

# UConn

| Spring 2012

**GENO GOES  
FOR GOLD  
IN LONDON**



UCONN



FOOTBALL

**LYLE McCOMBS**  
RUNNING BACK  
FRESHMAN ALL-AMERICAN  
ALL-BIG EAST CONFERENCE



# ORDER YOUR 2012 UCONN FOOTBALL SEASON TICKETS

**PRIORITY ORDERING  
DEADLINE APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>**

**BE THERE.**

- GET IN THE GAME FOR AS LOW AS \$25 PER GAME
- SIX GREAT GAMES AT RENTSCHLER FIELD
- GUARANTEE YOUR SEATS FOR MICHIGAN IN 2013



/UConnHuskies



Reserve your seats today at  
**UCONNHUSKIES.COM**  
or call **877-AT-UCONN**

Don't miss the  
**UCONN FOOTBALL  
SPRING GAME**

Saturday, April 21 | 1:00 p.m.  
Rentschler Field | Free Admission & Parking

# contents

UConn | Spring 2012 | Volume 13, Number 1

**ON THE COVER:**  
Hall of Fame Huskies women's basketball head coach Geno Auriemma coaching the USA Basketball National Team during an exhibition game in Hartford. Photo by Stephen Slade '89 (SFA)

## Departments

- 2 FROM THE EDITOR
- 4 FROM THE PRESIDENT
- 5 LETTERS
- 6 AROUND UCONN
- 15 CREATIVE CURRENTS
- 20 REPORT ON RESEARCH
- 24 SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS
- 38 FOCUS ON FACULTY
- 40 ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES
- 45 ALUMNI TRAVELER
- 48 THE LAST WORD

Stay connected with what's happening at *UConn Today* with our online resources for news about the University community.

-  [facebook.com/uconntoday](http://facebook.com/uconntoday)
-  [twitter.com/UConn](http://twitter.com/UConn)
-  [today.uconn.edu](http://today.uconn.edu)
-  [flickr.com/photos/uconntoday/](http://flickr.com/photos/uconntoday/)
-  [youtube.com/user/uconn](http://youtube.com/user/uconn)

26



## Geno Goes for the Gold

**BY KENNETH BEST** | When Geno Auriemma arrived in the United States at the age of 7 from a small village in Italy, he was self-conscious and unsure of himself. He built a basketball dynasty in Storrs and now will lead the USA Basketball National team to the 2012 Olympics in London.

30



## Preserving a People's Heritage

**BY MIA FARROW** | The acclaimed actress and humanitarian activist discusses her efforts to document the cultural traditions and oral history of refugees from Sudan and Darfur and the research archive she has established at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center.

34



## Journeys of Faith

**BY GERALD KRELL '57 (SFA)** | An award-winning documentary film producer describes his trilogy of films, which examine the similarities and differences among the world's religions, and the hope that they will help make the world a better place.

36



## Driving the Economy

Mary Holz-Clause, the University's first vice president for economic development, talks about the ways in which UConn can contribute to economic development across the region.

The dream of Joseph Renzulli, director of the National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented, has been realized in Hartford with the opening of the Renzulli Academy. Story on page 8.



**EDITOR**

Kenneth Best

**ASSOCIATE EDITOR**

Stefanie Dion Jones '00 (CLAS)

**ART DIRECTOR**

Jordanna Hertz

**PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR**

Peter Morenus

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**

Christine Buckley, Craig Burdick '96 (CLAS), '01 (ENG), Chris DeFrancesco, Sheila Foran '83 (BGS), '96 Ph.D., Michael Kirk, Lauren Lalancette, Kat J. McApline '12 (CLAS), Elizabeth Omara-Otunnu, Jeremy Paul, Carolyn Pennington, Colin Poitras '85 (CLAS), Richard Veilleux, Cynthia Weiss

**CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS**

Melissa Arbo '06 (CLAS), Daniel Buttrey '01 (SFA), Ned Dishman, Al Ferreira, Jesse D. Garrabrant, Sean Flynn, FJ Gaylor, Michael Johnson '14 (ENG), Joan Marcus, Peter Morenus, Lanny Nagler, Stephen Slade '89 (SFA)

**INTERIM ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT/  
COMMUNICATIONS**

David Martel

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UCONN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Lisa R. Lewis

**DIRECTOR OF MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS**

Patti Fazio '90 (CLAS), '92 MA

**MANAGER OF DESIGN SERVICES**

Leonard P. Blanks Jr. '86 (SFA)

**EDITORIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Cynthia Bidorini, Julia S. Chianelli '85, '90 (CLAS), Mike Enright '88 (CLAS), Carolyn Pennington, Art Sorrentino '75 (CLAS), Dana Wilder

UConn is produced three times a year in March, July and November by University Communications, University of Connecticut, 34 North Eagleville Rd., Unit 3144, Storrs, CT 06269-3144. Phone: 860-486-3530, Fax: 860-486-4064. E-mail: [uconnmagazine@uconn.edu](mailto:uconnmagazine@uconn.edu). Letters to the editor and other comments are welcome.

Send address changes to  
The University of Connecticut Foundation  
Records Department, Unit 3206  
2390 Alumni Drive  
Storrs, CT 06269



[alumnimagazine.uconn.edu](http://alumnimagazine.uconn.edu)

## From the EDITOR

# Rules for Politics and Sports

## STU ROTHENBERG '78 PH.D. KEEPS HIS EYES ON THE 2012 ELECTION

**I**n sports and in politics, rules exist so that the outcome of either a game or an election is judged to be a fair result. These guidelines are what pundits in both sports and politics rely upon to make sense out of the chaos that can ensue along the way to a victory or a defeat in either arena of competition.

Stu Rothenberg '78 Ph.D. is a fan of baseball and UConn basketball and is one of the most respected political analysts in the nation. He provides nonpartisan analysis of Congressional, gubernatorial, and presidential elections through his writings for the Congressional news outlet *Roll Call*, on various television programs, and *The Rothenberg Political Report*, in which he will occasionally insert his insight about his favorite sports.

When he was profiled in these pages in 2004, Rothenberg had already identified the shifting political landscape and the increasingly partisan atmosphere in Washington. He says the election of President Barack Obama in 2008 and the volatility of the 2012 Republican presidential primary season have only continued to fuel the partisan divide in the nation, further edged on by the talking heads on cable and postings on the Internet.

"I always point out that increasingly people are self-selecting information they want to see," Rothenberg says from his office in the shadow of Capitol Hill. "They watch news and information from a definite point of view, which reinforces their point of view. It's not just politicians who are responsible for the polarization; it's our culture."

Rothenberg says that as the primary and caucus season unfolded early in the 2012 election cycle, political prognostication was not for the faint-hearted.

"It's been such a kooky, roller-coaster elections cycle. I don't know why anybody would want to be a pundit. Every expert should have gotten a large dose of humility," he says. "The rules of politics seem to have gone by the boards. The old political organizations have been melting away. I try not to predict things as much as identify the things that could be important."

The extremists of both national political parties are eager to believe the worst in one another, Rothenberg notes, adding that it probably was the same 200 years ago, but today it is easy to get those extreme views out to a wider audience. Balancing the role of government as provider of essential services and protector of those in need is becoming more difficult. He wonders if one established rule of politics will still hold.

"It's a funny rule – that the Republicans always nominate the next guy in line, while the Democrats flirt with quirky candidates," Rothenberg says. "Who's the next guy in line for the GOP? Mitt Romney. He was the alternative to John McCain last time. Will that one rule hold?"

Rothenberg will wait to see if the rule holds, but in the meantime spring training is under way and March Madness has arrived. No matter what happens, he will be paying careful attention on and off the field through November.



# Opening Shot

## 'Wicked' Alumna

Jackie Burns '02 (SFA) has the role of Elphaba in the hit Broadway show "Wicked," a musical based on the witches' view of the classic "The Wizard of Oz." Burns has also performed on The Great White Way in the revival of "Hair" and as an original cast member of "Rock of Ages," off-Broadway.

## A New Vision for Athletics

**I**n February, UConn was thrilled to announce that we had hired a fantastic new athletic director: Warde Manuel, who was previously AD at the University of Buffalo and, before that, associate athletic director at the University of Michigan.

The opportunity to lead UConn athletics is very much sought-after and the reason we were able to attract someone of Warde's exceptional caliber. He has a comprehensive understanding of intercollegiate athletics, a clear vision for what a highly successful Division I and BCS program looks like, and the incredible drive to achieve excellence both on – and off – the field and court, alongside our spectacular coaches, staff, and student-athletes.

In his remarks, Warde said: "In the modern history of college athletics there are a very few, select schools that are synonymous with and personify greatness, excellence, and achievement. You know as well as I do that the University of Connecticut is without a doubt one of the legendary institutions that is at that pinnacle."

Here, here.

During the press conference announcing Warde's appointment, we were asked about something that's been in the news recently: a pending NCAA action against UConn that would ban the men's basketball team from the 2013 tournament.

The '09 –'10 men's team had a low "Academic Progress Rate" (APR), which is a measurement of their academic standing. Since then, the University instituted a plan to bring that number up to where it needs to be for the men's team – an effort that has been successful. But in October 2011, the NCAA enacted new penalties for teams that had a low APR and looked backward at the '09 – '10 season, rather than forward at a current or future APR, to



President Susan Herbst announces the appointment of Warde J. Manuel as the new director of athletics at the University.

make that judgment.

UConn supports high academic standards – our players are called student-athletes for a reason – and we support consequences for not meeting benchmarks. What we object to is making them retroactive, because this would not take into account the great academic progress the men's basketball program has made over the past two years.

UConn asked that this rule be waived in exchange for other self-imposed sanctions, which were expected; but our request was denied. The University has appealed. The NCAA committee that oversees this area is scheduled to meet again in April. We will make our case as strongly as we can that this should be altered to apply to our current or future APR.

UConn is home to 24 different sports, hundreds of athletes, and tens of thousands of devoted fans. Today, every one of our teams is where it needs to be academically. As Warde pointed out at his announcement: One low APR from two

years ago doesn't define a program or a university – it's a hurdle, not a mountain. We will build and nurture the program no matter what.

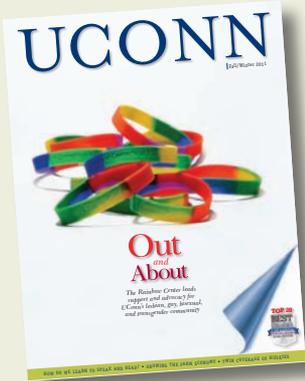
College athletics are about as old as colleges and universities themselves. Our student-athletes love to strive, to compete, and, of course, to win – all while proudly wearing the Husky uniform and being successful in the classroom. And our fans, myself included, love to cheer them on. We revel in our many victories and, sometimes, learn the hard lessons of defeat. But we do so together. It's part of what makes UConn so special to all of us and so important to Connecticut.

As long as the Huskies continue to have outstanding athletic leadership, coaches, student-athletes, fans, and friends who make their voices heard – that will never change.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Herbst".

Susan Herbst  
President

## Your LETTERS



### Out & About

Regarding “Out and About,” I must say that the follies of today, motivated by interest groups and political correctness, and embraced uncritically by academia, will one day take their toll. How sad to see the University so misguided and so eager to put itself in the position of misguiding those who are making their own way in the world for the first time. The false “celebration” of homosexuality, bisexuality, and trans-sexuality is a great injustice to this community of young people. Human kindness and forgiveness are always required of us, as we follow the command to “do unto others as we would be done by.” But promotion of these lifestyles is quite another thing, and it is most regrettable.

Andrea Campbell '94 (ED)

As a UConn alumna and a trans woman, I read the “Out and About” article with great interest. I graduated with a degree in electrical engineering when I still presented myself as a male, and my feeling at that time was that transition to female presentation at UConn was just not possible. I am glad to see that things seem to have changed since then. However, it was a bit disconcerting to see an article about LGBT issues that seemed to imply that this was only about sexual orientation and completely ignored gender identity or expression. I am well aware that the number of people in the LGB part far exceed those of the T part and certainly don't expect anything close to equal coverage. On the other hand, this article tends to reinforce the misconception that one's core sense of gender has something to do with sexuality (it doesn't, one is who you are and the other is who you love – a trans woman can be straight, lesbian, or bisexual). This all leaves me to wonder what conditions are like for current UConn students in the process of adapting their outer gender presentation to their own knowledge of their core gender.

Jennifer A. Smith '93 MS  
Associate Professor of Computer Engineering  
Boise State University

### Letters to the Editor

must be signed and should be no more than 300 words. They will be printed as space allows and edited for style, grammar, typographical errors, content, and length. Send letters to:

UConn Magazine  
34 North Eagleville Road  
Unit 3144  
Storrs, CT 06269-3144

E-mail:  
uconnmagazine@uconn.edu

I just had to write and congratulate you on the Fall/Winter issue. I couldn't help but think about how times have changed. ... It says something about how we've evolved that it even made the cover. Though I'm sure that you've had some negative responses, know that you have done the right thing. I do not belong to any of the groups that will benefit from the LGBT movement, but am part of a society that will. Equality for everyone means equality for all.

Gerri Lipman King '64 (CLAS)

I found your story well below the standards of excellence of a legitimate journal. I believe that anyone may choose any alternative lifestyle without fear, but why exploit it? Where's the fair and balanced reporting? When may I

expect to see a cover feature story extolling the virtues of heterosexual lifestyle at the UConn campus?

J. A. Delbuono '59 (BUS)

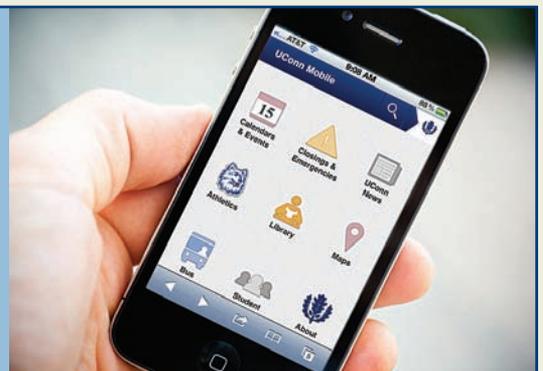
### Bike Sharing

The article entitled “Bike Sharing Returns” brought back some memories, and the title may even have referred to a time in the '60s when a bike sharing program was initiated by then President Homer Babbidge. The concept was really ahead of its time. The bicycles used were blue, and they were referred to as the “Babbidge Blue Bike Brigade.” The use of bicycles was based on the honor system but, unfortunately, did not last long. Hopefully the new system will be more successful.

Paul F. Goetinck

READ ADDITIONAL ALUMNI  
**LETTERS**  
REGARDING THE MOST RECENT  
UConn MAGAZINE  
**ISSUE AT**  
<http://bit.ly/wFK9eh>

m.uconn.edu



## Cancer Researcher Torti Named to Lead UConn Health Center

**F**rank M. Torti, vice president for strategic programs, director of the Comprehensive Cancer Center, and chair of the Department of Cancer Biology at Wake Forest University School of Medicine in North Carolina, will become the new vice president for health affairs at the UConn Health Center and the eighth dean of the UConn School of Medicine beginning May 1.

“Frank Torti is a brilliant researcher, physician, and teacher – a transformational leader who will make UConn one of the premier institutions of health care in the world,” President Susan Herbst said in announcing the appointment in late February. “We have the highest ambitions for excellence. With Dr. Torti’s guidance, we will find new cures for disease, map the future political economy of health care, and, most of all, ensure that every single patient we see receives the best possible care known to contemporary science.”

Torti, who will hold a Board of Trustees professorship in the Department of Medicine, is the former principal deputy commissioner, chief scientist, and acting commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. He has been



responsible for the scientific leadership of Wake Forest’s Comprehensive Cancer Center since 1993 and has more recently provided leadership to the cancer center’s clinical programs.

He is a well-known physician and clinical investigator who has designed and executed clinical trials in urologic cancer that have been used throughout the world. He has been routinely selected by his peers in polls and in national magazines of “America’s top doctors” and “top cancer doctors.” He was recently elected to the board of directors of the Association of American Cancer Institutes and of the National Coalition for Cancer Research.

“Gov. [Dannel P.] Malloy’s Bioscience Connecticut program and the state’s partnership with Jackson Laboratory are nothing less than transformational. Working together, Connecticut and the University will change the bioscience landscape and grow the region’s economy,” Torti says. “I look forward to working with everyone to ensure that this outstanding academic medical center reaches its full potential.”

Torti developed and is principal investigator on a training program in cancer biology that is funded by a National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant. He has been continually funded by an NIH grant for his basic science research since his laboratory was established in 1988. He holds a MERIT award from the NIH, an honor bestowed on only 3 percent of all NIH grantees.

He received his BA and MA degrees from Johns Hopkins University, his MD from Harvard Medical School (cum laude), and his MPH from the Harvard School of Public Health, where he trained in cancer epidemiology and nutrition.



