GOING, GOING, GONE.

The animals we know we’re losing are just the tip of the iceberg. p.16
The University’s first official class photo took three months to plan, but 3,000 new freshmen obediently filed into a 90-by-35-yard formation on the Great Lawn in just under an hour. “Try that when they’re seniors,” a volunteer quipped. Find out more about the Class of 2019, the University’s most accomplished and diverse to date, on page 14. Watch a drone video of the shoot at s.uconn.edu/freshmen2019.
FROM THE EDITOR

“Expose yourself to noble people.”

That is one of the best pieces of advice I was given in my previous life as an editor of parenting magazines. It came from Mary Catherine Bateson, noted writer and cultural anthropologist who also happens to be the daughter of Margaret Mead. Bateson was discussing the best things one can do to raise your children well.

Her counsel came to mind recently as I sat in the office of UConn History Professor Alexis Dudden, waiting for her to finish explaining to a campus policeman the details of the most recent menacing threat she’d received as a consequence of her passionate defense of human rights, in this case on behalf of an accurate historical record concerning brutal treatment of Japanese “comfort women” in World War II. Dudden writes in these pages about women in modern Japan struggling to maintain the country’s constitutional pledge of peace (page 36).

Bateson’s advice came to mind again in Jorgensen auditorium when, after watching Bill Clinton on campus, alum Mo Pleasure ’86 (SFA) on tour with Bette Midler, a professor’s vow to regenerate a human limb by 2030, and much more.

And I found myself thinking about Bateson’s guidance a third time in as many weeks when, after interviewing basketball champion Sue Bird, I found myself telling my husband: She’s the kind of person you want your kids to know. (Find out what she had to say on page 48 and online at s.uconn.edu/suebird.)

“Possessing, characterized by, or arising from superiority of mind or character or of ideals or morals,” reads a Merriam-Webster definition of “noble.”

I think my daughter and I got lucky landing at UConn; clearly, it will not be difficult to surround ourselves with nobility. I’m looking forward to sharing stories of noble people with her, and with you on these pages. The good news is, with this issue, there is no-longer-secret game-day rituals.

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Bill Clinton and the Dodd Center Celebrate 20 Years

“You all have the power to be soldiers for human rights. I urge you to use that power,” former President Bill Clinton told the audience at a packed Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts after receiving the Thomas J. Dodd Prize in International Justice and Human Rights. Clinton's return to UConn on Oct. 15, came 20 years to the day after his visit for the inauguration of the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, which is named for the late U.S. senator from Connecticut.

Clinton was a co-winner along with Tostan, a vital human rights organization that has brought significant, sustainable change to Africa, notably by putting an end to the centuries-old practices of female genital cutting and forced child marriage. Tostan founder Molly Melching was there to accept the second Thomas J. Dodd prize.

During the University-wide celebration, the focus frequently returned to the power of all individuals to effect change.

"Sometimes the empowerment of people to help themselves is the most important thing you can do," said Clinton. Acknowledging that it is a troubling time in the world because "there are so many blatant examples of abuses of human rights," he urged audience members to "not be paralyzed by the fact that we cannot stop every bad thing or solve every problem."

Both award recipients cited examples of individuals who make a difference — from women in small African villages whose voices have united behind efforts to abandon the practice of female genital cutting to students who donate to human rights organizations with the stroke of a computer key. "You may not want to do what Molly [Melching] did," said Clinton, "but you can support people who do."

Tostan
In 1997, Melching visited Senegal intending to remain for a few months, yet stayed more than 40 years. She started Tostan to empower African communities to bring about sustainable development and positive social transformation based on respect for human rights.

Melching explained that Tostan’s innovative approach, called the Community Empowerment Program, is rooted in the belief that every human being has a fundamental right to human dignity.

The program was shaped by a set of shared beliefs about human rights, including that everyone has the right to be free from discrimination, the right to be free from violence, the right to pursue an education and work, and the right not to be exploited, said Melching.

Tostan has been recognized in the past, notably by Hillary Clinton when she was First Lady, said Melching, before citing the words of another former First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt: “Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home, so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. I dedicate this award to all those who work for human rights in small places around the world,” Melching continued.

The Clinton Foundation
Clinton was recognized for the efforts of the foundation he established after leaving office. The Bill, Hillary, and Chelsea Clinton Foundation works to improve global health and wellness, increase opportunity for girls and women, reduce childhood obesity, create economic opportunity and growth, and help communities address the effects of climate change.

University Provost Mun Choi ended the ceremony with the same call to action emphasized throughout the night.

“President Clinton, I thank you for your service to the nation and the greater humanity,” said Choi, before turning to the audience to say, “Go forth and make an impact.” — KRISTEN COLE

Candy Companies Promised Not to Advertise to Kids — Now They Are Doing It Even More

It’s been four years since candy makers in this country made voluntary pledges not to advertise to children age 11 and under. Today, those children are viewing substantially more TV ads for candy, according to a new study by the world-renowned Rudd Center for Food Policy & Obesity at UConn.

From 2008 to 2011, children’s exposure to candy ads on U.S. television increased 74 percent, rising to an average of 485 ads viewed per child in 2011, compared to an average of 279 ads viewed per child in 2008, according to the study. Most of the ads accounting for the increase were from the very companies that agreed in 2007 to participate in the self-regulatory Children’s Food and Beverage Advertising Initiative.

The Whole Truth
Find out more about the ongoing study at: s.uconn.edu/candyads

THE WHOLE TRUTH
WHEN IS THE MEDIA GOING TOO FAR?

A journalism professor’s blog compares how students from UConn and across Europe view a number of ethical dilemmas.

This past spring, Associate Professor of Journalism Gail B. MacDonald ’81 (CLAS) spent a month as a Fulbright Specialist teaching journalism ethics at Masaryk University in Brno, which she describes as “the Czech Republic’s funky, lovely second city.” Here’s her report from the field.

Since I also regularly teach journalism ethics classes at UConn, I asked both my Connecticut and my European students—who hailed from the Czech Republic, Romania, Ukraine, France, and Germany—to share their thoughts about ethical dilemmas facing the media via a discussion blog.

Acceptable behavior on and off-duty

The greatest number of comments came on a post asking whether it is right for a woman to be a mayor or a politician, her sexual orientation being irrelevant. If this wasn’t the case, any disgraceful behavior in public would have to embrace good manners and avoid any disgraceful behavior in public. If this wasn’t the case, any disgraceful behavior in public.

“American journalists … want to take benefit of the audience’s vicious curiosity.”

Almost all American students who commented said they thought the photo insulted the bombing victims and would not have published the photo for this reason, while the Euro students said they thought the photo had value and they would have published it. Many American students acknowledged their personal biases impacting their decisions here, but claimed that didn’t sway their opinions.

Satisfying public curiosity

A third post asked students whether the German or U.S. press acted more ethically when covering stories about a celebrity’s private lives. The American students weighed in that every story could be a potential news story. However, the Euro students believed the press should respect the privacy of the public figures and that any story about them should be treated with caution.

The price of celebrity

Students also pondered appropriate ethical boundaries for journalists probing the private lives of children of celebrities and politicians, agreeing that the press too often is overly intrusive. The media goes too far when it comes to covering stories about a celebrity’s family member.

Acceptable behavior on and off-duty

Some Euro students commented that the journalist’s punishment was deserved.

“If you work for serious media, your ethical compass should scream, ‘no way, this is too much.’”

Many American students acknowledged their personal biases impacting their decisions here, but claimed that didn’t sway their opinions.

Satisfying public curiosity

A third post asked students whether the German or U.S. press acted more ethically in the aftermath of the Germanwings air crash. U.S. journalists swarmed the co-pilot’s hometown and published details from his Facebook page, while some German reporters never even published the co-pilot’s name.

The first interesting thing here is that only the Euro students commented and mostly thought the most ethical practices did not lie at either extreme, but that what was published needed to be verified and should have pertinence to the overriding goal of the news coverage

Acceptable behavior on and off-duty

It is understandable that they want to protect their man. But, in the end, if he did kill those people on purpose, then there is no excuse for the press to hide this,” posted a student from Romania.

“American journalists … want to take benefit of the audience’s vicious curiosity.”

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“The journalist’s work is to deliver the truth, but here the articles are overburdened by the [American] journalists who want to take benefit of the audience’s vicious curiosity,” wrote a French student.

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MO PLEASURE ’86, ON TOUR WITH BETTE MIDLER

The versatile artist, known in the business as a musician’s musician, says being on the road with The Divine Miss M. was every bit as unpredictable—and stellar—as one might expect.

