

2013

**A CLASS OF
THEIR
OWN**

FALL '13



**"I was 6 years old, walking 3 miles daily to the farm.
... harvesting cassava, corn, and hot peppers."**

Read the personal stories of UConn's Class of 2017



Transcending Tragedy

Sandy Hook Elementary School teacher Kaitlin Roig-DeBellis '05 (ED), '06 MA always felt that teaching kindness was a critical lesson for her young students — perhaps no more so than in the wake of the tragic shooting that took the lives of six of her colleagues and 20 Sandy Hook students last December.

As countless gifts and messages of compassion poured into the school and uplifted her first-graders in the months that followed, the UConn alum sought a way to teach her students how to pay that kindness forward. “Eventually I just realized that when you get, you have to give,” Roig-DeBellis says.

Launching a nonprofit called Classes 4 Classes earlier this year, Roig-DeBellis has made the act of giving an engaging, tangible experience in her own classroom, as well as in many other classrooms nationwide. The organization, whose mission is to teach every child in America to have an interest in the well-being of others, invites K-5 teachers and their students to become sponsors for other K-5 classrooms elsewhere in the country — for instance, by helping to raise funds for the purchase of much-needed school supplies, a field trip, or a guest speaker for a classroom in need.

“It’s so important, especially for younger students, to have a genuine experience in learning to be caring, kind, compassionate, empathetic,” Roig-DeBellis says. “As teachers, we’re so busy with curriculum and all the major subject areas — which are so important — but there is still such a gap in how kids treat one another.”

Classes 4 Classes begins to address that gap, offering students the opportunity to experience firsthand the joy of giving, while involving the larger community. “A lot of people say, ‘I’m not a teacher or parent,’ or ‘I have no involvement with schools,’” says Roig-DeBellis. “But this program is also about the people who are helping to make it happen — whether it’s monetarily or by spreading the word. Every person can be a part of it.”



To learn more, donate, or find ways to get involved, visit classes4classes.org. To contribute to UConn’s Sandy Hook Memorial Scholarship Fund, visit s.uconn.edu/sandyhook.

VIDEO



Watch Sandy Hook survivor Kaitlin Roig-DeBellis '05 (ED), '06 MA, as she shares her powerful message on teaching compassion at s.uconn.edu/classes4classes. For more UConn videos, visit UConn’s YouTube channel.



Stay connected with what's happening at UConn via our online resources at today.uconn.edu and social.uconn.edu.



Volume 14, No. 2 features

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A CLASS OF THEIR OWN
A high school junior, his home destroyed by Hurricane Irene. A 6-year-old in West Africa, daydreaming of one day attending school. This fall, UConn welcomed one of the most exceptional incoming classes of freshmen in University history. Every one of them has a story to tell.



BIG IDEA
Sandy Hook survivor and schoolteacher Kaitlin Roig-DeBellis '05 (ED), '06 MA has found a way not only to honor colleagues and students who lost their lives in the tragic shooting nearly a year ago, but also to share lessons in kindness with classrooms nationwide.

TALK OF THE TOWN
It's been years in the making, but the wait is finally over. The long-awaited opening of the new Downtown Storrs Center — complete with cafés, restaurants, shops, and high-end apartments — brings a modern, college-town charm right to UConn's doorstep.

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10 QUESTIONS
Cinematographer and native New Yorker Brian Schulz '97 (CLAS) is captivating audiences through film, covering everything from Major League Baseball to Fashion Week to the country's greatest teenage chess champions.



VANTAGE POINT
Assistant professor of communication Amanda Denes explores the science behind pillow talk — with research into how revealing our feelings may play a key role in guiding our most intimate relationships.

HUSKYMANIA
Going from UConn Huskies point guard to a 13-year NBA career taught Kevin Ollie '95 (CLAS) a few things. Now heading into his second season as head coach of the UConn men's basketball team, Ollie is ready to put those life lessons to use.



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GAME CHANGER

Brian Schulz '97 (CLAS) is always ready to roll — whether it's for a professional ballgame or a tournament of teenage chess champions. A producer and cinematographer for Major League Baseball, Schulz also recently served as a producer and the director of photography for the 2012 documentary "Brooklyn Castle," which tells the story of America's top junior-high chess team. He lives in New York City.

How did you get into sports photography?

It all started at UConn because I worked in the sports information department [SID]. I did some work on the ESPN production trucks as a student assistant with the SID's office, and it seemed like a cool career. ... I found my creative side — I never really thought I was creative. I can't draw, I can't sing, I can't act, but I had some kind of creativity that took some time to blossom.

BY MICHAEL HARDY



Brian Schulz '97 (CLAS) films earlier this year at the 2013 All-Star Futures Game, in which Houston Astros prospect and former UConn baseball player George Springer III, second from left, played for Team USA. Photo by Rob Tringali

Had you always been interested in photography?

As a little kid, I liked tuning into the World Series or the Super Bowl to see the video teasers for the game. They would play some cool music, and there would be all these majestic shots. As a kid, I probably didn't know what I was experiencing, but that probably contributed to my future career choice.

You've worked at MLB since 1999. What kind of work have you done there?

I [recently] worked on a cinematic essay as a promo for the All-Star Game. One of our writers at MLB Productions wrote a really heartfelt love letter to New York City, voiced by John Franco, a former New York Met and lifelong New Yorker. [We've] encapsulate[d] the beauty of New York and the beauty of the All-Star Game coming to New York. I like really cool, crisp, clean cinematic shots and weaving them into a story.

How much traveling does the job involve?

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I worked on a Showtime series called "The Franchise" that followed a single team — two years ago, it was San Francisco [Giants], and last year it was the [Miami] Marlins. And other things come up — we do interviews with players throughout the season, so we go to their ballparks and do specialty shots with them. Then there's the World Series and the All-Star Game every year and spring training.



Do you ever get tired of watching baseball?

I'm not as big a fan as I used to be. I think it's just a natural tendency — if I worked at Baskin Robbins, I'd be sick of ice cream by now. It's not that I'm sick of baseball; it's just there every day. Being around it so much, you forget how endearing it can be.

What's one of the most memorable moments you've captured?

The 2004 Red Sox victory in the World Series. ... I was shooting camera on the third-base side when the Red Sox won, so I captured that last out. When I look back in 30 or 40 years, I'll know that that slow-motion shot was mine.

"I FOUND MY CREATIVE SIDE — I NEVER REALLY THOUGHT I WAS CREATIVE. I CAN'T DRAW, I CAN'T SING, I CAN'T ACT, BUT I HAD SOME KIND OF CREATIVITY THAT TOOK SOME TIME TO BLOSSOM."

How did you get involved in "Brooklyn Castle"?

It was actually my sister's idea — she has always worked in documentaries and wanted to do one of her own. She had this idea of following around the best junior-high chess team in America, which no one really knew about. It's a really interesting story. They come from a section of Brooklyn where you just wouldn't think chess would thrive.

You grew up in Brooklyn yourself — is that what drew you to the film?

My sister always wanted to do a film about where we were from, and I gravitated to that as well. I thought it would be good to make a film about something that was emblematic of Brooklyn. I think the best thing about documentaries is that you're shining a light on a subject that a lot of people may not know about. We try to show that chess is cool — these are some of the most popular kids at their school.

