

the Cupola

• Spring 11

A magazine for alumni and friends of Western Connecticut State University



You're **hired!** Former WCSU students worked on "Celebrity Apprentice." See page 6.

Important message from President James W. Schmotter on inside cover



President
James W. Schmotter

Reviewing the impact of WCSU

As we embarked on the spring semester, state politicians struggled with a historic budget gap — a deficit that will no doubt require change at Western Connecticut State University.

Connecticut taxpayers last year contributed 38 percent of Western's operating budget, a significant amount that allows us to offer one of the lowest tuitions in New England. I anticipate that contribution will change, however, in the coming legislative session. As a result, in addition to the administrative positions we have already eliminated, along with other reductions, the university may be required to cancel courses and cut teaching appointments for the first time in my tenure.

Each of us who serves Connecticut's residents understands that sacrifice will be needed and WCSU should not be spared. I would suggest, though, that Western be viewed not only as a candidate for budget cuts, but also as foundation for Connecticut's future success.

After all, this institution is a success story. Here are the facts:

- Full-time enrollment is up 22 percent since 2006, and 1,047 students graduated in May 2010 — up from 980 in May 2009.
- The Connecticut State University System Board of Trustees has frozen tuition and fees at 2010 levels for a year; even so, Western's costs to students have increased less than the national average among comprehensive universities over the past 10 years.
- The number of science majors at WCSU has increased 51 percent since completion of the Science Building in 2005.
- Our students overwhelmingly come from Connecticut (92 percent). More importantly, nearly 90 percent stay in Connecticut as members of the workforce after graduation.
- Because of WCSU, more than \$200 million is spent in the region every year — that's \$3.74 for every \$1 spent by the state.
- WCSU students contribute more than 100,000 hours of internships and volunteer service in the region every year.

Connecticut's system of higher education has served the state well. With 45 percent of younger adults having received an associate's degree or higher, Connecticut is a leader in this category in the United States.

It would be a mistake, in my opinion, to throttle back on this important engine of economic vitality. I ask you to speak positively about Western at every opportunity, including with your local legislator. The future of our university — and our state — may depend on it.

● To contact your state senator,
visit cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/slist.asp

To contact your state representative,
visit cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/hlist.asp

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cover story

You're hired!

(l-r) Mike Hartel '98, Tom Trocola '09 and Justin Rosini each recently worked on Donald Trump's popular television show, "Celebrity Apprentice."

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You're hired!

A teacher at heart with many passions

Pumping iron — and more

Taking care of business

Maker of music and song

Story of a turnaround



At the annual Student Scholarship Recognition Program, Mario Mesi posed with recipients of the Schoolmasters Special Scholarship in Memory of Joel Kannengeiser, an award Mesi established in 2005. The recipients include (l-r) Emily Theil, Amanda Forker, Ashley Zdravec, Benedetta Cordaro and Caroline Strange.



Gail Anderson, who established the John Tamas Memorial Scholarship for her son John who passed away in 2005, poses with this year's recipient, Mike Ripallone, at the Student Scholarship Recognition Program.

Raising funds for deserving students — The WCSU Foundation Inc.

By Irene Sherlock

If you attended last year's Gala in the Key of Jazz or the university's annual Wine Tasting, chances are you rubbed elbows with one of the board members of the WCSU Foundation.

The Foundation, WestConn's private fundraising organization, manages charitable gifts for the support of the university. Operating under the leadership of prominent community professionals, its highly respected membership includes many WestConn alumni.

Foundation Chairman David W. Nurnberger '72 explains his enthusiasm for the work that the organization does by describing how, 40 years ago, he worked at Feinson's Men's Store and in the WCSU Post Office to assure himself of a college education. "But I still had to take out student loans to make ends meet," he recalls.

Now recently-retired senior vice president of human resources at Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Nurnberger says that back in those days, few scholarships were available to students. "That's why I'm pleased to help the Foundation raise funds for more and more deserving students. It's one way I can give back to my alma mater."

Like other board members, Nurnberger credits WCSU as the place where he got his start. "If I can help students achieve their dreams of earning a college degree, then my time and money is a very small price to pay," he says.

Established in 1971, the Foundation is classified as a tax-exempt 501 (c)(3) organization by the Internal Revenue Service. Philanthropic programs include annual giving, special events, major gifts,



Retired senior vice president of human resources at Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals and WCSU Foundation Chair David W. Nurnberger '72



President of NY-CONN Corp. and WCSU Foundation Board Member Mary Jean Rebeiro '87



WCSU Foundation Board Member Theresa Eberhard Asch '64, '72 sits on the Connecticut State University Board of Trustees.

capital campaigns, endowments and planned giving. It also sponsors on-campus activities and supports university projects that enrich the learning experience for students and offer cultural opportunities for the greater community.

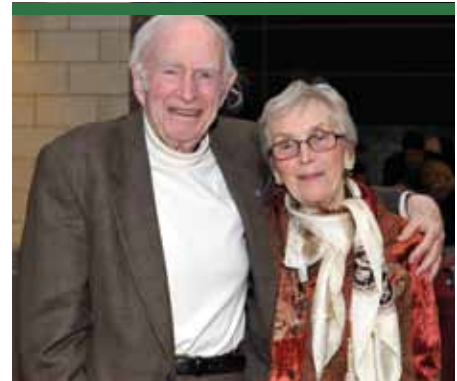
"Over the years, the WCSU Foundation has built, and now manages, an eight-figure endowment that enables the university to provide enhanced educational experiences for students," says President



Jason Hancock congratulates Danielle Basciano who was awarded the W. Jason and Ellen M. Hancock Student Scholarship.



Attendees at the 12th Annual Holiday Wine Tasting included (l-r) Kevin Rose, Nancy Reidy, Bernie Reidy '63 and Ron Kroha.



Myra Mattes Ross Scholarship announced

Myra Mattes Ross '52, '68 and husband Dr. Samuel B. Ross Jr., who own and operate Green Chimneys in Brewster, N.Y., recently established the Myra Mattes Ross Scholarship, a \$25,000 endowment that will be awarded annually to an education major at WCSU.

Founded by Dr. Ross 63 years ago, Green Chimneys is a nationally renowned, nonprofit organization whose mission is to restore possibilities and create futures for children with emotional, behavioral, social and learning challenges. The Rosses reside in Brewster, N.Y. ■

James W. Schmotter. "With state support of public higher education in Connecticut steadily declining, the work of the Foundation's dedicated board, all of whom are outstanding members of our community, has never been more important."

Theresa Eberhard Asch '64, '72, a board member who also sits on the Connecticut State University Board of Trustees, describes the organization as devoted to improving the quality of university life. "I have been privileged to see many positive changes that have come to pass as a result of decisions made by this body," she says.

Board member Mary Jean Rebeiro '87, president of NY-CONN Corp. in Danbury, Conn., says she also feels privileged to be able to give something back to the university that educated and prepared her for the business world.

"More than half of all WestConn students receive some sort of financial aid," she notes. "We are able to add to the scholarship pool by promoting and supporting various events for the university community."

The board is comprised of a number of local business owners, as well as those with tremendous financial expertise. These are exceptionally generous individuals who readily volunteer their time and talents. "With no cost to the university, this is a win/win for everyone," Rebeiro says.

Board member Bernard Reidy '63, retired chief operating officer of the Archdiocese of New York and current president of Catholic Indemnity Insurance Co. in Burlington, Vt., says contributions generated by the WCSU Foundation often make it

possible for students to remain in college.

