

UConn

SPECIAL EDITION

40

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| Fall/Winter 2008

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or rabid fan, you're always part of UConn.

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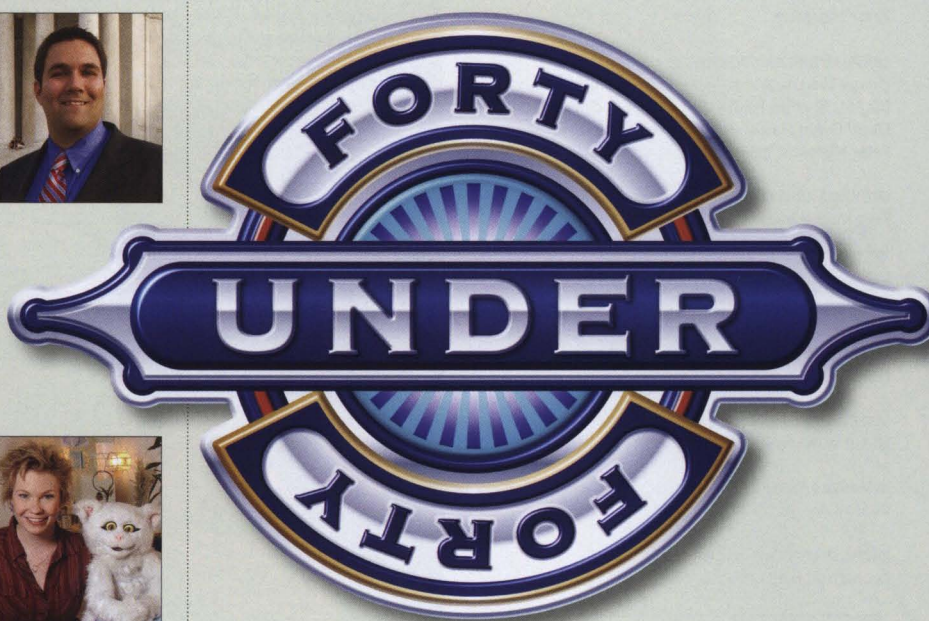
UConn | Fall/Winter 2008 | Volume 9, Number 3

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Special Edition: UConn's 40 Under 40

Some of the 40 Under 40 group will be familiar faces. Others will become better known to the public at large in the near future as they continue to rise within their respective fields. Yet they all share the common bond of being a part of a UConn community that can be proud of their accomplishments.



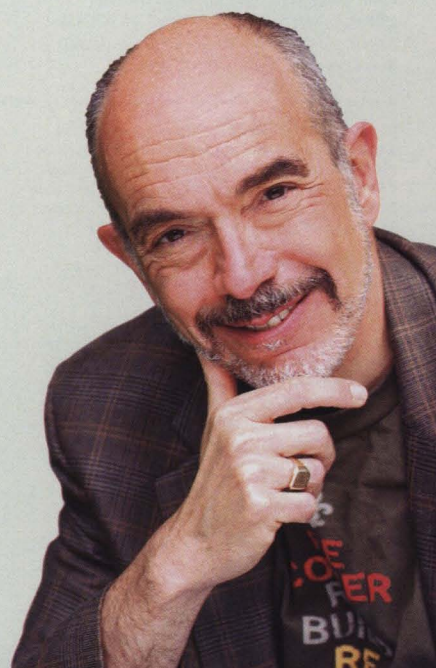
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The Last Word with Wally Lamb

Best-selling author Wally Lamb '72 (CLAS), '77 M.A. discusses his long-awaited third novel, *The Hour I First Believed*.



UConn

Volume 9, Number 3, Fall/Winter 2008

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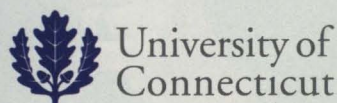
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Send address changes to The University of Connecticut Foundation, Records Department, Unit 3206, 2390 Alumni Drive, Storrs, CT 06269.

Want to keep up with news and events at the University? News releases, upcoming events and activities are posted at www.uconn.edu.

UConn online: www.alumnimagazine.uconn.edu



Opening Shot

Place of Honor

Cadet leaders from UConn's U.S. Army ROTC cadre were among the first to visit the new Veterans Memorial, which honors University alumni who died while serving in the defense of the United States. The Memorial was donated by the UConn Alumni Association, under efforts led by Myles Martel '65 (CLAS).

The Memorial is located across from the entrance to the Wilbur Cross Building and includes a handcrafted gilded "eternal flame" and a headstone that is a replica of those used at Arlington National Cemetery. Materials for the headstone are drawn from the same quarry used for both Arlington National Cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. A Roll of Honor, which includes the names of those University of Connecticut sons and daughters who gave their lives while serving the nation, will be maintained at the Alumni Center.

The ROTC cadets at the Memorial are (L-R): Cadet Battalion Commander Michael Russo '08 (CLAS), Cadet Company Commander Keary Salls '10 (CLAS) and Cadet Battalion Executive Officer Dawn Belden '09 (PHR). Both Russo and Salls served tours in Iraq. Russo served in Charlie Company 2-37, 1st Armored Division, from September 2003 to July 2004 and was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor, and Salls served in HHT 6-8 CAV, 3rd Infantry Division from January 2005 to January 2006.

A public dedication ceremony for the Veterans Memorial will take place on Nov. 10 at 11 a.m. For more information call 888-822-5861.



LANNY NAGLER



THE
ULTIMATE
SACRIFICE

IN HONOR OF OUR ALUMNI WHO
HAVE FALLEN WHILE SERVING IN THE
U.S. ARMY OF OUR NATION

Reaching for high expectations

40 UNDER 40 SHOW STUDENT POTENTIAL FOR SUCCESS

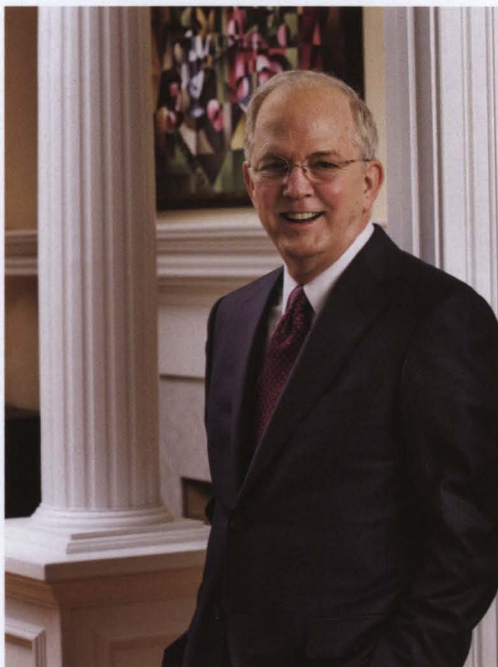
In August we welcomed the record-setting Class of 2012 to UConn, the largest and most diverse first-year class in our history. UConn's newest students were among the top-ranked graduates in their high schools, with the highest SAT scores of any incoming freshman class to date. One hundred forty-six were high school valedictorians or salutatorians. Over 40 percent were in the top 10 percent of their high school classes.

In 2012 most of these students will graduate with high expectations for the next step in their individual life journeys. Some will enter the workforce; while others will pursue advanced degrees. All will take with them the unique experiences and learning atmosphere of our University, which increasingly offers new opportunities for success and achievement.

To illustrate the potential of our students to make a difference in their communities when they graduate, this issue of *UConn Magazine* highlights young alumni who have quickly distinguished themselves. I hope you will take some time to read about these 40 Under 40 to appreciate the breadth of interests and talents they represent and to take pride in the role our University had in helping launch their exciting and successful careers.

UConn alumni are the culmination of our mission joined with their own personal aspirations, which is why I addressed our new Class of 2012 in Gampel Pavilion as "Students Today, Huskies Forever!" This continuum prompted me to initiate and support several projects on campus to strengthen that connection.

This past summer, for example, we worked hard to restore the landscaping



and plantings in Storrs, which have a long history of care by faculty, staff and students. Two features integral to the landscaping of the Storrs campus are Mirror and Swan Lakes, located at each end of the Great Lawn, which frame the gateway to the campus core. In the early days, some important campus traditions centered around the lakes, such as ice skating and the annual freshman-sophomore rope pull.

Mirror Lake has a history going back to 1922, when a marsh was converted to provide a necessary catch basin for storm runoff from the new buildings and sidewalks on the expanding campus. Over the years, however, the lake slowly returned to its marshy origins. Today, Mirror Lake has areas only a few inches deep. The island had deteriorated to an impenetrable tangle of underbrush and unstable trees. So I

asked our grounds crew to restore the island and consider ways to make both Mirror Lake and Swan Lake healthier and more attractive. I'm planning a Save the Lakes fund-raising campaign to encourage current students and alumni to help preserve these important parts of UConn's heritage.

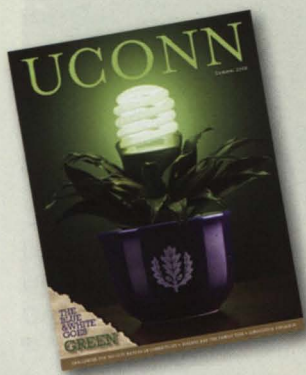
Continuing on the subject of campus landmarks, I must note the return of The Rock. Coated with thousands of layers of paint over the decades, The Rock is a student tradition, and hence an alumni tradition, dating back to the late 1940s. Students repeatedly painted it to promote student events, celebrate their organizations and promote a host of campus activities.

The current Rock is a portion of a much larger outcropping originally located across from the North Campus quadrangle and removed for construction of the Life Sciences building in 1958. Forty years later it was put into storage during the UCONN 2000 construction program. Now it's been rediscovered and relocated to a new site, across from the UConn Alumni Center. I may see you there, paintbrush in hand!

Michael J. Hogan
President

Right: Mirror Lake at the south end of campus, along with Swan Lake near North Eagleville Road, has been the focus of restoration and clean-up. President Hogan has asked that both lakes become healthier and more attractive.

Your LETTERS



UConn green?

Is the magazine printed on recycled paper with environmentally friendly ink? I have looked in vain to find such information posted anywhere in the magazine. If not, why not?

L. Maeve McPeck Ward
'48 (CLAS)

Use of environmentally friendly inks and recycled papers will be fully explored upon renewal of the University's contractual agreements with printers and paper suppliers. — Editor

Last Word

I am struggling to understand how the pro-Obama "political analysis" presented in the "Last Word" is an appropriate article in a magazine that is supposed to be about UConn. Not only are the author's conclusions baseless and one-sided, they reveal a remarkable failure to analyze, contrary to the description of the piece as an "analysis."

Mike Gallo '74 (ENG)

Turfgrass

As a new parent of a student on the Storrs campus, I was delighted to receive our first issue of UCONN magazine. It really helps us long-distance parents feel like we are a part of our student's college experience.

As I read the article about the nationally ranked turfgrass program, in a good natured and curious way, I had to ask why isn't there any decent grass on campus? I know there is a lot of student foot traffic, but other campuses seem to be able to overcome that

challenge. While I would prefer that my tuition dollars be spent on academic resources and not the appearance of the campus, I do believe that if UConn has a nationally recognized turfgrass program then the appearance of the campus should reflect that expertise!

N. White

Student-athletes

RE: George Bailey's letter in the Summer 2008 edition: As a former UConn student-athlete (football and track & field) who graduated in four years with a degree in finance, I continue to be amazed that people can be so narrow minded regarding athletes and the value they bring to a University.

Other than within the state of Connecticut, UConn was not a household name in the early 1980's. Its reputation and image grew on a national level because of the exposure and the success of women's and men's athletic teams. The increased athletic exposure elevated UConn's image nationwide, which equated to

more applicants and allowed admissions to be more selective, more competitive and created a more diverse student body. It is that student body that makes UConn what it is. Let's not forget how we got there!

The grades are important but it is the entire experience of being a student at a school like UConn that helps shape individuals and create leaders.

Michael McNamara '86 (BUS)

The writer was a captain of the 1985 UConn football team.

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:

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Around UConn

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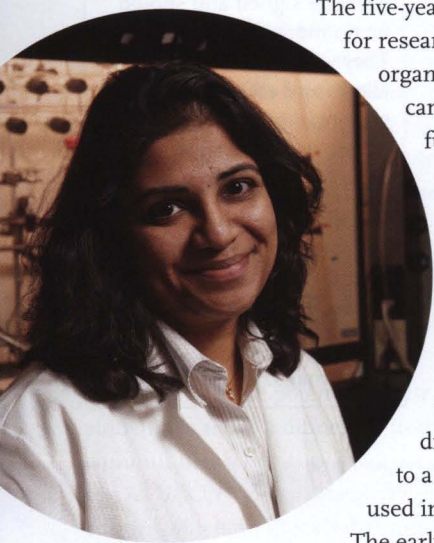
Kasi wins NSF early career award

Rajeswari Kasi, assistant professor of chemistry in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences who specializes in polymer and materials chemistry, won the Faculty Early Career Development Award from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

The five-year, \$475,000 award will be used for research into new polymer-based organic and hybrid materials that can be tailored for a particular function. Her work focuses on materials that respond to physical or chemical stimuli—heat, light and electrical or magnetic fields, for example.

She looks for a fundamental understanding of the materials and applications for them, such as encapsulating a drug in a polymer that responds to a magnetic field so that it can be used in an MRI scan to detect cancer.

The early career development award is the NSF's most prestigious award in support of the career development of promising teacher-scholars who integrate research and education. Kasi's research group includes five doctoral candidates, three of whom will receive support from the grant.



Society of American Archivists recognizes Dodd Research Center

Valerie Love, curator of the Human Rights and Alternative Press Collections at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, reviews materials with Thulani Mabaso, a researcher from South Africa who was imprisoned for his beliefs alongside leaders such as Nelson Mandela. The Dodd Center received the 2008 Distinguished Service Award from the Society of American Archivists, recognizing an archival institution, education program, nonprofit organization, or governmental organization that has given outstanding service to its public and has made an exemplary contribution to the archival profession. The center houses UConn's archives and focuses on building research collections that document the U.S. Congress, human rights and public policy.

Geary selected as Jefferson Fellow

Steven Geary, professor of pathobiology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, who specializes in infectious diseases of animals, is the first microbiologist/vaccinologist selected to serve as a Jefferson Science Fellow, which brings specialized scientific knowledge to the formulation and implementation of U.S. foreign policy.

Geary, who began his fellowship in August, will spend a year working full-time providing up-to-date expertise on issues that impact U.S. foreign policy decisions. He is one of eight tenured professors nationwide selected to be 2008-09 Jefferson Fellows at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C.

"I see this as an excellent opportunity to learn first hand how science and technology are used in our relationship with other nations and the process whereby policy at the State Department is developed," says Geary, director of UConn's Center of Excellence for Vaccine Research.

Geary hopes to bring his expertise in microbial diseases that can devastate the food animal industry to help the U.S. Department of State formulate and implement foreign policy to prevent agro-terrorism. He also will discuss science and technology with the general public and may travel to U.S. embassies.

Started in 2003, the Jefferson Science Fellows program gives the U.S. government a chance to benefit from the expertise of academic scientists in shaping America's foreign policy.



"The Rock" is a UConn tradition dating back to the late 1940s. Students repeatedly paint it to promote student events and a variety of other campus activities. The Rock was originally located across from the North Campus quadrangle and removed for construction of the Torrey Life Sciences building in 1958. It was put into storage during the UCONN 2000 construction program. The Rock was relocated in September to the corner of Alumni Drive and Hillside Road, across from the UConn Foundation.

Class Of 2012: Best prepared, most diverse

The freshman class that arrived at the Storrs campus this fall was the largest, most diverse and best prepared in UConn's 127-year history.

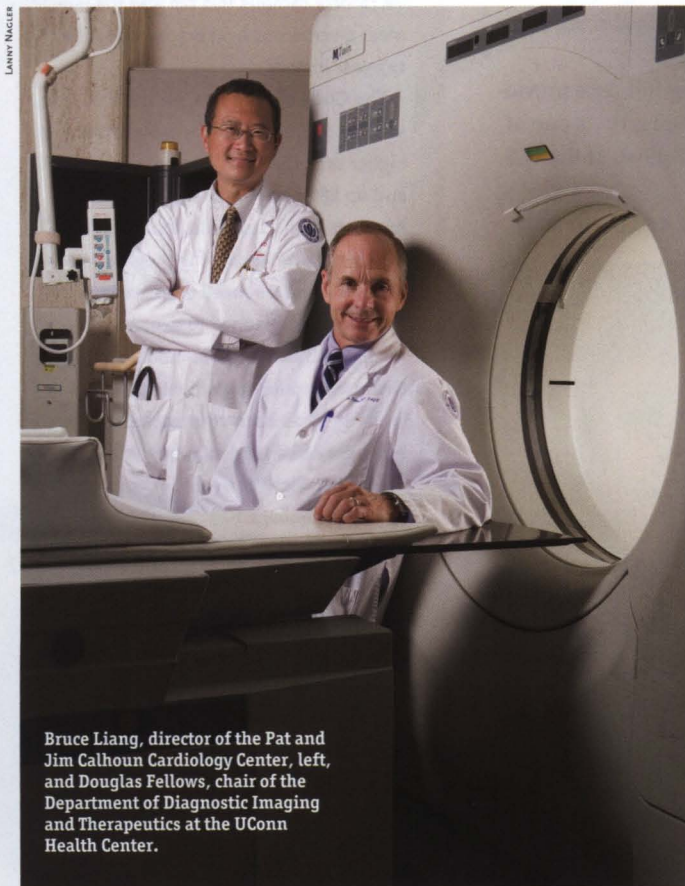
The Class of 2012 has, for the first time, average SAT scores of 1200—eight points higher than the class that entered last fall and up 88 points since 1997. The class numbers 3,604 students, the largest freshman class ever. Each of the regional campuses also experienced enrollment growth.

UConn had planned to expand the freshman class at Storrs modestly this fall, because its push to graduate students in four years has been so successful, it created space for more students, says M. Dolan Evanovich, vice president for enrollment planning, management and institutional research. "The demand this year reflects continuing recognition on the part of students and their families that UConn is a terrific value and provides an excellent education at a reasonable cost."

1997	2008
41	146
Valedictorians & Salutatorians	
198	355
Honors Program Students	
1112	1200
Average SAT Score	

"The Rock" Returns

Health Center gains improved scanning technology



Bruce Liang, director of the Pat and Jim Calhoun Cardiology Center, left, and Douglas Fellows, chair of the Department of Diagnostic Imaging and Therapeutics at the UConn Health Center.

A \$3.8 million pledge from the University's most prominent supporters provided the UConn Health Center with the latest computed Tomography (CT) scanning technology, making it the first health care facility in the region where patients move seamlessly from diagnostics to treatment.

The gift from Carole and Ray '56 (CLAS) Neag brings an integrated CT suite that allows for more thorough and precise application of Tomotherapy, enhancing nearly every area of operations, from conducting research to educating students and treating patients through the Center's signature programs, in areas such as cancer and cardiology.

"The functionality for cardiology alone will be leaps and bounds beyond our existing capabilities," says Bruce Liang, director of the Pat and Jim Calhoun Cardiology Center.

Advantages of the new CT scanner include dramatically clearer images, a reduction in scanning times by about 90 percent, and selective presentation of a scanned image, allowing a physician to isolate an image of a section of the heart without including

arteries and vessels that may be blocking the view.

"Carole and I take a broad view about the need to serve the people of Connecticut," says Ray Neag. "We feel strongly about the state and its University and believe that our state's flagship research university should have the very best."

The latest pledge by the Neags complements their 2006 gift to acquire a Tomotherapy cancer treatment system for the UConn Health Center and continues a long history of program support for education, arts and sciences, health care and athletics at UConn, including faculty chairs and student scholarships. A \$23 million gift in 1999 included \$21 million designated for the School of Education, now named for Ray Neag. A \$10 million gift to the UConn Health Center in 2004 established the Ray and Carole Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center.

LIFELONG LOVE OF MUSIC INSPIRES PROFESSOR'S ENDOWMENT



A \$500,000 bequest to the School of Fine Arts by Jay S. Shivers, emeritus

professor of kinesiology, will support a new endowment for a professorship in classical music and build on an existing scholarship endowment for students in the arts.

"My mother instilled in me a love of music when I was about three years old," says Shivers, who once worked as an extra at the Metropolitan Opera in his native New York City.

During his years as a faculty member at UConn from 1962 to 2003, Shivers frequently enjoyed concerts by visiting greats such as Leonard Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic. He grew to particularly love the sound of classical trumpet and decided to make a long-term commitment to support trumpet performance at the University.

The Shivers bequest will support two funds. A gift of \$400,000 will establish the Jay S. Shivers Award in Classical Music, an endowment to support a professorship, preferably in trumpet instruction. The remaining \$100,000 will go to the Rhoda Shivers Memorial Award in the Arts, a scholarship established in 1988 in memory of Shivers's late first wife. The Rhoda Shivers Award supports talented undergraduate and graduate students with demonstrated financial need in art, dramatic arts and music.



Work behind the scenes fuels championships

Kim Krzyk '11 (CLAS), a forward on the field hockey team, focuses on her strength routine at the Mark R. Shenkman Training Center.

The roar of the crowd during competition and the raising of championship trophies when the game is over is the public face of Huskymania. The behind-the-scenes face of Husky student-athletes is the clang of weights, huff and puff of heavy breathing and the concentrated, sweaty demeanor found in the Mark R. Shenkman Training Center, the weight room of the Hugh S. Greer Field House and in the weight rooms inside the Harry A. Gampel Pavilion.

