

# UConn

| Fall/Winter 2010



## AFTER THE DISASTER

MARINE SCIENTISTS BRING  
EXPERTISE TO GULF OIL SPILL



## UConn News, Always Fresh.

Travel to UConn Today's Facebook page at [facebook.com/uconntoday](https://facebook.com/uconntoday) to pick up the latest University news and announcements on science, sports, research, arts and culture, and campus life.



Like UConn Today.



# contents

UConn | Fall/Winter 2010 | Volume 11, Number 3

**ON THE COVER:**  
Oil cleanup workers hired by BP pick up oil on the beach in Gulf Shores, Ala., in July after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Photo by Dave Martin/Associated Press

## Departments

- 2 FROM THE EDITOR
- 4 FROM THE PRESIDENT
- 5 LETTERS
- 6 AROUND UCONN
- 18 REPORT ON RESEARCH
- 22 SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS
- 36 FOCUS ON FACULTY
- 38 ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES
- 45 ALUMNI TRAVELER
- 47 CREATIVE CURRENTS
- 48 THE LAST WORD

Stay connected with what's happening at UConn today with our online resources for news about the University community.



facebook.com/uconntoday



twitter.com/UCToday



today.uconn.edu

24



## Miracle Workers and the Decline of Public Education

**BY JASON COURTMANCHE '91 (CLAS), '06 Ph.D.** | *The director of the Connecticut Writing Project finds that his son's Blue Ribbon school suffers a rating decline after budget cuts are implemented.*

26



## After the Disaster

**BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY** | *Three UConn marine scientists at the Avery Point campus are among a select group of researchers assessing the impacts of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on coastal and marine ecosystems.*

30



## Healthy Aging

**BY STEFANIE DION JONES '00 (CLAS)** | *UConn's Center on Aging, celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011, provides clinical care for older adults, conducts research that could delay disability in older people and educates the next generation of experts in geriatrics.*

34



## Simpler Living — At Your Leisure

**BY JEFF DAVIDSON '73 (BUS), '74 M.B.A.** | *In an excerpt from his new book, the author and motivator known as The Work-Life Balance Expert® offers advice on how to uncomplicate your life, de-clutter and feel good about it.*

**Dan Lauria '91 M.F.A.** plays legendary football coach Vince Lombardi in "Lombardi" at the Circle in the Square Theatre on Broadway in New York City. See page 43.



## EDITOR

Kenneth Best

## ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Stefanie Dion Jones '00 (CLAS)

## ART DIRECTOR

Jordanna Hertz

## PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Peter Morenus

## EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Tina Modzelewski

## CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Chris Alexopoulos '94 (CLAS), David Bauman, Christine Buckley, Craig Burdick '96 (CLAS), '01 (ENG), Jason Courtmanche '91 (CLAS), '06 Ph.D., Jeff Davidson '73 (BUS), '74 M.B.A., Chris DeFrancesco, Sheila Foran '83 (BGS), '86 Ph.D., Jane Gordon, Michael Kirk, Lauren Lalancette, Jillian Legnos '12 (CLAS), Carolyn Pennington, Colin Poitras '85 (CLAS), Richard Veilleux

## CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Chris Alexopoulos '94 (CLAS), Archives & Special Collections at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center/ University of Connecticut Libraries, Bill Armitage, Frank Dahlmeyer '10 (CLAS), Brianna Diaz '08 (CLAS), Mia Enriquez, Al Ferreira, Sean Flynn, April Hiscox, Joan Marcus, Dave Martin/AP, Peter Morenus, Lanny Nagler, Office of the Historian/U.S. House of Representatives, Seattle Storm, Barbara Slater, Jessica Tommaselli '11 (CLAS), USA Basketball.

## ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR COMMUNICATIONS

James H. Walter

## DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

Lisa R. Lewis

## DIRECTOR OF MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS

Patti Fazio '90 (CLAS), '92 M.A.

## MANAGER OF CREATIVE SERVICES

Leonard P. Blanks, Jr. '86 (SFA)

## EDITORIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Christine Dias, Mike Enright '88 (CLAS), Jessica McCarthy, Carolyn Pennington, Art Sorrentino '75 (CLAS), Dana Wilder

UConn is produced three times a year in March, July and November by University Communications, University of Connecticut, 34 North Eagleville Rd., Unit 3144, Storrs, CT 06269-3144. Phone: 860-486-3530, Fax: 860-486-4064. E-mail: [uconnmagazine@uconn.edu](mailto:uconnmagazine@uconn.edu). Letters to the editor and other comments are welcome.

Send address changes to  
The University of Connecticut Foundation  
Records Department, Unit 3206  
2390 Alumni Drive  
Storrs, CT 06269



[alumnimagazine.uconn.edu](http://alumnimagazine.uconn.edu)

## From the EDITOR

# Readers respond

## SURVEY FINDS ALUMNI PREFER HISTORY, TRADITIONS, PRINT

**T**hanks to the nearly 5,000 readers who participated in our readership survey, both in print and online. Our last readership survey took place in 2002, and the information from that survey was helpful in improving *UConn Magazine* as a source of information for alumni and the University community.

More than half of those responding to the survey, about 57 percent, said they typically spend at least 30 minutes reading each edition of the magazine. This is a rate higher than subscribers of most consumer magazines, which typically get about 20 minutes of time from their readers, according to magazine industry findings.

As in our previous survey, feature stories and Alumni News & Notes are the content of highest interest to readers, followed by stories about Husky sports and alumni profiles. A question on topics that readers would like to see expanded found about 80 percent of readers are interested in more stories about University history and traditions, such as our Then & Now feature on page 7 and the UConn Marching Band photo on the back cover.

In asking how *UConn Magazine* may have changed their view of the University, 42 percent of all respondents said the magazine changed their opinion for the better, while 67 percent of those who responded to the print survey said the magazine improved their opinion.

One of the most interesting responses was on whether readers preferred to read the magazine in print or online. More than 80 percent of those responding said they prefer to read the print edition, compared with 73 percent preferring to read online only. A related question on what kind of supplementary information readers would prefer to see in the online edition found that 76 percent are interested in photo slideshows, and 71 percent are interested in having Alumni News & Notes updated in real time.

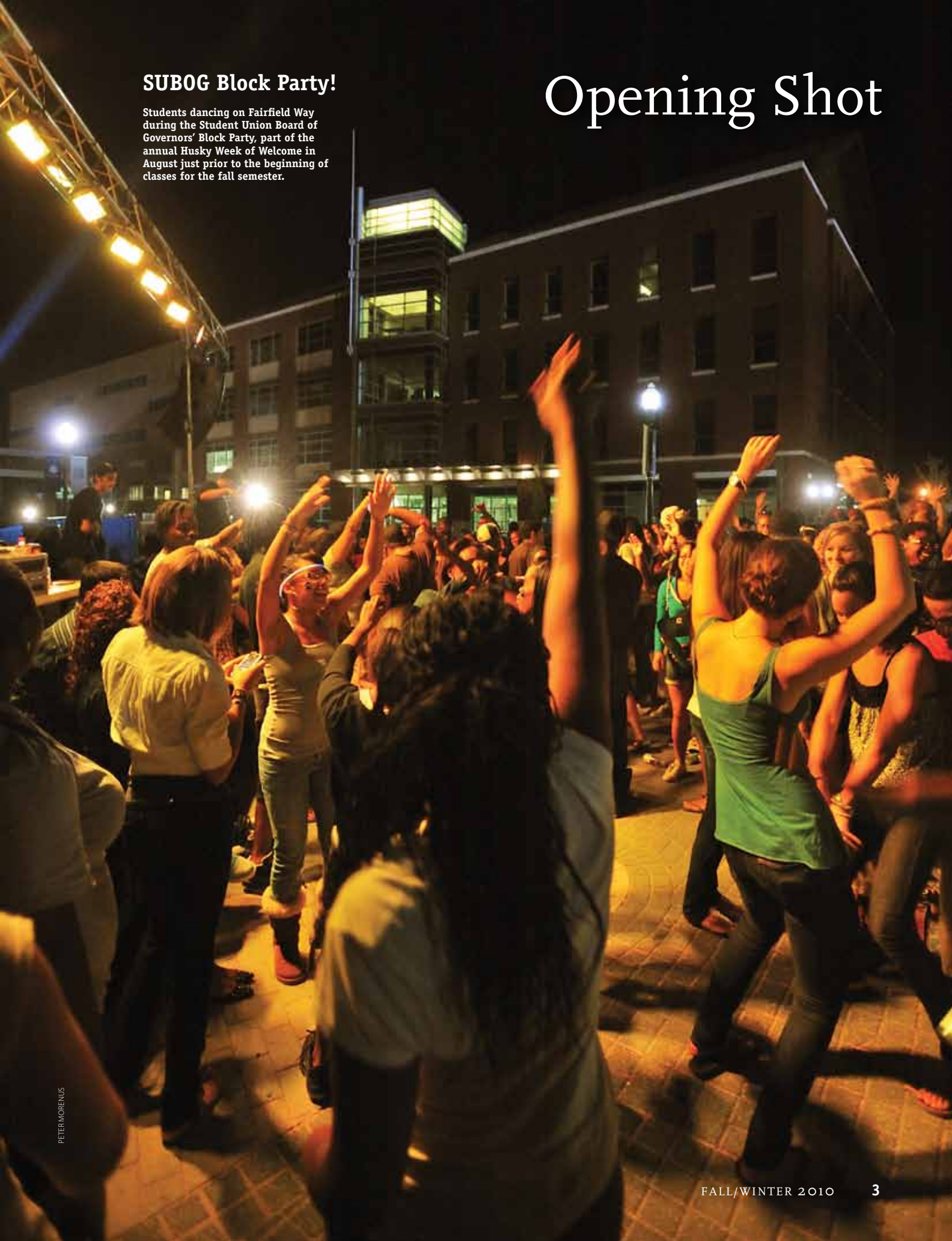
As we further evaluate the findings of the readership survey, we will use the information you provided to continue our efforts to improve *UConn Magazine* to better meet your interests.

N.B. Due to an editing error in our Summer edition, we did not identify Joseph T. DiPiro '78 (PHR), executive dean of the South Carolina College of Pharmacy and editor of *The American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education*, as the alumni speaker during Pharm.D. commencement ceremonies in May.

## SUBOG Block Party!

Students dancing on Fairfield Way during the Student Union Board of Governors' Block Party, part of the annual Husky Week of Welcome in August just prior to the beginning of classes for the fall semester.

# Opening Shot





## Challenges still ahead

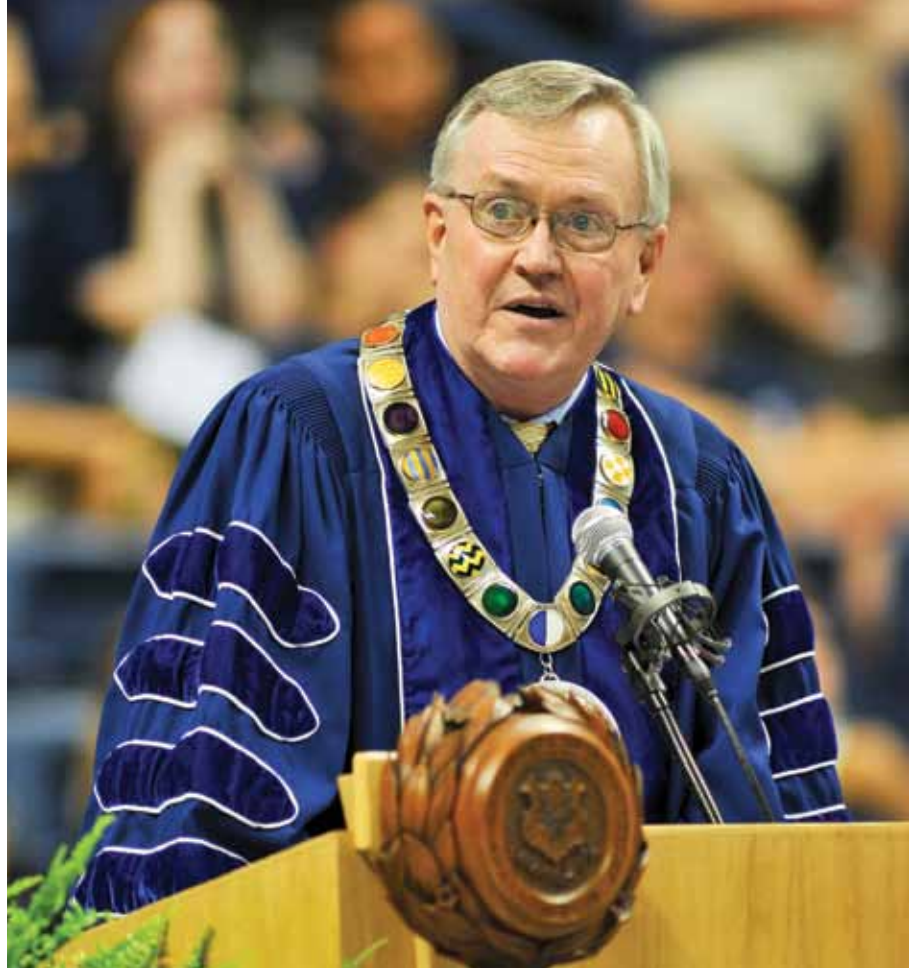
**T**his is my first opportunity to communicate with many *UConn Magazine* readers since I assumed office as Interim President. I want to take this opportunity to thank the many alumni and others who have written or e-mailed me to extend good wishes and offers of support. I was honored when the Board Trustees asked me to serve, and I am pleased to help guide the University until a new president is selected.

UConn is as full of opportunities and challenges now as at any time in its history. While this is a year of transition in terms of senior leadership, it is not a time to stand still. All of us – faculty, students, staff, alumni and friends – have an important role to play in keeping our momentum going on multiple fronts.

As always, our primary focus is maintaining and enhancing the quality of our academic program. All the rest – the wonderful new buildings, the generous support of our donors, the investment made by the state of Connecticut, even the success of our athletic teams – is important primarily as a means to that end. We are blessed at UConn with an outstanding faculty and a first-rate cadre of academic leaders at UConn, and my first responsibility as interim president is to give them my support.

Within that context, let me outline what have been my major activities to date and what I expect will be the central concerns of our leadership as the year proceeds.

First is the challenge of moving ahead in a time of severe economic challenge. We are seeking – and finding – areas of savings that do not compromise our research or instructional program. Yet all of us who believe in UConn must redouble our efforts to present what I believe is an irrefutable case for continuing public support



like other great institutions of public higher education: UConn is an invaluable asset to the people of our state. Connecticut's elected leaders need to understand that arbitrary reductions in University support are at best counter-productive and at worst potentially disastrous.

Second, we will move ahead on plans for the UConn Health Center that permit us to maintain John Dempsey Hospital as an unquestioned center of 21<sup>st</sup>-century medical excellence, that create a solid basis of collaboration among Hartford-area hospitals and that establish new health research and care initiatives. We are now competing for \$100 million in federal funding that was included in the federal health care legislation approved earlier this year to help meet these goals.

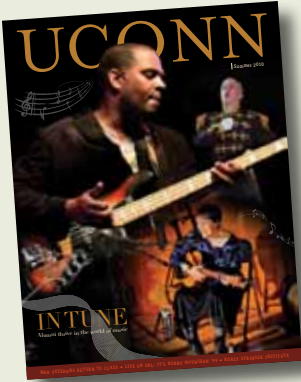
Third, it is imperative that we continue to support the UConn Foundation's \$600 million fundraising campaign, *Our University. Our Moment. The Campaign for UConn*. This is the most ambitious such effort in our history and a giant step forward in our long effort to increase dramatically the level of private support for the

University – an effort that is all the more critical at a time of limited state support. The Campaign is now about 40 percent of the way toward its goal with four years remaining until the announced completion date of 2014. If we can succeed with an effort of this magnitude at a time like this, that will not only help UConn move a giant step toward the top tier of American public universities; it will be a sign of true confidence that our thousands of supporters hold in our strength and our mission.

As always, the guidance, advice and continuing generosity of alumni will be as important to the future of UConn as it has been in the past. I look forward to meeting and working with you and in many cases renewing close friendships forged during my previous years in this office, as I fulfill this unique opportunity to serve our University again.

Philip E. Austin

## Your LETTERS



The Summer issue of *UCONN* is an excellent, outstanding piece of work. It's well put together, glossy and the articles are interesting. I'm a law graduate, and I enjoy reading these magazines. You're doing it well.

*Penrose Wolf '67 J.D.*

### The Last Word

I enjoy the information written by oldies, like you had on the back page of the Summer issue. It's fun to see what old UConn was like, especially if you graduated in 1953.

*Nancy Kovel Dederer, '53 (SFS)*  
*The writer is the former women's editor of the Boston Herald.*

### Veterans on campus

I think it was a great idea to write an article about veterans returning from combat and attending the University. However, I'm a little disappointed that someone didn't take the time to notice that these men and women fought in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The Gulf War was in 1990 and 1991.

*Peter Harris '03 (CLAS)*

I wanted to commend Stefanie Dion Jones on her article concerning veterans. As a veteran serving in the Navy for six years, my first year at UConn in 1998 was challenging. Academics and working were not the problem, but having someone to relate to or talk with who had a similar background made it difficult. I am extremely grateful for the great profes-

sors and education I received at UConn.

*Jason Andrew McGarry '02 (CLAS), '03 (CLAS), '04 M.A.*

As a member of the nursing staff of the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA Connecticut Healthcare System, I read with great Husky pride the article on the UConn alumni who serve in the Armed Forces. It is a privilege, as a member of the Class of 1977 School of Nursing, to be able to afford them care at our Newington campus, where I work as a nurse practitioner. Their effort can only make Jonathan, our UConn mascot, stand at attention and salute the flag of our great nation as well as that of the flag of the University.

*James P. Murphy '77 (NUR)*

Too young for service in WWII, I entered the freshman class at Fort Trumbull in 1948. I remember there were a large number of vets benefiting from the GI Bill. I'm certain that I didn't appreciate it then, but these old guys (mid- to late 20s, I guess) really enhanced my education. They were "no nonsense," bright, had probing questions and comments in class, and set the curves that caused us youngsters to continually chase them academically. I was honored to be invited to a vet's home for evening study ... Believe me, it was different from what we considered intense study in the dorm room. I was honored to be there, and that was because I felt that this old guy thought that this kid had something to offer to help him pursue his educational goals.

*Robert C. Wagman '52 (ENG)*

### ACORN and community organizing

My husband and I are very proud alumni of UConn. We

really enjoy *UCONN Magazine*; however, your article on Robert Fisher and what he believes about community organizing was disheartening. ACORN was not a respectable organization, and thus it is now out of business. This professor is teaching our impressionable youth that confiscating wealth and spreading the wealth, whether by taxation or government-run health care, schools, banks and automobile companies, is fine, but it is not. This is called social justice. He says it is worth replicating. I was appalled to read this. He should keep his politics out of the curriculum and stick to the facts. I would really appreciate it if you would keep politics out of a really interesting magazine that I look forward to reading.

*Belinda Welton '87 (BUS)*

### In Tune

I always read *UCONN Magazine* with great interest. The Summer issue was outstanding, in particular the "In Tune" article. We have another notable alum who has achieved great success in the world of gospel music. Kurt Carr was a classmate of mine, and his success in the music world is worthy of note.