Multi-instrumentalist and producer Morris Pleasure ’86 (SFA) got an early start to his professional career after chatting with a member of the Ray Charles Orchestra when the legendary High Priest of Soul performed at UConn. A year later, he hit the road as a member of the Orchestra.

Over the past three decades, Pleasure has established himself as an in-demand performer working with prominent acts, such as Earth, Wind & Fire; Michael Jackson; George Duke; Chaka Khan; Mary J. Blige; Natalie Cole; Christina Aguilera; and Frankie Beverly, among others.

Last summer he served as the music director for Bette Midler’s “Divine Intervention” world tour. After a tour stop at Mohegan Sun in Connecticut, where he spoke with world tour. After a tour stop at Mohegan Sun in Connecticut, Pleasure performed a gig with other tour musicians at Infinity Hall in Hartford, where he spoke with UConn Magazine.

What’s it like touring with Bette Midler?

Her gig is so eclectic, we do a lot of different kinds of music. Everybody in the band is capable of playing anything from jazz and classical to country, even cartoon music and sound effects. I work with a lot of Amy Winehouse’s band members. She really did set it up — girls playing guitar. A lot of the artists I work with are female guitarists. The young people really have it together. They are thinking about every aspect of their career — video, audio, their look.

Your skill and experience allow you to play with anyone. How much of that comes from your time at UConn and how much from life on the road?

It’s definitely a hybrid. UConn had great teachers when I was there like [pianist, composer, arranger] Ellen Rowe and [pianist] Neal Larrabee. I was playing jazz gigs at the Bushnell in Hartford with Ellen. I played in rock bands when I was in college, in the clubs. Then I went into real-world touring. Of course, everything I learned, all the mistakes I made have brought me to this place. Thirty years now. It’s been amazing.

You’ve played a wide variety of music over the years, from classical to jazz and R&B. What kind is at your core?

Music that stirs my soul, James Barber and R&B. What kind is at your core? I think that’s why I get hired; because I can make it feel good. Because all of us in the band are artists — you just thought about it, and said, ‘Let’s find a place to play that lets us express these other ideas we have.’

You and the Midler tour band decided to use a night off to drive from New York City to Hartford to do a show at Infinity Hall. Why?

Because all of us in the band are artists and need to express ourselves. We do a show that’s got a format. We’re doing sound checks, we’re always playing. We just thought about it, and said, ‘Let’s find a place to play that lets us express these other ideas we have.’

You have your own music business called WaterSign Media. What kind of things do you do?

We’ve got artists and music. We’ve also got apps for teaching. I do a lot of master classes, a lot of teaching in the U.K.

What type of artists are you working with?

It’s all over the place but generally soul. It’s been some time, but that music is coming back again. For a while it was pushed out by the electronica thing. I work with a lot of Amy Winehouse’s band members. She really did set it up — girls playing guitar. A lot of the artists I work with are female guitarists. The young people really have it together. They are thinking about every aspect of their career — video, audio, their look.

What do you remember about your UConn experience?

I was doing a lot of playing. Back then there were a lot of places to play. The Shabo, the Balloon Saloon, all the frat party weekends. Then I’d be playing with a gospel choir or jazz band. One of the best things about UConn is that it was a microcosm of everything, a lot of different musical situations. Some were at UConn, some I created myself. I just saw a couple of my friends from UConn recently. We’re still in touch.—KEN BEST
A woman of many talents, Wong told us about recording an album, crusading for transgender equality, and deciding to graduate a full year early— with honors.

If the name Calliope Wong is familiar to you, it’s most likely because, since not being accepted to Smith College in 2013, Wong ’16 (CLAS) has been making headlines fighting for the rights of gender-transitioning women to gain acceptance to women’s colleges. A number of colleges have changed their policies in the past few years, including this fall, Smith. When that happened The New York Times ran an editorial asking Smith to make Wong an honorary member of their Class of 2017 saying, “Smith didn’t give Ms. Wong an education. But the student’s courage and tenacity taught her dream school a great deal.”

While that bravery and activism is what she’s most known for, since enrolling at UConn in 2013, Wong’s been tackling a number of arenas. She’s an English major pre-med student in the Honors program who won a coveted IDEA grant to record an album of piano music. We asked Wong about each of these facets of Calliope.

So, has Smith made you an honorary member of the 2017 class? No, they’ve not responded in any way.

How did it make you feel to have The New York Times advocate for that in a piece by its Editorial Board? It was affirming and definitely a nice feeling. Having The New York Times write about you is good for your cause.

We know why not Smith, but why UConn? There are a lot of resources at UConn that I couldn’t find at other schools. Other schools wouldn’t allow me to be a pre-med English major, putting the hard sciences and humanities together. I get to do that here. In the morning I might be synthesizing aspirin in my Organic Chem lab and in the afternoon I’ll be dissecting lines from Beowulf.

Why pre-med? I’d like to be an endocrinologist, a doctor who works with people with hormonal disorders. This includes transgender people, so I’d be able to help my own community as well. That’s one of the main reasons I’ve decided on this path. I want to be useful to the trans kids who’ll come in the generations after me, as a way of giving back to the community that raised me. I’m training to be a doctor to fill a need, to figure out, “How do we help people survive?” I want to be a culturally competent doctor who can do just that.

And why English? I had a high school English teacher who encouraged me to write. I was good at hiding behind words and she saw through the vocabulary and competent writing and challenged me to write honestly. After that, my writing helped me explain who I am to myself.

Calliope is the Muse of Poetry. I picked my own name from the main character in Jeffrey Eugenides’ Middlesex. Gender identity and life in general weren’t simple for that character, and the story made a big impact on me in high school. The short version is, I picked English because I want to be someone useful, but I also want to become someone genuine. I’ve gotten a lot of media attention for someone your age. What has been the most daunting media experience?

While I was still in high school, MSNBC rolled up into my driveway after school one day. Unannounced? Yes! And I had a bio test the next day.

So, has Caitlyn Jenner media jamboree affected your day-to-day life? If you mean her presence in reality TV, it really hasn’t. She doesn’t define the typical trans narrative, and she honestly doesn’t have much in common with me. I’m very glad she’s given a voice to the community, but I hope that she realizes there have been a lot of voices in this community belonging to people who have been around the block for a lot longer. It’s sort of a risky thing to put a young person in a spotlight—and that’s sort of what she is, in trans years. Awareness of trans people itself doesn’t change things.

“I am many other things besides trans.”

What do you mean? There are so many socioeconomic issues that trans people face. Lack of medical access and insurance coverage, lack of employment protections, and so many other issues. Okay, sure, we have marriage equality, but look at the rate of trans youth expelled from homes and in poverty. Forget the “trans” label for a minute— do you want this for your children? We really must make our politics about human beings and their survival.

You work so hard and do so much. What do you ever stop and tell yourself, “Good Job, Calliope?” Things have changed. This is good, this is what we’ve been working for. Of course I sleep in sometimes like everyone else. But I do try to remind myself, “Now let’s keep moving.”

Speaking of jobs on the back, congratulations on being one of the 26 recipients of the UConn 2014 IDEA grants. Tell us about your project.

Well, it’s important to get some background. I studied classical piano until my freshman year of high school. Then, from freshman to sophomore year, life got complicated. I came out to my parents that year. I stopped piano lessons. It turned out that not having piano was a quiet and lonely feeling, so I listened to a lot of instrumental music and started teaching myself to improvise and compose by listening to movie soundtracks. In some ways it’s like learning to speak, you learn different phrases to say the same thing by listening to others.

I applied for the grant so I could create something for others to enjoy and find a way to give back to the transgender community. I used it to make an album of instrumental music titled “Hyaline Songs,” that, with a booklet of liner notes, tells my story of growing up as a Chinese American trans woman. Fifty percent of the proceeds will go to two nonprofits that work with trans people. [Learn more at u.conn.edu/calliope.]

What’s one thing you want non trans—or cisgender—people to know and appreciate about trans people?

I am many other things besides trans. I also happen to be Chinese American, an activist, a gamer, a writer, a sci-fi geek, among other things. I’m only 20. I have a lot of room to grow. As people grow they accumulate more and more parts of their personalities and it’s our job to integrate these parts, and to give other people the chance to integrate, too. I guess what I’m trying to say is that we have a lot to learn from one another.

What are you fighting for right now? Education is one priority. I’m part of TSER (Trans Student Educational Resources), which was started by trans activist Eli Erikic of California. There are a lot of issues in educational inequality— students being discriminated against or not feeling safe. That’s not okay. People need to be going to school in safe environments, yet there are a lot of students who can’t feel comfortable just going to the bathroom.

