SNAP!

The 5,230 freshmen who make up UConn’s Class of 2021 include 3,650 who will make Storrs their home. This class includes a record-breaking 184 valedictorians and salutatorians, and 54 percent of these students were in the top 10 percent of their graduating high school classes. Outside Storrs, one-third of incoming freshmen chose to attend regional campuses. UConn Stamford saw a 50 percent increase in enrollment thanks in part to its new student housing so close to New York City. Meanwhile, a move downtown for UConn Hartford drove its enrollment up 14 percent. Congrats to all of this year’s freshmen, who were competing in a field of some 36,900 applicants.
Randy Edsall is back on the UConn sideline. Edsall is the most successful football coach in UConn history with 74 wins in 11 seasons, from 1999 through 2010. He led the team from NCAA Division I-AA to Division I-A to full Division 1 status. UConn’s three bowl wins all came under Edsall, who also oversaw consistent academic success. During his tenure the University regularly posted Academic Progress Rates well above the national average and at one time led all Division I-A public schools in graduating more than 90 percent of its student-athletes. “It is an honor to have the opportunity to rejoin and lead the UConn program,” says Edsall. “It is my goal to get us back to that level of success, and I hope that all of the Husky fans out there will be along for the ride.”
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Restoring the grand Hartford Times building is just the beginning of what having UConn in downtown Hartford will do for the city. By Rand Richards Cooper

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How one UConn graduate student connected thousands of scientists and schoolkids. By Kim Krieger

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This education professor is on a mission to help black men graduate — and succeed. By Julie (Stagis) Bartucca

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Ornithology professor Margaret Rubega told us “birds are everywhere.” Then she proved it. By Lisa Stiepock

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Biostatistics professor Tania Hueso-Medina is working with medical professionals in Cuba to better the health prevention strategies in both our countries. By Amy Satherland

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Campus dorms just made life at UConn Stamford even better. Get a student’s-eye view of the action on campus and in the city that’s so close to The City. uconn.edu/stamfordvideo

BIRDS OF STORRS
Our eight pages this issue couldn’t begin to contain all that we hoped to share from the mind of ornithology professor Margaret Rubega. So we added more photos, more links, and more Rubega wisdom on our site. uconn.edu/birds

IT ALL STARTED WITH A SQUID
Find out how to connect scientists and schoolkids with Skype. A Scientist and see the incredibly cute botobal squid that started it all. uconn.edu/skype

GETTING PAID TO TRAVEL THE WORLD
Olivia Balsinger ’14 (CLAS) recounts her journey to travel blogging and the journeys it’s taken her on. uconn.edu/olivia

WEB EXCLUSIVES
magazine.uconn.edu

THE WORLD
IT ALL STARTED
The University of Connecticut, located at 301 Glenbrook Road, serves as a cultural and community cluster for the greater New England area. A unique blend of academic and cultural programs, UConn provides a diverse educational experience for students from all over the world. uconn.edu

UConn Magazine is available in print and online at uconnmagazine.uconn.edu. Letters to the editor and other comments are welcome. Send address changes to The University of Connecticut Foundation, Records Department, Unit 3208, 2300 Alumni Drive, Storrs, CT 06269.

FALL 2017
VOL. 18 NO. 3

LOCAL HEROES
Peter Morenus (above) is the magazine’s photographer. But that job title doesn’t even begin to cover his secret-weapon status here. He seems to know everyone on campus, on all campuses in fact, and can tell us exactly where anything is and what it will look like before we get there. I guess that’s not surprising since he’s been University photographer for 22 years and counting, through at least four iterations of this magazine.

He’s also the soul of the place, always ready with an anecdote or backstory that makes our work more exciting and more meaningful. We joke that “he knows where all the bodies are buried.” But, it turns out, he does not. Or did not until we sent him on assignment to the Storrs Cemetery this issue, tasked with taking a landscape shot for the Birds of Storrs piece that begins on page 34.

He went at the end of the day “when the light would be shining on the trees on the east side of the cemetery,” he told me. “I meant to start at the top and work down to right the looking for the view right to show bird environment.” But he quickly became distracted by the cemetery environment, starting with the Storrs family obelisk at the very top. Seeing the names “Charles” and “Augustus,” he said made him giggle a little when “Chuck and Augie” popped into his head. Then he noticed the “Augustus Brundage” stone. “The pool at the Field House is named in honor of two of his sons who were killed during WWII,” recounts Pete. “And then I saw ‘Waugh’ like the sundial and right near ‘Waugh’ is ‘Gentry,’ the name of the building next to the Waugh sundial. There was Carolyn Ladders, the first dean of nursing who we just named a new nursing wing after. A few steps away is George Safford Torrey who the Life Sciences building is named after. And photographer Jerald Malter, in many ways my predecessor. By this point I’m regretting calling the founders by nicknames they surely never were called. I realize I’m walking through the history of the university.”

As he moved downhill he found more recent stones, including “latter-day heroes” he’d photographed, like soccer coach Joe Morrone, engineering professor Marty Fox, and political science professor Howard Reiter.

“There was John Tanaka, professor of chemistry. I met his son, Peter, then a UConn police officer, on my first day of work while lost near the Gentry Building. And cloning pioneer Xiangzhong (Jerry) Yang — I’m here at UConn because of him.”

That story is too convoluted to relay here, but I guarantee Pete will be happy to share it if you see him around campus (he’s the one with the UConn cap and the cameras). Returning to the office from this assignment, he reminded me of the spiritual role he plays here when he talked about his walk downhill and admitted to being “misty-eyed” by the end. “I was just very much in awe to think a lot of these people are there not because of any church or religion, but because of their affinity to this place. It made me feel like I was here when he talked about his walk downhill and admitted to being “misty-eyed” by the end. “I was just very much in awe to think a lot of these people are there not because of any church or religion, but because of their affinity to this place. It made me feel like I was part of something,” Pete said, then added: “I also felt like I’d been here a long time. But I’m not done yet. I still have a lot of pictures to take!”
UCONN NOW

LETTERS

Much of this issue’s mail either lauded the UConn Health doctor seeking a cure for the rare GSD disease or lambasted us for the headline “In Russia, you simply couldn’t be a writer if you were Jewish.” The fact that the headline was in quotes did not make it clear to all that it was Litman’s personal point of view. See her response below along with a sampling of the letters we received on many subjects.

Have something to tell us? We’d love to hear it! Email the editor at lisa.stiepock@uconn.edu or post something on our website at magazine.uconn.edu.

Free to be Imperfect

Thank you for this article and Gayle — if you read this, thank you for persevering and getting Dr. Weinstein to Connecticut. My son is 6 and has GSD 1a, and this gives me so much hope that there will be a cure by the time he is a teenager.

Tara Marchetti
Westport, Connecticut, via our website

Associate Professor of English Ellen Litman replies:

It seems that the comments are about life/conditions in the present-day Russia, whereas my experience dates back to the eighties and early nineties. In those days, one’s nationality was absolutely recorded in one’s passport. I am glad to hear that this is no longer the practice now. On the point about discrimination of Jews. Once again, I’d like to believe that the commenter is referring to the present-day conditions and that the discrimination my generation experienced is a thing of the past. While he is correct that there are and have been prominent Jewish writers, artists, and scientists, the path was by no means clear or obvious, at least in my experience.

I would like to suggest one of the books mentioned to my book group. Are they available in your experience.

Jewish writers, artists, and scientists, the path was by no means clear or obvious, at least I experienced is a thing of the past. While he is correct that there are and have been prominent Jewish scientists and artists in USSR and now Russia. I don’t agree with the points made on migration and is quite the opposite. There were and are so many accomplished Jewish scientists and artists in USSR and now Russia. I don’t agree with the points made on migration and discrimination of Jewish people. No one has his/her nationality stamped into their passport.

Kirill Karpenko ’19 MBA
Hartford, Connecticut, via our website

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“In Russia, you simply couldn’t be a writer if you were Jewish”

That is so biased and not true! No one cares if you are Jewish in Russia. Actually, it is quite the opposite. There were and are so many accomplished Jewish scientists and artists in USSR and now Russia. I don’t agree with the points made on migration and discrimination of Jewish people. No one has his/her nationality stamped into their passport.

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Thank you for this great article. We have a grandson who is 1 year old and has GSD 1a. I read the article on “UConn Nation Giving Back” and want to be involved next year.

Rick Leino ’64 (CLAS)
Fairfax, VA, via email

Correction:

It is the 75th, not the 50th, anniversary of the UConn School of Nursing.

Rebecca Lobo
Middletown, Connecticut, via our website

Congratulations to a wonderful, talented athlete and an unparalleled role model. A well deserved honor!

David Bostic ’83 (CAHNR)
Granby, Connecticut, via our website

Dispatch from Iraq

Great article. I hope that the author took proper care to ensure that Gibreal or his family could not be targeted from the information in this article. It was probably unnecessary to insinuate that Gibreal was doing anything other than his duty as far as his relationship with US forces.

Joel Angle ’09 (CLAS)
Washington, D.C. area, via our website

The reason we included Gibreal’s picture is he was killed in combat in Nov 2004 on the way to Fallujah. We remain in contact with several of the other Iraqis featured and have taken great care to hide their identities.

UCONN MAGAZINE    |    MAGAZINE.UCONN.EDU FALL 2017

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ECLIPSED

Days before students returned to campus for the fall semester, community members flooded Horsebarn Hill and the area around the Dairy Bar to watch the solar eclipse on August 21. Physics professors shared four high-powered solar telescopes, handed out safety glasses, led workshops where kids crafted cardboard box pinhole viewers, and shared knowledge in traditional lecture formats as well as with live-to-scale demonstrations with local kids playing the parts of the planets.

#ONEUCONN

At convocation, freshmen wore shirts with “Oneucconn” on the front and on the back this Nelson Mandela quote: No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.
For chef Joel Gamoran ’07 (CLAS), scrappiness is a state of mind. “Why does cooking always need to be so perfect?” he asks. “The best meals at home aren’t when you buy the expensive cut of meat. It’s the pasta with the leftover anchovy oil and some chilli flakes. Not having the fancy ingredients — it forces you to get inspired.”

The charming, affable scrap-proselytizer has just parlayed his lifelong passion for imperfection into a cooking show, “Scraps,” which debuted on the FYI network in May.

