Public Relations, Communications, Journalism and Politics: A Comprehensive Professional Writing Portfolio

Gina Atanasoff
ginajeanette@sbcglobal.net

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Public Relations, Communications, Journalism and Politics: A Comprehensive Professional Writing Portfolio

Gina Atanasoff
Western Connecticut State University
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Public Relations, Communications, Journalism and Politics

Abstract

Public Relations, Communications, Journalism and Politics: A Comprehensive Professional Writing Portfolio contains a broad range of written materials, visual documents and social media work. These include press releases, media advisories, memorandums, pitches, feature articles and handbooks. The goal of this project is to demonstrate a diverse repertoire of skills in journalism, communications, political and public relations industries. Public relations and journalism pieces are written in the Associated Press style, and the bibliography will be completed in accordance with APA guidelines. This portfolio will serve as a tool in securing employment, demonstrating writing skills and developing ongoing relationships with our communities in politics, public relations and journalism.
Executive Summary

The Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) defines public relations as “a strategic communication process that builds mutually beneficial relationships between organizations and their publics.” They maintain that, at its core, public relations work is about influencing, engaging and building a relationship with key stakeholders across a myriad of platforms in order to shape and frame the public perception of an organization. Some of the disciplines within PR involve crisis communications, events, marketing communications, media relations, multimedia, social media and speechwriting.

This thesis is a public relations portfolio that represents my ability to produce different types of publicity materials such as social media work, press releases, media advisories, memorandums, pitches, flyers, posters, E-blasts, reviews, handbooks and feature articles. My goal was to walk away from this program with a broadened repertoire, increased skill in journalistic writing, well-rounded collection of clippings and heightened understanding of the public relations industry. This project is the culmination of that goal.

As part of this project, I produced written work for multiple organizations. I worked with the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), Ives Concert Park, the Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants (CIRI), the Western Connecticut State University (WCSU) Office of University Relations and the Jahana Hayes for U.S. Congress Fellowship Program. This work gave me the chance to employ my writing and communications skills to create different types of publicity documents. For each section of my thesis, I provide written explanations that elaborate on, give context to and address my rhetorical and strategic decisions when crafting each piece. This gives readers an idea of which organizations were a part of it, what my goals and challenges
were and why I think the materials matter in terms of effectiveness, impact on audience and broader and contextual significance.
Published Press Releases

This section showcases over more than 20 published press releases from my time working at Western Connecticut State University’s Office of University Relations. The office is responsible for publicizing university-wide events as well as student and faculty accomplishments. I worked under the supervision of Sherri Hill and Paul Steinmetz, whose names appear on the documents as official media contacts; attached is a letter stating that I am the author of these press releases.

In addition to the press releases, this section also ends with two feature articles that are published on Western Connecticut State University’s homepage and on various other news websites such as NorwalkPlus.com, New Fairfield’s Hamlet Hub, Danbury’s Hamlet Hub and Danbury Patch. These articles were written in AP style and published by the University’s PR department in order to share positive news about the university.

Topics covered in these press releases and stories include film screenings, basketball team fundraisers, academic competitions, faculty research, meditation workshops, visiting lecturers and upcoming theatre performances. The material featured in this section is among my strongest writing. It is also an example of my published work.
January 3, 2019

To whom it may concern,

Gina Atanasoff undertook an internship in the Western Connecticut State University Office of University Relations during the fall 2018 semester. I was Gina’s direct supervisor.

Among her many duties as an intern, Gina was asked to research and write numerous press releases, which I then edited (if needed) and distributed to the media. Because a student cannot be listed on an official university press release as the media contact, the press releases Gina wrote while in my office were distributed under my name.

The purpose of this letter is to confirm that the press releases Gina is presenting as her work during her tenure in my office are, in fact, her work. My name appears at the top simply because I am the media contact.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at hills@wcsu.edu or (203) 837-8774.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Sherri Hill
Associate Director of Public Relations
Western Connecticut State University
League of Women Voters of Northern Fairfield County to present ‘The Suffrage Movement in Connecticut’ at WCSU

National Get Out the Vote Day event will allow attendees to register to vote

DANBURY, CONN. — The League of Women Voters of Northern Fairfield County (LWVNFC) will present “The Suffrage Movement in Connecticut” from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 25, in Room 103 of Warner Hall on the Western Connecticut State University Midtown campus, 181 White St. in Danbury. The event is free and the public is invited. Attendees will have the opportunity to register to vote at this National Get Out the Vote Day event. Free pizza and refreshments will be served.

LWVNFC President Judy Griemsmann will open the event with introductory remarks, and student member Timia Graham will talk about the Connecticut suffrage movement. Graham will give a Powerpoint presentation highlighting its history, issues women fought for and the resistance they faced. She will also discuss the LWV from its formal organization in 1920 to today.

The LWVNFC serves Bethel, Brookfield, Danbury, New Fairfield, Newtown and Sherman. The organization encourages informed and active participation in government, and it seeks to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influence public policy through education and advocacy. The LWVNFC also registers voters and provides election information through voter guides, as well as candidate forums and debates. Every two years, the LWVNFC co-hosts the 5th Congressional District Candidate Debate, and also schedules Meet the Candidates forums and breakfast events.

For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at (203) 837-8486.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: Mar. 26, 2019
Contact: Sherri Hill or Paul Steinmetz, Office of University Relations
Phone: (203) 837-8486 Fax: (203) 837-8530
Email: hills@wcsu.edu or steinmetzp@wcsu.edu

WCSU to host Northeast Writing Center Association conference

DANBURY, CONN. — Western Connecticut State University will host this year's Northeast Writing Center Association (NEWCA) conference on Saturday and Sunday, March 30 and 31, in White Hall on the university's Midtown campus, 181 White St. in Danbury. Saturday's events will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday's events from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The regional conference will center on the theme "Voices of Engagement: The Roles Writing Centers Play in Making Writing Meaningful." Host of the event, WCSU Writing Center Coordinator and Associate Professor of Writing, Linguistics, and Creative Process Dr. Kelli Custer, expects about 275 attendees from universities across the Northeast.

Visitors will travel from Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York and New Jersey. Their presentations will cover issues such as working across cultures, multilingual writers and theory-driven methods to engage writers.

"Successful conferences are ones that generate conversation, and smaller, regional conferences like this are the ideal place for that to happen," Custer said. "With panels, workshops and roundtable discussions from administrators, faculty and student tutors, this exchange of ideas is an integral part of writing center philosophy."

Custer has directed WCSU's Writing Center since 2014 in the Ruth Haas Library, which operates Sunday through Thursday. She employs 11 students from various disciplines as writing consultants. All WCSU students are encouraged to come for free writing consultations on any writing project for any class, as well as cover letters and applications.

NEWCA is a regional affiliate of the International Writing Centers Association (IWCA), which was founded in 1983. IWCA has affiliates throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe, Latin America, Africa and the Middle East.

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WCSU Theatre Arts Department to present ‘Uncle Vanya’ in October

DANBURY, CONN. — Anton Chekhov’s classic 1898 play “Uncle Vanya” will come to the stage at Western Connecticut State University this month. Presented by the university’s Department of Theatre Arts, performances will be at 8 p.m. on Oct. 12, 13, 19 and 20; with 2 p.m. matinees on Oct. 13, 14, 20 and 21. It will take place in the Studio Theatre of the Visual and Performing Arts Center on the university’s Westside campus, 43 Lake Ave. Extension in Danbury. General admission is $20. To purchase tickets or for more information, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/uncle-vanya-tickets-45385142182?aff=es2 or call (203) 837-8732.

A popular plot summary describes a retired professor who has returned to his estate to live with his beautiful young wife, Yelena. The estate originally belonged to his late wife. Sonya, the professor’s daughter, who is about the same age as his new wife, also lives on the estate. The professor is pompous, vain and irritable and occasionally calls in a doctor named Astrov for gout issues. Astrov and Uncle Vanya both fall in love with Yelena, but she rejects them both. Meanwhile, Sonya is in love with Astrov, who fails to notice her. Finally, when the professor announces he wants to sell the estate, Vanya tries to kill him. Family conflict, unrequited love and darker motives play out in this newer rendition of the Russian play.

“’Uncle Vanya’ has been one of my favorite Chekhov plays since I was a graduate student,” said producer and director of the show Pamela McDaniel. “On discovering Curt Columbus’s ‘New American Translation,’ this play has been on my short list of productions that I wanted to bring to the WCSU community. This fall has seen a confluence of student talent with translation that could allow for the realization of the piece, making it accessible to our audiences.”

The Russian playwright Chekhov first published “Uncle Vanya” in 1898, and it received its Moscow premiere in 1899 in a production by the Moscow Art Theatre, under the direction of Konstantin Stanislavski. The play was nominated for the Drama Desk Award Outstanding Revival of a Play in 2000 and the Laurence Olivier Award for Best Revival in 1992. It won the 2003 Laurence Olivier Award for Best Revival, and the story has been adapted for various films and opera performances.
The cast includes Joseph Calabrese, of Harwinton, as Vanya; John J. Mudgett, of Danbury, as Serebryakov; Jillian Caillouette, of Meriden, as Sonia; Alicía Napolitano, of Woodbury, as Yelena; Sam Rogers, of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, as Astrov; Jason Keane, of Trumbull, as Telegin; Kat Karl, of Redding, as Marya; Caleign Rose Lozito, of Bristol, as Marina; Brian O’Sullivan, of Montville, as Workman/Guitar; and Chris Planninschek, of Cheshire, as Yefim.

The crew includes Production Manager and Technical Director Thomas Swetz, Set Designer Maiko Chii, Lighting Designer Scott Cally, Sound Designer Arielle Edwards and Costume Designer Joni Johns Lerner.

For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at (203) 837-8486.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: Sept. 19, 2018
Contact: Sherri Hill or Paul Steinmetz, Office of University Relations
Phone: (203) 837-8486  Fax: (203) 837-8530
Email: hills@wcsu.edu or steinmetzp@wcsu.edu

WCSU to host conference on opioid crisis and addiction

DANBURY, CONN. — The Western Connecticut State University Justice and Law Society will present the documentary “Chasing the Dragon: The Life of an Opiate Addict” at the Heroin and Opioid Awareness Conference presented by the Heroin Education Action Team (HEAT), a partner program with the United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Connecticut. The event will take place at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 16, at Ives Concert Hall in White Hall on the university’s Midtown campus, 181 White St. in Danbury. The conference will be free and the public is invited.

The documentary was created by the FBI and DEA to educate students and parents about the dangers of addiction. The movie will be followed by a panel discussion with a federal prosecutor, DEA agent and two local parents who lost children to an opioid overdose.

The HEAT program aims to increase community understanding of the dangers associated with deadly drugs like oxycodone, heroin and fentanyl, which have become widely and easily available in Connecticut.

WCSU senior and member of the Justice and Law Society Joseph Tamberelli found HEAT through research last semester and decided to spread its message to WCSU. He believes there needs to be more awareness about the opioid epidemic, especially in Connecticut.

“Many of us, myself included, have all been affected by this terrible epidemic in a personal way,” Tamberelli said. “The objective is for as many people as possible to leave this event with knowledge about the epidemic, in hopes to prevent further deaths from occurring.”

For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at (203) 837-8486.

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Phone: (203) 837-8486 Fax: (203) 837-8530
Email: hills@wcsu.edu or steinmetzp@wcsu.edu

WCSU Police Department to host ‘A Walk to Remember’ to raise cancer awareness, pay tribute to lost colleagues

DANBURY, CONN. — The WCSU Police Department Benevolent Association will host its second annual event, “A Walk to Remember,” from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 23, at the Alumni Circle on the Western Connecticut State University Midtown campus, 181 White St. in Danbury. The walk will raise money for cancer awareness and prevention in honor of those who have lost the battle with cancer. The cost to participate is $10 for WCSU students and $15 for the public. All proceeds will be donated to Regional Hospice and Palliative Care of Danbury. Personal donations are welcomed.

Eleanor Chance, a WCSU building and grounds patrol officer, proposed the event after three fellow members of the department succumbed to cancer: WCSU Chief of Police Neil McLaughlin, in April 2015; Officer Ernie Leclercq, in September 2015; and Department Secretary Shirley Hatch, in August 2016.

“Shirley would enjoy walking the Midtown perimeter during her lunch breaks, which gave me the idea for the fundraiser,” Chance said.

The 1.5-mile walk starts at the Alumni Circle before proceeding to White Street, then toward Locust Avenue. This completes a full circle around campus and ends back at the Alumni Circle.

For more information, contact Chance at chancee@wcsu.edu or the Office of University Relations at (203) 837-8486.

### WestConn ###
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: Sept. 12, 2018
Contact: Sherri Hill or Paul Steinmetz, Office of University Relations
Phone: (203) 837-8486 Fax: (203) 837-8530
Email: hills@wcsu.edu or steinmetzp@wcsu.edu

Sam Bush, ‘Father of Newgrass and King of Telluride,’ to perform at Ives Concert Park

DANBURY, CONN. — Newport Folk presents Grammy Award-winning artist Sam Bush at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 21, at Ives Concert Park on the Western Connecticut State University Westside campus, 43 Lake Ave. Extension in Danbury. The performance is part of the Newtown Savings Bank Fine Arts & Family Series at Ives.

Bush is widely recognized for his blend of jazz, folk, blues, reggae, country swing and bluegrass influences. Having done both solo and sideman work with bluegrass and roots music, he also has played alongside Emmylou Harris, Lyle Lovett and Bela Fleck. Bush is celebrated for his American Music Association Lifetime Achievement Award, International Bluegrass Music Association trophy and for his multiple Grammys.

In addition to Bush, Tony Trischka, Michael Daves and Flagpole Radio Café Orchestra will perform on the Ives Garden Stage.

The doors at the venue will open at 6 p.m. General lawn admission is $22 and reserved tickets are $35. Discounts are available for WCSU students and alumni with ID, and discounts can be obtained by calling (203) 837-9227. Lawn and reserved tickets are available online at ticketfly.com or at the gate.

Ives Concert Park has partnered with the Cornell-Carr Company, Inc., Stockbridge & Berry and the WCSU Alumni Association to make this event possible.

Also coming up at Ives are country singer Jessica Lynn (Sept. 15), Brush and Brunch (Sept. 23), Free the Children (Sept. 29) and the Fore ’n’ Aft Benefit Reunion (Oct. 6).

For more information, visit www.ivesconcertpark.com.

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WCSU students win ‘Mole Bowl’ competition for third consecutive year

DANBURY, CONN. — Western Connecticut State University chemistry students celebrated National Mole Day by competing in the Western Connecticut Section of the American Chemical Society’s (ACS) 10th annual Mole Bowl on Sunday, Oct. 28, at Fairfield University. WCSU has won the past three years.

Seven students from WCSU defeated teams from Sacred Heart and Fairfield universities to defend their title and take home this year’s trophy, a mole stuffed animal that will be housed at WCSU until next year’s competition. This is a trivia-style competition that covers topics from all chemistry disciplines.

WCSU’s winning team consisted of Alex Matteson, of Brookfield; Xavier Arevalo and Tim Meksvanh, both of Danbury; Jasmine Grey and Steven Hong, both of Naugatuck; Max Simpson, of New Fairfield; and Michael Kelly, of Stamford.

Associate Professor of Bio-Organic of Chemistry Dr. Nicholas J. Greco has been the group’s adviser since 2010. Greco believes that students do not need to attend an expensive, private university to excel academically.

“The education that one obtains at a state school in chemistry is on par if not better than at a private university, and if you compare education versus the cost, the price tag is dramatically lower,” he said. “It signifies that we are doing what we are supposed to be doing and the students are very well prepared.”

Each student responded to a series of questions, all of which ranged in difficulty from a 100-level class to a 400-level class. The group was a mix of underclassmen and upperclassmen.

Greco also believes that the faculty in the smaller chemistry department helps to create a strong connection with students. “We treat it very much like a family,” he said. “We are close-knit, know them on an academic and personal level and so there are a lot of discussions taking place that allow them to learn the information, prepare well and then represent very well, which this shows. It shows that tight-knit and family connection.”
Founded in 1876 and chartered by the U.S. Congress, the ACS is the world’s largest scientific society with members in industry, academia and government. The nonprofit organization works with government to promote public policies that help the chemistry enterprise and its practitioners serve the nation.

ACS addresses the national and global challenges such as economic opportunity, energy and water availability and environmental sustainability through chemical science and engineering.

For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at (203) 837-8486.

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WCSU Theatre Arts Department to stage ‘The Wild Party’

DANBURY, CONN. — Based on Joseph Moncure March’s 1928 poem, the musical “The Wild Party” will come to the stage at Western Connecticut State University for the first two weekends of November. Presented by the WCSU Department of Theatre Arts, the first round of performances will be at 8 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 9; at 2 and 8 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 10; and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 11. The following weekend, performances will be at 8 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 16; at 2 and 8 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 17; and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 18.

“The Wild Party” will take place on the MainStage Theatre of the Visual and Performing Arts Center on the university’s Westside campus, 43 Lake Ave. Extension in Danbury. General admission is $25. To purchase tickets or for more information, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/the-wild-party-tickets-45386445079 or call (203) 837-8732.

“The Wild Party” tells a Jazz-Age tale of Queenie, a vaudeville dancer, and Burrs, a vaudeville clown, in the wild days of prohibition. Partying through lust and angst in a show charged by a jazz-influenced score, Queenie has to decide what is next for her in this compelling story of the roaring 1920s. According to one critic, “The band is blowing, the hooch is flowing and the guests are lit!”

Tim Howard, coordinator of the university’s Musical Theatre program, will direct “The Wild Party.”

“It’s exhilarating, it’s really rhythmic, it captures the 1920s, it’s dangerous and it’s compelling,” Howard said. “It’s a wild party. I’m thrilled to introduce our Connecticut audiences to this lesser-known, but thrilling, musical. It has an exhilarating and extremely tuneful score.”

Howard described his casting process as something that hinged on who would bring the most truth to the show, which represents the peak of the 1920s: living life on the edge, love triangles and unraveling surprises.
“This is one of the most theatrical and thought-provoking pieces I’ve directed in my career,” he said. “The artistic team is first rate and the cast superb. The singing, dancing and acting will knock you out! This is not to be missed.”

The cast includes Kelsey Lepesko, of Stratford, as Queenie; Sergio Francisco Mandujano, of Norwalk, as Burrs; Isiah Bostic, of Hamden, as Black; Sasha Renae Browne, of Middletown, as Kate; Alaina Mueller, of Windsor, as Madelaine True; Mark Sumner, of Middletown, as Eddie; Brandon Richardi, of Boston, Massachusetts, as Jackie; Thomas Bergamo, of Wolcott, as Oscar; Mike Katz, of Monroe, as Phil/Dance Captain; Kayla Hansen, of West Haven, as Dolores; Joelle Tshudy, of Belvidere, New Jersey, as Mae; and Grace McGovern, of North Haven, as Nadine.

The crew includes Director Howard, Choreographer Elizabeth Parkinson, Music Director David Baranowski, Producer Pam McDaniel, Production Manager Tom Swetz, Lighting Designer Scott Cally, Costume Designer Sharon Sobel and Scenic Designer Elizabeth Popiel.

