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Faculty News and International Student Exchange Program

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Faculty News

Dr. Damla Isik

Damla Isik is the new Assistant Professor of Anthropology at West Conn. She earned her Ph.D. at the University of Arizona, Tucson with a Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies. She also has a Master's degree in English Language and Literature. Dr. Isik did ethnographic fieldwork in Turkey and examined the effects of globalization on labor and gender politics within the context of the carpet weaving industry. During her research, she got engaged in and promoted a village-weaving cooperative in Western Turkey. She specializes in globalization and gender and her current research interests are on the interconnections between Muslim pious practice, globalization, and changing labor laws and regulations in Turkey as well as in the Middle East. She is also very much interested in issues of representation and media studies that pay specific attention to gender.

Dr. Christopher L. Kukk

Dr. Kukk is an Associate Professor of Political Science, as well as founding coach and director of the university's Roger Sherman Debate Society. He is also a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Dr. Kukk, who received a Ph.D. in International Politics from Boston College, is a former international security fellow at Harvard University's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. His research and publications focus on the National and International political economy of fresh water resources. Before entering the field of higher education, Kukk was a counter-intelligence agent for the United States Army, a research associate for Cambridge Energy Research Associates, and is often asked by the media for his analysis on issues regarding American politics and United States foreign policy. He was selected for the visiting Fulbright Scholar Program and is presently in Estonia with his family.

Dr. Averell Manes

Dr. Manes is entering her 15th year at WestConn, and continues to love her work, which includes conflict resolution both on campus and in the community. This year, she provided extensive training for WCSU Resident Directors and Assistants and has developed a Mediation Services component of the Conflict Resolution Project for the residence halls. She continues her work at Briggs Alternative High School, in Norwalk, and has added an assessment piece, to evaluate the positive school climate initiative begun two years ago. Using the assessment data, the school principal successfully applied for a large 21st Century Grant for curriculum and program improvements. Dr. Manes is also working with medical professionals at Danbury Hospital and the sister towns of Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge. She was invited to speak about her work in schools at the 30th anniversary celebration of the program on the Analysis and Resolution of Conflict, at Syracuse University, her *alma mater*. Last, but not least, she remains the faculty advisor/editor for the *Social Sciences Journal*.

Dr. Oluwole Owoye

Dr. Owoye is a Professor of Economics. He teaches microeconomics, macroeconomics, monetary economics, labor economics and economic development. He has presented research in these areas at National and International Economic conferences. Dr. Owoye, who holds a Ph.D. from Northern Illinois University, has published numerous articles in periodicals such as the *Journal of Developing Areas*, *Global Economic Review* and the *Journal of International Trade and Economic Development*. He was a visiting Senior Fulbright Scholar in the department of economics at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, in 2003, where he was among the initial group of professors who taught in the collaborative Ph.D. program for West, East, and Southern Africa at Ibadan, Nigeria. Since 2004, he has been a visiting professor of monetary economics in the collaborative Ph.D. program's Joint Facility for Electives, African Economic Research Consortium in Nairobi, Kenya.

Dr. Zuohong Pan

Dr. Pan is a Professor of Economics at WestConn. He earned his Ph.D. from Wayne State University. Dr. Pan has taught classes such as macroeconomics, microeconomics, money and banking, mathematical economics, economic development, applied contemporary domestic economic issues, social research issues as well as social research seminars. Dr. Pan, co-edited *A Review of the Humanities and Social Science Research in the West Book Series, Economics Volume*, with S. Song (Renmin University Press, Beijing).

Dr. Alex Standish

Dr. Standish is a Professor of Political Science. He earned his Ph.D. in Geographic Education and Citizenship in American Schools from Rutgers University. He completed his master's dissertation at Canterbury Christ Church University. In conjunction with the history department, Dr. Standish has been writing the Specialized Professional Association report for the Social Studies/History Education Program. This is in preparation for NCATE accreditation of the university's education program. He also went to Washington, D.C., and took part in a national conference organized by NCATE. This past summer, his paper on the changing nature of geography education was published in a UK report titled "The Corruption of the Curriculum." The report was released by CIVITAS (the Institute for the Study of Civil Society) and was discussed in the national press. Presently, Dr. Standish is working on a book concerning global citizenship and geography education. He spoke at the Institute of Ideas Conference in London on October 28, 2007. In the spring, he will be offering a new class, "An Introduction to Geographical Information Systems" (computer mapping).

Dr Laurie Weinstein

Dr. Weinstein is a Professor of Anthropology at WestConn as well as the chairperson of the Department of Social Sciences. She is currently working with Dr. Beth Morrison and two students (seniors: Gina Sierra and Michelle Jowdy) on research pertaining to the Revolutionary War site in Redding, CT. They are doing ethno historical research on the site by combing primary and secondary records about the Revolutionary War in Connecticut. Dr. Weinstein will be paying distinct attention to any materials that deal with camp followers (e.g., women and children) and black men who joined the Americans against the British. The purpose of her work is several fold: to report on the importance of the Revolutionary War in Connecticut, to save important Revolutionary War archaeological sites in Connecticut (via nominations to the State Register and State Preserve), and to engage students and the public in history as a way of preserving the past and saving future sites from development and destruction.

International Student Exchange Program (ISEP)

The following students were enrolled in the ISEP program for the 2007-08 academic year.

Alana Bertozzi Stellenbosch University, South Africa
Geresa Braz Leiden University, The Netherlands
Erin Broderick Macquarie University, Australia
Caitlin Dempsey Napier University, United Kingdom
Kristin Dimberg Leiden University, The Netherlands
Nicole Fortier Napier University, United Kingdom
Jacqueline McGee Macquarie University, Australia
Shayla Nicole McMorris Chester University, United Kingdom
Schuyler Merritt Ulster University, Northern Ireland
Kathleen Shea Ulster University, Northern Ireland
Margaret Sowa Malta University, Malta
Jamie Speed Thammasat University, Thailand