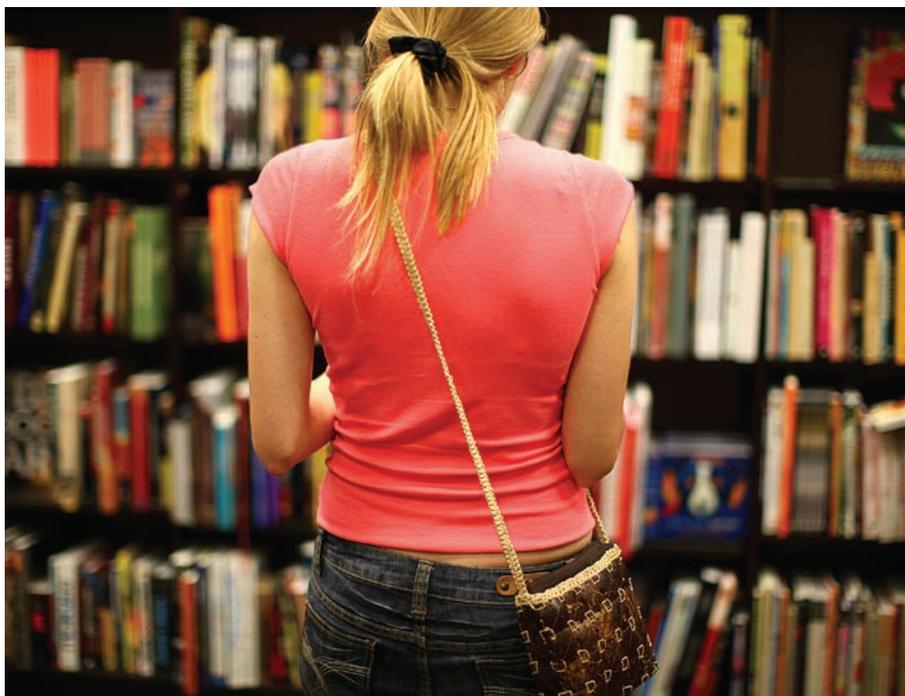
### Social Work Supports Nurturing Parents Group

**F**aculty and students in the School of Social Work are assisting the Children’s Trust Fund (CTF) by providing group work training and support to groups for expecting parents and/or parents of young children.

The training program is part of a pilot study that is assessing the impact of such training on curriculum-based educational groups like CTF’s Nurturing Parenting Groups. About 30 sites and 30 group facilitators are involved. The program is currently in the second year of a three-year study.

The study is led by Brenda Kurz, associate professor of casework, and Joan Letendre, associate professor of group work. To date, about 15 students in the Master of Social Work program have co-facilitated groups. The students are macro-practice interns (community organization, administration, or policy practice track) of the MSW program who are participating in the study to fulfill their micro-practice requirement – meaning that they have to do some casework or group work. Four training sessions also have been conducted with the CTF group facilitators.

“Whereas all facilitators have very strong skills for connecting with group members, they often did not know how to handle various group dynamics that were getting in the way of all members sharing, supporting each other and offering mutual support,” says Letendre. “The training has given the facilitators the skills to work with these situations and the understanding that conflict, when identified and worked with, can actually be a positive group experience.”



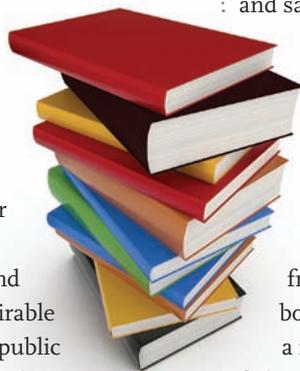
## Who Killed the Bookstore?

Let me start with a personal gripe. When driving to visit my mother, I loved stopping at the nearby Borders bookstore. What better way to break up a trip than to stroll through the aisles and pick up a new title? Alas, Borders is no more. Barnes & Noble is fighting for its life. We will all suffer if bookstores follow classical music stations down the road to oblivion. So it's worth pausing to ask how our social and political understandings trap us into believing that there's nothing to be done.

Everyone understands the forces threatening the bookstore. People can purchase physical books more cheaply at discount stores and online because these sellers have lower costs. And with more people choosing to buy electronic books that cost less and are easier to transport, bookstores may one day truly be obsolete. For now, however, I am interested in the more immediate danger posed by physical and online discounters.

Market purists may tell us all is well. If individuals race to cheaper prices online, isn't the market signaling that bookstores are no longer valued? Perhaps, but what about the consumer who browses for free and then pays less later? Getting a cheaper price is considered almost a moral obligation in contemporary America. Yet the consumer may regret this only after it's too late.

Market skeptics offer few viable solutions. They wonder why we would ever expect the invisible hand to produce socially desirable outcomes. They cheer public institutions, such as local libraries, as places to bring people together around books in settings that don't depend on consumer payments. Libraries are to be treasured, and I predict they will become more, rather than less, important



in coming years. But there will never be enough tax dollars or philanthropic contributions to permit libraries to replace the many books now available through the national network of bookstores.

Together, we can search for rules that produce the life we want, not simply the cheaper prices we crave. In this case, we should strive for an approach that blurs the public/private distinction now sharply dividing the library from the bookstore. This means creating a way to get people to pay a bit more for their books than they now do online, knowing that their shopping is part consumption and part philanthropy.

---

**“I am interested in the more immediate danger posed by physical and online discounters.”**

---

Perhaps the venerable Barnes & Noble could attempt a true gestalt shift, telling its customers why the store is a public resource and seeking proud patrons willing to pay more to keep the lifestyle alive. This could only succeed if the owners accepted certain caps on profits and salaries so as to reassure customers

that they are acting like citizens and not suckers. In this way, we can experiment with institutions that combine the self-interest of the market with the public-spirited aspects of the library. I encourage still better ideas to save bookstores from extinction. But this is clear: If bookstores die, it will be more than a failure of the market. It will be our failure of imagination. — Jeremy Paul

---

*Jeremy Paul is dean of the UConn School of Law. This essay is an excerpt from a longer one published on UConn Today. For the full essay, go to: <http://bit.ly/yxuOMc>.*

## Dream of Public Gifted School Comes True for Renzulli



Gifted and talented students in the classroom at the Renzulli Academy in Hartford.

are held in 70-minute blocks, and students get homework that matches the rigor of the classroom.

“This is a really fun place,” says Le’Lah Arthur, a student at Renzulli. “They let us do a lot of really fun things.”

“We’re changing the stereotype of Hartford students,” says Miriam Morales-Taylor, assistant superintendent for learning and support services. “Nearly 25 percent of our students are now in magnet schools, charter schools, or academies, and we’re limiting enrollment in those schools to no more than 500 students, so they can receive direct education.”

The Renzulli Academy, which opened its doors two years ago, currently houses 104 students in grades 4-8. The plan, adopted unanimously by the board of education, is to add a kindergarten and ninth grade next year, first and 10th grades in 2013, and so on until becoming a K-12 school for gifted and talented Hartford school children by 2016, with a maximum enrollment of about 300 students.

The sparkling new Renzulli Academy in Hartford is the first stand-alone, public school academy for gifted and talented children in an urban area in the country. It is the realization of a dream for its founder, Neag School of Education Professor Joseph Renzulli, perhaps the nation’s most well-known champion of gifted education, along with his wife, Professor Sally Reis.

The two have spent most of their careers trying to make legislators and school districts recognize the importance of challenging the best and brightest students to reach their full potential.

“The fact that the city has recognized what we’re doing – they gave us the building, rehabbed it, gave us the space, the equipment, great computers and smart boards, and allowed us to select and train outstanding teachers – is a testament to their commitment,” says Renzulli. “It makes it much easier for the teachers to do their job.”

Most importantly, the Academy provides the teachers with much more stability than typical in-school gifted programs that often go away when a grant expires or

a new superintendent arrives. Hartford’s budget follows the students, so as long as the students live in the school district, the city will be paying for them. The school day is longer than in other districts, running from 8:45 a.m. until 4:15 p.m. Classes

### Med School Alum Serves as White House Fellow

Kisha N. Davis ’04 MD was appointed as a 2011-2012 White House Fellow by the President’s Commission on White House Fellowships. She is spending her time as a Fellow working in the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the office of Kevin Concannon, Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Service.

The White House Fellows Program was created in 1964 by President Lyndon B. Johnson to give promising American leaders “firsthand, high-level experience with the workings of the federal government and to increase their sense of participation in national affairs.” This unique opportunity is designed to encourage active citizenship and a lifelong commitment to service.

Davis previously served as a family physician at Chase Brexton Health Services, Inc. in Maryland. She practiced primary care at a culturally and socioeconomically diverse community health center. In addition to routine primary care, she has special interest in HIV/AIDS, women’s health, and diabetes. She has taught medical students from both Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland and has travelled to Zimbabwe, Honduras, and New Orleans on medical mission trips.



## Law Student Earns D.C. Civil Rights Fellowship

School of Law student Rebecca Arnold, a member of the Class of 2012, was selected as a George N. Lindsay Civil Rights Legal Fellow, awarded by the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

The Lindsay Fellowship provides an opportunity for recent law school graduates who demonstrate a commitment to equal justice and equal opportunity to become familiar with civil rights practice by working with many of the nation's leading civil rights experts at the Lawyer's Committee national office in Washington, D.C.

Arnold has served as an executive board member of School of Law's Public Interest Law Group, as a representative for the Black Law Students Association, and as student liaison for the UConn Social Justice Film Series. She also was an active member of the Student Bar Association Diversity Committee and involved in many other student groups. In the summer of 2010, she served as a judicial intern for the Honorable Vanessa L. Bryant of the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut and, this past fall, interned with the Office of the General Counsel in the U.S. Department of Education.

The one-year fellowship provides the opportunity to gain legal experience in one or more of the following areas: voting rights, fair housing, employment discrimination, education, community and economic development, and environmental justice.

## New Doctoral Program Focuses on Nursing Clinical Practice

The School of Nursing now offers the only program in Connecticut that allows nursing students to enter the doctor of nursing practice (DNP) program with a bachelor's degree in nursing rather than requiring a master's degree.

Sandra Bellini, coordinator of the DNP program, says this new program will allow registered nurses to gain their doctorate degree in nursing "with a focus on advanced clinical practice rather than on research," which is emphasized in a traditional nursing Ph.D.

The move to implement this program follows the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's 2004 endorsement that, by 2015, all new graduates of advanced practice programs must hold a DNP degree rather than just a master's degree, in order to be eligible for Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) certification and licensure. The DNP prepares nurses for a multifaceted career in direct patient care at the APRN level, healthcare management, and health policy development in an increasingly complex health care system.

UConn's BS-DNP program spans four years for full-time students, and the first graduating class is expected in May 2016.

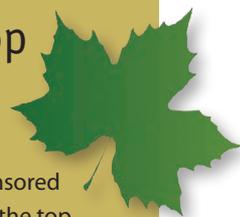
## UConn Named Among Top 3 Greenest Universities

According to the GreenMetric World Universities Ranking of sustainability, sponsored by Universitas Indonesia, UConn boasts one of the top three most eco-friendly campuses in the world.

In the second year of the survey, 178 universities from 42 countries submitted entries. For calendar year 2011, Nottingham University in the United Kingdom was ranked first, followed by Boston's Northeastern University and the University of Connecticut.

Results are computed from information submitted online by the universities. Institutions are assessed on a range of metrics, including energy management, sustainability-related scholarship, the proportion of green space on campus, and the application of eco-sustainability policies and efforts.

"It's encouraging to see that UConn is ranked among the greenest universities in the world," says Richard Miller, UConn's director of environmental policy. "You look at the company we're keeping at the top of this list, and we can be proud that UConn is emerging as a true leader for its environmental policies, practices, and sustainability initiatives."



## Climate Studies Underestimate Loss of Species

A study led by a UConn ecologist shows that while most predictions about future climate change commonly predict the loss of animal and plant diversity around the world, they do not adequately account for species competition and movement, which could also lead to the future extinction of a species.

Mark Urban, assistant professor of ecology and evolutionary biology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, led the study funded by the National Science Foundation and published earlier this year in the online edition of the *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*.

The study showed that animals and plants that can adjust to climate change will have a competitive advantage over those that do not. Animals with small geographic ranges, specific habitat needs, and difficulty dispersing are likely to go extinct under climate change. Further, these animals are



more likely to be overrun by other species that can tolerate a wider range of habitats.

With co-authors Josh Tewksbury and Kimberly Sheldon of the University of Washington, Urban created a mathematical model that takes into account the varying rates of migration and the different intensities of competition seen in ecological communities. The goal was to predict just how successful species within these communities would be at shifting to completely new habitats.

The authors speculate that current predictions of biodiversity loss under

**Mark Urban, assistant professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, conducting research on global warming in Alaska.**

climate change – many of which are used by conservation organizations and governments – could be vastly underestimating species extinctions.

“We have really sophisticated meteorological models for predicting climate change,” says Urban. “But in real life, animals move around, they compete, they parasitize each other, and they eat each other. The majority of our predictions don’t include these important interactions.”



## Online MBA Praised by *U.S. News & World Report*

The master’s degree program in the School of Business has received accolades for its online programming in the first ranking of online degree programs by *U.S. News & World Report*.

The magazine evaluated online business programs in four categories: admissions selectivity, student engagement and accreditation, faculty credentials and training, and student services and technology, but did not issue an overall ranking. UConn ranked seventh in the admissions area and 17th in student engagement.

The magazine based its admissions rankings on students’ admission data and the ability of a university’s online program to create an atmosphere where students would interact and

network with classmates much as businesspeople would interact with one another in the professional world.

In the student engagement category, the magazine’s editors contend the most reputable online business programs are accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), and are also schools that readily provide students and instructors opportunities to interact, as professionals would in the business world. The School of Business has been accredited by AACSB since 1958.

*U.S. News* evaluated a total of 523 online master’s programs in business, education, nursing, engineering, and computer information technology.

## UConn Rated Top Value by Kiplinger's

**K**iplinger's *Personal Finance* magazine has ranked UConn at No. 30 on its list of the 100 public colleges and universities offering the best value for a top-notch education.

"As states cut funding for higher education and tuition continues to climb, the word 'value' becomes more significant than ever," says Jane Bennett Clark, senior editor at *Kiplinger's Personal Finance*. "This year's top 100 public schools deliver strong academics at reasonable prices. We

applaud these institutions for tightening their belts without compromising quality."

*Kiplinger's* annual school rankings appear in the February 2012 edition. The schools are sorted based on measures of quality – such as the admission rate, the test scores of incoming freshmen, and four- and six-year graduation rates. Data on cost is then added – including tuition, fees, and room and board, as well as financial aid for in-state and out-of-state students – creating combined criteria based on both quality and affordability. According to the magazine, its process begins with data on more than 500 public institutions.

## Health Center, CANR Share Grants for Tobacco Use Studies

**R**esearchers at the UConn Health Center and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) are sharing in nearly \$950,000 in state grants for their study of disease and chronic illnesses associated with tobacco use.

Daniel Rosenberg, professor of medicine in the Health Center's Department of Genetics and Developmental Biology, has been awarded \$356,250 for his lab's colorectal cancer research, which will compare colon biopsies and blood specimens of smokers to those of nonsmokers.

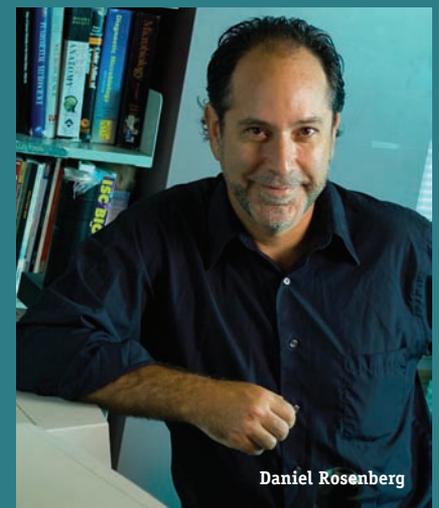
Bradley Bolling, assistant professor in the Department of Nutritional Sciences in CANR, has been awarded \$417,076 for his research of antioxidants' impact on heart disease. His research focuses on organic chemicals known as polyphenols from the native Connecticut chokeberry and whether these chemicals reduce risk of heart disease in former smokers by improving cholesterol profiles and inhibiting inflammation and damage to cells.

The grants are from the state's Biomedical Research Trust Fund, established by the Connecticut General Assembly in 2000 to back research into tobacco-related illness. A third Biomedical Research Trust Fund grant went to a Yale professor.



### Exploring the Ecology of Costa Rica

**E**leven UConn students used nine days during their winter break to hike through rain forests, plant trees, explore volcanoes, stroll beaches looking for dolphins, and walk through the clouds in the rain forest canopy as part of an ecology and conservation tour of Costa Rica sponsored by the University's Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP). The program coordinated the trip and provided scholarships for students. Taking photos and recording their observations are, from left: Bruno Chima '14 (ENG), Heather Leask '14 (ENG), Danielle Ervin '13 (ENG), a local operator, and Joy Erickson, academic program coordinator for LSAMP and academic assistant for the Office of Diversity and Equity. Photo by Michael Johnson '14 (ENG).





## New, Renovated Academic Facilities Near Completion for 2012-2013 Year

Several major construction and renovations projects for academic buildings on the Storrs campus are nearing completion in time for the 2012-2013 academic year.

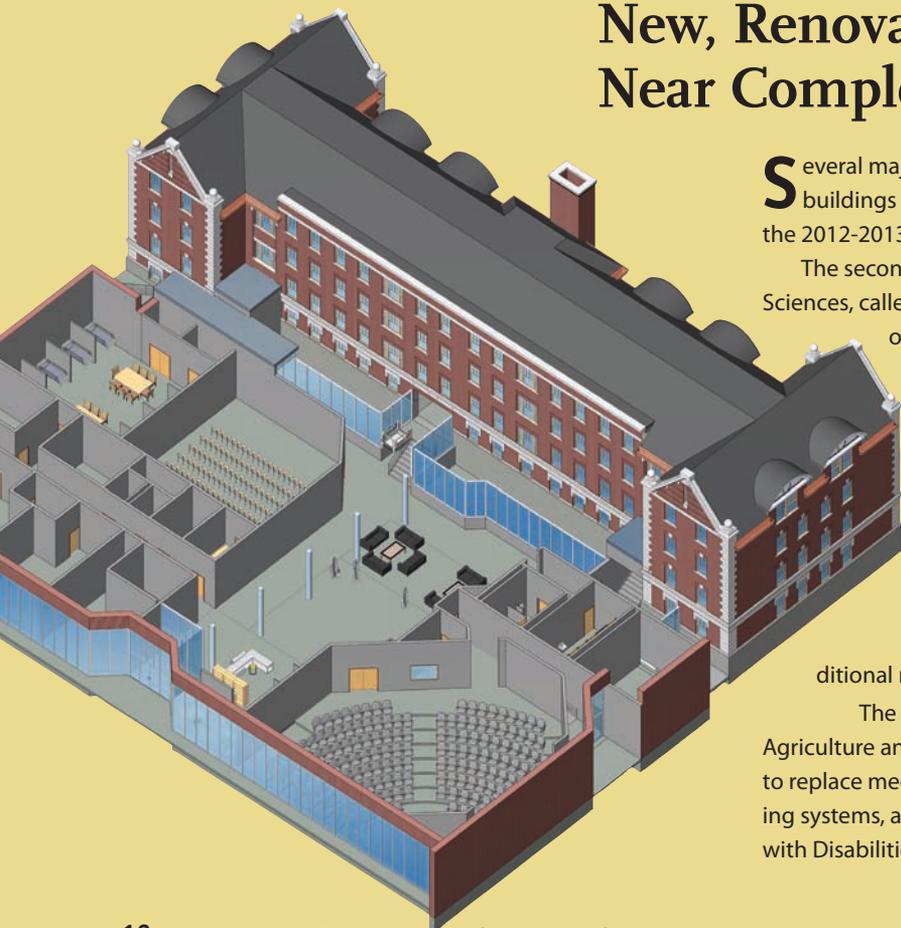
The second academic building for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, called Oak Hall, is scheduled to be completed by August 2012 on the former site of the UConn Co-op.