In recent years, Howard’s direction and reimagining of “Evita” received 10 National Awards from the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF) and in 2016 Howard’s production of “Parade” received 14 national KCACTF awards followed by 11 national awards for his production of “The Drowsy Chaperone” in 2017. All three musicals received Outstanding Production of a musical and Outstanding Director of a musical.

For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at (203) 837-8486.

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WCSU professor’s outreach shows hope for veterans to heal through community dance program

DANBURY, CONN. — In what might seem like an unlikely partnership, Western Connecticut State University Professor of Psychology Dr. Robin Gustafson and Louisville, Kentucky, dance instructor Deborah Denenfeld have partnered to conduct research on how community dance programs can aid veterans with PTSD and brain injury (BI). Gustafson and Denenfeld met through their joint interest in contra dancing several summers ago.

Gustafson used her expertise in research methods, as well as her background in the ecological and embodied cognitive science, to conduct research on the effects of a community dance program called Dancing Well: The Soldier Project. Prior research had shown that community dance can have a significant impact on brain areas involved in stress and PTSD.

During Gustafson and Denenfeld’s research, three (now former) WCSU students, Carlos Jiminez, Marlon Tristao (also a veteran) and Tyla Johnson, worked with Gustafson on designing the assessment, writing, data coding, data entry and data analysis. The team completed its final draft of the paper during the summer of 2018, and it is currently under review for publication. Co-author Dr. Cynthia Corbitt from the University of Louisville also helped Denenfeld with on-site work.

Before and after each 10-week community dance program, 17 veterans and accompanying family members were measured on connectedness, experience avoidance, hope and optimism. The Dancing Well program consisted of weekly 90-minute community dances with live music and calling by Denenfeld, a nationally recognized dance caller. Gustafson found significant improvements in all three wellness measures, which was a surprising outcome given the small sample size. More surprisingly, the improvements were significant for all participants, regardless of PTSD status, showing that even the family members were healing. Gustafson and her co-authors believe that these results show that this program, and programs like it, can help treat some of the most important non-medical symptoms of PTSD in veterans and some of the often-overlooked problems experienced by their families.
The nonprofit, Dancing Well, started when staff psychiatrist Edwin O. Walker invited Denenfeld, a seasoned dancer, dance instructor and dance caller, to the VA Healthcare Center at Fort Knox, Kentucky. They worked together to develop and implement a dance series specifically attuned to the needs of soldiers with PTSD and/or BI.

Walker has seen firsthand the devastating effects of PTSD and BI, both on his patients and on the families, friends and loved ones who welcomed them home. He saw how the combination of pain, impaired memory and anxiety around others could cripple veterans for the rest of their lives and take a heavy toll on couples and families.

“I would be really short-sighted to think that mere words will convey how much this has helped the different soldiers that I have seen later in my office,” Walker said.

Not only did the soldiers and families love the dancing, they reported measurable outcomes. At the end of the series, every soldier who participated reported reduced anxiety, better physical health and an improved outlook on the future. Ninety percent also said that their memory and mood had improved. Half also reported a decrease in physical pain. They also reported feeling less isolated and that their relationships with family, friends and others had improved. These benefits were consistent in surveys given immediately following the series and three months later.

“I formed the organization because I had experienced the healing power of community dance myself,” now-Executive Director Denenfeld said. “Many people have told me about how going to a dance lifts their mood, helps them feel connected with others and provides a social community they come to value.”

Based on steady attendance and a tremendous response from participants, Dancing Well now holds several dance series of 10 sessions each per year in Louisville.

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, PTSD afflicts one in five Iraqi War veterans, 11 percent of veterans of the war in Afghanistan, as many as 10 percent of Gulf War veterans and nearly one-third of Vietnam veterans. Since 2000, there has been a steep rise in the number of veterans in disability for PTSD. Today, one in three veterans treated by the VA suffers from PTSD.

For more information, send an email to gustafsonr@wcsu.edu.

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WCSU to host day of celebration for first-generation students

DANBURY, CONN.—Western Connecticut State University will host “I’m First,” a celebration of first-generation college students, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 8, at the Alumni and Friends Circle on the university’s Midtown campus, 181 White St. in Danbury.

Light snacks and beverages will be offered. This is a free and public event, where traditional and nontraditional students, faculty and administrators will have the opportunity to share their own personal experiences as a first-generation college student and the impact that their experiences have had on their lives.

WCSU will join in celebration with other colleges across the nation that are engaged in a number of different activities to highlight first-generation students on campus. The concept of a “first-generation” student was introduced into federal policy by the passage of Higher Education Amendments to the Higher Education Act of 1965.

As a result of this amendment, the WCSU community has the opportunity to celebrate those who have made huge strides in this country to be the first in their family to attend college. College-preparatory programs like those offered at WCSU recognize that too many qualified students miss out on college simply due to a lack of access to adequate college guidance and information.

Pre-Collegiate & Access Programs at WCSU include Danbury Public Schools Collaborative/Upward Bound, Excel and EA²P (Educational Achievement and Access Program). Director of these programs Rob Pote is an advocate for and believer in the power of education.

“Having a college degree makes a difference to more than just the person with the diploma,” he said. “It inspires others.”

The Collaborative/Upward Bound Program is a year-round, college-preparatory program serving approximately 110 Danbury High School students from grades 9 through 12. The Excel Program is a middle school (Broadview, Rogers Park and Westside Academy) feeder program for the Danbury Public Schools Collaborative/Upward Bound Program, currently serving 90 students in
grades 7 and 8, while the WCSU EA³P Program is a year-round academic enhancement program serving underprivileged college students.

This event will also offer “I’M FIRST” long-sleeve shirts, buttons, pins and stickers for attendees.

For more information, contact Pote at poter@wcsu.edu.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: Oct. 26, 2018
Contact: Sherri Hill or Paul Steinmetz, Office of University Relations
Phone: (203) 837-8486 Fax: (203) 837-8530
Email: hills@wcsu.edu or steinmetzp@wcsu.edu

WCSU women’s basketball team to host fundraiser with ‘Tip-Off Breakfast’

DANBURY, CONN. — The Western Connecticut State University women’s basketball team will host a Tip-Off Breakfast from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 31, in the Ballroom of the Campus Center on the university’s Westside campus, 43 Lake Ave. Extension in Danbury. The public is invited, and while there is no admission fee, guests will be encouraged to make “tip” donations.

This is the annual fundraiser for the women’s team, which belongs to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III and whose players are members of the Little East Conference. In addition, both the WCSU men’s and women’s athletic programs hold membership in the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC).

In the 2017-18 season, WCSU women’s basketball played 26 games, averaged 86 points, about 47 rebounds and 15 assists per game. The first game of the 2018-19 season is at Elms College on Saturday, Oct. 27, and the Colonials’ last game of the season is against Southern Maine on Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019. View the full schedule at www.westconnathletics.com/sports/wbkb/2018-19/schedule.

The roster includes freshman Frances Snyder, of Pine Plains, New York; sophomore Jessica Davis, of Hamden; sophomore Gabrielle Hurlbert, of Thomaston; freshman Asiah Knight, of Norwalk; junior Tashai Price, of Vernon; sophomore Genesis Torres, of Stratford; junior Jancy Sherwood, of Poughquag, New York; and freshman Sydney Gouveia, of New Fairfield.

Recent years have seen Western’s teams qualify for post-season NCAA National Championships in women’s soccer (13), women’s basketball (12), softball (11), men’s basketball (10), men’s soccer (nine), women’s volleyball (six), football (1985, 1999 and 2001) and baseball (2002).

To make reservations or for more information, call Head Coach Kim Rybczyk at (203) 837-9018.
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Oct. 24, 2018
Contact: Sherri Hill or Paul Steinmetz, Office of University Relations
Phone: (203) 837-8486 Fax: (203) 837-8530
Email: hills@wcsu.edu or steinmetzp@wcsu.edu

WCSU to present talk on holistic health, hypnosis and regression therapy

DANBURY, CONN. — The Western Connecticut State University Institute for Holistic Health Studies (IHHS) will present “Soul Surfing Through our Past Lives: Hypnosis and Past Life Regression Therapy” at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 5, at Ives Concert Hall in White Hall on the university’s Midtown campus, 181 White St. in Danbury. Tickets are $20; WCSU students get in free with a school ID. Get tickets at www.wcsu.edu/tickets.

Saundra Cindy Blum is a certified hypnotherapist, past life regression therapist and trainer, Reiki practitioner and international lecturer. She is also the cofounder of the Katonah Study Group for Integrative Medicine and a member of the Advisory Board for the IHHS and Patient Advisory Board for Northern Westchester Hospital.

“These are intense times that can feel like chaos, confusion, transition and transformation,” Blum said. “What always felt known and safe feels very different right now. What is it that we need to know to do? How can we feel more grounded and safe?”

She will deliver the talk and share insights from our past that can help us continue to move forward. As part of this presentation, the audience will get an opportunity to sample a past life regression, followed by a book signing.


IHHS Director Christel Autuori aims to provide the WCSU community with programs and presentations reflecting holistic and integrative approaches to health and wellness.

“This approach encompasses and intertwines the best of conventional Western medicine with the best of the non-Western and complementary healing modalities,” said Autuori. “Hypnosis and...
past life regression are two techniques that have been utilized by psychotherapists for several years that are widely accepted in the professional community as well as embraced by the public.”

For more information, contact autuoric@wcsu.edu or call (203) 837-8559.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: Sept. 21, 2018
Contact: Sherri Hill or Paul Steinmetz, Office of University Relations
Phone: (203) 837-8486 Fax: (203) 837-8530
Email: hills@wcsu.edu or steinmetzp@wcsu.edu

‘Western Day of Service’ underway to benefit the community

DANBURY, CONN. — Western Connecticut State University hosts its annual “Western Day of Service” today, Friday, Sept. 21. Beginning at 8 a.m. this morning, faculty, staff and student volunteers checked in, received continental breakfast and a free T-shirt. After a pep talk by President Clark, all volunteers gathered for a group photo before being bused to the local organizations for three hours of volunteer service. Buses will return all participants to the Midtown campus by noon.

WCSU encourages students, faculty, staff and alumni to commit to some form of volunteer work. Options include raking, trimming and/or weeding trails; sanding and/or painting; serving food; parking cars; registering dancers; cleaning offices; washing fire trucks; moving boxes; tagging books; working with animals; or picking up trash along the streets of Danbury.

During last year’s celebration, close to 500 volunteers helped more than 40 community agencies including: Lake Kenosia, Escape to the Arts, Danbury Fire Department, City Center Danbury, Ives Concert Park, Danbury Museum & Historical Society, the Salvation Army, Danbury PAL, Still River Greenway and Maplewood Senior Center. Volunteer activities included everything from reading to elementary school students, painting stairwells, sorting through donated clothes, cleaning and pulling weeds to washing fire trucks and ambulances.

This year, WCSU anticipates several hundred volunteers at more than 45 local sites. They will be visible across town as work teams wearing bright yellow T-shirts.

Townsquare Media, owner of i95 and KICKS 105.5, has come on-board as a supporter of Western Day of Service again this year, bringing its street team to the event kick off to hand out bottled water to the volunteers before they head off to their work sites.

Townsquare Media Market President George Mihalopoulos said, “Townsquare Media Danbury looks forward to supporting the Annual Day of Service. i95 and KICKS 105.5 are committed to promoting events like Western’s Day of Service to help further community causes.
For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at (203) 837-8486.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date:         Sept. 10, 2018
Contact:     Sherri Hill or Paul Steinmetz, Office of University Relations
Phone:       (203) 837-8486       Fax: (203) 837-8530
Email:       hills@wcsu.edu or steinmetzp@wcsu.edu

‘Meditation: Multicultural Perspectives,’ more at WCSU

DANBURY, CONN. — The Western Connecticut State University Institute for Holistic Health Studies (IHHS), the Center for Compassion, Creativity and Innovation and the Honors Students of Compassion will provide meditation workshops from 4 to 9:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 11, in the Ballroom of the Campus Center on the WCSU Westside campus, 43 Lake Ave. Extension in Danbury.

This third annual event promotes personal, collective and global peace and offers various styles of mind-quieting meditation. In addition, several speakers will discuss settling oneself in spite of stressful news, technology and constant streams of information of the 21st century. “Meditation: Multicultural Perspectives” is free and open to the public. Each workshop is about 45 minutes long. Registration begins at 3:45 p.m.

IHHS Director Christel Autuori will make the event’s opening remarks. Workshops include “Creating Compassion by Geshela Dhargey,” “The Meditation of Metaphor – Peace, Insight and Relaxation Through Writing Practice” by Nancy Scherlong, “Finding Peace in the Shadows of Self” by Rebecca Schoenewolf, “Meet Your Power Animal” by Deana Paqua, “Peaceful Yoga” by Lara Ward, “Making Compassion Real” by Dr. Christopher Kukk, “Mindful Meditation for Academic Success” by Marcia Kendall, “Shamanic Visioning (Meditation) for Everyday Success” by Herman Olivera, “Meditation Mudras” by Jesse Rovero, and “One Pointed Meditation, Mindfulness Meditation, Meditation in Motion, Coloring Meditation and Chocolate Meditation” by Autuori.

Future IHHS events include the following Wellness Wednesday Workshops, which are free and open to the public at 12:30 p.m. in Room 127 of White Hall on the WCSU Midtown campus:

- **Wednesday, Sept. 12:** “Forest Bathing” with Forest Bathing Guide Jennifer Salkin
- **Wednesday, Oct. 17:** “Need More Power: How We Generate Energy” with Dr. Michael Murphy of Murphy Family Chiropractic
- **Wednesday, Nov. 14:** “Mindful Eating in Practice” with Holistic Nutritionist Valentina Olvidese of Valiant Nutrition LLC
Additional events include an IHHS Open House and Networking Event from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 27, in Room 103 of Warner Hall on WCSU’s Midtown campus and a talk by Saundra Cindy Blum, internationally known author, speaker and counselor, at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 5, in Ives Concert Hall in White Hall on the Midtown campus.

The IHHS is housed within the Department of Health Promotion and Exercise Sciences (HPX) at WCSU. It encourages the community to explore different aspects of holistic and integrative health through programming and instruction while promoting conventional healing and various traditional, modern and alternative practices.

For more information, contact Autuori at autuori@wcsu.edu or the Office of University Relations at (203) 837-8486.

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WCSU to feature film screening and director Q & A: ‘One Vote’

DANBURY, CONN. — Western Connecticut State University will host a screening of “One Vote” at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 11, in Room 122 of White Hall on the university’s Midtown campus, 181 White St. in Danbury. A question-and-answer session with Director Christine Woodhouse will follow. The event is free and open to the public.

WCSU Professor of Communication and Media Arts Dr. J C Barone believes watching “One Vote” is a critical opportunity for the American public.

“We see that elections have consequences and voting counts. Forty-two percent of eligible voters stayed home in 2016. We have fought for the privilege to vote through war, legislative struggles and grassroots movements. We still face efforts to limit voting. The importance of the vote cannot be overstated – it gives people a voice, holds officials accountable and protects rights.”

Barone, a producer and director, is at the forefront of the university’s award-winning show, “Election Connection.” The show covers political races and issues important to Western Connecticut via broadcasts over cable, radio and a live stream on election night from 8 p.m. to midnight. It also provides the university’s political science, journalism and media students with hands-on experience and preparation for the workforce in communication-related fields.

Barone said he chose to screen “One Vote” both because of its current relevance and because a WCSU media production alumnus, Jon Mullen, worked on the promotional trailer. The documentary recently received Omaha Film Festival’s 2018 Jury Award. Featuring Warren Buffett, Katie Weitz and Brenda Williams, “One Vote” portrays American voters’ Election Day experiences and addresses the importance of democratic participation. It was filmed in five locations on Election Day 2016, captures voter diversity and avoids partisan politics.

Directed by Christine Woodhouse and written by Seth Woodhouse, the 78-minute film bears witness to unsung stories and obstacles that comprise our democracy: the charismatic owner of the last tavern polling place in the U.S., an Alaskan family that travels by dogsled to reach the polls, a renowned American investor who devotes his Election Day to transporting voters in
Omaha needing a ride, a gospel-singing physician who heals and empowers disenfranchised citizens in rural South Carolina and a former felon who casts an emotional vote in Kentucky for the first time since his right to vote was restored.

For more information, contact Barone at baronej@wcsu.edu or the Office of University Relations at (203) 837-8486.

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WCSU to host discussion about ‘Holiday Celebrations from Around the World’

DANBURY, CONN. — The Western Connecticut State University Office of Intercultural Affairs will present Benjamin Teixeira de Aguiar, who will discuss “Spirituality With or Without Religion” at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 1, in the Ballroom of the Campus Center on the university’s Westside campus, 43 Lake Ave. Extension in Danbury. It will feature English and Portuguese translations. This “WCSU Holiday Celebrations from Around the World” event will be free and the public is invited. Get tickets at www.eventbrite.com/e/holiday-celebrations-around-the-world-spirituality-with-or-without-religion-tickets-52482372188.

Teixeira de Aguiar, a spiritual leader, medium, lecturer, writer and TV host, is well-known throughout Brazil and South America and has followers in more than 170 countries. He is the president and founder of the Quantum Leap Institute, a nonprofit Christian spiritual school of thought, which was launched in 1994.

“This is a lecture on spirituality, from a scientific, modern perspective of reality, with the opportunity for the audience to ask questions,” Teixeira de Aguiar said.

Bharbara Viegas, a WCSU Justice and Law Administration (JLA) student with a concentration in legal studies, is a follower of Teixeira de Aguiar’s work and became a member of his institution three years ago. She works in the Office of Intercultural Affairs, where she pitched the idea of bringing the speaker to campus to the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs. With the help and co-sponsorship of the student organization WestConn Without Borders, the event finally came to fruition.

“He comes to the United States once a year to hold his international lectures and has spoken at the United Nations and the World Trade Center,” Viegas said. “He wanted to do more outreach to students, so I thought that coming to WCSU would be a great fit.”
Viegas believes that the community can benefit from his talk because he is trying to bring to people an understanding of themselves and others by promoting inclusion and acceptance, since younger generations are increasingly more reluctant to join organized religion.

“Young people miss out on the many benefits of practicing their own individual form of spirituality, whether it be through meditation, prayer or personal introspection,” she said, “but everyone is accepted, regardless of religious affiliation, whether it be atheist, Catholic, Muslim, Jewish, etc.”

Teixeira de Aguiar’s Quantum Leap Institute is disassociated from any formal religious affiliation and spreads ideas that foster spirituality, wisdom, peace and happiness through mass communication. Its headquarters are in Aracaju, Sergipe, Brazil, with a main branch in the Danbury area, and its website publishes daily messages of enlightenment and guidance in text, audio or video by Teixeira de Aguiar’s mediumistic practices.

Marcone Viera, a member of Quantum Leap Institute, believes this event is a great opportunity for WCSU students. “They will have access to a renowned spiritual leader followed by more than five million people worldwide on his Facebook pages, the founder and president of an organization with special consultative status with ECOSOC, the United Nations Economic and Social Council.”

