Engaging North Korea
BY ALEXIS DUDDEN | The diplomacy that led to the release of two American journalists held in North Korea provides the opportunity for the United States to establish peaceful relations and stability in Northeast Asia, according to a UConn expert in the region’s politics and history.

Surviving the Ph.D. process
BY STEFANIE DION JONES ’00 (CLAS) | The path required to earn the highest academic degree is not an easy one. Donald Edmondson ’09 Ph.D. shared his story about how he made it through to the end.

‘Our University. Our Moment.’
The $600 million Campaign for UConn is the largest fundraising effort in the more than 125-year history of the University, aimed at further securing UConn’s place as a national and international leader in higher education.

When Stockton speaks, Bernanke listens
BY COLIN POITRAS ’85 (CLAS) | Before Ben Bernanke, the chairman of the Federal Reserve talks about the nation’s economy, he listens to David J. Stockton ’76 (CLAS), ’76 M.A., the chief economist for the Fed’s Division of Research and Statistics.
Opening Shot

New Look for Always Part of U

Two hundred eighty Resident Assistants from the Department of Residential Life spelled out U-C-O-N-N on the Great Lawn along Storrs Road as part of several new scenes created for an updated version of the Always Part of U national television campaign. To see the new spot, go to alwayspartofu.com.
From the PRESIDENT

Fall flurry of activity

STIMULATING EVENTS KICK OFF NEW SEMESTER

It seems that each new semester at UConn is more active than the last – more events, lectures, panels and more exciting choices on our campuses. This fall there is an intellectual vibrancy in the air, in spite of our difficult economic times. UConn’s leadership in human rights scholarship has been especially evident since classes began in late August. A 10-day period from September into early October was especially stimulating. It featured Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel addressing an overflowing audience in Kenonover Auditorium in late September. The following week, the Thomas J. Dodd Prize in International Justice and Human Rights was awarded to the Committee to Protect Journalists and featured remarks from Mariane Pearl, author and widow of executed Wall Street Journalist Daniel Pearl. The very next day, our Marsha Lilien Gladstein Visiting Professor David L. Morrill-Richards, co-director of the CIRI Human Rights Data Project, presented the annual Visiting Gladstein Lecture on the documentation and measurement of national and international efforts to respect economic human rights.

A University-wide metanoia on “Prevention of Violence Against Women” also was held in October. Metanoia, a time for campus-wide reflection and engagement with a critical issue, is an institutional tradition at UConn begun in 1970. Metanoia 2009 featured speakers, panel discussions, rallies and in-class presentations as faculty and instructors included the metanoia subject in their fall 2009 syllabi. Students are actively engaging this issue on our campuses, and I’m encouraged to see one of our society’s most persistent challenges attracting proactive attention from this generation.

I’m pleased that our intellectual climate is flourishing at UConn, as we face our financial challenges. Budgeting and budget revisions have been subjects of constant focus in the legislature, in the state administrative offices and in our own UConn units and departments over the past 18 months. It appears that UConn’s operating appropriation from the state will remain essentially flat in the next two fiscal years, FY10 and FY11. But already we’re facing a new $3 million reduction for FY10, and we anticipate another $5 million reduction in FY11.

To address these realities, which seem likely to persist for years to come, our UConn Foundation kicked off its $600 million capital campaign on Sept. 26 (See p. 33) to raise new funds for support and improvement of our many important UConn programs and initiatives. These initiatives include my new Presidential Challenge to raise $100 million in new scholarship resources by pledging that UConn will match every donor’s gift, dollar for dollar. Faith in the fundamental value of our public mission, and giving to provide for it, will sustain UConn through this difficult economic time.

We will emerge stronger than when it began. I hope you, our alumni and friends, recognize this important support of UConn excellence and join me in contributing to our campaign. This is how we ensure that our great University will grow and mature beyond even our most optimistic dreams.

President Harry S. Truman’s decision to use the first atomic weapon on a human population. I’m energized by my classroom interaction with students, who bring new perspectives and questions to this defining early moment of my generation.

Thomas J. Dodd Prize awarded to Committee to Protect Journalists

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) received the fourth biennial Thomas J. Dodd Prize in International Justice and Human Rights during ceremonies at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center in early October.

Mariane Pearl, author and wife of slain journalist Daniel Pearl, was the keynote speaker for the ceremony, which also included remarks by U.S. Sen. Christopher J. Dodd and University President Michael J. Hogan.

The CPJ is an independent, nonprofit organization founded in 1981 that promotes press freedom worldwide by defending the rights of journalists to report the news without fear of reprisal. “The ability of the press to report the news fairly and freely is a right enshrined in the United States Constitution,” says Dodd. “Around the world, however, members of the press often face intimidation or even violent retaliation simply for reporting the truth. That’s why the mission of the Committee to Protect Journalists is so vital for the advancement of human rights and democracy worldwide. The CPJ deserves this honor for its accomplishments and dedication, and we owe it a debt of gratitude for its work on behalf of journalists across the globe.”

CPJ was founded by a group of U.S. foreign correspondents in response to the often brutal treatment of their foreign colleagues by authoritarian governments and other enemies of independent journalism. By publicly revealing abuses against the press and by acting on behalf of imprisoned and threatened journalists, the organization effectively warns journalists and news organizations where attacks on press freedom are occurring. The committee organizes vigorous public protests and works through diplomatic channels to effect change. It also publishes articles and news releases, special reports and “Attacks on the Press,” a comprehensive annual survey of press freedom around the world.

H olocaust survivor and author Elie Wiesel delivered a lecture during the 40th anniversary activities for UConn’s Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life in honor of the establishment of the Doris and Simon Konover Chair of Judaic Studies. Wiesel was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986. He has also won the U.S. Congressional Gold Medal (1985) and the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1992).
A $1 million gift to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences will expand opportunities for faculty and students to work on real-world problems facing the insurance and financial services industries.

A center for research in actuarial science at UConn has been renamed the Janet and Mark L. Goldenson Research Center, where actuarial students and faculty will work closely with financial services companies in the Hartford area to conduct applied research on issues in actuarial science and risk management.

“Our actuarial science program, already recognized as one of the best in the Northeast, will be highly attractive to top students because of this opportunity to work on the types of projects they will face on the job,” says Jeremy Teitelbaum, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Among the projects already under way are an older-age mortality study funded by the life settlements industry and a Ph.D. research project to develop a management tool for variable annuities with guaranteed options. The Goldenson Center also is working with the Islamic Science University of Malaysia to establish a similar center of excellence in actuarial research there.

UConn’s actuarial science program was established in 1976 and has evolved from an undergraduate specialty in mathematics to an interdisciplinary program that offers bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees, and an associated professional master’s degree program in applied mathematics. The program’s graduates are employed throughout the financial services industry in Connecticut and the Northeast.

State-of-the-art animation computer donated by Blue Sky Studios of New York, Conn., creators of the “Ice Age” animated film series, are being used by students in the School of Fine Arts and the School of Engineering. “Digital media animation that used to take three hours to render now takes six seconds. This allows us to greatly expand creativity,” says Tim Boston, interim department head and professor of lighting and stage design in the Department of Dramatic Arts in the School of Fine Arts. The new animation system will allow the Department of Dramatic Arts to segment its popular animation program with the goal of offering a full array of digital media and animation classes for students in many disciplines, providing a talented and trained workforce for Connecticut’s rapidly growing film and digital media industries.

Blue Sky gift expands animation program

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Notes of interest from around UConn:

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Blue Sky gift expands animation program

UConn maintains U.S. News rankings

The University of Connecticut remained the best public university in New England for the 11th consecutive year in the latest rankings released by U.S. News & World Report.

UConn also maintained its rank as the 26th best university in the nation – a category with more than 360 colleges and universities. From 16th best university in the nation among all 264 national universities, public or private. UConn climbed four spots on the subjective portion of the formula: peer ratings of academic quality. That single largest measure constitutes 25 percent of the formula.

“Given the tight financial situation the University finds itself in, and the dire shape of the national economy, I am very pleased that we have retained our position among the best public universities in the nation, and are more highly rated this year than ever before by our peers,” says President Michael J. Hogan.

“As impressive as our run as the top public university in New England has been, we also are ranked third among public universities in the entire Northeast, including large population centers like New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey,” said Lee Melvin, interim vice president for enrollment planning, management and institutional research.

“While we understand that the system employed by U.S. News has its critics, we also clearly understand that this publication serves as a valuable resource to tens of thousands of parents and their children when they consider what college to attend,” says Melvin. “Many of the categories present a factual picture of the University – the quality of our students, our excellent retention and graduation rates, the number of classes offered that have fewer than 20 students … these are important numbers for future students.”

Gates Foundation Award to Günzl

The UConn Health Center has received its first grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, a $100,000 award to support the research of Arthur Günzl, an associate professor in the Department of Genetics and Developmental Biology, who is developing innovative approaches to prevent and treat infectious diseases.

Günzl received the grant through the foundation’s Grand Challenges Explorations initiative, which aims to develop a pipeline of creative ideas that could change the face of global health. His research focuses on Trypanosoma brucei, the parasite carried by the tsetse fly in sub-Saharan Africa that causes sleeping sickness.

Untreated, sleeping sickness is invariably fatal; however, existing drugs are highly toxic, expensive, difficult to administer or not effective against all subspecies of the parasite. With resistance to existing drugs on the rise and vaccine development not in sight, health officials say new strategies to combat the parasite are urgently needed.

Road warriors cheer Huskies

Members of the Connecticut National Guard cheer on the Husky football team during a win over Baylor in Waco, Texas, in September. About 60 members of the Guard’s 118th MMB unit, who are stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, were invited by head coach Randy Edsall to visit the UConn locker room for a postgame celebration.
Improving security for information transmitted online

T he new five-year dual-degree program at the UConn School of Dental Medicine is designed to help meet the growing need for scientists and clinicians who are well-versed in the complex interactions between genetic, environmental and socioeconomic factors in human disease, and specifically in dental, oral and craniofacial disease. The combined program leads to the Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.) degree, as well as a master's degree in either public health (M.P.H.) or clinical and translational research (M.C.T.R.). The M.P.H. program, which focuses on epidemiology, biostatistics, social and behavioral sciences, occupational/environmental health and health services administration, will train students in applying public health principles to oral health problems.

Students enrolled in the M.C.T.R. program will acquire the skills necessary to conduct clinical research that translates findings from the bench to the bedside as well as to translate evidence-based findings to clinical practice. A mentored research experience is a key component of each program.

