

From the Provost

I had the opportunity to represent West Chester University in China earlier this semester, as part of a delegation from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. I was joined by Peter Loedel, interim director of International Programs. We participated in meetings and events in Beijing and Shanghai organized by China Education Association for International Exchange. We met with university and government officials to discuss institutional partnerships and had a chance to talk with Chinese high school students about studying at WCU. It was a productive experience that already is paying off for the University. You can read more about this trip to China in the article below.

Whether your labors took you off campus or you stayed close to the Quad, I hope that you had many rewarding experiences this semester. Every member of Academic Affairs – deans, chairs, faculty and staff – is integral to the institution. It is because of your collective hard work that West Chester University ranks as one of the nation's top regional comprehensive public universities.

We don't rest on our laurels at WCU. I know that you are already busy mapping out course content or organizing office projects related to spring semester. Or, you may even be getting ready to teach during Winter Session, which begins Dec. 15. But do take the time to rest and reflect on your many accomplishments, and to enjoy this special time of year with family and friends. Happy holidays and best wishes for 2015!



Dr. Linda Lamwers

CHINA TRIP FORGES NEW RELATIONSHIPS

All the flowers of all of the tomorrows are in the seeds of today - Chinese proverb



Peter Loedel and Provost Linda Lamwers

Provost Linda Lamwers and Peter Loedel, interim director/assistant vice president for International Programs, spent just seven full days on the ground on an October trip to China. But in that short time, they met dozens of Chinese government and university officials and forged new relationships that already are paying off for West Chester University.

The purpose of the trip was two-fold, explains Loedel. "Last year, more than 270,000 Chinese students came to the U.S. to study, a 16.5% increase over the year before and nearly one third of the total international student population. We would like to see more of these Chinese students take advantage of the unbeatable quality and value of a West Chester University education," says Loedel.

“In addition, our strategic plan calls for adding new agreements between WCU and international partners for cultural, educational, and scholarly exchanges,” he says. “We’ve had a few relationships with Chinese institutions. Now we would like to build on these foundations and greatly expand our presence in China.”

Lamwers and Loedel were part of a delegation from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities that participated in networking events organized by China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE). This nonprofit organization facilitates international educational exchanges in 31 provinces and autonomous regions and has local chapters in 16 major Chinese cities.

All the flowers of all of the tomorrows are in the seeds of today

Chinese proverb

“We started our trip at CEAIE’s Annual Conference for International Education, which was held in Beijing,” says Loedel. “With more than 2,000 participants, 300 speakers and 40-plus events, it’s the event for connecting with potential students and institutional partners in China.”

The duo’s days and nights were a whirlwind of activities – they chatted with students 1-1 in a cavernous conference hall; participated in “speed networking” sessions with Chinese university administrators; and attended numerous educational sessions. They also had a chance to meet with representatives from Idea Foundry, a Pittsburgh-based company that represents WCU and other State System institutions by conducting various student recruitment efforts in China.

One of the most exciting developments came about during a dinner with a faculty member from the University of International Business and Economics (UIBE). Over Peking duck at the celebrated Da Dong restaurant, Lamwers and Loedel laid the groundwork for a partnership with UIBE to include student and faculty exchanges from WCU’s College of Business and Public Affairs.

After three days in Beijing, Lamwers and Loedel flew to Shanghai to visit a special economic zone. With a population of more than 100,000, this city within a city features a mix of commercial and residential space as well as two university campuses. Like China’s other special economic zones, this region enjoys flexible government policies and free-market economic policies. Lamwers and Loedel met with officials from the onsite universities.

“Shanghai has some of the most elite universities in all of China. Along with Beijing, it’s an important place for WCU to have a presence,” says Loedel.

