The Next Wave

Thomas Katsouleas, UConn’s 16th President
Inspired by the “LAX” sign at Los Angeles International Airport, UConn’s newest waypost sits along Route 195 in Storrs on the north end of campus. The 8-foot-high, 2-foot-deep letters were installed just in time for the Class of 2019’s memorialization and merriment.
FEATURES

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Meet Thomas Katsouleas, UConn’s 16th president, who takes the helm on Aug. 1. By Stephanie Retz

SHOW RUNNER
The executive producer of “NCIS: Nightly News with Lester Holt,” Jenn Sanzo ’99 (CLAS) says she directs each episode as if it were a ballet. By Julia M. Klein

THE FORTUNATE ONES
The horseshoe crab has not evolved in 450 million years. A team at UConn is mapping its DNA to find out why and to save a consummate survivor that’s suddenly threatened. By Kim Krieger

MASTER CLASS
Grammy-winning composer Kenneth Fuchs shares with his students the lessons he’s learned from industry giants — and from his beloved high school band director. By Kenneth Best

TEAM IMPACT: A WINNING WAY TO HEAL
This program recruits children facing serious illnesses onto college athletic teams. With the most pairings in the U.S., UConn’s athletes and kids agree the benefits are life-changing. By Elizabeth Omara-Otunnu

SECTIONS

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Catching up with Sen. Chris Murphy, a law school alum; the rising senior who was named both a Truman and a Udall scholar; a rising junior who practices with the UConn Women’s Basketball team; baby swing trees; the Senior Scoop; lots of books; and more.

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WEB EXTRAS

magazine.uconn.edu

HOT DIGGITY DOG
See Oscar Mayer Wienermobile driver Gabriella Medwick ’18 (SFA) driving in New York City and hear her sing the song.

AND THE WINNER IS...
Tune into the UConn 360 podcast to hear Grammy-winning composer Kenneth Fuchs.

SPEAKING OF WINNERS
See video of the message Team Impact’s Daniela recorded for Geno from the hospital and more from these heroic kids.

U-C-O-N-N
A new sign = a new selfie op.

SURF’S UP
Behind the scenes on our gnarly cover shoot.

BABY HORSESHOE CRABS
Watch them flip and fold.

NOW PLAYING: ELSA NOCNOTON

Elsa Nocton has not quite hit teenagerdom and yet she has headlined the Hard Rock Café in New York City and is a member of the UConn Women’s Volleyball Team.

Typical of girls her age, Elsa talks a mile a minute. Her pile of homework is spread out on the couch where she never sits. Instead she bounces in front of me, spreading and twirling her arms for emphasis — whenever they aren’t busy scooping up and danging one of her four cats. She’s telling me about singing at the Hard Rock Café for a fundraiser in which she helped garner more than a million dollars for the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, a summer camp in Ashford, Connecticut, for seriously ill children and their families.

Elsa has a neuromuscular disease that causes chronic pain and fatigue. She can’t recall a day in her 12 years without pain. “There’s some everyday stuff that’s super simple for other kids I can’t do,” she says, “like putting up my hair. I have a lot of trouble even like brushing my teeth or making my lunch, opening things.”

She says she tries hard to stay positive: “I know so many camp kids who have it harder.” But getting through her school day with a good attitude means, “I’ll come home and I’m super, super, super cranky.” Her mother nods and laughs while filling a bowl with food for their rescue pit bull mix.

It was the kids at Hole in the Wall who told Elsa about Team Impact, an organization that pairs kids who have chronic or serious illnesses with college athletic teams. UConn has the most pairings in the country (see page 36).

“One of the best things in my life is being part of that team,” says Elsa. “Even though the kids at my school are super nice, they don’t really understand. These girls are like 18, so they’re much more understanding and know how to deal with it. They’re basically like my second family. Like my big group of sisters.”

Elsa joined the team last year and because she lives in Storrs, she not only goes to team games and practices, and tests and FaceTimes with the players but, she says, “sashaying from side to side, “We go out to the Dairy Bar a lot. The players say Elsa inspires them and helps them feel less homesick, too. When Anna Petrova ’21 (ACRS), whose sisters are far away with mom and dad in Voronezh, Russia, was given a class assignment on her favorite athlete, she wrote about Elsa.

Says Elsa: “It’s just so different when I’m with them, I can just relax. I don’t have to cover it up with a smile.”

From the Editor
Scores of you wrote in to tell us about bobcat sightings in your backyards. We heard, too, from grateful patients of our cover subject Dr. Alessi, enthusiastic clubbers lauding their favorites, and more. Find a sampling below.

Get in touch! Email me at lisa.stiepock@uconn.edu or post something on our website at magazine.uconn.edu.

LETTERS

The Knockout Doctor

"The best neurologist. He helped me get back on the field in 1994! Never forgot his care and safety!" Thanks, Dr. Alessi. Peter Connolly ’96 (CLAS), New Fairfield, Conn., via Instagram

Where the Wild Things Are

"Twice in the last week, we’ve seen a large bobcat walking on the ice in the pond behind our house — very beautiful. It seems much bigger than the one in your article. Too far away for a good photo, though.

Marylou Carlson Bradley ’69 (NUR), Storrs, Conn., via our website

The Reapers and the Flowers

"An inspiring article about a leader who’s making a meaningful difference — for the planet and also for so many people.

Margaret L. Winslow, Cambridge, Mass., via our website

Class Notes

"I entered UConn in the fall of 1967 and lived in “The Jungle.” There were two women’s dorms, as I remember, at the bottom right of The Jungle. Your story in Class Notes features 11 women, most of whom graduated in 1972, and says they were some of the first women to live in The Jungle. I graduated in 1971 and knew women from my class who lived there starting in 1967. The cures, locked doors, and house mothers were a reality. Robert J. Jambuck ’71 (SFA), Dumbarton, N.H., via our website

Clubbing

"You are all awesome! Jonathan The Husky (@jonathanhusky14), via Instagram

"I live in Aiken now and USCA has polo. I wish UConn could play them here. Go Huskies and Go Pacers!

Katherine Holmes Hovischer ’79 (CLAS), Aiken, S.C., via Instagram

"Aw, I’m so glad y’all [Revolution Against Rape] are still going strong and doing this important work.

Casey Healey ’16 (CLAS), Santa Elena, Ecuador, via Instagram

"Best program on campus [Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters]!

Jamie Moran ’18 (ED), Springfield, Mass., via Instagram

UPDATE

BABY SWING TREES

UConn’s beloved “swing tree” near Mirror Lake that graced the cover of our Spring 2018 magazine is now reaching the twilight of its natural life. However, it will live on through dozens of healthy seedlings that UConn horticulture professor Mark Brand has nurtured in a campus greenhouse since last fall.

The swing tree has been undergoing special treatment since last year when horticulturists noticed signs that indicated health problems, particularly when the upper portion of its crown failed to leaf out in springtime. Estimated at nearly 70 years old, it’s already relatively old for that type of tree — a Dahurian birch, also called Asian black birch. The tree had been home to two wooden swings since about 2010, and had become a popular meeting spot for friends and place for people to write in the journal that makes its home in a nearby mailbox.

Sadly, the tree’s crown again did not leaf out this spring, so while UConn will continue to care for and monitor it, the swings won’t return to that particular tree. —STEPHANIE REITZ

For more on the tree, the seedlings, and the journal go to s.uconn.edu/tree.

PENDERS BECOMES WINNINGEST BASEBALL COACH IN UCONN HISTORY

Jim Penders ’94 (CLAS), ’98 MS became the all-time winningest coach in UConn baseball in May when he picked up win #557 in New Orleans against Tulane by an 8-5 score. Penders, who has coached here for 16 years, surpassed the legendary Andy Baylock, who won 556 games between 1980-2003, and remains on staff today as the Director of Alumni and Community Affairs for the football team. Penders has led UConn to NCAA Championship appearances five times in the past nine years.
Outside Senator Chris Murphy’s Washington, D.C., office the cherry blossoms are in full bloom. Inside, the halls are buzzing with colleagues and reporters waiting to speak to Murphy ‘91 JD, who has just returned from a trip to Ireland “representing our interests in the Brexit debate, which includes protecting the Northern Ireland peace process.”

Elected to a second six-year term last November, Murphy also served six years in the House and eight in the Connecticut General Assembly. He’s known for dogged work on gun safety, income inequality, access to quality education and health care, and veterans’ rights. He’s also known for his annual summer strolls across the state, 100-plus miles of walking, talking, eating—and posting on Twitter. “It’s become Forrest Gumpish,” he says, “because you can find me if you follow social media, so people come and join. There are times when we literally have a roving town hall.”

Has social media changed the way you legislate? Though I regularly engage on Twitter, I generally don’t love the fact that we’ve been forced to condense our thoughts and policy proposals into a handful of characters. People get to see the real me on Facebook and Twitter, but there are a lot of times when I start to write a tweet about a complicated topic and then erase it, knowing there’s no way I can do it justice on Twitter. Not everybody has that restraint, so I worry that much of our dialogue is becoming oversimplified.

You say you’ve gotten up every morning since the Sandy Hook massacre committed to working on gun safety. What does that look like? I work internally as hard as I can, but really my focus is on building up the power of the anti-gun violence movement. I’ve become convinced that we’re probably going to need to win this issue by winning elections. It takes a lot of patience! Well, yeah, I mean, great social change movements don’t happen overnight. The social change movements you don’t read about are the ones that give up after 3 years or 5 years or 7 years.