Dual degree for dentists

The researchers seek to develop a protocol allowing a company to set permissions and define the specific functions that can be performed with personal records. Among the projects under way:

One focuses on wireless networks, which permit laptop computers and other portable computer devices to access the Internet without the need for plug-ins in such locations as Internet cafés, hotels, offices, universities and homes. While these systems feature some degree of security, they are not immune to the dangers of data breeching. Together with Bulent Yener of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Kiayias is collaborating with Tal Malkin of Columbia University to gain a better understanding of how algorithm-based encryption methods can be improved so that they are easier to implement, offer better rates of data transfer and are more effective in combating common cyber attacks. They hope to construct encryption methods that permit easy data sharing while offering affordable security.

Kiayias and Yener also are collaborating on a third project to develop a way to introduce secure and auditable privacy contracting, a method that can be used to define a trade-off between privacy and data mining.

Data producers – customers and patients – have no control over access to and use of such private and sensitive data. The researchers seek to develop a protocol allowing a company to set permissions and define the specific functions that can be performed with personal records.

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Pharmacy honors work of Palmer with professorship

As a teacher, scholar and mentor in the School of Pharmacy for more than 40 years, Henry A. Palmer M.S. ’60, Ph.D. ’65, influenced many lives throughout the University and the state of Connecticut.

The lifework of Palmer, an emeritus professor of pharmacy who also served as associate dean in the School of Pharmacy, was recognized this past spring when the Henry A. Palmer Endowed Professorship in Community Pharmacy Practice was established in recognition of his extensive scholarship in community pharmacy and patient care.

Robert McCarthy, dean of the School of Pharmacy, says the professorship will help the Department of Pharmacy Practice recruit a nationally renowned scholar and researcher to the faculty. The new faculty position will focus on all aspects of community pharmacy practice, including patient care, medication management, research, statistical analysis and consultations with health care providers.

“The School of Pharmacy has been around for nearly 85 years,” says McCarthy. “If you look at those eight-plus decades, two individuals have really dominated the history … It was Dean Harold G. Hewitt in those first 40 years. And in the past 40 years, Henry Palmer has been that dominant person.”

Palmer attended a reception in his honor to celebrate the professorship, just prior to his death in late May.

“More important than personal honor is what this chair means to the School of Pharmacy and how it will impact on pharmacy practice,” Palmer said at the time. “I’m happy to know there is going to be an exclusive focus on community pharmacy practice and patient care in the future with a dedicated professorship or chair.”

Palmer began his career in the School of Pharmacy in 1958 as a graduate teaching assistant while he completed his master’s degree and Ph.D. He was named assistant dean in 1973, clinical professor in 1981 and associate dean in 1985. From 1988 to 1996, Palmer served as director of the School’s Alumni Association. After retiring from teaching in 2000, he continued as director of the School of Pharmacy Office of Continuing Education, where the school has named a program after him. Palmer received the Distinguished Alumni Award in 1999 and the first Distinguished Emeritus Faculty Award in 2004.

Construction begins on new Liberal Arts classrooms

Ground was broken in the early fall for one of the two classroom buildings that will replace the aging Arjona and Monteith facilities that have been home to many classes in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The first building (in rendering, above center), consisting of classrooms and lecture halls, will be located on Fairfield Way across from Homer Babbidge Library, between the Student Unions and the Center for Undergraduate Education buildings. Construction for the second building, with faculty offices and more classrooms, will begin upon completion of the first building.

Learning from Wal-Mart

Full-time M.B.A. students in the School of Business gained firsthand insight about the organizational transformation that Wal-Mart has undergone in the past few years from Bill Simon ’81 (BUS), ’88 M.B.A., executive vice president and chief operating officer of Wal-Mart US, who returned to Storrs to speak at a forum this past spring.

Simon was accompanied by Hank Mullany, president of Wal-Mart Northeast. In addition to discussing their company’s business strategies, the two executives provided advice to students about the skills and traits needed to excel in today’s business world.

Since 2007, Simon has been responsible for Wal-Mart’s U.S. operations, covering more than 3,600 stores, logistics, asset protection, transportation and store innovation. The firm’s U.S. retail units include Discount stores, Supercenters, Marketsides and Neighborhood Markets. He was previously executive vice president of professional services and new business development, where he managed Pharmacy, Optical, Tire and Lube Express and Photo and Connection Centers.

Lodewick Visitors Center celebrates 10 years

Before the Lodewick Visitors Center (LVC) opened in 2000 (top photo), approximately 19,000 people attended campus tours at UConn. In 2008-2009, 46,000 visitors participated in guided tours of the Storrs campus, which begin with an academic and student life information session followed by an interactive tour that includes stops in nine campus buildings.

Each year about 500 guided tours are led by 38 student guides, known as LVC Colleagues, who represent a variety of majors and who are involved in numerous on-campus clubs and activities. Annually about 100 high school and middle school groups also visit campus. Since 2000, more than 355,000 guests have participated in the LVC’s guided campus tour program.

Benefactors of the Visitors Center are Philip Lodewick ’66 (BUS), ’67 M.B.A. and Christine Lodewick ’67 M.S.
NASW honors Negroni

Lirio K. Negroni, an associate professor of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies at UConn’s School of Social Work, has been named the 2009 Educator of the Year by the Connecticut Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. Negroni was selected for her outstanding contributions to social work education nationally, regionally and in the state of Connecticut.

“Dr. Negroni is considered one of the leading social work educators on issues related to Latinos and Latinas in social work in the United States,” says Catherine M. Havens, associate dean in the School of Social Work.

Negroni, who joined the University in 1998, also serves as the chair of the Puerto Rican and Latino Studies Project, a program that helps prepare social workers to serve the Latino/a community and promote changes that safeguard and enhance quality of life for Latino/a individuals, families and communities.

Study says few know Alzheimer’s risks

Few Americans know the risk factors for Alzheimer’s disease or understand how to protect themselves from it, says a study led by a UConn doctoral student in clinical psychology.

Exercising, lowering stress levels, maintaining a healthy body weight and socializing are known protective factors for Alzheimer’s that researchers at those institutions did not recognize, says Colleen E. Jackson, a fourth-year Ph.D. student who led the study that was presented at the 2009 Alzheimer’s Association International Conference in Vienna, Austria.

“For as much as there has been an increase in scientific understanding of the disease, there continues to be a need to broadly educate the public,” she says. In an online and paper survey of nearly 700 adults, Jackson and her colleagues found that American adults have limited knowledge and a poor understanding of factors that have been shown to increase the risk for Alzheimer’s, such as obesity, high blood pressure and other heart health risk factors. As more Baby Boomers reach the age when some cognitive decline may be noticed – the 60s and beyond – education about how to prevent the disease is critical, Jackson says.

She says that “dementia literacy,” or knowledge about the disease, can be increased by better communication with general practitioners, education at senior centers, and through informing adults as early as their late 20s of protective measures. While there is no known cure for Alzheimer’s disease, research has shown that the loss of memory and language associated with it can be delayed by lifestyle modifications that maintain brain and heart health.

Other UConn researchers on the dementia literacy project included doctoral student Kathryn V. Papp and Jennifer Bartkowiak ’09 (CLAS).

Study projects smaller workforce, more elderly

The study “Projected Population in 2010 for Congressional Districts in Connecticut,” conducted by the Connecticut State Data Center in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, indicates that the 2010 U.S. Census will show Connecticut among the first states to experience a forthcoming national trend of an increasingly higher ratio of older people who are dependent on people of working age. With declining enrollment in the public school grades 1 to 12, there also will be an increasingly smaller population entering the workforce while a larger aging population retires to live on a fixed income or retirement benefits. These demographic shifts will lead to a decrease in the income tax base with a simultaneous increase in the demand and utilization of health services. The decennial census will be held in April 2010, with Congressional reapportionment and redistricting to follow.

Freshmen Sign In

Members of the Class of 2013 will sign in front of the Widmer Residence Hall as they begin their first day of residence on the Storrs campus.

Nursing’s Storrs Hall set for renovations

Augustus Storrs Hall, the oldest brick building on the University’s main campus, will be renovated and expanded to provide the School of Nursing with a state-of-the-art classroom and office facility.

The Board of Trustees approved a $14 million plan to renovate the 103-year-old building that will include a new, 15,800-square-foot wing to replace the modular building that has provided temporary classroom space for nursing education while plans for the expansion were developed. Construction is slated to begin in 2010, with a tentative opening in fall 2011.

The expansion will allow students to have a central location for nursing studies and access to state-of-the-art classrooms and labs. Key improvements for the academic facility will include individual exam rooms, clinical simulation rooms, a large lecture hall and a case-study room with up to 175 seats and high-tech broadcast capabilities allowing students in the classroom to watch, critique and discuss what other students are doing in one of the simulation labs. UConn is home to Connecticut’s largest nursing program, graduating more than 200 individuals prepared for entry into basic nursing per year.

The award-winning architectural firm of Tai Soo Kim Partners LLC of Hartford is designing the addition, which will be known as the Widmer Wing in honor of the School’s first dean, Carolyn Ladd Widmer.
Heart valve repair innovation
SUN DEVELOPING NEW MODELS FOR ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURE

Wei Sun, an assistant professor of biomedical engineering and mechanical engineering at the UConn School of Engineering, is working to refine an alternative medical procedure aimed at reducing the risk of heart failure. The work is supported by a National Scientist Development Grant from the American Heart Association.

The grant of more than $300,000 will support Sun’s work to develop accurate biomechanical models for a heart valve repair procedure called percutaneous transvenous mitral annuloplasty (PTMA). The research is an extension of ongoing transvenous mitral annuloplasty (PTMA). Sun’s work is supported by a National Scientist Development Grant from the American Heart Association.

Development Grant from the American Heart Association.

The research is an extension of ongoing research at the Connecticut State University System Board of Trustees since 1981, including most recently as its chairman. He also serves on a number of other state panels and commissions, including the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission and the Connecticut Commission on Arts, Tourism, Culture, History and Film.

“Larry McHugh has been a legendary – and extraordinarily successful – educator, business leader and community leader in our state for decades,” says Bell. “I know he shares my vision of the University – a top-flight research University that remains affordable for the families of Connecticut.”

Archambault, who was elected to serve as alumni representative on the UConn Board of Trustees.

