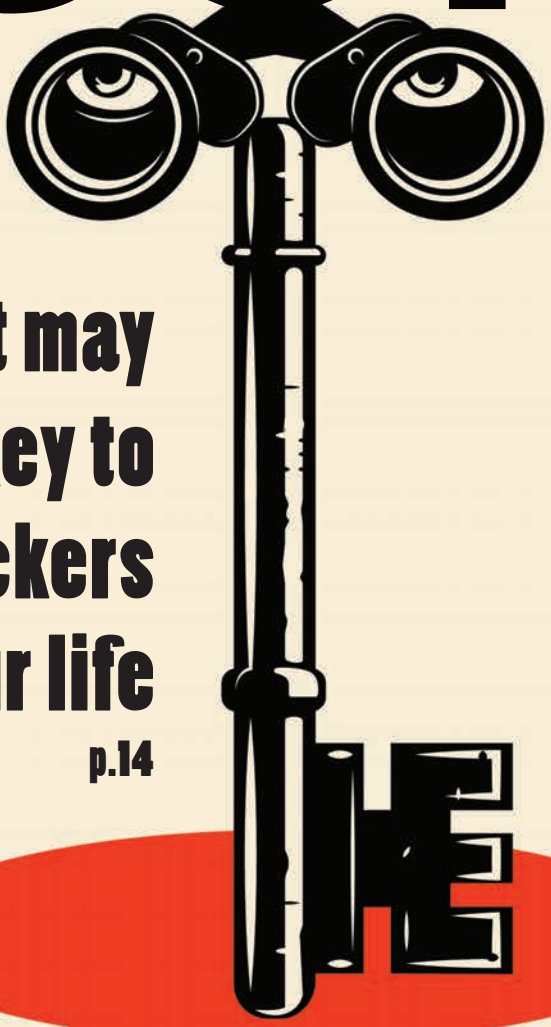
UCONN MAGAZINE

MAY 2016



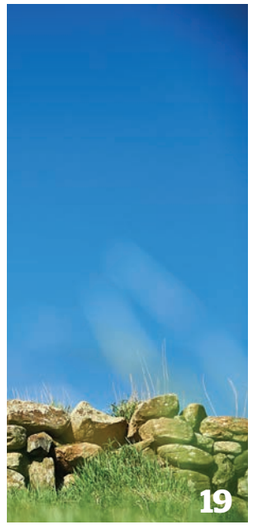
A lab that may hold the key to keeping hackers out of your life

p.14

SNAP!

Stars Over Jacobson Barn

The iconic red clapboarded barn on Horsebarn Hill, a favorite spot for graduation photos, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as Farwell Barn, named for its original owners. Even the official register, though, nods to the familiar “other name” Jacobson Barn, for the subsequent owners who sold it to UConn. The listing describes it as “one of a dwindling number of historic resources that recall Mansfield’s long history as a primarily agricultural community.” UConn videographer Angelina Reyes, who captured this shot, says, “I waited for a clear night. No clouds. Just stars. I took one photograph with a 30-second exposure every two seconds over a two-hour period. I then went into Photoshop and stacked each image on top of the other to create star trails.” Watch a time-lapse video of the stars and see historical photos of the barn at s.uconn.edu/barn.



FEATURES

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WEB EXCLUSIVES

magazine.uconn.edu

CURLING WITH STEVE EMT
See Emt tell the story of how he went from UConn basketball walk-on to Paralympic curler. And watch some curling, of course! s.uconn.edu/steveemt.

A HIGHLY SELECTIVE HISTORY OF UCONN ROTC
Celebrate the 100th anniversary of the nation's ROTC program with these eclectic photos from the University Archives. s.uconn.edu/rotc.

SWEET POTATO FRIES WITH MAPLE DIPPING SAUCE QUICK VID
Not sure how to slice a curved sweet potato into straight planks? s.uconn.edu/springrecipes.

A GEOLOGIST'S TOUR OF STORRS CAMPUS
Get your rocks on with Professor Robert Thorson. s.uconn.edu/stonewalls.

CAMPAIGN SEASON
Wondering who Sullivan was or why they didn't want Eleanor? Get campaign button info. s.uconn.edu/buttons.

TOM'S TRIVIA
Find out how your UConn knowledge stacks up against Tom's. s.uconn.edu/maytrivia.

Cover Illustration by:
Hoodzpah Design Co.

Table of Contents Photo/Illustration Credits, clockwise from bottom left: Chris Piascik , Hoodzpah Design Co., Peter Morenus (4).

FROM THE EDITOR

Stories abound about what a certain professor can do to inspire a single student. How one lecture, one class, one thesis can be life-changing, even world-changing.

It was a community college biology instructor who introduced author Rebecca Skloot to the name "Henrietta Lacks." After his lecture about cell division that included a bit about Lacks's now famous He-La cells and the doctors who harvested them without her consent, Skloot asked for more information about Lacks. Her professor said he didn't know anything more, and why didn't she do some research and write a paper for extra credit? Twenty-two years later she sent him that paper — in the form of her best-selling book *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*.

I heard Skloot tell that story at UConn's Jorgensen Auditorium last fall. She was there because John Malone and Mark Longo, professors in UConn's Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, had assigned Skloot's book to their Introduction to Genetics class. They had then listened and responded when their students were so enthusiastic about the book they asked those professors to help them get Skloot to campus so they could meet her.

Putting this issue together I found myself thinking about Skloot and Lacks often because of another inspirational UConn genetics professor, Stormy Chamberlain. If only Henrietta Lacks had known Stormy Chamberlain!

Chamberlain invites the families of her research subjects, who have a disease called Angelman Syndrome, to open-lab days at her UConn Farmington facility. At the most recent of these, I was struck by the knowledge and passion her graduate students displayed while fielding questions from parents of Angelman children. "I do this as much for the grad students as for the parents," Chamberlain told me as the day was getting under way. "They will be more engaged in their research if they know who it is for."

I can't help but envision these lab-coated students as the next generation of genetics professors and wonder if, inspired by this one professor, they will take research transparency to yet another place we cannot envision today.

Or perhaps they will become science writers like Skloot. After all, it was yet another professor who put Skloot on that particular path. A writing professor, whose class she was taking to satisfy an elective during her quest for a Biology degree, told her she would make a terrific science writer and not to be afraid to give up a long-held goal in favor of a new goal.

Had she not taken his class and had he not given her that advice, Skloot said during her talk at Jorgensen, she would be a veterinarian today and she would still be wondering who Henrietta Lacks was. As would the rest of the world. Skloot added, "You never know what random sentence from a teacher might change a student's life."

Lisa T. Stiepock

Postdoctoral researcher Jack Hsiao explains some of the work he does with genetics professor Stormy Chamberlain to Angelman families during an open-lab day.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

"BRIDGE OF SPIES" ACTOR CREDITS UCONN FOR HIS MAGNANIMITY

When **Austin Stowell '07 (SFA)** works on a film, he always tries to thank everyone on set — from the other actors to the light and sound crews. Every film is a team effort, and each person involved has a dream and a vision, says the 31-year-old "Bridge of Spies" actor. It's a lesson he learned at UConn, and one he vows not to forget.

In his dramatic arts classes, Stowell says he was required to participate in all aspects of a production, which makes him grateful for the work of everyone around him. He adds that his performances at the Connecticut Repertory Theatre gave him the stage experience he needed to win roles.

Most recently, he played American U2 spy plane pilot Francis Gary Powers in Steven Spielberg's "Bridge of Spies," which received six Academy Award nominations and won one for Mark Rylance as Best Supporting Actor.

Stowell's character is captured behind enemy lines and eventually is part of the prisoner exchange that the entire movie revolves around.

"My favorite days were on location [in Berlin] for the final exchange," says Stowell. "Despite the cold and long hours, it was incredibly surreal to look around and be surrounded by such talent. The talent went far past that of Spielberg, [Tom] Hanks, and Rylance. It was the team of production designers who had transformed that bridge to its appearance in the early '60s, the lighting crews who had set lights a mile across the water, the extras sitting perched in the guard towers for hours without complaint ... It was this giant, collaborative effort, and I was so proud to be a part of it."

A Kensington, Conn., native, Stowell picked up acting in high school after he was sidelined by a sports injury and friends encouraged him to try out for his senior play.

"I just fell in love with acting," Stowell says. "I just immersed myself in it."

He still keeps in touch with a few UConn professors and credits them for his success, in particular assistant professors Kristin Wold and Greg Webster and retired professor Robert McDonald, who established an endowment fund that helps acting students study in London. It's an opportunity Stowell wishes he had had. Traveling abroad is important for growth as an actor and as a person, he says.

After graduating from UConn, Stowell stopped briefly in Martha's Vineyard before making his way to Los Angeles, where he auditioned for film roles during the day and bartended at night.

"Trying to make it as a bartender-actor out here is really not an easy gig," he says, explaining that he had to work late nights and then wake up early to learn scripts and attend auditions. He often lacked sleep.

Fortunately, Stowell no longer has to pour drinks to pay the bills.

His big break came in 2009 when he landed the role of Jesse in the TV series "The Secret Life of the American Teenager." Next came the movie "Dolphin Tale" and the TNT series "Public Morals." He's worked alongside Hollywood greats and even spent holidays with them.

"Mr. Hanks and Mr. Spielberg invited me to Thanksgiving dinner," says Stowell. "The restaurant had prepared the meal based on their mothers' recipes, and to top it all off, my brother happened to be in town and was invited to join us as well. Plenty to be thankful for that day." —*AMANDA FALCONE '05 (CLAS)*

Stowell's advice to aspiring actors: "It is so difficult to get your first break out here. People ask for advice all of the time, and it is so hard to know what to say, because everyone has a different story. Put in the work, and control what you can."

What can you control? "You can control your looks and you can control whether you are prepared: whether you are well-studied and know the material."

His big break: "The Secret Life of the American Teenager"

His favorite UConn memory: "The two [basketball] championships happened my freshman year [2004]. It was amazing. I still watch every game."

Left and above: Stowell as Francis Gary Powers in "Bridge of Spies"

Jaap Buitendijk/DreamWorks

COVETED CLASS

ENGL 4600W: Sherlock Holmes and Comparative Media

The Instructor
Pamela Bedore, associate professor and writing coordinator, Avery Point campus. Bedore's courses The Vampire in Literature and Culture and The Monster in Literature and Culture, known affectionately as "Vampire Lit" and "Monster Lit," have been extremely popular with students. She's taught all manner of courses, including Stephen King and Cultural Theory; Gender Theory and Genre Fiction; American Detective Fiction; and Modern Canadian Literature (she grew up in Ontario); as well as undergrad staples, such as Freshman Writing; The Short Story; and Poetry.

Class Description
Sherlock Holmes and Comparative Media examines the phenomenon of Holmes both as a literary character in the 60 canon stories written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and as an iconic figure appearing across multiple media, including print, graphic novel, film, and television.

"The question I want to get at," says Bedore, "is why this character is such a persistent cultural icon. Why are there TV series and movies every year when this is an effete brainiac detective from 1887?

"Writers have been picking this character out and writing new stories around him almost from the beginning. Watson, too, of course. And Irene Adler — she only appears in one story. Moriarty? He only appears in two. Why do those characters get so much prominence in our culture? There are scion societies, who meet and do Holmes quizzes and presentations, all over the country. Why? I'll hold off on answers and let students ponder these questions."

Bedore's Teaching Style
Students will "acclimate," says Bedore, by reading 10 short stories and all four novels from Doyle's canon, which comprises 56 shorts and the novels. They'll also watch the current TV shows "Elementary" and "Sherlock" and recent movies, such as "Sherlock Holmes,"

English professor Pamela Bedore in the Branford House on the Avery Point campus. Bedore teaches popular classes, such as "The Vampire in Popular Literature and Culture" and "Sherlock Holmes and Comparative Media" at Avery Point.

"Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," and "Mr. Holmes."

By week four, students will have chosen an individual research topic about which they will write 500 to 1,000 words weekly. They will read one another's work in groups while continuing to read from Doyle's canon and the "fanon" — stories by contemporary authors starring Holmes and crew.

All along, the students are asking those central questions of why the character has endured and what is his impact on popular culture.

"But," says Bedore, and she may as well be rubbing her palms together, "now we get to the subquestions: Is pop lit subversive or conservative? Is it opium for the masses, or really challenging people to think about issues? What does this text do for us culturally? If you're a big fan of Sherlock Holmes, what does that mean to your own identity? And what do writers get out of it?"

When and Where
Fall 2016 at UConn Avery Point campus

Why We Want to Take It Ourselves
Because Bedore consumes knowledge like a vampire, sleuths out fun teaching techniques like a dime store detective, and is fiercely passionate, really funny, and consistently thought-provoking.

Her ardor for her subjects is addictive, contagious. And it takes us to surprising places.

When asked whether she might teach a class called Zombie Lit, she delivered a discourse in what seemed like one breath that began with the fact that her Monster Lit capstone includes zombie literature "because it's fascinating," picked up speed when she mentioned how "it's really easy to think of zombies as consumers," and ended in a mini lesson on this country's ongoing financial crisis and the statement, "That's why they're called zombie banks and vampire loans."
—LISA STIEPOCK

COLLECTIONS

CAMPAIGN BUTTONS
The Thomas J. Dodd Research Center is home to hundreds of political pins dating from 1936 to 1968. This memorabilia is part of a collection donated by Herman Wolf, who worked on the campaigns of many Connecticut politicians, including Governor John Dempsey and Senator Abe Ribicoff. **Wonder who Sullivan is? Go to s.uconn.edu/buttons.**

Peter Morenus (2)

UCONN TALKS

"We could see the [red tide] from space. It's the first time anyone's ever done that."

Heidi Dierssen, associate professor of marine sciences and geography. She was part of a team that identified plankton from space using images from a camera at the International Space Station.

Student Science
Dec. 1, 2015

"I DON'T THINK UCONN EVER HAS A REBUILDING YEAR. I DON'T THINK WE REBUILD. WE JUST RELOAD."

— SENIOR BREANNA STEWART, AFTER WINNING HER FOURTH NCAA TITLE AS A HUSKY.

