheromone treatment is more expensive than traditional pesticides and is more difficult to apply over a large amount of acreage.

Bob Bedoukian, who holds a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Purdue University, follows in the path of his father, Paul, who founded Bedoukian Research in 1972.

Under Bob's leadership, the company is known for superior quality products and excellent customer service. Bedoukian Research offers more than 450 aroma chemicals and 50 insect pheromones, while also providing custom manufacturing services to the pharmaceutical, agrochemical and specialty chemical industries.

Now Bob's sons have joined the company. Matt, who also has a Ph.D., is in charge of research and development, and David runs the sales operation.

"Our relationship with Dr. Bedoukian is a real demonstration of how the university can work with local businesses," Connally said. "In this case, we're lucky that the business is an international presence, whose leader is always looking for talent and collaborative opportunities."

"Our relationship with Dr. Bedoukian is a real demonstration of how the university can work with local businesses,"

– Dr. Neeta Connally



Dr. Robert Bedoukian

Remembering WXCI trailblazer Darryl Ohrt '85

In the fall of 1982, Darryl Ohrt was part of a team of students who reshaped WCSU's radio station, WXCI, into a nationally recognized force in college radio. The world of rock music was being completely upended by what was then called "New Wave." Bands like U2, Human League and the Clash were on the cutting edge of music and, thanks to Ohrt and a small group of fellow students and radio visionaries, WXCI was playing them a year or two before they went mainstream on commercial radio.

Ohrt was the music director at the time and had an uncanny ability to spot trends well before others. Beyond the music, which was a critical factor in WXCI's success, he was the mastermind behind the format or "clock" that determined what songs would be played when in each hour of the broadcast day.

Students learned with WXCI the importance of discipline in a radio format and listeners throughout Connecticut and New York enjoyed a professional-sounding, world-class radio station.

After graduation, Ohrt went on to start and help grow a number of businesses, including one of the nation's leading compact disc distribution companies, Alliance Entertainment, where he served as chief operating officer. In 1996, he struck out on his own when he founded Plaid/Humongo, a creative design, graphic arts, video and advertising production company. He sold Plaid/Humongo in 2011 and joined digital design shop Carrot Creative where he served as executive creative director until 2013. He then went on to found Mash+Studio, where he served as global creative director. All these agencies provided some of the world's biggest companies and brands with innovative, forward-thinking creative campaigns that involved the latest in social media, digital and graphic design.

For his entire career, Ohrt continued to be ahead of most when it came to cultural, technological and business trends. During these same years, he coauthored a book, "Generation Creation: Creativity in the Age of Everything," a reflection on creativity and how to harness it for business, based on his lifetime of experience.

Former professor of Communication at WCSU, chairman of the Communication Department and staff adviser to WXCI, Hugh McCarney worked closely with Ohrt in a variety of capacities.

"It didn't matter about how much work was involved, Ohrt's enthusiasm seemed boundless," McCarney said. "Whatever problem or opportunity he put his mind to, he seemed to approach it in the way that would be most fun, not only for himself, but for anyone who would lend a hand."



"Among all of the other things Darryl was doing at WXCI, he developed a weekly show he called 'Adventure Jukebox.' Even though the station was playing music that commercial radio had yet to add to their offerings, he saw the mission of this show to present even newer material from artists he thought showed promise. WXCI had long been an unacknowledged recruiting tool for the university, and new station members would mention that they had been listening for years and couldn't wait to get on the air. For the 10 years or so after Darryl graduated, there were people who told me that when they were in high school they waited all week for Sunday night at 10 for 'Adventure Jukebox,' and it was a large part of why they came to WCSU."

While his university and business successes will be lasting legacies, Ohrt will be most remembered for his gentle yet cutting wit, his willingness to help others and most of all, his ferocious tenacity in everything he did, from fighting for his creative visions to fighting off cancer until his death in 2018.

He will be missed by the WCSU community and a very large group of friends and family, from Danbury and around the world.

The Darryl Ohrt Memorial Scholarship was created with an original donation from William Baker '86. To donate please send a check payable to WCSU Foundation, Inc. (add Darryl Ohrt in the memo section) or online at: wcsu.edu/onlinegiving, in the Designation section, choose "Other", in the Other section type: Darryl Ohrt Scholarship.

New master's program responds to national opioid crisis

WCSU is responding to the regional and national opioid crisis with the launch of a new Master of Science in Addiction Studies program designed to prepare counselors specializing in the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders.

The 37-credit M.S. program offered in the Department of Psychology includes course work with faculty specialists in addiction studies as well as extensive internship opportunities for students to work at area agencies on the front line in treatment of drug and alcohol addiction. Graduates will complete the program fully prepared to seek Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LADC) certification, the licensure recognized by Connecticut statute for professionals who provide specialized prevention and early intervention services in collaboration with mental health and medical providers for individuals diagnosed with opioid and other substance use disorders.