The 2009 Alumni Award Recognition took place during Homecoming Weekend. Those honored met with President Michael J. Hogan, from left: Robert Tendalla, ’84 J.D., Distinguished Alumni Award; Elizabeth C. Bouziné, ’74 (CLAS), ’80 M.S., ’80 Ph.D., University Service Award; President Hogan; Theresa Reynolds-Staten, ’01 (CLAS), ’81 J.D., Alumni Association Service Award; Daniel Holloway, ’91(JD), ’80 M.A., ’80 J.D., Graduate of the Last Decade Award; N. Kevin Fahey, Honorary Alumni Award.

McHugh named new board chair

Gov. M. Jodi Rell has appointed Lawrence D. McHugh of Middletown, longtime president of the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce, to serve as the new chairman of the UConn Board of Trustees.

Two alumni also were elected to serve four-year terms as new members of the Board of Trustees – Francis Archambault, ’68 M.A., ’69 Ph.D. and Robert M. Ward, ’74 (CLAS). McHugh, a 1965 graduate of Southern Connecticut State University, is a former high school teacher as well as a successful scholastic track and football coach. He has served as a member of the Connecticut State University System Board of Trustees since 1981, including most recently as its chairman. He also serves on a number of other state panels and commissions, including the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission and the Connecticut Commission on Arts, Tourism, Culture, History and Film.

A discussion of the author’s latest memoir

TORRINGTON CAMPUS
860-626-6812
April 28
Devotion by Dan Shapiro
A discussion of the author’s latest memoir

A R O U N D  U C O N N  -  E V E N T S  C A L E N D A R

The Last Green Valley: Photographs by G. Leslie Sweetnam
Stevens Gallery
Through Dec. 18

A R O U N D  U C O N N  -  E V E N T S  C A L E N D A R

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Renzulli wins 2009 McGraw Prize

Joseph S. Renzulli, distinguished professor of educational psychology in the Neag School of Education, received the prestigious Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education for 2009 from The McGraw-Hill Companies during ceremonies at the New York Public Library.

As director of the National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented and the Neag Chair in Gifted Education and Talented Education, Renzulli is known for his groundbreaking research in gifted and talented education. His Schoolwide Enrichment Model has been used in more than 2,500 schools nationwide.

Renzulli was one of three education pioneers to receive The Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize, which since 1957 annually recognizes outstanding individuals who have dedicated themselves to enhancing learning in the United States and whose accomplishments are making a difference. Honorees are chosen by a distinguished board of judges from the education community. The other honorees were Santa Brown, president of Excellencia in Education, a not-for-profit organization working to accelerate Latino success in higher education, and Linda Darling-Hammond, the Charles E. Ducommun professor of education at Stanford University, who founded the School Redesign Network.

“Providing an exceptional education to students of all backgrounds and skills sets is critical if we want our country, and our citizens, to succeed in today’s global, knowledge-based economy,” said Harold McGraw III, chairman, president and chief executive officer of The McGraw-Hill Companies. “For these reasons, we are proud to recognize Dr. Joseph Renzulli for his work in gifted education.”

Renzulli’s research has focused on the identification and development of creativity and giftedness in young people and on organizational models and curricular strategies for differentiated learning environments that contribute to total school improvement. Researchers have found that his Schoolwide Enrichment Model improved attitudes among students, teachers, parents and administrators toward gifted education and produced positive results in achievement.

Creative CURRENTS

Chef’s gluten-free cookbook offers recipes from simple to exotic

After his wife, Angela, was diagnosed with celiac disease—a disorder that is triggered by gluten, the main protein found in wheat, barley and rye—Robert Landolphi began to use his love of cooking and training in culinary arts to develop healthy recipes for her.

“I tried various combinations of flours, such as sorghum, tapioca, corn and rice flours and other gluten-free ingredients and developed a smorgasbord of dishes that my wife could eat,” says Landolphi, culinary operations manager at UConn’s Department of Dining Services. He then began to give cooking demonstrations for celiac and gluten-free support groups, friends and stores such as Wild Oats and Whole Foods.

“When people tasted the dishes, they wanted to know if I had a cookbook,” he says. “I decided to put my recipes into a book to help my wife and to help all the other people who have to eat gluten-free. I couldn’t see them going through life having to give up so many food items.”

The book, Gluten Free Every Day Cookbook (Andrews McMeel Publishing), contains some 300 recipes for appetizers, desserts and entrees such as hazelnut-encrusted salmon, lasagna made with brown rice noodles and flaky buttermilk biscuits.

“The recipes in my cookbook are the kinds of dishes that people who have celiac disease and are on a gluten-free diet thought they’d never be able to eat again,” says Landolphi, a certified culinary arts instructor and chef who holds a degree in culinary arts from Johnson & Wales University.

Landolphi’s book has recipes for crab cakes, macaroni and cheese, his grandmother’s Italian meatballs and beer-battered onion rings (made with gluten-free beer). There’s even a recipe for country-style chicken pot pie with a cream cheese crust. Then there are more exotic dishes, like toasted coconut shrimp with peach marmalade dipping sauce. The book also includes information on gluten-free flours and starches, nuts and seeds, cooking techniques and a chef’s perspective on eating out.

“All the ingredients are easy to find,” he says. “I wanted to make people’s lives easier and more enjoyable.”

Landolphi says that for students who arrive on campus with dietary concerns or who develop such allergic disorders, dining services will help meet their special needs. “We’ll meet with parents and the student, a registered dietitian and a dining hall chef who can answer questions about the gluten-free menu on campus,” he says.

UConn Dining Services—which already offers gluten-free bagels, buns and muffins—is beefing up its options. This fall, gluten-free entrées for breakfast, lunch and dinner are offered in every dining hall on campus and Union Street Market.

— Sherry Fisher
In the water with the swimming and diving team

John Hogan ’01 (CASN), a resource economics major, and Molly McGarry ’05 (BUS), a finance major, each swim freestyle and butterfly events for their respective men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams. Both are captains of their teams. Jessica Hovancik ’11 (CLAS), a molecular and cell biology major, is a diver.

How much of an adjustment was it from your high school or club experience to college?

John: It’s about time management. If you were able to manage that well in high school, you can do it in college. The taxing on your body is what you don’t realize when you get to this level. With four workouts a week, we have to balance how much rest we get.

Jessica: In college you have to put a lot more time into your studies. It’s very important to be a student before you are an athlete. It took me a little time to get used to that. But you have your teammates. Everyone is there to back you up.

Molly: It’s night and day. It’s not just that you come to practice and you go to class. There are meetings, travelling, issues you have to deal with. Freshman year is kind of an experiment. Every year it gets better. It’s way more taxing than high school.

Last year both the men’s and women’s squads were recognized as Scholar All-American teams. What kind of student-athlete does it take to maintain such a high level of achievement?

Molly: I think the sport attracts a certain kind of person. We always talk about the fact that it’s a rare breed that gets up at 6 o’clock in the morning to swim. That person is self-motivated, determined and focused. That’s one aspect of your life, but usually that person takes it and uses it toward academics as well.

John: It would be fair to say that the people who get involved with swimming, with the qualities that Molly just listed, have those qualities in place. When you get to higher levels in swimming, you refine those qualities. What’s interesting is that after we’ve done swimming here, for most of us there’s no future in the sport. So it’s even more important for us to take those qualities we’ve learned that made us good swimmers and use them in the work environment.

Can you help each other across the swimming and the diving groups?

John: I think divers can help divers. Where swimming comes into play is because it is so tough mentally – getting up early or doing the hard workouts – that’s where we have the most impact vocally, by having a positive comment or encouragement.

Molly: Leadership outside the pool is important, too. It’s very important to have that same mentality, looking out to support people. I think it’s part of why we’re successful.

Weight training is not always associated with a sport like swimming and diving. How is this training helping you?

Jessica: For diving, a lot of the work we do is on our legs, to be able to get down deeper into the board and utilize the spring board to the maximum. You can bring what you take from the weight room into the pool.

John: The people that we get to work with here, that’s what they study and it’s their profession. I think working with one of the best kinesiology departments in the country helps us significantly.

Swimming, in particular, is known for burning a lot of calories. What are the challenges of eating properly?

Molly: After practice we’re starving, and you have endless choices in the dining halls. You really have to think about your nutrition. You have to replace everything you lost in that previous workout and fuel up for the next workout 7 to 12 hours later. The assistant coaches talk to us about what to eat and what not to eat, and we have nutritionists to help us. It’s difficult, but you’re in control of it.

John: The hardest part for me is eating enough because I work so much and there are so many time constraints between classes and studying. … You really have to stop yourself from doing the quick, unhealthy thing throughout the day.

What are the challenges in the upcoming season?

John: We’re a much younger team this year. The freshmen and sophomores have to adjust. The flip side of that is they bring a lot of talent. If we do our job as captains, it will carry over to a very successful season.

Jessica: We have massive talent with the freshmen. I’m looking forward to it.

Molly: With a younger team, we have the opportunity to take this program to another level.

The Jasper Howard Fund will assist the Howard family with funeral expenses and support for Jasper’s soon-to-be-born child. For details on both funds go to www.foundation.uconn.edu.
Learning lessons in law through literature

MORAWETZ USES CRIME NOVELS TO FOCUS ON LEGAL ISSUES

Can reading The Scarlet Letter help aspiring jurists understand the nature of punishment? Does the story of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde inform future lawyers about the power of addiction or the divide between good and evil? Can the character of Atticus Finch in To Kill a Mockingbird fuel a discussion on how attorneys design their arguments to appeal to specific juries or society as a whole?

Tom Morawetz, Tapping Reeve Professor of Law and Ethics at UConn School of Law, believes that in addition to the usual regimen of case studies and clinicals, having a well-rounded perspective in the legal profession includes delving into a field not normally associated with the law: literature.

Morawetz is the author of Literature and the Law, a book built on two courses he has taught for the past 15 years: “Law and Literature” and “Law and Literature of Crime.” Both are centered on the theme of using literature to broaden the thinking of law students about their future profession and themselves. The book examines dozens of authors, from Franz Kafka and Albert Camus to William Faulkner and Agatha Christie – among many others – and connects each with the larger fields in the law: freedom and crime, criminal minds, trial and punishment and wider discussions on the window fiction provides on the law and lawyers and finding meaning in a legal career.

“Many issues that arise from a literature standpoint can have a great impact on the way students access their own thinking about legal concerns and their own role in law,” says Morawetz. “It’s not very different from the impact of legal philosophy; it gets students to look at the shape of law as a whole – from the standpoint of another discipline.”

With his courses, Morawetz struggles against the kind of homogeneity that comes in legal education, he says, with many students assuming they must put aside any interest they have in the humanities and social sciences and adopt a certain standard legal thinking.