Each half-hour episode of “Scraps” follows Gamoran in his 1963 VW bus to prepare a meal with a local chef, using their favorite typically tossed kitchen scraps. As he says over the show’s opening credits, “I see flavor where the world sees waste.”

Take pickle juice, shrimp shells, and broccoli stems for example. Chicken thighs soak in that briny pickle juice before being fried, drizzled with honey, and showered with cilantro (just the stems, not the whole thing — 10 cities — in six weeks. We decided to embrace it, get scrappy, and really make it part of the show!” This meant cooking in the rain if it rained. It meant sticking with the original plan, even if an ingredient turned out to be a little bit yum-resistant.

That spent grain” Gamoran reminisces about some particularly stubborn waste gleaned from an Asheville brewery, which he turned into biscuits he describes as “a major fail at first.” Eventually, though, they got it right. “I stand for the bruised, the forgotten, and the back of the fridge!” is the tag line of the show, and it seems to be Gamoran’s ethos in general. When I ask him about his favorite aha moments, he says, “I had so many moments where I was like, ‘I can’t believe you can even do this!’ Take in episode two, when the guest tosses the scallion roots right into the dish. Now I’m obsessed with them.”

I bond with him over our shared love of celery leaves (“A free herb?” I say, and he says, “I know, right?”) and ask him about his favorite everyday scrap. “I don’t peel my garlic! I really think the outer paper is really special and it’s the unsung hero of the garlic.”

Gamoran himself is self-deprecating, excited, quick to laugh. And he brings out the best in the chefs he works with — they can’t seem to help being infected by his vibrant good humor. Mostly, though, he just makes them laugh and laugh. “It’s clear that they adore him. Everybody does.”

Gamoran’s day job is National Chef for Sur La Table, the kitchenware retailer and cooking-class giant based in his hometown of Seattle. This seems more cushy than scrappy to me — in a good way — although Gamoran is quick to point out that it’s a job he invented himself and pitched to the company, which I have to admit is pretty scrappy after all.

It’s the same resourceful mentality he brought to UConn, after he was recruited as a tennis player. In short order he realized first that he wanted to be a chef, and then that UConn didn’t offer a course of study that would help him do that. So he pulled together a hodgepodge of classes and made his own major. “I learned how to craft something out of nothing.” And they supported it. I graduated with a degree in restaurant management and a minor in communications. It was my first win! The first time I got to get scrappy.”

Gamoran has moved his Sur La Table gig to Brooklyn, where he lives with his wife and rides a little Vespa around.

“What’s next?” I ask.

“What’s the dream?”

“I think when people cook, it really enhances their life,” he answers. “Cooking builds connection and draws us together. To see how Gamoran’s 1963 VW bus becomes a modern kitchen, go to uconn.edu/gamoran

—CATHERINE NEWMAN
On comparing measures each state is taking to prevent sudden death in school sports:

“If these rankings can get more kids home for dinner instead of to a hospital or morgue, then we have succeeded.”

Douglas Casa, director of UConn’s Korye Stringer Institute, in The New York Times, Aug. 8, 2017

On why most of us should just drink water to rehydrate:

“Virtually no studies have shown benefits of sport drinks or carbohydrate-containing beverages unless you’re exercising continuously for more than 50 or 60 minutes.”

Lawrence Armstrong, director of UConn’s Human Performance Laboratory, in Time, July 26, 2017

On why drivers in Europe are nicer:

“The philosophy that emanated from the US was that we needed to separate people and machines, which gives priority to vehicles and makes the environment less friendly for people.”

Norman Garrick, associate professor of engineering, in The Guardian, May 24, 2017

On getting breast cancer from street lights:

“Electric light is one of the signature inventions of an inventive species. But its overuse has caused an obliteration of night in much of the modern world. The loss of night has consequences for all forms of life, including us. And the mounting evidence for a connection to breast cancer is alarming.”

Richard G. Stevens, professor of Community Medicine and Health Care, in The Associated Press, Aug. 18, 2017

On removing Confederate statues:

“These Civil War monuments are not historical artifacts. They were primarily erected during the Jim Crow era to reestablish the historical social order in the face of Blacks attempting to gain equal rights.”

Monnica T. Williams, associate professor of psychological sciences, in Psychology Today, Aug. 17, 2017

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Wisensale spent the spring semester as a Fulbright Scholar in Japan where he taught "Baseball Diplomacy in Japanese U.S. Relations." He visited all 13 of Japan's major league ballparks, including the Chiba Lotte Marines' stadium in Chiba City.

But that changed once he was promoted to full professor. "I felt like I had more freedom," said Wisensale, "and as I began to think about what I wanted to do inside the classroom, I decided I wanted to teach a course on baseball." Wisensale had heard of baseball-related courses at around 20 other universities. Harvard and Tufts offered courses that were quantitative in nature. Stanford and San Francisco State had courses that focused more on baseball in society, which was what Wisensale was after. "I wanted to delve into history," he says.

Class Description:
Baseball and Society: Politics, Economics, Race and Gender explores the connections between historical events and the history of baseball. A discussion of labor relations, for instance, digs into the evolving business of baseball and ramps up to the ever-changing circumstances surrounding the U.S. workforce in general. "I hit the Curt Flood story pretty hard," says Wisensale, referring to the ballplayer who in 1969 refused to abide by a trade, instigating a contractual challenge that made it all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court and led to player free agency throughout the game. "The drawing of historical links goes all the way back to the origins of baseball."

"A lot of students would prefer that we get right to the current day or recent history," says Wisensale, "but they’re surprised by how rich the dead-ball era was." It was the time of World War I, which is fascinated by how rich the dead-ball era was. "It has taken me back to my youth." Wisensale says. "It’s a lot of fun teaching students about baseball’s origins and making them realize how much we’ve come from." Wisensale says he also enjoys the challenge in teaching this course, which is about as simpler times. But were they real?

"Baseball news! Anybody have any baseball news?"

This is how Wisensale begins each class. A discussion of current events takes up the first 5 to 10 minutes of class. Then the professor digs in at the plate and starts answering. The connections he draws aren’t always obvious. An example baseball’s steroids scandal.

"Maybe I’m the only one who thinks this way, but I believe that what the ballplayers did is the same as what Bernie Madoff did," he says, referring to the financial advisor who cheated investors (excluding the New York Mets ownership) with a Ponzi scheme. "They all basically conned the system and made a lot of money, with so-called regulators not regulating. There were too many people making so much money within a corrupt system — why police it?"

The challenge in teaching this course, for Wisensale, stems from the diverse student enrollment. "Students come for different reasons and have different acounting students who want to work for Billy Bean" and understand all the sabermetrics — or statistical analysis — but may have no interest in history. Then there are the history majors, who are deeply interested in the origins and development of the sport. And journalism students "who think in terms of writing stories about current events," says Wisensale. "I try to get them to read Roger Angell’s stuff and John Updike’s essay about Ted Williams’ last game, things like that."

"We Want Why to Take It Ourselves:"

Three strikes and four balls. Nine innings, each with three outs. Baseball has a rhythm to it, one that harks back to what we tend to reminisce about as simpler times. But were they really?

"Baseball and Society delves into some dramatic twists and turns that the game and its surrounding culture shared. Race comes up in discussions of the Negro Leagues and Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier. Gender is at center stage when the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League comes on the scene during World War II. And then there’s the steroids era."

"That last item generates the most discussion in class," says Wisensale. If putting historical events into context isn’t enough of a draw, how about the opportunity to have your own baseball card? During the enrollment process, Wisensale instructs students to create their card. "It can be a childhood dream come true for some," he said.

That includes the professor himself. He creates a Wisensale card before each semester, a reminder that for him this class is more than a class. A discussion of current events takes up the first 5 to 10 minutes of class. Then the professor digs in at the plate and starts answering. The connections he draws aren’t always obvious. An example baseball’s steroids scandal.

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That includes the professor himself. He creates a Wisensale card before each semester, a reminder that for him this class is more than a class. A discussion of current events takes up the first 5 to 10 minutes of class. Then the professor digs in at the plate and starts answering. The connections he draws aren’t always obvious. An example baseball’s steroids scandal.

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The challenge in teaching this course, for Wisensale, stems from the diverse student enrollment. "Students come for different reasons and have different interests," says Wisensale. "Some students who want to work for Billy Bean" and understand all the sabermetrics — or statistical analysis — but may have no interest in history. Then there are the history majors, who are deeply interested in the origins and development of the sport. And journalism students "who think in terms of writing stories about current events," says Wisensale. "I try to get them to read Roger Angell’s stuff and John Updike’s essay about Ted Williams’ last game, things like that."

Increasing the federal minimum wage by just one dollar could decrease the number of reported cases of child neglect per year in this country by nearly 10%. A new study by Kerri Raissian, assistant professor in the Department of Public Policy, and co-researcher Lindsey Rose Bullinger at the University of Indiana found that the number of child neglect cases would decline by 9.7%, or 9.6 percent. The team looked at maltreatment reports from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System for 2004 to 2013. Within that period, more than 30 states had minimum wages exceeding the federal requirement by an average of $1, so the team was able to track the effect of those wages on the number of child maltreatment reports to child protective service agencies.

"Increasing the minimum wage may increase incomes of the working poor who in 2012.76, the number of child neglect reports was close to 3.7 million cases. They found that they really?"

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ARE E-CIGS JUST AS BAD AS TOBACCO?

“From the results of our study, we can conclude that e-cigarettes have as much potential to cause DNA damage as unfiltered regular cigarettes,” says Kartteek Kadimisetty, a chemistry postdoctoral researcher and lead author of a new study published in the journal ACS Sensors.

Using a new low-cost, 3-D printed testing device, UConn chemists found that e-cigarettes loaded with a nicotine-based liquid are potentially as harmful as unfiltered cigarettes when it comes to causing DNA damage. They also found that vapor from non-nicotine e-cigarettes caused as much DNA damage as filtered cigarettes, possibly due to the many chemical additives present in e-cigarette vapors. Cellular mutations caused by DNA damage can lead to cancer.