Teixeira de Aguiar’s work also offers community development programs at Sister Brigida’s Health Centre, the organization’s social services headquarters in Brazil. It benefits hundreds of people in the community by providing services such as medical care, dental care, Christian-spiritual education, citizenship rights and classes, English classes, writing classes, empowerment projects for women, distribution of soup, bread and snacks, food pantries and much more.

For more information, contact the Office of InterCultural Affairs at (203) 837-8961.

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Date: Sept. 13, 2018
Contact: Sherri Hill or Paul Steinmetz, Office of University Relations
Phone: (203) 837-8486 Fax: (203) 837-8530
Email: hills@wcsu.edu or steinmetzp@wcsu.edu

ProPublica editor-in-chief to discuss ‘An Enemy of the People Speaks: Fake News, Propaganda and the Age of Trump’ at WCSU
‘Teach-In’ the following day to provide opportunity for discussion

DANBURY, CONN. — Stephen Engelberg, editor-in-chief of investigative journalism newsroom ProPublica will speak at 6 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 17, at Ives Concert Hall in White Hall on the Western Connecticut State University Midtown campus, 181 White St. in Danbury. His lecture, “An Enemy of the People Speaks: Fake News, Propaganda and the Age of Trump,” focuses on the importance of reporting in our current political climate. The event celebrates WCSU’s annual Constitution Day; it is free and the public is invited.

Professor of History and Non-Western Cultures Dr. Marcy May is coordinating the university’s Constitution Day observance this year.

May said, “Freedom of speech remains one of our most cherished Constitutional rights. Engelberg will be able to share his thoughts about how we balance respect for the presidency as an institution and the need for accurate journalism today.”

Engelberg, the founding managing editor of ProPublica from 2008 to 2012, became editor-in-chief in 2013. He is a past winner of two George Polk Awards for reporting and is the co-author of “Germs: Biological Weapons and America’s Secret War.”

The nonprofit ProPublica was founded in 2008 and is a strong advocate for free press. The staff of more than 75 journalists has covered topics ranging from immigration, healthcare reform and climate change to President Trump’s business relationships. Just a few of ProPublica’s awards include four Pulitzer Prizes, most recently in 2017 for public service, two Emmys, three Peabody Awards, five George Polk Awards and six MacArthur Foundation Awards for both Creative and Effective Institutions and Journalism and Media.

The next day, Tuesday, Sept. 18, as a follow-up to the Constitution Day talk, WCSU faculty will conduct a teach-in from 12:30 to 3 p.m. in the Alumni Circle on the WCSU Midtown campus,
181 White St. in Danbury (rain location is Warner Hall). Utilizing an open-mic format, participants will be encouraged to ask questions and express opinions about Engelberg’s talk.

Participating faculty will be Professor of History and Non-Western Cultures Dr. Kevin Gutzman, Professor of Philosophy and Humanistic Studies Dr. D.L. Stephenson, Professor of Psychology Dr. Shane Murphy, Professor of Anthropology Dr. Rob Whittermore, Professor of Economics Dr. Rotua Lumbantobing, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Humanistic Studies Stuart Dalton, Assistant Professor of Political Science Dr. Howell Williams and Haas Librarian Russell Gladstone. The public is invited to the teach-in as well.

For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at (203) 837-8486.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: Aug. 29, 2018
Contact: Sherri Hill or Paul Steinmetz, Office of University Relations
Phone: (203) 837-8486 Fax: (203) 837-8530
Email: hills@wcsu.edu or steinmetzp@wcsu.edu

WCSU Child Care Center to host 21st anniversary celebration, unveil new name

DANBURY, CONN. — The Western Connecticut State University Child Care Center Board of Advisors will host a 21st anniversary celebration at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 25, on the playground of the center on the university’s Midtown campus, 181 White St. in Danbury. The rain location is Room 201 of the Midtown Student Center.

The event will celebrate the success of the center’s early years and will reveal a name change that reflects its rising reputation and focus on quality education. It now will be called the WCSU Early Learning Center.

The Early Learning Center is licensed by the State of Connecticut and accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). NAEYC administers the largest and most widely recognized national, voluntary, professionally sponsored accreditation system for all types of early childhood schools and child care centers. The Early Learning Center focuses on development of children ages 3 through 5, encourages parental involvement and promotes each child’s social, emotional, physical and cognitive development.

The center came into existence because there was a growing need for WCSU faculty and staff to have access to affordable and convenient child care. Over time, the center has also provided many opportunities for the WCSU community to become involved: music students play and offer classes; theatre students have invited the center’s students to performances and have staged short scenes and plays; social work, education and Health Promotion and Exercise Science (HPX) majors have volunteered time or worked at the center as assistants; and faculty, staff and the Student Government Association (SGA) have served as readers to the children. The Facilities staff and University Police Department also maintain the grounds. Field trips to the library, quad and other locations on campus are frequent.

WCSU Director of Residential Programs and Staff Maribeth Griffin said, “For years, members of the WCSU community have also contributed to a scholarship fund. Cookbooks, T-shirts, tickets to an annual cabaret variety show and other events have all raised money to support
WCSU students with children enrolled in the center. To date, more than $70,000 in grants have been provided to students, allowing them the ability to provide quality child care to their children while completing their own educations at WCSU.” The center has most recently been awarded a 5-year accreditation by NAEYC in February 2018.

For more information, contact Griffin at griffinm@wcsu.edu.

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WCSU Theatre Arts Department to present ‘The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee’

DANBURY, CONN. — The Western Connecticut State University Department of Theatre Arts will present “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” from Thursday, Dec. 6, through Sunday, Dec. 9. Performances will be at 8 p.m. on Dec. 6 (High School/Student Preview Night), and at 7 p.m. on Dec. 7 and 8; with 2 p.m. matinees on Dec. 8 and 9.

The performance will be on the Main Stage Theatre of the Visual and Performing Arts Center on the university’s Westside campus, 43 Lake Ave. Extension in Danbury. For tickets, go to www.eventbrite.com/e/the-25th-annual-putnam-county-spelling-bee-tickets-45386750994 or call (203) 837-8732.

The production is a well-known musical comedy, centered on a fictional spelling bee set in a geographically ambiguous Putnam Valley Middle School. Six quirky adolescents compete in the bee, which is run by three equally quirky adults. According to Music Theatre International, the eclectic group of students compete in the “spelling championship of a lifetime” while candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home lives. The tweens also “spell their way through a series of (potentially made-up) words, hoping never to hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life un-affirming ‘ding’ of the bell that signals a spelling mistake.”

Based on the book by Rachel Sheinkin, the added music and lyrics of William Finn help to bring this story to life. The 2005 Broadway production by James Lapine was nominated for six Tony Awards, winning two, including Best Book. The show has also inspired numerous other productions throughout the United States and across the world.

The cast includes Krista Allen, of East Hampton, as Logainne Schwartzandgrubinerre; Nathan Clift, of Trumbull, as William Barféé; Lu DeJesus, of New Haven, as Mitch Mahoney; Colin Gallagher, of Wappingers Falls, New York, as Leaf Coneybear; Emma Giorgio, of Ridgefield, as Olive Ostrovsky; Tony Harkin, of New Milford, as Chip Tolentino; Izzy Mercaldo, of Brookfield, as Marcy Park/Movement Coach; Jessica Schwartz, of Brookfield, as Rona Lisa Peretti; and Dominick Ventrella, of Ridgefield, as Douglas Panch.
The crew includes Director Phillip George, Music Director Howard Kilik, Assistant Director Chelsea Weaver, Production Stage Manager Sarah Renzoni, Lighting Designer Stef Carr, Costume Designer Jessica Bowe and Set Designer Abigail Bueti.

For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at (203) 837-8486.

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Contact: Sherri Hill or Paul Steinmetz, Office of University Relations
Phone: (203) 837-8486 Fax: (203) 837-8530
Email: hills@wcsu.edu or steinmetzp@wcsu.edu

WCSU to offer homecoming weekend events to alumni, students and public

DANBURY, CONN. — While Western Connecticut State University will host some student-only activities during this homecoming weekend, many events are also open to the public.

The WCSU Alumni Association will host the 2018 Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner and Ceremony at 6 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 19, at the Amber Room Colonnade, 1 Stacey Road in Danbury. Honorees are football player Adam Kennett ’02, basketball player Melissa Teel ’11, baseball player Conor Bierfeldt ’13, softball player Kim Lynch ’03, soccer player Matt March ’70, the 2002 softball team, and supporter Bill Walton.

Other public events on Saturday, Oct. 20, include the 2018 Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at noon at the Hall of Fame in the O’Neill Center on the WCSU Westside campus, 43 Lake Ave. Extension in Danbury; the Food Truck Festival from 1 to 4 p.m. on the Westside campus; and the WCSU Alumni Association’s Western Idol from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Alumni Pavilion on the Westside campus.

The homecoming football game versus Bridgewater State will begin at 6 p.m. on Saturday at the Westside Athletic Complex.

For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at (203) 837-8486.

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WCSU students overcome fears, face challenges and move mountains through Adventure Club expeditions

DANBURY, CONN. – The Western Connecticut State University Adventure Club is more than just an outdoorsy way to pass the time. Paintballing, hiking, whitewater rafting, camping and indoor rock climbing are some of the many activities that Adventure Club members have enjoyed. Recently, the club took things to a new level.

Adventure Club members Adam Quattro, a Health Promotion and Exercise Science (HPX) major from Brookfield; Jenna Pisano, an elementary education major from Orange; Leland Roberts, a mathematics major from Danbury; Roni Woods, an art major from Danbury; and Erik Gottier, a meteorology major from Tolland, were tested both physically and mentally as they embarked on a hardcore backpacking trip to Hells Canyon in Riggins, Oregon. Hells Canyon hugs the borders of northeastern Oregon and western Idaho and boasts an expansive 652,488 acres of wilderness. It is the deepest river gorge in North America.

“This trip was one of the best and most challenging experiences of my life,” Roberts said. “We hiked through almost every type of weather, several different climates and many dangers I was not expecting. It turned out to be a humbling experience.”

There were several different types of hurdles to overcome as well — not just the mileage. Some students had never experienced extreme outdoor activities or camping before joining the Adventure Club.
“I had not slept in a tent, cooked over a gas stove, done my business outdoors, failed to bathe for more than a day or two, hiked more than eight miles a day… while carrying a large load,” added Gottier.

In spite of the challenging physical and mental strain, students learned from each other and gained a sense of what it’s like to grow together as a team. They also spoke about overcoming their fears and other risks while out on the trail.

“I once read a quote that said, ‘We grow fearless by walking steadily into our fears,’” said Pisano, who added that the group worked “relentlessly” to overcome the canyon, where they bonded as a group and learned from and relied on each other along the way.

Director of the Environmental Health and Safety branch of Facilities Pano Koukopoulos was asked by some founding members in August 2013 to be the Adventure Club adviser. He noticed a massive shift in the students whom he accompanied to Hells Canyon.

“We all came back as different people than when we started,” Koukopoulos said. “After 10 days in the wilderness, I didn’t think I would have seen such a transformation from ‘Let’s go hiking!’ to ‘Let’s plan a trip that will challenge every physical, psychological and emotional cell in your body.’”

While teamwork, leadership, perseverance and maturity all come into play, challenging trips like the one to Hells Canyon are the culmination of months of planning, phone calls, emails and researching. Having to know where the trails are, where to access water, or having an exit strategy is crucial for Adventure Club expeditions. The team members have to formulate a “Plan B” and “Plan C” in case of emergencies before showing up to backpack where nobody else may be around.

Pisano said that after the group emerged from Hells Canyon and spoke with the local townspeople about it, they didn’t believe the weary group of WCSU travelers. “They looked at us like we were crazy. They thought we were joking,” she said. “They told us that about eight to twelve people die there every year.”

As a WCSU senior, Pisano has been part of the Adventure Club for three years. In that time, she has journeyed to Yosemite, the Maze and Hells Canyon. Maze is the most remote and least visited of the three districts of Canyonlands National Park. “Before all this, I’ve previously gone hiking but never backpacking like that before,” she said.

Similarly, Adventure Club president Quattro had only been on one overnight backpacking trip before joining the ranks. But with three years of experience as a Boy Scout, Quattro’s previous knowledge and wilderness skills helped him along the way. He agreed with Pisano: “We can tell you all about our experience, but you’ll never really know what it’s like unless you were there with us.”

After an expedition of this nature, Adventure Club members believe that what we in our modern society consider “needs” are merely wants. Their perspectives on what’s necessary have changed
dramatically. “Out there it’s different,” they said. “For 10 days, we didn’t shower. Water was strictly for cooking and drinking.”

For the students, a sense of empowerment and accomplishment trumped the various challenges of their extreme backpacking adventures. “For instance, when we got out of the Maze, I said there is literally nothing I can’t do. I did that. So I can literally do anything,” said Pisano. “You don’t get that from going to school, taking classes and playing sports.”

With a grin, Koukopoulos responded to her, “And to me as an educator, I’ve done my job. I’m done. If I accomplish nothing for the rest of my life, I’d be okay knowing that my students can feel like they can do anything.”

### WestConn ###

Western Connecticut State University changes lives by providing all students with a high-quality education that fosters their growth as individuals, scholars, professionals and leaders in a global society. Our vision: To be widely recognized as a premier public university with outstanding teachers and scholars who prepare students to contribute to the world in a meaningful way.
Paris trip allows students to study cultural similarities, differences first-hand

DANBURY, CONN. — The Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe and the Louvre are but a few of the famed Parisian landmarks that draw visitors to the City of Lights. There is so much more to see and experience, however, as 17 Western Connecticut State University students learned last spring during a study-abroad trip to Paris.

The Honors and American Studies course “Americans in Paris” enabled Professor of English Dr. Donald Gagnon and Professor of History and Non-Western Cultures Dr. Leslie Lindenauer to teach students first-hand the ways in which French and American cultures have influenced—and continue to influence—each other in history, politics, art and other fields of inquiry.

The weeklong trip was the culmination of the course that met six times in the spring semester. During that time, Gagnon said, “the intellectual basis of the course was explored and the materials of study presented and engaged. These subjects then were the basis for the field study work when we arrived in Paris at the end of the semester.”

For Lindenauer, a course like “Americans in Paris” (and the upcoming “Americans in London”) “underscores the importance of understanding the past in three dimensions. Being able to walk the streets and neighborhoods where Americans lived and worked adds immeasurably to students’ understanding of the past and its links to the present. The students became the very Americans in Paris we had studied in class.”
Some of the material students studied in advance of the trip included Benjamin Franklin, Abigail and John Adams and their political maneuvering with France during the American Revolution, as well as Thomas Paine’s “Rights of Man” and “Common Sense” and how they derived from and influenced French political philosophy. Additionally, students learned about Charles Sumner and his writing about slavery in the United States after visiting Paris, and Henry Adams and his understanding of progress deriving from study of French religious architecture. Additional topics included Djuna Barnes and Ernest Hemingway and their contributions to American literature and participation in “The Lost Generation” of American writers, and the linked artistic philosophies of Stephen Sondheim and George Seurat.

While “Americans in Paris” is a course offered within the Kathwari Honors Program, about half of the field-study travelers were not honors students and were able to use the American Studies credits to fulfill different humanities and general education credits.

The trip was curated by Gagnon and Lindenauer and featured an historical and literary treasure trove of destinations.

When asked what the travel included, Gagnon recited a lengthy list of field-study sites. “Some of the locales that we visited included Benjamin Franklin’s residence; the site of Gertrude Stein’s literary salon with the ‘Lost Generation’ of American writers such as Ernest Hemingway, Djuna Barnes, and F. Scott Fitzgerald; and Café Deux Magots, where literary greats James Baldwin and Richard Wright met up in Paris after leaving the USA to escape American racism.”

Gagnon said the journey also brought them to Shakespeare & Company, the bookstore that drew famous American literary figures; Place de la Republique, the site of much of the revolutionary activity that returned popular rule to France; and Pere Lachaise Cemetery, the final resting place for many famous American ex-patriates such as musician Jim Morrison, Alice B. Toklas and Gertrude Stein, Isadora Duncan, Richard Wright and Josephine Baker.

Also on the tour were Sacre Coeur and Notre Dame cathedrals; Place des Voges, where writer Victor Hugo lived and wrote much of “Les Miserables”; the Deportation of the Martyrs memorial to victims of the Holocaust; and the Pompidou Centre, museum of modern art.

Finally, Gagnon listed Musee D’Orsay; Versailles, the palace where much of the political discourse about France’s participation in the American Revolution occurred; the site of the Paris Exposition of 1900, where Henry Adams developed his ideas about energy and time; Disneyland Paris, where French myths, Americanized by Disney, were then re-interpreted for presentation to French audiences; and many others.

That’s a lot to cover in a week, and the destinations made a definite impact on the travelers.

WCSU senior Zachary Schroeder found it enlightening to gain a glimpse into the lives of everyday Parisians and to get a new perspective on foreign culture.

“Getting to visit locations such as Notre Dame Cathedral and Versailles, which we had previously only learned about through books and pictures, really had the effect of bringing history alive,” the political science and history double major said. He also enjoyed exploring this new culture alongside his classmates.
“While the academic portion was very interesting, what I found enjoyable was the sense of community and friendship that developed among the WCSU students over the course of the week,” he said.

Honors Program Assistant Director Jessica Lin’s first impression of Paris included some pleasant surprises. “I was surprised at how clean and organized Paris was,” she said. “The Metro system was easy to understand. Everyone we encountered there pretty much spoke some English, if not fluently. The fact that we saw palm trees in Paris was actually shocking.”

Lin described her time in the city as ethereal, since traveling to Paris had been one of her biggest dreams ever since walking into her seventh-grade French class. “The day we visited Notre Dame also happened to be a Sunday, where there was a mass at the time, too,” Lin said. “When the choir came out, their voices carried through the whole cathedral. I didn’t understand what they were singing, but I couldn’t help but feel that I connected with them in spirit and soul.”

Among their scholarly requirements, students were required to maintain a daily journal of their experiences in Paris and focus primarily on how their perceptions influenced their understanding of the sites and events. Upon their return, students reflected on those experiences and presented a final paper in which they contextualized their field study with the material discussed previously in class.

Gagnon and Lindenauer plan to lead a similar scholarly expedition to London next year. For more information, contact them at gagnond@wcsu.edu or lindenauerl@wcsu.edu.

### WestConn ###

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Journalistic Works: Reviews and Feature Articles

There are 11 pieces in this section. These pieces demonstrate my ability to write feature articles, reviews and pitches. Included in this section are feature articles about a candidate for Attorney General, staff attorneys and social workers for a nonprofit organization; a Latina software developer who smashes stereotypes; a tattoo artist, father, musician and prospective pastor; and a successful WCSU alum with a two-book deal with Simon & Schuster.