The Associated Press
April 6, 2016

"In a democracy (or at a public land-grant university) that protects freedom of expression, there are still two options when encountering speech we find offensive: Filter out the speech with a 'safe space' or counter it with robust speech of our own. What college needs to be is a hybrid of those two options — it should be a safe space for debate."

Marie Shanahan, assistant professor of journalism
The Chronicle of Higher Education, Jan. 31, 2016

"THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF INFORMATION — AND THE FEAR THAT IT CAN BE MANIPULATED — HAS NOT CHANGED. WHAT HAS CHANGED IS HOW WE ARE INFORMED ABOUT POLITICS OR ANYTHING ELSE, OR HOW WE AREN'T."

Michael P. Lynch, professor of philosophy, on how "Googling is believing."

The New York Times, March 9, 2016

"IT'S LIKE CARRYING A CASINO IN YOUR POCKET."

David Greenfield, professor of psychiatry, on the dangers of cellphone addiction.

THE WASHINGTON POST, FEB. 10, 2016

"MANY PEOPLE ARE IN A CIRCADIAN FOG, WHERE OUR PHYSIOLOGY IS CONFUSED. THE CIRCADIAN SYSTEM IS NOT GETTING A CLEAR SIGNAL OF DAY VERSUS NIGHT."

Richard Stevens, cancer epidemiologist at the School of Medicine, on how light pollution is having adverse effects on our health.

The New York Times, April 7, 2016

Amar Batra/*The Daily Campus*

MAKING GOOD

HUSKYTHON '16 RAISES MORE THAN $700,000

This year's Huskython saw more than 2,500 students dance 18 hours and raise a record-breaking $716,395 for the Connecticut Children's Medical Center — enough to build a recovery and rehab addition. It also caught the attention of Taylor Swift, who donated $1,989 on behalf of fan **Igor Lekontsev '18**, shown at left with his team. —*MEGAN KREMENTOWSKI '16*

University of Connecticut Archives

TRADITIONS

HOLD YOUR FIRE

For the country's 100th anniversary of ROTC, we asked former cadet **Nick Hurley '13 (CLAS) '15 MA**, who now works at the University Archives, to find and caption photos, including this one taken in the Armory circa 1920. "Based on their surroundings, the fact that they are so close to their targets, and that other cadets are in the line of fire, I'm confident this is not a live-fire exercise," says Hurley, with a smile. "They are likely being taught marksmanship basics. They would then move to the basement, where the live-fire target practice would take place."

For much more, go to s.uconn.edu/rotc.

IN DEVELOPMENT

OVARIAN CANCER DOESN'T NEED TO BE A DEATH SENTENCE

Ovarian cancer relapses are deadly, but a pioneering vaccine that could prevent them has just entered clinical trials at UConn Health. The experimental vaccine, named OncoImmunome, is administered as a simple injection in an outpatient setting.

It works by boosting the patient's immune response to enable it to destroy ovarian cancer cells so that they do not replicate.

The genetic differences between the surface proteins on a patient's healthy and cancerous cells constitute the fingerprint of that particular patient's cancer, which is unlike the fingerprint of any other person's cancer. Based on these variations, scientists create a personalized vaccine.

"This is the first vaccine of its kind developed for women diagnosed with advanced ovarian cancer," says Dr. Pramod K. Srivastava, the vaccine's developer, a leading cancer immunotherapy expert, and director of the Carole and Ray Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center at UConn Health. "The personalized vaccine is specifically created using a patient's own genomics information to prevent an often life-threatening recurrence of the disease and to extend survival."

There is no early screening test for ovarian cancer. When a woman with the disease starts to actually experience nonspecific abdominal symptoms such as bloating, the disease has often already advanced to stage III or stage IV cancer. Further, there is no effective long-term treatment for ovarian cancer. Even after a woman is successfully treated with traditional surgery and chemotherapy, the disease has a very high recurrence rate within just two years. Tragically, most women die within five years of their diagnosis.

But Srivastava believes that appropriate immunotherapy may stop an ovarian cancer diagnosis from becoming a death sentence. —*LAUREN WOODS*

Nathan Oldham

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

VINCENT TURNIER '19

For this freshman engineering student from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, UConn is a land of opportunity.

Why did you choose to come to UConn?
I wanted to go to a school where there's a lot of school spirit, where kids really love their school.

Has it met those expectations?
Oh, yes! Anywhere you go and see someone who goes to UConn it's an instant connection. My parents say it's like I've joined a cult. They used to tease me about it more. Now when I talk to my dad he's like, "Go UConn!"

How was the transition from Port-au-Prince to Storrs?
I did not think winter was going to be that cold — compared to 90-degree weather all the time! No, but the biggest difference is you have a lot more opportunities here. So many more, compared to Haiti. Here, if I'm motivated to do something, I'm sure I'll find people who can help me and who will push me to do it.

Did anything else about campus surprise you?
It's so big. In Haiti you know everyone; it's easy to talk to people. Here you can meet someone one day and never see them again. It's harder to make friends. So now I'm more open to everything. I've learned not to wait for people to come to me. I have to make it happen.

Have you always been interested in engineering?
Always. I've always loved engineering. As a kid I would take my gifts apart — like electric cars — and make something else out of them. When I got older and stopped getting gifts, I got into coding. So the only question is, what kind of engineer will I be? For a while I was moving from electrical to civil, but now I'm back to electrical. I want to design an electric car. I can't discuss the details, but it will be different from anything out there now.

I'm always building things. When I was 15 or 16, I asked my dad what I could do to help the family, and he said he had some beekeeping stuff. So I started raising bees, making honey. And then I found other beekeepers and started a cooperative.

It sounds like you're interested in business, too.
I did the [School of Business] Innovation Quest. It was a great experience finding so many people who think alike.

Innovation Quest matches students who have ideas with mentors who can help them. What was your idea?
I'm working on a website that helps student entrepreneurs find the tools and people to help them create something. It's called COSUP, for college start-up.

Name a favorite class.
Economics 1200. I love it. It makes you think a different way. I feel like I can apply it to everything. We had a lesson in opportunity cost, and I've already started being more efficient. For instance, I changed the routes I took to classes today.

Will you go back to Haiti after graduation?
Yes, of course. This is what motivates me. I want to be able to help the people of Haiti. I'll continue beekeeping and work to expand agricultural growth. That's what the country needs. Engineering is to accomplish my dream. Agriculture is to help people. —*LISA STIEPOCK*

IN GOOD HEALTH

HELP FOR ANXIOUS PARENTS WHO WANT THEIR KIDS FREE FROM ANXIETY

Children of anxious parents are at an increased risk for developing the disorder. Yet that does not need to be the case, according to research by UConn professor of psychiatry and UConn Health psychologist Golda S. Ginsburg.

Ginsburg and colleagues at Johns Hopkins University tested a one-year family therapy intervention and found that only 9 percent of children who participated in a therapist-directed intervention developed anxiety after one year, as compared to 21 percent in a group that received written instruction and 31 percent in a group that did not receive any therapy or written instruction.

"The finding underscores the vulnerability of offspring of anxious parents," says Ginsburg. She wants to do something about that vulnerability. "If we can identify kids at risk, let's try and prevent this." —*KIM KRIEGER*

Learn more at s.uconn.edu/anxiety.

Peter Morenus

BRICKS & MORTAR

HAIL AND FAREWELL

UCONN JOHN DEMPSEY HOSPITAL NEW TOWER, FARMINGTON

The new patient care tower (above) at UConn John Dempsey Hospital on the campus of UConn Health in Farmington, Conn., comprises 11 floors and houses key patient areas, including the emergency department, surgery suite, MRI suite, renal dialysis, respiratory therapy, inpatient rehab (orthopaedics, rehab gym, and work space), clinical support, and patient education space. There is an upper-floor walkway that connects the new tower to the existing hospital.

DISCOVERY DRIVE IN STORRS: A NEW CAMPUS ENTRANCE

A new road called Discovery Drive now connects North Hillside Road to Route 44, providing access to the site of the in-progress UConn Technology Park and easing traffic congestion on Route 195. The extension includes a two-lane road, bike lane, and sidewalk. Large culverts under the bridges along the drive allow wildlife to pass under the new road. Along with access to the Tech Park, Discovery Drive provides a new route to the heart of the campus, including the North Garage, which improves the flow of event traffic.

TORRINGTON CAMPUS CLOSES

UConn will shutter its Torrington campus at the end of the spring semester, based on declining enrollment. Every UConn Torrington student will have the opportunity to continue at another UConn campus.

TASTE OF STORRS

Named for UConn benefactors Charles and Augustus Storrs, Chuck & Augie's is a professor hangout and a favorite place to take parents. We especially love their farm-to-table menu in spring and summer, when local goods abound.

SWEET POTATO FRIES WITH MAPLE DIPPING SAUCE

To make the Sweet Potato Fries:
2 sweet potatoes
4 cups vegetable oil
¼ teaspoon salt

Peel sweet potatoes and cut off ends. Slice potatoes into ¼-inch-thick planks. Then slice planks into ⅛-inch strips. Soak in water for 1 to 2 hours. Drain and pat dry with paper towels. Heat oil in pan and bring to 350 degrees. Carefully place planks in oil and fry for 4 to 5 minutes. Remove fries and place on paper towels to absorb excess grease. Sprinkle with salt and serve with Maple Dipping Sauce.

To make the Maple Dipping Sauce:
2 tablespoons plus 2 teaspoons Grade A local maple syrup
8 ounces confectioners' sugar
3 tablespoons water

Combine all ingredients in a mixing bowl and whisk until smooth. Leftovers? Ice a cake!

A perpetual best seller

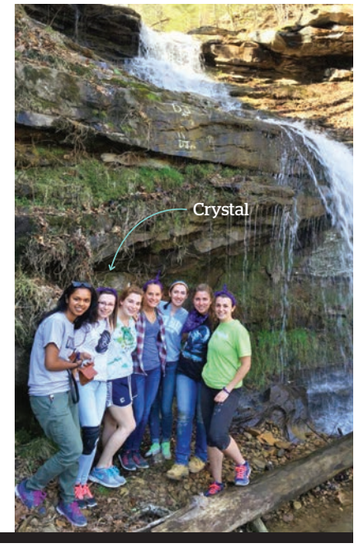
Spicy Tuna Salad

Mediterranean Salmon

Visit s.uconn.edu/springrecipes for the salmon and tuna recipes and to watch the fries being made.

FIELD NOTES

UCONN'S ALT SPRING BREAK PHENOMENON



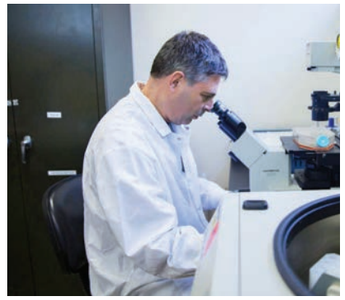
Alternative Spring Breaks are a growing trend at UConn, and our campus ranks fourth in the nation for students who participate in the trips. I was one of 350 students who went on 16 Community Outreach trips this year that focused on such diverse topics as homelessness, HIV/AIDS awareness and advocacy, coastal environment preservation, rural poverty, urban poverty, civil rights, and public health.

I chose to go on a Mystery Trip this year, so I knew the topic would be rural poverty, but found out at the last minute our destination would be West Virginia. Fifty-one students from the Storrs and Stamford campuses traveled there to work with the Southern Appalachian Labor School (SALS) on substantial rehabilitations of homes for low-income families in Fayette County. I was inspired to see firsthand the beauty of what a community can do when it comes together to address an issue, such as poverty. The people there rely on one another, their faith, and organizations like SALS to educate themselves both academically and skillwise so that they can obtain food, housing, and jobs to support their families. Everyone deserves to have these basic needs met, and I've been inspired by my Alt Break experiences to use my education — a double major in Psychological Science and in Human Development and Family Studies — to help my own community. Whether as a school guidance counselor or a direct social worker, I plan to continue my passion for service. —*CRYSTAL MASTRANGELO '17 (CLAS)*

IN DEVELOPMENT

A VACCINE FOR ZIKA?

Paulo Verardi was working on a Zika virus vaccine before most of us knew the disease existed.



For more from Verardi on the vaccine and the virus, including how best to protect yourself, go to s.uconn.edu/zikavirus.

Pathobiology and Veterinary Science professor Paulo Verardi started designing a vaccine for the Zika virus last fall. **As told to Elaina Hancock:**

I'm originally from Brazil, and I read the Brazilian news in Portuguese every day during my lunch break. Back in October, I was particularly puzzled by the news that this one particular hospital reported two babies being born with microcephaly on the same day. Microcephaly is rare, so at that point Brazilian health officials quickly considered a link between the Zika infection and the birth defect, and in November they found the virus in the amniotic fluid of two pregnant women whose fetuses had microcephaly. In January, a Brazilian research team showed that the virus seems to cross the placental barrier that normally protects the fetus from infections.

Since past outbreaks were uncommon and the disease typically mild, no vaccine or therapies for the disease have yet been developed. So back in November, as I read the news about the outbreak, I immediately started working on the development of a vaccine. I specifically work on vaccine platforms and, together with my students at UConn, had just finished the development of a new method to quickly develop vaccines. I then asked Brittany Jasperse, a pathobiology Ph.D. student in my laboratory, to use our method to design a number of vaccines for Zika. Brittany is now working diligently to advance this process, and we expect to test the immunogenicity of these new vaccines very shortly. The Brazilian ambassador contacted me and helped expedite the process of getting Zika samples to our team.

How far off is a vaccine? The pathway to a licensed vaccine is a long one. First, vaccines must be developed and tested in preclinical trials with animal models. That is what our group is doing now. If the vaccine is shown to be safe and efficacious, it eventually progresses into human clinical trials. The whole process takes years; just consider the fact that we still don't have a licensed Ebola virus vaccine, although we are close to it.

This is truly a very special emerging disease. Unlike Ebola virus infection that causes severe symptoms and in most cases death, infection with Zika virus is typically asymptomatic, but sadly extremely consequential for pregnant women and their babies. It's really an unprecedented, fluid situation, with much more to learn.