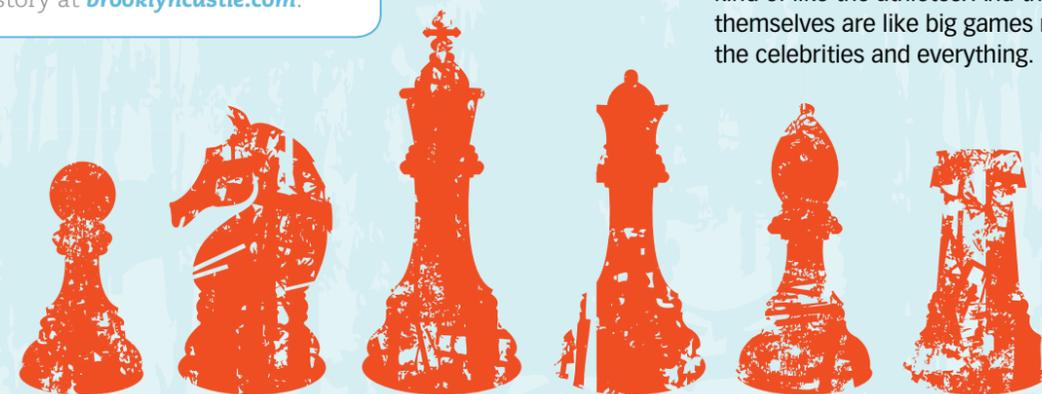
Since when are the cool kids on the chess team? Since now. Get a glimpse into how cinematographer Brian Schulz '97 (CLAS) captures the story at brooklyncastle.com.

Was it a challenge to make chess interesting cinematically?

We did a lot of slow-motion and artistic shots, and we weaved it into a story line about what was going on in the players' lives. We tried to make the chess really interesting. We were at a tournament in Dallas in one of these big, big conference rooms. I like really smooth shots, but we didn't have the funding for a dolly or a Steadicam. I see a luggage cart that a bellhop is bringing in, and I get on it with my tripod and have my brother-in-law push it. So here I am on this luggage cart being pushed across the room, in the midst of the ultimate concentration sport. It was a poor man's dolly.

What are you working on right now, outside of MLB?

I'm working on some stuff for Fashion Week. It's fascinating, the process that goes into the fashion shows. I see the parallels to the sports world — there's a lot of pressure. If you're a designer, there's a lot of pressure to have a good show. Then you get the whole dynamic with the models, who are kind of like the athletes. And the shows themselves are like big games now, with all the celebrities and everything.



THE SCIENCE OF *pillow talk*

BY AMANDA DENES

How hormones affect

our communication
decisions

It's the stuff spy movies are made of — the CIA operative and his or her lover, together in bed. In the afterglow, secrets are revealed, classified details leaked. As Hollywood would have us believe, it is during this interlude of “pillow talk” that people become less concerned about disclosing sensitive information.

While this may be a fictitious example, many of us may in fact feel more comfortable opening up to a sexual partner about sensitive information — such as our stresses, feelings, and hopes about a relationship — after sex. The question is, why?

Amid the countless components that contribute to a healthy romance, frequency of sex, sexual satisfaction, and sexual likes and dislikes have all been linked to relationship satisfaction. We know that relationship satisfaction is often related to various aspects of couples' sexual behavior, but we ask far fewer questions about what happens afterward — when the sex is over.

We've been led to believe that all the important questions about sex involve the lead-up, but what happens post-sex may also influence relationship satisfaction.

Risk and Reward in Romance

Pillow talk, or post-sex conversation, and its influence on relationships, are vital to my scholarly interests. I became interested in this line of research upon realizing the very different experiences people were having with pillow talk. Friends would tell me stories about sweet nothings whispered following sex — a time period denoted by researchers Daniel Kruger and Susan Hughes as the post-coital time interval (PCTI). These conversations would sometimes make or break the relationship. For some, saying “I love you” for the first time after sex brought the relationship to the next level. For others, the same disclosure led to regret for having confessed one's sentiments too soon.

Why such different experiences? Why were some people sharing their innermost feelings, even when they knew the relationship had not yet reached that level? What effects would these post-coital disclosures have on relationship satisfaction?

In beginning to explore the relationship between our hormones and communication decisions, I recognized that the physiological changes accompanying sex may be the underlying cause of pillow talk and that investigating communication during the PCTI may help us better understand the link between physiology and communication. I also realized that one important variable was likely influencing this whole process — orgasm.

Yes, I've seen people shift uncomfortably when I use this word in academic presentations. While individuals may have different levels of comfort when it comes to discussing sexuality, to ignore the importance of orgasm would be to ignore a key piece of the pillow-talk puzzle and what my own research has revealed to be an important predictor of post-sex communication.

The Chemistry of Communication

When individuals experience orgasm, profound physiological changes occur as a hormone called oxytocin floods their bodies. Increases in oxytocin have been linked to many pro-social behaviors — hence the hormone's nicknames, “love hormone” and “trust hormone.” While men as well as women experience the post-climax oxytocin surge, testosterone is thought to dampen the effects of oxytocin, which may mean fewer warm, fuzzy feelings post-sex for individuals with more testosterone, such as men.

Based on these physiological responses and what we already know about oxytocin's feel-good effects, I investigated differences in individuals' pillow talk based on whether or not they climaxed. I found that women who orgasmed disclosed more positive feelings to their partners after sexual activity than women who did not orgasm. In addition, women who orgasmed disclosed more positive feelings to their partners post-coitus than men did.

Oxytocin may explain this finding. Women who climax have more oxytocin flowing through their systems than women who do not climax, and we know that the hormone relates to increased feelings of trust and connection — key components that influence individuals' decisions to disclose feelings to their partners. Women who orgasmed also disclosed more than men who orgasmed — perhaps because men's higher levels of testosterone suppress the oxytocin response.

Additionally, pillow talk varied by couple type. Individuals in more committed relationships were disclosing more positive feelings to their partners after sexual activity than individuals in less committed relationships. They also regretted their disclosures less and reported more relationship satisfaction following pillow talk.

A Purpose Behind Pillow Talk

This may suggest that, for individuals in more committed relationships, pillow talk is part of the way they maintain closeness and satisfaction with their partners. I am currently investigating the possibility that post-coital communication functions as a relationship maintenance strategy by looking at why individuals engage in pillow talk.

In another study, I found that how individuals view the benefits and risks of disclosing their feelings to their partners can help explain the relationship between orgasm and pillow talk. For some individuals, it seems that the glow of orgasm may minimize the risks — and enhance the benefits — of disclosing. It's easy to imagine the ways this may function in couples' everyday interaction: During pillow talk, couples may feel more comfortable opening up about their stresses, feelings, and hopes for the relationship, and this openness may trickle over to other, non-sexual contexts.

Relationship researchers such as myself are beginning to ask the questions to which so many couples want to know the answers: *Why do I feel as though I can share feelings with my partner after sex that I don't feel comfortable sharing normally? What effect will pillow talk have on my relationship satisfaction? Will my relationship benefit from pillow talk?*

In starting to answer these questions, we're gaining a better understanding of the ways that post-coital behavior relates to relationship satisfaction and healthy couple functioning. For me, the research doesn't end with sex. In fact, it's just the beginning. 🐾

Amanda Denes, assistant professor of communication in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, studies communication in interpersonal relationships. Her research has been funded by such organizations as the Foundation for the Scientific Study of Sexuality and The Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction.



talk of the town

Long-awaited storrs center becomes a reality

By Kenneth Best



Plans to transform Storrs into a bustling college town have long been the word on the street — among quite a few generations of UConn Huskies. It was 44 years ago, in October 1969, when the University first announced that its Board of Trustees had approved plans for a \$12 million project that would provide “the latest word in shopping convenience and contemporary housing” for the campus community. The plans included apartments, chain department stores, a gourmet food store, a sporting goods store, a bookshop, and several restaurants, among other retail businesses.

