#### **Connecticut Radio Information System**



#### **Air Waves**



Spring 2013

Audio Services for the Blind or Print-Challenged

### **CRIS Thanks Its Volunteers**

early 70 volunteers recently attended CRIS
Radio's Annual Volunteer Reception at the Governor's
Mansion where they were recognized for their dedication and commitment to provide the voice talent for 70 newspapers and magazines, as well for our extensive audio library of educational materials for special needs students.

Several volunteers celebrated special milestones at the reception, including Steve



Parker, who marked 30 years as a CRIS volunteer. Barbara Clark and Jim Stewart also were recognized for their long-time service to CRIS, both celebrating 25 years of service. Russ Wheeler and Paul Young were recognized for 20 years of service and Jim Gadarowski, Sandra Lewis and Charles Wynn for 15 years.

Marking 10 years of service were: Christine Chadsey, Andrea Frez, James "Larry" Howard, Luane Lange, Jay Lentz and Jeff Watts.

Hal Baird, Susanne Casioppo, Ruth Foster, Jennifer Gaffey, Henry Gutterman, Earnest Johnson Jr., Susan Meers, Barbara Niccum, Barbara Rutz, Bill Rutz, and David Schoenewolff were honored for dedicating five years of service to CRIS.

#### Save The Date

Sept. 11, 2013
16th Annual CRIS Radio Golf Classic
Manchester Country Club
Register Early and Save \$15!

APRIL 26, 2014
4th Annual Dining & Dancing in the Dark

## CRIS Launches First-of-Its-Kind Service For Schools

RIS Radio is launching a first-of-its-kind service for schools, providing instant access to audio versions of educational materials, the Common Core State Standard text exemplars, and children's magazines on any mobile device, including tablets, smartphones, and MP3 players, or computers with Internet access.

CRISKids<sup>™</sup> For Schools is geared for students who are visually impaired or are print-challenged for any reason including a



Photo/Steve Laschever

Emma, a Grade 5 student at Clover Street School in Windsor, holds a MP3 player loaded with recordings of children's magazines and educational materials.

learning, physical, intellectual or emotional disability. The new service also provides custom recordings to fit the needs of the students.

Nearly a dozen schools have signed up to participate in the pilot of CRISKids For Schools. Student outcomes will be submitted for evaluation by the U.S. Department of Education.



Early results are impressive. Teachers report that students participating in the CRISKids pilot are reading and enjoying it more. Megan O'Brien, a Grade 5 teacher at Clover Street

School in Windsor, has noticed a transformation with her reluctant Grade 5 readers since using MP3 players downloaded with CRISKids. "They think it's awesome," she said, noting that the students are far more motivated to read now with the help of CRISKids.

CRISKids For Schools is the only extensive line-up of audio versions of children's magazines, educational materials and the Common Core State Standards featuring human narration in the nation.

Support for CRISKids for Schools comes from the generous funding of several foundations. They include: Help for the Blind of Eastern Connecticut, Fund for Greater Hartford, The Gibney Family Foundation, and the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

## SWING FOR CRIS 16TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC



The winning foursome of the 2012 CRIS Radio Golf Classic were, from left, Anthony Roncaioli, Samir Doshi, Bud Quast and Jamie Selig.

wing into action for CRIS Radio at its 16th Annual Golf Classic on Wednesday, Sept. 11 at the Manchester Country Club. There is an early bird discount of \$15 off the \$150 player fee, which includes 18 holes of golf, cart, lunch, buffet dinner, and auction.

Last year, CRIS raised \$10,000 at the event as nearly 60 golf-

ers, including volunteers and representatives of local businesses, turned out to support the state's only radio -reading service.

Scot Haney, WFSB meteorologist and co-host of "Better Connecticut," will emcee the event once again. A number of unique auction items, including tickets to Late Night with Jimmy Fallon and The Late Show with David Letterman. For more information, e-mail info@crisradio.org or visit www.crisradio.org.



Scot Haney, WFSB meteorologist and co-host of Better Connecticut, will emcee the CRIS Radio Golf Classic again. Pictured at last year's event, with Haney, at left, is WFSB colleague Eric Parker, morning news anchor, who helped Haney auction nearly 30 items at last year's golf tournament.

# DINING & DANCING GALA RAISES \$10K



Photos/Steve Laschever

Local celebrities paired with professional dancers with Arthur Murray studios competed in CRIS Radio's own version of Dancing with the Stars. From left, Ana Alfaro, Univision; Rachel Frank, Fox CT; Josh Kassoy, Arthur Murray; Frankie DelAguila, Arthur Murray; Sally Nasatka, Arthur Murray, Dan Amarante, Fox CT; Olessa Stepanova, WFSB; Emily Audibert, Miss Connecticut; Todd Russell, Arthur Murray; Joe Monnin, Arthur Murray; Lacey Escobales, Arthur Murray; and Matt McFarland, WFSB.

nother sold-out crowd cheered on local celebrities at CRIS Radio's 3rd Annual Dining & Dancing In The Dark on April 27 at The Hartford Club.

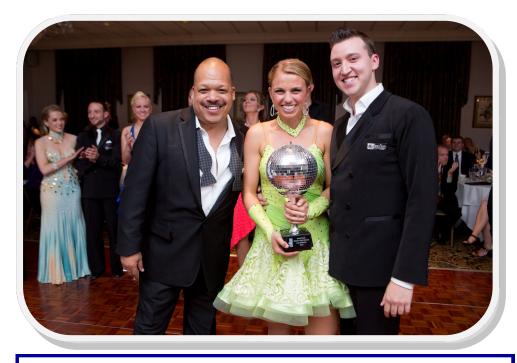
After dining in the dark, the lights came up as local TV per-

sonalities, all amateur dancers paired with Arthur Murray dance professionals, competed in our own version of Dancing with the Stars.

WFSB meteorologist Scot Haney emceed the event, adding an element of humor as he introduced the contestants and solicited scores from the judges: MaryEllen Fillo, Hartford Courant; Shelly Sindland, former TV reporter; and David Rosinski, former Blackpool World



CRIS volunteer and listener Diane Duhaime performs the Hustle with professional dance partner Frankie DelAguila.



Floyd Green III, at left, the CRIS Radio 2012 Dancing with the Stars Champion and vice president and head of community relations at Aetna, presents the Mirror Ball Trophy to the new, 2013 champion, Emily Audibert, Miss Connecticut, and her dance partner, Joe Monnin.

#### Theatrical Ballroom Champion.

The dance contestants included Olessa Stepanova and Matt McFarland, both with WFSB, Dan Amarante and Rachel Frank, both with Fox CT, Ana Alfaro, Univision producer and host of the El Show de Analeh, and Emily Audibert, Miss Connecticut, who received a perfect score of 10s and took home the coveted CRIS Ra-

dio Mirror Ball Trophy.

However, the stars of the evening were two CRIS volunteers and listeners, Diane Duhaime and Rosie Morlene, who produce live news programs at CRIS. They performed the hustle and tango,

respectively, with Arthur Murray dance instructors Frankie DelAguila and Joe Monnin. Arthur Murray Dance Studios of New Britain, Glastonbury and Vernon provided complimentary dance lessons for the event.



Pictured with CRIS Executive Director Diane Weaver Dunne, left, and CRIS Chairman William Austin, far right, are William Webb, center left, of BESB, the CRIS Radio Educator of the Year, and Donald Brooks of ESPN, accepting the CRIS Radio Business of the Year award on behalf of ESPN.