You’ve helped Connecticut achieve the strongest gun safety laws in the country, right? Yes, and the nice thing is we did it by working with Republicans. We did it in a bipartisan way.

You and your wife met as UConn Law students. Is it a meet-cute story? I don’t even know what that means! We met at a bar in Hartford watching UConn beat Duke for the 1999 national basketball championship. I was a freshman state legislator at the time, so she got a mutual friend to introduce us. She wanted to lobby me on legislation to get loan repayment for students who wanted to work for legal aid.

That counts as “meet cute.” Did you get it for her? No, I don’t think it passed.

You both still have student loans. Do you think a decent education could cost less by the time your sons go to college in 7 or 8 years? If college inflation continues on its current pace, the year that my oldest is a freshman is the year that my undergraduate alma mater will hit $100,000 a year. I think the cost of college is an absolute crisis in this country, and my party is often too obsessed with student loans. We’ve got to have strategies to reduce, not just control, the cost of a college degree or we will bankrupt families and give up our one advantage as an economy, which is the quality of our workforce.

Did you really carry a briefcase, not a backpack? To Wethersfield High? No! No, I didn’t. I admit it’s not hard to believe, but it was a joke that one of my high school friends played on me talking to a reporter after I first won my seat, and it’s now part of the bio. I mean, I was president of my class, vice president of the debate club, I was a pretty serious student. But I did not carry a briefcase.

What are you reading right now? “Say Nothing,” about Northern Ireland. —LISA STIEPOCK

Chris Murphy with Hartford mayor Luke Bronin during Murphy’s annual Walk Across Connecticut last year.

UCONN NOW

LISA STIEPOCK

For more with Murphy, visit s.uconn.edu/murphy.

UCONN MAGAZINE | MAGAZINE.UCONN.EDU SUMMER 2019

figures courtesy of Chris Murphy’s Office

CHRIS MURPHY WALKS THE WALK

Photos courtesy of Chris Murphy’s Office

SUMMER 2019
On social media platforms, experts warn against sharing information of questionable authenticity. "The consequences of believing that vaccines cause harm are eminently more dangerous than believing that the Earth is flat."

- Niam Yaraghi, assistant professor of operations and information management, Brookings Institution, April 9, 2019

On the snake that developed a spider-like tail to lure prey, including lizards, frogs, even birds:

"It's one of those things that makes me feel awe in the power of natural selection."

- Kurt Schwenk, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, Discover Magazine, April 16, 2019

On children who are no longer considered to have autism spectrum disorder:

"There has to be something biologically different between those kids who, when given the same treatment, bloom, compared to those who stay the same. We just don't know what it is."


On reports revealing one million species are under threat of extinction thanks to humans:

"There's no one answer for the cause. It's death by a thousand cuts."

- David Wagner, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, “NBC News,” May 6, 2019

On phones posing a risk to our long-term health:

"Your cortisol levels are elevated when your phone is in sight or nearby, or when you hear it or even think you hear it. It's a stress response, and it feels unpleasant, and the body's natural response is to want to check the phone to make the stress go away."

- Peter J. Auster, research professor emeritus of marine sciences, The New York Times, April 24, 2019

On why social media platforms must combat fake content and hate speech by focusing on a limited number of topics:

"Hopefully it will help people realize this is a serious problem, and this is a real potential part of the solution."

- Marlene Schwartz, professor of human development and family sciences and director of the Rudd Center for Food Policy & Obesity, Popular Science, March 26, 2019

On the truth behind ancestry testing:

"The degree of genetic similarity can tell you if someone was a close or more distant genetic relative, but not whether they were a direct ancestor."

- Deborah Bolnick, associate professor of anthropology, Forbes, April 10, 2019

DESIGNING FOR THE NEXT FRONTIER: DEEP SPACE

Fifteen days and nights of continuous sunlight, followed by 15 days and nights of continuous darkness. Passing meteors that frequently strike the ground and kick up debris. Radiation unfiltered by any sort of atmosphere. One-sixth of the Earth's gravity, no air pressure to speak of, and persistently occurring micrometeorites. The environmental conditions on the surface of the moon are challenging, to say the least, making NASA's goal of returning and staying on the moon by 2024 a feat for scientists and engineers. UConn researchers are on the front line of the effort, thanks to a new NASA-funded project aimed at advancing the design of resilient, deep-space habitats. A team from UConn — in a partnership led by Purdue and including Harvard and the University of Texas at San Antonio — was recently selected to be a part of a new Space Technology Research Institute (STRI). The institute will help design mission architecture for a sustainable human presence first on the moon, and later on Mars or possibly other planetary bodies, such as other planets, moons, or asteroids.

"On the moon, the environment is extremely harsh, there’s no atmosphere, and it’s a hard vacuum; the temperature fluctuates in the extreme, and it is under continuous exposure to a deadly level of radiation,” says professor of structural engineering and applied mechanics and team leader Ramesh Malla. “When you build a human habitat in such an extreme environment, engineers face a great many challenges. Materials will behave differently in this extreme temperature fluctuation. Not only that, you really have to worry about radiation, and there is continuous danger of micrometeorite impact. Our purpose is to come up with habitats to survive in this kind of situation, this kind of extreme environment.” —JACLYN SEVERANCE

—JACLYN SEVERANCE

For more go to s.uconn.edu/deepspace.
Gatheru is one of just 62 students nationwide to receive the Truman award presented to undergraduates who have devoted themselves to public service. The Udall Scholarship was awarded to just 55 college sophomores and juniors for leadership, public service, and commitment to issues related to Native American nations or to the environment.

“I have never considered a path outside of public service,” Gatheru says. “I come from a family full of healthcare providers, so it makes sense that I have always been drawn to serving people through public service.”

Prior to arriving at UConn, Gatheru spent a year in Thailand as a Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Scholar of the U.S. State Department, an experience that solidified her commitment to culturally competent conservation. She has completed internships with the City of Hartford’s Office of Sustainability and the Women’s Earth and Climate Action Network.

On campus, Gatheru served as vice president of the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) and as the student co-chair of the 2019 University-wide Metanoia, pursuing the theme of “Youth for Change.” She also served as a delegate at the 2017 U.N. Climate Change Discussions, a founding member of the President’s Council on Race and Diversity, and played a critical role in the successful implementation of an environmental literacy general education requirement at UConn.

Gatheru, who is from Pointfret, Connecticut, says she plans to pursue a joint JD and master’s degree, with hopes of a public service career that empowers and supports culturally competent, community-based environmental solutions — particularly focusing on educating, informing, and involving disenfranchised communities of color.

“For my UConn Access to Food Effort (UCAFED), which seeks to address food insecurity and student hunger on campus, “As the proud daughter of two Kenyan immigrants, I am incredibly aware of the sacrifices that my parents have made to ensure that my siblings and I have the opportunity to live a life beyond survival,” says Gatheru. “This truth grounds me in everything I do and motivates me to use my education to uplift those who may not have access to the opportunities that I have had.”

UConn’s seventh Truman Scholar, she and last year’s winner, Akshayaa Chittibabu ’19 (CLAS), were UConn’s first consecutive winners in more than two years, these authors show that the humanities, sciences, and social sciences.

Many won national awards, including family development expert Abdul Khaleque’s “Intimate Relationships across the Lifespan,” about love in different cultures, which won an Independent Publisher Book Award; and journalist Mike Stanton’s “Unbeaten,” about boxer Rocky Marciano, which was named one of Library Journal’s Best Books of 2018.

Philosopher Mitchell Green’s book “Know Thyself: The Value and Limits of Self-Knowledge” spun from his popular massive open online course of the same name, while language expert and polymath Peter Constantine’s press, World Poetry Books, translates some of the world’s foremost poetry, from the ancient Greeks to Rainer Maria Rilke, into English.

Lest we leave behind the sciences, mathematicians Emiliano Valdez and Giacomo Gando show us how to create killer decision trees in “Actuarial Statistics,” while anthropologist Merrill Singer reveals the human sociopolitical ramifications of global warming in “The Anthropology of Climate Change.”

And that’s just the tip of the stack. With some measures showing print-book sales increasing over the past two years, these authors show that the currency of academic scholarship is alive and well.
High-quality conversations and laughter may help explain the Latinx health paradox: longer life expectancies in that population compared to other cultures, despite poorer socioeconomic and psychosocial circumstances. Past research has proposed the fact that Latinxs often live nearer to extended family as a factor in their good health. However, "quality of conversations and conversational partners are two variables that haven’t been looked at before," says associate professor of psychology Narcín Ramírez-Esparza, who led the study with Adrián García-Sierra from the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences.

They found that Latina mothers tended to laugh more and have more high-quality conversations compared to white European mothers, a trend that may be due to the proximity of family members for Latinas along with the values of simpatía, a cultural expression of being kind, polite, and avoiding negative interactions. "Latinas are talking to people they know very well, because they live closer to them," says Ramírez-Esparza.

Latinx cultural values extend beyond the family, the researchers note, because this socialization remains the same with others in their everyday lives as well. The behaviors are natural and not limited to familial interactions. One interesting trend noted in both groups of women was the overall lower rate of high-quality conversations between women and their partners.

“We kind of know why, because in the busy day-to-day household routine, we are taking care of basic things and not necessarily having deep discussions,” says Ramírez-Esparza.