There are two pitches I submitted as a freelance writer. The first I submitted to Associate Director of Public Relations at WCSU University Relations Sherri Hill, titled: “Travelers Insurance software developer defies stereotypes.” I include the pitch and accompanying story I wrote based on that pitch. Similarly, I submitted a pitch and corresponding article to News-Times Features Editor Lee Steele called “Brenton Vaughan: Tattoo artist, musician and man of faith.”

My main goal in writing these pieces was to refine and develop my skills in AP style and journalistic writing. I learned how to interview people, select and include the most pertinent information and work within time and length constraints. After having gained these skills, I intend to pitch more articles to news outlets, editors and journalists in the near future. Working on the material in this section forced me out of my comfort zone and has helped make me a well-rounded writer.
CIRI staff attorney Keighly Rector works in clients’ best interests, serves refugees and asylum-seekers

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. – Keighly Rector is a bilingual immigration attorney at the Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants (CIRI), a statewide nonprofit agency that provides legal and social services to immigrants and refugees in Connecticut.

“I work primarily as the staff attorney for CIRI’s Survivor Services program, which is grant-funded and provides trauma-informed legal representation to survivors of torture, many of whom are seeking asylum before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) or Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR),” Rector said.

The Quinnipiac University graduate who received degrees in legal studies and Spanish language and literature also coordinates CIRI’s pro bono services, including the Pro Bono Attorney Network and Mental Health Evaluator Network.

After attending Pace University of Law, Rector worked representing a government agency but soon got a job as a Domestic Violence Staff Attorney at Legal Services of the Hudson Valley in White Plains, New York in 2017. It was while working in that second job that she found her calling as a lawyer.

“I absolutely loved representing domestic violence survivors. I was representing a real person who ignited my passion for the law,” she said.

The Southington, Connecticut, native was being exposed to some immigration law at that job. Since her time in law school, Rector knew she wanted to pursue public interest law and serve the greater good, calling it a “unique intersection of law and social work.”

“I saw the CIRI job posting and it seemed too good to be true. The universe led me to where I needed to be, and I truly love this work; I love my job, my coworkers and this environment and the energy I come into every day,” she said. “I love my clients and the people I am doing my best day in and day out to help.”

This role isn’t exactly black and white for Rector, either. While there is an understanding of professional boundaries, the role of attorney and client and knowing that there are certain delineations that need to be upheld, she acknowledges that, in some circumstances, she may be her clients’ only source of support in this country.

“While I don’t want to cross that line of attorney-client relationship, I try to be there for them as a human,” she continued. “My duty to my clients is to be there for them. My job as an attorney is to do what’s in my clients’ best interests, and yes, that is often in the legal context, but from my perspective, it’s not limited to that.”
Rector’s clients describe to her their nonstop anger, fear, anxiety, pain and anguish. She contends that CIRI’s Survivor Services program is so helpful because it has a whole host of nonlegal needs, such as social, mental health, physical health services and psychosocial wellness groups.

“To give them this support is so crucial to their overall health and well-being,” she said. “By us being able to create a life for them here, for us being able to provide intensive case management, medical services and mental health management, it treats the whole person and not just their status because they are so much more than their status.”

A large obstacle for many asylum seekers, like Rector’s clients, is that they are not eligible for benefits or government assistance—mainly health insurance—of any kind. Somebody who is seeking asylum might arrive here with serious medical needs. Asylum seekers have frequently been physically persecuted, with burnings, electrocutions, maimings, beatings, sexual abuse and so on; Survivor Services helps provide medical care that they wouldn’t have access to otherwise.

Because the asylum-seeking process is so tiresome and frustrating, Rector disagrees with many stereotypes about refugees who come to America. She believes the negative stereotypes involve a lack of understanding about our immigration system and how the asylum process works.

“I think there is misinformation about what is required in order to get your foot in the door. There is this idea that people just sign up and say, ‘Hi, make me a citizen!’ and that couldn’t be further from the truth. The process is long and arduous and tiresome,” she said. “They wait years and years to get any resolution on their case. These are people who had to uproot their entire lives, often leaving behind their spouse and children, on their own in a country that is new to them. They’re just trying to be safe, live and survive when their loved ones are still there.”

While she explained the difficulty of the process, Rector contends that if there were a better understanding of what it takes to get into this country, there would be less fear of people abusing the system.

“There would be a deeper level of empathy for what these individuals have experienced and also an admiration of their strength because it takes strength that I can’t even fathom,” she said.

Rector says that the current system is heartbreaking for many individuals who have to wait even more years for their applications to be reviewed due to the dramatic changes and executive orders President Donald Trump has instituted since the 2016 election. She struggles in dealing with those who claim asylum seekers are dangerous or unwelcome in the United States and wishes the world could be more sympathetic to the traumatic journeys that refugees have endured.

“I wish the world could know my clients. I wish our country could know my clients. I wish our president could know my clients because I cannot imagine how anyone could get to know them on the level that I have and still say and do the things that we have been seeing since the election in 2016,” she said. “Our country would be a different place right now if everybody knew my clients and what they have been through and, more importantly, the people that they are.”
She adds, “The people I have the honor and privilege of serving on a daily basis are some of the most incredible individuals I’ve ever met, and our country would be lucky, lucky to have them as citizens.”
DANBURY, CONN. – Every other Thursday night, the deep, hearty voice of Chris Brown rattles the antiquated, wooden walls of Rosy Tomorrow’s restaurant. A unique eatery, Rosy’s has endless stairs, crisscrossing multiple levels and verandas and is crammed with antiques such as papier-mâché trapeze artists, mounted hippo heads, running trains, roaring lions and large airplanes.

Brown fits in with the authentic feel of the restaurant. He stands tall and thin above the bar on an elevated stage beside an oak piano surrounded by glowing Christmas lights. He passionately strums his guitar, love evident in each stroke.

Brown has been performing at Rosy’s for more than 20 years. His loyal disciples often make an all-evening event of seeing him and moving their heads along with the beat. He performs classic hits like “American Pie,” “I Walk the Line” and “King of the Road.” As a songwriter, Brown also plays some of his own original songs: “Same Old Same Old,” “Go West” and “A Whole Bunch of Them.”

Brown lives in Mamaroneck, N.Y., where he’s resided for 25 years. The Pelham, N.Y. native is married and has 24- and 26-year-old sons. He attended Iona College in New Rochelle, where he started his professional music career.

His very first gig in 1976 was with Bookends, a popular band with a big following in the area. “I was a singer-songwriter for them,” said Brown, “and Bookends is still playing today.”

While Brown does play and write for the piano, he rarely performs on it. “I think that is a different process and opens up different possibilities,” Brown said, “and because I don’t have much experience performing with piano, I mostly stick to my guitar.”

He avoids calling himself a “musician.” Instead, he explained, “I’m actually an artist. I had art and drawing talent, and so I grew up thinking that was where I’d end up. My father wanted me to pursue that.”

His father, who performed folk songs at parties, tried to teach his young son about music. But it wasn’t until Brown was an upperclassman in high school that he became interested in music as a singer-songwriter.

Cat Stevens, Harry Chapin and an array of Irish musicians were among the first performers that inspired Brown. “For the most part it was about that feeling I got when I listened to those singers,” he said. “It was more about relationships—having your heart broken, other things like that, which influenced me growing up.”

Other than Rosy Tomorrow’s, Brown frequently plays the Towne Crier in Beacon, Turning Point in Piermont, various coffeehouses and, “…even house concerts, where you’re brought into a room of people, they listen to your music and it’s a wonderful atmosphere.”
“I’ve been very lucky,” he said. “I play over 200 gigs a year, but I get a ton of work within an hour of where I live and most of it is closer than that... I like singing a lot. So thankfully I didn’t have to go traveling.”

He confesses that if he committed to travel more, he would have more concerts. Instead, he made the choice to marry and have kids. This is where his music life merges with a career of graphic journalism.

Brown works part-time as a graphic journalist with Gannett, which owns USA Today and many local papers across the country and is the United States’ largest newspaper group.

“I also worked with the Poughkeepsie Journal and Hearst Media,” Brown added. “I make animations and illustrations. I’m usually being fed stuff from reporters, but it’s generally been a good business for me.”

The artist describes the struggles of the newspaper industry and how companies like his have been laying people off for 15 years. “It’s steady,” he remarked. “And it eventually got to me in 2014 when I got let go. Then they brought me back on a part-time basis for about 20 hours a week.”

In terms of living both artistic lives, Brown says that it was tougher balancing music when he was younger. As he gets older, he feels that he is still improving and striving to get better.

“It’s almost this adolescent dream, at 62 years old, you still feel like you’re working toward something,” he explained. “Most of my friends are at the end part of their career, and I’m still pushing.”

“I am proud of the fact that so much work comes my way and that’s a reaffirmation of what I’m doing,” he smiled. “If you do what you love, you’ll always have to adjust [financially] for that, and it’s not always easy, but your state of mind will keep you leveled.”
Former Rosy Tomorrow’s employee turned vibrant public health professional

DANBURY, CONN. — It seems to be a typical Saturday night at Rosy Tomorrow’s for Lauren Cople. The 23-year-old is sprinting up and down the stairs, across aisles and between tables as the restaurant’s head hostess. She is rapidly bussing tables, moving furniture and greeting customers all night long. But this is not like any other night. This is her last night at the restaurant.

The New Fairfield native is now pursuing a career in her field: public health. Cople started a new position at Danbury Hospital as an Accountable Health Communities Screener for the Emergency Department (ED) and is using her talents in an exciting professional setting.

In 2017, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) awarded Danbury Hospital a five year $4.5-million grant to establish the CMS Accountable Health Communities Model, which aims to address health-related social needs of Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries. This nationwide biomedical research study is where Cople’s role is vital to the health of all her patients.

The Western Connecticut State University alumna’s objective is to help patients find resources within the community and determine if they would be healthier and have a better quality of life. “As a screener, I am the first point of contact for patients,” Cople said, “so I talk to all people with Medicare and Medicaid insurance and ask them questions about their living situation/conditions, food insecurity, transportation, any utility issues in the home, about their safety in the home, any substance abuse and some demographic questions for research purposes.”

Even if she isn’t able to immediately help, Cople can refer people in need to other departments. “If the patient answers yes to any questions, I ask if they want physical resources for help or want to be contacted by a person who is a ‘navigator’ to further assist them with any needs,” she said.
According to the Danbury Hospital newsroom, Robert J. Carr, M.D., Western Connecticut Health Network’s (WCHN) Vice-President for Clinical Transformation, leads the massive grant-funded collaboration with site directors at the partnering organizations.

Dr. Carr said, “Health-related social needs, including hunger, homelessness and poverty increase patients’ risk of developing chronic health conditions and limit their ability to adequately manage these conditions.”

In her new role, Cople works in the Emergency Department, but the stressful environment is no problem for her. She said that working at a hectic restaurant like Rosy Tomorrow’s prepared her for this position more than she anticipated.

“Since it was such a busy and fast-paced restaurant, I was so used to running around that the ED was nothing I couldn’t handle,” she said. “Before working at Rosy’s, I was quite shy, but then I was forced to talk to customers. It was hard at first to be confident, but now talking to patients about sensitive topics in a stressful environment isn’t too bad.”

Luckily, Cople’s transition from her college job to a full-time job within her field was easier than expected, she said, “because of who Rosy’s shaped me to be.”
Connecticut Attorney General candidate William Tong sheds light on immigrant struggle

[Oct. 10, 2018]

BRIDGEPORT, CONN. — One of the first barriers William Tong encountered as a minority was the door separating the dining room and kitchen at his parents’ Chinese restaurant in Wethersfield.

“It was a very real barrier between us,” said Tong, a state representative running for Connecticut Attorney General, “and I don’t have to tell you how different the people looked in the kitchen versus the people in the dining room.”

He was always thankful for those people in the dining room who put him through college then law school and who helped him get to where he is now. But he said he “would often look through the window and was very mindful of the separation through that window of the people in the room and me. There was a figurative and literal desire to get out of the kitchen and into the dining room.”

The son of two immigrant parents from greater China, Tong’s experience as a child of immigrants has defined his life, and he believes many share similar experiences of feeling like an outsider.

“It’s very personal to all of us, and of course, it speaks to how I view Asian Americans… and how a lot of people do because we are largely invisible in this conversation about race.” He said the “bamboo ceiling” is something that nobody knows about or confronts and that Asians are an overlooked minority.

Being from an immigrant community “leads to a profound sense of otherness or disconnectedness and alienation from an established political and social order. I think that’s what it is to be an immigrant,” Tong said. “You’re coming into something new, a social-political,
public-private order that is not something that you're used to because you come from somewhere else. And so when you come here or if you're born to immigrants, that experience defines you.” On the campaign trail, Tong met with Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants (CIRI) staff to talk about the importance of supporting immigrants and to pledge his support to the nonprofit.

CIRI is a statewide, nonprofit organization based in Bridgeport that assists refugees and immigrants in resolving legal, economic, linguistic and social barriers so that they can become self-sufficient, integrated and contributing members of the community.

Tong knows he didn’t become the House Chairman of the Judiciary Committee and a public servant of the Connecticut legislature for 12 years without help. CIRI clients struggle through the barriers too, but oftentimes have to make their own way.

“For me, look: I have my legislative staff, I have my campaign staff, I have a wonderful family—people looking out for me and protecting me, and I’m very lucky, and it’s hard for me. So think about a refugee who has to go to a market to work… good, honest work, and all they have to put up with in a day,” he said. He recognizes all of the ways in which these needy populations are underestimated, belittled, demeaned or denied access to an opportunity and added, “It’s that much harder for them.”

Tong has the opportunity to be the first elected Asian American Attorney General in the history of this country. Though there have been Asian Americans appointed to the position in different states, none have been elected. Winning this election would also make Tong the first Asian American constitutional officer in Connecticut, which wasn’t possible a generation ago.

“God bless CIRI for being around for the people you’re helping now. When my parents came here they had nothing. People were just hateful to them and ignored and spat on them and all of those things, but you [CIRI] found a way.”

CIRI’s social service programs include Refugee Resettlement Program, Economic Empowerment Jobs Placement and Jobs Readiness Program, Survivor Services for survivors of torture, and Project Rescue, which works with unaccompanied minors and victims of human trafficking.

Tong said that our society doesn’t give enough thought to diversity inclusion. He believes that the purpose of having people of color become lawyers, leaders in our financial system, corporate world and elected office is for moments like right now.

“When everybody has targets on their backs and each of us has to do our part on the front lines to defend our communities,” he said, “and you can’t do that from the figurative and literal back of the bus, you’ve got to be in the front.”
Heather Powell lights the way for Connecticut refugees and immigrants

BRIDGEPORT, CONN. — Heather Powell has always felt drawn to people put in vulnerable situations. As Director of Social Services for the Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants (CIRI), her vision is to better the lives of those who have experienced severe trauma or violence, who have undergone torture, who are unaccompanied minors and victims of human trafficking. These are just some of the hardships that CIRI clients endure.

CIRI is a statewide nonprofit organization that assists refugees and immigrants in resolving legal, economic, linguistic and social barriers so that they can become self-sufficient, integrated and contributing members of the community. It provides a compassionate array of high-quality legal, social and educational programming and promotes cross-cultural understanding. For most of CIRI’s clients, social services are the vital backbone in adjusting to their new home here in the United States. That’s where Powell comes in.

Since February of 2016, Powell has overseen CIRI’s four social service programs: Refugee Resettlement Program, Economic Empowerment Jobs Placement and Jobs Readiness Program, Survivor Services for survivors of torture, and Project Rescue, which works with unaccompanied minors and victims of human trafficking.

Prior to joining CIRI, Powell worked with Church World Service as an Assistant Field Director/Community Engagement Specialist for the New England Region, and prior to that, she was the Disaster Response Coordinator with the Mennonite Central Committee in post-earthquake Port-au-Prince.

Powell has 15 years of experience in refugee resettlement, victim services, fundraising, international development, and nonprofit management in the United States, parts of Africa and Haiti. She has served refugee and immigrant communities through her past work with two refugee resettlement agencies in the United States, in West Africa where she interviewed
refugees for the U.S. resettlement program, and through her work as an advocate for victims of torture, gender and sexual-based violence and human trafficking.

After her experiences abroad, Powell discussed how refugee lives require substantial rebuilding post disasters. “I’ve lived overseas in Haiti for two years and saw firsthand the lives that were destroyed by the earthquake,” she said, “I wanted to be able to continue that work in Connecticut where I grew up.”

Powell was drawn to CIRI because of the broad scope of services housed within the organization. “It’s all under one roof,” she remarked. “We have a thriving legal immigration program, thriving social service programs that have 100 years of experience serving most of the world’s most vulnerable populations—and that’s exciting. That’s an exciting place to work in.” After her first few years working with CIRI clients, one of Powell’s greatest personal rewards is feeling embraced by the community and getting CIRI’s name out to the public.

Powell has always enjoyed the idea of being involved in a client’s life and watching them become a contributing and integrated member of the community. “I thought it was a really good fit for me when I found the position,” she said. Her ongoing goals and vision for CIRI involve growing a network and strengthening community resources. “We have 100 years of success in serving clients and their variety of needs. I want to see us continue to do that work.”

She discussed at length the Bridgeport community’s role in continuing to support CIRI’s goals. “There is a CIRI family here. And we are contributing members of the Bridgeport community. We’ve developed strong partnerships that allow us to do the work that we do. In the medical field we partner with Bridgeport Family Medicine, South West, Life Bridge; each of these relationships...allows us to serve the unique needs of our clients.” Powell has also worked towards forming new relationships with Bridgeport Hospital.

CIRI’s emerging networks include ESL classes that provide meals and child care on Thursday nights, soccer programs for more than 29 refugee children and church programs that work to decorate homes for newly arrived refugees. These community contributions just scratch the surface of what CIRI does. Powell contends each of us has a responsibility to serve and can do that through the provision of these four programs by being creative and looking within the community.

She suggests that there are ways that everyday people can pool various resources together with other partners and community members. “We need to continue to serve the most needy people on this planet,” she said. “It’s the rent you have to pay on earth.”

So what can the community do?

According to Powell, “Step back, reflect on what speaks most to you and get in touch with our staff. Since I’ve been here, there have been so many different people coming forward saying, ‘I can do this. I have a skill set in this.’ We’ve found so many ways we can use the skill sets of the
community to better our staff and to support staff training skills development to support our clients. There are so many different people who even devote one hour of their lives. That’s wonderful. Everybody’s got something.”

While CIRI volunteers and staff do so much with so little, they face their own struggles in the face of a hardened political environment, which includes hostility toward immigrants and refugees. In spite of the struggles associated with a nonprofit organization, Powell believes that you have to truly want to open your eyes and see what’s happening to people across the globe. However scary the world may be, however racially charged or challenging for CIRI clients, she added, “The world I expect for my children is what we are building here at CIRI. We have the chance to contribute. That’s why we are here.”
Ms. Sherri Hill  
Associate Director of Public Relations  
WCSU University Relations  
181 White Street  
Danbury, CT, 06811  

October 23, 2018  

Dear Ms. Hill:  

Rebecca Peralta is not your average girl.  

This young, vibrant, 23-year-old Dominican-American go-getter just recently secured a position as a software developer with Travelers Insurance straight out of college. What’s more, the New Milford native defies every rigid stereotype of a male-dominated technology and computer industry.  