Kadimisetty and his team decided to look into whether the chemicals in e-cigarettes could cause damage to human DNA while testing a new electro-optical screening device they developed in their lab. The small 3-D printed device is believed to be the first of its kind capable of quickly detecting DNA damage, or genotoxicity, in environmental samples in the field, the researchers say.

The team targeted three known carcinogenic chemicals found in tobacco cigarettes. They then loaded their device’s microwells with specific enzymes that would convert those chemicals into metabolites. If those chemicals were in the sample, the test gave them a reading for genotoxicity. The results caught Kadimisetty by surprise.

“I never expected the DNA damage from e-cigarettes to be equal to tobacco cigarettes,” he says. “I was shocked the first time I saw the result, so I ran the controls again. I even diluted the samples. But the trend was still there — something in the e-cigarettes was definitely causing damage to the DNA.”

For more on this study, go to s.uconn.edu/ecigs.

UCONN STAMFORD OPENS DORMS

UCon Stamford’s first residence hall opened this fall. The six-story, 116-unit building at 900 Washington Blvd., just two blocks south of UConn Stamford, will house almost 300 students annually and will operate in the same way as the Storrs residence halls, with resident assistants and study lounges. It is half-way between the main campus and the Stamford Transportation Center.

It is the culmination of several years of work that responds to student demand at that campus, which is UConn’s largest regional location, with 1,700 undergraduates and 600 graduate students. Although the campus has been growing, the vast majority of students had to commute from other communities because they could not afford Stamford apartment rents.

President Susan Herbst said at the opening that the housing also will help students have a genuine urban university experience, in which they can take advantage of Stamford’s many offerings while creating community with others who live in the hall.

“With an array of internship opportunities, cultural offerings, prominent employers, and the unique aspects of city life right outside their front door, the students who choose to live here can enjoy a dynamic urban university experience,” says Herbst.

“This experience will pay dividends long into the future for our alumni, the University, and the city,” she added.

Governor Daniel P. Malloy, a former Stamford mayor, has been a strong supporter of UConn’s plans for student housing there.

“With leading programs in digital media and business, a location in a vibrant city, and access to an established transportation hub linking students to the entire eastern seaboard, it is no surprise UConn Stamford is growing and thriving,” said Malloy.

“We are thrilled this new residence hall will connect hundreds of students to their campus, internship opportunities, and cultural experiences right here in downtown Stamford,” he said.

UCon has had a presence in Stamford since 1951, when it began offering extension courses in the former Stamford High School. UConn Stamford moved to its current downtown location in 1998.

—STEPHANIE REITZ

Above: Brian Martel ’19 (CAHNR) spent part of the summer in New Zealand working with this endangered lizard, the tuatara. “The tuatara needs constant protection from predators like possums, weasels, ferrets, stoats, hedgehogs, feral cats, and rats,” he says.

Right: Rafeed Hussain ’17 (CLAS) was one of a select few college students invited to visit NASA’s Cape Canaveral, Florida, and post about it. “Words and even pictures can’t effectively depict how gargantuan the inside of the Vehicle Assembly Building is,” he wrote.

For more photos from Hussain’s NASA experience and Brian’s internship, go to s.uconn.edu/FallFieldNotes.

For more photos from a dorm room and more, go to s.uconn.edu/stamfordvid.
Why did you choose UConn?
I came to Bridgeport from Jamaica in 2009. I was 12. I never knew anything about college, just that it was something I wanted to do. So when the time came I applied to Connecticut colleges. When I got into Southern my mom was so excited; she was like, “Oh, you’re going there!” Then I get into UConn and she was like, “No, you’re going to UConn!” One great thing UConn has going for it is that as a first-generation college student I was able to live on campus the summer before freshman year to transition to college and to begin earning credits. The counselors are great and help with everything. I became a U.S. citizen this year, and they helped me get my passport.

As a freshman you lived in Innova House. How have you always been entrepreneurial?
I like the idea of having my own business. When I was little, I wanted to be a fashion designer, and my friends and I would draw collections. Later, I became interested in teaching. But if I was going to be a teacher, I wanted to plan the school, create the curriculum, and make everything exactly how I thought it should be. When I have an idea, I always think, “I’ve got to own this thing!” So Innovation House was immediately interesting to me.

Where does psych fit in with entrepreneurship?
If I want to be a business owner one day, I’ll want to know the psychology of my employees. How are they going to play together? For my research project, I decided to study impulsiveness. Because I really don’t understand it. It sometimes boggles my mind when I see people making impulsive choices. Your life is going to be terrible if you keep doing that! I want to know how the brain works.

What’s been your favorite class so far?
I have two favorite classes. I really liked Psychology of Language. One thing we talked about was how someone who learns sign language at age 10 won’t ever be as fluent as someone who learns it at age 5. Which is just like a spoken language. American Sign Language is my minor, so that means I’ll never be as good as a child. Nice to know!

My other favorite was a coding class with Alex Tung. Not because I did well in it, because I didn’t really, but because I learned a lot. One of the things I learned was that when a professor gives you 10 days for an assignment, you need all 10 days. The instructions for a coding project might only be a couple of lines, but to execute those two lines requires a lot of thinking and trial and error. On our first project, my group finally left the Business School at 5:59 a.m. The sun was coming up. This was when it really hit me that I was in college. Freshman year was pretty chill, first semester sophomore year was pretty chill. But spring semester? No. I was like, “Man, man, now I know I’m in college.”

You won a First-Year Excellence in Innovation Award for work on a phone app.
Yes, as part of the Innovation House program, students pitch an idea that could be developed as a start-up. I joined with a student named Jeremy, who had the idea for encrypting personal data on your phone. When you download certain free apps, they strip your data. We worked on a security app to protect data so that it can’t be hacked or stripped. We drove up the labor. Jeremy is a computer science major, so he was technical. I handled the business development end and put together a plan for the product.

What’s something most people don’t know about you?
I’m a fan of WWE. The first time I passed the corporate headquarters in Stamford on the highway after moving here from Jamaica, I was like “Whoa!” I thought I could go over and meet the wrestlers. I was so disappointed when I found out they didn’t stay there.

Last summer WWE was offering internships and I seriously thought about applying. I thought maybe they’d give me a free ticket to SummerSlam. But I had already accepted an IT internship with Travelers in Hartford. During my orientation at Travelers, a woman from the leadership group mentioned that she’s a fan of the wrestler Sheamus. I said, “Sheamus?” She said, “Yeah, he used to work in IT. I love him.” I thought, “We could all bond over this.” But everyone else was like, “No, not really. We’re all grown-ups.”

Do you ever visit Jamaica?
I visited in May to present the Top Girl scholarship at my old school, Victoria Primary in Linstead, St. Catherine. I presented the first scholarship in 2013, but since then I’ve just sent the trophy and the money, so this was a little different.

Wait, you send the scholarship money yourself?
I was the Top Girl when I graduated, so my grandmother, my mother, and I thought maybe this was something we could do to give back to the school. We started the scholarship myself, and we’ve done it every year of high school here in Connecticut.

Does it have a name?
The Britney Reynolds Top Girl Scholarship. Inflation in Jamaica is very difficult. Every little bit helps a struggling family, so I add whatever I can to the monetary award my grandmother puts together. I work on campus in the Admissions Office, and I don’t really spend much, so there’s little left over from my paycheck.

Any other great ideas in the works?
I’m an RA, and my current thing is figuring out ways to get my residents more engaged with floor programs. My first floor meeting last spring. I said, “Come to the Community Center.” Nobody came. So next time I made it easier: “Come to the second floor lobby.” I could capture everyone as they went to their rooms. Then I realized people might be in their rooms and not ever pass through the lobby. So for the next one, I knocked on doors. And I always offer snacks. I’ll keep trying different things, mixing up locations and times and incentives, until we get a formula that works. That’s part of being an entrepreneur, I think. You test an idea, find out where the errors are, and keep modifying it until you get it right. —KEVIN MARKEY

Eva Lefkowitz is the new head of the Human Development and Family Studies department, having recently moved to UConn after 18 years at Penn State. She says she does her reading via hard copy (bedtime, beach time) and listening to audiobooks (while driving, walking, or exercising).

I read a lot of YA [young adult], because I have middle-schoolers and because my research is on young people and sexuality. I think this book is amazing. So much about race and class. The dialogue is very well written. Even though it’s about someone whose experience is vastly different from mine, I feel like I can totally relate to the character.

I don’t know much about this book, but I love this author so much that I want to read his latest. He’s around my age so I tend to identify with his characters and circumstances. And I love the way he writes about families and relationships; it’s funny, sometimes satirical and over the top, but it also feels real. —KATIEN EAGERS
Restoring the grand Hartford Times building is just the beginning of what having UConn back in downtown Hartford will mean for the city. The energy these students bring will be "a complete game changer."
past half-century has not been kind to Connecticut’s capital. Against a fading memory of Hartford in its heyday — a cultural and commercial center that drew visitors from all over New England — the city languished. Thriving cities exert a gravitational force on communities around them, pulling people in. But in Hartford the force dwindled. City planners razed old neighborhoods, laid down highways to facilitate suburban access, and built gleaming office palaces. Over time the city center became a place that emptied out at 5 p.m. Fewer people came in at night and on weekends. Downtown effectively died.

Anyone hoping to revitalize a city’s downtown faces a stubborn paradox. To get people there, you need amenities. To justify and attract amenities, you need people. How to break into that cycle and restore a city’s gravitational force? The centerpiece of that field of dreams is UConn. 

“We want that 7-year-old to be able to go up, hands pressed against the glass, and see what that student is doing.”

UCONN HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTOR MICHAEL HOWSER
OFFER ... THIS BUILDING REPRESENTS A BIG INVESTMENT FOR UCONN AND FOR THE STATE. IT'S WORTH IT. AND IT'S FOREVER.

UCONN PRESIDENT SUSAN HERBST

This project. It's a super flashy project for our city.

The building, with its bold neoclassicism, offers plenty of wow factor. Students entering from Prospect Street can use one of two winding staircases and pass through giant arched doors to an interior that matches the facade for grandeur. At the center is a three-story high atrium, naturally lit via a steel-and-glass facade to the south, with massive square limestone columns girding the space and adding to its imposing beauty and strength. Mezzanines look down on the student collaboration area, on an elevated platform beneath circular halo lights, to the terrazzo floor below, where students will hang out. “It’s equipped in state-of-the-art ways that reflect how people learn,” says Herbst, adding with a laugh, “let’s just say that there are a lot of outlets!”