ELANA HANCOCK ’09 MS

Currently Reading:

I’m starting to read “Dare to Lead: Brave Work, Tough Conversations. Whole Hearts.” by Brené Brown. I am reading it for my book club. I love that “cracking open a new book, smelling it, and turning the page” brings her. Her job as VP of Alumni Relations and Communications requires a lot of travel, which she translates as “quality reading time.” The mom of two typically is reading two or three books at once and is on pace to read 50 books this year. Yes, she’s counting.

“Becoming” by Michelle Obama

I had this book for a while but was saving it for my book club. I so enjoyed it, I both laughed and cried. Before starting it, I figured we all knew her story because of Barack, but I think we sort of lumped her in with him. I learned so much about who she is, with and without him. Not that anyone doubted she is a true, strong, independent woman. But getting to know her in these pages was pure joy, and also a little heartbreaking. She navigates first her own family, then her relationship with Barack and their family together, and then how fiercely she has to work to protect that family and maintain their family values under that bright light of the presidency.

On Deck:

"An American Marriage" by Tayari Jones

I have so many on-decks! But this one, “An American Marriage,” is literally on my nightstand, and I put it on my Goodreads reading list as “next book.” It came out last year, and after reading the title and the six-line description I ordered it immediately. It’s about a young African-American couple dealing with the wrongful-assault conviction of the husband shortly after their wedding. Another book club summer pick is “Missoula: Rape and the Justice System in a College Town” by Jon Krakauer, whose nonfiction reads like fiction.
There aren’t a lot of guys who can claim to have played basketball in college for Hall of Fame Coach Geno Auriemma. But it has been part of Shane Young’s UConn experience. Young is a practice player with Women’s Basketball, joining the practices two days a week as part of a rotation of 20 guys.

That’s not, however, what brought him to UConn. Growing up in a legacy family, Young says he was drawn to the University by its business school and opportunity for academic success.

How did you choose your major?

“I knew I liked math and I liked family, Young says he was drawn to the UConn experience. My mom, brother, and sister all came to UConn and I thought I would join them all the time. So I got a great sense of UConn, and I thought I would be successful here. My brother and sister are twins, five years older than me. I came up to here. It’s different for every class, but once you come up with a plan for how to go about learning the material, it makes it a lot easier. I figured out how to do well in high school, but college is more intense in how much you’re responsible for outside of class, so I had to make some adjustments.”

You’re also a practice player with the Women’s Basketball team. You must be pretty good to play with the UConn women! Why did you decide to not be a college player yourself?

“Yes, the UConn Consulting Group has been instrumental in my development. They say the WBB practices are tougher than the games. What’s a practice like? It’s tough! As practice players, we’re doing whatever Geno wants from us, whether it’s playing defense on them or getting rebounds for them, or playing offense, acting as players on the opposing team that they’re about to play.”

Do you get teased playing with the women?

“No, they’re really nice. They definitely know that they’re better than us, and they love rubbing that in our faces. But it’s great, because it makes us competitive and that’s what they want from us, so we’re giving them a challenge. So it’s cool.”

Are there any opportunities for rotating between the practices and classes?

“Absolutely. When we’re practicing and we have time, we’re going to the gym or working out — something that relieves my stress. This semester, I’ve also made time for seeing friends more, because especially in my first year at UConn, I was really focused on academics. But this year, I’ve built so many relationships that mean so much to me that I think it’s crucial for me — in order to be happy and continue to have the drive that I have — to also spend time with the people I care about.”

Do you have career goals?

“I wanted to focus on my career more, because especially in my first year at UConn, I was really focused on academics. But this year, I’ve built so many relationships that mean so much to me that I think it’s crucial for me — in order to be happy and continue to have the drive that I have — to also spend time with the people I care about.”

What advice would you give an incoming student?

“It’s cliché, but I would say try your hardest to get involved with things as soon as you get here. Find groups and things that you’re passionate about, and join new things that you don’t think you’d really enjoy. I didn’t think I would like consulting, but I joined the UConn Consulting Group, and that has been one of the greatest things that’s ever happened to me.”

“I would say get involved, put yourself out there, and challenge yourself with new things and new groups, because you learn so much and you grow as a person, and you meet people that are just going to be there for you and be so important in your college life.”

—ELIZABETH OMARA-OTANU
This August, Thomas Katsouleas takes the helm as UConn’s 16th president.

By Stephanie Reitz | Photos by Peter Morenus

The Next Wave
There’s a naturalness to a conversation with Tom Katsouleas, an amiable feeling of picking up where you left off. It’s an innate attribute, one that helped UConn’s incoming 16th president make an immediate impression on the countless alumni, students, employees, and others he’s encountered as he prepares to take the helm of Connecticut’s flagship university on Aug. 1.

He’s incredibly smart, they observe. Insightful without being pedantic. Unpretentious and quick to laugh, but astute in reading the room and going beyond hearing others to truly listening and absorbing what they’re sharing.

Oh, and he can literally save your life.

A plasma scientist and engineer with deep roots in research and academics, Katsouleas is also a former Los Angeles County Lifeguard and All-American swimmer. He’s an avid sailor, surfer, and water-skier, too, along with being an occasional cliff jumper and a self-described sucker for nonfiction adventure stories in which the main character somehow survives despite all odds.

Leaving his position as executive vice president and provost of the University of Virginia, Katsouleas, 61, arrives this summer with his personalized skateboard and, most notably, a range of purposeful ambitions for UConn’s future as it moves to the next phase of its nearly 140-year history and continues to cement its status as one of the nation’s premier public research institutions.

The new president’s unanimous confirmation by the UConn Board of Trustees followed a highly competitive six-month national search, in which more than 200 applicants vied for the job Susan Herbst leaves to join the faculty after eight years as president.

Katsouleas spent four years at Virginia after serving for seven years at Duke University as dean of the School of Public Health and Health Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Katsouleas also has two teenage children and, though he’s resolved to respect their wishes on the colleges they choose, they’re sure to have more than their fair share of UConn gear.

We talk with Katsouleas about what drew him to UConn, his thoughts on higher education’s future both locally and writ large, and his joy at the opportunity to lead a university he has admired since long before last winter, when he visited Storrs for interviews during a swirling snowstorm.

Having worked at public and private universities, what are your thoughts about going into the presidency at a high-profile public institution such as UConn?

The broad mission of a public university appeals greatly to me. All research universities have the role of preparing students for life and careers, and performing research that benefits society. But there’s also a wider scope for the public university that includes uplifting the surrounding community and state, providing greater access to education for citizens from all geographic areas and financial backgrounds, and I find that particularly exciting.

Working with lawmakers is the aspect of this role that will be newest to me, and seeing the extraordinary commitment that Connecticut has made to UConn is really one of the things that attracted me to this leadership opportunity. The legislators I’ve met are interested in more than just providing financial support to the University; they deeply care about being part of the strategy and planning that goes into moving the University forward and, correspondingly, the state. That’s a wonderful thing, and makes me excited to partner and engage with them.

Many in higher education say that athletics serve as a “front porch” of sorts that can attract attention, but then draw people’s interest into a university’s many teaching, research, and service offerings. Where do you see UConn Athletics fitting into the mix?

You know, many people have sent me messages to offer words of welcome and support, and easily the most common sentiment accompanying that is about UConn’s athletic conference — ideas to improve teams, add new sports or cancel others, and any number of related thoughts.

As I said earlier this year, athletics are part of our identity as a major, broad-context university, and we’re committed to building a culture of winning at UConn that benefits every aspect of the University, including academics.

You’ll see me enjoying a lot of different games. Basketball and football are my favorites, but I also have a background in swimming. I’m looking forward to adding UConn hockey, baseball, soccer, and other sports to my list of regular events. Our student athletes work hard and represent UConn so well, and I’ll be there cheering them on so they know that they have my support and admiration.

You come from an engineering background, so we know your roots are deep in STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). Do you worry about the push-pull that some others believe exists nationwide between prioritizing STEM and humanities studies?

I believe strongly that the growth of STEM actually points to the need for STEM and humanities studies. There’s also a wider scope for the public university that includes uplifting the surrounding community and state, providing greater access to education for citizens from all geographic areas and financial backgrounds, and I find that particularly exciting.

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Many in higher education say that athletics serve as a “front porch” of sorts that can attract attention, but then draw people’s interest into a university’s many teaching, research, and service offerings. Where do you see UConn Athletics fitting into the mix?

You know, many people have sent me messages to offer words of welcome and support, and easily the most common sentiment accompanying that is about UConn’s athletic conference — ideas to improve teams, add new sports or cancel others, and any number of related thoughts.

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challenges, you very quickly realize technology alone isn’t enough to do it. Whether it’s providing clean water for the billion people who don’t have access to it on a regular basis, or preventing cyber-terrorism, or whatever the need is, there’s not only a technical dimension. There’s also a very human dimension in which we as a society have to determine what is feasible, viable, and desirable.

We need engineers who are trained in these technical fields, but we also need them to collaborate with specialists who understand business, behavior, public policy, history, social sciences—the wide dimension of knowledge that’s available at a large university like UConn.

The principles of free speech are under pressure at many universities, and institutions including Virginia and UConn have struggled with the difficult balance of protecting constitutional rights while expecting people to adhere to institutional values. How do you view this issue?

I like to tell students that ethical dilemmas are not between right and wrong. When it’s between right and wrong, you know what to do. Clearly, do what’s right. But the real ethical dilemma is between right and right—that’s where free speech becomes so complicated.

Free speech is absolutely essential, and of course we’re bound by the Constitution to uphold it, but even more than that, it’s the basis by which we pursue truth, and truth is the core value of any academic institution. But we have many other values as well, and those include diversity, inclusion, respect, and responsibility. Universities in particular have a special role in society to try and broker the middle ground and navigate in such a way that we uphold all of these values.