And West Chester University’s current presence in China, in the southwest province of Guizhou, continues to strengthen. Just six weeks after Lamwers and Loedel returned from China, a delegation from Guizhou University arrived at WCU for a full day of meetings on December 5. The delegation met with President Weisenstein; Provost Lamwers; several deans and faculty members and with Rui Li, executive director of distance education. John Baker, chair of the department of art, gave the delegation

a tour of Guizhou art currently on display in the Francis Harvey Green Library. The culmination of the day was the signing of a new memorandum of understanding between Guizhou University and West Chester University, expanding upon the prior agreement.



Shanghai at night

WCU EXPANDS EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP IN THE BAHAMAS

Claire Verden will be spending time in Eleuthera during her sabbatical this spring but she won't be on "island time" like the tourists who travel there. An associate professor in the College of Education, Verden will be busy expanding WCU's special education partnership in Eleuthera, a remote island in the Bahamas.

The partnership has its roots in a leisure trip that Verden took to the island a half-dozen years ago. She stayed at a rental home near the Center for Exceptional Learners in Governor's Harbour and before long was foregoing the beach to visit the school. She learned that the school has just one teacher, William Holland, who manages to juggle the needs of diverse students of all ages. Holland and Verden stayed in touch after she returned to West Chester, talking about ways that WCU could collaborate with the Center for Exceptional Learners.



WCU students can student teach in Eleuthera

During spring break 2010, the first group of WCU students – all special education majors – spent a week at the island school, working with its students 1-1, conducting assessments and helping to write special education plans. Corinne Murphy, who was recently named chair of WCU's department of special education, was co-leader of the trip.

Every spring break since, Verden and Murphy have traveled to Eleuthera with WCU students to work at the Center for Exceptional Learners. The relationship has grown to include Deep Creek Middle School, located on the southern end of the island.

In 2013, a second group of WCU students headed to Eleuthera to spend seven and a half weeks teaching there, to fulfill part of their student teaching requirement.

"This was the first time that the College of Education has offered student teaching opportunities abroad," notes Verden. "It was a great cross-cultural experience for our students to be able to work in Eleuthera for this extended period of time. This spring we'll send six student teachers, compared to four in past years."

New for 2015, Verden is developing a partnership with the local primary school in Governor's Harbour to give support to children there with disabilities. "We are very excited about this as we can reach more children that are struggling learners," she says.

In another new development, WCU student teachers will work with the island library to develop a "Bikes and Books" program for local youth. Students who attend after school and weekend literacy programming will be eligible to receive a bike. The catch? They may keep the bike for as long as they are involved in the program.

"It's pretty exciting," says Verden. "Without our support they would not be able to run this library program."

Verden also will be working on several internal and external grant applications during her sabbatical. "We did not receive any grant funding for the Alternative Spring Break this year so the price was higher and, as a result, the number of applications was down. We want to keep the cost as low as possible to make the experience accessible to more students."

Verden is looking forward to her sabbatical and the chance to expand WCU's education partnership in Eleuthera. "Things are building and we are making a real and significant difference for kids on the island with disabilities," she says.

WCU ROTC GOES THE DISTANCE FOR VETS IN NEED



WCU ROTC cadets participated in the Norwegian Foot March last month

In mid-November, 14 cadets from WCU's Delta Company ROTC muscled their way through the Norwegian Foot March, a grueling, 18.6-mile run in Ridley Creek State Park. The cadets were putting their endurance to the test but their true motivation was in the rucksacks on their backs – each stuffed with 25 pounds of canned goods.

The WCU cadets and 32 other members of the Dauntless Battalion, which includes students from Widener University, Villanova University and Penn State Abington., collected 3,200 cans of food for veterans prior to the Foot March, which is a boot camp tradition for Norwegian soldiers. The food was distributed to the Veterans Multi-Service Center in Coatesville and other area veterans' organizations just in time for Thanksgiving.

“The food raised through the hard work of Dauntless Battalion cadets and their family and friends goes to veterans' organizations that have the connections and abilities to reach out to veterans in need,” says Peter Arend, a 30-year-old senior history major, ROTC cadet, and active duty veteran who serves in the National Guard. “Not all veterans make a smooth transition from military life to civilian life and this helps those who have come on hard times,” he says.

