

# UConn

TRADITIONS

Fall/Winter  
2002

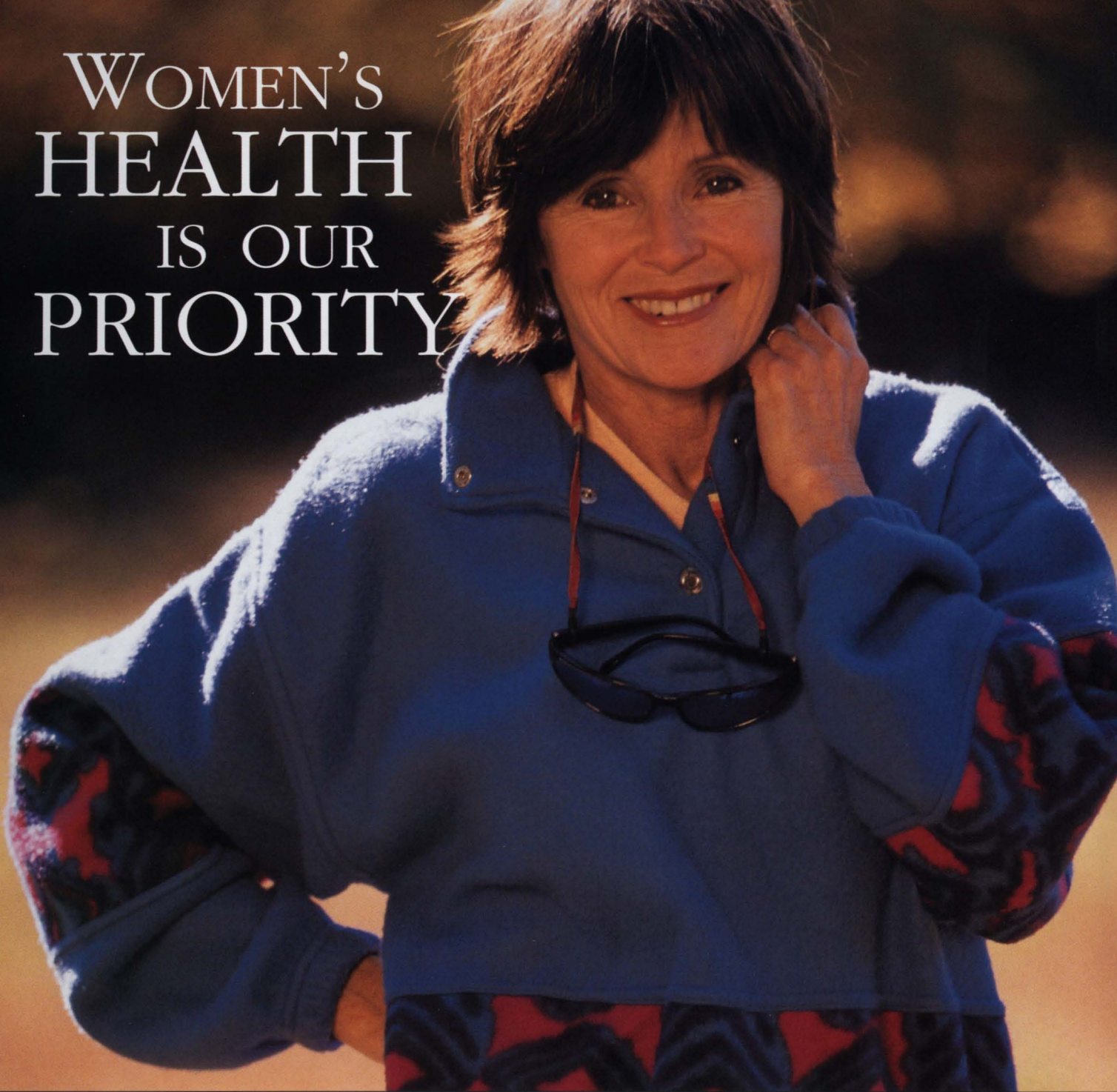
## From Storrs to the Stars

The Journey  
of Franklin  
Chang-Diaz '73





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## A Message from the Editor

### TELLING STORIES

One of the great ironies of 24-hour, nonstop television and the Internet is that the information and entertainment available is not really of great interest to a wide audience. Pick a subject and you can find a specialty channel or a website devoted to just one topic. The same is true for the publishing world, which has mourned the loss of the general interest magazines, such as *Life* and *Look*, while replacing them with specialty publications devoted to one subject in areas from antique glass to wine collecting.

That's why having the opportunity to be the new editor of *UConn Traditions* is such an interesting and challenging responsibility. As a major public university, UConn has a

fascinating range of stories waiting to be told in every corner of the University and, as this edition of *UConn* magazine demonstrates, alumni stories can be found around the world and beyond. While the common interest shared by readers is UConn, the subject matter is as diverse as the University itself.

In the more than 25 years I have lived in Connecticut, I have crossed paths with dozens of UConn alumni during my time writing for *The New York Times*, working at Yale-New Haven Hospital and the University of Bridgeport, as well as teach-

ing writing classes at Fairfield and Quinnipiac Universities. I have met writers, doctors, lawyers, accountants, researchers, bankers, politicians, teachers, musicians, nurses, business executives, artists and others.

The common thread among these individuals is their association with UConn and the diversity of their achievements since leaving their days as students. If there is ever a time to be telling the stories of these alumni, it is during the unprecedented period of transformation that is now occurring. As exemplified by astronaut Franklin Chang-Diaz '73 (ENG) in the story on page 26, after earning a degree from the University, not even the sky is the limit.

*Ken Best*

## UConn TRADITIONS

Volume 3, Number 3 • Fall/Winter 2002

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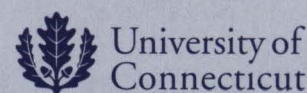
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Want to keep up with news and events at the University? News releases, upcoming events and activities are posted at [www.uconn.edu](http://www.uconn.edu).





# President

## A time of opportunity

In my message in the last issue of *UConn Traditions*, I addressed the positive economic impact of the University and its increasing role as a magnet for bright and ambitious college-bound young people. The outstanding quality of the class that joined us in the intervening months provides even more compelling evidence of our strong standing in higher education and demonstrates once again that the University is a prudent choice for sustained, targeted investment by the state of Connecticut.

The first days of the new semester were a time of special celebration, as we welcomed Governor John G. Rowland and Connecticut's bipartisan legislative leadership—and many of their colleagues—to South Campus at Storrs for the formal signing of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century UConn initiative, which extends UCONN 2000 through 2015 and adds \$1.3 billion to the state's initial \$1 billion investment. The overwhelming, bipartisan legislative support for 21<sup>st</sup> Century



President Austin addresses guests prior to the signing of 21<sup>st</sup> Century UConn into law.

experiencing a serious revenue shortfall that has led to a reduction in the level of funding the University was to

## "In a time of challenge and opportunity the University continues to make significant progress in key areas"

UConn represents both a commitment to the University's future and, we believe, an endorsement of our implementation and the impact of UCONN 2000.

With less fanfare but equal focus on the University's ongoing transformation, over the summer we adopted a tough but responsible operating budget. Like many other states, Connecticut is

receive. State support represents the largest single element of our resource base. A decade ago, state support represented 50 percent of our budget. Today, that figure is approximately 40 percent. We have instituted an operating budget that calls for sacrifice but allows us to continue our progress, enhance key academic and research programs, and hold tuition increases to an affordable rate.

The sense of a University making fundamental progress on multiple dimensions continued this summer as we opened new or extensively renovated buildings and continued work on other major construction projects at Storrs, the Law School, and several regional campuses. As in each of the last several years, we welcomed outstanding new members to complement our impressive faculty. Our research program continued to grow in external support and in terms of its contribution to the quality of life and the economic strength of our state and nation. In a turbulent economic climate, we nevertheless remained on target to meet, if not exceed, Campaign UConn's \$300-million fundraising goal.

As this issue of *UConn* magazine attests, in a time of challenge and opportunity the University of Connecticut continues to make significant progress in key areas of focus. We have every reason to expect that, with the support of our alumni and all other key components of the University community, that will continue to be the case in the year to come.

*Pining Austin*





## Letters

### Good Connections

My husband, business partner and fellow alum Peter Good '65 and I were featured in "The Last Word" section of the summer edition of *UConn Traditions*. Since the feature ran, we have heard from classmates we've not spoken with in years as well as friends and clients whom we hadn't realized were graduates of UConn.

One surprising response was an email from sculptor Geoff Myers, who was Peter's roommate and best man at our (on campus) wedding. We hadn't seen or heard from Geoff for over 30 years but now know that he is living in Florida and reading *Traditions* regularly.

A prideful discovery was learning that a favorite client, Jen Pomichter at Arts & Ideas New Haven, is also a UConn graduate. Prior to the *Traditions* feature she hadn't known that Peter

and I are also alums.

While working on the creation of the new graphic identity system for the University and during subsequent work at UConn, we've been impressed with the vastness, diversity and excellence of the University. And now, Peter and I are gratified with the new connections and (re)connections made possible by *UConn Traditions*.

Jan Cummings Good '66 (SFA)  
www.cummings-good.com

### Way to go Chris!

Here's a huge amen to Chris Hattayer's guest editorial in the summer issue of *UConn Traditions*. No matter where I have been in this world, there has hardly been a day that goes by that I don't have some fond memory of my days at UConn. As my class was '53, that's a good many memories. Over the years, UConn has opened many doors for me. My time

at Storrs included some of the happiest moments of my life and has been such a source of warm pride and affection.

Getting *UConn Traditions* brings me closer to the happenings at the campus and offers insight into what exciting things students and professors are doing.

Lawrence C. "Bud" James  
'53 (BUS), Redding, Calif.

### Repairing the Brain

I enjoyed the article "Repairing the Brain," by Janice Palmer, on the research by Professor Ben Bahr. As the parent of an autistic son, the article opened my mind to a lot of questions. Could there be some similarities between Alzheimer's disease and autism? In my opinion there isn't nearly enough research on that topic.

Teresa Crudele Musto '80  
Middlebury, Conn.

### Beanie memories

Thanks for the most recent edition of *UConn Traditions*. I, too, remember the "beanies" we had to wear during our first week on campus! We couldn't wait to conclude that rite of passage.

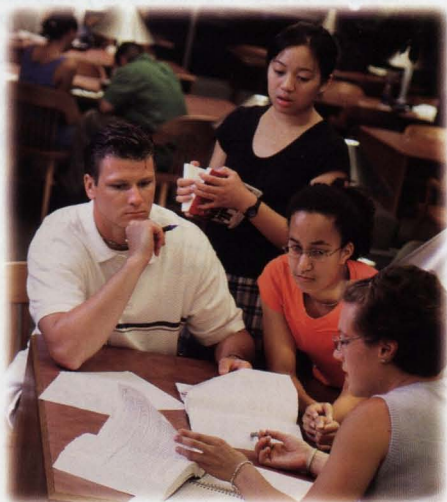
Philip Czyz '64  
Port Charlotte, Fla.

### Letters to the editor

must be signed and should be no more than 300 words. They will be printed as space allows and edited for style, grammar, typographical errors, content and length.

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## Sunken Treasure

*Wreckage of historic steamship located off Massachusetts coast*

One of New England's great maritime mysteries has been solved with the help of the University's research vessel, *Connecticut*.

The steamship *Portland* sank during a storm on November 26, 1898, killing 192 passengers and crew. Seeking help to locate and analyze the wreck, thought to be near the Massachusetts coast in the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, officials for the sanctuary sought the assistance of Ivar Babb, director of the National Undersea Research Center at UConn's Avery Point campus.

This past summer the crew from the *Connecticut* and staff from the center joined experts from the sanctuary and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to search for the shipwreck. Using UConn's research vessel, the team utilized side-scan sonar and a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) that has the capability to travel to great depths and send live pictures back to the *Connecticut*.

"The moment when we first started seeing something other than marine life come into view, everyone was saying, 'Look, look, here it comes!'" says Babb. "Then as the ROV got closer, we became quiet and just watched. It was one of the most exciting moments in my career in oceanography!"

Most of the hull and its two smokestacks are still intact, but the ship's upper decks, where the cabins and dining rooms were located, are gone.

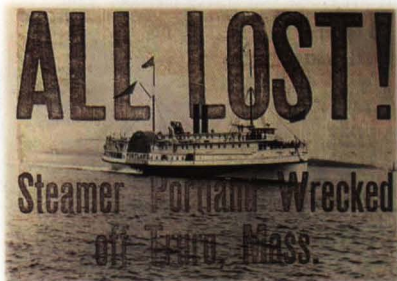
Locating the *Portland* is part of NOAA's effort to search the nation's 13 marine sanctuaries for

archaeological and other "cultural" finds. Babb is hoping to team up again with Stellwagen Bank for a series of expeditions to identify dozens of other wrecks thought to be in the sanctuary.



(Above) Ivar Babb, right, director of the National Undersea Research Center at Avery Point, discusses plans for a dive to locate the wreck of the *Portland* with officials of NOAA's Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, from left, Craig McDonald, Bruce Terrell and Ben Cowie-Haskell.

(Below) NOAA underwater image of the *Portland*'s anchor.



A news clip from 1898 reports the loss of the steamship *Portland* off the Massachusetts coast and the deaths of all on board.







## The many faces of Jonathan

**S**ince first being introduced in 1934, the image of Jonathan the UConn Husky has changed over the years on team uniforms, flags and apparel.

In the 1950s, Jonathan was depicted quite simply (a) on team jackets.

By the mid-1960s, Vermont illustrator Hubert Bushey re-created Jonathan as a Revolutionary War-era Minuteman (b) to reflect the state's history as one of the original 13 colonies.

During the 1970s, Jonathan's image returned to a more realistic form (c), which ultimately led to the familiar creation by Storrs artist Larry Wasiele (d), an image that has served UConn's growing legion of supporters and fans for the past 21 years.

As UConn moves forward in the 21st century, Jonathan also continues to evolve along with our growing and expanding public university. Rickabaugh Graphics in Ohio—a leading identity design firm working with professional and college team logos—has reintroduced the UConn Husky mascot with a fresh and dynamic look (e) to join the real dog, Jonathan XII, and the costumed Jonathan in representing the strong and proud traditions of the University of Connecticut.

## U.S. News again ranks UConn New England's top choice

**F**or the fourth year in a row, *U.S. News & World Report*, *America's Best Colleges* ranked UConn the top public university in New England. The University is also in a four-way tie for 31st place among the nation's top public universities. "It is wonderful to continue our status as best in New England and be listed among the top public universities nationally," says Chancellor John D. Petersen. "But as pleased as we are with our *U.S. News* ranking, the real measure of our success is the fact that so many outstanding students make UConn their top choice," he adds.

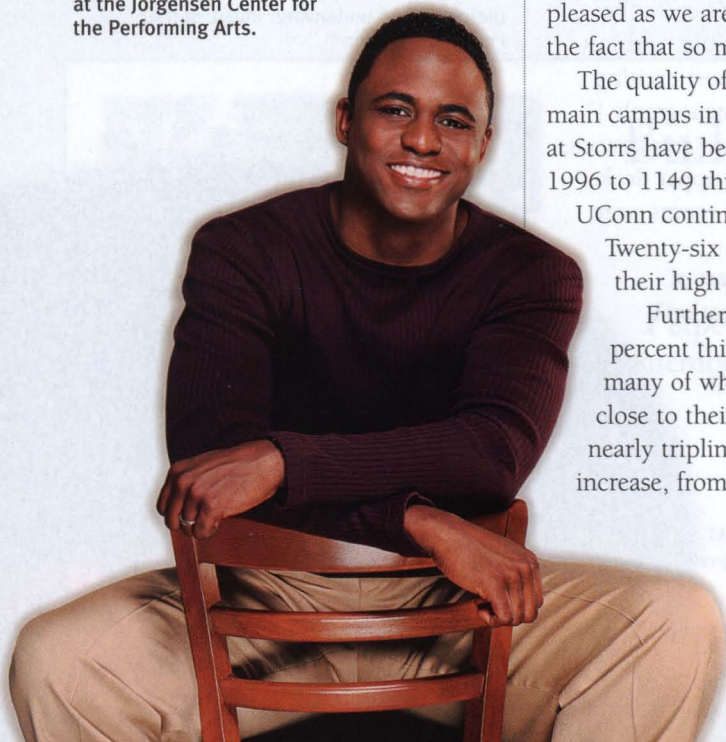
The quality of the 3,186 students who compose this year's freshman class at the main campus in Storrs is the best ever, continuing a six-year trend. New students at Storrs have better SAT scores, on average, than their predecessors, from 1112 in 1996 to 1149 this year. The number of valedictorians and salutatorians choosing UConn continues to rise—60 enrolled this year compared to 43 last year.

Twenty-six percent of incoming freshmen ranked in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating classes.

Furthermore, enrollment at UConn's five regional campuses rose by 15 percent this year, representing an incoming freshman class of 860 students—many of whom prefer to launch their UConn careers at campuses that are close to their homes. At the School of Law, applications soared by 46 percent, nearly tripling the average gain nationally, representing a 39-percent enrollment increase, from 180 to 250.

### Wayne Brady and Friends

Comedian Wayne Brady led a group of his funny friends—comedians from the popular TV show "Whose Line is it Anyway?"—in some madcap improvisations as part of a Family Weekend Concert in September at the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts.





## Historic Railroad photos go online at Dodd Center

After nearly two years of work, archivists at the University's Thomas J. Dodd Research Center have catalogued, digitized and created a website (<http://railroads.uconn.edu>) for the center's Railroad History Archive of nearly 500 photographs of locomotives, cars and railyards owned by the New Haven line.

The digitized photos meticulously document New Haven Railroad equipment, primarily steam and electric locomotives, taken during the early to mid-1900s by Fred Otto

Makowsky and donated to UConn by his nephew, Roy Makowsky '55 (CLAS). UConn has the largest collection of print material on the New Haven Railroad and now thousands of photographs. The new digital collection will be one of the most accessible railroad collections available in America.

"Fred Makowsky was a railroad enthusiast of mammoth proportions," says Laura Smith, curator of the Dodd Research Center's business, railroad and labor collections. "The Makowsky collection is a cohesive whole documenting virtually every piece of steam and electric engine owned by the railroad.

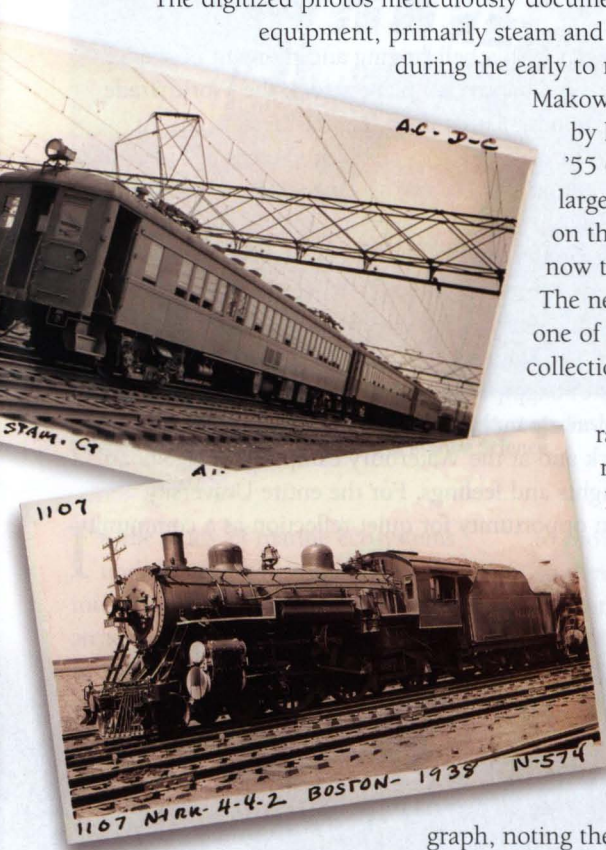
He described each photograph, noting the type of locomotive, the date

and location he shot the picture, and background on the engine."

For almost 100 years, the New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad, commonly called the New Haven Railroad, was the primary means of passenger and freight transportation in southern New England. Today it is part of MetroNorth.

The N.H.R.R. collection has been used by a wide array of researchers such as genealogists, environmentalists and model-train enthusiasts.

A portion of the collection will be displayed in the Dodd Center Gallery through Dec. 31.



Peter Morenus

### Treasury Secretary O'Neill visits Health Center

U.S. Treasury Secretary Paul H. O'Neill spoke at the UConn Health Center in September as part of a trip through New England aimed at building support for President Bush's economic agenda. O'Neill, the former chairman and CEO of Alcoa, toured the Health Center and met with members of the faculty, area business leaders and health care professionals during a roundtable discussion about patient safety and medical records.



### Week of Welcome Fun!

James Georgia, a junior, drives an obstacle course on a motorized toilet during the SUBOG block party that was part of the University's program to launch the new school year.



# 9/11

## TOGETHER WE REMEMBER

Peter Morenus



Students shield their candles from the wind during the memorial vigil for the victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks. Thousands of students joined the vigil held near Homer Babbidge Library.

The University community gathered to remember the anniversary of September 11, 2001, sharing somber ceremonies marked by tears, prayers and resolve. "We came together to show we care about each other and our community," says Vicky Triponey, vice chancellor of student affairs. "Our collective light will make the world a brighter and better place."

The Storrs commemoration began with a bell ringing and moment of silence at 8:46 a.m., the time the first terrorist-controlled plane struck the World Trade Center. UConn's Reserve Officer Training Corps led a flag raising at noon. At 7 p.m., several thousand gathered for a candlelight vigil. The Voices of Freedom choir sang. Students, faculty and administrators spoke. One candle was lit in memory of each of those who died.

Remembrances ranged across all points of the University. The Avery Point campus and the School of Law held campus gatherings, while the Health Center organized a mid-day service that included a symbolic exchange of peace among participants. A tree was planted at the Stamford campus in memory of those who perished, while the somber tones of bagpipes filled the Greater Hartford campus. Faculty and students participated in a panel discussion at the Torrington campus, while at the School of Social Work and at the Waterbury campus message boards allowed for the exchange of thoughts and feelings. For the entire University, September 11, 2002, provided an opportunity for quiet reflection as a community.





# the Future

## In balance with nature

*Northeast Utilities gift helps energize marine sciences at Avery Point*



UConn's research vessel, *Connecticut*, will conduct studies with support from the Northeast Utilities Program Endowment Fund in Marine Science.