Parenthetically, I think it can be harder for today’s generation of students to understand and appreciate the evolution of free speech over the decades, having not grown up with the experience of the 1960s and seeing how important free speech was in bringing about civil rights to people who had been denied them. Instead, they’ve grown up in an era when they’ve seen free speech used to allow people to be hurtful, to add insult or injury to values and people they care deeply about. When I talk with students, I tell them we’re absolutely committed to supporting free speech, but that they need to remember that just because a person has the right to say something doesn’t guarantee them the right not to be criticized for what they say. The entire community has a responsibility to speak up for what we value, and to speak out when someone says something under the protection of free speech that’s inconsistent with those values.

We’re learning more every day about “President Designate Thomas C. Katsouleas.” Can you tell us more about the informal side of yourself, Tom—the water-loving, skateboard-riding, snowboarding dad who’s soon going to become one of Connecticut’s most familiar faces?

My hobbies are anything to do with the water. In fact, there’s a P.E.D. student at UConn Avery Point who was an L.A. County lifeguard like me, and he reached out to invite me to surf with him when I get to Connecticut. I’ve got a lot of invitations: the sailing club, the skydiving club, so many other great ones. I’m also really looking forward to UConn’s student programming in the arts and theater, especially any musicals. I feel like the offerings on such a broad-context university campus will be amazing.

Something that might surprise people, and which I don’t really mention much, is that I’ve been playing bridge since I was a grad student. A group of us played every few weeks as grad students and post-docs. We were a little self-conscious about the fact that it was bridge; we told everyone we were heading off to poker night. I’m usually okay at it, other than when I go to a bridge club and a bunch of 80-year-old women kick my butt.

My father was born in Greece near the coast outside of Kardamili and is retired there, so we visit family there every summer and travel around the region, sometimes sailing to various islands. It’s really one of the most remote and rugged parts of Greece, and very beautiful.

We like to do things there like water-skiing and cliff jumping, but my daily routine is pretty simple. One of the best times is when I jump in the water near the beach where we stay and swim about a mile and a half down the coast to our favorite restaurant right on the beach. Anna Maria or my father and the kids bring a little bag with a pair of shoes, a bottle of water to rinse with, and a T-shirt, and they leave it on the beach for me. I swim up, clean up, walk into the restaurant beachside, and eat our favorite Greek food looking out over the water. That’s the idyllic life for me.

You’re wrapping up your time in Virginia while visiting Connecticut periodically and preparing for all of the changes ahead. How’s that going?

I’ve been overwhelmed with the warm welcome I’m receiving. People have reached out to me since the day of the announcement—not just from the UConn family, but people from around the country who’ve told me about time they spent at the University and in the state. So many of them tell me about how much they love Connecticut and the affection and respect they have for UConn. It’s been universal, and it’s made us all the more excited to be coming.

It’s a humbling experience because as a provost you realize that although you’re in charge of academics at your university, very few people know you on sight. I don’t have a real sense yet of how that will change when I’m walking around UConn’s campuses as president. My hope is that if students and others do recognize me, they will feel comfortable stopping to talk with me or coming by the Benton Museum for coffee with me when I’m there.
Jenn Suozzo ’99 (CLAS) was named executive producer of “NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt” last fall. The former dancer says she directs each episode as if it were a ballet.

A typical day for Jenn Suozzo ’99 (CLAS) starts around 8 a.m. and doesn’t end until Lester Holt, who anchors “NBC Nightly News,” signs off at 7 p.m. But that’s only when no crisis intervenes.

“I always feel like we’re on 24/7. News happens all the time,” says Suozzo, who was named executive producer of “Nightly News” in October after serving as interim EP since July. She remembers the logistical challenges of a recent spring Sunday night, when tornadoes slammed the South, causing multiple fatalities. “Lester was in California, and we needed to get him from California to the South to cover the tornadoes because there were so many people who lost their lives,” she recalls. “Those stories stay with you.”

Suozzo is headquartered at 30 Rockefeller Plaza, also known as 30 Rock or the Comcast Building, an iconic 1930s Art Deco skyscraper in midtown Manhattan. The
building’s dark, busy lobby has black terrazzo floors with brass inlay and is decorated with scenes of men at work in Catalan artist Josep Maria Sert’s massive mural, “American Progress.” By contrast, the NBC and MSNBC newsrooms upstairs have a sleekly contemporary look, with exposed brick walls and screens tuned to shows from broadcast and cable competitors. Suozzo’s own small office is still largely unadorned. A coffee mug sits on a shelf above her desk. “Behind every successful woman,” it reads, “is a tribe of other successful women who have her back.”

Wearing a flowing, patterned black and gold dress, Suozzo greets a visitor with a firm handshake and a radiant smile, projecting warmth and command amid the daily frenzy. “She is so calm under pressure...” Suozzo says. “She gives you opportunity before you know you’re ready for it because she knows...”

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In high school, Suozzo worked on the student newspaper. At UConn, she joined The Daily Campus. By junior year, spurred by her love of language and interest in investigative reporting, she was ready to commit, double majoring in journalism and English. For her television internship, she was placed with the FOX affiliate in Hartford. But a field trip to WVIT, the local NBC station, convinced her that was where she belonged. She asked Croteau to switch her.

“She did — and she really laid the trajectory for my whole career,” Suozzo says. The two remain close friends, and Suozzo serves on the Journalism Department’s professional advisory committee.

Croteau remembers how adeptly Suozzo took to that internship. “She would talk to me about the things she was covering, and it was very mature — not like a kid who was wowed by everything. And she was so interested in every part of it, every tiny facet of what was going on in the newsroom.”

Uncertain whether she wanted to be on air or behind the camera, Suozzo did her best to learn both sets of skills. “It was like air or behind the camera, Suozzo did her best to learn both sets of skills. “It was like air or behind the camera,” Suozzo says.

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Suozzo’s first paid TV gig, also at WVIT in Hartford, was as a teleprompter operator. “I worked my way up to the camera and then the floor director,” she says. “I was becoming an associate producer and then a producer. The news director Liz Grey ‘just really believed in me,’ Suozzo says. “I will never forget it. I was sitting in the newsroom towards the back. She came out of the office and screamed my name, ‘Where’s Jenn Suozzo?’ And I said like, ‘My God, what did I do? I’m right here!’”

“I went into her office, and she said, ‘So, I’m going to promote you. I need you to go into the control room and learn how to do the control room and don’t come out till you know.’ And so — I did.”

When new management took over the Hartford station, Suozzo made the move to MSNBC and then NBC, ascending the production hierarchy. She produced for many of the network’s stars — “you just have to adapt to who you’re working with” — but admits to enjoying the feeling that she and the late Tim Russert, host of Sunday morning’s “Meet the Press”: “He was the icon of the business” and was “beyond nice,” she says. Her partnership with Lester Holt, whom she met when both were at MSNBC, began in 2012, when she was part of the small team at NBC’s weekend news program.

“Jenn brings a calm to a process that can be anything but,” says Holt. “Her demeanor, confidence, and quick decision making lowers the stress level for all of us. If there is a crisis going on in the control room during the broadcast I never know it. Jenn’s voice in my earpiece remains steady and reassuring no matter what else may be going on.”

Suozzo enjoys covering politics, getting the big interview. But the stories that have haunted her most have involved the loss of children. She cites the case of Scott Peterson, convicted in 2004 of murdering his pregnant wife, Laci, and their unborn child, Conner; the 2005 disappearance from Aruba of Natalee Holloway, declared dead seven years later; and “a particularly gruesome murder case that I’ve never written,” involving Jessica Lunsford, a nine-year-old who, in 2005, was raped and buried alive. “I choke up now thinking about it,” Suozzo says.

Another day she will never be able to forget came in 2012. “We had just entered a network meeting when we first learned there might be something happening in Newtown,” Suozzo recalls. “Then we heard it was an elementary school and then a first-grade class. Someone said how many victims there were, little children. To this day I remember the air stood still, everyone was silent. Some people cried, others left the room. And that night we reported live from Newtown on the bone-chilling tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary, many of us through our own tears and feelings. There are still no words.”

“A happy hour in the control room with Suozzo is like a visit to a shrine,” says veteran correspondent and anchor Jennifer Griffin. “The night we reported live from Newtown on the gun violence that left 20 children and six educators dead, Suozzo was as calm as she is during any other show. She knew that it would be tough, but it was something she had to do. She was a rock in a world of chaos. And as we all sat there, she quietly told us that this was something that we would not forget. And we didn’t. We never will.”

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Suozzo’s regimen involves a blizzard of meetings and decisions. She starts the morning talking to senior producers and fielding calls from correspondents around the country and the world. “We’re trying to lay out what we’re doing for the day,” she says.

A 9 a.m. meeting with the entire news division is followed by a 9:30 meeting with the show staff, which she runs. “The producers have a chance to pitch their stories to the whole ‘Nightly’ staff, and then we’re off and running,” she says. She gives an example of the thought process: “How do we make Peter Alexander’s piece about what’s happening at the White House today? What’s the angle? How are we telling it? Who’s telling it? What does that look like?”

By way of guidance, she asks her producers: “What is your moment of impact in every story? What is the one thing I’m going to remember?”