The greenhouses connected to the Floriculture Building are also being renovated as part of a wider project to renovate the classroom and retail space in the building. The sales of plants grown in the greenhouses help support the Department of Plant Science.

Work on the new 15,800-square-foot Widmer Wing at the School of Nursing is expected to be completed later this year.

Meanwhile, the Board of Trustees has approved additional new projects for academic buildings in Storrs.

The Young Building, built in 1953, which houses the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, will undergo a \$15 million renovation to replace mechanical and electrical systems, improve HVAC and plumbing systems, and bring the building in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, among other improvements. The project is expected





to be completed in 2014. Also approved was a \$22.5 million renovation and expansion of the Bousfield Psychology building. The work will expand the building by 30,000 square feet, adding shared research space, large seminar rooms, and an atrium area, and will also make the building more energy efficient. Work is expected to be completed in early 2014. The current space is too small to accommodate one of the top undergraduate majors.

The roof and brick façade of Beach Hall – a 100,000-square-foot office, lab, and classroom building dating to 1929 – will be repaired as part of a \$2 million project. Work is expected to begin later this year.

Trustees also said there will be a \$9.9 million renovation to McMahon Dining Hall, a 300-seat area originally opened in 1964. The work will increase the seating space to 500 and modernize the cooking, service, and seating areas, as well as replace and update the mechanical, electrical, and fire protection systems.

Clockwise from bottom left:

An artist's rendering of the new Widmer Wing of the School of Nursing now under construction across from Swan Lake, which will open in the fall.

Oak Hall, the second new academic building for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, scheduled to open in August.

The renovated greenhouses for the Department of Plant Science will include a new retail sales area.

Renovations to McMahon Dining Hall will include updated cooking and service areas and expanded seating from 300 to 500.



## Teen Girls Exposed to Violence at Risk for Suicide

**T**een girls exposed to violence are more prone to mentally remove themselves from their surroundings, a symptom that can lead to suicidal thoughts down the road, according to UConn psychologists.

Doctoral student Kate Zona and Stephanie Milan, associate professor of psychology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, studied a set of 6,000 high-risk adolescents, ages 14 to 17, in inner-city Chicago over four years as part of the Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods, to discover how neighborhood factors such as crime, violence, and cleanliness can shape adolescent mental health and delinquency. They published their findings in the December 2011 issue of the *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*.

Zona, who led the study as part of her master's degree research, says, "Violence exposure, including victimization and witnessing violence, is a traumatic event that can have lasting effects, but not a lot of studies have looked specifically at what the resulting symptoms might be among teenage girls."

The research focuses on teens because during adolescence, people experience greater biological, cognitive, and social changes than at any other period in their life. It is also a time when there is a steep rise in mental health problems, particularly among young girls. The authors say that this gender gap can remain throughout adulthood, which makes it critical to intervene during this time to prevent lifelong problems.

Zona found that following exposure to violence, girls were more likely to display symptoms of dissociation, which is characterized by mentally and emotionally withdrawing from difficult situations. The symptoms can include daydreaming, feeling disconnected from others, feeling outside of the individual's own body, getting confused about personal identity, and even amnesia.



Associate professor of psychology Stephanie Milan, standing, and Ph.D. student Kate Zona.



## Weller to Lead Science and Engineering Group

**S**andra Weller, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor and chair of the Department of Molecular, Microbial, and Structural Biology at the UConn Health Center, has been elected vice president/president-elect of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE) for a term beginning July 1, 2012.

"The work that CASE does adds value to the state of Connecticut in so many ways, from promoting science education for K-12 students and the citizens of Connecticut to providing expert advice to state government," says Weller, who will be the first woman to serve as both vice president and president of the Academy.

The Academy is a private, nonprofit, public-service institution patterned after the National Academy of Sciences. The Academy identifies and studies issues and technological advances that are or should be of concern to the people of Connecticut, and provides unbiased, expert advice on science- and technology-related issues to state government and other Connecticut institutions.



## Donahue Elected NAPA Fellow

Amy Donahue, associate professor of public policy in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and chief operating officer for academic administration, was elected a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, which provides advice and expertise in proposing solutions to the nation's public policy challenges. Her research focuses on the productivity of emergency services organizations and the nature of citizen demand for public safety expertise. She has served on a number of investigative and advisory panels, including for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the National Mining Association's Safety Training and Technology Commission, and the Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel. In 2005, she was an advisor to the chancellor of Louisiana State University following Hurricane Katrina.

AROUND UCONN • EVENTS CALENDAR

**JORGENSEN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**  
860-486-4226  
jorgensen.uconn.edu

April 10  
**ANOUSKA SHANKAR**  
Sitar

April 13-14  
**AN EVENING WITH BERNADETTE PETERS**  
Cabaret



April 22  
**DARWIN THE DINOSAUR: A GLOW IN THE DARK ADVENTURE**  
Family

**CONNECTICUT REPERTORY THEATRE**  
860-486-4226, crt.uconn.edu

June 7-17  
**MAN OF LA MANCHA**

June 21-July 8  
**THE ODD COUPLE**

July 12-22  
**PIRATES OF PENZANCE**  
All performances held at Jorgensen Center

**UCONN LIBRARIES**

Through June 22  
**MAKING THEIR MARK: THE MARTEL PRESIDENTIAL AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION**  
Thomas J. Dodd Research Center Gallery

Through June 22  
**RE-COVERING TIME: AN EXHIBITION OF COLLAGES**  
Alan Bisbort  
Thomas J. Dodd Research Center West Corridor

**THE WILLIAM BENTON MUSEUM OF ART**  
860-486-4520  
benton.uconn.edu

Through May 6  
**2012 MASTER OF FINE ARTS EXHIBITION**

Through May 20  
**SCREENSHOTS: ALTERED**

**IMAGES FROM THE WEB**

Through May 20  
**FROM OBJECTS TO OBJECT: FOUND SCULPTURE**  
BY LEO SEWELL

**CONNECTICUT MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY**  
860-486-4460  
mnh.uconn.edu

April 14  
**BIOLUMINESCENT SQUID: SYMBIOSIS UNDER THE SEA**  
Spencer Nyholm, Molecular and Cell Biology, UConn  
Free

April 17  
**EXPLORING SMALL LAKES BEYOND WALDEN**  
Prof. Robert Thorson  
Advanced registration

April 21  
**THE ARTIFICIAL TERMITE GUT: A HI-TECH EXPLORATION OF MICROBES AND BIOFUELS**  
Prof. Kenneth Noll  
Advanced registration

April 28  
**ABANDONED GHOST TOWN: CONNECTICUT'S GAY CITY STATE PARK, HEBRON, CONN.**  
Prof. Nicholas Bellantoni, State Archaeologist  
Advanced registration

**AVERY POINT CAMPUS ALEXEY VON SCHLIPPE GALLERY OF ART**  
860-405-9052

June 1 - July 15  
**GAR WATERMAN, JOANNE SCHMALTZ, MARK STARR, ANITA GANGI BALKUN**

July 20 - Sept. 2  
**JIM MCKIE, GILBERT BORO, TODD GIPSTEIN, HELEN CANTRELL**

**UCONN HEALTH CENTER**

April 21  
**ANNUAL WHITE COAT GALA**  
Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford

June 9  
**NBC CT JIM CALHOUN CANCER CHALLENGE**  
calhounride.uchc.edu

**WATERBURY CAMPUS OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE**  
203-236-9924

April 4  
**CREATIVE SUSTENANCE**

April 10  
**SPIDERS, COCAINE AND DEMENTIA ... OH MY!**  
(How virtual reality is helping psychology in the 21st century)

# Dan Waters '91 (CLAS) Is Bringing Zombies to Life

It appears zombies are back – and not just from the dead. As today’s cultural landscape can attest, movies like “Zombieland,” television shows like “The Walking Dead,” and books such as *The Zombie Survival Guide* – on *The New York Times* Best Seller List for nine years – continue to feed the masses’ seemingly insatiable fascination with animated, flesh-eating corpses.

Luckily for Dan Waters '91 (CLAS), many of the main characters in his young adult *Generation Dead* series are zombies – but not of the murderous variety. On the contrary, the undead teenagers in his books do not prey on the living; they are simply looking to be accepted by their peers and by society at large.

“I’ve always been a horror literature and film fan,” says Waters. “If they really existed, zombies would probably be one of the most oppressed groups in society. I thought writing about them would be a fun way of bringing up serious questions.”

*Stitches* (Disney Hyperion, 2011), published late last year exclusively as an eBook, is the fourth installment in Waters’ *Generation Dead* series. It is a compilation of four short stories that follow many of the teenage characters whom his readers know and love, both living and undead – or, as they are more respectfully termed, “differently biotic.”

The first book in Waters’ young adult book series, *Generation Dead* (Hyperion, 2008), tells what the author describes as a “zombie love story.” Although plenty of humor finds its way into the narrative, the initial inspiration for the books had decidedly dark origins, stemming from one evening when Waters caught a news program about violence in schools.

“The story was that kids were starting fights or committing random acts of violence in order to film them and put them online. There was this idea of getting notoriety for being a violent person,” he says. “These clips brought up a lot of questions for me. What were the reasons these kids did this, at these ages?”

Through two different blogs – one of his own, [danielwaters.com](http://danielwaters.com), and one written from the perspectives of his fictional characters, found at [mysocalledundeath.com](http://mysocalledundeath.com) – Waters connects with his teen audience.

“A lot of the mail I get is from readers who feel excluded for some reason or another,” he says. “In a way, a zombie becomes a universal metaphor for people. Anything that’s different about you – that’s what zombies signify in this story.”

It was only after he had finished writing the first book in the *Generation Dead* series that Waters realized the start of a “resurgence” of zombies in popular culture. “It was just dumb luck. ... I wanted to write a humorous story about people, but writing about dead people gave me that little bit of arm’s length to treat the subject with a little more humor than I would have otherwise.”

Waters plans to return to the *Generation Dead* series, recently optioned by ABC Family, after completing a few other projects, among them his next book, due this fall, titled *Break My Heart 1,000 Times*. —Stefanie Dion Jones '00 (CLAS)





The Basketball Student-Athlete Development Center will be built on the site of Memorial Stadium.

## Private Giving to Build Basketball Development Center

The largest single private gift ever to the Division of Athletics, a \$4.5 million pledge of support by Peter J. and Pamela H. Werth of Woodbridge, Conn., and three anonymous gifts totaling \$2 million have quickened the pace toward making the UConn Basketball Student-Athlete Development Center a reality.

Commitments totaling more than \$16 million have been made toward the \$35 million cost of the 70,000-square-foot facility to be located on the current site of Memorial Stadium, the first major construction project at UConn to be funded entirely through private donations.

The Basketball Development Center will feature dedicated practice gyms for the men's and women's championship basketball programs, along with locker rooms, coaches' offices, and areas for academic support, video analysis, sports medicine, and strength training. It will also have many other purposes

when not used for basketball, including intramural sports and community programming, and will allow Gampel Pavilion to host additional events as well.

The Werths are avid Husky fans and season ticket holders for men's and women's basketball, and football. They have been active UConn Athletics donors since 2003, supporting overall program enhancement in the Division of Athletics. Their strong connection to the University began with their children – Peter III '80 (CLAS), Debbie and Jackie – all of whom attended UConn. Werth is the founder and CEO of Chemwerth Inc., a full-service generic drug development and supply company based in Connecticut.

President Susan Herbst described construction of the Center as a top priority that will benefit both the University and the greater community. "By helping recruit the best student-athletes and supporting them as they inspire us all, the new Center is vital to maintaining the excellence that is synonymous with UConn," she says. "We cannot expect to continue our success by standing still while everyone around us is investing in their programs and students."

"The Werths know what it takes to be successful, and they know that this facility will allow our team to practice, train, and study in a setting that promotes achievement," says Geno Auriemma, the Huskies' Hall of Fame women's basketball coach.

"It takes great players to win, and the Werths are great players," says Jim Calhoun, the Huskies' Hall of Fame men's basketball coach. "Through this commitment, they have shown their desire to be leaders and help young people have a very special college experience in Storrs."

Get a behind-the-scenes look into the UConn Huskies basketball program using your smartphone's barcode scanner application to scan the Quick Response Code at left. Keep in mind that your mobile device must have a QR code reader installed in order to scan QR codes and display its contents. Don't have a smartphone? Visit <http://bit.ly/zoyull> to view the video.



## GIVING DIGEST

### Alum Finds Success, Gives Back

It took Jim Agonis '71 (BUS) seven years to get through UConn, dropping out occasionally to wait on tables and earn money for the next semester. After graduating with a degree in accounting, he went on to a highly rewarding career in the aeronautical industry, first at Kaman Corp. and then as CEO and president of Airkaman Cecil Inc. "I have tremendous empathy for the student struggling with academics because of a paper route or an after-school job. It would be my dream to help someone like that get through school," says Agonis, who with his wife, Glenna, has made a gift of \$100,000 to the Accounting Endowment for Excellence in the School of Business.

### Shafer Student Center Opens

Ann Shafer, a longtime supporter of the UConn Health Center whose past giving includes creation of the Shafer Study Rooms in the Lyman Maynard Stowe Library, has provided funding for the new Shafer Student Center to provide medical, dental, and graduate students with a place to gather and collaborate, or just relax. Shafer says her husband, Guy, felt getting an education was extremely important, which is why she has been so supportive of projects aimed at improving academic life for UConn students.

### College Prep Program Awarded Grant

The Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation awarded a \$368,000 grant to support a college readiness program through the Neag School of Education's CommPACT Schools program. The grant will go to a program at two Bridgeport schools that targets at-risk students in grades 7 to 12 and is administered by teachers, school professionals, and Neag School counseling faculty and students. "I'm very excited, in particular because in our area – school counseling – it's very difficult to get grant funding for what school counselors do," says Robert Colbert, principal investigator on the project and associate professor in the counseling program.



### Calhouns Receive Philanthropy Award

The University of Connecticut Foundation presented its first Foundation Philanthropy Award to Jim and Pat Calhoun for their extraordinary humanitarian and philanthropic efforts at the University of Connecticut. The Calhouns have supported cardiology research at the UConn Health Center since 1998 through generous personal gifts, the Jim Calhoun Celebrity Classic Golf Tournament, and the Jim Calhoun Charity All-Star Basketball Game. Together, these events have raised more than \$5 million to benefit the Jim and Pat Calhoun Cardiology Research Endowment Fund, which provides significant resources for investigations into the causes of and new treatments for heart disease.



### Our University. Our Moment. Sets Record Pace

The University of Connecticut Foundation has raised \$310 million in its current capital campaign — the largest ever in the University's history — surpassing the midpoint of the \$600 million effort, which began in July 2006. Record donations of \$25.1 million were received during the first half of the current fiscal year, as of Dec. 31, 2011. About \$205 million has been raised to support academic programs, along with \$52.7 million for scholarships, nearly \$20.7 million for faculty support, and almost \$31.5 million for capital improvements. The Foundation also reported a positive trend in the number of donors, including a significant 20 percent increase among parents of current students, who responded to a challenge grant that matched their donations. The number of donors totaled 81,364, with UConn alumni accounting for nearly 39 percent of the total raised.



Joe D'Ambrosio, left, and Wayne Norman calling a men's basketball game at Gampel Pavilion on the UConn Radio Network.

## Behind the Microphones at the UConn Radio Network

**T**he WTIC/UConn Radio Network provides Husky Nation with pregame, play-by-play, and postgame coverage during the football and basketball seasons. Now in its 20th year, the radio network's broadcasts have provided unique insights into Husky games through a network of local Connecticut radio stations.

**JOE D'AMBROSIO**, play-by-play football and men's basketball: I know I'm talking to the UConn audience. You always hope the team you're broadcasting for wins because it makes it a better broadcast; but if the team you're broadcasting for isn't playing well or the other team does something spectacular, you have to give them credit. That's the only way the broadcast has any balance. The hardest job for me week to week is to make sure I'm prepared. I jokingly tell people if I spent as much time on my homework in school as I do for these games, I'd be a doctor. It's just being ready for every circumstance. **BEST MOMENT:** The first men's championship game because we knew everyone was hanging on every word.

**WAYNE NORMAN**, analyst, football and men's basketball: Everybody predicts the death of radio, but it's still a preferred medium, and it works because it's theater of the mind. I think our closeness to the program gives us insights other broadcasters don't have. That's what people want to hear. There's a real chemistry with all of us because we've worked together for so long. The biggest challenge for me is that Joe is so good; he sees everything. It makes me

have to look deeper to find stuff to talk about. **BEST MOMENT:** The first men's basketball championship. The first is always the best.