“The class breaks down categories of thinking and allows students to see how different issues they had thought of as separate can be juxtaposed,” says Morawetz. “My feeling is that students are much more likely to be good lawyers if they understand what unique package of talents and values each of them brings.”

Students in Morawetz’s classes read and discuss literature, but they also produce it, writing short stories or autobiographical essays for the class.

Morawetz has an early interest in literature, as evidenced by his personal library of more than 10,000 volumes. After graduating from Harvard in 1963, Morawetz pursued interests in law, literature and philosophy at University College, Oxford, on a Fulbright Fellowship. He then earned master’s and doctoral degrees in philosophy at Yale University, where he also received his J.D. He taught in the Yale department of philosophy department between 1969 and 1977, first as assistant professor and then as associate professor of philosophy. He has taught at the UConn School of Law since 1977.

So how does Robert Louis Stevenson’s The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde help examine legal questions and ideas? The premise of the book is that we are divided between two selves, says Morawetz; the self and the evil one. His students discuss the usefulness of that premise and about how helpful it may be in thinking about human nature.

Also, he asks whether Jekyll should be legally responsible for Hyde’s actions. Can Jekyll be held liable? To what extent is Jekyll’s condition comparable to individuals who have addictions?

“At a certain point he is clearly addicted to becoming and being Hyde,” says Morawetz. “The analogy with addiction is a strong one. Can this influence our thinking about how addicts are treated by the legal system?”

When it comes to Atticus Finch in Harper Lee’s To Kill a Mockingbird, Morawetz asks: To what extent should a lawyer adapt his arguments to the audience? Is Finch speaking to the jury or to humanity at large? If the latter, is that really what the lawyer is supposed to do? Or should he only be concerned with achieving the favored result for his or her client in the most direct way possible?

“We contrast Finch’s strategy with that of a lawyer who is willing to do anything to save his client even if it has an undesirable social effect,” says Morawetz. “Finch tends to be seen as the best that a lawyer could hope to be, but one thing we discuss in class is whether or not that’s so obviously true.”

Overall, Morawetz has found that students become reflective about the availability of different points of view toward some of the questions they examine.

“Students learn to be more in touch with the quirks of their own intellect,” he says. “I think students come out with a revitalized perspective on law and career, and themselves as individuals within the law. That makes it a particularly valuable experience.”

—Michael Kirk

Law professor Tom Morawetz has written a book about law literature that broadens the thinking of law students about legal issues.

Connecticut study shows levels of mercury in fish declining

UConn researchers have found that mercury contamination levels in the meat of large-mouth bass caught in Connecticut lakes were significantly lower over 2005 and 2006 than levels documented a decade earlier, but not low enough to end the statewide fish consumption advisory.

“Qualitatively, there was a smaller proportion of individual fish sampled with mercury concentration values above thresholds that are used to determine risk to human health,” says Jason Vokoun, an assistant professor of natural resources and the environment in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and co-author of the new study. “Formal inference about any trend of mercury contamination in fish tissue through time will require more data.”

The study by Vokoun and Christopher Perkins, laboratory co-director at UConn’s Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering, is the second statewide assessment of mercury levels in fishes from Connecticut lakes and the first to offer a direct comparison from the mid-’90s to the present.

The state Department of Public Health continues to advise young women who are or may become pregnant, nursing mothers and children under age 6 to limit eating freshwater fish to one meal per month because of the risk of mercury contamination. Others are advised to limit freshwater fish to one meal per week, except for trout raised in hatcheries and released in stocking programs into ponds, streams, rivers and lakes around the state.

Law professor Tom Morawetz has written a book about law literature that broadens the thinking of law students about legal issues.
Crushed garlic helps heart health

The first scientific evidence that freshly crushed garlic has more potent heart-healthy effects than processed garlic has been published in a study by researchers at the UConn School of Medicine.

Writing in the Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry, Dipak K. Das, director of cardiovascular research at the Pat and Jim Calhoun Cardiovascular Center, also presented new information about the source of garlic’s health benefits. Das says the heart-healthy benefits of the seasoning are caused by the release of hydrogen sulfide when raw garlic is crushed. When crushed garlic is eaten, the hydrogen sulfide helps to relax blood vessels, allowing improved blood flow and maintaining normal blood pressure.

The scientists gave freshly crushed garlic and processed garlic to two groups of lab rats and then studied how well the animals’ hearts recovered from simulated heart attacks. “Both crushed and processed garlic reduced damage from lack of oxygen, but the fresh garlic group had a significantly greater effect – which often don’t occur in animal studies,” Das says.

The health benefits of garlic have been known since 500 B.C., when it was used as a blood-thinning agent in China and India. The first documented scientific investigations on the antibacterial and antifungal properties of garlic were initiated by Louis Pasteur.

Raisins may reduce heart disease risk

Eating a cup of raisins and walking extra steps daily may help reduce the risk for cardiovascular disease in men and women between the ages of 50 and 70, according to a study by researchers in the Department of Nutritional Sciences in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

In a study published in the journal Metabolism: Clinical and Experimental, UConn researchers found that eating one cup of raisins a day and walking regularly as exercise helps reduce hunger and significantly decreases levels of low-density lipoproteins (LDL) cholesterol – the so-called “bad cholesterol” – in the bloodstream.

“Our research indicates that easily implemented lifestyle changes such as increasing raisin consumption or walking additional steps each day may help decrease the risk for heart disease," says Maria Luz Fernandez, a professor of nutritional sciences and the study’s principal investigator.

Studying relationships within the family

Ronald Sabatelli ’75 (CLAS), ’75 M.A., ’90 Ph.D. describes his interests as eclectic. He calls the subject of his work in human development and the family “fascinating.”

A professor and head of the Department of Human Development and Family Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Sabatelli has dedicated much of his work over the past 28 years to assessing and measuring relationships. He has developed measures to assess the quality of marital relationships that are used by therapists and in basic research around the world. “I was interested in studying people and believed that they would have to be studied in the context of their families,” he says.

“You’re embedded in a family culture. It has its own customs – which often don’t promote the welfare of the individuals. Our job is to understand those customs and figure out how they promote or fail to promote the health and well-being of everyone within the system.”

As senior research associate at UConn’s Center for Applied Research in Human Development, Sabatelli’s recent work has focused on evaluating youth programs in the state’s urban communities. The Center is a joint venture between the Department of Human Development and Family Studies and the Cooperative Extension System.

“We want to help them improve their programs and ensure that they promote youth development,” Sabatelli says.

He develops survey questionnaires for youngsters that help providers understand whether their programs are effective.

Sabatelli uses his strong background in social science and measurement in his work. “I think the development of program assessment devices – the research tools themselves – is an important contribution to making a difference in adolescents’ lives,” he says.

Sabatelli was honored earlier this year for his professional accomplishments by being named a Fellow of the National Council on Family Relations. Fellows are nominated by their peers and selected for their outstanding contributions to the field of family studies.
Spotlight on STUDENTS

Following a family tradition

SHAHISTA RAMANAND ’10 (CANR) COMMITTED TO SOCIAL JUSTICE, WOMEN’S RIGHTS

From an early age, Shahista Ramanand ’10 (CANR) has followed the advice of her parents and grandparents. “They say, ‘Your community gives you so much, so you should give back in any way you can,’” says Ramanand, whose enthusiasm for community service began in middle school when she volunteered for the Nelson Mandela Children’s Fund in her hometown of Durban, South Africa.

Over the years, the allied health sciences major in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources has worked with the KwaZulu-Natal Network on Violence Against Women, the Hillcrest AIDS Centre and the African National Congress of South Africa, among other organizations. A member of the UConn Women’s Center Advisory Board, she is the first undergraduate chair of the 100 Years of Women Scholarship committee.

Ramanand’s commitment to women’s rights and social justice was strengthened during her first semester at UConn when she took a “Gender in Global Perspective” class. She realized that while she was far from home, she could still help her community.

“Shahista is a remarkable individual – someone who has succeeded in balancing her deep commitments to scholarly learning and community engagement, both on the UConn campus and in her South African home community,” says Kathryn Libal, assistant professor of human development and family studies in the School of Social Work.

With a focus in healthcare management, Ramanand intends to return to South Africa with the necessary skills to manage a hospital, thereby providing better care for her community.

“Ultimately I want to open my own hospital, but I know that will take a very long time,” says Ramanand.

She is already using her management training to raise funds for an after-school center for children affected by AIDS in a township near Durban, which would replace an existing center with no designated building or desks, books or toys. She is working on the project with her mother, Narissa Ramdhani ’90 M.A., who is chief executive officer of the Ila Lebhi Foundation, a nonprofit organization that returns apartheid-era art and art objects to South Africa. (See Summer 2007 edition.)

With a December graduation fast approaching, Ramanand eventually wants to earn an M.B.A. in healthcare management and a master’s degree in public health. She would also like to get involved in HIV research in South Africa – particularly in Durban.

Though she has no definite plans, one thing is certain: She will never stop volunteering.

“If you make a difference in one person’s life, then it makes a difference in your life and it makes you a better person,” she says. “Just to put a smile on someone’s face and know you’ve made them happy – even if it’s just for five minutes – it makes you feel good inside. And it makes you feel like a good human being.”

– Craig Burdick ’96 (CLAS), ’01(ENG)

Bryan Banville looks first to help others in need

By the time Bryan Banville ’10 (CLAS) arrived at UConn, he had already established a desire for community service. He had traveled to Costa Rica to work in a program centered on protecting turtles, was a founding member of his high school’s Habitat for Humanity chapter, had volunteered for the Red Cross and Special Olympics and organized a trip to Belize for 7 other students interested in studying marine biology and rain forest botany.

At UConn, Banville’s passion to serve the community continued. As a freshman, he participated in Alternative Break, spending a week in Philadelphia working with children with cerebral palsy as well as with people who were terminally ill. There, he and his group of fellow volunteers contributed nearly 700 hours working with the Shriners and the Ronald McDonald house. Banville has since led a health care-focused Alternative Break to a South Dakota Indian reservation as well as a trip to Indiana to assist the disabled. Now a coordinator for all Alternative Break student leaders at UConn, he ensures that each trip fulfills a three-dimensional mission: providing direct service, learning and encouraging students to reflect on the experience.

“When I enrolled at UConn, one of my high school biology teachers was encouraging me to become a doctor,” he says. “With UConn’s Alternative Break program I realized there are other areas of medicine I’d enjoy more than being a physician, like nursing or physical therapy.”