The five-story building houses classrooms and labs, meeting and work areas, and faculty and administration offices. The atrium opens to a south-facing courtyard, landscaped with trees and grass. Oversized windows in the science labs offer views so enticing, one worries about experiments gone awry. Faculty offices on the top floors boast panoramic vistas of city and countryside. A wood-paneled conference room overlooks the atrium through floor-to-ceiling windows. It’s a soaring building, bright with natural light. Says James Libby, UConn’s Design Project Manager for the campus: “We’re setting a new standard for how these buildings look.” Architect Bruce Becker agrees. “This is a flagship type of building,” he says. “It brings a whole new educational institution not of the scale of Yale, but of the quality.”

TAKING IT TO THE STREETS

When you tour the new building, with all its gleaming amenities, you’ll notice something that is not there: a place to eat. This omission-by-design is intended to send hungry students out into the neighborhood, and reflects lessons learned in other, similar relocations.

“We don’t want our building to be a void,” says Herbst. “I decided early on, no food service in the building. We must have students out on the street!”

Students out on the street: the phrase surely has a different valence than it would have had fifty years ago, and its significance is not lost on Jamie “The Bear” McDonald, the barbecue impresario whose Five Hartford-area restaurants include two in the Front Street business zone adjacent to the new UConn campus.

McDonald says that the new building’s lack of food and function spaces will benefit hotels and restaurants in the vicinity. “We can do the catering for small-group functions, faculty meetings, and the like. That’s the key thing about the new campus — it’s not an island. It’s integrated with the community, and we’ll get the benefit.”

The new campus has been planned and designed to maximize connection to the neighborhood in a host of ways. Students use the same parking garages everyone else does. Ground-floor retail spaces in the main building open both to the street and to the atrium. At the campus’s southwest corner, a grand plaza welcomes the Hartford community and links diagonally to the landscaped courtyard, also publicly accessible.

The Barnes & Noble UConn, the first bookstore in downtown Hartford in many years, occupies the ground floor of the Front Street Lofts across the street. A new CVS is in 777 Main, a few blocks away. Lectures and perhaps classes will be held in the Atheneum across the street. Large-scale events can use the Infinity Hall concert venue or the Science and Convention Centers just down the street. And discussions are underway for a plan whereby students can use Husky Bucks at neighborhood businesses.

The emphasis on community is especially fitting for the School of Social Work, which moved into a stately brick building at 38 Prospect Street early this summer. “Being in downtown Hartford will make it really easy to connect with organizations,” notes Lauren Chapman, a 23-year-old graduate case-work student from Hebron. Chapman believes that the campus’s setting makes it more than a mere commuter school. “People will stick around and use the area, both between classes and after. You couldn’t do that at West Hartford. Here people can go into a restaurant or cafe or bar and socialize, or get some work done. It’s conducive to that.”

These sentiments are echoed by Chapman’s teacher, social work professor Lisa Werkmeister-Rozas. “It was always strange for us to be in a suburban setting,” she observes. “Our students are dealing with urban populations, and now they can see the everyday situations that their clients talk about. I think it will be a really important learning experience.”

The move is practical, Werkmeister-Rozas says, since many social-work internships are based in the city. “And from a pure advocacy perspective, being able to participate in the renewal of
From left: Bronin in The William and Alice Mortensen Courtyard; students studying in the Zachs Atrium; the building’s rooftop sign with the Travelers Tower.

For more pictures and information, including a list of donors, go to s.uconn.edu/uconnhartford.

Hartford is a good thing.”

No feature of the new campus better illustrates the town-gown symbiosis than the arrangement with Hartford Public Library, where a $4 million renovation will facilitate research teams. “We’ve been focused on collaboration from day one,” says UConn Hartford Public Library Director Michael Howser. Brenda Miller, who heads the Hartford History Center at HPL, lists the contributions UConn has already made, from a baby grand piano for the library’s popular jazz series, to support for a Learning Lab, to a new storage unit to house the library’s historical collection. The partnership will enable a broad array of events and programming, like a recent series of discussions on the founding documents of American democracy, developed with UConn’s Public Humanities Institute and the Wadsworth Atheneum. Already the library has hosted a drop-in writing workshop conducted by a UConn professor, where city residents could bring in a poem, resume, or application letter and get help with it. The new spaces in the library have been configured to spur interaction between UConn students and the general public. “There’s no bouncer at the door, no gatekeeper,” says Howser. “We want to be open and welcoming.” Anyone with a Hartford Library card can borrow from UConn’s books. The new layout offers joint study areas and classrooms: there’s a conference room with glass walls on both sides, making it totally transparent. “We want people to see the students in action,” says Howser. “We want that 7-year-old to be able to go up, hands pressed against the glass, and see what that student is doing.” In addition to the many tangible benefits, the UConn presence will offer a standing role model for urban kids from non-college-educated backgrounds.

“The Hartford Public Library is a cornerstone of democracy, open to anyone,” observes the library’s Director of Communications, Don Wilson. “But the one segment we haven’t had en masse is college students. There’s an ecosystem here, and when students are introduced into that, both sides will benefit. I’m very excited to see what happens.”

GOING UP

And so are Hartford residents — excited not merely about the library, but about the overall impact of UConn. Those of us who have lived here over the last 20 years can recite a litany of losses and failures, indignities and dashed hopes. The demoralizing departure of the city’s only major-league sports franchise, the NHL Whalers, and the subsequent sorry attempt to lure the Patriots. The ouster of a mayor charged with corruption. The city’s designation, at one point, as the second-poorest in the U.S., after Brownsville, Texas. Amid such slings and arrows, hope has always persisted, and we have eagerly reached for Mark Twain’s celebrated line about reports of one’s death being greatly exaggerated. Now, at last, the quip seems apt. Hartford faces significant ongoing challenges, but signs of a downtown resurgence abound, reflected in rising rents and real-estate values, new residences with high occupancy rates, flourishing restaurants, and the success of citizen initiatives such as Riverfront Recapture. Months ago the historic Goodwin Hotel re-opened after nearly a decade. Come next year, true commuter rail will connect the city efficiently to New Haven, and by extension New York. Meanwhile, painters and sculptors, designers, photographers, and other arts and entertainment entrepreneurs are incubating small-business ideas and energies. From Coltville to Dunkin’ Donuts Park, a reinvigoration is underway. UConn’s new campus puts a gleaming seal on the deal.

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The benefit promises to be mutual. For UConn students, Hartford provides another option, one that will encite those eager for an urban experience and all it involves. “The city has a lot to offer,” says President Herbst. “We needed a stronghold there.” Anchoring that stronghold is a building she calls a metaphor for excellence. This building represents a big investment for UConn and for the state,” she says. “It’s worth it. And it’s forever.”

The first thing she showed them was a large, stuffed fruit fly. This impressed them. Then she flashed test tubes full of living flies. Fascination ensued, for she was obviously no ordinary person but rather someone with a deep grasp of what was important in life: stuffed animals and bugs.

Later she told them she was a microbiologist who studied the germs living in the flies’ stomachs. That was when the questions started.

“Where did you grow up?”

“Why do moths eat clothes?”

“Do aliens really exist?”

The teacher of these kindergarteners says she has never seen them as engaged as this, when they got to Skype a scientist. Her kindergarten class is in Venice, Florida, and the scientist was Nichole Broderick, an assistant professor of molecular and cell biology, who was Skyping from her UConn Storrs office 1,300 miles away. Broderick is one of 497 scientists who talked with schoolchildren last semester through a project called Skype a Scientist, started by a third-year graduate student at UConn named Sarah McAnulty.

Aliens loom large in kindergarteners’ minds, and Broderick was pleased to use the alien question to introduce the kids to invasive species, which, she explained, are just like aliens but from other ecosystems instead of other planets. In other classes in other places, other scientists discussed the social lives of ants with middle schoolers, introduced fourth graders to the extreme environment of a Yellowstone geyser, and talked with high schoolers about the environmental consequences of war. The researchers hailed from all over this country and the classrooms from as far away as Kyrgyzstan. But in every case they had been introduced by McAnulty.

McAnulty spends most of her time studying bobtail squid in Associate Professor Spencer Nyholm’s biology lab. She loves science and is, in Nyholm’s words, a phenomenal graduate student, a self-starter who raises money and bobtail squid with the same dedication, for the lab depends on a steady stream of both. Late last year, McAnulty began thinking about politics, too. Because politics had begun to impinge on science.

The country was divided like never before in her lifetime. Anti-intellectualism seemed to be on the rise, and even truth itself seemed under attack. Academic research in the U. S. depends on public funding, and public funding depends on the goodwill of the people. And somehow, that goodwill seemed to be eroding.

“As a community, we were realizing that people view scientists as aloof and cold,” says McAnulty. “Even suspecting we had ulterior motives for sharing our data!”

She says this with shock, as if comparing scientists exchanging data sets to Big Tobacco manipulating medical trials is unthinkable. And until seven or eight years ago, it was. But something has changed in the public’s perception of scientists.

“There’s a feeling that for U.S. science to survive, we really need to get people trusting scientists again,” says McAnulty. She’s chatting with me near the entrance to her lab in the Storrs biophysics building. Right next door is where she raises the bobtail squid. Bobtail squid are adorable, as cute as an invertebrate can be. Only a few centimeters long, with big eyes and eight short little legs, they can even glow in the dark, thanks to the colonies of bioluminescent bacteria that live symbiotically inside them. Nyholm’s lab focuses on the relationship between symbiotic bacteria and their hosts. McAnulty’s part of the research zooms in on the squid’s immune system and why it tolerates the glowing bacteria that live symbiotically inside them. Nyholm’s lab focuses on the relationship between symbiotic bacteria and their hosts.

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McAnulty has spent a lot of time talking to colleagues about the public perception of science. The problem seems clear: How can scientists remake their public image from one of aloof to approachable? Many scientists aren’t all that great at talking about their work with nonscientists. Sometimes it’s because they think no one else will be interested in hearing about it. Other times they’ve been holstered in their lab talking only to colleagues for so long they’ve forgotten how to communicate with regular folks. Get two researchers from the same subfield talking to each other excitedly, and even other scientists from another field can quickly lose the thread as the two specialists descend into a vacuous dialect of Deep Geek.

