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# Social Sciences Journal 2010

All of the contributions to this journal are the work of students at Western Connecticut State University (WCSU).

## Faculty Editor and Advisor

Dr. R. Averell Manes

## Senior Editor

Ms. Mercedes A. DeMasi

## Editor

Ms. Debra L. Salvato

## Editor's Note

The theme for the 2010 Social Sciences Journal is "Crossing Boundaries," which we selected due to the introduction of Immigration Bill SB 1070 in Arizona, one of the United States' most stringent immigration laws. Selecting the papers to publish was difficult, as there were many excellent submissions, but we felt that this year we would highlight immigration, as well as other borders and boundaries present in our postmodern American society.

Mercedes A. DeMasi: I became the Assistant Editor of the WCSU *Social Sciences Journal* in April of 2009, not knowing that editing the *Journal* would become one of the most tedious, enjoyable, frustrating, educational, fulfilling, and rewarding experiences of my undergraduate career. I would not have been able to produce this year's *Journal* without Debra Salvato's dedication. I extend my deepest gratitude and thanks to her for her assistance during the production and editing process of this year's *Journal*, as well as her support as my friend. I would also like to thank Dr. R. Averell Manes for her guidance in the production of the Social Sciences Journal as well as my academic career. Dr. Manes has been there for me every step of the way, and I would like to thank her for believing in me and seeing an Editor in me when I did not see one in myself.

Debra L. Salvato: As this was my first year working on the *Social Sciences Journal*, I did not know what to expect. Looking back now, I see that working on this *Journal* has been both rewarding and disheartening for me. It was rewarding because it gave me the ability to read and edit fine academic work done by WCSU students, and disheartening because some students' papers were unable to be published. I was elated to read so many papers about immigration, and I hope all WCSU students see the potential impact our generation has on influencing and changing immigration laws. I would like to thank Mercedes DeMasi for walking me through the steps of becoming an Editor and for answering my countless questions at all hours of the night. I would also like to thank Dr. Manes for her continued support throughout the process of producing and editing the *Journal*.

The editors would also like to extend their thanks to the Student Government Association of WCSU, the students of WCSU who fund the *Social Sciences Journal*, Ms. Kayana McCalla, and the Department of Social Sciences. They would also like to thank Ms. Jane Walsh, in University Publications and Design, for her service in preparing the final layout of the *Journal* for publication, as well as the students of WCSU for all their contributions to the *Journal*.

**Cover image:** "Gaza mi seh," photographed by WCSU Alumna 2009 and 2010-2011 U.S. Fulbright Scholar Ms. Ashley Hyde at Hellshire Beach in Portmore, Jamaica. She writes: "Once described as a sleepy town right outside the bustling capital city of Kingston, Portmore, now referred to as 'Gaza' is home to the two most violent politically-aligned gangs in Jamaica: The Klansman and One Order. To claim allegiance: 'Gaza mi seh.'"