"We began developing this new M.S. in Addiction Studies more than five years ago in response to the alarming growth in substance use disorders in New England and nationwide," graduate program coordinator and Professor of Psychology Dr. Shane Murphy said. While the department already provides undergraduate courses to prepare for basic certification as a Certified Alcohol

and Drug Counselor (CADC), Murphy said, "our graduates were giving us feedback that to provide the type of impact they felt necessary to combat the drug epidemic, they needed more advanced training and more responsibility in their licensure." The central role of LADC professionals in ensuring continuity and coordination of treatment for substance use disorder patients exemplifies "the benefits of an integrated primary medical home service."

M.B.A. program honored for excellence and admissions

The WCSU Master of Business Administration program has received recognition in a recent survey citing M.B.A. programs across the nation that offer academic excellence and flexible admissions policies that provide a balanced and holistic profile to predict student success.

The 2019-20 academic year survey by MBANoGMAT.com, an online service evaluating accredited M.B.A. programs nationwide, selected the Ansell School of Business at WCSU as one of two institutions in Connecticut and only 82 in the United States that qualified for its designation among "Top Picks for the Best Business Schools in America with Reasonable GMAT Waiver Policies."

"We went looking at every accredited M.B.A. program in America to identify the very best options that consider more than just test scores in their admissions processes," the



survey summary noted. "When we came to the Ansell School of Business at WCSU, we knew we had a winner. With a very reasonable GMAT waiver policy and an M.B.A. program that is uncompromising about providing an exceptional student experience, Western easily earns its place on our list."

The Ansell School requirements for M.B.A. program admission notes

that undergraduate GPA and academic achievements, GMAT or General Record Examination test scores, work experience and recommendations from employers, teachers and other references are all important factors in the acceptance decision.

The MBANoGMAT.com survey description of the WCSU M.B.A. program emphasized its academic excellence, demonstrated in the accreditation of the Ansell School of Business by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

State Sen. Kushner celebrates Constitution Day with WCSU

Constitution Day is a U.S. federal observance that commemorates the formation and signing of the U.S. Constitution on Sept. 17, 1787, and recognizes all who have become citizens either by being born in the United States or by naturalization.

Dr. Michelle Brown, dean of the Macricostas School of Arts and Sciences, said, "We want educators and students – and the whole community – to take time every year to discuss what the U.S. Constitution means to all of us. The document is alive and applies to every citizen. We owe it to ourselves to understand the authority and responsibilities we have as Americans."

At the September 2019 event, Senator Kushner addressed the audience on topics such as how to get involved in government and how to stay aware of the way our representative government functions. Kushner also answered questions about highway tolling, support for students who are immigrants and other issues likely to be debated in the 2020 Legislature.



Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Missy Alexander, Macricostas School of Arts and Sciences Dean Dr. Michelle Brown, State Sen. Julie Kushner, Macricostas School of Arts and Sciences Asst. Dean Becky Hall and Professor Dr. Howell Williams.

Save time for wine.

4th Annual Wine and Spirits Tasting

Presented by **WCSU Foundation, Inc.** in partnership with **Yamin & Yamin, LLP Law Firm** and in association with **Central Package, Bethel.**

April 25

5 – 7:30 p.m., Science Building Atrium, WCSU Midtown campus

Proceeds support student initiatives at WCSU through the WCSU Foundation

Tickets: go to wcsu.edu/giving/events or call **(203) 837-9820**.

Leading the way: Colonial Legacy Endowed Fund

WCSU alumnae Maura Keenan '97 M.B.A., and Alicia O'Brien '83, '90 have teamed up with former Women's Basketball Head Coach and Health Promotion and Exercise Sciences Chair Jody Rajcula to establish the Colonial Legacy Endowed Fund to help our next generation of student athletes succeed in leadership.

Lifelong friends (O'Brien was Keenan's Danbury middle school softball coach) and inspired by their love of athletics, Keenan, O'Brien and Rajcula found a way to give back and help student-athletes find their path in life. All three maintain contact with WCSU, remaining in touch with friends in the athletics community; Rajcula also teaches as an adjunct professor of Health Promotion Studies.

"Creating an endowed fund that keeps supporting our passions, long after our time here is done, is an awesome feeling," O'Brien said.

Together for 20 years and married for 10, Keenan and Rajcula have included philanthropy in their wills, but also want to make a difference today to help student-athletes in their lifetimes.

"All of us want to develop the next generation of leaders, to help student-athletes and young coaches advance their careers and get professional growth opportunities," Keenan agreed. "It's an opportunity to be a part of something new, to support something bigger than ourselves."

The Colonial Legacy Endowed Fund supports WCSU by providing financial help to the Department of Athletics and Recreational Sports. The fund supports professional development for part-time staff, assistant coaches and graduate assistants; visiting speakers to enhance



athletics and recreational sports; career planning and professional development for student athletes who wish to pursue a career in any athletic or athletic administration field; and Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) initiatives.

"A lot of these areas get cut first when budgets are reduced," Rajcula said. "But this fund offers programming for young people's development, so they in turn can give back — and the cycle continues."