*Kim St. John-Stevenson '87 (CLAS)*

#### 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. Send letters to:

UCONN Magazine  
34 North Eagleville Road  
Unit 3144  
Storrs, CT 06269-3144

E-mail:  
uconnmagazine@uconn.edu



## Honoring alumni veterans on Sept. 11

Lt. Col. Scott Fleeher, professor of military science, walks with his daughter Reileigh around the field at Rentschler Stadium, as 150 current and former UConn alumni and other Connecticut residents who are veterans of the United States military were honored as part of the 2010 football season home-opener on Sept. 11, when the Huskies beat Texas Southern by a score of 62-3.





## New facility focused on stem cell research opens in Farmington

**E**quipped with the latest technologies for studying cells and their genomes, the new Cell and Genome Sciences Building in Farmington has united UConn scientists in accelerating discoveries that ultimately could lead to novel therapies treating a broad range of diseases.

Adjacent to the UConn Health Center, the 117,000-square-foot research facility was designed specifically to encourage collaboration among the University scientists housed there, who are engaged in high-tech research across a diverse array of disciplines, from cell biology, chemistry and genetics to physics, mathematics and computer science. Now with greater opportunity to work together more closely, these scientists are bringing together their specific fields of expertise to enhance Connecticut's role as a leader in stem cell research.

"Our goal is to maximize the state's investment in stem cell research by establishing an infrastructure to support scientists in their quest of turning discoveries at the bench into therapies for diseases such as autism and cancer and to advance the field of regenerative medicine," says Marc Lalande, senior associate dean for research planning and coordination at the Health Center, director of UConn's Stem Cell Institute as well as professor and chairman of the medical school's genetics and developmental biology department.

Scientists in the building are involved in a wide spectrum of research projects, including the design and construction of new laser-based microscopes, computer simulation of living processes inside cells and sequencing of human and animal genomes. Being located close to UConn's

Health Center will support the goal of translating basic research findings to clinical trials, Lalande says.

Three major research programs will be relocated from the Health Center to the new facility: the UConn Stem Cell Institute, the R.D. Berlin Center for Cell Analysis and Modeling and the Department of Genetics and Developmental Biology. Together these three programs include about 180 scientists and their staff.

Having these programs in the same building along with researchers applying a broad range of cutting-edge approaches is intended to speed up cell research significantly at UConn, says Lalande, noting, "We're thinking about the intersection of cell biology, genetics and computer science and other disciplines that inform those areas."

In addition to advanced imaging, cell biology and genetics research, the new building has expanded the work of UConn's Office of Technology Commercialization, including the Technology Incubation Program – UConn's business incubator – by providing offices, conference rooms and laboratories for six startup biotechnology companies.

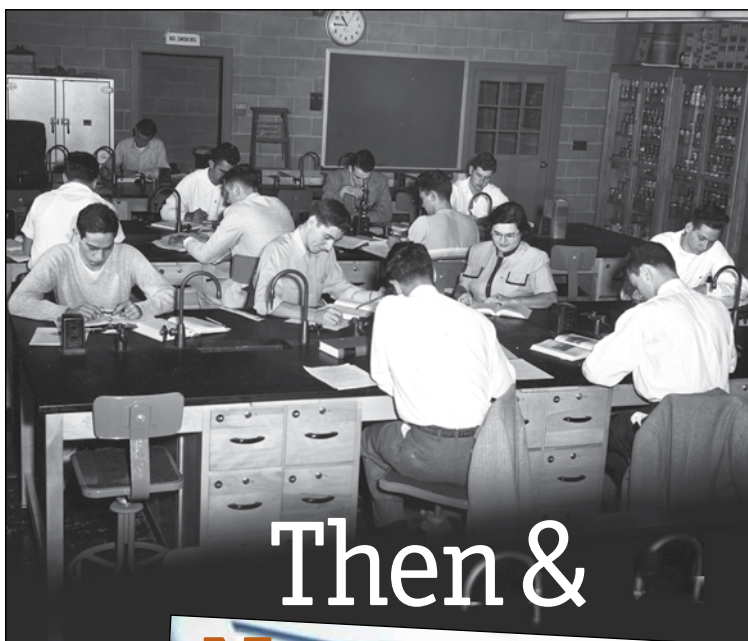
"While our scientists may generate the next stem cell breakthrough, to bring them to market there must be a group of people with the skills not only to start a company, but help it grow," says Rita Zangari, interim director of the Office of Technology Commercialization and executive director of the Technology Incubation Program.

The new building has already helped to attract two bioscience companies, says Zangari. One company seeks to utilize stem cells in bone cement products, and the other – relocating to Connecticut from Massachusetts – is conducting research using stem cells extracted from tooth pulp for therapeutic use in combating degenerative diseases. —David Bauman



## Improved prescription for pharmacy education

**P**harmacy education has changed dramatically during the 85-year history of the School of Pharmacy. Exceptional faculty, groundbreaking research and innovative graduate and professional programs position UConn as one of the top choices for pharmacy education. **Below top:** Students work in the pharmacy laboratory in 1960 with their textbooks and microscopes. **Bottom:** Eva Manjani, left, and Roopa Raju, both first-year pharmacy students, hand fill capsules at the dosage forms lab in the Pharmacy/Biology Building in 2010.



Then &

Now



Lorna Carrasquillo '09 (CLAS), a graduate student in education, is a student teacher of science classes at Newington High School.

## Grad scholarships boost math, science teaching

**N**ineteen UConn graduate students in education are serving as student teachers in math and science programs across Connecticut with the help of scholarships aimed at improving the teaching of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

The scholarships are provided through the Robert Noyce Scholarship Program, part of the National Science Foundation.

The students receive \$15,000 scholarships, funded by a \$900,000 grant through the NSF, after passing a rigorous application process and committing to teach in the STEM fields of either science or mathematics – areas where there is a severe shortage of qualified teachers in the country. In return for accepting the scholarship, the students promise to teach in one of the disciplines, in a Connecticut school with demonstrated high need, for at least two years after earning their master's degrees in education.

## Entrepreneur-in-residence gathers engineering innovators



**B**ringing together UConn's innovators in engineering, Robin Ann Bienemann is working with the University's leadership to find new ways to connect the wide range of technology-related companies across Connecticut with the resources at UConn.

Bienemann recently joined UConn's School of Engineering as its first entrepreneur-in-residence, with a focus on helping the University forge stronger relationships between its faculty and students and the state's professional engineers, business owners and entrepreneurial communities. She is chair and founder of Crimson Rook LLC, a Connecticut-based firm specializing in helping small and mid-sized companies increase value through improved business processes and innovation.

"UConn is one of this state's great underutilized resources," says Bienemann, who founded quality control equipment manufacturer Ocean Industries at age 24 and most recently served as senior vice president of operations with BlueArc Corporation, a computer

storage manufacturer. "It's a natural source of expertise for companies that are trying to innovate."

"Bienemann brings a wealth of entrepreneurial experience that will enrich the academic resources available to our faculty and student innovators," says Mun Y. Choi, dean of the School of Engineering. "Through her informed guidance as a practitioner, she is richly equipped to invigorate and propel the innovation-to-commercialization process with pragmatism and concrete business experience."

A complementary UConn effort, dubbed Springboard, involves nurturing and accelerating the commercialization of innovations percolating in laboratories and offices across campus. As part of Springboard, the University's Office of Technology Commercialization recently hired entrepreneur Hadi Bozorgmanesh '70 (ENG), '72 M.S., the UConn Research & Development Corporation's director of engineering and physical sciences, to assist faculty in bringing their technologies to market.

## Brown leads selection panel for new Congress historian

**U**.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi has named Richard Brown, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of History Emeritus in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, as chairman of a search committee to find a new director for the Office of the Historian in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"I thank Dr. Brown and this distinguished group of historians for their willingness to help facilitate the selection of the next House Historian," Pelosi says. "I look forward to receiving the recommendations of this panel, which will ensure that the historian's position will be filled by a respected and dedicated scholar."

The Office of the Historian is responsible for providing information and interpretation of important precedents and events for the members of Congress and their staff, the media, students, educators, scholars and the general public. Staff conduct



oral history interviews of current and former members of Congress and advise members on the disposition of their papers. The Historian's office also works with the Office of Photography to archive hundreds of thousands of photos.





## African students visit Storrs for leadership program

**T**wenty college students from four nations in sub-Saharan Africa spent five weeks in Storrs as part of a U.S. Department of State initiative designed to promote a better understanding of the United States abroad and to help develop future world leaders.

The program, developed and facilitated by the Global Training and Development Institute, part of UConn's Center for Continuing Studies, included the study of U.S. history, government and society with a focus on social entrepreneurship. It culminated with student presentations about projects they plan to implement in their home communities.

The students – from Senegal, Mali, Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) – were provided with experiential learning opportunities and hands-on volunteer work. They also experienced UConn's campus life and American culture, including visits to the Connecticut State Capitol, the Mashantucket Pequot Native American Museum and Research Center, the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center and Mystic Seaport and trips to Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

One of the presentations the students heard was by Elaine Mosakowski, professor of management and executive director of UConn's Sustainable Community Outreach and Public Engagement Accelerator (SCOPE).

She explained that SCOPE trains students not necessarily to become corporate titans but to practice social entrepreneurship and social innovation, making impact on the community an important part of their mission. The program works to create business leaders who want to make a difference in the lives of others around them, whether they pursue careers in the public or private sectors, she said.

## Alums named leaders of major corporations

**T**wo School of Business alumni were named to lead two major corporations this past summer.

William S. Simon '81 (CLAS), '88 M.B.A. was named president and chief executive officer of Walmart U.S. in June, and Robert E. Diamond Jr. '77 M.B.A. was named president and chief executive officer of Barclays PLC in September.

Simon joined Walmart in 2006 and previously served as chief operating officer. He also worked for Florida Gov. Jeb Bush as secretary of the Florida Department of Management Services. He retired from the U.S. Navy Reserve after 25 years' service.

"Bill is a strong leader who has made a positive difference from his first day at Walmart," says Mike Duke, president and CEO of Walmart, in a statement announcing Simon's promotion. The company has 3,776 retail units in the United States.

Diamond joined Barclays in 1996 and most recently led the Corporate and Investment Banking and Wealth Management businesses of the London-based bank. His current title is president and deputy group chief executive and will become CEO in January.

Diamond received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from UConn in 2006 during winter commencement.

"He is superbly qualified, with more than 30 years' experience in the banking sector," says Marcus Agius, chairman of Barclays. "He has a proven track record as a business leader, and I and the board very much look forward to working with him in his new role."



## Exploring history through the eyes of three soldiers

**W**hen the archives don't tell the whole story, imagination can.

In his recently completed trilogy, *Accommodation and Resistance – Three Chose Rebellion*, UConn historian Roger Buckley explores race, identity, gender, culture, nationality and politics in the British Army of the 19<sup>th</sup> century through the eyes of three soldiers – each one a real historical character.

To tell the story, he relies not only on scholarly nonfiction but also uses literary historical fiction to fill in some of the missing record.

He believes this type of fiction has a “special cultural and historical centrality” in view of some of the inherent limitations of

nonfiction and that serious historical fiction gives history a certain “immediacy.”

Buckley, professor of history in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, describes himself as a historian of war and society. “I’m not interested in battle history – military history – even though that’s an important adjunct. As a social historian, I’m more interested in looking at war directly through the lives of those who have lived through that harrowing experience,” he says.

Buckley’s scholarly work – including many books and journal articles published

in the U.S. and abroad – shows that the study of war is more than the study of battlefield conflict and has social, cultural, geographical, medical, economic, gender, legal, intellectual and political aspects as well.

His research awards include the National Endowment for the Humanities, the John Carter Brown Library Fellowship (Brown University) and the University of Connecticut

Provost’s Research Fellowship.

He also is founding director of the Asian American Studies Institute, recently establishing a scholarship in his name for students interested in Asian history and Asian American studies.



## Nursing faculty, students provide foot care to homeless

**F**aculty and students in the School of Nursing are helping homeless people get back on their feet by providing foot care free of charge at a clinic in New London, Conn.

“Many homeless people have lost access to transportation, so their feet take a terrible beating – from both overuse and worn-out or ill-fitting shoes,” says Sherry Bassi, assistant professor of nursing, who launched the clinic in conjunction with the Southeastern Connecticut Visiting Nurse Association at New London’s Homeless Hospitality Center.

Clinic volunteers provide homeless individuals with foot soaks, reduce corns and calluses, trim nails, and provide clean socks and flip-flops for use in shelter showers. They offer special foot care services to diabetic patients, too, including education, neuropathy testing, and support in accessing professional care and obtaining orthotics.

Since homeless people often use emergency rooms for primary care, volunteers seek to identify clients not yet connected with local community health centers and make referrals to case managers and social service agencies.

“The clinic has given our students real insight into the importance of professional case management, too,” says Bassi. “Our clinic is inexpensive to operate. It’s not high-tech nursing at all. But it’s gratifying to know that 45-or-so minutes of focused nursing attention can make a dramatic difference in quality of life for another human being.

“Many students have told me their foot-clinic service learning experience has opened their minds and hearts,” she adds, “bridged the gap between theory and practice, and made them better nurses.”



Sherry Bassi, assistant professor of nursing in residence, works with a patient at a foot care clinic at the Homeless Hospitality Center in New London.



## Student interns learn boat building at Avery Point

Three students at the Avery Point campus — Elizabeth Provenzano '11 (CLAS), Peter Omdahl '11 (CLAS) and Jon Turban '13 (ED) — learned to build Adirondack pack boats during an internship with the John Gardner Chapter of the Traditional Small Craft Association. To view a video about the program, visit [bit.ly/bcLZkY](http://bit.ly/bcLZkY).



## Health Center gains third state business incubator

The state of Connecticut's initiative to spur the development of high-tech startups, foster additional economic development and stimulate job creation is expanding to a third location: the UConn Health Center campus in Farmington.

CTech at the UConn Technology Incubation Program is a joint initiative of Connecticut Innovations (CI), the state's quasi-public authority for technology investing and innovation development, and the University of Connecticut's Office of Technology Commercialization, which comprises programs that collaboratively work to spur innovation and entrepreneurial activity in Connecticut.

"New businesses will benefit from a full range of resources provided by CI and UConn," says Gov. M. Jodi Rell. "We are putting a major emphasis on speeding the startup and commercialization of innovative, technology-based companies. Small and mid-sized businesses create the vast majority of jobs in our state, and our

state is leading the way in a number of high-tech fields."

The UConn Health Center incubator will focus on attracting participants from several key industry sectors – bioscience, medical devices and biomaterials – as well as other science, engineering and math-based ventures. Funding will be provided by CI and in certain instances will need to be matched by the companies or other co-investors. CI has made an initial commitment of \$100,000 to this initiative through its Pre-Seed Support Services Program.

"The incubator's services will build upon and expand the current offerings from the Technology Incubation Program at UConn," the governor says. "Companies will have access to business mentors, UConn research facilities and faculty, student interns and employees, business advisory services, environmental health and safety training, and funding."

The new incubator will be located at the UConn Health Center Stem Cell Institute.

## UConn remains among top U.S. public universities

**U**.S. News & World Report's 2011 *Best Colleges* ranks UConn 27<sup>th</sup> out of more than 150 public national universities in the country. UConn remains the top-ranked public university in New England for the 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.

"We're pleased to again be ranked among the top public universities in the nation and the best in New England," notes Lee Melvin, vice president for enrollment planning and management. "We all recognize the rankings have limitations, but *U.S. News* is a key source of information for parents and their children when considering a college, so we're always happy to be among the best."

UConn, which tied with Virginia Tech, has been ranked among the top 30 public universities since 2004.

Also ranked highly in the report was UConn's School of Business undergraduate program, which moved into the top 25 among public national universities for the first time, tying with several schools at 24<sup>th</sup>.

*U.S. News* recognition reflects UConn's continued strong performance on measures related to attracting quality students with SAT scores and a solid high school rank in class and then having them graduate from the University's rigorous academic programs at a high rate and in a timely fashion, when compared to institutional peers.





## Top dentist for kids

**J**oanna Douglass, associate professor in the Division of Pediatric Dentistry at the School of Dental Medicine, was recognized as the 2010 Pediatric Dentist of the Year by the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

The award recognizes a pediatric dentist who has made significant contributions to the dental profession and the specialty of pediatric dentistry through clinical practice, academics or policy development. Recipients must also have devoted extensive volunteer leadership service to the dental profession and the specialty.

"My work is predominantly within public health and policy. In this field, change and outcomes can be slow and often not flashy. To be recognized for this work is therefore very special," says Douglass.

Douglass serves as an oral health consultant for several organizations, including the Connecticut Health Foundation, the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Head Start Dental Home Initiative, and Smiles for Life.

## Social work alumni honored by NASW/CT

**F**our alumni from the School of Social Work were recognized with achievement awards by the National Association of Social Workers/Connecticut Chapter (NASW/CT) during the organization's annual dinner in June. Pictured below, from left, are Lawrence Pellegrini '10 M.S.W., M.S.W. Student of the Year; Eileen McNulty '86 M.S.W., director of youth services in Bristol, Conn., 2010 Social Worker of the Year; Catherine Havens '74 M.S.W., '84 J.D., director of the M.S.W. program at the School of Social Work, Educator of the Year; and Gail Champlin '68 M.S.W., former director of the Center for Professional Development at the University of Hartford, now at Saint Joseph College in Hartford, Lifetime Achievement Award.



## Youth forum focuses on human rights

**M**ore than 90 young people age 18 to 30 from more than 70 nations attended a 10-day Human Rights Youth Forum sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Chair & Institute of Comparative Human Rights at UConn. The forum's objective is to bring together young activists from around the world to share experiences and good practices and study the policies and processes necessary for them to assume human rights leadership roles in their own communities.



## Hillel celebrates return to its home

The campus Jewish community returned to its home this fall with the reopening of the Trachten-Zachs Hillel House on North Eagleville Road in Storrs, following an extensive renovation after flood damage two years ago.

"I like to say that this is where Starbucks meets Barnes & Noble meets Bookworms Café," says Gary Wolff, director of Hillel since July 2009, waving his arms to embrace the entirety of the 950-square-foot community room. The room includes the largest video screen on campus that is not called a theater, a small kitchen area, several dozen tables and space for more than 200 people. A

center by day, it easily converts on Friday nights for Shabbat, which is followed by a kosher dinner.

The 8,500-square-foot building, which opened during the summer, features a variety of conference rooms; a large, comfortable game room in the basement; a library; and a second-floor study area with computers and printers. The entire building, including a patio in the rear, is wireless.

"We want the students to feel at home; we want to enrich the lives of Jewish undergraduates and graduates, here and around the world," Wolff says.

Hillel first came to UConn in 1933, and the building opened in 1949. Flooding and mold forced officials to shutter the building several years ago, driving students and Hillel staff to the ground floor of a residence hall in the Towers complex.