In the study of marine ecosystems, understanding how biological interactions among species shape the structure and dynamics of the environment is critical. The same principles can also apply to the interactions between a large public utility and a major research university: The delicate balance of dependencies in this scenario often produce results that contribute to society at large.

Earlier this year, the Northeast Utilities Foundation committed \$500,000 to establish the Northeast Utilities Program Endowment Fund in Marine Science and the Northeast Utilities Awards Endowment Fund in Marine Science at UConn's Avery Point campus. The Program Endowment Fund will provide financial support

to promote research for faculty and students, including work on board UConn's research vessel, *Connecticut*. The Awards Endowment Fund will offer financial assistance to students, particularly women and members of

**"The gift owes its genesis to a long-standing relationship between the University and Northeast Utilities."**

minority groups, pursuing marine sciences studies. Together, these generous gifts help ensure continued research advances along one of the state's most precious natural resources—Long Island Sound.

The gift owes its genesis to a long-standing relationship between the University and Northeast Utilities. Since 1996, NU has funded an internship program at Avery Point for undergraduates in marine sciences, which provides annual opportunities for four to five students to work on

summer research projects.

A strong scholarship program is just one element critical to UConn's emergence as a premier program in the nation for marine science education and research. Other initiatives include recruiting additional outstanding faculty and supporting a number of interdisciplinary activities, such as physical oceanography and advanced environmental monitoring.

### UConn-ANC PARTNERSHIP RECEIVES MELLON GRANT

A three-year, \$700,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation will support the University of Connecticut-African National Congress partnership in its collaboration to preserve and promote access to historical records documenting the struggle to end apartheid in South Africa. The University of Connecticut is the official North American repository of ANC archival materials.

The partnership between UConn and the African National Congress is an important element in the efforts of the two institutions to promote human rights worldwide. This grant is the second the partnership has received from the Mellon Foundation, which gave \$665,000 in June 2000 to support an oral history program and a planning grant for the archives project.

In funding oral history, archival and comparative human rights components of the partnership, the grant also promotes international understanding and cooperation between the people of South Africa and the United States.

"The work of the African National Congress represents one of history's

**Continued on page 12**





Governor John G. Rowland signs 21<sup>st</sup> Century UConn into law during a ceremony held at the Storrs campus on August 26, 2002, as Senate President Kevin Sullivan '82 J.D., House Speaker Moira Lyons, House Minority Leader Robert Ward '74 (CLAS) and other legislators look on.

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century UConn

*Setting the pace for universities nationwide*

The \$1.3 billion building program to continue the remarkable transformation of the University of Connecticut, known as 21<sup>st</sup> Century UConn, was approved by the General Assembly and signed into law by Governor John G. Rowland this past August.

The Legislature's enactment of the program, a 10-year continuation of the \$1 billion UCONN 2000 initiative, is unprecedented nationally. The widespread support for 21<sup>st</sup> Century UConn is an endorsement and recognition of UCONN 2000's achievements and of the University's prudent management of the UCONN 2000 program.

"We are very grateful to the governor, who proposed this initiative, and to the

General Assembly, whose leaders and members offered bipartisan support," says President Philip E. Austin. "The adoption of 21<sup>st</sup> Century UConn represents a strong vote of confidence in the University and recognizes our success in managing the physical transformation of our campuses across the state. In 1995, many people regarded UCONN 2000 as a calculated risk. But based on a strong record of achievement, the widespread perception this year has been that 21<sup>st</sup> Century UConn is a wise investment."

Totaling \$2.3 billion, UCONN 2000 and its successor, 21<sup>st</sup> Century UConn, invigorate the state's future by providing the means for the University to attract high-achieving students, high-quality

faculty and for securing private donations and grants.

Ranked the top public university in New England by *U.S. News & World Report*, UConn has advanced on numerous fronts since the adoption of UCONN 2000. Since 1995, at Storrs, SAT scores have risen nearly 40 points, while freshmen enrollment is up 58 percent, and minority enrollment is up 61 percent. This fall, there are 60 valedictorians and salutatorians enrolled in the freshman class and a total of 394 since 1995.

Since 1994 annual gifts to UConn have increased dramatically from \$8.2



million to \$43.3 million for 2002, and endowment assets have grown from \$50 million to \$200 million today. A record high 23 percent of alumni contributed to the University in 2002.

"UCONN 2000 gave us a singular opportunity to renew, rebuild and enhance the University," Austin says. "21<sup>st</sup> Century UConn expands that opportunity and essentially provides the resources to continue our remarkable progress."

The UCONN 2000 program has already resulted in the completion of more than two dozen new facilities, including the Chemistry Building, School of Business, the Agricultural Biotechnology Laboratory, as well as new buildings at our regional campuses. The construction of residence halls such as the Hilltop Apartments, Hilltop Suites, and South Campus and renovations to Wilbur Cross, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and to numerous classrooms and research facilities have transformed UConn's living and learning experience.

The modern Biophysics Building and the Information Technologies Engineering Building are slated to open in 2003. The Student Union, already under renovation, will be completed in 2004. Greek housing and North Campus Apartments will open next September, and a new School of

Pharmacy will be constructed as well.

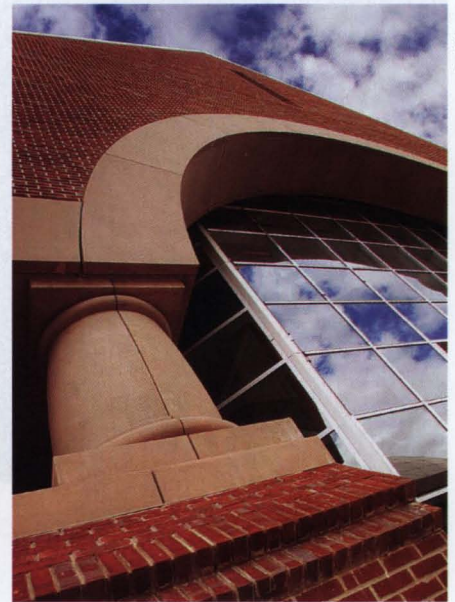
Among the initiatives made possible by 21<sup>st</sup> Century UConn are major upgrades to the UConn Health Center that will include the construction of a state-of-the-art medical research facility. Enhancements to the Storrs campus—including new facilities to replace Monteith and Arjona Halls, the Torrey Life Sciences Building, additions to the Benton Museum, Psychology Building, Storrs Hall, and the School of Fine Arts as well as the refurbishing of numerous buildings, such as the Jorgensen Center for the Performing

Arts and the Natural History Museum—will continue to reshape the University. Furthermore, renovations to the UConn School of Law and the regional campuses at Avery Point, Stamford, Torrington, Waterbury, and West Hartford will improve the quality of a UConn education throughout the state.

— Karen Grava



Peter Morenus



Paul Horton

(Above) The new UConn Co-op includes expanded space for a café, the Husky Shop, a convenience store, the technology and textbook departments, as well as a new branch of People's Bank.

(Left) The Biophysics Building will feature new laboratories, including a 22,000-square-foot accelerator and laser technology research facility.

(Below left) The Information Technology Engineering Building will provide engineering students with state-of-the-art facilities to help prepare them for challenging careers.



Dollie Harvey



# Legal Inspiration

*Gifts totaling more than \$2M benefit Law School's legal clinic program*



Peter Morenus

(Left) Elizabeth M. McCormick, the first William R. Davis '55 Clinical Teaching Fellow, offers instruction in the Law School's Civil Rights Clinic.

only six times, and its Distinguished Service Award. This past spring, the *Connecticut Law Review* presented Davis with its annual award, noting his integrity, enthusiasm and dedication to promoting excellence in the legal profession.

In 2001, the School announced that it would name one of two new moot courtrooms on campus in his honor. The state-of-the-art William R. Davis Courtroom is currently under construction and is scheduled for completion in 2003.

A prominent Connecticut attorney and alumnus of the University of Connecticut's School of Law has increased his financial commitment to the School of Law to help future lawyers develop their trial and advocacy skills. William R. Davis '55 J.D. has contributed an additional \$700,000 to the Law School's Civil Clinic Endowment Fund, which he established in 1996 with a \$300,000 gift. His partners in the law firm of RisCassi and Davis also have made substantial gifts in his honor. In total, these gifts are now valued at more than \$2 million.

This endowment fund has helped make it possible for the School of Law to add a faculty fellow to teach and supervise students in the School's legal clinic program.

Elizabeth M. McCormick, the first William R. Davis '55 Clinical Teaching Fellow, teaches in the Law School's Civil

Rights Clinic this year. She will also work with students in the new Asylum and Human Rights Clinic. "Mr. Davis' generous gifts to the Law School and his dedicated service to the public and to the profession are truly inspiring," says McCormick. "I am so honored to be in a position to share his commitment to service and justice with UConn students working in the clinic."

Indeed, for many years, Davis has made numerous contributions to the Law School, including his 17 years as an adjunct professor in trial practice. "Bill Davis is one of our most prominent and treasured graduates," says Nell Jessup Newton, dean of the School of Law. "His commitment to the School is deeply appreciated by our entire community."

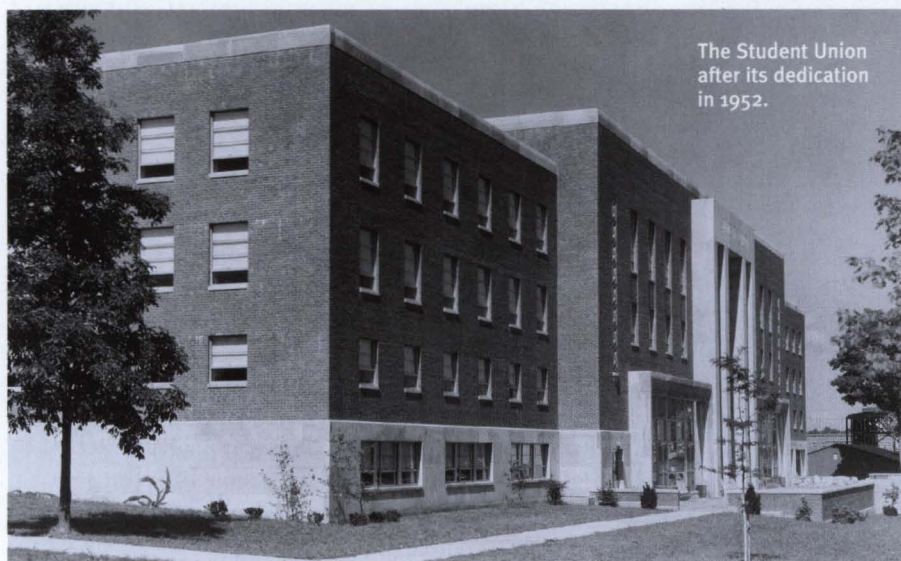
Davis has received both the Law School Alumni Association Medal of Excellence, which has been awarded

## MELLON GRANT - Continued from pg. 9

most extraordinary human rights achievements," says President Philip E. Austin. "The University is honored to collaborate with the ANC in this archival project, and the Mellon Foundation grant provides invaluable assistance to our joint effort to preserve vital historical materials for future generations."

Amii Omara-Otunnu, UNESCO Chair in Comparative Human Rights and executive director of the UConn-ANC Partnership, says "The grant enables the University of Connecticut and the African National Congress to realize a common, shared vision—preserving historical materials that shed light on the struggles for human rights and suggesting strategies for peaceful resolution of conflicts around the world."





The Student Union  
after its dedication  
in 1952.

## Life begins at 50

*Student Union reconstruction project underway*

**C**elebrating its 50th anniversary this fall, the Student Union on the main campus in Storrs is undergoing a major facelift. In fact, over the next several years and in a number of construction phases, the Student Union will be transformed to meet better the needs of the students it serves. An expanded food court, a movie theater and a central home for all the University's cultural centers will be among the new features. It will also provide both large and more intimate meeting space for numerous student and University-sponsored activities.

The Student Union was first proposed by former president Albert Jorgensen who, in 1935, envisioned a center dedicated to student activities. At the time, student options were limited, and the Community House of the Storrs Congregational Church

functioned as the primary venue for student meetings and campus activities.

Planning began in earnest in the early 1940s, although, like many construction projects nationally, it was delayed for the duration of World War II. Originally, the Student Union was intended to have a central cafeteria; a six-lane bowling alley; rooms for the student newspaper, yearbook and literary publication staffs; an art gallery; a museum of natural history; an auditorium/banquet hall; a ballroom; and 14 guest rooms for alumni, parents or other visitors.

With \$490,000 in initial state funding, the Alumni Association mounted a two-year fund-raising campaign to bridge the gap between the state funding and the total proposed cost of \$600,000. But between the time of the fund-raising and planning phase

and the actual construction, costs rose. Financial constraints were compounded by the high demand for additional residence halls and academic buildings in those post-World War II years as enrollment burgeoned with the influx of former military personnel.

With a more moderate and substantially modified design, the Student Union opened in fall 1952 with the annual president's reception and as host to an estimated 10,000 students, alumni and visitors during Homecoming Weekend.

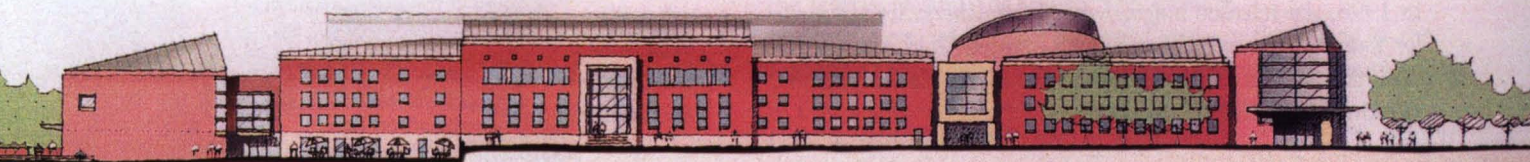
From its opening, the Student Union was known as the "hub of student life" and brought together the then-*Connecticut Campus*, WHUS radio, the Associated Student Government, and the *Nutmeg* yearbook staff.

The building has undergone changes over the decades, with numerous renovations and the expansion and relocation of various organizations. Yet there have been at least two constants: the Control Desk, and the Student Union Board of Governors.

You can still buy a pack of gum or a newspaper or check out a board game or deck of cards at the Control Desk. Social activities, from lectures to concerts, are planned by the Board of Governors.

When the building opened in 1952, UConn entered a new era in student activities, said Dan Blume, class of 1953 and then-president of the student government. Blume's words ring true again as the 50-year-old Student Union enters a new phase of providing service and community to the University, its alumni, and especially its students.

— Mark J. Roy '74 (CLAS)





# News

## School of Fine Arts

### Nothing but Treblemakers!

Listen to most children's CDs, and you'll notice many of them feature professional adult singers. Mary Ellen Junda, a UConn faculty member and nationally recognized child development vocal specialist, has released a CD of children's folk songs that challenges this convention by relying exclusively on the voices of children.

The result is a CD that is both greatly appealing to children and highly professional.

"I wanted people to realize that children are capable of singing artistically and in tune," says Junda, director of Treblemakers, an associate professor of music and associate dean of the School of Fine Arts.

Earlier this year, Junda released the CD *Singing with Treblemakers: Our Favorite Folk Songs*, featuring nine young performers singing 23 folk songs.

The singers, between 11 and 14 years old, were all members of Treblemakers, a choir Junda created at the College of Continuing Studies Community School of the Arts.

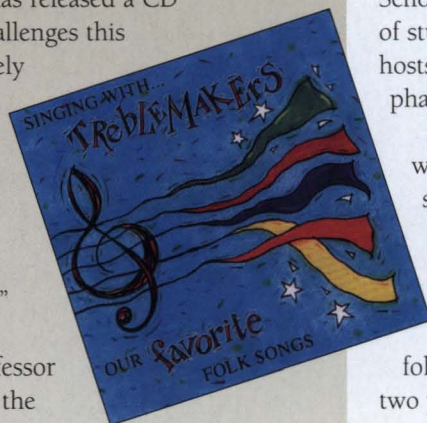
Four UConn students were among those who provided instrumental accompaniment on the CD.

Junda says the CD provides children aged 5 to 10 with age-appropriate songs and vocals that fit their singing range. The recording features an eclectic selection of folk songs from a wide range of musical traditions, including African, British and Native American.

Junda selected nine singers from the 35-member choir to perform on the CD. "These children definitely had both maturity and musical skill," she says. It took a strong blend of both to handle the rigors of producing a professionally recorded disc, which took a year to complete and required the singers to make frequent trips to the recording studio.

Junda says the performers exhibited true professionalism. "Their ears were as good as their voices, if not better," she says, noting that the singers sometimes asked to redo a song if they thought they could do better: "They were more critical than I."

This is the second Treblemakers CD Junda has produced. In 1998, she released *Singing with Treblemakers: Songs for Young Singers*, which received a coveted Gold Award from the Parents' Choice Foundation. Junda plans to begin working on a third CD next year.



Both Treblemakers discs are available at the UConn Co-op or [www.cdbaby.com](http://www.cdbaby.com)

## School of Pharmacy

### Gaining practical experience

Students in UConn's School of Pharmacy value practical experience, and they are better trained because of it. With 10 residents and fellows this academic year, UConn's School of Pharmacy now boasts the largest practicing team of students of any school of pharmacy in New England and hosts Connecticut's first community pharmacy and geriatrics pharmacy residents.

"This accomplishment exemplifies our mission, and we're excited about the opportunities it affords our students, our program and the state," explains Robert McCarthy, interim dean of the School of Pharmacy.

Those seeking a Doctor of Pharmacy degree typically complete UConn's program over a six-year span comprising four years of undergraduate study followed by two years of graduate training. In their final two years, residents and fellows hone crucial practice and research skills within cooperative pharmacy settings such as hospitals and clinics. Made possible by funding partnerships with the School of Pharmacy and the host sites, internships provide future pharmacists valuable exposure to all aspects of the health care environment.

The UConn professors, who mentor the residents and fellows, benefit as well. Having an intern allows them to devote additional time to meaningful research projects.

"Essentially, it is like having a post doc in the office," says Sean Jeffery, clinical assistant professor of pharmacy. "Utilizing the talents of a highly qualified student resident allows me to extend the scope of my work."

As a group, these interns will have a far-reaching impact. "They will increase our exposure on the national level as evidence that UConn is in the business of training some of the country's premier pharmacy practitioners," adds McCarthy. "Many will stay in Connecticut after finishing their training and provide state residents with the finest pharmaceutical care available."

A three-credit ecology class in South Africa provided a unique learning experience for 16 UConn students who spent three weeks with students and faculty from the University of Fort Hare.





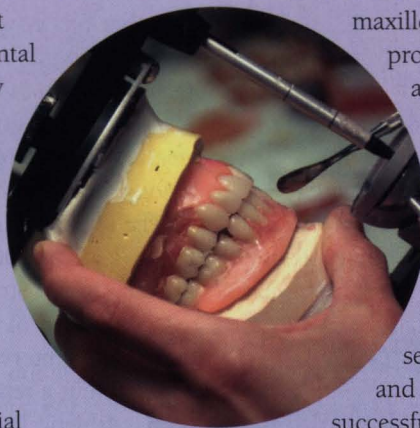
## School of Dental Medicine

### *Symposium sparks interest in academic dentistry*

Today, faculty teaching in dental schools across the nation are probably the best prepared, most qualified and most accomplished of any dental school faculty cadre ever. The students they educate are the most skilled dental practitioners in history. Unfortunately, more than 400 faculty positions in U.S. dental schools are currently vacant, and the average age of dental faculty is creeping into the mid-50s.

One of the nation's premier institutions for dental education, the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine, recently, sponsored the "Skeletal, Craniofacial & Oral Biology Symposium," which provided a national forum to explore important issues in this area of dentistry and to promote interest in academic dentistry.

The symposium, funded by a five-year, multimillion dollar training grant from the National Institute of Dental



and Craniofacial Research of the National Institutes of Health, brought together about 70 faculty members, government officials, dentists, dental fellows, residents and scientists from across the country interested in oral and maxillofacial dental research. While bone biology provided the focal point for the symposium, an oft-stated theme was the advantages and satisfaction of pursuing a career in academic dentistry.

"The feedback was gratifying," said William Upholt, UConn professor of biostructure and function and symposium co-organizer. "Large numbers of the participants said it was useful to have sessions that looked at career opportunities and explored planning, training and how to be successful in research."

"There is an urgent need in our nation's dental schools," said Alan Lurie, UConn professor of oral diagnosis and symposium co-organizer. "The purpose of the event was to help develop future dental faculty. The response was overwhelmingly positive."

## College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

### *South African exploration*

This past spring, 16 UConn students spent three intense weeks living and learning in South Africa's Eastern Cape Province. Led by Professors Morty Ortega and Elizabeth Jockusch, the UConn students were joined in South Africa by faculty and students from the University of Fort Hare.

The students lived on the Great Fish River Reserve, a 100,000-acre nature and game reserve complex surrounded by commercial farms and poor rural communities. Through lectures, field trips, and time spent conducting research on the reserve, the students learned about ecological systems in southern Africa.

"Working and living with South Africans was amazing," says graduate student Eric Mosher. "The overall experience was so much more than learning

about plants and animals. It was really about gaining perspective on another culture."

"The purpose of the trip was to expose students to South Africa," says Ortega. "By talking to Fort Hare students both in the field and on campus, and by visiting a rural community, where they learned how South Africans manage their land and live in such an arid environment, UConn students learned a great deal about the culture of South Africa."

According to Peter Lent, an associate professor of animal science at Fort Hare and one of the organizers of the course, the UConn students in turn helped open the eyes of the students and professors they encountered.

"The Fort Hare students certainly appreciated the enthusiasm of the American students as well as the intense interest and intellectual curiosity UConn students and professors displayed," says Lent.

Prior to the three-credit ecology class abroad, the UConn students, all of whom had previously taken ecology and wildlife management classes, met several times for guest lectures in preparation for the trip. Once they arrived in South Africa, each student conducted an original research project, with topics ranging from examining vegetation on the reserve to studying insects and animals.

The course, which will be taught again in the spring, is the first such collaborative effort under the UConn-University of Fort Hare linkage, which is partially funded by the United Negro College Fund.





## School of Nursing

### High-tech prescription for seniors

The University's School of Nursing has written a high-tech prescription that is helping senior citizens avoid common and dangerous drug interactions.

Using a touch screen computer system, older adults are learning about potential problems that may arise when combining prescription and over-the-counter medications.