**KEVIN NATHAN**, football sideline reporter and postgame host: I love the passion from the fans. It makes for good radio. I think I always side toward the coaches and what they go through. It doesn't mean that every single decision they make is the right one, but if you're asking me about a fanatical fan versus a decision made by a coach or a Division I athlete, it's just being honest. I think the metamorphosis of UConn football is that now almost all of the calls are about the game. It just tells me the more passionate the fans get that they care. **BEST MOMENT:** The Notre Dame football game. My grandfather went there in the 1920s. Just going there alone was the thrill of a lifetime, but to watch UConn come from behind in double overtime was just unbelievable.

**BOB JOYCE**, football pregame host and women's basketball play-by-play: The fan following we have for the women's basketball team is that they hinge on everything that's going on. Working with Kara [Wolters '97 (CLAS)], who brings a different dynamic, helps immensely. You have to feed off her. She also understands the demands that Geno [Auriemma] puts onto the team. She has that aspect of the game that only a former player can give you. It's great. **BEST MOMENT:** Maya Moore's [11 (CLAS)] freshman year. They played Carolina and rallied from 10 back at the half. Gampel was just electric, and it was fun.

# Manuel Named Top Husky in Athletics

**W**arde J. Manuel, who has served for the past six years as director of athletics at Buffalo, was introduced as the Huskies' new director of athletics during a news conference on Feb. 12 (See p. 4).

A 1990 graduate of the University of Michigan, where he was on both the football and the track and field teams, Manuel was selected by *Sports Business Journal* as a 2008 national 40-Under-40 honoree.

"UConn is synonymous with greatness, excellence, and achievement," Manuel says. "The opportunity to be the athletics director at UConn and lead this extraordinary division is the role of a lifetime. You have remarkable coaches, great leadership, outstanding student-athletes, and a wonderful base of fans, alumni, and supporters. Our focus will be on academic success, compliance, ensuring great relationships with our fans, friends, and supporters and, without a doubt, victory on the field and the court."

Buffalo enjoyed great on-field success



Warde J. Manuel, newly appointed director of athletics, greets students at Gampel Pavilion.

under Manuel's tenure, as the football team participated in the 2009 International Bowl and the men's basketball team made postseason appearances in three of the past seven years. Olympic sports also thrived under Manuel's leadership, with three-straight Dad Vail Regatta titles by the rowing team; six wrestlers earning spots at the 2011 NCAA Championship; and the

women's tennis team making an appearance in the 2008 NCAA tournament.

In the course of working on a Ph.D. in social work and psychology at Michigan, Manuel earned a master's degree in social work in 1993 and an MBA from the Ross School of Business at Michigan.

## Talking Baseball in Connecticut

**T**he 2012 Huskies Baseball Preseason Dinner featured a keynote address by new Boston Red Sox manager Bobby Valentine, a native of Stamford, Conn., and presentation of the 2012 UConn Baseball Alumni Award to Roger Bidwell '78 (ED), '84 MA, head coach of the UConn Avery Point baseball team. From left: Bidwell, Valentine, and Jim Penders '94 (CLAS), '98 MA, head coach of the UConn baseball team, who presented Bidwell with the award.



STEVE SLADE



## Engineer Develops New Process to Improve Fuel Cells, Lower Costs

**U**Conn's Center for Clean Energy Engineering has developed a new manufacturing process for fuel cells that could make highly efficient, fuel-cell-powered vehicles a viable commercial option in the next 10 years and possibly sooner.

Professor Radenka Maric developed the breakthrough process that significantly lowers production costs while maintaining maximum efficiency. The process is not limited to hydrogen fuel cells. It can be applied in other industrial applications to extend the durability and efficiency of larger solid oxide fuel cells, which are used to heat and provide electricity to buildings, as well as lithium-ion batteries currently used in most battery-powered, plug-in, and hybrid cars.

Hydrogen fuel cells, also known as Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) fuel

cells, are an attractive alternative fuel source for vehicles because of their high level of efficiency, low greenhouse gas emissions, and environmentally friendly operation. They have no moving parts, and their only emission is water and heat.

But one of the primary drawbacks to the widespread use of the cells is that they are expensive to manufacture because platinum, a rare and expensive metal used as catalyst material to create energy, is one of the cell's main components.

At UConn's clean energy engineering facility, Maric has developed a prototype manufacturing process for the fuel cells that uses 10 times less catalyst material with little waste. The low-temperature process allows for important industrial controls and flexibility and can be easily scaled up for mass production.

"We are trying to reduce the processing steps, and that is going to reduce the cost of manufacturing," says Maric, the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund Professor in Sustainable Energy in the School of Engineering's Department of Chemical, Materials, and Biomolecular Engineering. "Many times, an industry starts working on something with the technologies they inherit. They may make the first generation of products, but they are always looking for that next generation that is better and cheaper. That is what we are focusing on – the next generation."

Maric is internationally recognized for her work with fuel cells, thin films, and nanomaterials technology. Prior to coming to Storrs in 2010, Maric was a group leader and program manager at the National Research Council of Canada's Institute

---

**Radenka Maric, Connecticut Clean Energy Fund Professor of Sustainable Energy, right, in the lab with Justin Roller, center, a graduate student, and Mirela Dragan, a postdoctoral fellow.**

for Fuel Cell Innovation. Earlier in her career, she was a senior scientist and team leader working on material development for fuel cells and batteries at the Japan Fine Ceramics Center in Nagoya, Japan. Maric has published more than 150 scientific papers and holds several patents.

In response to industry demand for lower manufacturing costs, increased durability, and increased efficiency for fuel cells, Maric created a novel production process known as reactive spray deposition technology, or RSDT. In the process, small particles of catalyst material, such as platinum, are shot out of a nozzle in the form of a gas flame where they are instantly cooled into atom-sized solids and sprayed onto the fuel cell membrane in a carefully calibrated fine layer.

The flame-based dispersion of the catalyst material allows it to bond to the membrane quickly, eliminating several binding and drying steps necessary in the current manufacturing process. By applying such a fine layer of catalyst material and by achieving greater control of the size and saturation rate of the particles, the RSDT process also limits waste.

The process' flexibility and control standards further allow manufacturers to manage the thickness of the material layers that are applied, which is important in fuel cell technology. Material layers in fuel cells need to be thin enough to provide maximum conductivity when used in low-temperature hydrogen fuel cells, yet thick enough to prevent corrosion and maintain durability at the high temperatures at which solid oxide fuel cells operate.

The RSDT process can also be applied in the production of more advanced lithium-ion batteries. Similar to what it does with hydrogen fuel cells, RSDT's direct dry application of the nanocoatings used inside the battery eliminates several binding steps in the current manufacturing process. Its high level of particle control and flexibility allows developers to use less material at less cost.

## INDUSTRY INTEREST

Several Connecticut companies, including Sonalysts Inc. of Waterford and Proton OnSite of Wallingford, currently are considering Maric's production techniques for industrial and commercial applications.

Researchers at Sonalysts are helping the U.S. Office of Naval Research find ways to improve the safety and reliability of lithium-ion batteries through the use of nanotechnology and advanced thermal management. The company is also investigating new ways to improve the efficiency of Proton Exchange Membrane fuel cells by reducing the amount of the required catalyst.

"Professor Maric's rapid spray deposition technology offers the potential of performance and reduction of manufacturing costs for both of these products," says Armand E. Halter, Sonalysts vice president of applied sciences. "Our initial tasking is directed to investigate the benefits of RSDT to enable catalyst deposition directly upon high-temperature membranes ... at substantially lower weight loadings. ... With good results, we anticipate expansion of this development work as the program moves forward."

At Proton OnSite, a global hydrogen energy and technology company, Katherine Ayers, the company's director of research, says she, too, is interested in Maric's use of the reactive spray deposition technique.

"Our interest is in the potential for this technology to enable much lower amounts of expensive catalyst metals while still providing mild processing conditions at the membrane surface to avoid damage to the membrane," Ayers says. "We also believe this technology has the ability to substantially reduce labor and scrap, especially due to the short shelf life of most inks currently used for electrode processing." —Colin Poitras '85 (CLAS)

## Switch to Generic Drugs Risky for Epileptics

**B**rand and generic epilepsy drugs are equally safe and effective, but switching from a brand-name antiepileptic drug to a generic one could increase some individuals' chances of having a seizure, according to a comprehensive research review conducted by UConn pharmacists and physicians.

In a review of 89 different studies dating back to 1950, the researchers found that the efficacy, tolerability, and safety of brand-name and generic antiepileptic medications are virtually the same. But switching from one form to the other may cause patients to have more hospitalizations and longer hospital stays.

"If you have epilepsy and want to start on an antiepileptic drug, the evidence is compelling that it doesn't matter if you use a brand-name or a generic product. But if you're already using one version of drug (generic or brand-name), there may be a concern if you switch to something else," says C. Michael White, a pharmacy professor at the University of Connecticut and director of the federally designat-

ed UConn/Hartford Hospital Evidence-Based Practice Center in Hartford, Conn.

The same concerns apply whether a person switches from a brand-name drug to a generic version or from one generic version to another, White says. While many individuals with epilepsy may not experience any problems switching from a brand-name to generic version, some people may have complications and the consequences could be severe.



C. Michael White



Associate Professor Shayla Nunnally's new book examines the role of race in politics.

## Survey Finds Race Still Plays Role in U.S. Politics

Since the election of Barack Obama as the nation's first black president, America has been described as having a post-racial society. But a UConn political scientist says that is not the case.

"Race continues to play a role in American politics," says Shayla Nunnally, associate professor of political science and African-American studies, whose findings based on her national survey of blacks, whites, and Latinos about their racial attitudes, are the subject of a new book, titled *Trust in Black America: Race, Discrimination, and Politics* (NYU Press, 2012).

"Since the election of President Obama, there have been conversations about being in a post-racial America – but we're not," she says.

Nunnally's book analyzes the limits, many stemming from overt or covert racism, placed on the black community – and

the subsequent distrust that it fosters for them both socially and politically, showing that a legacy of experiencing racial discrimination makes blacks distant from

and distrustful of the American political system, its institutions, and its politicians.

Although racial discrimination and political marginalization have often been cited as reasons blacks are distrustful of the government, Nunnally says that until now, this claim

has largely gone untested. Her data show that blacks have the most trust in black Democrats and the least trust in white Republicans. Political trust thus forms around race and partisanship, she says. But, says Nunnally, the extent of racial distrust can be complicated. For example, there is the possibility that blacks may still distrust or be skeptical about a white candidate who may effectively fight for black group interests.



## Some Negative Employee Blogs Can Benefit Business

Management professors in the School of Business collaborating with their former doctoral student are among the first researchers to publish a study on the effect of employee blogs on a business' reputation.

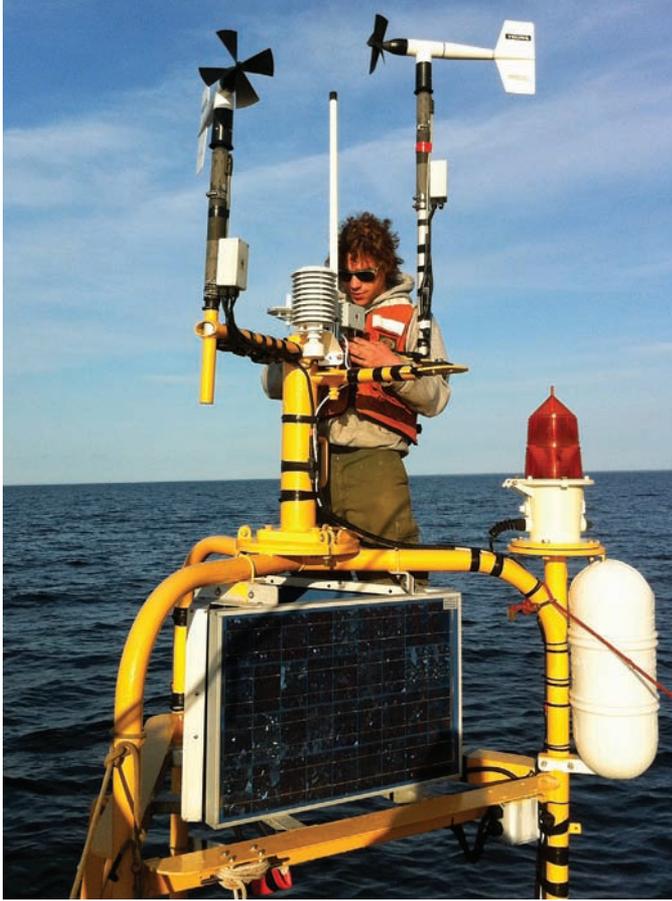
Ram Gopal, professor and department head, and Ramesh Sankaranarayanan, associate professor and Ackerman Scholar in the Department of Operations and Information Management, collaborated with Rohit Aggarwal '08 Ph.D., assistant professor at the University of Utah, and Param Vir Singh, assistant professor at Carnegie Mellon University, on the paper "Blog, Blogger, and the Firm: Can Negative Posts by Employees Lead to Positive Outcomes?" published in the journal *Information Systems Research*.

Aggarwal is the lead author for the paper, in which the researchers say their study shows that allowing some negative blog posts about a company is actually beneficial to the company's image among key stakeholders, such as consumers and investors.

The paper notes that while the Internet provides people with the ability to express their opinions and views about a company's products and policies – essentially free advertising to potential consumers, clients, employees, and investors – there is also the possibility that negative blog posts may drive away potential business. However, they found that allowing employees to write a small percentage of negative blog posts about the company they work for increases the public's willingness to read and be influenced by the blogs. They found that employee bloggers must strike a balance, since too many negative blog posts come across as disgruntled venting, whereas totally positive postings just seem like free advertising. A small amount of negative posts increase the blog's readership, the authors concluded, and raise the company's profile without it having to spend a dime.



UConn's system of buoys provides weather data to the ocean-monitoring network NERACOOS and tests water pollution levels in Long Island Sound.



## Avery Point Scientists Track Weather Data

**M**arine scientists at UConn's Avery Point campus are working as part of a northeast ocean-monitoring network that is using ocean buoys to track essential sea and atmospheric data for weather forecasting, fishermen, commercial shippers, and scientists.

The research network is funded by a \$1.77 million award from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration over the next year, and similar funding for the next four years. UConn's marine sciences department is providing faculty expertise and developing equipment used in Long Island Sound and along the East Coast for the network, called the Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS).

"Among other things, this network is routinely used for the national weather forecasting service," says marine sciences professor Jim O'Donnell, who works as chair of the network's strategic planning committee. "This is what provides weather on the TV news every night."

The UConn system of buoys are deployed throughout Long Island Sound to measure such things as wind speed, currents, dissolved oxygen, and nutrient content of water. For the past three years, these buoys have been integrated into NERACOOS, whose monitoring extends from Connecticut through the coast of Maine and into Nova Scotia. In addition to providing weather data to NERACOOS, UConn's buoys are constantly testing water pollution levels.

The buoys, in operation for a decade, also create great opportunities for students and faculty in marine sciences. They're used widely for research in the department, and students visit the buoys and learn to use their data in hands-on classes and laboratories.

## Study Finds Mammal Brain Still Alert When Drowsy

**M**any mammals spend much of their day in a drowsy state and perceive enough of what is going on around them to arouse themselves if danger threatens. New research by UConn behavioral neuroscientists has found that there is a higher rate of activity than expected in the cerebral cortex of the brain during drowsiness.

In a paper published in the November 2011 edition of *The Journal of*



Rabbits are studied to determine how quickly the brain transitions from alertness to drowsiness.

*Neuroscience*, a research team led by Harvey A. Swadlow, professor of psychology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences who specializes in behavioral neuroscience, reported how information is processed in the visual cortex of the brain when drowsiness occurs. They

found a higher rate of activity than expected in some neurons of the cortex during drowsiness.

The study followed up on earlier work published in scientific journals showing that it takes less than one second for an animal to go from an alert to a non-alert state and that neurons in the brain that receive information directly from the eyes change dramatically in how they process visual information when that happens.

When the eye sees something, it sends a signal to the thalamus and then to the visual cortex. Unlike when it is asleep, an animal when drowsy still processes sensory information, but differently than it would in the alert state. Swadlow's research group describes what happens in the visual cortex of the brain in drowsiness, focusing on the transition state from alertness to drowsiness.

Swadlow's research is funded by the National Eye Institute of the National Institutes of Health. His group has been gathering data for many years on the transition from alert to drowsy in rabbits and how it affects their visual perception. The group will continue to study how much nonalert animals perceive and the transition between states.



## Preparing for the Unexpected

### MPA STUDENT EXPANDS ROLE AS EMERGENCY SERVICE PROVIDER AND TRAINER

If a public health emergency occurred, Patrick Turek '12 MPA is the type of composed person whom people would feel at ease turning to for help.

The 22-year-old graduate student in UConn's nationally recognized master's in public administration program has already been a frontline emergency service responder for years. Most recently, while meeting the MPA's internship requirement, Turek created an emergency response plan to address the public health disasters that could result from an anthrax or smallpox bioterrorism attack. The New Britain Health Department obtained the public health emergency preparedness grant that funded Turek's internship.

"Emergency medical service is closest to my heart," says Turek. "It starts with my roots; my dad's a firefighter, and my mom's a nurse. I was touched by the stories they've told me about their careers."

Turek notes that most people might prefer to push concerns about emergency situations out of their minds, even as awareness has been heightened since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C.

"There are inherent qualities that make a person fit for working in emergency planning and homeland security," says Turek. "I've received extensive training, and I'm prepared to stay calm when most people might not. None of what I do stresses me out. I've been presented with the greatest opportunities anyone can ask for. It isn't work – I really enjoy this."