Although scheduled to become reality in early 1971, the plans for an energized downtown never came to fruition. Decades later, renewed discussions between the Town of Mansfield and UConn led to agreement on a new plan — one that is now materializing adjacent to the south end of the Storrs campus.

An emerging destination for local residents, visitors, students, as well as the rest of the UConn community, the new Storrs Center is no longer mere rumor. With cafés and restaurants, specialty shops, high-end apartments, and more still to come, this downtown community center is the product of years of shared effort and vision.

movin' on up

Plans for Storrs Center resumed in 2001 with the formation of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, a nonprofit led by a board of directors representing Mansfield residents, business owners, UConn, and the Town of Mansfield. LeylandAlliance was hired as the master developer for the \$220 million mixed-use project that, in addition to 322 apartments and an array of shops and restaurants, will also eventually include a UConn Co-op bookstore, the relocated Ballard

Institute and Museum of Puppetry, and a clinic operated by the UConn Health Center. A supermarket is scheduled to open in 2014, and there are plans for a residential neighborhood as well.

When former UConn President Philip Austin asked trustee Philip Lodewick '66 (BUS), '67 MBA to represent the University in the project planning, the businessman and philanthropist recalled his undergraduate days in Storrs, when few activities were available beyond campus.

“It was a place almost barren in terms of the opportunity for people to socialize,” he says. “To see the town evolve is wonderful. It’s been a good collective effort on the part of a lot of people ... I think this downtown will cement the community within Storrs and Mansfield. From a standpoint of camaraderie, collaboration, and the ability to enjoy social interaction, it’s vital.”

In the early planning stages of Storrs Center, Thomas Callahan was associate vice president for government and community relations and also served as co-chair of the University’s Town-Gown Committee. He says the University and Town of Mansfield worked together to forge consensus on a development plan that would meet the needs of both entities.



See the new Storrs Center for yourself. For 360-degree panoramic views, an interactive map, and a video, download *UConn Magazine*’s free app for your tablet device at magazine.uconn.edu/app today.



"It was gratifying to see the amount of political consensus that emerged to get it on the ground," says Callahan, now associate vice president for infrastructure planning and strategic project management at UConn. "The citizens and political leaders of Mansfield who wanted to see something like this happen mobilized to ensure that the project moved forward. You also had strong presidential leadership, with Phil Austin and now Susan Herbst supporting the plan, and support from the Board of Trustees to make it go."

sweet success

The new downtown center has presented unique opportunities for new businesses, including ventures led by local residents and young UConn alumni.

Barry Schreier, formerly the director of Counseling and Mental Health Services at the University, had always dreamed of opening a candy store. He became involved with the Downtown Mansfield Partnership and helped form the advocacy group Smart Growth for Mansfield. In 2012, he opened Sweet Emotions, a boutique candy store in Storrs Center that he says has "all the duties of parenthood."

Schreier stocks a range of candies that would appeal to college students, children, and the wider community. His website draws orders from around the nation, and his store offers services including candy bouquets and baskets, children's parties, "retro" candies such as Chuckles, Bonomo Turkish Taffy, and Sen Sen, and delivery service to campus residence halls. He has proclaimed the back wall of his store as "the largest candy counter in Connecticut," with 120 different candies on the shelf. He has six employees, including five UConn students.

For friends Jessica Chiep '12 (CANR) and Ron Liu '11 (BUS), the chance to open their own restaurant adjacent to the UConn campus was an opportunity they could not resist.

After starting their post-college careers, they realized they wanted to be self-employed. They formed a partnership with their friend

Thomas Wang '11 (BUS), whose family has operated restaurants for many years, including two in Middletown, Conn.

The partners will open the Japanese restaurant Haru Aki this month, which they say will serve authentic Japanese street fare with traditional elements.

"Our menu items are taken from influences straight from Japan with a little bit of fusion twist. We're not taking shortcuts with the ingredients," says Liu. "There's more to explore in this cuisine than the old clichéd approach."

Chiep and Liu say that after initially meeting with the developer and learning more about the downtown project they found "everyone's willing to help make things work."

In addition to a diverse menu, Chiep says they plan to offer activities such as sushi rolling, dumpling making, screenings of Japanese style animation known as anime, and fresh mochi tastings.

Geno Auriemma, UConn's Hall of Fame women's basketball coach, who has been involved in the restaurant business with his Geno's Fast Break Food Court and Pub at Mohegan Sun, opened Geno's Grille, a 100-seat restaurant with primarily Italian cuisine, in Storrs Center this past spring.

He says the close collaboration between the University and Town of Mansfield has benefited the entire community.

"For the first time, the Town of Mansfield and UConn had the same vision. They came together to enhance the experience, not just for the students and faculty, but for the people who live in this area," he says. "As a result, look at what we have."

At the same time, community group StoDoArts at Storrs Center has been working to help create a vibrant and lively environment in Storrs Center, partnering with the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, Leyland Alliance, UConn Summer Programs, and the School of Fine Arts to present such activities as local film screenings and live music performances in the downtown plaza.

"We formed strong partnerships with the community, the University, and many organizations through the planning and construction process for Storrs Center," says Cynthia van Zelm, executive director of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership. "We hope that we can continue to draw upon those partnerships to populate Storrs Center and provide a variety of programming that will appeal to all ages." 🐾

We've graduated, too.



Check out UConn's new app for alumni.



Tour the new Storrs Center through the eyes of a UConn student. Check out the video at [s.uconn.edu/downtown](https://www.uconn.edu/downtown). For more UConn videos, visit UConn's YouTube channel.

VIDEO

A Class of Their Own

Behind every aspiring UConn Husky is a story waiting to be told. This fall, UConn's Class of 2017 arrived with the most impressive academic record of any incoming freshman class in the history of the University — and yet even grade point averages, SAT scores, and extracurricular activities can't say it all. Here, in this collection of college admissions essay excerpts, we invite you to get a glimpse of the luminous personalities, personal experiences, and hard-won insights that define some of UConn's newest students, as they tell you who they are, in their own words — with style, emotion, and candor.



SUNIL K. REDDY

sunil

We always used to sit on the swing together. He would sing this frivolous line over and over again, "Men may come and men may go, but I'll be there forever." To me, it was just a fun song that was amusing.

The sun illuminates a puddle glistening underneath the swing. I see the reflection of an auto-rickshaw, compelling me to ruminate about our trips.

He took me to various places, such as the old-age home, the school for the blind, and the orphanage. But one day, the last stop was in front of a peculiar, frail mud house. Four small boys, wearing nothing but ragged underwear and with dirt all over their bodies, ran up to us. This was their home. I couldn't help but notice the desperation in their eyes. I was shattered. I was so bewildered as to why he would take me to this random place.

We went for a walk with the mother. He kept on encouraging her not to give up and to keep striving to provide for her family. We then took the children to the doctor's office for a check-up. I was stunned by the fact that, despite the family's being complete strangers, he still went out of his way to help them both physically and mentally.