I would like to write a profile of Peralta, not only to highlight her strengths as a young woman in the industry but also to illuminate for other, younger girls what her path was like so they are more likely to pursue it themselves. Peralta sets an example for so many young coders, engineers and future technicians in cyber security, and while she is at the beginning stages of her career, she epitomizes and encapsulates what it means to have diversity in the workplace. In the future, Peralta hopes to become a senior software developer and move up within her company.  

Of course, as a former WCSU graduate with a B.S. in computer science, she has many skills and resources to offer as she moves forward in her career; I hope that through the lens of her alma mater, her story can be told to others who will also be inspired by her journey.  

I am a graduate student in the Creative and Professional Writing M.F.A. program at WCSU and also currently a public relations intern with WCSU. I have already completed a writing bachelor’s degree and received awards and scholarships for my work. Attached is a link to a feature I wrote earlier this year. Thank you for your time and consideration. I will follow up before the end of the week.  

Best regards,  
Gina Atanasoff
Travelers Insurance software developer defies stereotypes

HARTFORD, CONN. – Ever since Rebecca Peralta’s seventh birthday, when she and her twin brother received their very first video game console, she knew she had a passion for technology. The 23-year-old New Milford native always loved math, and when she entered high school, she knew the path she wanted to pursue.

“I realized I can merge my love for technology and numbers by experimenting with computer programming,” she said. “After finishing my web design class during my senior year, I decided to pursue my bachelor’s in computer science.”

The Dominican-American alum from Western Connecticut State University is part of the Technology Foundational Development Program (TFDP) in Personal Insurance at Travelers. This program helps recent college graduates transition into the corporate world by offering classes that cover topics such as scaled agile framework (SAF) and emotional intelligence.

Currently, Peralta is doing S.Q.L. development, which is a form of coding. Her next rotation in software development will be using Java.

The TFDP in Personal Insurance is a four-year rotational program. “I am currently in my first rotation as a Teradata database administrator for the business intelligence and analytics value stream,” Peralta said. “My responsibilities include approving access and space requests for database users, executing D.D.L. changes for vast databases and tables and developing an application in Python for Teradata optimization.”

With this program within Travelers Insurance, she is able to explore different areas of technology. This is a major asset as Peralta kicks off her career but isn’t yet sure where she wants to focus.

“I can’t really pinpoint my dream role just yet because I have so much to learn,” she said. “However, I’ve been fascinated with cybersecurity since high school. Regardless of the areas I’ll
be in, I see myself as a senior software developer in the next 10 years or so.”

Cybersecurity has been an exponentially growing field, particularly in light of so many major hacks.

Peralta said that the most rewarding part of her job is working with her supportive team, whose positive reinforcements and guidance motivate her to reach higher in achieving her goals.

Peralta smashes stereotypes about what a software developer looks like, not only as a woman in the male-dominated computer and technology industries, but also as a Latina. According to an article in Forbes, “In about 25 years, the Pew Research Center predicts that the majority of people in the U.S. will be people of color; so of the minority babies born in the US today, a good portion must end up in STEM careers for tech to continue to thrive.”

She wants to reassure young girls that “absolutely anyone can learn programming, so there shouldn’t be a reason to give up on dreams like computer programming or cybersecurity.”

“I believe many girls are discouraged because they think they are not ‘smart enough’ to code. Everyone learns at a different pace,” she said. “The intensive courses you must take in college might challenge this, but determination and resilience helped me push through times where I had doubts in my ability to succeed.”
Dear Mr. Steele:

Danbury’s Brenton Vaughan is a true character.

A seasoned tattoo artist, touring musician, father of three and aspiring pastor, Vaughan is a business owner and subcontractor at Luv Ink tattoo shop in Danbury. With 13 years of experience, Vaughan has tattooed large pieces, detailed sleeves, intricate back designs and full body suits; on the weekends, he tours nationally with his band Union Rail.

I would like to write a profile of Vaughan tied to one of Union Rail’s upcoming local performances. The band will be opening for country music sensation Jessica Lynn at Ives Concert Park on Saturday, Sept. 15. On Sept. 30, the group will perform at Daryl’s House Club in Pawling, N.Y. The band’s many influences range from Appalachian bluegrass to folk, country, blues and their own pop mix of early American music. Vaughan plays guitar and sings for the group. I believe featuring Vaughan in an entertainment section would fit well, and he has agreed to be interviewed by me for a potential story.

Of course, Vaughan’s story is not a typical one. His life has taken several interesting turns, from his wife firing him from their co-owned tattoo shop years ago in Brewster, studying jazz guitar at Western Connecticut State University (WCSU), becoming a professional musician, traveling across the country, fathering three little girls and pursuing a passion for theology. This artist’s unique journey deserves to be told.

I am a graduate student in the Creative and Professional Writing M.F.A. program at WCSU and also currently a public relations intern with WCSU. I have already completed a writing bachelor’s degree and have received the Stein Intern Scholarship Award and Stephanie Bounds Award for Excellence in Writing and Rhetoric Award for my work. Attached is a link to a press release I wrote earlier this month. Thank you for your time and consideration. I will follow up before Jessica Lynn’s show on Saturday.

Best regards,

Gina Atanasoff
Brenton Vaughan: Tattoo artist, musician and man of faith

DANBURY, CONN. — Danbury tattoo artist Brenton Vaughan has been fascinated by ink ever since he was 13 years old.

“I’ve always been artistic. It’s just what I did,” he said. “Before remembering anything of my earlier years, it was always drawing. Even before writing.”

Since his parents are painters and musicians, he took to the sense of freedom that came along with his creative side.

Today, Vaughan is virtually the illustrated man. His arms and neck are blanketed in tattoos, including an image of spider webs, skulls and large sailing ships. But there is far more to this book than its cover. In addition to being a tattoo artist, he’s a touring musician, proud father of three and, most surprising of all, an aspiring pastor.

Despite his diverse interests, “music was always number one for me,” Vaughan said. One of six children, the Bethel native attended Western Connecticut State University (WCSU) to study jazz guitar. It was shortly thereafter that he began touring on and off with bands like Far From Finished and Drop Kick Murphys for a number of years. That’s where it all started.

While on tour, 19-year-old Vaughan was encouraged by a fellow musician to pursue his drawing talents even further. “Around that time, I got inspiration from other tattooers,” he said, “and some guys I knew had taken me under their wing, so I kind of took that guy’s advice. I took a year and did an apprenticeship.” He’s been tattooing for 13 years.

Getting started wasn’t always smooth or easy for him, however. About eight years ago, Vaughan and his wife opened their own tattoo shop together. They were there for three years until his wife became pregnant with his second of three daughters.

“It was called Hold Fast in Brewster,” he said with a grin. “My wife actually fired me from the shop at first. I didn’t show up one day, I was young and irresponsible and, as the boss, she had no problem getting rid of me. It’s one of our favorite stories to tell now.”

Vaughan is a subcontractor at Luv Ink tattoo shop in Danbury. He and the shop’s many other tattoo artists create their own hours to some degree, with flexible appointment times, regulars and long-term clientele. The flexibility of the setup can accommodate a family day or school event for Vaughan.

“For instance, with this lifestyle, I can get my daughter off the bus after a smaller appointment and come right back to do a full sleeve on a client. It’s a nice balance,” he said. “Regulars usually make up our appointments. I’m lucky with that, so I can plan to make time for family.”
In spite of being a full-time dad and artist, Vaughan still manages to continue pursuing one of his initial passions: music. He now plays for the band Union Rail and performs gigs across the country. The group’s many influences range from Appalachian bluegrass to folk, country, blues and their own pop mix of early American music. Vaughan plays guitar and sings. As much as he loves being a musician, he contends that a lifelong career of only music wouldn’t have been the right path for him.

“I have a base now. While tattooing, [I’ve been] able to raise a family and remain in town. If I was only on tour with music, I wouldn’t be married and wouldn’t have my kids,” he added.

Even so, Vaughan still makes plenty of time for music. This Saturday, Sept. 15, Union Rail will be opening for country music sensation Jessica Lynn at Ives Concert Park in Danbury. The group will also be playing at Daryl’s House Club in Pawling, N.Y., on Sept. 30.

Vaughn’s artistic freedom and passion don’t end there; he still finds the time to play music for local churches. As a Christian, he considers himself “a follower of the teachings of Jesus.” He has a deep interest in theology and history. He has considered becoming a pastor and wants to have at least some religious education under his belt. The self-employed, artistic, unconventional family man holds his convictions close, religious or not.

He maintains that his journey involved a lot of growing up along the way with years of partying, immaturity or not taking work seriously. For young, upcoming artists who want to pursue a similar path to his, he offers the following advice:

“When you work for yourself as any self-employed person, there’s nobody going to spank you or tell you what you’re doing wrong or if you’re not doing enough. You’re only going to go as far as you push yourself,” he said. “Both worlds [tattooing and music] are great career paths, but I look back on wasting money and the dumb stuff I did when I was young. You’ve got to have fun in life—but make it balanced.”
Local coffee and wine bar puts fun, fresh and healthy spin on downtown Danbury

DANBURY, CONN. — As you walk into Pour Me Wine and Coffee Bar in Danbury, sleek barstools and tall tables border the outer fringe of the dining room while plushy booths and tables line the left-hand side. The aroma of fresh coffee and serene, chill, hop-style music fills the air. There are fresh flowers and assortments of raw sugar and stevia on each tabletop.

When our hipster-esque waitress handed us our menus and told us about all the plant-based, gluten-free and unconventional items on the menu, we knew we were in store for something special. Pour Me Wine and Coffee Bar is a family-friendly eatery located in Danbury’s dynamic, diverse and growing downtown. Having opened in June 2017, the vibrant bistro features grab-and-go in the morning, lunchtime quick-serve, and full-service outdoor patio seating as well.

Whole-food ingredients, a full vegan menu, smoothies, breakfast burritos, flatbread pizzas and a wide kombucha selection are just some of the many healthy options Pour Me offers. It reflects the city’s true colors, since Danbury is a constantly growing bohemian and contemporary cityscape. Pour Me is one of the first of its kind: openly plant-based, Danbury-centric and welcoming. It also offers the convenience of Uber Eats for all of your delivery needs.

Walking through the door, you’re welcomed in 64 languages, literally: The word “welcome” is written on the left wall in all 64 languages spoken by students at Danbury’s public schools.

On the opposite wall, an old replicated billboard from the Danbury Museum and Historical Society reads “Danbury Crowns Them All,” which originally greeted rail travelers during the city’s peak in the hat industry. Pour Me offers these small tributes and tokens to Danbury as part of the restaurant’s efforts to help revitalize the city and strengthen the community.

When owner and founder Andrea Gartner decided to open a restaurant, there were easier places to do that than in downtown Danbury, where parking is scarce and businesses have historically struggled. But the former director of CityCenter loves Danbury just as much as she loves fresh food.

Not only is the style of the eatery trendy but so is Gartner’s unique cuisine. The explosive flavor of Pour Me’s award winning “Rocket Fuel Vegan Chili” has held its own against meat-based chilis in multiple contests, always placing in the top three. The rich black and kidney bean, onion, zucchini, sweet potato, mushroom, jalapeño and kale mixture is filling, warming, fueling and fortifying with each bite. You can enjoy it with some cool slices of avocado over a voluminous bed of French fries as vegan poutine or simply scoop it out of the bowl with some fresh artisan bread.

Other unique items, such as hemp hummus, edamame and soba noodles, cauli-chick curry, trendy toasts and breakfast bowls, all light up the bright-green interior even more. Rotating specials offer foods like vegan cauliflower chowder, based with rich coconut milk and topped with roasted potatoes, exciting gluten-free options and Beyond-Beef-style veggie burgers.
Pour Me offers beer on tap, wine by the glass and bottle, healthy items such as cashew milk, turmeric, cold-brew draft coffee, lattes, espressos and cappuccinos.

Gartner, a life-long Danbury resident, opened her restaurant because she believes that societal change must start at the community level. She said diversity is one of the city’s strongest attributes, and she strives to bring the community together. This welcoming hub of fresh, healthy, fun cuisine and beverage options is open to everyone and anyone.
A dream come true: ‘If This Were a Story’ by Beth Turley

NEW LONDON, CONN. — Would you ever expect a budding 25-year-old writing student who just graduated from school to sign a two-book deal with one of the largest publishers in the book industry?

Even more, do you think she could have written her book within one month’s time? Well, she did.

Beth Turley, 25, of Mystic, C.T., signed a book deal with Simon & Schuster, for If This Were a Story, a middle-grade contemporary novel with elements of magical realism.

Her book is being released August 28, 2018, from the New York publisher. The book is about a 10-year-old girl named Hannah who found a mean note on her classroom floor. The story surrounds objects coming to life to encourage her to speak up about her feelings.

“The book looks at different parts of growing up, like friendship troubles, problems at home and skin issues,” Turley said. “This is the first of my two-book deal with the company.”

The young author says that her character Hannah inspired this story more so than plot. “This book was really propelled by Hannah and the type of character I wanted her to be. I was inspired to look at what happens when someone keeps their thoughts and feelings buried inside,” she said, “The rest of the story fell into place once I knew who I wanted Hannah to be.”

Turley let the book take control as she embarked on her writing process. After what she calls a “rollercoaster” of a few months querying her first academic project, she was eager to get back out there with this specific project.
“The book poured out of me in about a month. Ideas kept coming, and as bizarre as they seemed (really? A penny coming to life? Are you sure?), I just let them happen,” she said.

In February of 2017, Turley finished her book and started submitting to literary agents, when in early March, she received an offer of representation from Zoe Sandler at ICM Partners. “It was one of the most important days of my life,” she said.

After Sandler and Turley signed on together, the book was sent to editors at the big publishing houses, and in April of 2017, Simon & Schuster accepted If This Were a Story. Turley said, “It was and still is an absolute dream come true.”

During her Creative and Professional Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) writing program at Western Connecticut State University (WCSU), from which she has recently graduated, Turley discusses what experiences influenced her book.

The WCSU alumna says while enrolled there, “I focused on young adult literature and literary journalism. These genres absolutely influenced my book, and while my story is middle grade, learning to write for young people was very important to my process. And the literary journalism had an impact on my voice and the way I use details.”

When asked if the program helped her achieve this goal, she lit up in response. Before this M.F.A., Turley claims she was a writer who only relied on pretty sentences.

“I can say without hesitation that I would not have a book deal without the M.F.A. program. I learned everything I needed to know about scenes and stakes and character development from my graduate courses. It was the right decision for me.”

Turley admits that her lifelong love of reading is what drives her love of writing. Growing up, she would read everything she could get her hands on, read them multiple times, and was “obsessed with everything about books.”

With respect to her “obsession,” or love of reading, she said she adored “the pages, the covers, the writing styles. It became clear that I didn’t just want to be a reader. I wanted to see my own book on a shelf. That dream hasn’t changed since I was five years old.”

Turley’s advice to aspiring writers involves putting oneself out there for the world to see. She asserts that when met with rejection after taking pieces of yourself and risking them in the public eye, it’s a very particular kind of pain—but also important not to give up.

“There is always another book to write, another opportunity to put your work out there and other joy to fill the gaps. As long as you continue to love the process, then you are on the right track and it will all be worth it when things fall into place.”
Handbooks

There are two handbooks in this section: The Associated Press Handbook: Style, Guidelines and Principles and Proteja a Su Familia de Las Redadas de Inmigracion: Una Guia Facil. Both items serve to simplify, condense and abridge large amounts of information for readers. The handbooks inform and educate about guidelines, rules, laws and rights, while keeping specific audiences in mind.

The Associated Press Handbook: Style, Guidelines and Principles targets audiences in the public relations and journalism industries. This easy-to-read guide is something they can refer to with questions regarding AP style.

Proteja a Su Familia de Las Redadas de Inmigracion: Una Guia Facil, which is written entirely in Spanish, aims to educate immigrant families about the law and what their rights are during immigration raids. The Immigration Law Center is my source for the information contained in the handbook. I have hand-selected and simplified much of the legal jargon and dense information for easier comprehension. This pocket manual provides links for families to seek legal help, gives examples of how agents might violate families’ rights and what to do if someone is a caretaker or parent in a crisis situation.

*Please see the attached file to access handbooks*
Social Media and Digital Literacy

This section demonstrates how I have used social media and graphic design in public relations. This portfolio represents my ability to produce different types of publicity materials including flyers, posters, E-blasts and social media posts. This portion of the thesis differs from previous sections because much of current public relations work is contingent upon digital literacy in order to reach wider audiences. I did not use strict AP style conventions for these materials because the tone is more casual and my supervisors determined the final stylistic preference for these advertisements.

I created all these materials while volunteering for organizations such as the Humane Society of the United States, Ives Concert Park and the Jahana Hayes for U.S. Congress Fellowship Program. These visual examples demonstrate my abilities as a well-rounded public relations professional who can navigate digital and social media spaces to reach more audiences.
Flyers and Social Media: Jahana Hayes for U.S. Congress Fellowship Program

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Our favorite warrior activists knocked on 230 doors this weekend and still made the time to come in and phone bank! Thanks for all you do! Camila Bortolleto Carolina Bortolleto (also special thanks to Kate Conetta for making calls and treating for dinner! 💖 our fav) #twinsavages #whatdidYOUdothisweekend #killingit #GOTV
Gina Atanasoff  
November 2 at 6:45 PM

You know what time it is! We are ready for the last weekend before the election! #GOTV

Come in tomorrow through Election Day for phone banking, canvassing and getting out the vote!!! Candy, water and shirts will be provided 😊

#letsdothis #crunchtime

Carolina Bortolletto Omg I want a shirt! I'll be canvassing or phone banking the whole weekend

Lisa Papp Terifay Can I swing by today and pick up shirts for Kelly & Kate for Tuesday?
Gina Atanasoff
November 3 at 1:53 PM

Thank you to all our amazing phone banking volunteers for coming in today! We have a packed house. Let’s go get out the vote 💖❤️🙏

Drew Badolato, Camila Bortolieto and 15 others

Like  Comment  Share
Gina Atanasoff
October 26 at 10:37 AM

Can't believe there are 11 days left until the big day!

Yes we can.

Camila Bortolletto, Jay Malone and 4 others
1 Comment  Seen by 126

Connor Riley
Me when my friends ask what I'm going to do after the election is over:

Like · Reply · 1w

Connor Riley replied · 2 Replies

Write a comment...
Gina Atanasoff
November 6 at 10:14 AM
Brad Greene is in the spirit of Election Day!!! Thanks for your help, signing in volunteers and entering data brad!

Camila Bortolletto, Jacob Schumer and 7 others 2 Comments  Seen by 112

Marrayam Khera Brad is the BEST!!!!!!!!!!!!!!  ❤  ❤  ❤
Gina Atanasoff
November 6 at 8:42 AM

Signs are up and polling places are popping! Let's get out the vote! 🌟

---

Jim Pope
November 6 at 1:58 PM

I beat you! 😂

Like · Reply · 2d
CALLING HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE STUDENTS

Apply today!