But I’m only one person. I’m in my third and last year in college. At the end of a day, I’ve only had 24 hours like everyone else.

A note to leave us on? You’re going to get a lot more than one story from a person if you stick around. We are all much more capable of connecting than we imagine. — LISSA STEEPEK
**MUSIC ON A MISSION**

The New Orleans-style Funky Dawgz Brass Band is made up of alums and current students who say they are on a mission to "rejuvenate music." The group teaches master classes and makes music at inner-city elementary, middle, and high schools throughout Connecticut. On occasion, they also can be found rocking Storrs Center (above). Listen in at s.uconn.edu/dawgz.

**MAKING GOOD**

**PROFESSOR VOWS TO REGENERATE HUMAN LIMBS BY 2030**

On Veteran’s Day the University of Connecticut announced the launch of its new grand research challenge: regeneration of a human knee within 7 years, and an entire limb within 15 years.

This major international research undertaking is called The HEAL Project, which stands for Hartford Engineering a Limb. It is the brainchild of UConn Health’s Cato T. Laurencin, a leading surgeon-scientist in orthopaedic surgery, engineering, and the new field of regenerative engineering, whose laboratory research successes include the growth of bone and knee ligaments.

"This research initiative will be a game-changer for regenerative therapies," says Laurencin.
THE AVERAGE SAT SCORE OF THE CLASS OF 2019 AT STORRS

THE NUMBER OF FRESHMEN ENROLLED AT STORRS

THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLING IN THE HIGHLY SELECTIVE HONORS PROGRAM

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS, INCLUDING NEW FRESHMEN, WHO ARE LIVING ON CAMPUS AT STORRS

THE NUMBER OF FRESHMEN WHO APPLIED TO THE STORRS CAMPUS, A NEW RECORD HIGH

35,000

5,200

3,800

1233

535

145

12,700

32%

CLASS OF 2019

IN GOOD HEALTH

PREFER EGGS TO OATMEAL? GO FOR IT!

What if eating an egg for breakfast is just as good as a bowl of oatmeal for people with diabetes? Maybe even better? Maria-Luz Fernandez, a professor of nutritional sciences in the College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources, says that this may be the case. Most diabetics learn that eating eggs, because of their cholesterol content, is bad for their diet. But Fernandez and her colleagues found evidence that an egg a day may not only be an acceptable part of a diabetic’s diet, it may prove to offer unexpected protection against the underlying inflammatory process that often leads to heart disease. Because eggs are filled with high-quality protein and other valuable nutrients, are readily available and taste good to most palates, Fernandez says eggs may be a valuable addition to a diabetic’s breakfast menu.

Learn more at s.uconn.edu/oatmeal.

THE STARS MAY IN FACT DICTATE YOUR POTENTIAL STAR POWER

In academia, professors study one another’s research and often do their own research to disprove, or debunk, that prior research. Sometimes they will even debunk the debunkers, which is what UConn researcher Mark Hamilton recently did. He confirmed prior research stating that the astrological signs we are born under may in fact hint at the futures we will lead. Here’s how the proving/disproving/re-proving, or in playground terms the is/is not/is too, transpired.

Is: A 2013 paper in the Journal of Social Sciences linked one’s birth month with the likelihood of becoming a celebrity. This in itself was not surprising, as psychologists have long known that certain personality traits tend to be associated with certain birth months. For example, people born in January and February often are more creative, and have a higher chance of being diagnosed with schizophrenia, than people born at any other time of year. And people born in odd-numbered months tend to be more extroverted than those born in even-numbered months.

What was unusual about the Journal paper, though, was that one of the authors was an astrophysicist, and the paper’s introduction included an explanation of the physics behind the astrological calendar. The authors argued that although astrological or zodiac signs are merely an accident of the sun’s location, birth dates tend to cluster at certain times of the year. Wet signs were associated with a larger number of celebrities, and sports. He found that celebrities’ birth dates tended to cluster at certain times of the year. Wet signs were associated with a larger number of celebrities, and sports. He found that celebrities’ birth dates tended to cluster at certain times of the year. Wet signs were associated with a larger number of celebrities, and sports.

Is Too: UConn’s Hamilton, a social scientist in the Department of Communication, was unconvinced. He had reviewed the original paper for the Journal of Social Sciences, and considered the data and analysis to be sound. So he set out to debunk the debunking, examine some of the traditional astrological explanations, and see if they could be aligned with known psychological findings.

Traditional Western astrology uses elements (water, earth, air, and fire), sign duality (bright/dark), and sign qualities (cardinal, mutable, and fixed) to describe and categorize seasonal effects on personality. It considers late December through early March as a “wet” time of year, and connects wetness with creativity, for example. Hamilton looked at the same data from the original paper, a set of 900 celebrities from the fields of politics, science, public service, literature, the arts, and sports. He found that celebrities’ birth dates tended to cluster at certain times of the year. Wet signs were associated with a larger number of celebrities, as were signs classified as bright or fixed.

“Psychologists want to dismiss these astrological correlations,” says Hamilton, “but there are seasonality effects that we have yet to explain.” Hamilton is not arguing that heavenly bodies are the true source of these effects; rather that astrological aspects are just useful tools that help people remember the timing and patterns of nature.

Hamiltion found that relative age of children in a school cohort did have some effect on one’s propensity to become a celebrity. Children who spend their school years slightly older than the average among their peers are somewhat more likely to become famous, perhaps because they have more early success and have so better self-esteem into adulthood. But Hamilton found that the relative age effect was dwarfed by the effect of being born under a wet astrological sign such as Aquarius or Pisces. Being born under a fixed sign, such as Aries, Taurus, Leo, or Scorpio, also increased one’s chances of finding fame. Hamilton is working on an analysis of 85,000 celebrities dating from 3000 B.C. to the present. He says the seasonality effect appears to hold true even in this large data set that stretches across mil- lennia and cultures. — KIM KRIEGER

MATCH THE CELEBRITY TO THE ASTROLOGICAL SIGN AT SUCONN.EDU/STARPWOWER.

TRADITIONS

ENGINEERING CENTENNIAL

In 1916 UConn (then called Connecticut Agricultural College) enrolled 20 students in mechanical engineering. Today, 3,363 undergrads are enrolled in twelve engineering majors and “we are partnering with industry and placing graduates with the makers of America’s best fighter jets, submarines, computer defense technology, and biomedical devices. As a result, engineering is being reborn in Connecticut,” says Dean Karem Karemoulian.

1916-2016

Learn more at s.uconn.edu/starpower.

14 UCONN MAGAZINE | MAGAZINE.UCONN.EDU JANUARY 2016 15
Around the globe, on every continent, UConn professors are working to prevent species extinction in the face of escalating climate change.

By Sheila Foran '83 (BGS), '96 Ph.D.
Photo Illustrations by Christa Tubach
The snow-less scene that greeted researchers in Alaska last spring.

For every degree that global temperatures rise, more species will become extinct, says Mark Urban, a UConn professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. If current climate policies are not modified, warns Urban, rising global temperatures will threaten up to one in six species.

Overall, his study, which was originally published in the journal Science, predicts a nearly 3 percent species extinction rate based on current conditions. If the Earth warms another 3°C, the extinction risk rises to 8.5 percent. And if climate change continues on that trajectory, the world will experience a 4.5°C rise in temperature by the year 2100 — resulting in a 16 percent extinction rate.

To make matters worse, the species we know are threatened by climate change, polar and grizzly bears for instance, may be just the tip of the iceberg. Urban found that the risk of species loss is most acute for those continents that have unique climate ranges, with native species that can survive only in a limited range. Yet those regions are the ones researchers have studied the least. Nearly 60 percent of studies about the effects of climate change have centered on North America and Europe. But South America, Australia, and New Zealand are at greatest risk for species loss, says Urban. Urban is one of dozens of UConn researchers at work around the globe studying the effect of climate change on species of all shapes and sizes. Read on for six reports from the field (and stream and ocean and mountain...).
fishing and oil and gas exploration,” says Auster. “Federal legislation acknowledges these problems and the need for conservation. In fact, the United Nations General Assembly has passed several resolutions that are focused on this deep sea coral and other ecologically fragile communities because of their vulnerability to outside forces. That’s why we set out to find what might be hidden in the Gulf of Maine.”