The seven members of the strength and conditioning staff in the Department of Athletics play an important role in keeping UConn student-athletes strong and in peak condition so they can reach the highest levels of NCAA competition in the 24 sports that UConn fields. The staff, led by strength and conditioning coordinator Gerard Martin '86 M.A., develops training routines that can be specific for each sport and position and provides nutrition guidelines for busy student-athletes who must balance time for training, practice, travel, games, classes and homework each week.

"We develop exercise plans to not only enhance performances but also prevent injury," Martin says, noting that training programs are designed for sports as they are classified in three categories—full contact sports such as ice hockey and football, lesser contact sports such as basketball and soccer and noncontact sports, including tennis and track and field. Each category places varying levels of stress on the body, such as the shoulder in football or the arm in tennis. Knees are stressed by most sports.

The best way to prevent injury is to have a strong body, which aids injury recovery should an injury occur, Martin says, because strength training not only builds muscle but also increases bone density, strengthens ligaments and tendons and improves the body's immune system.

Having the nation's top kinesiology doctoral program at the Neag School of Education as a resource is an advantage for Husky student-athletes.

"A lot of their studies pertain to sport performance—power, speed, strength, quickness and injury prevention," Martin says. "We're not just lifting weights. We're trying to improve sport performance."

UConn kinesiology researchers conduct breakthrough studies in areas such as hydration and muscle performance, exertional heat illnesses and the effect of diet on heart disease. Martin and his staff seek advice from researchers to provide student-athletes with information that goes beyond what would be expected from most training programs.

For example, the strength and conditioning staff developed a cookbook—"Husky Fuel: Eat to Compete" to guide UConn student-athletes toward proper nutrition. The book covers basics, such as when to eat and making good food choices, and has recipes for "performance meals" that are high energy and low cost and can be made within 30 minutes. There is also a list of healthy meals selected from menus at restaurants near campus.

Among alumni who have worked on Martin's staff while completing their degrees: Andrea Hudy '99 M.A., strength and conditioning coach for University of Kansas basketball teams; Mike Irr '06 (ED), head strength and conditioning coach for the NBA Charlotte Bobcats; Roger Marandino '98 M.A., head strength and conditioning coach for Brown University; and James Duba '08 M.A., head strength and conditioning coach for the WNBA Sacramento Monarchs and assistant to the NBA Sacramento Kings.

AROUND UCONN • EVENTS CALENDAR

JORGENSEN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

860-486-4226

Nov. 18, 8 pm

WARSAW PHILHARMONIC

Antoni Wit, Conductor

Dec. 4, 8 pm

BELLYDANCE SUPERSTARS

Dec. 6, 8 pm

BOSTON POPS

ESPLANADE ORCHESTRA

Keith Lockhart, Conductor

Jan. 30–31

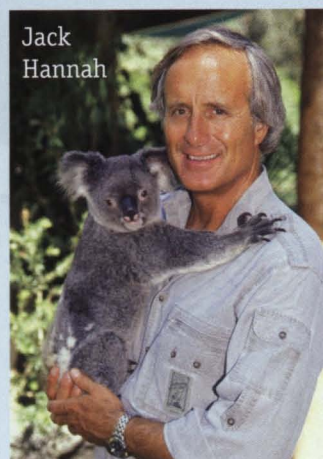
MOCHRIE & SHERWOOD

Comedy

Feb. 12

DANIEL BERNARD ROUMAIN

Classical-urban fusion



Jack Hannah

Feb. 17

ORION STRING QUARTET

SFA Sackler Artist-in-residence Program

Feb. 21

MARIZA

World music

Feb. 27–28

DRUMLINE LIVE

R&B/Soul

March 5

NATIONAL ACROBATS OF CHINA

March 8

JUNGLE JACK HANNAH

Family show

March 17

CENTER CITY BRASS

Classical

March 20–21

CATHY MATTEA

Country music

March 26

CINDERELLA

Russian National Ballet

March 29

AFRICAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR

April 2

CHANTICLEER

Vocal music

April 4

LATIN FEST

Dance cabaret

April 16

NATIONAL PHILHARMONIC OF RUSSIA

April 23

COMPLEXIONS CONTEMPORARY BALLET

April 26

CINDERELLA

Children's music

May 1–2

THE LETTERMEN

Folk music

CONNECTICUT

REPERTORY THEATRE

860-486-1629

Nov. 20–Dec. 6

THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH

By Thornton Wilder

Harriet S. Jorgensen Theatre

Feb. 26–March 8

PERICLES

Nafe Katter Theatre

Mar. 26–April 5

ICARUS

Studio Theatre

April 23–May 2

HAIR

Harriet S. Jorgensen Theatre

THE WILLIAM BENTON

MUSEUM OF ART

860-486-4520, Open T-F: 10–4:30 pm, S-Sun: 1–4:30 pm

Jan. 20–March 6

¡MERENGUE! VISUAL RHYTHMS

Jan. 20–March 6

YUYANAPAQ: TO REMEMBER

PHOTOGRAPHY

April 4–May 10

2009 MASTER OF FINE ARTS EXHIBITION

BALLARD INSTITUTE AND MUSEUM OF PUPPETRY

860-486-4605, Open F-Sun: Noon–5 pm

Through Feb. 7, 2008

Puppets Through the Lens

April 26–Nov. 29

Titeres: Latino Puppet Tradition and Toy Theaters of the World

HERITAGE SPORTS MUSEUM

860-486-2240, Open M-F:

8 am–5 pm

National Champions Gallery, Connecticut Basketball Rotunda, Motor City Bowl Display, UConn All-Americans, NCAA Championship Trophies

HOMER BABBIGE LIBRARY

860-486-2516

Open M-Th: 8 am–2 am; Fri, 8 am–10 pm; Sat, 10 am–10 pm; Sun, 10 am–2 am

Offline: An Exhibition of the Arts and Crafts of the Staff at the University Libraries Gallery on the Plaza, through Dec. 7

Portraits of Nature: Photographs of Carolanne Markowitz Stevens Gallery, through Dec. 19

An Accidental Artist: The Hooked Rugs of Lida Skilton Ives Gallery on the Plaza, Jan. 20–March 6

Flameworking in Style: The Hot Glass Art of Debbie Tarsitano Gallery on the Plaza, March 16–May 15

Familial Terrain: Joan Zamore, Printmaker Stevens Gallery, Jan. 20–March 6

Connecticut Wilderness: Recent Sculptures by Randall Nelson Stevens Gallery and West Alcove, March 16–May 15

THOMAS J. DODD RESEARCH CENTER

860-486-2516

Gallery open M: 8:30 am–7 pm, T-F: 8:30 am–4:30 pm; Sat: noon–4 pm

"Hell No, We Won't Go": A Look Back at the Anti-Vietnam War Movement Through Dec. 10

Indigenous Voices from Within: the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center collection of Aztec, Mayan and Incan codices. March 16–May 15

TEALE LECTURE SERIES

Feb. 5: "Bridging the Science/Journalism Gap in a Time of Epochal Change" Bud Ward; March 5: "Hope in a Dark Time: The Promises of Religious Environmentalism," Catherine Potvin; April 2: "Sun Tzu and the Art of War: How the Battle of Museums to Survive Has a Negative Impact on Nature and the Environment," Michael Mares, Sam Noble.

March 31

Raymond & Beverly Sackler Distinguished Lecture in Human Rights Adam Fairclough, Sackler Chair of U.S. History, Leiden University Konover Auditorium

WILBUR CROSS GALLERY

Open M-F: 8 am–5 pm

Permanent Exhibit

The UConn Story: The History of the University of Connecticut

CONNECTICUT STATE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

860-486-4460, Open T-Sat: 10 am–4 pm

Permanent Exhibit

Human's Nature: Looking Closer at the Relationships between People and the Environment

UConn Alumni Association

888-UC-ALUM-1

Dec. 14: WOMEN'S BASKETBALL Maggie Dixon Classic. New York Alumni Chapter. Madison Square Garden, New York City

June 5–6: ALUMNI WEEKEND

For updated information about activities, scheduled exhibitions, museums and Web sites, go to <http://uconn.edu/attractions/>

UConn Celebrates The Year of Science

Darwin Bicentennial Colloquium Series

Dec. 2, 2008: Charles Darwin and Human Evolution by Ian Tattersall, American Museum of Natural History; Feb. 25, 2009: Evolution and Faith: What Is at Stake? by John Haught, Georgetown University; March 19: The Evolution of a Moral Grammar by Marc Hauser, Harvard University; March 25: Karl Popper, Darwinism and Totalitarianism: Evolutionary Theory and Political Ideology by John Beatty, University of British Columbia; April 15: Darwinian Medicine by Paul Ewald, University of Louisville. Thomas J. Dodd Research Center

Science, Engineering and Health Professions Symposium

Jan. 29: Workshops, lectures and exhibits about professional careers in science, engineering, and health related fields to undergraduates from colleges and universities throughout the northeast.

Darwin's Meditation for the People of Lincoln, Feb. 11–13: New work.

Toying with Science

Feb. 22: Family show Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts

Connecticut Junior Science

and Humanities, March 8–9: High school students display their work. Gampel Pavilion

Anatomically Correct: Medical Illustrations, 1543–2009

March 17–May 10, William Benton Museum of Art

Manya: A Living History of Marie Curie

Performance artist Susan Frontcak March 25: UConn Health Center March 26: Nafe Katter Theatre

Day in the Humanities: Imagining Science, Performing Science, Writing Science, March 27, Alumni Center

For more information: <http://clas.uconn.edu/yearofscience/>

Detecting heart failure

RESEARCHERS FIND BLOOD TEST CAN AID CARDIAC PATIENTS

Scientists at the UConn Health Center's Pat and Jim Calhoun Cardiology Center have found that a simple blood test can indicate whether a patient's heart is failing.

Evidence from a continuing clinical research study being conducted at the Health Center suggests that a failing human heart releases a peptide, or protein fragment, identified as Caspase-3 p17.

"It's a peptide that we think is released from injured tissue, such as the heart during an acute episode of congestive heart failure," says Bruce Liang, director of the Calhoun Cardiology Center. "This test appears to be helpful in detecting all degrees and all forms of heart failure, which gives it broad potential clinical utility."

Using a blood sample to detect heart disease would be a significant change from current diagnostic methods, which usually require an invasive surgical procedure to confirm suspicions about a deficiency in the heart's ability to circulate blood to the

rest of the body.

"For people who have already had heart failure, it might predict how well they will do in the future," Liang says. "For people who have symptoms consistent with heart failure but may not have heart failure, a simple blood test could diagnose it or could rule it out."

Scientific proof of the study's findings could lead to an approved clinical testing method that can influence therapy and clinical decision making.

Liang, the lead investigator, presented his research at the American College of Cardiology's annual scientific session earlier this year. The study was published in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*. Study collaborators include David Hager, director of the Congestive Heart Failure Center at the Calhoun Cardiology Center; Michael Gavin; Kim Dodge; Jayne Schumacher and Mary Beth Barry.



Studying healthy foods in Hartford

Antonia Helena displays some of the healthy foods available at her store, Williams Market in Hartford, one of 39 markets that are part of the Healthy Food Retailer Initiative, operated by the Hartford Food System.

Researchers Ann Ferris and Katie Martin from UConn's School of Medicine and the Center for Public Health and Health Policy are studying the impact of the healthy food retailer program, which has already reduced junk food inventories at many stores. The researchers, assisted by undergraduate students in the Husky Connections Program, will help grocers determine which healthy foods sell best. The project is funded by a \$240,000 grant from the Ethel Donaghue Foundation.



Chemistry professor achieves nanotech breakthrough

Chemistry researchers in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences have uncovered a process to manipulate a carbon molecule in a way that could have broad applicability in drug and gene delivery, electronic devices and nanotechnology research.

Fotios Papadimitrakopoulos, professor of chemistry, and his graduate students discovered a way for a form of vitamin B2 to wrap around a single-walled carbon nanotube. Their findings were published in the scientific journal *Nature Nanotechnology*.

The research opens the possibility of wrapping nanotubes with proteins or other molecules, which would be useful in a variety of applications such as in drug delivery and electronics applications. Carbon is inexpensive, and carbon nanotubes can transform products, making stronger bullet-proof vests, for example.

The U.S. Air Force, which funds Papadimitrakopoulos's research, is interested in advanced materials that are light and strong and can withstand high temperatures. In the future, Papadimitrakopoulos predicts, planes will be made from carbon nano-fibers.

The lead author of the *Nature Nanotechnology* paper is Sang-Young Ju, a polymer science doctoral candidate. Other doctoral candidate authors are Jonathan Doll, pursuing a Ph.D. in polymer science, and Ity Sharma, a chemistry Ph.D. candidate. Two undergraduates, William Kopcha '08 (CLAS), a chemistry major, and Christopher Badalucco '10 (CLAS), a physiology and neurobiology major, also were involved in the research.

Living and learning in a remote village

BY DMITRY POLETAYEV '08 (CLAS)

This summer I fell in love with Guatemala, its people and the work we did as part of a two-month UConn internship program, entitled Social Entrepreneurship. The eight-week program is run by the Social Entrepreneur Corps, an organization that offers opportunities for university students to have hands-on learning experiences focused on solutions to community problems.

The Social Entrepreneur Corps, which is led by two former Peace Corps volunteers, trains local people in villages to become entrepreneurs. We began the program by learning Spanish, taking classes on development and the fundamentals of entrepreneurship. Some of our pursuits included

selling reading glasses to Guatemalan villagers, including women who weave for their livelihoods; educating people about the benefits of water filters; and demonstrating how wood stoves are safer and more economical than cooking over an open fire.

There are two competing paradigms for assisting developing nations. One approach is donations and relief work. Critical in its own right, it sometimes backfires when people come to expect free assistance and donated products. Another option is to require payment for a product, like a water filter, and teach the buyer how to use it, which provides a sense of responsibility and ownership. The

latter is a fundamental condition for development to be sustainable, and provided that the model is easily replicable and scalable, it allows for expansion into other developing nations.

Throughout my stay, I was inspired by the local people and living as they do, like riding on the roof of the bus when there was no room inside, playing soccer with children, listening to their stories and bonding with home stay families. But I also was struck by how the natural beauty of a developing country often goes hand-in-hand with the poverty found there. That is why nongovernment organizations like the Social Entrepreneur Corps provide vital assistance in developing nations. Guatemala, a country with the highest rate of inequality in Central America, is an ideal testing ground for young students seeking on-the-ground training in fundamentals of assisting development.

As I was completing my internship, I asked whether there was anything I could do to continue to help, since I soon would be finishing the requirements for my UConn degree in anthropology. The Social Entrepreneur Corps put me in touch with a restaurant owner in the remote village of La Pista. Upon my graduation and return to Guatemala, I will be working to improve the Internet center in the village library, one of the first in Central America, and organizing community events. Eventually I hope to become a Peace Corps volunteer and continue to work for a nongovernment organization.

Dmitry Poletayev is a native of Ukraine who came to the United States seven years ago, living in Oregon and Pennsylvania before enrolling at UConn. He became a United States citizen in September.



Dmitry Poletayev '08 (CLAS), right, with the staff of a Pokomchi cultural center in a Guatemalan village.

Taking a global view of business education

BUSINESS SUCCESS REQUIRES ATTENTION TO GLOBAL MARKETS



Christopher Earley, dean of the School of Business, was a professor for 22 years. He spent 14 years conducting international research in countries such as China and Singapore on multinational work teams, teaching at the London Business School and serving as dean of the National University of Singapore Business School. He discussed his vision for business education on a global scale with David Bauman. This is an edited transcript.

How important are international issues to today's business student?

You cannot really talk about business activities anymore without thinking about business in a global context. To be successful you have to pay attention to global markets. Managers have to have an awareness of the world around them. If you are a financial analyst dealing with economic markets, you're doing foreign exchange and will deal with financial markets globally. If you're a manager in an organization and you are dealing with selling goods

abroad or creating new designs or leveraging talent from across the world—that requires cultural skills.

How does a business school become global?

One way is to enhance our international exchange relationships for both undergraduates and graduate students. Another is to leverage our own strengths. For example, our learning accelerators are our trademarks. GE edgelab is a good example: You have General Electric committed heavily with two full-time GE managers on site at UConn's campus in Stamford with our own business school faculty and groups of students working on business relevant projects for GE. This is not your typical internship model where you go to a company, they hand you a project, 10 weeks later you leave and they simply take what you've given them. What we offer is unique—a level of sophistication in experiential learning that weaves together real business activity with academic learning around a novel context.

Why have you suggested that business education should be added alongside more traditional courses to form a broad "renaissance" education?

By providing everybody with some fundamental level of financial and business-related knowledge, they are more equipped to handle this very large interconnected set of relationships that now connects the vast majority of the world. If you have a cellist who has to travel internationally and deal with new pay systems, ways of earning an income, moving money and paying taxes, he or she needs to understand these fundamentals that are complex.

Why are some experts suggesting that M.B.A. degrees do not teach students skills that companies need?

A traditional, full-time, daytime, two-year M.B.A. program is becoming a bit of an anachronism. In all organizations you start out at the lower levels as an expert in something and then over time you work yourself up the ladder to become more of a generalist and strategic thinker. Traditional M.B.A. students are trained to be strategic thinkers at too early of a stage. The alternative is to pursue a master's degree in an area of specialization—such as finance or accounting. Now you spend five or 10 years in an organization and become identified to go up to leadership levels. That's when you return for an Executive M.B.A. or some type of advanced M.B.A. that's intended for strategic thinking and decision making.


Is this change coming to business schools?

It's already happening in Europe. In the U.S., we're lagging behind partly because many business schools have so much invested in the M.B.A. that it's very hard to let loose. But that's the old model.

Young UCo



UConn Alumni Emerging as Leaders throughout the World



WHEN WE SET ABOUT THE TASK of selecting younger graduates for this special edition of *UConn Magazine*, we knew that identifying highly accomplished alumni would not be the challenge. The hard part would be narrowing the list to just 40 who represent the wide array of academic programs in each school and college at the University.

Hundreds of nominations from UConn alumni, faculty and staff were submitted for consideration and the list was narrowed to 80 names, which were researched further for more details about each nominee.

The list of 80 was then reviewed over several months by a high-level panel of academic, research and administrative leaders representing a cross-section of the UConn community. Discussions conducted by the panel were highlighted by active dialogue focused on evaluating a wide array of achievements in science, education, business, the arts, law, engineering, social services, medicine, agriculture, health care, philanthropy, athletics and government. Panelists also considered factors such as demonstrated leadership in a field or discipline, community service and initiative in pursuing a chosen career.

Some of the 40 Under 40 group will be familiar faces. Others will become better known to the public at large in the near future as they continue to rise within their respective fields. Yet they all share the common bond of being a part of a UConn community that can be proud of their accomplishments and look forward to watching these outstanding young alumni as they demonstrate the wide reach of the University of Connecticut throughout the United States and the world.

Stories By Stefanie Dion Jones '00 (CLAS), Gary Frank, Mary Howard, Karen Singer '73 (CLAS) and Jim H. Smith



PETER MORENO

Marcela de Jesús Vergara-Jiménez, 39

Nutritional Scientist, Educator

► **MARCELA DE JESÚS VERGARA-JIMÉNEZ** '98 Ph.D. dreamed of going to college. But orphaned at age 10, the youngest of 11 children, Vergara-Jiménez knew she would have to work hard to get there. Financing her education in part by working as an aerobics instructor, she completed her bachelor's degree in biochemistry in her native Mexico.

Pursuing her lifelong interest in nutrition, Vergara-Jiménez then left Mexico on a national scholarship to obtain her Ph.D. in the United States. She was intent on giving back to the country that had funded her doctoral education. "I have been doing my work for my society, not for recognition," she says. "I received this scholarship, and I need to give back a little of what my society has given me."

Vergara-Jiménez began her studies in the United States at the University of Arizona, working closely for several years in the nutritional sciences lab with one of her professors, Maria-Luz Fernandez. When Fernandez landed a faculty position at UConn in 1997, Vergara-Jiménez and a fellow student accepted Fernandez's invitation to relocate to Connecticut.

"It was a big thing for Marcela to come so far," says Fernandez, a professor of nutritional studies in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. "She helped to get me acclimated and got my lab up and running."

Upon graduating, Vergara-Jiménez returned to Mexico, joining the chemistry faculty at the Autonomous University of Sinaloa in 1999 to teach and conduct research and discovered a need to

establish what would become the university's first nutritional sciences department.

One of the only scholars in the state of Sinaloa with a doctorate in nutritional sciences, Vergara-Jiménez gathered a team of colleagues at her university, including the president, to create a comprehensive, four-year undergraduate curriculum. She enlisted professors to teach courses, recruited students and researchers, obtained the necessary governmental approvals to establish the program, and also serves as the department head.

Today, more than 250 undergraduates are enrolled in the nutritional sciences program, which began in 2006. Vergara-Jiménez is now focused on setting up a nutritional sciences graduate program at the university while continuing to seek out professors to teach nutrition and join in the department's ongoing research endeavors. "It is still a work in progress," she says.

Ultimately, she says, her hopes are set on returning full time to her "real passion"—the lab. Her investigations into the risk factors associated with the development of diseases such as diabetes, certain cancers, and cardiovascular problems among people from Sinaloa, Mexico, have more recently been put on hold while she guides her so-called "first generation" of nutritional science undergraduates through the program.

"Marcela started work at the university...and realized there was this need," says Fernandez, who has traveled twice to Mexico to visit her former student. "She needed to demonstrate that the university needed this program. I am impressed with all that she has accomplished."