Along with the athletics, Keenan and O'Brien remember their WCSU academic classes as valuable and inspirational. Keenan's favorite was Gene Buccini's class on how to negotiate. "It was counter-intuitive," she said. "The goal is not to win, but to get to a place where everyone wins."

O'Brien's favorite professor was Patricia Ivry. "She was passionate about her profession, as a faculty member, a social worker and a woman," O'Brien said. "I always admired and sought to emulate her compassion."

The fund helps student-athletes prepare to meet the expectations of the working world, and the fund co-founders

are confident about the students' abilities.

"This fund is a chance for WCSU alumni to support higher education and athletics, and help our young people grow," O'Brien said. "This is a passion that began at WCSU, and now we have the opportunity to give back and support others searching for their passions."

Alumna and women's basketball star Jen Ryneearson '99 said that she was excited to pledge her support.

"I needed very little convincing — as

I've wanted to give back to WCSU for quite some time," Ryneearson said. "I just didn't have a strong feeling about where I wanted my money to go. This fund is something I can truly get behind. The university has meant so much to me, but Jody, Maura and Alicia seal the deal when it comes to my commitment."

To support the Colonial Legacy Fund send a check payable to WCSU Foundation Inc. (list Colonial Legacy Fund in memo area) or give online at: wcsu.edu/onlinegiving, in the Designation section, choose "Other", in the Other section type: Colonial Legacy Fund.

"This fund is something I can truly get behind. The university has meant so much to me, but Jody, Maura and Alicia seal the deal when it comes to my commitment."

– Jen Ryneearson '99

WestConn Football Cheers Fifty Years



In 2019 more than 100 alumni gathered to celebrate 50 years of WCSU football. Featuring Jim Krayeske, head coach of the university's first football team in 1969, and Coach Bob Surace (now head coach at Princeton), the party's guests and speakers included WCSU Alumni Association President Ray Lubus '80; Director of Alumni Relations Thomas Crucitti '69; current Head Coach Joe Loth; Coach Jimmy Salgado (now assistant coach of the Buffalo Bills); Coach John Cervino; 1988 Hall of Famer Glen Worthy; Colonial Blue Army Committee members Tom DelVecchio and Shea Bowman; and as Master of Ceremonies, former middle linebacker Desmond Cabrera '98. Recent WestConn running back and NCAA rushing record-setter Octavias McKoy also appeared by video in an ESPN News interview clip. Cervino spoke about how the university's football program has flourished.

"Everyone in the room should feel a part of that," Cervino said. "Your hard work and effort and success helped build it. I used to have a saying: Hard work works. WestConn football is about hard work, effort, dedication, sacrifice ... It's about winning."

Loth noted that the game allows young players to learn commitment, develop teamwork skills and form friendships that last for life. Many of the former players also spoke about how their football experience prepared them to be better parents and spouses, and to excel in their careers.

"It's terrific when you bring together so many generations of alumni with the shared experience of playing football," Loth said.

Cabrera, director of oncology and cell therapies for the medical consulting company ICON, agreed that his years playing college football prepared him to succeed in life.



Running back Anthony Via, in motion and wide receiver Will Daniels in position at the start of an offensive play.

"It teaches you what commitment, loyalty and effort mean," Cabrera said. "Football taught me how to deal with extreme duress and make decisions in a split second. Do I go right? Do I shoot the gap? Do I raise my hand in the boardroom? It gave me the ability to understand risk, to analyze situations, to ensure teams are built for success. Today, it helps me in my life leading large teams across the globe."

Cabrera also leads the efforts of the Colonial Blue Army, a group of alumni, parents and friends that support the team's development.



Our first footballers perform jumping jacks in shoulder pads, a challenge in any decade.



In their first season WestConn practiced on the Midtown campus in 1969.



As Aleksander Kocaqi plants a fake, Justin Appleby clears away the defensive line. David James hands off the ball to running back Roy Penn-Consentino.

The Colonial Blue Army's fundraising efforts provide the program with a first-class visual identity, from publications and event programs to branded gear and championship memorabilia. While many WCSU student-athletes are talented enough to play at higher levels, the university's size and academics are as important for students who strive to be as successful in the classroom as they are on the field. Being part of a community on a small campus where they build supportive relationships with teammates, WCSU athletes experience a well-rounded college experience — including developing great work ethics on and off the field.

Crucitti pointed out that WestConn football benefits fans and families, and brings great value to the university and community in terms of athletic recruiting, admissions, and alumni engagement and philanthropy.

"At Homecoming 2018 we were eight games undefeated and the ninth game went into triple overtime," Crucitti said. "The stands were absolutely packed. It brings people together."

The Alumni Association prepared a campus barbecue cookout honoring present and former team members — especially the 50th reunion of the 1969 team — and their guests. After the cookout, members and guests watched the 2019 home opener from the president's box.

