SAVING CIVILITY

Can the right balance of humility and conviction rescue our culture from bluster? p. 14
Teams of UConn students worked to solve puzzles and “Escape the Expected” as part of a game that saw Ratcliffe Hicks Arena transformed into rooms from hit HBO shows. Competitors had just six minutes to find hidden codes and uncover clues that would unlock doors leading out of the rooms. After escaping the Oval Office from “Veep,” then the incubator room from “Silicon Valley,” they moved to the courtyard of Castle Black from “Game of Thrones,” where they built a three-dimensional puzzle map to reach their final objective—a chance to sit on the Iron Throne. For more, go to s.uconn.edu/escape.

SNAP!

It’s Jonathan’s Throne

Teams of UConn students worked to solve puzzles and “Escape the Expected” as part of a game that saw Ratcliffe Hicks Arena transformed into rooms from hit HBO shows. Competitors had just six minutes to find hidden codes and uncover clues that would unlock doors leading out of the rooms. After escaping the Oval Office from “Veep,” then the incubator room from “Silicon Valley,” they moved to the courtyard of Castle Black from “Game of Thrones,” where they built a three-dimensional puzzle map to reach their final objective—a chance to sit on the Iron Throne. For more, go to s.uconn.edu/escape.
I’m hopeful that despite all the fake news and polarization — and partly because of it — there will be renewed faith in the importance of speaking truth to power.

— Michael Lynch, professor of philosophy

I am hopeful that the results of this past election will galvanize college students across America to want to dive deeper into being active participants in shaping the future they desire and deserve.

— Douglas Casa ’97 Ph.D., professor of kinesiology

I am hopeful that 2017 will encourage people fortunate enough to live in open societies to more deeply realize the responsibilities that come with such privilege.

— Alexis Dudden, professor of history

Because so many weird things happened in 2016 that anything is possible in 2017: I’m hopeful that President Trump and Congress will figure out a way to pass meaningful tax reform and comprehensive immigration reform.

— Stu Rothenberg ’77 Ph.D., founding editor and publisher of The Rothenberg & Gonzales Political Report in Washington, D.C.

I am hopeful (no, certain!) that new advances in understanding or curing rare diseases will be made. There will be at least one kid who has a better life because of scientific progress made.

— Stormy J. Chamberlain, assistant professor of genetics and genome sciences

I hope we will more to each other and act accordingly.

— Marie Coppola, assistant professor of psychological sciences and of linguistics

Here’s hoping!

FROM THE EDITOR:

TO THE EDITOR:

We received a lot of response to our article about Deaf culture and Marie Coppola’s research trying to prove that teaching deaf children with cochlear implants (CI) sign language (ASL) in no way interferes with their ability to learn spoken English. Readers, such as Martha Ordaz and Mary McLinden below, applauded her research and testified to their own experiences with ASL. Find more feedback on this article and others at s.uconn.edu/letters.

I agree with you, and I’m glad we are doing this. I’m a mother of a deaf child, and we are hearing parents. My daughter is 20 months old and has been learning sign language since she was born. She recently received bilateral CI; it’s been about three months since her activation and she’s already saying about 50 spoken words and signing those words at the same time. I have spent hours with her learning sign language; she knows 100+ signs. I completely believe that she’s doing so well with her CI because she knows the words in sign language and it was easier to connect that spoken word with the sign word. I hope that so many people benefit with this study of crucial bilingualism. ASL is a must for a deaf child — they are born to be visual learners, and that will only help them if the parents choose CI.

Martha Ordaz, via our website

Can someone explain the logic behind convincing parents with hearing children to teach their kids baby sign language so they could ostensibly communicate earlier at the same time we were telling people with deaf babies not to let them learn ASL? Mary McLinden, via our website
At the Mark Edward Freitas Ice Forum on this November night, Kailey Townsend is in position and ready for the puck to drop on her first women’s ice hockey match.

Seated above the bleachers at an elevated table that overlooks the ice, Townsend is prepared. She knows the names of all the UConn players and their numbers.

A communication and political science major from New York, Townsend ’18 (CLAS) is the newest play-by-play commentator for the UConn women’s ice hockey team. And this season is the first time commentary will accompany the live stream on the UConn Athletics website.

“Tonight’s game is my training,” she says. “This season is the preliminary, and from here I’ll keep going.”

Play by play
The best commentators often become the voice of a team. Vin Scully — the famous commentator for the L.A. Dodgers, who retired in September — guided listeners through epic moments throughout the Dodgers’ history.

Townsend’s commentary, available through a paid subscription, is broadcast to UConn fans and athletes’ family members when they can’t be in the stands.

At WHUS, UConn’s student radio station where she is operations manager, Townsend has crafted her knack for public speaking and covering live events. “And when it comes to sports,” she says, “I know hockey, I know how I can explain this.”

Townsend’s cheat sheets — filled with the names and numbers of the players and technical ice hockey terms — are scattered across the small space in front of her, most of the table being otherwise occupied by switchboards, headsets, and other devices. Someone slips her a list of season statistics to add to the details that she can provide her listeners.

“I need to know how to be more descriptive in the moment,” says Townsend. “People can’t see what you’re looking at, so you have to be the eyes for their ears.”

ON CAMPUSSPREAD A DAY WITH KAILEY VIA HER TAKEOVER OF UConn’s Instagram page at s.uconn.edu/kailey.

THE VOICE OF WOMEN’S ICE HOCKEY

She is consulting her cheat sheets before the game begins, reading a name and number on the list and looking up to match them to each woman practicing on the ice. She records the names and numbers of the visiting team, too, as each of their players skates by.

Even though Division I sports like basketball and football tend to attract the largest fan bases, Townsend feels strongly that this is the sport she wants to be covering. “It’s the empowerment,” she says. “In such a masculine sport, it’s awesome to support women’s part in it.”

“People can’t see what you’re looking at, so you have to be the eyes for their ears.”

Once the clock starts running, Townsend pops on her headgear and jumps right into the commentary, effortlessly maneuvering between watching the puck and consulting her cheat sheets, never missing a moment of action or fumbling over her words.

The noise of the stadium completely washes out Townsend’s voice. Someone sitting next to her would have difficulty making out what she says. So to those around her at the media table, her communication is limited to an occasional thumbs up.

She recognizes the valuable role she plays in this connection between fans and their favorite team, and says her goal moving forward is to gain a more professional footing. “I listen to the commentary for the men’s basketball games and think ‘How can I get on that level?’”

Townsend plans to train for the rest of the season by listening to other play-by-play commentators in hopes of polishing her work. “It takes a lot of skill,” she says. “I feel like I’m in the baby stages.” —NICOLE HAIBER ’18 (CLAS)
"There wasn’t any negative link between [mothers] returning to work early and children’s development, both in terms of academic and behavioral skills."

Caitlin McPherran Lombardi, assistant professor of human development and family studies, on a study she co-authored that researched children born in 2000 and later.

Quartz, Dec. 29, 2016

"It’s not usually one video that traumatizes. It’s a lifetime of experiences... Africans-Americans have been dealing with the historical trauma and community trauma and individual trauma in the form of racism and discrimination [for centuries]. These videos are the icing on the cake."

Monnica Williams, associate professor of psychological sciences, who specializes in the intersection of race, culture, and mental illness, on police shootings and social media.


"We looked at each other like two little boys in a candy shop."

Kroum Batchov, assistant professor of anthropology, describing how he and a colleague reacted upon seeing quarter rudders [large steering oar] on a Black Sea shipwreck, indicating that the vessel dates to medieval times.


"Since when is three in the morning part of the news cycle? Since now."

Dave O’Alexis, associate professor of communications, on the relationship between the media and politicians during the 2016 presidential election.

Poynter.org, Oct. 22, 2016

"I went to UConn because of him. He just kind of sold me on... the idea of trying to go do something that most people thought was going to be impossible and just kind of challenged me to see if I could become the player I wanted to be... He’s a really good coach, great recruiter. I have high expectations for him to do a really good job there."

Dan Orlovsky, Detroit Lions quarterback, on hearing the news that Randy Edsall was being rehired as head coach of Huskies football.

ESPN, Dec. 28, 2016

A UConn engineering professor has uncovered new information about how particles behave in our bloodstream, an important advancement that could help pharmaceutical scientists develop more effective cancer drugs. Making sure cancer medications reach the leaky blood vessels surrounding most tumor sites is one of the critical aspects of treatment and drug delivery.

Anson Ma, assistant professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering, used a microfluidic channel device to observe, track, and measure how individual particles behaved in a simulated blood vessel.

"What Ma found was that larger particles — the optimum size appeared to be about 2 microns — were most likely to get pushed to the cell-free layer, where their chances of carrying medication into a tumor site are greater. His research team also determined that 2 microns was the largest size that should be used if particles are going to have any chance of going through the leaky blood vessel walls into the tumor site."