The Gulf stretches from the western tip of Nova Scotia all the way to Cape Cod, Mass., and spans 36,000 square miles. It is home to more than 2,500 species of marine life and birds, and encompassing Georges Bank is immense such that for generations it was one of the world’s richest commercial fishing grounds. Auster’s scientific team has identified five distinct high-density patches of coral widely spaced across the Gulf and boasting formations that extend anywhere from about 35 to 40 feet high at depths of more than 600 feet. They are not only surprising in their size, according to Auster, but are unequivocally complex and beautiful.

“It’s amazing we have been able to make these types of discoveries in one of the most well studied parts of the global ocean, and after a bit more than half a century of people diving with subsimmers in this region. I’ve been doing this kind of work for over 30 years and I was stunned when we first found these canyon walls covered in coral.”

For more about the coral, including stunning photographs, go to s.uconn.edu/goinggoinggone.

**PUZZLING**

**PROFESSOR:** Melissa McKinney  
**SUBJECT:** Polar bears, ringed seals, orcas, and their prey

**PLACE:** Greenland

Melissa McKinney is assembling a giant jigsaw puzzle. But instead of using pieces of colored cardboard, she gets to use whales, polar bears, seals, and fish. On top of that, she doesn’t have an already completed picture to tell her what the end result will look like, although she has her suspicions.

McKinney is an assistant professor in the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment and she also holds a joint appointment in UConn’s Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering. Her background in ecotoxicology involves the study of how toxic chemicals affect biological organisms. This expertise has led her to an exploration of how global climate changes may be playing a role in how various species that call the northern latitudes home are affected by synthetic, or manmade, organic compounds.

“Most of my work involves looking at the top of the food web at things like polar bears and other marine mammals. They tend to have high levels of PCBs, DDT, and other toxins in their systems. Even though these contaminants, called organochlorines, haven’t been used in the Arctic to any extent, they are able to make their way long distances through atmospheric and aquatic pathways. Eventually, they get into Arctic food systems. Tissue samples taken from polar bears across their circumpolar range clearly showed elevated levels of these contaminants and that is definitely cause for concern,” says McKinney.

The Beaufort Sea polar bears McKinney studies have traditionally dined on ringed seals found on the ice. However, there has been noticeable erosion of the sea ice in that region and an increasing number of bears are eating whales that have been hunted by indigenous peoples and whose carcasses remain on shore.

“Lately,” says McKinney, “we have been finding a strong relationship between sea ice change and how much of this on-shore food they eat. We think these dietary changes may be important mechanisms that relate to the health of the bears.”

Another species of particular interest to McKinney is the orca or killer whale. This is a species that doesn’t traditionally inhabit Arctic waters, although there is anecdotal evidence that there are more of them spending time in the far north than ever before, and that they are staying for longer periods of time.

McKinney says that, based on evidence from biopsies of their blubber, these whales may be among the most contaminated marine mammals in the world. The orcas that McKinney has seen in the past few years more and more of them have been sighted off Green-

McKinney says it is her hope that some of her research can lead to a better understanding of these animals, and what the potential impact on those populations may be.

“Every puzzle has large and small pieces and, on the smaller end of the size scale, are the prey fish that have traditionally formed a large part of the diets of seals, whales, larger fish, and sea birds. ‘Changes in prey fish populations have been observed in regions like the Hudson Bay over the past thirty years,’ says McKinney. ‘Arctic prey fish have largely been replaced by sub- 

specialized eaters, but these findings raise the issue of whether, under rapidly changing conditions, such as ocean warming, they might actually be more opportunistic,’ says McKinney.

“They are voracious eaters and it doesn’t take many of them to consume a large number of a smaller species, such as seals and other whales. This leads us to wonder if the killer whales everywhere in the Arctic waters are beginning to feed on marine mammals and what the potential impact on those populations may be.

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arctic species and this has led to diet changes in sea birds and marine mammals. We’re looking at the contaminant differences among various types of fish and what that might mean in terms of food quality.

So the puzzle continues to evolve. All along the food chain, species are exposed to what has been consumed before and, although McKinney’s research doesn’t extend to the individual at the very top of that chain, there are others who are exploring the diets of the indigenous peoples who inhabit the far north and who hunt and fish for their food.

McKinney says it is her hope that some of her research can be used to support international agreements regarding the use of chemicals worldwide. “If contaminants can reach the Arctic, it means they are present throughout the global food web. It’s really important to me that there is awareness of how human activities in one location can potentially affect other species, even in remote regions of the planet. Saying that we need to be stewards of the Earth isn’t just an idle thought. It’s something we really have to seriously consider,” she says.

For more on McKinney and her work, go to s.uconn.edu/goinggoinggone.
Not necessarily, according to Tingley and co-author Paul Eisen, an ecologist who studies the birds of the Himalayas. Traversing mountains in the Himalayan range, Eisen had observed that mountain ranges could go through a mid-elevation bottleneck where most of the mountain habitable area is toward the top, there would be more area for animals and plants living in the foothills may actually see an increase in available space as they move up these mountains.

Similarly, species that live at mid-elevation in hourglass-shaped ranges also might find more space at higher elevations. The Himalayan monal, a rooster-sized, rainbow-colored, mysterious pheasant — famous as the inspiration for the character Kevin in the Disney/Pixar movie “Up” — currently lives in the middle of the hourglass-shaped Himalayas. A species like this could benefit from shifting up, says Tingley.

But for other species, such as animals in the foothills of the Himalayas, there may be far less space to move to at the middle of the mountain than there is higher up, says Tingley. He calls these ranges “hourglass” (as in the arid lands of the American Southwest, paraesthesia rates by natural enemies declines. Lower parasitism translates to more caterpillars and that leads to more defoliation and greater loss of fruits, vegetables, flowers, and other vegetation.

As we destabilize the climate and heat up the atmosphere, it becomes harder for natural enemies to control the numbers of caterpillars. This, in turn, makes it harder to avoid defoliating plants that may play important environmental and economic roles.

More herbivory — the eating of plant matter — can mean significantly lower crop yields and loss of income for farmers and ranchers. The data Wagner and his colleagues are collecting across continents will allow them to model the potential impacts of changing climates, both as a function of increasing mean temperatures and greater climate fluctuations.

In addition to his teaching and research for UConn, Wagner takes part in what he calls “science boot camps” with Earthwatch, a non-profit organization that supports scientific research while engaging citizen scientists in actual field work. The research teams are composed of both business executives and scientists working together on equal footing. Wagner explains that what he finds especially gratifying about this experience is that a few attendees who have been sent by their corporations to learn something about the climate and climate change can even diverge.

To understand the key to these species’ success, Schlitchting and his colleagues have been measuring many of the shrubs’ physical features, such as leaf characteristics and rates of photosynthesis. They are also sequencing most of the genomes of 260 of the 296 species across the two groups. “No studies of plants have ever sequenced so much of the genome in so many related species,” says Schlitchting.

The scientists will combine this genetic information with the plants’ physical traits to find genes that are likely to be responsible for different traits, which Schlitchting says is key to estimating how fast evolution has occurred.

“We want to reconstruct what these leaves looked like in the past, how they did it when they look like fifteen million years ago,” says Carl Schlichting, professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. In part, this is because of the role that caterpillars and their enemies play as bellwethers for climate change across continents and in dramatically different environments.

“By connecting historical climate changes to these models of past plant characteristics, the scientists can determine what effect previous climate change has had on plant species diver- sification. They can then use this information to predict what the plants will look like under different climate scenarios in the future.”

For more on Wagner’s studies and startling photos of the caterpillars he stalks, go to s.uconn.edu/goinggoinggone.
We’ve all crossed our fingers as the ball leaves the point guard’s hands, or as the kicker’s cleat meets the pigskin. We’ve watched as baseball greats — and their fans — grow “playoff beards” and flip on their rally caps. Some of us have probably been unlucky enough to be in smelloing range of a hockey goalie’s lucky socks.

Whether it’s to gain some control or out of simple superstition, athletes will do interesting things for a little extra luck, and UConn Huskies are no exception. Read on to learn about what some UConn student-athletes do to get their heads in the game.

Watch these athletes and their teammates get game-ready at s.uconn.edu/superstition.
Roisin Upton ’16 (CLAS), a team captain from Limerick, Ireland, likes to wear something that reminds her of home every time she plays: an Ireland wristband. But she says her most important good-karma ritual is something Coach Nancy Stevens encouraged her to do. “At the start of each season, I write the initials of who I play for on my stick,” she says. The initials of her mom, dad, and two brothers, who always cheered her on back home, are most important. “It is important for me to have them on my stick,” says Upton, “to remember how lucky I am to have their support and to do my best to make them proud while I am here on this amazing adventure.”