I sat on the swing and sang that line repeatedly, "Men may come and men may go, but I'll be there forever."

All of his actions defined one word, success. This one word made me who I am today. Success is not about what you have in life; it's about what you do for the lives of others in your lifetime.

How is it that he taught me everything, but nothing at all? He had not directly spoken to me about success, but he had shown me everything that I needed to achieve it. He taught me life's greatest lesson, and no matter what, his lesson will always stay with me.

Read the Personal Stories of UConn's Incoming Class

CLASS OF 2017

chao

Last week I received a call from my uncle. After some chit-chat, he asked me about my college application. "Still struggling," I replied. He hesitated for a second and then said, "You can hire a writer to write it for you. That's what I did." I never would have imagined my uncle using such a service. My uncle had always been a role model for me. He immigrated to the U.S. during his junior year of high school. He lacked all things English. Yet, despite this cultural handicap, he was accepted by an Ivy League school. My uncle's acceptance convinced me that despite my own English deficiencies, I, too, could experience the success of college as well. But the fact that he cheated his way into the Ivy League challenged my own sense of wrong and right.

Admittedly, the temptation to follow his footsteps intrigued me. Writing had always been my Achilles' heel. Words do not flow from my mind the way numbers do. My conscience told me that if someone else wrote my essay, that gave me an unfair advantage over my fellow applicants who worked hard on their essays. I knew hiring someone to write my essay was wrong not only academically, but morally as well. I had been raised to be independent, self-reliant, and honest. I had to appreciate the values my family had instilled in me, and relying on a hand other than my own was not honoring my values.

So here is my college essay – from my own hand and of my own heart. Whether I am accepted into college or not, I am perfectly at peace with the result because I did the right thing by listening to myself.



CHAOHUA WU

MAMAN COOPER



maman

In 2002, I was 6 years old, walking 3 miles daily to the farm along with my aunt and carrying her 2-year-old son. I worked in the fields harvesting cassava, corn, and hot peppers with the baby on my back. Every morning, I watched my aunt's stepdaughter walk through the yard on her way to school. Leaning forward one morning while sweeping the yard, I watched her backpack bounce up and down, and I murmured, "I wish I can go to school, too."

Migrating in 2004 from the refugee camp in Ivory Coast to the United States was one of the greatest challenges I ever encountered. Living in the Ivory Coast, like many children, I did not experience education. In Hartford, Conn., speaking only French and two other West African native languages made learning seem impossible. Three teachers each took turns pulling me out of class and teaching me basic English words. Although I fumbled on the words, I didn't give up because the desire of learning was like a fresh fire inside of me still waiting to explore.

Finally attending school was a dream come true, but my peers found a great pleasure in teasing the dumb girl in the classroom with the accent. However, I remained encouraged, knowing that I was now privileged to attend school. Attending the University of Connecticut will strengthen my knowledge and lead me to become a truly remarkable leader. My goal is to inspire many young girls around the world to stay hopeful while struggling under harsh conditions.

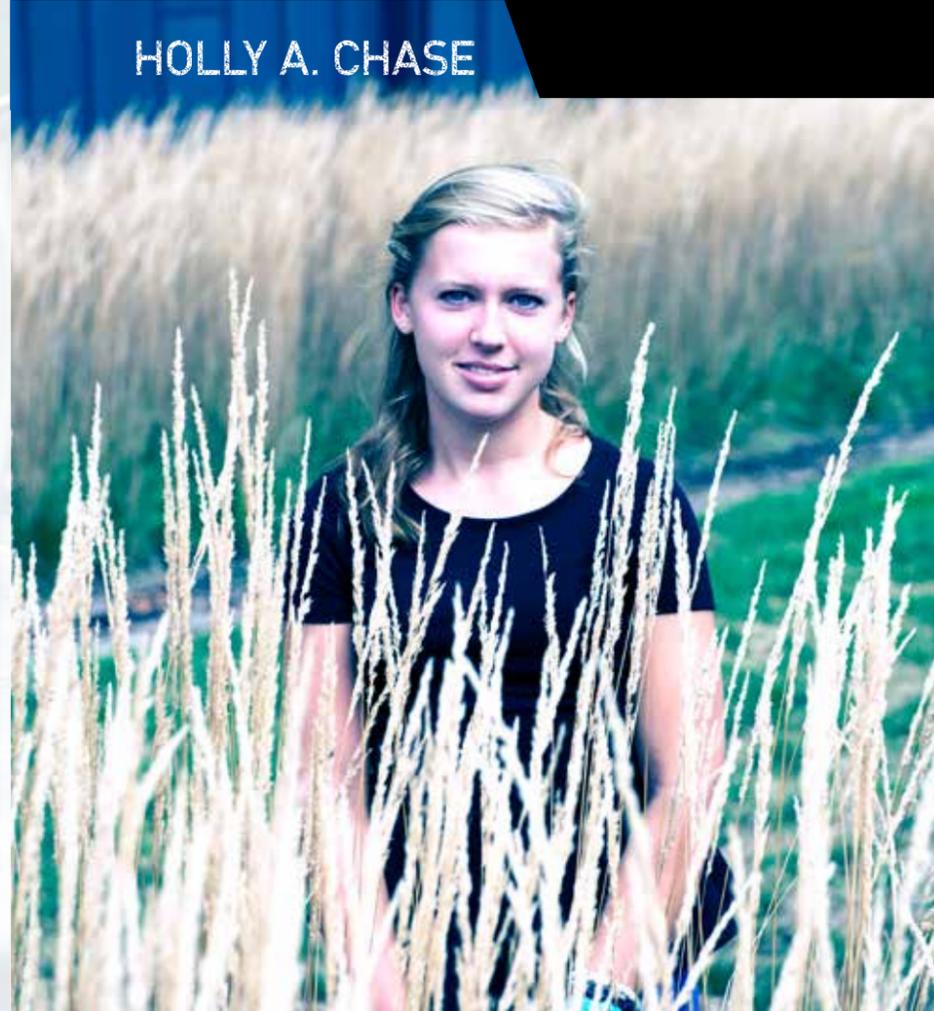
holly

I love the mixed look of surprise and respect I receive when someone asks what instrument I play, and I respond, "I play percussion!" It's not as if spotting a girl drummer is like finding a unicorn; we're out there.

Among all boys for most of my band experience, I've always strived to be better than them: crisper with my rudiments, sharper with my rhythms, and more attentive during practice. However, my male peers always had an advantage over me, and that was confidence. I watched how they played the drums like they owned them, whether it was the correct rhythm or not. That wasn't my style. I would play, but only if I could play the music right. Otherwise, I felt as if I was making a fool out of myself.

Regional auditions, jazz performances, and symphony band concerts all force me to play music that often mandates improvisation in front of an audience. I often wonder why I put myself through such high-pressure situations. Maybe it's because I like to test myself, as playing percussion has forced me to try out new things that I may never have explored. Maybe it's because I know there will never be a final examination on my confidence, only more opportunities to expand the genres I play and the techniques I employ. But maybe it's because, at the end of the day, all I want to do is beat the boys.

HOLLY A. CHASE



DAVID H. GUIRGUIS



david

We packed our last suitcase. It was the only thing we had left to remember: 30 inches of black fabric, enclosing the remains of our old life. We looked around our home, certain we would never return. My parents went to the old dining room table, the first piece of furniture they bought as a married couple back in Egypt. My mom ran her fingers down its jagged edge, once smooth, but now holding the indents of our childhood. I stood in complete shock. The place I had called home for 15 years would become nothing but a memory.