"When it comes to using particles for the delivery of cancer drugs, size matters," says Ma. "When you have a bigger particle, the chance of it bumping into blood cells is much higher, there are a lot more collisions, and they tend to get pushed to the blood vessel walls."

Anson Ma, assistant professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering

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

"SINCE WHEN IS THREE IN THE MORNING PART OF THE NEWS CYCLE? SINCE NOW."

Dave O’Alexis, associate professor of communications, on the relationship between the media and politicians during the 2016 presidential election.

Poynter.org, Oct. 22, 2016

"I went to UConn because of him. He just kind of sold me on... the idea of trying to go do something that most people thought was going to be impossible and just kind of challenged me to see if I could become the player I wanted to be... He’s a really good coach, great recruiter. I have high expectations for him to do a really good job there."

Dan Orlovsky, Detroit Lions quarterback, on hearing the news that Randy Edsall was being rehired as head coach of Huskies football.

ESPN, Dec. 28, 2016

A UConn engineering professor has uncovered new information about how particles behave in our bloodstream, an important advancement that could help pharmaceutical scientists develop more effective cancer drugs. Making sure cancer medications reach the leaky blood vessels surrounding most tumor sites is one of the critical aspects of treatment and drug delivery.

Anson Ma, assistant professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering, used a microfluidic channel device to observe, track, and measure how individual particles behaved in a simulated blood vessel.

"What Ma found was that larger particles — the optimum size appeared to be about 2 microns — were most likely to get pushed to the cell-free layer, where their chances of carrying medication into a tumor site are greater. His research team also determined that 2 microns was the largest size that should be used if particles are going to have any chance of going through the leaky blood vessel walls into the tumor site."

"When it comes to using particles for the delivery of cancer drugs, size matters," says Ma. "When you have a bigger particle, the chance of it bumping into blood cells is much higher, there are a lot more collisions, and they tend to get pushed to the blood vessel walls."

Anson Ma, assistant professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering

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

"SINCE WHEN IS THREE IN THE MORNING PART OF THE NEWS CYCLE? SINCE NOW."

Dave O’Alexis, associate professor of communications, on the relationship between the media and politicians during the 2016 presidential election.

Poynter.org, Oct. 22, 2016
that I made, and from there it can power a pacemaker. I wanted to come up with a renewable energy source for pacemakers so that you can constantly recharge the battery while it’s in your body.

Before ‘scientist’, what did you think you’d be when you grew up? I think I wanted to be a waitress — a waitress and a mermaid. I still haven’t had a waitressing job, but that’s okay.

What’s been your most memorable UConn experience so far? I would say freshman year in Buckley. I met so many people from across the country, which kind of erased my worry of being so close to home.

What’s your most embarrassing freshman memory? I have an embarrassing sophomore memory. For four years you’ve been the first-place winner at the New England Irish Dance competition. How do you balance your training with your academic life?

I would say freshman year in Buckley. I have an embarrassing sophomore memory. I lived in Connecticut Commons on the third floor. Coming home from the library after studying, I came up to the second floor and walked into what I thought was my room… It was not, and there was someone sleeping. I felt so bad. I don’t think they woke up, but I was like, “This is not my room.”

For four years you’ve been the first-place winner at the New England Irish Dance competition. How do you balance your training with your academic life?

Absolutely. As a dancer, you’re so aware of your level of energy, the other dancers around you, their energy, movement, position, spatial awareness. It’s definitely all connected.

Is there anything else you like to do in your free time — if you have any? I like to surf. I go to New Jersey and surf there. I’ve been to a couple other places; I actually surfed in Peru when I was there doing medical volunteering.

How often do you train? I try to get in 20 hours a week. That’s at least three times during the week work as well as weekends. There are definitely some days when I’m too busy. But I just love it — it’s a lot of fun, keeps me in shape, and keeps me focused.

Do you feel like you connect your passion for science with your dancing? Absolutely. As a dancer, you’re so aware of your level of energy, the other dancers around you, their energy, movement, position, spatial awareness. It’s definitely all connected.

In these things, you like to do in your free time — if you have any? I also like to surf. I go to New Jersey and surf there. I’ve been to a couple other places; I actually surfed in Peru when I was there doing medical volunteering.

Can you talk about your time volunteering in Peru? On campus I’m involved with Medlife, which is a national organization that sends medical brigades to third-world countries. Last winter I went to Lima, Peru, and we set up global clinics and brought health care to, I think it ended up being 1,500 patients in Lima. It was a great experience. I got really close with the other people on the trip, and to go to another country that speaks a different language and become aware of their health issues and various ways to solve them was really eye-opening. It definitely set me on the path of “I love global health and I think that global health is so important.”

You were first runner-up in the Miss Connecticut pageant this year. What made you decide to compete in a pageant? I don’t want to say I did it as a joke. It wasn’t a joke, but I was like, you know what, I’m from Connecticut. I’m just going to do a local pageant and see what happens. So I did the Greater Rockville pageant and I won! So I’m Miss Greater Rockville for this year. And then back in June I competed at Miss Connecticut, which was a lot of fun. For most of the week I really didn’t know what I was doing, but the reason I did that pageant was because talent is one of the biggest categories. I thought, “Oh, I can dance, I can do something onstage.”

What is your post-grad goal? Med School.

Do you have a favorite quote that keeps you motivated? “Always know that you are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.” It’s from Winnie the Pooh. — BRIAN KREMENOWSKI ’16 (CLAS)
**CHEESY BAKED POTATO SOUP**

Baked potato soup isn’t just for winter — it’s a year-round favorite in dormitory and café-style dining halls around the Storrs campus. It’s especially popular in the serve-yourself venues where students pile on the toppings, grated cheddar cheese, diced scallions, crumbled bacon, minced jalapeño peppers, and sour cream.

**Cheesy Baked Potato Soup | Serves 6 Servings**

1½ cups flour
8 ounces sour cream
12 ounces extra sharp cheddar cheese
1 large Vidalia onion, diced
6 large Russet potatoes, peeled and diced
3 tablespoons flour
2 teaspoons salt
1 quart vegetable or chicken broth
1 large egg, beaten
1 tablespoon white pepper
8 ounces light cream

**Ingredients:**
- Grated cheddar cheese
- Diced scallions
- Crumbled bacon
- Minced jalapeños
- Sour cream

**Directions:**
1. Heat a large pot on the stove over medium heat. Add all the bacon strips to the pot and cook until crisp. Remove the bacon from the pot and place on a plate lined with paper towels.
2. Drain the bacon grease from the pot, and place the pot back on the stove over medium heat. Heat the pot over medium heat. Add the onions and celery and cook, stirring constantly, for about one minute. Slowly add in the broth, whisking constantly, until smooth.
3. Slowly add in the light cream, sour cream, and grated cheese, simmering until the cheese is melted and the soup is hot, about 10 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper, ladle into soup bowls, and garnish with your choice of toppings — cheese, scallions, bacon, jalapeños, and sour cream.

**As you like it**

Visit s.uconn.edu/recipes for printable recipe cards, including this soup.
CITY CAMPUS

UConn will soon return to the heart of Hartford from its current spot in West Hartford. In August 2017, classes are expected to begin at the new downtown campus, anchored by the former Hartford Times building (above), and integrated into the surrounding community of cultural institutions and government offices, revitalizing that downtown space. In addition to undergraduate programs, the campus will house the School of Social Work and the Department of Public Policy.

When the Hartford campus opens its doors this fall, it will mark a return to its urban roots. The campus began as an extension center in Hartford in 1939, and occupied five different sites in the city before moving to its current location in West Hartford in 1970. The original purpose of the branch campuses was to provide a basic two-year curriculum for students who would move on to advanced work at Storrs.

NOT THE MONTEITH YOU REMEMBER!

The 57-year-old Henry Ruthven Monteith Building received a 68,000-square-foot expansion last year. The construction provided crucial academic space for classrooms and faculty offices that have been displaced by the renovation of other campus buildings. The classrooms and offices once used by the social sciences departments of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences now will be used by the Department of Mathematics.

PUTNAM REФECTORY

In an effort to make room for the students housed in the new NextGen Hall, Putnam Refectory received a $23 million renovation, completed in fall 2016. The dining hall, which previously seated 350 students, was expanded to seat 700. The new two-story eatery boasts improved self-service buffets and more vegan and locally sourced options. Putnam also is the first dining hall to incorporate features like a high-tech dining room that can be reserved for lectures and demonstrations, a grow wall that houses live herbs used in many dining hall dishes, and a new juice bar.

UCONN BUILDS ITS FIRST DORM OUTSIDE OF STORRS — IN STAMFORD

UConn Stamford will bring housing to more than 300 students in an effort to offset the lack of affordable housing that deters students from living close to campus. Set to be completed this summer, the new apartment building will mark the first time UConn has offered housing outside of the Storrs campus. The addition answers a boost in student enrollment at UConn Stamford and the desire to offer students a more traditional college experience.