## AROUND UCONN • EVENTS CALENDAR

### JORGENSEN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

860-486-4226  
jorgensen.uconn.edu

Jan. 21  
**GABRIEL IGLESIAS**  
Comedy

Jan. 25  
**DEUTSCHE STAATSPHILHARMONIE**  
Classical music

Jan. 27  
**SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK**

Jan. 29  
**AMERICAN SONGBOOK III**

Jan. 30  
**IF YOU GIVE A CAT A CUPCAKE**  
Family theater

Feb. 25 – 26  
**THE CANADIAN TENORS**  
Vocal

March 17  
**THE KING'S SINGERS**  
A cappella

March 29  
**UCONN ALL STARS**  
Dance

March 31  
**STEP CHOPINIANA | ROMEO & JULIET**  
Ballet

April 2  
**LATIN FEST 2011**  
Dance

April 6  
**EBÈNE QUARTET**  
Classical music

April 8  
**BELA FLECK, ZAKIR HUSSAIN, & EDGAR MEYER**  
World music

April 15 – 16  
**MOMIX: BOTANICA**  
Contemporary dance



### CONNECTICUT REPERTORY THEATRE

860-486-4226

Feb. 24 – March 6  
**PRIDE & PREJUDICE**  
Directed by Helene Kvale  
Nafe Katter Theatre



March 24 – April 3  
**A DREAM PLAY**  
Puppet Arts Production

April 14 – 17, 27 – 30  
**URINETOWN**  
Directed by Paul Mullins  
Harriet S. Jorgensen Theatre

### THE WILLIAM BENTON MUSEUM OF ART

860-486-4520  
benton.uconn.edu

Jan. 18 – March 20  
**VIEWS AND RE-VIEWS: SOVIET POLITICAL POSTERS AND CARTOONS**



Jan. 18 – Dec. 18  
**PROJECT 35 – VIDEO WORKS**

March 26 – May 9  
**PHOTO IDENTITIES: IMAGES FROM THE BENTON COLLECTIONS AND THE 2011 MASTER OF FINE ARTS EXHIBITION**

### UCONN LIBRARIES

Storrs Campus  
Jan. 3 – March 11

**BALANCED ASYMMETRY**  
Photographs by Michael Bennett  
Homer Babbidge Library, Gallery on the Plaza

**EMPTY CHAIRS**  
Photographs by Sandy Hale  
Homer Babbidge Library, Stevens Gallery

**AFTERMATH: THE LEGACY OF THE WAR IN VIETNAM AND IRAQ**  
Photographs by Adam Nadel  
Thomas J. Dodd Research Center Gallery

**AVERY POINT CAMPUS**  
ALEXEY VON SCHLIPPE  
GALLERY OF ART  
860-405-9052

Feb. 25 – April 10  
**OBJECTS D'ART**  
Form and function:  
An Exhibition of multiple mediums

## Planned giving benefits programs, establishes legacies

**W**ith the stock market still struggling to stabilize itself, few investments short of Treasury bonds seem secure lately. But Claire Olds '51 (CLAS) believes she has found a guaranteed investment: UConn.

Olds, retired dean of students at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., has set up a charitable gift annuity at UConn. "It's a steady source of income and a safe program for me," she says. "It doesn't fluctuate with the market."

Planned gifts are increasingly viewed as a way for donors to give far more significant gifts after their passing than they ever could have considered during their lifetimes.

"In these uncertain economic times, a deferred gift may be an excellent way for many UConn supporters to make a larger contribution than they may have imagined possible," says Hal Reed, the University of Connecticut Foundation's assistant vice president for planned giving.

Planned gifts provide donors with many options. A bequest left in a will is still the preferred option for many; however, other options include, but are not limited to, charitable remainder trusts and charitable gift annuities, both popular financial instruments in a fluctuating financial climate. They give donors an opportunity to invest in UConn and reap immediate dividends.

The motivations for planned gifts are specific to the individual: Olds is giving her money to the library because she commuted to UConn and spent many hours there. "It's the right thing to

do," she says. "The library was home. It's probably why I'm now a writer in my post-career life."

Others are grateful for the opportunities UConn offered to them as students or faculty. Rollin C. Williams, an emeritus professor at the School of Social Work and the first black professor ever to work in the school, was hired long before affirmative action quotas were in place across the nation. "After affirmative action was adopted, I got requests from nine different schools to join their faculties," he says. "But I had a feeling of gratitude toward the University of Connecticut because they hired me when they didn't have to. I had 28 very good years there." He has created a significant bequest to the School of Social Work.

For Emma Rose '77 M.A., a retired librarian in the Hartford school system who earned a master's degree from the Neag School of Education, a charitable gift annuity was the right way to help her alma mater. Rose is a longtime donor to the University.

"I know that nowadays, students need all the help they can get, and I wanted to give where it would most benefit people," she says. "I believe the Foundation uses the money to help students, and I get something too."

More information about planned giving is available at [ourmoment.uconn.edu](http://ourmoment.uconn.edu); click on Giving to UConn at the top, then Planned Giving on the right, or contact Hal Reed at 860-486-6135 or [hreed@foundation.uconn.edu](mailto:hreed@foundation.uconn.edu).



## Trans-America bike ride raises support, inspires

**F**our first-year medical students participated in the fifth annual Coast to Coast for a Cure this summer, cycling from San Francisco to Farmington, Conn., and raising nearly \$20,000 for the Lea's Foundation Center for Hematologic Disorders at the UConn Health Center. The group was astonished by the support of strangers along the way giving spontaneous donations. One highlight was their stay with Michael Wilkes '85 M.D., professor of medicine at the University of California-Davis, who has provided a pit stop for Coast to Coast riders since the program started. Top from left: Alex Ocampo '13 M.D., Loreen Fournie '13 M.D., Arturo Montano '13 M.D. and Stacy White '13 M.D.





## Striking a high note for philanthropy



**L**ee Melvin, vice president for enrollment planning and management at UConn, appears to be a mild-mannered, suit-and-tie executive. But beneath the conservative demeanor smolders the soul of an opera singer.

Melvin, who earned bachelor's and master's degrees in music, had planned a performance career singing on stage with the Baltimore, Cincinnati and Chatauqua, N.Y., opera companies. While he may not sing with an opera company, he still sings when the opportunity presents itself, often while working in his office in the Wilbur Cross building, performing household tasks or driving. And if he is not singing opera, he is listening to it.

Now he is sharing his joy of music with students in the School of Fine Arts, where he created the Lee H. Melvin Opera Fund to provide student and program support. His career in admissions work, as coordinator of minority recruitment at the University of Georgia, financial aid officer at the University of Michigan, assistant director of admissions at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and associate director of admissions at Wayne State University, is not at all at odds with his passion for opera, he says. In fact, it is in lockstep with it.

"The training I received early on in opera helped me," he says. "Being able to stand in front of groups and perform, using data and information to create a performance or a policy presentation, learning how to work as a team – all of these skills I learned in opera relate to what I do in admissions."

Why did he create a fund to support the School of Fine Arts? "I'm very grateful for those who helped me through my education, and now it's my turn, to have the spotlight on me in a different way," he says.



## GIVING DIGEST

### Gift increases award for renowned music composition prize

Prominent philanthropists Raymond and Beverly Sackler have made a \$100,000 gift to augment the music composition prize bearing their name in the School of Fine Arts. The Raymond and Beverly Sackler Music Composition Fund has brought international acclaim to the School since being established in 2000. As a result of this additional investment, the annual award given to prominent composers to support and promote new work will increase to \$25,000.

### Bank of America supports teacher training

Bank of America has donated \$25,000 to the Teacher Preparatory Studies Program at Bulkeley High School in Hartford, Conn. The new initiative prepares and encourages talented students, particularly from minority groups, to become teachers. The initiative, a partnership with the Neag School of Education, is believed to be the state's first dedicated teaching program focused on recruiting, supporting and preparing talented high school students to pursue careers in education.

### Redirecting the tides of geologic education

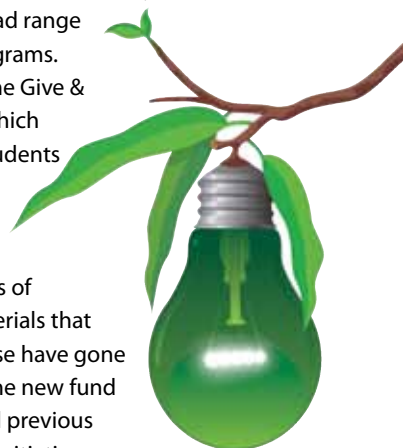
Science students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences will benefit from a new learning tool in their geosciences classes: the Geowall, a computer-based 3-D visualization program that portends a massive change in the way students will be taught modern geosciences. The purchase of the Geowall was made possible through the Fund for Innovative Education in Science, which was created by Harold S. Schwenk Jr. and Paula H. J. Schwenk '79 M.A. to enhance programs in fundamental science.

### Scholarship pays tribute to a life of generosity

Henry Kustos '55 (RHSA) is a man who prides himself on paying his debts, but the woman whose generosity made it possible for him to attend UConn in 1953 would never hear of letting him pay her back. Now he and his wife have found a way to show their gratitude. They have bequeathed \$75,000 to fund the Susan N. and Henry M. Kustos Scholarship in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

### Campus Sustainability Fund promotes going green

UConn's Campus Sustainability Fund supports a broad range of campus programs. This includes the Give & Go program, which encouraged students moving out of residence halls last spring to collect 7 tons of recyclable materials that would otherwise have gone into landfills. The new fund incorporates all previous green campus initiatives, including the Green Campus Fund. "We are hoping some day to have an endowed program which would be supported by donors," says Rich Miller, director of environmental policy for the University.



### Providing a global perspective

Stan Sussman '61 (BUS) has always been superb at thinking ahead. A prominent businessman whose insurance firm was recognized by UConn in 2008 as a Connecticut Family Business of the Year, he understands that global business acumen is essential for future alumni to be successful. So he has made a \$100,000 bequest to the Stanley H. Sussman Scholarship Fund in the School of Business to support an international student educational travel program.

# Talking digs and kills with Holly Strauss-O'Brien

HEAD COACH OF HUSKIES VOLLEYBALL TEAM SERVES UP THOUGHTS ON THE GAME

**H**olly Strauss-O'Brien '05 M.A. is in her sixth season as head coach of the Huskies volleyball team. She has transformed the Huskies into a competitive program that is one of only five teams in the Big East to qualify four consecutive years for the conference tournament.

*What are people most surprised about when watching college volleyball?*

They're surprised at how exciting it is and how intense it is. It's not just a backyard volleyball game. There's a point scored every time the ball falls. It's a momentum game. If you get great momentum, you want to ride it as long as possible. One error can lead to three more, and you can be down by five. At the same time, if you're down by five, you can come back 10 plays later. I think that's what engages a spectator and what drives coaches nuts. It's a game of errors, when it comes down to it.



*You make reference to a great volleyball IQ. What is that?*

Knowing tendencies of the opponent's attackers and of their defense and what rotation you're in at all times. It's also bringing a sense of calmness on the floor, which normally comes with experience. We've got the hangers and bangers, who jump, swing and take a rip at the ball. Then we've got the others, who really know what's going on and keep those kids in place, which is a good mix.

*What's been the challenge to establishing a strong foundation for a successful program?*

Reinforcing and establishing the culture is the hardest thing. It's every single day. On top of that, it's riding the success of our women's basketball team and hope it's contagious. It's been great in many ways because our players are able to see what the women's basketball players are doing and that they're successful because of what they do every single day. It's been encouraging to have a sister program.

*Have you gone to Geno Auriemma for advice?*

When I first got the job, I met with him, and I meet with him once a year. He's been just fantastic. My favorite meeting with him was two years ago when I was talking about trying to get team chemistry in place and getting everyone on the same page. He started laughing, in true Geno fashion. I asked why he was laughing, and he said, "I was there and I'm so glad I'm not there anymore." That was reassuring – to stay the course, believe in what you believe in, recruit people that reflect your values and, truly, you will get there.

*How important is strength and conditioning training for volleyball?*

Volleyball is all fast, explosive bursts. Recovery time is a huge thing. It's jumping not just at your highest for the first swing at the ball, but jumping again from game one to game three. We've been fortunate to have Amanda Kimball, who also works with the women's basketball team, as our strength and conditioning coach.

*The volleyball team has never been to the NCAA tournament. How difficult is it to make it to the NAAs out of the Big East?*

It's hard, but attainable. It's more difficult to get the automatic bid by winning the Big East tournament than to get an at-large bid. Last year the Big East had three teams in the NAAs, but as coaches we talk about getting five in. It comes down to getting wins. If we have a game against a potential conference-winning team, we have to beat them.



## Huskies lead USA to 2010 FIBA Women's Championship



**T**he USA Women's Basketball Team, led by UConn head women's coach Geno Auriemma and six current and former

Huskies, won the 2010 FIBA World Championship in early October, defeating host Czech Republic 89-69.

In winning the FIBA gold medal, the United States becomes the first team to qualify for the 2012 Olympic Summer Games in London. The gold-medal finish also entered former Huskies Swin Cash '02 (CLAS) and Diana Taurasi '05 (CLAS) into an exclusive list of players who have won Olympic and FIBA World Championship gold, a WNBA title and an NCAA crown, which also includes former Huskies Sue Bird '02 (CLAS) and Kara Wolters '97 (CLAS) and former WNBA stars Cynthia Cooper and Sheryl Swoopes. Taurasi was named to the five-member All-World Championship Team.

From left: Asjha Jones '02 (BUS), Swin Cash '02 (CLAS), Geno Auriemma, Diana Taurasi '05 (CLAS), Tina Charles '10 (CLAS), Maya Moore '11 (CLAS), and Sue Bird '02 (CLAS).

## Hathaway to lead NCAA selection committee

**D**irector of athletics Jeff Hathaway will serve as chair of the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee for the 2011-2012 season, beginning in September 2011.

Hathaway begins his fourth year on the panel, which selects the teams invited to participate in the NCAA Basketball Championships, one of the major sporting events of the year, known as March Madness.

He is serving on the committee during dynamic times that include implementation of a new \$10.8 billion television agreement with Turner Sports and CBS and the expansion of the championship to 68 teams. Hathaway is only the fourth individual from the Big East Conference to serve on the Division I Men's Basketball Committee, joining former commissioners Dave Gavitt and Mike Tranchese and former Syracuse athletics director Jake Crouthamel. He is a member of the Division I-A Athletic Directors' Association board of trustees and sits on the executive committee of

the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics.

Greg Shaheen, NCAA senior vice president, calls Hathaway "a leader who understands a variety of

perspectives of the game."

"His contributions to the committee have already been significant, and his role over the next two years will be essential during this important time," Shaheen says.



### Still the champs

The 2000 NCAA men's soccer championship team was reunited in September to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Huskies' remarkable run to winning the NCAA title. The team was honored during the soccer team's annual Meet the Huskies Banquet at Rentschler Field during the UConn-Texas Southern football game and at Joseph J. Morrone Stadium during the soccer game against nationally ranked Harvard.

# Understanding how nature uses energy

**FRANK'S RESEARCH ON PLANT ENERGY CONVERSION COULD AID SOLAR CELL DESIGN**

Converting the sun's rays into usable energy forms the foundation of all life on Earth, and the green-pigmented molecule chlorophyll is credited with heroically harvesting light during photosynthesis in plants. But in recent decades, scientists have realized that another group of pigments, known as carotenoids, can be just as important – if not more so – in this process.

Harry A. Frank, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Chemistry in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, has been studying these compounds for more than 30 years. His laboratory focuses on the many roles that these compounds play in the natural world, which can help humans learn how to create electricity more efficiently.

"Carotenoids are unique in that the diversity of roles they play in nature is unmatched by any other class of naturally occurring pigments," says Frank.

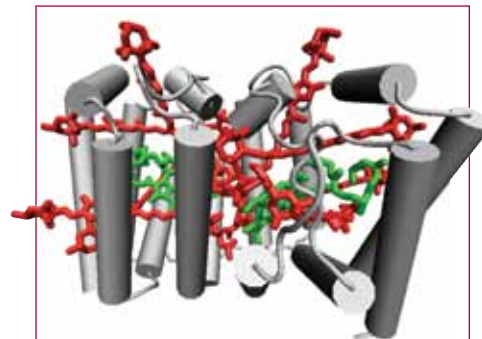
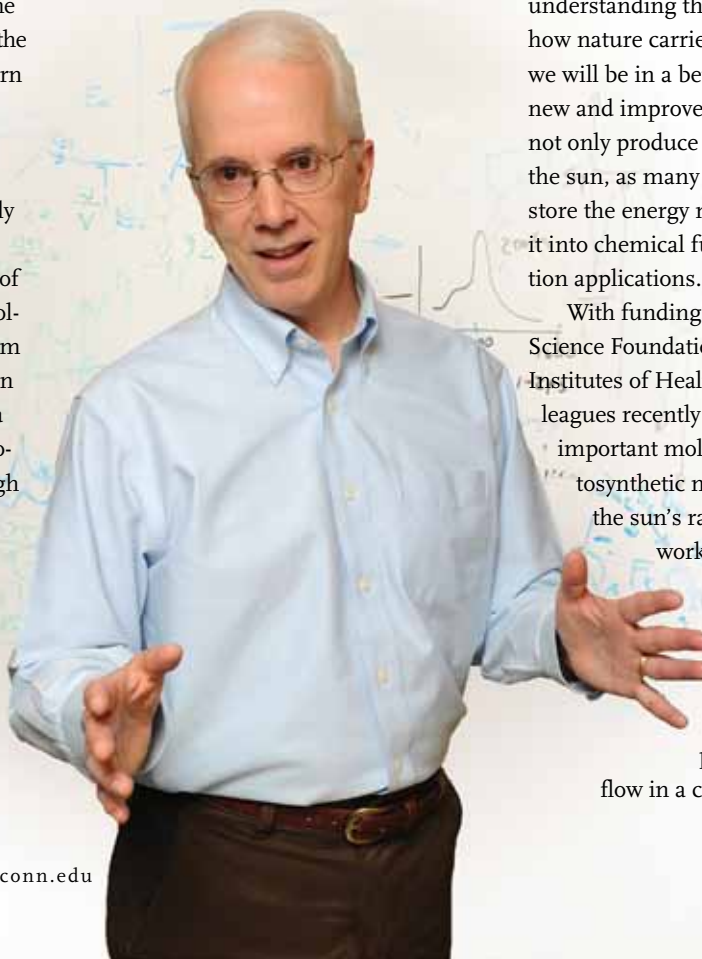
Beta-carotene, the most well-known of carotenoids, gives carrots their orange color, but natural carotenoids can range from pale yellow to deep red. Frank says that in plants, algae and photosynthetic bacteria carotenoids are involved in harvesting solar energy, regulating energy flow through cells and protecting the organisms from harmful reactions. Additionally, in humans, carotenoids can act as important biological antioxidants against chronic health disorders.

A former president of the International Carotenoid Society, Frank is interested in the way energy is transferred from the sun's rays to carotenoids

and other molecules during photosynthesis. Because the molecular structure of pigments often gives clues to the types of chemical processes they can perform, determining their structure is the first step to understanding what they do.

In his laboratory and in collaboration with other internationally renowned experts, Frank uses fine-scale X-rays or similar techniques, such as nuclear magnetic resonance, to determine the different carotenoids' structures at the atomic scale. He then uses molecular spectroscopy, which is like using a microscope that focuses on energy rather than an image, to observe the photochemical reactions that the pigments undergo in nature.

Frank's work also brings experts closer to being able to design high-efficiency solar cells to generate electricity. He says the basic principles for the harvest and conversion of solar energy into electrical potential are the same regardless of whether the device is natural or fabricated:



A protein found in marine algae that binds chlorophyll (green) and carotenoid (red) pigments. This pigment-protein complex assists the organism in harvesting light from the sun to promote photosynthesis.

The system simply must capture energy from the sun and use it to produce electrons. Through an understanding of how this process works in the natural world, Frank says, we can better design artificial light-harvesting devices.

"Nature has optimized this process through millions of years of evolution of photosynthetic organisms," he says. "By understanding the molecular details of how nature carries out photosynthesis, we will be in a better position to design new and improved synthetic systems that not only produce electricity directly from the sun, as many solar panels do, but also store the energy more efficiently or convert it into chemical fuels for use in transportation applications."