Scott Holcomb, 36

International Law Expert

► **SCOTT HOLCOMB** '94 (CLAS) is the general counsel for J.P. Turner & Co., LLC, one of the nation's fastest-growing full service investment firms with offices across the United States. However, his experience and expertise as a lawyer reach beyond his Atlanta office.

Holcomb majored in political science at UConn and joined the Air National Guard during his sophomore year. He went on to earn a law degree at West Virginia University and then began a six-year stint in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General Corps. While in JAG, he was deployed overseas several times, notably to Bosnia to assist in NATO peacekeeping efforts from 2000 to 2001 and then as a legal advisor for military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq from 2001 to 2003.

"A desire to serve, coupled with my interest in seeing the world, motivated me to become a JAG officer," says Holcomb.

Since leaving the service, Holcomb has hardly been still. As an expert in international law, he has provided commentary to National Public Radio and the British Broadcasting Company, published several articles regarding the issues that the U.S. military (and he personally) faced during his deployments, and presented lectures at universities in the United States and Europe. Recently, he began teaching as an adjunct professor at Georgia Tech.

"I learned more than I thought possible in my years at UConn, and I'm so thankful for the friendships that I made," says Holcomb, who was named a Georgia Super Lawyer "Rising Star" in 2006 and 2007, as published in *Atlanta Magazine*.

This summer he was selected to attend the prestigious Bucerius Summer School on Global Governance in Hamburg, Germany, which is designed to foster leadership qualities in young professionals by opening a cross-border dialogue on current political, economic, social and judicial issues.



PETER MORENUS

Rebecca Lobo, 35

Sports Analyst

▼ **HER LIFE IN THE** bright lights continues today nearly 15 years after Rebecca Lobo '95 (CLAS) became an icon and role model for girls in Connecticut and the United States after leading the Huskies to the 1995 NCAA basketball championship.

After all, she is just your typical sports analyst-commentator-author-athlete-activist-volunteer-Olympian-university trustee. And she is a wife and mother of two daughters, with a third child on the way.



ANDREW D. BENSTIN/NBAE/GETTY IMAGES

"I learned how to think, how to write, how to be creative," Lobo says about her time at UConn. "I also had to learn to manage my time effectively so that I could juggle my athletic and educational responsibilities. Those lessons were invaluable in preparing me for my current role as mom, wife, and working woman."

She was a member of the 1996 U.S. Olympic women's basketball team which won a Gold Medal and was one of the WNBA's original players in 1997,

spending seven years in the league before beginning her career as a television broadcaster. Along the way, she used her growing celebrity to help charitable organizations such as Gilda's Club, Head First Foundation, Pediatrics AIDS Foundation and the Hispanic Scholarship Fund.

"I have been given great opportunities to meet people who are trying to make a difference in various areas...and been given chances to participate in worthwhile causes," says Lobo. "Sports opened many doors to me that I might not otherwise have known existed."

Her connection to UConn continues to grow. She has been a member of the University Board of Trustees since 2004 and in 2007 was among the first group of inductees to the Huskies of Honor in Gampel Pavilion.

Lobo also remains the embodiment of the student-athlete. In June 2008, she was inducted into the College Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-America Hall of Fame.

Richard Ruiz, 36

MARK CAVIN/ARDEN THEATRE CO.



Actor

▼ **RICHARD RUIZ** '98 M.F.A. was performing in summer stock theater when he decided that to improve his craft, he should pursue a graduate degree, where faculty break down an actor's repertoire of abilities and reassemble them into a stronger, more diverse range of skills.

In the decade since he completed his M.F.A. at UConn, it is clear the New York City native has emerged as a versatile stage performer. His acting range spans the role of King Herod in the national touring company of "Jesus Christ Super Star" to performing as Antonio in the Off-Broadway revival of "Two Gentlemen of Verona" at the New York Public Theatre, where he was directed by award-winning director Kathleen Marshall.

Ruiz has performed at many of the nation's leading resident repertory companies, including Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven and The Kansas City Repertory Theatre, and at major companies such as the Intiman Theater in Seattle, The Arden Theatre in Philadelphia and The Berkshire Theatre Festival in Stockbridge, Mass. He has received critical praise for his performances across the country, such as in Philadelphia where his work as Hysterium in "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" was described as "the production's premier performance... Richard Ruiz makes a triumphant return with a whirlwind performance that ranks among the year's best."

Ruiz credits former UConn professor Eric Hill, who teaches acting technique according to an approach developed by the Japanese director Tadashi Suzuki that emphasizes an extreme level of body control and physical exertion, for helping hone his craft. Ruiz also felt the influence of Gary English, head of dramatic arts in the School of Fine Arts and artistic director of the Connecticut Repertory Theatre, through the roles he was cast in during UConn productions. "Gary picked shows that were great for all of us to explore the kind of roles we would likely play in the outside world," he says.

Global Communication Consultant

► **WHEN LEADING FORTUNE 500** companies such as Pfizer, Disney, Target and Hewlett Packard need help understanding their reputations, they turn to Bryan Dumont '96 (CLAS), senior vice president and director of corporate reputation and brand research for APCO Worldwide, a leading global communication consultancy.

Dumont joined APCO in 1999 to help grow the Washington, D.C.,-based company's newly created research division. He routinely travels the world to help clients in more than 45 countries develop corporate reputation management strategies, brand management, message development and litigation communication programs. He is a recognized expert in the field of corporate reputation and the role emotion plays in communication and was named 2006 Research Expert of the Year by *PR News*. He is also the brains behind two of APCO's research models: Reputation Insight, which measures corporate reputation, and Emotional Triggers, which quantifies the relationships consumers have with brands.

As an undergraduate political science major, Dumont met the late Everett Carll Ladd, a professor of political science and renowned public opinion expert. Ladd served as Dumont's mentor and persuaded the young man to pursue a career in survey research.

Dumont says because of Ladd's influence, after earning his undergraduate degree he decided to remain in Storrs to learn about survey research while working at UConn's Roper Center for Public Opinion Research.

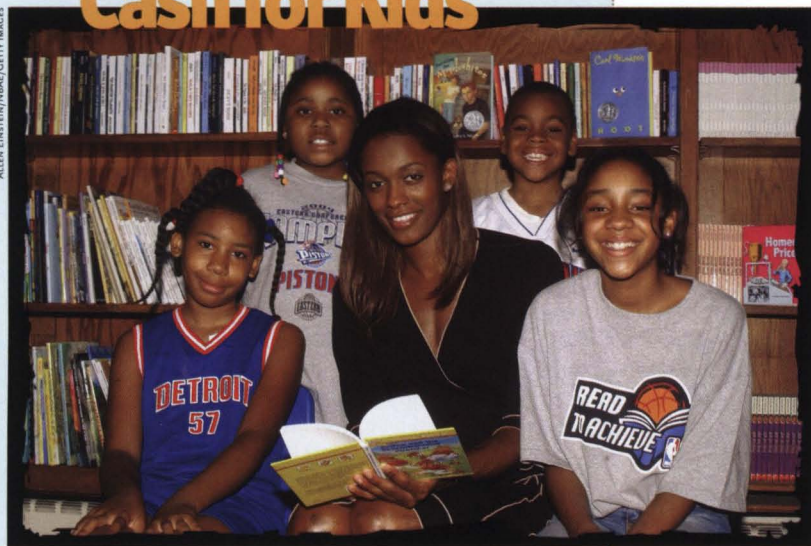
Bryan Dumont, 35



DAVID OWEN HAWKINS

Swin Cash, 29 Cash for Kids

ALLEN EISENBERG/NBAE/GETTY IMAGES



The mission of Cash for Kids is to provide the essential tools for kids to "get in the game" educationally and on the court. With a focus on helping children develop their skills inside and outside the classroom, Cash for Kids provides financial support to the arts while focusing on culture, literacy, athletics and youth development initiatives. Cash for Kids assists youth agencies and schools in the Detroit area; in McKeesport, Pa.; and in Connecticut starting in 2009. For more information: www.swincash.com

Entrepreneur, Philanthropist, Professional Athlete

► **EVEN AS SHE WAS** becoming an All-American basketball player and winning championships at UConn, Swin Cash '02 (CLAS) knew she would have a life after basketball. When she left Storrs with two NCAA titles, Hall of Fame coach Geno Auriemma says she was already on her way to becoming "a conglomerate."

As she began her professional basketball life with the WNBA Detroit Shock, Cash started her charitable organization, Cash for Kids, which helps youth agencies in Detroit and in her hometown of McKeesport, Pa. She describes the launch of Cash for Kids as "the proudest moment of my life." She also launched Swin Cash Enterprises to develop and market her own line of clothing.

Cash has been a WNBA All-Star, won two WNBA titles with the Detroit Shock and as a member of the U.S. Olympic team won a Gold Medal in 2004 with former Husky teammates Sue Bird '02 (CLAS) and Diana Taurasi '05 (CLAS). Earlier this year, she joined Bird as a member of the Seattle Storm.

Cash continues to build on her off-court career. Last year she was selected by ESPN to become the first active WNBA player analyzing NBA games, adding to her increasing appearances on television for not only sports but also lifestyle reporting. She serves as an international ambassador for UNICEF and was recognized with the WNBA's Community Assist Award for her extensive outreach efforts in the community.

Nurse and Educator

► MIKKI MEADOWS-OLIVER

'06 Ph.D. was surprised last year to hear she would receive the Mary E. Mahoney Award for Excellence from the Southern Connecticut Black Nurses Association, named for America's first black nurse.

"I was amazed that anyone was paying attention to my career," says the pediatric nurse practitioner.

It is not hard to understand why Meadows-Oliver was chosen for the award, which recognizes African American nurses for clinical excellence and leadership in implementing changes that will improve the quality of health and nursing care for African Americans and other minorities.

Meadows-Oliver coordinates care for children with lead poisoning at Yale-New Haven Hospital's Children's Environmental Health Program, serves as an assistant professor at the Yale School of Nursing and works with Yale-New Haven's Adopt-a-Doc program, where pediatric residents visit New Haven-area families in need. Meadows-Oliver has volunteered in New Haven's soup kitchen, homeless shelters and child-care centers, and she mentors in the city's public schools.

After receiving dual master's degrees in nursing and public health from Yale in 1998, Meadows-Oliver enrolled in the Ph.D. program in nursing at UConn, writing her dissertation on homeless teen mothers.

Caring for others drives both her volunteer and her professional work. As a licensed practical nurse in the Army Reserves, Meadows-Oliver saw the difference between nursing and medicine. "I love the patient contact and the caring in nursing, and I wanted to see how far I could go [in the profession]."

PETER MORENUS



Mikki Meadows-Oliver, 36

Submarine Engineer

► TABITHA HITCHCOCK '93 (ENG) launched her career at Electric Boat in Groton, Conn., by accepting her job two months before graduating with a UConn degree in civil engineering. She has not slowed down much since.

Within three years at EB, the company that does U.S. Defense Department contract work on submarines, Hitchcock was managing a team of 20 engineers, designers and craftsmen to construct the stern end of the first Virginia-class nuclear submarine. The \$2.5 billion, 7,700-ton "Virginias" were the first submarines to be built without periscopes. In 1998, EB honored Hitchcock for her outstanding performance on the project. The *U.S.S. Virginia* was launched in 2003.

Hitchcock's successful project management resulted in a promotion to engineering supervisor, overseeing teams of up to 25 technical professionals working on software development. She took the initiative to participate in Process Engineering, a group at EB that learns, implements and teaches a process-improvement strategy known as Lean Six Sigma. The methodology identifies and removes the causes of defects and errors in manufacturing and business processes using a set of quality management standards including statistical methods.

"The goal is to make existing processes more efficient," says Hitchcock, who received her Lean Six Sigma Black Belt Certification in 2006.

In 2007 Hitchcock was selected to Electric Boat's Business Leader Group, which develops high-potential candidates to become executive leaders within the company, and earlier this year she was recognized as one of the company's first principal process engineers.

In this role, Hitchcock works on unusually complex problems to improve Electric Boat's performance. She mentors management and employees in the application and execution of Lean Six Sigma techniques across the enterprise and is often requested as a consultant to senior management in developing strategies and obtaining buy-in to critical business changes.

Hitchcock sets high goals for herself and those around her. "If you do, people will surprise you and meet them," she says.

LARRY MAGLIER



Kevin Molloy, 37

Financial Analyst and Competitive Cyclist

► **KEVIN MOLLOY** '93 (CANR), '98 M.S. sees a connection between business prowess and athletic performance.

"Many people who work in the finance industry are successful athletes," says Molloy, senior vice president of distribution finance for AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company in New York City and also a competitive racing cyclist.

After graduating from UConn, Molloy served as an analyst at the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis in Washington and as an analyst at Sands Brothers Co. in Manhattan. He joined AXA in 1999, initially working in corporate finance and in mergers and acquisitions, then moving on to head investor relations for AXA's North American group. Last year he was promoted to senior vice president with responsibility for managing a team of 30 finance professionals providing support, financial information and advice to business unit leaders in retail, wholesale and service delivery businesses.

Molloy's avocation is bicycle racing, which he began as a teenager, competing for the first time in 1985. His current team, Empire Cycling Team, is an elite team of category 1 and 2 riders that participates in races throughout the Northeast. He is a USA category 2 cyclist.

"I enjoy the competition in cycling just as I enjoy the day-to-day competition in business," says Molloy. "It's all about setting goals and achieving things through training or preparing for events or presentations that will help determine success."

PETER MORINUS



Tabitha Hitchcock, 37

Emeka Okafor, 25

Professional Athlete and Philanthropist

► **EMEKA OKAFOR '04 (BUS)** has frequently recalled his heritage in Nigeria, where his parents were born and where he returned many times with them as a youngster. While traveling in Africa, he learned about the hundreds of thousands of people there who have died needlessly from AIDS contracted from tainted blood transfusions.

"I was astounded when I first heard the statistic that out of six million transfusions per year in Sub-Saharan Africa, less than 35 percent are screened for HIV," notes Okafor, who completed his degree in finance with honors in just three years while leading the Huskies to the 2004 NCAA basketball championship. In 2004 he also earned recognition as Big East Player of the Year, Academic All-American and National Defensive Player of the Year.

Which is why after establishing himself professionally as the 2005 NBA Rookie of the Year and as the star of the Charlotte Bobcats, one of the first off-court activities that Okafor announced was his One Million African Lives Initiative, established in partnership with the Safe Blood For Africa Foundation (SBFA).

SBFA will distribute 10 million test kits to 45 Sub-Saharan countries at a rate of two million kits per year for the next five years. In addition, the One Million African Lives Initiative will foster technical training, clinical education and quality system administration for effective donor recruitment and

blood screening. In 2007, Okafor went on a tour through Nigeria, including the village his family is from, delivering test kits that ensure blood is clean before it is transfused.

He also traveled to South Africa with current and former NBA stars to participate in the NBA's Basketball Without Borders camp, which is the league's global basketball development and community outreach program that uses the sport to influence positive social change. That experience mirrors Okafor's support for the Husky Sport Program, a part of the Neag School of Education that involves UConn students who serve as mentors on nutritional education and life skills for youngsters in the Hartford area.

"Every child should have a mentor," Okafor said when announcing his support for the program last year. "Nutrition and physical activity are the cornerstones of my life, and I feel strongly that young people should not only be educated about healthy living but they should have access to opportunities that help them lead healthy lives."

As a finance major who knows something about numbers, Okafor talks more about the 24.5 million individuals who live with HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa and the children he is helping through Husky Sport than his basketball statistics, which is why the National Basketball Association honored him in 2007 with a NBA Community Assist Award.

Carlos Rodrigues, 35

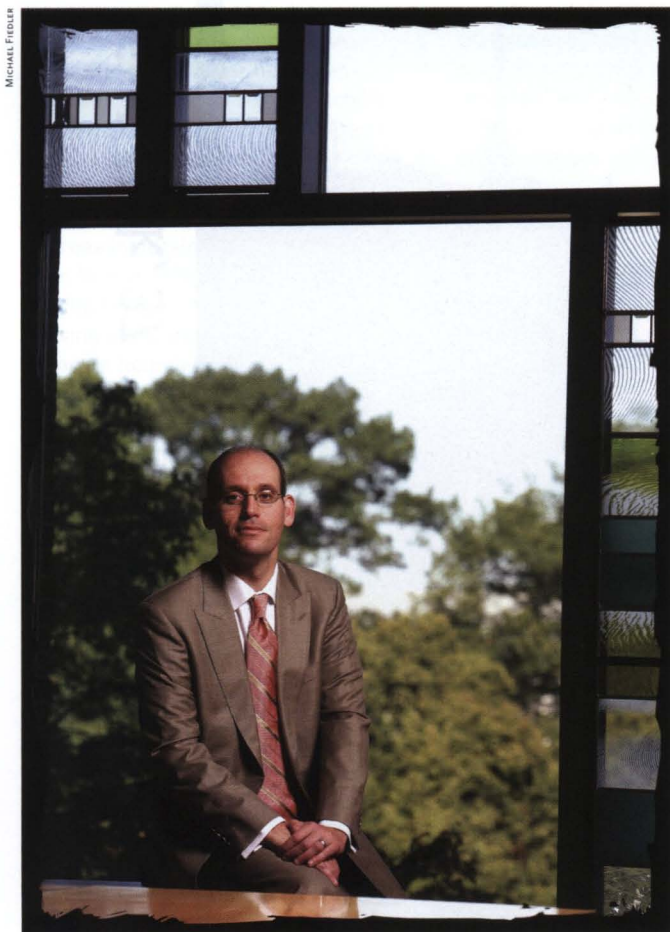
Venture Capitalist

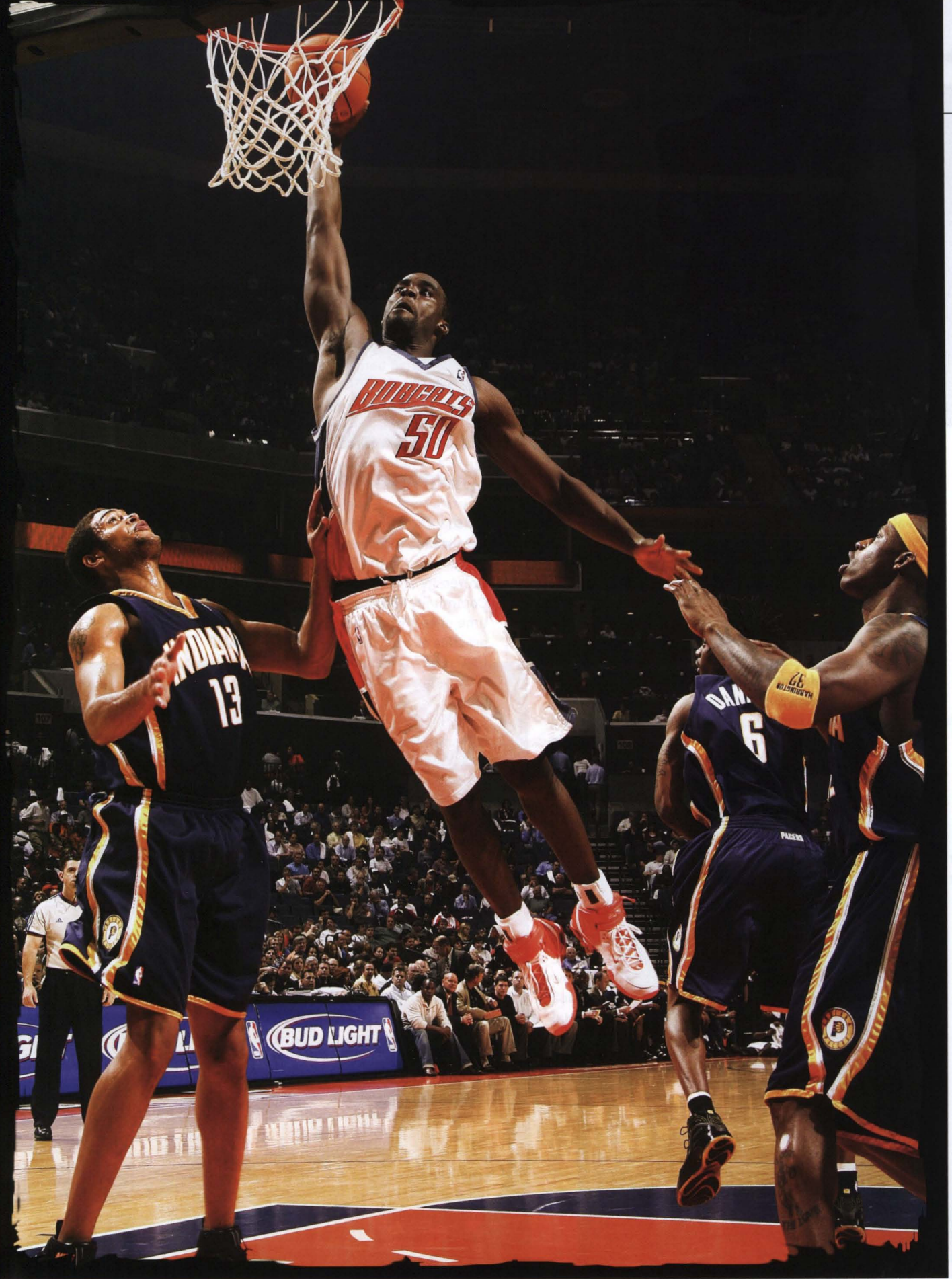
◀ **WHEN HE WAS** still an undergraduate business major, Carlos Rodrigues '95 (BUS) accepted an internship opportunity with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP in Stamford. It turned out to be a smart move in two respects.

First, it built his confidence. "We had a month of training in New York," he recalls. "There were 40 students in the internship class, and I was a little intimidated." But it quickly became clear his apprehension was groundless. "I discovered my UConn education had prepared me to compete with the elite accounting students from our nation's top universities," he says.