Facing page: Peter Morenus; top: Paulina Rowe; bottom: Lauren Schneiderman/*Hartford Courant*

BLACK HATS, CYBER BOTS, ZOMBIES, AND YOU

This Cybersecurity Lab Is Beating Computer Hackers at Their Own Game.

Written by Colin Poitras '85 (CLAS) **Illustrations by** Hoodzpah Design Co.

It's finals week and Tom, a UConn senior, is crazed. He has three tests in two days. His car loan is due. His student loan payment is due. His roommate is an all-day partier who never gives him a moment's rest back at the dorm. Desperate for a quiet place to work, Tom heads to a library off campus. It's one of his favorite places to study and it offers free Wi-Fi. He throws down his backpack and pulls out his laptop. Finally. Peace. He logs on. The laptop immediately attaches to the library's wireless connection. Tom calls up his bank, logs in to his checking account, and makes a quick loan payment for his car. Done. Now the student loan. He logs in to the loan service, accesses his account. Paid. Done.

In a study carrel in another part of the library, Tina, a bright young lady with a gift for computing and a keen resentment for all of the preppy college kids in town, has set up an alternate Wi-Fi base on her laptop. Her network identifies itself by the same name as the library's network and is coded to override it. Library visitors' laptops recognize the familiar Wi-Fi and automatically connect. All of their information — the sites they visit, their logins, their passwords, their emails, their Facebook posts — are now funneling through Tina's bogus network and straight to her hard drive. She sits back and smiles. Tina has bills to pay too. And Tom's information was just what she was waiting for.

Lisa wasn't looking forward to the confrontation. Her aging mother, bedridden with different ailments and dependent on care, was really angry this time. For months she had suspected Sarah, her live-in nurse, was stealing her money. And now, the latest bank statement confirmed it. On top of it all, Sarah always seemed to be on her iPad when Lisa's mother needed her. The chest pains were back. The small automatic defibrillator under her mother's skin activated twice in the past two months. The stress wasn't good.

Lisa enters the house. She eyes Sarah, who is standing, her back to her, at the kitchen counter — again on her computer. Lisa walks into her mother's room, careful to speak softly so their conversation won't be overheard. Within a few minutes, Lisa notices her mother's color start to change. She seems to have trouble breathing. Sweat builds on her upper lip. She tells Lisa she feels strange, like her heart is racing out of control. The device in her chest keeps vibrating, sending sharp shocks into her heart muscles. The shocks are getting stronger. Her mother cries out in pain. Lisa calls frantically for Sarah. No response. Her mother goes limp.

Back in the kitchen, Sarah quietly shuts down her iPad and walks toward the bedroom.

Megan is driving her new sedan to the mall to get her nails done before going to work at the deli down the road. She decides she has time for a coffee and heads for her regular caffeine spot, where barista Tim likes to flirt with her by writing funny names on her cup. Never just "Megan." She waits for the oncoming traffic to clear and turns left into the plaza. But the car keeps going straight. She spins the steering wheel. Nothing. Pumps the brakes. Nothing. The car accelerates toward the next intersection while Megan continues pumping the brakes wildly. Nothing.

She's about to collide with a black pickup truck covered in skull decals when the car slams to a stop. The light turns green. Traffic moves forward. With her foot pushing the brake pedal to the floor as hard as she can, Megan's car rockets forward. Two towns away, Brian leans back in his ergonomic desk chair, grinning at a wall full of screens depicting moving cars — including Megan's.

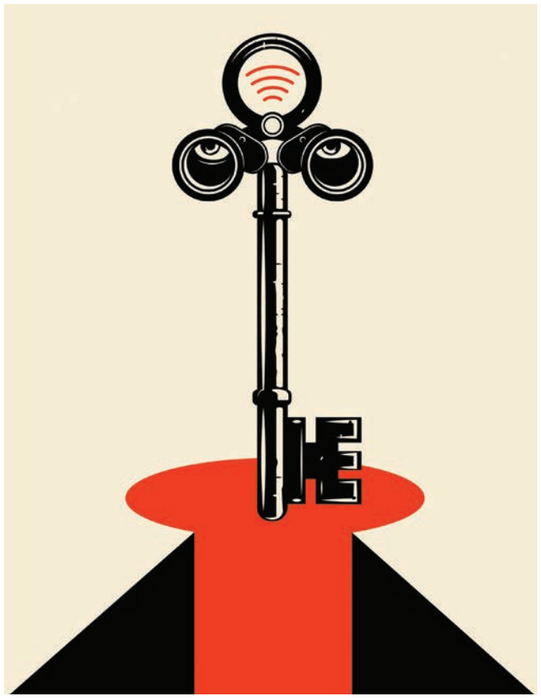
“The battle between the white hats and the black hats is constant.”

Cyberattacks come in all shapes and sizes. And while the scenarios here are fictitious, experts say it could be only a matter of time before they pose a real threat to our daily lives. The electronic devices in our world today are interconnected like never before. Our cars are no longer machines but rolling PCs with different components constantly talking to one another. Our watches are telephones. Our telephones are high-speed computers. And with all this increased convenience comes greater vulnerability. In the constant rush to get new products to market, security can be an afterthought.

Fortunately, a crack team of cybersecurity specialists, led by John Chandy, an electrical and computer engineering professor, and Laurent Michel, an associate professor of computer science and engineering, is working to protect our information. UConn’s Comcast Center of Excellence for Security Innovation is advancing research to strengthen the nation’s electronic information networks and training a new generation of hardware, software, and network security engineers to protect the integrity of everything from small consumer electronics to the complex computer systems running our major industrial, financial, and transportation systems.

Secured behind passcode-protected entry doors, the Comcast lab is embedded deep inside one of UConn’s main academic buildings. Getting there can be an adventure.

If you visit the lab via the building’s main door, you must go down a set of stairs, along a long hallway to the rear of the building, then it’s a quick left, quick right, another left, up a ramp, through some fire doors, past the locked doors of several large humming mechanical rooms, another right, another left, yet another right, and finally a quick left, and you are there. Or you might be. It’s hard to be sure, because there is absolutely no indication of where the lab is on any of the directional office signs. Even next to the lab’s main door there is only a small 9- by 6-inch plaque in letters slightly larger than what you are reading here.



WHITE HAT HACKERS

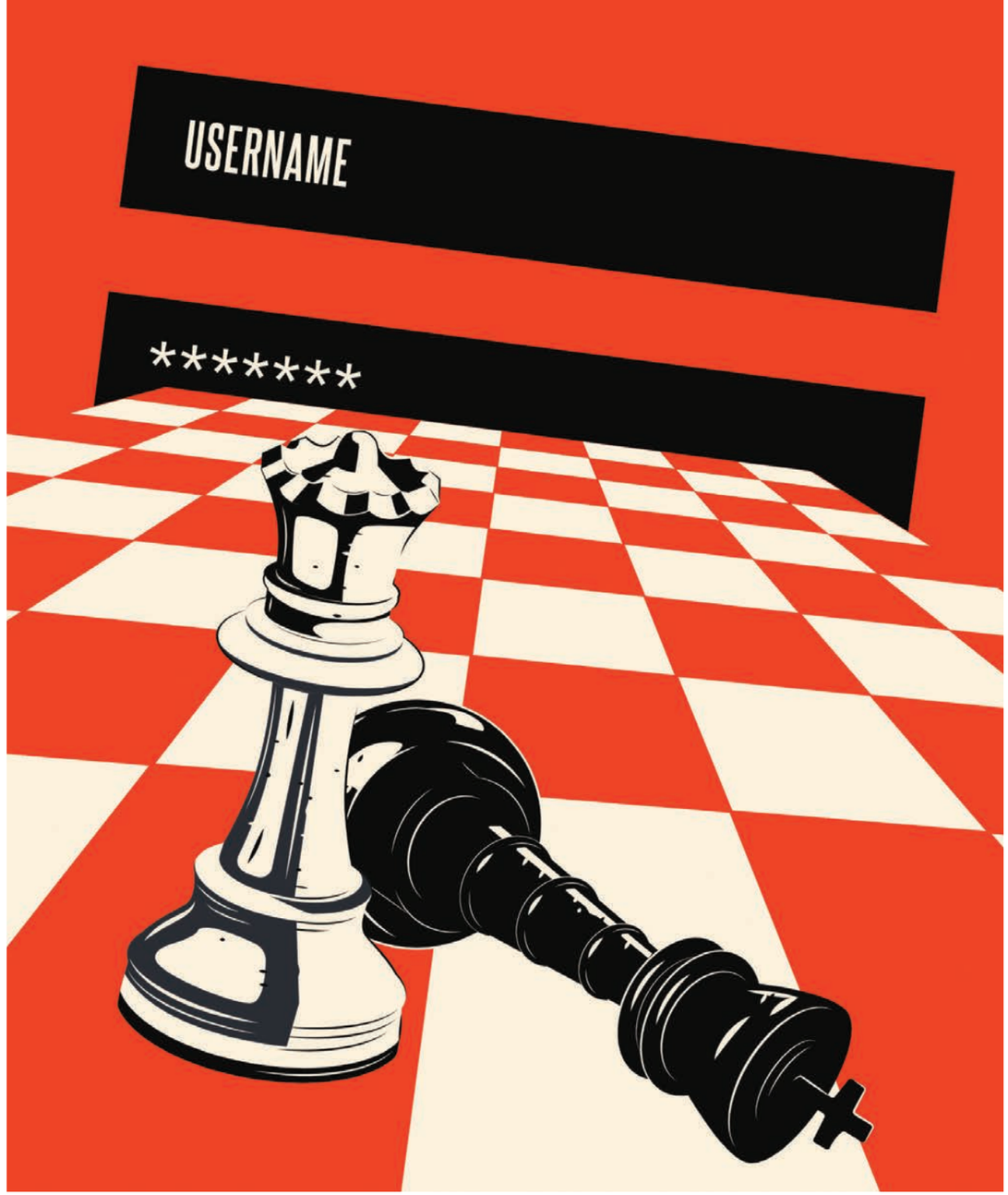
Talk to Michel or Chandy for a few minutes and you begin to get a sense of what life is like in their world of electronic espionage. And if you leave feeling a little paranoid, well, that’s to be expected.

Michel will tell you that the world is filled with hackers and malicious machines known as zombies, or computer bots, which hackers have seized via remote control and without their owners’ knowledge or permission. Those machines are constantly scouring the Internet trying to steal information from your, my, and everyone else’s computers. From the moment you open your laptop and connect to the Internet, your computer is likely getting assaulted by malicious attacks, Michel says. If your computer’s security is good and you keep current with all the latest security updates, chances are you’re successfully fending off most of them... for now. But hackers are a relentless and mischievous bunch. All it takes is one click on a bogus email, one click on an infected website, and the black hat hackers are in.

The good news is that amid the piles of green motherboards, electrical wiring, testing equipment, and computer consoles, Chandy, Michel, and a team of about a half-dozen very talented graduate and undergraduate students are playing the role of said hackers. Here, however, they are the good guys. Michel likes to describe the team as “ethical hackers,” white hats probing ever deeper into Comcast’s hardware and computing systems to expose potential vulnerabilities.

The battle between the white hats and the black hats is constant. Cybersecurity is an ever-shifting landscape as new technologies, system updates, viruses, worms, and attack strategies emerge on the Internet.

“John and I are constantly on the lookout for what’s happening,” says Michel. “What are the new vulnerabilities? What are the latest



CSI CYBER — UCONN

More than 20 faculty members and more than 100 graduate students in the schools of Engineering and Business are conducting research through the Connecticut Cybersecurity Center at UConn. They are examining cryptography and cryptanalysis; data security and privacy; information fusion and data mining for Homeland Security; and trustable computing systems.

The academic research building that houses the Comcast Center of Excellence for Security Innovation houses two other major cybersecurity labs. The Center for Hardware Assurance, Security, and Engineering (CHASE) contains some of the most advanced equipment available to conduct security analysis on nanoelectronics. Its research focuses on counterfeit device detection and preserving the integrity of silicon microchips, the very cornerstones of the worldwide computer industry. The building also is home to the Center for Voting Technology Research (VoTeR Center), which investigates new technologies to ensure the integrity of the electronic voting process.

“...with all that convenience and interconnectivity comes increased vulnerability.”

attacks? To do this properly, you have to be like a surfer. You have to be on top of the wave, not behind it. You have to keep moving and always stay a little bit ahead.”

If the lab is successful at breaking into a system, that’s a good thing. Exposing a vulnerability in the lab gives vendors the opportunity to correct a problem before a product goes to market or to fix a problem if the product is already in circulation.

If the research team fails to get into a system, well, that’s okay too. That means the system’s designers are on top of their game and did a great job protecting the system’s integrity and locking it tight.

Since it opened, Chandy says the lab has made significant discoveries that helped vendors and saved consumers considerable headache. But because of the often secretive nature of the lab’s work and its basis in security, the limelight of commercial success doesn’t always extend to the lab’s cubicles and workbenches.

When students find a potential vulnerability in a system, the lab immediately notifies the vendor or system provider so the weakness can be addressed. A lot of times, news of the discovery stops there. Chandy recounts a time when he and other lab members heard of a significant system vulnerability being discussed at a national cybersecurity conference. It sounded familiar. Chandy turned to his colleagues and whispered, “Didn’t we find that months ago?” Such is the nature of the business.

“The lab we have here is pretty unique for a university,” says Chandy. “A lot of times, the way we get into these systems is not necessarily through back doors. I would call them testing and debugging phases,” Chandy says. “One of the things a vendor wants to do when they release these systems is they want to test it. So they leave the interfaces open so we can do just that.”

THE INTERNET OF THINGS

Some of the latest technology on the market involves what Chandy calls, the Internet of Things. People used to have a personal computer that did one job. A watch that did another. A telephone that had its uses and a TV or thermostat with separate functions. Now, with the Internet of Things, all of those devices are capable of interacting and talking to one another. You can turn up your home thermostat from work using your smart phone. You can check your email on your watch and pay your bills through your TV.

But with all that convenience and interconnectivity comes increased vulnerability. Keeping your information safe on all those different platforms is this team’s task.