"It's designed to be as easy as ordering coleslaw in a deli," says Patricia Neafsey, a pharmacologist and UConn professor of nursing. "Considerable research went into the software as to word choice and visual design for the animations. We try to avoid using medical terms in favor of words that real people say, such as blood thinners or blood pressure pills."

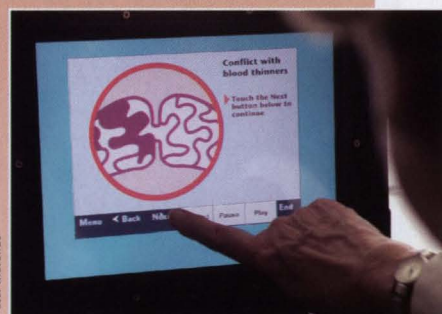
"The touch screen system has been well received by seniors," says Zoe Strickler, a visual communication designer and coordinator of multi-disciplinary research in the University's Center for Health/HIV Intervention and Prevention.

When asked what they like about the program, patients say it readily explains what their medications do and that the system's animations facilitate comprehension and better recall of the warnings. "The program is easier to understand than medicine labels," says one senior citizen.

The project, now in its initial rollout at sites throughout Connecticut, California and Pennsylvania, is being carried out under the School of Nursing's Center for Health Communication Research and Design. Says Neafsey: "We're using the touch screen technology that many voters see at the ballot box. Our system isn't going to be foreign. The timing is right."

What's the next prescription? The Center has applied for a \$2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to develop an online patient information system to be used in a doctor's waiting room, taking more of the burden off the patient, regardless of age, who traditionally fills out a questionnaire on a clipboard.

According to Neafsey and Strickler, as the nation's population ages, it becomes increasingly important that health information be presented in ways that older adults can learn from and best respond to. The two researchers are optimistic that the new technologies being developed will enable older individuals to manage their health and, ultimately, live longer independently in their homes.



**An easy-to-use touch screen can help senior citizens avoid potentially dangerous drug interactions.**

## Neag School of Education

### Out of the heat

Whether it is a spirited debate on ESPN's *College Game Day*, a segment on CNN's *Headline News* or a story in *USA Today*, Doug Casa, an associate professor of kinesiology in the Neag School of Education, is boosting awareness about treating and ultimately preventing heat illness injuries among athletes.

The topic has remained in the spotlight following the tragic death in 2001 of Minnesota Vikings offensive lineman Korey Stringer. This past summer, Casa, who is director of UConn's athletic training program, has been interviewed by journalists across the country about a report he co-authored for the National Athletic Trainers Association that provides new recommendations on the treatment of heat illnesses brought on by physical exertion.

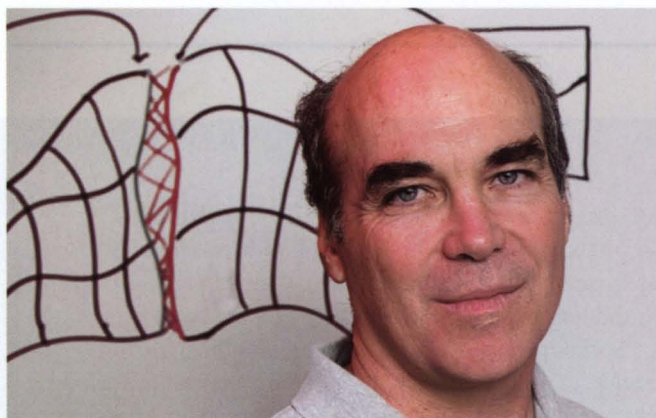
"These new guidelines should go a long way in preventing needless tragedies," says Casa. "These recommendations are based on the very latest research we have on how optimally to prevent, recognize and treat exertional heat illnesses."

The illnesses include heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke—potentially the most dangerous of the conditions. Research shows that subtle signs and symptoms are often overlooked. The new guidelines include recommendations to educate athletes and coaches about heat illness and hydration, allow athletes more time to adapt to climate changes, and monitor closely an athlete's fluid intake and losses.

Casa has more than just a professional interest in the issue. When he was a teenager running in the Empire State Games in New York, he suffered a heat stroke and went into a coma for several hours. Had it not been for the superb, immediate treatment he received by athletic trainers and emergency personnel, Casa says he might not have survived. So for the past 16 years, Casa has been studying and researching the hydration process as well as exertional heat illnesses. A survivor of the life threatening effects of heat illness, Casa is passionately committed to educating professionals on the proper care of today's athletes.







Peter Morenus

## School of Engineering

### *The mathematics of flight*

The next time you are on an airplane, look out at the wing and think of UConn Professor Thomas Peters. For two decades, Peters has been developing the mathematics and algorithms needed to ensure the durability and strength of the intersection where the wing connects to the fuselage.

That joint—a geometric intersection—presents a recurring design problem Peters, an associate professor of computer science and engineering, has been asked to resolve for automotive and aerospace manufacturers each time a new product with complex intersections is under development. Now, with a \$715,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, Peters and his research team will develop new solutions that could solve the problem, with potential savings to both industries of more than \$1 billion annually.

Peters is leading a group of scientists that includes researchers from Purdue, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Boeing who are creating an efficient and precise way of designing intersection algorithms. Additionally, three UConn students, one graduate and two undergraduates, will be working with Peters and his team.

“For decades, engineers employing computer-aided design have relied on outdated mathematical computations—algorithms developed primarily for linear construction—that are not adequate for the complex surface intersections common in modern industrial design,” explains Peters, who holds a joint appointment in mathematics.

Computer-aided design was originally used to help people visualize an object, replacing the traditional engineering design paradigm of draftsmen using pencil and paper. This software has continued to evolve over the years but, as Peters points out, the mathematics used for the underlying algorithms did not keep up with the technology.

“While the design may look perfect on the computer, it is impossible to detect tiny cracks with the naked eye. So the aerospace industry and others have had to resort to costly and time-consuming physical stress tests,” says Peters.

“By making the geometry better to begin with,” he says, “we could avoid the tedious test and repair cycle.” One of his goals is to have the geometry and stress analysis achieve a level of accuracy such that costly destructive tests are no longer needed or required by the Federal Aviation Administration.

## School of Business

### *CIBER grant fosters global perspective*

The School of Business will continue serving as a national resource for excellence in global technology competitiveness with the recent renewal of a U.S. Department of Education CIBER grant. Awarded \$1.4 million over the next four years, UConn’s Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) received the distinction following a highly competitive application process. One of only 30 schools in the nation recognized with this grant, UConn offers a program emphasizing global initiatives in research, teaching and academic outreach.

The CIBER program was established by Congress in 1988 in an effort to increase and promote the nation’s understanding of international business conditions and economic enterprise. UConn’s CIBER, which celebrates its third successful grant renewal since 1995, provides interdisciplinary educational opportunities for students with a focus on worldwide business and technology; professional development and research opportunities for faculty of global

technology management; as well as technological competitiveness information, and research and training programs for businesses, government, and professional organizations.

A part of the CIBER program, the School of Business works closely with the School of Engineering, the Division of International Affairs, and the Department of Modern and Classical Languages. Remarking upon the impact of the program, interim Dean C. F. Sirmans notes that UConn’s CIBER “enhances the global perspective of business people, students and teachers at all levels.”

With the renewed funding, UConn’s CIBER plans a number of new initiatives. It will sponsor a faculty development seminar in India, open to all U.S. professors, promoting the teaching of international business. Continuing to support study abroad programs and MBA travel to London, Paris, Mexico, China, and India, CIBER will enhance efforts to incorporate a global focus into many of UConn’s business courses. And in the wake of the events of September 11, the program plans to facilitate a conference addressing homeland security and its effect on the global business community.



## School of Social Work

### *Social awakening in Armenia*

The shattered lives of Armenian street children are now being restored thanks to the emergence of social work in this new democracy that reached out to UConn's School of Social Work for help getting started.

It's been a dozen years since Armenia separated from the Soviet Republic and UConn joined hands with the country's Yerevan State University to develop a viable social work program.

The result: Social work has become a shining stronghold in this small landlocked country of nearly four million—located east of Turkey and north of Iran.

"We've been consistently there for the past 12 years," says Nancy A. Humphreys, professor of social work and the School's former dean, who launched the Armenian Social Work Project. "They had the daunting task of establishing a new social structure," she says. "We respected their views and greatly helped the progression of social work into their culture."

Today, Armenia has some 400 trained social workers,

and programs have been successfully integrated into hospitals, community-based health clinics, schools, prisons, and veteran and geriatric services, with women's services on the horizon.

"Social work has become the fastest growing child service," says Humphreys. "A program has been developed for street children; and disabled children, who were once isolated and hidden in homes, are attending school and have become part of their communities."

The international collaboration has resulted in the establishment of both a four-year bachelor's degree program in social work and a one-year master's program at Yerevan State University. The collaboration has also led to the development of more than 30 field training sites.

UConn graduate students have also benefited from this international partnership, making connections with their peers at Yerevan State University and working on an array of research projects. During the past three years, UConn students have traveled to Armenia to study, research and gain a greater understanding of this country and its people during this remarkable period of change.

## School of Allied Health

### *Exercise and genetics may be linked*

Each spring, when the masses commit to getting in shape for summer, some people seem to have an easier time of it than others. As it turns out, the difference may be attributable to genetics.

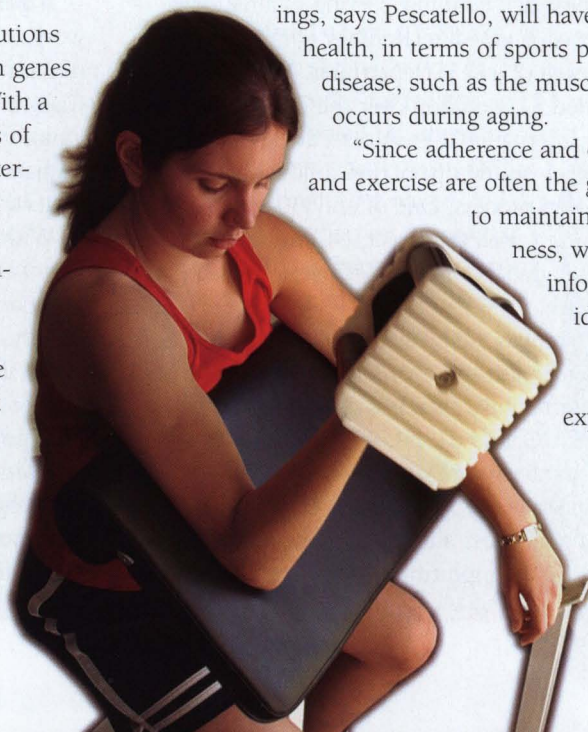
UConn's School of Allied Health is one of 10 institutions selected to conduct an in-depth study assessing which genes influence a person's response to resistance training. With a four-year, \$430,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health, Linda Pescatello, an assistant professor and exercise physiologist, is leading the UConn research team.

"This is the first systematic study of the interaction between genetic variation and the response to environmental stimuli in normal humans," says Pescatello. "Can we identify through genetic makeup for whom exercise would work best? If so, could someone more readily adapt to the training if they were told up-front how effective it would be? And would a person be more likely to stick to it if they knew it was going to pay off for them? These are some of the questions we will be seeking to address."

Pescatello's team includes three graduate students, two from allied health and one from

kinesiology, as well as several undergraduates. The research team is recruiting 200 participants who will undergo 12 weeks of supervised exercise involving their non-dominant arm. If a subject is left-handed, he or she will exercise the right arm, twice a week for 30 minutes. The goal is to build up the biceps and triceps while determining muscle strength and size and evaluating the person's genetic composition. The findings, says Pescatello, will have implications for health, in terms of sports performance, and for disease, such as the muscle deterioration that occurs during aging.

"Since adherence and compliance to diet and exercise are often the greatest roadblocks to maintaining or attaining fitness, we hope to use this information as a tool for identifying for whom exercise works best," Pescatello explains.



Peter Morenus



## School of Medicine

### New Ambulatory Surgery Center, Musculoskeletal Institute

Plans are underway at the UConn Health Center to construct a new 100,000 square foot facility to house an ambulatory surgery center and a new Musculoskeletal Institute.

The majority of the building—more than 60,000 square feet—will be devoted to the Musculoskeletal Institute, a Health Center signature program that will incorporate clinical, research and academic programs in musculoskeletal health. The ambulatory surgery center will include five operating rooms, space for pre- and post-anesthesia care and room for administrative and business offices.

"This facility will expand our research in bone biology, biomaterials, biomechanics, arthritis and orthopedics, including sports medicine and joint replacement," says Peter Deckers, dean of the School of Medicine and executive vice president for health affairs. "The new Musculoskeletal Institute will help us directly link our research with our clinical programs so we can take the discoveries we make in the lab and use them for treating patients," adds Deckers.



The ambulatory surgery center will make it possible for the Health Center to upgrade its operating rooms and increase space. The Health Center's John Dempsey Hospital is already running its current operating facilities at full capacity and needs to expand.

"We foresee a continuing increase in the need for ambulatory surgery because of demographics and the changing nature of medicine," says Steven Strongwater, associate dean for clinical affairs and director of John Dempsey Hospital. "We wanted to improve our surgery facilities, but we didn't want to reduce our current level of service to the community."

The new ambulatory center and Musculoskeletal Institute is a joint project of the UConn Health Center and Health Resources International. University President Philip E. Austin calls this new collaborative initiative "vital" to the University's academic mission.

"If we are going to continue to grow as a center of intellect and ingenuity, we must also explore new and innovative partnerships that can help us achieve our goals with greater speed and with less reliance on government funding," he says.

The building is scheduled to open in March 2004.



Peter Morenus

Left to right, Professor Richard Pomp, Dean Nell Jessup Newton, and Professor Bethany Berger.

## School of Law

### Demand for Indian law expertise

There were no lazy days of summer for the School of Law as calls streamed in from people looking for expert interpretations of a recent federal government ruling.

In late June, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) announced its decision to recognize Connecticut's Eastern Pequot tribe. With the School establishing itself as a national authority on Indian law, countless reporters and others called for insight into the decision. The immediate result: Several UConn professors and the dean appeared extensively in numerous articles explaining the legal rationale underlying the decision and its implications, and *The New York Times* ran a feature about the Law School's growing Indian law program. The underlying significance: UConn's School of Law is emerging as a national leader in the evolving and sometimes controversial area of Indian law—perhaps a natural fit in Connecticut, also home to the thriving Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes.

Professor Colin Tait taught the School of Law's first introductory course on Indian law in 1998, but it is Dean Nell Jessup Newton's recent arrival that has raised the School's profile in the Indian law community. Newton, considered one of the country's premier authorities on Indian law, is currently overseeing the revision of the *Handbook of Federal Indian Law*, the primary resource that lawyers and judges across the country reference when seeking information about this complex subject.

Further adding to the School's rising reputation, research professor of Indian law Bethany Berger, who previously lived and worked on the Hopi and Navajo reservations, has recently joined the Law School faculty to assist in the efforts to elevate the Indian law program and to collaborate with Newton on the handbook revision. The new edition of the handbook, which hasn't been revised since 1982, is due out in January 2004. Additionally, Professor Richard Pomp, who also has extensive expertise in Indian law, is planning to publish the first-ever textbook on taxation of American Indians next year.



## School of Family Studies

### *A father's love*

Researchers who look to mothers exclusively to understand a child's development are getting only half the story, says Ronald Rohner, emeritus professor and director of UConn's Center for the Study of Parental Acceptance and Rejection.

A father's love—or lack thereof—is a critical yet understudied consideration in child development, according to recent research by Rohner and his colleague. “What we find is that a father's love is just as important as, and sometimes more important than, a mother's love,” Rohner says.

Fathers are identified more readily than mothers in issues such as psychological maladjustment, substance abuse, depression, and conduct problems, says Rohner. On the positive side, a father's love provides a buffer against the development of these difficulties and can contribute to a child's good physical health.

Rohner and his colleague examined nearly 100 studies spanning more than 50 years that explore the effect of parent-



ing on children's behavior. In the early studies, Rohner noted: “At the very most, fathers were thought to be peripheral to the job of parenting because children spent most of their time with their mother. Some even argued that fathers have no biological aptitude for child-care, though women were said to be genetically endowed for it.”

Because mothers were assumed to be so important in child development, researchers tended to study mothers' behavior. However, in the 1960s and 1970s, researchers gradually turned their attention to the importance of fathers. Some of the studies yielded results that were surprising at the time. Rohner explains: Many of these studies found that a “father's love is the sole significant predictor of specific child outcomes.”

Although the numerous studies spanning 50+ years did offer some mixed conclusions about the importance of fathers, the mere fact that fathers are now being examined with more frequency is crucial. “Widespread recognition of fathers' influence may help motivate many men to become more involved in nurturing childcare,” says Rohner.

## College of Continuing Studies

### *The BGS yields 25 years of success*

Denise Brown '98 was a high school graduate working at a fast-food restaurant. She had always wanted to become a dentist. She is now in dental school, at the top of her class. Carolyn Scruse Hall '93, a former paralegal, now has her own law practice. Michael Bradford '98 went from a job at Electric Boat to a position as assistant professor of dramatic arts at UConn's Avery Point campus.

They are among the thousands of graduates of UConn's Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) program, which offers non-traditional students the chance to earn a degree.

Designed for working adults, the BGS program began in 1977 with 27 students. By 1981, the program had expanded to UConn's regional campuses. This year the program celebrates its silver anniversary with more than 1,000 students and 3,700 accomplished graduates. Although their life experiences and courses of study are incredibly varied, all BGS graduates maintain the fundamental thread of pursuing a degree that meets their individual needs to achieve their goals.

Legislative leader Denise Merrill '88 chose the BGS program because “I was able to structure coursework so that

I could work, raise three children, and still take classes of my choice at a variety of campuses on my own timetable.”

Mary Gates '93 enrolled in the BGS program because “I wanted to go to the UConn School of Social Work to pursue a master's degree,” she says. “BGS gave me a well-rounded education, and all my previous credits were accepted.”

Gates pursued a joint major with the UConn School of Social Work and the Yale School of Divinity. She earned a Master's in Social Work in 1996 and a Master's in Divinity in 1997. Ordained in 1999, Gates is an Episcopal priest in Waterbury, Conn., and a psychotherapist in private practice.

After completing the BGS, Barry Harrison '89, '92 J.D. continued his education at the UConn School of Law. Today he's lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps. Stationed in Yokosuka, Japan, Harrison is the staff judge advocate for the rear admiral, official Japanese court observer, and a magistrate for the military's grand jury process.

“I took a constitutional law course, and the professor told me I had an aptitude for legal studies,” says Harrison. “It was a BGS professor that started the ball rolling toward law school.”

Just as the success stories of BGS graduates goes on and on, so does the success and growth of the UConn BGS program.



## College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

### Nature-nurture research celebrated

Last summer nearly 100 scholars convened to pay tribute to the UConn psychology professor considered one of the founders and leaders of modern behavior genetics. During “Nurturing the Genome: A Festschrift for Benson E. Ginsburg,” participants discussed the emeritus professor’s influence on their research and the field of genetics.

Throughout his career, Ginsburg has studied the intersection between genes and the environment for mice, dogs, wolves and humans. “This research has contributed to the knowledge that behavior has analyzable genetic bases involving the interactions of multiple genes that may be triggered by environmental events acting at particular times during development,” says Ginsburg.

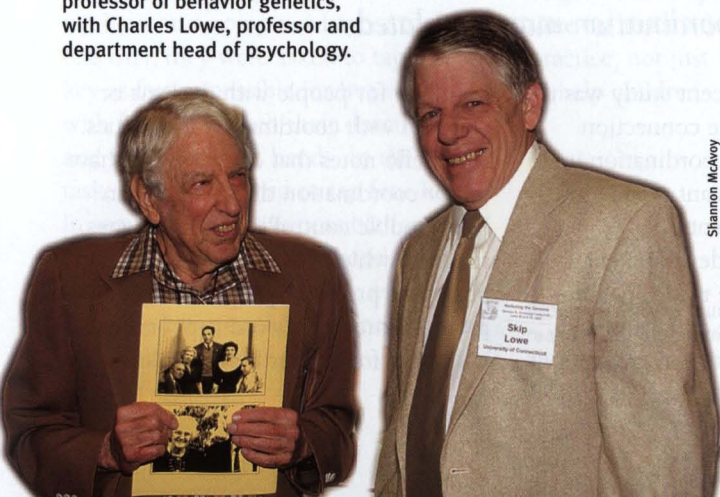
Ginsburg came to UConn in 1968 and founded the University’s biobehavioral sciences program, a multidisciplinary department devoted to research on the brain and behavior that has served as a national model.

“That program put UConn in a leadership role,” says Ross Buck, a communication sciences professor and conference co-organizer. “At that point, it was very unusual to have a department that covered material relevant to areas ranging from biology to social psychology.”

Stephen Maxson, a psychology professor and conference co-organizer, proposed the honorary event as a way to bring together people who had been influenced by Ginsburg and recognize his far-reaching impact. “We wanted to bring people together who had been influenced by his contributions,” Maxson says. “The people who presented at the festschrift began to see how deeply rooted their research was in their collaborations with Ginsburg. Reflecting on our own work, we can appreciate many of the things he did and how they’ve influenced us in our scholarly pursuits.”

Next year the American Psychological Association, which supported the event, will publish a volume describing the research presented at the festschrift.

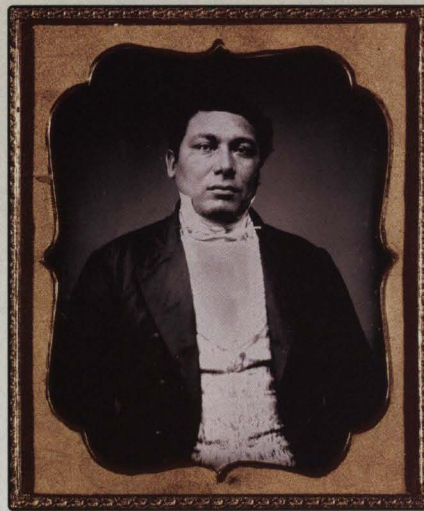
**Benson Ginsburg, left, emeritus professor of behavior genetics, with Charles Lowe, professor and department head of psychology.**



Shannon McAvoy

### An unwritten chapter in American history

Associate professor of history Nancy Shoemaker is coupling her passion for Native American history with her desire to learn more about New England’s past. The recipient of a highly selective National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship, Shoemaker is researching American Indians in the New England whaling industry for an upcoming book. She is tracing the history of American Indian involvement in whaling and breaking ground in its examination by combing through ships’ logs, whalers’ memoirs and newspapers found in archives throughout New England. While interest in the history of Indian whaling is widespread, there are few written accounts.