Reidy graduated from WestConn, as did his son, Andrew '97, now a physician. "My WestConn education served me very well. I'm sure my son would say the same. I consider it an honor to serve the university now."

WCSU Senior Kate Mrotek, who will earn a B.A. in Professional Writing this May, received the Ruth Dawson scholarship last fall. The scholarship, one of so many results of the Foundation's efforts, recognizes her hard work in several ways, Mrotek says. "Not only is the award wonderful but becoming a better writer is a goal I have worked toward for four years. For me, this scholarship symbolizes how far I've come." ■

For more information on giving to the WCSU Foundation, call the Office of Institutional Advancement at (203) 837-8298.

Please join us for the 30th annual WestConn Society Luncheon



as we honor
WCSU Foundation Community
Service Award recipients
Robert and Dianne Yamin

Friday, March 25, 2011
11:30 a.m.

Matrix Corporate Center
39 Old Ridgebury Road
Danbury, Conn.

The WestConn Society represents the oldest continuous giving program sponsored by the WCSU Foundation, providing an important source of private donations to support innovative academic programs, outreach opportunities and enrichment initiatives. The Society's mission is to sustain a critical margin of excellence to enhance students' learning experience and invest in faculty and curriculum development.

A minimum donation to the WCSU Foundation of \$250 qualifies the donor for annual membership in the WestConn Society and attendance at the March luncheon. For reservations and additional information, contact the WCSU Office of Institutional Advancement at development@wcsu.edu or (203) 837-8279.



Mike Hartel '98, Tom Trocola '09 and Justin Rosini take a break from their work on the popular television show, "Celebrity Apprentice," filmed at Trump Towers in New York City.

You're hired!

By Sherri Hill

Real estate mogul and TV personality

Donald Trump is many things to many people. But to three former WCSU students, Trump is "boss."

Tom Trocola, Justin Rosini and Mike Hartel each worked recently on Trump's popular television show, "Celebrity Apprentice." Hartel and Rosini were communications/theatre arts majors who knew each other as students (Hartel graduated in 1998; Rosini attended from 1997-2003). Trocola graduated in 2009 with a B.A. in Communication and a minor in theatre arts.

Trocola, of Danbury; Rosini, of Sharon; and Hartel, of Westport, performed different tasks on the show, but the presence of three former students on the crew demonstrates that Western's proximity to New York City provides ample opportunities for students to perfect their craft.

But it's impossible to break into the highly competitive job market in theatre or television, right? Not so, says Trocola.

"While in college I got my first job on the set of 'The Private Lives of Pippa Lee' as an intern/production assistant (PA)," Trocola explains. "Then I worked for 'Project Runway,' 'Top Chef,' 'Make Me a Supermodel' and a Donna Karan shoot. After graduation, I worked for the Conn. Film Festival, 'Real World DC,' 'Real Housewives of New York,' 'Bethenny Getting Married,' 'Project Runway,' and as the task coordinator for 'Celebrity Apprentice.'"

Rosini, who has been a location scout/manager for feature films and TV shows since 2004, has an impressive resume that also started as soon as he left WCSU. It includes work on the films "Spider-Man 3," "American Gangster" and "For Colored Girls," and the TV series "Curb Your Enthusiasm," "White Collar" and "Cupid," to name a few.

One of two assistant location managers for "Apprentice," Rosini, 32, says his education prepared him well for a career in the industry.

"WCSU set me up with a network of like-minded individuals who are also working in the field," he

says. "I met Mike Hartel, who gave me my first job in the entertainment business, at WCSU, and I continue to see people from the university in New York who are working in the industry."

Hartel has had a similarly successful employment history since transferring from Sacred Heart to pursue a Western theatre arts degree in 1995.

"I got an Actors' Equity stage managing job the day I finished college," he says. "I made \$390 a week before taxes ... big time!"

From there, Hartel has handled location scouting and management responsibilities for multiple TV series including "Sex and the City," "Cashmere Mafia" and "Ugly Betty." "Revolutionary Road," "War of the Worlds" and "National Treasure" are just a few of the films on which he has worked.

Hartel credits WestConn's faculty and fellow alumni with the progress he's made in his career.

"The professors at Western are all working actors/directors/producers so it gave me the discipline and understanding to navigate a truly crazy business that I would never have understood otherwise," he says. "The theatre program was the right size to let everyone have successes and failures before getting kicked out of the nest. And our alumni seem to stay working and we keep each other working."

The 40-year-old, who was the location manager for "Celebrity Apprentice," said something he learned nearly 15 years ago at WCSU rang true during taping of the high-profile reality-TV show with the boss known for the dramatic way he fires people.

"It's going to sound silly, but (Professor Emeritus of Communications and Theatre Arts) Bill Walton had a policy of 'on-time is late in this business' and boy was he right," Hartel explains. "People get fired for being late all the time ... it just happened on 'Celebrity Apprentice' this season!"

Now that "Celebrity Apprentice" has wrapped, the three are looking into new opportunities. Trump, the trio's most recent employer, has been quoted as saying, "I'm a bit of a P.T. Barnum. I make stars out of everyone." In the case of Trocola, Hartel and Rosini, he'll have to share some of the credit with WestConn. ■

Read the full story at wcsu.edu/alumni.



Colonials star John Phillips excels on both the tennis and basketball courts.

John Phillips

Multi-sport star

By Richard Gregory '97

In January 2009, after two years of playing tennis at Azusa Pacific University in California, multi-sport star and Hartford native John Phillips decided to head back east to Connecticut. He had an itch to play basketball again and on a whim, e-mailed Bob Campbell, WestConn's men's basketball coach.

The rest, as they say, is history.

Phillips is now a senior at WestConn, a two-sport standout as center on the basketball team and one of the top players in men's tennis at the university.



It takes a lot of work, never mind responsibility, to play two sports well. Add to that the job of earning a degree in secondary education — history. Phillips' approach to tackling this enormous challenge, however, seems to be working just fine.

"I just take it day by day and do what I need to do to get through," he says.

That philosophy holds true on the basketball court as well.

Last season, WestConn's men's basketball team lost a one-point heartbreaker in the Little East Conference championship game to Rhode Island College. A win in that game would have clinched a spot for the Colonials in the NCAA Division III national tournament, its first since 2005.

Rather than dwell on that loss, the Colonials seem to have adopted Phillips' 'day-by-day' attitude. They're not looking too far down the road.

And it's working so far.

The Colonials won eight of their first nine games prior to the winter holiday break and they're well on their way to getting back to that conference title game.

But there's a long way to go to get to that point.

"It starts with practice," Phillips says. Phillips has played eight of those first nine games, averaging 14.3 minutes and 7.4 points per game. He also has 22 rebounds, three blocked shots and two steals.

Win or lose, once the basketball season ends, Phillips will have to quickly shift gears and get ready for tennis. It promises to be another big year for the Colonials on the tennis court. Last year, they went a perfect 13-0 along the way to capturing the Little East title and advancing to the NCAA Division III tournament. Phillips earned first team All-LEC honors last spring at No. 1 doubles, along with partner Troy Pandolfi. Phillips went 10-0 in singles play last year and 10-1 with Pandolfi in doubles action.

And spring is on the way! ■

The WCSU Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner & Induction Ceremony

will be held in the fall of 2011. To ensure you are on our mailing list, call the Alumni Office at (203) 837-8298 or e-mail alumni@wcsu.edu.



(Left) Radio show host Marcia Kendall '98, '07 prepares to spin some tunes on WXCI's "Third Stone from the Sun," a program she has hosted for the last 11 years.