“We’re mainly looking at things from a hardware level, those devices that are going out in the field and whether they are properly protected. We try to come up with scenarios that make sense from an attacker’s perspective,” says Chandy. “We take on the role of the hacker because if we can do it, that means a hacker can do it, too.”

As an academic lab, the Comcast Center is also a place of learning. The testing that is done here is not a matter of repetitive trial-and-error assaults, but a more deliberative, targeted, scientific process.

“Think of it like a game of Clue,” says Michel. “It’s not like we try something just to find out if it works or not. As we attempt an attack, we gather evidence along the way. That evidence may betray something about the platform, the device, the software that we are trying to test. Once we have that information, we regroup and discuss what we have learned and its implications, and then we try to develop more experiments and high-end scenarios so we can learn more. So it’s not like we have this dictionary of twenty different attacks and we try them all sequentially. It’s a much more principled approach.”

The students working in the lab operate in silence. A young woman types away intently on her keyboard. A bearded student in a New York Giants T-shirt sighs heavily, steps away from his computer for a brief break, then returns. Focused. Once again engrossed with the task before him at his work station. Two sage-green walls in the rear of the lab are covered with black ink diagrams and hastily scrawled text.

An eviscerated teddy bear sits on a desktop.

“Stress relief, John?” a visitor asks, pointing to the multicolored wires ripped out of the bear’s abdomen.

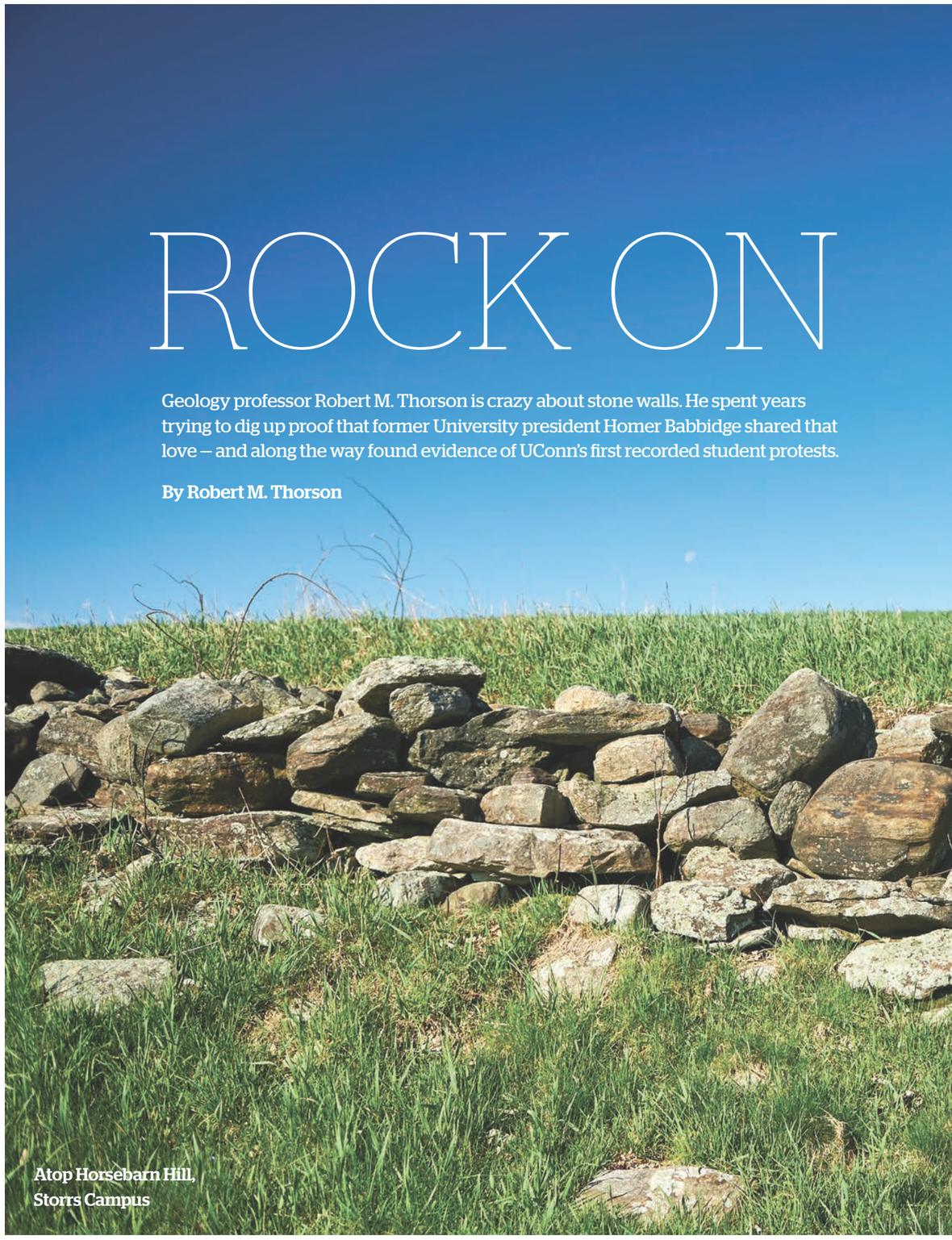
“Side project,” Chandy answers with a sly grin. Then he explains that even a children’s toy as innocuous as a teddy bear can be a personal security threat. In this case, the interactive bear has a small computer inside that Chandy’s lab found lacked authentication protection. It could be hacked, potentially exposing the owner’s and other bear owners’ personal information with a few strokes of cyber sleight-of-hand.

“The students here are developing skills that none of them had a year ago,” says Chandy. “The skills they are developing would make them great hackers. But it is also making them great engineers.”

ROCK ON

Geology professor Robert M. Thorson is crazy about stone walls. He spent years trying to dig up proof that former University president Homer Babbidge shared that love — and along the way found evidence of UConn’s first recorded student protests.

By Robert M. Thorson



Atop Horsebarn Hill, Storrs Campus

Peter Morenus

Homer Babbidge Jr., a beloved former president of the University of Connecticut, was head-over-heels in love with New England's historic stone walls.

Or so I heard when I arrived on campus to teach geology in 1984. I heard through the grapevine that during the '60s, Babbidge required students to build walls in order to graduate...that he taught credit courses on their construction...that this or that was a Babbidge-built wall...and that he left a legacy of materials documenting his efforts in the University archives.

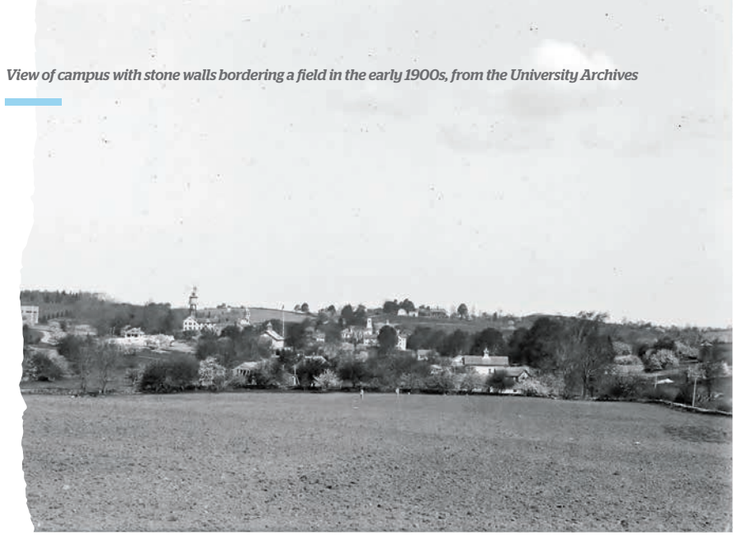
Being curious, I started trying to substantiate these rumors, asking around the Storrs campus during the late 1980s. I remember asking the reference staff of the Babbidge Library to investigate on my behalf. They found nothing. In the mid-1990s, shortly after the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center was up and running, I asked its archivists the same thing. Nothing. When the University's official history was published in 2006 as *Red Brick in the Land of Steady Habits,* I searched every page. Nothing. I even asked its lead author, Bruce Stave, if he had run across anything connecting Babbidge and stone walls during his research. Again, nothing.

Gradually and grudgingly, I concluded that the link between Homer Babbidge and New England's famous stone walls consisted of nothing more than a few just-so stories bundled into oral tradition and crystallized into institutional mythology.

Then, totally out of the blue, I learned that the rumors were true.

"The land of steady habits"

In 2003, I traveled to Islesboro, Maine, to give a speech on historic stone walls for Jack McConnell. He's a professional photographer extraordinaire who, while recovering in the hospital from a heart operation, read one of my books and became infected with the stone wall virus. Jack's reaction was to change his trade name to "Stonewall Jack," hit the back roads with his camera, print and frame dozens of enlargements, open a gallery for Islesboro's summer people, and invite me to speak at its grand opening reception. What a wonderful night it was.



View of campus with stone walls bordering a field in the early 1900s, from the University Archives

One of those summer people in the audience was Alex Babbidge, Homer's son. The Babbidge family has lived and summered on this beautiful island on the west side of Penobscot Bay since the age of sail, when their family business used clipper ships for the Atlantic trade. For reasons I can't remember, Alex, Jack, and I ended up on the front porch of the traditional Babbidge family place, eating snacks, drinking cold beer and lemonade, smelling the salt air, and discussing island geology. Waiting for the right moment, I finally asked Alex if the stories about his father's interest in stone walls were in fact true.

"Yes," he replied unequivocally, saying he had run across something in the family papers a few years earlier. Before we got down to details, however, we were interrupted by a child needing to be put to bed. As we bid each other a hasty good night, I wondered if I'd ever hear anything more.

Two years whizzed by. Then, in December 2005, I received an unexpected email from long-lost Alex. He had rediscovered the manuscript he had alluded to in Islesboro, and had already popped it in the mail. Within a few days, I was reading the unpublished text of a speech Homer had given to the Monday Evening Club in Hartford on Dec. 3, 1971, during the final phase of his presidency. This civic organization had been operating continuously in Hartford since the first decade of the 19th century, when fieldstone walls were rapidly criss-crossing the agricultural landscape of the new republic.

"How to Build a Stone Wall," the title of Homer's speech, was clearly a ruse. His main purpose was to confess — unabashedly — his "love affair with the New England stone wall." His strong feelings on this subject had been ignited when he was a student living in a far-off land devoid of stone walls: Ann Arbor, Mich. There, he realized how much he missed historic stone walls as an evocation of his New England homeland and a memorial to the hard work of previous centuries.

During his exile, Homer read and reread a favorite poem, "Mending Wall" by Robert Frost, as a "source of comfort and reassurance." Homer also recalls a poignant moment during a return to New England after some time away: "Having left the Grand Central Station at dawn, I caught sight of the first stone wall I'd seen in years. I felt I was home again; home in the land of steady habits, a land of ordered, mutually respectful relationships symbolized by those walls."

A decade later, Homer's romantic attachment to stone walls was ruptured by none other than Robert Frost himself. As a Yale graduate student, and the youngest fellow of its Pierson College, Homer attended a reading of "Mending Wall" by the elderly poet, then the most senior fellow of the college. Homer listened in "shocked disbelief" while the poet "ridiculed his farm neighbor, as he recited with nothing less than contempt, the line I most revered, 'good fences make good neighbors.'" Frost, he concluded, wrote the poem as a "trite hand-me-down" to his thoughtless and ignorant neighbor, who epitomized the old Yankee ways in southern New Hampshire.

Homer's memory of that night lay buried during the transition from University student to University president. "Now another twenty years have passed," he writes in his speech, "and I still haven't shaken the effects of that evening. I still grapple, in odd moments, with the elusive 'elves' of Mr. Frost's skepticism, and try to reconcile them with my continuing affection for the stone wall."

"I still believe in the stone wall"

By the time he had finished typing his speech, Homer had ironed out the wrinkles of his feelings about stone walls in general and the line "good fences make good neighbors" in particular. After ruminating for a few paragraphs, he concludes: "It seems important, if I am to have my hobby [of building walls] and my conscience, too, that the point be made — at least among friends — that stone walls are not simply or even necessarily, devices for fencing in or fencing out.... The New England stone wall is nothing more or less than a tidy waste-disposal system." No longer need they symbolize the "dark and hidden motivation" of excluding neighbors or, worse, of confining one's self away from significant others. Having found this personal middle ground, he concludes: "At any rate, I think I am now at peace with myself on the subject of stone walls."

Near the end of his speech, Homer recapitulates by asking: "Is building or mending walls a form of anti-social behavior?" He answers no. Resoundingly so. "I still believe in the stone wall," he continues, "not to exclude others, but to describe my

land, and in doing so, help to define myself."

Given the speech's historic context, I strongly suspect that "my land" in the sentence above refers to the campus he presided over. And that the phrase "to define myself" refers in part to the Babbidge presidency. Indeed, with his own hands Homer helped build the University of Connecticut into a modern university by gracing its grounds with walls built from the residue of an earlier era, when Charles and Augustus Storrs were thinking of donating their fields and pastures to the state for use as an agricultural school.

Homer guided the University from 1962 to 1972, a decade of turbulent unrest associated with civil rights, political assassinations, environmental politics, the women's movement, and the Vietnam War. During this time of profound societal disorder, Homer worked hard to impose architectural order on stone, to transform random fragments of rock into stable and beautiful dry-stone walls. Stonework became a hobby that defined who he was.

His stonework also can be seen as a physical metaphor for the use of his presidential authority to help prevent campus from being heaved apart...whether by frost in the ground or foment in the air. Indeed, the chaos of continuous culture change and of natural soil processes is tireless. For Homer, dry-stone masonry was also a meditation in which muscle, intellect, and soul came together in an outdoor setting.

"I won't pick rocks anymore"

To help assuage the unrest of the late '60s and early '70s, Homer pulled another trick from his bag. He reached deep into campus history to the year 1899, to a "Victorian version of the student uprising." This event was a mass campus protest against the requirement that students pick and haul stones and convert them into walls under the pretense of "instructive labor." This quote — from the desk of the president himself — confirms that wall-building by students was indeed mandatory and therefore required of graduates, whether explicitly or implicitly.