**An 1850s daguerreotype image of Amos Haskins, a Native American whaling captain.**

Photo courtesy of the New Bedford Whaling Museum.

Indeed, there are currently no comprehensive 19th-century histories of Indian whalers, when the industry reached its peak with more than 700 whaleships regularly setting sail from 23 ports along the coast from Maine to New Jersey.

Garnering one of the most prestigious awards available to

humanities scholars, Shoemaker will find an eager audience among those curious about the history of whaling at a time when federal recognition of New England tribes is of profound interest. Because whaling became the predominant occupation for Native American men in coastal New England, its immense social and cultural impact on Indian communities attracted Shoemaker’s attention. “Native Americans, whose hunt for whales once solely encompassed scouring the carcasses of those that washed ashore, adapted to an industry that drew them on voyages that spanned months or even years,” explains Shoemaker. “All would agree that history has long ignored what is an important period in the evolution of the American Indian.”

Having authored and edited several books about Native Americans, Shoemaker is a recognized authority in the field. As UConn’s American Indian historian, she teaches both an undergraduate course and a graduate seminar on the subject. In addition to her current research, Shoemaker is developing a workshop-style course in Native American whaling.





Psychology professor Claudia Carello is studying the links between reading and motor coordination.

## A Skillful Link

*Psychology professor believes reading and motor coordination may be related*

**A**re motor coordination and reading related? Recent research by UConn psychology professor Claudia Carello shows that the two skills may indeed be linked.

Carello and her research team reveal that when asked to carry out a manual task, competent readers perform it faster and make fewer mistakes than

poor readers. Their recent study was the first examination of the connection between reading and coordination in people without significant reading or coordination impairments.

This is an exciting development, Carello explains, since most previous research examined the connection between reading and motor coordina-

tion only for people with dyslexia or children with coordination difficulties.

Carello notes that children who have motor coordination difficulties often have trouble controlling their tongues and lips, which are the parts of the body that produce speech. If a child's pronunciation of a word is poor, then it's harder for him or her to make a



## Although improving reading won't improve coordination, educators should consider spending more time working on older children's reading skills.

connection between the written form of a word and its sound. The impairment of that ability could have an impact on reading.

"To the extent that speech production and skilled movement share coordination of a variety of muscles, then less-fluid manual coordination may be indicative of less-fluid speech production which, consequently, is less supportive of fluent reading," explains Carello.

Carello and her colleagues, including a UConn graduate student in psychology, conducted two experiments to examine their theory that the connection exists in competent readers.

In the first experiment, 50 undergraduates whose SAT verbal scores ranged from 500 to 710 were given two tests of reading ability. In the first test, participants were asked to read aloud two lists of words—one of long, regular words that are easily identified and pronounced and the other of irregular words that are more difficult to decipher. The second test measured reading comprehension, using literal and interpretive questions about eight passages.

To test motor coordination skills, these same participants were asked to tap keys on a computer keyboard. In one trial, they were asked to tap a single key as fast as possible for five seconds with fingers on both their dominant and non-dominant hands. In the second task, participants had to tap four keys in sequence as fast as possible for ten seconds, again with each hand. In the final task, the students were asked to alternate between tapping one key with the left index finger and one with the

right as fast as possible for five seconds.

"The relationship between reading and movement was as expected: The fewer errors participants made on the reading task, the faster and more consistent they were at the sequential tapping task," the researchers explain.

In the second experiment involving reading comprehension, 11 good readers and 11 poor readers were recruited from a pool of 500 undergraduates. The participants were asked to perform the same motor coordination tasks as in the first experiment. Carello and her colleagues found that poor readers tap more slowly than good readers in the sequential tapping task.

According to the researchers, their results show there is a reliable relation between reading and movement. "Clearly, manual dexterity does not cause phonological awareness nor vice versa," says Carello. "Rather, some skill set is assumed to underlie both."

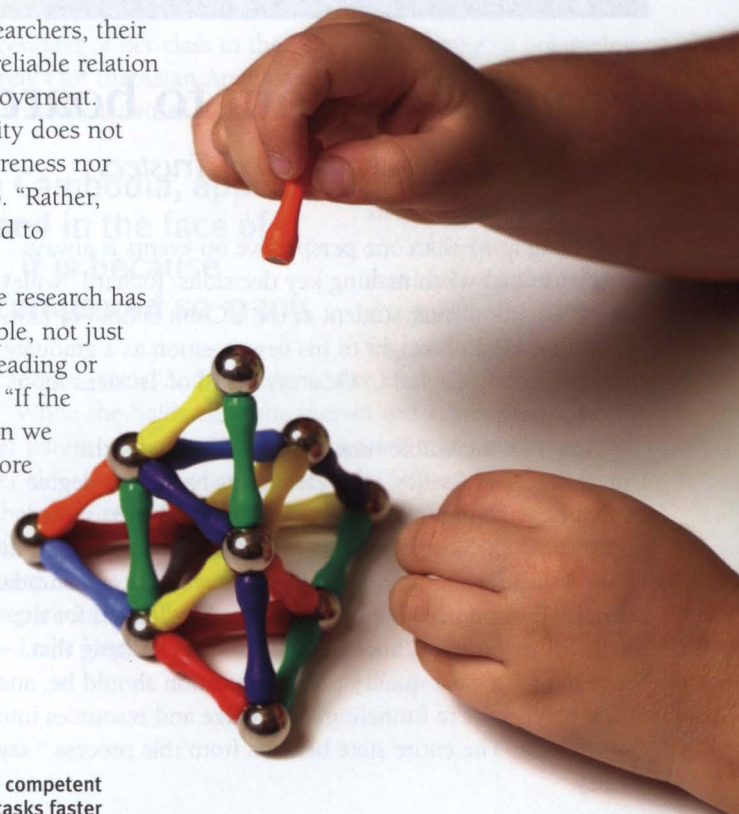
Carello notes that the research has implications for all people, not just those who experience reading or coordination problems. "If the link truly exists, early on we might want to spend more time on articulation practice, not just to help children

speak better but also to help them read better," Carello says.

Although improving reading won't improve coordination, educators should consider spending more time working on older children's reading skills.

"Reading is a highly learned skill that can be improved with practice," Carello says. "Anything we can do to help people read better would be beneficial."

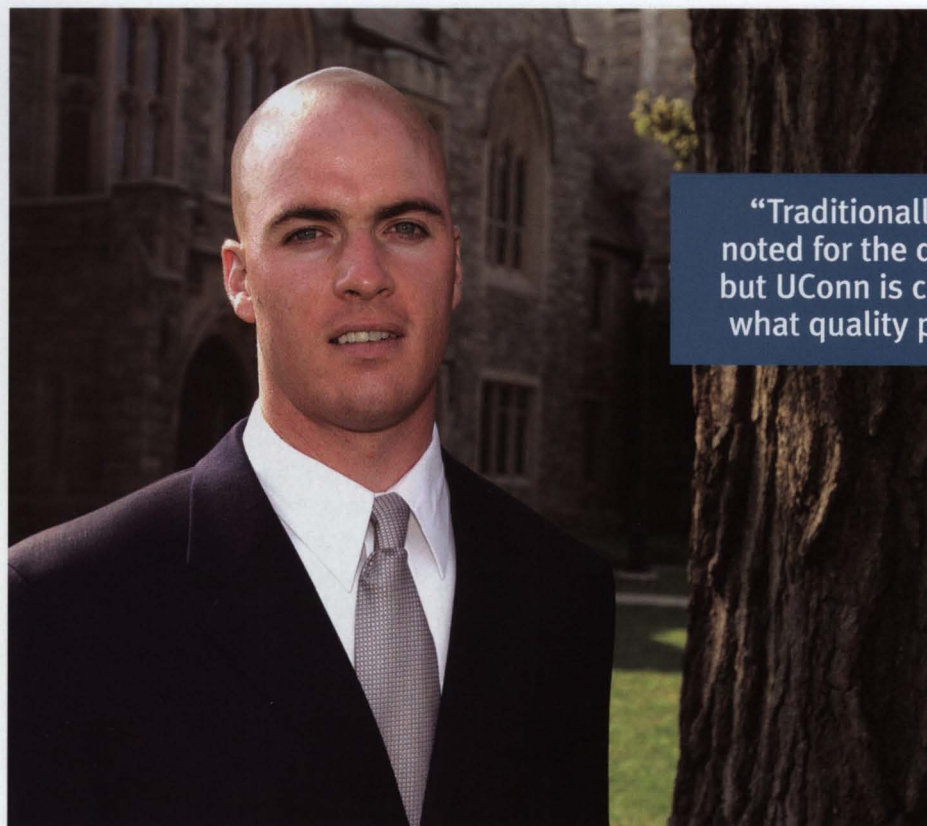
— Allison Thompson



**Professor Carello found that competent readers carried out manual tasks faster and made fewer mistakes than poor readers.**



# Students



Peter Morenus

**“Traditionally, the east coast has been noted for the quality of its private schools, but UConn is changing that. We’re defining what quality public education should be”**

In addition to his Navy leadership experience, he offers insight as both alumnus and active student. “I was here in the 1990s, so I know what the University was like before UCONN 2000,” he says. “I’m also here now, as a student benefiting from the wonderful transformation of the University.”

Twilley says that during his tenure on the Board he expects to concentrate on two areas—keeping UConn affordable and helping ensure that the academic experience for UConn students is the focus of both the remaining projects for UCONN 2000 as well as those proposed under 21<sup>st</sup> Century UConn. Indeed, in his second Board meeting—his first as a voting member—

he was called upon to vote on tuition increases that, he says, he supported as a responsible fiscal measure.

“Being a member of the Board is something a student can do with great impact,” he says. “I have equal weight on the Board with prominent Connecticut civic and business leaders. I have very strong feelings about the future, and I believe an investment in UConn is an investment in Connecticut.”

Formerly a resident of Mystic, Conn., Twilley says he wants to remain in Hartford after he graduates. Though he’s not sure what career direction he will pursue, it’s a safe bet that his current distinction, as a member of the Board of Trustees, will not be his last. — *Jim H. Smith*

## From classroom to boardroom

*Law student joins the Board of Trustees*

**H**aving more than one perspective on events is always beneficial when making key decisions. Richard Twilley '96 (ENG), a first-year student at the UConn School of Law, brings that kind of insight to his new position as a graduate student recently elected to UConn’s Board of Trustees for a two-year term.

“This is an incredible time to be involved with the University,” says Twilley, who earned his bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from UConn in 1996 and then served, until August 2001, as a nuclear propulsion officer aboard the U.S.S. *Annapolis* after completing the Navy’s Officer Candidate School. “Traditionally, the east coast has been noted for the quality of its private schools, but UConn is changing that. We’re defining what quality public education should be, and in the process we’re funneling knowledge and resources into Connecticut. The entire state benefits from this process,” says Twilley.



## A fearless can-do attitude

*Sochara Im's amazing journey from refugee camp to UConn*

**N**ursing student Sochara Im spent the summer as an intern in Danbury Hospital's emergency room. Not your typical summer for a college junior. Then again, there are a lot of things about Sochara Im that are not typical.

"Everything comes in through the ER," asserts Im as she rattles off the different kinds of cases she witnessed, from chemotherapy patients to car crash victims to people having heart attacks. The variety, intensity and pace made the work challenging but, says Im simply, "I love to be challenged."

Her fearless can-do attitude has enabled Im to get the most out of the clinical requirements of UConn's nursing curriculum. She jumped at the opportunity to "scrub in" to a few surgeries during her stint on a medical-surgical unit at Bristol Hospital last spring.

If Im, who was born in Cambodia, appears remarkably composed in the face of incredible challenges, it is because she has already conquered so many.

She came to the United States in 1988, when she was 7 years old, having spent four years in a Thai refugee camp with her family. The Im's settled in Danbury, Conn., and

while she lived like "a typical Cambodian girl" at home, Sochara suddenly had to learn a new language and how to interact with American peers at school. In Im's traditional family, she was expected to help her mother cook and clean. She wasn't allowed to socialize with friends outside of school.

The result was that Im focused even more energy on academics and extracurricular activities. Her goal was to be the kind of accomplished student who would not only gain admission to the college of her choice but also earn a scholarship, which she did.

Enrolling at the University, her first goal was to experience all that UConn has to offer. She says, "A lot of the things that a normal American kid would do, like go to plays or musicals or concerts—I'd never done any of that." As a UConn student, Im has frequented performances at the Jorgensen Center for Performing Arts, joined intramural sports, served as a tour guide for the Lodewick Visitors Center, and participated in cultural and community service activities at the Asian American Cultural Center. This year Im, who is president of her class in the School of Nursing, is organizing events for the Asian American Women's Health Group. Im wants the activities to focus on food and nutrition, coping

with stress, and healthful habits that will benefit all students.

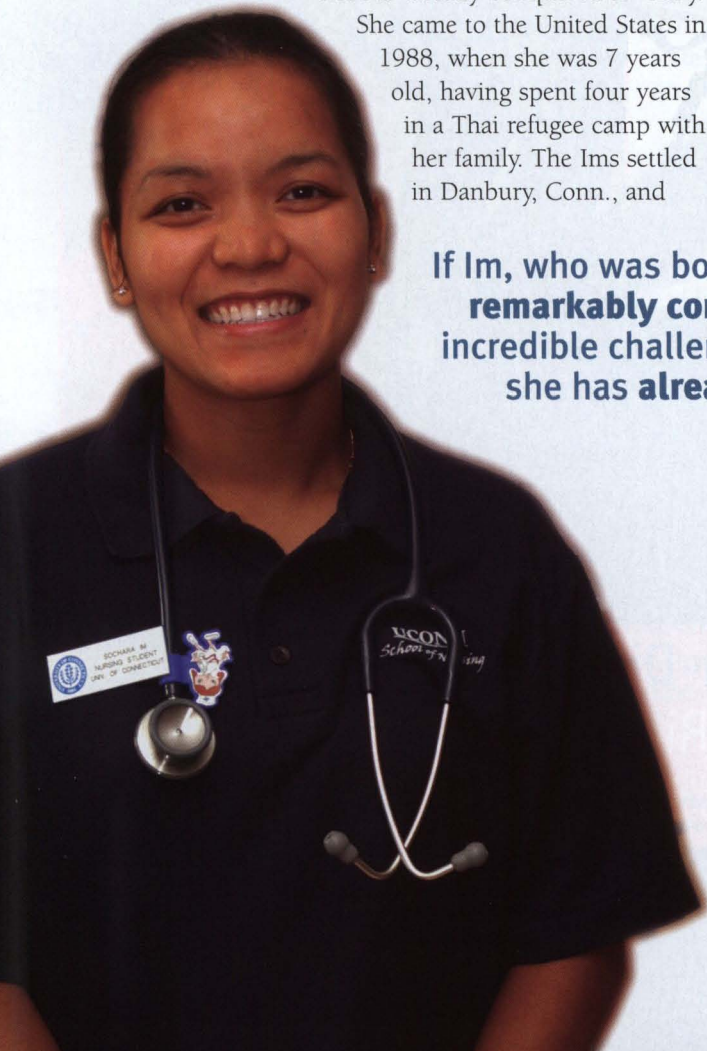
"What I'm really thankful for most is being able to attend UConn—for every aspect of my

academic, social and extracurricular life," says Im.

While she holds close the morals and values instilled by her parents—particularly a strong work ethic and respect for her elders—she also appreciates how UConn has given her "the confidence and life experience" to voice her opinions and make her own choices as an adult. "I am sad that I'm going to be graduating in a year, but I'm ready. UConn has prepared me really well—academically and for life."

— Leslie Virostek

**If Im, who was born in Cambodia, appears remarkably composed in the face of incredible challenges, it is because she has already conquered so many.**





# Reaching For Distant Moons...

A full-page background image showing an astronaut in a white spacesuit working on the exterior of the International Space Station. The astronaut is positioned in the center, reaching towards a circular hatch. The station's complex structure, including various modules and solar panel arrays, is visible against the backdrop of Earth's blue and white horizon. The foreground shows blurred parts of the station's structure, creating a sense of depth.

The journey of Franklin Chang-Diaz '73  
started in Costa Rica, was fueled by  
UConn and continues into space



# and Beyond

By Jim H. Smith

**T**he first manned voyage to Mars—a dream that stopped at UConn for fuel—began 45 years ago, in the mind of a little boy up in a mango tree in South America.

Neck craned, he stared at the night sky, hoping for just a glimpse of an object that was roughly the size of a basketball, more than 500 miles away, and traveling at a respectable 300 miles a minute. The thing he was looking for was a 180-pound metal sphere filled with nitrogen. It carried a couple of battery-powered radio

transmitters that lasted a scant three weeks. Its name was *Sputnik*—a Russian satellite launched into orbit on October 4, 1957, that circled our planet every 90 minutes at a speed of 18,000 miles per hour.

In nearly all respects, *Sputnik* was a simple tool. But for everyone, especially the kid in South America, it changed everything.

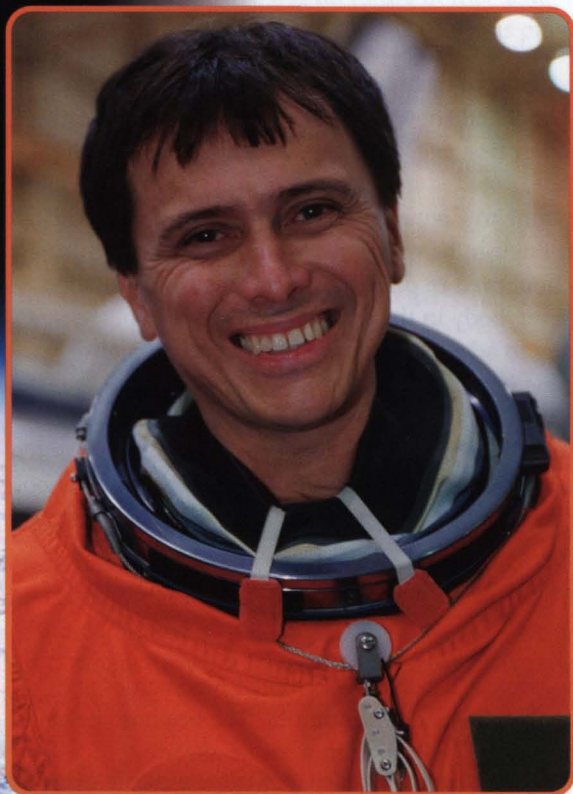
**In the fading weeks of 1957**, short-wave ham radios had little trouble picking up the Russian satellite's signals when it passed overhead. The voice that inaugurated the space race was nothing more than a persistent beeping. But for the anxiety it evoked in the United States, it might as well have been the voice of Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev, screaming from the darkness of space.

People would stand in their yards and flip their collars against a chill that transcended early winter. They would look up at the sky. And sometimes, at dawn or in the evening, when the sun was close enough to the horizon to illuminate the satellite, some actually saw it—a tiny speck of light, quietly threading the stars, racing toward tomorrow.

Franklin Chang-Diaz '73 (ENG) was living in Venezuela that autumn. His father, Ramon Chang Morales, was a construction foreman who had brought his family from Costa Rica because oil exploration had created a brisk job market.

Young Chang-Diaz was 7 years old the night his mother, Maria Eugenia Diaz, told him the Russians had successfully launched a man-made satellite. He did the only thing a curious little boy could do. He went out into the front yard of the family's home and climbed high into a tree. And for the next few hours—not with anxiety but with hope—he stared up at the sky, imagining what it would like to be out there.


(Left) Chang-Diaz works outside the space shuttle *Endeavor*, during his record-tying seventh journey into outer space. (Right) The official mission insignia from the flight last summer.



NASA Photos







He has gone into space a record-tying seven times, most recently aboard the shuttle *Endeavour* last June, delivering a new resident crew to the space station. In the last 19 years, he has logged more than 1,600 hours in space including nearly 20 hours in three separate space walks.

If Chang-Diaz's mother had been asked, that October evening, what her son might become when he grew up, she almost certainly could not have imagined the future that lay before him, the extraordinary unfolding of an idea that took root in his mind as he sat up in that tree.

But by 1968, when Chang-Diaz was 18, he had long since decided where his future lay. He was determined to become an astronaut.

And the most unbending determination to achieve his goal was precisely what it would take. To say the odds were against him would be an understatement. He wasn't a U.S. citizen. He didn't even speak English. And there had never been a Hispanic astronaut.

None of those obstacles sidetracked Chang-Diaz. His family had returned to Costa Rica so he could take advantage of that nation's better education system. Chang-Diaz had done well in school and shown a clear aptitude for mathematics and science. He had saved a modest nest egg, and there were cousins in Hartford with whom he could live.

Thus, in the fall of 1968, he came to Connecticut and enrolled in Hartford High School, where, in order to learn English, he repeated his senior year. Recognizing his limited English skills, the school tried to place him in an English orientation program. Chang-Diaz balked. "Everybody in the program spoke Spanish," he recalls. "I knew that if I was going to achieve my goals, I had to learn English quickly. So I asked them to put me in the normal classes."

It was tough going. Through the fall, as he struggled to learn English, he did poorly in all of his classes. But of all the assets Franklin Chang-Diaz brought to his quest, perseverance might have been the most important. By the end of the school year, he had not only mastered English but also graduated near the top of his class.

His progress had been so remarkable, indeed, that he was awarded a scholarship. And in 1969, he enrolled at the University of Connecticut as a mechanical engineering major.

As a freshman at UConn, he wrote a letter to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, inquiring about career opportunities. The response he got suggested his interest was commendable but told him what he already knew. Careers were limited to U.S. citizens.

Still, Chang-Diaz was undaunted. It was not the polite dismissal from NASA that he took to heart but another letter. As a high school student in Costa Rica, he'd written to Werner von Braun, one of the fathers of space travel. The letter he got from Bart Slatery Jr., then head of public affairs at the Marshall Space Flight Center, became one of the buoys to which he clung whenever obstacles threatened to derail his ambitions.

"I still have that letter," he says. "It has always meant a lot to me."

When the *Apollo 11* mission took men to the moon for the first time, Chang-Diaz watched with other UConn students in the Student Union. "I thought, man, that's what I came to this country to do!" he recalls. "And I felt I was closer to my goal. It gave me strength to continue."