As for the physical challenges for the cadets on that cold November day, let's just say it wasn't a walk in the park. “The biggest issue I, and many others had, were muscles locking up due to dehydration and overexertion,” says Anthony D'Alessandro, a junior political science major and company commander for Delta Company.

“We trained with 35-pound rucksacks so wearing the 25-pound rucksacks was sweet. But after the 13th mile, that 25-pound ruck felt like 50 pounds,” says Bradley Pointer, a 25-year-old veteran, ROTC cadet and junior exercise science major. “The last mile of the course lap was a crazy hill.”



The Dauntless Battalion collected 3,200 cans of food

Despite the foot march's challenges, all the Dauntless Battalion cadets were able to finish under the time standards for their age and gender.

"There were several people who participated who cannot yet perform to PT standards and they volunteered for the foot march knowing that it would require a drastic improvement to their current status. It took heart for them to complete it," notes Kelby Hershey, a history major, veteran and ROTC cadet.

The foot march was just one of the many volunteer activities that Delta Company participates in throughout the year. "We send cadets to retirement homes to spend time with older veterans from WWII and Korea, and we conduct color guards at high schools and other locations," says Arend.

"Community service and community engagement is part of the fabric of life here at West Chester University. It's a key component of our strategic plan," says Lillian Morrison, WCU's Veteran Services coordinator. "Community service also is a core value in the military. It's something that the military stresses but it's also something that these individuals already believe in. Anybody who signs up for the military has demonstrated that they have a commitment to service."

What made this volunteer activity especially meaningful to the cadets is that it hit close to home. "It was important for us to do this because whether you're currently in, or now out of the military, you're family, and military members across all branches honor that," says D'Alessandro.

FACULTY SERVICE AND RETIREMENT LUNCHEON



The 17th annual Faculty Service & Retirement Luncheon was held on Nov. 4 to honor active faculty who have served our students for 15 years to 40 years. One retiring faculty member also was honored; Sally Winterton, interim associate dean in the College of Education.

WCU JUNIOR RECOGNIZED BY YOUTH SERVICE AMERICA



Megan Hess, far left, and fellow WCU students had fun while they fundraised on "Giving Tuesday."

Whether bundled up against the cold, asking for donations on "Giving Tuesday," or garbed as Superwoman for a Halloween 5K, it's all in a day's (volunteer) work for WCU junior Megan Hess. She has been named an "Everyday Young Hero" by the national organization Youth Service America for the contributions she has made as president of the WCU chapter of Bringing Hope Home. This nonprofit organization pays essential household bills for cancer patients and their families.

Bringing Hope Home was founded in 2008 by WCU alum Paul Isenberg. His wife, Nicole, also a WCU graduate, passed away from Hodgkin lymphoma. West Chester University is the first university to establish a campus chapter of Bringing Hope Home.

Under Hess's leadership, the WCU chapter has had a very productive fall semester. The chapter organized a Halloween 5K, which raised \$1,700 for a local single mother with lung cancer. And in the midst of the end-of-semester rush, the chapter raised money to buy holiday presents for Bringing Hope Home's Adopt-a-Family program. Members will deliver the gifts to a family impacted by cancer on Dec. 18.

Hess is a nursing major who is interested in a career in pediatric oncology. A resident of Bethel Township, in Berks County, she hopes to continue helping Bringing Hope Home after she graduates.

GIS DAY



GIS Day was celebrated earlier this semester with outreach and activities. Students formed shapes on the Great Lawn as a camera attached to a flying helium balloon took photos of them. They learned how balloon mapping can be used for geographic research.