The new six-story building will have 116 apartments — 10 studios, 49 single bedrooms, and 57 two-bedroom units — as well as a first-floor meeting room, additional study lounges on each floor, and retail spaces for renters on the ground floor. Students will be able to move in just in time for the fall 2017 semester.

EAT YOUR GREENS

How did this hall help UConn’s Sierra Club rating? See s.uconn.edu/cool.

For a history/gallery of the Hartford campus, go to s.uconn.edu/hartford.

Wondering who Henry Monteith was? Go to s.uconn.edu/monteith.
“The best lack all conviction,” William Butler Yeats noted, “while the worst are full of passionate intensity.” Rarely has the Irish poet’s famous warning against the perils of dogmatism seemed more apt. We are so deeply divided in this country that our disagreements extend past values, past even the facts, to the very meaning of what a fact is. As a result, many in the United States believe there is no point in talking to the other side. Why bother, when you already know you are right and they are wrong?

Democracies need passionate citizens. Without conviction, nothing gets done — either personally or politically. But we also need to listen to one another. That means more than just being civil or polite. Really listening means being open to the possibility that we could learn something from those with differing views, that our views can always improve, that we don’t know it all. That’s a kind of humility — what researchers call intellectual or cognitive humility.

Striking the right balance between this sort of humility and strong conviction is not easy. That’s partly because of certain facts about human psychology. Each of us is prone to both confirmation bias — we tend to agree with that which fits what we already believe — and the Dunning-Kruger effect — a tendency to think we are experts on subjects we in fact know little about. That is what makes teenagers so frustrating; they think they know it all. As Mark Twain wrote, “When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years.”

In that sense, we all struggle with our inner teenager all the time. We are certain we are right and that other folks don’t get it.

Arrogance Amok

The challenge of acknowledging our limits extends well beyond the political. In 2007, for example, much of the financial industry knew that the strategy of bundling mortgages was only going to benefit investors, just as, a few years earlier, the “smartest guys in the room” knew that Enron was a safe bet of a company.

In both examples, the mistake was in confusing a heady mix of success and self-interest for expertise. That encouraged the thought that things were locked down, that nothing would go south, that the future would be as they were convinced it would be.

The same problem has occurred in the military realm, from the historic blunders of both Napoleon and Hitler in Russia, to the more recent assurances before the Iraq War that we knew that Iraq was developing weapons of mass destruction and had contributed to 9/11.

Even more dramatically, intellectual or cognitive arrogance defines many people’s religious lives, as they interpret their beliefs as the one true faith, granting them certain knowledge about not only the afterlife, but life here and now. This kind of unflinching certainty can lead to political violence, as testified by the sad trail of historical events from the Crusades to the Paris terrorist attacks.

Less dramatically but still harmfully, it is intellectual arrogance that causes people to think that they can put all religious believers in a box, assuming that all Christians are conservatives or every Muslim is a terrorist or a terrorist sympathizer.

Perhaps the most complex and intriguing example is in the realm of science.
The sheer amount of information available weirdly encourages informational overconfidence... "evidence" for any belief you have — I mean any belief — can be found on the internet.

The scientific method embodies intellectual humility, the idea that we need to be open-minded toward the evidence. But across a variety of issues — from vaccines to evolution to climate change — many people ignore the evidence, preferring to stick with what they feel certain is true, even while claiming that the scientific method is open-minded toward the evidence. But the scientific method embodies intellectual humility. Such an investigation can't be one-dimensional. It needs to draw not only on social science but also on the deepest lessons of the humanities. One such lesson — particularly salient, perhaps, in our present political environment — comes from Abraham Lincoln's willingness to form a "team of rivals" in his cabinet.

Lincoln was imperfect, as all of us are, but he was a man of conviction — conviction strong enough to lead the country into war. Yet he combined that with enough humility to propose appointments that allowed for a hearing of views with which Lincoln himself often did not agree. Indeed, the Lincoln example illustrates an important point: He understood that it is when you are in power that intellectual arrogance is most tempting; that it is when you are in power that you are most tempted to think you know it all — and when you probably don't.

The challenges of overcoming our natural tendency toward unwavering conviction has only deepened with the increasing dominance of social media. Our online life enables us access to a universe of information. Yet it also rewards, tweet by tweet, arrogance and hyper-defensiveness. The sheer amount of information available weirdly encourages informational overconfidence ("Just Google it"), making us think we know ages informational overconfidence ("Just Google it"), making us think we know more than we do. One reason for that is "evidence" for any belief you have — I mean any belief — can be found on the internet.

Another reason is that the wonderful freedom the internet brings enables us to curate our own politically tinged information bubbles and echo chambers. Our technology is facilitating, rather than compensating for, our natural human disposition to bias, overconfidence, and blind trust in authority. This is what has made the issue of fake news on Facebook and other social media platforms so effective and yet so frightening.

Fake news sites go well beyond mere "click-bait" or the use of bombastic and misleading headlines to lure people in for "click-bait" or the use of bombastic and misleading headlines to lure people in for commercial purposes. They play directly on bias by supplying false information on bias by supplying false information to research on implicit bias, intellectual arrogance is understood that it is when you are in power that intellectual arrogance is most tempting; that it is when you are in power that you are most tempted to think you know it all — and when you probably don't.

Humble Pie

This is why we need to investigate how to recapture a sense of intellectual humility. The results of this research can be found on the web. Marry this type of propaganda with a tendency to value your political viewpoint is perfect and you get a dangerous, reinforcing mix. We are always right — just ask us.

The challenge of overcoming our natural tendency toward unwavering conviction has only deepened with the increasing dominance of social media. Our online life enables us access to a universe of information. Yet it also rewards, tweet by tweet, arrogance and hyper-defensiveness. The sheer amount of information available weirdly encourages informational overconfidence ("Just Google it"), making us think we know more than we do. One reason for that is "evidence" for any belief you have — I mean any belief — can be found on the internet.

Another reason is that the wonderful freedom the internet brings enables us to curate our own politically tinged information bubbles and echo chambers. Our technology is facilitating, rather than compensating for, our natural human disposition to bias, overconfidence, and blind trust in authority. This is what has made the issue of fake news on Facebook and other social media platforms so effective and yet so frightening.

Fake news sites go well beyond mere "click-bait" or the use of bombastic and misleading headlines to lure people in for commercial purposes. They play directly on bias by supplying false information to research on implicit bias, intellectual arrogance is understood that it is when you are in power that intellectual arrogance is most tempting; that it is when you are in power that you are most tempted to think you know it all — and when you probably don't.

As such, the Institute is a natural mechanism for implementing a project that seeks to apply research in the social sciences and humanities for the purpose of elevating the tone and outcomes of public discourse in our society.

Stay Involved

To participate in, and stay informed about, the project, please consult its website at humilityandconviction.uconn.edu, where you can join events, keep updated on research, and learn how to connect to other people, programs, and organizations working to instill a greater sense of intellectual humility in our nation's conversation. —M.L.
The Real McCoys

Making a film about rumrunner Bill McCoy led alums Bailey and Jennifer Pryor, both '90 (CLAS) to market a Prohibition-style rum that's the real deal.

By Katharine Whittemore | Photos by Peter Morenus
has worked on seven feature films as well since then. The communications major “Just Ask Bailey” has come a long way ment — lighting, sound, art direction, everything he could from each depart- shots you can spy his dad’s orange Volks- shoveled it out. He scared up the boats an early snow messed with a scene, he house for Roberts’ character. When mansion for Julia Roberts’ rich boyfriend manager find the Stonington Borough “Okay, kid, you’re hired,” he said. “Go get here my whole life, I know everyone in area. ‘Mystic Pizza” have just checked in at the Mystic, Conn., where the filmmakers of area. Pryor is 19, a local kid hell-bent on a mystic Hilton, their base for scouting the Pryor ‘90 (CLAS). Inspiration for the projects came from “The Real McCoy,” the famous Prohibition rumrunner who — and revealed the room number. When Hollywood producer Mark Levinson answered Pryor’s knock, the aderalized teenager let it fly: “I’ve lived here my whole life, I know everyone in town, every place in the area! You need me?” The producer of “Town Wolf” and “Home Alone” looked him up and down. “Okay, kid, you’re hired,” he said. “Go get me a van, rent some office furniture, and be back in three hours.” For the next two months Pryor con- tinued to go get. He helped the location manager find the Stonington Borough mansion for Julia Roberts’ rich boyfriend in the film, plus the by-the-train-tracks house for Roberts’ character. When an early snow messed with a scene, he shoved it out. He scoured up the boats and cars used in the background (in some shots you can spy his dad’s orange Volkswagen bus). Meanwhile, Pryor learned everything he could from each depart- ment — lighting, sound, art direction, wardrobe, transportation, you name it. By the end of the shoot, he had a new nickname: “Just Ask Bailey.” Blockbuster “Just Ask Bailey” has come a long way since then. The communications major has worked on seven feature films as well as 130 TV shows for ESPN, Discovery Channel, Animal Planet, Travel Channel, and more. He’s won five Emmys. He’s shot on location in places like China, Ice- land, and New Zealand. His documenta- ries (on robber baron Jay Gould and the whaling ship Charles W. Morgan to note two) have aired on PBS. If you’re a ski nut, you’ve inhaled his gorgeous ski films directly many of her husband’s films, overseen everything from title fonts to costumes to props to set design. She’s the oldest of four and grew up in Brimfield, Mass. (she made extra pocket money as a kid parking cars in their yard during the renowned Brimfield Fair). Her dad was a civil engineer, the
with Rebecca De Mornay (Pryor was the star) at the goal to join him in driving his car back east.