Part of what helped keep up his spirits was the encouragement of two UConn professors—Quentin Kessel and Howard Hayden—who became his mentors. While others gave little credence to the young man's goals, Kessel and Hayden listened respectfully and offered constructive suggestions.

Hayden, in fact, was the first professor for whom Chang-Diaz worked. And it was Hayden who introduced him to the world of experimental physics, effectively opening the door that stood between Chang-Diaz and his dream.

**The astronaut business**, meanwhile, was going quickly downhill. By the time Chang-Diaz completed his junior year at UConn, the last *Apollo* mission was over and, he recalls, "Thousands of aerospace workers were being laid off. I read about aerospace engineers who were driving taxis and working in gas stations. People advised me there was no future in this field."

Chang-Diaz was undaunted. "I figured it was only temporary," he says.

He also figured something else. Unlike the prototype astronauts who'd flown the first missions, the astronauts of the future would not be military jet pilots. They would be scientists.

"I knew that my future was in physics," he says. "What I really wanted to do was design rockets. I wanted to be like von Braun and rocketry pioneer Robert Goddard."

He was convinced that the rockets of the future—which would carry people to the remote reaches of our solar system and beyond—would be plasma rockets driven by nuclear reactors. Plasma is electrically charged gas with altered atoms. A product of extremely hot, high-pressure environments, it is—quite literally—the stuff of stars.

After graduating from UConn in 1973, Chang-Diaz enrolled in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, from which he earned his Ph.D. in applied plasma physics in 1977. By then he had obtained U.S. citizenship.

There followed a stint with the Charles Stark Draper Laboratory, in Cambridge, Mass., where his work focused on design and integration of control systems for fusion reactors and experimental devices. In May 1980 he was selected by NASA for astronaut training. And in August 1981, nearly a quarter of a century after the night he climbed the mango tree, he finally became an astronaut.

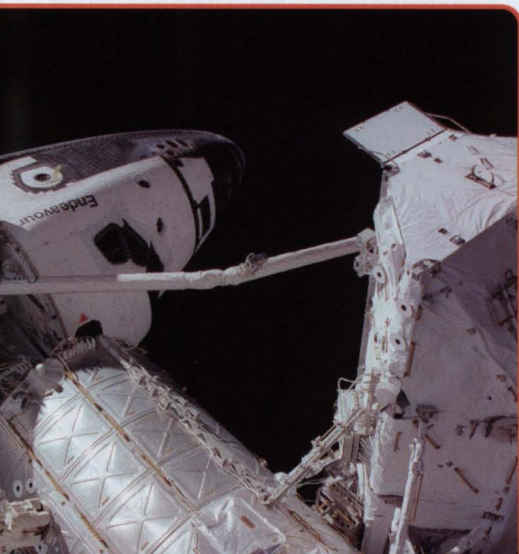
While completing his training, he worked with flight software at the Space Shuttle Avionics Integration Laboratory and on early design studies for the International Space Station.

*Continued on page 50*



NASA Photos

(Opposite) The space shuttle *Endeavor* lifts off. (Left) *Endeavor* docked at the International Space Station. (Top) Chang-Diaz gets some help suiting up before the launch. (Above) Training for the mission.







Special



*The UConn Health Center is providing critical care for Connecticut's neediest infants*

*By Leslie Virostek*

# Delivery

Michael Lipka '89 (CLAS) and his wife, Kate '96 M.B.A., were looking forward to the birth of their first child, and the pregnancy was going exactly as planned. That is, until Kate's water broke at her baby shower, eight weeks too soon. The Wethersfield, Conn., couple never had any reason to suspect that their baby would be premature. "I was as unprepared as you could be," says Kate.

Kate delivered their son, Matthew, at the University of Connecticut Health Center's John Dempsey Hospital in a labor and delivery suite adjacent to the Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU), a special nursery that would become Matthew's home away from home for the first four weeks of his life. Providing the highest level of care (known as Level III or tertiary care), the NICU combines high-tech equipment, the latest research in the field, and good old-fashioned love and nurturing to

help the sickest and tiniest babies survive and flourish.

"Every family goes into a pregnancy with the expectation that at the end of the pregnancy they're going to have a healthy 'Gerber' baby," notes Dr. Ted Rosenkrantz, director of the NICU and professor of pediatrics. Since 1975, the UConn Health Center's NICU has been prepared for the unexpected—even the unimaginable—on behalf of families with pregnancies that are identified as high risk in the early stages, as well as for families such as the Lipkas who are shocked to suddenly find themselves in need of critical care for a newborn.

With a capacity for 48 infants at any one time, the UConn Health Center's NICU is the largest in the

Greater Hartford region. Some 500 babies are admitted every year. A basically healthy infant who has trouble transitioning from the womb to the world and experiences a few hours of respiratory distress might stay in the NICU for a few days. The tiniest preemies, who require the most extreme measures modern medicine can provide, may stay for months.

Such was the case for Amanda McTighe, who was born at 24 weeks of gestation, weighing only about one and a half pounds, and who spent five months in the care of UConn's NICU. Her parents, John and Kimberly McTighe of Ellington, Conn., remember feeling overwhelmed at first: Somewhere amid the ventilator, the IVs, all of the tubes and wires and monitoring apparatus was their tiny little girl, no bigger than her dad's hand. Says John, "Kim cried when she saw all the equipment." But the McTighes soon grew accus-

tomed to the beeps and buzzes of the monitors and the machines and also learned that despite the ubiquitous technology, their baby was in an environment designed to be as supportive as possible. The infants' incubators, which are draped in baby blankets and coverlets to block out the light, are double-walled to maintain the temperature and reduce noise and other environmental stimuli. Within the incubators, the babies have nestlike padding that simulates the boundaries and the positioning they experienced in the womb.



John McTighe notes that while their baby's survival relied upon a great deal of technology, he and his wife soon learned to rely heavily on UConn's NICU staff. A variety of highly specialized medical and nursing professionals participate in the care of the babies. At the heart of the medical team is a primary nursing team, which provides the majority of care for each individual child and is incredibly involved in supporting and teaching the parents. "The primary nursing team quickly became part of our family," says McTighe.

Dr. Marilyn Sanders, a neonatologist and associate professor of pediatrics, notes that the primary nursing team is key because parents—who would





under normal circumstances be fully in charge of their baby—can feel disenfranchised by their dependence on equipment and medical experts. Yet scientific research has shown that the relationship built between the family and the sick infant is important for the child's growth and development and can affect such outcomes as the length of the infant's hospital stay and rate of weight gain.

The NICU at UConn's John Dempsey Hospital uses an approach to care that emphasizes both an infant's individuality and the parents' involvement. It's called the Newborn Individualized Developmental Care and Assessment Program (NIDCAP), which involves a systematic method for observing and responding to cues provided by the infant. Parents such as the McTighes are taught how to interact with the baby in ways that will be most beneficial. John McTighe explains: "Early on, for example, touching and talking at the same time is too much stimulation."

McTighe notes that during the long ordeal of nurturing their critically ill daughter, other parents of preemies, as well as friends and acquaintances with premature nieces or nephews or grand-

## What stands out about the UConn Health Center NICU is the manner and degree to which staff encourage parents to actively participate in the care of their child.

children, shared their stories. "After a while," he says, "we realized that their experiences at other hospitals were not the same as our experiences." Specifically, he says, what stands out about the UConn Health Center NICU is the manner and degree to which staff encourage parents to actively participate in the care of their child. The Lipkas also credit the staff for their positive hospitalization experience. On the day before Matthew's discharge, Kate remarked, "The people here are so supportive and caring. We certainly never wanted to be here, but it's been fantastic."

### The Big Picture

Although upward of 7,000 babies have benefited from the individualized care they've received in UConn's NICU, this special nursery's work is just one thread in the tapestry—or perhaps safety net—that represents the University of

Connecticut Health Center's broader commitment to ensuring that all newborns in Connecticut receive the medical care they need. The UConn NICU is the Greater Hartford regional referral center for high-risk pregnancies and births. UConn's NICU also takes responsibility for transporting critically ill newborns from one facility to another in vehicles that are equipped to be mobile NICUs. Says Dr. Sanders, "If a critically ill baby is born in the state of Connecticut and the community hospital can't meet the child's needs, then we'll transport the baby to a Level III facility."

UConn Health Center's experienced high-risk obstetric physicians and neonatal physicians act as resources to physicians at other hospitals, often providing consultative services to doctors who are treating sick newborns or assessing whether mothers need to move up to a Level III facility in



anticipation of a high-risk birth. The McTighes are one family who appreciated the long reach of the UConn experts. Their local doctor's consultation with UConn specialists resulted in a surgical procedure at their community hospital that prevented the loss of Kim's pregnancy at 19 weeks.

Given the responsibilities and expectations of excellence that go along with being a teaching and research institution, the University of Connecticut NICU doctors are also professors. The faculty help train not only future neonatologists but also pediatric residents, medical students, nurses, nurse

practitioners, physician assistants, and others. The Health Center has recently become the first in the state with the credentials to train other professionals in the NIDCAP approach to care.

As part of an academic research institution, the Health Center is also a place where new knowledge in the field of neonatology is derived. UConn doctors and researchers have conducted basic research in such areas as the utilization of glucose in the blood and the mineral metabolism for premature babies. Says Dr. Sanders, "We did a lot of the research that helped to develop the formulas that are used to feed premature babies today." Dr.

Rosenkrantz points out that the UConn Health Center was one of only 25 institutions across the country to participate in clinical trials that proved that a new kind of device, a high-frequency oscillation ventilator, was far superior to the traditional ventilators being used. The use of the new ventilator is now widespread.

Also part of the larger context at the University of Connecticut Health Center are the prenatal, labor and delivery services for healthy moms and babies. Each year, hundreds of healthy babies are born into the hospital's Well-Baby Program.

"If you're going to have a baby here at the UConn Health Center, we're probably not the doctors you'll see," notes Dr. Sanders. "But the NICU will be here if you need it."



Tiffany Johnson of Bloomfield, Conn., spends time with her son, Quincey, who was born 15 weeks premature, weighing 1 pound, 14 ounces.



Peter Morenus

Kristin, James, Mark and Daniel Zipadelli at the Homer Babbidge Library.

## An amazing UConn foursome

If having a premature baby is one of the most frightening and overwhelming situations a parent can experience, imagine what it's like having four premature babies—all at once.

So it was for David and Marie Zipadelli in 1984, when they were expecting quadruplets. At that time there were only three facilities in Connecticut equipped to handle such a high-risk situation, and none of them had successfully delivered quadruplets who all survived. "I talked with the doctors at all the facilities to see where we felt most comfortable," David says. That turned out to be the UConn Health Center, where doctors recommended that Marie be admitted for bed rest and medical care to delay labor.

Four months later and still three months premature, Kristin, Mark, James and Daniel were born. They ranged from just under one and a half pounds to just over two pounds. David recalls how quickly everything happened in the delivery/operating suite, which was packed with dozens of people divided into four teams—one for each baby. Says David, "It was all planned and rehearsed." Dr. Ted Rosenkrantz, who is now the director of UConn's Newborn Intensive Care Unit, recalls, "It went like clockwork."

Once their immediate resuscitation needs were met, the children were ushered into the adjacent NICU. It was "touch and go" for weeks. But five months later, the last of the siblings, James, was discharged.

Returning to the Health Center for medical care over the years, the Zipadelli kids have maintained a bond with UConn's Health Center. Now UConn the University will play a central role. Kristin, Mark, James and Daniel, who all graduated from high school with honors, are freshmen at Storrs this year.

"It's been my kids' dream to attend the University of Connecticut," says David. "It's a wonderful completion to a great story that started at the Health Center. They came into the world together. They wanted to go to college together."



# ANSWERING THE CALL

*Retired U.S. Army Colonel  
Jonas Kronkaitis '59 Serves  
His Native Country*

BY ADAM B. ELICK

When UConn alumnus Jonas Kronkaitis '59 (BUS) first glanced at Lithuania's grandiose Defense Ministry in 1997, he silently wondered why its three Soviet-style flagpoles stood bare. The retired U.S. Army colonel thought 4 p.m. was a bit early to lower the national flag.

Kronkaitis kept quiet—until the next morning, when the sun was bright and the national flag still inexplicably absent. The Lithuanian-born American, who had just arrived to lend military wisdom to his recently liberated homeland, instructed the nearby guard to hoist the red, green and yellow-striped patriotic symbol.

When the guard refused, citing a national law, the usually soft-spoken Kronkaitis lost his cool and demanded the flag be raised. A lawyer, quickly called to the scene, read Kronkaitis the law: "The national flag will be flown on holidays."

During Lithuania's Soviet occupation from 1944 to 1991, permissible acts had to be specifically stated by law. But Kronkaitis, anxious to rid Lithuania of its communist scars, wouldn't budge.



Gen. Jonas Kronkaitis on a field inspection tour of Lithuanian troops with other officers from the Lithuanian military.

"I told them there's nothing in that law that says it can't be flown and I'll take responsibility if I violate the law," he recalled. "The defense minister told the officer to put it up. Two days later the minister went to parliament and changed the law to read 'The flag can be flown everyday at every military installation throughout the country.'"

Beginning with this singular act of patriotism, Kronkaitis spent the next six years helping his native country during a remarkable period of transformation. Today he is the commanding general of Lithuania's armed forces, and his work, the de-Russification of independent Lithuania, makes him

a national savior to most of this nation's 3.7 million citizens.

For the past four years, the 67 year old has exhausted himself in 12-hour days in the historic town of Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital. His ambitious—often quixotic—endeavor is to cleanse the military mess left behind when communism abruptly collapsed in 1991. Rebuilding the long-lost military is serious business in Lithuania, which saw one-third of its population perish during Polish, German and Russian occupations last century.

His Western tutelage has landed Lithuania as the Baltic frontrunner to join NATO at the Prague Summit. He punctiliously rewrote laws and regulations on pay structure, rank, and even toiled in unforeseen legalities like flag flying. Upon arrival, he inherited dilapidated Soviet facilities nearing ruins. Today, he oversees a \$220 million budget, and 70 percent of Lithuania's military buildings meet Western standards. Equipment and supplies have come courtesy of foreign governments.

Perhaps his most significant challenge continues to be flushing out of the Lithuanian military the ingrained, old-world Soviet mindset—a job that Kronkaitis concedes may take generations. "The Soviet system placed





LATVIA

LITHUANIA

BELARUS





absolutely no value on human life. To them materials had value, a tank or rifle. We had to change that completely." He did so by firing or retiring almost all veteran officers who were "completely lost" because of their communist past.

"The damage is in their work ethic. It's a class that feels the government should give them everything because that's how it was for 50 years. The government told them where to work, what to eat, when to get up, and now they are on their own and it's difficult," he explains.

*His ambitious—often quixotic—endeavor is to cleanse the military mess left behind when communism abruptly collapsed in 1991.*

In addition to the domestic front, Kronkaitis also fights the simplified, "just do it" mentality of Western delegates who closely monitor Lithuania's progress. He says they continually underestimate the cultural gap created by decades of oppression. "I'm overburdened with minute decisions because some officers aren't used to making decisions. I had a briefing today and told an officer to just make a decision. He said 'I'm an executor not a decision maker' and I said 'I just made you a decision maker.'"

During a two-hour interview, Kronkaitis shows his military discipline by sitting upright and without fidgeting. His dry humor, however, leaks through at the mention of his eastern neighbor, Belarus, Europe's last dictatorship that he dubs "our not so democratic neighbor." When asked about Russia's resentment toward NATO expansion, he replies with a smirk: "I can't imagine why."

Finally, he's asked one simple question: What about your free time? He rolls his eyes as if to imply "stupid

question." Then he chuckles and whispers, "No time for hobbies."

His journey from East to West to East is a lesson in opportune timing. Born in a small Lithuanian city 35 miles north of Vilnius, Kronkaitis and his family fled their lower-middle-class life in 1944 as the Russian and German fronts converged. During his nomadic youth, he traveled throughout Lithuania, Russia's Kaliningrad region, and made numerous stops across Germany, including at a labor camp. Finally, his family found refuge at a displaced persons camp in Germany's Black Forest.

"When the Russians came in 1940, we faced a year of terror. Lots of people were being deported. There

was always fear. You were afraid of anyone in uniform," he says.

Stability arrived in 1949, when the 14-year-old and his family boarded the U.S.S. *Marine Jumper* for a turbulent two-week ride to New Haven, Conn., where an aunt had previously settled. He learned English in six months and in 1954, he entered the University of Connecticut as an industrial management major, a form of training that he finds useful 45 years later and 8,000 miles away.

"Management is management everywhere. Even here, management is a very big problem going from a Soviet society to a market economy. Inefficiency was the essence of communism. All decisions were made from the top. I'm fighting this

continuously. I adopted good management practices in the military, but when you get into the political environment..." He stops in mid-sentence and rolls his eyes in laughter to express Lithuania's lingering inadequacies.

He speaks highly of his UConn education, and points out quickly the significance of time at UConn spent with fellow students outside the classroom. "A very important part of education is association with other students, and that's what is so valuable at UConn. It was a rural campus, so the social life revolved around activities at the University. I was in a fraternity and developed friendships, and a significant part of my education occurred in that environment."

At UConn, he enrolled in the ROTC, where an enthusiastic group of young officers piqued his interest. Kronkaitis's military career was inspired by his uncle, a Lithuanian lieutenant murdered in Siberia, whose photo now hangs in his office. Kronkaitis was also awed by the U.S. Army's incredible reputation.

"They were so different from Russians and Germans. It was a profession well regarded by the people."

His U.S. Army reign included a stint with Colin Powell in 1958, when the two studied at a Ranger school in Georgia. A decade later Kronkaitis served two separate tours in Vietnam,

*Continued on page 50*

As the commanding general of Lithuania's military, Gen. Kronkaitis often meets with dignitaries such as Britain's Prince Charles.



Adam B. Ellick



## Seeing the difference

*Teaching and learning through cultural contradictions*

The meeting in war-torn Europe in 1946 between her counter-intelligence officer father and Austrian mother remains significant in the life of UConn associate professor of English Margaret Breen. That's because experiencing cultural differences early on taught her to see beyond surface meaning.

"When I think about the impossible happening of my parents falling in love directly after the war, I recognize how cultural contradictions are often the most fruitful way of discovering things," says Breen. Her fields of specialization are women's studies, gay and lesbian literature and theory, and 18th- and 19th-century British literature.

There's no irony that Breen is a member of the John Bunyan Society and also an expert on queer theory, the academic field that examines the interrelationship of power and gender.

A 17th-century Puritan minister, Bunyan authored *The Pilgrim's Progress*, a foundational text that sheds light on the middle class and women's issues. Queer theory appreciates that gender and sexuality are separate and fluid distinctions. "John Bunyan and queer theory are startlingly interconnected and make a wonderful combination," says Breen.

The popularity of a course she developed, "Genders, Sexualities, and Theories," offered at graduate and undergraduate levels, speaks, Breen says, to a strong student demand for intellectual critique of societal gender policing.

In addition to teaching at UConn's Avery Point and Storrs campuses, Breen has also been instrumental in supporting and promoting the Rainbow Center, a gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender resource center at UConn. "The Rainbow Center and the students it serves have benefited greatly

Peter Morenus



**Colleagues describe Breen as "engaging, compassionate, and extraordinarily respectful of students."**

**Students describe associate professor Margaret Breen as "down to earth" and always encouraging.**

from her strong leadership and participation," says Stephanie Marnin, the Center's director. In 2000, the Center honored Breen with its Community Service Award.

Both faculty and students agree: Breen is a wonderful asset to UConn. While colleagues describe Breen as "engaging, compassionate, and extraordinarily respectful of students," students are quick

to note that she "promotes class interaction, is down-to-earth, and always offers encouragement."

Says Breen: "For me the teacher-student relationship is critical. It's as powerful as the bond between partners, parents and children, and spiritual leaders and followers."

"She has a way of making complex theory both comprehensible and practical and listens carefully to students," says Katie Peel '01 M.A., who has a graduate certificate in women's studies and is pursuing a Ph.D. in English.

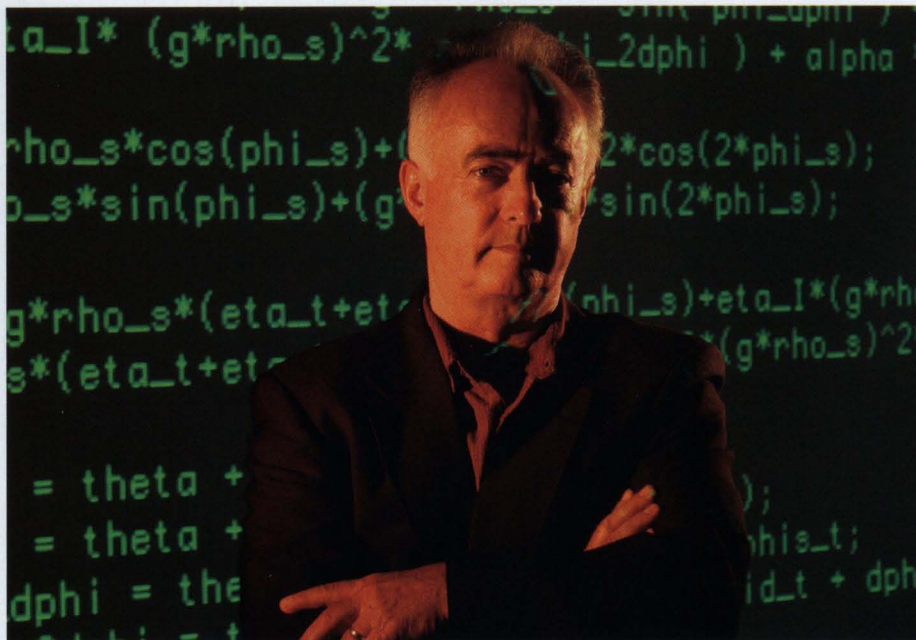
In 2001, the UConn Chapter of the American Association of University Professors recognized Breen's excellence in the classroom with its annual Award for Teaching Promise.

Whether in Storrs, Avery Point or at the Rainbow Center, Breen considers teaching a sacred experience. She views the world through the beauty of text and the ongoing need for social justice. — Claudia Chamberlain



# Right on target

*Bar-Shalom's algorithms track with extraordinary accuracy*



Peter Morenus

Professor Yaakov Bar-Shalom has developed the critical computer modeling behind a new generation of air traffic control systems.

of objects is not entirely predictable,” Bar-Shalom says. “You have to account for the uncertainty of the motion and the uncertainty of the measurements.” So the computer must be flexible.