(Below) Animal rights activist Kendall spends time with two of her favorite 'causes.'



A teacher at heart with many passions

Marcia Kendall '98, '07

By Irene Sherlock

Environmentalist Marcia Kendall has spent years documenting the back roads (and backyards) of rural Connecticut. She's been a volunteer naturalist and hike leader with the Nature Conservancy and received the organization's highest honor, the White Oak Service Award.

Hiking along Connecticut's many trails, she's accompanied by her dog, Nickel, and often brings her camera. Her photographs have been published online and in print and featured in exhibitions sponsored by the Weston Library and the Nature Conservancy.

Other work, as well, keeps Kendall happily outdoors. As a conservation easement steward for the Redding Land Trust, she's expert in identifying species of plants that are threatened or endangered, and can easily discern invasive from non-invasive plants. "My job is to give an overall quality assessment of the landscape," she says.

Environmental issues, conservation, and animal rights are just three of the many passions that get Kendall's activist side into gear. She's also a champion for the disabled.

"I'm a teacher at heart. Just about everything I do involves teaching," she says.

Kendall's broad palate of interests and skill sets include some that were developed at WCSU. "I was literary editor, columnist and business manager for The Echo, WestConn's student newspaper," she says. She also worked as a disc jockey and business manager at the college radio station, WXCI, 91.7FM. While there, she successfully lobbied for increased wattage and greater broadcast exposure.

After graduating with a B.A. in English/Communications, Kendall earned a scholarship from The New York Scholarship Foundation, paving the way for an M.A. in English/Writing, which she received in 2007.

Along the way, Kendall, who speaks Spanish and Portuguese, founded the WCSU Adult English as a Second Language (ESL) program, in which she taught for years. "I have a huge interest in learning about other cultures," she says.

Outdoor obligations aside, Kendall also maintains a sizable indoor workload. She owns and operates Kendall Promotions, which publicizes and promotes area talent.

Though Kendall is no longer a student, she remains an on-campus presence. For 11 years, she's hosted the popular "Third Stone from the Sun," which airs Sundays at noon on WXCI.

Last year, Kendall began taking her "Third Stone" show on the road. In 2011, look for her at venues like Gerosa Records in Brookfield, Conn., and the Putnam House and Molten Java in Bethel, Conn. ■

Read the full story on Marcia Kendall at wcsu.edu/alumni.



Like most Irishmen, Professor of Writing, Linguistics and the Creative Process Dr. Ed Hagan

has a talent for telling a story. He makes facts come to life, a most valuable asset when it comes to engaging a roomful of freshman who may or may not enjoy mastering the basics of good writing.

Sometimes his narratives are laced with accounts of his own experiences. Hagan's scholarly focus and many of the classes he teaches revolve around war literature and Irish studies, both of which he's intimately acquainted with and has written about extensively.

A veteran of the Vietnam War, Hagan served as an intelligence staff officer in the U.S. Army and was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and other military honors. "It's important that students read first-hand accounts of war," he says. "But overall, my goal is that they become better readers and writers and more thoughtful people."

By all accounts, he succeeds at this goal. "Professor Hagan wants to make us all more informed," says undergraduate student and adjunct instructor Joshua Durkin '10. "Every one of us leaves his classes changed for the better in some way."

Members of the "Dr. Hagan Fan Club" are legion at WestConn. "He's a professor who can keep 150 students engaged at 8 a.m.," says professional writing major Becca Simas. "His classes are demanding but I feel lucky to have had the

Inspired by the Irish

(among other things)

By Irene Sherlock

chance to take five of them. He truly cares about his students."

Hagan has been teaching at WestConn since 1978. Any plans to retire? "I don't feel like I'm working when I'm teaching," he laughs. "Why would I give it up?"

Why, indeed? Besides inspiring hundreds of new students each year, Hagan has authored two books and edited three others — part of the University College Dublin Classics of Irish History series. Two are compilations of previously unpublished manuscripts by the writer Standish O'Grady.

The cover of his latest book, "Goodbye Yeats and O'Neill: Farce in Contemporary Irish and Irish-American Narratives," features a medieval stone carving of a face-puller, a familiar motif that appears throughout Europe. "Pulling one's face suggests an over-the-top reaction to laughter, representing horror or defiance," Hagan says. "I saw it as the perfect representation for a collection that explores the role of farce in modern-day Irish and Irish-American writing."

The text mines the writings of Frank McCourt, William Trevor, Roddy Doyle, Tim O'Brien, Mary Gordon and other Irish and American writers for examples of farce as the writer's tool for puncturing the balloon of triviality in today's culture.

"Perhaps because there is so much real tragedy in the world, it's no longer in vogue in literature," Hagan says. "Think about what's valued: reality television, celebrity status. Even politics have become farcical. More and more, writers are employing satire to allow readers to experience the essence of tragedy in literature."

Hagan also publishes extensively in journals such as "New Hibernian Review," "Irish Literary Supplement," "Connecticut Review" and "The Recorder: The Journal of the American Irish Historical Society." In these writings, too, he

explores what literary trends reveal about cultural consciousness. For instance, one of his essays examines the topic of sex in selected texts as both disease and cure. Another argues that the overuse of sports metaphors today has restricted our ability to think outside the box of winning and losing.

"I'm absolutely fascinated by the ways in which popular works reflect the times in which we live," he says.

Not that he isn't interested in the classics. A James Joyce devotee and lover of Yeats and O'Neill, Hagan's interest in all things Irish is essentially congenital: "My parents were from Ireland and settled in Inwood, a working-class, Irish-Catholic neighborhood in upper Manhattan." After graduating from high school, Hagan lingered in New York for a while, earning an undergraduate degree at Fordham University. Later, he would earn his M.A. and Ph.D. in English at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Friend and colleague Professor of Writing, Linguistics and the Creative Process Dr. John Briggs, co-author of the O'Brien chapter in "Goodbye Yeats and O'Neill," says, "Hagan is always available to work through a concept and share amazement at the daily panorama of human foibles he describes, ironically, as 'consensual reality.'"

"If you don't understand irony, you'll miss half of what he's saying," Briggs says, adding that Hagan has brought tremendous energy and integrity to WestConn. "He finds ways to provoke students into thinking outside their envelopes, which includes their cell phones."

All true, says former student and adjunct instructor Kathy Brady. "He's one of my heroes, I am a better reader, writer and thinker because of him." ■



Saturday, May 14. WestConn family day: Spend the day with fellow alumni and new graduates in an afternoon filled with food, music, games and entertainment for the whole family. **Noon to 3 p.m.**, Quadrangle, Midtown campus. RSVP to (203) 837-8298.



Saturday, March 12
Spring Alumni Theatre Event:
"The Three Sisters" by Anton Chekov
Luncheon, noon, Warner Hall.
Performance, 2 p.m., Berkshire Theatre,
Midtown campus. \$40 per person. For
more information, call the Alumni Office
at (203) 837-8298.



Saturday, June 4
Culinary Delights: Bus trip to
Culinary Institute of America (CIA)
Treat your palate to the culinary arts
on our fifth annual trip to the CIA,
the world's premier culinary college.
Join fellow alumni and friends for an
evening of elegant dining at the Escoffier
Restaurant. \$86 per person. For more
information or to make a reservation,
call (203) 837-8298.



