



*The Westie Wire*  
A Publication from the Mayor's Advisory Commission



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## *Mayoral Address*

I hope this address finds you all well. I would like to thank you for reading this newsletter which has been planned, composed, and distributed by students down the road at the University of New Haven. The Westie Wire is part of a larger effort by a group of students at UNH who form the Mayor's Advisory Commission. The MAC is all about connecting two communities; the Westies of West Haven and the student body on the UNH campus of over 6,000. We are all Westies as far as I'm concerned, and efforts like West Fest and The Westie Wire work to reinforce that relationship. There is a whole world of opportunities not being utilized, from the niche shops on Main Street to the free concerts on campus that we at City Hall and the students in the MAC aim to raise awareness of for both communities. I applaud the efforts of the MAC and look forward to continue working closely with them in building our town-school relationship even further.

Regards,

*Mayor Edward O'Brien*



## Poli-Tic Talk Radio

By Connor Vargo

One of the little-known facts about the University of New Haven is that it is home to the largest college radio station in the state of Connecticut: WNHU 88.7. While WNHU mainly broadcasts an alternative mix to West Haven and the surrounding area, there are also several student-run shows that take place throughout the week. One of those shows is the Poli-Tic Talk Radio Show, where students from various backgrounds and majors discuss recent political issues and events.

Started by a group of students in the spring of 2015, the show aims to provide students a place to discuss politics amongst themselves, while simultaneously allowing them dictate the topics being discussed. Topics featured over the past few months consist of the police shootings in Charlotte, North Carolina, and Tulsa, Oklahoma; the scandals plaguing both candidates in the presidential election; and most recently the protests regarding the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Senior political science major Tyrell Bridgeforth, a frequent co-host on the show, said, “The radio show allows us as students to have a logical conversation about various political issues. It legitimizes the discussion too.” Junior political science major Brandon Bush says he enjoys participating on the show because, “it’s a way to reach out to the community, regardless of how many people listen. I feel that I’m helping to inform the local population on the big issues that make up the current political climate.”

The show is continuing to add new voices and opinions as it grows. You can listen Mondays at 6pm on WNHU FM 88.7, or on the Tune-in Radio app available on Android and iOS.



Connor Vargo hosting Poli-Tic Talk



Students talking on Poli-Tic Talk Radio

## 88.7 WNHU, The Best College Radio Station Revolutionized by Radio Veteran

By Brandon Bush

WNHU is the University of New Haven’s official FM radio station, run by professional staff, students, and community volunteers.

Bruce Barber was recently hired as the new General Manager. Mr. Barber brings over 35 years of experience in both commercial and public radio to the position. He began in Geneva, New York at Hobart and William Smith Colleges and became a part time announcer in 1978. He is known for his part as co-host of the Smith and Barber morning show on WPLR.

In an interview with UNH Today he said, “College radio really existed in the past as a way for students to experiment and learn.” He continued, “I want to take that and expand on it. If just one student gets to have the same opportunities that I had, it’s a win for me. I think it is going to be a lot more than one before we are all said and done.”



Bruce Barber at WNHU Radio Station

## Duffy's Tavern: A Slice of West Haven

By Benjamin Atwater

In West Haven, tradition and family count for a lot. That is why Duffy's Tavern has been a West Haven staple since its inception in 1983. John Walsh, the founder of Duffy's, led a successful career serving the city as a West Haven police detective for a decade. Walsh decided to open his first restaurant in 1969 with Johnny Walsh's Café, where he met his future wife. Difficulties with the landlord led Walsh to sell the Café and open Christopher John Michael's, a casual eatery, in 1974.

John found success rather easily in transitioning from a police officer to a restaurateur, and opened his final restaurant, the titular Duffy's Tavern, in 1983. In the 1980s, West Haven was predominantly a family town with several factories that employed thousands of Westies. The dynamic was also one of family bonds being kept very tight, where extended and nuclear families lived within a block of one another. The building that Duffy's currently occupies on the corner of Atwater Street at 241 Campbell Avenue had been through many businesses before Walsh instituted the modern-day Duffy's, including dive bar Scall's Unicorn and Perry's Bait and Tackle. A lot of renovation was needed to turn the run-down property into today's thriving Duffy's.

To start building his dream, Walsh gutted the entire building. To give it a family friendly bar vibe, John made frequent trips to antique shops in Manhattan to collect the memorabilia seen on the walls today.

Unlike reproductions that are seen on the walls of franchises like Chili's and Applebee's, Walsh prided himself on getting nothing but authentic antiques, from vinyl records to famous New York restaurant menus. With the décor, intact, Duffy's Tavern started to attract local blue collar workers who came to relax after a hard day of work, or for a fresh, local meal with their families. With a mission to create a family environment, John held very strict standards for patrons in that he did not want Duffy's to foster belligerently drunk patrons, whose business many of the surrounding bars and pubs survived off. Enforcing a strict bar etiquette code, Duffy's became one of the few bars where women could feel comfortable and not have to worry about being preyed upon by the severely intoxicated. Walsh's former business, Johnny Walsh's Café, even had a couple's only room, which was unheard of at the time.