With many viewers already aware of the top news of the day, the evening broadcast needs to provide something extra. “We can all be on our phones all day, and you know that there is a school shooting,” says Suozzo, on a day when yet another school shooting, in Colorado, will lead the show. “What is it that ‘Nightly News’ is going to offer you from that school shooting that you’re never going to forget? What is going to stay with you the next day? Is it a sound bite? Is it a moment? Is it an image?”

Suozzo says that she has also “put pedal to the metal on the original reporting.” On this particular day, she and producer Eric Salzman are proud of nabbing the first television interview with Chris Hughes, a co-founder of Facebook, whose op-ed in The New York Times called for the powerful company to be broken up. NBC national correspondent and weekend anchor Kate Snow joins the group to offer her insider take on the foreign policy news, including its domestic political ramifications.

Producers and correspondents, some of them calling in, swiftly run through other stories-U.S.-China trade talks, President Trump’s defense of his son Donald Jr., the school shooting, storms across the country, the Hughes interview, controversial abortion legislation in Alabama, a San Francisco teacher on extended medical leave obliged by state law to pay for a substitute teacher. They detail the planned succession of images and sound bites and the questions that remain. Suozzo, earnest and low-key, thanks each one in turn.

**Ticker**

After the 2:30 p.m. meeting, she says, it’s “go time.” That means, she says, “the scripts need to come in. I need to make sure that all the scripts have what they need in them. Is there something missing? Is it written well? Does it make sense?”

“And then,” she says, “I have to look at the broadcast as a whole. What are the pieces in the first block, what’s in the second, what’s in the third, and how are we ending the show? Because of the dance background, I like to look at the show as like a ballet. It all needs to flow together. All the acts need to come together for the final show.”

One of the obvious challenges is late-breaking news. “The school shooting the other day didn’t happen till 5 o’clock,” she says. “For a while, the White House was deciding to release and then stay on top of things like that. I’m meeting with news directors from across the country [and asking]: ‘How is NBC helping you? How can we help you more? How can you help us? Let’s partner together.’ Building those relationships is something that is very crucial, too.”

Suozzo leads a second news meeting at 2:30 p.m. Holt sits to her left at a conference table ringed by producers. One of them summarizes the latest developments out of North Korea, Iran, and Venezuela. Andrea Mitchell joins the group to offer her insider perspective on the foreign policy news, including its domestic political ramifications.

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**Bandwidth**

Suozzo’s day ends in the darkened control room, a complex of computer monitors, audiovisual equipment, and screens that resemble the Broadway set of “Network.” Wearing headphones, Suozzo sits near the center, surrounded by her team. The order of stories has been reshuffled slightly during the day, and one planned story has been held. But there have been no major crises, no need to blow up the show. The Hughes interview, as Suozzo anticipated, is arrested. A closing piece, for NBC’s signature “Inspiring America” segment, focuses on identical twins who both battle and support each other on their way to academic success. When the broadcast wraps, Suozzo rushes out to dinner, but not before thanking her guests. Postmortems will have to wait. Tomorrow, she will do it all again.

To an outsider, the constant pressure seems stressful, exhausting. Not to Suozzo. “It’s invigorating,” she says.
“What is that — it looks like a prehistoric Roomba,” my friend said.

We were sitting on a seawall, our feet dangling in the water. “That” was weaving its way through the sea grass beneath our toes. Roundish and brown, about a foot and a half across, with a long, sharp tail, it was a horseshoe crab, patrolling the tidal realm for worms and shrimp and bits of detritus that it would promptly hoover up, eating and cleaning the seafloor as it went.

Horseshoe crabs are ubiquitous along the coast of Connecticut and the rest of the eastern U.S., but most people who live elsewhere, like my friend, have never heard of them. Which is odd, because most of us owe our lives to their blood.

Eons
Horseshoe crabs first evolved 450 million years ago, a little after the supercontinent Pangaea began breaking up. It was a time long before the dinosaurs, when mollusks and trilobites dominated the seas and the most complex life-forms on land were plants similar to liverworts.

Pause just a second there and think about that. There were no land animals. Not even insects. There were no trees, no ferns, no flowering plants. But there were horseshoe crabs.

“The dinosaurs came and went, but the crabs stayed,” says Rachel O’Neill, a geneticist and director of UConn’s Institute for Systems Genomics. O’Neill is an expert in mapping the DNA of weird genomes. Most recently, she was part of the team that sequenced the koala genome, but she’s also done salp (jellyfish-like creatures) and tammar wallaby (miniature kangaroo).

“Weird animals have weird biology and are great ways to understand species diversity and adaptation to Earth’s diverse environments,” O’Neill says. Now she’s focusing closer to home to map the DNA of possibly the weirdest animal of all: the local Connecticut horseshoe crab, Limulus polyphemus.

One of the horseshoe crab’s great mysteries — the thing that makes it weirder than almost anything else alive — is that it hasn’t changed since the Ordovician period of the Paleozoic. That’s close to an eon of geologic time.

The crabs cruising today’s shores are absolutely identical to the crabs that crawled around post-Pangean waters. The horseshoe crabs of the Ordovician already had ten legs, eyes on their tails, the rounded shell with a hinge a third of the way across that lets the crabs fold and maneuver and flip over. And they had the amazing blue blood so cherished by today’s medical industry that it could threaten the well-being of the species. A map of the horseshoe crab’s DNA would not only be a window into the DNA of the Paleozoic period, it could also be the key to the species’ survival.

Bluebloods
Horseshoe crab blood is so valuable because it is teeming with cells called amoebocytes. Amoebocytes attack bacteria and coagulate like glue around them, instantly sealing off holes in the crab’s circulatory system. Because even 450 million years ago, bacteria were everywhere. That violent reaction to bacteria has made horseshoe crab blood the perfect elixir for the pharmaceutical and medical device industries, which use an extract from the blood to test for contamination every batch of
gram-negative bacteria can cause the cading inflammatory disease that can out and become septic, a terrible cas-

ting with our bloodstream, sterility is not enough. Sterility means there are no microorganisms that can cause infection. But sometimes organisms do not cause trouble. Mere pieces of the cell wall are gram-negative bacteria can cause the human body’s immune system to react. Test a sample of medicine with horseshoe crab blood extract, limulus amoebocyte lysate, and if the stuff clots you have a problem. Even in places where horses are plentiful, few people get hit by a horse. They stay safely in the water where they can’t be spotted and eaten by land predators. But here, in the Institute’s common area, there’s a round table with four chairs. People often come and sit by the tank to watch. Translucent beige with brown spots, the whole front end of the crab’s carapace is covered in sensory cells that can smell. When Castellano drops shrimp in the tank, the crabs converge and eat like hungry hippos in the children’s game. There are 27 of them in the tank, which is decorated like the town of Bikini Bottom in the “Sponge-

Bob” cartoon. “A lot of what we’re doing is research on little pieces, shuffling them in a bag, and then putting it back together. Each word or gene might be sliced into two or more pieces. And unlike words in a dictionary, the genes don’t have their definitions written out neatly next to them. Annotation—a description of the function and meaning of each gene—can take years and is rarely complete, simply because we don’t yet know what a lot of genes do. The two currently published horseshoe crab genomes are nowhere near as detailed as O’Neill’s assembly, but when we cut it up into sections of the genome, the genes tell us how their definitions differ. “At this point it’s science fiction. But this is a novel way of thinking about how our immune system works,” says O’Neill. Despite the novelty, the horseshoe crab scientists believe they have found a solution. A synthetic replacement for limulus amoebocyte lysate. The replacement works okay: it was recently approved by the European Union as an acceptable substitute. But it is based on a single protein found in horseshoe crab blood. O’Neill, Castellano, and their colleagues think they can do better than that. They are mapping a full assembly of the horseshoe crab’s DNA. Part of their goal is to find a more complete understanding of the amoebocyte response. They are striving to get every gene isolated and its function described, or at least hinted at. It’s not easy—there aren’t many detailed DNA maps of modern spiders or ticks, the crab’s closest relatives. The approach is expensive, and it means they will have to go back to maintaining rabbit colonies, either. Their work has been partially funded by the Basic Research Program of the National Institutes of Health, but it is not enough. Horseshoe crab embryos have been grown in the laboratory, but they never hatch. “We hypothe-

size, maybe the horseshoe crab can’t change. Maybe it’s frozen, because it’s missing a Hox cluster,” O’Neill says. The horseshoe crab may be the key to unlocking the secrets to what a lot of genes do. The second astonishing thing is the geneticists who suspect the horseshoe crab’s DNA may contain a gene that is not found in any other animal. What the UConn scientists have already found has been astonishing. First, the horseshoe crab has seven copies of its genetic code. Humans have two, one from mom and one from dad. Plus, none of those seven copies has a complete Hox gene set. Hox genes tell developing fetuses where to grow limbs and a head—essentially how to structure the body. Geneticists had thought that every animal needed one, but apparently the horseshoe crab manages without. And this might be a clue to one of its great secrets: “We hypothe-

size, maybe the horseshoe crab can’t change. Maybe it’s frozen, because it’s missing a Hox cluster,” O’Neill says. The horseshoe crab may be the key to unlocking the secrets to what a lot of genes do.
CLASS

MASTER

Grammy-winning composer Kenneth Fuchs shares with students the lessons he's learned from industry giants — and from his beloved high school band director.