“I’m focused on helping others develop by giving them the opportunity to volunteer,” says Banville, who also chairs the Community Outreach Student Executive Board, which advises UConn staff and sets policy for student leaders, and participates in the University’s Leadership Legacy Experience, which helps prepare student leaders for a life of commitment and contribution beyond graduation.

After completing his bachelor’s degree in physiology and neurobiology, Banville says he hopes to gain real-world experience working in either the social sciences or non-profit arena before pursuing a graduate degree in the health field.

– Lauren D. Lalancette
A
fter eight years of checkmated relations between the United States and North Korea, many anticipated a fresh start with the inauguration of President Barack Obama. This not only failed to happen right away, but also for much of the spring and early summer. Washington’s approach to Pyongyang’s provocations took us back to the early days of neoconservative policy planning for the region.

However, former President Bill Clinton’s diplomatic overture in August – when he secured the release of two American journalists captured in North Korea – heralds hope upon which Obama must now capitalize or risk losing his chance to secure a peaceful outcome to the North Korean puzzle as well as the stability of Northeast Asia.

The capture of the two journalists last March had become a real stumbling block to the deep, enduring problems at hand in the region coming as it did between nuclear and ballistic explosions, when the first series of economic sanctions against North Korea was called for. This remains dangerously regressive thinking in terms of the region’s future. As has been proven repeatedly during the past decade and a half, economic sanctions against North Korea will not make its leaders give up their nuclear weapons. More threats will not achieve this end.

If Obama is serious about achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, then he must alter such an approach to this crisis. If he does not, Obama must prepare himself for the certain outcome: an increasingly nuclearized and paranoid North Korea at the heart of a wildly unpredictable nuclear arms race in Northeast Asia.

Now that Clinton has traveled to Pyongyang, Obama has two choices: He can continue to send the former president as his emissary (who is of higher stature than Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in Pyongyang’s eyes) or he can invite North Korea’s leader, Kim Jong-il, to the United States to meet with him here. Such actions would define the president as the strong leader he is. Moreover, doing so may make it simultaneously possible to achieve a nuclear-free Iran.

This suggestion flies in the face of much of what the president heard from his inner circle prior to Clinton’s mission. Yet it is critical. Even those who still urge increasingly harder lines know that there is no viable military option. Pentagon planners have routinely demonstrated that any action against North Korea would result in millions of deaths there – as well as in South Korea – within the conflict’s first moments, including tens of thousands of American troops. It would be tantamount to burning a house to kill a flea, as the Korean saying goes.

Obama has rightly talked tough, but fairness is his greatest trait. America’s recent history with North Korea is one of broken promises on both sides, and we must treat this record honestly.

North Korea was born through the 20th century taught North Koreans to stick to a nationalist gun or perish. The problem for Obama is that North Korea’s fear of American power and solidified its determination to resist it. The 20th century taught North Koreans to stick to a nationalist gun or perish. The problem for Obama is that North Korea’s fear of American power and solidified its determination to resist it. The 20th century taught North Koreans to stick to a nationalist gun or perish. The problem for Obama is that North Korea’s fear of American power and solidified its determination to resist it. The 20th century taught North Koreans to stick to a nationalist gun or perish. The problem for Obama is that North Korea’s fear of American power and solidified its determination to resist it. The 20th century taught North Koreans to stick to a nationalist gun or perish. The problem for Obama is that North Korea’s fear of American power and solidified its determination to resist it. The 20th century taught North Koreans to stick to a nationalist gun or perish. The problem for Obama is that North Korea’s fear of American power and solidified its determination to resist it. The 20th century taught North Koreans to stick to a nationalist gun or perish. The problem for Obama is that North Korea’s fear of American power and solidified its determination to resist it. The 20th century taught North Koreans to stick to a nationalist gun or perish. The problem for Obama is that North Korea’s fear of American power and solidified its determination to resist it. The 20th century taught North Koreans to stick to a nationalist gun or perish. The problem for Obama is that North Korea’s fear of American power and solidified its determination to resist it. The 20th century taught North Koreans to stick to a nationalist gun or perish. The problem for Obama is that North Korea’s fear of American power and solidified its determination to resist it. The 20th century taught North Koreans to stick to a nationalist gun or perish. The problem for Obama is that North Korea’s fear of American power and solidified its determination to resist it. The 20th century taught North Koreans to stick to a nationalist gun or perish. The problem for Obama is that North Korea’s fear of American power and solidified its determination to resist it. The 20th century taught North Koreans to stick to a nationalist gun or perish. The problem for Obama is that North Korea’s fear of American power and solidified its determination to resist it. The 20th century taught North Koreans to stick to a nationalist gun or perish. The problem for Obama is that North Korea’s fear of American power and solidified its determination to resist it. The 20th century taught North Koreans to stick to a nationalist gun or perish. The problem for Obama is that North Korea’s fear of American power and solidified its determination to resist it. The 20th century taught North Koreans to stick to a nationalist gun or perish. The problem for Obama is that North Korea’s fear of American power and solidified its determination to resist it. The 20th century taught North Koreans to stick to a nationalist gun or perish. The problem for Obama is that North Korea’s fear of American power and solidified its determination to resist it. The 20th century taught North Koreans to stick to a nationalist gun or perish. The problem for Obama is that North Korea’s fear of American power and solidified its determination to resist it. The 20th century taught North Koreans to stick to a nationalist gun or perish. The problem for Obama is that North Korea’s fear of American power and solidified its determination to resist it. The 20th century taught North Koreans to stick to a nationalist gun or perish. The problem for Obama is that North Korea’s fear of American power and solidified its determination to resist it. The 20th century taught North Koreans to stick to a national...
Donald Edmondson is an affable Arkansas native with a casual demeanor, a wry, sometimes irreverent sense of humor and an infectious laugh that occasionally borders on an unabashed giggle. Five years ago he set off to complete a doctoral degree in Storrs with the intention of becoming a clinical psychologist. At 29 years old, he looks like a graduate student: His reddish-brown hair more often than not points upward at arbitrary angles; he wears studious but trendy eyeglasses and jeans with casual knit shirts. You can picture him in a cramped office typing earnestly at his computer into the wee hours, pondering some of life’s deepest questions. Start a conversation with him, and you can just as easily envision him as the sociable bartender he was before graduate school, perhaps serving you a drink and telling you a good story.

For him, pursuing a Ph.D. in clinical psychology at UConn seemed like a straightforward path to an enjoyable career. Although he jokes that film depictions of clinical psychologists who “go to work every day and sit in a chair and talk” convinced him it would be an ideal line of work, Edmondson admits that what attracted him to graduate school was the notion of “working with ideas for a living.”

The son of a factory manager, Edmondson also had spent time teaching high school history. “I would teach U.S. history two or three times a day, and world history two or three times a day, doing the same thing over and over,” he says. “It felt a lot more like babysitting and a lot less like interacting.” At that point, the prospect of becoming a clinical psychologist didn’t seem so far-fetched.

Ph.D. = Philosophically Disturbed?

The arduous path required to earn a Ph.D. has inspired dark humor, such as jokes offering suggestions for what “Ph.D.” might stand for, including “Probably heavily in Debt,” “Patiently hoping for a Degree” and “Please hire. Desperate.” There is also a Web site, phdcomics.com, which pokes fun at students and professors involved in the process. Yet a Ph.D. – which denotes a Doctor of Philosophy degree – remains, in most countries, the highest academic degree one can earn. Obtain a Ph.D. and you have proven your capacity to conduct original scholarly research.

The 2000 U.S. Census estimates that just 1 percent of Americans age 25 and older has attained a Ph.D., but the relative scarcity of Ph.D.s is hardly surprising.
Acquiring one is not easy. Long hours, poor pay and a schedule crammed with compulsory coursework, frequent library visits, extensive lab work, meetings to conferences, plus teaching and mentoring students are the norm. Add to that research, writing and a great deal of rewriting, along with the stress of submitting articles for publication, only to be rejected. Of course, fit all of this in with the other responsibilities and turmoil in day-to-day life. To earn a Ph.D. you can collectively spend years sifting through scholarly literature, conducting experiments, reviewing results and drafting a dissertation – the ultimate research paper – which you then must successfully defend before a panel of faculty members. All told, today’s doctoral student spends on average 7.9 years completing graduate school. As Jessica Gallus, a doctoral candidate in psychology, put it, “I see the Ph.D. as the ‘Navy Seals’ of academia. It’s a perseverance game.”

Educating the next generation of researchers is a daunting, but rewarding task. “I really liked him and his enthusiasm and his energy, but he didn’t fit all of this in with the other responsibilities and turmoil in day-to-day life. To earn a Ph.D. you can collectively spend years sifting through scholarly literature, conducting experiments, reviewing results and drafting a dissertation – the ultimate research paper – which you then must successfully defend before a panel of faculty members. All told, today’s doctoral student spends on average 7.9 years completing graduate school. As Jessica Gallus, a doctoral candidate in psychology, put it, “I see the Ph.D. as the ‘Navy Seals’ of academia. It’s a perseverance game.”

The route to finishing one’s Ph.D. is not always as straightforward as one might initially believe. Park describes the process as a particularly developmental one, where students figure out what they want to do as they go along. The developmental pieces of Edmondson’s experience, Park says, emerged in a number of ways. For one, Edmondson gradually came to realize that clinical work was not quite what he had envisioned. By the second year of the program, he and other clinical psychology students were required to put the psychotherapy skills they had learned to work, treating actual clients. Edmondson’s doubts about clinical work were confirmed when he assisted with a particularly intensive study in which he interviewed Hurricane Katrina survivors just days after the storm had decimated New Orleans. “There was this complete overload,” he says. “You get caught up in it; it can be very emotional. That started wearing on me and taking away from my research.”

Park acknowledges that Edmondson had to contend with a certain amount of pressure to carry on in clinical practice. “I don’t think in the history of the (clinical psychology) program someone had actually decided that they didn’t want to do clinical work. It was kind of unprecedented,” she says. “I think a lot of the faculty had some discomfort with that.”

In the midst of his wrestling with the thought of leaving clinical work behind, Edmondson’s mother fell ill. Then, within the next year, he failed his qualifying exam and realized his clinical work was not quite what he envisioned. By the second year of the program, he and other clinical psychology students were required to put the psychotherapy skills they had learned to work, treating actual clients. Edmondson’s doubts about clinical work were confirmed when he assisted with a particularly intensive study in which he interviewed Hurricane Katrina survivors just days after the storm had decimated New Orleans. “There was this complete overload,” he says. “You get caught up in it; it can be very emotional. That started wearing on me and taking away from my research.”