Baseball

Third baseman Willy Yahn ’18 (ACES) wears a long-sleeved undershirt to every game, regardless of temperature, because he has been doing it since he was 11 years old. He says it’s his good-luck charm. “I haven’t practiced or played a game without long sleeves in about nine years.”

Other than that, though, you’d be hard-pressed to get a Husky baseball player to admit to any talisman, says Coach Jim Penders. Baseball players are the kings and queens of ritual and superstition, which is underscored by the bit of baseball lore that claims revealing any superstition is sure to jinx it!

Hockey

To get the crowd fired up at UConn home meets, the team has used the same tried-and-true routine for years: They enter single file to the sounds of Ozzy Osbourne’s “Crazy Train,” and do a cheer at the middle of the pool. Then one of the swimmers, such as Greg Baliko ’16 (CLAS) leads a “U-C-O-N-N, UConn! UConn! UConn!” shout-out from the 3-meter diving board. Insanity ensues.

Swimming & Diving

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Field Hockey

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Softball

This squad’s infield and outfield groups have pre-game traditions they say are more for fun than superstition. The infield players stack their gloves on the foul line before every game and, after the team huddle breaks up, the third baseman or shortstop tosses the gloves to each player as they take their positions. Meanwhile, the outfield players have a secret handshake that ends with them shouting a pump-up word or phrase, such as “Together!” or “Dog House!” Each new team adds its own twist.

“We do all of it to create a sense of unity and to add a little bit of extra fun to our warm-ups,” says Heather Pyle ’16 (CLAS). “When you come off the field from warm-ups feeling loose, there is a pretty good chance you are going to take it into the game.” (Find a picture of Heather on page 2.)
Alana Pearl ‘18 (CLAS), a distance runner, buys a new pair of socks each year and then wears them to every race. Nope, she doesn’t wash them — ever.

Megan Chapman ‘16 (CLAS), who throws the discus and hammer for outdoor track and the weight for indoor, must be ready from head to toe. She always wears mismatched Disney socks and braids her hair into a bun set to one side of her head for luck.

For these student-athletes, accessories are about more than looking good for a meet — these women believe the right studs could make or break their performance.

Odrine Belot ‘16 (CLAS), a conference champion jumper, claims she has to wear pink laces on the shoe of her dominant jump leg (the right one). She also says she “won’t feel comfortable” unless she eats Welch’s fruit snacks and fruit belts before she jumps — she believes they fend off her nervousness and keep her alert.

Annie Belanger ‘18 (BUS) has a few good-luck habits — she only re-tapes her hockey stick if she loses, and has separate sticks for practice and play. But it’s her pre-game ritual that takes things to the extreme. She swears she follows this exact routine each and every game day:

10 a.m.: Wake up. Put on track suit. Get breakfast with the team.

After breakfast:
Sleep for 45 minutes.
Wake up.
Put headphones on; listen to pre-game playlist #1 while walking in circles dribbling a tennis ball.

“If anyone tries to talk to me at that point, I probably won’t even notice,” says Belanger. “I do that until I’m in a good mindset to play. It usually takes 40 to 50 minutes.”

Get dressed.
Go to the rink.
Change into warm-up clothes. Wear a hat, only when away from the net.
Head into an empty locker room and listen to pre-game playlist #2, while dribbling the tennis ball until 1:23.

1:25 p.m.: Team meeting. Team warm-up. Play soccer to de-stress and have fun.
Get dressed in official gear. Everything goes on the left first — skate, knee pad — then the right. Before the helmet, put on the purple bathing cap. [That cap is the same one she’s worn for every game since she began playing at 9 years old.]

Game time.

Cross Country/Track

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Alana Pearl ‘18 (CLAS), a distance runner, buys a new pair of socks each year and then wears them to every race. Nope, she doesn’t wash them — ever.
June heat radiated from the nighttime pavement as Glenn Smith ’87 (CLAS) sprinted past the palmettos and live oaks swaying anxiously in the beam of Charleston, S.C., streetlights. His flip-flops smacked the soles of his feet, their harried slapping sound bouncing off the city’s single-style houses and rapidly replacing the rhythm of acoustic guitars and beer-fortified singing that had so recently surrounded him.

Glenn’s wife, Kitty, pulling clothes out of the dryer upstairs, heard his urgent words as he burst in — “Lock the doors and stay inside, the shooter’s still out there,” — and he was gone again, running, as always, toward the danger.

Around the block, people clogged the street before the tall white church, milling, wailing, falling over one another. Police passed, perched with M16s cocked on the hoods of slow-moving cruisers, combing the surrounding streets. A church member said he’d seen Reverend Pinckney rushed down the steps on a stretcher. The coroner emerged from an arriving truck with four of her deputies. Smith questioned, scribbled, tweeted, snapped cellphone photos, and finally hurried to his office by 11 p.m. By 1 a.m., the stories by him and his colleagues were written and the paper went to press only about an hour late; by 7 a.m., it was on Charleston doorsteps. The headline read: Church shooting kills 9 — Manhunt on for suspect after ‘hate crime’ shooting at Emanuel AME.

What began as an evening of music and microbrews with neighborhood friends capped a long year colored by violence for the special projects editor at South Carolina’s largest newspaper, The Post and Courier. Smith’s state had seen unparalleled domestic abuse, fatal police brutality, and now a mass racist killing.

Smith’s determination to run toward scenes of heartbreak such as this is nothing new. What is new is the fact that he has recently been recognized for doing so, for pushing his state to enact reform, and in the process earning a Pulitzer Prize.

Glenn Smith ’87 (CLAS) believes in the power of good community journalism to effect lasting change. It’s what drives him toward scenes of violence — including the killings at the Emanuel AME church, which he helped cover for The Post and Courier in Charleston, South Carolina.
In September 2013, for the third year running, the Violence Policy Center of Washington, D.C. named South Carolina as one of the states with the highest rate of women killed by men. A domestic violence coalition held a conference call and invited all state representatives.

Smith was the only reporter who called. “I wondered, has the state gotten so numb to this that it’s no longer a story?” she recalls.

Now an editor for a team of reporters, Smith says he wanted “to tell this story in a way it hadn’t been told before.” His team spent eight months interviewing domestic abuse survivors, lawmakers, police, and social workers; building databases using police reports, court records and interviews; and plotting details of abusive men on maps.

The investigation, published the following August, revealed that more than 300 women had died at the hands of abusive men in the previous decade, and while a person could serve up to five years for homicide to a dog, domestic violence carried a maximum penalty of just 30 days in jail.

The announcer intoned, “Til Death Do Us Part,” revealed poorly trained police, inadequate punishment, little funding for support programs, and entrenched religious beliefs about marriage, all adding up to a “corrosive stew,” according to Mitch Pugh, The Post and Courier’s editor-in-chief.

Dozens of bills had failed in committees in the preceding decade:

“On one side, you have someone being blue-gowned with an ax, and on the other, the legal system is declaring barbecuing the state food,” Smith says.

The attorney general pledged that 2014 would be the year for comprehensive domestic violence reform. The legislature cobbled together reform bills, each tackling another area of concern in the provisions, such as gun bans and tiered systems of punishment.

“We were at every remote subcommittee hearing meeting,” says Smith. “We let them know we were watching, and we were going to see this to the finish line.”

Over the next six months, he and his colleagues wrote more than 60 follow-up stories, interviewing tens of thousands of people, reported by 30 April, who died at the hands of partners while lawmakers debated the details of reform. Then, on April 4, an unarmed black man was shot dead by a police officer, who claimed self-defense, in North Charleston. These days, an anonymous tipper handed Smith a video depicting Officer Michael Slager shooting Walter Scott as he fled a routine traffic stop. The ensuing national outrage redoubled the already massive media presence camped out outside North Charleston City Hall.

Smith and his colleagues didn’t sleep much. “Times like those, these days, are a major reason hometown newspapers exist,” she says.

“We’re the local guys, so we needed to get it right,” he says. “We’re the only ones who can tell these stories with the right context, because we live here.”

That led to

**A TRUSTWORTHY BOY**

As a boy in Wethersfield, Conn., Smith spent mornings at the kitchen table, sipping coffee and reading sections of the Hartford Courant with his father. Teenage Smith played classic rock in garage bands, frequented Hartford used-music stores, and drew makeshift sketchnotes. He was considering a career in art until his father intervened.