What Turek enjoys is training new emergency care providers and providing care to people requiring ambulance service. He instructs classes in CPR, first aid, and certification to become both an

**Patrick Turek '12 MPA has created an emergency response plan for bioterrorism attacks as part of his studies while fulfilling his internship requirement.**

Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) and an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), and he coordinates the practical exam that all EMTs have to pass at the end of their training. During last August's Hurricane Irene, he also worked a 24-hour shift for New Britain Emergency Medical Services (NBEMS).

Turek's involvement in critical caregiving began right after high school, when he passed the EMT certification course at the nonprofit NBEMS Academy, the city's 911 ambulance provider. Turek worked at NBEMS part time while earning his bachelor's degree in criminology at Central Connecticut State University. Meanwhile, he learned about UConn's MPA program.

"A number of people I work with at NBEMS are or have been enrolled in it, and they encouraged me to enroll," he says. "The MPA program's reputation was absolutely influential."

*U.S. News & World Report* ranks UConn's MPA in the top 20 percent of programs in the country. It is the only accredited MPA program in Connecticut. Its public finance and budgeting program is ranked seventh in the country.

Turek's master's focus is finance because his advisors recommended challenging himself.

"I realized while pursuing my MPA that there are more and different opportunities involving public safety available

to people with the master's degree. I can make a broader impact on a community from a public safety leadership role, especially with a background in finance. I just really like to help people."

—Lauren Lalancette

## Medical Student Commits to Family Medicine

**A**dozen years ago, the Future of Family Medicine Project addressed a growing concern among a coalition of family medicine organizations – to revitalize interest in family medicine in the face of changes in health care and train doctors committed to a career in family practice.

Over the course of her training in the School of Medicine, fourth-year medical student Jessica Johnson has emerged as the kind of physician who will spend her career practicing family medicine in the community.

Johnson is one of only five senior medicine students in the nation and the first in UConn's history to receive a 2011 Pisacano Scholarship, which recognizes outstanding medical students who make a commitment to enter the specialty of family medicine.

"What makes family medicine stand out for me is an inherent philosophy of building relationships with patients across their lifetime and of serving communities both in and out of the exam room," says Johnson, who also is pursuing a master's degree in public health. "I feel so fortunate to be entering such an innovative, comprehensive, and patient-centered specialty. There is a lot of uncertainty about the direction our health care system is taking, but I believe that any successful model must be based on a strong and appropriately valued primary care foundation. The health of our country will be better for it."

Johnson began compiling a full list of accomplishments and accolades in her first year, when she earned an Urban Service Track Leadership Award from a program designed to prepare students for service to vulnerable populations. She then went on to help organize

and coordinate the UConn Migrant Farm Worker Clinic, which had more than 1,200 patient encounters.

In addition, she has reinvigorated the UConn School of Medicine's Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG) and served as a regional coordinator for the FMIG National Network Southeast Region. She has volunteered at the South Park Inn Medical Clinic, a student-run free clinic for the homeless in Hartford, serving on its board for three years.

This past year, she also was elected to the board of directors of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). The AAFP represents more than 100,000 physicians and medical students nationwide. As the lone student serving on its board of directors, Johnson is responsible for representing the interests and opinions of the National Congress of Student Members to the board and the AAFP Congress of Delegates.

Inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society in 2010, Johnson spent a year as a health policy intern with the Primary Care Coalition of Connecticut, helping with the strategic planning for a coalition of 17 primary care provider groups. She also has served as a student member of the UConn School of Medicine on the board of the Connecticut Academy of Family Physicians. And prior to her election to the board of directors, she served as a student delegate to the AAFP Congress of Delegates.

Johnson says she plans to practice "full-scope, cradle-to-grave family medicine in an underserved community."

"I also hope to one day teach medical students and will continue to advocate for meaningful health care reform," she says.

—Chris DeFrancesco





# GENO G ES FOR

By Kenneth Best

## Auriemma Leads USA Basketball Team to London Olympics

**F**or 11 days during the fall of 2010 in the Czech Republic, the best women's basketball teams in the world battled for the 2010 FIBA World Championship. As the tournament wound down, the host team from the Czech Republic made a Cinderella run, beating Australia and Belarus for a chance to win a gold medal and qualify for the 2012 London Olympic Games.

As the first half of the championship game against the USA Basketball National Team came to a close, the Czechs had cut the United States' 12-point lead to five. In a scenario all too familiar to Huskies fans, in the second half USA Basketball went on a 20-4 scoring burst en route to an 89-69 win, qualifying the USA for this year's Olympics.

Although his career has been filled with pressure-cooker moments, USA Basketball head coach Geno Auriemma says that moment was his most stressful.

"When we won that championship," says Auriemma, head women's basketball coach for the Huskies, "it was the most pressure, most fatigued, most mentally and physically exhausted I've ever been in my professional life."

That might sound odd coming from a Hall of Fame coach whose teams have won seven NCAA Championships, posted four unbeaten seasons, and whose fans wring their hands when a season ends with anything less than a trip to the Final Four. However, Auriemma's drive for perfection in Storrs is precisely why USA Basketball selected him as the first college coach to lead the Women's National Team since WNBA players have made up the majority of the squad.

**Left: Geno Auriemma coaching the USA Team.**

**Below: With Sylvia Fowles of the WNBA Chicago Sky, during a training session.**

"There's probably a lot of similarities being head coach at UConn and being the head coach of USA Basketball," says Jim Tooley, executive director and CEO of USA Basketball. "UConn's had great success; USA Basketball has had great success. With that success comes the expectation of continued great success."

Auriemma has been involved with USA Basketball since 1993, when he served as head coach for the U.S. Olympic Festival West Team. He subsequently served as head coach for several other Select and Junior teams and was an assistant coach on the 2000 U.S. Olympic Team that won the gold medal under Nell Fortner of the WNBA's Indiana Fever. It was the first time the women's team was led by a professional coach and was similar to the men's team in that it included primarily NBA players. But after the men's National Team failed to win a gold medal in international competition since the 2000 Olympics, in 2005 USA Basketball Men's National Team managing director Jerry Colangelo selected Mike Krzyzewski of Duke as the team's head coach.

Auriemma says that since he had no interest in coaching in the WNBA, he had put any thoughts of being the head coach for the Women's National Team out of his mind – that is, until Krzyzewski was named to lead the men's team.

"I remember saying, 'You know, if he wins, they might go to a college coach for women,'" he says. "Lo and behold, he wins, and the next thing you know, here comes the opportunity."

For Auriemma to coach an Olympic team is more than just the honor most would expect; it is an example of the American Dream. He came to the U.S. at age 7 from Montella, a small village east of Naples, Italy, where there was no electricity. As he wrote in his 2006 book, *Geno: In Pursuit of Perfection*, "I arrive in Norristown, Pennsylvania, and I don't know the language. I don't know the customs. I don't dress the right way. I feel out of place, so I'm constantly self-conscious and unsure of myself."

That uncertainty became a motivating force for Auriemma, who pushed himself not only to learn but also to excel at the things he did not know. He has said that the young women he coached early in his career bore the brunt of the emotional scars left by his own

# THE GOLD



self-doubt. Auriemma insisted that his student-athletes fulfill the potential that he saw in them even if it meant tossing them out of practice when they were not working hard enough, as the seven National Players of the Year and 13 First Team All-Americans he has coached will attest.

“I push my players to go beyond pretty good,” he says. “Some understood; some didn’t. I probably do it a different way today because I don’t have the burning desire or need to prove anything to anybody. Maybe I’ve mellowed out.”

As the USA Basketball National Team head coach, however, Auriemma faces several challenges – coaching a team of talented players who have not played together for very long, working with a team of assistant coaches who lead their own programs, and the understanding that his success will be measured by only one outcome: Olympic gold.

Participation on a USA Basketball Team is by invitation only. Competition committees select athletes to participate in team training as well as the final 12-member team. The Women’s National Team process is complicated by the fact that most professional players spend time in the WNBA during its summer season and then play in European leagues for the fall and winter, leaving limited time to bring players together for training camps, practices, and games before Olympic competition. The WNBA will take a mid-season break for the Olympics, and the team leaves for London in mid-July for the 2012 Games that will take place from July 28 to Aug. 11. Auriemma will gather his team in Washington, D.C., for a brief training session and an exhibition game against Brazil before going overseas (see box on next page).

The USA Basketball National Team roster of 27 players selected to compete for the FIBA World Championship and the 2012 Olympic Games has seven former Huskies, including six who played on the team that won the FIBA gold medal against the Czechs. They include Sue Bird ’02 (CLAS) of the Seattle Storm; Swin Cash ’02 (CLAS) of the Chicago Sky; Tina Charles ’10 (CLAS), Asjha Jones ’02 (BUS), and Renee Montgomery ’09 (CLAS) of the Connecticut Sun; Maya



Six former Huskies helped the USA National Basketball Team to win the 2010 FIBA World Championship and qualify the United States for the 2012 Olympic Summer Games in London. From left: Asjha Jones ’02 (BUS), Swin Cash ’02 (CLAS), Coach Geno Auriemma, Diana Taurasi ’05 (CLAS), Tina Charles ’10 (CLAS), Maya Moore ’11 (CLAS), and Sue Bird ’02 (CLAS).

Moore ’11 (CLAS) of the Minnesota Lynx; and Diana Taurasi ’05 (CLAS) of the Phoenix Mercury. Montgomery was not a part of the USA World Championship Team, but she was on the roster for the National Team’s 2011 European tour and remains in the player pool for London. For both Auriemma and his former student-athletes, the chance to reunite on the court was an unexpected surprise.

“Being back on the floor with [Coach] was fun, exciting, and easier versus college because I know what he expects of me,” says Charles, the 2010 WNBA Rookie of the Year.

Bird – arguably the leading point guard in the world, who has won two NCAA titles, two WNBA titles, and two Olympic gold medals – says being on the court with her former teammates and other Husky alumni was comfortable, “as if no time had passed.” During the FIBA World Championship, she was heartened by the confidence Auriemma placed in her and Taurasi in leading the USA National Team during critical times in the games.

“It’s a great feeling,” Bird says. “To know that he trusts me and Diana feels really good. He doesn’t do that with anybody. You have to earn everything with him. He puts you in these impossible situations [in practice], where even he doesn’t think you can be successful. With that, we gain his trust, and from there, you really are able to go out on the court and play at a really high level.”

Auriemma says he looked forward to

the chance to coach his former players so he could see firsthand how much they had changed since leaving Storrs.

“I wanted to see how much more of what they are capable of doing [now] than when they were playing for me,” he says. “I know Diana is good. So now when I go out and watch, I think: Damn, I didn’t know she had gotten this good. I knew what Asjha could do here every day. Now I go out there, and it’s the same Asjha Jones doing the same things, except better.”

In addition to the UConn alumni, Auriemma has what amounts to an all-star roster of WNBA players: Jayne Appel (San Antonio Silver Stars), Tamika Catchings (Indiana Fever), Candice Dupree (Phoenix Mercury), Kara Lawson (Connecticut Sun), Angel McCoughtry (Atlanta Dream), and Lindsay Whalen (Minnesota Lynx). However, the USA National Team must also be a team of players who have the complementary skills needed to win Olympic gold.

“It’s not just automatically the 12 best players because you might not have any point guards,” says Bird. “You’ve got to pick the right fit.”

Auriemma says having so many of his former players on the USA National Team helps other players understand his sideline instructions when he is outlining a strategy in the terms he uses each day at UConn. Often, he says, a former Husky will quickly translate “Geno-speak” into “WNBA-speak.”

“I can’t tell you how many times one of my former players stick their head in the huddle and say: ‘Yo! This is what we’re going to do,’” he says. “At Connecticut, I go, ‘Let’s do this,’ and there’s a 50-50 chance it might not happen. I call time-out with the National Team, there’s not a 50-50 chance it’s going to happen: It’s going to happen because they’re that good. It’s utopia for a coach because for whatever you think up, it’s going to happen.”

Working with a team of head coaches serving as assistants is another challenge for a USA Basketball head coach. Auriemma’s assistant coaches include Jennifer Gillom, of the Washington Mystics, Marynell Meadors of the Atlanta Dream, and his close friend Doug Bruno of DePaul University, who says working together is a learning process for the entire coaching staff.

“He teaches the game very, very well. It’s been just a great experience to be next to him and watch him relate [to the players],” Bruno says. “I’ve learned little by little to the best of my ability to assist him and help him to be the best he can be. It makes you understand what your assistant is going through. He’s trying to respect the fact that I’m a head coach, but I’ve told him, whatever you want me to do, tell me and I’ll do it. During the game, you don’t want to overstep; at the same time you don’t want to hold something in that’s going to be helpful.”

Auriemma says he is doing with his USA assistant coaches much of what he does in Storrs – asking his coaching staff for suggestions and ideas, so they

know the situations when they should voice a strong opinion.

“I’m constantly asking: ‘What have you got? What do you think? What’s your take on this?’” he says. “It’s just trying to figure out what their strengths and weaknesses are; the things they can contribute.”

Yet, even with players considered the best in the world on the roster, and an experienced coaching staff, the pressure to return home from London with a gold medal remains. The celebration by Ros Casares Valencia’s fans to its team’s four-point win over the USA National Team in Spain during the European Tour in October is a case in point.

“I felt his pain,” says Anne Donovan, who led the 2008 USA National Team to gold and now is head coach at Seton Hall. “You’re in Europe where everyone is making a big deal of it. Geno, more than anybody, can keep things in perspective. The ultimate reward is when he gets to London. There’s nothing like the pressure, the responsibility, or the experience.”

Krzyzewski calls the selection of Auriemma to lead the Women’s National Team a “brilliant choice,” because Auriemma fosters the kind of environment for players that USA Basketball tries to establish and, as a college coach, has successful experience in the NCAA Tournament format.

“The advantage of having college coaches leading the national teams is that they are used to the one-and-done format because of the NCAA Tournament,”

Krzyzewski says. “It is the same in the

international game. That type of thinking and preparation helps in the international format. You’re expected to win and earn the respect of the world. That pressure needs to excite you, not inhibit you.”

Last summer, Auriemma traveled to Chile to watch the most celebrated branch of his coaching tree, University of Hartford head coach Jennifer Rizzotti ’96 (CLAS), lead the USA U19 National Team to a gold medal in the FIBA U19 World Championship. There, they discussed his learning process over the past two years having responsibility for the National Team.

“He talked about how hard it is to win, to keep that situation and atmosphere light so [the players] are relaxed,” says Rizzotti, who was named 2011 USA Basketball National Coach of the Year. “It’s like playing in a conference tournament and a Final Four every day. You have to find the energy as a coach to get up for a championship [game] every day.”

Auriemma will, however, have the comfort of knowing that most of his players have the experience of winning championships. He provides an example from the FIBA World Championship series, when during the medal round his team was struggling and he needed to shuffle the lineup. He summoned Swin Cash and Asjha Jones to enter the game, telling them, “Show these kids how we win championships.”

“[It’s] the comfort level of looking down the bench and looking at kids that you know have done it,” he says. “You put your confidence and trust in them. That’s what coaches pray for.” 🏀



## Final Preparations for London Olympics

After two days of practice at American University, the USA Basketball National Teams will play against Brazil on July 16 at the Verizon Center in Washington, D.C.

The Women’s National Team will play at 5:30 p.m., followed by the Men’s National Team at 8 p.m. The Women’s National Team then will leave the United States to begin final preparations for the 2012 London Olympics with a game against Great Britain in Manchester, England, and at a tournament in Istanbul, Turkey.

For more information, go to [www.usabasketball.com](http://www.usabasketball.com).

# PRESERVING

A photograph capturing a somber scene in a desert. The sky is a thick, hazy orange-brown, indicating a sandstorm. On the left, a single, thin, leafless tree stands as a lone landmark. In the foreground and middle ground, several boys are seen from behind, walking away from the viewer towards the horizon. They are dressed in simple, light-colored clothing. The overall atmosphere is one of displacement and hardship.

Boys fleeing violence along the border of Darfur and Chad as a sandstorm approaches, 2007.

# A PEOPLE'S HERITAGE

The acclaimed actress and humanitarian activist discusses her efforts to document the cultural traditions and oral history of refugees from Sudan and Darfur and the research archive she has established at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center. She delivered remarks to graduates of the School of Fine Arts during Commencement Ceremonies in 2011.



## By Mia Farrow

I first visited Darfur in 2004, during the peak of the slaughter of the civilian population and the rampant destruction of their homes, the year after Sudanese president Omar al-Bashir and his cabal launched a merciless campaign of destruction upon the non-Arab peoples in Darfur. Nearly 3 million survivors fled to hastily made camps scattered across Darfur and eastern Chad.

Today, 80 percent to 90 percent of Darfur's villages are ashes or are occupied by others. The Darfuri people have lost everything. Now, too, their very culture and traditions are at risk. I pledged to help them preserve their heritage and their cultural traditions.



I've been to Chad and Darfur 15 times to meet and advocate for Darfuri refugees. I've been working to help document the rich cultural traditions and oral history of those Darfuri peoples targeted for extermination by the government of Sudan, primarily the Fur, Zaghawa, and Masaalit. In

April 2009, I spent a month in the Oure Cassoni refugee camp. I told the refugees that I would be at a designated spot at the edge of the camp every day for a month. I would simply operate the camera. They would decide what stories and traditions they wanted to share with me. The Unda

– the community leader – explained to me, “You know us very well. You know we are mourning. We are suffering. We do not do these celebrations in the camps.”

I made it clear that I understood that they are suffering and that this project was borne of my deepest respect for them. The



Left: **Women gather to request a well from UNICEF in Galap in South Darfur, Sudan, 2006.**

Below: **View of Zam Zam, internally displaced persons (IDP) camp in Darfur, Sudan, 2006.**

who came each day. I have filmed some 35 hours of singing, dancing, celebrations of coming of age, marriage, planting, harvesting, visiting neighboring villages, children's stories, mourning, and honoring the dead. The elders shared their memories and the stories told to them by their grandparents. The stories went back 300 years. The refugees took over this project as their own, which, of course, it is.