McAnulty, however, likes talking about her research with nonscientists. She also has an intuitive grasp of marketing and outreach. She started the Tumor page when she joined Nyholm’s lab. She posts about her research, science books she likes, marine science, and interesting chemical reaction accounts for a squid’s blue blood.

“Ask Me Anything” section. Readers ask all kinds of questions, as earnest as “How do you ethically source cuttlebone?” or “How do you pick the animal you want to study for the rest of your life?” and as ridiculous as “Do squids pass gas!” Sarah replies to that last with, “Well, yes and no. They do...”

“KIDS NEED TO SEE THERE'S BIG WORLD OUT THERE.”

Fadden and Francis were early adopters, part of the first wave of teachers who simply answered Facebook inquiries. McAnulty would manually match them with a scientist in the right discipline and time zone. The requests kept coming. And then a teacher mentioned Skype a Scientist publicly at a conference in Texas and the Google sign-up form McAnulty had slapped together “just blew up,” she says.

Overnight, 200 classrooms signed up. Scientists showed equal enthusiasm. One would tell another, who would tell another, and by the end of July McAnulty had more than 1,760 classrooms signed up and 1,756 scientists, with participants hailing from 17 countries and all 50 states. More press followed, including a feature on NPR’s “Science Friday.”

UConn scientists continue to be major players. CAHNR graduate student Mauri Labine-Burke conducted a session with one school. Three UConn biology professors—Nicholas Broderick, Susan Herrick, and Ken Noll—have participated, signed up for more sessions, and invited more professors for this fall. They all say it’s fun, and it’s easy. Broderick says she enjoyed her Skype session with the kindergartners as much as Francis did. “Having to explain concepts to 5-year-olds really makes you think,” she says.

Can it really be this easy to change the public’s perception of science? Other scientists are running for political office, or demonstrating in political rallies like the March for Science last April. McAnulty attended the march. She says she wasn’t sure how she felt about it going in, but thought it was worth attending.

“Finding truth is impartial, as far as I left and right. But as long as the government funds science, and you have a political system opposed to truth, being on the side of truth is a political act,” she explains. But how does she, or anyone in science, know they really are on the side of “truth”? Science corrects itself and reverses course constantly. Bubbles burst. Paradigms shift. It’s an intrinsic part of the scientific endeavor that science is self-correcting. But this also is part of what makes the general populace distrust scientists; one day something is heralded as empirical truth that we should all bow our heads. The next, it’s contradicted by a new piece of evidence. And it’s true that even though Skype a Scientist has national reach, one could argue it’s not reaching kids who need it most. Just to start, you need to have a science-positive teacher who’s comfortable bringing a scientist “into” the classroom. One teacher admitted that her colleagues and school administrators regularly discuss what they would do if a parent questioned what they were teaching. But she’s never seen anything from students but love for science. And just because you can’t help everybody doesn’t mean you shouldn’t try. A Vermont parent put it very bluntly. “This town is in the Thick of the opioid epidemic. Three people died down the street from me this year. We’re a very rural school. Kids need to see there’s a big bright world out there.” People might distrust scientists as elitist, she continued, but people also want their kids to expand their horizons.

McAnulty gets it. One summer she worked surveying bat populations in Pennsylvania and West Virginia, scoping out the site of a proposed wind farm. She saw the economic challenges in the region. She chatted with some of the locals. She knows that any national distrust of scientists is part of a much bigger malaise.

“I don’t think this is the problem with the U.S. But this is a problem. I feel equipped, and I’ll try to fix it,” she says.

And with a little luck, those Skype sessions will make an impact. And some school kids in West Virginia and Missouri and Florida and Vermont and all the other classrooms will grow up with the knowledge that science is a quest for truth about the natural world. It’s done by real people just like them. And because of that, science is imperfect and can always be useful. If kids believe it, they’ll grow into adults who support it.

Maybe they’ll participate in the research enterprise, or use the scientific method in their daily lives. Or maybe they’ll just remember that day in fourth grade that they got to ask a real scientist whether squids fart, and that she laughed with them, not at them. And that might be the best outcome of all.
Erik Hines is passionate about helping black male students succeed at UConn. The assistant professor in the Neag School of Education says he is on a mission to help attract and retain African-American male students. As faculty director of the new learning community ScHOLA²RS House, Hines hopes to gain a deeper understanding of the variables that influence positive academic and career outcomes for black males, the subject at the heart of both his day-to-day counseling work and his academic research. (ScHOLA²RS stands for Scholastic House of Leaders in Support of African-American Researchers & Scholars).

“He is all in,” says Sally Reis, the former associate provost who brought Hines in to work on the newest of the University’s learning communities. “He is completely dedicated to these young men, focused on their graduation from UConn and their success in graduate school and work. He is passionate, committed, and a remarkably strong mentor.”

Born and raised in Tampa, Hines decided to become a school counselor while attending community college there. He went on to earn his bachelor’s in social science education at Florida State University; his master’s in education for school

“Staying in College to Help Others Graduate”

Mentors and guidance counselors helped Hines, an assistant professor of educational psychology, find his path. Now he is paying it forward.

by Julie (Stagias) Bartucca '10 (BUS, CLAS), photos by Peter Morenus

“All I think about now is solutions for improving the graduation rate for black males.”
counseling at the College of William & Mary, and his Ph.D. in counselor education at the University of Maryland. He joined the UConn faculty in August 2014.

Hines says he is doing the work he set out to do at age 19. “My career feels purposeful, fulfilling, and empowering. All I think about now is solutions for improving the graduation rate for black males, recruitment of black males in STEM and career fields in which they are underrepresented, and how we help first-generation and other vulnerable populations be successful, too.”

We caught up with Hines over the summer in his Gentry Building office, which overlooks a grassy, tree-lined knoll next to The Benton.

Q: You work with graduate students, preparing them to become school counselors. How has educating them changed with new challenges, such as social media, cyber bullying, and climbing rates of suicide in adolescents? Hines: Counselors’ goals still are variations of making sure students get their needs met socially and emotionally, even outside the school walls, and accountability — ensuring that students not only understand what they need to know to get to the next grade, but also think long-term: What will life be like post-high school?

I would say school counselors are needed now more than ever. When we were in the space race, after Sputnik, the federal mandate came to put in school counselors to identify the best and brightest in science and math [Title V of the National Defense of Education Act, 1958]. Now, we want to cultivate all of our students to be the best and brightest.

Q: Neag’s school counselor program emphasizes working with underrepresented students. What are some of the tools that you teach to specifically work with those populations?

Hines: We train students to look at the data, as well as how to collect data of their own through observations in classrooms, surveys, reading articles. We teach them to find literature that supports what they want to do and address what the data is telling them.

Q: Can you share an example of how that works?

Hines: In my School Counseling Development course, students do a mock advocacy project. They use the U.S. Department of Education’s Civil Rights Data Collection website to look at a local school district. They look for gaps, disaggregating the data by factors such as race, socioeconomic status, and gender. Say an AP algebra II class has 20 students, and 5 are female. There’s obviously a gender imbalance. So students try to figure out why: they can interview teachers and students and look at the process by which students are chosen to take the class. We discuss best strategies for how to advocate for all students to be eligible for those types of programs and courses, maybe advertising the course to girls, or encouraging the school counselors to talk to students about it. Maybe the teacher needs more culturally responsive training to understand how to promote equity in the classroom.

Imagine an educational pipeline from pre-K all the way to graduate school. We are trying to make sure that we close all the leaks in the pipeline. The leaks can be under-resourced schools, teachers not adequately helping students get their needs met academically, and so on. We want to partner with teachers to help them best work with students, and vice-versa.

Q: What kind of pipeline got you to where you are?

Hines: I am forever grateful for the education I received in the great state of Flori-da. I went to mostly public schools. I went to a community college. And I think being in community college helped me really reflect on my life, because I didn’t do so well my first semester, but it encouraged me to think about what I really wanted to do — that could be impactful as a job or career. Of course, my mother was on top of me, saying, “You can’t be in college forever.”

Q: You proved her wrong, didn’t you?

Hines: Yes, I did! Yes! Even at times from my bachelor’s to my master’s, she told me I needed to get a job. Don’t think she didn’t say that. “You’re going back to school again? You need a job?”

I thought about my strengths, I thought about what I could do. I thought about what I would be fulfilled by doing. I was helping in my local church at the time as a Sunday School teacher. And I was like, oh, I love kids. And then I really thought about my life and what I felt I didn’t get or I needed more of [growing up]. I think in high school, if I really had more people to push me, or I knew about more of the programs available to me, I could have been more successful.

My junior high school counselor, Mr. Robert Davis, stands out though. He was always trying to provide opportunities. He was very engaged with students. He took students on field trips to New York, for instance. Remembering that helped me think, “I want to be a school counselor.”

Q: Was it a straight path?

Hines: I started by going through computer science and business as majors, thinking I wanted to be some sort of a tech guru. Then, I realized what I really wanted to do was help students develop their potential.

Q: Who do you consider your biggest mentors?

Hines: At Florida State University I met two of my mentors, Dr. Lee Jones, who has since passed away, and Dr. James L. Moore III. [Moore is now interim vice provost for diversity and inclusion and chief diversity officer at The Ohio State University.] Because of them, I was in the Brothers of the Academy; an academic organization for black men who aim to be ten-ure-track faculty or academic administra-tors. That helped me think about how we best help African-American students, and students in general who need help.

Q: How did the idea for SCHOLARS House develop?

Hines: Administrators looked at the data — when we talk about advocating, again, we have to look at what the data is saying. And the data told them that the graduation rate for black male students at UConn was 55 percent, where our other populations — men, women, Asian, Latino, white, black women — they were hovering in the high 70s and low 80s. And UConn’s overall graduation rate at the time, 2012–2013, was at 83 percent. They decided that as a black male learning community could be instrumental in helping black men.

Currently, at any given time, there’s between 450 and 500 black males on campus, from freshmen to seniors, and there’s 3,900 to 3,9000 students on the Storrs campus. So you can imagine, the population is that small, and only half of them were graduating. Something needed to be done.