After successfully completing his internship and earning his degree in business, Rodrigues was recruited by PricewaterhouseCoopers to join the company as a member of the Alternative Investment Advisory Service practice. He spent about five years in New York, overseeing audit engagements focusing on hedge funds and venture capital.

In 2000, he joined Westport, Conn.,-based Pequot Ventures, a venture capital firm with some \$7 billion under management and investments in a variety of business sectors. Starting as an associate, he has enjoyed a meteoric rise within the company. In 2003, he was named chief financial officer and principal of Pequot Ventures focusing on all noninvestment related activities. In 2006, he was named CFO of Pequot Capital Management Inc., the parent company, overseeing the accounting, tax, corporate, treasury and financial reporting operations of both the hedge fund side and venture capital business.





KENT SMITH/NBAE/GETTY IMAGES

Technology Entrepreneur

▼ **ANTHONY ULIANO '93 (BUS)** is not afraid of taking chances. "If you're passionate about something, it's always worth the risk," he says.

That philosophy has served him well. Just two years after finishing his UConn undergraduate degree in business, Uliano co-founded AMC Technology, bootstrapping the company while working as a consultant. AMC Technology has since been twice named by *Inc.* magazine as one of the 500 fastest-growing private companies in the United States.

Uliano serves as president and chief technology officer of the Richmond, Virginia-based company, for which 2006 revenues have been estimated at \$12 million. Global Fortune 500 enterprises, including the likes of Sony, Volkswagen, Coca-Cola, Pepsi and Morgan Stanley, are among AMC's clients, using its multi-channel integration technologies to improve customer service at their call centers.

"Our products make the customer service agent more efficient," Uliano says. The solutions offered by AMC Technology provide agents with real-time access to customers' profiles and purchase histories, enabling agents to, for instance, route customer inquiries to the appropriate department or resolve customer calls more quickly—while saving these companies money in the process.

Looking back, Uliano says, "UConn provided me with the strong foundation and core skills I needed to know how to run my company."

Anthony Uliano, 38



JOHN HINLEY

Stefanie (Pratola) Ferreri, 34



DAN STARS

Pharmacist and Mentor

▲ **STEFANIE (PRATOLA) FERRERI '97 (PHR)** has an unmistakable passion for her work. A clinical assistant professor in pharmacy in the Eshelman School of Pharmacy at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and director of UNC's Community Pharmacy Residency Program, Ferreri also finds time once a week to maintain her community pharmacy practice at a local health care center near UNC. She fulfills numerous roles in pharmacy organizations on the state and national level as well.

Working in a local pharmacy offers far more to Ferreri than dispensing medicine; it means developing relationships with patients. "I like to be able to talk to my patients—to learn about what is going on in their lives, to see them on a monthly basis, to hear about their grandchildren," she says.

Her commitment to patients has been recognized by her peers with two top statewide pharmacy honors—Community Pharmacist of the Year from the N.C. Association of Pharmacists and Distinguished Young Pharmacist of the Year from Lambda Kappa Sigma, the pharmacy fraternity.

In teaching four graduate-level pharmacy courses and helping to place UNC pharmacy graduates in one-year postdoctoral training programs at pharmacies across North Carolina, Ferreri is eager to pass her passion on to the next generation of pharmacists.

"I like mentoring students and residents and watching their careers grow," she says. "That's why I went into pharmacy—I wanted to help others. Helping others is more than finding the right drug for the right person. It's about helping students advance in their education, helping residents become leaders in their profession and helping patients take care of themselves."



Chief Legal and Business Officer

► **PURSUING TWO ADVANCED** degrees simultaneously is not for the faint of heart. But Matthew Small '98 M.B.A., '99 J.D. managed his way through UConn's rigorous joint business and law program.

After starting his legal career with a Boston law firm specializing in technology, Small was recruited in 2002 by Blackboard, Inc., a leading provider of software and systems integration services that enables universities, schools and corporations to host classes on the Internet.

He was promoted to general counsel in 2004 with responsibility for taking Blackboard public, which was accomplished with such success that the company was one of the year's top growing companies on NASDAQ. Small's responsibilities kept increasing as he guided the company's merger and acquisition activities. In 2006 *Washingtonian* magazine named him one of Washington, D.C.'s "Top 40 Lawyers Under 40," and in 2008 *Inside Counsel* magazine named him one of the Top 10 MVP Rookie GC's in the U.S. Earlier this year, Small became Blackboard's chief business officer, adding all companywide business operations to his portfolio.

"In many ways, my career has been a reflection of my education," says Small, who lives in Washington, D.C. with his wife and their two young sons. "I studied law and business and wound up becoming a corporate attorney in a large firm before going in-house, where I've become responsible for the many business aspects of the company. Moreover, my years of graduate work at UConn have helped me better understand the e-learning needs for Blackboard's educational client base."



David Owen Hawthorn

Scott Case, 38

Malaria No More



Entrepreneur, Inventor, Philanthropist

► **SCOTT CASE '92 (ENG)** likes to tackle big problems. An inventor, a technology entrepreneur and a philanthropist, the computer science and engineering graduate holds dozens of U.S. technology patents, including the technology that led to his best-known venture as co-founder of Priceline.com, the "Name Your Price Internet Service." Today his focus is on wiping out malaria as vice chair and CEO of Malaria No More.

Malaria No More is determined to end malaria deaths by making high-yield investments of time and capital to speed progress, unlock resources and mobilize new assets to reach its goal. Case says though malaria is responsible for the deaths of 1 million children each year, the disease is preventable.

"As an engineer, I tend to be attracted to problems where I can see a clear solution. I like to put the pieces together," says Case, who joined Malaria No More in 2006. "Wherever we've tried to get malaria under control, we've been successful. It is less of a biology problem and more of a business and logistics challenge."

Case says that he continues to draw each day on the problem-solving skills he learned at the UConn School of Engineering.

Malaria No More's mission is simple: to end malaria deaths. A nonprofit, nongovernment organization founded by leaders in the private sector, Malaria No More makes high-yield investments of time and capital to speed progress, unlock resources, mobilize new assets and spur the world toward reaching this goal. For more information: www.MalariaNoMore.org.



Eric Owles, 34

Multimedia Journalist

▲ **WHILE WORKING AS** a reporter for *The Daily Campus* and studying both journalism and political science, Eric Owles '98 (CLAS) had ambitions of covering state government in the seemingly comfortable environment of the Capitol press room in Hartford.

"I never imagined that I would be writing my blood type on my body armor in the Iraqi desert," says Owles, the chief multimedia producer for *The New York Times* Web site and lead contributor to the blog "Baghdad Bureau: Iraq from the Inside," which he launched in February 2008. At a critical time of transition in the newspaper industry, Owles is among those leading the way at arguably the nation's most important newspaper.

"I live in our Baghdad compound outside the Green Zone," Owles explains. "I write about life inside the country. I carry a video camera everywhere I go, whether that is embedded with U.S. troops, reporting on a car bombing or traveling into Sadr City. My goal is to provide new ways of engaging readers in news about the war."

"Baghdad Bureau" attempts to convey the daily challenges confronting the city's inhabitants, such as the difficulties of

traveling around the country and the experience of going through security checkpoints. The blog invites Iraqis to write about their personal journeys, such as deciding whether to leave the country or their thoughts about the aftermath of a car bomb explosion or suicide bombing. The blog also features videos and slideshows from staff living in Iraq.

His work with new media technologies began in the summer of 1996 when he served as an intern with Politics USA, an innovative Web site that was the first to generate original news stories, as it was taken over by ABC News and *The Washington Post* and renamed PoliticsNow.

At PoliticsNow, Owles learned a great deal about computers, including how to format and maintain Web sites which eventually led to a position with the online edition of *The New York Times*, where he was the senior producer of the Web site's national, science, Washington, and metropolitan desks. He assumed his duties in the Iraqi capital in January 2008, after overseeing foreign news coverage for the *Times* Web site since 2002.

"I feel a responsibility to share as many stories as I can from the Iraqi people and U.S. soldiers," he says. "It is impossible to say what will happen to Iraq in the future, but by charting the daily developments over time you can see which direction it is headed."

Financial Attorney, Mentor

► **AS AN ASSOCIATE** at the international law firm Bracewell & Giuliani, Ilia (Rodriguez) O'Hearn '93 (BUS), J.D. '04 represents institutional investors, hedge funds and other fund managers in complex insolvency proceedings on an international scale. Working on a team that includes some of the world's leading financial restructuring attorneys, she has represented creditor groups owed hundreds of millions of dollars in major restructurings in industries from automobile manufacturing to homebuilding.

A native of Puerto Rico, O'Hearn began her career as a certified public accountant. Fresh from receiving her accounting degree, she was recruited by Deloitte & Touche and distinguished herself as an auditor and tax consultant for Fortune 500 clients. In 2000, she pursued a long-held dream, attending the UConn School of Law. O'Hearn graduated with honors from the law school's evening program, which she attended while working full-time as a CPA.

"Some people find what they want to do early on, but I had to explore until I found my passion," she says. Classes in bankruptcy law with Thomas Marion and international insolvency law with Evan Flaschen led her in a new direction, working now with Falschen at Bracewell & Giuliani.

Since completing law school, O'Hearn has become active with the Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association (CHBA), now serving as the organization's president. In addition to fund-raising for the CHBA scholarship program and mentoring CHBA's newest members and law students, she is one of the youngest trustees of the UConn Law School Foundation.

PETE MORENO



Ilia (Rodriguez) O'Hearn, 37

Philanthropist

▼ **ELIZABETH FLYNN SCOTT** '91 (CLAS) has transformed a family tragedy into a triumph by literally turning lemons into lemonade.

"It's such an old cliché, but it so perfectly fits what Alex was able to do," says Scott, co-founder of Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation, which raises money for pediatric cancer research and is named in memory of her daughter, who first sold lemonade in 2000 to benefit a Connecticut hospital where she was being treated for cancer. Alex Scott collected \$2,000 and her philanthropy work attracted widespread media coverage, including television appearances on "Oprah" and "Today."

"In 2004, Alex said she was going to raise a million dollars," Scott says. A few months later she did, shortly before her death at age 8.

Soon after, Scott and her husband, Jay, formed the foundation, which has inspired a grassroots movement including young children, senior citizens and large and small businesses to establish Alex's Lemonade Stands to raise money and awareness for pediatric cancer research. The Foundation has since raised \$20 million, funded more than 80 research projects and swelled the ranks of children participating in clinical drug trials. The Scotts also co-authored a book, *Alex and The Amazing Lemonade Stand*.

In 2005, Elizabeth Flynn Scott received the first Humanitarian Award from the UConn Alumni Association.

Elizabeth Flynn Scott, 39 Alex's Lemonade

Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation has evolved from a young cancer patient's front-yard lemonade stand to a nationwide fund-raising movement for childhood cancer. The Foundation is committed to raising money and awareness for pediatric cancer causes, primarily research into new cures and treatments. The Foundation's vision is a cure for all children with cancer. For more information: www.alexslimonade.org

Althea Marshall Richardson, 38

Empower New Haven

President & CEO

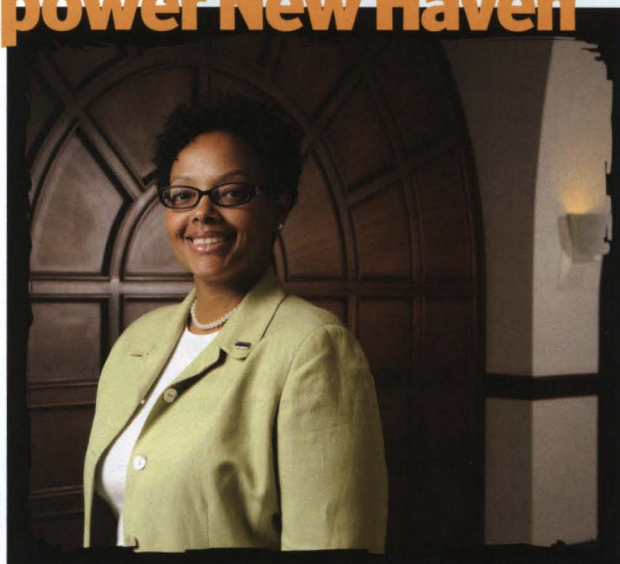
► **"THE DESIRE TO HELP** others has always been in me," says Althea Marshall Richardson '91 (SFS). As president and CEO of Empower New Haven, a nonprofit that administers more than \$27 million in federally funded development grants to low-income neighborhoods, Richardson makes decisions that improve the lives of thousands. With 11 employees, Empower New Haven is helping to revitalize New Haven's most distressed communities through public and private partnerships, supporting micro enterprise, workforce development, homeownership and affordable housing. "When you improve housing, you impact generations," says Richardson, who holds a master's in sociology from Southern Connecticut State University and a master of divinity from Yale.

Richardson credits her mother for showing her the importance of giving back. "She was the mom on the block telling kids to say no to drugs," says Richardson, who went door to door with her mother, a member of Waterbury's Democratic town committee, registering voters. "My mom taught me that you don't just live in a community, you give back to that community, you change it."

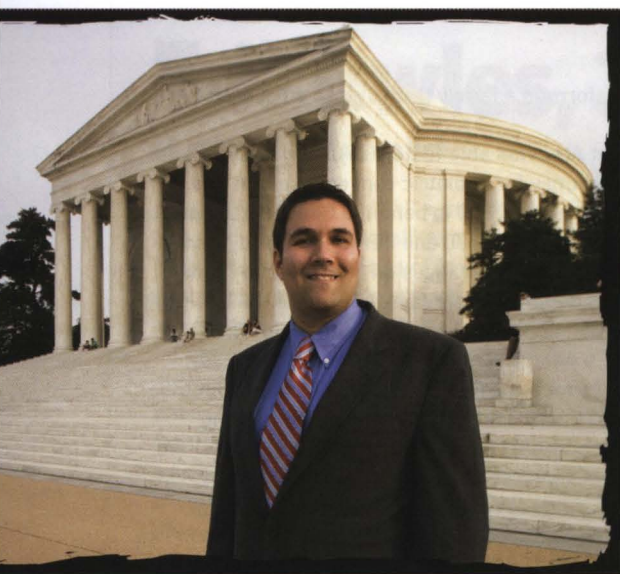
But it was her UConn education that crystallized her plans to become a "positive agent for change," says Richardson. She credits Velma McBride Murray, professor of family studies, with challenging her as a young woman.

"She helped me see beyond the classroom. My four years at UConn were a great experience. It made me realize I could change things, that I could leave the world a little bit better than I found it," she says.

PETER MORENUS



It is the mission of Empower New Haven, Inc., to facilitate or create processes and practices that provide sustainable measurable improvements in the economic status and quality of life of individuals, families and businesses within the city's Empowerment Zone communities. A fundamental component of Empower New Haven's mission fulfillment is nurturing community benefit partnerships. For more information: www.empowernewhaven.org



DAVID OWEN HARRINGTON

Christopher Hattayer, 28

Foreign Service Officer

◀ **AT 28 YEARS OLD**, Christopher Hattayer '02 (CLAS) has spent more time working on critical world issues than many will ever have the opportunity to do in a lifetime.

A foreign service officer for the U.S. Department of State, Hattayer recently returned from a two-year diplomatic posting in Amman, Jordan, where he handled human rights and religious freedom matters. Among one of his many duties was coordinating foreign policy related to the estimated 500,000 Iraqis seeking refuge in Jordan.

Formerly a student trustee and president of UConn's Undergraduate Student Government, Hattayer believes UConn prepared him well for his career. "I took full advantage of student leadership at UConn," he says. "The opportunities I had there have helped me immeasurably in life, and the skills

have certainly been transferable."

In September Hattayer packed his bags again, this time for the U.S. Embassy in Central Asia's Kyrgyz Republic, where he will spend the next two years working on personnel and budget issues as a human resources and financial management officer.

"You feel that your work is worth something and that the energy that you put in matters," he says of his service with the Department of State. "It is beyond what I ever could have expected."

Alicia Young, 36

Public Relations Executive

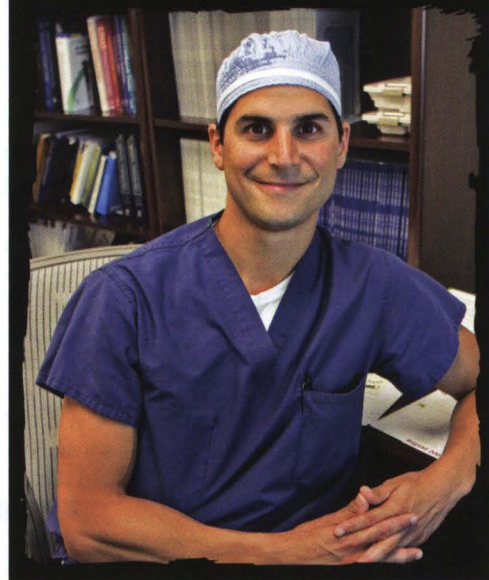
▼ **AT RUDER FINN**, Alicia Young '95 (CLAS) spends most of her day figuring out ways to influence consumers and business leaders for clients such as Microsoft, The North Face and Virgin Mobile USA. But she also uses her professional expertise to impact the lives of young women, such as when she delivered the keynote address at the 2007 United Nations Annual Commission on the Status of Women.

"I spoke about the differences between men and women and how the issue of the digital divide affects people in their professional development," she says, noting that female role models are the key to increasing young girls' access to and interest in information and communications technology.

An executive vice president at Ruder Finn, one of the world's leading public relations firms, Young leads its New York-based consumer technology team, which has earned more than a dozen industry awards for marketing programs, special events and media relations campaigns aimed at building brand loyalty.

After graduating from UConn with degrees in communications and journalism, Young was a reporter for *The Hartford Courant* and worked for Shandwick USA before joining Ruder Finn, where in addition to her client work, she and her team take on pro-bono assignments for nonprofit organizations.

"We've done some interesting volunteer work, and my team is committed to using their skills to help others," she says, adding that a recent effort for Dress for Success's Send One Suit (S.O.S) program resulted in 70,000 donated suits—a 73 percent increase over 2007—for the nonprofit organization, which helps women re-enter the workforce.



Craig Rodner, 34

Orthopaedic Surgeon

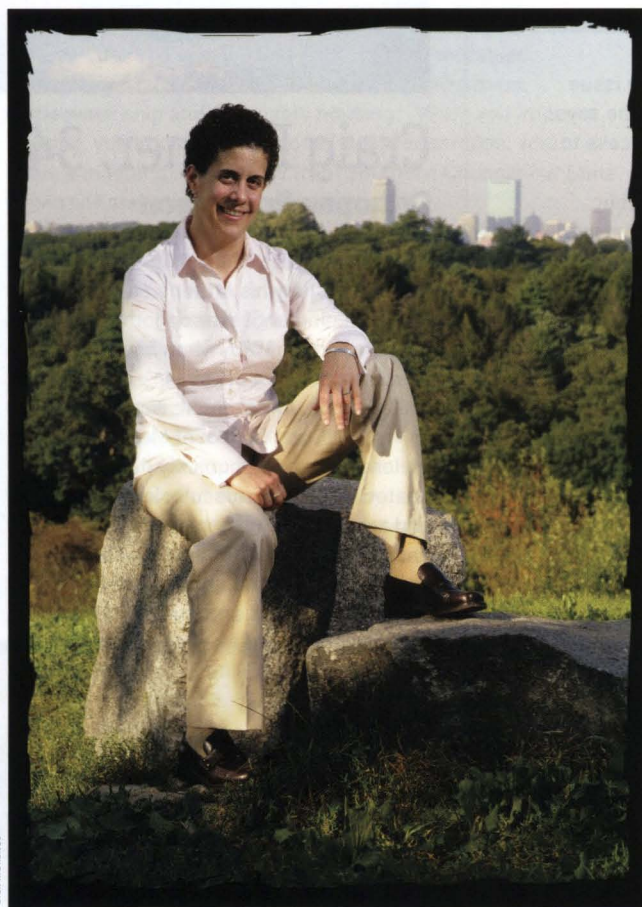
▲ **CRAIG RODNER '00 M.D.** did not decide to follow his father's career path into medicine until his sophomore year at Swarthmore in 1994, when he completed an externship in a physician's office in Philadelphia. After that he wasted no time.

At the UConn School of Medicine, the lifelong athlete was quickly drawn to anatomy and the musculoskeletal system and zeroed in on orthopaedics. Recipient of the 2000 UConn School of Medicine Dean's Award for outstanding achievement in medical studies and the 2000 Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey Humanism in Medicine Award, he recalls being motivated "to help people function better."

He completed his surgical residency at UConn, from 2000 to 2005, and was honored by his fellow residents with the Orthopaedic Surgery Residency Cavazos Award. He was just 32 in 2006 when, following a fellowship in hand and upper extremity surgery at Brown University, he was recruited back to UConn as an assistant professor.

"In a short period of time, Craig has established himself as an outstanding hand surgeon and educator," says Jay R. Lieberman, director of the UConn Health Center's New England Musculoskeletal Institute. "His enthusiasm for orthopaedic surgery and his compassion for his patients sets an excellent example for other faculty, residents and medical students."

In addition to teaching at the New England Musculoskeletal Institute, he continues to publish research findings in medical journals.



PETER MÖRGENS

Christine Sansevero, 36

► **IT IS HARDLY AN** understatement that Brett McGurk '96 (CLAS) now finds himself at a crossroads of history as one of President George W. Bush's closest advisors on American foreign policy in southwestern Asia.