Tuesday, March 29

The President's Lecture featuring meteorologist
Dr. Mel Goldstein — "Growing Up Dr. Mel"
The chief meteorologist at WTNH and MyTV9 since 1986,
Dr. Mel, as he is known, will talk about his long teaching
career at WCSU and his battle with multiple myeloma for
which he has become a national leader in publicizing the
disease and raising money to treat it. **7:30 p.m.**, Science
Building, Room 125, Midtown campus.

Free and open to the public.



Saturday, July 16

Alumni Trip: Mohonk Mountain House
Trip includes a brief presentation of the his-
tory of Mohonk Mountain House, a picnic
lunch, afternoon tea, and discount coupon
to use in the gift shop and greenhouse.
Transportation departs the Midtown campus
at **9 a.m.** \$89 per person. For more informa-
tion, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at
(203) 837-8298.



Saturday, August 6

**Alumni Family Day
at Lake Compounce**
Spend a fun-filled
day with family and
fellow alumni at Lake
Compounce in Bristol,
Conn. \$33 per person.
(No charge for children
three & under.)
(203) 837-8298.



August 6-12

**Alumni Trip:
Pacific Northwest Tour**

Enjoy seven thrilling days touring the Pacific
Northwest. Sights include Rocky Mountaineer's
Whistler Sea to Sky Climb; Victoria; Butchart
Gardens; Vancouver, featuring Stanley Park,
Gastown, the Strait of Georgia and Vancouver
Island; Seattle, featuring Pike Market Place and
historic Pioneer Square; the Strait of Juan de
Fuca; and a farewell dinner high atop Seattle's
Space Needle.

For more information, visit wcsu.edu.
To book your reservation, call
Kay Schreiber '79 at (203) 790-8342 or
e-mail kay.schreiber@sbcglobal.net.

calendar



contributed photo

March 14

Sherman Alexie

A poet, novelist and screenwriter who features his Native American heritage in his writing, Alexie will be the speaker for the 2011 Steven Neuwirth Lecture. **7 p.m.**, Ives Concert Hall, White Hall Midtown campus, 181 White St., Danbury.



contributed photo

April 12

The John F. Azzariti Memorial Lecture presented by Patrizia Farina, WCSU world languages professor. Featuring Trulli: The Wonders of Puglia, Italy. **7 p.m.**, Warner Hall, WCSU Midtown campus, 181 White St., Danbury. For more information about this event, which is free and open to the public, call (203) 837-8279.



contributed photo

April 14

Sister Helen Prejean

The author of "Dead Man Walking" continues her work to abolish the death penalty in the U.S. **7 p.m.**, Ives Concert Hall, White Hall Midtown campus, 181 White St., Danbury.

March 2, 3 (Gala Reception following March 2 performance) at 7 p.m.

March 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12 at 8 p.m.

March 6 at 3 p.m., March 12 at 2 p.m. Theatre Production — Anton Chekhov's "Three Sisters"

Presented by the theatre arts department. Berkshire Theatre, Midtown campus. Tickets: \$20; \$15 for seniors and students. WCSU students free with valid I.D. Box office (203) 837-8732 or go to wcsu.edu/tickets.

March 12

Spring Alumni theatre event: — Anton Chekhov's "Three Sisters" Luncheon, Noon, Warner Hall, Midtown campus Performance, 2 p.m., Berkshire Theatre, Midtown campus. Cost. Call (203) 837-8298. See ad on page 10.

March 14

Sherman Alexie
See ad on this page.

March 29

President's Lecture Series featuring Dr. Mel Goldstein
See ad on page 10.

April 6

WCSU Alumni Association Annual Meeting
6 p.m., Alumni Hall, Midtown campus.

April 8

CMEA Music Reception
6 p.m., Riverside Lounge, Connecticut Convention Center.

April 12

The John F. Azzariti Memorial Lecture presented by Patrizia Farina, WCSU world languages professor. Featuring Trulli: The Wonders of Puglia, Italy.
See ad on this page.

April 14

Sister Helen Prejean
See ad on this page.

May 11

Alumni Nursing Society Reception
4 p.m., Warner Hall, Midtown campus.

May 14

WestConn Family Day BBQ
Noon to 3 p.m., Quadrangle, Midtown campus.

12th Annual Alumni & Friends Circle

Rededication Ceremony
2 p.m., Alumni and Friends Circle, Midtown campus.
See ad on page 10.

May 20

Graduate Commencement
7 p.m., Feldman Arena, O'Neill Center, Westside campus.

May 22

Undergraduate Commencement
Commencement Breakfast, 7:30 a.m., Grand Ballroom, Westside Campus Center, Westside campus.

Academic Dress, 9 a.m., Feldman Arena, O'Neill Convocation Center, Westside campus.

Academic Procession, 10 a.m.

Ceremony Begins, 10:30 a.m., Westside Athletic Stadium, Westside campus.

June 4

Culinary Delights: Bus Trip to Culinary Institute of America
See ad on page 10.

August 6-12

Alumni Trip: Pacific Northwest Tour
See ad on page 10.

August 6

Alumni Family Day at Lake Compounce
See ad on page 10.



contributed photo

Coming in October:

Douglas Fine, author of "Farewell, My Subaru," is the featured writer for WCSU and Danbury's One Book, One Community celebration in 2011.

profile



As an instructor in WestConn's Practical Strength Training for Older Adults program, Alyssa Guastella educates seniors about ways to improve their overall health.

Alyssa Guastella is one of the most cheerful people anyone is likely to meet in a gym at 8 o'clock in the morning.

"How's everyone today?" the diminutive student-trainer asks the dozen or so participants in WestConn's Practical Strength Training for Older Adults program, the oldest of whom is 86. At 23, Guastella is by far the youngest person in the room, but it soon becomes apparent why she's in charge.

For the next hour, she leads the group through a series of bicep curls, overhead presses, squats, leg lifts and other exercises specific to every muscle group.

"She's exceptional," says regular Dan Genovese. "She knows everything about the way we should exercise and she always explains why."

It's no wonder that Professor of Health Promotion and Exercise Sciences (HPX) Dr. Jeff Schlicht, for whom Guastella conducts the class, describes her as extraordinary. "She's skilled, empathetic and engaging — perhaps the best student-teacher I've ever had," he says.

It isn't just WestConn's HPX department that appreciates Guastella's talent and passion for the field. Last year, she was honored with the 2010 Outstanding Future Professional Award from the Connecticut Chapter of the Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

Alyssa Guastella



Pumping iron and more

By Irene Sherlock

"My psychology background has helped me appreciate the different ways we learn and change," she explains. "When it comes to exercise, we tend to have a self-serving bias. We think we're healthier and more fit than we really are."

Guastella works as a trainer and Pilates instructor at Olympus Personal Training and Weight Management in Danbury, Conn. She's also a spinning instructor at the Fitness Studio in Ridgefield, Conn.

"A lot of clients depend on me to help them get started," she says. "My ultimate goal is to increase their self-efficacy. That way, they eventually become committed to exercising on their own."

Olympus client Carol Meissner says working with Guastella has dramatically improved the quality of her life.

"I started Pilates and I'm stronger now than I've ever been," Meissner says. "Guastella is precise, encouraging and downright inspiring," she reports, adding, "Some days I think I'm a trapeze artist; other days, a ballerina. However she does it, it's magic." ■

Read the full story on Alyssa Guastella at wcsu.edu/alumni.





(Left): President and CEO of WestCo Scientific and former Entrepreneurship Day awardee Dr. Joe Platano (left) congratulates 2010 honoree Paul Dinto of Dinto Electrical Contractors Inc.

(Below): Attendees at last year's luncheon included (l-r) Elaine Dinto, Regina Platano and Bill Totten.