“He said, ‘Glenn, you should go into journalism. That’s where the money is.’ Smith chuckles. ‘He didn’t know a lot about journalism.”

Smith declared a Journalism major as a freshman at UConn in 1983. The first article he wrote came back with a failing grade, with big marks off for style. But his second draft earned a B+.

During his senior year, Maureen Croteau saw potential when he began stopping by the Journalism office to say hello.

“He had this way of speaking and implicitly. That’s a great gift for a journalist,” says Pardue.

Croteau guided him to an internship with The Post and Courier, where Smith was the only reporter who could tell these stories with the right context, because we live here.

**THE HIGHEST HONOR**

Smith’s team was immersed in a series that would reveal 235 South Carolina police-violence shootings in the previous six years when they passed for an after

“The newsroom was filled with flat-screens, TVs, and the chairman of their board and the company president joined the staff around the wares of kitten. Norvally saying several bottles of champagne, they tuned in to the Pulitzer Prize’s YouTube channel. “Til Death Do Us Part” was nominated in the Professional, Service category: the most prestigious Pulitizer and the only one that comes with a gold medal. “It put it out of my mind,” says Smith about the possibility that they might win a Pulitzer.

“What helped it was to think that we had a shot.”

Three minutes into the streaming video, the room erupted.

“It’s one thing to win a Pulitzer at a place where they win them all the time,” says Croteau, alluding to The New York Times and The Washington Post. “This was a Pulitzer won by people at a good newspaper, not by its fashion, but because it tells stories about these issues. This is where they win them all the time,” says Croteau.

In his acceptance speech, Smith is grateful to have landed “a good gig” at a family-owned newspaper that values telling human stories. The amount of respect Smith commands in the community is “awesome,” says Pardue.

“The kind of dogged, relentless, prying reporting that Glenn is known for has made a substantial difference, time and time again.”

Post-Pulitzer, Smith’s objective is to convince people that he and his team aren’t “a one-trick pony.” Their August 2015 series on the harmful consequences of school choice evoked controversy in the state’s Department of Education, and during the devastating flood, Smith interviewed locals navigating downtown on boats and paddleboards.

Pardue says that because Smith “can’t shake being a cop reporter,” he’ll be running toward danger until old age stops him. “He’s probably right,” according to Smith. “There are so many stories left to do.”

**THE COMMUNITY PAGES**

Three weeks later, Smith was stunned by those old classic rock tunes in a friend’s living room when his phone buzzed.

“Get to that church near your house,” his co-worker said. “Nine people are dead.”

Throughout his career, Smith’s focus has been simple: “Get it right.” Pardue says Smith’s fact and tell accurate stories, and do it with sensitivity, humanity, context and meaning.

In the week following the murder of nine black people at a church prayer circle, many national news organizations focused on the white gunman and his racist manifesto. But on Sunday, June 21, The Post and Courier’s front page had only an image of nine palm leaves twisted into roses, with a poem individually memorializing the nine victims.

“These were our neighbors, these were our friends,” says Smith. “They were so much more important than the shooter.”

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According to research by UConn Communication professors Amanda Denes and Rory McGloin and student Olivia Kamisher, men judge very attractive women as less trustworthy than average women when they view them in photographs. But they’re still willing to date them.

The research was inspired by online dating apps, such as Tinder, in which you merely look at a photo and swipe “yes” or “no.” From this briefest of judgments, Tinder matches you up. It would seem that the more attractive you can make yourself look in a photo, the more dates you can potentially get. And this does seem to be the case for both men and women, according to Denes and McGloin. But for women posting pictures, it comes with a caveat. “You don’t want to portray yourself as so attractive you can’t be real,” says Denes. In other words: If you really look like that, why do you need online dating?

On the other hand, men did not seem to suffer from this perception problem. Women who saw an enhanced male subject’s picture rated him more trustworthy and date-able than the same male subject in a natural-state or dressed-down picture. Denes and McGloin speculate that perhaps men have fewer options for self-enhancement than women.

The researchers used pictures of just two people in the study, one man and one woman. Each person had two photos taken of them: one in a “natural” state, and the other “beautified” — dressed up and more well-groomed, with makeup and/or hair styling, for instance. Study participants saw just one photo, and had to rate the person on attractiveness, trustworthiness and date-ability.

In the future, the researchers hope to do a more nuanced study that looks at several in-between points to suss out how much smart clothing and better grooming really matter, and whether there’s a perfect point of enhancement.

Additionally, because this study was done with photographs, it’s not yet clear how far these results can be trusted off-line in the real world.

To play an interactive Hot or Trustworthy game that reveals who those folks pictured are, go to s.uconn.edu/hotortrustworthy.
This past summer I was lucky to be in Tokyo during a major moment in modern Japanese history. For the first time in more than 50 years, Japanese citizens poured onto the streets in regular protest, beginning in groups of several hundred last June and growing to demonstrations of more than 100,000 people by the end of September.

Protestors were seeking to preserve the law of their land, specifically the war-renouncing Article 9 of the country’s constitution. In the wee hours of Sept. 19, the administration and its supporters had moved ahead to enact new security legislation known as “collective self-defense,” despite opinion polls, demonstrations, and emergency meetings of senior lawmakers that indicated a wide majority of Japanese citizens opposed the legislation. The moment is forever recorded in photographs on front pages around the world of a fist-fighting melee inside parliament and tens of thousands outside in the rain shouting, “No way! No war!”

It was important to me as a historian, if nothing else, to observe and mingle among the protestors on several occasions in order to better grasp the significance of what will be missed in books of the future that might simply state, “New security legislation was enacted in September 2015.”

Keeping the Peace

Since its devastating defeat in World War II, Japan’s self-definition has rested powerfully on Article 9, which forfeits war as a sovereign right and for many equals national identity.

By early summer, a growing percentage of the Japanese population was realizing that their current government was poised to change all that. For a host of reasons — not in the least the way parliamentary voting works in Japan — opposition politicians failed and the ruling party was able to ram through special legislation that would forever redirect the nation’s peaceful international posture.

The truly rich and diverse cross-section of people on the streets made clear a broad refusal to accept this new policy for Japan. Opinion poll after opinion poll revealed and continues to reveal that a majority of Japanese agrees with the protestors and, as of this typing in late fall, tens of thousands — even hundreds of thousands — continue to demonstrate, and remain committed to preserving a decidedly anti-war stance for Japan.

Different from many mass protest movements around the world, whose participants seek sweeping changes to the structure of their societies, the
To accomplish the aim of the Japanese constitution, its framers would have to renounce war as a sovereign act, or use of force as means of maintaining international peace based on justice and order, the right of peaceful coexistence among states, and the way of resolving international disputes peacefully. 

In the wider context, the “Peace Constitution” became a rallying cry. Noticeably, thousands of law scholars in Japan, including my colleague, Keigo Komamura of Keio University, Professor Komamura argues that, sure, we Japanese know that the Abe administration’s notion of “collective self-defense” exceeds the constitutionally-permitted limits of Article 9. They argued that the bills also exceed the definition of peacekeeping efforts under United Nations command and humanitarian relief work, which a majority of Japanese also supports. 

Although the professors would only temporarily halt the legislative process, their collective moment in the spotlight taught the nation that something was awry and provided a strong boost of legitimacy to the claims that the then-small numbers of protesters were making on the streets.

Within days, “Preserve the Constitution” became a rallying cry. Noticeably, the age of the demonstrators grew younger, and the actions spread throughout the country.

One group calling itself “SEALDs” (Students’ Emergency Action for Liberal Democracy) captured the nation’s attention through its refreshing hipster style and pacifist spin on French revolution language and images. The haywire of centuries past became megaphones, with rallying cries like: Tell Me What Democracy Looks Like! This is What Democracy Looks Like!

ARGUMENT

THE BAYONETS OF CENTURIES PAST BECAME MEGAPHONES, WITH RALLYING CRIES LIKE: TELL ME WHAT DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE! THIS IS WHAT DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE!

Women Red

ARGUMENT

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Welcome to UConn Nation!

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Everywhere you go, everywhere you look, you can feel the enthusiasm for everything Husky. I am truly honored to be a member of UConn Nation at a time when there is so much to celebrate. From excellence in the classrooms, laboratories, and athletic venues to the amazing stories of our alumni, faculty, staff, and students, there is no ceiling on where we are headed.

We are well aware that these successes would not be possible without a strong, supportive, and engaged alumni community. We are indebted to all of you. As we look ahead, we have set a new goal: to improve how we connect and reconnect our alumni — all 241,000 — back to UConn.