Bar-Shalom has developed a way to tell a computer exactly how flexible it should be. He instructs the computer to make a “window” around the object’s next predicted position. If the signal from the radar is slightly off-target, or if the object begins to turn,

the object will remain inside the window and be recognized by the computer. If the object begins a turn, the computer will switch to another motion model.

Bar-Shalom’s algorithms are also applied under other

demanding circumstances—in Israeli and U.S. missile defense systems. Interceptor missiles approach their targets at up to ten times the speed of sound.

“You’ve got to figure out how to process the information very fast,” he says. His algorithms also drive an Australian radar system that keeps track of all sea and air traffic within a 2,500-mile radius.

Bar-Shalom, whose first name, coincidentally, in modern Hebrew means “he shall track,” has published prolifically in the field of target tracking, authoring 110 journal papers and four books. He is president of the International Society of Information Fusion and is a frequent keynote speaker at major conferences in his field.

“Yaakov is the father of target tracking,” says Peter Willett, professor of electrical and computer engineering. “He’s one of the many people in whom this University and its community can take great pride.” — Brent C. Evans ’03 (CLAS)

The next time you catch a flight, your trip may owe something to Yaakov Bar-Shalom. A new generation of air traffic control systems is currently being instituted worldwide, and he has engineered the brain around which the systems have been built.

Bar-Shalom, professor of electrical and computer engineering, develops sets of computer instructions, or algorithms, that keep track of moving objects, such as airplanes. His work is already being used in Boston by Logan Airport’s air traffic monitoring system, by the U.S. Navy, and the U.S. and Israeli missile defense systems.

The difficulty with target tracking is that a computer does not instinctively recognize a moving object. The task, therefore, is to get computers to see connections between snapshots of data received from sensors such as radar.

Bar-Shalom begins by giving the computer a model of an object’s motion, which will vary according to the tracking system’s intended purpose. If the object has been moving in a straight line, the model predicts that it will continue to do so. So the computer predicts a path for each object and checks whether an object appears on that track in the next frame.

Planes, however, may suddenly change direction, and all radar systems exhibit some measurement error. “The motion

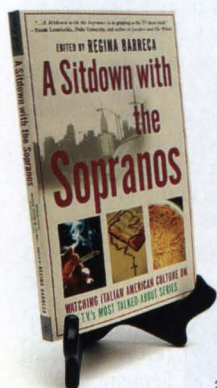
**“The difficulty with target tracking is that a computer does not instinctively recognize a moving object”**





## Creative Currents

### Recent works by alumni and faculty



#### All in the family

In the past half-dozen years, several memoirs have been published by strong-minded American women of Italian ancestry, including Geraldine Ferraro, Beverly Donofrio, Louise DeSalvo and Diane DiPrima. Now add UConn's Regina Barreca, professor of English and feminist theory, to the list.

In *A Sitdown with the Sopranos: Watching Italian American Culture on T.V.'s Most Talked-About Series* (Palgrave MacMillan), Barreca offers a superbly entertaining contribution in her essay "Why I Like The Women In *The Sopranos* Even Though I'm Not Supposed To." Barreca's essay is accompanied by seven noted scholars, writers, critics, and journalists commenting on various aspects of this provocative and successful HBO series.

It's essential to Barreca that all the book's contributors are Italian American, for she holds that it is the voices of this particular ethnic experience that should be at the center of any discussion about *The Sopranos*. At the same time, however, she writes that the show "...is not simply or even mostly about issues understood or experienced only by Italian Americans."

In her introduction, Barreca writes that "...to reduce *The Sopranos* to being a story about violent Italian Americans is like saying that Hamlet is a story about moody Danes. The people who make this argument are not entirely incorrect, but they sure are missing the main point."

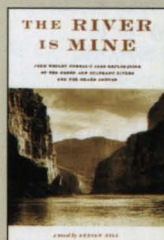
The point may well be that once past all the gangster wiles, we get to the meat of the drama of family relationships and human struggles for intimacy, humor, happiness, affection, and success.

With their ethnic roots as the backdrop, each of the five male and three female contributors to the book take on this middle-class suburban crime family, killing off a range of issues from religion to psychotherapy.

On the distaff side, Barreca concedes none of the Soprano women are role models but argues they are indeed "as deadly as the males—in some cases, literally, in other cases, metaphorically."

Barreca's frank and felicitous voice is present as she reminisces about her own Italian heritage and mulls over why she likes the women in *The Sopranos*, even though she's, well, not supposed to. — Claudia (Gregori) Chamberlain

## ALSO OF INTEREST



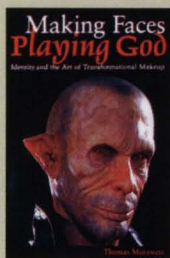
#### *The River Is Mine*

Ardian Gill '51 (CLAS)  
(Local Color Press)

A few years after the end of the Civil War, ten men in four boats set out to explore 1000 miles of river, from Wyoming to the Gulf of California, a route previous explorers had considered impassable. Ardian

Gill's fictional re-creation of the conquest of this last great-unknown U.S. territory is a first-person account in the voice of one of the crew. They are a motley company of rough frontiersmen, trappers, a newspaper editor, a demented ex-army captain, a teenager, and an overweight Englishman, all led by a one-armed botany professor and ex-army major.

One hundred days later, six half-starved men in two boats emerge at a Mormon camp in Nevada. They have experienced rapids, falls, fire, flood, fights, attempted murder, near drownings, and ambush, all amid vistas of surpassing beauty. In the course of the journey, the crew must not only struggle with the awesome power of the river, but each man also must make an internal and spiritual journey of his own that will change him forever.



#### *Making Faces, Playing God*

Thomas Morawetz  
Tapping Reeve Professor of Law and Ethics  
(University of Texas)

UConn Professor Thomas Morawetz has spent more than 30 years mastering the art of teaching law and philosophy. Now he has delved into a very different world:

the art of transformation makeup. In his newest, highly readable book, *Making Faces, Playing God*, Morawetz explores tantalizing questions of identity and the human desire to be transformed.

The glossy book is filled with a before-and-after anthology of actors and their transformed character identities. Morawetz examines the under-appreciated work of makeup artists in movies and their daring work challenging the bounds of identity. His book, based on seven years of research, celebrates the "artist-magicians," as he calls them, who give people that chance to transform into someone else.

Morawetz intends for readers to gain an appreciation for makeup artists as professionals. "Theirs is an art that conceals art," he writes of makeup specialists. "The art form works its magic only because it fools us into accepting what is created as a new and real identity."



# News&Notes

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Let your fellow UConn alumni know about the milestones in your life. You can keep them up to date by sending information and, if possible, a photograph, to **Alumni News & Notes, University of Connecticut Alumni Association, Alumni Drive, Storrs, CT 06269; by fax to 860-486-2849; or by e-mail to [alumninews@alumni.uconn.edu](mailto:alumninews@alumni.uconn.edu)**



## SAVE THE DATE

### ■ Attention Classes of 1943, 1953 and Classic ('52 & prior)!

Reunion Weekend will take place on Friday and Saturday, June 27 & 28, 2003. Activities will include special lunches and receptions for the 50th, Classic and 60th classes, the annual meeting of the Alumni Association and much more!

Invitations will be mailed in April. Check our website, [www.uconnalumni.com](http://www.uconnalumni.com), for program updates.

### ■ Special Interest Reunions

Interested in getting reconnected with that special group of friends? (dorm, fraternity, sorority, student organization, athletic team, intramural team, etc.) Let the UConn Alumni Association help.

If you have questions regarding reunions, please contact Kim Lachut '90 at 860-486-2240 or toll-free at 888-UC-ALUM-1 or email: [kimberly.lachut@uconn.edu](mailto:kimberly.lachut@uconn.edu). You may also check the UConn Alumni Association website at [www.uconnalumni.com](http://www.uconnalumni.com) for up-to-date information.

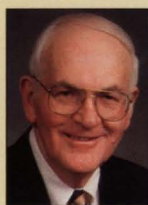
## 1940s

Harry Archambault '40 (CLAS) and his wife, Hazel Archambault '41 (SFS), celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on November 1, 2001.

Robert Foote '43 (CANR) received an international award for pioneering reproductive biotechnology from artificial insemination to cloning. He continues to lecture at Cornell University.

P. Sydney Torgan '48 (CLAS), a retired social worker, now resides in Portland, Ore.

Albert M. White '48 (PHR),



'52 M.S. is associate dean emeritus and professor emeritus at the Albany College of Pharmacy

of Union University.

## 1950s

Anton Jungherr '54 (BUS) recently accepted a position as chief financial officer for the Making Waves Education Program.

Donald N. Maynard '54 (CANR) is professor of horticultural science at the University of Florida. The 4,000-member American Society for Horticultural Science honored him with a career award as an outstanding extension educator at its recent meeting in Toronto. He is a fellow and past president of the society.

Tina Lizzi Lewis '55 (ENG) has published a book titled *Justice Denied: Politics, Perjury and Prejudice in the Lottery*.

William L. Martin '55 (CLAS) recently joined the real estate firm MLB Kaye International Realty, Inc., in New York City as a broker specializing in cooperative and condominium apartments.



Carl Noyes '57 (CANR) retired after a 21-year career as a Marine Corps officer, followed by a 20-year career in public government. A highly decorated marine, Carl won numerous awards in public service in the field of fleet and maintenance management. Carl and his wife currently reside in Prescott, Ariz.

Gail (Tyback) (Susla) Homer '59 (PHR) retired in September 2001 from Ryan Pharmacy in Unionville, Conn. Gail and her family now reside in Williamsburg, Va.

Philip Pumerantz '59 (ED), '61 M.S., '67 Ph.D. is the president and founder of Western University of Health Sciences in southern California, a non-profit graduate university teaching health care professionals for the past 25 years.

## 1960s

Allan Ralph Zenowitz '60 (CLAS) is a retired brigadier general. Allan also just retired from the Federal Emergency Management Agency after 35 years of service as the senior policy adviser. During his career, he held several positions on a regional and national basis in crisis and emergency preparedness.



Stan Pechalonis '63 (CLAS) retired September 6, 2001, as an international airline pilot with American

Airlines. He also retired as a colonel in the United States Marine Corps Reserves. He and his wife, Donna Crocco Pechalonis '65 (NUR), live in San Anselmo, Calif.



Philip F. Nohrr '64 (BUS), '67 J.D., a shareholder with the law firm of GrayHarris,



was recently appointed by Governor Jeb Bush to the Eighteenth Circuit Judicial

Nominating Commission.

## ABBREVIATION KEY

### School and/or College abbreviations for baccalaureate graduates

**CANR** – College of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
**SAH** – School of Allied Health  
**CLAS** – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
**BUS** – School of Business  
**SFA** – School of Fine Arts  
**ED** – Neag School of Education  
**ENG** – School of Engineering  
**SFS** – School of Family Studies  
**BGS** – General Studies  
**NUR** – School of Nursing  
**PHR** – School of Pharmacy  
**RHSA** – Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture  
**SSW** – School of Social Work

### Graduate/professional degree abbreviations

**M.A.** – Master of Arts  
**M.S.** – Master of Science  
**M.D.S.** – Master of Dental Science  
**M.B.A.** – Master of Business Administration  
**M.F.A.** – Master of Fine Arts  
**M.M.** – Master of Music  
**M.P.A.** – Master of Public Affairs  
**M.P.H.** – Master of Public Health  
**M.S.W.** – Master of Social Work  
**M.S.P.T.** – Master of Science in Physical Therapy  
**Ph.D.** – Doctor of Philosophy  
**D.M.A.** – Doctor of Musical Arts  
**J.D.** – Juris Doctor  
**M.D.** – Doctor of Medicine  
**D.M.D.** – Doctor of Dental Medicine  
**6th year** – Sixth-year certificate



**Robert W. Blocker '65 (CLAS), '68 M.S.** retired from International Flavors & Fragrances after serving for 31 years in central research in the biotechnology department. He now serves as a consultant for the biotechnology group at IFF.



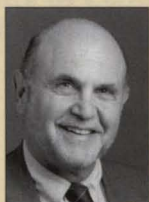
**Charlene E. Southergill '65 (CLAS)** was honored at a gala retirement party in June 2000 after teaching special education for 34 years. During her career she received several awards, including the Outstanding Educator Award in 1974 and Outstanding Teacher Award in 1991.

**Blanche (Chelsea) LeBel Adams '66 (CLAS)** had a book of poems, *Looking for a Landing*, published by Sow's Ear Press in 2000, under the name B. Chelsea Adams. She and her husband, **William D. Adams '70 (CLAS)**, live in Virginia and have two daughters, Tania and Cori, and two granddaughters, Elizabeth and Emily Pineo.

**Robert John Klancko '67 (ENG)** has been elected to membership in the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is also the managing partner of the consulting firm Klancko & Klancko, LLC.

**John DeWitt '68 M.A., '73 Ph.D.** recently published his book *Cool Cars High Art: The Rise of Kustom Kulture* through the University Press of Mississippi. John is currently a professor of English at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia.

**John Michael Kuzmech '68 (ENG), '72 M.S.** received the 2002 American Society for Testing and Materials Award of Merit and has been named a fellow for his contributions to ASTM committees. John is currently the manager of process metallurgy and materials for Ney Inc. in Bloomfield, Conn.



**Robert Serow '68 (CLAS)**, vice president of development for Yale-New Haven Hospital, has been elected to the Board of Directors for the Arts Council of Greater New Haven.

**Charles Shabunia '69 (BUS)** received the 2001 Chairman's Award given by The Hartford Financial Services Group. He received the award for the role he played as part of The Hartford's Fortis Deal Team.

**Lynn Murray Willeford '69 (CLAS)** co-authored with physicians Stuart Ditchek and Russell Greenfield the book *Healthy Child, Whole Child: Integrating the Best of Conventional and Alternative Medicine to Keep Your Kids Healthy*. Published by HarperCollins, the book was named the #1 parenting and families book of 2001 by the editors of Amazon.com.

## 1970s

**Spencer B. Bates '70 (BUS)** is currently the associate general secretary for the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States.



**Douglas R. Wilmes, Ph.D. '70 (CLAS)** has been appointed Potomac State College of West Virginia

University's dean of curriculum and instruction.

**Roland Holstead '71 M.A., '82 Ph.D.** is a former UConn assistant dean and a captain of the United States Naval Reserve. He returned to Norfolk Naval Base on August 2, 2002, for annual training, 40 years to the day after first reporting there as an enlisted sailor.

## PROFILE

### Helping others by the million

As Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Human Services, **Gwendolyn Long Harris '72 (CLAS)** is responsible for a budget of more than \$8.3 billion and a staff of about 19,000 employees. Her department provides social services for more than a million state residents and administers, including welfare and Medicaid programs.

Harris must keep a broad perspective on overarching issues and policies. Yet she also seeks personal contact with the people who implement and benefit from the department's many programs and services. Though she's only been on the job since May, Harris has been to nearly all the department's 16 residential and treatment facilities. She recalls with particular sentiment a recent visit to a camp where siblings living in different foster homes are reunited.



Harris says that the size and scope of the department's purview can present a daunting challenge: "It's like trying to steer a big ship in the ocean. It's impossible to turn quickly. It's a process." On the other hand, the rewards are equally large-scale. She says, "It's just fantastic to know that we can touch a lot of peoples' lives in a very positive way."

Harris began her career as a social worker and has since gained a wealth of experience in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. When she was appointed commissioner of the state's largest department, she became the first African American to hold the post. "Being the first to do something carries with it an awesome responsibility," she says, but it's one with which she is completely comfortable. "Probably the better part of my life I've been the first African American female something or another," she says. "It's not the first time I've been the first."

She notes that in the late 1960s and early 1970s when she attended UConn, there were only about 200 African American students on campus. It is one of the reasons why she considers her alma mater "a place where I honed my leadership skills." In particular, she "had the honor, the privilege and the excitement" of representing the views of African American students, often in meetings with then-President Homer Babbidge. "I really came to admire and respect him," she says.

Harris, who is currently pursuing a doctorate in urban planning and policy development, says her ultimate goal is to share her education and practical experience as a university professor.

— Leslie Virostek



**David S. Leferman '71 (CLAS)**, '73 M.A. has been named vice president/group account director in client service at the market research company ACNielsen.

**Maurice E. Simard '72 (CLAS)**, '75 M.S. was awarded the 2001 Special Achievement Award for Excellence in the



Area of Management by the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division Newport for leading a team

of scientists and engineers in the development of a new SONAR system for the United States Navy. He and his team also received the Excellence in Developmental Engineering Award. Maurice has been employed as a physicist by the Navy for the past 30 years.

**Edith Luther '73 (CLAS)** is a pediatric school nurse at San Mateo County Office of Education in special education. She is working on her master's degree in school nursing.

**Paul H. Mihalek '73 (CLAS)**, '76 M.B.A., '85 Ph.D. has



recently been appointed by the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants to serve as chair of its educators' committee for the organization's 2002-2003 activity year.

**Mark H. Misselbeck '73 (BUS)** became a tax principal in the firm of Levine, Katz, Nannis and Solomon, CPAs in Needham, Mass. His wife, **Susan Rudnick Misselbeck '69 (SFS)**, is manager of administrative services at Temple Israel in Boston, Mass.

**Beth Pite '73 (CLAS)**, owner of Pite Plus Marketing, was



recognized by the Community Leadership Association during its annual international conference in San Diego.

She was nominated to receive the Distinguished Leader Award by Leadership Greater Hartford.

**John M. Silva '73 (ED)**, '74 M.A. recently published his second text on sport psychology, *Psychological Foundations of Sport*. John is a professor of sport psychology at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

**Alan B. Igdalsky '74 (CLAS)** has recently been appointed by



the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants to serve as chair of its peer review committee for the organization's 2002-2003 activity year.

**John M. Johnson '74 (CLAS)** has been appointed director of business management for BAE SYSTEMS at its Threat Warning and Defensive Systems Business Area in Yonkers, N.Y. John and his family live in Newtown, Conn.

**Edward P. Donovan '75 M.S.** was selected by fellow faculty members as the first-ever Berry Shoals Teacher of the Year for 2001-2002. He has also been named 2002-2003 Spartanburg County School District Five Teacher of the Year. He is currently the science laboratory teacher at Berry Shoals Intermediate School in Duncan, S.C., which serves grades four through six.

**Richard Lawrence Klotz '75 M.S.**, '79 Ph.D., a professor of biological sciences, was named Distinguished Teaching Professor by the State University of New York Board of Trustees in April 2002.



**Paula Lobo '75 (CLAS)** is editor of the national newsletter *Hospital Materials Management* and the recipient of the 2001 American Society of Healthcare Publication Editors Gold Award for best newsletter. She travels the country covering hospital

## PROFILE

### Keeping Jaguars healthy

**Mike Ryan '88 (SAH)** is a firm believer in the power of setting goals. As an undergraduate, he knew the exact career path he wanted to follow and he pursued it with zeal.

While completing his degree in physical therapy, Ryan interned at a number of hospitals and with several athletic teams. With aspirations to become a first-class athletic trainer, he steadily carved out a niche for himself, working at summer camps with the New York Giants football team.

"My objective was to work in the NFL full time," Ryan recalls. Indeed, upon graduation, he realized his dream when he accepted a position as assistant athletic trainer and physical therapist with the Giants. In 1994, Ryan was

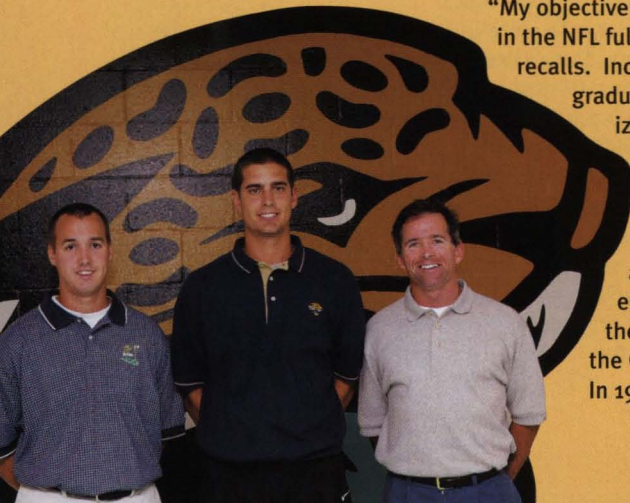
recruited by the expansion Jacksonville Jaguars team to become their head athletic trainer and physical therapist. "The stadium was just a hole in the ground—literally—when I arrived," he says.

Four years later, Ryan hired Joe Sheehan '97 (ED), another UConn alumnus, to be his assistant. Like Ryan, Sheehan had pursued an interest in professional sports as a summer intern, working with the Jaguars organization. And last summer, yet another UConn alumnus, James Fernandes '02 (ED), completed an internship in Ryan's organization.

"As an alumnus, I welcome the opportunity to hire people from UConn," Ryan says. "UConn's athletic training program has done a wonderful job of preparing people for the professional environment."

In addition to Ryan and Sheehan, UConn has another connection to the Jaguars organization. Professor Doug Casa '97 Ph.D., UConn's director of athletic training education, has consulted with the Jaguars on the issue of heat physiology and hydration, a matter of increased concern throughout the NFL since Minnesota Vikings offensive lineman Korey Stringer died of heat stroke in 2001.

UConn's athletic training program is part of the department of kinesiology in the Neag School of Education. Growing in both popularity and prestige, it graduates about a dozen students each year, many of whom have gone on to careers in professional sports. —Jim H. Smith





## The 2002-2003 University of Connecticut Alumni Association Officers and Directors

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**President**  
Jeffrey M. Konspore '79 (CLAS)

**First Vice President**  
Jennifer M. Ryley Welsh '90 (CLAS)

**Second Vice President**  
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Francis X. Archambault Jr. '68 (ED), '69 M.A.; Cynthia L. Dul '79 (CLAS); Joshua E. Dunn '92 (CLAS); Mary Ann Emely '69 (CLAS); Michael J. Galchus '66 (CLAS), '71 M.B.A.; Pamela B. Gardner '91 (CLAS); Theresa Hopkins-Staten '81 (CLAS); Christine Lodewick '67 M.S.; Annette Lombardi '76 (CLAS); Denise W. Merrill '88 (BGS); Paul H. Patel '92 (BUS) '96 M.B.A.; Louis H. Ulizio, Jr. '58 (CANR), '64 (BUS), '66 M.B.A.

