

School of Visual & Performing Arts

Newsletter Fall 2023

Dean's Circle



Dean's Corner

We are nearing the one-year anniversary of the launch of the School of Visual and Performing Arts (SVPA) Dean's Circle at Western Connecticut State University (WCSU). Thanks to you, we raised \$8,500 in our first year.

This year, \$3,000 from the Dean's Circle funds were used in support of Love Wins—A Celebration of Music to benefit the Ana Marquez-Greene Endowed Music Scholarship at WCSU. This evening was the culmination of a 3-day Jazz Fest where students interacted with renowned artists. The evening featured two-time Grammy nominee Jimmy Greene with an all-star lineup including two-time Grammy nominated pianist, Orrin Evans, Latin Grammy-nominated vocalist Claudia Acuna, bassist Dezron Douglas, and Blue Note Records artist, Otis Brown III. Two hundred sixty-five students and community members attended the event. \$9,471 was raised from the evening event and an additional \$1,123 from donations. In total, \$10,594 was raised. Your contributions to the Dean's Circle really can be considered a gift that keeps on giving.



Recent Student Accomplishments

Julie Cooke (2023) First Place winner in the New England Regional National Association of Teachers of Singing Competition (Lower College Treble Division)

Nazmia Dionis (2023) Second Place winner in the New England Regional National Association of Teachers of Singing Competition (Upper College Treble Division)

Olivia Lanteri (2023) Literary Fellow at Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center, Waterford, CT

Ryan Rappaport (2023) Assistant to the Artistic Director, Central Square Theatre, Boston, MA

Tommy Solano-Szostek (2022) Senior Portfolio Exhibition Poster Design award, PRISMA book designer

Olivia Escalero Gallery intern at RPAC Gallery, Ridgefield, CT.

About the Dean's Circle

The Dean's Circle is a premier leadership society for annual giving towards the SVPA at WCSU. Members of the SVPA Dean's Circle provide vital contributions towards the Dean's support funds, which are used to sustain and grow the school's wide-ranging and ever-expanding educational opportunities. Dean's support funds are used for:

- Supporting SVPA students in financial need
- Sponsoring student trips to supplement student's education
- Enhancing technology in our educational and performance spaces, allowing students the ability to explore emerging technologies and expand industry knowledge
- Funding renowned guest artists of diverse backgrounds and offering masterclasses and workshops to enrich our students' education

The three tiers of the Dean's Circle are:

Supporter Level for \$500+

Soloist Level for \$1,000+

Principal Level for \$2,500+

For more information about the SVPA Dean's Circle, please visit:

www.wcsu.edu/svpa/circle/

SVPA is Growing

In addition to the departments of Art, Music, and Theatre, in fall 2023, the School of Visual and Performing Arts acquired the department of Creative and Professional Writing and the department of Communication and Media Arts. As part of this merger, we also acquired the area of Digital Interactive Media Arts (DIMA). New degrees in the School include:

- Bachelor of Arts in Communication
- Bachelor of Arts in Digital & Interactive Media Arts
- Bachelor of Arts in Media Arts
- Bachelor of Arts in Professional Writing
- Master of Fine Arts in Creative & Professional Writing

We are excited to welcome our new colleagues and students, and we look forward to the many synergies that this merger provides. In the near future, the School of Visual and Performing Arts will undergo a name change, and we will be sure to let you know!

Two New SVPA Degrees

Fall 2023 saw the launch of two new degrees:

**Bachelor of Fine Arts
in Theatre**

**Bachelor of Arts
in Popular Music**

Enrollments in both degrees have met or exceeded expectations. It's our way of staying current while providing students with the best education possible.



To commemorate the University's 120th year, the Department of Art presented their Art Alumni Exhibition in The Gallery at VPAC. The exhibit featured works by talented artists who have graduated from the Bachelor and Master of Fine Arts in Visual Arts programs at Western Connecticut State University. The show opened with a public reception on October 5, then ran through November 12.

Arts Technology Workshops

July 8 and 9, 2023



Thirty-six high school students from CT, NY and NJ attended our inaugural Summer 2023 Arts Technology Workshops. Students had the opportunity to participate in one of three weekend workshops where they experienced hands-on learning about Stop Motion, Music Production, or Theatre Stage and Sound Design. Each workshop was taught by SVPA faculty and staff using WCSU facilities and technology.

Music & Art | Holiday Pops

December 9 and 10, at 3:00 p.m.

A joyously festive event to get you and your loved ones in the holiday spirit! Join the WCSU Department of Music for an afternoon of holiday music, featuring performances by the Percussion Ensemble, University Choir, Chamber Ensembles, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, and more (as well as special guests from the WCSU community!). Proceeds from the event benefit the Ana Grace Marquez-Greene and Dave Smith

Upcoming Events

Scholarships. Afterwards, join us for some holiday treats and an art sale by the WCSU Department of Art, perfect for holiday shopping.

Theatre | *Next to Normal*

February 23 through March 3

A family determined to balance sanity and happiness against gale force winds of mental illness finds strength in their commitment to love each other through their pain. Winner

of the Pulitzer Prize, this groundbreaking musical is an insightful and deeply moving look at a modern family, all while raising the rafters with its Tony Award-winning score.

Music | Jazz Fest

April 25 through 28

The 2024 Jazz Fest is a celebration of music lasting four days, featuring performances by the WCSU Jazz Ensemble, Vocal Jazz Ensemble, and Jazz Combos as well as featured guest artists to be announced.