Taking care of business\$

Dr. Fred Maidment

By Irene Sherlock

Would-be entrepreneurs who dream of owning their own startup can now earn a degree at WestConn in a program specifically tailored to their needs.

"There's so much to consider when starting a business today," says Professor of Management Dr. Fred Maidment, head of the Small Business and Entrepreneurial Management Option, part of WCSU's department of management in the Ancell School of Business (ASB).

"Years ago you could learn by trial and error," Maidment says. "But today you've got a highly competitive marketplace. Customers are savvy and demanding. This program provides an educational foundation — a framework, as it were — designed to maximize, as much as possible, one's chances for success."

According to ASB Dean Dr. Allen Morton, Maidment has been the driving force behind the entrepreneurship program these last few years. "His guidance and experience as an entrepreneur helps prepare

students to create new businesses, which are vital to our economy."

In 2002, only 14 students were enrolled in this option. "Now we have 164," Maidment says, adding the recent high unemployment rate partially explains the interest in what is now the department's most popular option.

In the Small Business Entrepreneurship course, students complete a business plan and the best are submitted to the state wide You Belong in Connecticut Business Plan Competition.

Students compete against Yale, the University of Connecticut and other Connecticut schools. "Last spring, there were more than 100 entries and we were among the 12 finalists," Maidment says.

Last fall, he was steward of the inaugural Entrepreneurship Day, an ASB event funded, in part, by a grant from the foundation of Brookfield industrialist and philanthropist Constantine "Deno" Macricostas and his wife, Marie.



(Left): Professor of Management Dr. Fred Maidment organized this year's Entrepreneurship Day events.

At this event, the ASB honored local business owner Paul Dinto of Dinto Electrical Contractors Inc., Middlebury, Conn. Barry Moltz, author of "BAM! Delivering Customer Service in a Self Service World," gave a lecture later in the day.

In previous years, the ASB honored President and CEO Lucie Voves of Church Hill Classics and Dr. Joe Platano, president and CEO of WestCo Scientific.

"Despite the pitfalls, the U.S. is still one of the few places in the world where you can start with very little and become prosperous," says Maidment.

"This is still the land of opportunity — as well as the place of second chances. In most other countries if you fail, you're done with, but here you can pick yourself up and start over again." ■

Read the full story on Dr. Fred Maidment at wcsu.edu/alumni.



Maker of music & song —

Jan Gregory '68

By Connie Conway

The best music schools have their own soundtracks. Take The Renaissance Center for Music in Woodbury, Conn., where visitors are charmed by a pastiche of disparate musical sounds.

Each lesson room is acoustically a world unto itself but the occasional brass or piano riff, or chorus rehearsing “Glee”-style, is heard as doors open.

Janet (Jan) Hecht Gregory '68, owner and director of the fondly nicknamed RenCenter, brings decades of experience to this community resource. She credits her family's love of song and WestConn bachelor's degree in music as her jumping-off point to a 40-year career of teaching, performing and directing both secular and church music.

Accomplished in piano, voice, guitar and other instruments, Gregory's philosophy is delivered with an impish grin: “If we're not having fun teaching and playing music, we shouldn't be here.”

The Renaissance Center serves students from Litchfield, Fairfield and New Haven counties and has a fine, 14-year reputation for developing the talents of individuals of every age. Originally located in Southbury, Conn., it was co-owned by Gregory and pianist John Dulina for years.

“I was fortunate to be able to buy John's half of the business,” Gregory says. When the chance came to move to the building that also houses Woodbury's Creative Arts Studio (CAST), she went for it.

“The kids who come to CAST after school are full of imagination and energy,” she says. “Many take lessons with us. Then, in the evenings, we run classes

and workshops like our a capella Femina Melodia group and African djembe drumming circle.”

“It was a big move,” says Group Program Coordinator Anne Westerman, who's worked with Gregory for years. “But Jan was confident that the need for music education exists everywhere.” Westerman's son, Brian, a talented pianist and Pomperaug High School senior, studied for 10 years with Gregory. “She's so dedicated,” he says. “She always encourages the best in her students.”

No less than five other RenCenter instructors are WestConn graduates. And senior Caroline Strange, a WCSU transfer student from the University of

Alaska, leads the Broadway Performance and Cabaret Performance singers at the Center.

“I grew up performing in and directing children's musical groups, but teaching here has been a true educational experience for me,” says Strange. “My dream is to open my own fine arts academy some day.” Listen to her speak those words and you can't help but hear the opening to the story that has been Jan Gregory's own. ■

Read the full story on Jan Gregory at wcsu.edu/alumni.

(Top): Jan Gregory at the piano at the Renaissance Center.

(Below): Gregory poses with participants in an African djembe drumming circle.



contributed photo



Story of a turnaround

Jason Santiago '09

By Connie Conway

In the summer of 2010, Jason Santiago (right) was head coordinator of the Educational Achievement & Access Program. Santiago benefitted from this program as a student.

Meeting confident, self-assured Jason Santiago '09, head coordinator of WCSU's summer 2010 Educational Achievement & Access Program (EAP), it's hard to believe obstacles once blocked his path to a college education.

"Jason had quite a journey as an EAP student himself here," says Ismael Diaz, director of Pre-Collegiate & Access Programs at WestConn. "The program provides underprepared students with the support they need to obtain a college education. Jason made real adjustments in order to succeed."

Reasons not to succeed included Santiago's reading disability, poor grades and tendency to fight bullies who victimized fellow students. Though his parents were divorced, Santiago was raised by a strong mother who kept him out of any real trouble.

"Mom was supportive," he says. "But you knew her rules. Still, I had no motivation. I wasn't going anywhere. I figured college was out of my reach."

What he would learn is that 180-degree turns are always possible — especially with good mentors. His own "turn" started at Vinal Technical High School, where he was in the culinary arts program.

"The coach at Vinal got me into football," he recalls. "He said, 'Why not channel that anger into

energy on the field? It's better than knocking heads together in school!'" Santiago joined the team.

But his enthusiasm for Vinal's program had evaporated. "Cooking wasn't what I wanted to do," he says. He switched to Cromwell High School, stayed out of fights, made the football team and, with tutoring, got marks good enough to keep playing.

Good thing, because it was in football that Santiago's leadership qualities had begun to show. "I developed discipline," he explains. "Football is a character builder." By his senior year, he'd earned the position of Cromwell's team captain.

Then he heard about EAP. "I got into it thinking, 'maybe I can make it to college,'" Santiago says with a smile. "The program helped me get accepted to WestConn." Intending a business major, he struggled, but managed to play football.

Santiago's talent and leadership earned him an MVP award and the position of the Colonials' team captain, but not before he made another key "turn." Business wasn't right for him, he realized; his true interest was in law enforcement. He switched into WCSU's Division of Justice and Law Administration (JLA), where he eventually excelled.

"I had great teachers at WestConn," says Santiago.

"Like JLA Professor Chuck Mullaney. He lives the law and loves it. In class, he relates it to life, rather than just teaching it from a book."

"Jason went from nearly failing to becoming a terrific student," says Mullaney. In fact, Santiago would go on to make dean's list and work as an resident assistant as well as in the EAP program.

Adds Mullaney, "His turnaround is one of the best I've seen in years." ■

[Read the full story on Jason Santiago at wcsu.edu/alumni.](http://wcsu.edu/alumni)

(Below): Santiago with family members on Senior Day.



class notes



Members of the Class of 1960 reunited for their Golden Reunion Celebration last October.