The Pryors started their production company, Telemark Films, in 2004. The company has produced over 85 films and has won 85 awards, including five Emmys.

Baaz

Since The Real McCoy film (film plus company), the storytellers have become the story. Those juicy narrative hook—filmmaker turns rum maker, the origin of the phrase “the real McCoy,” the five Emmys —has earned coverage from publications such as The Wall Street Journal and GQ. The cachet and the solid business plan also have attracted investors. Big-time investors including John Esposito, former CEO of Bacardi, and John Sculley, former CEO of Apple. Sculley told the Pryors they were way ahead in the startup game because they had both a brand name and a great story.

Over the last couple of years, The Real McCoy rum has won 85 industry awards. True to its backstory, and unlike the vast majority of rums, which contain sweeteners and spices, this rum is unadulterated. Today, it sells in 16 states and 18 countries.

“Starting this business is the most consuming of all the projects I’ve ever taken on,” says Bailey. He’s on sabbatical from the film business for now — though he has shipped a screenplay about the Huskies’ legendary coach Geno Auriemma as well as a Hollywood version of “The Real McCoy” under Universal, with Chris Pratt signed to play the lead.

Meanwhile, the Pryors have embraced the New England area as a new frontier. They attend trade shows, seminars, and, as Sculley says, “asking me thousands — thousand — of questions.” Jennifer marvels at this “constant process of self-education and endurance.” Bailey adds, “In many ways, we don’t look at the rum business as a business, though. We look at it as a movie. Building a business is about telling a great story. That’s what we do.”

**This guy was a film producer, and I thought if he treats the business trivially, I’ll tell him where to go.**
Trying to keep students safe while providing them a decent education, school administrators these days are bombarded by questions of privacy and equity that increasingly land them in court. It’s almost like you need a law degree to be a principal these days.

By Stefanie Dion Jones ’00 (CLAS)
Illustrations by Alex Nabaum

If your child were to call his or her kindergarten classmate a name, you might expect to hear from the teacher or the school principal — not from a police officer who just finished questioning your child without having first informed you.

Yet numerous parents in one New Jersey community this past year encountered just such a scenario after school district officials adopted a policy under which nearly every student discipline incident, even minor behavior infractions, were reported to local law enforcement.

The news story on the controversial policy, which received national attention, is one that UConn alum Brian Hendrickson ’10 (6th Year) recalls reading with the reaction “How did this happen?” Hendrickson, who earned a law degree prior to embarking on his career in education, is the assistant superintendent of public schools in Suffield, Conn.

“So many times, school administrators get themselves in hot water because they do not understand the legal ramifications of some of their actions,” says Hendrickson. “Leaders can get bogged down in conflicts and issues. If they had more training, they might have a clearer perspective and be able to more efficiently handle an issue. This would then allow for more time and focus on teaching and learning.”

While the policy has since been reversed, it remains, says Hendrickson, a striking reminder of just how crucial it is for school principals, superintendents, and other educational leaders and administrators to understand the implications of their decisions on the legal front.
You Posted What?

Students are not the only ones whose questionable behavior has landed them in the center of legal wranglings of late. Several years ago, a high school outside Philadelphia, for instance, issued laptops to its students. When attempting to track down misplaced computers, it used the laptop webcams to observe and even photograph those students in the privacy of their own homes. After learning of the breach in privacy, the parents of one sophomore filed a federal lawsuit; the school district ultimately settled the case for upwards of $600,000.

Teachers and other school employees across the country have similarly been penalized for their conduct, including actions taken online or outside of school grounds. In 2013, for example, one Chicago-area high school guidance counselor was fired after self-publishing a racy book giving advice on sex and relationships. Although he sued the school for what he claimed was a violation of his First Amendment rights, the lawsuit was dismissed — on grounds that some students who “learned of the book’s hypersexualized content would be reluctant to seek out [the counselor’s] advice” — in essence, “disrupt[ing] the learning environment” at the school.

Social media has caused its fair share of problems for instructors, too. In Memphis, a teacher was suspended after criticizing her kindergarten’s Facebook page. A teacher’s aide in Michigan lost her job after posting a photo to social media that one of her Facebook friends, who also happened to be the student’s parent of one of her students, reported to school authorities as the use of inappropriate language. In contrast, without the benefit of legal training, a school administrator “may not even be aware of an issue [and] may not know to pick up the phone to call the school’s legal counsel,” says Anjali Prakash ’94 (CLAS), a practicing special education lawyer who advocates on behalf of students with disabilities and their families in the Washington, D.C., area. Even a baseline awareness around situations that may raise a red flag can be valuable, she says.

The need for administrators to acquire legal training, says Assistant Superintendent Hendrickson, is clear. In dealing regularly with issues as diverse as sexting, cyberbullying, and teacher contract negotiations in his district, he says his background in law has helped him not only in modeling for his staff appropriate approaches to a variety of challenges, but also in identifying multiple solutions to any given issue.

“When you start thinking in black and white, you’re going to make a bad leadership decision,” he says. “I think what legal training does is help you problem-solve. The best lawyers are problem solvers, they help you navigate out of tricky situations.”

Code of Conduct

Andrew Minor ’04 (SPA), who is among UCAPP Law’s first enrollees, says that school principals and superintendents “are in the messy business of human development, which is unlike a corporate model.” Yet these educational leaders still need to be able to make sound decisions — in what Minor says is “usually a very gray setting” — while balancing the interests of many, including teachers, students, and parents.

Minor is a high school art teacher in Farmington, Conn., who decided to seek a law degree as one way to diversify his skill set. The son of a UConn law school alum, Minor — who had long admired his father for the legal support he offered to friends and family in times of need — was also inspired to pursue his own legal education in order “to advocate for the arts, students, and the community.”

While leading his lessons in ceramics and sculpture, Minor says he is already seeing valuable practical applications for his newfound legal knowledge. He finds himself conversing with his art students about landmark free-speech court rulings and sharing with them relevant knowledge about intellectual-property law. In hopes of educating them to become more informed artists, he also uses examples to which they can personally relate — pointing out, for instance, the implications of blindly accepting terms and conditions of certain social media platforms, which reserve the right to license artwork posted by their users worldwide.

Minor, who was heading into his second year as a UConn law student when he learned of the joint program combining law and educational leadership, says he felt “vindicated” for having sought to expand his career in education with a law degree.

“Legislators are passing more laws to try and protect students, but administration is not always well equipped,” he says. “I think there is an instability that comes from a lack of understanding of what the laws are.”

In 2013, for example, one Chicago-area high school guidance counselor was fired after self-publishing a racy book giving advice on sex and relationships. Although he sued the school for what he claimed was a violation of his First Amendment rights, the lawsuit was dismissed — on grounds that some students who “learned of the book’s hypersexualized content would be reluctant to seek out [the counselor’s] advice” — in essence, “disrupt[ing] the learning environment” at the school.

Social media has caused its fair share of problems for instructors, too. In Memphis, a teacher was suspended after criticizing her kindergarten’s Facebook page. A teacher’s aide in Michigan lost her job after posting a photo to social media that one of her Facebook friends, who also happened to be the student’s parent of one of her students, reported to school authorities as the use of inappropriate language. In contrast, without the benefit of legal training, a school administrator “may not even be aware of an issue [and] may not know to pick up the phone to call the school’s legal counsel,” says Anjali Prakash ’94 (CLAS), a practicing special education lawyer who advocates on behalf of students with disabilities and their families in the Washington, D.C., area. Even a baseline awareness around situations that may raise a red flag can be valuable, she says.

The need for administrators to acquire legal training, says Assistant Superintendent Hendrickson, is clear. In dealing regularly with issues as diverse as sexting, cyberbullying, and teacher contract negotiations in his district, he says his background in law has helped him not only in modeling for his staff appropriate approaches to a variety of challenges, but also in identifying multiple solutions to any given issue.

“When you start thinking in black and white, you’re going to make a bad leadership decision,” he says. “I think what legal training does is help you problem-solve. The best lawyers are problem solvers, they help you navigate out of tricky situations.”