Q: When you first heard about it, did you think a learning community was a good idea?

Hines: Yeah! I focused on the academic achievement part. So I was like, “Oh, this is great!” Because it was crazy that the graduation rate was 55 percent. Nationally for black males, it’s 34 percent, so we’re actually doing better because our institution is more selective, and a lot of our black men are coming from the top of their high school classes. Still, imagine that you graduate salutatorian or valedictorian from your high school, and then you look at that rate and think, “UConn may not be a viable option for me to complete.” That’s problematic.

I was naive to the fact people would be concerned about black men living together.

Q: What were some of the things you heard after it was announced?

Hines: Some students were hesitant; some wanted to see what it was about. Of course there was some racist propaganda, some students who were African-American who thought it was segregation. I had to combat the stereotype. What is problematic with black men living together? We have other groups living together on campus [WMSM, or Women in Math, Science, and Engineer- ing, is an all-female learning community, for example.] To me, [if that’s seen as a problem], then we need to challenge our paradigm of what we think about black men. This should be something that — and I applaud the Uni-versity of Connecticut — we have to jump on, be at the forefront. We have to take on some of these challenging issues that may not make everyone happy.

Q: Our University spokesperson said she was so shocked by some of the naughtiness that you heard from people on the internet. But she said you weren’t shocked by it.

Hines: I’m not. I live and breathe being an African-American man every day. Sometimes I do get those looks; I have been searched unfairly; I have been questioned about my intellect. I stick with data and I look at the bigger picture. How do we as a community, how do I as a professor, a father, a teacher, a mentor, an African American male, help other young men be successful, transcend some of these issues, and not get too bogged down? I’m not saying ignore it, because I’m not doing that, but sometimes you have to be the bigger person to challenge it.

I believe the University of Connecticut is on the verge of doing something very innovative and I believe we can be pioneers in improving the graduation rate of black men, and show- ing our fellow institutions how to do that as well.
Flocking to Storrs

A BIRDER’S TOUR OF CAMPUS

Ornithology professor Margaret Rubega told us “birds are everywhere.” Then she proved it. By Lisa Stiepock

Hardcore birders like to get out into the world early, which is how this magazine’s art director and I found ourselves meeting associate professor Margaret Rubega for the first of a series of campus bird walks at precisely 6 a.m. at a Storrs Center café.

All three of us clutching extra-large coffees, we stepped into the parking lot at 6:06 just as a magnificent red-tailed hawk swooped over street and sidewalk some 10 yards across the parking lot and at eye level — as if on cue.

“That’s amazing,” I said. To which Rubega replied, “No it’s not. Birds are everywhere.”

If there’s one message this 20-year UConn professor is trying to impart to her students and, as Connecticut State Ornithologist, to the community at large, it’s this one: Stop to look, and not incidentally to listen, and you will find birds, literally, everywhere.

A breakthrough teaching moment came for Rubega when she decided to take the technology that was keeping students from observing the world around them, aka their cellphones, and turn it into a weapon for her side, the side of good, of nature, of looking out and up.

She decided to give her students a graded assignment to find birds in their day-to-day lives and to tweet about what they see. “At first they think the assignment is boring and I’m a crazy lady,” says Rubega. But about four weeks into the semester, she replies, “No it’s not. Birds are everywhere.”

“Overwhelmingly the response comes back, ‘Now I see birds everywhere!’” she says, with a smidgen of smugness. “They’ll post everywhere!…” she says, with a smidgen of smugness. “They’ll post everywhere!”

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“Look at me, check me out,” chirps Rubega channeling a male red-winged blackbird whistles and shrieks. The birds are, says Rubega, “on territory” in the grasses of a small wetland at the base of the meadow that is the largest UConn horse field.

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“Sooo sexy, look at my epaulets. Hear my cry: I’m a man and this is my corner of my territory.”

Rubega points out a female redwing, which is shorter, squat-ter, and all spangled brown with no epaulets. To us, it looks more like a sparrow than a relative of the red-winged blackbird. In this species the female has no need for flash, explains Rubega. She is looking for a space for youngsters and to have food. She’s looking

Twitter posts like those at right and on the following pages are indicative of the tweets Rubega and her students post about birds they discover on campus and elsewhere. Other schools have gotten in on the act and you can, too — at #birdclass.

Deep in the woods behind Discovery Drive lies a pair of wooden platforms protruding into wetlands that are home to the barred owls, red-bellied woodpeckers, red-winged blackbirds, and northern flickers pictured at right, among many others.

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Horsebarn Hill

Punctuated by the snorts and whinies of horses anticipating breakfast we hear a cacophony of shrill red-winged blackbird whistles and shrieks. The birds are, says Rubega, “on territory” in the grasses of a small wetland at the base of the meadow that is the largest UConn horse field.

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Horsebarn Hill is “the big Kahuna” of birding on Storrs campus, says Rubega. Besides the barn swallows, bluebird, kestrel, pigeons, and killdeer shown here, you easily can find various warblers, starlings, sparrows, cardinals, robins, jays, wrens, doves, crows, grackles, snipe, flickers, orioles, phoebes, mockingbirds, hawks, and more.

#birdclass #Killdeer
Killdeer say kill-deah! It would have been more descriptive to call them grass plovers – they hang out on lawns and fields.

#birdclass #RockPigeon
Pigeons can find their way home blindfolded, while flying. You have trouble even with a GPS unit. #whosdumb?

#birdclass #AmericanKestrel
American Kestrels are North America’s smallest falcon: at their heaviest, they weigh about the same as your iPhone 6.

#birdclass #BarnSwallow
A Barn Swallow might stick mud to your barn, and poop on your picnic. It also eats hundreds of bugs like flies a day #tradeoffs.

#birdclass #EasternBluebird
The blue of an Eastern Bluebird is an optical trick, not pigment; the feathers reflect blue light, so that’s what you see.
for signs of vigorousness in a mate, proof he can hold the territory for her — the brighter the epaulets the healthier the male.

An iridescent bird swoops low in front of us. “That’s a barn swallow and it’s fabulous,” says Rubega. “Everybody who does not care for bugs in their eyes and ears should be fans of swallows.”

We are moving toward the barns and the Horsebarn Hill Aren- na parking lot, because a few days prior I had seen what I thought was a kildeer on the tarman there and a bluebird on the telephone wires nearby. Neither would be unusual, says Rubega. Why would a kildeer crouch at the curb of a parking lot that’s surrounded by grassy fields? It likes grass that’s sufficiently disturbed, says Rubega. This plover species has bold black neck bands that serve as what is called disruptive coloration, a trait that breaks up an animal’s coloring so that a predator’s eye doesn’t perceive it as an actual animal. “So they don’t dislike edges of paving or places that used to be paved and are now all broken up.”

Though she confirms the ID by looking at a picture on my phone, the kildeer itself does not appear for us. Which is too bad, says Rubega. Why would be a kildeer on the tarmac there and a bluebird on the telephone lines nearby. Neither would be unusual, says Rubega. Why would you want to contemplate your existence, to just come down here and look at pigeons would be enough. But UConn is blessed with so many good bird spots.”

Mirror Lake is a rich bird habitat any time of day, any time of year, says Rubega. In addition to the phoebe, mallard, cardinal, cedar waxing, goldfinch, and great blue heron shown here, a quick lunchtime stroll can turn up black-capped chickadees, milktaches, tufted titmice, egrets, herons, all manner of ducks, geese, or gulls, and even a passing through osprey.

For instance, “they are not just sitting on the building, they can hear it.” says Rubega of the flock that has just landed on a silo.

Pigeons hear infrasonic, too low-pitched for humans to hear the (opposite of high-pitched ultrasonic), and that includes the sound of air hitting buildings. These wayfinding superheroes also use magnetic fields and celestial landmarks like stars to navigate. And, like all birds, they have extra cones in their retinas so they see colors that humans cannot.

“People look at the sky and try to imagine themselves as a bird, right?” says Rubega. “You imagine birds seeing the world the way you would if you were up there. They are completely not experiencing the world the way you are; the world looks completely different to them.” Rubega pauses, then lets her binoculars drop and says, “If you want to contemplate your existence, to just come down here and look at pigeons would be enough. But UConn is blessed with so many good bird spots.”

This is a direct result, she says, of getting its start as a land grant University. There remain swaths of grassland habitat and open space you might otherwise not have. As she says this, we are walking toward the cow barns with fields full of starlings and grackles to our left and barns alive with house sparrows and barn swallows to our right. There’s a nesting box along the fenceline here that’s home to a family of kestrels, smallish hawks. The University lets a local enthusiast install boxes for the endangered bird.

“Kestrels are a pretty good farm bird,” says Rubega. “They eat nothing except for small rodents and insects — and what else could a farmer possibly want a bird to do?”

She spies one atop the tallest branch of the tallest tree in the field, just below the ridgeline “just sitting up there waiting for a mouse or a big juicy grasshopper to go by.” Before we’ve had a chance to train our binoculars on the kestrel, Rubega turns our attention further skyward. “And here comes a great blue; he’s big and molting — see the break in the wing,” she says of a great blue heron who looks like little more than a far-off silhouette to our untrained eyes.

The heron may well have been on its way to or from Mirror Lake, where you can often see them statue-still amid the cattails, oblivious to the the cruising mallard ducks, patiently waiting to spear a trout or carp.

A successful reclamation project that included digging out invasive plants and adding fountains for aeration has brought the cat- tails back and, along with them, some beautiful birds and insects. “It provides a really nice band of habitat for the sort of things that need a little bit of vegetative intensity to build a nest and not be right out where predators can see them.” This includes red-winged blackbirds, sweet-singing Carolina wrens, and of course ducks.

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students to actually look at the bird, they get an eyeful, put down their binoculars, and say, ‘That bird was not here all along!’ But, yes, it is that fancy and, yes, it has been here your whole life!”

The first year Rubega did the Twitter assignment, a student turned in what is perhaps still her favorite post: “Holding Caulfield once asked where the ducks go in winter and never really got his answer. He should have walked by Mirror Lake at UConn today.” “I looked at that and said to myself, ‘There it is! It is a literal arts education in 140 characters,’” she says.

