

2010

Student & Faculty News

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Student News

Mr. Ethan Breitling spent the Fall 2010 semester at American University, Washington D.C., studying foreign policy as part of their Washington Semester Program. As part of his studies, he visited 84 different locations and participated in classroom-style lectures and discussions with top experts in the field, as well as former and current diplomats. He also served as an Intern in the Finance Division at the Republican National Committee. He highly recommends the program to any social sciences major and feels that it was a life-changing experience.

Mr. Michael Fraser is a sophomore majoring in secondary education: social sciences, with a minor in history. He is a Senator in WCSU's Student Government Association (SGA) representing the School of Professional Studies. He currently serves on the Provost Search Committee, CUCAS (Committee for Undergraduate Curriculum and Academic Standards), and the SGA Finance Committee. He is the president of the Honors Student Organization (HSO), an on campus student organization that is organizing a lecture by death penalty activist Sister Helen Prejean scheduled for April of 2011. He is a Student Ambassador for the Admissions Office and the Administrative Assistant for the University Honors Program.

Faculty News

Dr. Carina Bandhauer

Dr. Bandhauer is an Associate Professor of Sociology. She has worked with Danbury Public Defenders to develop research opportunities for thesis students in the social sciences and has helped to facilitate "Know Your Rights" training for the immigrant community in Danbury. She is currently researching immigration policy and working on the development of a Latin American and Caribbean Area Studies Minor. In 2010, she gave birth to nine pound, eight ounce baby girl, her second child with husband David Amdur.

Dr. Jeannie Hatcherson

Dr. Jeannie Hatcherson is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Social Sciences. In January 2010, Dr. Hatcherson returned to Kolkata, India, with a group of 10 volunteers to work with the small non-profit group Empower the Children. They spent a week conducting educational programs with children at Preyarona School, located in a slum. They also conducted a site visit to a small village two hour's drive from Kolkata to learn about empowerment programs aimed at lower caste women. In May 2010, she accompanied Danbury financier Carl Bailey to Managua, Nicaragua. She arranged for a burn surgeon to accompany them. They held meetings with the administrators of Velez Paiz Hospital regarding upgrading their burn unit. In 2011, she hopes to bring a group of volunteers to paint and repair the pediatric burn recovery rooms. In July 2010, she visited Ecuador with Dr. Darla Shaw and 13 current and former WCSU students. They painted and repaired the playground at a day-care in the village of Guamote. They also conducted programs with the elderly at the Senior Center.

Dr. Damla Isik

Dr. Isik is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology. Several of the new courses she designed and taught are now part of the university catalogue. Her article "Personal and Global Economies: Dilemmas of Doing Business in Konya's Weaving Neighborhoods" was published in *American Ethnologist* (February 2010). She co-organized a panel on the Anthropology of Disaster Capitalism for the 2009 Annual Meeting of American Anthropological Association and presented a paper titled "Governing Transparency and Corruption at a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO): The Case of Deniz Feneri Aid and Solidarity Association in Turkey." She also discussed "Nostalgia for the Ottoman Vakıf: State-Civil Society Relations in Turkey" during a workshop at the Second Annual California State University MEIS Conference/Workshop in San Francisco, CA.

Dr. Christopher Kukk

Dr. Kukk is an Associate Professor of Political Science and the Director of WCSU's Honors Program. He established the Honors Program Office in the Higgins Hall Annex as the "Center for Academic Excellence," and continues to provide an active oversight within the Admissions Department over the award of Merit Scholarships to incoming students. The Student Government Association recognized his contributions to the student community at WCSU by naming him Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year for the School of Arts and Sciences 2009-10.

Dr. Averell Manes

Dr. Manes is a Professor of Political Science and Conflict Management, and the Associate Chair of the Department of Social Sciences. She is the Coordinator and Co-Chair of the Hancock Student Leadership Program, now in its third year and a member of the WCSU Student Engagement Committee for Strategic Planning. She is a leadership and conflict resolution educator for various schools and organizations in the community. Currently, she is working with the WCSU CHOICES Office on the Partnership Success Grant.

Dr. Alex Standish

Dr. Standish is an Assistant Professor of Geography. He is the Chair of WCSU's Education Review Committee (ERC) and the Faculty Advisor to WCSU's Globalization Reading Group. He was awarded a 2009-10 CSU/AAUP Research Grant for *International Education: Are We Making Global Citizens?* He co-authored an article with Joseph Stoltman titled "Geography Education and Citizenship: The Pan American View," published in *Geography Education: Pan American Perspectives*. Dr. Standish served as Chair and Panelist for the Panel "How Can Geography Contribute toward Citizenship in the Twenty-First Century?" at the Association of American Geographers Conference in Washington DC. He is currently researching global education in the curriculum of schools, as well as working towards revising the Social Sciences Education Major.

Dr. Steven Ward

Dr. Ward is a Professor of Sociology and the new Chair of the Department of Social Sciences. He was awarded an AAUP Research Grant for the "Ideopolis" Project in Manchester, United Kingdom. He is currently working on a book titled *Aligning Markets and Minds*. He has an article awaiting publication in the *Journal of Cultural Economy* (Fall/Winter 2010-11). This year saw the establishment of scholarship in Dr. Ward's name, acknowledging his years as Director of the WCSU Honors Program.

Dr Laurie Weinstein

Dr. Laurie Weinstein is a Professor of Anthropology and Archeology. Drs. Weinstein, Bethany Morrison, and Cosimo Sgarlata presented a paper at the fall meeting of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut titled "Archaeological Investigations at Redding's Middle Encampment." Drs. Weinstein and Morrison co-taught the 2009 WCSU Summer Field School in Archaeology in Redding, CT, at a winter encampment site from the Revolutionary War.

Dr. Robert Whittemore

Dr. Whittemore is a Professor of Anthropology and WCSU's Fulbright Program Advisor. He is also the Program Director for the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) at WCSU. He is currently working with Residential Life, Administrative Services, and the Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences to use "roll-over" funds in support of global studies initiatives.