By Kenneth Best

Four days after walking off the stage at the Staples Center in Los Angeles with a Grammy Award, Kenneth Fuchs stands before a group of students presenting original quintet compositions as performed by fellow student musicians (above). Listening to a piece for oboe, flute, clarinet, French horn, and bassoon, Fuchs asks the composer if he hears the other instruments. His hiss music performed she would make any changes. She thinks the band director wrote out the ranges for all the instruments in the band on a sheet of manuscript paper that Fuchs still has. He encouraged his student to write prolifically, promising to play anything he wrote.

"And he did," says Fuchs. "He played the first piece, which won a student composition award from the Florida Bandmasters Association." Now Fuchs tells his student composers to write as much as possible and when they've finished a piece, he tells them, "You have to find the players you have written it for, get them to rehearse it, and hear what it sounds like immedi- ately so you can know if the choices you made are those you really want. That was such a profoundly important gift that Mr. Shellahamer gave me." And he pays it forward. "My job is to get them to take their enthusiasm, or their interest in wanting to become composers, and to focus it. If a student comes to me with very little experience or really not having written much orig- inal music, the first thing is to get them interested and excited about writing something that they can finish and feel good about," says Fuchs. "That begins with writing a work for their own in- strument. What better way for them to express their own musical thoughts and through writing for an instrument that they feel comfortable with?"

Some of the composition forms Fuchs teaches aren't around when he was in school, as his digital media and design program students demonstrate in creating soundscapes to animate dig- ital projects. "We work on matching the sound with the motion. My experience with composition students at UConn is that many have a sincere interest in video game scores, which are elaborately produced with full-sized symphony orchestras. There is a real crossover here. The goal of any composition is to put over the footlights to the listener a communicative musical statement, whether it is for piano trio, symphony orchestra, or string quartet. You need to write music that the audience can understand. That's what it's all about. It is the composer's job to understand the power of all different kinds of musical sounds so the audience responds."

Dear Stephen Sondheim...

After earning a music degree from the University of Miami, Fuchs hoped to study at The Juilliard School in New York City under the masters of Ameri- can symphonic music — Milton Babbitt, Elliott Carter, David Diamond, Vincent Persichetti, and Roger Sessions. He immersed himself in their music and wrote audition compositions for band, not orchestra. The Juilliard judges ad- vised him to expand his knowledge, compose an orchestral work, and reap- ply. Disappointed but determined, Fuchs sought advice from three composers he had written to while studying in Miami — Aaron Copland, William Schuman, and Stephen Sondheim. His letters asked about particular pieces of their music and the decisions the composers made about formal structure and in- strumentation.

"They took my questions seriously and responded to the letters. To a per- son, each of them said when you come to New York, we'll get together," Fuchs says. "You learn that the real greats are big enough to lend a helping hand."

He spoke with Schuman, the former
president of Juilliard and Lincoln Center, and met with Sondheim just after “Sweeney Todd” opened on Broadway. At Patelson’s Music House, the well-known music store that used to sit across from the stage door at Carnegie Hall, he told owner Joseph Patelson that he would like a job.

Two weeks later, a letter arrived from Patelson offering him one. Later the same week, Schuman wrote to say he had arranged for Fuchs to take lessons from Stanley Wolfe, then-director of the Extension Division at Juilliard. For the next year, Fuchs worked at the music store six days a week and studied at night with Wolfe, beginning work on an orchestral composition.

This time his audition earned him admission to Juilliard, where he earned Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees.

Long and Winding Road

After Juilliard, Fuchs spent a year as an assistant dean at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts before returning to New York for an eight-year stint as dean of students at the Manhattan School of Music. In 1998 he became director of the School of Music at the University of Oklahoma and oversaw completion of a new music center.

Fuchs continued to write music but felt he had not yet found his own voice. He decided to take on a large orchestral work and devote as much time as necessary to finding his writing voice. Over the course of two years that voice emerged as he composed the 18-minute “An American Place.” In 2003 he completed “Eventide,” a concerto for English horn and orchestra, for Thomas Stacy of the New York Philharmonic.

While several of his ensemble compositions had been recorded by the American String Quartet and principal players from the New York Philharmonic, Fuchs now was ready to record his orchestral work.

He reached out to JoAnn Falletta, a Juilliard classmate and rising star in the conducting world, to ask if she would be interested in conducting the new works, as well as “Out of the Dark,” the first of Fuchs’ works that Falletta had conducted while they were students. Her response was immediate. She accepted his invitation and mentioned she was going to be recording with the London Symphony Orchestra and might have time to add other sessions for his compositions.

With support from then-president of the University of Oklahoma David L. Boren and his development staff, funding was raised, and six months later Fuchs was in London recording with Falletta and the LSO. In quick order, their work was accepted by Naxos, the world’s largest classical record label, for its new American Classics Series, aimed at promoting solo discs by composers, and “Eventide” was nominated for two Grammy Awards.

“Nobody could believe a first disc by a virtually unknown composer would get two nominations, but it did.” Fuchs says. “We didn’t win, but it did.” Fuchs says. “We didn’t win, but that’s what started it all.”

And the Winner Is...

“It all” includes recording in London at the famed Abbey Road Studios, best known for albums by The Beatles but also where many of the 20th century’s most celebrated musicians recorded, including pianist Vladimir Horowitz, cellist Pablo Casals, handbender Glenn Miller, and singer Tony Bennett.

Fuchs says being in that legendary space never grows old. “To walk through the double doors into the reception area to realize that so many artists of all styles of music have recorded at that studio and to walk down the halls and see the pictures of those superstars...is thrilling, it’s inspiring...”

To realize that so many artists of all styles of music have recorded at that studio and to walk down the halls and see the pictures of those superstars...is thrilling, it’s inspiring...
A Winning Way to Heal

By Elizabeth Omara-Otunnu
Photos by Stephen Slade ’89 (SFA) and Peter Morenus
IF you watched any Husky men’s basketball home games this season, you likely caught glimpses of a towheaded youngster shooting baskets with the players during warm-ups, giving them high-fives as they returned to the court after halftime, or exchanging an “air handshake” with players on the bench each time one of the team scored a three-pointer. His name is Rylan Ellingwood; he’s 7 years old, and he’s a member of the team.

Women’s fans who came to First Night, the official opening of basketball season, were introduced not only to the new student-athletes but also to a little girl with some nifty dance moves. As 6-year-old Daniela Ciriello stood on the court with Coach Geno Auriemma (and alongside Rylan and Coach Hurley), she endeared herself to the crowd when he’s out shopping.

By the time Rylan was 5, he was scared of the infusion. “He hated it,” says his mom, Tanya. “He wouldn’t get in the car. He would scream, cry, kick, bite, scratch his way out. It would take five nurses to hold him down just to get the IV into him.”

The program matched him with men’s basketball—his favorite sport. It was a hit from the get-go. A few of the guys played basketball with him, lifting him up to make slam dunks. “When we left,” says Tanya, “he was beaming from ear to ear—he was so happy. I don’t get to see him like that a whole lot.”

Though he’s now comfortable with the entire team and regularly attends home games, Rylan has formed a special bond with two players he met early on: Mamadou “Mo” Diarra ‘20 (CLAS) and Alterique “Al” Gilbert ‘20 (CLAS), both of whom have experienced serious injuries that have impacted their careers. With Mo sitting out after knee surgery that cost him most of the season, Rylan would sneak his favorite candy—Sour Patch Kids—to him on the bench when Coach wasn’t looking. “Rylan gives us hope,” says Mo. “We have a six-hour blood transfusion. Photos on pages 40–41, clockwise from top left: Maddox, center, and his “brother” George Kutrubis ’20 (CLAS), left in gray shirt looking at Maddox, with the rest of the team on Maddox’s signing day; Daniela with Katie Lou Samuelson ’13 (CLAS), Rylan bonding with Alterique Gilbert ’20 (CLAS) on Rylan’s first day with the team; Maddox getting some pointers from goalie Shane Keenan ’12 (BUS); Rylan during one of his 13-hour monthly infusions at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center discovered Rylan’s blood was missing B cells, meaning his immune system has no memory cells. His body showed no sign of the childhood immunizations he had received.

Now Rylan, who lives in Ellington, Connecticut, returns every four weeks to Connecticut Children’s for an infusion drawn from the blood plasma of 100 different donors that confers their immunity on him. The infusion takes 13 hours to complete, and the effects only last a few weeks before Rylan gets cranky, his muscles get sore, and he becomes susceptible to infection again.

When Rylan is with the basketball team, he’s a bundle of energy. The casual observer would be surprised to learn he has an autoimmune disorder that makes him vulnerable to ailments other kids would quickly shake off—a cold will turn into pneumonia; a bee sting will lead to a full-body allergic reaction; a paper cut becomes lethal. “When we left he was beaming from ear to ear—he was so happy. I don’t get to see him like that a whole lot.”

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But then Rylan’s longtime infusion nurse introduced him to Abigail Brouker, a Team Impact kid matched with the UConn softball team, who was being treated next door. Rylan was so engrossed in Abigail’s story, he didn’t even notice that his dreaded treatment was already under way.

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Photos at left, clockwise from top left: Maddox has been on the bench for all but two men’s soccer home games in the two seasons he’s been with the team; Rylan and his team during First Night of the 2018–19 season; every three weeks Daniela receives a 100th transfusion this summer. Photo on pages 36–37: Daniela impresses the crowd with her leg lift, accompanied by coaches Geno Auriemma, left, and Dan Hurley, with Rylan.

“He’s had to cope with some mean people, so to be surrounded by so much positivity, it’s been life changing.” — Maddox’s mom

Fifteen-year-old Maddox Bruning joined the men’s soccer team in April 2017.