JAHANA HAYES FOR U.S. CONGRESS

Fellowship Program

15 hours/week | Ends Nov. 7
Strengthen understanding of the electoral process
Develop leadership skills
Actively engage in public service

~ STUDENTS OF TODAY ~
LEADERS OF TOMORROW

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL STUDENTS@JAHANAHAYES.COM
Calling all high school & college students

APPLY TODAY!

Jahana Hayes for U.S. Congress Fellowship Program

RUNS UNTIL NOV. 7
15 HOURS/WEEK

Learn about the electoral process | Develop leadership skills
Engage in public service | Have fun doing it!

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL STUDENTS@JAHANAHAYES.COM
WCSU STUDENT PHONE BANK FOR JAHANA HAYES

Come meet the team on Friday, Oct. 5 from 5-7 pm!

WHERE: WCSU Midtown Student Center Lobby

Free pizza will be offered!
All you need is a cell phone and a tablet/laptop!

build your resume | volunteer | get involved
#TEAMHAYESALLDAY

For more information, contact eimy@jahanahayes.com
COME JOIN US!

WEEKEND OF ACTION FOR JAHANA HAYES

September 22 & 23
2 Terrace Place, Danbury CT
11 am - 6 pm

Help us to make calls across the district and knock on doors! Walk in with your sneakers or gadgets! Tell a friend! Everyone is welcome!

For more information, call (917) 595-0560 or e-mail eimy@jahanahayes.com
Saturday, Oct. 20 & Sunday, Oct. 21

PHONE BANK OR CANVASS
ANYTIME
BETWEEN 11AM & 6PM

WEEKEND OF ACTION!

Let's knock some doors,
Make some calls
And get the word out
about Jahana Hayes!

HIT THE GROUND RUNNING.
2 Terrace Place
2nd Floor
Danbury, CT
Wine not raise your glass for a cause?

COME PHONE BANK AND HAVE A DRINK WITH US!

Come spread the word about Jahana Hayes!

This Wednesday, Oct. 3 from 6-8 p.m.

2 Terrace Place
2nd Floor
Danbury, CT 06810
IT'S TIME TO GET OUT THE VOTE
THIS PHONE BANK SEASON!

Wine Down Wednesday

CALLING FOR CHANGE THIS NOVEMBER:
COME SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT JAHANA HAYES!

Join us this Wednesday night from 6 - 8 p.m.

at our
Danbury Office:

2 Terrace Place
Danbury, CT
06810

Wine not raise your glass for a cause
wine down
wednesday

6 P.M. TO 8 P.M.
DANBURY OFFICE
2 TERRACE PLACE
DANBURY, CT 06810

Be a part of our amazing group of female volunteers and enjoy a glass of wine while helping us brainstorm various ways we can contribute to Jahana's victory in November.

We will also be calling fellow registered women in our district to help spread Jahana's message. See you then!
On Wednesdays, We Drink Wine.

WINE DOWN WEDNESDAY

is back!

This Wednesday, Oct. 17

Come join us from 6–8 p.m.
and raise your glass for a cause!
Have a drink and phone bank to help spread Jahana Hayes’ message!

2 Terrace Place
2nd Floor
Danbury, CT 06810
RING RING!

IT'S PHONEBANK SEASON!

Let's get the word out!

Help us reach out to everyone across the district about Jahana Hayes!

Join us Monday through Friday from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at our Danbury office:

2 Terrace Place, Danbury, C.T. 06810
2nd floor
5 WEEKS LEFT UNTIL ELECTION DAY.

IF YOU GIVE 2 HOURS OF YOUR TIME EACH WEEK,

THAT'S 10 HOURS TOTAL.

EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS.

Come phone bank and canvass for Jahana Hayes!

Phone Bank:
Mon-Fri, 6-8 pm

Canvass:
Sat-Sun, 11-6 pm

2 Terrace Place
Danbury, CT 06810
BRING A FRIEND! EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

IT’S CANVASS WEEKEND!

THE SKY IS THE LIMIT

JOIN US OCTOBER 13 & 14 FOR A WEEKEND OF DOOR KNOCKING!

PICK UP A CANVASS TURF ANYTIME FROM 11 AM - 6 PM

Help us knock doors in your neighborhoods and remind the people of the 5th district of the General Election on November 6. Let’s go spread Jahana’s message!

ADDRESS:
2 Terrace Place
2nd Floor, Danbury, CT
DANBURY AREA TEAM HAYES PRESENTS:

THERE ARE 14 DAYS UNTIL THE GENERAL ELECTION!

Here's how you can help:

Phone Bank
Deliver lawn signs
Enter data
Canvass
Register voters
Volunteer to pollstand
JAHANA HAYES & JULIE KUSHNER CANVASSING EVENT

LOCATION:
DANBURY DEMOCRATS OFFICE
161 MAIN STREET
SATURDAY, OCT. 6
9:30 A.M

Bring a friend! Everyone is welcome!

Dust off your sneakers and join Jahana and Julie this Saturday for some door-knocking across Danbury. Help us spread the message!

Contact eimy@jahanahayes.com for more information
RING RING!

IT'S PHONE BANK SEASON!

LET'S GET THE WORD OUT ABOUT JAHANA HAYES IN BETHEL!

Join us every Monday from 6 - 8 p.m.

Location:
Bethel DTC's Office
273 Greenwood Avenue
Bethel, CT 06801

#TeamHayes
RING RING!

IT’S PHONE BANK SEASON!

LET’S GET THE WORD OUT ABOUT
JAHANA HAYES IN BROOKFIELD!

Join us Thursday, Oct. 11
from 6 - 8 p.m.

Address:
Will be provided after you RSVP to:
marrayam@jahanahayes.com

#TeamHayes
RING RING!

IT'S PHONEBANK SEASON!

Let's get the word out! Help us reach out to everyone across the district about Jahana Hayes

JOIN US ANY DAY,
Mon. - Fri.
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Danbury Office:
2 Terrace Place
2nd Floor

For more information, contact Eimy Martinez at (917) 595-0560 or eimy@jahanahayes.com
5th District Candidates

CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE

Come hear from both candidates:
Jahana Hayes (D)
Manny Santos (R)

Don’t miss out! Your vote matters.
What the candidates say matters.

Tuesday, October 16
Portuguese Cultural Center
65 Sand Pit Rd, Danbury, CT
at 7 p.m.
DANBURY AREA TEAM HAYES PRESENTS:

EDITORIAL WRITING WORKSHOP

FRIDAY, OCT 26
5 - 7 P.M.

Come join us in writing letters to the editor and possibly publish an article in the local newspaper!

2 Terrace Place
2nd floor
Danbury, CT 06810
LET'S MAKE SOME NOISE!

Pre-debate Rally for Jahana Hayes

SAVE THE DATE
TUESDAY, OCT. 16
RALLY: 5:30-6:30
DEBATE DOORS OPEN: 6:30
DEBATE TIME: 7:00

Portuguese Cultural Center
65 Sand Pit Road
Danbury, CT
LET’S GET OUT THE VOTE FOR DEMS UP AND DOWN THE BALLOT

IT’S FINALLY ELECTION DAY!

Go vote.

Come volunteer.

Make history.

2 TERRACE PLACE
2ND FLOOR
DANBURY, CT
ALL DAY, 8 AM - 8 PM
Flyers and Social Media: Ives Concert Park
Public Relations, Communications, Journalism and Politics
IvesConcertPark: Because rain can't dampen our fun! Come check out some awesome vendors at Brews & BBQ! #IvesConcertPark #BrewsandBBQ #ComeOnDown

18 likes
May 10
Add a comment...

IvesConcertPark: Art at Ives: Juried Fine Art and Crafts Show and Wine Tasting is here! The weather is gorgeous and the vendors are incredible. Come on down for live music, food and drinks! It's fun for the whole family.

@nicholasr The Fine Arts and crafts Festival with artist from around the country and it's...

@ginabobean, @kennedyflatsct, @osmorgan32, @sovatheater, @zacharykopet, @nicholasr, @wmorganjr, @pictureperfect756, @klichadi4ever and @meli_beet17 like this
June 2
Add a comment...
Come enjoy local barbecue, craft beers, and headline performances by Doyle Bramhall II and Amy Helm tomorrow, May 12 at Brews & BBQ from 3pm-9pm! The jams, food, and drinks will continue rain or shine.

Everyone is having a blast today at Brews & BBQ! Come on down and enjoy local BBQ, craft beer, and live music! Our event runs until 9:00 tonight! 🎶🔥
1. Brews and BBQ Festival:
   -Date: May 12
   -Time: 3-9 PM
   -Location: Ives Concert Park
   -Activities: Live music, delicious craft beer, mouth-watering BBQ
   -Save the date and ticket information available.

2. Meet the Band:
   -Brothers of the Road performing at the Forever Grateful Music Festival on Fri., Aug 10 & Sat., Aug 11.
   -Alman Brothers cover band, touring from New England to Georgia.
   -Encore performance with a mix of music and friends.
SATURDAY OCT 6th Noon to 10:30pm

BENEFIT REUNION

fore'n'aft

Ives Concert Park - 43 Lake Ave Ext. Danbury CT

Come jam out to our entertainment extravaganza of Fore 'n Aft Benefit Reunion, proceeds of which benefit Danbury charity organizations!

Join us on Saturday, October 6, from 12-10:30pm, which features live music, special guests, surprise appearances, food trucks & much more!

Add a comment...

—

Ives Concert Park HAPPENING NOW: Forever Grateful Music Festival is underway! Come join us on this beautiful night for some delicious food, drinks, grooving music, and awesome merchandise. Hope to see you soon!

15 likes

Add a comment...
Ivesconcertpark • Following

Ivesconcertpark: Come join us for a night of country music with New York performer @jessicalynn on Sat, Sept. 15 from 4:30-9:30pm! Enjoy the fun at Ives with the whole family! Tickets on sale July 17. Visit http://ivesconcertpark.com for more info!

jessicalynn: Can't wait! Thank you for having me! 😊

14 likes
4 hours ago

Add a comment...
ivesconcertpark Mock Stock tribute band festival returns for two nights of incredible musical celebration! This tribute event is split into a Purple fest on Friday, 7/20 and a Metal fest on Saturday, 7/21. Come kick off a weekend of fun for the whole family with Mock Stock Purple, in celebration of Prince, Jimi Hendrix, and Sly & the Family Stone! http://ow.ly/g9kc30kzpNQ

ivesconcertpark Come join the summer fun at our Westside Reggae Festival on Sat July 28! Jam out with talented bands, enjoy delicious food, and have fun the whole family can enjoy! #Reggae @ivesConcertPark Advance tickets available here: http://ow.ly/gkJT50hP0B1 msfannabanaa @vickiewht

18 likes
JUNE 19

29 likes
JULY 1
Ivesconcertpark • Following

Ivesconcertpark: We are getting close to our 7th annual Westside Reggae Festival! Last year’s festival was bursting with music, culture, and excitement and we can’t wait to see you again this year! This year’s performers include Culture, Mykal Rose, Wayne Wonder, Half Pint, and more. Bring the whole family out for this fun filled event! Get your tickets now to save at eventbrite.com

#Reggae #FamilyFun #Festivals

Iju1965: When is it??

Ivesconcertpark @Iju1966: Saturday July 28th:

❤️ 16 likes

JUNE 15

Add a comment...

Ivesconcertpark: Westside Reggae Fest is here!!! Come join us for the rest of an incredible day of music, dance, food and family fun!

❤️ 35 likes

JULY 29

Add a comment...
Don't miss this Saturday's 7th Annual Westside Reggae Festival! There will be food, music, and fun kids' activities. Come join us in the "Family Fun Zone!" where everyone can enjoy this incredible summer event! We can't wait to see you there!

Friday Food Days are here! Want the entire cultural experience? Try a variety of West Indian & Latin influences when you order food at Westside Reggae Fest tomorrow! Vegan options are also available for the whole family to enjoy. Gates open at 1pm & tickets available at the door!
WESTCONN STUDENT SPECIAL: $5
Celebrating the music and culture of the Grateful Dead and beyond!

Forever Grateful
Music Festival

On WCSU Westside Campus

DAY 2 WILL BE HAPPENING ON SATURDAY, SEPT. 1
DOORS OPEN AT 1pm

This festival includes tribute sets to the Allman Brothers, Bob Marley, Jerry Garcia Band, Grateful Dead and original homegrown acts that keep the party going!

Tickets available at the door. Bring valid student ID.

Ivesconcertpark
Come enjoy the magic of Peter & the Starcatcher on May 24-May 26 at WCSU's Visual Performing Arts Center! This play will be a family blast you won't forget. Visit our website at ivesconcertpark.com to buy tickets today!

18 likes
May 16
Country Harvest Hoedown
Featuring Jessica Lynn
Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018

Tickets on Sale Now
Student Special: $5
General Admission: $20

With Dan Zlotnick, Tom Dobson and Ridgefield School of Rock

Line Dancing Taught by Premier Entertainment Dance Team!

www.IvesConcertPark.com
Ives Concert Park
@IvesConcertPark

Voted #1 Outdoor Concert Venue by CT Magazine: We are in Fairfield County with 40 beautiful acres, a pond, live music, drinks, friends=FUN & we have a moat!

Danbury, Connecticut
IvesConcertpark.com
Joined April 2009

Tweet to Ives Concert Park
5 Followers you know
707 Photos and videos

Public Relations, Communications, Journalism and Politics

Ives Concert Park
@IvesConcertPark

Saturdays Oct 6th Noon to 10:30pm
Benefit Reunion Fore’n’ aft
Ives Concert Park - 43 Lake Ave Ext. Danbury CT

Tweeted by @IvesConcertPark - Jul 9
Come jam out to our entertainment extravaganza of Fore’n’ aft Benefit Reunion, proceeds of which benefit Danbury charity organizations!

Join us on Saturday, October 6, from 12-16:30pm, which features live music, special guests, surprise appearances, food trucks & much more!

SATURDAY OCT 6th Noon to 10:30pm

Benefit Reunion
Fore’n’aft
Ives Concert Park - 43 Lake Ave Ext. Danbury CT

Tweeted by @IvesConcertPark - Aug 21
Want to end summer with a bang? Don’t miss the Chicha Fest on Sun, Aug 26 from 11-9pm. Don’t miss this enriching cultural experience with exhilarating foods, rhythmic Latin vibes & family-friendly fun for everyone.

Tickets are available at the door. See you there!
Ives Concert Park

Tweets: 3,816
Following: 2,694
Followers: 3,234
Likes: 2,187
Lists: 4

Ives Concert Park
@IvesConcertPark

Voted #1 Outdoor Concert Venue by CT Magazine. We are in Fairfield County with 49 beautiful acres, a pond, live music, drink, friends: FLN & we have a moose!

Danbury, Connecticut
Ivesconcertpark.com

Ives Concert Park
@IvesConcertPark

Who to follow
- The Palace Theatre @Paldyn
- CityCenter Danbury @CityCenter
- WestConn @WestConn

Trends for you
- Serena Williams
- #2K16Tennis
- #ThursdayThoughts
- #ODCtweets
- #EmmyNom
- #2K16Tweets
- #ThingsTellMyPartnerInCrime
- #2K16Tweets
- #Bullisadmin
- #WillowWouldPickMeUp
- #1176Tweets
- #MxMe2016
- #TheFirstTimeTried
- #295Tweets

Ives Concert Park
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Tweet to Ives Concert Park

Tweet

5 Followers you know...

1,663 Photos and videos

Ives Concert Park
@IvesConcertPark

Come join us for a night of country music with New York performer Jessica Lynn on Sat. Sept. 19 from 4:00-9:30 PM! Enjoy the fun at Ives with the whole family! Tickets on sale July 17.

Ives Concert Park
@IvesConcertPark

Tweet

The official Forever Grateful music festival’s lineup is here! Don’t miss this tremendous celebration of the Grateful Dead and more. Fri 8/12 from 5-10:30 PM and Sat 8/13 from 1-10:30 PM! ForeverGrateful #GratefulDead #IvesConcertPark

#DanburyCT #CTMusic
SATURDAY OCT 6th Noon to 10:30pm
BENEFIT REUNION
fore'n aft
Ives Concert Park - 43 Lake Ave Ext. Danbury CT

Ives Concert Park @IvesConcertPark - Jul 6
The Ives Concert Park in Danbury will be headlining our Forever Grateful Music Festival on Friday! Come join out with us on Aug 10 & 11. @StellaBluesBand

Ives Concert Park @IvesConcertPark - Jul 7
Come join us for a night of country music with New York performer Jessica Lynn on Sat. Sept. 10 from 9:00-11:00 PM. Enjoy the fun at Live with the whole family. Tickets on sale July 17.

Ives Concert Park @IvesConcertPark - Jul 8
On Sun, Aug 5, we will have brunch & lunch under the tentage. Guest will have a drink, enjoy continental brunch provided by Rowtide Cafe, & paint your hair out with help from the Art from 12-3pm. IvesConcertPark
#BrunchBash - Buy tickets here.

Ives Concert Park @IvesConcertPark - Jul 9
Be sure to check out our Twitter feed for more information and updates on upcoming events at Ives Concert Park.

Follow
Connecticut Ballet Presents:
Ballet Under the Stars

Sunday, July 15, 2018 | 7:30 PM
Ives Concert Park
43 Lake Ave Ext | Danbury, CT

General Admission tickets: $10
Children 12 and under: $5
Children 2 and under are free
Tickets available at ivesconcertpark.com

Newtown Savings Bank
Fine Arts & Family Series

A FREE onstage Ballroom Class will be offered from 6-7 p.m.
with Ted Thomas | Bring comfortable shoes or sneakers!
Connecticut Ballet Presents:

Ballet Under the Stars

Sunday, July 15 | 7:30pm

Ives Concert Park
43 Lake Ave Ext.
Danbury, CT

Ballet Under the Stars

Connecticut Ballet features the performance ‘Pulse’ by Darrell Grand Moultrie!

A FREE onstage Ballroom Class is offered from 6-7 p.m. with Ted Thomas. Bring comfortable shoes or sneakers.

General Admission tickets: $10
Children 12 and under: $5
Children 2 and under are free
Tickets are on sale at ivesconcertpark.com

Newtown Savings Bank
Fine Arts & Family Series
CONNECTICUT BALLET PRESENTS

Ballet Under the Stars

SUNDAY | 7.15.18 | 7:30PM
IVES CONCERT PARK
43 LAKE AVE EXT.
DANBURY, CT 06810
IVES CONCERT PARK PRESENTS:

Brush & Brunch

Sunday September 23, 12 pm

Instruction by The Art Spot
To reserve: ivesconcertpark.com or 203-837-9227

Newtown Savings Bank
Fine Arts & Family Series

Sunday, September 23 Noon to 3 PM
Painting onstage, beneath gazebo

$39 (includes continental brunch and art supplies)
To reserve your spot, visit ivesconcertpark.com or call 203-837-9227

Ives Concert Park, 43 Lake Avenue Ext. Danbury, CT

The Art Spot

BRING YOUR ART TO LIFE!