"I don't take a single day for granted," says McGurk, special assistant to the president and senior director of strategic planning and policy development for Iraq and Afghanistan. "It is an honor to serve your country, particularly in a time of war... and working closely with the extraordinary men and women in our military."

McGurk has been one of the architects of U.S. policy in the region since 2004, when he left private legal practice to become associate general counsel to the Coalition Provisional Authority and, later, legal advisor to the U.S. embassy in Baghdad. In these roles, he helped structure the legal framework for Iraq's first elections after the fall of Saddam Hussein and offered counsel to leaders of the provisional government on the development of the country's interim constitution. In June 2005, McGurk was

Environmentalist

◀ **AS A CHILD**, Christine Sansevero '95 (ENG) dreamed of becoming an astronaut. While studying civil and environmental engineering at UConn, however, she realized, "there's a great deal of work to do right here on our own planet."

Since graduating from UConn, Sansevero has held a variety of positions at the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), earning eight medals for her efforts to improve air quality throughout the United States. In her current

role as senior enforcement coordinator for the EPA's Air Technical Unit in New England, Sansevero oversees air quality inspectors who conduct field inspections to evaluate industry's compliance with state and federal air pollution regulations.

"Our environment, health and prosperity are inextricably linked," says Sansevero. "I feel truly fortunate to work on issues of such profound importance. I believe that enforcing regulations is one of the most critical components of environmental protection. Even the most well-intentioned regulations and policies cannot succeed without effective and fair enforcement."

For more than 13 years, Sansevero has worked on air quality issues from a variety of perspectives at the national and regional levels. She also served as a Congressional Fellow to New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, advising the senator on energy and environmental issues.

"A lot of engineers are happy to do technical work but never step up to the public policy arena," says Michael Accrosi, professor and head of UConn's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. "Christine wanted to make a difference, and I think she's really achieving that."



appointed director for Iraq on the National Security Council, where he helped to develop the strategy commonly known as "the surge." He has been in his current post since late 2007.

"It's been a life-changing experience," says McGurk, who has received the Joint Civilian Service Commendation Award from President Bush.

That McGurk has achieved such success is hardly surprising, says Howard Reiter, professor of political science, who recalls McGurk's days as an undergraduate student in class.

"[Brett's] service in helping to write the Iraqi constitution, and then in joining the national security staff at the White House, show the recognition of many that he is an exceptionally talented young man," Reiter says.

At UConn, McGurk was Phi Beta Kappa, a graduate of the honors program, an R.O.T.C. cadet, a University Scholar and recipient of the Katherine Pardee Prize for Outstanding Thesis in the area of political science. He earned his law degree from Columbia Law School, where he was the senior editor of the *Columbia Law Review*.

After law school, McGurk served consecutive clerkships on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit and the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York before receiving the most prestigious of clerkships—one of only 35 clerks working at the U.S. Supreme Court. He clerked for the late Chief Justice William Rehnquist during the Court's 2001-2002 term before going into private practice in appellate litigation and teaching law as an adjunct professor at the University of Virginia.

These days, instead of writing appellate briefs, McGurk provides President Bush with a daily briefing on Iraq and Afghanistan.

"One quickly learns that the president often knows more than the briefer, so the briefer had better be prepared," he says.

Brett McGurk, 35

Senior Director for Iraq and Afghanistan



DAVID OWEN HAWTHORST



Lani Fortier, 26

Humanitarian

◀ **THOUGH ONLY FOUR** years out of UConn, Lani Fortier '04 (ED) has helped raise money to repair an orphanage in Liberia and launched a nonprofit organization that brings clean drinking water to people in developing nations.

Fortier's interest in humanitarian work was piqued in Brazil, where she traveled as a member of UConn's women's soccer team, which won the 2004 Big East championship and advanced to the NCAA finals. "That was the first time I noticed the disparity in how people live around the world," she says.

After graduation, the exercise science major spent a year volunteering with Mercy Ships, a global charity that uses ocean vessels to bring free medical care to people living in port areas of third-world countries.

In South Africa and Liberia, Fortier got a first-hand look at the quality of health care in developing nations. "The first day I was in Liberia, I was floored because I had no sense of its devastation," she says. "It made me want to get involved in improving health care in poor places, in places recovering from conflict."

While in Liberia, Fortier stumbled upon an orphanage for 153 children who slept on concrete floors with no blankets or clean water. Shortly after her visit, she learned that the orphanage was to be shut down because it did not meet government standards. The children would be sent to Monrovia, where they would be fed twice daily and live on the streets.

Fortier, along with two friends from Mercy Ships,

took action, launching a Web site and working with government officials to determine what was needed to keep the orphanage open. With the help of family and friends, they raised \$25,000. Fortier bought bunk beds and mattresses, repaired the roof and screens and organized a crew from the ship to paint and repair the well. When she left Liberia, enough money had been raised to construct a dining hall for the children, and the orphanage was kept open.

When her stint with Mercy Ships was over, Fortier moved to New York City to help fellow volunteer Scott Harrison launch a nonprofit, Charity: Water, focused on providing clean drinking water to developing nations.

"Water is so basic," she says. "People in this country don't know what it's like to have no access to fluids to hydrate a sick kid."

Today, Charity: Water has raised more than \$3 million and funded 624 water projects serving 250,000 people. The UConn Alumni Association recognized her work in Africa by presenting Fortier with its 2007 Humanitarian Award.

Fortier is now at Brandeis University, pursuing a master's degree in sustainable international development. With the coursework for the program behind her, she looks forward to spending seven months in Angola, completing her practicum with a nonprofit that addresses health problems in developing countries. "I've fallen in love with Africa," she says.

For more information: www.charitywater.org

Technology Entrepreneur

▼ **SHORT FOR MALICIOUS** software, "malware"—which includes computer viruses, worms and spyware programs—is designed to damage data or disrupt systems. Malware is typically installed onto a computer from the Internet, often without the knowledge or consent of the computer user.

Malware can generate annoying pop-up ads, crash computers or steal confidential information and cost companies around the world billions of dollars in repairs, lowered productivity and lost revenue.

Thanks to people such as James Noshir Hormuzdiar '94 (CLAS, ENG), defenses against malware are becoming increasingly more effective.

Co-founder and chief technology officer of California-based startup Robot Genius, Inc., Hormuzdiar is responsible for leading the development of the technologies behind Robot Genius's products, which are used by search engines, Internet service providers and computer manufacturers, among many others.

Since its founding in 2005, Robot Genius has focused not only on developing advanced technology to detect and prevent malware attacks before they happen but also on providing users the ability to reverse malware infections.

Hormuzdiar, a veteran of Web-based security technologies, previously co-founded SafeWeb, Inc., which was acquired in 2003 by Symantec Corporation, a leader in information security for businesses and consumers worldwide.

James Hormuzdiar, 38

Pediatric AIDS Physician

Kevin Clarke, 31

► **OF THE ROUGHLY** 14 million inhabitants of Malawi, a country in sub-Saharan Africa, an estimated 15 percent are living with HIV.

After finishing residency training in July 2007, Kevin Clarke '04 M.D. arrived in Malawi, one of 12 doctors stationed there as part of the Pediatric AIDS Corps, an extension of the Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative, a program focused on improving the lives of HIV-infected children.

"Malawi was a natural fit for me because I had already lived next door in Zambia," says Clarke, who took time off following his first year at the UConn School of Medicine to work for several months in a Zambian HIV clinic as part of an international health elective offered through the UConn Health Center. "I just got hooked," he says of living and working in Africa.

Clarke returned to pursue his second year of medical studies at the Health Center and when presented with an offer to serve as a research fellow at the clinic, he returned to Zambia to work for a year with adult HIV patients.

Today, through the Pediatric AIDS Corps, Clarke continues his medical practice focusing primarily on the youngest Malawians. In children, HIV advances more quickly than in adults—one-third of untreated HIV-positive infants will die by their first birthday and half will die by age 2. With an estimated 80,000 to 90,000 Malawian children infected with HIV, Clarke and his colleagues are working to screen, diagnose and provide treatment for the children.

"There is a massive shortage of physicians in southern Africa," he says. "This program is dual-purposed, designed to be a sort of stop-gap measure to provide care directly to patients while offering mentorship and training to local health care providers in treating HIV."



ELSON CRACCA

"The people here are so amazing, and welcome you with open arms," says Clarke, who in 2003 co-founded a nonprofit dedicated to supporting Zambian orphans. "You develop a real teamwork mentality in the work you do. It's both challenging and extraordinarily rewarding."



PETER MOGENUS

Kristin Hoffman, 38

Immigration Lawyer

◀ **EARLY IN LIFE** Kristin Hoffman '98 J.D. demonstrated a gift for learning languages and a fascination with foreign cultures. When she majored in Spanish and international studies at the University of Wisconsin, it seemed that she might embark upon a career in education or work abroad.

But when she moved to Connecticut in 1992 with her husband, Yuhang Rong, who is the assistant dean of the Neag School of Education, she decided a law degree would afford her opportunities to help immigrants to the United States.

As a volunteer for the International Institute of Connecticut in Hartford, she began to pursue her interest in immigration law. By the time she completed her UConn law degree, Hoffman had become well versed in the complexities of immigration law. Since then she has represented hundreds of immigrants before the Bureau of Immigration and Citizenship Services and the federal immigration court, reunited many immigrant families after long separations, helped asylum seekers avoid persecution in their home countries, and offered relief for immigrant victims of domestic violence.

Recipient of many honors, she was elected in 2007 as the chair of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, which carries an appointment to the national association's Board of Governors.

Jennifer Barnhart, 36

Puppeteer and Actor

► **JENNIFER BARNHART** '98 (SFA) enrolled at UConn to earn a degree in acting. Though she had been fascinated by puppetry since childhood, it was only after she was accepted to the University Scholars program that she discovered the Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry. Her experience there would later change her life.

After completing her degree with honors, Barnhart spent five years scuffling in New York. Like most young actors, she took a desk job to support herself while waiting for her big break. That came in 1999 when she landed the puppeteer role of Cleo in PBS's immensely popular "Between the Lions" children's show. Her work in "Lions" led to roles in "Bear in the Big Blue House," "Book of Pooh" and "Sesame Street."

In 2003 she joined the cast of a new Broadway show that is described as "Sesame Street meets South Park." The show, "Avenue Q," won the 2004 Tony Award for Best Musical and has since become one of Broadway's most popular shows. Even as she continues to perform eight shows a week on stage, she has expanded her work to include the Disney Channel children's show "Johnny and the Sprites," created by her "Avenue Q" co-star John Tartaglia.

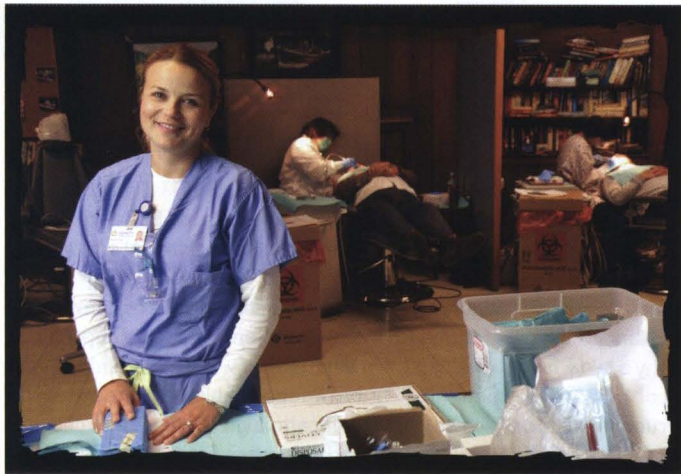
She has also recently completed work on a new Connecticut Public Television music education series, "Lomax: The Hound of Music," on which she plays a cat named Delta (see photo). The show will be aired nationally on local PBS stations.

Her training in puppetry, says Barnhart, has made a significant difference in her career. "Without it, I would be just another tall, blonde, deep-voiced actress in New York," she says.

PETER MORENUS



PETER MORENUS



Community Dentist

► **MARGARET DROZDOWSKI** '98 D.M.D. helps to put healthy smiles on the faces of Connecticut residents who need comprehensive dental care.

As the dental director at Community Health Center, Inc. (CHC), a nonprofit agency offering medical, dental and mental health services to underserved populations in more than 100 communities across the state, Drozdowski oversees CHC's seven dental service locations as well as the agency's mobile dental teams, which she helped to establish. The CHC dental centers serve about 70,000 patient visits a year.

The mobile clinics serve low-income women and children, the homeless, the elderly, and students at more than 100 schools. In addition, Drozdowski is responsible for recruiting dentists, budgeting, training dental students and residents who carry out rotations at the agency, and working to improve the quality of CHC's clinical services.

Drozdowski enjoys the fact that her work involves her in so many different ways. "There is something rewarding about every aspect of what I do," she says. "I like working with the dental students, having a hand in training the next generation of dentists. And I value that I have a voice in what goes on in the organization as a whole and how we can improve our operations with each passing year."

Even with her many administrative obligations, Drozdowski describes herself as "a clinician first, and an administrator second." She hasn't given up her role as a dentist. "What is still the most rewarding for me are the patients," she says, noting her schedule of seeing patients up to three days a week. "Doing high-quality dentistry for those who otherwise would not have access feels good."

Margaret Drozdowski, 35



Christopher Murphy, 35

Member, U.S. House of Representatives

◀ **U.S. REP. CHRISTOPHER MURPHY** '02 J.D. was introduced to politics in 1992 as a junior at Wethersfield High School, when a group of his friends created the school's Young Democrats Club.

By 1996 his political acumen brought an invitation to help run Charlotte Koskoff's campaign against incumbent U.S. Rep. Nancy Johnson. Though Koskoff lost to her formidable opponent, the race was close and Murphy's taste for politics had been whetted.

Two years later, in the fall of 1998, he did something almost unimaginable. He enrolled at the UConn School of Law while running his own feet-on-the-street campaign for the Connecticut General Assembly from the 81st District. "It was incredibly hard," he says, "but it actually made me a better law student." When he won the election to the State House, Murphy says, his experience as a law student "was instrumental to my growth as a young lawmaker." As chairman of the Public Health Committee, he became the General Assembly's leader on health care issues, including passage of the landmark workplace ban on smoking.

While practicing real estate law at Ruben, Johnson & Morgan P.C., Murphy served two terms in the Connecticut House of Representatives before winning a seat in the State Senate. Then, in November 2006, he took on the challenge he had supported with Charlotte Koskoff—to unseat 24-year incumbent Nancy Johnson. In an upset, Murphy won the election.

Today Murphy is a member of the Congressional Oversight and Government Reform Committee, the main investigative unit of the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Financial Services Committee, which oversees all components of the enforcement of housing and consumer protection laws.

Jeanne Allgood, 38

Film Producer

◀ **JEANNE ALLGOOD '92 (CLAS)** grew up enjoying live theater. As a teenager, she stage managed, starred in, directed and painted scenery for community shows. But it was seeing movies such as "Raiders of the Lost Ark," "Empire Strikes Back," "Breakfast Club," and "Sixteen Candles" that made her realize her true love: movies. And like so many naïve Hollywood upstarts, she headed west to pursue her dream of making movies.

The youngest of seven children, Allgood was encouraged by her parents to learn something "practical" as she considered career opportunities. She enjoyed writing and had an interest in politics, so when she arrived at UConn, it made sense for her to major in political science and journalism. After graduating, she worked in government affairs for the American Society of Association Executives in Washington, D.C.

But six months into her job, Allgood realized that reading legislation about IRS codes and postal rates wasn't going to satisfy her creative needs. She volunteered at the prestigious Shakespeare Theatre in Washington and before long, parlayed a volunteer position into an assistant job, working for the Theatre Company's artistic director, Michael Kahn.

Kahn could see that Allgood had a gift for production and when she shared her dream of producing feature films, he encouraged her to pursue that goal. She saved money and then packed all her belongings into a truck and headed west.

In Los Angeles, she proved to be highly resourceful in the face of limited resources, an attribute essential for a successful producer. She got a cheap apartment and a temporary job in the publisher's office at the city's alternative newspaper, the *LA Weekly*. Then she persuaded the theater editor to let her join his

staff of theater critics and started reviewing Equity Waiver shows throughout the city. She even persuaded the paper to let her co-produce its annual theater awards, two years in a row.

But it still wasn't movies, so she found stage-managing and assistant directing at small theaters in southern California. Her efforts paid off in 1997 when she landed a job as an assistant producer for Jersey Films—the production company led by award-winning actor, director and producer Danny DeVito—where she was an assistant to a producer on films including "Out of Sight" and "Living Out Loud."

She discovered that being a producer was her *métier*. Producers set the stage to make films and are involved in all major decisions, from financing the production and hiring directors and actors to keeping everything on time and on budget. Allgood developed a respected reputation for her craft and new doors began to open.

Leaving Jersey Films, she went to work at several other production companies, shepherding major films such as "Identity," "The Sweetest Thing," "Kate & Leopold" and "Training Day."

In 2003 she was hired by DreamWorks, where she oversaw movies including "Red Eye," "Dreamer," and "Meet the Fockers." Two years later, she moved to Wonderland Sound and Vision, the company that produced both Charlie's Angels movies and the hit television series "The O.C.," and "Chuck." Her first film as an executive producer was the award-winning "We Are Marshall." Today she is executive producing "Terminator: Salvation" even as she now oversees Wonderland's entire film division.

"I know I've been fortunate," she says. "I like waking up everyday and going to work. I just really love good stories, and I want to share them with the world."

International Linguist

▶ **WITHOUT HIS DOCTORATE** in linguistics from the University of Connecticut, Klaus Abels, 02 M.A., '03 Ph.D. believes he would be somewhere "translating birth certificates and computer manuals into German."

Instead, he is establishing an international reputation as one of the best linguists of his generation for his efforts to understand how the human brain works to form language. A lecturer in linguistics within the prestigious Linguistics Research Department at University College in London, the German-born Abels won a Fulbright Fellowship to pursue a master's degree at UConn's internationally renowned linguistics program before completing his doctoral degree. He says his major influence at UConn was Howard Lasnik, professor emeritus of linguistics.

"He always managed to convey a sense of intense excitement about syntax in the classroom and in one-on-one meetings," says Abels. "He is extremely clear. These are qualities that I very consciously try to emulate in my own work. When I prepare a lecture on a particular topic, I often ask myself, 'How would Howard teach this class?'"

Abels conducted postdoctoral work at the University of Leipzig in Germany and then spent three years as associate professor of linguistics at the University of Tromsø in Norway before heading to London. He has been an invited lecturer at linguistics colloquia throughout the United States and Europe and in South Africa and continues to publish in peer-reviewed journals on a range of linguistics topics. He serves on the editorial boards of *Syntax* and the *Journal of Comparative Germanic Linguistics*.

Abels is recognized as one of the brightest syntacticians in the field. He and his colleagues at the Syntax Research Group are becoming known for producing some of the best linguistics research in Great Britain. In addition to his native German and English, he is fluent in Russian, has a working command of Norwegian, reads French and is familiar with Latin and Spanish.

Klaus Abels, 37



MICHAEL MOLLOY



Keith Bellizzi, 39

Social Scientist

◀ **BY AGE 23**, Keith Bellizzi '03 Ph.D. thought his career was on track. With a business degree and an enviable consulting job, he had plenty of ambition. "Up until then," he says, "my goal had been to make lots of money." Four days shy of his 25th birthday, everything changed.

Doctors told Bellizzi he had both Stage 3 testicular and kidney cancer. His chances for survival were 50 percent and if he did recover, doctors considered the prospect of his having children remote, something Bellizzi found "as devastating as the original diagnosis."

Following several surgeries, including the removal of one kidney, and aggressive chemotherapy, Bellizzi made a vow: If he survived, he would quit his job, return to school and dedicate his work to the battle against cancer.

"That was the decision that changed my life trajectory," he says. "The experience taught me that it's not about money. It's about contributing to society and making a difference in the world."

Today Bellizzi has three daughters with his wife, Danielle. He also fulfilled his promise, obtaining three advanced degrees—master's degrees in public health and psychology and a Ph.D. in human development and family studies from UConn—and became a scientist in the Office of Cancer Survivorship at the National Cancer Institute, where he helped shape the nation's agenda for cancer survivorship research.

In 2005, he took on another challenge, making the cut for Bristol-Myers Squibb Tour of Hope, a team of 24 cyclists—chosen from a pool of 1,500 applicants—who biked cross-country with Lance Armstrong to raise awareness about cancer research.

This past summer, Bellizzi was presented with an opportunity he could not refuse. He was recruited back to UConn as an assistant professor of human development and family studies. At UConn he combines teaching students with exploring the health needs of cancer survivors age 65 and older. His research also has helped bridge the knowledge gap regarding health issues endured by cancer survivors following medical treatment and different quality of life issues.

"We work to document the prevalence of these conditions and are looking at the role that physical activity plays in attenuating such problems," Bellizzi says.

Bellizzi's interests also extend to cancer's impact on families. "Cancer is something that reverberates across the family system and leaves no one untouched," he says. "We want to look at how well families adapt as a unit to these life crises and teach them coping techniques if needed."

Welcoming the opportunities to discuss his research as well as his own history, Bellizzi speaks nationwide to scientists and survivors alike.

"It is extremely rewarding to talk about the work we're doing and about my own experience," he says. "It gives people hope that you can survive and thrive after cancer."

Peter Tesei, 39

First Selectman of Greenwich

▶ **IN 1987, WHEN HE** was just 18 years old, Peter J. Tesei '91 (CLAS) became the youngest person elected to the Greenwich (Conn.) Representative Town Meeting, the municipal government for one of the nation's wealthiest communities.