1940s

Eighty-eight-year-old **Eleanor (Feeley) Lawry '42** was among the Women Airforce Service Pilots honored on Capital Hill in Washington, D.C., on March 10, 2010. One of the first women to fly American military planes, Lawry was honored with the Congressional Gold Medal.

1950s

Myra Mattes Ross '52, '68 is happy to report that at 80, she is still working and very involved at Green Chimneys (see extended caption on page 5), the organization husband Sam founded 63 years ago.

1960s

Ruth Lewis '65 is enjoying a busy retirement filled with social activities and volunteer work.

1970s

James Potvin Sr. '71 retired after 33 years teaching math at Windham High School in Willimantic, Conn. He has a 2-year-old granddaughter and a newborn grandson.

David Nurnberger '72 retired after more than 20 years at Boehringer Ingelheim in Ridgefield, Conn., where he served for 15 years as senior vice president of Human Resources.

Jeanne Lutze '73 is enjoying retirement doing the many things she couldn't do during her working years.

In June 2008, **George Hawley '76** retired from Watertown High School in Watertown, Conn. He was the director of choral music there for 32 years.

A non-fiction story written by **Deborah (DiSesa) Galle '77** was included in

"Forever Travels," a collection of essays published by Mandinam Press in the U.K. The writer, along with husband **Stephen '76** and their two daughters, have lived in Pittsburgh for nearly 25 years. The WestConn Sweethearts have been married 33 years.

Ruth (Plassman) Cash-Smith '78 was named 2010 Maine and New England Small Business Administration's Women in Business Champion of the Year. She is a counselor at the Women's Business Center at Coastal Enterprises Inc. in Machias, Maine, where she provides in-person and virtual business counseling.

Suzanne Boyington '79 is vice principal at a middle school in Texas. She has come a long way from her days as a music education major at WestConn but continues to live life to the fullest.

1980s

Velya Jancz-Urban '80 founded the "Who Are Your Chica Peeps?" book project, an unconventional movement encouraging women to explore and recognize the importance and value of female friendship. Jancz-Urban provides speaking engagements, writing forums and projects, as well as 'Chica Peep' excursions and merchandise.

Wil Saint '82 is vice president of the Royal Bank of Scotland. He plays with the band, 42, and is recording a CD this winter with a rock trio.

Robert Lovell '83 retired as director of support services with the New Milford Police Department (NMPD). Prior to joining the NMPD, Capt. Lovell served 25 years with the Danbury Police Department before retiring as director of training and special operations.

WestConn Sweethearts **Susan (Szanti) '84** and **Bruce Goldsen '82** are happy to announce the marriage of their son, David, to his middle school sweetheart, Nicole.

Irene Sherlock's '84, '91 chapbook of poetry, "Equinox," will be published in May by Finishing Line Press.

Jim Perna '85 is married with two children and lives in Shelton, Conn. He works for the Fairfield Public Schools as a high school administrator. He says his WCSU degree provided many opportunities to grow professionally within the educational community.

Kimberly Yannon '85 is completing a dissertation at the University of Hartford in music education. She teaches elementary and middle school music and currently is president of the Connecticut Music Educators Association. She lives in Prospect with her three children, ages 21, 16 and 10.

Christine (Colella) Damato '89 launched a new business, the Right Resume Place & Career Center, with locations in Waterbury, Conn., and Hamden, Conn. Visit therightresumeplace.com.



1990s

WestConn Sweethearts **Alfiya (Zaripova) '08** and **William Bruno Menconi '87, '90, '91** are expecting their first child, a boy, in March. Alfiya worked at WCSU in University Publications and Design for more than two years and is now employed at Eileen Fisher Inc., as a Web-graphic designer. Bill has worked for the U.S. government for more than 25 years. He is a federal law enforcement officer and a teacher for the U.S. Department of Justice in Danbury.

WestConn Sweethearts **Christine (Sponheimer) '91** and **Gregory Simonson '84** are proud to announce that first child, Lawrence, earned a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Clemson University, where he is now a graduate student.

Allen MacDonald '91 recently received an M.B.A. from the University of Connecticut. He started post-graduate studies in accounting and expects to receive his Advanced Business Certificate from UConn in 2011.

Dr. Erica Risberg '91, '96, who holds a Ph.D. from the University of Maine, recently moved back to Connecticut where she started a business doing voiceovers and podcasts for museums. She's living a bi-coastal life, between Connecticut and eastern Washington, where husband Stephen is working at the Grand Coulee Dam. Risberg has an article forthcoming in the Journal of Maine History. She invites you to contact her on Facebook.

Brian Rabuse '94 has been teaching in the Berkshires since 1995. Currently teaching at Wahconah Regional High School, his music classes include band, jazz workshop, guitar, advanced guitar, music technology and instrumental lessons. He is married and has two children, 3 and 5.

Pradiv Mahesh '95 is a global sales manager at Omgeo LLC. He has a daughter, 11, and a 7-year-old son.

(l to r): George Gulish and Peter Gallagher at the Class of 1960 Golden Reunion Celebration last October.

Fr. Andrew Santamauro '96 is an associate chaplain in the Office of Campus Ministry at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. In addition to his work with students, he assists in the organization of mission trips to Latin America and Jamaica.

Evan Bernstein '98 is the national director of development for the David Project Center for Jewish Leadership in Boston, Mass. There he is responsible for leading the organization's national fundraising, marketing and public relations programs. Currently a candidate for a master's of liberal arts from Harvard University, he was one of 20 students selected to sit on the student advisory board for The Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organizations. He resides in Brookline, Mass., with his wife, Heidi, and their children, Sadie and Elan.

Jacqueline Rieg-Cerrone '98, who lives in Stuart, Fla., is a senior elementary directress who teaches 4th-6th graders at a Montessori School. She has two children, 4 and 8, and has been married 12 years.

Fabiana (Lopes) Hershfield '99 was a guest speaker at the prestigious 37th Annual Symposium for the American Council on International Personnel at the Pentagon City in Washington, D.C. Her presentation included broad discussion on immigration compliance and information about service models for expatriated employees. Hershfield is a global service manager at Cartus Corporation in Danbury, Conn.

2000s

Nima Rezvan '00 is a loan officer for Prospect Mortgage. She invites you to contact her on Facebook.

Tim Sohn '01 has been working for newspapers and websites for almost 10 years, in capacities from writer to editor-in-chief. He is editor of LH! Weekly, a new newspaper/website covering the Lake Hopatcong area of New Jersey. Last May he married Joy Rutledge in Pennsylvania.

Alicia (Ammirata) Daley '03 is an art teacher in Ridgefield, Conn.

Mike Ferrara '03 graduated from the University of Connecticut with an M.A. in Higher Education Administration and from Fitchburg State College with an M.B.A. He currently works at Northeastern University (NU) in Boston, Mass., as assistant director in the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. He married Emily Orser in 2009 and is now enrolled in the Ed.D. program at NU. He one day hopes to work at WCSU.

Douglas Wawrzynski '04 graduated from the University of Utah College of Law in 2010 with a J.D. degree. In 2010, he accepted a job as a securities investigator with the Utah Division of Securities and is preparing to sit for the Utah State Bar Exam.

Joe Bartozzi '05 will be deploying to Afghanistan with the U.S. Air Force.

Brandonne (Ouillet) Rankin '05 recently was accepted to the master's degree program in Public Relations at George Washington University.

Stephanie Biello '07 and **Alex Faulkner '06**, graduates of the WCSU music department, opened a music studio in Southbury, Conn. They offer lessons and instrument rentals, sales and repairs. Visit them on Facebook or at www.southbury-music.com.