It was as I was starting my junior year that Hurricane Irene destroyed my home. A river that seemed a safe distance from us suddenly flooded 14 feet into my house, breaking the foundation and leaving my house condemned.

Reality hit when we moved our bags into a place we were now supposed to call "home." It felt so empty. I began to unpack my bags, trying to make my room look familiar. I was so relieved when I smelled the aroma of my mom's authentic *macarona beshamel*. The simple smell of her cooking made me feel a little more at home. At the dinner table, we relived the good times we had in our old house. Stories of holiday parties and embarrassing moments kept us up for hours. We recounted moving into our old home and how we had made it ours.

I realized what made a place home. It wasn't the building. It wasn't the address. It was the four of us. As we sat together reminiscing and laughing, I realized that home was my culture. Home was my mother's authentic meals. Home was the four of us living together and laughing. I finally realized, I was home.

Hear more from UConn's incoming Class of 2017 by downloading UConn Magazine's free app for your tablet device at magazine.uconn.edu/app today.

THE WISDOM OF

BY KENNETH BEST

OF KEVIN NAPIER



Calhoun? I'd say, I'm sorry, I can't replace him," Ollie says. "I don't care what I do, even if I win four national championships, I still can't replace him. He came here when there was nothing, and he built this. I can't replace him, but I can be the best Kevin Ollie. That's what I'm going to try and give this University."

coaster ride, with other upsets of ranked opponents, some frustrating losses, and seven overtime games, including the team's 63-59 overtime win over Providence that ended the year with a record of 20-10 overall and 10-8 in the Big East.

In many ways, it was familiar territory for Ollie, who had proven again and again during a nomadic 13-year career in professional basketball that he could do the job and overcome any obstacle placed before him. He established a reputation as a reliable veteran who could mentor younger players while making contributions on and off the court.

From the outset, Husky fans enthusiastically expressed their support for the former Husky, who proclaimed his affection for UConn and his student-athletes.

"He is the one always giving 100 percent. I feel every time I step on the court, I've got to match his intensity," junior forward Neils Giffey '14 (CLAS) said, after practice early last November. "He's really showing us how to work hard. Everybody respects him so much."

Ollie says playing for Calhoun and such highly respected NBA coaches as Chuck Daly, George Karl, and Larry Brown allowed him to learn the game from the best basketball minds in the sport.

"Being a point guard, I not only had to know my position, I had to know everybody else's position on the court," Ollie says. "I didn't have all the talent in the world. I had to study, look at the game tapes. It allowed me to be a better student of the game and what coaches are trying to do in certain situations."

ON POINT

Last November, an upset opening win over No. 14 Michigan State in the Armed Forces Classic at Ramstein Air Base in Germany indicated the Huskies might have surprises ahead during the season. It became a roller-

Ollie doled out messages about work ethic and effort throughout his first season, imparting his philosophy of life and basketball to his student-athletes and the media. He says he felt no pressure to replace the Hall of Fame coach whom he considers a second father.

"I just wanted to be myself. People were saying, How are you going to replace Jim

Before the official start of practice for the 2012–2013 men's basketball season, there was only one certainty: With a ban on postseason play due to NCAA penalties, the Huskies would play their final game of the year on March 9, 2013, at Gampel Pavilion against Providence.

No one knew what might be in store for the Huskies, given the transfers to other

schools or the departure of several key players from the 2011–2012 squad to the NBA. There were more question marks when Hall of Fame coach Jim Calhoun announced his retirement in mid-September and Kevin Ollie '95 (CLAS), whose only coaching experience was as an assistant for two years in Storrs, was named to lead the team with a one-season contract.

"There's only 24 hours in a day, and the way you are successful is how you use those 24 hours," he says. "Everybody's pulling at you; you have to know time management. The alarm is going to get you up. You can rest your mind, but you can't sleep. You can't take days off. You can't make excuses. You've got to get the job done. It's about results. That's what I try to teach our guys."

He says he also awakes each morning asking the same question: What do I need to know that I don't know right now?

"I'm learning every day. I'm an empty cup. I think that's what will allow me to, hopefully, become a great coach and an even better leader," Ollie says. "I don't know it all. I'm not afraid to tell anybody that. I collect information and make a decision. There's a lot of stuff I don't know, but I better ask somebody."

Ollie will be imparting his newly learned lessons to a Husky team that returns a core of experienced players — including Shabazz Napier '14 (CLAS), Ryan Boatright '15 (CLAS), and DeAndre Daniels '15 (CLAS) — who enter the new American Athletic Conference with the chance to win a conference championship and make the NCAA Tournament.

"They're going to be great. I really believe that," Ollie says. "I don't know about a national championship and all of that stuff, because I'd tell you that championships will chase us if we have the right attitude. Winning chases us. We don't chase winning. If we have the right attitude and play together unselfishly, those things will automatically happen."

I want these guys to have a habit of winning and making winning plays at the right time and that it's not just on the basketball court, it's out in the real world and academically. You want to make winning plays and show yourself well and be ambassadors for UConn basketball. My expectation of those guys is to go out and play hard like we did last year." 🐾



What's behind Coach Ollie's success? To hear him talk about the lessons he has learned, download UConn Magazine's free app for your tablet device at magazine.uconn.edu/app.



GROWING NEW OPPORTUNITIES

How Your Support Keeps UConn Thriving

FROM THE GROUND UP

Last year, donors provided **\$7.7 million** worth of scholarships to UConn students, from more than **950** scholarship funds at the UConn Foundation.

There are **94** endowed faculty positions or chairs at UConn.

Loyal Husky donors have contributed nearly **\$65 million** since 2009 in support of UConn Athletics.

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TOP NOTCH

There have been **80** donors of **\$1 million** or more since 2007.

Donors contributed more than **\$1.7 million** to the Carole and Ray Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center last year.

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—James M. Barrie

Your pride in UConn is vital to cultivating opportunities for current and future students, faculty, and University programs. To make a gift to UConn today, visit the UConn Foundation at s.uconn.edu/giving.

notes

WHAT SONG REMINDS YOU MOST OF YOUR TIME AT UCONN?

We asked our UConn Facebook fans, and here's what they had to say!

facebook

Be sure to 'Like' UConn at facebook.com/UConn

1960s

“Beatlemania! ‘She Loves You.’”
—Gary M. Levin '64 (CLAS)

“‘Who Are You?’ by The Who.”
—Sally Parizek Barbieri '76 (ED)

“‘Saturday Night Fever,’ by the Bee Gees. It was always playing, especially at the bar with the disco ball.”
—Marie (Rebillard) Kitch '78 (CLAS)

1970s

“‘Bruce Springsteen’s ‘Rosalita.’”
—Mary (Kuczynski) Palinkos '79 (NUR)