"It's always great to see your old teammates," Cabrera said, "and it was pretty special to meet guys from the 1969 and 1985 teams, along with guys from the '70s. One of the best moments of the night was after Coach Krayeske finished his speech, he ripped off his shirt and I had a quick thought: 'Whoa, he is going to go all WrestleMania Hulk Hogan?' Then we saw his WestConn football T-shirt."

The celebration was a great success, Cabrera said. "The night was heartfelt; we saw friends we haven't seen in 20-plus years and in the end, the common bond was the team connecting eras. We all got together and celebrated the moment."



With a VW micro-bus on the far side of the fence and in orange pants, the Colonials are cheered on in 1970s.



Playing in the Freedom Football League in the 1990s.

Higgins Hall

What was old is new.

The new Higgins opened for classes this fall following a gut down to the bare bones and a refurbishing that included flooring, ceiling-high windows and everything in between.

"There's a sense of lightness, vitality and vibrancy in the building," said Luigi Marcone, Chief Facilities Officer for Campus Planning and AVP, who supervised the work that turned the old building into a showcase. "No matter what hallway or office you're in, I think it's something students will love."

Higgins began life nearly 70 years ago as a science building, named after the first science teacher at what was then the Danbury Normal School. Two additions were later added to the original structure. A new Science Building opened in 2005 and Higgins, with its linoleum tiles, cinderblock walls and old-fashioned desks for students, continued on as a classroom building.

The university closed the building after commencement in 2018 and when it reopened 15 months later in August 2019, the building had a lobby for the first time and – on what had been the austere rear of the structure – a bluestone patio that welcomes students from the Quad. The patio is protected from rain, screened from the sun and equipped with Wi-Fi, making it perfect for a class or an event or concert on a warm day.

Dr. Michelle Brown, dean of the Macricostas School of Arts and Sciences, now works from her office on the





first floor and the building houses the World Languages and Cultures, Writing (including the M.F.A. in Creative and Professional Writing), Math, Computer Science and Communication departments.

"Higgins brings together so many different people, ideas and historical technologies — all under one roof in the center of Middtown," Brown said. "I am so pleased that my office is located right in the center of it all! In our new central location, with the building housing all Macricostas departments, Higgins is literally and symbolically the home of the diverse

ideas and liberal arts curriculum that exemplify WCSU."

Learning spaces in the building are designed to be flexible so that students can study individually or in groups to nurture cooperation and support.

For example, the state-of-the-art television production studio, which Marcone refers to as the jewel of the building, is flanked by the digital editing lab and classrooms so that learning can be integrated into the entire space in real time, whether for a regular class or the department's award-winning annual news coverage of local and statewide elections.

The Computer Science suite offers a graphics research lab with three dedicated servers on which to experiment, along with three computer labs and a seminar room.

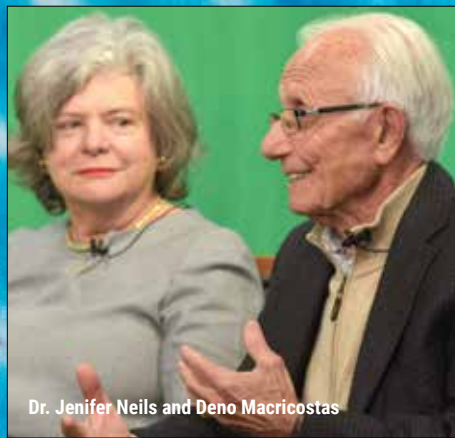
Even as work on Higgins finished, workers began remodeling the second and third floors of White Hall to house the Education and Nursing departments. After that, much of Berkshire Hall will be refurbished into a dining hall, along with the existing gym.

"When Berkshire is done, it will be the best possible food service space, with outdoor dining and gathering places," Marcone said. "At the same time, we will redesign the north end of the quad, with Berkshire as the northern anchor. We are maximizing every foot of our campus facility."





Students participate in the experience.



Dr. Jenifer Neils and Deno Macricostas



Greek music was enjoyed by all.



Deno Macricostas speaks with visitors.



Reginald Dwayne Betts shares his stories and work.



Fun at the tie-dyeing station.

The Macricostas Experience

Students, faculty and alumni devoted a week in October 2019 to The Macricostas Experience, a celebration of the Macricostas School of Arts and Sciences and student academic achievement thanks to longtime donor Constantine "Deno" Macricostas and the Macricostas Family Foundation.

Several events brought students and guests together to celebrate the opening of the new Higgins Hall, Greek history and culture, and one man's journey from prison to poet.

"We had so many reasons to celebrate the Macricostas family's generosity, we decided it would be more memorable to focus our activities and thanks over a solid week," said Dr. Michelle Brown, dean of the Macricostas School of Arts and Sciences.

The Macricostas family is the university's largest donor. Deno Macricostas founded Photonics Inc. in Brookfield to serve the computer chip industry, and has supervised its growth into an international company and industry leader.

The celebration began with students tie-dyeing T-shirts and making fresh apple cider using a hand-cranked cider press provided by Biological and Environmental Sciences Professor Dr. Thomas Philbrick.