With the New England farm culture in decline, with industrialization accelerating, and with an agricultural school being transformed into an academic college, UConn students simply refused to continue the Neolithic practice of picking stones from farm fields. To rouse the crowd during their protests, they wrote what the campus newspaper called "the most popular song of the day."

Here are the lyrics from the 1890s, as quoted by Homer in his speech:

A freshman once did come to Storrs
To see what he could see.
But when he saw the rocks that lay
Scattered all over, he swore
As a freshman sometimes will and said
I won't pick rocks anymore.

And here is the chorus, as published in UConn's official history:

I won't pick rocks anymore
I have picked for years
On my father's farm and
I won't pick rocks anymore.

The students won their 1899 protest against forced field labor. But physical exercise remained crucial in the minds of educational reformers. UConn athletics — if not born in that moment — surged in importance as a part of campus life. Stretching the truth just a bit, I assert that the conversion of field-picked stone into walls was UConn's original sport, the foundation of its athletic dynasty.

Homer Daniels Babbidge Jr. established the University of Connecticut Foundation in 1964 to enhance the University's growth and prestige. He established something else that year as well. Fronting Gulley Hall is the President's Garden, the aesthetic epicenter of campus (and stop number five on the geologist's tour of Storrs campus at right). Enclosing that garden is a dappled-gray, lichen-crusted fieldstone wall built in the style of old New England.

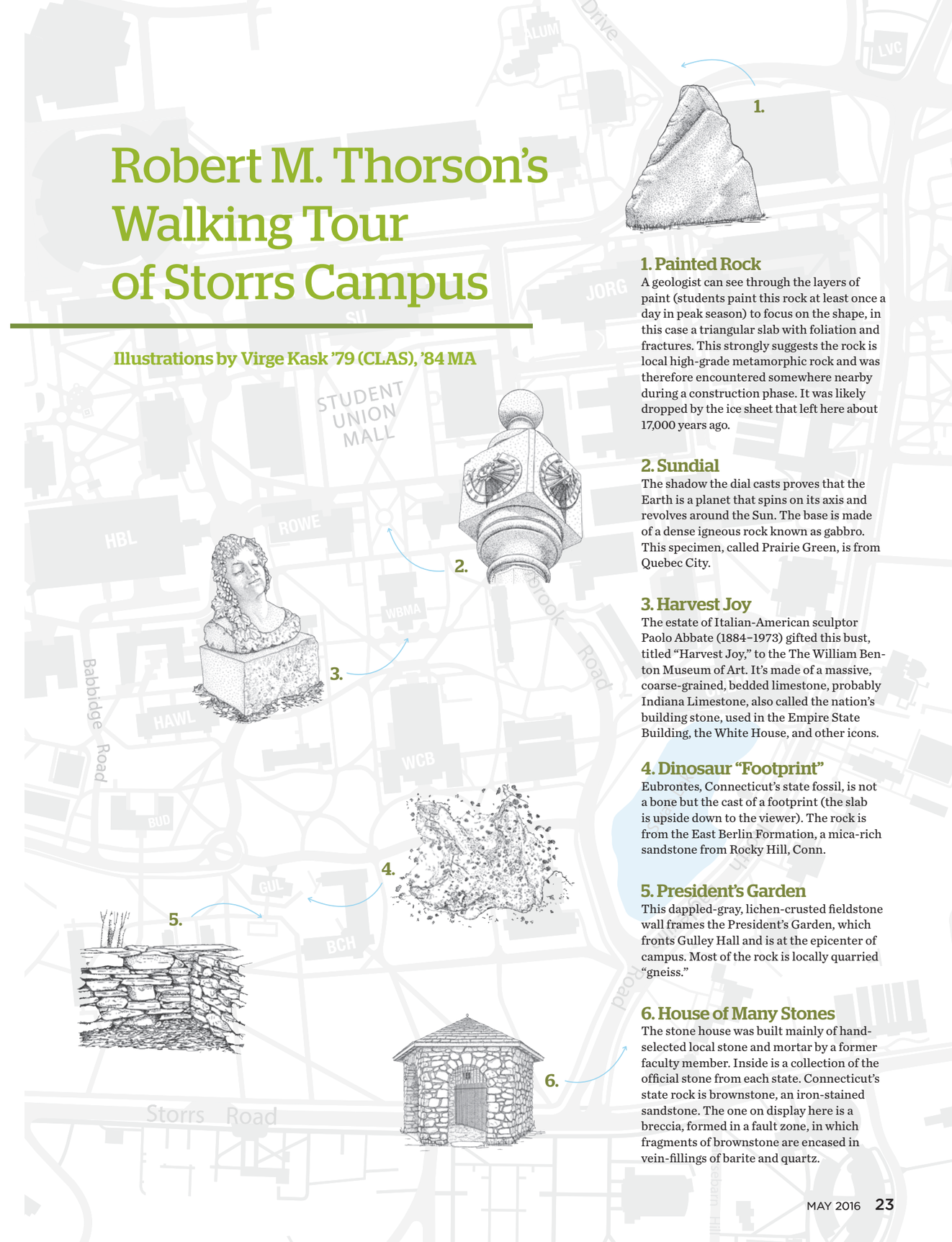
So here's what I'm thinking. During breaks between the slow meetings needed to build the UConn Foundation on paper, Homer went outside to heft stones to help the Horticulture Club build those garden walls. He would have understood that the outward growth and expansion of a modern institution requires a solid inner core tied to the past, especially in a state known as the "Land of Steady Habits." Perhaps each succeeding UConn president should heft a stone or two, if only to honor this great man's insight and the plain fact that this great University began as a 19th-century agricultural school.

During his first 20 years at UConn, Robert M. Thorson taught within the Department of Geology and Geophysics. In 2005, he joined the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and the Department of Anthropology (Archaeology), with major commitments to the Center for Integrative Geosciences and the Honors Program. He is the author of five books, including the best-selling Stone by Stone. He is shown here giving a community lecture in Bolton, Conn.

Visit s.uconn.edu/stonewalls for an interactive version of the geological tour at right.

Robert M. Thorson's Walking Tour of Storrs Campus

Illustrations by Virge Kask '79 (CLAS), '84 MA



1. Painted Rock

A geologist can see through the layers of paint (students paint this rock at least once a day in peak season) to focus on the shape, in this case a triangular slab with foliation and fractures. This strongly suggests the rock is local high-grade metamorphic rock and was therefore encountered somewhere nearby during a construction phase. It was likely dropped by the ice sheet that left here about 17,000 years ago.

2. Sundial

The shadow the dial casts proves that the Earth is a planet that spins on its axis and revolves around the Sun. The base is made of a dense igneous rock known as gabbro. This specimen, called Prairie Green, is from Quebec City.

3. Harvest Joy

The estate of Italian-American sculptor Paolo Abbate (1884–1973) gifted this bust, titled "Harvest Joy," to the The William Benton Museum of Art. It's made of a massive, coarse-grained, bedded limestone, probably Indiana Limestone, also called the nation's building stone, used in the Empire State Building, the White House, and other icons.

4. Dinosaur "Footprint"

Eubrontes, Connecticut's state fossil, is not a bone but the cast of a footprint (the slab is upside down to the viewer). The rock is from the East Berlin Formation, a mica-rich sandstone from Rocky Hill, Conn.

5. President's Garden

This dappled-gray, lichen-crusted fieldstone wall frames the President's Garden, which fronts Gulley Hall and is at the epicenter of campus. Most of the rock is locally quarried "gneiss."

6. House of Many Stones

The stone house was built mainly of hand-selected local stone and mortar by a former faculty member. Inside is a collection of the official stone from each state. Connecticut's state rock is brownstone, an iron-stained sandstone. The one on display here is a breccia, formed in a fault zone, in which fragments of brownstone are encased in vein-fillings of barite and quartz.

Gina Barreca’s latest book is as funny and forthright as her previous memoirs.

But this one, she says, is even more personal and more revealing — examining relationships she holds most dear, including that with husband Michael Meyer, who also taught English at UConn.

I had enormous fun writing *If You Lean In, Will Men Just Look Down Your Blouse?* And I learned a lot. Yes, this book takes on a number of social and cultural issues — everything from the “Twilight” and “Fifty Shades” phenomena to the powers of Spanx and Goji berries. But it’s different from most of my earlier work, because it’s more personal and unguarded.

We get braver and more honest as we get older. I don’t know if it’s true that we women become invisible as we age, but we certainly become more audible. We become more politicized, less willing to simply nod and smile if we disagree, and more willing to stand up for ourselves and others (instead of leaning in — I’m not a Sheryl Sandberg fan, and that’s where the title comes from; there’s a chapter about my issues with her work). And both women and men, somewhere between 40 and 50, begin to distinguish what actually makes them happy from what they’ve always done to please others. Being able to define that difference is an accomplishment. It’s one of those areas of expertise that takes at least 10,000 hours to learn. At a certain age, you finally become the indisputable authority on the subject of yourself.

I know I’m getting braver as I get older — and that won’t come as a big surprise to anybody. Having taught creative writing classes at both the undergraduate and graduate level, I’ve always emphasized the need for writers at every level to figure out what story they’re really trying to tell. It’s usually buried four or five paragraphs deep and embedded in a particularly sharp, fierce, sometimes off-the-cuff line the writer might have been surprised to hear herself or himself say. It’s rarely the well-groomed, much-rehearsed, and overwritten sentence that grabs a reader by the throat.

I tried to respect that in my own writing while completing this manuscript. While nobody could accuse me of keeping my personal life out of my earlier books (after all, I wrote a memoir about my time as one of the first women at Dartmouth College titled *Babes in Boyland,* and my first book, *They Used to Call Me Snow White but I Drifted,* draws deeply on my Italian upbringing), this latest collection takes more risks.

For example, in a section titled “If You Met My Family, You’d Understand,” there’s a chapter about questions I wished I’d asked my mother before she died (she was 47 and I was 16). There are essays about how my parents’ troubled marriage helped clarify what I wanted from my own. And while deep fears aren’t necessarily funny, there’s an essay about my own panic attacks that includes an incident with a butterfly net. There’s also a section titled “If You Run With a Bad Crowd, Can You Call It Exercise?” “Real” humor is real.

I try to write about teaching, writing, my professional life, and my own relationships with honesty as well as humor. When I write about my friends and family, I ask their permission to tell their stories as well as my own. Most of the time they’re generous enough to grant it.

The excerpt below is from an essay about my husband, Michael Meyer, on the day he retired from the English Department at UConn. I first published it with *The Chronicle of Higher Education,* but even though he’s the focus of the essay, I did not, in this case, show it to him first. I wanted it to be a surprise. It was a delight to adapt it for *If You Lean In* and to have it here in *UConn Magazine,* since Michael was everybody’s favorite professor of American Literature.

“Save the Last Class for Me,” an excerpt from ***If You Lean In, Will Men Just Look Down Your Blouse?***

My husband is teaching a class on the poetry of Emily Dickinson this morning. He’s been teaching Dickinson for 40 years; it’s not like there was a lot of prep involved.

But today is different for two reasons: Not only is it the last class of the semester; it’s also the last class my husband, Michael Meyer, is going to teach. After today — or, to be more precise, after next week’s exams — he will have retired from his work as a university professor.

It’s not like Michael’s going out of business entirely, since he edits all those versions of *The Bedford Introduction to Literature* that you see everywhere, but he’s done with the classroom part of it.

Maybe I should say he’s done with the “office” part of it.

Michael has always been one of those teachers admired and respected by those he’s taught; the Meyer Diaspora of successful former UConn students offers testimony to that.

His current students can’t believe he’s been doing this since before their parents were born.

What they also can’t believe is that the two of us are married to each other.

Michael looks and often sounds like an English professor out of central casting. This morning, for example, he left for work wearing a tweed jacket, blue shirt, and striped tie, with his briefcase firmly in hand. His salt-and-pepper beard was neatly combed, his dark eyebrows lifted in his usual expression of amusement, and his glasses were — as they always are — spotless. This is no rumpled academic. This is the Man. He’s distinguished, handsome, and authoritative.

Me, I go to school looking like either Anna Magnani or Ethel Merman. After 23 years of teaching in Connecticut, I still look like I’m there to deliver a pizza rather than teach a class. I still sound like I’m from New York and I wear heels so that my students hear me clicking down the hall as I approach.

Michael and I are almost as different as it’s possible to be and still be part of the same department — let alone part of the same marriage — so it’s no wonder our students are shocked to discover we’re together.

They’ll miss him, as will our colleagues. But, as Michael says, “It’s time.” The son of a longshoreman and a factory worker, Michael’s held a job since he was 15. He’s now 65. It’s time to write, to read, and to drive with the top down.

After all, as a friend of ours said, “After you turn fifty, you’re cramming for finals.”

Dickinson suggests as much in “Apparently with no surprise” when she writes about the inexorable and indifferent passage of time, as “The Sun proceeds unmoved/to measure off another Day.” Of course I’m looking forward to the next several years being as best described by the title of another Dickinson poem, “Wild Nights — Wild Nights!”

To my distinguished colleague: Congratulations on years well spent and classes well taught.

Well done.



Gina and Michael, who have been married for 24 years, share a piece of carrot cake at the Aero Diner in Willimantic, Conn.

Find more photos and info about *If You Lean In* at s.uconn.edu/barreca.

Photos by Peter Morenus

4

consecutive National Championships (an NCAA Women D1 Basketball first)

39.9

average points by which these Huskies won NCAA tournament games

11

National Championships for Coach Geno Auriemma

4

consecutive NCAA D1 Basketball titles for Jefferson, Stewart, and Tuck — first collegians, male or female, to win four

Stephen Slade '89 (SFA)

Tuck, Stewie, Geno, and Mo embrace during the final minutes of the 2016 NCAA Championship game.

4

years and a 151–5 record

2,676

points, 414 blocked shots, and 400 career assists for Breanna Stewart

659

career assists for Moriah Jefferson, breaking the record set by UConn's Diana Taurasi in 2004

4

Tournament Most Outstanding Player Awards for Breanna Stewart

THE BIG FOUR FOR THE BIG FOUR

Stewie, Mo, Tuck – and Geno

By Elizabeth Omara-Otunnu

The UConn women's basketball team made more than a little history this spring with their 82–51 win over Syracuse in the NCAA National Championship game.