Through the leadership of President Susan Herbst and the University Board of Trustees, we are exploring a new model of interacting with our friends and graduates. We want to connect with you, wrap you back into the UConn community, and want to be strategic about how we communicate with you. Among the changes we hope will make a difference:

- The new alumni office is no longer a dues-charging membership organization. With the dissolution of the former Alumni Association — thanks to an overwhelming vote of confidence earlier this summer by our alumni — we are moving forward to involve you in your alma mater. We appreciate the 13,000 alumni who paid membership dues in the past; however, we feel without dues, the entire alumni community will find more reasons to stay linked to UConn Nation.

- An alumni services platform is in place to benefit UConn alumni, including enhanced networking programs for career and admissions assistance.

- With alumni relations activities now a part of the UConn Foundation, operations are more streamlined and cost effective. That means more coordinated and meaningful communications, including the updated Alumni Insider e-newsletter that enables alumni to register for nearby events, in this newly designed UConn Magazine, with plenty of information about the latest campus activities and news of your fellow Huskies.

All of this is possible because of our new structure. I welcome your feedback and look forward to working with you as, together, we strengthen and grow our UConn Nation!

M. Cotton Kelley
NATIONAL PUPPETRY FESTIVAL COMES TO UCONN

Yearly 50 alumni and current students participated in the 2015 National Puppetry Festival, which was held in Storrs last August to kick off the 50th year of UConn’s internationally renowned Puppetry Arts Program. About 600 puppetists from 12 nations on five continents and 40 U.S. states attended the festival from the communities of America, which was highlighted by a whirlwind week of puppet-related activities including workshops, master classes and performances. The last time UConn hosted the festival was in 1970, when it was chaired by the legendary founder of the Puppet Arts Program, Frank W. Ballard. This year the festival director was Robert Bloom, who has been named the artistic director of the National Puppet Arts Festival and a co-founder of the festival. "It was a whirlwind week of puppet-related activities including workshops, master classes and performances," said Ballard, who is now a professor at the Rhode Island School of Design. "We had a great turnout of participants from all over the world." The festival featured a variety of performances, including a parade, a puppet parade, a puppet show, a puppet workshop, and a puppet competition. The festival also included a puppet-making workshop where participants could create their own puppets. "We had a lot of fun," said Ballard. "It was a great way to celebrate the festival and to bring together puppeteers from all over the world." The festival was sponsored by the UConn Foundation and the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development. "The festival was a great success," said Ballard. "We had a lot of fun and everyone had a great time." The festival was held at the UConn Performing Arts Center. "We had a lot of fun," said Ballard. "It was a great way to celebrate the festival and to bring together puppeteers from all over the world."
involved in the program. He visits the students in London and then keeps tabs on their acting progress after they return to Storrs.

McDonald says he decided to become a major benefactor of the program in part because he wanted to expose students to the rigors of trying to make it as professional actors living in a major city.

“Lots of our students come from small towns in eastern or western Connecticut or Massachusetts and they really have had no experience with a metropolis,” says McDonald. “A lot of our students get worn out by trying to make it in New York. I wanted them to have an experience of living in a foreign country in a capital city. ‘They, just about to a person, start crying when they tell me how life-changing this experience is,’” he says.

—GRACE MERRITZ

KOSSOVO CAMPUS?

Air National Guard alums stationed in Kosovo raised the Husky flag just before Veterans’ Day. From left Capt. Chris Barker, a graduate of Norwich University, who was a Senior Military Science Instructor at UConn from May 2012 to July 2014, and says he considers himself “a Husky at heart;” 1st Lt. Brian Cole ‘52 (CLAS), Maj. Stephan Nowakowski, ‘98 (CLAS); 1st Lt. Krista Yaglowski, ‘98 (BUS), Capt. Christopher Gilib ‘11 (BUS); Capt. Matthew Marcella ‘98 (CLAS), and Lt. Col. Jeffrey LaPierre ‘96 (CLAS).

“I would say your wildest dreams can come true,” says Michael Jann ‘90 (CLAS), “because mine did.”

Thirty-five years ago, when the Fairfield, Conn., native started penning a regular column in UConn’s humor newspaper The Forum, Jann says he could not have imagined the foray would lead to a 22-year career as a monologue writer for “The Tonight Show.”

The column was a Dear Abby spoof called Dear Uncle Bart, “in which I tried to come up with the worst advice I could think of,” says Jann from his home in westlake Village, Calif., outside of Los Angeles. “And that’s what changed my life.”

His first installment for the now-defunct publication began with a fictional student asking for his advice after someone stole her type writer, a definitive machine that always typed the letter “T” in uppercase. Uncle Bart replied, “You’ve said it all. It’s a sad world we live in when privaTe properTy isn’t respecTed.”

Yet out of his college path to humor and writing was a curious one. Jann entered UConn in the pre-veterinary program, but changed his major after getting a D in a required freshman year course. He says he wanted to create an individualized major in Natural Resources Conservation and English, but needed the administration’s permission.

“I went up to them and said, ‘I want to combine Natural Resources Conservation and English, because I might have a TV show like Marlin Perkins’ Wild Kingdom,’” Jann recalls. “They said, ‘That makes sense.’”

After graduation he entered advertising thinking it would be a temporary gig that would allow him to pursue comedy writing in his free time. Ten years later, despite credits with National Lampoon and “Nick at Nite,” he remained stuck in advertising. “I was fired in four different cities by four different agencies, but I was always distracted with trying to be a comedy writer.”

Big Break

Then his lucky break arrived. Jay Leno began host testing for Johnny Carson on “The Tonight Show” and he solicited jokes from freelancers via fax. Jann’s first successful submission came in August 1990, right after the first Gulf War started. “Did you hear about Saddam Hussein’s new weapon? The stealth camel!” Jann recalls. “Leno’s production team passed it on, and Leno was hired as a full-time writer and moved to L.A.”

“In the course of a day I’d write twenty or thirty or forty jokes. In twenty-two years I wrote him literally a hundred thousand jokes and he told me ten thousand of them on the air,” Jann says. “And three of them were funny.”

Brushes With Fame

During his time in London, Jann saw most of the biggest names in the country: presidents, movie stars, musicians. “I can never go to a concert again, because I got to see every one of them at a distance of ten feet,” says Jann. “I think the best guest we ever had was David Bowie, who in his prime was just the funniest guy in the world.”

And who would his UConn-era self have been most excited to see? “Cindy Crawford was on the show and she happened to be walking down the hallway straight toward me. She had been my ‘91 Girl. She was wearing a red dress and high heels,” says Jann. “It was like Godzilla was walking toward me. I think I fell down and passed out.”

Following Leno’s finale, Jann began contributing jokes to successor Jimmy Fallon. He was one of the writers named in the show’s nomination for Outstanding Writing for a Variety Series at the 2014 Emmy Awards, though they lost to “The Colbert Report.”

Jann, who still roots for Husky basketball, gives this advice to those wishing to emulate his path in the entertainment industry: “Never give up, never give up, never give up. I couldn’t have given up. I went into advertising thinking it would be temporary, like maybe it would take a year. I went into advertising thinking it would be temporary, like maybe it would take a year. I would have most excited to see, you know?”

—JESSE RYFFON ‘94 (CLAS)

SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

RYAN SHEA ’17

Ah, London. What better place to learn about Shakespearean acting? UConn drama student Ryan Shea ’17 (GFA) did just that, spending the fall semester at the Theatre Academy London training to wield a sword in stage combat, among other things.

Shea was one of 10 juniors who made the trip, which was funded through a scholarship from Robert A. McDonald, a retired dramatic arts professor who taught at UConn for 24 years. The fund offsets the cost of studying abroad so that all juniors in the acting program can spend a semester in London.

Shea says his favorite London class was Intro to Physical Theatre and Comedy, which explored dynamics among other things. “They, just about to a person, start crying when they tell me how life-changing this experience is,” he says.

—GRACE MERRITZ

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

COMEDY WRITER FOR LENO & FALLON STARTED AT UCONN

Michael Jann ‘90 (CLAS) at the Tonight Show with Conan O’Brien. Courtesy of Michael Jann
An environmental engineer who earned his Ph.D at UConn has been named a 2015 MacArthur Fellow.

Kartik Chandran ’99 Ph.D received the no-strings ‘genius grant’ for his work to transform wastewater not just into clean water, but also into useful resources, such as fertilizers, chemicals, and energy sources.