The Platforms

It is another early morning for civilians and we are traipsing through knee-high grass and weeds, serious tick territory, behind Discovery Drive. This is no barrier to Rubega’s birding. “Get some tickproof clothing and get out there,” she says. “There are plenty of hazards to staying indoors!”

This territory is much less daunting at other times of year, but even now in early summer our trek proves worthwhile when we come to the first of two wooden platforms built over wetlands and sea, within seconds, a pileated woodpecker. This is the real-life Woody Woodpecker, enormous and brilliant.

“I think the pileateds are very exciting,” says Rubega. “My students were beside themselves when we came out here and there was a pair of them actually courting — displaying and calling.”

These are the moments Rubega hopes will jolt students out of what she calls “the BBC effect.”

While television has gotten people excited about wildlife, Rubega believes that the proliferation of animal shows has had a negative impact as well. “People love to watch the type of show with the British announcer intoning while the eagle takes down some big piece of prey and it does create interest in wildlife,” says Rubega. “But it also gives people the idea that natural history is taking place somewhere else, in a so-called exotic place not near you. So for a student who goes back on forth from classes all day to come out to a place like this and see an enormous woodpecker with a bright red head and this spectacular black-and-white pattern on its body drilling big holes in a tree? It blows their mind because it’s not somewhere else. It’s right here!”

The Loop: W Lot and the Cemetery

A short walk from the W Parking Lot we’re ensconced in woods and the baritone sounds of bullfrogs. Rubega often takes students on a loop that begins here and winds behind Charter Oak Apartments, past the cemetery and back to the lot. We’ve been stalking what turns out to be a wild turkey with two chicks. Two doesn’t seem like much of a brood.

There’s a lot of mortality in the early life of chicks, says Rubega, in part due to the number of feral and nonferal cats here. It’s a sore subject for this ornithologist, who says that nonferal cats in Connecticut are decimating bird populations. And do not make the mistake of suggesting that it’s a natural process. “When television has gotten people excited about wildlife, Rubega believes that the proliferation of animal shows has had a negative impact as well. “People love to watch the type of show with the British announcer intoning while the eagle takes down some big piece of prey and it does create interest in wildlife,” says Rubega. “But it also gives people the idea that natural history is taking place somewhere else, in some exotic place not near you. So for a student who goes back and forth from classes all day to come out to a place like this and see an enormous woodpecker with a bright red head and this spectacular black-and-white pattern on its body drilling big holes in a tree? It blows their mind because it’s not somewhere else. It’s right here!”

Margaret Rubega, here with starlings in the Biodiversity Research Collection Room, is an associate professor and the curator of ornithology in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. She also is the Connecticut State Ornithologist.

For more on Margaret, the birds of Storrs, and an incredible birding story, go to s.uconn.edu/birds. Want to join fellow alums and associate professor Morgan Tingley in May 2018 for a “Birding in the footsteps of the millenniums” trip? Find out more at uconnalumni.com/birding.
When Tania Huedo-Medina, associate professor of biostatistics (below in UConn shirt), went to Cuba for the first time in November 2015 she had one goal — to study the island nation’s well-respected public health system. That quickly proved to be a more challenging undertaking than she expected. Still, during multiple visits over the next two years — documented in these photos taken by her and her team — Huedo-Medina and others from the UConn research community have forged relationships with Cuban health workers that promise to improve data collection and overall healthcare in both countries.

By Amy Su/thr0ll/a_n_d
Huedo-Medina’s persistence slowly began to pay off. She finally got a first-hand look at how Cuban health care workers knew so much about the country’s citizens when she was invited to go door to door with them in Vedado, a middle-class neighborhood in Havana. Health workers routinely visit Cubans in their homes to gather information and address any medical concerns they have, a practice that seems unthinkable in the comparatively privacy-obsessed U.S., she says. But in Cuba, as Huedo-Medina saw, people readily open their doors to doctors and answer all of their questions.

Connections
During her first visits to Cuba, Huedo-Medina spent much of her time forging connections. The longtime rocky relationship between Cuba and the U.S. presented a challenge in that arena. The decades-old U.S. embargo of the country made some Cubans understandably uneasy about working with a U.S. institution. People were friendly, though, and Cuban academics and researchers got the necessary permissions from higher-ups in their organizations to work with her and the UConn team. A shared desire for finding and communicating better preventive health care strategies put them on the same page.

Collaboration
During each visit, Huedo-Medina connected with more Cubans and recognized more opportunities for other UConn faculty to get involved. Last spring, she and a team from UConn met with Cuban scientists in Havana. They brainstormed collaborative research projects around the modeling of data for efficient health policies and promotions. One project they hope to get underway soon involves the prevention of alcohol and tobacco abuse.

Go to s.uconn.edu/cuba to watch a Science in Seconds video about UConn’s work in Cuba and to see more photos from Huedo-Medina and her team.
In 1946, students and alumni spent Alumni Day lounging in the sun on the hills and bleachers surrounding the UConn baseball diamond to root on their team. Today, Huskies Forever Weekend is the closest event UConn has to this old tradition. While the Homecoming football game still brings students old and new together for a day in the sun, this Husky Pride celebration is now a three-day event. Over the years, alumni have come from as far as Hawaii and Israel to reconnect with old roommates over then and now tours around campus and wine and beer tastings from alumn-owned vineyards and breweries. There are events centered around 40th and 50th reunion celebrations, but also a number of happenings, such as a 5K race, that invite all alumni to join the fun.

Alumni Day Then and Now

Roland Boucher ’54 (ENG), who bought his first plane in 1952 when he was still a sophomore at UConn, reports that he is still flying and is now a retired engineering manager in Irvine, Calif. After college, he earned a master’s degree at Yale University, then worked for Hughes Aircraft Co. in Culver City, Calif., where he designed satellites for communication, navigation, and weather observation. After leaving Hughes in 1973, he obtained a patent for an electric-powered aircraft and developed both the first electric-powered battlefield drone aircraft and the first high-altitude, solar-powered, electric aircraft. A fan of the study of ancient civilizations, he recently presented an article he wrote on the use of the pendulum in the creation of a number of measurements during the Aerospace Systems and Technology Conference.

David S. Salisburg ’67 (CLAS), recently released a new book, Divors, Blunders, and Lies: How to Tell the Difference, the first in a planned series on statistical reasoning in science and society, sponsored by the American Statistical Association. Salisburg shares that upon graduation, “I was the first statistician hired by Pfizer, Inc., and was involved in the development of new drugs for almost 30 years. Before that, I taught at the University of Pennsylvania and, while at Pfizer, taught courses at the University of Connecticut and Connecticut College. Since retiring, I have taught at the Harvard School of Public Health and have been an adjunct professor at Yale. My book on the history of statistics, The Lady Tasting Tea: How Statistics Revolutionized Science in the Twentieth Century, has been widely used as a supplemental textbook in high school and college statistics courses.”

Ed Nusbaum ’70 (CLAS), of Weston, Conn., has been selected an America’s Top 100 Attorneys Lifetime Achievement Member for Connecticut. Less than one-half of a percent of active attorneys in the United States will receive this honor. He is principal and co-founder of Nusbaum & Parrino P.C., a family law firm based in Westport.

Steve Maguire ’75 (CLAS), ’76 MA (CLAS), has just released a Vietnam War novel, Mekong Meridian. Much of the story is drawn from Maguire’s experience as an Airborne-Ranger Infantry officer with the 9th Division in 1969. Tom Morganti ’76 (CAHNR), a veterinarian living and working in Evin, Conn., has just published a first novel, ‘Terrorfly’, a thriller set in Germany in the final days of WWII.

Richard Boch ’76 (CLAS), who was the former of the notorious Mudd Club, a new-wave club in New York’s Greenwich Village during the late ’70s, reports that his memoir on the club was published this summer. The book, The Mudd Club, describes his life two years after graduating from UConn when he lived in Greenwich Village and worked at the door of the famous club with its eclectic core of regulars, including Johnny Roten, Frank Zappa, Talking Heads, and John Belushi. The ultrahip club attracted no wave and post-punk artists, along with musicians, filmmakers, and writers.

Robinson-Cole lawyers Dennis C. Cavanaugh ’78 (CLAS) has been named the Best Lawyers 2017 “Lawyer of the Year” in Connecticut for construction law. He is a member of the firm’s construction group, where he focuses his practice on construction and surety law, including transactional work and litigation. He has more than 35 years of experience handling complex construction matters involving contract procurement, negotiation, financing, and commercial-related dispute resolution and litigation.

Susie Bisulca Beam ’80 (CLAS) wrote a book, ’50’s Not My Husband, published by Xlibris Publishing. Everyone in the Myers family is a Husky through and through. Peggy (Walsh) Myers ’86 (CLAS) played on the women’s basketball team, and her husband, Norm Myers, 1985 (CLAS), was a football player at UConn. Their son, Kelly Myers ’15 (CLAS), who earned his undergraduate degree in psychology and

is earning her master’s in school counseling, was on the UConn track and field team. Their son, Tommy Myers ’17 (CLAS), graduated with a communication degree and is currently on the football team. He plans to earn his master’s in sports management.

Pamela Hackbart-Dean ’77 (CLAS), dean of the Special Collections Research Center at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, was inducted as a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists (SAA) during a ceremony at the SAA annual meeting in Portland. Ore., in July. The distinction of Fellow is the highest honor bestowed on individuals by the SAA and is awarded for outstanding contributions to the archives profession. Hackbart-Dean, who earned a master’s degree in history and archival management at UConn, was nominated for distinguishing herself as a thoughtful leader and a skilled teacher.

Markite Murren ’89 (CLAS), ’96 MA (CLAS), was recently named vice for information on this year’s Huskies Forever Weekend Oct. 20-22, visit uconnalumni.com/events.
nest and honest person he met at Goodyear and with whom he later roomed in New Lon
dom Hall and that memorable red house on King Hill Road. “The best I can describe Hans is that he’s a stand-up guy. He has your back as a friend, and he has integrity in his work and his life,” Busch says. Part of that work included several summers with the agency now known as the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. That’s where his respect for law enforcement transformed into admiration — and the start of a career as-
piration — as he worked close-
ly with officers in the state’s Environmental Conservation (EnvCon) Police. Rhynhart worked as an environmental analyst in Vermont and Connecticut after college until 1998, when he decided to pursue his law enforcement ambitions. He was hired at the Department of Motor Vehicles and went through the Connecticut Police Academy. After working as a vehicle safety inspector until he applied for a UConn police job at the encouragement of a DMV supervisor who recognized his potential. From his first few days on the job in June 2001, the UConn Police Department has felt like home.