At the end of my stay, the refugees donated some 200 artifacts they had brought with them when they fled their villages, everyday items they had used before their lives were destroyed. The artifacts were photographed and are currently being stored at the U.S. Embassy in Chad.

The project has in so many ways exceeded my goals. I could not have anticipated such whole-hearted support from the refugees. But at least one more trip back will be necessary to visit other camps in another part of eastern Chad in order to film the people of north Darfur, where the traditions are different.

The primary importance of the archive is that it will exist for Darfuris in the future, but also that it will exist as a tool to educate others about the rich and meaningful customs and traditional way of life that once was. I believe that seeing the ceremonies and hearing these stories will bring Darfur's remarkable and courageous people into focus in new ways. 🌿

archives must exist for the children who are growing up in deplorable camps and amidst violence. The archives are for them, and the children who otherwise would never know their own heritage.

During that month I was at the camp with my camera, there were thousands





# Journeys of Faith

*Documentarian Explores how Much World Religions Share* | *By Gerald Krell '57 (SFA)*

**W**hen I am asked whether the idea for my trilogy of interfaith documentaries on world religion was in response to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, I simply relate the facts: I had, prior to 9/11, just completed the production of my first film, “Jews & Christians: A Journey of Faith.” Coincidentally, the film’s premiere was scheduled for the National Press Club on Sept. 11, 2001. Of course, the debut was postponed after the attacks. The seeds for the documentaries germinated from my experience working in 50 nations for the U.S. Information Agency (USIA), making films on subjects ranging from community development and aid projects in South America to crimes against humanity in the former Yugoslavia.

From my travels, I gained profound insights about people the world over. I realized we share many values, including those on religion. After I left the USIA, a colleague challenged me to explore Christianity and my own religion, Judaism, by giving me a book, *Our Father Abraham: Jewish Roots of the Christian Faith*, by Marvin Wilson, a Biblical scholar at Gordon College in Wenham, Mass. I called Wilson to express my interest in making a documentary based on his book for public television. His book was aimed at a Christian audience, but I wanted to produce a film for a general audience about improving understanding between the two religions, and he enthusiastically agreed. My company, Auteur Productions, Ltd., which also includes my producing partners Meyer Odze and my son, Adam Krell, received a significant grant from the Pew Charitable Trust, which allowed location travel to Israel to make the film.

When the program aired on public television stations nationwide, the audience response was very positive, and the film went on to win several awards. We also received a great deal of audience feedback inquiring whether we would do a documentary that included Islam. This led to our second film, "Three Faiths, One God: Judaism, Christianity, Islam," comparing similarities and differences between Islam, Christianity, and Judaism, and examining how people of goodwill in the Abrahamic faith communities are coming to terms with the historical conflicts that impact their lives today.

Our most recent work, "The Asian & Abrahamic Religions: A Divine Encounter in America," covers Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, and Jainism, exploring how these religions have flourished as part of the diversity of life in the United States.

One of the interesting aspects of the third film in the trilogy is how certain aspects of Asian religions have become part of mainstream lifestyles in America, beginning with the baby boom generation's interest in yoga, meditation, and the martial arts. It also occurred to me somewhere in the middle of making the film that it was important to note that Asian religions have been part of the fabric of the United States for much longer than most people may think – dating in some instances from the 19th century, when the Chinese laborers who helped build the transcontinental railroad arrived in California. They brought with them their cultural and religious beliefs – Daoism, Confucianism, and Buddhism.

The core message of all our interfaith films is that pluralism is important to human survival. If religious conflicts of the past are to be avoided in the future, religious pluralism and serious interreligious conversations are essential to the global community. In a nutshell, we have to coexist. I think of the Hebrew phrase "Tikkun Olam," which translates into repairing the world, to make the world a better place.

We initiated an energetic educational outreach campaign for our documentaries, including an accompanying study guide for students. When we present these films in community screenings, a panel discussion follows, and the audience gets involved. The films serve as a catalyst for dialogue. At times, media news coverage subliminally reinforces religious stereotypes and fear of "the other." Maybe we are one of the voices out there trying to break that cycle. I do believe the interfaith movement is gaining momentum, and the United States seems to be a good place for it to happen. 🌱



Gerald Krell '57 (SFA), standing, works with his producing partner, Meyer Odze, during the production of one of his documentary films.



*Gerald Krell '57 (SFA) is a documentary film producer and president of Auteur Productions, Ltd., in the Washington, D.C., area, a company that creates documentaries primarily for public television. He received the 2008 Alumni Award from the School of Fine Arts and delivered alumni remarks during the 2009 SFA Commencement ceremonies, encouraging students in the School of Fine Arts to present art projects in underserved communities. He recently established the Connecticut ArtsCorp Awards program to achieve that goal, and invites interested alumni to contribute to ArtsCorp by contacting the Office of the Dean in the School of Fine Arts.*

Mary Holz-Clause arrived in December as the University of Connecticut's first vice president for economic development. With more than 30 years in the field of economic development, she most recently served as associate vice president for extension and outreach at Iowa State University, where she was responsible for advancing economic development opportunities with key partners of ISU on local, national, and international levels. She spoke with *UCONN Magazine* about the ways in which UConn can contribute to economic development across the region.

### **How can universities help drive economic development?**

The first is taking the things that happen here – the research, inventions, and technology – and leveraging them for the benefit of the University. We do this by supporting the inventive work of faculty, evaluating their discoveries against market needs, protecting the intellectual property if there is commercial potential, and finding a commercial partner to license the technology and take it to market. More importantly, we help industry and provide solutions to problems in health care, national defense, energy, and many critical areas. As a result, our work can help create and retain jobs and a healthy tax base.

UConn has a very strong foothold with economic development now, with the advent of the Technology Park and Bioscience Connecticut. We'll be helping businesses develop and then locate in the region, bringing high-quality, high-wage jobs that retain our highly educated graduates and workers. Technology parks at other universities oftentimes create a lot of spinoff businesses and collaborations with established firms. That is what we anticipate will happen here.

### **How will your office be of benefit to the University, the region, and beyond?**

Economic development is part of the role of any public research university – taking the research and entrepreneurial interests that happen here, putting them into the next fold of commercialization, and helping to create a venue for students and faculty to pursue entrepreneurship. We hope to not only take what we have at

UConn to the citizens of Connecticut and to the region, but to also find out what the needs of the communities are, what the needs of industry are, and then be very intentional about connecting them with our resources – technical experts, market experts, unique facilities, highly trained workers, and companies.

### **How will the University build alliances that will assist economic development?**

If we can continue to focus on areas where UConn is very strong, we can then bring together our resources across disciplinary teams. This will help not only spur our research, but eventually also stimulate commercialization.

For instance, researchers at the Health Center in Farmington already collaborate with those in the School of Engineering in Storrs, so we need to make it easy for a variety of researchers and those from the new Jackson Labs program to know who our experts are and what's going on with researchers in the School of Engineering or the School of Pharmacy on the Storrs campus. We need to help them uncover the many hidden gems campus-wide that can provide additional strength and opportunity through interdisciplinary collaboration.

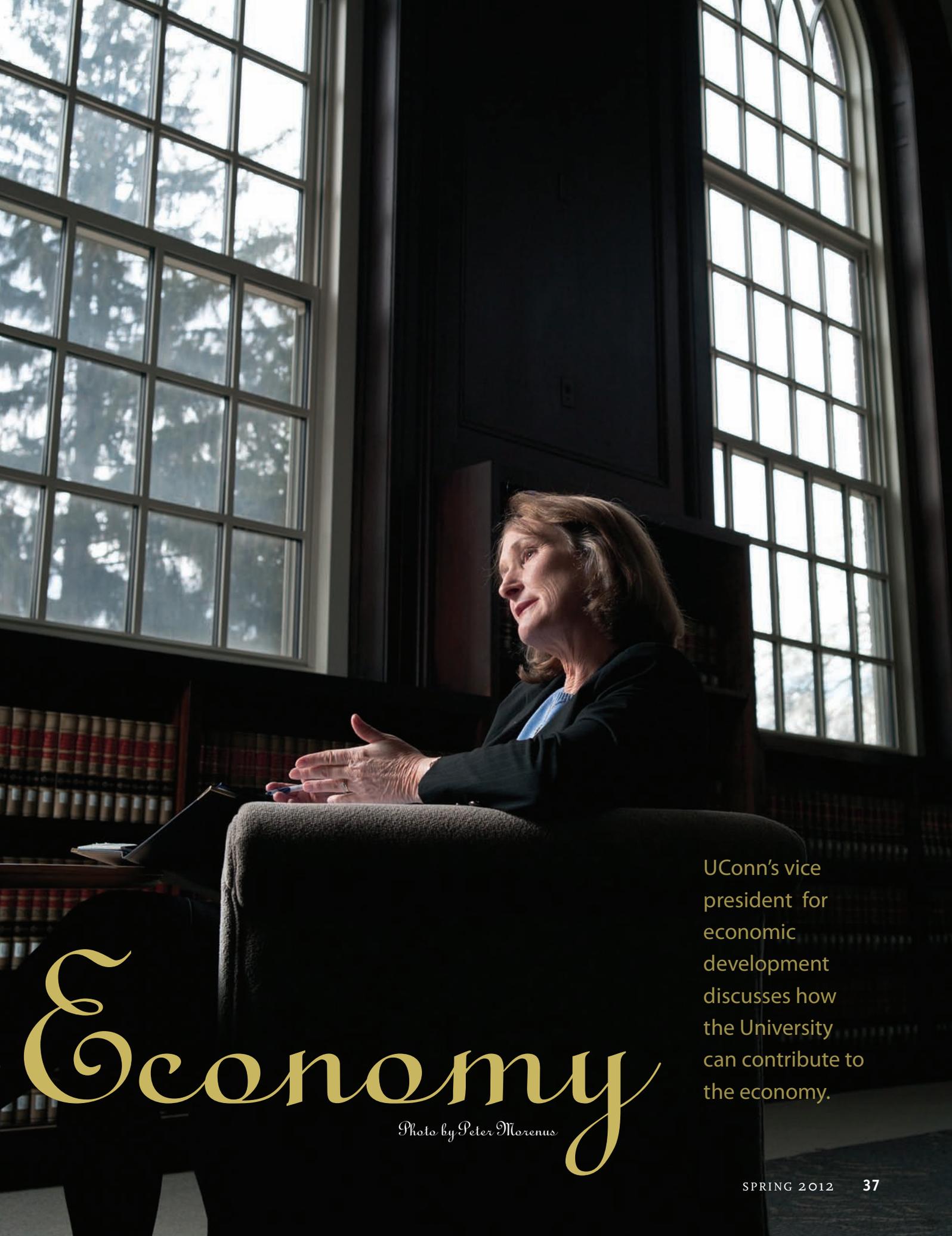
### **What sorts of industries will UConn seek to align itself with?**

Certainly some of the areas in which UConn has a lot of strength – advanced materials, energy, fuel cells, and bioscience. Stem cell research is where Connecticut is particularly innovative and creative in sponsoring and encouraging research, and it is where we're now beginning to see some spinoff products and companies from that initial investment.

### **What role can alumni play in these efforts?**

Alumni are the key to offering good internships and making connections within their businesses for students. Particularly with the downturn of the economy, many students who normally would find a traditional job are now saying, 'What can I do to create my own future?' To be really successful in helping these budding entrepreneurs, we are coaches and guides. And that's how alumni can help: They serve this role. People do business with people. That's really what economic development is about.

# Driving the



UConn's vice president for economic development discusses how the University can contribute to the economy.

# Economy

*Photo by Peter Morenus*



Wendy Glenn, director of Teacher Education in the Neag School, returns to the classroom with former students.

## Teacher at Heart

### FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR CHALLENGES ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT LIFE IN AMERICA

**W**endy Glenn says there are two reasons she will always be a teacher at heart, even though today she is also a Fulbright Scholar, an expert in Young Adult (YA) literature, and director of Teacher Education in the Neag School of Education.

“I’ve always loved books; I’ve always loved writing,” says Glenn. “The second had more to do with the opportunity to build meaningful relationships with kids.”

One way in which she connects with students is through her interest in YA literature.

Written for students 12 to 18 years old, YA literature has exploded in recent years as publishers realize teenagers have more expendable income than in the past. Glenn puts these works through a critical literary lens, showing they can be evaluated like the classics.

“My work now is not only looking at these works from a critical perspective,

but also thinking about the readers who will ultimately be picking them up,” says Glenn. “YA lit features voices of people who we don’t often hear, [who] expose us to the reality that not everybody sees the world the way we do.”

It’s that reality that brought Glenn to Norway as a Fulbright Scholar. For 10 months, the Arizona native worked with students in grades 8, 9, and 10 to help undermine the stereotypical portrayal Norwegian students have from watching American television, listening to American music, and reading American newspapers.

With topics like censorship in American public schools, the teenage experience in America and around the world, representations of young people of color in America, and sports, Glenn offered a more complicated view of what it means to be an American living in America.

“I visited probably 45 different schools in every region of Norway,” says Glenn. “From the more urban, densely populated city communities, to tiny, tiny towns where there were 15 students enrolled in the entire school, to schools along the coast, to schools where the polar bears live on the

archipelago of Svalbard, religious schools, liberal schools, everything and anything in between. It was unbelievable.”

Glenn also provided professional development for teachers in those classroom communities, modeling different teaching practices for use in their schools. Changing demographics are bringing more immigrants to Norway, and with them come different cultures and languages. “In the U.S., we’ve supported language immersion for a long time,” says Glenn. “How do you teach a group of 20 students when five or six of them speak a language that’s not Norwegian as their primary language?”

Now home, Glenn is back in American classrooms co-teaching with former students.

“I think it’s really important for faculty in teacher education to keep a foot in both of those worlds,” says Glenn. “I don’t know if we can effectively prepare future teachers if we’re not aware of the realities of schooling today and what teachers are grappling with. To me, that connection to schools is really important.”

—Craig Burdick '96 (CLAS), '01 (ENG)

# Marcus Honored for Career Work in Research and Service

Last fall in Florence, Italy, the International Society for Interferon & Cytokine Research presented Philip I. Marcus, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, with its Distinguished Service Award for 2011.

“When a person is infected with a virus, interferon genes in the body are stimulated to produce interferon,” notes Marcus, who was elected an Honorary Member of the Society in 2005 for a lifetime achievement in interferon research. “This interferon circulates in the body and protects other cells against virus infection by building up an antiviral state in each cell. It is the body’s first line of defense against viruses.”

Service has been a hallmark of Marcus’ career as a virologist. He served on the editorial board of the *Journal of Cellular Physiology* for over 20 years before becoming a founding editor of the *Journal of Interferon Research* for 10 years, and then editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Interferon & Cytokine Research* for eight years during which he successfully spearheaded efforts to make it the official journal of the International Society for Interferon Research. He still serves as its senior consulting editor.

At the University for 43 years, Marcus served 12 years as director of the Biotechnology and Bioservices Center, guiding it through its transition to a full-time service center for researchers in biology and related disciplines before retiring last year to focus on his research and his course in virology, which he has led for 35 years.

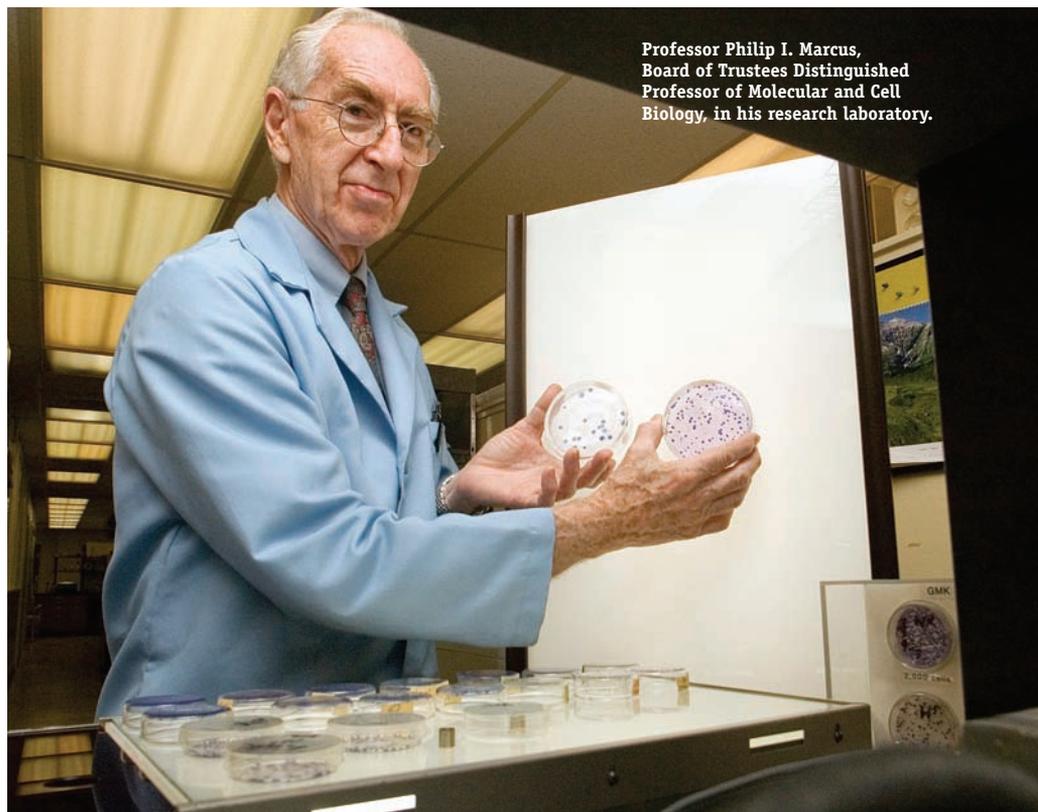
Marcus first came to prominence as a graduate student 57 years ago at the University of Colorado Medical School when he achieved the first biological cloning of mammalian cells using human HeLa cells, recently made known to the public through the popular book *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. Marcus’ study is considered a classic. That early research was responsible for lowering the radiation tolerance levels set by the then Atomic Energy Commission, and to the removal of X-ray machines from shoe stores nation-wide, where they were used commonly to see if one’s new shoes fit properly.