Traditional facilities for biologically treating wastewater use decades-old technology that requires vast amounts of energy and resources, releases harmful gases into the atmosphere, and leaves behind material that must be discarded.

The key insight of Chandran’s research is that certain combinations of mixed microbial communities, similar to those that occur naturally, can be used to mitigate the harmful environmental impacts of wastewater and extract useful products.

“My years at UConn created a base for the kinds of ideas I do now,” wrote Chandran, who is now at Columbia University, in an article for the School of Engineering’s newsletter Momentum in 2012, “and the concepts, ideologies, and work ethic that I learned while at UConn permeate my activities even today.”

**WHAT’S NEW**

**TONY RIZZA ’87 HELPS FUND A NEW SOCCER STADIUM**

When Tony Rizza ’87 (BUS) came to UConn and joined the men’s soccer team, Morrone Stadium was a premiere location to play soccer. “It held eight thousand fans and, during the late seventies and eighties, we would, on average, fill that place,” recalls Rizza.

It was the era of Coach Joseph Morrone who put UConn soccer in the national spotlight, winning the team’s first NCAA championship in 1983 and transforming the program during his UConn career from 1969 to 1996, creating the legacy that has seen both men’s and women’s teams rank in the top 20 for the past 30 years. Today the stadium still draws crowds, but high-quality soccer programs with bigger and better facilities are springing up across the country. To stay competitive, Rizza says his experience on the men’s soccer team gave him life skills that have helped him in his career.

“Coach Morrone was a very significant figure in my life,” says Rizza. “He demanded excellence. He required you to be pre pared, to be disciplined, and to have a winning mentality. Those are things you take with you everywhere.” — Grace Merritt

For more information or to make a donation to the soccer stadium, contact Mike Morrison at (860)486-9618 or mmorrison@foundation.uconn.edu.

**HUNGRY FOR MORE**

Mario Leite ’98 (CLAS) never imagined he’d combine his undergraduate Molecular and Cell Biology degree with his MBA to become an award-winning ice cream maker. But that’s exactly what the UConn grad did after he lost his banking job in August 2011.

Newfound leisure time reconnected Leite to a long-time passion for ice cream-making. He added fresh-brewed Earl Grey tea to a childhood recipe and everyone who tried it loved it. Leite kept making more and increasing the circle of family and friends who sampled it. And then he had his “aha moment.”

“In October 2011, I saw an article in Family Circle about increasing trends in tea-infused foods and it all came together,” he says.

Making the first pint of Tearrific Ice Cream, however, proved difficult. The originality of Leite’s concept meant not many professionals in the industry knew how to infuse premium, all-natural ice cream with fresh-brewed tea. Leite turned to the UConn Dairy Bar, where they helped him concoct a sweet cream base using natural dairy ingredients, sugar, and eggs.

At Tearrific’s Bridgeport facility, Leite and his wife, Souvannee Leite ’98 (BUS), learned how to make cold-pressed ginger juice, blueberry puree, and fresh-brewed tea to add to the cream base. Leite’s Tearrific Teas® are now available in more than 200 stores, including Whole Foods.

The brand has won national awards, is on the brink of entering the international market, and is about to add Matcha Green Tea to its list of flavors that includes both London Mists as well as Ginger Matcha, Masala Chai, Lavender’s Blueberry, and Chamomile. But Leite says he is hungry for more.

“We want to be the global leader of tea-infused ice cream, and to have a space in every supermarket,” he says. — ABBIE MACE ’98 (CLAS)
FOUR QUESTIONS FOR...

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SUE BIRD ’02

Before she turned 30, Sue Bird ’02 (CLAS) had won two high school state championships in New York, two NCAA titles (at UConn of course), two WNBA titles (with the Seattle Storm) and two Olympic gold medals (for Team USA coached by UConn women’s basketball coach Geno Auriemma). At age 35, Bird is in her fifteenth season with the Storm and is expected to head to Rio in 2016 to lead Team USA on a quest for a sixth consecutive gold medal. She stays tight with her alma mater, too, having just been appointed to the UConn Foundation Board of Directors. She spoke with UConn Magazine from her home in Greenwich, Conn.

You’ve stood on a lot of podiums and been presented with a lot of medals and trophies. Which has made you feel the most emotional?

When you’re at the Olympics and they start playing the anthem, it’s such a tearjerker. You’ve seen it since you were a kid and now you’re there, it’s a defining moment. But visibly crying, people seeing the emotion? I think it was my senior year, hugging Coach Auriemma after that last game. I was young. I’d been through a lot. I tore my ACL freshman year — and then to have everything finish the way it did, essentially perfect.

How does that ’02 Huskies Geno compare to Team USA Geno?

UConn Geno is always gonna be UConn Geno. He’s dealing with kids — I was one of those kids. He’s trying to groom you, to set a foundation not just for those four years, but for life. So he’s hard on you and he’s nitpicky and sometimes it comes across as harsh but he’s setting that foundation. You feel much more equal when he’s in his national team role. He treats us as adults because we are. He’s as open to learning from us as we are to learning from him. We were just talking about that.

According to him, he sees that at our level there are a lot of tough teams, tough games. We’re constantly playing against good players and we know you need to stay on an even keel — you can’t get too high when it’s going good or too low when it’s going bad. He sees that and says he’s more calm because of it. Of course I see him on the sidelines at UConn games and he’s still very verbal!

You’ve recently become an ESPN commentator. In that role, if you could ask Geno one question he had to answer absolutely honestly what would it be?

I’ve been in this position and I’m not going to ask the one I did ask [which was the best UConn team] because he made fun of me. After the 2012 Olympics he came out and was adamant about not ever coaching the Olympic team again. I want to know what made him say that in the first place and what made him change his tune. I know what he says in the media but he has to answer this honestly, right?

Give us a highest/lowest/weirdest when it comes to Geno?

Highest: We played at St. John’s my senior year. I’m from New York and my family really wanted to have the team over for dinner. Coach moved everything around to make it happen. Lowest: That would be like every other day. Laugh. Cause he was so hard on me. But, no, a low would be: I’m at practice at Gampel and you know how people are always walking through that concourse? Well some football player or something is walking through and I’m throwing a no-look pass and Coach is yelling at me: ‘Whats the matter with you?  What are you looking at? Are you looking at him?’ Then he yells at this guy: ‘You can’t come through here anymore — Sue Bird can’t stop looking at you.’ Everybody was laughing, except me. I was embarrassed. Weirdest: Every time he tries to dance. — LISA STIEPOCK

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Investing in our future

Raised in a steel town near Pittsburgh, Harry Hartley was aware from a young age of how financial constraints could limit one’s options. “I saw a great need for financial assistance way back then for students who couldn’t afford to go to college.” That’s why Hartley, former UConn president and his wife, Dianne, are giving $250,000 for need-based scholarships through a planned bequest.

To learn more about giving scholarships through your estate, call 860.486.6135 or visit foundation.uconn.edu.

“We’re investing in people...and I think it has a great return.”
– Harry Hartley

A Planned Bequest

From former UConn President, Harry Hartley

For more of our interview with Sue Bird, go to s.uconn.edu/suebird.

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For more of our interview with Sue Bird, go to s.uconn.edu/suebird.
1. When it snows at Storrs, no one works harder than the Facilities staff, which has to clear 25 miles of road, 63 miles of sidewalks, and 139 acres of parking lot. During the last winter, how much snow did they remove from campus?
   A: 5,000 tons
   B: 10,000 tons
   C: 15,000 tons
   D: 20,000 tons

2. Many people believe the Husky was chosen as UConn's mascot because “UConn” sounds like the arctic “Yukon.” The name was actually chosen in 1934, when the school was known as Connecticut State College, because students liked to joke that campus was as cold as the aforementioned Canadian territory. Prior to 1934, the school's athletic teams had several nicknames. Which of these was not one of them?
   A: The Aggies
   B: The Nathan Hales
   C: The Orangemen
   D: The Statesmen

3. From 1948 to 1979, springtime at UConn meant the Campus Community Carnival. One of the most distinctive features of the carnival was the WHUS marathon, in which disc jockeys would play an irritating song until students called in to pledge money and have their requests played instead. What was the name of the annoying ditty that prompted so many thousands of dollars to go to charity?
   A: The Gong-Gong Song
   B: Tiptoe Through the Tulips
   C: The UConn Husky Polka
   D: The Chipmunk Song

4. Hawley Armory currently serves as a fitness and wellness center. But when it opened for the first time on May 28, 1915, what activity was held there?
   A: A basketball game
   B: Military training
   C: Commencement ceremonies
   D: A dance