The Art Spot will be instructing, for all levels of painters!
Step-by-step lesson on color, shadows, highlights and technique.

pourme
consume & conquer

A continental brunch will be provided courtesy of Pour Me Cafe.
Alcoholic beverages & soft drinks will be available for sale.
Must be 21 or older to drink.
E-Blasts, Website and Radio Copy:
Ives Concert Park

RADIO COPY

Instructions: Double Space, 12 Font and use all CAPS

1  LOOKING FOR A GREAT EVENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY? COME TO ART AT IVES, A JURIED FINE
2  ART & CRAFTS SHOW, THIS SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, JUNE 2 AND 3 FROM 10AM -5PM AT IVES
10 SECONDS
3  CONCERT PARK IN DANBURY. THIS TWO-DAY EVENT FEATURES MORE THAN 70 ARTISTS FROM
4  ACROSS THE NATION, WITH HIGH-QUALITY WORKS THAT RANGE FROM PAINTING AND DIGITAL
15 SECONDS
6  ART TO FIBER, CERAMICS, PAPER AND DRAWING. AND THERE'S MORE!
7  CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES AND A LIVE BUTTERFLY EXHIBITION WILL BE OFFERED. WE WILL HOST
8  DEMONSTRATIONS OF THE ANCIENT ART OF ORIGAMI, MASK-MAKING AND A CHILDREN'S
30 SECONDS
10  DRAGON PUPPETEER FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!
11  IN ADDITION, A WINE TASTING AS PRESENTED BY MAX WINE AND SPIRITS WILL PROVIDE AN
12  ARRAY OF WHITES, REDS, AND ROSÉ WHILE YOU CAN ENJOY LIVE JAZZ MUSIC AND DELICIOUS
12  FOOD. THERE'S SO MUCH TO DO AT THE SHOW!
13  COME TO ART AT IVES, A JURIED FINE ART AND CRAFTS SHOW WHERE YOU CAN COME SUPPORT
14  LOCAL ARTISTS, ENGAGE YOUR COMMUNITY, SIT BACK AND RELAX WITH A DRINK, AND HAVE A
15  BLAST DOING IT. COME JOIN THE FUN THIS SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, JUNE 2 AND 3.
16  RAIN OR SHINE, EXPERIENCE ART AT IVES, A JURIED FINE ART & CRAFTS SHOW FROM 10AM -
17  5PM. ART SHOW ADMISSION IS $5 AT THE DOOR, AND $20 FOR THE WINE TASTING. IVES
1 MINUTE
18  CONCERT PARK! GET MORE INFO AT IVESCONCERTPARK.COM.
FOREVER GRATEFUL MUSIC FEST – FRI & SAT, AUG 10 & 11

CELEBRATING THE MUSIC AND CULTURE OF THE GRATEFUL DEAD AND BEYOND!

Forever Grateful returns for its 4th year of celebrating the music and culture of the Grateful Dead and beyond! The festival included tribute acts to The Allman Brothers, Rob Marley, Jerry Garcia Band, Grateful Dead and original home grown acts that keep patrons rocking and growing all day, all night.

This year’s performers include Skidom, Legion of Jerry, Brothers of The Road, J Ambassa & Members of MRE, Union Rare, The Annual Hat City Jam, The Red Hats, Akron Family Band, and Blackthorn Growl. Check out the lineup of musical talent for this year’s festival!

Festival Info:
Friday, August 10
Doors: 5pm
Show: 6-10:30pm
Saturday, August 11
Doors: 1pm
Show: 1-10:30pm

Friday Only Advanced – $15
Saturday Only Advanced – $25
VIP Friday & Saturday Admission Advanced – $10
VIP tickets include: lunch tickets, 2 beverage tickets, a VIP lanyard and special VIP seating area.

A LITTLE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR PERFORMING BANDS:

Friday Night, August 10

Some acts include:

Stella Blues, performing a long set of Grateful Dead:

Stella Blues is a band on a mission. Attracting both talented musicians and kind folks, a project born out of love for the music, and jamming for fun, Stella has evolved into one of the best touring tributes to the Dead on tour today! Live circuit members: Bill Bonsen—Lead guitar/Vocals, Pete Looper—Vocals; Steve Liesman—Rhythm guitar/Vocals; Ken Algen—Keys; Greg Solomon—Bass, Ron Cohen—Drums/Vocals.

Uncle Ebenezer, performing a long set of Phish:

Uncle Ebenezer are four musicians and Phish fans who are dedicated to spreading the joy and excitement of the live Phish experience. Combining accuracy and musicianship with whimsical performances, Uncle Ebenezer
Public Relations, Communications, Journalism and Politics

Jan Dunkin & The Business:

Jan "Pipes" Dunkin got her name as founding member of Deep Banana Blackout, a funk rock jam band that toured internationally in the late 90s. On the road Jan sat in with P Funk, Gov't Mule, Karl Denson and Medeski. Sparks to name a few. Pipes joined Funkadelic Bernie Worrell for 3 years in the "Woo Warriors" as lead singer while she also fronted 2 New York City Bands "The Conscious Underground" and "The Bomb Squad". After winning an American Music Award in 2003, Jan became a vocal coach and music educator developing songwriting classes and leading summer rock camps.

I Ambassa & Members of MSE, performing Bob Marley & The Wailers:

I Ambassa delivers high energy, all original Reggae/roots music, fused with rock, funk, and afro-beat. Bringing forward a fresh, new and infectious sound, they ignite on stage with intuitive hooks and bubbling rhythms that instantly get the crowd moving and singing along. Their songs promote self-awareness, consciousness, positivity and, above all, job love. Bred out of Southern Connecticut, I Ambassa formed in the Summer of 2009 and matured quickly. To date, they have played with Steel Pulse, Stephen Marley, the Mighty Diamonds, Beres Hammond, George Clinton & Parliament Funkadelic, Tribal Seeds, Lettuce, and Deep Banana Blackout.

Legion of Jerry, performing Jerry Garcia Band:

Legion of Jerry is a Connecticut based band, playing the music of Jerry Garcia, The Jerry Garcia Band, and its respective and vast extended catalog of music. It is born of the desire of a few-keen minded and like-hearted musicians that is too good to pass up.

The Annual Hat City Jam:

This collaboration of festival artists will leave you on your feet and roaring applause! Jan Dunkin, Donny Piero, Brenton Vaipno, Frank Stewart, Sean Morris, Joe Lapetrauel & more will be performing.

The Red Hots:

This band began re-imaging and re-doing classic, timeless pieces of music that were beginning to be lost to the ages, particularly old blues, jazz, r&b and notably Muddy's re-touched covers of music with their own eclectic sound. The Red Hots began playing at local places around town while experimenting with their sound and musical elements. After battling with various members and line-ups, the band has solidified their image as a tight-knit trio, expanding their live performances all the way to NYC festivals and private parties at the Jersey shore, as well as becoming a well-known act in their hometown.

Blackthorn Grove, featuring members of Phoenix Tree:

Blackthorn Grove performs popular covers and original songs in their own organic driving style, playing mainly as an acoustic trio and duo and sometimes does full electric shows.

Atom Family Band:

The Atom family aligned organically in front of open microphones around the Danbury, CT area. A synergy of poise, jazz and blues was born, focusing on the words of Atom Rasul and musicians obsessed with improvisation. Roars of fierce modern and primitive beats in inventive jazz, blues, and dub reggae elements are what this eclectic band does best. Without question, The Atom Family Band creates an unique fusion of spoken word, jazz and blues.

Some more musical talent featured on our Golden Gate Stage:

Friday – Dead Dawgs
Saturday – Dead Dawgs, Ethan James, Joe Paolli & Jesse Lynch, Justin Varga

Comments are closed.
A NIGHT OF COUNTRY MUSIC WITH JESSICA LYNN—SAT, SEPT. 15

JESSICA LYNN WILL BE RETURNING TO THE IVES STAGE ON SEPTEMBER 15!

New York’s Jazz at Lincoln Center continues to make her mark on country music with her new song “Love’s Gonna Win,” which was just released this June 20, 2018.

Currently seen nationwide across America in her two full-length PBS television specials, “Jessica Lynn – The Muddy River” and “Jessica Lynn – Taking Over – Live At The Ryman,” this New York country girl headlined overseas this past June for an eight-weeks-long international tour in support of her new single, “Love’s Gonna Win.”

Last summer, she traveled to Belgium to write and record her most recent EP, “Look At Me Final Lips,” with acclaimed producer Patrick Carney (Kissin’ Janes, David Correy) at the world-renowned Golds Studio. Their last song from that release, “Easy Rider,” is well on the Music Row Country music chart and received significant airplay on UK and European radio with exceptional reviews by worldwide press. Come June 10 to a night of country music, dancing, food and fun the whole family can enjoy!

EVENT DETAILS:
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
Gates 4PM
MUSIC: 6:30 – 9:00PM
TICKETS ON SALE: TUESDAY, JULY 17 @ 10:00AM
General Admission:
$25 for students
$20 in advance
$25 at the door
Kids 12 and under are free!
SEPTEMBER FEST – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

September Fest is fun for the entire family.

Doors will open at 12 p.m. and close at 6 p.m.

Some more details about our line-up of musical acts:

**The Alpaca Gnomes** are a vibrant, stomp-and-groove, 7 piece original rock-folk jam band from Bridgeport, CT. The Gnomes ensemble features violin, electric & acoustic guitar, keys, bass, drums, and percussion.

Familiar yet fresh, the never-ending mashups brought forth by The Pocket Hoboes whip crowds into quivering dance parties from the window to the walls. Fast enough for the bar, crisp enough for corporate events and wild enough for your wedding, this band reminds us what we love about live music.

**What Up Funk**! The What Up Funk band’s intricate instrumentation and catchy, reimagined arrangements of classics both new and old are rhythmically infectious and keep crowds dancing at every event.

**Moonshine** has opened for Grammy-nominated band the Spin Doctor’s at the Ives Concert Park in Danbury and is the only Connecticut modern country band to have headlined the new Cty City Stage in NYC (a venue played by Luke Bryan, Jason Aldoan, LeCash, Vibe Gill, Ashley Campbell, and countless other big names) and are regulars at Stamford’s new home for country music Rascal Flatts Restaurant own by the popular band and its partners.

**Sketchy at Best** is best at performing 60s, 90s, and current music! They entertain crowds as eclectic as their playlist, with pop, rock, and funk influence that will leave you dying for more!

Come to Ives Concert Park in celebration of September Fest! More details to come soon.
E-Blasts [Some Formatted in Column Format]

Brews & BBQ:

We are pleased to welcome Amy Helm, a distinctive and timeless songwriter and performer, who worked alongside chief musical mentor, renowned icon, and father Levon Helm, in addition to alt-country musical collective Ollabelle.

Doyle Bramhall II is an accomplished and gifted guitarist, songwriter, vocalist, and lifelong collaborator with childhood friends Stevie Ray and Jimmy Vaughn, and who has also worked with Eric Clapton for over a decade; he has also worked with a broad range of other major artists, including T-Bone Burnett, Elton John, Gary Clark, Jr., Gregg Allman, Dr. John, Robert Randolph, Allen Toussaint, Billy Preston, Erykah Badu, Questlove, Meshell Ndegeocello and Sheryl Crow.

Buy Tickets Here

Please note:

All events are rain or shine.
No outside coolers, food or beverages of any kind are permitted in the park.

Great food, soft drinks, water, beer and wine are available for purchase.

All bags will be checked at the front gate.
Forever Grateful:

Celebrating the Music and Culture of the Grateful Dead and Beyond!

Forever Grateful returns for its 4th year of celebration at Ives Concert Park! The festival includes tribute sets to the Allman Brothers, Bob Marley, Jerry Garcia Band, Grateful Dead and original homegrown acts that keep fans shaking and grooving all day and all night!

**Festival Information:**
- **Friday, August 10**
  - Doors Open: 5pm
  - Show: 8:30-10:30pm
- **Saturday, August 11**
  - Doors Open: 1pm
  - Show: 1:30-10:30pm

**EARLY BIRD TICKETS ON SALE:**
Monday, April 16 at 10am
- Friday Only: $10
- Saturday Only: $20
- Friday & Saturday 2-Day Pass: $27.50
- VIP (Friday and Saturday): $50
  - (VIP tickets include: concert T-shirt, lunch ticket, 2 alcoholic beverage tickets, a VIP lanyard and special VIP seating)

**Thanks to our Major Sponsors**
- buzzed drunk
- Newtown Savings Bank
- Ethan Allen Hotel

**A safety message from our friends at the CT Department of Transportation**

**Thanks to our Partners**
- The Annual Hat City Jam (Collaboration of festival artists)
- The Red Hots
- Atom Family Band
- Blackthorn Grove (Members of Phoenix Tree)

**Kids are FREE ages 10 & under**

**ACT SOON! This special is only available until April 30.**

**Check out some of the bands that will be performing:**
- Shakedown: Performing the Grateful Dead
- Legion of Jerry: Performing Jerry Garcia Band
- Brothers of the Road: Performing the Allman Brothers
- Ianbassa & Members of MSE: Performing Bob Marley & the Wailers
- Jen Durkin & The Business
- Union Rail

**The Annual Hat City Jam (Collaboration of festival artists)**

**The Red Hots**

**Atom Family Band**

**Blackthorn Grove (Members of Phoenix Tree)**

Artist lineup is subject to change
Additional schedule is to be announced

**Ready to join the fun? Want to bring the family? Bring your blankets and lawn chairs along to the celebration.**
Peter and the Starcatcher:

Peter and the Starcatcher is a play based on the 2004 novel Peter and the Starcatchers by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson, adapted for the stage by Rick Elice. The play provides a backstory for the characters of Peter Pan, Mrs Darling, Tinker Bell and Hook, and serves as a prequel to J. M. Barrie’s Peter and Wendy.

Performances:

Thursday, May 24 - 7pm
Friday, May 25 - 7pm
Saturday, May 26 - 7pm

Performances will be held in the Western Connecticut State University Visual & Performing Arts Center Mainstage Theater.
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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS HANDBOOK: STYLE, GUIDELINES AND PRINCIPLES

Gina Atanasoff
Why This Handbook?

Associated Press (AP) style provides guidelines for news writing. Newspapers, magazines and public relations offices across the United States use AP style in their field.

A basic knowledge of AP style is considered essential to those who work in the professional world of writing and print journalism. Maintaining a consistent and coherent style heightens a writer’s credibility.

This handbook is necessary because it serves as a tool for writing professionals in journalism, public relations, and magazine-publishing industries by showing how to properly use AP style.
A Bit About AP Style

Even though the official Associated Press Stylebook includes more than 5,000 entries, included below is an abridged list of AP style rules.

Newspaper content and other forms of mass media are typically collaborative projects between multiple writers and editors. AP style provides consistent guidelines for these publications in terms of grammar, spelling, punctuation and language usage. Some key guiding principles surrounding AP style are:

♦ Consistency
♦ Clarity
♦ Accuracy
♦ Brevity

The Associated Press Stylebook provides a comprehensive A-Z guide in terms of capitalization, abbreviation, punctuation, spelling, numerals and other ambiguities surrounding the use of language.
Part I

The first section of the handbook deals with the mechanics of grammar, punctuation and several other components of the English language in the Associated Press Style.

Part I handles the technical details with respect to print journalism’s style of work as well as specific rules and formatting requirements.
Abbreviations

It is required to include these abbreviations before a person’s full name:


In addition, medical and political titles only need to be used on first reference when they appear outside of a direct quote.

Other acronyms and abbreviations are acceptable, but not required:

- FBI, CIA, GOP

*Tip: Try not to drench your text in an excess of abbreviations (or what the Associated Press Stylebook calls “alphabet soup”).*
Addresses

When it comes to numbered addresses and directional cues, abbreviate:

- Ave., Blvd. and St.

Always spell out words such as alley, drive and road. If the street name or directional cue is used without a numbered address, it should be capitalized and spelled out:

- If a street name is a number, spell out First through Ninth.
- Use figures for 10th and higher.

Here are some examples of correctly formatted addresses: 101 N. Karen St., Northwestern Road, South Fifth Street, 102 S. 10th St., 605 Woodside Drive.
Ages

Always use figures. But if the age is used as an adjective or as a substitute for a noun, then it should be hyphenated.

Keep in mind, you shouldn’t use apostrophes when describing an age range. Examples include:

- A 21-year-old student.
- The student is 21 years old.
- The girl, 8, has a brother, 11.
- The contest is for 18-year-olds.
- He is in his 20s.
Books, References, Newspapers and Others

Use quotation marks around the titles of books, songs, television shows, computer games, poems, lectures, speeches and works of art. Examples include:

- Author Porter Shreve read from his new book “When the White House Was Ours.”
- They sang “The Star-Spangled Banner” before the game.

Do not use quotations around the names of magazine, newspapers, the Bible or books that are catalogues of reference materials. Examples are:

- The Washington Post first reported the story.
- He reads the Bible every morning.

Tip: Do not underline or italicize any of the above.
Dates, Months, Years, Days of the Week

Do not use *st, nd, rd, or th* with dates.

Always capitalize months and spell them out unless they are used with dates. When used with a date, abbreviate only the following months:


Commas are not necessary if only a year and month are given, but commas should be used to set off a year if the date, month and year are provided. Examples include:

- *Classes begin Aug. 25.*
- *Purdue University was founded May 6, 1869.*
- *The semester begins in January.*
- *The 1800s. The ’90s.*

If you refer to an event that occurred the day prior to when the article will appear, do not use the word yesterday. Instead, use the day of the week. Capitalize days of the week, but do not abbreviate. If an event occurs more than seven days before or after the current date, use the month and a figure.
Datelines

Newspapers use datelines when the information for a story is obtained outside the paper’s hometown or general area of service. Datelines appear at the beginning of stories and include the name of the city in all capital letters, usually followed the state or territory in which the city is located. Examples are:

- DENVER – The Democratic National Convention began...
- ST. PAUL, MINN. – The Republican National Convention began...
- YOUNGSTOWN, OH. – President Bush spoke to a group...
Dimensions

When writing about height, weight or other dimensions, use figures and spell out words such as feet, miles, etc. Examples include:

- She is 5-foot-3.
- He wrote with a 2-inch pencil.
Miles

Use figures for any distances over 10. For any distances below 10, spell out the distance. Examples:

- *My flight covered 1,113 miles.*
- *The airport runway is five miles long.*
Names

Always use a person’s first and last name the first time they are mentioned in a story. Only use last names on second reference.

Do not use courtesy titles such as Mr., Mrs., Miss or Ms. unless they are part of a direct quotation or are needed to differentiate between people who have the same last name.
Numerals

Never begin a sentence with a figure, except for sentences that begin with a year. Examples:

- Two hundred freshmen attended. Five actors took the stage. 1776 was an important year.

Use roman numerals to describe wars and to show sequences for people. Examples:

- World War II, Pope John Paul II, Elizabeth II.

For ordinal numbers, spell out first through ninth and use figures for 10th and above when describing order in time or location. Examples:

- Second base, 10th in a row.