Despite the gap in his knowledge, Park invited Edmondson to join UConn clinical psychology program starting in the fall of 2004. “I was feeling a little bit outside of that,” he says. “I was sort of grappling with these questions, central questions of human existence.”

It is no coincidence, then, that Edmondson sought out Park, his future advisor, whose expertise is focused in part on the psychology of religion and spirituality. The two met to discuss their research interests and Edmondson’s reasons for wanting to join the program. Park acknowledges an initial hesitancy in admitting Edmondson to the Ph.D. program. “Most of the students who come here are pretty polished,” Park says. “He was somebody who was a real unknown. I really liked him and his enthusiasm and his energy, but he didn’t know psychology, and so he seemed like a risky person to admit.”

Ph.D.s in the humanities, sciences, business and engineering as part of a total of 450 doctoral degrees.

This past May, UConn awarded 107 Ph.D.s in the humanities, sciences, business and engineering as part of a total of 450 doctoral degrees.
We asked UConn Ph.D. candidates, “What advice would you give to someone considering a Ph.D.?”

“Make sure it’s what you want. Talk to people in the field you’re considering. Find out what the daily lives are like of people doing what you want to do.”

– Katie Herzig, Ph.D. candidate

“You have to be committed. You have long working hours. You must be prepared to learn and to do research. You have to like it.”

– Solomon Berhe, Ph.D. candidate

“I think the best thing I did was truly immerse myself in the entire experience. I feel like I’ve learned how to be a professor by being with the professors all the time.”

– Meg Monaghan, ’09 Ph.D.

“It takes a lot of self-motivation, unlike when you’re working and you have a boss, and you have deadlines. But it’s so rewarding because you’re doing what you want to do.”

– Linda Kolbasovsky, ’09 Ph.D.

“Find the program for you. If you’re not interested in research, then most Ph.D. programs are probably not for you.”

– Jessica Collins, Ph.D. candidate

multiple scholarly papers. He later added his own dissertation research to the mix – but not before deciding against a career in clinical psychology and instead opting to pursue a Ph.D. in personality psychology. Despite his own initial doubts, Edmondson was surprised to find himself enjoying both research and statistics. “I started to see research as a way of understanding myself and understanding other people and how people work,” Edmondson says. “A friend of mine told me a long time ago, ‘Research is me-search.’ It really is true. I think people research what they need to understand, and that’s what I do.”

With statistics, he says, “There is the almost dumbfounding realization that those numbers mean something and can actually tell you something about human nature.”

Materials of life and death

The happy-go-lucky air that Edmondson has about him belies the focus of his dissertation research. Not surprisingly, this Dostoevsky fan is fascinated by psychological theories relating to matters of life and death and profound questions surrounding subjects like religious beliefs, post-traumatic stress disorder and mortality. In fact, one of his first published scholarly papers bears the decidedly gloomy title “Death Without God.” Edmondson, who often finds inspiration for his article titles in country music, admits he is not one to be “concerned with using dry, scientific language” in his writing. “If I can throw just a little bit of poetry in there, I’ll try,” he says.

Faculty have come to describe Edmondson as a “beautiful writer” and “tremendous student” and preclude him from Prof. Sally Reis, left, and his advisor, Prof. Crystal Parks, at commencement in May.

A friend of mine told me a long time ago, ‘Research is me-search.’ It really is true.”

Reaching Toward Excellence

Our University. Our Moment.

$600 million campaign aims to put University among elite institutions

Every institution reaches moments in its unique history where key decisions need to be made that will move the institution forward to new levels of excellence and achievement. More than a decade ago, the University of Connecticut reached one such historic turning point. With parts of the campus literally crumbling – as exemplified by the façade falling from Homer Babbidge Library – the University community rallied up its collective sleeves and conceived of the unprecedented plan known as UConn 2000. With careful planning, hard work and the support of the General Assembly, governor and thousands of private donors – including, most significantly, alumni – the decade-long transformation of Connecticut’s flagship University has raised UConn to a place among the nation’s top public institutions of higher learning.

At the same time, a private fund raising campaign was established to raise $300 million in support of the non-building aspects of UConn 2000. The goal for Campaign-UConn (1990-2004) was met but was surpassed with a total of $125 million raised for student scholarships, faculty and program support.
Today, the University has arrived at its next critical moment – the opportunity to join an elite group of public universities that sets the standards through their academic, research and student programs. To achieve this goal, the $500 million campaign – Our University, Our Moment – announced on Sept. 26 is the largest such effort in the more than 125-year history of the University, which is aimed at further securing UConn’s place as a national and international leader in higher education.

“This is our moment,” says Denis McCarthy ’64 (BUS), ’65 M.A., chairman of the campaign. “UConn is known as a world-class institution that serves as a critical element in our state and regional economy. Our faculty is recognized for excellence in scholarship and teaching and attracts an increasing number of top students from throughout the world. Our alumni are in leadership positions in a wide array of disciplines. We are ready to meet this new challenge.”

The campaign aligns with UConn’s academic plan, which focuses on providing support for critical areas in undergraduate and graduate education, research, diversity and public engagement. To date, more than $90 million has been raised for various programs in the first phase of the campaign.

“We are off to a successful start of this endeavor during an especially challenging time for many of us,” says President Michael J. Hogan. “It is heartening to know that even in the face of such a difficult economic period, the passion felt for UConn and the confidence in our programs are so strong among alumni, private donors and friends of the University.”

With nearly 40 percent of private support coming from alumni in the early phase of the campaign, it is clear that UConn graduates understand the importance of their support for new programs that will help meet the University’s academic goals.

PASSION LEADS TO GIVING BACK

“When students and professors are looking for a place to teach or study environmental science, I want them to view UConn as one of the top places to do that,” says Sheldon Kasowitz ’83 (BUS), who with his wife, Samantha, have established an endowment for the Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering (CESE), which addresses global environmental challenges.

CESE brings together more than 75 faculty members in a variety of disciplines from the Colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Agriculture and Natural Resources as well as the School of Engineering. The Kasowitzes have an interest in child welfare, education and the environment. “CESE bridges many of these areas that we’re interested in,” he says. “As a new venture like this begins, you don’t have an established program to have your decisions on, so you invest in the people behind it.”

Other alumni have similarly found unique ways to demonstrate their diverse interests through support for UConn. Elizabeth Swallow ’53 M.D. is not easily dissuaded, a trait that served her well while applying to UConn’s School of Medicine at the unconventional age of 35 and learning to play piano at 60. Her personal vision of support for higher education has resulted in a planned gift intention comprising $2.7 million for the School of Medicine and $300,000 for the School of Fine Arts. It will be the largest gift ever received from a School of Medicine alumnus.

She says that the tough economic conditions make giving more important than ever – as a way of inspiring others to contribute, and fostering efforts that need an extra boost in challenging times.

“If you ask me, ‘Why do you give?’ my answer really is, ‘Why wouldn’t I?’ I think you have to be passionate about something. And you have to invest in people who are doing the right thing and have vision, especially if they’ve been told, ‘You can’t do this,’ and they know they can,” she says.

Now newly retired from a long and distinguished practice as an OB/GYN in rural Virginia, Swallow says that life experience gained before medical school made a tremendous difference throughout her career. Her personal love of piano led to support of music scholarships at a university near her home in Virginia in 2006. Today, she is providing the same type of support for her own alma mater through the UConn School of Fine Arts.

“For a donor, it’s not about giving, it’s about giving back. You have to make that dream come true for others, just as you had it made possible for you,” says Swallow.

RAISING THE ENDOWMENT

Realizing the vision of UConn standing among the nation’s best public universities in a time of economic recovery will not be an easy task. One of the critical elements in reaching this goal will be to raise the University’s endowment to a level that compares with many of the elite institutions that UConn regards as its peers.

To improve access and continue attracting top students from Connecticut and beyond, UConn will increase support for scholarships and enhance curricular and research opportunities, focusing on such programs as honors, study abroad, internship, service learning and leadership development.

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

New fellowships will be used to recruit the best graduate students and postdoctoral fellows whose contributions to the research enterprise, in turn, will help raise UConn’s national profile and attract external research funding.

RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY

Newly endowed faculty chairs, professors and fellowships – a critical indicator of institutional strength – will enable UConn to retain accomplished existing faculty and recruit preeminent scholars to enhance priority programs.

DIVERSITY

In addition to need-based scholarships for underrepresented populations, diversity initiatives include outreach programs in urban communities, college immersion programs for high-achieving middle school students, readiness and transition programs to help students at UConn and mentorship programs.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Improving the quality of life for Connecticut’s citizens is central to UConn’s mission. The University makes a difference in communities across the state through myriad outreach programs like the Cooperative Extension System, professional training programs and student-led community service projects. More than 1 million residents attend UConn’s museums, performance arts venues and athletic events annually.

Our University. Our Moment.

By the Numbers

$600 million campaign goal with:
$200 million: Undergraduate education
$155 million: UConn Health Center
$135 million: Graduate and professional education
$110 million: Athletics
Goal for endowment: $500 million
450 new scholarships and fellowships
50 newly endowed faculty positions

CRITICAL PRIORITIES IN UCONN’S ACADEMIC PLAN

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

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Endowment provides long-term stability and the resources necessary to achieve lofty goals,” says McCarthy. “It is also an expression of the confidence that alumni and others who support the University have in the ability of the institution to realize its dreams. The endowment is growing, but taking it to the next level is an important part of this new campaign. Helping to build the endowment is how alumni can truly make a difference in their alma mater.”

With a successful Our University, Our Moment campaign, President Hogan envisions a future in which the University of Connecticut is able to provide all of the resources needed to attract and retain the very best students and faculty while making important contributions to the quality of life for citizens of Connecticut and around the globe.

“One of the things that separates a good university from a great university is its ability to raise private funding,” says Hogan. “This new campaign aims to put us in a position to make that leap. This truly is the moment for our University. We’ve worked hard and steadily to arrive in this place. I have no doubt we will succeed.”
When Stockton speaks, the Fed chairman listens

David J. Stockton ’76 (CLAS), ’76 M.A. directs economic research and statistics for the Fed

By Colin Poitras ’85 (CLAS)

“David’s wise counsel, keen insight and deep knowledge of the economy have proved invaluable to me and the other members of the Federal Open Market Committee through the years, but most especially during the recent time of financial turmoil.”

— Ben S. Bernanke, Federal Reserve Chairman

When Federal Reserve Chairman Ben S. Bernanke speaks about economic issues, the nation listens. But who does Bernanke listen to?