With funding from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health, Frank and his colleagues recently identified the most important molecule in directing photosynthetic marine algae to convert the sun's rays into oxygen. Their work, published in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, revealed for the first time the molecules involved in controlling photosynthetic energy flow in a complex organism.



A current major issue that Frank is studying is how carotenoids are able not only to harvest sufficient solar energy for plant growth but at the same time dissipate excess absorbed light energy that is not needed.

"This process is known as nonphotochemical quenching, and it is the major photo-protective mechanism of plants," says Frank, who spent the summer of 2010 in the laboratory of Bruno Robert, head of the Bioenergetics Division of the Institute of Biology and Technology at the Centre d'Études de Saclay near Paris.

"My collaborators in Europe are prominent leaders in this area and have expertise and equipment that nicely complements what we have at UConn," he says. "I am fortunate that Dr. Robert and his group invited me to bring our samples to his laboratory for investigation, and we are making steady progress on the issue."

Frank's academic successes lie not only in his research but also in the classroom. In 2003, he received the University's annual Honors Teacher and Mentor Award. In addition to teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in chemistry, he has advised 17 Ph.D. and nine master's degree students.

Frank says he truly enjoys explaining chemical principles to students, although he admits that chemistry can be a difficult subject to master. He tries to make chemistry accessible and exciting to his students by using chemical demonstrations and fundamental chemical principles as building blocks. Despite his many research accomplishments, he says that he, too, always learns something from students.

"I've had some exceptional students in my classes and laboratories," he says. "I feel very proud when I see them work hard to achieve a firm footing in the basics and then succeed in applying that knowledge to the understanding of more complex scientific concepts."

—Christine Buckley

## Study of wind flow in forests offers insight into climate change

**M**ark Rudnicki, an assistant professor of natural resources and the environment in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, is leading a groundbreaking investigation into how wind flows through forest canopies, which he hopes will ultimately contribute to a better understanding of the impact of forest clearing on climate and the potential role of forest canopy motion in slowing or adapting to climate change.

"This is the first time someone is specifically asking, 'How does the motion of the canopy itself feed back and affect the wind?'" he says.

The project is funded by a three-year, \$832,000 grant from the National Science Foundation and is a collaborative investigation involving atmospheric studies and forest ecology.

Rudnicki notes that the atmosphere in and just above the forest canopy is the least understood layer of Earth's atmosphere, yet it is the site where the exchange of chemicals, particles and energy from Earth's surface takes place and is the gateway to exchanging and storing carbon from the atmosphere.

Rudnicki says in the future there will be increasing demand to utilize forests both for storing carbon and for their potential as a source of biofuel. In addition, he says, a better understanding of how trees sway and interact with the lower atmosphere can assist in developing improved strategies for managing forests to minimize the vulnerability of trees to catastrophic winds. Currently, the practice of partial forest cutting results in the unharvested trees becoming more vulnerable to the force of the wind. Global climate change makes the project more urgent, he says. The risk that trees will blow down is of increasing concern, as global warming is expected to increase the intensity and frequency of catastrophic winds.

**Above:** Mark Rudnicki, assistant professor of natural resources and the environment in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. **Right:** Graduate student David Granucci descends a tower after checking instrumentation in the Howland Forest in Maine.





## Researchers convert stem cells into cartilage

**S**cientists at the UConn Health Center have developed a technique that reliably converts stem cells into cartilage cells, providing hope that doctors might someday grow replacement cartilage in a laboratory for the surgical repair of joints lost to injury or impaired by degenerative diseases such as arthritis.

The research conducted by Caroline Dealy, associate professor at UConn's Center for Regenerative Medicine and Skeletal Development, and Robert Kosher, a former professor at the Health Center, was published earlier this year in the *Journal of Cellular Physiology*.

Cartilage is the dense connective tissue found between bones that allows for smooth movement of joints. The breakdown and loss of this

tissue by injury or age-related wear and tear ultimately leads to osteoarthritis. One of the most prevalent health problems in the U.S., osteoarthritis is a major cause of decreased quality of life in adults. Yet treatment remains a challenge because cartilage lacks the ability to repair and renew itself.

Stem cells have an unlimited capacity for self-renewal, as well as the ability to become any type of cell in the human body, so they are ideal for generating replacement cartilage tissue to repair damaged cartilage.

**Above: Caroline Dealy, associate professor at UConn's Center for Regenerative Medicine and Skeletal Development, right, and Robert Kosher, a former professor at the Health Center.**



## Energy drinks linked with health issues, risk-taking behavior

**T**he popularity of energy drinks has soared among the nation's youth, with annual sales in 2008 accounting for \$3.2 billion in the United States and \$7.8 billion worldwide.

Yifrah Kaminer, professor of psychiatry and pediatrics at the UConn Health Center, says high use of energy drinks is causing an increase in risk-taking behavior and health issues among young people.

Writing in the July edition of *Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Clinics of North America*, Kaminer notes that risk-taking behaviors are associated with frequency of energy drink consumption, particularly among whites. Risk-taking behaviors included tobacco smoking, marijuana and illicit prescription drug use, sexual risk taking, fighting and not using seat belts.

He says, "It is plausible that a liking for energy drinks is a marker for high-risk behaviors and that frequent consumption may serve as a useful screening indicator to identify students at risk for substance use and other problem behaviors."

Kaminer reviewed research studies and reports that show caffeine intoxication from energy drinks. For example, in a 2007 study among college students conducted at East Carolina University, approximately one-third of those aged 18 to 24 years said they consume energy drinks to cope with insufficient sleep (67 percent), boost energy (65 percent) and increase fun with alcohol at parties (54 percent).

He outlines several reasons for the increased risk of a caffeine overdose: lack of adequate labeling of the amount of caffeine, lack of warning labels advising proper use and lack of restrictions on the sale of energy drinks to children and adolescents.

According to Kaminer, the use of energy drinks with alcohol is also an increasing public health concern. Although individual responses to caffeine vary, the stimulating properties in energy drinks can increase heart rate and blood pressure, causing palpitations that may lead to emergency-room visits. Energy drinks have also been reported to cause dehydration and insomnia.



## Environmental engineer works to develop new solar cell technologies

**A** UConn engineer is working to develop innovative solar energy technologies that he hopes will help prevent or mitigate environmental pollution and transform the field of sustainable energy research.

"Many of the pollution problems that we environmental engineers treat and try to remediate are a direct result of current energy practices and use," says Alexander Agrios, assistant professor of environmental engineering in the School of Engineering. "I would like to work toward connecting the gaps between these fields."

Agrios, who joined UConn's Center for Clean Energy Engineering as part of the state-funded Eminent Faculty Initiative in Sustainable Energy, previously worked in Switzerland with Michael Grätzel, who developed the Grätzel cell, which uses titanium dioxide nanoparticulates in conjunction with a photosensitized dye to convert



**Alexander Agrios, assistant professor of environmental engineering in the School of Engineering, right, and civil and environmental engineering graduate student Venkata Manthina set up a new high-pressure reactor.**

sunlight into electrical energy.

Using dye-sensitized solar cells offers a radically different way to collect solar energy

compared to silicon-based solar cells, with the major advantage of being produced using less expensive materials, Agrios says.

His current research focus is on boosting the efficiency of dye-sensitized solar cells by improving electron transport kinetics; he and his students are tackling this issue by combining different semiconductors and by rerouting electrochemical reactions in order to circumvent certain energy loss processes.

In addition to improving the efficiency of these new solar cell technologies, Agrios continues to stress the fundamental importance that energy research has for the field of environmental engineering.

He plans to develop graduate and undergraduate level courses that explore how nanoparticulate semiconductors can be used in pollution treatment, advanced energy conversion and energy storage.

## Study shows daily lives of African-Americans are influenced by race

**H**ow African-Americans live their lives is influenced every day by race, according to a survey by a UConn researcher.

Even 150 years after slavery ended, the lives of black Americans are different from those of white Americans, says Shayla Nunnally, assistant professor of political science in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Their lives differ not only because of disparities in income levels, socioeconomic status, business success, education or even the geographic region of the country they live in but also by the trust they place in government, other people and institutions around them, says Nunnally.

"Trust affects how people live their lives," she says. "Racial uncertainties can affect everything they do. They may not have been discriminated against in a particular circumstance, but they may fear they might be."

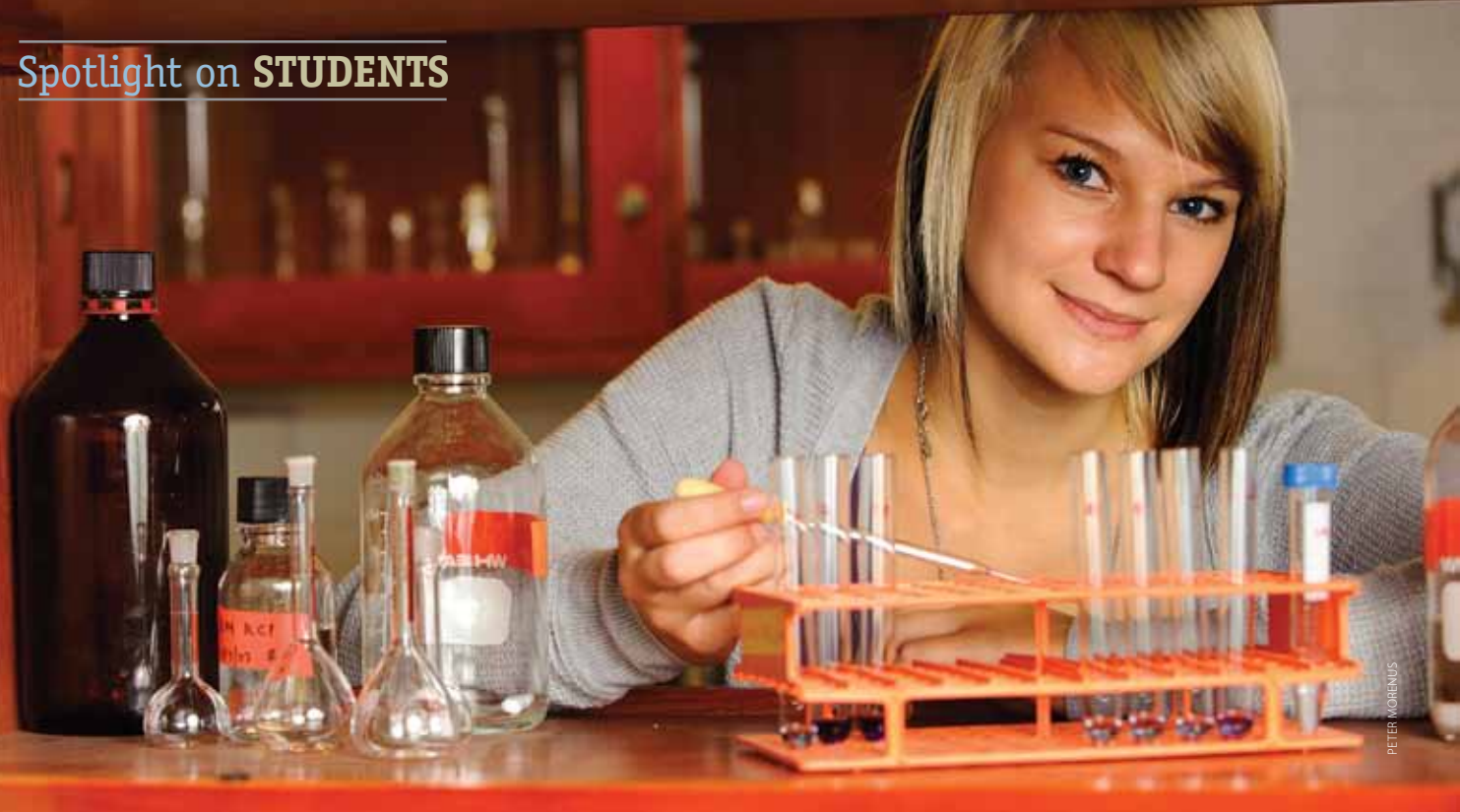
Nunnally, whose book *In Whom Do We Trust? Black Americans, (Dis)Trust, and the Vestiges of Race*, will be published next year by New York University Press, says that trust levels among

African-Americans are declining, yet counter to what might be expected given the history of race in America, older blacks are more likely to have more trust than younger ones. This, however, depends on their experiences with race in their lives.

Nunnally's research focuses on black Americans' trust in social and political contexts, their intraracial and interracial attitudes, their racial and political socializations, and their political development.

A national survey Nunnally performed in 2007 of whites, blacks and Latinos shows that blacks are less trusting in general than other groups of people are and that a lack of trust affects their political behavior, intergroup relations and even whether or not they vote. They trust other African-Americans more than people from other groups.

The survey shows that African-American voters trust black candidates more than others, but how they think about candidates and others depends on whether they received messages about race from their parents emphasizing getting along with others across racial groups or being distrusting of others. So skepticism influences not only who they vote for but also whether they trust government or others in society, she says.



PETER MORENUS

## Discovering food for thought

**CHARLENE VAN BUITEN '12 FINDS A TASTE FOR FOOD SCIENCE**

**A** member of Lyman High School's Future Farmers of America, Charlene Van Buiten '12 (CANR) wanted to become a veterinarian. But when her animal technology teacher recommended that Van Buiten enter a food science competition, the Wallingford, Conn., native gave it a shot – and found her calling.

"Food science is an integration of so many different things," explains Van Buiten. "It encompasses science, culture – everyone eats, so food affects everyone."

Her high school team competed nationally in 2007 – taking sixth in her senior year while Van Buiten herself placed third in the country.

"The excitement of just being there and competing made me realize I had to go to college for food science," she says.

Her success caught the eye of Cameron

Faustman, associate dean for academic programs in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. "Many students do not learn about the field of food science until they come to college," says Faustman. "We began recruiting her to Storrs in her junior year of high school."

Last December, Van Buiten was the only undergraduate student among 50 nationwide selected to participate in PepsiCo Company Day, a national conference for early-career scientists interested in nutrition and global sustainability. Held at the New York Academy of Sciences, the conference only deepened Van Buiten's enthusiasm for food science.

"To meet so many different people from so many different places and hear their opinions on issues surrounding food and global sustainability, it was awesome; it was a great day," says Van Buiten.

For three years Van Buiten has worked summers for Watson Inc., a nutritional research and development lab in West Haven. "As an intern, I do a bit of everything," she says. "A lot of my work has to do with creating new formulations for customers who send in ideas for

products they're creating and what they want in them."

"It's been great to have hands-on experience in the food industry," she continues. "I love it there."

Hands-on experience happens in the classroom, too. Last spring Van Buiten took an independent study under the supervision of Richard Mancini '99 (CANR), assistant professor of animal science, where she helped one of his Ph.D. students study meat in the food chemistry lab. "To get that in the lab and understand what I'm going to be doing in the future has been invaluable to me," says Van Buiten.

Faustman describes Van Buiten, a member of the Alpha Lambda Delta and Alpha Zeta honor societies, as a very focused student with a "can-do attitude" who has taken advantage of the opportunities available at UConn, which should serve her well in the future.

"I'm definitely applying to grad school for food science," Van Buiten says. "I'm really looking forward to being able to take part in helping make the global food supply meet the needs of people."

—Craig Burdick '96 (CLAS), '01 (ENG)



# Supporting communities in the developing world

## WORKING WITH ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS

**C**hemical engineering major Ethan Butler '12 (ENG) has found a way to build on his training in engineering with real-world experience. President of UConn's chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB), a nonprofit humanitarian organization that partners with developing communities worldwide to implement sustainable engineering projects, Butler spent his summer living and working in an impoverished village in Nicaragua.

UConn's chapter is collaborating with a Massachusetts-based

nongovernment organization, Casas de la Esperanza, which helps families in Nicaragua build or purchase their own homes, start businesses and develop independent communities. Butler was one of four UConn engineering students (including graduate student Jorge Simbaqueba, Aaron Aguirre-Castillo '11 and Winnie Qui '11) working in Nicaragua this past summer representing Engineers Without Borders. They were accompanied by EWB advisor Gerry Hardisty of Civil Engineering Services in Andover, Conn.

The UConn students partnered with engineering students from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., collecting all the necessary information to complete the design work on a 2-mile road leading from a makeshift squatters' village to the city of Granada. They conducted a topographic survey of the land, collected data for watershed analyses, went door-to-door speaking with residents and met with city engineers and elected officials.

"It's a crucial link between a really impoverished community and the city of Granada, and it totally washes out during the rainy season, leaving erosion ditches 5 to 6 feet deep," Butler says.

Although it is called Engineers Without Borders, the group has welcomed anyone who shares its ideals, Butler says, including people with experience in roadway construction, water quality, the developing world, fundraising and social work.

The organization strives to train engineering students, graduate engineers and other professionals in ecologically responsible engineering practices. This means encouraging them to find answers to social concerns as well as engineering issues when considering how best to improve the quality of life in communities where the organization carries out projects.

Although he has just started his third year of studies, Butler has already made a significant contribution to creating a sustainable Earth through his work with Engineers Without Borders, as an active member of the EcoHusky student group and by serving as an undergraduate representative on the University's Environmental Policy Advisory Council.

In a presentation on campus last year, the founder and president of Engineers Without Borders, University of Colorado engineering professor Bernard Amadei, said, "Our charge as engineers is to increase life expectancy in the developing world."

Butler agrees. "It feels good to do something that you know is meaningful for a group of people," he says. "I know I'm putting all my efforts into doing something that will help people survive ... and that's so much more satisfying at the end of the day."

"One of the reasons I love UConn," he says, "is that it gives me the opportunity to sample a little bit of everything. During my freshman year I learned that time is an illusion. I've found that when you're passionate about what you do, you get everything done no matter how much time it takes."

—Sheila Foran '83 (BGS), '86 Ph.D.



FRANK DAHLMEYER



# ~ Miracle Workers ~ and the Decline of Public Education

The director of the Connecticut Writing Project finds that his son's Blue Ribbon school suffers a rating decline after budget cuts are implemented.

*By Jason Courtmanche '91 (CLAS), '06 Ph.D.*



There's an old joke in education: A member of the public speaks out at a Board of Ed meeting and is critical of the teachers. "Just look at the test scores!" he hollers. A sympathetic board member says, "Sir, we can't expect the teachers to be Anne Sullivan," referring to Helen Keller's teacher. Immediately, a teacher speaks up and says, "Of course we can't. She had a better teacher to student ratio."

The point is that good teaching has everything to do with context. Standardized test scores and college placement rates are high in wealthy towns because families are educated and schools are well funded. Teachers in poor towns face inadequate funding and large classes but are criticized when their students struggle. Yet many in the public, the press and the legislature expect teachers to be Miracle Workers.

As director of the Connecticut Writing Project in the English Department at UConn, I work with both classroom teachers and the undergraduates studying to become teachers. I advise dual-degree students in English and education, teach a required course called Advanced Composition for Prospective Teachers and run a graduate summer institute for teachers. So I have a good idea of what teachers experience in public schools today.