In the dorms
A Woodstock native, Rhyn-

hart spent his freshman year at Johnson State College in Vermont before transferring to UConn and moving into Goodyear Hall, where some of his closest friendships were forged over the family-style dinners that were served there before meals were con-
solidated into the Northwest complex’s main dining hall.

Hans Rhynhart ‘93 (CAHNR)

Hans Rhynhart’s familiarity with the campuses and the ease with which he interacts with others has benefitted UConn time and time again — includ-
ing a 2002 undercover sting when he posed as a graduate student as part of a team of officers who apprehended 13 people who were using and selling heroin and other drugs.

Rhynhart says that even in the midst of stressful situa-
tions, his demeanor is calm and authoritative. He jokes that he is like the proverbial duck who appears placid on the surface while paddling madly out of sight below the water — but it’s his gravitas that stops those who meet him.

“Even as a student in my classes, he was steady and calm, low-key, and had a presence. He stood out as a solid individual, and that’s the same kind of person he is today,” says John “Jack” Claussen, a professor in the UConn Department of Natural Resources and the Environment.

“At one point when he was the police department’s spokesperson, I saw him on TV one night and said, ‘Oh, wow, he’s doing an amazing job — he’s so composed and well spoken.’ At that particular moment, I had a feeling of pride that he came through our program.”

All the students who know Rhynhart say that off duty, you’re most likely to find him spending time with his 15-year-old daughter Emma, 13-year-old son Hans, and his wife, first-
grade teacher Beth (Stevens) Rhynhart ‘93 (CLAS), who met him in the Homer Babbidge Library when both were UConn students. He’s also likely to be working on renovations to his 1840s-era house or barn, or tinkering with an engine, or seeking out bargains to appease his frugal nature.

He certainly won’t be idle. In fact, these days, you’re certainly to find him with textbooks and meticulous notes from the classes he’s taking to earn his master’s degree in human resource management at the UConn School of Business. Like his other endeavors, he’s jumped in wholeheartedly.

“Being a student again, I’m taking it all in like a sponge,” he says. And while he’s come a long way from his undergraduate days in that ramshackle red house on King Hill Road, Rhynhart is still the person who impressed his professors with his maturity, cultivated countless friends with his sincerity, and jumped at the chance to serve the alma mater he loves. “UConn has given me a chance to be part of something that makes a positive differ-
ence and has lasting meaning,” Rhynhart says. “The police department and the UConn community as a whole fits really well with who I am as a person, and I’m grateful for the opportunities I have here.” —STEPHANIE REITZ
The thing about Dee Rowe, this man who long ago became a sort of living legend both at the University of Connecticut and in the larger world of college basketball, is that if you played for him for one day or for eight seasons, you became one of his guys forever.

I found that out one night in my senior year at Brown. There he was in the locker room after a game, there to say hello, there to give me a hug, there to symbolically say that I was still one of his guys, even if I had only played one year for him at Worcester Academy, and it had not been the easiest year for me.

Is there any better message a coach can send, any better message anyone can send? This is Rowe's great gift, always has been his great gift, this ability to stay connected to people, whether it's a note, a phone call, a drop-in at their son or daughter's junior high basketball game.

**Her**

Just after this magazine goes to press in September, Rowe will be awarded a phone call, a drop-in at their son or daughter's junior high basketball game. Just how big an honor is this? The love of the game discovered there is justice in the basketball world when Rowe was named to receive the prestigious Hall of Fame award.

_How big an honor is this?_ Past winners include John Wooden, Red Auerbach, Bob Cousy, Dave Gavitt, Pat Summitt, and the Harlem Globetrotters. That's how big.

And I know this: it's well deserved. The immeasurable people he's coached, the legions of people he's mentored, the people he's tutored at all levels of the game, the countless people he's touched in his life outside basketball would surely agree. Coach Auriemma recently expressed his gratitude to Dee, his recognition of Dee's continuing contribution to UConn, and his belief that even this award isn't quite big enough for the likes of Dee Rowe.

_There is no award existing today or that could be created that is going to do justice to what Dee has meant to the countless people he has touched in his life and what he has meant to his family and the game of basketball, but the John Bunn Award comes close._

_De is a man who I admire as much as anyone and he has been a tremendous ambassador of the game and of UConn for as long as I can remember. He has supported me since I arrived on campus as a young coach 32 years ago and he is still there for me now. I will be forever grateful for his guidance and I am thrilled that he is being recognized with this prestigious award. I know he is very proud and we are proud that he is being recognized with this._

_Said Auriemma. _—BILL MONYHOLE, A COLUMNIST AT THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL, IS WRITING A BOOK ABOUT ROWE._

ROWE GETS TOP HALL OF FAME HONOR

The prestigious John W. Bunn Lifetime Achievement Award by the Basketball Hall of Fame. The news delighted many.

_It was a surprise father figure_, says Tony Hanson, a standout player for Rowe's Huskies from 1973 to 1977. _He was one of the first people who opened up my eyes, who told me there was a bigger world out there beyond basketball, who promised me that he would make sure I graduated._

He pauses for a second. _He wouldn't let me get away. He's a hero to me._

_De is the greatest ambassador the state of Connecticut has ever had. _

Says Tim Tolakian, former UConn associate athletic director. _There's no one else like him, not even close. This is his 49th year at UConn, and his legacy goes way beyond basketball. He's got an amazing ability to relate to people._

_And Jim Calhoun and Geno Auriemma? I don't think they would have been here without Dee Rowe. Because without Dee and his close relationship with Dave Gavitt (founder of the Big East conference), you can make a case that we might not have gotten into the Big East in the first place. And without that everything turns out differently._

**Ambassador**

Calhoun recognizes the breadth and depth of Rowe's accomplishments. _Coach Dee Rowe is a true basketball lifer. Dee's world has always been, and will continue to be, about family and the game of basketball. In his own special New England region of Worcester, the Cape Cod area, and UConn, Dee Rowe has always been the ultimate ambassador. Through the years, Dee has expanded his impact and influence nationally and around the globe as a superb teacher and mentor. But above all, we continue to pay him the highest praise of an ambassador of the game and of UConn._

_Coach Auriemma recently expressed his gratitude to Dee, his recognition of Dee's continuing contribution to UConn and his belief that even this award isn't quite big enough for the likes of Dee Rowe._

_UConn honors Rowe's award on Friday, October 20, in Hartford at the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts at 8 p.m. Speakers include Auriemma, Calhoun, and Hanson, as well as emcee Bill Raftery of CBS Sports, UConn men's coach and former player Kevin Ollie, former players Dom Perno, Bob Stank, Robert “Snake” Taylor, and former Big East commissioner Mike Thangese. For more information and tickets, visit uconn.edu/rowehonor._

**Legends**

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Alumni News & Notes

UCONN NATION

May under the pseudonym L.M. Pompey. Aimee Allaire ’98 (CLAS) reports that she recently passed the halfway mark of an intensive study on the importance of motherhood in the modern world. Her work has been indirectly sponsored by various Connecticut companies, including UTC Power and, currently, Bauer, Inc., in Bristol. She lives in Mystic with her husband, Keith Brainard ’98 (ENG), and their four children. Steven R. Jenkins, CPA, ’99 JD, ’12 MBA, ’15 MA has been appointed as a trustee to the Connecticut Laborers’ Pension, Health, and Annuity Funds. He is general counsel and compliance director for regional measurement, acquisition strategy execution, and proposal and grant development – to government clients and commercial industries. Stefanie (Pratola) Ferrer ’97 (PHARM) was recently promoted to clinical professor at the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy in Chapel Hill, N.C. She is also the current president of the North Carolina Association of Pharmacists and recently received the National Community Pharmacists Association Leadership Award. She lives in Durham, N.C., with her husband, Eric Ferrer ’95, and their 9-year-old twins. John O’Hara ’97 MBA has joined Freddie Mac Physicians in Farmington, Conn., as a finance director. Previously, he had been director of Medicaid financial and business performance at Tufts Health Plan in Watertown, Mass. Lynn M. Patarini, BGS ’97, released her fifth novel, Uncle Noddy’s Plane. In May under the pseudonym L.M. Pompey, Aimee Allaire ’98 (CLAS) reports that she recently passed the halfway mark of an intensive study on the importance of motherhood in the modern world. Her work has been indirectly sponsored by various Connecticut companies, including UTC Power and, currently, Bauer, Inc., in Bristol. She lives in Mystic with her husband, Keith Brainard ’98 (ENG), and their four children.

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1. UConn’s school colors of National Flag blue and white were made official in 1952. What were the earliest colors known to represent the institution?
   A: Orange and white
   B: Red, white, and blue
   C: Imperial blue and white
   D: Midnight blue and white

2. The opening of the Downtown Hartford Campus this fall is the first time UConn has had an undergraduate campus in the capital city since 1970. How many previous locations have there been for the University in Hartford?
   A: One   B: Three
   C: Five   D: Six

3. UConn’s Winter Weekend – a bright spot during the cold New England months on campus – began in 1979 with jugglers, an ill-advised parachute jump, and a “pajama party beerfest.” Only one activity has survived as a mainstay of campus life, though. What is it?
   A: The Senior Scoop
   B: A ski trip
   C: One-Ton Sundae
   D: Saturday basketball game

4. What non-Halloween costume tradition disappeared from University life after 40 years?
   A: UConn’s president dressing once a year as the “Mayor of Storrs”
   B: A parade through campus led by someone dressed as the Pied Piper
   C: The football team and marching band swapping uniforms after the Spring Game
   D: Students dressing as the mascots of Yankee Conference rivals to mock their teams

In 1904, some 40 students — a quarter of the student body — posed in their Halloween garb.

CHALLENGE YOURSELF TO TOM’S TRIVIA!

Go to s.uconn.edu/oct17trivia to see if you know as much as King of UConn Trivia and University Deputy Spokesperson Tom Breen ’00 (CLAS).