The numbers are extraordinary: one program, 11 national titles, six undefeated seasons; four years, four national championships; three seniors — Breanna "Stewie" Stewart, Morgan Tuck, and Moriah "Mo" Jefferson — with four championships apiece.

Those same three seniors were selected one, two, and three in the WNBA draft — the first time any single school has done that.

And there are other numbers that reflect just what this program is made of: Stewart's four-in-a-row honors as NCAA Final Four Most Outstanding Player; the team's current unbroken stretch of 75 wins (though that number hasn't yet surpassed the Huskies' previous winning streak of 90 games from 2008 through 2011).

Dozens of former players were among the fans watching the game in Indianapolis, including UConn greats **Sue Bird '02** and **Maya Moore '11.** In addition, **Shea Ralph '01** was on the sidelines as assistant coach; **Rebecca Lobo '95** was onsite as a commentator for ESPN; and **Carla Berube '97** was in the house coaching her own team, Tufts, in the DIII Final Four. A few weeks later, when the 2016 Olympics Team USA was announced, it included five former Huskies: Bird, **Tina Charles '10,** Moore, Stewart, and **Diana Taurasi '05.**

From a team that once played in the Field House with just a handful of friends and families to cheer them on, over the past 30 years head coach Geno Auriemma and associate head coach **Chris Dailey '99 MA** have built the preeminent women's

college basketball program in the country.

The records set this season are going to be hard for any team to beat — except perhaps the Huskies themselves.

This season was the sixth undefeated season for Auriemma. The last time the women came up less than victorious was on Nov. 17, 2014, in an 88–86 overtime loss at Stanford.

Among the records set this season: Coach Auriemma passed legendary UCLA men's basketball coach

"You can't stumble into the history books... You need to break through the finish line, not stumble across it."

—Geno Auriemma

John Wooden for the most NCAA basketball titles of all time — 11. He has never lost a championship game.

"What those eleven championships mean to me is how many great players I've had the opportunity to coach," Auriemma said in a press conference following the most recent title. "How many great people have come through the program. It doesn't matter whose name is above, or whose name I'm under. As long as I have those players in my memory, I'm good."

Reflecting on the past four years at the same press conference Stewart said, "If we were to come to any other school as a group, we wouldn't have done what we did here. And that's crediting a lot to Coach, to the other coaches, to the other players we're playing with. He pushed us to levels that we didn't know we could even reach or play at. And once we bought into that, it was a great journey to be on."

THE FOURTH SENIOR

Briana Pulido

The women's NCAA basketball championship game against Syracuse was filled with high points and memory makers for Husky fans. But for many, their favorite moment came with the three bigs — Breanna Stewart, Moriah Jefferson, and Morgan Tuck — on the bench.

They had just come out of the game in UConn uniforms for the last time, there were just under two minutes left to play, the team had a comfortable 82–49 lead, and the already cacophonous crowd managed to get even louder as they cheered the subs off the bench.

One of those subs was the fourth senior, Briana "Polly" Pulido, a pre-med student who had been a walk-on for the team since her sophomore year and became "our biggest hype man," as Jefferson put it.

Sophomore Napheesa Collier caught the inbound pass and tossed it to Pulido outside, just shy of three-point territory. And suddenly the crowd was quiet. As her teammates behind her silently willed her shot to go in, Pulido did what she always did in practice: drained it.

"I probably jumped the highest I've jumped all season when she shot that shot. We were so excited for her, and to end the game the way she did. It was great!"

—Moriah Jefferson

"To see Polly make that shot? That was the perfect ending to the game," said Stewart.

For her part, Pulido called it the highlight of her year. And she says she wasn't surprised at her teammates' exuberant reaction.

"I guess they've seen how hard I've worked these three years and the things I've done throughout and the transformation I've made. They're happy for me and I'm going off as a senior and they know that, too," said Pulido.

While the others go off to the WNBA, Pulido will begin the grueling process of applying to medical school.

"Somewhere warm," says the Florida native, who admits she just can't get used to New England weather.

She also admits that playing on the best basketball team in the country while on the rigorous path to medical school has not been easy, but she says she never entertained thoughts of quitting.

"To a lot of athletes, 'student athlete' can sometimes mean athlete first. In my case it always means student first." —*LISA STIEPOCK*

Stephen Slade '89 (SFA)

Her teammates and coaches react as former walk-on Briana "Polly" Pulido makes the championship game-ending shot.

Find out how Pulido ended up on this team after coming to UConn on a track and field scholarship, how it felt when she blocked a Stewie shot, and more at s.uconn.edu/pulido.

AMONG ANGELS

Stormy Chamberlain is a new breed of scientist unafraid to let her research subjects have names and faces — and families.

By Katharine Whittemore
Photos by Peter Morenus

STORMY CHAMBERLAIN AND JOEY MORETTI IN THE LAB

Joey Moretti loves to open doors. And this one gives way to the Cell and Genome Sciences Building, a glassy hive of labs and offices in the UConn Health corridor in Farmington, Conn. It's the last day of March. The wind blows helixes of leaves into the sky. Joey, who is 4, is here because Stormy Chamberlain invited him, along with a dozen other children and their families, to tour the works.

And so begins three hours of cheerful pandemonium. Some kids tool around touching everything, their parents exerting mild but practiced vigilance. Others lean from their strollers. As Chamberlain bumps the group erratically forward, her blonde ponytail lifting as she kicks up speed, she points out various sights: centrifuges, pipettes, microscopes, trays of cell cultures. She and her four graduate student assistants also answer these parents' informed questions. Words cut through the commotion: *neuron, deletion, imprinting, RNA.*

Chamberlain is an assistant professor of genetics and genome sciences. And, it's fair to say, she's a big deal: The day before this tour, she was named one of the "nine best female scientists you should know" by the website Fiat Physica. She's a graduate of Princeton. She's worked at some of the top genetics labs in the country. She's won prestigious awards for both her teaching and her research. But this 40-year-old mother of two hardly stands on ceremony. Indeed, she had to scare up a white lab coat for the occasion, and when asked if she has any hobbies, she jokes they are (1) "running, then drinking beer" and (2) "yelling at my kids — and I'm getting better at it."

There's another reason Chamberlain is at home with today's tumult: she comes from a big ranching family in Wyoming, and has been on plenty of cattle drives. So she's perfectly fine when Joey, smiling broadly, adores doors. *Click, thwack,* go the metal lab doors. *Bang, bang, BANG,* goes the janitor's closet. "Opening and closing doors, that's a big accomplishment for Joey," explains his dad, Joe, who oversees his son's labors while also corralling two-year-old Luca, Joey's little brother.

Joe Moretti is VP of operations at The Edge Fitness Club, but these last few years he's become something of an amateur geneticist. As the doors whoosh and clang, he strains to hear Chamberlain describe her team's latest research. It concerns Angelman syndrome, the chromosomal abnormality Joey and all these kids share.

Harry Angelman was a British pediatrician who, in 1965, noticed that three similarly disabled children were admitted to his ward at the same time, "purely by chance," as he wrote decades later. Each had a jerky gait, a large mouth and

widely spaced teeth, almost no speech, and excessive laughter. Angelman wrote a paper on the children, which fell into obscurity until the 1980s, when the disability began to be studied in earnest. Since then, scientists have learned that Angelman syndrome is a rare neurogenetic condition that occurs in 1 in 15,000 live births. It results from a problem with a single gene called UBE3A that lies on the 15th chromosome inherited from the mother.

Angelman syndrome causes severe cognitive delays, seizures, and impaired bodily coordination. Most of the children visiting today walk with a hitch. Some can't walk without assistance. Most speak fewer than 50 words. None is likely to ever live independently.

But this chromosomal malfunction, for reasons yet unknown, also produces a surprisingly sunny disposition. Angelman kids — often, understandably, called "angels"— smile and laugh a great deal. The Scottish poet Richard Price has a daughter with Angelman syndrome, and in his poem "Hand Held" he writes, "We are champions of grin."

Or as Joey's mother Tai puts it, "Joey makes you feel you have to be happy — because he is."

That's the unexpected thing, maybe — that happiness is the presiding emotion at the lab today. This doesn't discount the exhaustion the families feel over the challenges of raising disabled children. Nor the frustration the researchers feel, even if they're getting closer to understanding what causes Angelman — and how gene therapies may reduce its effects in the coming decade. It's just that the kids are so endearing. And the parents are so tolerant.

"These lab tours are such a great chance to connect with the other families and meet the researchers," says Bob Dell. "This really fosters team-building and a sense of community." Dell manages to eke out these full sentences while his son, 9-year-old Gabriel, enfolds him like an octopus. "He likes to use my ears as handles," Dell says, smiling. Over in the lunchroom, Katie DeLucia, age 13, in a blue flowered dress, is half teaching the recently viral "Whip Nae Nae" song to graduate student Judy Bloom. Twirling, stumbling, giggling ensues.

In between these dance sessions, Bloom presents her own area of research to the families. It focuses on how Angelman neurons "talk" to each other. Picture a neuron as sort of a mushroom with nubs on it, she says. There are fewer nubs on the Angelman neurons than on typical neurons. "My hypothesis is that those fewer nubs cause problems with communication," she explains. So she's creating mathematical models to figure out how, and how much, the neurons signal each other.

Down the hall, Chamberlain helps Joey climb onto her lab swivel chair so he can make the world spin.

BUCKING TRADITION

If you know the remarkable and devastating story behind the 2010 best-seller *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot, you know that the Lacks family never experienced a lab tour anything like this. Lacks was a poor African-American woman who had cervical cancer. Just before her death in 1951, she became an unwitting source of cells. Those "HeLa" cells were cultured by clinicians, found to thrive, and became the first immortal cell line for medical research. They were crucial to developing the polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping, and more, and are still used in labs all over the world.

But, as Skloot reveals, the Lacks family was not informed about this, and was systematically, even hostilely, marginalized from the research practiced on the cells of their loved one.

Times are different now. But Lacks' story is one reason there remains tension, even distrust, between the world of research and the researched. If the days of the worst transgressions are over, the era of eugenics and uninformed consent, there's still a clinical depersonalization, a dearth of interchange. Today, most research subjects are a number, not a face. And those subjects rarely actually know the researchers — much less are Facebook friends with them, like today's guests and Chamberlain. Or have attended ad hoc Genetics 101 classes like the ones Chamberlain is giving here. Or strode beside each other at walkathons for the Angelman Syndrome Foundation.

Clearly, the research is personal for Chamberlain. "I need this human connection," she admits. "As scientists, we're trained to be really focused on the science and to prize that ahead of everything else. But I don't think so. I think that the goal is to use our talents for good. What is my intrinsic motivation? It's to ultimately help these families that I've gotten to know."

Leah Boice, who's here today with her 9-year-old daughter Emily, has spearheaded those ASF walkathons locally. As Emily pulls her close, Boice gets up to thank Chamberlain for all she does: "My friends involved in other causes are jealous of us because our researcher comes to our walks." This gets a laugh. Then Chamberlain adds her own thanks to all the families for their inspiration and support, giving a special nod to the Morettis' charity, the Fighting Angels Foundation, which recently awarded her research team a grant. She knows that funding for rare diseases is limited, and that staying close to the Angelman community can only help their cause and hers.

"Stormy totally hears us," says Jim Kubicza, a big, friendly man who's visiting with his son Cole; along with mom Jenn and brother Lincoln, they've dubbed their road race team, in which Jim pushes Cole in a stroller, "Team Cole Slaw." Cole's 6, and today presents a vision in red (his shirt), white (his fair hair), and blue (his sky-colored, past-its-prime nail polish). "She comes to all the events, and has a special connection with us," adds Kubicza. "Everyone in the Angelman community knows who Stormy is."

BREAKING THROUGH

To be clear, Chamberlain is not drawing a battery of blood, skin, or other cell samples from these families, so their situation is not exactly analogous to the Lacks family's. They hear — and ask — more about the research than clinically participate in it. Chamberlain's UConn team doesn't need many samples from them because they have devised a way to grow their own "induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells." Chamberlain made the first iPS cells in Connecticut using Angelman syndrome fibroblasts, which reside in connective tissue that produces collagen and other fibers. These cells were derived from a family in Canada that has the UBE3A mutation — of the four known pathways of Angelman, it's the only hereditary one. (See "Four Genetic Pathways for Angelman Syndrome" on page 37.)

"What we're doing is we've taken an Angelman cell line and we've genetically corrected it," Chamberlain explains.

To do this, they use the CRISPR technique, a crisp acronym for a mouthful of a title: Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeat. CRISPR is actually a normally occurring bacterial process. Bacteria may incorporate foreign DNA and even, Pac-Man-style, scavenge damaged DNA from their environment. In other words, it's a genetic pair of scissors — and a game-changing technology.

"I need this human connection," Chamberlain admits. "As scientists, we're trained to be really focused on the science...but... I think that the goal is to use our talents for good."

CHAMBERLAIN WITH LIBBY GREGORY

"With CRISPR capability, we can find the specific neuronal dysfunction," says Chamberlain.

The most exciting work with these cell lines comes courtesy of Chamberlain's senior Ph.D. student, Jack Hsiao. Cole makes a beeline for Hsiao today, insisting on holding his hand and then swinging it with abandon. The Taiwanese-born scientist, whom Chamberlain admiringly calls "an expert question-asker," is probing something called the "antisense transcript." It's a single strand of RNA that silences the father's UBE3A gene. In Angelman syndrome, the mother's gene is missing UBE3A, but the father has a spare. With this silencing, though, that spare is taken out of play, too. The father's copy of UBE3A has been silenced by the antisense transcript. Hsiao helpfully conjures the metaphor of a train track here: Think of the antisense as one train on a track. The father's UBE3A is another train. They are barreling toward each other. For some reason, the antisense always wins, and bumps the UBE3A train off the track.