Maddox was diagnosed at age 1 with eosinophilic esophagitis, a gastrointestinal disorder involving multiple food allergies that cause inflammation of the esophagus. Eating isn’t fun. And because he can’t consume enough food through mouth, he gets most of his nutrition from a liquid fed delivered through a tube into his stomach.

Active and energetic, Maddox loves to play soccer, basketball, and lacrosse in his hometown of Glastonbury, Connecticut. He has missed only two UConn home games in two seasons. Maddox also joins the team at nearby away games, as well as work-outs, practices, and team meals.

He has shadowed student-athletes serving as counselors at the Bay Reed Soccer Camp, been encouraged by other Team Impact kids and teams serving as counselors at the Bay Reed Soccer Camp, been encouraged by other Team Impact kids and teams serving as counselors at the Bay Reed Soccer Camp, been encouraged by other Team Impact kids and teams serving as counselors at the Bay Reed Soccer Camp, been encouraged by other Team Impact kids and teams serving as counselors at the Bay Reed Soccer Camp, been encouraged by other Team Impact kids and teams serving as counselors at the Bay Reed Soccer Camp, been encouraged by other Team Impact kids and teams serving as counselors at the Bay Reed Soccer Camp, been encouraged by other Team Impact kids and teams serving as counselors at the Bay Reed Soccer Camp, been encouraged by other Team Impact kids and teams serving as counselors at the Bay Reed Soccer Camp, been encouraged by other Team Impact kids and teams serving as counselors at the Bay Reed 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Ben Curtis ’06 (CLAS)

We Are the Champions

Seeing his client win Best Actor for playing Freddie Mercury in “Rhapsody” was like reaching the top of the mountain, Curtis says. He says he first noticed Malek on HBO’s “The Pacific” and later guided him to lead roles in “Mr. Robot” and “Bohemian Rhapsody.”

He recently published a memoir, “Serial Monogamy: An illustrated memoir.” The story opens in a classroom at UConn in 1968 and continues with his experiences in the Urban Semester Program run by Mike Wogan. Curtis, who was born in late 1945, says he has more than 30 years of experience in the securities industry, holding management positions for Wells Fargo Advisors, UBS, and Paine Webber. He lives in Fairfield, Conn.

Kevin Baldwin ’81 (BUS), of Holton, Conn., has been named president of the American College of Financial Services Alumni Association. Baldwin co-founded and is managing director of B&T Financial Architects.

James T. Healy, Jr. ’62 (BUS), has been named the new president of the Connecticut Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.

Monogamy: An illustrated memoir. (right) with Malek, ake Freddie Mercury.

CLASS NOTES

Michael Wallace Gordon ’57 (BUS), ’63 JD writes that he would enjoy hearing from other UConn alumni from the 1950s. He reports that he retired in 2007 as both the Dausburg Professor of Law at the University of Florida and the Distinguished Fulbright Professor of International Law at Universidade Catolica Portuguesa in Lisbon. At the age of 76, he built a drift boat, went to Wyoming, and became a professional fly-fishing guide. He lives in St. Augustine, Fla., in the winter and Montana and Wyoming during the summer. In his spare time, he has written the first 11 of the Maschuff Brooks Fly Fishing Mysteries. Writing as M.W. Gordon, his first novel of the series, “Deadly Drifts,” won the Book of the Year award in the Royal Palm awards from the Florida Writers Association.

Ray Olderman ’62 (CLAS), ’64 MA, of Madison, Wis., and his wife, Star Schechter Olderman ’64 (CLAS), celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary in January. He reports that he became a teaching assistant upon graduating from UConn and then an instructor at UConn Waterbury in 1965. He recently published a memoir called “Good a Gilt.”

Helen Cabaniss Brown ’63 (NURS), Allison Clarke Harper ’63 (NURS), and Grace Patey Flumerfelt ’63 (BUS) that he held a reunion this summer at the Martha’s Vineyard cottage where many of their classmates vacationed. She says a number of them got jobs at the little hospital there during the first summer after graduation.

David R. Goldfarb ’65 (BUS) reports that he has had a long career at the Connecticut Hospice, Inc., rising in the ranks from chief accountant to chief financial officer. At the same time, he took on various positions at his synagogue and is currently the “Gabbai” or sexton, a position he has held for 24 years. In June 2018, he received the Henry M. Zachs Award from the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford for his contributions to the greater Hartford community. He credits his education at UConn for allowing him to commit the resources he learned for the betterment of humanity.

Richard Sohn ’69 (CLAS), ’76 Ph.D., is one of several editors of the newly published book “Quantum Field Theory: Lectures of Sidney Coleman.”

Alan Srebnick ’71 (BUS) and his wife Carole took a 10-day hiking trek through the Peruvian Andes to the Inca ruins at Machu Picchu. He said he found the Incan history and culture fascinating and the people lovely and gentle.

Jane Keddy ’71 (CLAS) recently published a sequel to “Serial Monogamy: An illustrated memoir.” The story opens in a classroom at UConn in 1968 and continues with her experiences in the Urban Semester Program run by Mike Wogan. Curtis, who was born in late 1945, says he has more than 30 years of experience in the securities industry, holding management positions for Wells Fargo Advisors, UBS, and Paine Webber. He lives in Fairfield, Conn.

Bill Hendricks ’75 (BUS) reports that she was recently appointed chief financial officer at Oppenheimer & Co. Inc. in Los Angeles, Calif. He has more than 30 years of experience in the securities industry, holding management positions for Wells Fargo Advisors, UBS, and Paine Webber.

Thomas Walsh ’75 (CLAS), ’80 JD has been appointed general counsel of Nippon Steel & Sumikin Busan Americas, Inc.

Tom Ingramgsa ’75 MA, of Fairfield, Conn., CEO emeritus and board member at Haskins Laboratories and adjunct professor in the Department of Surgery, Otolaryngology at Yale University School of Medicine, has been named to serve as a member of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences Challenges for International Scientific Partnerships (CISP) Large-Scale Science Working Group. The research goal of CISP is to assess the challenges and opportunities presented by evolving trends in society, as well as changes in the types and structures of international science partnerships.

Harold Haldeman ’74 JD, a veteran naval officer and family law attorney, was made partner at the Law Offices of Edward Nussbaum, a Westport-based family law practice. He lives in Fairfield, Conn.

Diane Lee Baron ’77 (CLAS) is a teacher of the visually impaired in Montgomery County, Md. She has worked in the fields of multiple disabilities and/or visual impairment for 43 years. Her contemporary comedy/romance novel, “Gal Wonder,” was published in 2017. Her interview book, “The Fandom Fifty,” about people involved in the Maryland D.C. science fiction community, will debut in July.

We Are the Champions

“Curiosity is key” is the motto that took Ben Curtis ’06 (CLAS) from interning with the New York Yankees his senior year to celebrating at the Oscars this year. As president of Daylight Holdings in L.A., he manages celebrities, including Rami Malek. He says he first noticed Malek on HBO’s “The Pacific” and later guided him to lead roles in “Mr. Robot” and “Bohemian Rhapsody.”

The highlight of the night was right after he worked his agent and ran backstage. We were all hugging and crying for a couple minutes — it was surreal. And of course that all led to staying out celebrating until 6 a.m.” — Camila Valles ’19 (CLAS)
SUCCESS IS IN THE CARDS

For more than a decade, Moises Rodriguez '95 (CLAS), assistant general manager of the St. Louis Cardinals, has traveled to the Dominican Republic to discover the best young baseball players. "Heart is subjective," he says. Aces are "youngsters who have the right combination of athletic skills and heart."

Rodriguez supervises a department of 25 scouts and coaches, trainers, and administrative personnel based in St. Louis and the Dominican Republic. His professional philosophy is simple: Work hard, and always keep learning from the people around you. "I met a lot of people, and observe what's good in them and then try to gather their positive ingredients," he says. "I'm lucky to have a lot of people who are positive in my life — especially my wife and kids. They're what drive me."

Rodriguez worked in the Athletic Communications Office at UConn, where he says then associate athletic communications director Tim Tolokan and Kyle Muncy, a Mets fan, opposed the idea of Tradition Licensing and Branding, helped establish his career path. "Their confidence in me made me believe I could do the job," Rodriguez says. "Kyle taught me how to be a professional."

Before being promoted in 2017 to his current position, where he monitors player development within the Cardinals’ minor and major league system, Rodriguez spent a decade as director of international operations. Every three weeks, he jetted to the Dominican Republic to supervise the players at the academy. "It was a lot of long hours, and I made a lot of sacrifices for the team, but it’s worth it," says Rodriguez from his office in Busch Stadium. "Trying to be an influential person in the process of building a World Series championship team is what drives me." The challenge, he says, is finding youngsters who have the right combination of athletic skills and heart. "Heart is subjective," he says. A player has to show desire, the ability to learn and to make adjustments on the fly: "When watching these kids, I ask myself, 'Are they gritty? Competitive? Resilient?' But at the end of the day, it's how they perform. Unfortunately, not everyone we acquire turns into a prospect."
**CHALLENGE YOURSELF TO TOM'S TRIVIA!**

Go to uconnmagazine.com/tomtrivia to see if you know as much as King of UConn Trivia Tom Brenn ’00 (CLAS).