*Interested in serving or nominating someone for the Alumni Board? Call us at 888-UC-ALUM-1.*

supply issues. Paula and her husband, Don Merrill, reside in Aurora, Colo., with their cat, Sheba.

**Gary S. Nault '75 (CANR)** has been an environmental engineer with the United States Air Force in Europe for three years.

**Stephen B. Cohen '76 (BUS)** is partner in the accounting firm Cohen, Burger, Schwartz & Sax, LLC.

**Peter Darnell '76 (CLAS)** is proud to announce his daughter is now attending the University of Connecticut.

**Robert Gentino '76 (CLAS)** was recently honored by C.A.R.E., a nonprofit Los Angeles-area animal rescue organization, with the first-ever Friend of C.A.R.E. award. Robert, who is an attorney with offices in Universal City, has participated in animal rescue work for many years.

**Patricia A. Richard '76 M.D., D.M.D.** treats craniofacial pain and practices pain management in Fairfield, Conn. She has authored several articles and written a chapter in pain management for physicians.

**Harvey Snitkin '76 Ph.D.** had his new book, *Practice Planner: a Journal of Goals and Progress*,

released to the book trade as a front list title in the Independent Publishers Group spring catalog.

**Linda L. Sordoni '76 (ED)** was awarded a Master's of Education in Creative Arts in Learning from Lesley University. Linda is currently employed as a first-grade teacher at Saint Anthony School in Fitchburg, Mass.

**Diane D. Bengston '77 (SFS)** has been named senior vice president, human resources, of Travelers Property Casualty. Diane currently resides in Rocky Hill, Conn., with her husband, Tim, and her sons, Scott and Ryan.

**James Marx '77 M.S.** was recently transferred by Earth Tech to Barbados, where he is the engineering consultant manager for the operations/startup phase of the south coast water treatment project.

**George H. Pain '77 J.D.** has been elected vice president, general counsel and secretary for the Olin Corporation in Norwalk, Conn.

**Richie Partington '77 (BUS)** has been named to the American Library Association's Best Books for Young Adults Committee. His online reviews of children's and young adult literature appear at richiespicks.com. He, his wife, Shari, and their four children reside in Sebastopol, Calif.

**Albert A. Seretny '77 Ph.D.**, after serving as dean and later as president of Connecticut State Technical College during the 1980s, is retired and living outside Philadelphia, Pa.

**William J. Luddy, Jr. '78 J.D.** was named to the U.S.



Delegation to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law. He is a professor at the Lally School of Management and Technology, Rensselaer at Hartford, Conn.

**Steven Marks '78 (CLAS)** has co-edited a collection of essays published by the University of Alabama Press in the modern and contemporary poetics series titled *Telling it Slant: Avant-Garde Poetics of the 1990's*.

**William C. G. Swift Jr. '78 J.D.** has been appointed joint managing director of Withers Bergman LLP. He leads the U.S. practice and advises high net-worth clients on tax issues, trusts, estate planning and business matters.

**Joseph W. Waz '78 J.D.** is vice president of external affairs and public policy counsel at Comcast Corporation. He recently received a Vanguard Award, the cable industry's highest honor, in the category of government and community relations.

## 1980s

**Houston Putnam Lowry '80 M.B.A.** was recently elected as a freeman to the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators in London.

**Steve Straight '80 (CLAS), '89 M.A.** has just published his first full-length book of poetry, *The Water Carrier*, from Curbstone Press in Willimantic, Conn. One of the poems in the book was first published in *UConn Traditions*. Steve is currently a professor of English at Manchester Community College.

**Pamela Moore Sardo '81 (PHR)** was recently appointed clinical pharmacist at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Pamela received her Pharm.D. degree from the University of Rhode Island in 2000. Pamela resides in Corning, N.Y., with her husband and son.

**James Doing '82 (SFA), '84 M.M.** was recently tenured and promoted to associate professor of voice at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Music. In November 2001, he returned to the Santa Fe Opera for the lead role in *H.M.S. Pinafore*. Jim and his wife, Sue, have five children ages 10 to 17.

**Peter J. Niedermeyer '82 (BUS)** and his wife, Debbie, announce the birth of twins, Elizabeth Bella and Joseph Daniel, on May 21, 2002. The pair join their older brother, Patrick. Pete is a partner with Blum, Shapiro & Company, P.C. in West Hartford, Conn. The family resides in Simsbury, Conn.

**Richard T. Roth '82 (BUS)** has been named managing director of the Atlanta office of Answerthink, Inc. Richard will also continue as managing director of Answerthink's Hackett Best Practices division, a position he has held since 1999.

**Dwight Sherban '82 Ph.D.** was promoted to full professor of marketing in 2000 at the University of Hartford. He was also elected chair of the marketing department in 2001.



**Gary B. Draghi '83 (BUS)** and **Elizabeth Daley Draghi '87 J.D.** announce the birth of their daughter, Carolina Mary, on January 8, 2002. Carolina joins her brother, Thomas Richard Ward, and sister, Isabella Rose. The family resides in Wallingford, Conn. Elizabeth is in-house counsel for UBS Realty Investors LLC in Hartford. Gary is a chartered financial analyst and certified public accountant. He is principal investment officer in the pension funds management division of the Office of the State Treasurer in Hartford. He is a member of the UConn Alumni Association Board of Directors and the New Haven Chapter of the Alumni Association.

**Elizabeth Selkirk Goggins '83 (BUS)** and husband, Glenn Goggins, of Larchmont, N.Y., announce the birth of William Scott Goggins. William was born August 14, 2002, and joins siblings Kevin and Caroline.

**Kevin A. Torsiello '83 (ENG)**, United States Navy commander, is assigned as chief engineer on board the aircraft carrier U.S.S. *George Washington*, which is currently deployed overseas in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Cmdr. Torsiello resides in Virginia Beach, Va.



**Pamela C. Pinard '84 (SFA)** works as a graphic designer at Pratt & Whitney-Military Engines and resides in East Haddam, Conn., with her 8-year-old daughter.

**Jill Coughlin '85 (CLAS)** was honored as one of the top Wells Fargo & Co. phone bank supervisors for her team's sales referral efforts in the first quarter of 2002. She lives in Phoenix, Ariz., with her husband and son.

**Ellen L. Seitz Galatis '85 (BUS)** is pleased to announce the birth of her second child,

Naomi Marie, born on June 4, 2002. Ellen also has a son, Zachary David.

**Salvatore Giuliano '85 (BUS)** has recently been appointed by the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants to serve as chair of its public relations committee for the organization's 2002-2003 activity year.



**John F. Leandri '85 (BUS)** was recently named director of portfolio and decision analysis for Pfizer, Inc. He joined the company in 1996. John resides in Gales Ferry, Conn., with his wife, Barbara, and their children, Steven, Michael, and Anna.

**Paula Brinkman Hughes '86 (SFA)** has moved to Key West, Fla. She and her husband are expecting their first child in March.

**Anita Swanson Becker '86 (CLAS)** and **William Becker '79 (CLAS)** announce the birth of their first child, Patricia Anna, on May 2, 2002. The family resides in Barnstead, N.H.

**Kris D. Bickell '86 (CLAS)** and wife **Ann Wolf Bickell '88 (SFS)** announce the birth of their third child, Daniel Christopher, on November 15, 2001. Their other children are Kyle, 8, and Kelly, 5.



**David R. Brigham '86 (CLAS/BUS)** has been appointed the Priscilla Payne Hurd director of the Allentown Art Museum by the museum's board of trustees.

**Joseph Briody '86 (BUS)**, '95 M.A., '96 Ph.D. and his wife, **Diane (Stackpole) Briody '87 (CLAS)**, '95 M.A., are pleased to announce the birth of their third child, Seamus Joseph,

July 31, 2002. Seamus was welcomed home by his sister, Caitlin, and brother, Patrick. The family is catching up on their sleep at home in Storrs, Conn.

**Anne M. McCarthy '86 M.B.A.** has been named dean of the University of Baltimore Merrick School of Business. Previously, she was the director of the Center for Entrepreneurial and Family Enterprises and associate professor of management at Colorado State University.

**Bruce H. Raymond '86 (CLAS)** was elected to the DRI Board of Directors. DRI is a national and international membership association of lawyers and others concerned with the defense of civil actions.

**Matthew O. Riley '86 (BUS)** was promoted to senior vice president of Webster Bank in April 2001.

**Meg Sakellarides '86 (BUS)** has been appointed chief operating officer of Connecticut Public Television, the broadcast home of UConn women's basketball, and WNPR/Connecticut Public Radio. Meg is also a member of the Board of Trustees of Hartford's Learning Corridor, the Wheeler Clinic, and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. She resides in Glastonbury, Conn.

**Tom Doggart '87 (ENG) '94 M.S.** has accepted the position of director and principal engineer of Stork-Herron Testing Laboratory in Charlotte, N.C., an independent mechanical testing and consulting facility.

**Pamela Arison '88 (SFS)** was married to James Patterson on June 24, 2000. The couple resides in Darien, Conn.

**Ramani Durvasula '88 (CLAS)** was selected as the 2002 Emerging Scholar by the American Association of University Women Educational

Foundation, based on her excellence in teaching, her research record, and evidence of potentially significant contributions to her field of study. Ramani works as an assistant professor of psychology at California State University in Los Angeles.

**David Gambardella III '88 (BUS)** has recently been appointed by the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants to serve as chair of its manufacturing committee for the organization's 2002-2003 activity year.

**Duane Sauer '88 (BUS)** was promoted to the position of division director at the local office of Robert Half, the world's first and largest staffing service for accounting and finance professionals.

**John J. Brennan '89 (ENG)** and **Michelle E. (Trzaski) Brennan '90 (PHR)** proudly announce the birth of their twins, son Mackinnon Jay and daughter Natalie Candace, on December 12, 2001. John is an engineering supervisor at Hamilton Sunstrand in Farmington, Conn., and Michelle was most recently a district manager for CVS Pharmacy and now works part-time as a pharmacist. The happy family resides in Southington, Conn.

**Curtis J. Audibert '89 (BUS)** was recently appointed by the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants to serve as chair of its membership committee for the organization's 2002-2003 activity year.



**Laura Berlingo '89 (CLAS)** and her family announce the birth of their second daughter, Eleanor "Ellie" Roberts.



**Elinor De Wire '89 (BGS)** wrote *Lighthouses of the Mid-Atlantic Coast*, which will be published by Voyageur Press of Stillwater, Minn., in December 2002.

**Mohammed A. El-Bermawy '89 Ph.D.** was promoted to associate professor of chemistry and biology at Culver-Stockton College. He is also the 2002 recipient of the College's Helsabeck Prize for excellence in teaching.

**Mike Lipka '89 (CLAS)** and **Kathryn C. Lipka '96 M.B.A.** announce the birth of their son, Matthew Keenan, on July 1, 2002.

**Michael Mathiasen '89 (ENG)** and his wife, Debbie, announce the birth of their son, Tyler Joseph, born May 1, 2002.

**Marikate Murren '89 (CLAS), '96 M.A.** was appointed national administrator of USA School Tennis by the United States Tennis Association. Marikate

was previously the head coach of the UConn women's tennis team and served in a variety of other positions within the University of Connecticut. Marikate currently resides in Fairfield, Conn.

**Joseph Petrokaitis '89 (ENG)** and wife, **Gina (Paternostro) Petrokaitis '89 (BUS)**, are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Julia Nicole, on December 11, 2001.

**Judith Evans Sandonato '89 (CLAS)** currently resides in Boston with her husband, Matthew. She works as a special events planner at Boston University.

## 1990s

**Russell Balling '90 (CLAS)** was recently promoted to superintendent at MRI, a golf course construction company from South Carolina. He is currently working on a Jack Nicklaus project in Florida.

**Glenn Horowitz '90 (BUS), '93 M.A.** is employed as a physical education teacher with the West Hartford Public Schools.

**Judith Fay Kornberg '90**



Ph.D. has been appointed dean for the School of Continuing and Professional Studies at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) in New York City.

**James Moran '90 (BGS)** has been appointed director of athletics for Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, Conn. James resides in West Haven, Conn., with his wife, Patty, and their children, Kristen, Elizabeth, Jamie and Julia.

**John J. Slavik '90 (CLAS)** and **Amy M. (Fahy) Slavik '90 (SFS)** announce the birth of their third son, Luke Michael, born on December 5, 2001.

He was welcomed home by brothers Nicholas and Joseph.

**Amy Giguere Suchecki '90 (CLAS)** was recently promoted to regional manager at Liberty Bank, Connecticut's oldest mutual bank, based in Middletown. Amy, an assistant vice president, had been the branch manager of the Colchester branch office for two years. Amy resides in Colchester with her husband, Rob.

**Mary-Clare DeMario '91 (CLAS)** and her husband, **Tom DeMario '91 (CLAS)**, announce the birth of their first child, Kevin Richard, on February 14, 2002. The family resides in Cary, N.C.

**John E. Dickson, Jr. '91 (CLAS)** and his wife, Tracy, announce the birth of their son, John "JT" E. Dickson, III. JT was born on August 22, 2002. The Dickson family resides in Deep River, Conn.

## PROFILE

### The latest Gallup Poll results

How successful have you been since receiving your master's degree in political science at UConn? Would you say you've been (a) very successful, (b) somewhat successful, or (c) not particularly successful?

For **Lydia Saad '97 M.A.**, senior editor at the Gallup Organization in Princeton, N.J.—one of the world's oldest and most widely recognized public opinion surveys firms—the answer is an unqualified (a).

Saad has produced, written and interpreted hundreds of opinion polls, and has written dozens of essays on polling, public opinion and politics.

Her introduction to Gallup was through a temporary assignment working on 1992 presidential election surveys where she "learned the ropes." Quickly establishing her credentials as a skilled research analyst, Saad was offered a permanent post at Gallup and, by 1995, had been promoted to managing editor, one of three editors responsible for producing the Gallup Poll and a host of other surveys.

After returning from maternity leave in 2000, Saad assumed the position of senior editor where she is now responsible for producing the Gallup Poll Social Series—a trend-based survey



"on subjects we cover in depth, such as what people think of the economy, health care, or foreign policy."

Prior to working at Gallup, Saad worked as a research assistant at the State Capitol in Hartford, Conn., and for John Rowland's first campaign for governor. During that time, she also pursued a master's degree in political science at UConn.

Saad had searched for a "practical program" that could promote her career, explaining that UConn's political science department—and its connection to the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research—offered exactly the program she desired.

"I learned a great deal at UConn," she notes. "How to draft objective surveys, select a random sample, and analyze and interpret results. I had the wonderful opportunity to work closely with Everett Ladd, who was then head of the Roper Center. His idealism was contagious. He believed that polling is a vital part of the democratic process. That very same philosophy is shared by the people at Gallup."

"Today, there are many schools that focus on public opinion studies, but the University of Connecticut," she adds, "is considered one of the best in the field." — *John Surowiecki*



**Jason Faiola '91 (CLAS)** and his wife, Kristen, are pleased to announce the birth of their second daughter, Natalie Helen, born June 14, 2002.

**Kimberly Fine Jackson '91 (CLAS)** and her husband, Jeremy, announce with great joy the birth of their daughter, Leah Faith. Kim is a fourth grade teacher with Gwinnett County Public Schools. Jeremy is the systems operator at the Covenant Group. The family resides in Alpharetta, Ga.

**Bryan H. Miller '91 (CLAS)** was promoted to the rank of sergeant with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department in Charlotte, N.C.

## IN MEMORIAM

### ALUMNI

Fennell P. Atwater  
**Patricia A. (Kane) Bishop '79 M.A.**  
 Hugh S. Campbell '37  
**Joan I. (Saglio) Chaszcz '76**  
**Constance C. Emerson '65**  
**Jeffrey Scott Gall '86 Ph.D.**  
 William Grey '54  
 Robert W. Groat '30  
 Dale Harned '54  
**Wendell F. Hawkins '56**  
**William Hinman '88**  
 Henry A. Klipp '50  
 Edward J. Krause, Jr. '41  
 Edward Paul Lazur '78  
**Michael J. Lombardo '51,**  
**'61 M.A., '73 J.D.**  
 Edwin G. Olzinski '71  
**John Peslak, Jr. '69 M.S., '71 Ph.D.**  
**David Rosenzweig '77 M.A.**  
**Arthur W. Schnabel '64**  
 Leo E. Supina '51  
 Elinor Tilles '72  
 John W. Trumble '63  
**Jane (Griswold) Watts '46**  
**Robert E. Zimmerman '49**

### FACULTY

Harold Seidman  
 Laura Wignall

**Kenneth R. Slater, Jr. '91 J.D.** has joined the Hartford, Conn., office of Halloran & Sage LLP as counsel in the environmental and land-use practice group.

**Mary (Brandow) Valinotti '91 (CLAS), '92 M.A.** and her husband, Michael, joyfully announce the birth of their twin boys, Michael Vincent and Christopher James, on September 12, 2001. Michael was born 19 minutes earlier than Christopher. The healthy bouncing boys join their 16-month-old big sister, Danielle Alexis.

**Geri Blau (Fisher) '92 (SFS)**, who is teaching third grade in New York City at P.S. 119, married Keith Fisher on July 11, 2002.

**Doug Bohl '92 (ENG)** recently earned his Ph.D. in mechanical engineering at Michigan State University. He and his wife, **Coreen (Zunner) Bohl '92 (CLAS)**, also announce the birth of their second son, Noah Gordon, in June 2002. Noah joins his proud older brother, Bailey David.

**Donna Acosta Brugnetti '92 (CLAS)** and her husband, Gary, proudly announce the birth of their son, Jason Sperandio, on December 13, 2001.

**Timothy Chrystal '92 (CLAS)** was promoted to manager of underwriting at Tufts Health Plan in Waltham, Mass., in December 2001.

**Tracy Spaar Earnshaw '92 (CLAS), '95 M.A.** married Brian Earnshaw on June 29, 2002. Tracy is a school librarian at Coginchaug High School in Durham, Conn. The couple resides in New Haven, Conn.

**Kelly Tharaldson Fuerstenberg '92 (CANR)** is pleased to announce that she and her husband had their first baby, Luke David, on April 15, 2002.

**Ursula Haerter '92 J.D.** has joined Robinson & Cole LLP in Hartford, Conn., in the labor,

## LEGACY SCHOLARSHIPS

The UConn Alumni Association is pleased to announce that it will be awarding scholarships to students who are considered UConn "Legacies."

■ **An applicant's grandparent, parent or sibling must be a UConn alum and a current dues paying member of the UConn Alumni Association.**

Visit [www.uconnalumni.com](http://www.uconnalumni.com) to complete the online application and view the list of eligibility requirements and criteria. Please direct all questions to Kristi A. Napolitano '94, '01 toll free at (888) UC-ALUM-1 or by email, [Kristi.napolitano@uconn.edu](mailto:Kristi.napolitano@uconn.edu)

employment and benefits group. She resides in Tolland, Conn., with her husband, Michael Gamache, and family.

**Donna R. Jarvis '92 (CLAS)** and Kevin Foster announce the birth of Anna Madelaine Jarvis Foster on August 18, 2002. Donna is employed as vice president in charge of life and health reinsurance underwriting at AXA Corporate Solutions Life Reinsurance Company in New York, N.Y. The family resides in Stamford, Conn.

**Kathryn (Grina) Petrillo '92 (CLAS)** and her husband, Angelo, announce the birth of their daughter Chloe Marie. Chloe joins her older sisters, Gwenn and Lily. The family resides in New Jersey.

**Marcia Smith Puc '92 (CLAS)** and her husband, Bernard, announce the birth of their son Ethan on March 17, 2002. Ethan joins his brother, Griffin.

**Lisa M. Swenson '92 (CLAS)** and Michael O'Neill were married December 28, 2001, in Killarney, Ireland. The couple resides in Killorglin, County Kerry, Ireland. Lisa is currently working as a behavioral and counseling specialist for children with autism.

**John Congiu '93 (CLAS)** and **Susan Duttweiler Congiu '92 (CLAS)** announce the birth of their first daughter, Laura Veronica, on May 26, 2002. The family resides in Norwalk, Conn.

**Lisa Conran '93 (BUS)** and Ronald DeRosa were married on May 25, 2002, in Littleton, Mass. Lisa is the retail marketing manager for the Clarks Companies N.A., and is responsible for marketing programs for approximately 130 Bostonians, Clarks, Hanover Shoe, and Bostonian/Clarks Outlet retail stores. She and Ron make their home in Boston.

**Jennifer A. Garcia '93 (BUS)** was promoted to marketing director at Scholastic, Inc., a global marketer of children's books, including Harry Potter and Dr. Seuss. Jennifer was also nominated for Marketer of the Year.

**Frank Pace '93 (CLAS)** was married to Amy Fermi on October 11, 1997. The couple resides in West Warwick, R.I. Frank graduated from Boston College in 2000 with his M.S.W. and is currently working as a coordinator of Project Hope.



**Heidi Paonessa '93 (CLAS)** is currently enrolled in the graduate program in Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii.

**Erin Capozzi '94 (BUS), '02 M.B.A.** and **Matthew Macaluso '95 (CLAS)** were married on July 14, 2001, in Avon, Conn. The couple resides in Lebanon, Conn.

**Jennifer Gardiner Chiota '94 (SFA)** and her husband, Chris Chiota, announce the birth of



identical twin daughters, Olivia and Chloe, on April 25, 2002. The family resides in Ridgefield, Conn.

**Linda Seeds Coppola '94 (ENG)**, '02 M.B.A. and her husband, **Joseph Coppola '91 (CLAS)**, are proud to announce the birth of their triplets. The children were born on August 6, 2002, and were named Thomas Joseph, Daniel Christopher and Alexandra Elizabeth.

**Joseph Danega '94 (ENG)** and **Joyce Tzay-Lien Danega '94 (CLAS)** announce the birth of their twins, Zoe and Zacharie, born on January 27, 2002. They are the couple's first children. The family lives in Victorville, Calif.

**Darrell Galasso (BUS) '94**, of Meriden, Conn., received his Accreditation in Business Valuation (ABV) from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Darrel is currently a manager in Kostin, Ruffkess & Company,

LLC's litigation support services group.

**Jeffrey R. Gaudiosi '94 (CLAS)** and his wife, Alisa, announce the birth of their daughter, Saffron Marie, on July 8, 2002. Jeff received his J.D. from Quinnipiac University and is regulatory counsel for the Manufacturing Alliance of Connecticut.

**Kevin Gauthier '94 (CLAS)** is pleased to announce his marriage to Ayme Sheridan on June 1, 2002, in Avon, Conn. Kevin is currently an operations manager at ESPN in Bristol, Conn., and Ayme is a teacher in Westport, Conn.