As the business grew, so did the Walsh family, and naturally the Walshes were the core of Duffy's employment base. Chris Walsh took over the business in

2001, rising from a dishwasher at age 13. Chris' brother Mike, who has gone on to become the Public Relations Coordinator at the West Haven City Hall, has also grown up working in Duffy's and still fills in to help out at the restaurant on occasion. While the Walsh family owns Duffy's, the staff has become a family in and of itself, with many servers and bartenders working for over two decades at Duffy's.

Just as the stock market changed, so did Duffy's. Chris remarks how "Campbell Avenue is not the thriving downtown cultural center it once was. ... This has taken a toll on business so we have had to adapt to meet the times." These adaptations involve product innovation, including the addition of trendy drinks such as the pumpkin martini, one of the most popular. Chris himself distills pumpkin-infused vodka in the basement of Duffy's, but explained, "I started doing this before the pumpkin spice trend caught on."

Chris has also worked on building a web presence, both through a successful Facebook page with thousands of followers and a sleek website at: [www.duffystavern.net](http://www.duffystavern.net). "In the competitive economy, it is imperative to be careful with how you spend your marketing budget," Chris commented. Duffy's has started a Pub Club email chain, where deals are sent out regularly. To join, sign up on the website.

While Duffy's has had to adapt to the modern competitive business climate, Chris has ensured that creating a sense of family and investing in the community remain primary goals for operations. Duffy's regularly hosts benefit concerts with local bands to raise money for causes such as the West Haven Animal Shelter and various cancer research societies. "You can't be in the restaurant business just to make money; you have to genuinely care about the people who come in time and time again, as they become family" said Chris, who focused on the benefits. With an A+ rating from the Better Business Bureau, be sure to stop at Duffy's not only for great food, but to become a part of the Duffy's family, a crucial part of modern West Haven.



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## UNH Model United Nations

*By Brandon Bush*

Model United Nations (MUN) is an educational simulation/academic competition in which students learn about diplomacy and international relations through simulating the inner workings of the United Nations. Student delegates refine research, public speaking, debating, and writing skills, while practicing perspective-taking, persuasion, strategic thinking, and problem-solving. All of these skills are engrained in students to prepare them to compete in National MUN conference competitions, including those in New York and Washington, D.C.

Model United Nations is a cooperative, hands-on learning experience that allows students to confront a range of international issues with the perspective of their assigned country. Through a variety of experiences, (including research, preparation, committee sessions, hallway discussions, and public speaking) students develop an appreciation of different points of view, experience the challenges of negotiation, cooperation, and discover the human side of international relations and diplomacy all while expanding their world view.

This past March, delegates from the University of New Haven represented the delegation of Paraguay, a small, land-locked Latin American country. For the first time, the UNH team won the Outstanding Delegation award, the top award possible, in addition to individual awards for Outstanding Delegate and Outstanding Position Papers.

Dr. Chris Haynes, coordinator and assistant professor of Political Science, shared his thoughts of last semester's students with *UNH Today*. "What I see as the best part of Model UN is the remarkable degree of personal and professional growth that it facilitates," Haynes said. "I saw students that lacked confidence gain it, shy students who would cringe at giving a public speech confidently deliver one... This confidence, these skills, and this new reality is what will propel them long after they leave UNH."

We at the Westie Wire would like to congratulate both UNH MUN teams for their achievements this semester. A team representing Thailand at the NMUN DC Conference won the Outstanding Delegation award as well as one Outstanding Position Paper award. Teams representing Afghanistan and Angola both won Outstanding Delegation awards, with two Afghanistan winning Outstanding Delegate and Angola winning four Outstanding Delegate awards.



*UNH MUN Delegate Brandon Bush at the UN's Great Hall during Plenary Session*



*UNH MUN Fall 2016*



*UNH MUN Delegate Estefano Palazuelos during GA1 Committee Session*

## WestFest Round Two

By Brandon Bush

If you were in town near the end of summer, chances are you heard of WestFest. Held on the West Haven Green September 10<sup>th</sup>, the event served as a celebration of all things West Haven, including local businesses as well as various organizations from the University of New Haven. With over fifty businesses and clubs in attendance, the event was a knock-out hit, bringing hundreds within the West Haven and UNH communities together through a day filled with fun, food and games for people of all ages. Already, the Mayor's Advisory Commission is working tirelessly on the planning of WestFest 2017 to ensure the event will become a West Haven tradition along the lines of the Apple Fest and Savin Rock Festival.