So I got upset this past May and June as I conducted site visits for UConn's Early College Experience program, observing high school English teachers whose students take a course comparable to freshman English. I observed a dozen teachers at very economically and demographically diverse schools, from urban schools in Hartford, East Hartford and Windham to suburban schools in Glastonbury, Hebron and other towns. Repeatedly, I was impressed by the quality of teaching I observed. In the midst of this, however, an editorial ran in *The Willimantic Chronicle* calling for the dismissal of teachers in Windham the day before a vote on the town's education budget, which subsequently failed by 19 votes. Similarly, *The New York Times* ran articles about the expansion of standardized testing, the tying of teacher merit pay to student performance on these tests and the possible elimination of tenure for K-12 public school teachers—all cornerstones of the Obama administration's attempts to reform education. While these reforms may sound good to many in the general public, they aren't going to make students any smarter, and the reason is that these reforms rest upon the same assumption explicit in *The Willimantic Chronicle* editorial. They assume the fault lies with the teachers.

Here's how the reasoning goes: Teachers are overpaid, underworked and enjoy too much job security. Their union-negotiated contracts make them complacent and lazy. If we eliminate the job security provided by tenure, reduce their pay and provide incentive in the form of merit pay, they will work harder and students will learn more. The logic looks good on paper, but it couldn't be more faulty.

Here's an example of why: My son just completed the first grade at Windham Center School, one of four elementary schools in Windham, a poor town whose schools have some of the lowest test scores in the state, as well as some of the lowest-paid teachers. Nonetheless, in 2005, Windham Center School received a federal Blue Ribbon for excellence, awarded to schools "that are either academically superior or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement," according to the U.S. Department of Education. However, by 2008, Windham Center School was a failing school, labeled by the USDE as "in need of improvement," a label it has carried for three years now, for its failure to make "adequate yearly progress toward reaching the goal, by 2014, of having 100 percent of its students scoring at or above the Proficient level in mathematics and reading on the CMT." So what happened between 2005 and 2008?

For one, poverty and bilingualism continue to rise. According to one former administrator, more than 50 percent of Windham's students are now bilingual or English Language Learners, and almost 70 percent receive free or reduced-price lunch. Furthermore, budget cuts have resulted in the elimination of 64 teachers, 60 paraprofessionals and more than 17 noncertified staff members since 2004, according to a school board member. Approximately 30 of those teachers were eliminated in the first year the In Need of Improvement label replaced the Blue Ribbon.

This has meant larger class sizes and more English Language Learners in those classes, as well as fewer paraprofessionals

and less professional development. The average class size in first grade at Windham Center School has climbed from 15 to 21, and the numbers are worse in the later grades. Last year, the fourth-grade classrooms had 28 students. Where does the fault lie? Other than the elimination of teachers, the faculty did not change much.

With the election of a new president, many teachers hoped for a revision of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act that would increase federal funding for schools. President Obama and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan have dangled federal funds to states under the Race to the Top grant program, but to qualify, states have to reform tenure, implement merit pay and tie this pay to student performance on standardized testing. Last year, only Delaware and Tennessee received any Race to the Top funds. Some emergency and stimulus funds have been approved for states, but those run out in 2011 and 2012, respectively. Then what are towns like Windham to do? If the teachers at Windham Center School had funding to hire (or retain) teachers and paraprofessionals, to provide training in bilingual education and to keep class sizes small, they'd still be working at a Blue Ribbon school. 🍓

---

**"The average class size in first grade at Windham Center School has climbed from 15 to 21."**

---

---

*Jason Courtmanche is director of the Connecticut Writing Project at UConn and a lecturer in the Department of English. A 1991 graduate of the Department of English, he earned his doctorate from the University in 2006. He is a former high school English teacher at RHAM High School in Hebron, Conn.*

---

# AFTER



Penny Vlahos



James O'Donnell



# THE



Annelie Skoog

# DISA





## UConn Scientists Answer Call to Study Oil Spill Impact

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THE DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL on April 20 was the largest in history, with a ruptured wellhead at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico leaking an estimated 5 million barrels of crude oil into the ocean over the course of three months. The oil's flow was stopped on July 15, but long before the well was capped, scientists around the world were springing into action to understand the spill's effect on coastal and marine ecosystems.

Three UConn marine scientists were among a select group of researchers who convened in June at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge for a workshop assessing the impacts of the spill on the health of the surrounding natural areas and coastal communities. Professors James O'Donnell, Penny Vlahos and Annelie Skoog – all in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences – joined more than 150 researchers from 19 academic, nonprofit and industry institutions across the country to identify and prioritize major gaps in scientific knowledge about the spill.

Hosted by the nonprofit Consortium for Ocean Leadership and sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Coast Guard, the conference produced a report to be submitted to these federal agencies suggesting areas of priority for scientific funding and research over the short and long term.

"This symposium presented an opportunity for UConn to help during a national crisis," says Ann Bucklin, head of UConn's Marine Sciences program at Avery Point. "If we're going to do the right thing, we have to focus on the physical, chemical and biological dynamics of the ocean. Marine Sciences' faculty had the broad expertise to help address many critical issues."

The three UConn scientists were chosen to participate in the conference because of their areas of expertise, which each provided a different perspective on the spill.

Associate Professor Vlahos studies chemical oceanography, including the tracking and modeling of air and water quality. Her research includes studies on the exchange of compounds, including components of crude oil, between the ocean floor and the ocean's water and between the water and the atmosphere.

A main component of Vlahos' research involves passive water samplers, devices that she and her colleagues use to measure organic compounds in water systems. Her devices were tested near UConn's Avery Point campus, in the Thames River estuary and in Long Island Sound.

"They're called passive because they don't require any external energy source," she says. "They're literally placed in the environment and allowed to collect material."

These kinds of devices have a precedent for use in oil spills: They were deployed into the ocean when the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill occurred in 1989 off the southern coast of Alaska, when Vlahos was a graduate student in Canada. The devices are currently being integrated into a global atmospheric passive sampling network run by Environment Canada.

"There's enough data and calibration out there now that these samplers should be reliable and practical tools for monitoring the Gulf of Mexico," says Vlahos. "In the near term, they'll be able to assess human exposure and fisheries health, and



**Top:** Professor James O'Donnell, center, and Assistant Professor Michael M. Whitney, left, studying water velocities and density. **Left:** Associate Professor Penny Vlahos using passive samplers on the LISICOS Central Sound Buoy. **Right:** Associate Professor Annelie Skoog, middle, and several students take water samples from Long Island Sound off the Avery Point Campus.



in the long term, they'll be critical for assessing transport to remote regions away from the Gulf."

As a marine geochemist, Associate Professor Skoog studies the cycling of marine organic compounds through the food chain and into the global carbon and nitrogen cycles. She investigates what compounds are present in seawater and what global processes are involved in their cycling.

Skoog's expertise allowed her to serve as a knowledgeable source about deep-ocean processes at the conference.

"This oil spill presented a unique problem because, unlike most other leaks, its source was in the deep ocean," she says. "Most other oil leaks have occurred at the surface."

Professor O'Donnell, a physical oceanographer, is also worried about the extent of oil remaining underneath the surface. Although government reports assert that a majority of the oil has dissipated or evaporated, O'Donnell





surprisingly fundamental.”

O'Donnell's research focuses on ocean currents and the transport and mixing of materials in the coastal ocean. In conjunction with the U.S. Coast Guard, he has developed a tracking system called the Long Island Sound Integrated Coastal Observing System, or LISICOS. The system uses radar technology to track ocean waves and currents and then integrates this data with modeling software to predict the movement of material by currents and their effects on ocean life.

O'Donnell hopes to use this history of developing and using ocean circulation models to design programs to detect and forecast the transport and fate of oil and materials used to disperse it.

At the June conference, O'Donnell's main recommendation to the federal agencies was to establish a program to

bottom can be made,” he says. “The rest should be included in the surveyed area.”

Vlahos and Skoog also supported a recommendation to use fluorescence techniques for rapid surveying and identification of the oil in the water and for monitoring the volatile components of the oil mixture. The purpose of these techniques is to measure the rate at which volatile compounds evaporate into the atmosphere. Knowing the rate of transfer will help predict potential hazards that these gases could pose to human health.

The three researchers agree that a major issue is accessing the oil that needs to be cleaned up. Some estimates have assumed that since oil usually floats on water, it will eventually reach the ocean's surface and can then be skimmed off. But Vlahos says this is not necessarily the case.

“The crude oil that came out of this leak has a buoyancy which changes as it dissolves in water. It's a mixture of different compounds,” Vlahos says, some of which may take a very long time to reach the surface, if they do at all. Skoog also adds that the formation of emulsions, or mixtures of oil and water much like the globules formed in vinaigrette salad dressings, are also likely to form, preventing some of the oil from floating to the surface.

This and other unknowns emphasize the need for careful and comprehensive monitoring of the oil and its fate, the researchers say. Skoog says that the academic research community has a major role to play in this discussion.

“The academic community has a very clear focus that can address the environmental concerns associated with the spill,” she says. “We're ready to start the observations and measurements.”

Vlahos emphasizes the importance of dealing with these issues from both short- and long-term perspectives, which is critical to the effective amelioration of environmental harm.

“The damage has occurred,” she says. “The question now is, how we can manage this intelligently? There will be prolonged effects, and we want to be prepared to deal with them.” 🌿



says that little attention is being paid to predicting the extent of oil damage underwater.

“There's not a lot of technology for measuring the distribution of oil,” he says. “We don't know for sure how much there really is. These questions are

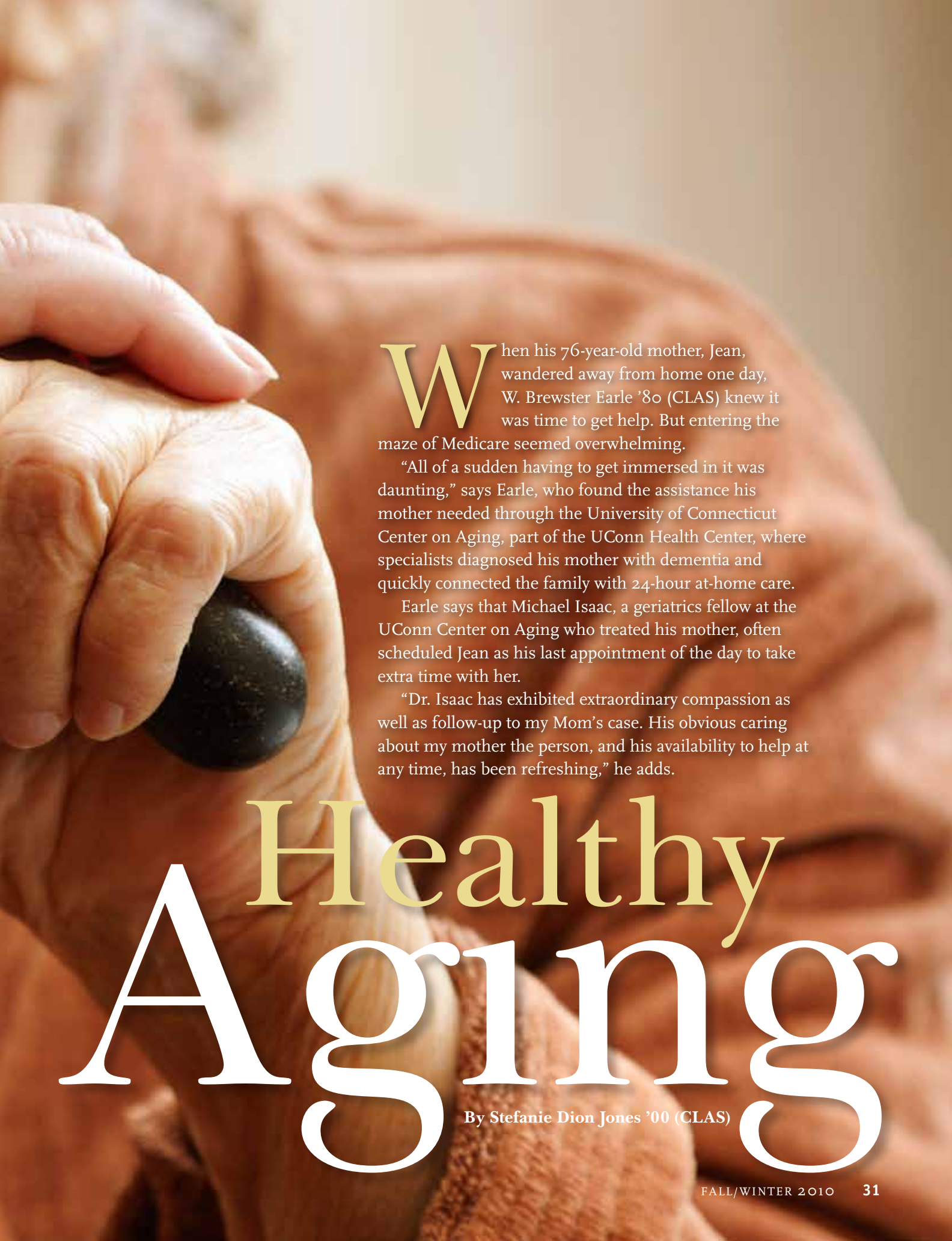
survey the observed subsurface oil and compare it to the amount known to be discharged to assess the effectiveness of their surveying techniques.

“Estimates of the amount of oil washed up on marshes and beaches, lost to evaporation, oxidized by bacteria and settled on the



*Center on Aging  
promotes improved  
quality of life  
for older adults*





When his 76-year-old mother, Jean, wandered away from home one day, W. Brewster Earle '80 (CLAS) knew it was time to get help. But entering the maze of Medicare seemed overwhelming.

"All of a sudden having to get immersed in it was daunting," says Earle, who found the assistance his mother needed through the University of Connecticut Center on Aging, part of the UConn Health Center, where specialists diagnosed his mother with dementia and quickly connected the family with 24-hour at-home care.

Earle says that Michael Isaac, a geriatrics fellow at the UConn Center on Aging who treated his mother, often scheduled Jean as his last appointment of the day to take extra time with her.

"Dr. Isaac has exhibited extraordinary compassion as well as follow-up to my Mom's case. His obvious caring about my mother the person, and his availability to help at any time, has been refreshing," he adds.

# Healthy Aging

By Stefanie Dion Jones '00 (CLAS)

Like Earle, many other caregivers will be seeking help for a family member in need of geriatric care. With the first wave of baby boomers beginning to turn 65 next year, the number of Americans aged 65 and older is estimated to nearly double in the next 20 years. Yet currently less than 1 percent of all physicians in the country are certified in geriatrics, according to Gail Sullivan, professor at the School of Medicine and associate director for education at the UConn Center on Aging.

The American Geriatrics Society predicts that this existing shortfall will only worsen, with about one geriatrician for every 7,665 older Americans by the year 2030.

Ranking among the oldest states is Connecticut, which the U.S. Census Bureau anticipates will have the nation's ninth-highest percentage of population aged 65 and older in 2010, making the demand on health care services across the state even greater in coming years.

With its multifaceted mission – to provide clinical care for older adults; to educate the next generation of leaders in geriatrics; and to carry out research to improve older adults' independence, function and quality of life – the UConn Center on Aging plays a crucial role in addressing such challenges.

"Aging isn't a field where being multidisciplinary seems merely desirable and cutting-edge ... When it comes to the care of older adults, it's essential," says Professor George Kuchel, Citicorp Chair in geriatrics and gerontology, chief of the Division of Geriatric Medicine at the UConn Health Center and director of the UConn Center on Aging.

### QUALITY, NOT QUANTITY

Caring for older patients poses special challenges: While most remain quite healthy and independent, many others are at great risk of falling, developing dementia and experiencing depression and anxiety. More than three-quarters develop at least one chronic medical condition – such as arthritis or diabetes – that requires ongoing care, according to the Institute of Medicine. Often, these health issues can affect older adults' ability to care for themselves on a day-to-day basis, from bathing and getting dressed to driving and taking medications.

"We're particularly interested in helping our patients remain as independent as possible," says professor of family

medicine Patrick Coll, associate director for the Center's clinical programs. "We're emphasizing good nutrition, exercise and social supports so that the person has a better quality of life, not just quantity of life."

In seeking to help older adults delay disability and maintain their autonomy over time, the Center on Aging provides elders with healthy aging advice related to nutrition and disease prevention. Outreach programs like Powerful Aging, an exercise series designed to improve strength, endurance, mobility and coordination in older adults, teach the benefits of an active lifestyle. Supported by an externally funded research portfolio that exceeds \$30 million, the Center also conducts a diverse range of clinical, laboratory and community-based research efforts, all ultimately intended to help older people function independently. Studies touch on such aging issues as mobility, frailty, dementia care, incontinence, as well as hearing loss and stroke prevention. Earlier this year, Kuchel brought a group of interdisciplinary researchers together to focus on these issues with the Center's first university-wide Aging Research Day.

Meanwhile, the Center's clinical programs include outpatient primary care clinics and geriatric hospitalist services to assure individualized care for older patients who are admitted to the Health Center's John Dempsey Hospital. In addition, the Health Center has specialty care clinics that address specific clinical conditions, such as dementia. For instance, Coll leads the James E.C. Walker, M.D., Memory Assessment Program, which diagnoses and treats memory problems in older adults like Earle's mother while offering guidance to family caregivers.

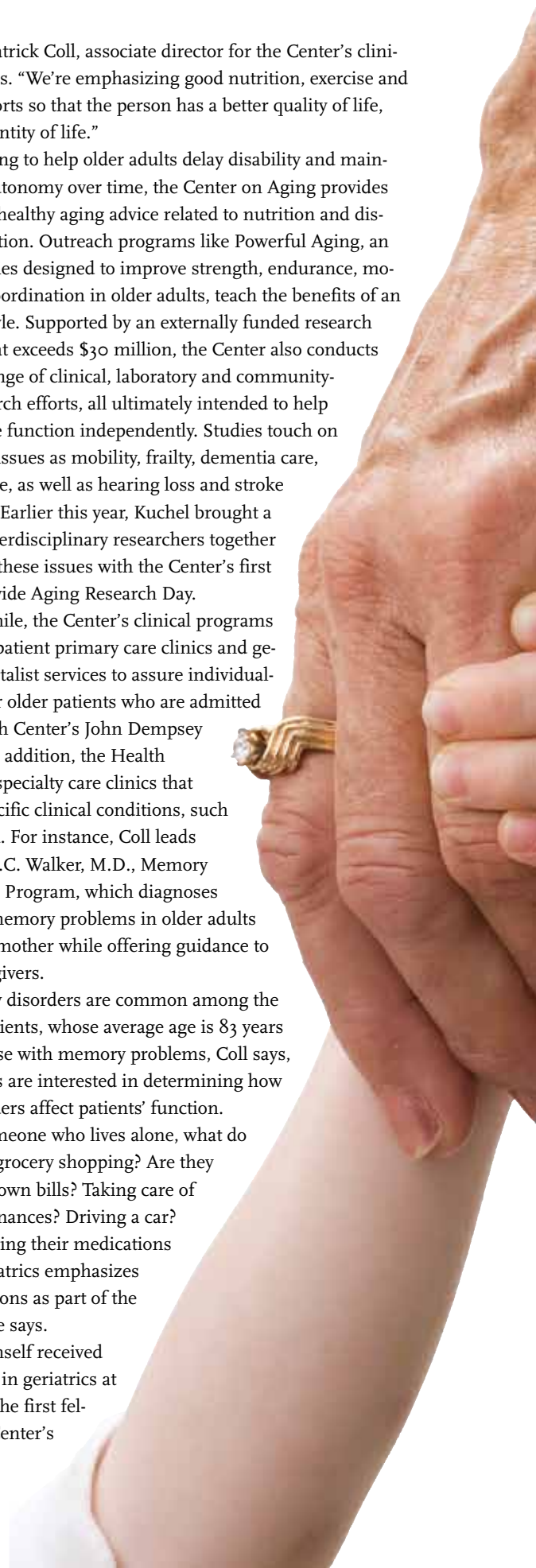
Memory disorders are common among the Center's patients, whose average age is 83 years old. For those with memory problems, Coll says, geriatricians are interested in determining how these disorders affect patients' function.