NOTABLE ALUMNI TO SPEAK AT WINTER COMMENCEMENT

Three distinguished West Chester University graduates will be the speakers for Winter Commencement 2014. On Dec. 14 at 10 a.m., Commencement will be held for graduating students at the undergraduate level from the College of Business & Public Affairs, College of Education and College of Health Sciences. The speaker will be Dr. James P. Capolupo, a 1974 graduate of WCU.

On Dec. 14 at 1:30 p.m., Commencement will be held for graduating students at the undergraduate level from the College of Arts & Sciences and the College of Visual & Performing Arts. The speaker will be Samuel C. Thompson, Jr., who received his B.S. from West Chester University in 1965.

The Graduate Commencement Ceremony will be held on Dec. 15 at 7:00 pm. The speaker is Christine M. Warren. She received both her BA and MS from WCU, in 1990 and 1999, respectively.

James P. Capolupo is superintendent of the Springfield School District, located in Delaware County, Pa. He is in his ninth year of district leadership. Capolupo was named the 2014 National Superintendent of the Year by the National Association of School Superintendents. He has guided the district with a sharp focus on literacy, witnessed by the construction and design of the Springfield Literacy Center.

Capolupo's background in education began as an elementary, middle school, and high school band director. As an administrator, he has served as assistant principal, acting principal, and principal, as well as director of elementary education and director of teaching and learning. Capolupo has taught at Cabrini College, Neumann University, Arcadia University, Chestnut Hill College, Lincoln University and Princeton University. In 2005, he received the Robert Flynn Distinguished Service Award from the Pennsylvania Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development.

Capolupo received his bachelor of science in music education from WCU. He earned a master's in education from Arcadia University, and a doctorate of musical arts from Combs College of Music. He is a professional saxophonist, has judged more than 1,000 high school marching band and jazz contests, and is a member of the Cavalcade of Bands Hall of Fame.

Samuel C. Thompson, Jr. is professor of law and director of the Center for the Study of Mergers and Acquisitions at the Penn State School of Law in State College, Pa. Prior to joining Penn State, Thompson was a professor of law at UCLA School of Law and director of the UCLA Law Center for the Study of Mergers and Acquisitions. He served as dean of the University of Miami School of Law, was a professor and distinguished visiting professor at the University of Virginia School of Law and was the Jacquin D. Bierman Visiting Professor of Taxation at the Yale Law School.

For many years, Thompson was the partner-in-charge of the tax division of Schiff, Hardin & Waite, based at its Chicago office. He served in the U. S. Treasury's Tax Policy Office and worked in an advisory capacity with the European Union's Antitrust Merger Taskforce; the FTC's Bureau of Competition; and the SEC's Office of Mergers & Acquisitions. From 1999 to 2000 he served, on behalf of the U.S. Treasury Department, as the tax policy advisor to the South African Ministry of Finance in Pretoria, South Africa.

Thompson earned his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania and his L.L.M. in taxation from New York University School of Law. He received a master's in business and applied economics from Penn and a bachelor of science from West Chester University, where he played varsity football. From 1966 to 1969, Thompson served in the United States Marine Corps, rising to captain and earning the Navy Commendation Medal for service in Vietnam.

Christine M. Warren is a director of client success for eBay Enterprise, an eBay company specializing in creating, developing, and running online shopping sites for brick and mortar brands and retailers. Drawing from nearly 20 years of leadership in distribution, marketing, entrepreneurship, and technology, Warren crafts business strategies and identifies growth opportunities while championing and growing clients' brands and overall market position. She has been instrumental in the eBay Enterprise launches of brands such as Donna Karan, Betsey Johnson, and Drugstore.com.

Prior to assuming her current role, Warren served eBay Enterprise in numerous capacities, including director of operational metrics and director of client services operations. Earlier, she founded Profiler Technologies, a company that developed an emerging technology enabling online interviewing for students and contractors via a web-based portal. She was named one of the Philadelphia Business Journal's "40 under 40" business leaders.