An open house for the newly refurbished Higgins Hall followed, with students leading tours for visitors to experience reading a weathercast in the new television studio, creating a story with published writers, and 3-D printing in the state-of-the-art Computer Science labs.

The week continued with a lecture by Director of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Dr. Jenifer Neils, on the Parthenon: "Then and Now," and a talk and reading by Reginald Dwayne Betts, a convicted carjacker who is now an acclaimed poet and a lawyer with a Yale degree.

A partnership among the WCSU Weather Center, the WCSU Department of Art and the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum of Ridgefield, featured a symposium on weather inspired art emceed by WCBS 880 Chief Radio Meteorologist Craig Allen.

"The Macricostas Experience week was something for everyone who wanted to celebrate with us," Brown said.

WCSU Nursing program to celebrate 50 years

As the Department of Nursing prepares for its 50th anniversary with events scheduled for Fall 2020, Western Connecticut State University can celebrate not just the department's longevity but also strength and an ever-growing presence on campus.

Already recognized as one of the top nursing programs in the state and region, the department in 2018 roughly doubled the number of students accepted in the Bachelor of Science program, to about 100 in each class year.

Paralleling the growth in B.S. program enrollment, the Nursing Department opened five renovated classrooms at White Hall on the university's Midtown campus, designed to advance skills through simulation of



Students work in a simulated care setting.

actual clinical care settings. Four new SIM mannequins, including a SIM Mom for obstetrics training and a Trauma SIM for intensive care simulations, joined another SIM Man for lab exercises. A fifth upgraded classroom seats up to 24 students for simulation discussion.

Department Chair Dr. Jeanette Lupinacci cited WCSU's commitment to offer a three-year bachelor's degree curriculum in nursing, in contrast to two-year programs at many institutions, as a decisive academic advantage for students preparing for a nursing career.

Entrepreneur of the Year Award honors Bridgewater Chocolate

Erik Landegren and Andrew Blauner of Bridgewater Chocolate are the recipients of WCSU's 2020 Macricostas Entrepreneur of the Year Award. A breakfast celebration will be held at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 25, at the Ethan Allen Hotel, 21 Lake Ave. Extension, Danbury. For reservations please visit wcsu.edu/eoy.

Founded in 1995, Landegren and Blauner have expanded Bridgewater Chocolate to multiple locations and established the company as a premier candy producer whose products are eagerly anticipated at every holiday and special occasion.

Landegren, a native of Sweden, moved to New York in 1986 to help start the Nordic-style restaurant called Aquavit.



Erik Landegren and Andrew Blauner

He moved to Bridgewater, where he managed the Bridgewater Village Store and started making chocolates. Blauner became a partner in 1999 and runs the business side of the company.

The Macricostas Entrepreneur of the Year award is given annually to recognize local business leaders whose drive, intelligence and creativity lead to notable business success. The program is funded through an endowed gift from Constantine "Deno" and Marie Macricostas on behalf of the Macricostas Family

Foundation. The program's benefactor, Deno Macricostas, is an entrepreneur himself who started Photronics Inc. in Brookfield, Connecticut.



The One Hundred Tw

5 wins!

- The Colonials win all five Homecoming games**
1. Women's Volleyball, 3 to 0
 2. Women's Soccer, 4 to 2
 3. Women's Tennis, 8 to 1
 4. Women's Volleyball, 3 to 0
 5. Men's Football, 38 to 21



Kings of tailgating.



Bonfire night talent show.



Women's Soccer win.



WCSU students in front of the Alumni Pavilion.



Enjoying the Colonials Football win.



Twentieth Homecoming



Colonials forever.



Women's Volleyball win.



Keeping warm at the bonfire.



"Riding" the electronic bull.



Veterans of the Color Run.



The winning Women's Tennis team.



Members of the WestConn Dance Team.

2018-19 HONOR ROLL LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends,



John Trentacosta

I like to be involved in my community, and in my new role as chairman of the WCSU Foundation, I have found a way to keep my volunteer schedule very busy.

I joined the Foundation board when I was president of Newtown Savings Bank. I stayed on the board after I retired because I found myself committed to helping the university and its students. The Foundation is here to assist the WCSU Office of Institutional Advancement in its fundraising efforts. Board members tell the university's good story in the community and encourage big-hearted citizens to contribute in ways that help students complete their studies.

I look forward to building on the Foundation's good work and also to meeting more of you who have an interest in education and community. I believe our neighborhoods, our great state, and the entire nation will move ahead into a bright future as more of us gain a college education and learn how we can contribute our talents to the overall good.

Please accept our invitation to get to know more about WCSU and the work that goes on here.

Sincerely,

John Trentacosta

Chairman, WCSU Foundation, Inc.

\$100,000 and above

Estate of Harriet Davis
Estate of Mario Mesi **LEG ***
WCSU Student
Government Association

P President's Club (\$1,000+)

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. President's Club donors have placed their trust in the WCSU mission and remain some of our most faithful advocates.