"For someone who lives alone, what do they do for grocery shopping? Are they doing their own bills? Taking care of their own finances? Driving a car? Are they taking their medications safely? Geriatrics emphasizes these questions as part of the training," he says.

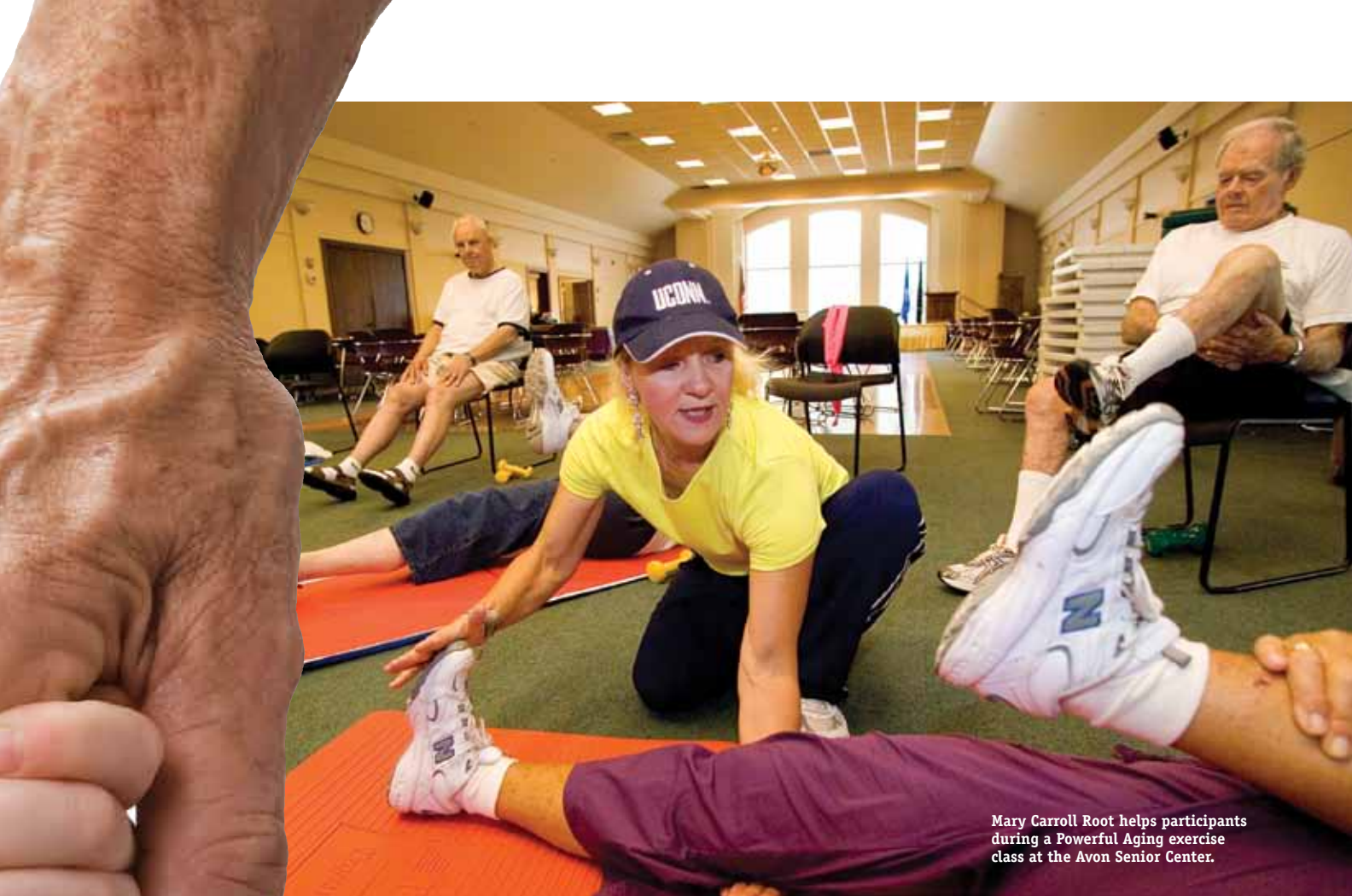
Coll himself received his training in geriatrics at UConn, as the first fellow in the Center's

### The Center's next annual Aging Research Day in April 2011 will

focus on "Improving Clinical Outcomes in Older Adults Through Research." The plenary speaker will be Jay Magaziner, chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.







Mary Carroll Root helps participants during a Powerful Aging exercise class at the Avon Senior Center.

nationally known Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Program, which recruits physicians like Jean Earle's doctor, Michael Isaac, who have already specialized in internal or family medicine and have interest in seeking advanced geriatrics training.

With nearly 90 graduates of the fellowship program going on to serve as leaders in administrative, education, program development and research roles in the field of geriatrics in Connecticut, nationally and internationally (including Iceland and the Philippines), Coll underlines that the Center's mission goes beyond preparing physicians and other health care providers in geriatric patient care to giving the leadership skills they need to "make a bigger impact ... working with organizations, teaching and doing research."

### RAISING THE BAR

As the aged population grows, the need for such leaders will likely escalate, along with the need for long-term care services. In Connecticut, costs for long-term care already surpass \$2 billion annually, representing the second-largest single item in the state budget, after education.

"With the proper service coordination, people at the same disability level as someone living in a nursing home could be

cared for in a home or community setting at a lower expense," says Richard Fortinsky, professor of medicine, Physicians Health Services Endowed Chair in geriatrics and gerontology, and associate director for health outcomes research at the Center, whose own studies target Alzheimer's disease and dementia care, as well as the experiences of family caregivers. "So we're trying to lower that \$2 billion-a-year price tag."

With its quarter-century anniversary drawing near, the UConn Center on Aging continues to work collaboratively, growing its national profile, the depth of its programs and its funding.

"We're committed to a multidisciplinary approach which engages faculty members and trainees from across the University in working together with our many community partners in improving the lives of older adults through clinical care, education and research," Kuchel says.

Commending the leadership of Kuchel and the UConn Center on Aging's services, W. Brewster Earle says he is comforted knowing that UConn is training the kind of health providers that he may need himself one day, noting, "As the health care industry gets a bad rap as impersonal bureaucracy, it is great to see caring people like Dr. Isaac enter the profession. He will raise the bar. We are grateful for his efforts." 🌿

More information on the UConn Center on Aging can be obtained by calling 860-679-3956 or by visiting [uconn-aging.uchc.edu](http://uconn-aging.uchc.edu).





# Simpler Living At Your Leisure

By Jeff Davidson '73 (BUS), '74 M.B.A.

Jeff Davidson is known as The Work-Life Balance Expert® and is the author of 56 books, including *The 60-Second Organizer*, *The 60-Second Self-Starter* and *The 60-Second Innovator*. The following is an excerpt from his new book, *Simpler Living* (Skyhorse Publishing, 2010).

**T**he responsibilities of job, home and family all too often transform the daily routine into one big blur. Carving out quality leisure time becomes difficult.

True leisure means engaging in a pleasurable and rewarding activity without being preoccupied by other aspects of your life. You can't force leisure into an otherwise frenzied schedule and expect it to feel good. Sometimes, the strains you experience during the week make you place great emphasis on

Where do you weigh in on the leisure scale? This brief quiz can help you find out. Simply answer yes or no to each question.

1. I fully understand the value of leisure in my life.
2. I have at least one rewarding weekend a month.
3. I take care of errands during the week so I don't use up my weekends.
4. I plan and take an annual or semiannual vacation.
5. I engage in rewarding, relaxing hobbies or other interests.
6. I regularly exercise at a tennis club, pool club, spa, or another facility.
7. I can be comfortable doing nothing at all at selected times.
8. I can relax without the use of chemical substances.
9. I engage in regularly scheduled leisure-time activities.
10. I have achieved a reasonable balance between work and play.

Tally up your yes responses. If you have five or fewer, you definitely need more leisure in your life.

weekends and other days off. You hope to relax, but the pressure is enormous. You can't rest even when you have the time to do so. Your mind may not be free to enjoy it.

Make no mistake: Leisure is a fundamental component of your life. If you don't have frequent and rewarding leisure time, you're missing out.

When time is at a premium, leisure activities are usually the first items to disappear from the daily schedule. One of the advantages of simplifying your life is that you'll have more windows of opportunity to do stuff just for fun. Think of leisure as your reward for all those little extraneous things that eat up precious minutes of your day.





### Overly Optimistic

If you routinely forfeit your leisure time because you have "more important things to do," you may be underestimating how much time those other things actually take. Most people routinely shortchange themselves on the amount of time required to complete a given task, according to research at an American Psychological Association conference. The problem is a failure to evaluate performance honestly. Folks generalize from those rare occasions when everything went perfectly.

If you want to get tasks done on time so that you can enjoy leisure activities, realistically calculate during a project's planning stages the hours that will be required. Then increase the time commitment by 25 percent to safely allow for unexpected delays.

### Relearning to Relax

If you're unaccustomed to having free time, you may need a brief refresher course in choosing and planning leisure activities. Here are the basics.

### Indulge Your Desires

Devote one afternoon or evening per week entirely to yourself. Use those hours to do something, anything, that you enjoy. Listen to your favorite music. Assemble a jigsaw puzzle. Dig in your garden. Do whatever you always wish you could but never seem to find time for. And do it where there's nothing to remind you of other obligations.

### Get Lost

If you find yourself constantly watching the clock while participating in a leisure activity, you're not truly relaxing. Let yourself go, to the point where you lose track of the hour. In this state of timelessness, you can derive optimum benefits from relaxation.

### Opt for Low-Tech

The popular fascination with technological advances in all areas of life has diverted attention from the simple pleasures of many traditional pastimes. People think they must have the best, most up-to-date equipment available to enjoy themselves. When keeping up with trends becomes the focus, the sheer pleasure of leisure is lost. Let yourself have fun without trying to outdo your friends and neighbors. 🏓

*Reprinted with permission from Simpler Living by Jeff Davidson, Skyhorse Publishing, Inc. © 2010*





## Focusing on students

**ACCOMPLISHED WRITER AND RESEARCHER  
FINDS EXCITEMENT IN TEACHING**

**E**ven as she has been a prolific researcher, speaker and author of books and peer-reviewed articles, Bandana Purkayastha '99 Ph.D., professor of sociology and director of graduate studies in the Department of Sociology within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, remains focused on her students.

"Teaching is one of the most exciting things within the larger world of the research university," said Purkayastha, who holds a joint appointment with the Department of Sociology and the Asian American Studies Institute. "At the most basic level, it would not 'be me' to just do research at a think tank."

Her commitment to teaching and her work with students have been recognized by the UConn Alumni Association with its 2010 Award for Faculty Excellence in Teaching at the Graduate Level (see page 44).

"Part of what we do is to prepare the next generation of scholars," says Purkayastha. "I'm always excited to see the process through which my advisees identify and carve out their own research niche. They become really excited about obtaining grants to conduct their research, cease being apprentices to their professors and are ready to soar."

Purkayastha served as the major doctoral advisor for Anjana Narayan, now assistant professor in the department of psychology and sociology at California State Polytechnic University.

---

**"I'm always excited to see the process through which my advisees identify and carve out their own research niche. They become really excited about obtaining grants to conduct their own research."**

---

"I find myself constantly amazed by Bandana's seemingly endless capacity to nurture her students," Narayan says. "Her guidance has gone way beyond training me as a scholar. She's helped me build contacts for my writing projects, introduced me to networks of like-minded individuals and provided valuable guidance for my publications and grants."

Narayan, who recently won the Early Career Award from the Asia/Asian America Section of the American Sociological Association, adds, "From Bandana I learned the value of mentoring. I see her as the role model for my own interactions with my students and colleagues."

Purkayastha's many honors earned for teaching include the 2001 Teaching Promise Excellence Award from the American Association of University Professors and the State of Connecticut General Assembly Citation for Teaching. She has twice received the student-run Department of Sociology Graduate Students' Award for Mentoring, and last year she earned national recognition with the Teaching Award from the Asia/Asian American Section of the American Sociological Association.

In addition to advising at least a dozen sociology undergraduates each year, including University scholars and Honors students, she is the major advisor for four Ph.D. candidates and the associate advisor for three. She has been the major advisor for nine students who have earned master's degrees and the associate advisor for 10 students who have either earned a master's or are in the process of doing so.

"I have really wide-ranging interests, so I keep up with multiple fields. That makes it easier to guide graduate students in their research and publications," said Purkayastha, who annually reviews 1,400 manuscripts as deputy editor of the journal *Gender & Society*.

Her teaching and research interests include human rights within the United States and the intersection of race, class, gender and ethnicity in transnational communities. "For myself, there are no sharp boundaries between teaching, mentoring and research,"

Purkayastha says. "Classroom teaching is just a small component of how I look at teaching. Successful mentoring is a function of who you're mentoring; it's developed as you're thinking of particular students and what you can do to make sure they keep growing."

—Lauren Lalancette



**Bandana Purkayastha '99 Ph.D., associate professor of sociology and director of graduate studies in the Department of Sociology.**

Mark Janis, William F. Starr Professor of Law, specializes in international law and human rights law.



## Bridge between nations: Teaching international law

**W**hether you travel to France on an airplane, purchase clothing made in Cambodia or place a phone call to someone overseas, you benefit from the workings of international law.

"I'd say virtually every person in the world – certainly every American – takes advantage of international law, though they probably don't know it," says Mark Janis, William F. Starr Professor of Law, who specializes in international law and human rights law in the School of Law. "Aviation agreements, trade agreements, telephone and postal communications – they're all regulated by treaties."

Janis teaches his students the diverse approaches that different countries take to address issues regarding international transactions and gives them insights and skills they will one day need as lawyers for corporations, law firms and government agencies.

"I view much of the job of international lawyering as being a bridge between two nations – not only between their laws, but their cultures, their politics, their economies," he says. "If you're going to be a person who guides a transaction, a company, a government across that bridge, it's good not only to know what's on your side of the bridge; you need to know what you're going to find on the other side."

At the same time, Janis explains, much of international law requires extensive negotiation and compromise. "There are rarely answers that satisfy everyone, but there are answers that prove to be useful for most people most of the time," he says.

Janis offers his own insights on various aspects of public and

private international law as one of just four American representatives serving as members of the International Law Association's International Human Rights Committee.

"This committee has as its objective the question about the way in which international human rights law is implemented domestically – that is, when international rules are used or not used within national legal systems," he says.

Janis has authored more than 60 articles as well as several books on international law, including *America and the Law of Nations, 1776-1939* (Oxford University Press, 2010), an intellectual history; a treatise entitled *International Law* (Aspen, fifth edition, 2008); and a casebook, *International Law Cases and Commentary* (written with co-author John Noyes, West, third edition, 2006). He also served on the editorial board of the five-volume *Encyclopedia of Human Rights* (Oxford University Press, 2009), which received the Dartmouth Medal, designating it as the single most outstanding and significant reference work of the year.

During his 26 years at the School of Law, Janis has established a multifaceted international law program, which includes a wide range of courses focused on international and foreign law, a foreign exchange program, the Human Rights and International Law Clinic and a one-year master of laws degree program in U.S. Legal Studies.

Such programs provide law students with the experiences they need to be effective in the profession, says Janis, who notes that just as it is acceptable in some cultures and not others for one person to call another by their first name, specific legal rules also vary from country to country and culture to culture.

"What you want to do as an international lawyer is make your client feel comfortable in that other culture," Janis says. "You need to know enough to know what the right questions are."

—Stefanie Dion Jones '00 (CLAS)



# Alumni News & Notes

We want to  
hear from you!

Let your fellow UConn alumni know about the milestones in your life.

## 1960s

**Joel Hirschhorn '64 (CLAS)**, a private practice lawyer with Hirschhorn & Bieber, P.A., in Coral Gables, Fla., has been included in the 2009 edition of *Florida Super Lawyers'* list of "Florida's Legal Elite."

**Richard A. Wallace '64 (CLAS), '67 J.D.**, retired attorney, is the author of *Anoka*, published by Infinity Publishing in 2009.

**Ken Libertoff '66 (CLAS), '68 M.A.**, executive director of the Vermont Association for Mental Health, received the association's Lifetime of Advocacy Award for his work promoting mental health through community advocacy at the organization's annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

**Henry Racki '66 (CLAS), '73 M.B.A.** is the chief executive officer of Rockfall Company LLC, a design and building services company in Rockfall, Conn., that creates senior-friendly modular homes called Practical Assisted Living Structures.

**John Surowiecki '66 (CLAS), '78 M.A.** is the author of *Barney and Gienka*, his third collection of poetry, published in April by WordTech Communications. He was a featured poet at the third annual Riverwood Poetry Festival and the WordForge Poetry Series in Hartford, Conn.

**Perry Zirkel '68 M.A., '72 J.D., '72 Ph.D.**, professor of education and law at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa., received the Deming Lewis Award at the university's faculty meeting in January; he was selected by the Class of 1999 for significantly influencing their educational experience.

## 1970s

**Bob Althen '72 (CLAS)** and **Maggie (Lumpkin) Althen '69 (BUS)** celebrated their 38<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They are both retired and enjoy gardening, traveling and

visiting their daughter, Erin, and her family. The couple resides in Farmington, Conn.



**Wayne C. Hawkins '72 (BUS)** was elected vice president and regional branch manager of community banking for Middlesex Savings Bank in Natick, Mass., by the company's board of directors. He manages sales and operational performance of the bank's four branches, after previously serving as assistant vice president and regional branch manager.



**Carol Conaway '73 (ED)**, vice president of regions and councils for the Florida Parent Teacher Association in Orlando, Fla., received the Education Award and a \$1,000 grant from Molina Healthcare's Community Champions program, which awards outstanding citizens. The award was presented at the Community Champions Awards dinner at the Florida Aquarium in June in Tampa, Fla. The grant was donated to Ready for Life, a children's organization.



**Richard G. Luckhardt '73 (SFA)** is president of the Connecticut region of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association. He is the coach of the Connecticut College Equestrian Team and the instructor of physical education riding classes at the college. He is also a recorded judge with the United States Equestrian Federation and a licensed judge with the New England Horsemen's Council.

**Patrick Westcott '73 M.A.**, assistant professor in the College of Education at Rowan University in Glassboro, N.J., received the university's 2010 Lindback Distinguished

Teaching Award for his outstanding teaching record and commitment to student learning during the university's Celebrating Excellence Awards Ceremony in April.

**Stewart L. Wolff '73 M.D.** is the author of *Father Stories: Experiences Being a Father*, published by Outskirts Press in January.



**John Cech '74 Ph.D.**, professor of English at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Fla., is the author of *Imagination and Innovation: The Story of Weston Woods*, published by Scholastic Press in September. He is the director of the University of Florida's Center for Children's Literature and Culture.

**David Howlett '75 M.S., '80 M.D.**, a family practice physician and project director for the implementation of electronic medical records at East Granby Family Practice, LLC, has been named a Top Doc in family practice in a 2010 survey conducted by *Connecticut Magazine*.

**Scott Prussing '75 (CLAS)** is the author of *Tangled Webs*, an eBook published by Smashwords.com in April.

**J. Leo Gagne '77 (BUS)**, chief operating and financial officer at Tomasso Brothers, Inc., was elected a member of the board of directors of the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain. He has served on the foundation's building committee for two years and is involved with the New Britain YMCA, the Hospital of Central Connecticut and the New Britain Boys & Girls Club.