“Family pushes for cyberbullying laws after teen’s suicide”

TEXAS CITY, Texas

“School boss changes ruling, bans Confederate flag clothes”
approaching this feeling positively about both. At the end of these experiences, I will have great insight into different approaches to developing lifelong learners.

Minor continues to work full time as an art teacher and plans to complete the combined program in four years.

**Invisible Red Tape**

Just as “states are beginning to recognize the importance of legal training in the operation of schools and school districts,” says Green, UCAPP Law may now offer young people interested in social justice a career path that combines the best of both worlds.

Green says that, especially the students of color he’s talked to through the years, want to get into law, and to use their legal skills for good. “They thought they had to make the choice between education and law,” he explains. “But school administration is a way they can take their legal skills to help create an environment that protects students in schools.”

Graduates of the UCAPP Law program will be able to seek admission to the bar and, with five years of teaching experience, also will become eligible for endorsement as a Connecticut Intermediate Administrator, a statewide certification required of educators serving as administrators in Connecticut’s schools.

In addition to the JD degree requirements, the program incorporates UCAPP coursework covering such topics as education policy and school climate — as well as an internship that places enrollees in public schools run by educational leaders with successful track records of running highly functioning schools.

In today’s increasingly complex public education system, where student discipline, privacy issues, ever-evolving social media laws, special education statutes, and other education policies are integrated into a school principal’s everyday job, practical training in law can help “cut through a lot of what I call ‘invisible red tape,’” says Assistant Superintendent Hendrickson, calling the new program “trendsetting.”

“If your time is spent on things other than the priorities of teaching and learning, it’s going to be very difficult for you to move the district forward,” he says. “[Professor] Green gets a lot of credit for making this program happen. In the end, it is going to help the state of Connecticut have leaders who are better equipped for the day-to-day realities of the job.”

Or, as Prakash puts it: “Everyone wins.”

Find more about the UCAPP Law program at s.uconn.edu/ucapplaw. To read about a UConn Health program that combats school bullying by empowering bystanders, visit s.uconn.edu/bullying.
Three decades ago Greg Economou '88 (CLAS) was playing for Coach Calhoun. These days, he's the man behind the curtain of spectacles like "New Year's Rockin' Eve," the American Music Awards, and the Golden Globes. The former Husky says many of Calhoun's principles still apply.
Economou is in his third-floor corner office at Dick Clark Productions in Santa Monica, explaining how he came to be here. At 51, Economou is tall (6’3”) and fit, with more than a passing resemblance to a young Robert De Niro, circa “The Godfather Part II.” Before he came to Dick Clark, Economou worked a variety of sales gigs, for entities that told themselves (Madison Square Garden, the NBA) and others that, well, did not (the now-defunct Charlotte Bobcats). Before that, he played basketball under legendary UConn coach Jim Calhoun, back when UConn basketball was UConn Basketball, writ large. On that overpowering team he learned something he’s carried with him to every gig and challenge, big or small, ever since. “You just have to outwork people,” he says.

Economou was never supposed to be a starter for UConn. A strong player in high school, he was on intramural squads his first three years of college. When he finally made the team, it was as a walk-on, one of four little-used players. If a pal of his, team captain Gerry Rosselink, hadn’t seen him play in pickup games and told his coach, hey, you ought to give this guy a look, he wouldn’t have been there at all. But there he was, and there was Calhoun, a granite cutter and grinder before becoming one of the NCAA’s winningest coaches, grabbing him after practice. “You’re gonna start against BC,” he told Economou, Boston College. In a nation-ally televised game in storied Boston Garden, home of Larry Bird and that iconic parquet floor. Do your thing, Calhoun told him. Play hard.

Economou had slipped in practice the day before and was nursing a groin pull, but Calhoun didn’t know that. Who was going to tell him? Certainly not Economou. Nothing was keeping him out of that game. Under all those championship banners and retired jerseys, amid all those cameras and screaming fans, Economou sank his first shot, a three-pointer, then went four for four at the foul line after a poke in the face from a BC player left him with only one good eye. UConn won, 66–65, ending a six-game losing streak against their rival. The Cinderella story was so improbable, its hero so unlikely, that it was written up in The New York Times that week with the headline “Walk-on Takes Big Strides.” “It was a fairy tale,” Economou remembers.

The next year, Lou Perkins, UConn’s athletic director at the time, recommended Economou for a position running external affairs for the athletics department at SUNY Stony Brook. The university was trying to move up the ranks to Division I, but its sports program was eclipsed in popularity and community love by, of all things, the local high school. Even worse, both shared the same team name, the Patriots. Economou went to work, helping create a flasher logo and forerunner nickname (the Seawolves). The reboot was a success. “I didn’t really know anything about brand-ing,” Economou says. “All I knew was, I wanted to get out of the shadow of that high school.”

Under all those championship banners and retired jerseys, amid all those cameras and screaming fans, Economou sank his first shot, a three-pointer.
What if the branding strategies used to market Knicks games and the NBA finals could be applied to, say, the American Music Awards?

Economou quickly took the lessons he learned from Coach Calhoun and assembled a marketing team built on hustle. The Bobcats were stinking things up on the court, so Economou and his young crew focused on things like regional pride and the fan experience to fill seats. They worked the community, building relationships with corporate stakeholders and fans alike. “It was Greg leading the charge,” says Mike Tomon, the Bobcats’ then-VP of ticket sales. “I have never seen anyone maximize his calendar the way Greg did.”

Success in Charlotte led him from the NBA’s outhouse to the entertainment world’s penthouse: Madison Square Garden. The situation couldn’t have been more different. There was no need to build the fan base at the Garden, of course. But shows there had enormous budgets, which meant Economou had to generate similarly enormous funds. Before he arrived, the Garden sold huge corporate deals, but people weren’t renewing them. After he got there, his team secured renewals from some of the world’s biggest companies: Coca-Cola, Budweiser, Kia, Lexus. “Corporate money grew steadily, five, seven percent every year,” says Mark Peterson, the Garden’s then-vice president of operations, corporate sales, and solutions. “And it’s because Greg’s just a great leader. People want to work for him.”

One of the reasons for Economou’s success was his ability to see funding and branding opportunities where others did not. In sports, companies had put their names on everything from scoreboards to team jerseys for years. But what if you could apply that same approach to other forms of entertainment—say, awards shows? What if the branding strategies used to market Knicks games and the NBA finals could be applied to, for instance, the American Music Awards? The prospect brought Economou west to Dick Clark, in 2011.

Step into the offices of Dick Clark Productions in Santa Monica and you’ll see framed photos of star after star. There’s Prince at the AMAs and Taylor Swift at the Academy of Country Music Awards. There are the Justins—Bieber and Timberlake—as well as Beyoncé, J. Lo, and Tim McGraw. And why not? Dick Clark’s awards shows are built on stars, always have been. Sporting events are built on stars, too. But there are key differences between marketing sporting events and branding awards shows. In sports, corporate sponsors put their names on every bit of real estate, from the stadiums themselves (Staples Center, Target Field) to everything inside them. Game after game, all through the season, fans see the Budweiser logo on the scoreboard. But how do you brand a star of a single-night event? You don’t. Rather than have Justin Bieber come out in a T-Mobile jersey at the AMAs, Economou had the corporate giant sponsor the star’s entire three-song finale—rainstorm and all—and put their name on that. Instead of branding stars (who often have their own promotional deals) or the shows award venues themselves (gifts), Economou went after the performances as well as every other aspect of the shows. The result: prizes like the AMAs’ “New Artist of the Year Presented by Kohl’s,” and ancillary events, like an exclusive John Legend concert tied to the Billboard Music Awards and sponsored by Citi. Sponsors love these “integrations” and “branded performances” because it gets them into the shows themselves. Artists love them because, well, they get their lavish sets and rainstorms.

For sure, Economou is gearing up for another awards season, although he’ll be the first to admit that, for him and everyone else at Dick Clark, the work goes year round. January kicks off with two of the biggest shows on television: “Dick Clark’s New Year’s Rockin’ Eve with Ryan Seacrest” followed the very next week by the Golden Globes. In April it’s the Academy of Country Music Awards and in May, the Billboard Music Awards. Economou, for his part, goes to every show, but most of the night, he’s working: “You enjoy it at the end,” he says. “It’s over, we got everything done, there were no red flags.”

Economou credits what he learned at UConn for much of his current success. The outburst work ethic from Coach Calhoun. The love for the art and science of marketing from UConn’s athletic department. The connections he made there that led to his stint at SUNY Stonybrook, where he took a stab at sports branding that launched his career. And most of all, the importance of building relationships, a necessity in the interconnected world of corporate branding.

“There was a certain camaraderie about that campus because there wasn’t a town, per se, when I went there,” he says. “There weren’t restaurants or bars to go to, so you really had to be creative in terms of your social life. You became very reliant on your friends to do anything.”