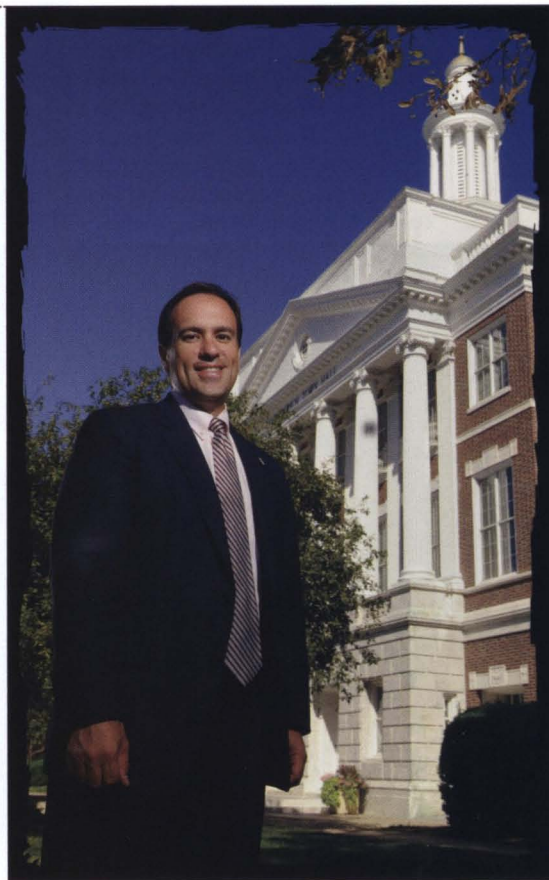
"I've always wanted to be in position to shape policy and improve things," says the former political science major who while at UConn gained an internship at the state House of Representatives helping to fuel his political ambitions.

After graduation and a failed bid to represent his district as a state representative, Tesei spent 18 years at Putnam Trust and its successor, Bank of New York Mellon, eventually becoming a vice president with responsibility for managing high net assets for customers. Meanwhile he served on various boards and committees, including chairing the Greenwich Board of Estimate and Taxation for six years. Tesei also became a volunteer on the boards of local nonprofit organizations including the Greenwich Point Conservancy.

Tesei left the banking business in 2007 to focus on politics after winning election as First Selectman of Greenwich, comparable to mayor in most communities. He considers the job "a wonderful opportunity to continue to serve Greenwich and use the skills I've developed."

Even in a community considered among the best places to live in the nation, Tesei's skills are put to the test daily, grappling with local issues such as water conservation, school construction, road repairs and affordable housing.

"I'd like to improve overall accountability of the government and its management," Tesei says, noting he plans to stand for re-election to another two-year term in 2009. "I think four years is ample time to serve. Beyond that I'd be interested in continuing to serve people, either by being appointed to a position or going back into the private sector."





Stacey Violante Cote, 36

Social Worker and Lawyer

► **FOR STACEY VIOLANTE COTE '00 M.S.W., '01 J.D.,** enrolling as a dual-degree student at UConn's Schools of Social Work and Law provided the best of both worlds. Cote took on numerous internships and externships—among them a position at the Center for Children's Advocacy, a nonprofit organization affiliated with the UConn School of Law that works to protect the legal rights of low-income children. There, Cote found her passion and has not looked back.

Today, she serves as a staff attorney at the Center as well as project director of the Center's Teen Legal Advocacy Clinic, which specializes in promoting the legal rights of teenagers in areas such as education advocacy, the legal rights of teens in DCF and improper denials of state and federal benefits.

"We go out to where the kids are," says Cote, noting the clinic's services reach teens in schools, group homes, community agencies, homeless shelters and beyond.

"Teens are not going to knock on our door; they may not even know they have legal rights that are being violated," she says. "It's on us to go out there, find them, talk about their legal rights, advocate for them and teach them how to advocate for themselves."

PETER MORENUS



Irina (Tsikhelashvili) Moore, 36

Finance Executive

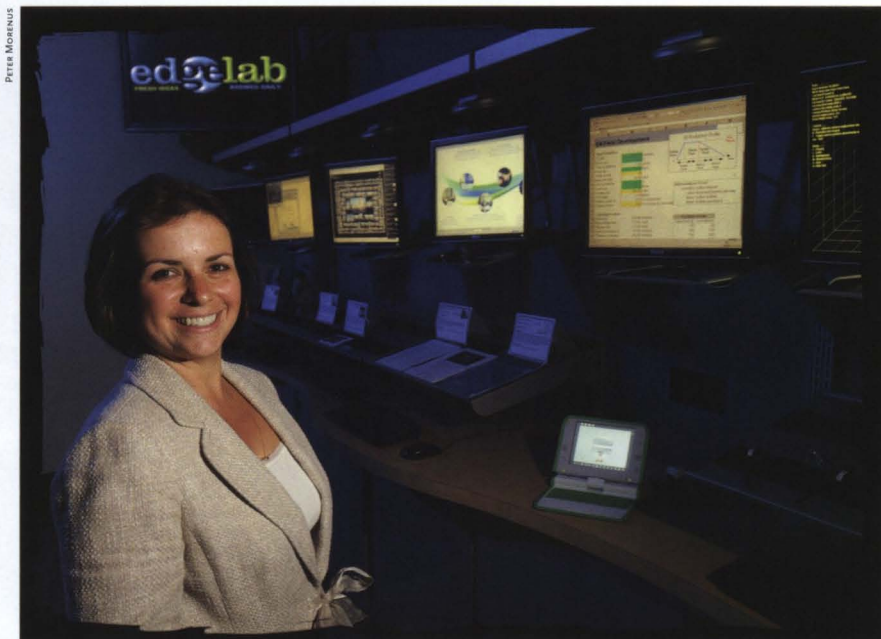
▼ **ONLY A YEAR AFTER** being hired by General Electric, Irina (Tsikhelashvili) Moore '04 M.B.A. was one of 10 people selected worldwide to receive GE's Edison Award, the company's most prestigious technical honor. The recognition is given to individuals for technical contributions that significantly impact the vitality of GE businesses. Moore received the award for developing a macroeconomic risk assessment model to measure and manage the risk of GE's global real estate secured loan portfolios.

Moore came to the United States in 2002 to try her hand in the U.S. market after enjoying a successful career in accounting and banking in her homeland of the Republic of Georgia. She was hired by GE and enrolled at UConn's campus in Stamford to earn her M.B.A. The move proved to be a good one. In the past

three years she has received three promotions and today is vice president of risk management for GE Money, the corporation's consumer and small financial services unit.

A top-ranked student, Moore graduated from the M.B.A. program with a 4.0 GPA, earning her a place in the School of Business Hall of Fame. It was at UConn's edgelab, a learning laboratory created jointly by the School of Business and GE, where Moore first began work on her award-winning model.

"Edgelab is a learning accelerator. It is a unique opportunity to learn by doing and it provides challenging projects," says Moore. "Edgelab is one of the best things that happened in my career, and my success today would not be possible without it."



PETER MORENUS

Jonathan Plucker, 38

Researcher and Educator

► FOR JONATHAN PLUCKER '91 (CLAS), '92 M.A., life came "full circle" when he learned that one of his early published articles was assigned as reading material to UConn honors students in the Neag School of Education. He still considers this the most rewarding compliment he has ever received.

Today, Plucker's abundant and highly regarded work in giftedness and gifted education, creativity and intelligence

and educational policy—which includes several books and upward of 100 research articles—continues to be incorporated into students' coursework within the Neag School and beyond.

As professor of educational psychology and cognitive science at Indiana University and founding director of the university's Center for Evaluation and Education Policy, Plucker has developed a unique set of researching, writing and teaching skills.

E. J. Gubbins, associate professor of educational psychology in residence in the Neag School of Education, says Plucker's work relates to the breadth, depth and scope of his professional interests.

"Jonathan is a researcher and scholar who grounds himself in the research of others and his own research before he begins his writing of any chosen topic," says Gubbins. "He has the ability to synthesize complex concepts for multiple audiences of practitioners or researchers."

Faculty in the Neag Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development most recently selected *Critical Issues and Practices in Gifted Education: What the Research Says*, co-edited by Plucker, for its seminar with advanced graduate students. It is considered a seminal resource for graduate students and future researchers.



MICHAEL FRIEDLER



Nonprofit Leader

▼ **IN THE MONTHS** after completing his UConn graduate degree in educational psychology, Fahd Vahidy '95 (CLAS), '98 M.A. realized he wanted to make an impact by working with young people. He and several colleagues, in close collaboration with community members throughout Connecticut, devised a plan for developing young adults across the state into future nonprofit leaders.

In establishing Public Allies Connecticut in 2004, this group has successfully turned that plan into a reality. Through a partnership with Public Allies, a national organization funded in part by AmeriCorps, they are now preparing young people—ages 18 to 30—for careers in the nonprofit sector.

Applicants admitted to Public Allies Connecticut take on full-time apprenticeships at 25 nonprofit agencies in three of Connecticut's major cities—Hartford, New Haven, and Bridgeport—where over the course of 10 months they learn about leadership development, nonprofit sector and civic participation. Each young Ally completes 1,700 hours of community service in areas as diverse as education, public health and economic development. Public Allies Connecticut has graduated 63 Allies since its inception.

"We're creating a pipeline of professionals," says Vahidy, who has served as executive director of the Connecticut-based program since 2007. "These individuals are growing personally and professionally, getting new skills and are more civically engaged."

Vahidy oversees the Allies who have committed to these apprenticeships while also managing the programming, grant writing, networking, and fund-raising on behalf of the Connecticut initiative.

Fahd Vahidy, 34

Public Allies Connecticut



Public Allies Connecticut believes changing times call for a new kind of leadership. Allies are young, diverse and passionate social change makers who support community projects in partnership with hundreds of local nonprofit organizations. Allies change their lives and our community through a rigorous AmeriCorps program that combines full-time, paid apprenticeships in nonprofits with intensive skills training, active community-building projects, personalized coaching and critical reflection. For more information: www.publicallies.org.

Chunlei Guo, 37

Laser Scientist

► **IMAGINE TURNING** an inexpensive metal such as aluminum into gold, or at least what appears to be gold. Chunlei Guo '99 Ph.D is doing just that, bringing a bit of the mythic Midas touch to modern-day science.

Guo, associate professor of optics at the University of Rochester, is exploring how different metals interact with exposure to laser light so powerful that at peak intensity, a single pulse is equal to the wattage of the entire North American power grid.

Two years ago, Guo discovered firing such lasers upon various types of metals altered their surface molecular structure, transforming the surfaces from a glossy shine to a permanent "black metal" that absorbs virtually 100 percent of the light. The laser Guo uses emits a pulse lasting only about one quadrillionth of a second, or one femtosecond. As he likes to point out, one femtosecond is to one second as one second is to 32 million years—extremely short.

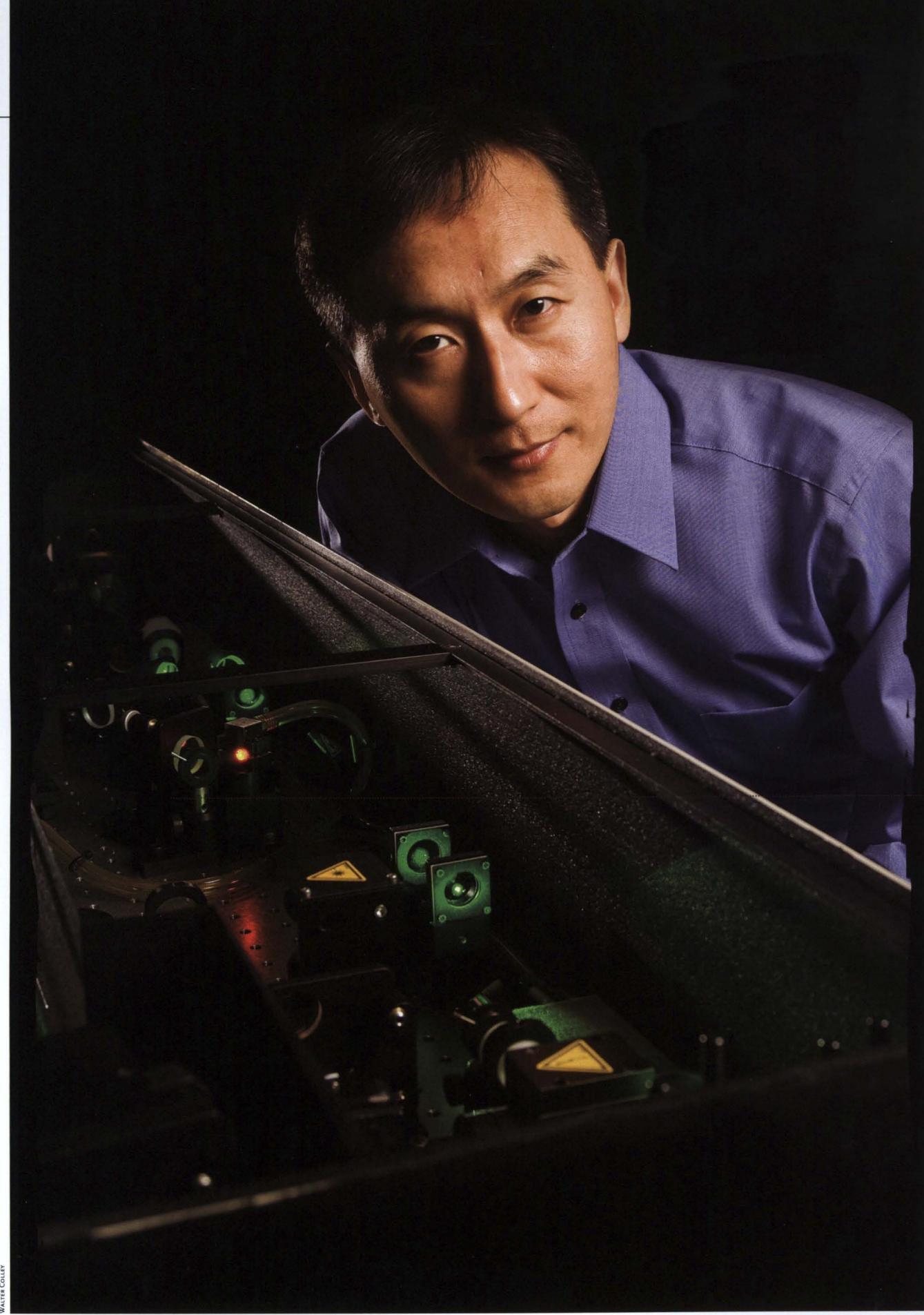
Continuing his research, Guo realized that by varying the parameters of the laser pulses and the conditions of the interaction, metals could be modified to take on colors other than black—such as blue, purple, or gold. Most metals, he explains, are highly reflective, absorbing less than 10 percent of light. This trait is what gives metal its luster. The so-called "black metals" Guo and his research team have developed reflect nothing and instead absorb all the light.

The applications of his discoveries are wide-ranging. Black metal could soon be the new material of choice in assembling solar panels that could be far more effective in collecting and storing the sun's energy. Stealth planes constructed with black metals would be capable of eluding detection by radar. Many jewelry companies also have expressed interest, eager to market platinum engagement rings or gold wedding bands in black or a range of other unconventional colors.

Fascinated by physics from a young age, Guo earned his bachelor's degree in optical physics from Changchun Institute of Optics and Fine Mechanics in China in 1994. He came to UConn to pursue his doctorate by studying behaviors of small molecules in strong laser fields using femtosecond laser techniques. After completing his Ph.D., he performed postdoctoral research at Los Alamos National Laboratory, where he was awarded the Postdoctoral Publication Prize in Experimental Sciences. He never expected his work in the laboratory to make world headlines.

But in the wake of his discoveries, hundreds of news media worldwide—from *The New York Times* and the Discovery Channel to scientific journals such as *Science* and *Nature*—have covered his research findings.

"The most interesting science is not easily predicted," he says. "The black metals and colored metals have a lot of applications and have received a tremendous amount of media attention, but there is so much people do not yet understand. There are still many questions that need to be answered and further investigated. We are committed to taking this technique to the next level."



Alumni News&Notes

We want to hear from you!

Let your fellow UConn alumni know about the milestones in your life. You can keep them up to date by sending information and, if possible, a photograph, to Alumni News & Notes, University of Connecticut Alumni Association, Alumni Drive, Storrs, CT 06269; by fax to 860-486-2849; by e-mail to alumni-news@uconn.edu; or log in to the Husky Alumni Network and submit your information.

Stay connected with the Husky Alumni Network!

Introducing the Husky Alumni Network, an expanded online community for UConn alumni.

Two new features of the Husky Alumni Network are permanent e-mail and the Career Network. Stay affiliated with your alma mater with your own UConn alumni e-mail address, and share your career experience and advice with fellow alumni and students.

Alumni can also submit class notes online through the Husky Alumni Network. For more information, visit UConnAlumni.com

Save the dates!

ALUMNI WEEKEND 2009
June 5–6, 2009

Alumni volunteers are needed for the Alumni Weekend 2009 Planning Committee. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Kim Lachut '90 at (888) 822-5861 or by e-mail at kimberly.lachut@uconn.edu.

From the Alumni Association

In this issue of *UConn Magazine*, we have highlighted 40 of our outstanding young alumni who have achieved success in their communities and their professions. These 40 graduates were selected from a wide pool of accomplished young alumni, and they exemplify the impact of the 195,000 UConn alumni around the world.

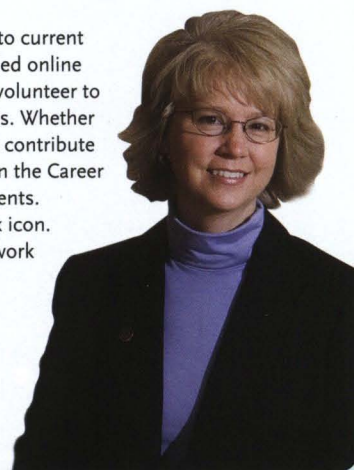
In September, I had the privilege of celebrating with this group of young graduates as they came back to campus to meet each other, connect with the campus community and see how much their University has changed in the short time they've been gone. The most important part of their visit was the time they spent with current UConn students. These "40 Under 40" met with students in small groups and classroom settings to share their experiences and talk about their life journey after UConn. They offered inspiration and guidance to those who want to follow in their footsteps.

As a proud UConn alum, you have a similar opportunity to give back to current students. The Alumni Association's Husky Alumni Network, the expanded online community, now includes a Career Network through which alumni can volunteer to share career advice and develop professional relationships with students. Whether you live in Canton, California, or Calcutta, each of you has something to contribute to the next generation of Huskies. I invite you to complete your profile in the Career Network today and be one step closer to making connections with students. Simply go to uconnalumni.com and click on the Husky Alumni Network icon. Let's follow the lead of these 40 young alumni and build an alumni network of thousands ready to help a fellow Husky.

Lisa Lewis

Executive Director, UConn Alumni Association

Connecting Alumni. Supporting Students. Strengthening UConn.



1950s

Harvey Johnson '52 (CLAS) received a kidney transplant in February 2008. He spends most of his time working with the Carolina Midlands Irrigation Society and lives in Aiken, S.C., with his wife of 49 years.

William Wollenberg '53 (CLAS) and his wife, Doris, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June 2007. He retired from the U.S. Army in 1986 with the rank of colonel.

Fay E. Edsall '55 (SAH) was voted Female Volunteer of the Year at the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor, Mich., after nine years of volunteer work.

Lois Stone '55 (ED), a writer and poet, contributed essays to both the spring and summer 2008 *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series books.



Ellen (Stevens) Brannigan '56 (ED) and her husband, **James Brannigan '57 (BUS)**, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with their children and grandchildren on a cruise to Baja California.



Otha N. Brown '56 M.A., chairman of the second taxing district of the city of Norwalk, Conn., was recognized for his community service by the South Norwalk Branch Library, which named its building in his honor in April. He has served



as director of the UConn campus in Waterbury and as president of the local chapter of the NAACP.



Peninnah Schram '56 (CLAS), professor in the Speech and Drama Department at Stern College for Women of Yeshiva

University, New York, N.Y., is the author of *The Hungry Clothes and Other Jewish Folktales*, published by Sterling Publishing in March 2008.

Courtland Traver '57 (CLAS) is retired and living in Williamsburg, Va., after his career as a lawyer and professor of law at The College of William and Mary.

William Pardus '58 (ED), professor emeritus of music at Keene State College, received the Director's Prize in the International Composers' Competition sponsored by the Longfellow Chorus of Portland, Maine, for his composition "Three Songs of the Coast." He also won the 2008 New Hampshire Music Teachers' Association's Commissioned Composer Award for a new work that will premiere in October 2008 in Manchester, N.H.

Paul A. Perregaux '58 (CLAS), '66 M.A. received the Daniel Beard Award from the Grand Lodge of Masons, St. James Lodge 102, in North Hampton, N.H., for dedicated service to the Boy Scouts of America. He and his wife, **Shirley (Dimmock) '63 (SFA)**, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in December.



Nancy Mattoon Kline '59 (SFS), '61 M.S., '94 Ph.D., retired UConn librarian, established the Mattoon-Kline Scholarship at the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, where she earned her master of library science degree. The award was presented for the first time in April 2008.



Paul Magnarella '59 (BUS) is the director of Peace and Justice Studies at Warren Wilson College, Asheville, N.C.

Lewis Turco '59 (CLAS), emeritus professor of English writing arts at SUNY Oswego, received the Robert Fitzgerald Prosody Award at the 2008 West Chester (Pa.) University Poetry Conference. SUNY Oswego established the Lewis Putnam Turco Formal Poetry Award to celebrate the 40th anniversary of its Creative Writing Program, founded by Turco in 1968. Two other poetry prizes in his name also will be established: the Windmill Poets' Lewis Turco Award and the National Federation of State Poetry Societies Lewis Turco Prize.