## Following the civil rights trail

**Stephen Balkaran '94 (CLAS), '96 M.A.**, far right, director of the Civil Rights Project at Central Connecticut State University, earlier this year led a group of 20 CCSU students who traced the 1960s civil rights movement through major historic sites in locations including Birmingham, Ala.; Memphis, Tenn.; and Atlanta. Their travels included a visit to The King Center in Atlanta, which is dedicated to the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. From left, Joseph Paige, associate vice president of academics at CCSU; U.S. Rep. and civil rights activist John Lewis; Martin Luther King III and Balkaran. CCSU student Horace Hamilton is behind Balkaran.

Send your updates and a photo to:  
Alumni News & Notes  
University of Connecticut Alumni  
Association  
2384 Alumni Drive, Unit 3053  
Storrs, CT 06269

Fax: (860) 486-2849

Email: [alumni-news@uconn.edu](mailto:alumni-news@uconn.edu)

Submit your information at  
[UConnAlumni.com/HAN](http://UConnAlumni.com/HAN)

alumni profile



## National voice advocating for nurses

**W**hen Pamela Austin Thompson '71 (NUR) was a nursing student, busy with class work and clinical labs, she was unsure about an instructor's advice to pursue a master's degree.

The instructor persisted, and Thompson would later credit the drive, professionalism and dedication of UConn's nursing faculty as a major influence that helped to establish her distinguished nursing career.

Today, her master's degree from the University of Rochester is part of Thompson's prestigious résumé as chief executive officer of the American Organization of Nursing Executives, part of the American Hospital Association, where she is the national voice on nursing issues serving more than 7,400 nursing leaders.

"We do a lot of advocacy work," says Thompson, a registered nurse and Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. "With all that is going on with health care reform, it's important to keep our members informed."

When Thompson speaks for nurses, it is with a range of experience that includes serving as a clinical manager of emergency services, as a hospital executive managing inpatient and regional clinical services and as a managed care executive covering behavioral health services for more than 200,000 people.

Thompson credits her UConn training with providing the broad background in nursing services that laid the foundation for her future career in nursing management.

"I value that experience very much," says Thompson. "I think the preparatory work at UConn was much more than just one area. In all areas I practiced, they did just an outstanding job. Sometimes you don't appreciate that until later."

"They were a very innovative faculty, and they set high standards for us," Thompson says. "I realize that now. I practice differently than a lot of others, and I attribute that to UConn, where there was a real level of professionalism."

The School of Nursing honored Thompson for her contributions to the field in 2009, presenting her with a Reflections of Excellence award as an alumna who reflects the tenets of nursing excellence.

Says School of Nursing Dean Anne R. Bavier: "Pam actualizes the passion for caring through consistent and innovative efforts to create environments and policies that advance the quality of patient care throughout health organizations nationwide." —Colin Poitras '85 (CLAS)



**Rachel Rubin '77 (BUS)**, director of compliance for the Office of Audit, Compliance and Ethics at UConn,

was re-elected to the UConn Alumni Association's Board of Directors. She will serve a three-year term until 2013.



**Dennis Cavanaugh '78 (CLAS)**, partner at the law firm Robinson & Cole LLP in Hartford, Conn., was

re-elected to the UConn Alumni Association's Board of Directors. He will serve a three-year term until 2013.

### **Gerald D. Coley '78 (BUS)**

is regional vice president for Northern California at SCAN Health Plan, headquartered in Long Beach, Calif. He previously served as director of network management and provider services within the company and has nearly three decades of experience in health care delivery and managed care industries.

### **Dennis J. Wolff '78 (BUS)**

is director of men's basketball operations at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va. He previously served as head men's basketball coach at Boston University. He is involved in the United Service Organizations' Operation Hardwood in Iraq and Operation Hoop Talk in Afghanistan.

### **Thomas Meehan '79 (CLAS),**

**'84 M.D., '92 M.P.H.**, chief medical officer at Qualidigm, a consulting and research company in Rocky Hill, Conn., was named a fellow of the American College of Medical Quality for his ongoing scholarship and research in his field. His focus is the development of effective methods to measure and improve the quality of health care.

## 1980s

**Alan Codkind '80 M.B.A.** is chief executive officer and founder of Visioneering Sports Products, LLC in Charlotte, N.C., a company he launched after creating the CoverGuard, a golf accessory.

### **Capt. William Leahy '80 (BUS),**

a Navy Reservist, recently completed a tour of duty in Afghanistan, serving with the U.S. Navy as deputy chief of staff of the Joint Contracting Command - Iraq/Afghanistan, where he was stationed with **Lt. Col. Florentino Santana '89 (CLAS)** of the U.S. Army. Leahy is the chief financial officer for the U.S. Department of Energy, Naval Reactors Laboratory Field Office, in Schenectady, N.Y.

### **Steve Bonney '81 (CANR),**

a wildlife biologist and regional program coordinator for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, received the Jim Monyahan Memorial Conservation Service Award from Kentucky Ducks Unlimited for his contributions to migratory waterfowl conservation and the preservation of North America's waterfowl heritage during the organization's state convention, which took place in March in Frankfort, Ky.

### **Scott Trenholm '82 (BUS),**

partner-in-charge of the assurance services department at CCR LLP in Glastonbury, Conn., received the Outstanding Accountant Award from the UConn School of Business at its annual scholarship dinner.



**Douglas Barry '83 (BUS), '85 M.B.A.**, senior vice president at BNY Mellon Cash Investment Strategies in San





## Keeping the lights on

**F**or thousands of families and individuals in Connecticut, living above the poverty line does not always mean being able to afford the household heating and electricity bills.

“Even people who are working every single day are having a difficult time,” says Pat Wrice ’89 M.S.W., who has served since 1997 as executive director of Operation Fuel, Inc. ([operationfuel.org](http://operationfuel.org)), a private, statewide nonprofit based in

Bloomfield, Conn., that helps to provide emergency energy assistance to Connecticut residents. “Often when you talk to these families, there are two people in the house working. They’re just not making it.”

Working with a wide range of business, religious, community and civic partners across Connecticut, Operation Fuel coordinates emergency energy assistance for lower-income working families as well as elderly and disabled individuals who are in financial crisis and may not be eligible for, or have exhausted, their government benefits.

Established in 1977, Operation Fuel is the oldest of the nation’s roughly 300 fuel funds. Last year, the organization provided a record \$6 million in emergency energy assistance to more than 13,000 households. Funds are raised through contributions from community and corporate foundations, civic organizations, individual donors and through Operation Fuel’s “Add-a-Dollar” program, which invites donations from utility companies’ customers year-round.

“There’s this idea that somehow it’s your fault if you need help,” Wrice says. “Even if people lose power for a day or a few hours, they understand what it’s like to be in the dark or in the cold. We’ve all experienced that.”

Since 1990, Wrice has served as an adjunct faculty member at the School of Social Work, leading courses in human oppression, social welfare and urban issues. For her, Operation Fuel’s work is not only about meeting the immediate energy needs of families experiencing hardship but also finding long-term solutions and serving as a strong voice for such families.

“When you think of people in need, put away your stereotypes because both hunger and energy stress go beyond those stereotypes,” she says. “It could be your elderly mother, who hasn’t shared with you her dire straits. It could be your neighbor, whom you wave to every morning. We could all find ourselves in that situation, given the wrong circumstances. I think it’s hard for people to get their head around that fact, when this is a wealthy state and we have these issues.”

—*Stefanie Dion Jones ’00 (CLAS)*

Francisco, was re-elected to the UConn Alumni Association’s Board of Directors. He will serve a three-year term until 2013.

**Victor G. Milione ’83 (CLAS)**, partner and practice group leader at the law firm Nixon Peabody LLP, was recognized as a leader in the field of bankruptcy and restructuring by Chambers and Partners, a legal guide publisher.



**Millie Grenough ’84 M.S.W.**, clinical instructor in psychiatry at Yale University in New Haven, Conn., was named 2010 Coach

of the Year by the Connecticut Chapter of the International Coach Federation for her promotion of the field to her community and beyond. She is the president and executive coach of Grenough LLC in New Haven, Conn.

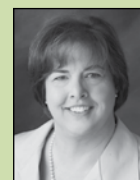


**J. Robert Hopson ’84 (CLAS)**, senior admissions officer at the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at UConn, was elected

to the UConn Alumni Association’s Board of Directors. He will serve a three-year term until 2013.

**David H. Larson ’84 Ph.D.**, retired executive director of the Connecticut Association of Public School

Superintendents, was re-elected to the UConn Alumni Association’s Board of Directors. He will serve a three-year term until 2013.



**Marcia L. Marien ’84 (BUS)**, managing partner of the accounting firm Marien + Company, LLC in Norwich, Conn.,

was installed as the president of the Connecticut Society of Certified

Public Accountants for the 2010-11 activity year, the first president in 82 years to hail from southeastern Connecticut, at the society's annual meeting in Plantsville, Conn.

**Barry Rosenberg '84 D.M.D.**, clinical instructor at the UConn School of Dental Medicine, formed the Greater Hartford Orthodontic Assistant Training Academy. His orthodontic practice, Rosenberg Orthodontics, celebrates 20 years of business this year.



**Suzanne Bona '85 (SFA)**, host and executive producer of the radio show "Sunday Baroque," opened the Summer Music from Greensboro concert series in Eastbrook, Vt., on July 20, 2010, playing the flute with guitarist Richard Goering.



**Sheila (Walsh) Schanck '85 (CLAS)** is director of software development for the Portable People Meter

Program at Arbitron Inc. in Columbia, Md. She and her husband, Chris, live with their two children, Faith and Lane, in Marriotsville, Md.



**Nicholas Zaharias '85 (CLAS)** is vice president of philanthropy at Lawrence General Hospital in Lawrence, Mass.

He previously served as director of development at Cushing Academy in Ashburnham, Mass.



**David C. Mulhall '86 (BUS)**, a financial advisor with LPL Financial Services in Naugatuck, Conn., is a member of the Connecticut

Society of Certified Public Accountants' Advisory Council for the 2010-11 activity year and chairs the council's Personal Financial Planning Committee. He resides in Middlebury, Conn.

**Allen R. Jones Jr. '87 (ED)** is chief executive officer and owner of Dominion Physical Therapy and Associates, Inc., in Virginia, which celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



**Jes Perry '87 (SFA)**, received her bachelor's degree in music summa cum laude from Berklee College of Music in Boston.

She previously served as dean of admissions and enrollment management at Montserrat College of Art in Beverly, Mass.

**Anne (Coughlin) Harrington '89 (NUR)** is the co-founder of Long Term Solutions Inc. in Natick, Mass., a clinical care coordination company, which was recently voted one of the top 50 fastest-growing women-owned businesses in 2009 by the trade group Women Presidents' Organization.



**Reina (Segall) Weiner '89 (BGS)**, a public speaker, is the author of *Strong From the Start—Raising Confident and*

*Resilient Kids*, published by Why Wait, LLC in February.

**Lt. Col. Florentino Santana '89 (CLAS)** of the U.S. Army recently completed a tour of duty in Afghanistan, serving at the U.S. Forces-Afghanistan Headquarters in Kabul, where he was stationed with **Capt. William Leahy '80 (BUS)** of the U.S. Navy. Santana is inspector general for the U.S. Army at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas.

## 1990s



**Caryn (Hill) Dashukewich '91 (CLAS)** is corporate vice president of human resources for Olympus Corporation of the

Americas in Center Valley, Pa., where she supports all Olympus businesses within the U.S., Canada and Latin America. She previously served at the company as director and as executive director of human resources for Olympus' Medical and Surgical Products business in the Americas.

**Kristin Edmonds '91 M.A.**, president of Mindfull Games, based in Chesterfield, Mo., accepted the Dr. Toy's Best Vacation Products for 2010 award for Verbal Volley, an educational game for children created by her company.



**Stacey Fuller '91 (CLAS)**, attorney at the law firm Gawthrop Greenwood, PC in West Chester, Pa., received the

Volunteer of the Year award from the West Chester Area YMCA for her commitment and passion to the association and its mission. She served as the association's board

**Puppeteer performs Off-Broadway in hit musical**

Carole D'Agostino '97 (SFA) is a puppeteer performing in the Off-Broadway musical hit "John Tartaglia's ImaginOcean." She is holding the puppet Baby Jellyfish, one of several characters that she brings to life during the show's performances. She also has a new puppet show, *Excess Baggage*, about obsessive hoarding.

IMAGINOCEAN



## ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

chair of the West Chester Area from 2008 to 2010 and has been named a Rising Star by the publishers of *Super Lawyers* for the third consecutive year.

**Amy MacMillan '92 (CLAS)** and Dr. Michael Bankson announce their marriage, which took place on Aug. 16, 2010, in Plymouth, Mass. **Carrie MacMillan '99 (CLAS)**, sister of the bride, and **Hugh Bailey '99 (CLAS)**, brother-in-law of the bride, were among those in attendance. The couple resides just south of Boston.

**Jeffrey McNamara '92 (CLAS)** and Tara McNamara announce the birth of a daughter, Kendal Mary, on March 26, 2010, in Oconomowoc, Wis., who joins an older brother, Jackson Vincent.



**Frank Milone '92 (BUS)**, partner in assurance and advisory services for Fiondella, Milone & LaSaracina LLP in Glastonbury,

Conn., was re-elected to the UConn Alumni Association's Board of Directors. He will serve a three-year term until 2013.



**Gregory D. Schreiber '92 M.B.A.**, owner and principal broker of the Schreiber Realty Group, LLC in Beacon, N.Y.,

received his New York real estate broker's license.



**Tom H.C. Anderson '94 (BUS), '04 M.B.A.**, founder of Anderson Analytics, a marketing

research consultancy firm in Stamford, Conn., has been named to the American Marketing Association's inaugural Four Under 40 list for leading by example and demonstrating an exceptional commitment to research industry progress. He received the award at the association's 2010 Marketing Research Conference, held in September in Atlanta.

**Adam Jeamel '94 (CLAS)**, director of public affairs for Gov. M. Jodi Rell, has been selected for the prestigious Henry Toll Fellowship Program, sponsored by the Council of State Governments. He resides in

Wethersfield with his wife, **Aleeta '96 (BUS)**, and their two children.

**Robyn L. Kievit '94 (SAH)** of Boston has achieved board certification as a specialist in sports dietetics as credentialed by the American Dietetics Association. A registered dietitian (RD) since 1994 and a family nurse practitioner, she has a private practice and is also employed by Emerson College in Boston.



**Deb Gabinelle '96 M.B.A.**, founder and president of InSightful Solutions CT, LLC, a profes-

sional organizing company in West Hartford, Conn., was elected secretary of the Connecticut chapter of the National Association of Professional Organizers. She is a member of the West Hartford, Farmington and Central Connecticut Chambers of Commerce.

**James Hill '96 Ph.D.** is the interim director of the Academic Center for Exploratory Students at UConn for a one-year term. He previously served as assistant director for the Center.

**Amy Holibaugh '96 (CLAS), '99 M.A.** and Ian Turkle announce the birth of a daughter, Lyra Holibaugh Turkle, on Sept. 15, 2009. She joins an older sister, Rowan. The family lives in Hyde Park, Vt.

**Josephine (Maida) Luby '96 (CLAS)** and **Bill Luby '09 M.B.A.** announce the birth of a daughter, Kaelyn Maida, on March 19, 2010, at Bridgeport Hospital.



**Cheryl A. Barnard '98 Ph.D.**, vice president and dean of student affairs at Saint Joseph College in West Hartford, Conn.,

was named to the board of trustees of Catholic Charities. She volunteers as the Connecticut state chair for the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators.

**Jessica (Stone) Beauchemin '98 (CLAS)**, a board member of the National Capital Chapter of the UConn Alumni Association, and her husband, Olivier, announce the birth of a daughter, Jacqueline Rose, on March 31, 2010, at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring, Md. The family resides in Maryland.

**Maggie Gold Seelig '98 J.D.** received the Esther Leah Ritz Next Generation Jewish Community Centers Leadership Award for her service to the organization's Greater Boston area. She has served on the organization's governing board since 2007, where she chairs the Governance and Leadership Development Committee. The award was presented at the Jewish Community Centers of North America Biennial in Atlanta in May.



**Brian Kelleher '98 (BUS)**, an assurance and advisory services partner for Fiondella, Milone & LaSaracina LLP in

Glastonbury, Conn., is a member of the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants' Advisory Council for the 2010-11 activity year. He resides in Cromwell, Conn.

**Laurie Kleinman '98 (CLAS)** is a member of the Global Insurance

## Free Alumni Career Seminars

### SPONSORED BY THE UConn ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Exclusively for Alumni Association Members

#### Using Social Media to Find the Right Career

Presented by Barry Diamond '82

February 16, 2011

Noon-1:30 p.m.

ONLINE WEBINAR

#### Parent Support Seminar

Presented by Susan Carlow '77 & Steve Harvey

April 13, 2011

6:30-8:30 p.m.

UConn Stamford Campus, Room 108



*Not a member? Join today at [UConnAlumni.com](http://UConnAlumni.com) and take advantage of these seminars as well as many other valuable member benefits. For more information or to register for a seminar, visit [UConnAlumni.com](http://UConnAlumni.com) or call 888-822-5861 or 860-486-2240.*



JOAN MARCUS

## On Broadway: Dan Lauria as 'Lombardi'

**W**hile best known as an actor and particularly for his television role as Jack Arnold in the Emmy Award-winning show "The Wonder Years," Dan Lauria '91 M.F.A. has dedicated a considerable amount of his career as an advocate for new American playwrights.

He served for 10 years as the artistic director of the Playwright's Kitchen Ensemble of Los Angeles, which produced more than 450 public readings of new plays with some of the nation's finest acting talent. The opportunity to make his Broadway debut this fall in a new play is particularly appealing to Lauria, who has the title role of the legendary NFL football coach Vince Lombardi in "Lombardi" at the Circle in the Square Theatre.

The play, written by Academy Award winner and Steppenwolf Theatre Company member Eric Simonson, is based on the book *When Pride Still Mattered: A Life of Vince Lombardi* by Pulitzer Prize-winning author David Maraniss. It is directed by Tony Award® nominee Thomas Kail, and one of the play's producers is the National Football League.

"If the play is successful here, it will help regional theater," says Lauria. "There are a lot of people who have never seen a play who will go see it (because of the subject). It's an important play. Critics haven't accepted a sports story since 'The Great White Hope.' This is a theme that a lot of writers would like to explore. It's a good story."

Lauria played football during his undergraduate years at Southern Connecticut State University, when the acting bug bit. After serving in the Marine Corps, he enrolled at UConn, where he came under the mentorship of Cecil Hinkel, head of the theatre department.

"I can't tell you how much I learned from Dr. Hinkel. He put on a show every class," Lauria says. "It was like W.C. Fields teaching the history of playwrighting. His lectures on criticism were funny."

Lauria says his television work has allowed him to champion American writing for the stage and allowed him to perform around the nation and off-Broadway for years.

"TV is bread and butter. I'm very proud of 'The Wonder Years,'" he says. "It's considered a classic. We did our job and did it well. It allowed me to do theater."

—Kenneth Best

Group at the law firm Cozen O'Connor in Philadelphia, where she concentrates on insurance coverage matters.



**Jason Jakubowski '99 (CLAS), '01 M.P.A.** is vice president of government relations for the Hospital for

Special Care in New Britain, Conn. He previously served as director of corporate and community development at Charter Oak State

College, where he continues to teach political science. He lives with his wife and five children in West Hartford, Conn.