F Fairfield Hall Society (\$500 – \$999)

Members of this group have made an annual financial commitment of at least \$500 to the WCSU Foundation without placing restrictions on the purpose of their gifts. With their support, these members enhance our students' collegiate experience and invest in our faculty's ever-evolving needs.

W WestConn Society (\$250 – \$499)

Members of this group have made an annual financial commitment of at least \$250 to the WCSU Foundation without placing restrictions on the purpose of their gifts. The earliest established giving arm of the WCSU Foundation, this group has for decades supported innovative programs, outreach opportunities and enrichment initiatives.

C Century Club (\$100 – \$249)

Members of this group have made an annual financial commitment of at least \$100 to the WCSU Foundation without placing restrictions on the purpose of their gifts. By far the largest participating giving group, these alumni, parents and friends provide an invaluable endorsement of a WCSU education.

L 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.

* Realized bequest

** Deceased

*** Corporate matching gifts

List: 07/01/18–06/30/19

\$25,000 - \$99,999

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IBM Matching Grants Program ***** L**
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Graves and Helena Kiely **P L**
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Western Connecticut State University President
Dr. John B. Clark

LEG Legacy Society

This group welcomes alumni and friends who have included WCSU in their estate plans through a will, trust, retirement plan, insurance policy or life income gift. This program allows the university the opportunity to thank and recognize donors for their thoughtful planning for WCSU's future.

HONOR ROLL

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Carmen R. Cornacchia '98

Jessica Adriana Coronel '14

Hilda Cortes

Richard Corzo



"I'm grateful for the scholarship which is helping me to continue my education."
— Kassy Figueroa

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"By being selected for the Robert and Susan Payne Scholarship for my final two years of attendance it has afforded me the time to concentrate on my academics." – Shannon Miranda



Susan Payne, Shannon Miranda '21 and Robert Payne

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Maria Costa
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Ron Pugliese, former chair of the WCSU Foundation, with Dr. Josie Hamer, Professor of Mathematics, emeritus.

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Farooq Kathwari shares his book *Trail Blazer* with students after his talk with them.

"An institution like WCSU is important because this institution helps students who want to succeed and they also need help. So, helping students who need help, who want to do well, who want to work hard – I think it is a good cause."

– Farooq Kathwari

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"Being a recipient of the Macricostas Family Scholarship has helped me in more ways than one can imagine. ... I cannot thank the donors enough for all the support they provide the students at WCSU."

– Claudia Callupe '19

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– Dr. Erland Hagman
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Webster Bank, N.A.	Susan Williams '90 CL	David and Pamela Zavarelli Family Foundation
Dr. and Mrs. Jay Weiner '86 PL	Vaughn M. Willis '92	Harry '10 and Jennifer A. '12 Zdzarski
Michelle L. Weinstein '06	Donald Wilson '64 C	Jacqueline N. Zilnicki '13
Diana Wellman '64 L	Ruth P. Wilson '39	Geraldine Zimmerman
Thomas G. West '94 C	Mary Ann C. Wohlever '78	Robert Zohn L
Western Connecticut	Lauren Wood	Olga V. Zukowsky '52

C Century Club (\$100 – \$249)

Members of this group have made an annual financial commitment of at least \$100 to the WCSU Foundation without placing restrictions on the purpose of their gifts. By far the largest participating giving group, these alumni, parents and friends provide an invaluable endorsement of a WCSU education.

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* Realized bequest

** Deceased

*** Corporate matching gifts

List: 07/01/18–06/30/19

HONOR ROLL

In Honor and Memoriam

In honor of Arthur W. McCormack

Herman A. Anderson, Jr.
'55 C **

In honor of Class of 1968

Gary L. Field '68 L

In honor of Coach Campbell

Casey A. Bock '04
Timothy R. Devine '95

In honor of Connor Case

David Eherts
Gerald King
Christenson & Niwinski, Inc.

In honor of Erica L. Bower

Elizabeth Piano

In honor of Faculty of Music Education

Sarah Elizabeth Petersen
'14

In honor of Farooq Kathwari

NYSE

In honor of Frank J. Dye

Francis A. Steffero '71

In honor of Harold B. Schramm

Gary Damici
Michael Damici
Richard and Carolyn Damici
Danbury Westerners Baseball Club
Augustine L. '81 and Loretta B. '91 DeLuca
Charles F. Fenwick '82
Lawrence Fratello
Edward W. Gasser '84
Alexander S. Gentile '11
Hartsburg Chiropractic Health Center LLC
MasterCard International
Craig D. and Michelle M. Mitchell
Charles P. and Mary C. Mullaney L
Anais Perkins Kjepe
John W. Schosser '85
Arthur and Grace Tagliavento
Christopher Taylor '17
Shannon Valine
Robert Villani