1960s

Dave Hills '60 (ED), '65 M.A., retired high school history teacher, is the author of *Fishing With Whitewater and Other Memories (A Memoir)* published by Little Letterpress in 2007.

John P. Rosazza '62 (PHR), '66 M.S., '69 Ph.D., professor emeritus of pharmacy at the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy, received the College's Honorary Alumnus Award. He maintains a research laboratory at the UI Center for Biocatalysis and Bioprocessing.

Joel Hirschhorn '64 (CLAS), attorney at Hirschhorn & Bieber, P.A. in Coral Gables, Fla., was included in the 2008 *Florida Super Lawyers* and the 2008 *Best Lawyers in America* and was listed as a top lawyer in South Florida in the 2008 *South Florida Legal Guide*.

Allan Neubauer '64 (BUS) retired as North American procurement manager for maintenance and engineering services for BASF Corporation. He lives in Bastrop, Texas, with his wife of 34 years, Linda.

Todd Sorrow '64 (BUS) retired after 24 years as a senior program master planner with Lockheed Martin Aerospace in Orlando, Fla.



Paul B. Phinney III '68 (CLAS) completed a two-year term as president of the Rockland (N.Y.) County Magistrates

Association and began his 23rd year as town justice in Orangetown, N.Y., becoming the longest-serving town justice in the town's history. He has opened a specialized domestic violence division in his court and serves as instructor on traffic trials at the Rockland County Police Academy. His wife, **Elizabeth (Thomas) '68 (CLAS)**, works as the bookkeeper in his private law office.

Mark Rich '68 (CLAS), '74 M.A. retired after 10 years as director of Maymont Nature Center in Richmond, Va. He lives in Chester, Va., with his wife, **Kathleen (Boyd) '70 M.A.**, who retired this year from her career as a reading teacher.

Joseph Polisi '69 (CLAS), president of The Juilliard School, is the author of *William Schuman, American Muse: The Life and Times of William Schuman*, scheduled for publication by Amadeus Press in October 2008.

1970s

Woody Anderson '70 (CLAS), former *Hartford Courant* sportswriter, won the 2008 Arthur B. McGinley Award for meritorious service to the Connecticut Sports Writer's Alliance.

Robert Connolly '71 M.S.W. retired from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in March 2008 and has joined the Catholic University of America National School of Social Service to assist in geriatric research and planning. His wife, **Mavis (McPhillips) '71 M.S.W.**, retired from CMS in 2006 and now is a consultant on hospice and home health issues.

Philip Daley '71 (ED), '73 M.A. works for the architectural team at AutoCAD in Hillsborough, N.H. His wife, **Barbara (Landeem) '71 (CLAS)**, '73 M.S., is a piano teacher, church organist and youth groups director.

Bruce Mastracchio '71 (ED) retired after 36 years as a teacher and coach in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Nevada and Georgia. He was enshrined in the East Greenwich (R.I.) Athletic Hall of Fame and was recognized during the 2008 CT-RI Governor's Cup, the all-star football game between Connecticut and Rhode Island high school players.

Beverly Rainforth '71 (SAH), '79 M.A., professor of special education at Binghamton University in Binghamton, N.Y., was named a distinguished teaching professor, a tenured ranking that is conferred for consistently extraordinary accomplishment.

Richard Tavone '71 M.S.W., a U.S.G.A. First Tee staff instructor, established a clinical golf school at Washington Village Golf Course in Coventry, R.I., using sports psychology and golf skills for

students of all ages, including special needs children and adults.



Rodney Gilbert '72 (CANR), instructor of animal science and manager of the instructional livestock units at Delaware Valley

College, received the 2008 NACTA Eastern Regional Outstanding Teacher Award at the Annual Conference of the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture held at Utah State University.

David McGowan '72 Ph.D. is semi-retired after a four-decade career of direct patient care and administration and management in hospitals, clinics and rehabilitation centers. He is licensed as a soccer and ice hockey referee and officiates minor league games and senior amateur games in the U.S. and Europe.

Harry Nichols '72 (BUS) is vice president of human resources at CVR Energy Inc. in Sugarland, Texas. He previously worked as vice president of human resources at Boardwalk Pipeline Partners, LP.

Melville Stewart '72 M.A., professor of philosophy emeritus and adjunct at Bethel University in Minnesota, has taught at universities in Russia, China, and the United Kingdom and is the author and editor of several books on philosophy and religion topics, including volumes in Russian and Chinese.

Noah Zecher '72 (CLAS) is the CEO of Compass Brokerage, Inc., in Birmingham, Ala., which won the 2007 Bank Insurance and Securities Association Award as Outstanding Brokerage Firm among large financial institutions.



Jeff Davidson '73 (BUS), '75 M.B.A. has had his book, *The Sixty Second Organizer*, published by Adams

Media Corporation, translated into Arabic, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Spanish and Turkish. The second edition of the book was published in June 2008.

ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES



Robert Wendel '73 (SFA), '76 M.M., composer, arranger and conductor, was commissioned by the Cincinnati Pops to create a new arrangement of "Chariots of Fire," which was performed at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Joseph Wocoski '73 (CLAS) is mission assurance manager in charge of quality assurance for software and systems engineering projects within the defense mission systems division of Northrop Grumman Corp. He lives with his wife, Gayle, in the Washington, D.C., area.

Ronald Eig '74 (SAH) became a certified performance coach, with a focus on medical and health professionals and families in transition, after 34 years as a practicing physical therapist in Florida.

Ralph Esposito '74 (SFA), professor of art at Carroll College in Helena, Mont., has been awarded a 2008 Fulbright-Hayes Summer Seminar Abroad. He will explore Greece and Bulgaria for six weeks in a cultural immersion experience that will culminate in an independent curriculum project from each participant after completion of the trip.



Joanne Geise '74 (NUR), a cardiac care nurse at Battle Creek Health System in Michigan, is among 43 nurses recognized by the

American Association of Critical-Care Nurses for 30 years of continuous service.

Kristin (Stout) Graham '74 M.F.A. teaches acting and theater history at Southern Connecticut State University. She starred in *Home for the Holidays* at Playhouse on the Green in Bridgeport, directed by her husband, **Mark Graham '74 M.F.A.**

Bonnie Myers Pachesa '74 (ED) is the principal of Edgewood Magnet K-8 school in New Haven.

Persis Williams '74 (ED) moved to Blue Hills, Maine, after retiring from his positions as rector of St. Mary's Church, Springfield Center,

N.Y., and vicar of Grace Church, Cherry Valley, N.Y.

Karen Bussolini '75 (SFA) is the co-author of *The Homeowners Complete Tree and Shrub Handbook*, published by Storey Publishing, and the co-author of *Elegant Silvers: Striking Plants for Every Garden*, from Timber Press.



Kathryn Calibey '75 (CLAS), a partner at the Hartford, Conn., law firm of RisCassi and Davis, was elected president of the Hartford County Bar Association.

Joan Reiss '75 (CLAS) is senior development research officer at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. She previously served as director of prospect research at California Institute of the Arts.



Karen Locke Thoms '75 (ED), is director of ReStores of Habitat for Humanity in Orange County in Santa Ana,

Calif., where new and gently used building products are sold to fund construction for Habitat homes. She previously worked for 23 years at Weyerhaeuser.

Vladimir Wozniuk '75 (CLAS) is the author of *Enemies from the East? V.S. Soloviev on Paganism, Asian Civilizations, and Islam* from Northwestern University Press and *Freedom, Faith, and Dogma: Essays by V.S. Soloviev on Christianity and Judaism*, published in August by SUNY Press.

Jennifer Dorn '77 M.P.H., president and CEO of the National Academy of Public Administration, was listed in the 2008 booklet from the Council of Graduate Schools, "Making a Difference: A Selection of Graduate Degree Holders and Their Contributions to the Public Good."

Kimberly Dumouchel '77 (ED) received a master of science in technology education from Central Connecticut State University in December 2005.



Les Payne honored by NABJ

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist **Les Payne '64 (CLAS)** was inducted into the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) Hall of Fame in July by NABJ president **Barbara Ciara**. He is a founder of NABJ and one of the nation's pioneering journalists as a reporter, associate editor and columnist for *New York Newsday* for 35 years. Payne is a tireless champion for newsroom diversity and international journalism and an outspoken critic of racism. He is writing a biography of Malcolm X.

Richard Forsberg '77 (CLAS) is assistant vice president at Kaman Corp. in Bloomfield, Conn. He lives with his wife, Tina, and their son in Hebron, Conn.

Wladyslaw Andrew Noakowski IV '77 (ENG), '79 M.S. retired from the city engineer's office in Clarksville, Tenn., in June 2008, and moved back to his native Poland to join his wife, Anna, whom he married on Sept. 1, 2007.

Jay Rheingold '77 Ph.D. is vice president of chemistry manufacturing and controls at Tobira Therapeutics Inc., a clinical stage biotechnology company committed to the research and product discovery against life-threatening and life-altering infectious diseases. He previously was vice president at Barrier Pharmaceuticals.

John Stekla '77 M.B.A. is director of ethylene studies at Chemical Market Associates, Inc., responsible for ethylene market coverage for the Americas and contributing to the Monomers Consulting Service.

William Doherty '78 Ph.D., professor and director of the marriage and family therapy program at the University of Minnesota, was listed in the 2008 booklet from the Council of Graduate Schools, "Making a Difference: A Selection of Graduate

Degree Holders and Their Contributions to the Public Good."

William Luddy '78 J.D., clinical professor at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and legal advisor to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, was appointed special legal counsel to the World Customs Organization.



Lars Edgren '79 (BUS), vice president, commercial mortgage lending with TD Banknorth, NA, was named a 2008 MS Corporate Achiever by the Connecticut chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

1980s

Benita Rose '80 (SFA) and her husband, **Tony Gibbs '03 M.M.**, won third prize in the 2008 International Chamber Music and Ensembles Competition as the Rose-Gibbs Duo. Benita is active as a concert pianist, organist and piano teacher, and Tony teaches music at Captain Nathan Hale School in Coventry, Conn.

John Carroll '81 (BUS), '83 M.B.A. is CEO of Hain Celestial United States, a leading natural and organic

food and personal-care products company. He lives in Long Island with his wife, **Karen (Kauffman) '81 (CLAS)**, and their three children.

Robert Hoffer '81 (CLAS) is the pitching coach for the Westwood (Mass.) High School baseball team, which won its first state title in more than 43 years this past spring.

Bill Keena '81 (CLAS) and Kelly Keena announce the birth of a son, John Wyeth, born Nov. 15, 2007.

Michael Splain '81 (ENG) is executive vice president of the microelectronics group at Sun Microsystems, Inc., serving as chief engineer and as CTO for the firm's systems group.



Peter Sparzo '82 (BUS) is director of global business and marketing for Microsoft Financing and a member of its global leadership team. He previously was director of worldwide sales for Microsoft.

De-Ping Yang '82 M.S., '88 Ph.D. was promoted to the rank of professor in the physics department of the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Mass.

Connie (Egan) Perrine '83 (BUS) is president of Omni National Bank after serving as chief financial officer. She lives in Roswell, Ga., with her husband, **Tom Perrine '83 (BUS)**, and their two children.

Michael Antonini '84 (BUS) and his wife, Amy, announce the birth of their first child, John Edward, on March 31, 2008. Michael recently partnered with **Michael Rosato '84 (CLAS)** at Lexpress International, an international translation and global naming company in Norwalk, Conn.

Scott Bayles '84 (ENG) is principal engineer at The MITRE Corporation, located in McLean, Va. He previously was a senior technical manager at America Online.

Kevin Cunningham '84 M.B.A. is president of Bank of America in Connecticut, responsible for the integrated delivery of commercial lending and treasury services

for middle market and business banking clients throughout the Northeast.

Richard Della Corte '84 (BUS) and his wife, Melissa, announce the birth of a daughter, Addison Faith, who joins sister Arianna and brother Aidan. Richard is a partner with Kahan, Steiger & Co., a certified public accounting firm. The family lives in Newtown, Conn.

John Jurczyk '84 (PHR) is vice president of ambulatory care services at Saint Anne's Hospital in Fall River, Mass. He lives in East Greenwich, R.I., with his wife, Karla, and son, Christopher.



Marcia Marien '84 (BUS), managing partner of Marien & Company, LLC, of Norwich, Conn., was elected by the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants to serve as treasurer for 2008-2009.

Paula Brinkman '86 (SFA) is the founder of Spirit Dolls by Paula, a retailer of unique, handmade dolls.



Lawrence Carboni '86 (BUS), a partner in the New Haven office of McGladrey & Pullen, LLP, was appointed to the advisory council of the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants for 2008-2009.



David Mulhall '86 (BUS), a financial advisor with LPL Financial Services in Naugatuck, was appointed to the advisory council of the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants for 2008-2009.

M. Estrella Cibriero-Couce '87 M.A., '92 Ph.D. was promoted to the rank of professor in the modern languages and literatures department at the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Mass.

Carolyn Hebert '87 (CLAS) is the director of marketing and public relations for Charter Oak State College. She previously was the

director of marketing and sales for the Bushnell Center for Performing Arts in Hartford, Conn.



Allen Jones, Jr. '87 (SAH), owner of Dominion Physical Therapy & Associates, Inc., was appointed to the Virginia Port Authority by Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine.

Eric Judge '87 (BUS), '92 M.B.A., director of product strategy in the retirement plans group of The Hartford, was appointed to the Connecticut Teachers Retirement Board.

Patricia (Pehr) Fay '88 (CLAS) is assistant vice president and actuary at MassMutual, responsible for pricing and product development.



Alison (Clarke) McCarthy '89 (BUS) is principal at InSight Small Business Consulting, LLC, a management consulting firm located in Ridgefield, Conn.



Donna Roseman '89 (BUS), senior gift planning officer for the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, was appointed to the advisory council of the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants for 2008-2009.

Ayal Vogel '89 (CLAS) was appointed executive vice president of global sales at Identica Corp. in Tampa, Fla., a provider of next-generation biometric security solutions. He previously was president and CEO of Barantec, Inc.

1990s



Jennifer Cox '90 (CLAS), '93 J.D., chairperson of the board, attorney and partner at Cox & Osowiecki, LLC, was named a 2008 MS Corporate Achiever by the Connecticut chapter National Multiple Sclerosis Society.



Debra Holcomb '90 (CLAS) is director of alumni relations and services for the University of California San Francisco (UCSF). She completed Leadership San Francisco in 2006, a program that provides community leaders with resources to address and improve the quality of life for all city residents.

Gwendolyn Winston-Parris '90 (SFS) is an attorney with the New York State Insurance Funds.

James DiReda '91 M.S.W. is director of counseling services at Clark University in Worcester, Mass., where he has been a member of the adjunct faculty since completing his doctoral studies at Boston University in 2003.

Abbreviation Key

School and/or College for baccalaureate degrees:

CANR – College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
SAH – School of Allied Health and Sciences
CLAS – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
BUS – School of Business
SFA – School of Fine Arts
ED – Neag School of Education
ENG – School of Engineering
SFS – School of Family Studies
BGS – General Studies
NUR – School of Nursing
PHR – School of Pharmacy
RHSA – Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture

Graduate/professional degree:

M.A. – Master of Arts
M.S. – Master of Science
M.D.S. – Master of Dental Science
M.B.A. – Master of Business Administration
M.F.A. – Master of Fine Arts
M.M. – Master of Music
M.P.A. – Master of Public Admin.
M.P.H. – Master of Public Health
M.S.W. – Master of Social Work
M.S.P.T. – M.S. in Physical Therapy
Ph.D. – Doctor of Philosophy
D.M.A. – Doctor of Musical Arts
J.D. – Juris Doctor
M.D. – Doctor of Medicine
D.M.D. – Doctor of Dental Medicine
Pharm.D. – Doctor of Pharmacy
6th Year – Sixth-Year Certificate

ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES



Stacey Fuller '91 (CLAS), shareholder and attorney at Gawthrop Greenwood in West Chester, Pa., has been named chair of the West Chester Area YMCA, a branch of the YMCA of the Brandywine Valley.

William Kenyon '91 (SFA) received a grant of tenure and promotion to professor at Penn State University.



Gayle Villani '91 (CLAS) was named vice president of programs at PENCIL, a nonprofit organization that creates and supports customized partnerships between business leaders and principals to inspire innovation and transform New York City public schools.

Alumni Traveler

January 3–10, 2009

Sailing the Caribbean's Grenadine Islands on the tall ship, the *Royal Clipper*

January 25–February 5, 2009

Cruise the Panama Canal on the *Crystal Symphony*

February 1–9, 2009

Island Life in Tahiti and French Polynesia

February 2–25, 2009

Around the World by Private Jet

February 18–28, 2009

Coastal Life–Bangkok, Phuket and Singapore

March 27–April 3, 2009

Distinctly Dubai

April 27–May 5, 2009

Normandy

May 14–24, 2009

Graduating Senior trip to Europe

May 28–June 8, 2009

Gourmet Food and Archeological Sites of Southern Italy

June 7–16, 2009

The Tuscan and Lazio Regions of Italy

For information on all UConn travel opportunities, call 888-822-5861 or visit our web site at www.uconnalumni.com/travel.

Erica Desroches '92 M.A., '99 Ph.D. joined Knowledge Networks in New York as vice president. She previously was vice president and director at InsightExpress.

Christine Frydenborg '92 (CLAS) is president and founder of Best Foot Forward Productions, a community educational theater group, and School House Players, a professional theater group in Bedford, N.H.

Paul Victor '92 (BUS) is director of agency real estate at MassMutual Financial Group. He lives in Holden, Mass., with his wife, **Tracey Sullivan-Victor '94 (SFS)**, and their son, Connor, 4.

Rick Baran '93 J.D., '93 M.B.A. was named executive vice president and chief financial officer of CBS Television stations. He previously was with Tyco International as chief financial officer of Earth Tech, an infrastructure and consulting business focused on environmental, facilities, transportation and water markets.

Charles J. Croce '93 (ENG) is a registered professional engineer with Tighe & Bond, Inc., in Middletown, Conn.



Victoria (Newman) Clark '93 (CLAS) is managing broker of the Tolland County office of Connecticut Commercial Realty and Select Homes, a commercial and residential real estate brokerage. She lives in Stafford Springs, Conn., with her husband, Tom, and two daughters.

David Garr '93 (CLAS) and his barbeque cooking team, the Ques Brothers, won third place in pork shoulder at the "Memphis in May" World Championship Barbeque Cooking Contest.

Joelisoa Ratsirarson '93 Ph.D., chief of staff to the president of Madagascar and dean of the School of Agronomy at the Université d'Antananarivo, was listed in the 2008 booklet from the Council of Graduate Schools, "Making a Difference: A Selection of Graduate Degree Holders and Their Contributions to the Public Good."

Suzanne (Gouzie) Roberts '93 (CLAS), '95 M.P.A. and her husband, Paul Roberts, announce the birth of their first child, daughter Margaret Helen, on Sept. 30, 2007. Suzanne is a senior project manager in Web channel development at Fidelity Investments in Marlborough, Mass.



Michael Crossley '94 M.B.A. works in Afghanistan for the USAID Capacity Development Program, which assists in the development of a professional accounting association in the country. He previously was a senior advisor to the Da Afghanistan Bank.

In Memoriam

ALUMNI

Henry Hierl '36
Michael Cimino Sr. '40
A. Clayton Burnham '41
Robert Wheaton '41
Gerard Brunnquell '42
Rose Costa '43
Robert Barnes Blackman '45
Norma Conley '46
Walter Morgan '46, '53
Allen Pike '47, '60
Arthur Carlson '48
Marshall Feingold '48
Francis O'Brien '48
Alexandra Pike '48
Margaret Powning '48
Hilda Rosenman '49
Stanley Butler '50
Robert Calkins '50
Robert Ehrhardt '50
Jean Osber '50
Mary Ann Rozbicki '50
Rudolph Vecoli '50
Wilbur Williams '50
Arnold Packer '51
Joseph Fitzgerald '52
Robert Meschke '52
Clifford Whitham Jr. '52
Robert Billin '53
Ralph Cosseboom '53
John Filchak '53
William Klein '53
Mario Latina '53
Allen W. Smith, '53, '60
Lee Yosha '53
Jack Cutler '54
William Davidson '55
Robert Lieberum '55
Alvin Wiener '55
Clare Albom '56
Dean Petow '56
Glenn Baker '57
Leonard Clymer '57
Harlan Nye '58
Edward Sluzenski '58
Eugene Demmler '59
David Yost '59
Maurice Burrows, Jr. '60
Gerald Kokoszka '60
Samuel Kalmanowitz '61
Richard Wamester '61
Peter Kennedy '62
Elery Clark '63
Russell Harrington '63
Frank Kress '63, '66
Carl Nienstedt '63
Albert Pryor '63

Lucille Ring '63
William E. Michel '64
Anthony Guglielmi '65
Geraldine Lewis '65
Kenneth Lynch '65
Stanley Chesnas '66
Theresa Connell '66
Peter Roesing '66
Alfred Lerz '67
Joan Meyer '73
Burton Stafford '67
Robert Bletchman '68
Robert Cipu '68
Robert Dodge '68
Helen Geiger '68
Edythe Goldberg '68
Carol McMahon '68, '95
George Rogers '68
Walter Skorupski '68
Wilson Tilley '69
Robert Cass '71
Leonie Abbood '72, '80
Sandra Lopes '73
David Martinelli '73
James Retter '73
Daniel Tedone '73, '80
Richard Rosen '75
Francis Cucurullo '76
David Felt '76
Richard Tolisano '77
Robert Skowronek '78
Robert Taylor '78
Raymond Kelly '80
Dudley Balcom '82
David Reider '85
Joseph Rieger '85
Jill Zimmerman '85
Thomas Gersz, Jr. '86
Richard Goldman '86
Pamela Raposa '86
Brian O'Connell '87
Eleanor Papineau '88
Marjorie Tierney '89
Brenda Redpath '91
William Tanski '94
Denise Gross '97
Keith Landesman '97
Matthew McConaghy '97
Brian Ross '03

STUDENTS

Natalie Rangasammy '10
Vladimir Voinov '09

FACULTY

Hans Turley
James R. Johnson

Christopher Chapin '95 M.B.A. joined the Los Angeles office of Private Banking USA as part of a leading team of relationship managers from Goldman Sachs, a full-service global investment banking and securities firm.