The world’s most potent inducer of interferon was described in 1977 by Marcus and his long-time research associate Margaret J. Sekellick in research carried out in their Virus and Interferon Research Laboratory in Torrey Life Sciences. In 1994, Sekellick and Marcus

described the first gene cloning of an avian interferon, from chicken cells grown in a special way that allows the interferon system to develop in cell culture at the same rate it does in the chicken embryo.

His current research has identified and quantified heretofore unrecognized new classes of noninfectious, but biologically active subpopulations of virus particles in influenza virus populations. These new data are being used to design improved live-attenuated influenza virus vaccines so they will be more efficient in protecting against influenza virus infection, or preventing its spread amongst poultry or people. This research is being conducted with his current doctoral candidates, John M. Ngunjiri and Christopher P. Malinoski.

Marcus is a strong advocate of influenza virus vaccination, noting that about 36,000 people die each year in the United States from influenza or influenza virus-associated illnesses.



Professor Philip I. Marcus, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology, in his research laboratory.

# Alumni News & Notes

We want to  
hear from you!

Let your fellow UConn  
alumni know about the  
milestones in your life.

## 1940s

**Sidney Goldstein '49 (CLAS), '51 MA** has received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry and the Steinhardt Social Research Institute of Brandeis University. The award, which recognized his contributions to Jewish demography, was presented in October at Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass. Goldstein is George Hazard Crooker University Professor Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Brown University in Providence, R.I.



**Shirley D. Perregaux '63 (SFA)** is enjoying a new career in musical theater, appearing in leading roles in "The Sound of Music" and "The King and I." She lives with her husband, **Paul Perregaux '58 (CLAS), '66 MA**, in Hernando, Fla.

## 1970s



**Sherwood J. Anderson '70 (CLAS)** was inducted into the Connecticut High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame for his 36-year career at *The Hartford Courant*, reporting on high school sports.

**Sandra Donaldson '70 MA, '77 Ph.D.** received the 2011 Faculty Achievement in Research Award from the University of North Dakota. A Chester Fritz Distinguished Professor, she has been a faculty member in the English department since 1977.

**Michael J. Beecher '72 (BUS)** is chief financial officer for Vasomedical, Inc., based in Westbury, N.Y., after serving as chief financial officer of Direct Insite Corp.

**Joanne Michaels '72 (CLAS)** is the author of *Hudson River Towns: Highlights from the Capital Region to Sleepy Hollow Country*, published by SUNY Press in October. She lives in Woodstock, N.Y.

**Paul Hinman '73 (CLAS)** is group leader for the Vermont Chapter of the UConn Alumni Association.

**Joseph Wocoski '73 (CLAS)** wrote and illustrated his

fourth book of poetry, *A Journey Through DC Land*, published by CreateSpace in August.



**Ed Bezursik '74 (SFA)** is piano marketing manager at Yamaha Corporation of America, based in Buena Park, Calif.

**Thomas H. Moss III '74 (CLAS), '77 MBA** is executive director for the Council on Aging of Nassau County, Fla.

**Stephen Verchinski '74 (CANR)**, boat program coordinator and marine officer for New Mexico

State Parks, received the Boating Safety Award from the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators. A certified and commissioned law enforcement officer, he has been with the New Mexico State Parks Division for 13 years.

**Douglas Hardisty '76 (ENG), '78 MBA** is director of media and marketing for the Carolinas Golf Association in West End, N.C.

**John Rodolico '76 MS** was elected mayor of Ledyard, Conn., in November 2011 after retiring from his 39-year career as a principal engineer at General Dynamics Electric Boat Division in Groton, Conn.

## 1950s



**Benjamin Levine '53 (CLAS)** is a federal mediator and practices law in Hackensack, N.J.



**Peninnah Manchester Schram '56 (CLAS)**, professor at Yeshiva University's Stern College in New

York, N.Y., had the anthology *Mitzvah Stories: Seeds for Inspiration and Learning* published in her honor by author-rabbi Joseph Telushkin.

**Bradford E. Beadle '57 (BUS)** retired after a 40-year career with Merrill Lynch in Blue Bell, Pa., where he served as financial advisor and first vice president.

## 1960s

**Ronald Smith '61 (CLAS)** and **Janice Smith '61 (CLAS)** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in November 2011. The couple met as freshmen at the University of Connecticut.



## Creating custom fine art furniture

**Daniel '88 (SFA)** and **Barbara (Mojon) '87 (CLAS) Gugnoni** own and operate *Tory Brook Visions*, a custom fine art furniture shop in Litchfield, Conn., founded on the Shaker philosophy of hard work, honesty, and pride in craftsmanship.



Send your updates and a photo to:  
 Alumni News & Notes  
 University of Connecticut Alumni  
 Association  
 2384 Alumni Drive, Unit 3053  
 Storrs, CT 06269

Fax: (860) 486-2849  
 Email: alumni-news@uconn.edu  
 Submit your information at  
 UConnAlumni.com/HAN

## Teaching Is a Family Tradition



Rachel Buck '01 (ED), '02 MA working in class with her students at the Connecticut IB Academy in East Hartford, Conn.

At 6 years of age, Rachel Buck '01 (ED), '02 MA knew she wanted to be a teacher. A graduate of the Neag School of Education's Integrated Bachelors/Master's (IBM) program, her 5-year-old daughter now tells Buck that she wants to be a teacher when she grows up.

"My children can do whatever they want to do, as long as they want to go to UConn," says Buck, who is part of a family of educators. Her father is Keith Barker, professor of computer engineering. Her mother worked with special needs students, and her two brothers have taught at universities.

Buck graduated from high school at 16, applying only to UConn, and won a Nutmeg Scholarship. When she was not studying, she was a member of the UConn Marching Band, where she met

her husband, Christopher Buck '02 (BUS), who is vice president of Buck's Ice Cream, a family-owned business based in Milford, Conn.

Buck has taught math at the Connecticut IB Academy in East Hartford, Conn., for nearly a decade. "I thought about teaching at the college level, but one of the things I really like about high school is that students have to come to school," Buck says. "I like getting them at the point where I'm preparing them for college."

And her students are very well prepared. In 2010, Buck received her own magnet school's Teacher of the Year award. Last year, the Neag School of Education awarded her the Outstanding School Educator Award, while the East Hartford Rotary Club recognized Buck as a Paul Harris Fellow for Exemplary Service.

The curriculum Buck teaches is based on the requirements of the International Baccalaureate organization, a nonprofit foundation based in Wales. "The emphasis is 100 percent on trying to get kids to be global citizens who are caring, knowledgeable, and inquisitive," Buck says.

Students are continually raising money for charities, often at events that Buck oversees. She serves as advisor for the Student Advisory Board and Interact Club and an advisor for the school's community service program: Creativity, Action and Service. "As many hours as I put in, the fact that kids appreciate it and remember me – telling me years later what's happening in their lives – is why I love teaching. I'll get an email: 'Just wanted to let you know I'm sitting in this college math class, and I really appreciate what you taught me.'"

—Lauren Lalancette

**Paula (Riggi) Singer '76 (ED)**, president and chief executive officer of Laureate Education's Global Products and Services Group and chair of the Walden University board of directors, delivered the keynote address at Walden's winter commencement ceremony in January. She has been a leader in education for more than 25 years. Laureate International Universities is an international network of quality, innovative institutions of higher education. The Laureate network of 58 accredited campus-based and online universities offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs to more than 675,000 students around the world in 28 countries throughout North America, Latin America, Europe, and Asia.

**Jesse Wenzel '77 MBA** is chief lending officer at Eastern Federal Bank in Norwich, Conn. He previously served as the vice president and senior commercial lending officer of Essex Savings Bank.

**Stephanie (Green) Giancola '78 (BUS)** released her first two novels, *Between a Rock and a Mad Woman* and *The Throwbacks*, last fall under the pen name of Stephanie Queen.

**David L. Tucker '78 (BUS), '83 MBA** is the author of *The Islander*, the second book in his Stone Wall Freedom Series, released in August by Two Harbors Press.

**Peter W. Ghiorso '79 MBA** received the Harold J. Seymour International Award from the Association for Healthcare Philanthropy, given annually to a fundraiser whose career has fostered volunteerism and philanthropy. He is co-founder of Ghiorso and Sorrenti, Inc., a full-service philanthropic consulting firm based in Wyckoff, N.J.

### 1980s

**Cynthia (Keating) Catherman '80 (CLAS), '86 MBA** is senior business relationship manager with Wells Fargo in Loveland, Colo.



## Pharmacy Alum Makes His Mark in Biotechnologies

The world is moving quickly for Shankar Musunuri '93 Ph.D., whose two-year-old specialty biologics and vaccines company, Nuron Biotech Inc., has already developed a promising treatment for multiple sclerosis.

Nuron Biotech, which Musunuri started with fellow alum David Zeng '97 Ph.D. in Exton, Pa., has started important global Phase 3 clinical trials on a new drug, NU100, for the treatment of MS.

On a separate front, Nuron Biotech is also working with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to relaunch the successful HibTITER® pediatric flu vaccine, formerly owned by Wyeth/Pfizer Inc., in the U.S. and other markets.

"We know the medical milestones achieved with the HibTITER and recognize both the medical need and the relevance of this vaccine in the U.S. and markets around the world," says Musunuri, who serves as Nuron's chief executive officer.

Nuron is concentrating on new vaccine opportunities as well as sublicensing vaccines that have a tremendous upside in saving lives, easing human suffering, and preventing disease.

Musunuri says he knew pharmaceutical biotechnology was an exciting new



field when he joined UConn's doctoral program in 1987, but even he is surprised at how rapidly the industry has grown in recent years.

Nuron Biotech's rapid growth was recognized in September 2011 when it received the *Philadelphia Business Journal's* Life Sciences Award for best new early-stage company in biotechnology and the medical field. The company has expanded to 32 employees from its start in April 2010 with Musunuri and Zeng, senior vice president of development and manufacturing operations.

Musunuri credits his UConn experience with helping build his confidence and critical thinking skills along with his success.

"UConn provided me with very broad thinking power through the strong coursework taught by a very renowned and dedicated faculty," says Musunuri. "It also allowed me to work with very talented graduate students, and we all learned from each other."

Musunuri fondly remembers the weekly lab discussions he had with his fellow grad students and how they challenged one another's work. That sense of teamwork, dedication, and problem-solving was instrumental in achieving success in the commercial market, he says.

He began his career at Amylin Pharmaceuticals before holding various leadership positions of increasing responsibility at Pfizer and Wyeth. He also has contributed to several patents during his career.

"UConn provided me with an excellent education, and that gave me the courage to be successful," Musunuri says. "I was very confident and successful at Amylin, and I never looked back."

—Colin Poitras '85 (CLAS)

**George R. Lanoue '83 6th Year** retired as an educator in the Killingly School System of Danielson, Conn., and lives with his wife of 50 years in Island Pond, Vt., where he writes poetry, novels, and articles for the local newspaper.

**Jeffrey Lewis '83 (ENG)**, chemical engineer and registered patent attorney, is president-elect of the American Intellectual Property Law Association.

**Scott Winslow '83 (BUS)** is founder and president of Boston-based Winslow Technology Group, which made the 2011 *Inc. 5000* list of the

fastest-growing private companies in the United States.

**Constantine Antipas '84 (ENG)** began serving on the Groton, Conn., Town Council in December. He is chair of the Groton Ethics Task Force and maintains a private law practice in Mystic, Conn.



**Mike Macione '84 (CLAS)**, an educational audiologist with the Jackson County, Mich., intermediate school district, is the 2012 president

of the Educational Audiology Association. He resides in Ann Arbor, Mich.

**Fred Kuriger '88 MBA** is chief executive officer at Catskill Regional Medical Center in Harris, N.Y., previously serving as executive vice president and chief operating officer at Seton Health System in Troy, N.Y.

**Donald Parizek '88 (CANR)**, a soil scientist with the United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service, received the Million-Acre Mapper Award in 2011 for mapping over 1 million acres for the National

Cooperative Soil Survey Partnership in Alaska and Maine. He lives in Willington, Conn., with his wife and three children.

**Christopher Curran '89 (CLAS)** is vice president of public relations and communications for Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.'s North American Tire business. Most recently, he was director of communications and issues management for The ServiceMaster Company, the world's largest residential and commercial services network, and also has served in communications roles in the consumer products and health care industries.

**Mark P. Orbe '89 MA**, professor of communication at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Mich., is the author of *Communication Realities in a 'Post-Racial' Society: What the U.S. Public Really Thinks About Barack Obama*, published in November by Lexington Books.

**Tom Rizzi '92 (BUS)** is president and chief executive officer of the Downers Grove, Ill.-based Pettibone Companies, previously serving as chief financial officer of the company.

**Brian C. Cummings '93 (BUS)** is vice president of member services and enrollment at Fidelis Care, the largest government programs-based health insurance company in New York.

**Jill Hunter '93 (PHR)** is a pharmacist and the owner of Hunter Pace Tack Shop in Middleboro, Mass., which celebrated its first anniversary in 2011.

## 1990s

**Gregory Dickinson '91 (BUS)** is senior vice president and commercial banking team leader at Capital Bank in North Charleston, S.C., after serving as senior banker at First Citizens Bank in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.



## Guest of Honor

**Maria (Moccia) Hedus '06 (CLAS)** and **Thomas Hedus '07 (CLAS)**, who met as UConn students in Hilltop Suites in 2004, were married this past July. As a way of paying tribute to the University and surprising their wedding guests, many of whom were also UConn alumni, the couple celebrated their wedding day with a special appearance from Jonathan the Husky. Maria is an elementary school teacher in New Canaan, Conn., and Thomas is an investment banking associate at Houlihan Lokey in New York, N.Y. The couple resides in Darien, Conn.

# Alumnus Keeping Microsoft Ahead of Cloud

**D.** Britton “Britt” Johnston ’85 (ENG) remains ahead of the curve when it comes to anticipating the future direction of database technology. As head of Microsoft’s SQL appliance engineering group in Seattle, Johnston is eager to see the evolution of cloud computing over the coming years.

Cloud computing is a term used to describe the delivery of computing resources, software, and information as a utility instead of as a product.

“Imagine a future where there are large data centers that are shared, like utilities,” Johnston says, comparing such centers to an “electrical grid” that would provide individuals and organizations with the ability to access much more computing capacity than is currently possible.

“We’re evolving toward a world where the amount of computing resources that anyone needs can be available at a moment’s notice,” says Johnston, who is currently at work building a private cloud appliance that would offer the benefits of the cloud while allowing people to maintain control of the hardware in their own data center.

Johnston has been a longtime innovator in the database industry, having created two startup companies within the past 15 years to stay ahead of the curve of developing technology. But it was research he participated in as an undergraduate at UConn that Johnston says helped shape his interest in databases. He credits one of his undergraduate professors, the late Fred Maryanski ’74 Ph.D., the first head of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, as his inspiration for delving “deep into database technology.”

At a time when personal computers were only just being introduced to consumers, Johnston’s research at UConn was dedicated to understanding how relational databases could be used for business applications. “That was a very novel concept,” Johnston says. “Ultimately, it led me into my entire career.”

Relational databases, Johnston explains, can efficiently store large amounts of data. Today such technology, which has since evolved into a \$40 billion industry, underpins text messaging, credit card systems, trading systems, banking, and social networking.

More than 25 years since graduating from UConn, Johnston can’t bring himself to let go of an old notebook from his digital design laboratory course. “It was my first sort of engineering notebook, where I captured thoughts and used them to communicate to other people,” he said. “It wasn’t a term paper or mathematics homework; it was real engineering thinking going on. That’s the most important thing I got from UConn, learning how to communicate as an engineer.”

—Kat J. McAlpine ’12 (CLAS)

## ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

**Jon Pedersen '93 (BUS)** is chief financial officer of Snap Interactive, Inc., a developer of online dating and social networking applications based in New York, N.Y., after previously serving as senior vice president of Warner Music Group.

**Kristin Adams '94 (BUS), '97 MBA** is a senior associate at the Westport, Conn., office of Goedeke & Co., LLC. She previously worked as a senior underwriter with Investors Savings Bank in New York, N.Y.

**Eric Ferreri '95 (CLAS)** is a senior writer with the Office of News & Communications at Duke University after 16 years as a newspaper reporter. He lives with his wife, **Stefanie (Pratola) Ferreri '97 (PHR)**, a clinical associate professor at the University of North Carolina Eshelman School of Pharmacy, and their two children in Durham, N.C.

**Carole Monroe '95 MBA** is executive director of New Hampshire FastRoads LLC, an offshoot of the Monadnock Economic Development Corporation. She previously served as vice president of administrative services and chief information officer at Franklin Pierce University in Rindge, N.H.

**Marc Nachowitz '95 (ED), '96 MA**, a doctoral candidate in educational theory and practice at the University of Albany in Albany, N.Y., is

the recipient of a State Farm Companies Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Award for his dissertation, "Reading for Deep Understanding: Knowledge-Building and Conceptual Artifacts in Secondary English."

**Chris Starace '95 (CLAS)**, a French and Spanish teacher at New Rochelle (N.Y.) High School, has published a memoir about his service in the Peace Corps from 1995 to 1997 in West Africa. *To Benin and Back* is a collection of short stories, essays, and reflections about life in Benin, West Africa, published by iUniverse in September 2011 ([www.tobeninandback.com](http://www.tobeninandback.com)). He lives in Ossining, N.Y.

**Sheryl Gabram '96 MBA**, a breast surgical oncologist and professor of surgery at Emory University's Winship Cancer Institute and School of Medicine, is surgeon-in-chief at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta.