One person on the short list is David J. Stockton ’76 (CLAS), ’76 M.A., who speaks almost daily with Bernanke in his role as chief economist for the Fed, the agency that directs the nation’s central bank, establishes national monetary policy and monitors the country’s economic health.

As director of the Federal Reserve’s Division of Research and Statistics, Stockton oversees one of the world’s largest economic research teams — approximately 290 economists, financial analysts, computer scientists, research assistants and other personnel. Stockton and his staff sort through and interpret information streaming from the country’s financial markets each day. One of Stockton’s primary responsibilities is presenting periodic economic forecasts to the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) on job losses, housing wealth and business spending. These reports help to determine how much you pay in interest on your credit card and how much banks may charge you for taking out home or auto loans.

“Although I recognize that being surrounded on a daily basis by scores of economists might be viewed by most people as more of a sentence than a reward, the intellectual energy, debate and discussions make it a very exciting place to work,” Stockton says with his trademark good humor.

“David’s wise counsel, keen insight and deep knowledge of the economy have proved invaluable to me and the other members of the Federal Open Market Committee through the years, but most especially during the recent time of financial turmoil.”

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Stockton’s economic forecasts are critical in helping the Federal Reserve set national public policy, although he admits that his work is, in many ways, an inexact science. Each forecast comes with a full explanation of the risks and uncertainties surrounding it.

“What economists don’t know about how the economy operates dwarfs what we do know,” Stockton says. “Our research program is intended to chip away at the margins of our ignorance.”

Stockton fondly recalls his days studying economics at UConn under the guidance of emeritus professors Alpha Chiang and William McEachern, associ- ates professor William Lott and Dennis Heffley, head of the Department of Economics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Heffley says Stockton quickly distinguished himself from his peers and seemed destined to succeed in the economics field. Although more than 30 years have passed, all of Stockton’s economics instructors remember him well.

“Stockton took my graduate seminar in Urban and Regional Economics. His performance in that class still ranks as the best I’ve seen in my 36 years of teaching,” Heffley says. “It was pretty clear to all of us that David was destined for bigger things... I’ve always felt a lot more comfortable about our monetary policy, simply knowing that people like David have played a key role in guiding the process.”

McEachern, who served as Stockton’s faculty advisor, remembers pushing the underclassman to take more advanced classes. Stockton rose to the challenge, succeeding in graduate-level courses with such aplomb that he was honored as a University Scholar. Stockton credits McEachern with using “patience, persistence and humor” to encourage him to pursue a prestigious Danforth Fellowship, which ultimately funded his doctoral studies at Yale University.

The Stockton family’s public service can be traced back to the nation’s founding. Ancestor Richard Stockton of New Jersey was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. More recently, David’s father, Edward, served as mayor of Bloomfield, Conn., and as commissioner of economic development in Connecticut under both Gov. Ella T. Grasso and Gov. William A. O’Neill. In addition to David, the family’s UConn connection includes his wife, Judy (Shenkman) ’76 (ED), ’81 M.A.

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Focus on FACULTY

Keeping an eye on the recovery

McCoy provides analysis of subprime crisis aftermath

When Patricia McCoy was a law professor in Cleveland in the 1990s, each day she drove through a neighborhood called Hough that was changing before her eyes. Uninhabitable homes were being razed, new homes were under construction and businesses were opening. "There was a real sense of dread, you would encounter a neighborhood," says McCoy, a specialist in financial services regulation who is now the director of the Insurance Law Center at the UConn School of Law.

Soon she began hearing that some of these new homes were already in foreclosure—shortly after new residents bought them. She suspected there was a double standard when it came to lending: While the more affluent were offered legitimate loans, poorer people were being offered predatory terms they could not afford. "I saw that there was a very serious issue regarding how banking affected communities," she says. "We were seeing the impacts of secondary markets on local communities, particularly those of modest means," McCoy says.

Today, McCoy is regarded as one of leading legal experts on the subprime crisis. She served as an advisor for the Obama presidential campaign and has continued to advise the administration on current and emerging issues and policy options. This year, she testified twice before Congress and also has been sought out for analysis by such publications as The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times and The Economist.

McCoy believes the crisis was far from unforeseeable. The data, she says, showed signs of trouble in Cleveland, and were in fact more widespread. By 2003, subprime loans went from being highly risky to being totally unsustainable over the next five years, she says.

With a crisis of such complexity, McCoy points to several sources of blame: The artificial demand for subprime loans created by Wall Street so that investors could earn high returns, lenders that slashed underwriting standards to meet Wall Street earnings, deregulation of mortgages in the 1980s by Congress and federal regulators’ failure to use tools available to stop lax underwriting.

The Federal Reserve System—now scrambling to revive the U.S. economy—also bears responsibility, she says. "With the Fed, it was ideological. The big expansion of subprime lending happened under (Chairman) Alan Greenspan, who felt boom-and-bust economies led to greater growth."

She similarly faults Congress for not making fundamental reforms to the financial regulatory system. "Going back to business-as-usual will set us up for future failure once again," she says.

McCoy has mixed feelings about the response the Treasury Department and Congress have taken to the crisis. Although she believes, for instance, that the portion of TARP designed to buy troubled assets has not worked. "We have a huge number of distressed borrowers, our foreclosure rates continue to spiral upwards, and that's going to get worse unless we get serious about providing realistic relief," she says. "That's going to require a radical government law that abrogates mortgage or servicing contracts."

Advancing U.S. on biological weapons

Senior faculty are generally used to asking students probing questions and expecting thoughtful replies that demonstrate their students’ knowledge. It is not often faculty are on the receiving end of such pointed questions and expected to respond on demand.

Yet that is where Steven Geary, interim department head and professor of pathobiology in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and director of the Center of Excellence for Vaccine Research, found himself while serving as a Jefferson Science Fellow from 2008 to 2009 at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C.

As one of seven tenured faculty from around the nation serving as scientific advisors to the diplomat-corps, Geary spent a year engaged in a wide array of assignments utilizing his expertise in microbiology, vaccine research and development, pathobiology and biological agents. He worked in the Verification, Compliance and Implementation Bureau (VCIB) within the Department of State’s Office of Biological Weapons Affairs, which is responsible for analyzing biological weapon research and development activities in numerous nations around the world.

"You’ll be in a meeting with all these other agencies, and they’ll turn to you and ask a question, putting you on the spot," says Geary, who returned to Storrs in September. “You have to be able to break down the information and convey it to them in layman’s terms on relatively short notice. But you also can’t be afraid to say, ‘I don’t know, I’ll find out and get back to you.’ Your answers are definitely going to influence a policy track. You give them the best answers you possibly can.”

Geary says that after several initial meetings answering many complicated scientific questions from VCIB staff, other offices within the diplomatic corps came to him for assistance.

"I found that they would just seek me out and ask for my opinions. That’s when I knew I was accepted and of some value to them," says Geary, who consulted with other bureaus within the agency, including International Health and Biodefense (IHBR) Security and Intelligence and Research (INR). INR is the intelligence bureau within the Department of State, which in addition to analyzing top secret communications, writes the President’s daily briefings, including those on infectious diseases and microbes.

Geary also worked with other agencies addressing President George W. Bush’s last Executive Order to strengthen the nation’s biosecurity. He also worked with scientists at Los Alamos National Laboratory on the development and implementation of a Pathogens Strain Library, a national database that can be used by intelligence agencies in the event of a biological weapon release.

“It was a tremendous experience to see how the government operates, how agencies interact and I would encourage this type of activity with other faculty at the University,” says Geary. “I think I provided a service to the State Department, and now people there think about UConn as a science resource.”

Geary now knows his expertise is valued by the diplomat corps. At Foggy Bottom. Since completing his Jefferson Science Fellowship, his diplomatic passport and top-secret security clearances are being held in Washington after he was asked to continue as a consultant for the Department of State. – Kennew Best
1950s
Louisie S. Berry ’52 (CLAS), ’61 M.A., ’90 J.D., superintendent of schools for Broad Brook, Conn., received the Outstanding Superintendents Award from the Naugatuck Education of.

Walter V. Powell ’54 (SFA), ’55 (ED) retired from the faculty of Steep Rock Junior High School in Norfolk, Conn., as a member of the Board of the Pennsylvania Courts, the U.S. District Court and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Allan R. Zenowitz ’60 (CLAS) is a senior fellow at the Homeland Security Policy Institute of George Washington University for the fourth consecutive year. He serves on the U.S. Homeland Security Advisory Council and lives in Cambridge, Mass., as well as Biddaford, Pool, Maine.

Robert Nolan ’64 (ED), ’67 M.A. retired in October 2008 from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, after 34 years, including service as the chief of police, director of risk management and director of environmental safety and health.

Jack C. Norbeck ’64 (CLAS), president of Norbeck Research in Coplay, Pa., was inducted into the American Biographical Institute’s Hall of Fame for his work as an author, historical photographer, international photo exhibitor and for his work on steam and animal power.

1960s
Joseph Minnella ’68 (CLAS), a part-time worker with high school-age students at the Human Resource Agency of Naugatuck, Conn., retired from his position as assistant manager with the Connecticut Department of Administrative Services. He and his wife, Cathy, live in Naugatuck, Conn.

Lenny Cavallaro ’69 (CLAS), ’74 M.M., an adjunct professor of English at Northern Essex Community College, has edited and revised Dante’s Inferno, a novel based on the life of legendary vioinist Niccolo Paganini, written by the late Ann Abelson. He is also composer-in-residence at Ipswich High School in Ipswich, Mass.

Jane Walter Collins ’69 (ED) had her oil paintings selected to be featured at the Lyme Art Association. She and her husband, Jack, farm organically at their home in Chippin, Conn.

Robert Johnson ’69 (CLAS), ’76 6th Year was re-elected to the UConn Alumni Association’s Board of Directors. He will serve a three-year term until 2012.

1970s
Maria Giannuzzi ’71 (CLAS) is the author of Images of America: Windsor Locks, Conn., published by Arcadia Publishing. She also develops and leads workshops, helping others to create a career at any age.

Ronald Ancrum ’72 (SAFA) was elected president of the Community He serves part time in the social work department of Saint Joseph College.

John Greenwood ’73 (J.D.) was named a 2009 MS-Corporate Achiever by the Connecticut chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. He is a partner at the law firm Greenroth, Piotrowsime & Signyrie, LLC, in Hamden, Conn.

John Silva ’73 (ED), ’74 M.A. retired from the faculty at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill after 28 years, serving as director of the sport psychology program and sport psychology laboratory.