Matthew Corry '95 (CLAS) was a member of the Ireland Men's National Team that competed in the 2008 European Lacrosse Championships in Finland from August 6-16.

Kristen (Frattarola) Ingarra '95 (SFS), a kindergarten teacher at The Brunswick School in Greenwich, Conn., and her husband, Frank, announce the birth of Frank Warren "Trey" Ingarra on March 15, 2008, who joins big sister, Courtney Marie. The family lives in Riverside, Conn.

Dori (Perkins) Peruccio '95 (NUR) and her husband, Anthony, announce the birth of their daughter, Isabella Christine, on Oct. 26, 2007. Dori is a nurse case manager for Connecticut in Farmington, Conn.

Daniel Doherty '96 (CLAS) and Jia Doherty announce the birth of a son, Connor Daniel, on May 23, 2008, in Fairfax, Va.

Merry Pure '96 (CLAS) and Ted Green announce the birth of a son, Easton Davis, on Dec. 13, 2007, in Naples, Fla.

James G. Tillen '96 (CLAS) and his wife, Nicole, announce the birth of their first child, a son, Connor Makepeace Tillen, on April 3, 2008. James was recently elected partner at the Washington, D.C., law firm of Miller & Chevalier, where he advises clients on compliance with anti-corruption laws. The family lives in Arlington, Va.

Lawrence Walters '96 M.B.A. is chief executive officer and president of Relia-Serve, a franchise company that licenses business coaches dedicated to working with home improvement contractors and home service providers. He previously served as general counsel at KX Technologies LP.

Ram Aberasturia '97 (CLAS) was honored on April 15 by the Connecticut Immigrant and Refugee Coalition for making valuable

contributions to the community. He is programs and services coordinator for the state Labor Department and serves as secretary for the East Hartford Board of Education.



Gary Borla '97 M.P.H. participated in a rotation with the Environmental Medicine/Border Health program sponsored by the

department of Family and Community Medicine of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio designed to help physicians and other health professionals become more aware of environmental factors influencing health.

Maria Gaccione '97 (ED) married Vincent Abbatiello of Nutley, N.J., in June 2008. She is the head athletic trainer at Hasbrouck Heights (N.J.) High School.

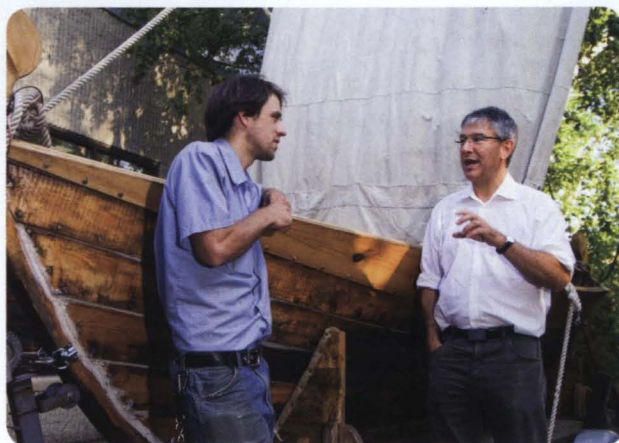
Carrie (Lasar) Green '97 (SFS) and **Kevin Green '96 (BUS)** announce the adoption of their son, Jackson Davis Green, born Jan. 28, 2008.

Kevin Murphy '97 (CLAS) received his doctorate of psychology in Fall 2007 from the California School of Professional Psychology at Alliant International University, San Diego. He is director of the Psychology Emergency Team at Alvarado Parkway Institute in San Diego.

Keith Tomlinson '97 (CLAS), '05 6th Year and **Kathryn (Polemeni) Tomlinson '00 (ED), '01 M.A.** announce the birth of a daughter, Julianne Marie, born May 24.

Rachel (Howd) Axler '98 (SFS), '02 M.S.W. and her husband, Edward, announce the birth of a son in 2007. She previously worked as a care manager for a home care program, as a nursing home social worker and as a director of a memory impairment program for a local assisted living facility.

Christine Costantino '98 (CLAS) received her M.B.A. from Johns Hopkins University in May 2008, after spending nine months in Milan, Italy, studying Italian and working as an informatics research fellow at the Mario Negri Institute for Pharmacological Research.



Alumni showcase art on campus

Colin McMullan, '05 M.F.A., left, known as Emcee C.M., speaks with Richard Klein, curator of the UConn Alumni Exhibition at the Contemporary Art Gallery in the School of Fine Arts, in front of his art work "Pulling Together: The Legends of Willimantic," created with Ted Efremoff '06 M.F.A. Other alumni who participated in the exhibit include Ari Tabei '07 M.F.A., Rebecca Parker '07 M.F.A., Afarin Rahmanifar '96 M.F.A. and Apirat Infahsaeng '03 (SFA).



Brian Kelleher '98 (BUS), senior manager, assurance and advisory services for the Glastonbury firm of Fiondella, Milone,

& LaSaracina LLP, was appointed to the advisory council of the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants for 2008-2009.

Marc Petrucci '98 (CLAS) and his wife, Kathryn, announce the birth of a daughter, Kathleen Michelle, on Oct. 12, 2007.

Jessica Ruth Slawski '98 (CLAS), '99 (CLAS) completed her graduate work in archaeology at the University of Bradford in England and is a museum assistant at the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale University in New Haven.

Heather (Klein) Cross '99 (CLAS) and her husband, Dan, announce the birth of a daughter, Claire Elizabeth, born Sept. 2, 2007.

Ruth Gorlin '99 (NUR) received her M.S. in nursing from Grand Canyon University and is now a nursing education specialist at the Mayo Clinic in Phoenix, Ariz.

Julie (Shea) Moore '99 (SFS) and **Michael Moore '97 (CLAS), '99 M.P.H.** announce the birth of a

daughter, Shea Elizabeth, on June 25, 2007. She joins a brother, Mitchell, 3. The family lives in Danbury, Conn.

2000s

Vikki (Thompson) Hampton '00 (CLAS) and her husband, Mike, announce the birth of a daughter, Amira Susan.

Michael Magarian '00 M.B.A. served as the chairman of the 2008 St. Cecilia Golf & Tennis Classic, a fund-raising event benefitting St. Cecilia Elementary School, in Stamford, Conn.



Tracy (Poppe) Montalbano '00 (CLAS), '03 J.D. joined the law firm of Halloran & Sage in its

Hartford, Conn., office as an associate, focusing on insurance, litigation and appellate advocacy.

Michael Sobolewski '00 (BUS), '01 M.S. is a senior manager in the National Professional Services Group of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, located in Florham Park, N.J. The group focuses on international financial reporting standards (IFRS) and performs technical consult-

ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

ing services, internal and external training, financial statement reviews and thought leadership as it relates to IFRS.

Shannon (Cholewa) Stevenson '00 (ED), '00 (SFA) and her husband, **Brian Stevenson '01(ED), '01 (SFA)**, announce the birth of their third child, Grace, on April 22, 2008.



Michael P. Jordan '01 (BUS), '02 M.S., tax manager for Blum Shapiro in West Hartford, was appointed to the advisory council of the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants for 2008-2009.

Summer (Hartford) Cookson '02 (ED), '03 M.A. and **Christopher Cookson '01 (CLAS)** announce the birth of their first child, Lillian Rose, born Feb. 28, 2008.



James Corso '02 (BUS) has been appointed to managing director at Northwestern Mutual Financial Network in

Westport, Conn.

Andrew Greenstein '02 (CLAS) married Catherine Hazelton on June 30, 2007, in Berkeley, Calif. He finished his Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley in December 2007 and is a researcher in anti-viral drugs at Gilead Sciences.

Jennifer Paradee '02 (CLAS), '07 J.D. is an assistant attorney general in the Office of the Attorney General in Hartford, Conn. She was previously an associate at Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels, LLP.



Paul Scott '02 (ENG) was promoted from senior engineer to engineering specialist at Electric Boat and is serving as the lead project engineer for a trainer to support U.S.S. Jimmy Carter ship operations.

Morey Burnham '03 (CLAS) spent the summer as a fellow with the U.S. Congressional Progressive Caucus.

Erica Flamand '03 (SFA), in-house graphic designer and art director for Tribble Creative Group of Charlotte, N.C., received a 2008 Communicator Award from the International Academy of



Visual Arts and a 2008 Events In Excellence Award for Best Graphic Design from the International Special Events Society.

Mathew Jasinski '03 (CLAS), '06 J.D. and Valerie Spitler were married on May 17, 2008, at Asylum Hill Congregational Church in Hartford, Conn. The best man was the groom's Buckley Hall roommate, **Benjamin H. Fuller '04 (SFA)**, and **Emily J. Dean '06 J.D.** was a bridesmaid. The couple resides in Hartford.

Stephanie (Petrakis) Matarese '03 (CLAS) received a master of arts in school psychology from Marist College on May 16, 2008.

Sarah Phillips '03 (CLAS) and Tue Nielsen Gilbe announce the birth of a son, Samuel Lars, born Aug. 8, 2007, in Lund University Hospital, Lund, Sweden.



Lauren Woody '03 (SFA), '05 M.M. is a winner of the 2008 Career Bridges Grant Competition Award in New York,

receiving a grant which enables her to continue on her path towards becoming a professional opera singer.

Allison Cantor '04 (CLAS), a first-year law student at the UConn School of Law, worked as a summer associate for the law firm of Halloran & Sage LLP.

Joy (Krauss) Geraci '04 M.S.W. and her husband announce the birth of their first child, daughter Gianna Cecelia, on March 7, 2008. Joy is a school social worker for Region 14 in Connecticut.

Bob Ross '04 M.P.A., first selectman of Salem, Conn., received the 2008 Young Distinguished Alumni Award from the UConn public policy department, which recognizes an alumnus who has demonstrated excellence in his or her field of study within 10 years of graduation.

Paul Slawski '04 (CANR) is an environmental scientist at Triton Environmental, Inc., in Guilford, Conn.

Theo Borgovan '05 (CLAS) is a graduate student in biological sciences at Columbia University and works with patients in a clinical trial cancer program at the Columbia University Medical Center. He also coaches collegiate-level rugby in New York.

Lawrence Posner '05 M.A., a general partner at Vedanta Capital in New York City, was appointed to the board of directors of NOXXON Pharma AG, a developer of mirror image oligonucleotide therapeutics based in Berlin, Germany.

Kristy Seyfert '05 (CLAS) is a loan analyst for the Community Preservation Corp., a non-profit specializing in affordable housing, located in New York City.

Robert Kleinschmidt '06 (BGS) is a sales engineer in the field sales department of DYMAX Corporation of Elkhart, Ind., a manufacturer of advanced light-curing adhesives, coatings and curing equipment.

Kate Slomkowski '06 (CANR) started Kato Productions, LLC, a videography service company, after receiving a master of journalism degree from the University of Tasmania in November 2007.

Surendranath Suman '06 M.S., '06 Ph.D. is an assistant professor in the department of animal and food sciences of the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Ky.

Michael Tortora '07 6th Year is the new principal of Orchard Hill Elementary School in South Windsor, Conn. He previously worked as vice principal at Oliver Ellsworth Elementary in Windsor, Conn.

Alumni News & Notes compiled by Emily Rosenkrans '09 (CLAS) and Tina Modzelewski.



Bringing home the gold

Sue Bird '02 (CLAS), left, and **Diana Taurasi '05 (CLAS)** won gold medals as members of the United States Women's Basketball Team during the Beijing Summer Olympics Games in August. The United States earned the 2008 gold with a 92-65 win over Australia in the final game. It was the second gold medal for both players, who also represented the U.S. in 2004. Svetlana Abrosimova '01 (CLAS) won a bronze medal playing for her native Russia during the Beijing Games, before returning to Connecticut, where she joined the roster of the WNBA Connecticut Sun.



Celebrating the Wolff family legacy

Among the many generations of fervent UConn fans, few have given back to as broad a range of University programs as alum Thomas J. Wolff and his family.

A man of extraordinary professional and personal success, Wolff (CLAS) '56 has been a longtime benefactor, bestowing UConn with numerous examples of his family's enduring support.

He and his wife of 60 years, Bette, along with their three children, two of whom are UConn alumni, have supported programs from the School of Business to the Division of Athletics. The family has funded four swimming and basketball scholarships and were lead contributors to the 39,000-square-foot Wolff-Zackin Natatorium on the Storrs campus, where UConn's athletes in swimming and diving compete. The Wolff Family Program in Entrepreneurship sponsors an ongoing lecture series as well as an annual competition for UConn's entrepreneurial MBA students.

In addition, the Wolffs have endowed the Thomas John and Bette Wolff

Family Chair in Strategic Entrepreneurship, held by Michael H. Lubatkin, a professor of management at the School of Business. Wolff has also served for much of the past decade on the UConn Foundation Board of Directors.

In light of the Wolff family's many significant contributions to the University, the Board of Trustees in 1998 named a park on the Storrs campus in their honor. Adjacent to the Harry A. Gampel Pavilion, the Thomas and Bette Wolff Family Park is home to a distinctive statue of Jonathan the Husky, UConn's mascot. Cast in bronze, the statue has become a source of tradition—students have taken to rubbing his nose for good luck, and many visitors and alumni stop to snap family photos by his side.

A successful entrepreneur, salesman, publisher, lecturer, community activist, and recognized leader in insurance sales, Wolff credits much of his success in the business world to his UConn experience. He also remains a devotee of UConn basketball, having held season tickets for

more than 50 consecutive years.

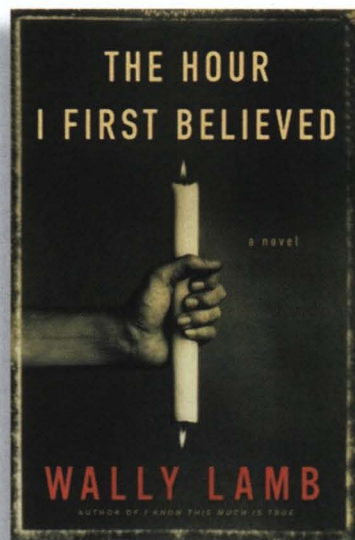
"My feeling is that UConn owes me nothing," he has said. "I owe—and my family owes—UConn everything."

Graduating with a degree in economics in 1956, Wolff began his professional career by launching and serving as CEO of Wolff-Zackin & Associates, Inc., one of the state's most successful insurance agencies. He later founded a publishing company that became one of the leading providers of training material to the financial services industry. Recognized with many honors throughout his career, Wolff was the 22nd recipient of the UConn Founders' Medal in 2004.

"UConn is extremely fortunate to have supporters as dedicated, as engaged, and as personable as the Wolffs," says Jeffrey Hathaway, director of athletics. "When you look at the range of programs they have supported, both in athletics and across the University, you can see that Tom has established a legacy of giving." *Editor's Note: Wolff died on Oct. 27 at his home in Florida after a long illness. He was 80.*

Q&A: Wally Lamb on his long-awaited third novel

The *Hour I First Believed* (HarperCollins) is the long-awaited third novel by best-selling author Wally Lamb '72 (CLAS), '77 M.A. Touched by the chaos of the 1999 Columbine High School shootings, protagonist Caelum Quirk and his wife move to Connecticut, where they struggle toward emotional recovery even as Caelum uncovers long-held secrets embedded in his family history. Lamb discusses the new book, his first in a decade, with Stefanie Dion Jones '00 (CLAS). He begins a national book tour on Nov. 11 at the UConn Co-op in Storrs, with an RSVP needed. For information, call 860-486-5027.



You've said that when you're writing a book, you "live" with your characters every day.

What was it like living with these particular characters?

It was worrisome. I need to feel lovingly about characters and, more importantly, I need to worry about them. I could tell that Caelum, the protagonist, was troubled. I could tell he was angry and, most of all, that he was alienated and had trouble connecting to people. I did have the Columbine connection almost from the start, so I knew there was going to be sadness and chaos in Caelum's life.

Did you consider Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold—the two boys from Columbine—as characters in the book and did you live with them as well?

I did, and it was really hard. I began by Googling school shootings. I was drawn deeper and deeper into it. It was very disturbing, very punishing in a lot of ways. Those kids scared me—these seemingly normal, middle-class kids, hiding in plain sight and planning something so horrible. So some of the stuff that Caelum wrestles with was also some of what I was wrestling with too.

Why did you decide to include a whole chapter in the book with real excerpts from the videos and writing of Harris and Klebold?

It was not a decision that I made lightly. I thought: Nothing is going to communicate the terror created by these two domestic terrorists more than their own voices. I realize that I am really challenging the reader by having that in the book.

How do you continue writing about characters that undergo so much heartache, and suffering?

Sometimes it's hard. One of the ways that I survive it is through comic relief. You know, people will say about all of the books that I've written, "It's so sad, and yet it's partly funny." I do believe that life is both sad and funny. Sometimes the two are interfaced.

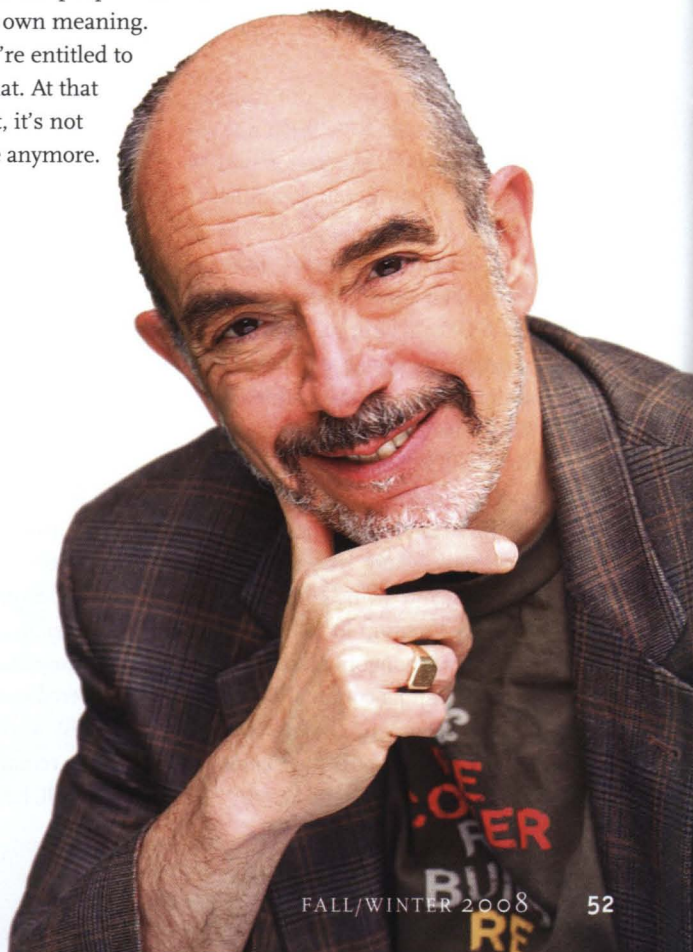
You've been working on this book for nine years. What is your process for getting feedback?

Lots of times I will show my wife, Chris, the writing. And I belong to two writers' groups. They help; they feed me. I find it's helpful to read a work in progress to an audience, say, at a library or a bookstore.

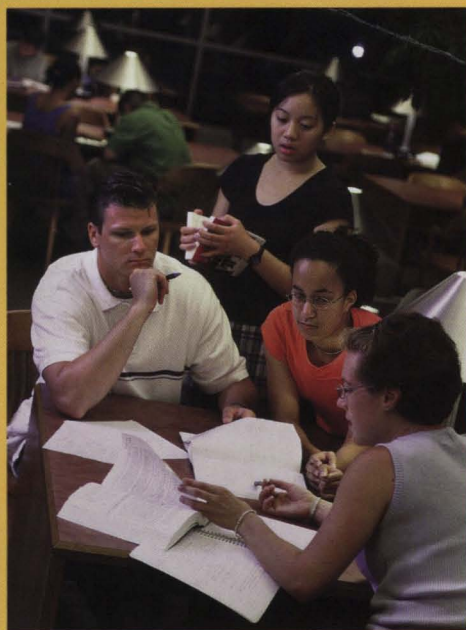
What do you expect readers to take away from this new book?

The writing of the story is my way of teaching myself what it means. But when I'm done and I shove it out into the world, then I feel people will find their own meaning. They're entitled to do that. At that point, it's not mine anymore.

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The Goal Patrol



PETER MORENUS

The Goal Patrol, the spirit group for men's soccer, leads the cheers for Husky fans at Joseph J. Morrone Stadium. The student group has helped to make UConn the national leader in attendance for NCAA soccer games for seven of the last 10 seasons. Goal.com says Morrone Stadium is the fourth-best soccer venue in the United States. DC United's RFK Stadium was ranked No. 1.