1. At the Oct. 11, 1958, rivalry football game at UMass Amherst, the UConn marching band charged into the opposing fans’ bleachers and scuffled with rival students in a bid to recover something that had been stolen from the UConn campus. What was it? 
   A. The state flag that flew above Gardner Dow Field
   B. A wooden sign that stood on Rte. 195 welcoming drivers to Storrs
   C. The head from the UConn mascot costume
   D. The sign that hung above Jonathan IV’s kennel

2. This spring marked the 20th anniversary of the Chemistry Building constructed on North Eagleville Road, overlooking Swan Lake. What was on that site before the state-of-the-art facility was built? 
   A. Widmer Cottage
   B. The Charles E. Waring Building
   C. Cecil Holt Hall
   D. The Orford Refectory

3. In the late 1950s, Connecticut’s civil defense plan called for UConn’s Storrs campus to be used as what in the event of a nuclear attack? 
   A. A staging ground for the deployment of Nike missiles
   B. The central fallout shelter for northeastern Connecticut
   C. The state capital
   D. An important agricultural hub to prevent food shortages

4. The Student Alumni Association board member who takes charge of organizing Oozemaster General game began in 1984, its organizer had a very different title. What was it? 
   A. The Outermost General
   B. The Wizard of Ooze
   C. Secretary for Mud
   D. The Sultan of Splat

5. **Spencer Cerruto ’00 (BGIS)** has been named chief of police of the New Milford Police Department. He has 32 years of police experience and a community policing philosophy. He is an adjunct professor of criminal justice at Post University and Naugatuck Valley Community College in Waterbury, Conn.
   **Raghav Savalgi ’00 MBA**, with his wife Vani and son Pravan, started the SPLAF Foundation and Savalgi Nutritional Center, which provides protein-rich powder for children to mix into their drinks, and Savalgi Creative Innovation, a center for education in business management and information technology.
   **Michael Beehner ’00 (CLAS)**, ’02 MA has a Ph.D. from Stony Brook University and just earned the title of full professor of English at Suffolk County Community College in Riverhead, N.Y., after 12 years of teaching.
   **Amanda Bundock-Simjian ’01 (CLAS)** received the Walter B. Ford Education Foundation’s Distinguished Alumni Award.
   **C. Taylor Leigh ’97 (BGIS)** has opened a private practice in divorce mediation and integrative life coaching at The Center for Divorce and Healing in Southington, Conn. She has worked with families in transition through divorce professionally for more than 25 years.
   **Kim S. Johnson ’98 (CLAS)** is director, president, and CEO of MITRE Health Innovations, a for-a-fee-for-profit called Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles. In her role, Kim directs all aspects of digital and traditional marketing to support the organization and the nine social enterprise businesses it operates. Homeboy Industries seeks to provide free services and job training to former gang members and previously incarcerated men and women, allowing them to redirect their lives and become contributing members of the community. After attending UConn, Kim received her MBA from The College of William & Mary.
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**100 AND COUNTING**

When you ask Morton Katz ’39 (CLAS) ’51 JD what he learned at UConn School of Law, three lessons top his list: how to be a good lawyer, the importance of preparation, and knowing when to settle a case. Katz has had more time than most to ponder the value of his legal education, and, at 100, he’s still putting those lessons to use.

For the past 20 years, Katz has worked as a special public defender at Hartford Superior Court. The rest of his nearly seven decades in practice includes a mix of civil and defense work and an appointment as a Superior Court magistrate. He is also a decorated World War II veteran who remained in the army in intelligence and civil affairs roles until his retirement as a colonel in 1972.

While his frame may be bowed, his wit and recall are stunningly sharp. He delights in telling stories about his favorite cases, and ticks off names and dates with more precision than people half his age. When he talks about his upbringing in Hartford and service in the army during World War II, a fuller picture of him comes into focus. That’s when his self-effacing nature, innate sense of justice, and commitment to serving others shine through.

Katz faithfully attends conferences at the law school and serves as a mentor, regularly visiting the school to speak to students. “He brings immense warmth and vitality whenever he comes to campus. His example is a source of inspiration to everyone around him,” says Timothy Fisher, dean of UConn Law. “He is a national treasure.”

A self-described “Depression kid,” Katz dismisses himself as a mediocre student — despite making the National Honor Society at Weaver High School. “I had no aptitude.” Katz joined the ROTC and Citizens Military Training Camps and received a commission in 1940. Then, halfway through his second year of graduate school at Iowa State University, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. “My professor, Henry Gilman, said ‘Write your thesis, and we’ll get you your master’s degree,’” Katz recalls. “He left school in April 1942 for basic training at Fort Benning. On the train to Georgia Katz remembers four officers of color who were “shown terrible racism,” he recalls. “The treatment was shameful.”

The impression stayed with him and changed the course of his life. During the war, Katz crisscrossed North Africa and Europe. He fought at Venafrto and Anzio Beach in Italy, in the south of France, and the Ardennes region of Belgium, first with the army’s 502nd Parachute Infantry, then with the 101st Airborne and 509th Parachute Infantry. When in 1945 his unit suffered massive casualties, he joined the 82nd Airborne’s 505th Parachute Infantry, crossing the Elbe River and helping to liberate Wobbe- lin concentration camp. “The S.S. officers got away, but we captured the commandant, and I have his gun to this day,” he says. Katz returned in 1946, thankful to be alive. After marching in the victory parade up Fifth Avenue in New York City, he traveled to the West Coast, stopping to visit the families of his fallen army buddies along the way. Back at Iowa State, he received a teaching fellowship, but didn’t like the research side of the work and resigned in 1948. He then enrolled in UConn School of Law and after only one class, he knew he had found his calling.

He credits his wife Shirley, a retired pharmacist whom he married in 1964, with keeping him healthy all these years. He also has a purpose in life: “Making sure defendants have adequate legal representation is what keeps me going.” His wife keeps him healthy, and making sure defendants have good representation is what “keeps him going.”

Still practicing law at 100 years old, Morton Katz ’39 (CLAS) ’51 JD has worked as a special public defender at Hartford Superior Court for the past 20 years. He says his wife keeps him healthy, and making sure defendants have good representation is what “keeps him going.”

“Why don’t you retire?” Katz says. “I tell her, because I love it. Somebody needs me, and I have to be somewhere. I’m doing what I want to do, and there is some defendant out there who needs a damn good lawyer.” —LORETTA WALDMAN

**Mark your Calendar!**

**UCONN HOMECOMING:**
Friday, October 18th
Saturday, October 19th

**HUSKIES FOREVER 5K & LIL’ HUSKIES KIDS K:**
Sunday, October 27

Bring your
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Submissions may be edited for

 maid's a shirt to get ready in with a husky patch.”

> Ariel Grossman '10 (BUS) married Geoffrey Winkley '11 (BUS, ENG) on November 5, 2018, in Baltimore, Md., where they live. The wedding party was full of Huskies, including Emily Kozak '10 (BUS), Ilana Eides '11 (BUS), Lyndsey Sorkin '10 (NURS), Kevin McQuade '11 (CLAS), Joshua Lesse '11 (CAHNR), and Will Carnes '11 (CLAS).

> Elizabeth Netz '10 MA and husband Daniel announce that their daughter, Brooke Maria Netz, was born in April. The couple was married July 2016.

> Holly Sansolo '11 (CLAS) and Brendan Crouse '11 (BUS), who met as freshmen living in Buswell, were married in Middletown, Conn., on Nov. 24. They now live in Norwalk, where Brendan works for Pepperidge Farm and is pursuing his MBA and serving as an adjunct professor at UConn Stamford. Holly works for Indeed.com in Stamford.

> Rebecca Levine '11 (BUS) married Ross Hadfield in Newport, R.I., on Sept. 23, 2018 with the following Huskies in attendance: Audrey Ozga '11 (CLAS), Laine Miller '11, Karen Sutin '12 (BUS), Emily Kozak '10 (BUS), Alyssa Yosef '11 (CLAS), Ariel Winkley '10 (BUS), Lisa Mutnick '10 (CLAS), and Rebecca (Levine)

> Mom Natalie Vitone assures her sister Christina Smith '11 (CLAS) that these triplet nieces and nephew are sure to make many visits to UConn.

Hadfield '11 (BUS), Samantha Yosef '11 (CLAS), Jeremy Hudson, Danielle Esterson '12 (BUS), Jimmy Miller '11 (BUS), Chris Halloran '10 (CLAS), Geoff Winkley '10 (BUS, ENG), Griffin Weigel '10 (CLAS), Kelsie Ross '11 (BUS), and Dan Levine '77 (BUS).

> Corporate attorney Frank Eucalitto '12 (CLAS) has accepted a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in clinical health psychology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. She is a doctoral candidate in clinical psychology at the University of California, San Diego. Hartford Performs, an organization that brings visiting artists into Hartford Public Schools, has appointed Robinson+Cole lawyer Charles F. Modzelewski '13 (CLAS), '16 JD to its board of directors.


> Stephen Schirra '14 (CLAS) reports that his nonprofit, “Around the Worlds, Around the World,” which teaches underprivileged children how to play soccer in free camps, has now reached nearly 4,500 kids in 25 countries. He won a Community MVP Award from Major League Soccer along with recognition from the Boston Celtics and the New England Patriots.

> Camille Sauer '14 JD was just named one of 13 lawyers in a new shareholder class of Benno & Witcoff, a national intellectual property law firm. Sauer, of Washington, D.C., represents clients in all facets of technology protection and commercialization, focusing on utility and design patent procurement and intellectual property counseling.

Submissions may be edited for

— it gave me the right experience to cut the mustard and drive the Wienermobile,” she says. —

> For more of our interview with Medvick, go to s.uconn.edu/wiener.