Some ordinal numbers, such as those indicating political or geographic order, should use figures in all cases. Examples:

- 3rd District Court, 9th ward.
Numerals II

For cardinal numbers, consult individual entries in the Associated Press Stylebook. If no usage is specified, spell out numbers below 10 and use figures for numbers 10 and above. Example:

- The man had five children and 11 grandchildren.

When referring to money, use numerals. For cents or amounts of $1 million or more, spell the words cents, million, billion, trillion etc. Examples:

- $26.52, $100,200, $8 million, 6 cents.
Punctuation

Do not use Oxford commas in a simple series. Example:

- In art class, they learned that red, yellow and blue are primary colors.
- His brothers are Tom, Joe, Frank and Pete.

However, a comma should be used before the terminal conjunction in a complex series, if part of that series also contains a conjunction. Example:

- Purdue University's English Department offers doctoral majors in Literature, Second Language Studies, English Language and Linguistics, and Rhetoric and Composition.

Commas and periods go within quotation marks. Example: “I did nothing wrong,” he said. She said, “Let’s go to the Purdue game.”
States and Cities

When the name of a state appears in the body of a text, spell it out. When the name of a city and state are used together, the name of the state should be abbreviated (except for Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Ohio, Texas and Utah).

States should also be abbreviated when used as part of a short-form political affiliation. Examples:

- He came from Lafayette, Ind. The peace accord was signed in Dayton, Ohio. The wildfire began in California and moved east toward Carson City, Nev.
States and Cities II

State abbreviations in AP style differ from the two-letter ZIP code abbreviations. Here is how each state is abbreviated in AP style:

- Ark., Calif., Colo., Conn.
- Del., Fla., Ga., Ill., Ind.
- Mont., N.H., N.J., N.M., N.Y
- R.I., S.C., S.D., Tenn., Vt.,
- Va., Wash., W. Va., Wis.
- Wyo.

You will notice that eight states are missing from this list. That is because Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Ohio, Texas and Utah are never abbreviated.
States and Cities III

AP style does not require the name of a state to accompany the names of the following 30 cities:

- Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Honolulu, Houston, Indianapolis, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, New Orleans, New York, Oklahoma City, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Salt Lake City, San Antonio, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington.
The exact time when an event has occurred or will occur is unnecessary for most stories. Of course, there are occasions when the time of day is important.

In such cases, use figures, but spell out noon and midnight. Use a colon to separate hours from minutes, but do not use :00. Examples:

- 1 p.m., 3:30 a.m.
Titles

Generally, capitalize formal titles when they appear before a person’s name, but lowercase titles if they are informal, appear without a person’s name, follow a person’s name or are set off before a name by commas.

Also, lowercase the adjectives that designate the status of a title. If a title is long, place it after the person’s name, or set it off with commas before the person’s name. Examples:

- President Bush; President-elect Obama; Sen. Harry Reid
- Evan Bayh, a senator from Indiana; the senior senator from Indiana, Dick Lugar; former President George H. W. Bush
- Paul Schneider, deputy secretary of homeland security.
Part II

This section of the handbook addresses more big-picture issues regarding AP style. It discusses guidelines, updated media laws and briefings that surround different areas of print journalism business guidelines and style and so on.

As opposed to the more refined technicalities addressed in Part I, this section explains more of the deeper aspects of the overarching rules surrounding professional writing.
The Associated Press ensures that news is reported quickly, accurately and honestly.

That means they abhor inaccuracies, carelessness, bias, plagiarism or distortions, will not knowingly introduce false information or material, will not alter photo or image content and will guarantee that quotations are accurate and precise.

It means they won’t misidentify or misrepresent themselves to get a story. When they seek an interview, they identify themselves as AP journalists.
AP Statement of News Values & Principles II

When mistakes are made, they must be corrected—fully, quickly and ungrudgingly. It is the responsibility of each associate to ensure that these standards are upheld.

Under AP’s rules, material from anonymous sources may be used only if:

- The material is information and not opinion or speculation and is vital to the news report.
- The information is not available except under the conditions of anonymity imposed by the source.
- The source is reliable and in a position to have accurate information.
Not everyone understands "off the record" or "on background" to mean the same things. Here are the AP’s definitions:

- **On the record**: The information can be used with no caveats, quoting the source by name.

- **Off the record**: The information cannot be used for publication.

- **Background**: The information can be published but only under conditions negotiated with the source. These background briefings have become routine in many venues, especially with government officials.

- **Deep background**: The information can be used but without attribution. The source does not want to be identified in any way, even on condition of anonymity.
AP generally does not identify those who say they have been sexually assaulted or pre-teenage children who are accused of crimes or who are witnesses to them, except in unusual circumstances.

Nor do they transmit photos or video that identifies such persons. An exception would occur when an adult victim publicly identifies him/herself.
Media Law

Key legal issues facing journalists that deal with newsgathering activity. Three topics of direct significance include:

- **Access to government information**, including the rules governing reporter’s access to the courts and to government information generally;

- **Confidential sources**, including the law relating to promises of confidentiality and the reporter’s privilege; and

- **Newsgathering conduct**, including common law and statutory rules that may create liability for actions taken while a reporter is seeking out the news.
Media Law II

With respect to news content, legal principles in three branches of law that govern liability for the publication of information include:

- **Defamation**, including the elements of a claim arising from the publication of a **false** statement and the common law and constitutional defenses to liability;

- **Privacy**, including claims for the disclosure of private facts, misappropriation and “false light,” which can arise when the facts reported are **true**; and

- **Copyright infringement**, including the elements of a copyright claim and the “fair use” defense
Media Law III

What is Libel?

♦ One side of the coin called “defamation,” with slander being the flip side. In basic terms, defamation means injury to reputation.

♦ Libel is generally distinguished from slander, in that a libel is written or printed, whereas a slander is spoken.
Social Media Guidelines

Social media presents an array of opportunities to journalists. It serves to:

♦ Enhance beat reporting
♦ Simplify finding resources for stories
♦ Give journalists a direct connection with people who care about the news they cover
♦ Challenge journalists to use the networks in a way that doesn’t undermine their credibility

Social networks don’t replace other tools of reporting, but forces mastery of new skills like typing or using a smartphone
Social Media Guidelines II

How do journalists use social media in their work? Some common uses include:

- To track down sources—namely, people who witnessed a news event or were directly affected by it.

- To gather user-generated content like photos or videos, that a news provider may want to acquire and distribute/publish as part of its report.

- To look for news tips or discussion trends that might lead to or form a story.

- To produce short-format original content such as blog items.

- To find new sources and keep up with existing ones.

- To interact with consumers directly, to share links and to get a sense of public users’ reactions to an event.
Social Media Guidelines II

How do journalists balance their public, professional presence with personal privacy? Some things to consider:

♦ Not all social networks, including Facebook, allow users to create more than one profile.

♦ Posts or messages that are intended to be personal can easily be shared, just like emails can be forwarded and conversations recorded.

♦ Social credibility is gained through consistency and by building connections through interaction and sharing.
Business Guidelines

The AP’s market is the individual reader of business news. Journalists must write in a lively, clear and accessible style that provides explanation and content while avoiding insider jargon and condescending tone.

Why to lead with net income:

♦ Net income truly is the bottom line and benchmark for companies’ performance over time.

♦ It’s what they are required to report to the SEC in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and it gives us a standard reporting format that brings a consistency to our news report.
Corporate earnings provide a report card for top executives, as results are often a consequence of decisions they made.

Including details about the decisions corporate executives have made helps us show that companies are made up of people who win or lose based on the decisions these officials make.

This helps make the “company come to life” in such writing.
Currency conversions are necessary in stories that use foreign currency to make clear for readers how a number translates into dollars.

Conversions should be used sparingly and preferably not in the lead unless they are a significant part of the story.

A conversion is generally needed only the first time a currency is mentioned. The reader can make the necessary conversions after that.
Broadcast Guidelines

“Barack Obama has been elected president of the United States;” “Osama Bin Laden is dead;” "The Dow Jones industrial average has reached 13,000.”

These sentences illustrate AP’s broadcast news writing style. They are easily understood but intelligent, conversational but not stiff. Many broadcast stories can be effectively told using such straightforward writing and this simple structure:

Lead, Backup, Details and Background
Broadcast Guidelines II

**Lead.** The first sentence in this story reports the essential facts that are the news:

*A huge wildfire [the subject of the story] in eastern Arizona [location] is expected to spread to New Mexico [the story’s latest development].*

**Backup.** The second sentence “backs up” the lead:

*Both wind and dry lightning are forecast over the next two days [answering the implied question “Why is the fire expected to spread?”].*

**Details.** These next sentences report additional important facts —mainly, the extent to which people are injured or at risk.

**Background.** The story ends by putting the fire into current and historical perspective:

*The fire has burned more than 350 square miles. It’s the third-largest wildfire in Arizona’s history.*
Broadcast Guidelines III

Principles used by AP’s broadcast writers:

- Lead with the news.
- In leads, use forms of the present or future verb tenses.
- Keep leads short and to the point.
- Favor the active voice.
- Attribute at the beginning of sentences (active not passive voice).
- Identify newsmakers before naming them (“Fire information officer Ed Williams,” instead of “Ed Williams, fire information officer”).
- Omit needless words.
- Prefer the simple to complex.
- Don’t strain for synonyms.
- Use direct quotes only when a paraphrase doesn’t work better. In most cases, it does.
- Simplify numbers.
- Use a variety of sentence lengths, but keep most sentences short.
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PROTEJA A SU FAMILIA DE LAS REDADAS DE INMIGRACIÓN: UNA GUÍA FÁCIL
Para saber sus derechos, la ley, y que hacer cuando hay una redada de inmigración.

Gina Atanasoff
Especialidad en la administración presidencial de Donald Trump, la opinión sobre los inmigrantes son antagonistas en estos momentos que está viviendo nuestro país. Pero no importa quien sea presidente de Los Estados Unidos porque todas las personas que estén residiendo en Territorio Norteamericano tienen derechos básicos bajo de la Constitución de Los Estados Unidos— todos, incluyendo las personas indocumentadas.

Esta guía trata de ayudar y proteger familias quienes se sienten amenazados por El Departamento de Inmigración. Si no sabe las leyes y sus derechos, o que hacer en una situación de crisis, no se preocupe. Lea este manual.

Recuerda, todos nosotros tenemos derechos.
El Departamento de Inmigración ha mal caracterizado estas radadas como acciones de “routina” o “blancos” para reenforzar las leyes de inmigración. Aquí una explicación como las redadas son diferentes:

- **No más prioridad.** Desde Noviembre 2014, El Departamento de Inmigración solo se había enfocado en las personas con antecedentes criminales, básicamente el 87 porciento de la comunidad indocumentada no era objeto de persecución de arresto y deportación. Pero eso cambió y bajo la orden ejecutiva firmada en el 25 de Enero, 2017, virtualmente todas las personas indocumentadas son ahora consideradas una “prioridad” de deportación.

- **Persecuciones Criminales.** El Departamento de Inmigración ha indicado que va a perseguir criminalmente a todas las personas que entren de manera ilegal al Estados Unidos. Historicamente, solo las personas que eran aprendidas tratando de entrar al Estados Unidos de manera ilegal o cerca la frontera eran cargados con estas ofensas criminales. Muchas personas que han estado residiendo en Los Estados Unidos por más de 13 años están siendo detenidas y carcadas con ofensas criminales a pesar de no haber cometido ningún crimen solo por el hecho de haber entrado a Los Estados Unidos por la frontera. Esto crea miedo y desestabiliza nuestras comunidades.
COMO SON DIFERENTES LAS REDADAS DE INMIGRACIÓN BAJO LA ADMINISTRACIÓN DE TRUMP Y OBAMA?

• Arrestos Colaterales. Ahora, más personas están siendo detenidas, incluso aquellas, que están en lugares y momentos equivocados, incluyendo las personas que están bajo la protección de DACA. En gobiernos anteriores, cuando El Departamento de Inmigración detenia personas durante una de sus redadas, las personas con protección del DACA o sin antecedentes criminales no eran una prioridad para inmigración y eran puestas en libertad después que El Departamento de Inmigración confirmaba su estatus. Ahora estas personas están siendo procesadas para deportación bajo esta nueva administración.

• Mas expansión de deportaciones rapidas. La orden ejecutiva del 25 de Enero dice que El Departamento de Inmigración está dramáticamente expandiendo el uso de deportaciones inmediatas. Como resultado, las personas no ciudadanas, para las cuales pueda haber opciones para permanecer en los Estados Unidos, pueden ser deportadas simplemente porque El Departamento de Inmigración no les da tiempo suficiente para buscar las opciones que bajo la ley le permitan permanecer en los Estados Unidos. También, El Departamento de Inmigración no permiten abogados para las personas detenidas, y es más difícil para los abogados ayudar a estas personas.
LOS PELIGROS DE LAS DIFERENCIAS DE LAS LEYES

•La aplicación de las estrategias de inmigración devastan nuestras comunidades y crean caos y miedo. Muchas de estas estrategias dependen en discriminación de razas y tratan de remover las personas del país rápidamente, antes de la oportunidad de hablar con un abogado o aparecer en frente de un juez.

•Las autoridades de inmigración pueden reclamar que no usan estas estrategias, pero sus acciones resultan en rápidas y crueles deportaciones de miembros de nuestras familias y comunidades.
SI UN OFICIAL DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE INMIGRACIÓN TE CONFRONTA, QUE DEBE HACER?

- Usted tiene el derecho a permanecer en silencio. Puede rechazar hablar con los agentes de inmigración.
- No conteste ninguna pregunta. También puede decir que quiere permanecer en silencio.
- No responda preguntas sobre de donde vinó, en donde nació, o como entró a Los Estados Unidos.
CONOZCA SUS DERECHOS

• Lleve siempre una tarjeta de sus derechos con usted. Si es detenido o confrontado por un oficial de inmigración, muéstrelle su tarjeta.
• Esta tarjeta (a la derecha) explica que usted se va a mantener silencio y que desea hablar con un abogado.
• Para imprimir esta tarjeta, presione here y presione comando + P.

**CONOZCA SUS DERECHOS**

**KONOW YOUR RIGHTS!**
If you are stopped by immigration or the police:
✓ Hand this card to the officer, and remain silent.
✓ The card explains that you are exercising your right to refuse to answer any questions until you have talked with a lawyer.

To: Immigration or Other Officer
Right now I am choosing to exercise my legal rights.
✓ I will remain silent, and I refuse to answer your questions.
✓ If I am detained, I have the right to contact an attorney immediately.
✓ I refuse to sign anything without advice from an attorney.

Thank you.
NO ABRÁ LA PUERTA

• No le abrirá su puerta a nadie
• Para poder entrar a su casa, El Departamento de Inmigración debe tener una orden firmada por un juez. Ellos casi nunca tienen una orden firmada. Si un agente de inmigración quiere mostrarle una orden, pueden ponerla en la ventana o pueden deslizar la orden debajo de su puerta. Para ser válida, la orden necesita tener su nombre y dirección correcta.
• No necesita abrir la puerta para hablar con un agente de inmigración. Cuando abrirá la puerta, es más difícil no responder preguntas.
CONTACTE A SU ABOGADO DE INMIGRACIÓN

- Tiene el derecho de hablar con un abogado.
- Solamente tiene que decir, “Necesito hablar con mi abogado.”
- Puede tener su abogado con usted si un agente de inmigración le hace preguntas.

Y Muy Importante:

- Antes de firmar algo, hable con un abogado.
- El Departamento de Inmigración pueden tratar de manipularle. Si los escucha, puede perder su derecho de aparecer al frente de un abogado o un juez. Ellos tratarán de hacerle firmar un documento haciéndole renunciar a sus derechos de ver a un juez o hablar con su abogado.
- Esté seguro que entienda lo que significa un documento antes de firmarlo.
LLEVE CON USTED LOS DOCUMENTOS NECESSARIOS

• Siempre lleve con usted los documentos validos de inmigración.
• Por ejemplo, si tiene su tarjeta de residencia, esté seguro de tenerla con usted en caso de que necesite mostrarla como identificación.
• No lleve papeles de un país diferente con usted, como un pasaporte extranjero. Estos papeles pueden ser usados contra usted en el proceso de deportación.
ERES UN PADRE O CUIDADOR?

• Si está preocupado que El Departamento de Inmigración va a detenerte, diga al agente si tiene hijos.

• Si es el padre o cuidador primario de un ciudadano o residente permanente que tiene menos de 18 años de edad, El Departamento de Inmigración puede “ejercitar discreción” y dejarlo libre.
Porque Donald Trump ha hecho muchas declaraciones contra inmigración, El Departamento de Inmigración y otros agentes de la ley piensan que pueden violar sus derechos.

A veces, agentes de inmigración le mienten a la gente para que abran la puerta. También, ellos tratan de hacer que usted abra la puerta y hacerle firmar un documento renunciando sus derechos.

Si está detenido por El Departamento de Inmigración o está preocupado por redadas en su vecindario, esto es lo que puede hacer: crear un plan de seguridad.
PLAN DE SEGURIDAD:

- Memoríze el número de teléfono de un amigo, miembro de su familia, o abogado a quien pueda llamar si está detenido.
- Si tiene hijos u otras personas en su cuidado, asigne una persona para que pueda cuidarlos mientras usted se encuentra de detenido.
- Proteja sus documentos importantes como su certificado de nacimiento y documentos de inmigración en un lugar seguro donde un amigo o miembro de su familia pueda encontrarlos si es necesario.
- Esté seguro que sus familiares saben como encontrarle si ha sido detenido por El Departamento de Inmigración. Pueden usar la página de Internet de inmigración para buscarle si ha sido detenido y necesitan localizarle. Si sabe de alguien que está en custodia de El Departamento de Inmigración, puede usar esta página para ayudarte a encontrar a las personas.
- También, puede llamar la oficina local de inmigración. Asegúrese que los oficiales tengan su número de registración de inmigración.
Puede llamar The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) [La Oficina Ejecutiva de Revisión de Inmigración] número de ayuda 240-314-1500 o 1-800-898-7180 (sin-cargos) 24 horas al día, 7 días de la semana para obtener información en el estado de su caso.

Si es posible y seguro, tome videos y fotos de la redada o arresto. También tome notas de lo que pasó.

Llame al número de ayuda de “United We Dream” para reportar una redada: 1-844-363-1423

Envía un mensaje de texto a 877877.
ENCUENTRE AYUDA LEGAL

- Organizaciones sin fines de lucro que ofrecen ayuda asequible, pueden ser encontradas en la página de Internet: immigrationlawhelp.org
- Las cortes de inmigración tienen una lista de abogados y organizaciones que ofrecen servicios legales gratis: justice.gov/eoir/list-pro-bono-legal-services-providers-map.
- En la página: https://www.adminrelief.org puede entrar su código postal y entonces puede ver todos los servicios legales disponibles cerca usted.
- El Proyecto de La Asociación Nacional de Abogados de Inmigración [The National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild] también tiene una página para ayudarle a buscar un abogado de inmigración por el Internet: https://www.nationalimmigrationproject.org/find.html
FUENTES

National Immigration Law Center: https://www.nilc.org/

Si necesita más información, puede visitar esta página de Internet.