David Tiberius ’73 (CLAS), ’81 M.S., ’95 Ph.D., professor emeritus for the UConn Department of Physical Therapy and academic dean at Gray Institute in Adrian, Mich., received the Outstanding Physical Therapy Professional Award from the Neag School of Education.

Joanne (Ruvolo) Gannett ’74 (CLAS), adjunct professor of art history and a teacher at Columbia College in Chicago, recently led the summer Renaissance art history class for Columbia’s program in Florence, Italy.

John Johnston ’74 (CLAS) retired after serving eight years as a pilot in the U.S. Air Force and 25 years as a project manager in defense industries. He and his wife, Shelli, reside in Daytona Beach, Fla., but their two daughters live in New England.

Ernest M. Julian ’74 (CANR), ’78 M.A., ’70 Ph.D., chief of the Office of Food Protection for the Rhode Island Department of Health, received the Outstanding Professional Award from the Neag School of Education.

Rick Meligpina ‘74 Ph.D. retired from teaching and resumed his piano studies after a 30-year hiatus, taking lessons at the European Piano School in Natick, Mass. He has performed in four piano recitals. He also continues to enjoy bowling and designing and building furniture.

Mark J. Roy ’74 (CLAS) retired July 1, 2009, after more than 28 years on the staff at the University of Connecticut. He began as an assistant to the director of the former Office of Public Information Services.

1980s
Amy Bidewell ’73 (CLAS) has lived in Arizona since 2004. She has changed her name to Walker Edwald.

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1990s
Paul R. O’Dea ’80 (PHS), chief operating officer at Aptom Oncology, Los Angeles, Calif., retired after previously serving as vice president.

Giving babies the care she once received
When Megan Richardson ’08 (NUR) was born prematurely she was a patient in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the UConn Health Center. Today, as a nurse in the same NICU, she provides newborn babies with the same quality of care that she received and a chance for a full, active life.

Megan Richardson ’08 (NUR)

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Megan Richardson ’08 (NUR)
Finding Warrior Roots for mixed martial arts

S

tai Anson ’02 M.A. ’07 6th Year is a teacher, not a fighter. Yet when her husband, Peter Delano, co-founded a genetic testing company marketed toward the world of mixed martial arts, the high school history and anthropology teacher was intrigued.

“I’m not a big fan of fighting, but lots of fighters want their genealogies done and want to know who they are,” says Anson. “I got involved in this because it’s a way to connect with history and to try to understand who you are.”

Anson, who is also a partner at the law firm of McGladrey & Pullen, LLP, was elected to the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants’ Advisory Council. She also chairs its Financial Institutions Committee.

Peter LaPorta ’96 (CLAS), owner of the consulting company LaPorta Advisors, is the author of a second- book, Who Hired These People? released by Authorhouse.

David C. Mulhall ’86 (BUS), financial advisor at LPL Financial Services, was elected to the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants’ Advisory Council. He also chairs its Personal Planning Finance Committee.

Carlos Rivera ’88 (CLAS), ’94 M.S., chief medical officer and human resources for the city of Hartford, served as a 2008 Health Leadership Fellow of the Connecticut Health Foundation. He is a member of the National Society of Hispanic M.A.s and B.A.s and serves as director of ambulatory services at Saint Francis Hospital and of Alternatives and Behavioral Health Services at Community Solutions, Inc., in Windsor, Conn.

Christopher Wilkos ’88 (BUS), director of health and human resources for the city of Hartford, served as a 2008 Health Leadership Fellow of the Connecticut Health Foundation. He is a member of the National Society of Hispanic M.A.s and B.A.s and serves as director of ambulatory services at Saint Francis Hospital and of Alternatives and Behavioral Health Services at Community Solutions, Inc., in Windsor, Conn.
Sending ‘Sunday Baroque’ over the air

F

or Suzanne Bona ‘85 (SFA) connecting her radio listeners to such greats as Bach, Vivaldi and Handel isn’t about playing the same music week after week or reciting stale facts about composers’ lives. As host and executive producer of Sunday Baroque, a nationally syndicated radio program dedicated to Baroque and early music, Bona continuously strives to offer listeners “something new.”

“If I try to find some new spin, so that someone’s hearing the music for the first time can be engaged, and so someone hearing it for the hundredth time can also be engaged,” says Bona, whose program features classical music written between 1700, performed by a range of artists as diverse as Grammy Award-winning cellist Yo-Yo Ma, renowned banjo player Béla Fleck and rock musician Sting. She shares stories about “humanity behind the music” by personally involving the composer, or performer, and their circumstances. “That’s what brings the music to life and makes us care about it,” she says.

Bona earned a bachelor’s degree in music at UConn and intended to pursue a full-time performance career as a flutist. But when her part-time work in public radio at WFSU in Tallahassee, Florida, turned into an opportunity to host her own program, a light bulb went off. “It felt right,” she says. “As someone who has always loved being on the stage, it came kind of naturally to me."

Since Sunday Baroque’s first broadcast 2 years ago, Bona has witnessed an evolution in classical music, as mainstream performers and recording labels have steadily made the genre “more acceptable, and less arcane and stuffy.”

The Internet has triggered further change: No longer interacting with listeners exclusively over the phone, Bona now hears from UConn Alumni Association’s Board of Directors, which archives playlists and podcasts of Bona’s conversations with prominent musicians. “Technology is changing; the way people get access to music is changing,” she says, acknowledging that it’s unclear what that may mean for the future format of her program — or that of public radio. Whatever happens down the road, she says, “I hope I’ll be able to reinvent myself in a way that I’ll be able to share my love and my enthusiasm for music. Music really does connect people. It brings something civilized and beautiful into our lives.”

— Stephanie Dion Jones ‘01 (CLAS)

To purchase ‘Victor Not Victim: My Kiss of Life,’ released by author of Kiss of Life, Suzanne Bona ‘85 (SFA), is the author of Kiss of Life or by visiting Sunday Baroque’s site, SundayBaroque.org, through the program’s Web archives playlists and podcasts of Bona’s conversations with prominent musicians.

Alumni Huskies Win in Boston

The Boston Chapter of the UConn Alumni Association won the third Annual Boston Alumni Softball Tournament, which included teams from seven national universities and was hosted by Tufts. The UConn team included several friends and co-workers of alumni. Celebrating the victory are L-R standing: Shadid Gaddis, Breonna Williams ‘03 (CLAS), Chris Costera ‘03 (CLAS), Jason Conroy ‘06 (PHIL), Matt Pratte, Megan Radigan ‘07 (BRS), Fatty Chitmond ‘93 (CLAS), and Megan Ellis ‘07 (CLAS); front row: Mike Cangiano ‘08 (RIER); Brian Johnson ‘03 (CLAS); and Dennis Connor ‘91 (CLAS).
Toasting to the Host!

Via Somerville ’74 Ph.D., was one of the first graduate students to participate in UConn’s Study Abroad Program. The year he spent in France led to his current career in French cuisine through tours of wineries in the United States and overseas. Jeff Wood ’96 (CLAS) is the author of many other school yearbooks and literary magazines throughout Connecticut and New York. He is a founding member of UConn Television and a Daily Campus columnist. He has written for several publications since graduation.

Joseph B. Garai ’97 Ph.D. is the author of The Four Moments After Death, documenting the clinical and personal aspects of a loved one, published by Xlibris Corporation.

Jim Nichols ’94 (EN g) has served as deputy city manager for the city of Goodyear, Ariz. He is also the author of this second book, How to be a Better Client - Consultant recipient of the Outstanding Higher Education Professional Award from the Alma Ely Scholarship Program, which is dedicated to promoting greater diversity in the teaching profession.

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Journalists embedded in a ‘good news’ story in Kenya

By Marcel Dufresne

In the closing minutes of a school dedication in Nairobi’s largest slum, a young Kenyan woman passed near, handing out quarters-sized souvenirs. Surprising myself, I held out a palm, and she pressed a pin bearing the face of a child and the words “Kibera School for Girls” into my hand.

It was the first time in 40 years as a journalist that I had accepted, let alone requested, a token from the sponsors of an event I was covering.

The story of aid to Kenya is filled with well-intentioned gifts either stolen or misdirected. But watching these doctors, nurses, teachers, parents and students slap mud on walls, catalogue and shelve books, and tend to ailing women and children convinced us their effort was hitting the mark. They departed comfortable lives, paid their own way and went to work. Everyone, from both continents, seemed better for the effort. Across south-central Kenya, they listened, learned and labored alongside Kenyan partners.

Far from newsroom and classroom, we two journalists couldn’t stay untouched by what we saw. So what of journalistic objectivity, of keeping people and events at arm’s length?

As I pondered whether I’d gotten too close, I remembered that journalism’s highest purpose is to report thoroughly, follow the facts and tell an honest story. At a time when journalism is too often filled with self-serving “news” and swayed by public relations, skepticism and distance remain crucial. But not every story demands distance, I thought. Journalists must recognize sincere intentions and genuine good works. They must do their homework and report rigorously to learn who stands to gain and who to lose. Then they should tell the story that they find.

Before leaving for Kenya, we had vetted AFK as best we could. Everything we learned compelled us to tell its story, and nothing we saw in Kenya changed that. So I stuck the pin to my shirt as confirmation that this was the kind of “good news” the public thinks is too-seldom told.

That night over dinner, AFK founder Emely Silver stretched a thin bead bracelet over my wrist. It bore a single word – KIBERA.

Once home, I stuck the dedication pin to a bulletin board, but I still wear the bracelet. It reminds me to tell students there is good news if they keep their eyes and hearts open.

Marcel Dufresne is an associate professor of journalism in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. A former reporter and editor at newspapers in Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts, he received the 2002 “Distinguished Teaching in Journalism” award from the national Society of Professional Journalists.

UCONN helped prepare me for the real world. My experience in both the classroom and my involvement in student activities helped me gain confidence in who I am and my ability to succeed.

Upon graduation, that self-confidence led me back to UConn. I realized that the Alumni Association could provide me with assistance in a tough job market. I began to use the Husky Alumni Network, the online alumni community, and joined the Alumni Association. The power of the alumni network helped open doors that led to a fantastic job.

My membership will be renewed year after year to ensure that the power of the alumni network stays strong and continues to help future Huskies!

Join the Alumni Association today at UConnAlumni.com!
Progress is being made for the Save Our Lakes program launched last year by UConn President Michael J. Hogan. The campaign aims to restore the biological health of Mirror and Swan Lakes on the Storrs campus by removing built-up sediment and by enhancing the visual beauty of the lakes with new landscaping. For more information on Save Our Lakes: http://blogs.uconn.edu/president/