In honor of Jeanne Moore

Kevin Carson

In honor of Jennifer A. Thomas

Julia McHugh

In honor of Josephine S. Hamer

Patricia W. and Robert Ivry CL

In honor of Juan C. Stein-Obreros

Michele L. Conderino '01

In honor of Julie Blanchard

Julie Blanchard

In honor of Kayla M. Krafick

Patricia A. Bowen '58 WL

In honor of Melissa Hagman

Dr. and Mrs. Erland Hagman PL LEG

In honor of Melvin G. Goldstein

David M. Plews '78 L

In honor of Morgan E. Moore

Kevin Carson

In honor of Na Na

Robert D. '85 and Mary Ellen F. '83 Guere P

In honor of Nicole A. Wuller

Chris Dadiskos

In honor of NMHS Class of 2014

Joanna Y. Vill '08

In honor of Class of 2000

Jonathan R. Stark '00 P

In honor of Reilly M. McMahon

Timothy Berger

In honor of Robert J. Brayton

Herman A. Anderson, Jr.
'55 C **

In honor of Ruthie Payton

Whitney Payton

In honor of Sara Rivera

Christine Hare

In honor of Stanley Bazan

Neil R. Dworkin, Ph.D.

In honor of Terrah S. Harris

Michael Kane

In honor of Timothy Herger

Lorraine Herger

In memory of Aloise Mulvihill

Gary DiScala
Jonathan and Diane Lawrence
Shirley Sambrook
Kathy Santella

In memory of Amedeo J. Pilla

Jonathan J. Pilla '86 C

In memory of Ana Marquez-Greene

Meg Bloom L
Mary DiPaola
Richard A. Telman Family L
Marianne Federici L
Robert E. Groeschner '63 CL

Lilyan Grossman '64

Irene Hakim

James and Mona Heath C

Jane Herzig L

Jean Jianos Gray

Robert and Janet Kahn

Karen and Michael Koza FL

Paula Lazeski

Jeffrey and Cathy McGill

Nate Pickett

Joan Schmidt

Mary H. Silverberg

William Strouse

Becky Willard

Lauren Wood

In memory of Anthony J. Merante

Frances Smolskis Merante
'59 WL

In memory of Beatrice Nemzer

Patricia W. and Robert Ivry CL

In memory of Benjamin DaSilva

Jean T. DaSilva C

In memory of Bigelow Cushman

Lauren J. Loveland '74 CL

In memory of Brian Blanchard

Frank T. Salisbury '85

In memory of Craig A. Lundwall

Peter and Doris Holmstedt

In memory of Darryl L. Ohrt

William Baker '86
Melissa Gautier
Hugh R. and June C. McCarney L

In memory of Edwin A. Rosenberg

Richard Harbison and Doris Lundberg
Robert J. and Christine M. Merrer L

In memory of Elise F. Knapp

Michelle Park Chiu

In memory of Eric N. Wellman

Elaine A. Salem '64 L
Diana Wellman '64 L

In memory of Eric Roman

Patricia Endress CL

In memory of Eric T. DeAngelis

Lauren Wood

In memory of Evan Wagman

Lauren Ravo

In memory of Frances Emanuele

Albert A. Emanuele '60 P

In memory of G Defoe

Wendy J. Donovan '61

In memory of Gert Coladarci

Ruth P. Wilson '39

In memory of Guido J. Tino

Claire Leheny '64 L

WCSU alumni events at local companies

The Alumni Association and the Office of Alumni Relations often combine to visit local businesses and organizations where large numbers of alumni are employed. Alumni Director Tom Crucitti and members of the board recently visited the headquarters of Cartus Corp. and Linde. Both Danbury companies have strong connections with the university, including their continuous hiring of students and graduates as staff and interns. In addition, Todd Skare, the chief technology officer for Linde, serves on the WCSU Foundation Board of Directors.



WCSU President Dr. John B. Clark and Linde Chief Technical Officer, WCSU Foundation Board member Todd Skare.

P President's Club (\$1,000+)

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. President's Club donors have placed their trust in the WCSU mission and remain some of our most faithful advocates.

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

Members of this group have made an annual financial commitment of at least \$500 to the WCSU Foundation without placing restrictions on the purpose of their gifts. With their support, these members enhance our students' collegiate experience and invest in our faculty's ever-evolving needs.

W WestConn Society (\$250 - \$499)

Members of this group have made an annual financial commitment of at least \$250 to the WCSU Foundation without placing restrictions on the purpose of their gifts. The earliest established giving arm of the WCSU Foundation, this group has for decades supported innovative programs, outreach opportunities and enrichment initiatives.