At this year's festival, many food trucks representing some West Haven staples served some of West Haven's famous cuisine while UNH fraternities ran field games and honor societies ran trivia. In addition, there were tug of war matches with prizes for tournament winners, water balloon tosses, and even a pie eating contest. West Haven High School's Peer Advocates helped oversee the various obstacle courses and other inflatable games that entertained young Westies throughout the day. In addition to these activities, the MAC also ran a dunk tank, where Mayor O'Brien, John Lewis, and other city officials and UNH professors were plunged into water to raise money for future MAC efforts.

While WestFest 2016 has passed, we hope that everyone will keep an eye out for information on next year's event, along with other local efforts from MAC. Stay up-to-date by liking the UNH Mayor's Advisory Commission's Facebook page.

### Meet the Westie Wire Staff!

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*Children's Bounce House during WestFest 2016*



*Ian Biggs performing at WestFest 2016*



*Students playing chess during WestFest 2016*

## UNH Professor Spotlight – Dr. Alison Geballe

By Carlos Soto

A professional currently sharing her experiences and knowledge with students at the University of New Haven and making a change in the world is Dr. Alison Geballe. She is a leader and a role model, an individual who wants nothing more than to see students become their own success stories. From professor to internship director, she encourages students to think outside of the box. Don't just believe the words a person says or what is written in a book. Don't close yourself off to the views and experiences of others in life. Take knowledge from everything and everyone around you, and apply it your own life and experience. This is what separates Dr. Geballe from being just another professor.

Out of undergrad, Dr. Geballe was a nurse (BS in nursing) and was involved with a variety of non-profits. At one point in her life, Dr. Geballe worked for the Department of Children and Families for the State of Connecticut for four years. She conducted investigations of child abuse and neglect, specializing in investigations of sexual abuse in West Haven and Milford. Through her experiences there, she realized that “there are great therapeutic services out there but there are not a lot of them.” In other words, there are more victims of abuse than there are services that can see them immediately. Her experience working with that population led Dr. Geballe to pursue her doctorate degree with the aim of providing more therapeutic services for victims. Dr. Geballe now is a clinical psychologist with a Psy.D. and has a background in psychopathology and substance abuse. Dr. Geballe has experience with psychological testing and therapeutic approaches. She has also conducted research on criminal behaviors in adolescents, internalizing and externalizing behaviors among victims of abuse, and wrote three articles on development of adolescent athletes. She is a clinician, a professor, and a “life giver”.

She wants students to take their lives into their own hands and become greater versions of themselves. She wants them to learn, to explore, to accept the world for everything it is. A teacher would be satisfied with just grades and numbers. But Dr. Geballe will only be satisfied if she sees her students become great, become something bigger than themselves. Dr. Geballe is helping the community of West Haven to produce *Life Changers*: professionals who will change the world and help unite humanity.

Dr. Geballe teaches with the same passion that led her to graduate school. Currently at the University of New Haven, Dr. Geballe is the Practitioner in Residence for

the Psychology Department and the Director of the internship program for undergraduate psychology students. She meets with students interested in experiential learning and helps them identify and secure internships in the community. While it is true that you can learn a vast amount of information from books, many things can only be learned through experience. The desire to provide this experience for students drives Dr. Geballe in her role as the internship coordinator. She wants the students of UNH to be successful in their field of study while being involved in the community. These internships can range anywhere from clinical psychology, to forensic psychology, to community psychology, or even research-based psychology.

Dr. Geballe teaches internship seminar, practicum in psychology, drugs and behavior, adolescent psychology, and abnormal psychology. All her courses are based not only on the subject matter but on the vast amount of experiences she has had as a professional in her field. She welcomes the opinions of every student in her class and even tries to provide information and context on subject matter that interest students. Being a “textbook” student may prepare you for a life in academia, but it will not prepare you for the real world. Dr. Geballe includes her “outside the book” approach into her courses for that very reason. Dr. Geballe has worked with non-profits, VA hospitals, various substance abuse clinics, and three different Universities, giving her diverse experience. This experience is reflected through her teaching philosophy: “you don't just teach from the book. Having that hands on experience and being able to describe and explain actual cases to students is helpful in their learning.” Giving students a different angle to see the whole picture. “You definitely learn a lot from books and gain a lot of knowledge. But it's that hands on experience that brings you a step further.”

### **Dr. Geballe's Message to Students:**

“Make smart choices. UNH students have the opportunity to travel abroad and I always encourage students to take life experiences while they can. You guys are all young and if you can explore the world and learn about other cultures, you can meet others who are different from you. See other countries, eat different kinds of foods. As you get older, those opportunities may not present themselves in the way they are now to you as college students. I believe that it isn't an opportunity that should be passed over. I want my students to be curious. I want them to be risk takers and be enthusiastic about learning. I want them to develop their strengths and even build on their weaknesses. The University of New Haven is very diverse and I want students to learn from that and celebrate the world we live in. I hope that my students are great citizens and they enjoy their life experiences.”