Of course, now Economou goes to some of the biggest parties on the planet, even if it is just another part of his day job. And the thrill he gets from working the AMAs or the Golden Globes aren’t that different from the buzz he got playing with UConn, whether at Boston Garden or Gampel Pavilion. “Just being in the building, whether it’s at a game or an awards show, that’s enough,” he says. “You’re there, you’re in it. To me, there’s nothing better than being a part of that action.”
New Research Proves That Some Kids “Grow Out” of Their Autism Symptoms

Scientists at UConn are using a high-tech fMRI system to figure out how — and why.

By Elaina Hancock
Photographs By Peter Morenus
early 30 years ago, research was published claiming to have documented recovery from autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in some children.

“People were for the most part pretty dubious,” says UConn Distinguished Professor of Psychological Sciences Deborah Fein of the research that was largely brushed off.

Fast forward almost 20 years. In Fein’s own practice, she noticed a subset of kids who seemed to “fall off the spectrum” during their course of treatment for ASD. Why was this true for some children and not others?

“That is when my interest began,” says Fein. She and Inge-Marie Eigsti, associate professor of psychology, have been studying these individuals, whom they refer to as “optimal outcome” or “OO” ever since. Unlike researchers 30 years ago, they have fMRI (functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging), a powerful technology that lets them peer into the brain in search of nitty-gritty details about how these individuals lose their diagnosis.

Is OO achieved by reverting to typical neural pathways? Do OO individuals use entirely different areas of the brain not typically assessed for certain functions? Why these children?

GETTING UNDER THE HOOD

Fein and Eigsti are using fMRI to find answers inside the brain, looking for patterns in the neural pathways and therapeutic interventions and therapies for ASD may have helped these OO individuals lose their symptoms.

“The [fMRI] imaging is important to seeing patterns that have developed as these individuals are subsumed by treatment interventions and therapies for ASD which may have helped these OO individuals lose their symptoms,” says Eigsti. “On the outside they appear typically developing: we couldn’t tell them apart from their typically developing peers. One really interesting question this leaves is what’s going on in the brain. Is there a fingerprint or a history of the disorder left in the brain? What is happening under the hood?”

To find out, they had study participants lie in the scanner and read statements while the researchers noted what parts of the brain were recruited. “The whole idea was to see how they respond to information,” says Eigsti.

“In the past, autism was considered a lifelong disorder. People conceptualize autism in much the same way other life-long disorders are considered. These images seem to prove that this isn’t the case.”

FLIPPING THE SWITCH

In the 2000s the rate of autism spectrum disorder in the U.S. was estimated to be about 1 in 150. By 2014, that rate had jumped to an estimated 1 in 68. No clear cause has been identified for the alarming escalation but, in light of these statistics, parents of typically developing children are kept on their toes with questionnaires at well-child doctor visits.

The reason Fein helped develop, asks questions like “Have you ever suspected your child is deaf?” or “Does your child make eye contact with you?” Though cumbersome to complete, these questionnaires are the first steps in the objectification of what may come into play for answering this question, Eigsti explains. “It was always thought you can’t teach old dogs new tricks and that you had to be young and flexible to learn new things. Now we know that, though difficult, it is certainly possible.”

In this case, we are referring to children, and among this cohort the “old dogs” may be toddlers or preschool kids, which demonstrates how key earlier intervention may be.

WHAT NEXT?

The next stage of the team’s research will focus on monitoring the OO group’s progression into adulthood.

Follow-up are likely to involve bringing back some of the OO kids to see how they are doing as they transition into young adulthood — how they’re doing with things like finding housing and living independently, for instance. “We want to follow them into their twenties and see how life goes,” says Fein. “We also want to study other aspects, such as are they more prone to anxiety or depression.”

Of course they don’t want to lose track of success stories either. One early study participant, Jake Exkorn, and his mom still check in at significant milestones. “He is now a busy, active college student,” notes Fein. She also is quick to say that this may not be the best path for everyone. “OO is one kind of good outcome, not the only good outcome.”

Language/image processing in various brains

The yellow shading shows roughly the areas where the vast majority of the public will process language, especially sentences that involve visual imagery. The yellow shading also shows areas of the brain often associated with self-reflection, imagination, and logic. The blue shading depicts results from Eigsti et al.’s paper, with a hint of how autism may have helped these OO individuals lose their symptoms.

Gently extending the highlighted activity of regions of the brain involved in motivation, logic, and control, the OO children exhibited greater activity than both the TD and ASD brain patterns.
UConn Nation Around the Nation

As you can see from this map, UConn Nation extends well beyond Connecticut and the northeast. So, too, do our alumni programs. We have UConn Alumni networks all over the world so you can take advantage of lifelong learning opportunities that highlight our incredible faculty (such as Alumni College or the various Science Salons), catch up on all of our Husky athletics, expand your career network, or participate in our UConn Cares community service projects. A few of the events worth highlighting over the next few months are a West Coast President’s tour in February and, in April, two big events — Alumni College in Washington, D.C. and the annual White Coat Gala, a fundraiser for our medical schools, in Hartford. See you here, there, and everywhere . . .

For information about alumni happenings in your neck of the woods, visit ucconnalumni.com/events.

As you can see from this map, UConn Nation extends well beyond Connecticut and the northeast. So, too, do our alumni programs. We have UConn Alumni networks all over the world so you can take advantage of lifelong learning opportunities that highlight our incredible faculty (such as Alumni College or the various Science Salons), catch up on all of our Husky athletics, expand your career network, or participate in our UConn Cares community service projects. A few of the events worth highlighting over the next few months are a West Coast President’s tour in February and, in April, two big events — Alumni College in Washington, D.C. and the annual White Coat Gala, a fundraiser for our medical schools, in Hartford. See you here, there, and everywhere . . .

Top: Hugo DeSarro ’50 (CLAS) has just published his first book of poetry, Zeno, Steps, and was appointed Poet Laureate by the town council in his hometown of East Hampton, Conn. DeSarro, who attended UConn after WWII on the G.I. Bill, has published a wide variety of publications, including books of poetry, short stories, and essays in a number of national publications, and a weekly column for the River East News Bulletin. His daughter, Doreen DeSarro ’69 (ENG), also has a book of poems, Two of Us, published in 2013 and a book of essays, My Mother’s War, published in 2014.

Bottom: Stephen Schirra ’14 (CLAS) in Bahía de Caráquez, Manabí, Ecuador, in April of 2016. At each stop, Schirra leaves the kids with soccer balls so they can keep the game going.

Poetry by Hugo DeSarro.

At age 87, Hugo DeSarro ’50 (CLAS) has just published his first book of poetry, Zeno, Steps, and was appointed Poet Laureate by the town council in his hometown of East Hampton, Conn. DeSarro, who attended UConn after WWII on the G.I. Bill, has published a wide variety of publications, including books of poetry, short stories, and essays in a number of national publications, and a weekly column for the River East News Bulletin. His daughter, Doreen DeSarro ’69 (ENG), also has a book of poems, Two of Us, published in 2013 and a book of essays, My Mother’s War, published in 2014.

Top: Hugo DeSarro ’50 (CLAS) has just published his first book of poetry, Zeno, Steps, and was appointed Poet Laureate by the town council in his hometown of East Hampton, Conn. DeSarro, who attended UConn after WWII on the G.I. Bill, has published a wide variety of publications, including books of poetry, short stories, and essays in a number of national publications, and a weekly column for the River East News Bulletin. His daughter, Doreen DeSarro ’69 (ENG), also has a book of poems, Two of Us, published in 2013 and a book of essays, My Mother’s War, published in 2014.

Bottom: Stephen Schirra ’14 (CLAS) in Bahía de Caráquez, Manabí, Ecuador, in April of 2016. At each stop, Schirra leaves the kids with soccer balls so they can keep the game going.

Poetry by Hugo DeSarro.

At age 87, Hugo DeSarro ’50 (CLAS) has just published his first book of poetry, Zeno, Steps, and was appointed Poet Laureate by the town council in his hometown of East Hampton, Conn. DeSarro, who attended UConn after WWII on the G.I. Bill, has published a wide variety of publications, including books of poetry, short stories, and essays in a number of national publications, and a weekly column for the River East News Bulletin. His daughter, Doreen DeSarro ’69 (ENG), also has a book of poems, Two of Us, published in 2013 and a book of essays, My Mother’s War, published in 2014.

Top: Hugo DeSarro ’50 (CLAS) has just published his first book of poetry, Zeno, Steps, and was appointed Poet Laureate by the town council in his hometown of East Hampton, Conn. DeSarro, who attended UConn after WWII on the G.I. Bill, has published a wide variety of publications, including books of poetry, short stories, and essays in a number of national publications, and a weekly column for the River East News Bulletin. His daughter, Doreen DeSarro ’69 (ENG), also has a book of poems, Two of Us, published in 2013 and a book of essays, My Mother’s War, published in 2014.