**Marisa Nadolny '99 (CLAS)**, features editor at *The Day* newspaper in New London, Conn., married Brian Boyd, managing editor at Shore Publishing Newspapers, on June 5, 2010, at the Quinnipiac Club in New Haven, Conn. **Matthew Dion Jones '00 (CLAS)** officiated, and **Stefanie Dion Jones '00 (CLAS)** served as maid of honor.

**Rino C. Nori Jr. '99 (BUS)**, senior director at Alvarez & Marsal Private Equity Services Transaction Advisory Group in New York, N.Y., and **Beth (Poglitsch) Nori '99 (CLAS)** announce the birth of a son, Aidan Rino, on Dec. 8, 2009, in Norwalk, Conn.

### 2000s



**Lila Carney '00 (CLAS)** is assistant director of student media at Quinnipiac University in

Hamden, Conn., where she advises students involved with the university's various media groups.



**Michael A. Magarian '00 M.B.A.** is director of sales at First Quality Retail Group, a private-label consumer product marketer

based in Great Neck, N.Y., where he is responsible for East Coast and Canadian customers. He and his wife, Colleen, live with their daughters, Molly and Diana, in Stamford, Conn.



## Former NCAA champs win another title together

Three teammates from the Huskies' 2000 NCAA women's basketball championship team won another championship together in September. (L-R) Svetlana Abrosimova '01 (BUS), Swin Cash '02 (CLAS) and Sue Bird '02 (CLAS) helped the Seattle Storm win its second WNBA title, defeating the Atlanta Dream in the championship round. It was the third WNBA title for Cash, who previously won championships with the Detroit Shock in 2003 and 2006. It is the second WNBA title for Bird, who helped the Storm win the WNBA title in 2004, and is the first WNBA championship for Abrosimova. Cash and Bird then moved on to the USA Basketball Team (see page 17).



**Sherry (Brody) Copperthite '01 (ED), '02 M.A. and Jeff Copperthite '03 (BGS)** announce the birth of a daughter, Abigail Grace, on Nov. 20, 2009.

**Mariam Hakim '01 M.D.**, an orthopedic surgeon, opened the New England Orthopedic Center at the Hungerford Center in Torrington, Conn. She is one of nine orthopedic surgeons that specialize in foot and ankle disorders in the state.



**Michael P. Jordan '01 (BUS), '02 M.S.**, a tax manager for BlumShapiro in West Hartford, Conn., is a member of the Connecticut

Society of Certified Public Accountants' Advisory Council for the 2010-11 activity year. He lives in Glastonbury, Conn.

**Albert Alba '02 Ph.D.**, an academic teacher in a minimum-security facility in the Rhode Island Department of Corrections, received a longevity award for completing 20 years of

service with the state. The award was presented at the Rhode Island Department of Corrections' Career Award Ceremony in May.

**Antonietta Boucher '02 M.B.A.**, senator for the 26th district in Connecticut, received the 2010 Ambassador Award from the Council of Italian-American Organizations of Connecticut for her many contributions to the state's Italian-American community. She is the director of the Commonfund Institute, a research arm of Commonfund, a nonprofit fund manager.

**Daniel Solis '02 M.S., '05 Ph.D. and Lara Reglero '03 M.A., '04 Ph.D.** announce the birth of a son, Alex Xabier, on July 1, 2010, in Tallahassee, Fla.

**Daniel Curley '03 (CLAS)** married Carol Ambrose at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Memorial Chapel in New London, Conn., on Jan. 2, 2010. The couple resides in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

**Angela Ingriselli '03 (CLAS)**, a licensed social worker, married **Michael Andrade '03 (ENG)**, an engineer, on Oct. 11, 2009, in Connecticut. The couple resides in Connecticut.



**Michael L. Notarangelo '03 (BUS), '03 M.S.**, an audit manager for CCR LLP in Glastonbury, Conn., is a member of the

Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants' Advisory

## In Memoriam

### ALUMNI

Margaret K. Gorman '31  
 Florence D. Shafner '37  
 Elinor M. Pease '38  
 Seymour Bloom '39  
 Eleanor Sporer Dahl Williams '39  
 Frederic V. Dunne '40  
 Barbara B. Ferris '40  
 LaVergne Edward Williams '40  
 Raymond I. Cowles '49  
 John Olsen '50  
 Leonard H. Olson '50  
 Joseph V. Scaletti '50, '53  
 Joseph Scherr '50  
 Charles T. Sierman Jr. '50  
 Warren J. Smith '50  
 Robert C. Baldwin '51  
 Robert L. Balogh '51  
 Lawrence C. James Jr. '53  
 Victor I. Senger '53  
 Thomas N. Carmody '54, '55  
 Millicent (Maciejewski) D'Addieco '57  
 Marvin M. Bryan '60  
 Sidney B. Cohen '60  
 James F. O'Loughlin '60  
 John Silk '60  
 Barry D. Price '61  
 Francis C. Stevens '62  
 John J. Buckley '63  
 Sandra Caggiano '63  
 Patricia (Maciejka) Lukoski '64, '67  
 Joseph E. Oliwa '65  
 Margaret A. Anderson '68  
 Deborah S. Morocco '68  
 Francis E. Vogel '68, '92  
 Kathleen A. Ayr '69  
 Margaret P. DeHan '69  
 Laeita Israelite '69  
 Gerald W. Minikowski '69  
 Jon S. Crosbie '70  
 Ronald E. Kaizer '70  
 John E. Kent Jr. '70  
 Rosemary T. Strekel '77  
 Jeanette C. Heintz '78  
 Dennis A. Cloutier '79  
 Robert W. Sopher Jr. '79  
 Frank E. Waldie Jr. '79  
 Gregory F. Conron '80  
 June O. Frangione '80, '82  
 Gerard Coutu '80, '82, '92  
 Dean P. Anderson '81  
 Richard Carroll '89

### STUDENTS

Zachary A. Bzdrya '11  
 Crystal M. Molina '11  
 Benjamin W. Bleszinski '12  
 Joseph W. Cannova '12

For an updated list go to [uconnalumni.com/inmemoriam](http://uconnalumni.com/inmemoriam)



## Alumni Association honorees gather during Homecoming Weekend

Front row (L-R): William Morlock '57 (BUS), University Service Award; Bandana Purkayastha '99 Ph.D., Faculty Excellence in Graduate Teaching; Laura Crow, Faculty Excellence in Humanities Research; Yaakov Bar-Shalom, Faculty Excellence in Science Research. Back row (L-R): David Mills, Faculty Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching; David Stockton '76 (CLAS), Distinguished Alumni Award; T. Scott Case '92 (ENG), Humanitarian Award; Richard Carbray Jr. '75 (PHR), Alumni Association Service Award.

## ALUMNI TRAVELER



### Treasures of Peru April 11-21, 2011

Begin your discovery of Peru's archaeological, cultural and natural treasures in the capital of Lima. Fly to Cuzco and tour the beautiful Sacred Valley, the Indian market at Pisac and the extensive ruins at Ollantaytambo. Board the train for Machu Picchu—the stunning Lost City of the Incas and a UNESCO World Heritage Site—where you will stay overnight and take advantage of prime viewing opportunities. Travel overland through Peru's rugged altiplano with its snow-capped mountains and remote villages to Lake Titicaca, one of the world's highest navigable lakes. A five-day/four-night post-tour option to the Amazon rain forest is available.

For information on all UConn Alumni Association travel opportunities, call 888-822-5861 or visit [UConnAlumni.com](http://UConnAlumni.com).

### Travel Opportunities

#### Egypt and the Eternal Nile February 16-March 4, 2011

#### Hidden Wonders Around the World - By Private Jet February 28-March 23, 2011

#### Waterways and Canals of Holland and Belgium April 9-17, 2011

#### Historic Reflections - a Luxury Oceania Cruise May 15-26, 2011

#### Culturous Provence June 19-26, 2011

#### A Villa Stay in Tuscany June 27-July 5, 2011

#### Scotland - Featuring the Edinburgh Military Tattoo August 22-30, 2011

#### Cradle of History - Istanbul to Athens September 18-October 3, 2011

Council for the 2010-11 activity year. He lives in New Haven, Conn.

**Allison Egan '05 (CLAS)** is a public relations associate at Naugatuck Valley Community College in Waterbury, Conn. She previously served as community development program coordinator at Waterbury Development Corporation.

**Christopher Cusano '06 (CLAS)**, junior lobbyist and law clerk for

Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C. in Hartford, Conn., received his J.D. from Roger Williams University School of Law in May.

**Adam Eckart '06 (BUS)**, a practice development specialist at the law firm Ropes & Gray LLP, was published in the May 2010 edition of *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* with his article, "Develop Relationships, Develop Business." He serves on the board of directors for the

New England chapter of the Legal Marketing Association.

**Mary Lajoy '06 (CLAS)** married **Jessie Asklar '00 (ED)**, '01 M.A. on May 29, 2010, in Southington, Conn. She recently received her M.D. from Temple University in Philadelphia. He works for Travelers Insurance on the Property Product Development team. The couple lives in Providence, R.I.

**Bancroft Soto '06 (CLAS)** received his J.D. from Roger Williams University School of Law in May. He was president and member of the Multi-Cultural Law Students Association and a member of the Black Law Students Association, the Latino Law Students Association and the Student Bar Association.

**Magdalene Balicki '07 (BUS)** received her J.D. from Roger Williams University School of Law in May. She served as a member of the Women's Law Society for two years.

**Justin Carbonella '07 (BUS)** is senior research executive at Millward Brown in Fairfield, Conn.

**David Cheverie '07 (CLAS)** received his J.D. from Roger Williams University School of Law in May. He served as a law clerk for the Ferraro law firm in Miami.

**Julie Roke '07 (CLAS)** received her J.D. from Roger Williams University

School of Law in May. She was a member of the Criminal Law Society, Phi Alpha Delta and the International Law Society.

**Melanie Thomas '08 (BUS)** is the director of basketball operations at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Meyers, Fla. She previously played for the Polish Basketball League team Artego Bydgoszcz.

**Ioannis Kareklas '10 Ph.D.** has successfully defended his dissertation, "A Qualitative Review and Extension of Racial Similarity Effects in Advertising." He joins the faculty at Washington State University in Pullman, Wash., as an assistant professor of marketing.

**Benjamin Shaiken '10 (CLAS)** is web projects manager at Partnership for Strong Communities in Hartford, Conn., which engages in civic and political support to solve homelessness, create affordable housing and develop strong, vibrant communities. He also is secretary/treasurer for Friends of WHUS, Inc.

**Harpreet Singh '10 Ph.D.** successfully defended his dissertation, "IT Innovations, Investments and Social Networks," and joins the faculty as assistant professor in the school of management at the University of Texas at Dallas.

*Alumni News & Notes compiled by Jillian Legnos '12 (CLAS)*

## Abbreviation Key

School and/or College for baccalaureate degrees:

**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

Graduate/professional degrees:

**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.** – M.S. 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  
**Pharm.D.** – Doctor of Pharmacy  
**6th Year** – Sixth-Year Certificate



Connecticut residents,

***Ride with Pride!***



**HuskiesPlate.com**



**Order your official license plate today at [HuskiesPlate.com](http://HuskiesPlate.com)!**

Your purchase of UConn plates supports the University of Connecticut in many ways. The proceeds from plate sales help the UConn Alumni Association connect alumni, support students and strengthen the University. *To learn more about the Alumni Association's programs and services, visit [UConnAlumni.com](http://UConnAlumni.com).*

CONNECTING ALUMNI. SUPPORTING STUDENTS. STRENGTHENING UCONN.

# Going public with celebrities' private lives

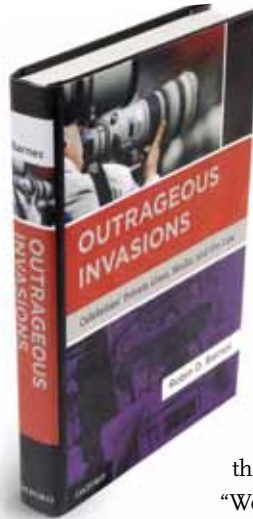
LAW PROFESSOR EXAMINES HOW THE MEDIA INVADES LIVES OF THE RICH AND FAMOUS

**T**iger Woods, Sandra Bullock and Princess Caroline of Monaco may not seem to have much in common. But with their celebrity, they have all come to share a loss of privacy.

In her new book, *Outrageous Invasions: Celebrities' Private Lives, Media, and the Law* (Oxford University Press, 2010), Professor of Law Robin Barnes examines how the private lives of the rich and famous are routinely invaded in what she calls our "tell-all society" through entertainment news shows, tabloid magazine headlines and the Internet.

Barnes, who teaches constitutional law and speaks nationally and internationally on issues related to democracy, free speech, privacy and human rights, says every celebrity should not necessarily be regarded as a public figure, nor should celebrities' personal lives be considered "matters of public concern."

"Citizens of the United States [and] European Union are guaranteed constitutionally protected rights to safety, privacy and freedom of self-expression," she writes in her introduction to *Outrageous Invasions*. Yet, she asserts, these rights are frequently violated in the case of American celebrities.



Over the past several decades, Barnes says, the U.S. press has been granted increased freedom. Although considered a positive development important to our democratic way of life, Barnes demonstrates how this has meanwhile permitted tabloid publishers "to expand their cottage industry of disseminating the intimate details of the lives of the rich and famous" – without regard for these individuals' privacy rights.

Barnes' book touches on the "outrageous invasions" endured by a wide range of celebrities, from former actor and California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to model Naomi Campbell and the children of Hollywood stars.

"We know we have to keep an eye on public officials," she says. "Why throw every athlete, actor and musician into the same pot? Celebrities are not public servants ... The Europe Convention contains specific provisions that identify human dignity as a paramount value. Individuals, including members of the media and representatives of the government, must behave in ways that are respectful toward a person's private and family life. Not so in the United States, where free speech always trumps."

Examining the outcomes of numerous legal battles from the U.S. Supreme Court and the High Courts of Europe, Barnes identifies the differences in the protections granted European celebrities versus those of American stars when it comes to the entertainment press.

Barnes points out that in France, for instance, photographs that are not of public interest cannot be published without the celebrity's permission.

"In Europe they talk about free development of personality and human dignity," she says. "They insist upon a meaningful definition of what the public has a right to know."

Having written *Outrageous Invasions* with a wide audience in mind, Barnes hopes her book is accessible enough for "undergraduates to leaf through it but also professors at the graduate level to use it in class as well." She has assembled a supplement to the book – *Privacy and Defamation in the U.S. and European Union* – which contains cases, legal articles, an electronic teaching manual and accompanying materials for teaching this topic as a graduate course.

Ideally, however, Barnes would "like to the put the book in the hands of the people I want to read it" – namely, she says, "every judge on the federal circuit." —Stefanie Dion Jones '00 (CLAS)





### Covering the World Cup to the sound of the vuvuzela

By Chris Alexopoulos '94 (CLAS)

**S**occer has always been a part of my life. It's a love affair that began in the 1980s idolizing enormously successful UConn soccer teams while I was growing up in Storrs. In those days, Gampel Pavilion was still a parking lot and E.O. Smith High School didn't have a football team. Soccer ruled.

Now as a producer for ESPN, my job often takes me far from Connecticut but never as far as this past summer to soccer's World Cup in South Africa, where I had the rare opportunity to work on a global sporting event with an incredible cultural story for a backdrop.

I first learned about life in the media at UConn: I jugged internships, long hours working at WHUS and classes. Eventually all of my efforts paid off with an entry-level job at ESPN, and in 1998 I worked my first World Cup in France. Coverage of soccer has since snowballed, culminating in the perfect storm of ESPN coverage this past summer.

Typically, a producer's job is done from a television truck outside stadiums around the U.S. I'm the person the announcers hear in their earpieces during the game. During a broadcast, I select graphics, decide what replays are shown and set story lines – all without a script.

Producing the World Cup is inherently different. FIFA, the governing body of soccer, produces the pictures for everyone in the world. So instead of steering the broadcast, I reacted with the announcers inside the stadium.

From the start there were many unpredictable moments. The first game this summer matched the home nation, South Africa, with Mexico, and a critical sound connection was lost moments before the live broadcast began. I opened the broadcast, watched by millions, by cueing announcer Martin Tyler to begin by counting down on my fingers. Not the optimum way to open the tournament but effective enough.

I was lucky to witness fantastic moments on the field: the first World Cup goal scored in Africa, which was by the home nation; heart-stopping moments from the United States team; and Spain's hoisting the trophy in the end. Off the field, I was able to travel through a still-developing nation. Travel was a challenge. Roads were clogged, and trains don't really exist. Games in the cities of Bloemfontaine, Rustenberg, Durban and Nelspruit all required at least a four-hour van ride. But the roads were as lit and paved as they are here at home. You can always get a strong signal on the cell phone – even on a day safari.

Yes, there was always the sad sight of tin shack towns and extreme poverty and valid concern that once the fans left, civil unrest would follow. But it was equally powerful to see how far the nation has come, so fast after the end of apartheid.

No final account of the 2010 World Cup is complete without a mention of the constant buzz of the vuvuzela. I can say from firsthand knowledge that the sound from the horn is much worse in person. Bring on the Brazilian samba drums in 2014!



CHRIS ALEXOPOULOS

The view Chris Alexopoulos '94 (CLAS) had from the press box as he produced the 2010 FIFA World Cup television broadcast for ESPN in South Africa.

## Reason No. 7 To Make a Planned Gift To UConn

# THERE'S SOMETHING IN IT FOR YOU.



Claire Olds '51 used her UConn education to rise to dean of students at Skidmore College. She wanted to thank her alma mater. As a careful investor, she also wanted an option that met her financial needs. The answer: a charitable gift annuity through the UConn Foundation. "It's a safe program for me," says Olds.

The annuity provides her with a steady stream of income for life, while creating a legacy in her name for future generations.

You can make history too.

A planned gift to UConn costs you little or nothing during your lifetime. You can remember UConn in your will or estate plan, or invest in a number of other options.

*For more information about planned giving, contact Hal Reed at 860-486-6135 or visit [www.foundation.uconn.edu/cga](http://www.foundation.uconn.edu/cga)*

Our University. Our Moment.

THE CAMPAIGN FOR  
**UConn**



*The University of Connecticut*

**FOUNDATION**  
INCORPORATED

**Invest in UConn. We'll all benefit.**





34 North Eagleville Road  
Storrs, CT 06269-3144

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Hartford, CT  
Permit No. 4759

# Marching to a Husky tune

**T**he UConn Marching Band dates back to the formation of a military band of cadets in 1904. The band has performed at the 1992 Presidential Inaugural Parade, 1996 World Series, NFL games and, of course, Husky football games at Memorial Stadium and at Rentschler Field. Today, under the direction of David Mills, professor of music in the School of Fine Arts, the band includes about 300 students from 17 states, encompassing nearly every academic major at the University.

*For a glimpse into the unique history and culture of UConn's Marching Band, use your smartphone's barcode scanner application to scan the Quick Response Code at right. Keep in mind that your mobile device must have a QR code reader installed in order to scan QR codes and display its contents. Don't have a smartphone? Visit [bit.ly/aacjWb](http://bit.ly/aacjWb) to view the video.*



**Mixed Sources**

Product group from well-managed forests, controlled sources and recycled wood or fiber

[www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org) Cert no. SW-COC-001215  
© 1996 Forest Stewardship Council