ALUMNI

Charles Vigna '52 (BUS) was inducted into the Berlin (Conn.) High School Athletic Hall of Fame in February, recognizing his accomplishments playing baseball and basketball, as well as serving as class president from his sophomore to senior year. He also played baseball at UConn. ♦ **Lois Greene Stone '55 (ED)**, author and poet, has personal items in 49 different museums and historical societies, including The Smithsonian Institution. ♦ **Glen W. Swanson '55 (BUS)** is the author of *Storm Clouds Over Iraq: Road to War: A Disturbingly Prescient Study of Misinformation and Cultural Ignorance*, an extended version of his previously published eBook *Storm Clouds Over Iraq*. He has written several books and articles about the Middle East and Islam. ♦ **Thomas A. Marks '62 (CLAS)**, '67 MS is the author of *Strays*, a novel released by Xlibris in September 2012. ♦ **Joel Hirschhorn '64 (CLAS)** was included in *Florida Super Lawyers*, 2013 Edition. ♦ **David Seaman '67 (BUS)** retired after a 45-year career in the textile, fiber, apparel, and shoe business with companies such as Eastman Kodak, Levi Strauss, Lee Jeans, Carter's Childrenswear, and Cole Haan. ♦ **Len Yannielli '67 (CLAS)**, professor emeritus at Naugatuck Valley Community College in Waterbury, Conn., is the author of *Moon Shadow of War*, a memoir released in April by Amazon Books. ♦ **Scott Cowen '68 (BUS)**, president of Tulane University in New Orleans, received the 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award from the UConn Alumni Association. He was honored for rebuilding the university after Hurricane Katrina,

establishing a charter school, and creating a public service requirement for undergraduates to help the city of New Orleans. ♦ **Elton B. Harvey III '69 (CLAS)**, an attorney with Baillie & Hershman P.C., was elected chairman of the Connecticut Bar Association Real Property Section for 2013–2014. ♦ **David P. Marks '69 (CLAS)**, '71 MBA, chief investment officer of insurance company CUNA Mutual Group, joined Conning Holdings Corp.'s Board of Directors as an independent director. ♦ **Charles Orr '70 MBA** is CEO at Immunotec Inc., a Canadian-based company and a leader in the wellness industry. He has 23 years of experience in the direct-selling field. ♦ **Susan Holsclaw '71 (SFA)** is the author of *The Peanut & the Pearl by Edna Bale*, a fiction book, and *The Fictional Poesy of Edna Bale*, a book of poetry. Both books are available at Lulu.com. ♦ **Stephen Enright '72 (BUS)** is senior vice president and chief human resources officer at Richmond, Va.-based Diamond Healthcare Corp., where he previously served as corporate director and chief human resources officer. ♦ **Amy Wechsler '72 (CLAS)**, partner at Shimalla, Wechsler, Lepp & D'Onofrio LLP in Warren, N.J., is president of the Somerset County (N.J.) Bar Association. ♦ **Joseph Wocoski '73 (CLAS)** is the author of *Shakespeare Sonnet Word Games First Foolery*, a word-game book that is the first in a five-part book series focused on Shakespeare's sonnets. ♦ **Rakesh Narang '74 MBA**, president and founder of Wire and Plastic Machinery Corp. in New Haven, Conn., was named by the Global Organization of

People of Indian Origin as an outstanding member of the Indian-American community in the category of Entrepreneurship and Business Acumen. ♦ **Cathryn Falwell '75 (SFA)** is the author and illustrator of *Rainbow Stew*, a children's book published in March by Lee & Low Books. ♦ **Elaine M. Scarry '75 Ph.D.**, professor of English at Harvard University, was elected as a member of the American Philosophical Society. ♦ **Alan Cicchetti '76 MBA** is director of agency relations of Lenders Compliance Group and executive director of Brokers Compliance Group in Long Beach, N.Y. He manages the growth of the new risk-management firm, which is exclusively for mortgage brokers. ♦ **Dennis C. Cavanaugh '78 (CLAS)**, partner at Robinson & Cole LLP in Hartford, Conn., was elected a 2013 Fellow of the Connecticut Bar Foundation James W. Cooper Fellows Program, which honors the leading members of the legal profession, promotes better understanding of the legal profession, and tries to improve the profession and the administration of justice in Connecticut. ♦ **Glenn R. Irani '78 (CLAS)** received the Hospital Physician Leadership Award from the Los Angeles County Medical Association in 2012. He has been in practice for more than 20 years. ♦ **Carolyn Levy Skowronski '78 (PHR)** is medical director for DBC Pri-Med, based in Boston, which collaborates with leading medical experts to develop accredited educational programs for primary care physicians and specialists. ♦ **Margaret F. Clayton '79 (NUR)**, associate professor at the University of Utah College of

Nursing in Salt Lake City, was appointed by the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute to co-chair the newly established stakeholder Advisory Panel on Assessment of Prevention, Diagnosis, and Treatment Options. ♦ **Carolyn Gatesy '79 MBA** was honored by the Glastonbury Chamber of Commerce as its Business Person of the Year. She is an entrepreneur and has launched and sold several successful tech startups and operates Main Street Office Center in Glastonbury, Conn. ♦ **Clifford A. Lange '79 (CLAS)**, vice president and chief financial officer at Boston Mutual Life Insurance Co., was inducted into the South Windsor (Conn.) High School Hall of Fame with the inaugural class of inductees, which recognizes individual contributions to athletics, scholastics, student activities, community service, and society. He was recently also awarded the 100-mile medal for walking/jogging 100 miles at the Three Days at the Fair Ultramarathon in Augusta, N.J. ♦ **James M. Mahoney '79 (BUS)**, CPA and managing partner of Mahoney Sabol & Co. LLP, in Glastonbury, Conn., was appointed chairman of the board of directors for the Hospital for Special Care in New Britain, Conn. He will also serve as vice chair for the Center of Special Care Inc. ♦ **Christopher A. Bleck '80 (PHR)**, '88 MBA, chief commercial officer of the life sciences company OvaScience in Cambridge, Mass., was appointed to the Product Advisory Board of Alcresta, a company that creates enzyme-based products to help those battling diseases or chronic conditions. ♦ **William Hagist**



"I Will Follow," by U2. It was the best song on the jukebox at Ted's, where I spent too much time before graduating from the [School of Business] in '84." —Steve Bevans '84 (BUS)

"Most '80s songs remind me of UConn because I graduated in 1989. But freshman year, I remember 'Welcome to the Jungle.' And I did live in the Jungle." —Jane Winston Blauvelt '89 (PHR)

"It Takes Two," by Rob Base." —Kelly Duggan Burdick '91 (BUS)

"Dave Matthews Band – 'Ants Marching.'" —Tamara (Raimundi) Menghi '97 (SFS)

"Most Tom Petty songs remind me of the good old days, but if I have to pick one, I'd say 'You Don't Know How It Feels.' Whether it was blasting at Ted's or a backyard BBQ at our apartment, I will always think of college with that song." —Susie Mendizabal '08 (CLAS)

"Summer Skin," by Death Cab for Cutie." —Emily Groff '07 (CLAS)

"All I Do Is Win," by DJ Khaled." —Seth Rule '12 (CLAS)

"Party in the USA," [by Miley Cyrus], with Laura Niquez '12 (CLAS)! We were both sophomores and apparently didn't know what good music was." —Emily Trodson '12 (CANR)