Sam Kwapong '07 graduated in 2010 with a Master of Arts in Christian Education and Pastoral Studies. He recently was hired to start a College and Young Adult Ministry and continues to work at Azusa Pacific University as transcript coordinator in the registrar's department.

Mathew O'Grady '07 is married to Jourdan Lloyd and they live in North Stonington, Conn. A math teacher at East Lyme High School, O'Grady and his wife recently adopted two chocolate lab/basset hound puppies.

Jessica Starks '07 and one-time WCSU student Lance Churchill, are engaged to be married in May 2011.

WestConn Sweethearts **Daniela (Puhlmann) '08** and **Matthew Harrison '08** have lived in Flagstaff, Ariz., since 2008. Daniela is a travel agent and Matt is a cabinet-maker. They have two dogs, one cat and chickens, and foster stray animals to ready them for adoption.

Katrina Barlowski '10 currently is pursuing an M.A. in Social Work from Fordham University. She also works for WCSU's Office of Alumni Relations managing the university's Phonathon program.

Amanda Catanzaro '10 works as a teacher and is a part-time nanny.

Jennifer Swendsen '10 is employed at Waterbury Hospital as a registered nurse.

In memoriam

Susan P. Baker '93, Ridgefield, Conn.

Christopher Baumann '96, Goshen, Conn.

Jean M. Behnken '72, Woodbury, Conn.

Marion E. Blackmer '47, Helen, Ga.

Victor A. Blackmer '42, Helen, Ga.

Mary Jane Carrano '63, Centerbrook, Conn., June 21, 2010

Carolyn F. Carson '75, Elmsford, N.Y.

Virginia S. Dodd '42, North Branford, Conn., Dec. 16, 2009

Mary Jane Duffy '56, Brant Lake, N.Y., August 17, 2010

Wayne G. Engle '54, Council Grove, Kan., Dec. 24, 2008

Phyllis C. Garavel '48, Danbury, Conn.

Kathleen Healy '85, Danbury, Conn.

Joanne Johnston '71, Sun City Center, Fla.

Flora Mailhot Keller '68, Brookfield, Conn., July 7, 2010

Joyce A. Konners '82, Prospect, Conn.

Gretchen H. Krake '73, South Dennis, Mass., Nov. 4, 2010

Ruth P. Kramer '74, North Branford, Conn., Aug. 23, 2010

Louise K. Kripinger '38, Milford, Conn.

Allison L. Mancini '04, Ansonia, Conn., March 19, 2008

V. Joyce McCarthy '52, Danbury, Conn.

Jill Meyerriecks '73, Darien, Conn., Oct. 11, 2010

Rosine DeFlumeri Mims '49, Brookfield, Conn., Oct. 18, 2010

Sister Barbara A. Nyegaard '86, Waterbury, Conn., Oct. 20, 2010

Janet M. Faust Orford '43, Naples, Fla., April 1, 2010

Mark H. Rosenbaum '62, June 1, 2010

Kenneth A. Scherwenik '77, Danbury, Conn., Sept. 10, 2010

Heidi L. Shaw '95, Orlando, Fla., Aug. 7, 2010

Erwin Shields '60, Carmel, N.Y.

Charles F. Skahen '58, Cleveland, S.C., June 13, 2009

Malinda R. Stietzel-Pettit '00, Richmond, Va., June 21, 2010

Jeanne C. Stolle '32, Glastonbury, Conn.

Arlene (McCoy) Stone '45, Danbury, Conn., Sept. 24, 2010

Lisa K. Thompson '82, Newington, Conn., Nov. 27, 2009

Jill M. Trigaux, Newtown, Conn., Oct. 11, 2010

Ann R. Warren '78, Nashua, N.H.



(l to r): Shirley Tanner Downs, Margie Sherman, Natalie Laudano Keating from the Golden Reunion Class of 1960 led a singing of the old dorm songs at the Fairfield Hall Tea held during Homecoming Week.

class notes



Former dorm-mates of Fairfield Hall (l-r) Mary Cataldo Dorrico '47, Audrey Frey Thorpe '47, June Gleason Fahey '47 and Jean Stevens Dowling '47 reunited for lunch last fall in Stamford, Conn.

And baby makes...

Heidi and Evan Bernstein '98 welcomed son Elan Liam on May 8, 2010.

Amanda “Mandy” (Broderick) ’97 and Douglas Cook welcomed third child, Broderick Burton, on April 27, 2010. He joins big sisters Ella Jane and Talia.

WestConn Sweethearts **Amy (Tworek) '98** and **Jason Davis '97** welcomed fourth daughter Hope Meredith, on Jan. 19, 2011. She joins sisters Abigail, 7, Gretchen, 5, and Chelsea, 3.

Malinda (Preti) DeSantis '06 and husband Robert welcomed first child, Vincent, on Sept. 11, 2010.

Nicole (Ducham) '01 and Matthew Jason welcomed a son, Alexander, on April 7, 2010. He joins sister, Sydney.

WestConn Sweethearts Keisha (Guy) '01 and Mark Dykes '01 welcomed son Brandon Charles on June 10, 2010.

WestConn Sweethearts Yvonne (Montemayor) '01 and Kevin FitzGerald '95 welcomed son Dillon James on May 29, 2010.

WestConn Sweethearts Amy (Gardner) '06 and Mark Kotach '02 welcomed daughter Morgan Leigh on June 23, 2010.

Andrezza (Lopes) '01 and Joel Begert welcomed daughter Isabella Sofia on Aug. 16, 2010.

50

Class of '68

The class reunion was held in 1998, and the class was reformed in 2008. The class was reformed in 2008.

Class of 1961 Golden Reunion Celebration:

The class of 1961 will be celebrating its golden reunion in the fall of 2011. Plans are currently underway. Do we have your correct address? Would you like to join the reunion planning committee? E-mail alumni@wcsu.edu or call (203) 837-8290.

WestConn Sweethearts Tammy (Hammershoy) '97 and Todd McInerney '97 announce the birth of third child, Dylan Jay, on Dec. 8, 2010. He joins brother Liam, 6, and sister Aine, 5.

Erin and **Brendan O'Marra '96** welcomed a baby boy on Nov. 29, 2010. Brady Pierce O'Marra joins sister Kayla, 5, and Garrett, 3.

WestConn Sweethearts Lizette (Geiger) '00 and Cory Plock '98 welcomed son Carter on Oct. 17, 2010.

EvaMarie Richter Trapani '90 and husband Paul James welcomed baby EllaRose on Jan. 29, 2010.

Joyce Vandernoot '92 and John Dvorak welcomed baby boy William Paul on May 16, 2010.

Wedding bells

Alicia (Ammirata) '03 and Kirk Daley, Oct. 10, 2009

WestConn Sweethearts Sarah Koenig '07 and Joseph Dzamko '06, Nov. 6, 2010

John Matis '05 and Kate Dunne, Sept. 18, 2010

Malinda (Preti) '06 and Robert DeSantis, July 11, 2009

Valerie (Remokitis) '99 and Michael Cesca, Sept. 12, 2009

Join the Alumni & Friends Circle

Check one ☐ Alumni & Friends Circle ☐ WestConn Sweethearts

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Indicate how you would like to contribute to WestConn (select one):

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☐ Unrestricted☐ Other _____

Make check payable to: WCSU Foundation Annual Fund. Mail completed form and check to WCSU Foundation Annual Fund, 181 White St., Danbury, CT 06810. For more information, please call (203) 837-8279.