Bottom: Stephen Schirra ’14 (CLAS) in Bahía de Caráquez, Manabí, Ecuador, in April of 2016. At each stop, Schirra leaves the kids with soccer balls so they can keep the game going.

Poetry by Hugo DeSarro.

At age 87, Hugo DeSarro ’50 (CLAS) has just published his first book of poetry, Zeno, Steps, and was appointed Poet Laureate by the town council in his hometown of East Hampton, Conn. DeSarro, who attended UConn after WWII on the G.I. Bill, has published a wide variety of publications, including books of poetry, short stories, and essays in a number of national publications, and a weekly column for the River East News Bulletin. His daughter, Doreen DeSarro ’69 (ENG), also has a book of poems, Two of Us, published in 2013 and a book of essays, My Mother’s War, published in 2014.

Top: Hugo DeSarro ’50 (CLAS) has just published his first book of poetry, Zeno, Steps, and was appointed Poet Laureate by the town council in his hometown of East Hampton, Conn. DeSarro, who attended UConn after WWII on the G.I. Bill, has published a wide variety of publications, including books of poetry, short stories, and essays in a number of national publications, and a weekly column for the River East News Bulletin. His daughter, Doreen DeSarro ’69 (ENG), also has a book of poems, Two of Us, published in 2013 and a book of essays, My Mother’s War, published in 2014.

Bottom: Stephen Schirra ’14 (CLAS) in Bahía de Caráquez, Manabí, Ecuador, in April of 2016. At each stop, Schirra leaves the kids with soccer balls so they can keep the game going.

Poetry by Hugo DeSarro.

At age 87, Hugo DeSarro ’50 (CLAS) has just published his first book of poetry, Zeno, Steps, and was appointed Poet Laureate by the town council in his hometown of East Hampton, Conn. DeSarro, who attended UConn after WWII on the G.I. Bill, has published a wide variety of publications, including books of poetry, short stories, and essays in a number of national publications, and a weekly column for the River East News Bulletin. His daughter, Doreen DeSarro ’69 (ENG), also has a book of poems, Two of Us, published in 2013 and a book of essays, My Mother’s War, published in 2014.

Top: Hugo DeSarro ’50 (CLAS) has just published his first book of poetry, Zeno, Steps, and was appointed Poet Laureate by the town council in his hometown of East Hampton, Conn. DeSarro, who attended UConn after WWII on the G.I. Bill, has published a wide variety of publications, including books of poetry, short stories, and essays in a number of national publications, and a weekly column for the River East News Bulletin. His daughter, Doreen DeSarro ’69 (ENG), also has a book of poems, Two of Us, published in 2013 and a book of essays, My Mother’s War, published in 2014.
These weddings have a lot in common — dancing, giving toasts, cake cutting, and UConn spirit in the form of alum flag photos. Check out s.uconn.edu/alum for other ways couples worked their alma mater into the festivities, such as having the huskies as surprise wedding guests and serving husky dog groom’s cake. Further proof that UConn students are huskies forever. — EMMA CASAGRANDE ’18 (CLAS)

1. Kameron Escalada ’10 (NUR) and Jeffrey Endicott ’12 Pharm.D.
2. Matt Raspanti ’11 (CAHNR) and Jodi Raspanti ’12 (CLAS)
3. Michael Push ’08 (CLAS) and Valerie (Rivera) Push ’08 (NUR)
4. Kayleigh (MacCasey) Boynton ’11 (CAHNR) and Eddie Boynton ’11 (ED), ’12 MA
5. John Salszki ’12 (CLAS) and Darska Ham ’12 (CLAS)
6. Sarah Garfield ’11 (BUS) and George Kastanaras ’11 (BUS)
7. Sean Morrisroe ’13 (ED) and Paige Morrisroe ’13 (CLAS)
8. Ed Diprimio ’07 (CLAS) and Erica Diprimio
9. Emily Volz ’10 (CLAS) and Kenneth Lupt ’11 Pharm.D.
10. Alison (Arnone) Lang ’06 (BUS) and Kevin Lang

Delventhal, who uses no-gas push mower, is an alumni manager at LANTIS of Trumbull, Conn.  •  Richard Kanell ’81 (CLAS) reports that his sixth young adult daughter, Gisela Spiegel, has been released by Cambridge Books.  Kanell writes historical mysteries and paranormal books for the middle school-level reader, including ‘Mudville Murder in the Newsroom, Haunted Past, Hannah’s Ghost, Lost In the Library, and Finding the Fire.’  •  Thom Parrino ’83 (CLAS), who has been practicing family law for more than 27 years, has been selected an America’s Top Attorneys Lifetime Achievement member, Connecticut.  Principal and co-founder of Nusbaum & Parrino P.C. of Westport, Conn., is past president and chief financial officer of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.  •  Suzanne Schwaetzer ’85 (BUS) of Frederick, Md., has joined Maryland Public Television as the station’s vice president and chief financial officer.  Previously, she had been chief operating officer and chief financial officer of the Maryland School for the Deaf for nearly 17 years.  •  Tom Scitco ’85 (CLAS) and Karen Scitco ’85 (CLAS) report that their son, Justin Scitco ’19 (RUS), was recently admitted to the sophomore year in the UConn School of Business, majoring in finance. He is a ZBT member and a football team inter.
In her role as Sales Engineer for Pratt & Whitney, Oswald has seen the benefits of additive manufacturing, which has transformed the way the company approaches design and production. "With additive manufacturing, you can start with a big block of material and machine off what you don’t need," Oswald explains. "With additive manufacturing, you start with a big block of material and you machine off what you don’t need." Oswald’s work on the Airbus engine that uses 16 percent less fuel and significantly reduces CO2 emissions. The team used 3-D printing technology to simplify the design process for complex products. "With additive manufacturing, the iteration of designs is very fast — you get a much quicker sense of how an assembly goes together, where the high-stress locations are on a part," she says. "It’s very helpful to have a visual for that.”

Her work on the Airbus engine earned Oswald a place on Fast Company’s 2015 list of the world’s most creative businesses. The magazine named Oswald and many of the other honorees to LAI International’s "30 under 30" list of the most creative people in the world. Oswald is the first woman to be named to the list, and she is one of only 10 or 12 female engineers in the profession. To boost that number, she has spoken at conferences and on campuses around the country, visiting the maker space at the University of Connecticut, where she worked as an undergraduate. "I absolutely loved it, and I think I did better than all the boys. They all tried to cheat off of me, and I wouldn’t let them," Oswald recalls.

Growing up, Caitlin Oswald always wanted to be a ballerina. "There, in high school, she enrolled in an introductory engineering course called Scientific Principles. Oswald was the only girl in the class of 15. "We did electronics and robotics, and we built LEGO cars, and pneumatics, and all that stuff," she remembers. "I absolutely loved it, and I think I did better than all the boys. They all tried to cheat off of me, and I wouldn’t let them."

Today Oswald is a mechanical engineer at LAI International, a smaller aerospace and defense contractor. In 2015, Fast Company magazine named her to its annual list of the 100 Most Creative People in Business for her pioneering work in additive manufacturing. Oswald said that if she hadn’t taken that high school course, her life might have taken a very different path. “That gave me confidence that being an engineer was definitely achievable. It was a thing, scary thing in the sky.”

A Man’s World Engineering is still an overwhelmingly male-dominated field, with women making up only about 15 percent of the profession. “To boost that number, the University’s School of Engineering offers an annual summer program called ERIDGE for accepted freshmen from underrepresented groups, including women, African-Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans. Oswald was one of the program’s beneficiaries, spending five weeks on campus in the summer before her freshman year taking engineering courses. Oswald excelled at the coursework, and by the end of the summer she had won a scholarship from the aerospace giant United Technologies, which would later lead her to summer internships at the company.

At UConn she became one of only 10 or 12 female mechanical engineering students out of a total group of around 100. “It took a little bit of getting used to at the beginning that there were so few women, but by the end I almost considered it a benefit, because everybody knew who I was,” Oswald said. “I wasn’t lost in a sea of people. If I called one of my professors and said, ‘This is Caitlin,’ they knew exactly who I was.”

Scholarships kept coming, including the 2008 Altshuler Family Scholarship. After earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees in mechanical engineering at UConn, Oswald took a job at the United Technologies subsidiary Pratt & Whitney, where she helped design high-tech aircraft engines. She became an expert in the emerging field of additive manufacturing, which uses 3-D printing technology to simplify the design process for complex products. “With subtractive manufacturing, you start with a big block of material and you machine off what you don’t need,” Oswald explains. “With additive manufacturing, instead of starting with a big block, we start from nothing and only build material where we need it.”