'80 MBA is the president and CEO of the Enfield (Conn.) Community Federal Credit Union. He also served on the Enfield Community Federal Credit Union Board of Directors. ♦ **Julia (DiCorleto) Gibson '81 (ENG)**, general manager of Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics in Aurora, Ohio, was one of 122 women honored nationally by the Manufacturing Institute, Deloitte, University of Phoenix, and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers with the Women in Manufacturing STEP (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Production) Award for achieving excellence in manufacturing. ♦ **Deborah Hubbell '81 (PHR)**, assistant director and coordinator of clinical support services at UConn Student Health Services, is a board member-at-large of the American College Health Association. ♦ **Kerri Mansberg '81 (CANR)**, '86 MBA founded KLM Vendor Solutions, a consulting firm in Ashford, Conn., which works with health plans and employer groups. ♦ **Isabel (Munat) Cole '82 (CLAS)** graduated cum laude from Seattle University School of Law, after being an air traffic controller for 22 years. ♦ **James Cotter '82 (BUS)** is executive vice president and chief operating officer of Naugatuck Valley Financial Corp. in Naugatuck, Conn. ♦ **Wayne Patenaude '82 (BUS)** is president and CEO of Cambridge (Mass.) Savings Bank and Cambridge Financial Group Inc. He has held several executive positions in Connecticut and Massachusetts banks. ♦ **Lee Schlesinger '82 (BUS)**, associate director for Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury, received the Mary H. Connolly Community Caring Award in April for outstanding service to the United Way and the entire

community. ♦ **Robert DeAngelis '83 (BUS)** is the executive managing director at Tiger Group in Boston, an asset management company. His responsibilities include corporate development and strategies and debt capital opportunities. ♦ **Donna Johnson '83 MA** was one of six poets selected by the Carnegie Mellon University Press Poetry Series to publish a collection of her poems titled *Selva*. ♦ **Stephen Kolenda '83 MBA**, professor of business administration and accounting at Hartwick College in Oneonta, N.Y., presented his paper titled "China's Economic Incursion into Laos" at the annual conference of the ASIANetwork, a network of 160 U.S. colleges and universities that foster Asian studies, in Nashville, Tenn. ♦ **Thomas P. Parrino '83 (CLAS)**, attorney at law and principal of Nusbaum & Parrino P.C., a family law firm in Westport, Conn., was selected as the 2013 Lawyer of the Year in the field of family law by *Best Lawyers*. ♦ **Catherine (Nettles) Cutter '84 (CANR)**, '87 MS is a professor and food safety extension specialist in the Department of Food Science at Pennsylvania State University in University Park, Pa. She previously worked for the USDA-Agricultural Research Service in Clay Center, Neb. ♦ **Robert L. Hough '84 MS** was recognized as the Penn State Department of Animal Science's Animal Science Distinguished Alumnus for 2013. He previously served as CEO of Red Angus Association of America (RAAA) and has published more than 300 scientific articles. ♦ **Paul Kauffman '84 (BUS)** is managing director at Jones Lang LaSalle in Stamford, Conn. He has 28 years of experience in real estate. ♦ **Anthony C. Pecci**

'84 MS is senior vice president of Dewberry's Bloomfield, N.J., office, an architecture, engineering, and management and consulting services company. He has worked with Dewberry for 27 years. ♦ **Scott Lewis '85 (BUS)** is senior vice president and controller of The Hartford, where he is responsible for accounting operations. ♦ **Mark Rubino '85 (BUS)** was admitted into the partnership at KPMG LLP. He has been with KPMG since 2008, working in the general counsel's office as the firm's chief investigative counsel. ♦ **Barry Bernabe '86 (BUS)**, '90 MBA is senior vice president, at Webster Bank in Hartford, Conn. ♦ **Edward F. Lange '86 MBA** is CEO of Holiday Retirement, a senior-living community with more than 300 locations throughout the U.S. and Canada. ♦ **Geraldine "Geri" (Fitapelli) Armalavage '87 (BUS)**, managing member of Armalavage Valuation LLC in Naples, Fla., is chairman of the board of Valbridge Property Advisors, a national organization with headquarters in Naples that provides independent valuation and advisory services to clients. ♦ **Emilio F. Grillo '87 (CLAS)** is an attorney at Goldberg Segalla LLP in Manhattan. He has been an attorney for 20 years, serving people and companies in the Connecticut and New York areas. ♦ **Todd A. Krygier '87 (BUS)** is the coach of the Muskegon Lumberjacks, a Tier 1 junior hockey team in Michigan. ♦ **James Towey '87 (ENG)**, '96 MBA is the director of engineering at Onset Computer Corp. Inc. in Bourne, Mass. He has a background in product development, engineering R&D, design, manufacturing, and support. ♦ **David L. Albrycht**

'89 MBA, CFA, president and chief investment officer of Newfleet Asset Management LLC in Hartford, Conn., was inducted into the Central Connecticut State University Business Hall of Honors. ♦ **Paul R. Ballasy '89 (BUS)** is serving a three-year term on the board of directors of the Connecticut Association of Nonprofits, where he also serves on the Finance Committee. ♦ **Deborah Gordon '89 MBA** is chief learning and development officer at Boyden World Corp. in Purchase, N.Y. ♦ **Donald White '89 (BUS)**, '00 MBA is executive vice president and chief financial officer of Salisbury Bank and Trust Co. in Lakeville, Conn. ♦ **Andrew Glassman '90 (BUS)** is vice president of operations finance at transportation supplier CSX Corp. in Jacksonville, Fla. ♦ **Gregory P. Lewis '91 (BUS)** is vice president and chief financial officer of Honeywell Automation and Control Solutions. ♦ **Andrew Albert '92 MBA** is managing director in the equity sales and trading group at R.W. Pressprich in New York. He co-founded Shelter Harbor Capital, a global macro fund, and has worked at Weeden & Co., CRT Capital, and Pali Capital. ♦ **Paulette R. Alviti '92 (BUS)** is senior vice president and chief of human resources at Foot Locker. She has more than 20 years of domestic and international experience in human resources. ♦ **Sean O'Connor '92 (CLAS)**, '00 MBA is director of marketing at Software Marketing Associates in Rocky Hill, Conn. He has been with the company for more than 15 years. ♦ **James Yanosy '92 (BUS)** is chief financial officer for consumer markets at The Hartford. He recently led The Hartford's finance transformation program and worked on the company's accounting policy. ♦

Richard Baran '93 MBA, '93 JD is chief financial officer at MediaShift Inc. in Newport Beach, Calif., a leading digital advertising technology company that monetizes private Wi-Fi networks and Web publishing sites. ♦ **Keith Berger '93 (ENG)**, '98 MS, is managing director of Bluewaters Investment Group, a private equity group in Atlanta. ♦ **Robert Howard '93 (BUS)** is a partner in directing the public sector practice at Mahoney Sabol & Co. LLP in Glastonbury, Conn. He specializes in providing audit and consulting services to nonprofit and governmental organizations. ♦ **Kirk Lusk '93 MBA** is chief financial officer for Narragansett Bay Insurance Co. in Pawtucket, R.I. He has 20 years of financial and insurance experience. ♦ **Susan R. Orred '93 (CLAS)** is assistant director of development for the Connecticut Historical Society in Hartford, Conn. ♦ **Scott Peairs '94 MBA** is senior vice president of global sales at Arizona-based Faxitron Medical. He also joined the board of directors of Faxitron Bioplastics LLC. ♦ **A. Digger Stolz '94 (BUS)** is the author of *Stumbling Thru*, his first novel in a two-part series about the Appalachian Trail, published in February by Follyworks Publishing. ♦ **Zygmunt F. Dembek '95 Ph.D.**, '05 MPH, is a retired Army colonel and senior scientist for the Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md., delivered the May commencement address at the Hood College Graduate School commencement in Frederick, Md., and was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters. ♦ **Heidi Goldstein '95 (BUS)** is principal of Altus Capital