**Kimberly (Haggerty) Roy '97 (ED), '98 MA**, graphics manager and senior graphic designer at M&M Marketing, and her husband, Philip, announce the birth of twins Lindsay Martha and Justin Matthew, born on May 12, 2011. They join older brother Tyler William. The family resides in Lafayette, Colo.

**Rebecca Allen '98 MSW** is the chief program officer for The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, founded by Paul Newman to serve seriously ill children. She previously served as director of programs and services at Columbus House in New Haven, Conn.

**Renee Iwazkiewicz Neiger '98 (CLAS)** is book editor at Taunton Press in Newtown, Conn.

**Eric Smith '98 (CANR)** and his wife, Jasmine, announce the birth of a daughter, Mila Pham, born on Oct. 29, 2011.

**Daniel Edwards '99 (BUS)** and **Monica (Fortier) Edwards '98 (ED), '99 MA** announce the birth of a son, Jacob William, on April 15, 2011, who joins older sister Madeleine.

**George Fanthome '99 MBA** is chief information officer at Bharti Airtel Ltd., India's largest telecommunications operator.

**Andrew Morris '99 (CLAS)** and **Kreschell (Krech) Morris '00 (ED), '01 MA** announce the birth of a daughter, Adeline Nina, on Sept. 27, 2011. The family lives in Salem, Conn.

## 2000s

**Gregory Kivencor '00 MBA**, associate professor of business administration at Rivier College in Nashua, N.H., chaired a special session, "Marketing in BRICS," at the World Marketing Congress held in Reims, France, last July, discussing the business climate and marketing issues in Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

**Leslie Barbagallo '01 MBA** is chief operating officer for energy and commodities at SunGard, a software and technology services company based in Wayne, Pa.

**Trisha (Bagley) Dahlquist '03 (ED), '04 MA** and **Jon Dahlquist '03 (ED), '05 MA** were married on July 23, 2011.

**Erin Guilmette '03 (CLAS)** is an accountant at Precision Camera in Enfield, Conn., after receiving a bachelor of science in accounting from Central Connecticut State University in 2010.

**Alison (Vachon) Nicholes '03 (CLAS), '07 DMD** and husband **Glen Nicholes '06 (CLAS), '06 (SFA)** announce the birth of a daughter, Violet Dawn, on July 1, 2011. The family resides in Vernon, Conn.



**Kristen (Jacob) Smith '03 (CLAS)** and husband Jeff announce the birth of a son, Jayden Jacob, on Nov. 1, 2011. Kristen works

for the National Collegiate Athletic Association and resides with her family in Indianapolis.

**David Agrawal '05 (CLAS)** received the 2011 Peggy and Richard Musgrave Prize, given annually at the Congress of the International Institute of Public Finance for the best paper by an author under the age of 40, for his paper, "The Tax Gradient: Do Local Sales Taxes Reduce Tax Differentials at State Borders?"

**Richard Bellina '05 (BUS)** and Susanne Trzusowski were married on July 16, 2011, in Somerset, N.J. The couple lives in Hainesport, N.J.

**Gianna (Fergione) Daley '05 (CLAS), '10 MS** and **Brian Daley '03 (CANR)** announce the birth of a daughter, Ashlyn Marilyn-Rose, born April 13, 2011, at the University of Connecticut Health Center.

**Jesse T. Grano '05 (BUS)** is a Navy lieutenant who recently completed exercise Cutlass Express in the Somali Basin region, which focused on addressing piracy by coordinating operations with international navies.

**John J. Hudak '05 (CLAS)** is a fellow for governance studies at the Brookings Institution, a nonprofit public policy organization based in Washington, D.C.

**Eric M. McCusker '06 (CANR)**, Marine Corps 1st lieutenant, was designated a naval aviator while



## Blogging Online About Rustic Wedding Chic

**Maggie Lord '06 (CLAS)** is editor of *Rustic Wedding Chic*, a popular wedding blog she started in 2009. *Rustic Wedding Chic* is the inspiration for a collection of rustic wedding favors and goods offered at the *Whispering Pines* catalog online store. To read it, visit: [rusticweddingchic.com](http://rusticweddingchic.com).

**Southern Italy and Sicily**  
Oct. 15-29, 2012

Delight in a special exploration of southern Italy. From striking Sicily to the breathtaking Amalfi Coast to unheralded Apulia, bountiful plains join the sun and sea, creating a prized region. Explore Sicily, staying in lovely Taormina, with excursions to Agrigento and Mt. Etna. Discover Lecce, the "Florence of the South," and visit Alberobello, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Tour Pompeii, the city frozen in time, and gather for a hands-on Neopolitan cuisine cooking lesson. Travel to the Isle of Capri and embark on a breathtaking drive along the winding cliff-top Amalfi Coast above the glistening Tyrrhenian Sea. Extend your stay with an optional 3-days/2-nights in Rome.

**Discover Southeast Alaska**  
Aug. 11-18, 2012

**National Parks**  
Sept. 1-10, 2012

**Grand Danube Passage**  
Sept. 11-25, 2012

**Provincial French Countryside**  
Sept. 24-Oct. 8, 2012

**San Francisco, Sonoma & Napa Valley**  
Sept. 29-Oct. 5, 2012

For information on all UConn Alumni Association travel opportunities, call toll-free 1-888-822-5861 or visit [UConnAlumni.com/travel](http://UConnAlumni.com/travel).



# Alumni Traveler

*Travel with the pack.  
Join fellow alumni and  
friends as you travel the  
world in search of new  
cultural experiences.*

serving with Training Squadron 22, Naval Air Station in Kingsville, Texas.

**Mikki Meadows-Oliver '06 Ph.D.** was elected to the University of Connecticut Alumni Association Board of Directors for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. She resides in Hamden, Conn.

**Kara C. Spinnato '06 (BUS)** is director of sales for the Courtyard by Marriott in Norwich, Conn., and SpringHill Suites by Marriott in Waterford, Conn.

**Matthew Zablocki '06 (CLAS)** is a detective at the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office in Hackensack, N.J.

**Kelly (Messer) Barry '07 (NUR)** received her oncology certification and works as a registered nurse at the Virginia Commonwealth University Dalton Ambulatory Oncology Clinic. She lives in Richmond, Va., with husband **Stephen Barry '07 (CLAS)**.

**Stephen Barry '07 (CLAS)** received his JD from William & Mary School of Law in Williamsburg, Va., in May 2011, and is serving a one-year appointment as law clerk to the Hon. Henry E. Hudson, United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia. He lives in Richmond, Va., with wife **Kelly (Messer) Barry '07 (NUR)**.

**Christopher Callahan '07 (BUS)** is marketing director at Moran Yacht & Ship in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

**Kali Garges '07 (CANR)** and **Erik Rousseau '08 (BGS)** were married on Sept. 10, 2011, in Ludlow, Vt. Kali is a registered dietitian at Evolution, a Rhode Island-based nutrition counseling center, and Erik is the administrator for the Southeastern Regional Transit Authority in New Bedford, Mass.

**Kristen Hermiz '07 (CLAS)** is a lawyer at Motley Rice, LLC, in Mt. Pleasant, S.C.

**Mark Lacz '07 (BUS)** opened a new restaurant, Casa Della Luce, in Westerly, R.I.

## In Memoriam

### ALUMNI

Hon. Philip Abbé  
Morehouse '40, '48  
Edith R. Schuster '46, '60  
Francis H. Callahan '50  
Louis Vercelli '51  
Joseph H. O'Donnell '54, '65  
Russell W. Ahlquist '59  
Carol (Jacklin) Nagy '60  
Bobby Rhine '98

### STUDENTS

Kyle MacKechnie '15  
Samantha Sterenchock '15

For an updated list go to  
[uconnalumni.com/inmemoriam](http://uconnalumni.com/inmemoriam)

## ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

**Eric Chen '08 JD** is associate professor of business administration with tenure at Saint Joseph College in West Hartford, Conn.

**Timothy Kelly '08 MBA** is northeast regional manager at MonoSystems, Inc. in Rye Brook, N.Y., after serving as founding partner at Declan Consulting.

**Amanda Sabourin '08 (BUS)** is a product manager on the inside sales team at Loos & Company in Pomfret, Conn., a manufacturer of military specification aircraft cable and aircraft cable assemblies.

**Gregory M. Tedder '08 (BUS)**, a strategic policy advisor for Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, has been appointed to the Education Commission of the States.

**Elizabeth M. Turner '08 (BUS)** is assistant vice president of risk management at The Washington Trust Co., where she is responsible for monthly reserve calculations, migration analysis, watch list preparation, and quarterly reporting for the audit committee on loan review.

**Sharon D. Dumais '09 (BUS)** is a certified public accountant and senior accountant with Marien + Company LLC in Norwich, Conn.

**Brandon Guadalupe '09 MBA** is senior analyst at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Audits and Evaluations.

**Colin Mansfield '09 (BUS)** passed all three levels of the CFA program in three consecutive years and will be eligible for the

## Presidential Early Career Honors for David Breault '97

David Breault, '97 MD, Ph.D., assistant professor of medicine, Children's Hospital in Boston, a graduate of the UConn School of Medicine's MD/Ph.D. program, has been awarded a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. The award winners were announced by President Obama Sept. 26. As mentioned in the official announcement, this is "the highest honor bestowed by the United States government on science and engineering professionals in the early stages of their independent research careers."



## ALUMNI WEEKEND

# Mark Your Calendar for Alumni Weekend 2012

*Forever Friends. Forever Huskies.*  
Friday, June 1 & Saturday, June 2

See what's in store at Alumni Weekend:

- Class of 1962 50th Reunion and the Class of 1987 25th Reunion
- Anniversary events: BOG/SUBOG (60th), Women's Center (40th), Student Alumni Association (30th)
- Tours of campus landmarks, including the new "Secrets of UConn" tour
- OOzeball (mud volleyball) tournament for alumni and friends
- Alumni Weekend Barbecue
- And so much more!

For more information and to register, visit [UConnAlumni.com/AlumniWeekend](http://UConnAlumni.com/AlumniWeekend) or call toll-free 1-888-822-5861.



"You only get one 50th reunion, so you need to take advantage of it!"

—Bob Countryman '61

"It's the perfect opportunity for generations of student group members to catch up and reflect on their times together at UConn."

—Justine Dickson '09, '11

"I spent the best four years of my life on this campus, and I wanted to see it again."

—Janet Wagner '55

CFA charter upon completion of the required work experience.

## 2010s

**Jacque Fernandes '10 (CLAS)** is an assistant coach for the Fairfield University women's basketball team in Fairfield, Conn. She previously served as director of basketball operations at Fairfield.

**Richard Flahive '10 (BUS)** is a client service analyst at Geller Family Office Services LLC in New York, N.Y. He also serves on the investment research team.

**Kendall Hinman '10 (CLAS)** began her position with AmeriCorps working for Inspiring Minds as an instructor, tutor, and mentor in a Providence, R.I., elementary school.

**Monika Lopez Anuarbe '10 Ph.D.** is an assistant professor of

economics at Connecticut College in New London, Conn. She has been a visiting assistant professor in economics at Connecticut College since fall 2010 and a visiting instructor since 2006.

**Tatiana Melendez-Rhodes '10 Ph.D.** and her husband, Rick Rhodes, announce the birth of their child, Aidan, on Aug. 9, 2011, in Surco, Lima, Peru.

**Gregory Fink '11 MA** is assistant director of Fraternity and Sorority Life in the Department of the Student Center and Campus Life at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Conn., after previously working at the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life at UConn.

**Thomas Wang '11 (BUS)** opened Anoho Asian Noodle House in Middletown, Conn. His restaurant is the newest addition to Middletown's Main Street "restaurant row."



## Huskies Visit "Today" Show

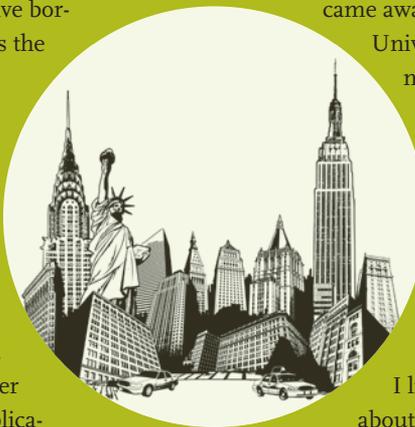
Huskies fans and members of UConn's Cheerleading Team made an appearance at Rockefeller Center during the morning broadcast of NBC's "Today" show on the opening day of the Big East Men's Basketball Tournament in March.

# NYC Alumni Chapter Establishes First Scholarship

The New York City chapter of the Alumni Association is the first chapter outside of Connecticut to establish a scholarship fund for UConn students in their community.

The UConn NYC Alumni Chapter Scholarship Fund will support students with demonstrated academic achievement and financial need who live in one of the five boroughs of New York City. The scholarship is the latest effort by chapter members to bridge the gap between Storrs and the Big Apple, which has previously included networking events for the 20,000 alumni in the New York metropolitan region.

"Even though we're so close, New York firms do not, in general, go to Storrs to recruit," says Jon Pedersen '93 (BUS), a board member of the chapter and CFO of SNAP Interactive, a leading provider of online dating and social networking applications headquartered in New York City. "However, there are many alumni who come to New York looking for jobs or to network. What we'd ultimately like is a bigger pipeline to and from the University. Through our scholarship, we can create awareness of the University here, give opportunities



for kids to look at UConn who wouldn't have otherwise, and help recruit alumni to work in the city."

The effort to create an endowed fund in the chapter's name took on even more emphasis through the support of Lucille Protas, a UConn parent who met with members and came away impressed by their commitment to the University. She pledged a gift to match donations made to the scholarship fund by the leadership and officers of the NYC chapter, and a total of more than \$50,000 was raised.

"The alumni showed a commitment and loyalty to UConn that was so powerful," says Protas, whose son Matthew '12 (CLAS) has enjoyed his time in Storrs. "It reminded me of what I see in my own son. Being there has changed his life. The more I listened, the more I heard the alumni talking about how UConn changed their own lives and set them well-positioned for the future."

The chapter retains its focus on the type of activities that make an alumni association valuable: networking, advising current students, mentoring, and coming together to celebrate Husky pride.

## What Would Alexey von Schlippe Have Thought?

By Julia M. Pavone

Former UConn art professor Alexey von Schlippe observed the world around him and transformed it into portraits, landscapes, and still lifes of a unique and unmistakable style. His classical European training and Russian and German roots were evident. But more prominent was a fascination for experimentation with color, perspective, scale, and detail. He seemed to be constantly striving for the “correct” combination of elements in his paintings.

Alexey – for whom the Gallery of Art at Avery Point is named – was so prolific that he painted on anything he could get his hands on, from canvas to leaves of a table, often using both sides. I never had the privilege of knowing him, but I grew to feel a strong connection with him through his amazing art – some 500 paintings, which remained with us and became the basis of the gallery.

As we begin our 20th year, I can’t help but look back on our humble beginnings when the gallery was created with the assistance of my colleague and Alexey’s longtime friend, then UConn physics professor David Madacsi. Showing regional artists at first, the gallery seemed to take on a life of its own overnight, and we began building national and international programs and audiences.

It is Alexey’s spirit of diverse subject matter, varied materials, and passion for art that is found in the gallery today. When I consider artists for the gallery, somewhere in my mind I am pondering if Alexey would have liked my choices or what he would have said about a particular artist’s work. We tend to show a good deal of innovative art, artists pushing the limits of their creativity. I feel this is what Alexey did in his own work. He was driven to go one step beyond what he had already accomplished.

We have shown the work of many artists who I feel do exactly that.

Mark McKee is one such artist. Trained classically, he has taken that knowledge and gone fearlessly into new realms with his art, combining classical figures with raw, gutsy materials and subjects in his striking mixed-media pieces. And like Alexey, Mark is also a dynamic teacher.

We continue to push the envelope as Alexey did, with installations like “The Question” by Pamela Pike Gordinier, which begged of the public: “What one question would you ask?” Thousands of responses poured in and became the basis for Pamela’s incredibly beautiful and powerful labyrinth exhibit.

To learn more about Alexey von Schlippe, the AvS Gallery of Art, exhibitions, and events, please go to [averypointarts.uconn.edu](http://averypointarts.uconn.edu).

*Julia M. Pavone is curator and director of the Alexey von Schlippe Gallery of Art.*



A self-portrait painted by Alexey von Schlippe, former professor of art at UConn’s Avery Point Campus, where the Gallery of Art is named in his honor.

# The Region's Only Hospital Recognized *for its* Care of Older Patients



## John Dempsey Hospital *at* UConn Health Center

In the latest U.S. News and World Report rankings, John Dempsey Hospital at the UConn Health Center was the only hospital in the region recognized for its "high performing" care for older patients.

The U.S. News and World Report's lists are the country's most extensive, data-driven hospital rankings, based on patient safety, outcomes, reputation, nursing care and more.

This prestigious achievement reflects the commitment to excellence of all our staff at John Dempsey Hospital - every day.

Learn more at  
[www.uhc.edu](http://www.uhc.edu)  
800-535-6232



Get the free mobile app at  
<http://gettag.mobi>



UConn  
Health  
Center

263 Farmington Avenue, Farmington

KNOW BETTER CARE



34 North Eagleville Road  
Storrs, CT 06269-3144

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Hartford, CT  
Permit No. 4759

# A Husky in Times Square

**J**onathan attracted attention in New York City's Times Square on the opening day of the Big East Men's Basketball Tournament, when the Huskies prepared to play their first-round game at Madison Square Garden. The New York City chapter of the UConn Alumni Association hosted a reception for alumni during the Tournament. Huskies fans and UConn's Cheerleading Team also made an appearance at Rockefeller Center during the morning broadcast of NBC's "Today" show.



PETER MORENUS



**Mixed Sources**

Product group from well-managed forests, controlled sources and recycled wood or fiber

www.fsc.org Cert no. SW-COC-001215  
© 1996 Forest Stewardship Council

