The Center for the Study of Culture and Values continues to increase its visibility and better weave itself into the life of the University ([http://www.wcsu.edu/culture-values/](http://www.wcsu.edu/culture-values/)). Event planning is now organized around three rotating themes: Aesthetics, Ethics, and Globalization. The 2015-2016 theme was Ethics, and the 2016-2017 theme will be Globalization. A generous donation by the Macricostas Family Foundation assures that Hellenic Studies will always be the largest part of this Center. However, we have expanded our focus so that additional cultures can be represented, whereby the Center currently facilitates three programs; Hellenic Studies, Jewish Life and Culture, and The American Identity, all supported by external funding.

**Center Activities for 2015-2016.**

Aligned with 2015-2016 Planned Goals for the Center, Three events were sponsored around the theme of Ethics and Identity.

I. **The American Identity.** CONSTITUTION DAY: On September 16th, Speaker Nadine Strossen, ACLU President, 1991 – 2008, spoke on “Current Constitutional Controversies.” She discussed topics regarding same-sex marriage, police/community tensions, and NSA surveillance. The event was sponsored by The Macricostas Family Foundation, and approximately 250 people attended.

II. **Hellenic Studies.** The Center supported the attendance of three World Language and Literature undergraduate students attendance at the Annual International Conference on Humanities & Arts in a Global World (ATINER, 2016) in Athens, Greece (Anthony Asmar, Mauro Campoverde, and Katerina Reyes). The students presented research papers at the Surrealism on American Soil panel, organized by WCSU World Languages and Literature professor Galina Bakhtiarova.

The 2015 – 2016, Macricostas Scholar, Marcello Kilani. Received his B.A. in Liberal Arts, and his M.A. in Eastern Philosophy from Saint John’s College. He is a Dean’s fellow at the New School for Social Research completing a Ph.D. in Philosophy. He offered a course called “The Greek Experience” during Fall 2015, 37 students enrolled, and his “The Roman Experience” Spring 2016 course filled with 38 students. Sponsored by the Macricostas Family Foundation, Wednesday, March 16th, Marcello Kilani presented his public lecture on The Good Life: Ethics And Identity in Ancient Greece. Approximately 80 people attended, representing students, faculty, and the greater Danbury Community. Informal feedback from this event was extremely positive. Guests found the topic of his talk insightful and timely, and his presentation style moving.

III. **Jewish Life and Culture.** History professor, Jennifer Nugent Duffy, teaches an upper division course, HIS 368, Called New York City: History and Culture to 33 students. On May 1st she will offer a field experience for two WCSU classes to New York City’s lower east side, discussing the contributions of early immigrants. As part of this field experience she will visit The Museum of Jewish Heritage, NYC. This experience is being sponsored by the Seymour Powers Endowment for Jewish Life and Culture at WCSU.
Goals for 2016-2017

- Work with Scholar to identify 2016 – 2017 course theme around globalization.
- Plan and implement one- day conference around Immigration and Globalization.

Center for the Study of Culture and Values Committee Members 2015-2016

- Missy Alexander, Dean, Macricostas School of Arts & Sciences
- Theodora Pinou, Biological & Environmental Sciences (Director)
- Divya Sharma, Justice and Law Administration
- Jennifer Duffy, History and Non-Western Cultures
- Karen Brown, Department of Social Work
- Laurel Larsen, Department of Music
- Paul Steinmetz, Director of University and Community Relations (Presidential Appointment)
- Ann Atkinson, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs (Presidential Appointment)