Warren was elected to the West Chester University Foundation Board of Trustees in 2013 and has served on the Chester County Work Force Investment Board since 2003. An instructor at the Wharton Small Business Development Center, she holds a master of science in higher education counseling and a bachelor of arts in liberal studies, both from WCU.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – WCU RESEARCH DAY

WCU faculty, staff and students are welcome to submit proposals for Research Day, which will be held March 24. Research Day is WCU's primary multi-disciplinary venue for the presentation of faculty and student research, scholarly and creative work.

Presentations must have a WCU faculty, student or staff member as the principal author. Proposals by students must be approved and submitted by their faculty advisor. All topics of research and scholarly activities from all academic disciplines are welcome. Formats can include oral and poster presentations, authors' corner displays, and creative and research demonstrations.

Submit proposals no later than Dec. 15 to:

<http://www.wcupa.edu/wcurc/researchdayapp/>.

For more information, contact Gautam Pillay, associate vice president for research, at gpillay@wcupa.edu or 610-436-3592.



SCOUT REMOVES INVASIVE SPECIES AT GORDON NATURAL AREA



4,000 square feet of bamboo was removed from Gordon Natural Area

Bamboo is on the USDA's invasive species list and considered one of the "100 worst invasive species" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. It's also viewed as a bad guy by Gerard Hertel, stewardship manager for the Robert B. Gordon Natural Area.

Bamboo was taking over sections of the nearly 100-acre natural area, located on WCU's South Campus. Bamboo spreads quickly, outcompeting native plants and forming a monoculture. In addition, most native animals cannot use it as a food source.



Lucas Vanscovich, left, and Gerard Hertel, stewardship manager of the Gordon Natural Area

But nearly 4,000 square feet of pernicious bamboo at Gordon Natural Area is now history, thanks to the hard work of Lucas Vanscovich, a 15-year-old West Chester resident and member of Westtown Boy Scout Troop #222. Vanscovich removed the bamboo as part of his work toward earning his Eagle Scout badge.

He focused his efforts on a stretch of bamboo that ran along a creek in a newly designated section of the natural area. With the help of fellow Scouts, family and friends, Vanscovich spent a rainy Saturday in November cutting and removing the bamboo and planting trees in its place.

But long before that work day, Vanscovich spent many hours developing plans for the bamboo removal and tree planting project. In all, he and his team of volunteers donated almost 150 hours of service to the Gordon Natural Area.

Vanscovich is "a self-motivated and hardworking young man," says Hertel. "The removal of invasive bamboo and tree plantings will now allow this site to transition back to a natural state."

Vanscovich is a sophomore at Rustin High School and is the son of Paul and Susan Vanscovich. Paul Vanscovich is a 1990 graduate of WCU. Susan Vanscovich is the director of annual giving & corporate relations for the WCU Foundation.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD AT GEN ED OPEN FORUMS

Faculty across the university continue to be engaged in the process of re-envisioning the General Education curriculum. In November, faculty groups on the General Education Advisory Board developed three model curricula based on the conceptual framework passed by the Curriculum and Academic Policies Council last year.

A number of open forums have been held to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each of these models. In order to facilitate the widest possible engagement with the process, Rodney Mader, faculty director of General Education, has organized additional meetings to be held in December and January.

On each of the following dates, two meetings will be held, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and again from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Andrea Grinwis, assistant to the associate provost, will be sending out an email about these forums, and requesting RSVPs.

Dec. 17

Dec. 19

Jan. 7

Jan. 8

Jan. 15

Jan. 16

Meetings also have been scheduled for the beginning of spring semester and no RSVPs are required for these sessions.

Jan. 20, 3:15-4:15 p.m.

Jan. 22, 3:15-4:15 p.m.

Jan. 26, noon-1:00 p.m.

Jan. 28, noon-1:00 p.m.

FINALS HAVE ARRIVED!



Crunch Time! Students took advantage of a quiet spot in Sykes Student Union to finish up end-of-semester projects and study for finals.