Additive manufacturing was revolutionizing the field of mechanical engineering, and Oswald was becoming known as a leading expert in the field. At Pratt & Whitney her team developed new technologies that ended up in various platforms, including the Airbus geared turbofan jet engine that uses 16 percent less fuel and significantly reduces CO2 emissions. The team used 3-D printing every step of the way, creating life-size models of the engine parts to study how they could be improved. “With additive manufacturing, the iteration of designs is very fast — you get a much quicker sense of how an assembly goes together, where the high-stress locations are on a part,” she says. “It’s very helpful to have a visual for that.”

Her work on the Airbus engine earned Oswald a place on Fast Company’s 2015 list of the world’s most creative businesses. The magazine named Oswald and many of the other honorees to LAI International’s "30 under 30" list of the most creative people in the world. Oswald is the first woman to be named to the list, and she is one of only 10 or 12 female engineers in the profession. To boost that number, she has spoken at conferences and on campuses around the country, visiting the maker space at the University of Connecticut, where she worked as an undergraduate. "I absolutely loved it, and I think I did better than all the boys. They all tried to cheat off of me, and I wouldn’t let them."

Today Oswald is a mechanical engineer at LAI International, a smaller aerospace and defense contractor. In 2015, Fast Company magazine named her to its annual list of the 100 Most Creative People in Business for her pioneering work in additive manufacturing. Oswald said that if she hadn’t taken that high school course, her life might have taken a very different path. “That gave me confidence that being an engineer was definitely achievable. It was a thing, scary thing in the sky.”

A Man’s World Engineering is still an overwhelmingly male-dominated field, with women making up only about 15 percent of the profession. “To boost that number, the University’s School of Engineering offers an annual summer program called ERIDGE for accepted freshmen from underrepresent—

FOR CAITLIN OSWALD ’09 (ENG), IT IS ROCKET SCIENCE

Growing up, Caitlin Oswald always wanted to be a ballerina. "There, in high school, she enrolled in an introductory engineering course called Scientific Principles. Oswald was the only girl in the class of 15. "We did electronics and robotics, and we built LEGO cars, and pneumatics, and all that stuff," she remembers. "I absolutely loved it, and I think I did better than all the boys. They all tried to cheat off of me, and I wouldn’t let them."

Today Oswald is a mechanical engineer at LAI International, a leading aerospace and defense contractor. In 2015, Fast Company magazine named her to its annual list of the 100 Most Creative People in Business for her pioneering work in additive manufacturing. Oswald said that if she hadn’t taken that high school course, her life might have taken a very different path. “That gave me confidence that being an engineer was definitely achievable. It was a thing, scary thing in the sky.”

A Man’s World Engineering is still an overwhelmingly male-dominated field, with women making up only about 15 percent of the profession. “To boost that number, the University’s School of Engineering offers an annual summer program called ERIDGE for accepted freshmen from underrepresented groups, including women, African-Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans. Oswald was one of the program’s beneficiaries, spending five weeks on campus in the summer before her freshman year taking engineering courses. Oswald excelled at the coursework, and by the end of the summer she had won a scholarship from the aerospace giant United Technologies, which would later lead her to summer internships at the company.

At UConn she became one of only 10 or 12 female mechanical engineering students out of a total group of around 100. “It took a little bit of getting used to at the beginning that there were so few women, but by the end I almost considered it a benefit, because everybody knew who I was,” Oswald said. “I wasn’t lost in a sea of people. If I called one of my professors and said, ‘This is Caitlin,’ they knew exactly who I was.”

Scholarships kept coming, including the 2008 Altshuler Family Scholarship. After earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees in mechanical engineering at UConn, Oswald took a job at the United Technologies subsidiary Pratt & Whitney, where she helped design high-tech aircraft engines. She became an expert in the emerging field of additive manufacturing, which uses 3-D printing technology to simplify the design process for complex products. “With subtractive manufacturing, you start with a big block of material and you machine off what you don’t need,” Oswald explains. “With additive manufacturing, instead of starting with a big block, we start from nothing and only build material where we need it.”

Additive manufacturing was revolutionizing the field of mechanical engineering, and Oswald was becoming known as a leading expert in the field. At Pratt & Whitney her team developed new technologies that ended up in various platforms, including the Airbus geared turbofan jet engine that uses 16 percent less fuel and significantly reduces CO2 emissions. The team used 3-D printing every step of the way, creating life-size models of the engine parts to study how they could be improved. “With additive manufacturing, the iteration of designs is very fast — you get a much quicker sense of how an assembly goes together, where the high-stress locations are on a part,” she says. “It’s very helpful to have a visual for that.”

Her work on the Airbus engine earned Oswald a place on Fast Company’s 2015 list of the world’s most creative businesses. The magazine named Oswald and many of the other honorees to LAI International’s "30 under 30" list of the most creative people in the world. Oswald is the first woman to be named to the list, and she is one of only 10 or 12 female engineers in the profession. To boost that number, she has spoken at conferences and on campuses around the country, visiting the maker space at the University of Connecticut, where she worked as an undergraduate. "I absolutely loved it, and I think I did better than all the boys. They all tried to cheat off of me, and I wouldn’t let them."
Valentine’s Day is her company’s third biggest holiday, after Christmas and Easter, says Karen Munson ’86 (CLAS), president of Munson’s Chocolates. Talking with UConn Magazine at her flagship store in Bolton, Conn., Munson quickly adds that this holiday is entirely different than any of the other holidays. “Valentine’s Day is defined by its last-minute nature,” she says. “It’s unbelievably concentrated, basically the 12th to the 14th. The industry tells us that’s because it’s male-driven and post–Super Bowl.”

Munson grew up in the biz. She says she was always a popular kid because she brought candy to school for every special occasion: “You could do that back then; it’s something my daughter, who’s now a freshman at UConn, was unable to experience.”

She says she feels incredible pride having her daughter be a third-generation Husky, which hit her recently while tailgating with her college roommates, who are still her best friends: “Our kids are there now!”

Munson still brings chocolates to all sorts of occasions. “I never lose sight of how special it is to show up at someone’s house with a platter of chocolates.” You have to watch your timing in some cases, though. “For the rest of dinner, you end up playing ‘guess the chocolate center.’” —LISA STIEPOCK

For more of our interview with Karen, go to magazine.uconn.edu/munson.

Planned Giving 101

EVER WONDER WHAT PLANNED GIVING MEANS?

Simply put, it’s a way to give back to the University you love – and feel secure knowing your impact will be felt for generations.

With thoughtful planning, you can create win-win solutions for you and UConn. And there are many ways you can make a planned gift:

• Wills
• Living Trusts
• Retirement plans
• Real estate
• Personal property
• And more!

Making a planned gift also means you’re invited to join the Charles Lewis Beach Society, named for a man of foresight and good works whose love of UConn extended beyond his lifetime.

President Beach, teacher and leader of the young Connecticut Agricultural College from 1908–1928, honored his late wife Louise through his will. He provided support for student enrichment and for the institution that was to grow into the University. By joining the Charles Lewis Beach Society, you become part of a special group of people dedicated to UConn’s future!

As a member of the Charles Lewis Beach Society, you will be recognized as legacy donors at special events, seminars, and our annual thank-you event!

Are you ready to make an impact on the University and create a lasting legacy? Visit our website at https://www.legacy.vg/uconn and get started!
1. UConn’s athletic teams are known for their winning ways, with 22 national team championships. But who is the only student-athlete to win an individual NCAA championship?
   A: Ben Stockton, men’s 200m race, 1953
   B: Marina Greene, women’s pole vault, 1985
   C: Ronald Evans, men’s decathlon, 1972
   D: Rachel Holcomb, women’s tennis, 1990

2. The “little stone house” has stood on North Eagleville Road since 1937. What is its significance?
   A: It memorializes UConn students who fought in World War I
   B: A gift from the Conn. Grange, it holds a stone from each state
   C: It was a gift from the Storrs family, with stones from the original family farm
   D: It was the result of a Works Progress Administration project during the Great Depression

3. UConn’s plan for Stamford student housing marks the second time it has had a residential campus outside Storrs. What was the first?
   A: The Hartford campus in the early 1950s
   B: UConn Polar Station One, a research dorm in Antarctica
   C: The short-lived Willimantic campus in the 1900s
   D: The Fort Trumbull campus in the late 1940s

4. By 1960, this annual charitable event was the third largest of its kind in the U.S. and the largest on the East Coast. What was it?
   A: Huskython, a dance marathon
   B: The Benjamin Koons Memorial Basketball All-Star Game
   C: The Campus Community Carnival
   D: Kill-a-Keg

5. In 1943, UConn received its first-ever visit from a First Lady, when Eleanor Roosevelt came to Storrs. What was the purpose of her trip?
   A: She came to meet members of the Women’s Land Army, a wartime agricultural support group
   B: She was visiting UConn President Albert Jorgensen, who had placed Franklin Roosevelt’s name into nomination at the 1940 Democratic National Convention
   C: She delivered an address on human rights
   D: She was in Storrs to lend support to UConn’s wartime dairy programs, posing with prize-winning bull “Golden Lad”