Indicate the quantity next to the item you are ordering.

Print the message you wish to engrave below. Use all capital letters.

Bricks can accommodate up to three lines with 16 characters per line; spaces, punctuation and symbols count as a character. Trees, benches and light posts have double the space: use a separate piece of paper.

Quantity	Item
	4" x 8" engraved brick (\$100 each)
	20' tree with engraved marker in ground (\$500 each)
	Park bench with engraved brass plate (\$1,000 each)
	Light post with engraved brass plate (\$2,500 each)

Bricks

[illegible]



(l-r): Rebecca Woodward '88; Logan & Zack Yeziarski (mom: Rebecca Woodward '88); Grieg Irving '09; Devin & Rebecca (Tozzoli) Diot '85, '01, Lindsay Diot (mom: Rebecca '85, '01); Juan Obreros '07.

Clothing and accessories

A. WestConn alumni vintage crewneck sweatshirt: \$29.98 (Champion). S-2XL. Available in navy.

B. Western open-bottom sweatpants: \$28.98 (Jansport). S-2XL. Available in navy and charcoal.

C. WestConn toddler tee-shirt: \$14.98 (College Kids). 2T-5/6. Available in white, oxford gray and pink.

D. WestConn toddler zip-hood sweatshirt: \$29.98 (College Kids). 2T-5/6. Available in navy.

E. WestConn alumni hat: \$15.98 (Cobra). One size fits all. Available in khaki and navy.

F. WCSU polo shirt: \$29.98 (Club Colors). S-4XL. Available in navy or light gray (ash).

G. Western Colonials long sleeve jersey tee-shirt: \$19.98 (Champion). S-2XL. Available in navy and oxford gray.

H. WestConn alumni hooded sweatshirt: \$39.98 (Champion). S-2XL. Available in granite heather and bleached red (cardinal heather).

I. Western Colonials hooded sweatshirt: \$49.98 (Jansport). S-2XL. Available in pink fusion, light blue (carolina blue) and oxford gray.

J. WCSU alumni tee-shirt: \$14.98 (Gildan). S-2XL. Available in navy only.

K. WestConn banded sweatpants: \$24.98 (Champion). S-2XL. Available in granite heather, navy and black.

L. WCSU license plate holder: \$19.98

WCSU alumni desk accessories

Seal and school name with "Alumni" engraved on black and gold. Masterpiece medallion.

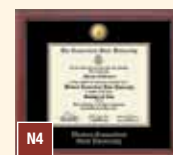
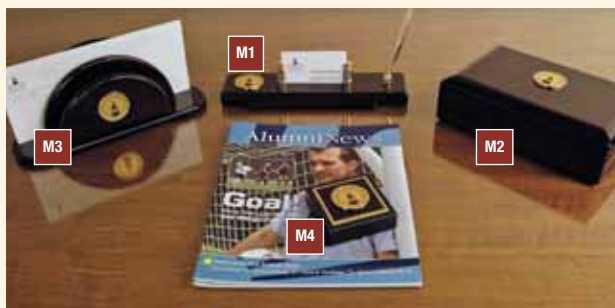
M1: Desk set: \$49.95. Attached solid brass business card holder and ball point pen. 10" x 1/2" x 3/4" (base).

M2: Desk box: \$44.95 Black suede lining and magnetic closure. 9" x 6" x 2 1/2".

M3: Letter sorter: \$34.95. Keep your mail organized. 10" x 3" x 4".

M4: Paperweight: \$22.95. Genuine marble. 3" x 3" x 7/8".

Personalization is available on desk set and desk box for additional \$4.95. See order form below for shipping costs.



Diploma frames

N1: Campus Scene Edition showcases a beautiful panoramic photo of Fairfield Hall mounted above diploma with seal and school name gold embossed on black and gold museum-quality matting and features a high-gloss Galleria cherry molding, \$167.95.

N2 & N3: Regency or Gallery style frames: \$119.95, seal and school name gold embossed on black and gold museum-quality matting. 02: Gallery: cherry. 03: Regency: mahogany. Both: gold inner lip. Signature style frame.

N4: 23K jewelry-quality medallion, black and gold museum matting, gold embossed WCSU, cherry, \$144.95.

Please specify N1, N2, N3 or N4. For pre-1998 styles, call the Office of Alumni Relations at (203) 837-8298. Photo frames are also available in the above styles for \$44.95 (vertical or horizontal).

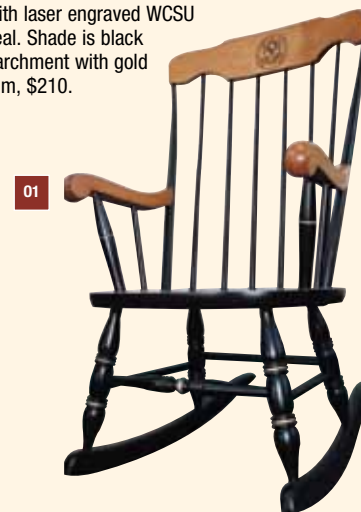
For detailed photos, descriptions and other available styles or to purchase diploma/photo frames and desk accessories online, visit: wcsu.edu/alumni and click the Alumni Marketplace button.

Furniture and accessories

O. WCSU rocker, Standard Chair (not shown) and Heritage Lamp (not shown). Can be personalized at an additional charge. For detailed information and photos, call (203) 837-8298 or visit standardchair.com.

O1: Boston Rocker or O2: Standard Chair: classic solid maple hardwoods and satin black finish with laser engraved WCSU seal, \$360.

O3: Heritage Lamp: classic solid maple hardwood and satin black finish with laser engraved WCSU seal. Shade is black parchment with gold trim, \$210.



Marketplace order form

Name _____

Address _____

City, state, ZIP _____

Daytime phone no. w/area code _____

E-mail address _____

Active alumni discount no. _____ (The number on your Alumni Association membership card)

Delivery in four weeks or less. Proceeds generated from Marketplace sales help fund alumni programs, events and initiatives. For more information, call (203) 837-8298.

Item total \$ _____

— 10% active alumni discount \$ _____

Tax (6% Conn.) \$ _____

Subtotal \$ _____

Shipping* \$ _____

Total \$ _____

*Shipping Costs: wearable merchandise: \$6.95 first item and \$1.95 each additional item; diploma frame: \$18.95; paperweight: \$6.95; photo frame, desk set, desk box, and letter sorter: \$9.95 each.

Item (letter)	Color	Price	Description	(use additional sheet for more items)
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All items are taxable including apparel.

Make checks payable to and send orders to:
WCSU Alumni Marketplace
181 White Street, Danbury, CT 06810



Office of Institutional Advancement
181 White Street
Danbury, CT 06810

Address Service Requested

Non profit org.
U.S. Postage paid
Danbury, CT
Permit no. 40



Members of the 1969 Football Team returned to campus for Homecoming 2010 and the unveiling of a commemorative class plaque that now hangs at the stadium.



During the Alumni Nursing 40th Reunion, Andy Hull '04 was honored for his outstanding community service. A nurse at Danbury Hospital, Hull was shot last March when an elderly patient opened fire. Supporters include family members and friends.

A. Fans bared all and showed enthusiasm for WCSU and the Colonials during this year's football game held Saturday of Homecoming Week.

B. King and Queen of Homecoming were Jason Nolan and Michelle Sciarappa.

C. (l-r): David Seltzer '76, Sharon Fusco '67, Edward Mulrenan '75, and Breina Schain '04 enjoyed the Hospitality Tent at Homecoming 2010.