In memory of Harriet T. Rosenberg
Robert J. and Christine M. Merrer **L**

In memory of Herbert F. Janick
Frederick Burke
Stephen T. '78 and Joyce C. '84 Flanagan **C**
Mary Janick-Smith and Jeff Smith
Dr. Paulette L. Pepin '71

In memory of Jacqueline I. Noonan
Lamar S. Fife '86 **CL**

In memory of James Furman
Nancy L. Wildman '85

In memory of Janet B. Moore
Julianne Gallagher '53

In memory of Jean D. Kelley
Susan Brannelly-Martin
Joyce Milne
Dolores Nauchy
Shirley Peknik '54
William and Michele Spence
Sto Corporation **C**

In memory of John Hogan
William and Jane Crooks
Warren and Elizabeth Johnston

In memory of John M. Tufts
Craigslist Charitable Fund
Patrick Tufts

In memory of John Tamas
Marc and Jan Aldrich **L**

In memory of Jonathan D. Mottley
Lewis Mottley, Jr. **L**

In memory of Joseph B. Cherry
The Cherry Family Foundation

In memory of Joseph D. Masterson
Ellen J. Masterson '62 **CL**

In memory of Joseph F. Kilcran
Patricia A. Bowen '58 **WL**

In memory of Judith A. Grandahl
TD Ameritrade

In memory of Judith R. Foye
Candlewood Center for Women's Health
Gerard Foye
Edith and Vilmos Havasi
Gene and Ellen Levin
Deborah Migdol
Rose Tamura

In memory of Lonnie Brooks
CTGS Productions LLC

In memory of Marge Martinsen
Paul C. Martinsen '80

In memory of Marshall P. Roth
Valerie A. Roth '99 **C**

In memory of Martha Bernstein
Evan '98 and Heidi Bernstein L
The Robert & Rozanne Bernstein Trust

In memory of Mary F. Edgett
Bernadette A. DeMunde '64 **L**

In memory of Melissa E. Fenwick
Richard and Carolyn Damici
Gary Damici
Michael Damici
Danbury Westerners Baseball Club
Augustine L. '81 and Loretta B. '91 DeLuca
Charles F. Fenwick '82
Lawrence Fratello
Edward W. Gasser '84
Alexander S. Gentile '11
Hartsburg Chiropractic Health Center LLC
MasterCard International
Craig D. and Michelle M. Mitchell
Charles P. and Mary C. Mullaney **L**

Anais Perkins Kjep
John W. Schosser '85
Arthur and Grace Tagliavento
Christopher Taylor '17
Shannon Valine
Robert Villani

In memory of Michael J. Palica
REI Property & Asset Management, Inc.

In memory of Nancy D. Thomas
Wade Thomas

In memory of Neil E. Wagner
Terry L. Beninson '70
Dr. and Mrs. Robert P. Fornshell **PL**
Thomas P. Halligan, Jr. '69 **CL**
Paul A. '69 and Emilia F. '69 Montalto **CL**

In memory of Peter M. Stewart
Constance K. Conway '96

In memory of Ruth Conway
Donna M. Reseska '77

In memory of Shaun Bailey
Lauren Ravo

In memory of Steven C. Ward
Jeffrey Carney '09

In memory of Ted Hines
Claire M. Hines '82

In memory of Todd J. Lobraico
CVMA 25-5 Safeside, Inc.

In memory of Veronica Hagman
Dr. and Mrs. Erland Hagman **PL LEG**

In memory of Walter H. Bradley
Sharon M. Bradley '91 **C**

In memory of William J. Fitzgerald
Ann E. Fitzgerald '76 **L**

Planned giving with the Legacy Society

"Including a legacy gift to WCSU in our wills is one way Jody and I can make a positive impact in the world and ensure we can support students and faculty/staff for years to come. WCSU has been a part of our lives for decades."

– Maura Keenan



Jody Rajcula and Maura Keenan M.B.A. '97

For more than a century, WCSU students have benefitted from the generosity of those who know the importance of a college education. Including a charitable bequest in your will is a simple way to make a lasting gift to WCSU, while meeting your own personal, financial, estate-planning, and philanthropic goals. You don't have to be a certain age or very wealthy to plan a gift that changes the lives of students.

Take Advantage Of Tax Free Giving Through Your IRA.

If you are 70½ years old or older, you can give up to \$100,000 a year from your IRA to a qualified charity such as the WCSU Foundation, without having to pay income taxes on the money. This law no longer has an expiration date so you are free to make annual gifts to our organization this year and into the future.

For more information about leaving a legacy for WCSU, please contact Julie Pryor-Bennett, Major Gifts Officer, at (203) 837-8111 or pryorbennettj@wcsu.edu.

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Office of Institutional Advancement
181 White St., Danbury, CT 06810

You make an impact in the lives of students



Thanks to donors like you, Western Connecticut State University continues to meet the educational needs of our diverse and talented student body and helps them define their academic path and build lasting relationships with faculty, staff and fellow students in the campus community.

Gifts to the Fund for Western of any size help:

- Enhance student support through scholarships
- Provide for unique student/faculty research and students' ability to attend and present their original research at regional and national conferences
- Strengthen WCSU's community partnerships, resulting in additional internships and jobs

Please consider joining one of our giving societies:

- President's Club: \$1,000+
- Fairfield Hall Society: \$500 to \$999
- WestConn Society: \$250 to \$499
- Century Club: \$100 to \$249



Make your gift today at wcsu.edu/giving or call us at (203) 837-9820.

Please make checks payable to:

WCSU Foundation

181 White Street, Danbury, CT 06810