Partners Inc. in Wilton, Conn. She has been with Altus Capital since 2006 and serves on the board of directors for International Imaging Materials Inc. ♦ **Norm Schriever '95 (CLAS)** is the author of *South of Normal*, his second book, released in May by Authority Publishing. ♦ **Mark Allyn '96 (ENG)**, '98 MS is vice president of BVH Integrated Services in Bloomfield, Conn. He has 20 years of experience in engineering design and construction. ♦ **Christopher Ayers '96 MBA** is president and CEO at WireCo WorldGroup in Kansas City, Mo. He was previously executive vice president and president of global primary products at Alcoa. ♦ **Chad A. Landmon '96 (CLAS)**, '99 JD, partner at Axinn, Veltrop

& Harkrider LLP in Washington, D.C., received the 2013 Honors Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Connecticut Honors Program, which recognizes honors scholar alumni who have excelled in their professions. ♦ **Christopher Zell '97 MBA** is senior client manager of specialized industries for the Connecticut market with Bank of America in Hartford, Conn. ♦ **Jessica (Stone) Beauchemin '98 (CLAS)** and Olivier Beauchemin announce the birth of a daughter, Eloise Olivia, on Jan. 16, 2013. The family resides in Maryland. ♦ **Stephen Surprenant '98 MBA** is vice president of mission integration at Saint Francis Care in Hartford, Conn. He also serves as a member of the advisory committee for Partners in Clinical Pastoral Education Program for Saint Francis. ♦ **Richard Donovan '99 (CLAS)** is complex director of human resources for Hilton Worldwide at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Hampton Inn, and Homewood Suites in Silver Spring, Md. ♦ **Shawn R. Fields '99 (BUS)** is director of the C.H. Booth Library in Newtown, Conn. He served as the director at Sacred Heart University's Ryan-Matura Library in Fairfield and the Huntington Branch Library in Shelton and has written many books. ♦ **Nykesha Sales '00 (BUS)** is an assistant to the coaching staff of the Connecticut Sun and serves as a community liaison for the team. ♦ **Seth Kurpiel '01 (CLAS)** and Morgan Kurpiel announce the birth of a son, Benson Graham, on Jan. 18, 2013, in Manhattan. ♦ **Sally Neal '01 MA**, '09 Ph.D. is director of the Academic Advising Center at Ithaca College in Ithaca, N.Y. ♦ **Antonietta (Iannuzzi) Boucher '02 MBA**, state

senator from the 26th District in Connecticut, is chief deputy minority leader for the Republican Caucus. She also serves as a ranking member of the Senate's Transportation, Higher Education, and Education committees. ♦ **Gerald Cox '02 MBA** is vice president and chief financial officer of The Hartford's middle market and bond P&C business group in Hartford, Conn. ♦ **Bryan Hurlburt '02 (BUS)** was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve as Farm Service Agency state executive director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Connecticut. He previously served as the representative for the 53rd General Assembly legislative district in Connecticut. ♦ **Luis G. Iga Garza '02 (SFA)** is director and producer of "Deliverance," a dramatic thriller based on a true story about a domestic violence survivor. ♦ **Jennifer Lambert '02 MBA** is vice president of marketing at Crosman Corp., a Rochester, N.Y.-based firm that designs, manufactures, and markets shooting-sports products. ♦ **Ann Lovejoy '02 MBA** is quality improvement specialist at Mountain-Pacific Quality Health, based in Helena, Mont. ♦ **Richard Meade '02 (BUS)** is vice president and general manager of NetTutor, an online tutoring service in Tampa, Fla. He and Charmaine Meade announce the birth of a baby boy, Richard Thilo Meade Jr., on Jan. 7, 2013. ♦ **George Noewatne '02 MBA** is director of public works and engineering in Cheshire, Conn. He has been the deputy director for about 10 years and has 13 years of construction and engineering experience. ♦ **Daniel D. Pinho '02 MBA** is one of the 20 Under 40 Latinos Going Places by *Poder 360°* magazine. He is senior vice

president of the trade finance group at PNC Bank. ♦ **Ashley M. Battle '04 (BUS)**, '05 (CLAS) is girls' basketball coach at Charters Valley High School in Pittsburgh. ♦ **Michael Nichols '05 (CLAS)**, '08 JD was appointed to Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino's Advisory Council on ONEin3, a project aimed working to improve quality of life for one-third of Boston residents. ♦ **Stefanie (Diaz) Thibeault '05 (CLAS)**, '06 MS and **Michael Thibeault '05 (CLAS)**, '05 MS announce the birth of a baby girl, Catherine Anne, on March 16, 2013, in Hartford, Conn. ♦ **Niamh Cunningham '06 (CLAS)** is the program coordinator for principal gifts in the office of development at Yale University in New Haven, Conn. ♦ **Christopher Callahan '07 (BUS)** is global marketing director at Moran Yacht & Ship in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He manages the marketing operations of five offices around the world. ♦ **Alena Dillon '07 (CLAS)** is the author of *I Thought We Agreed to Pee in the Ocean: And Other Amusings From a Girl Wearing Sweatpants*, published in September by Martlet & Mare Books. ♦ **Meghann E. LaFontaine '07 (CLAS)**, '11 JD is an attorney at Baram, Tapper & Gans LLC in Bloomfield, Conn. She focuses on immigration law. ♦ **Victor Markiw '07 Ph.D.**, a lecturer in music at the University of New

Haven, will spend a semester as a Fulbright Scholar in Ukraine, studying Ukrainian composers, teaching music theory, and lecturing on American music. ♦ **Christina Brown '08 (BUS)** is assistant vice president and sales and service manager at Encore Bank N.A. in Bonita Springs, Fla. ♦ **Jeffrey Scott Futterleib '08 (CLAS)** graduated cum laude from the Yale School of Medicine in May. He will intern in medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, followed by a residency in dermatology at Case Western/University Hospitals in Cleveland. ♦ **Melanie Thomas '08 (BUS)**, director of basketball operations at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers, Fla., was inducted into Mount Notre Dame's (Cincinnati) Hall of Fame for being the all-time leading scorer in the history of the high school's basketball program. ♦ **Bryan Rosenblatt '11 (BUS)**, account executive of sales at Twitter, is one of the first sellers in the New York City office focused on growing advertising among retail clients. ♦ **Mary Grace Haggert '12 (CANR)**, landscape team leader at Sprigs & Twigs Inc., a landscape service company in Gales Ferry, Conn., is an Accredited Organic Land Care Professional. ♦ **Emily Trodson '12 (CANR)** is manager, administration/strategy at the Providence, R.I., office of digital brand communications company (add)ventures.

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'Made' for TV

When Brooke Dragon '15 (CANR) one day decided to audition online for MTV's Emmy Award-winning reality television series "Made," she would never have predicted her path to near-celebrity status in the fitness world.

An aspiring registered dietician, the now 20-year-old UConn junior starred on Season 12 of "Made," a self-improvement reality show through which Dragon not only transformed herself into a fitness competitor and spokesperson for Bodybuilding.com, but also inspired a following of new-found fans from across the country to take charge of their own health. 🐾



To read the full story, download UConn Magazine's free app for your tablet device at magazine.uconn.edu/app, or see Brooke Dragon in action on MTV's "Made" at s.uconn.edu/made.



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