**Ali Johnston '94 (BUS)** and Michael Stone were married on August 2, 2002, in Ridgewood, N.J. After receiving her M.S. in teaching from Fordham University in 1997, Ali has been a second grade teacher in Pearl River, N.Y.

**Eric Lefebvre '94 (BUS)** and **Tracy Lefebvre '94 (BUS)** announce the birth of their first child, Sophie Marie, on July 14, 2002.

**Robert J. Mulkeen '94 (CANR)** recently opened a new U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office in Champlain, N.Y.

**Mary Egan Mulligan '94 M.S.W.** was named employee of the year at Connecticut Valley Hospital in Middletown, Conn. Mary was also honored at a party by the hospital for her dedication and commitment to her patients.

**Jorge R. Pereira '94 (ENG)** graduated from the New York



University Leonard N. Stern School of Business with an M.B.A. in finance and management in May 2002.

**Barbara Ribbens '94 Ph.D.** was selected as the Outstanding Teacher of the College of Business and Technology at Western Illinois University.

**Peter Cumello '95 (BUS)** and his wife, Ashlee, are excited to announce the birth of their daughter, Lilly Elizabeth, born October 19, 2001. Peter and

his family live in New York City, where he is the east region finance manager for Avande Inc.

**Amy Colonna Demicco '95 (CLAS)** and her husband, Louis Demicco III, proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Eliana Bellini Demicco, born May 31, 2002.

**Kevin M. Flood '95 M.S.** and his wife, Susanna, are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Jack Francis Flood, on June 8, 2002.

**Michael Kunze '95 (CLAS)** was recently promoted to restaurant manager at the Hyatt Regency Resort at Gainey Ranch in Scottsdale, Ariz. Michael married Robyn Bengis in 2000.

**Sharon Foisey Lichota '95 (BUS)** and her husband announce the birth of their second child, Jason Thomas, on May 15, 2002. Sharon is a systems engineer for The Hartford Insurance Company in Hartford, Conn. The family resides in Newington, Conn.

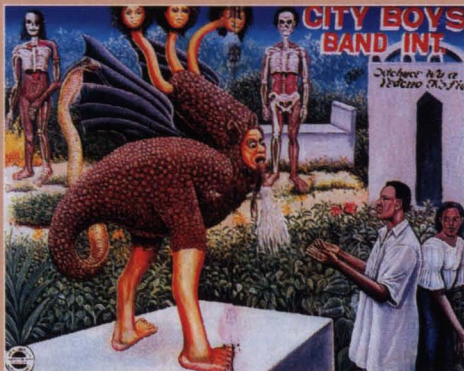
## AT THE WILLIAM BENTON MUSEUM OF ART

On View January 21–March 14, 2003

### Hollywood Icons, Local Demons:

#### Ghanaian Popular Paintings by Mark Anthony

Mark Anthony of Agona Swedru, Ghana, is acclaimed as a master artist of roadside paintings on plywood that attract audiences to all-night open-air concerts and theatrical events performed by itinerant traveling musicians and actors. This traveling exhibition features 18 of Mark Anthony's colorful, bold 8' x 8' paintings based on scenes from four different morality folk plays based on Evangelical Christianity. Like Hollywood billboards showing clips of fantastic action films, the paintings possess a contemporary flair, offering excitement and entertainment to concertgoers.



### Benny Andrews: Painting Stories

Connecticut artist Benny Andrews will show a selection of his humorous and serious narrative paintings that have been drawn from true experiences and imagined ones. The exhibit will include images from his *Musical Interlude*, *Revival*, *Human Spirit*, and *Interiors* series. Andrews was born in Georgia, a descendant of a former slave. Although he has lived and taught in New York and Connecticut for many years, his paintings and prints continue to reflect his experiences and memories of growing up in the South.



Museum hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.



**Kate Fuller '95 (CLAS)** and Evan Curren were married on May 25, 2002, in Winchester, Mass. The couple resides in New York City.

**Richard Ross '95 M.F.A.** recently received a tenure



appointment in the design department at Buffalo State University along with a promotion to associate

professor of design. Richard will also continue as a coordinator of the communications design program. His work has been exhibited at the Society of Illustrators and included in many annuals of contemporary illustration and design.

**Tina M. Scalzo '95 (CLAS)** received her M.S. in microbiology and immunology from New York Medical College. Tina began as an associate scientist at EMD Pharmaceuticals in Lexington, Mass., in June 2002.

**Christopher R. Uzpen '95 (CLAS)** received the 2002



Outstanding Student Award from the Seidman School of Business Department of Accounting and Taxation

at Grand Valley State University. Christopher recently completed his M.S. in taxation. He is an attorney in the Holland, Mich., office of Warner, Norcross & Judd LLP.

**David M. Wishtischin '95 (SAH)** and his wife, Pamela, announce the birth of their son, David Robert, born May 4, 2002. David is a regional vice president with Primerica Financial Services, a member of Citigroup, in Tewksbury, Mass. They reside in Tyngsboro, Mass.

**Brandon Bailey '96 (CLAS)** is currently employed at Richland High School as a computer teacher and head football coach. He and his wife have three children: Karsen, Morgan, and Kobay.

**Amy Richards Holibaugh '96 (CLAS), '99 M.A.** is pleased to announce her recent marriage to Ian Irwin Turkle. Amy is currently employed with Millward Brown as a senior research executive.



**Eric M. Kerzner '96 (BUS)** is manager of labor finance for the National Football League Management

Council in the league's New York City headquarters.

**David S. McDermott '96 (BUS)** and Danielle S. LaPierre were married on August 23, 2002, in Seymour, Conn. The couple resides in Danbury, Conn.

**Barry A. Morris '96 M.B.A.** has been appointed vice president and chief financial officer at Specialized Technology Resources, Inc., a quality assurance, inspection, and testing laboratory in Enfield, Conn.

**Donna M. Pengel '96 (BUS),** was honored with the



Committee Member of the Year award by the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants. Donna is a

supervisor in the Glastonbury, Conn., firm of Haggett, Longobardi & Company.

**Jennifer Barnes Erami '97 (ED), '98 M.A.** and **Jeffrey Erami '88 (CLAS)** were married on July 12, 1999, in a castle in Dingwall, Scotland. They wore their families' tartans during the ceremony. Their first child, Alicia Skye, was born on April 12, 2002. Jennifer is an 8th grade English teacher at RHAM Middle School in Hebron, Conn., and Jeffrey is a history teacher at East Hartford High School.

**Tamara Nicole Nelson '97 (BUS)** married James Michael Ohl on August 24, 2002, in Las Vegas.

## Call For Nominations

■ *Do you know an outstanding alumna, alumnus or faculty member?*

The UConn Alumni Association has established awards for the purpose of recognizing outstanding achievements and contributions by alumni, non-alumni and faculty. The Alumni Association is proud of these achievements and welcomes the opportunity to extend recognition through our annual awards.

*Nomination forms and a list of past recipients may be obtained at [www.uconnalumni.com](http://www.uconnalumni.com). Deadline for 2003 nominations is March 31, 2003.*

**Kirsten Tierney '97 (CLAS)** received her M.B.A. from the University of North Carolina in May 2002. Kirsten was married in August 2002 to Kyle Jewell.

**Lyn-Ann Verrengia '97 (BUS)** was married on April 17, 1999, to Steven Markle. Lyn-Ann has been named accounting manager/controller for Becker's Diamonds and Fine Jewelry in West Hartford, Conn.

**Lillian Villadolid '97 (BUS)** recently received her M.S.I.S. degree from Western New England College. She and her family live in Glastonbury, Conn. Lillian is currently employed at Pratt & Whitney as a senior engineer.

**Carlos Barraza '98 (CLAS)** and **Christine Robertson '98 (CLAS)** were married on November 16, 2001. The couple resides in Philadelphia. Carlos graduated from the University of Wisconsin Law School and was the recipient of the Abe Sigman Memorial Award for outstanding scholarship, character and commitment to service to the community.

**Melissa Leighton '98 (NUR)** and **Christopher Lengyel '98 (ENG)** were married October 13, 2002. Melissa works as a wound care registered nurse at Aventura Hospital and Christopher is C.T.O. of Auris

Technologies of Miami. The couple resides in Aventura, Fla.

**Dana McCreesh '98 M.B.A.** and her husband, Mike, welcomed a baby boy, Brent Logan McCreesh, on May 14, 2002. He joins his big sister, Madison Taylor, who is one year old.

**Sara Tavernier '98 (PHR)** married Carl Burgardt on September 14, 2001, on Cadillac Mountain in Bar Harbor, Maine. They reside in Durham, N.C.

**John Thomas Bowman '99 M.D.S.** has earned a medical degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. He plans to complete a residency in oral and maxillofacial surgery at MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland, Ohio.

**Jean W. Lange '99 (NUR)** has been selected as a post-doctoral scholar in gerontologic nursing by the Hartford Institute. Jean is an assistant professor in the School of Nursing at Fairfield University in Fairfield, Conn.

## 2000s

**Allison R. Amorosi '00 (NUR)** is currently a registered nurse on the orthopedic, neurology, and trauma floor at Danbury Hospital. In December, Allison was engaged to Robert DeNicola and is planning a June 2003 wedding.

**Kathy Yurko '00 (CLAS)** is teaching 7th and 8th grade Spanish in the Newington, school system in Connecticut.

**David J. Bachyrycz '01 (CLAS)** has been accepted into the Ph.D. program at Georgetown University to pursue a doctorate in philosophy.

**Sara R. Swanson '01 (CLAS)** was married to **Don Anderson '99 (BUS)** in Willimantic, Conn. Sara works as an operations specialist at Fidelity Investments in Marlborough, Mass. Don is a consultant for Hewlett-Packard in Boston, Mass.



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## Franklin Chang-Diaz

*Continued from page 33*

Late in 1982, he was selected as a member of the support crew for the first Spacelab mission.

In January 1986, just before the *Challenger* accident, he went into space for the first time. It was a bittersweet victory. Among the astronauts who lost their lives on *Challenger* was pilot Michael J. Smith, a close friend who had joined NASA at the same time as Chang-Diaz.

## When Chang-Diaz was 18, he had long since decided where his future lay. He was determined to become an astronaut.

Since 1986, he has gone back six times, most recently aboard the shuttle *Endeavor* last June, delivering a new resident crew to the space station. In the last 19 years, he has logged more than 1,600 hours in space, including nearly 20 hours in three separate space walks.

Since 1993, he has been director of the Advanced Space Propulsion Laboratory at the Johnson Space Center, where he has continued the work on plasma rockets that he began thinking about as an undergraduate at UConn. "The future of space exploration will require spacecraft that are both fast and reliable," he says. "That means revolutionary propulsion systems."

For 20 years, his research team has been developing such a propulsion system. It is called the Variable Specific Impulse Magnetoplasma Rocket (VASIMR), and Chang-Diaz envisions it enabling space travel that is, perhaps, 30 times faster than any system available today. "The objective is to travel to Mars," he says, unambiguously. "A propulsion system like the VASIMR would make it possible to get there in a little more than a month, rather than a year."

Chang-Diaz expects to test the VASIMR in about three years. If the tests are successful, "I assume there would be rapid deployment," he says. His target then would be a human mission to Mars in May 2018, the 38th anniversary of his employment with NASA.

"With a propulsion system like this, we'd have the entire solar system within our reach," he says, envisioning automated mining complexes on large asteroids and missions to Titan, a moon of Saturn, and Callisto and Europa,

moons of Jupiter.

So continues the odyssey that began the night *Sputnik* was

launched. Each year, now, Chang-Diaz brings promising students from all over the world to work in his laboratory. They are, in many respects, like him—bright young men and women with a boundless spirit of adventure, who look up at the night sky; at the future.

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## Jonas Kronkaitis

*Continued from page 36*

where he won three Bronze Stars for combat. When he retired in 1985, he had managed more than 3,000 employees at the largest government armament manufacturing facility in the United States—still a far cry from the 22,000 troops he oversees today.

His return to Lithuania came in 1996 when he met a Lithuanian politician in Washington, D.C., who wooed him back home to campaign for the Conservative Party in national elections. His presence helped win the election, and he was offered appointment to the prestigious post of Commander of Armed Forces. It was an offer he quickly declined, instead opting for the less demanding job of vice minister of

defense. He and his wife, Ruta, arrived for what they expected to be a one-year mission. But in 1999 he was persuaded to head the armed forces.

"I never imagined that in my lifetime Lithuania would become free," says Kronkaitis. "I never imagined I'd be here. Never imagined I'd wear this uniform."

His post wouldn't be official until approved by a skeptical parliament, half of which insisted Kronkaitis revoke his U.S. citizenship. The issue was hotly debated in the national press, until he delivered a historic speech at his parliamentary hearing.

"When I was 12, we came to America and were accepted and treated as one of them. We were never discriminated against. When we needed help, it was there. We had every opportunity to seek education, while you were occupied by Russians and abused like slaves in your own home. I had all opportunities given to me in a foreign country, and I'll never turn my back on that country."

After the speech, Kronkaitis received all but three votes. Some Lithuanians opposed the presence of a foreigner who never suffered under the former regime. But today he's won over most of the public, thanks in part to Lithuania's optimistic NATO standing. "To them I symbolize freedom, democracy and someone who will not compromise the values they believe. You have this extraordinary responsibility that you cannot disappoint them."

Kronkaitis says he'll retire—yet again—upon NATO entry and return to a private, relaxed lifestyle in Annandale, Va. There, he'll be reunited with his two children and two grandchildren and equally missed American pizza. But one wonders whether he'll ever have time for hobbies.

**Editor's Note:** Lithuania's consideration for membership in NATO will be taken up at the NATO Summit meeting, which will take place on Nov. 21–22 in Prague, Czech Republic.





The majestic five-masted schooner, *Royal Clipper*

## Featured Journey

### Tuscany and the Tall Ship

A tall ship cruise in the Mediterranean along the Amalfi Coast and Sicily, aboard the majestic *Royal Clipper*!

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Begin in Civitavecchia, Rome's port, and set sail to explore tiny, fascinating harbors brimming with character. Drop anchor in Ponza, Sorrento and Capri. Visit Pompeii; climb the narrow streets of Lipari, on the Aeolian Islands; and shop along the steep cobblestoned streets in Taormina, clinging to the cliffs high above the coast of eastern Sicily.

Join us on an optional four-night, five-day stay in Siena at the five-star deluxe Grand Continental Hotel. The heart of Tuscany offers us the combination of relaxation and adventure. Siena is an ideal base for visiting small villages of sun-drenched Tuscany. View incredible works of art, stroll through village markets, delight in lunch and wine tasting at distinguished villas, and dine on Tuscan cuisine in the evening.

*Tuscany* – June 23–28, 2003

*Tall Ship Cruise* – June 28–July 5, 2003

### Panama Canal

Traverse the Panama Canal and visit the islands of Aruba, St. Lucia, St. Maarten, St. John and St. Thomas. February 1–12, 2003

### Cuba

A culturally and historically rich country. March 14–20, 2003

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### Alumni College in the Swiss Alps

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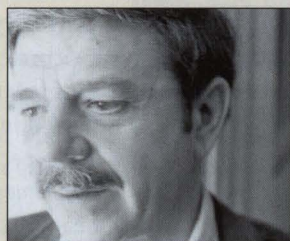


From Iceland to the Caribbean, our alumni groups cover the globe! (Above) Relaxing in the geothermal spa, the Blue Lagoon, in Iceland. (Left) Visiting Fisherpond House, the private home of former hotelier John Chandler, on the island of Barbados.

**For information on all UConn Alumni Association travel opportunities, call toll free 1-888-UC-ALUM-1 (1-888-822-5861) or visit our website at [www.uconnalumni.com](http://www.uconnalumni.com)**



**Lewis Turco '59 (CLAS)**, an award-winning and academic best-selling writer, has authored more than 40 books and was the founding director of both the Cleveland State University Poetry Center and the Program in Writing Arts at S.U.N.Y., Oswego, where he taught for 31 years. In 1992 he received a Distinguished Alumnus Award from UConn's Alumni Association. Now retired, he resides with his family in Dresden Mills, Maine.



The following poem, "William Mason 1952-," was selected from the award-winning collection *The Green Maces of Autumn: Voices in an Old Maine House*, published in 2002. The house depicted in all of the book's poems is located on the Cate Farm in Dresden Mills, Maine. Although each poem in the book is named after someone who has lived in the home, the earliest people depicted in the series are fictitious; as the sequence progresses, they become less and less so.

**WILLIAM MASON  
1952-**

We gathered in the spring to make  
the old women a winter place to live  
out of the shed of the old house.  
We tossed the mathoms, the forgotten treasures,  
out of the breathing window. We built with them,

to start, a tell of years that rose,  
oddment and shard, to the flower of debris.

The women moaned, picking through their  
lives, but we were ruthless. There was no place now  
for the past in the ell, for the winter lay

couching beyond the river and  
its currents. When we were done we gathered  
in the loft to raise the floor, board  
by board, the dust raining through cracks and gaps, guano  
and beans falling like hail in a choking fog.

Our lungs were sacks of wheezes, eyes  
slick as onions. Outdoors the rain fell. Sere  
bridles soaked themselves to mud, and  
lanterns leached a liquid rust—whatever was  
left over from former light. None of us had

ever seen a loft like that, its  
eastern end suspended in the air by  
great chains slung over the rafters,  
not a beam or a pillar to lend support.  
We read a board inscribed last century by

the country inventor of this  
system of instability; then we  
salvaged his chains. We stared down through  
his joists, and took them up as well. When we were  
finished, we saw that we had created space.

In the air there hung a billion  
motes, a slow universe of particles  
silently descending, swirling  
in nebulae, great spirals of the past  
falling, moments coming to rest.

Do you have an essay, a photo, a poem, or some other creative expression you might want to share? If so, we want to hear from you. Send your ideas to The Last Word, *UConn Traditions*, 1266 Storrs Rd., Unit 4144, Storrs, CT 06269, or e-mail to [uconntraditions@uconn.edu](mailto:uconntraditions@uconn.edu)

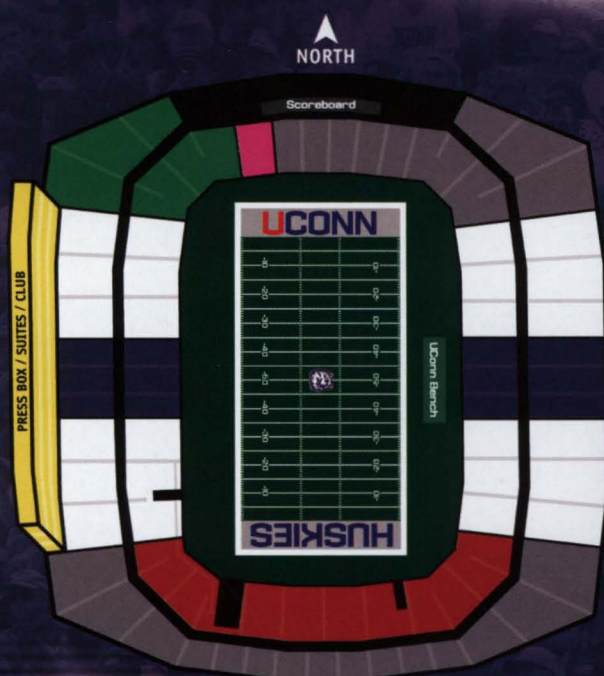
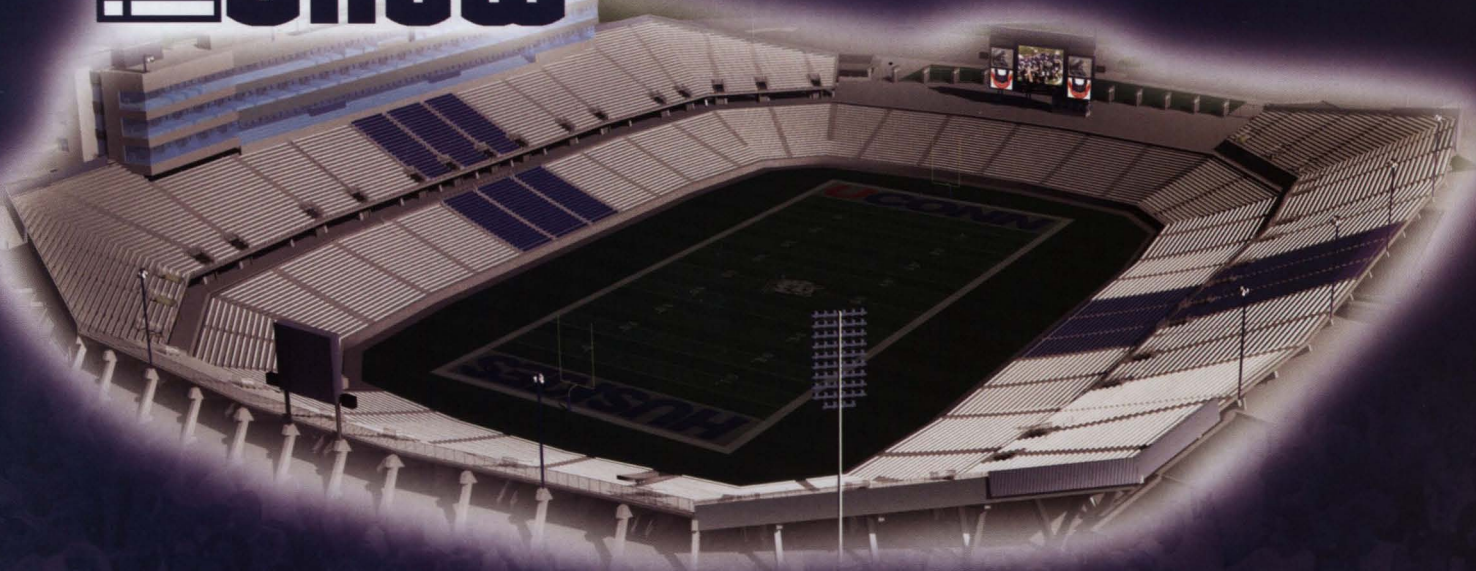


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UConn STUDENTS	N/A	N/A	N/A
VISITORS	N/A	N/A	N/A



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Christina Sadak '03 (CLAS), dances with other Wizard of Oz munchkins from Kappa Kappa Gamma and Sigma Alpha Epsilon during the 2002 Homecoming parade.



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