Hsiao has discovered a boundary element (he calls it a "stop sign") that's somehow been deactivated. If we could reinstall the stop sign, maybe the antisense train would stop before it derails the UBE3A train. He's found that the antisense is only made in neurons, so he deleted the stop sign in human iPS cells to find out how it works.

"It's just a novel regulatory element in the human genome," says Chamberlain. "And that's super interesting."

EASTWARD HO

If you were wondering, Stormy is Chamberlain's real name, not a nickname. "It was a seventies thing," she says with a laugh, adding that she has cousins named Rainy, Reno, and Rebel. The name also trended from the 1968 radio hit "Stormy," by the Florida soft rock band The Classics IV. Born in 1975, she's the oldest of five, the daughter of cattle ranchers who have a 2,000-acre spread just outside Casper, Wyo.

"Ranchers have kids so that they have help, but I think my

“Joey makes you feel you have to be happy – because he is.”

MOM TAI WATCHES AS CHAMBERLAIN LETS JOEY TRY ON LAB GLOVES

“Sometime last year, I decided that I would be totally happy with my career if I could say that I contributed to one therapy for Angelman syndrome.”

parents also like me,” she jokes. But the work was no joke. “I’d get up at 4:30 a.m. and go out and milk a couple of cows by hand,” Chamberlain recalls. “At night, we loaded the feed trucks, and did chores from five o’clock to eight o’clock, so I didn’t start my homework until late. I know I will never again work as hard as I did growing up in Wyoming. So now, when I have a grant due, and I feel really stressed that there’s a ton to do, I’m like, ‘This is nothing.’”

Chamberlain notes that many scientists were raised on farms or ranches. She thinks a natural curiosity springs from living off the land and tending farm animals, which morphs into scientific inquiry. There’s also a can-do attitude and a make-do knack for technology. “My first inclination is to fix things when they break,” she says. In childhood, she drove a tractor to cut hay, and if the cutters on the swaths busted, she’d repair them in the field, armed with wrenches and bolts. These days, she’ll get right in there and fix errant centrifuges in the Farmington facility.

In 7th grade, a teacher recognized her smarts and work ethic and suggested she go to a summer science camp at Iowa State. One summer in high school, she studied mouse genetics at the Jackson Laboratories in Bar Harbor, Maine. And then, college.

“It was a huge culture shock to go from a ranch in Wyoming to Princeton,” she reflects. Chamberlain is a political conservative and a Baptist (“but the live-and-let-live Wyoming type,” she stresses). “There were kids there who came from highly privileged backgrounds. It just didn’t make any sense to me, and I had a hard time adjusting.”

On the positive side, she had the chance to study with Shirley Tilghman, a renowned molecular biologist who later became the president of the university. Chamberlain became enthralled by Tilghman’s area of expertise, genomic imprinting, exploring how some genes are expressed only from the mother’s or father’s copy of chromosomes, rather than both. She graduated in 1997 with a BA in molecular biology and then did her graduate studies at the University of Florida College of Medicine. That’s where she worked with Camilynn Brannan, a professor of molecular genetics and microbiology and another of Tilghman’s protégés.

Her Gainesville stint imprinted itself on Chamberlain, judging from the orange-and-blue Gator signs and coffee mugs in her Farmington office. And during those years — she’d get her Ph.D. in Medical Science-Genetics in 2003 — her biggest project involved studying mice with Prader-Willi syndrome, which is a disorder closely related to Angelman. In Angelman, the affected genes are on the maternal copy of chromosome 15; in Prader-Willi, it’s the paternal copy. One of the most galvanizing findings from her University of Florida research concerned how the antisense transcript negates the father’s UBE3A gene in Prader-Willi — a relevant background for her current research at UConn.

She next headed to the big mouse-genetics labs at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for postdoctoral work. It was at UNC that she met her future husband, Scott Oloff. Scott ended up in a series of jobs in New England, which is what eventually landed Stormy at UConn. The couple now has two children, Marshall, 3, and Josey, 5 (“She’s my nod to Clint Eastwood,” cracks Chamberlain, meaning the classic Western “The Outlaw Josey Wales”).

When Chamberlain decided to complete her postdoctoral fellowship at UConn, she says, the stars aligned, because here she found Marc Lalande, professor and chairman of the Department of Genetics and Genome Sciences at the School of Medicine, who had a longstanding interest in Angelman and Prader-Willi.

Looking back on how she got here from here, there, and everywhere, Chamberlain turns to her faith: “I think God made me a scientist and gave me the curiosity and the talents to do this, and he has always provided the next opportunity to move forward in the field.” And the big picture?

“Sometime last year, I decided that I would be totally happy with my career if I could say that I contributed to one therapy for Angelman syndrome.”

WRAPPING UP

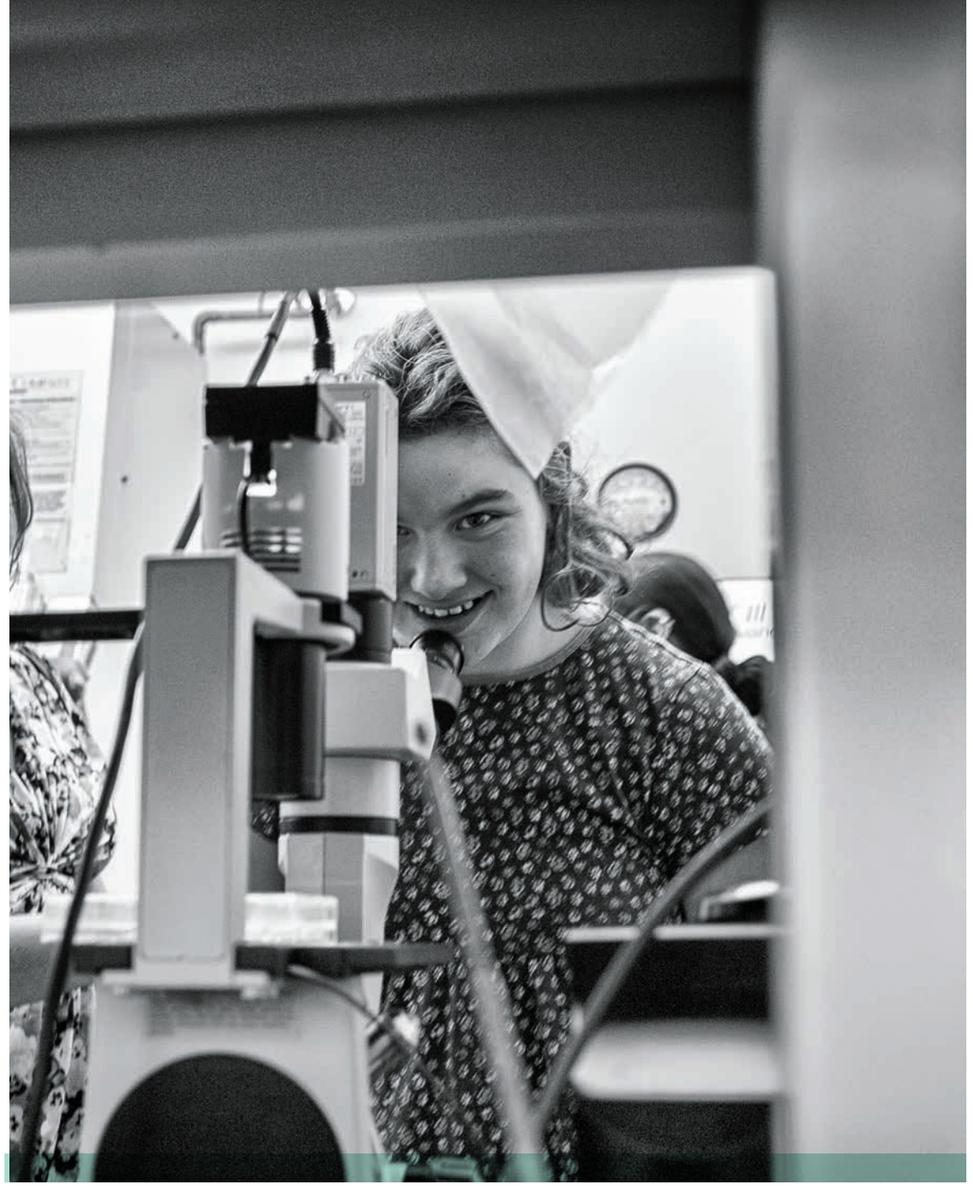
Although the research is her prime priority, team motivation is the close second. Her motivational techniques involve fun (she and Hsiao have a standing my-hypothesis-is-better-than-yours bet, with the winner getting an order of chicken wings). “In science, there’s so much failure,” says Hsiao. “And it really helps to balance it with fun.” She’s also intentional about connecting personally to her team, whose members are quick to tell me how much they appreciate that. “She has exceptional people skills,” says student Carissa Sirois. The others share a significant look, and then all chime in at once: “Not many scientists are like that.”

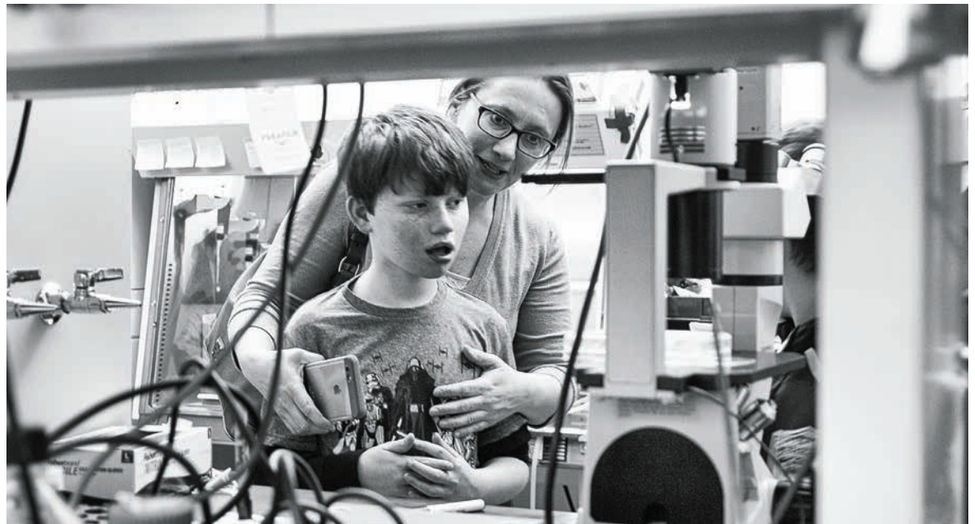
“The interaction with the families makes me so motivated,” adds Bloom. “It makes even the crappiest day in the lab worth it because, hey, I got to dance with Katie.” Darcy Ahern agrees: “It makes my work feel much more important. Sometimes it’s like, ‘these are just cells in a dish.’ But I won’t forget these faces.”

As the tour winds down, the parents absently wipe those lovely faces (Angelman kids are known to drool). Those faces that also carry a lot of energy and expression; the angels are pretty much all extroverts by nature and love the attention of fresh acquaintances. So energy, yes, but cacophony, no. You hear an occasional “Mama” but mostly, the young visitors gesture rather than vocalize, or press the screen icons on their PODD (Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Display) devices. Joey pushes the icon for “microwave,” for instance, and Tai laughs, guessing it’s the closest symbol for what he really wants, the lab’s vending machine, which (bonus) features a glass door.

No one seems to want to leave. They can’t get enough of hearing about the research, but they’re realists. “I’m not wishful that Cole will become one hundred percent typical,” says Jim Kubicza. “It would help if he could walk unassisted, sure. But if gene therapies can’t help him in his lifetime, I’m good with helping the next generation.” Stormy riffs on what the future may bring. How she hopes newborn screening protocols will include testing for Angelman syndrome. How the research they do at UConn might be applied to other chromosomal conditions. How a clinical drug trial is a real possibility in the next 10 years.

A little way off, Joey admires his reflection in the glass door by the vending machine. Then he opens it, shuts it, opens it, shuts it. Stormy stays with her families and, taking his cue, talks about all the doors she hopes to open.





FOUR GENETIC PATHWAYS FOR ANGELMAN SYNDROME

Right now, we know of four genetic causes for Angelman syndrome that can be established by genetic testing. They explain about 85 percent of Angelman cases, which means some 15 percent of Angelman cases are due to unknown causes. Of the known causes, three — deletion, imprinting, and UPD — are spontaneous mutations, and are not hereditary.

(1) DELETION: The UBE3A gene is deleted on the person’s maternal chromosome 15. This is the most common cause for Angelman. How many affected? 70 percent. A child on today’s visit: Joey Moretti.

(2) UBE3A MUTATION: This takes place due to a mistake in the genetic code of the UBE3A gene on the maternal side. This mistake can occur anywhere on the gene, yet two particular regions (called Exon 9 and Exon 16) are more prone to mutations. The UBE3A mutation is hereditary and can account for multiple Angelman births in one family. How many affected? 5–10 percent. Children on today’s visit: Libby and Tyler Gregory.

(3) IMPRINTING: This happens when the mother’s chromosome 15 acts like the father’s chromosome 15, and is thereby silenced. How many affected? 3–5 percent. A child on today’s visit: Katie DeLucia.

(4) UNIPARENTAL DISOMY (UPD): Two (di) copies of chromosome 15 come from one (uni) parent (in this case, the father), rather than one chromosome from each parent. Because the maternal egg has no chromosome 15, and thus no crucial maternal UBE3A gene, the sperm will often duplicate its own chromosome 15 so the baby will have the right number (two) of chromosomes. How many affected? 2–3 percent. A child on today’s visit: None.

TOP: KATIE DELUCIA
BOTTOM: TYLER GREGORY WITH MOM JOANNA

ILLUSTRATION BY CHRIS PIASCIK

HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY CRYING

BY KENNETH BEST

Making it to the next management level may have a lot more to do with your EQ (emotional intelligence) than your IQ.

Identifying young managers with the potential to steadily acquire the skills needed to take on new and increasingly greater job responsibilities is one of the keys to success in every organization. But the path to acquiring such developmental job experience is paved with challenges that must be faced and overcome. A new study indicates that whether a young manager is likely to succeed or fail at those challenges is determined less by their intelligence, knowledge, or schooling than by the strength of their emotional intelligence or EQ — the ability to manage one's own emotions as well as read those of others.

Taking on new responsibilities that require on-the-job learning can push young managers out of their comfort zones, which is when an individual's EQ comes into play, says Yuntao Dong, assistant professor of management in the School of Business. The question becomes whether the manager will find positive ways to meet challenges or fall into a negative mindset and a fear of failure.

Dong, aided by University of Maryland management professors Myeong-Gu Seo and Kathryn M. Bartol, studied 214 early-career managers enrolled in a part-time MBA program. They found that those with high emotional intelligence were better able to cope with the struggles and challenges of new responsibilities, while the same struggles and challenges put those who demonstrated lower EQs at higher risk for leaving their jobs. Dong recommends that organizations gradually increase the level of new challenges for young managers and also provide more support for them as they encounter difficulty in working through their new responsibilities.

Find more on management mobility at s.uconn.edu/succeed.

"If they want to maintain their high potential employees, companies need to have a flexible culture to allow them to make mistakes and give them opportunities to make up for their mistakes," says Dong, who teaches classes in Managerial and Interpersonal Behavior at UConn's Storrs campus.

She cites one young manager studied, who was given the responsibility for several elements of a major marketing campaign that required much travel and coordination of the project's logistics. The manager became frustrated by the amount of detail involved, said he felt underappreciated by supervisors, and subsequently left the company.

Another manager studied was assigned to lead a task force team in a government agency with the goal of eliminating operational redundancy and increasing efficiency. After some initial concerns about the scope of the assignment, this manager asked colleagues for advice and negotiated a change in some other responsibilities with her supervisor that allowed her to successfully complete the project. She was promoted to a new position as a program director.

"Young managers with the ability to recognize, understand, and manage their own emotions and the emotions of others handle challenges better," says Dong. "If you are developing someone and you think they are promising, you want to develop their emotional intelligence."

Among the challenges faced by new managers are unfamiliar responsibilities, implementing change, higher levels of risk attached to new responsibilities, working across supervisory lines with little authority, and leading people across different cultural, racial, gender, or functional backgrounds.

"We think training will be helpful, particularly for their emotional preparation," says Dong. "Even with training, they still can get overwhelmed because they are getting more challenges."

This dynamic plays out in other arenas and in group situations, too. Dong says she often sees examples of varied emotional intelligence in her students when they are assigned to work in small groups of four or five.

"I've seen groups that can't work together on the simplest tasks," she says. "They have little experience solving problems. I have to teach them that avoiding conflict is never a good way to deal with conflict. You have to face it, talk about it, and solve it. I also tell my students they have control over what will happen. You are the person who appraises the situation. When you are given autonomy you have to be able to deal with it and the challenges associated with that leadership — and always look for the unexpected outcome and be prepared for it."

Stephen Slade '89 (SFA)

UConn Nation Represents in Indy!

UConn Nation came out in full blue force to watch the women's basketball team make history in Indianapolis this spring. The stands were full of cheering students and alumni, including these former players who posed in front of the team and coaches for fans and photographers after the game.

Fourth (back) row, left to right: **Katie Lou Samuelson '19**; **Chris Dailey '99 MA** (associate head coach); **Gabby Williams '18**; Jasmine Lister (graduate assistant); **Breanna Stewart '16**; **Moriah Jefferson '16**; Geno Auriemma (head coach); **Morgan Tuck '16**; **Kia Nurse '18**; **Saniya Chong '17**; **Tierney Lawlor '17**; **Courtney Ekmark '18**; **Briana Pulido '16**; **Natalie Butler RS '18**; **Napheesa Collier '19**; Marisa Moseley (assistant coach); **Shea Ralph '01** (assistant coach).

Third row, left to right: **Kalana Greene '10**; **Kaili McLaren '10**; **Paige Sauer '92**; **Peggy (Walsh) Myers '86**; **Svetlana Abrosimova '01**; **Cassie Kerns '09**; **Stacey (Wetzel) Bayley '92**; **Debbie (Baer) Fiske '92**; **Nicole Wolff '06**; **Ashley (Valley) Woodward '05**; **Maya Moore '11**; **Stefanie Dolson '14**; **Tina Charles '10**.

Second row, left to right: **Jennifer Rizzotti '96**; **Colleen Healy '94**; **Brenda (Marquis) Wilson '98** (played until 1996); **Asjha Jones '02**; **Maria (Conlon) Rinaldi '04**; **Audrey (Epstein) Polinsky '86**; **Pam (Rothfuss) Switzer '92**; **Meghan (Pattyson) Culmo '92**; **Mel Thomas '08**; **Renee Montgomery '09**; **Ann (Strother) Abromaitis '06**.

Front row, sitting and kneeling left to right: **Sue Bird '02**; **Diane Poletti-Metzel '86**; **Caroline Doty '13**; **Kelley (Hunt) Gay '98**; **Heather (Buck) Bennett '13**.

At game but not pictured were **Rebecca Lobo '95 (on set with ESPN); **Carla Berube '97** (with her DIII team, Tufts, coaching in the Final Four); **Willnett Crockett '06** (on the coaching staff at Temple); **Jamelle Elliott '96** (head coach at Cincinnati women's basketball); and **Morgan Valley '04** (with her Washington team that played in the Final Four).

Want to test your knowledge of former players? Instead of looking at the caption at left, you can select a player and, on your computer or tablet, click to reveal names and graduation years at s.uconn.edu/photoquiz.

CLASS NOTES

1950s

A photo of **Lois Greene Stone '55 (CLAS)** in the Smithsonian National Museum of American History has been selected to represent teenage culture in the U.S. from the 1940s and '50s. In the photo, which can be found at http://amhistory.si.edu/american-enterprise/teen-rooms, Stone, then a teenager, is wearing a felt skirt with horse appliques that her father had commissioned to be designed and made for her, and a silk blouse she made. The snapshot was taken at UConn in her dorm room, although the Smithsonian superimposed the picture in a typical room of that time period. Stone is a writer and poet and has been syndicated worldwide. Collections of her personal items, photos, and memorabilia are in major museums, including 12 different divisions of the Smithsonian. She is married to Gerald E. Stone, and they have 15 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Francis "Tony" A. Manning '59 (CLAS) has retired from political cartooning for the *Southington News* and *The Record Journal* after 50 years. He created cartoons of the football team for the campus newspaper while at UConn. He was a vice principal and history teacher in the Plainville, Conn., public schools.

1960s

Wilma Bor Davidson '65 (CLAS) announces that St. Martin's Press has published the third edition of *Business Writing: What Works, What Won't*, a book that offers wit and wisdom about writing quickly and well in the workplace.

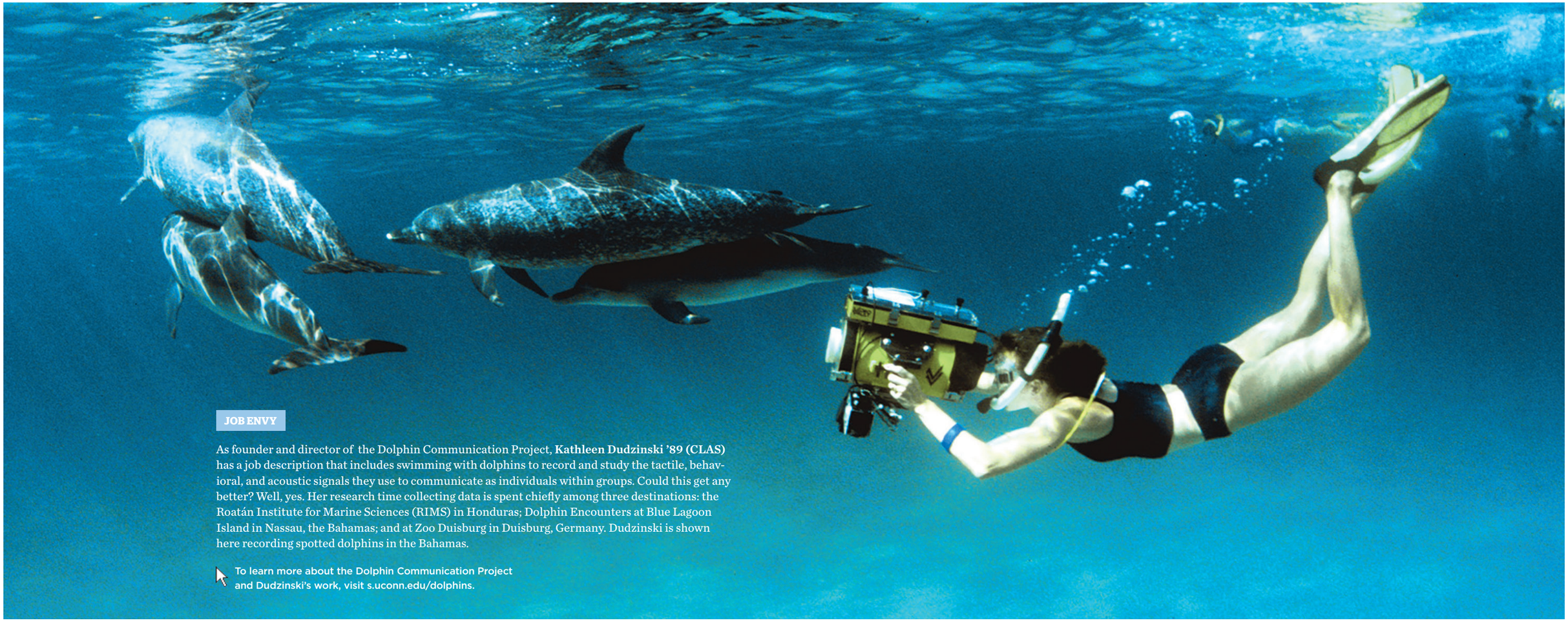
John Surowiecki '67, MA '78 (CLAS) has won the Encircle Publications (Farmington, Maine) Chapbook Contest for *Missing Persons*, his 11th book of poems. He has won a number of poetry prizes over the years, including the Poetry Foundation Pegasus Award, the Pablo Neruda Prize, the Washington Prize, the White Pine Prize, and the Sunken Garden National Competition. His work has appeared in *Alaska Quarterly Review, Carolina Review, Mississippi Review, Poetry, Prairie Schooner, Southern Review, West Branch,* and other journals. **Len Yannielli '67 (CLAS)** has published his fourth book, *Hurry Down Gunntown*. His third book, *Moon Shadow of War,* incorporates some of his time at UConn when he lived in the Towers during the Vietnam War. **Arno Zimmer '68 (CLAS)** reports that his novel *The Parlor City Boys* is now available as an ebook at amazon.com. **David D. Perry '69 (CLAS)** has retired as a public high school principal and professor at the University of New Haven and is now an author. Perry, who lives in Florida with his wife, Carmen, has written *Bluff, Bluster, Lies and Spies: The Lincoln Foreign Policy 1861–1865*.

1970s

James Szerejko '70 (CLAS) has been named to the 2015 Super Lawyers List, a nationally accredited rating service of lawyers who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. **Charlie Horan '73 (CLAS)** was recently named to the Worcester Athletic Hall of Fame in Worcester, Mass. Horan was a three-year starter on the UConn baseball team and was a tri-captain of the '73 team. The 1972 team went undefeated in the Yankee Conference, won the District 1 New England title, and finished fourth at the College World Series. **Michael Maslin '76 (SFA)** published a biography, *Peter Arno: The Mad Mad World of* The New Yorker*'s Greatest Cartoonist,* in April 2015. **Patricia Giordano Horstman '77 (CLAS)** is the owner of the Frederick Inn Bed and Breakfast in Buckeystown, Md., which opened in August 2015. **Lynn Skene Johnson '79 (ED)**, who is director of the Connecticut Birth to Three System (early childhood intervention), has received her Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership from the University of Hartford.

1980s

Andy Young '80 (CLAS) reports that *Young Ideas,* his collection of essays that have appeared in Maine newspapers, has just gone into its fifth printing. Young is a high school literacy teacher in Kennebunk, Maine, and the father of a 9th, a 7th, and a 4th grader. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the book can contact him directly at Harrybright13@gmail.com. **Jane Dewey '81 (SFA)** was recently named 2015 Arts Citizen of the Year by the Danville-Boyle County Arts Commission. She has been the director of Arts Education for the Danville Independent School District since 2000 and currently serves as the facilitator for the Kentucky Coalition for Arts Educators. She lives in Danville, Ky., with her husband and two sons. **Paul W. Catanese '83 (CLAS)** has published a new novel, *Donny's Inferno,* the story of a 12-year-old boy who must prevent the new, kinder, gentler underworld from returning to its previous terrifying incarnation. He has written eight other novels for middle school readers, including *The Books of Umber* trilogy, which was nominated for six regional book awards and translated into multiple languages. As a UConn student, he wrote a cartoon strip called "Bedlam Hall" for *The Daily Campus*. He and his wife, **Lisa Stenza Catanese '83 (CLAS)**, live in Columbia, Conn. **Barbara Solomon Josselsohn '83 MA** released her first novel, *The Last Dreamer*, in December 2015. **Thomas Parrino '83 (CLAS)**, co-founder and principal of Nusbaum & Parrino, a Westport, Conn., family law firm, has been selected as a Connecticut Top 50 Super Lawyer. This marks the third year that Parrino, of New Canaan, has earned this designation. **Robert J. B. Lenhardt '84 (CLAS)** was elected to the board of directors of Houlihan Lokey, a worldwide investment bank, upon its IPO on the New York Stock Exchange in August 2015. In November 2014, he was named deputy general counsel of its affiliate, ORIX USA. Active in pro bono work, he was also elected secretary general of the World Boxing Council in 2014. **Capt. Angela M. Martinelli '85 MSN** recently retired from 30 years of service (active and reserve) in the U.S. Air Force, Army, and Public Health Service. She is currently a clinical professor at Sacred Heart University in the College of Nursing in Fairfield, Conn. **Allen Gary Palmer '85 (CLAS)** and **Andrew Schaffer '88 (CLAS)** were included in the 2015 Super Lawyers List, a nationally accredited rating service of lawyers who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. **Peter LaPorta '86 (CLAS)** published a sixth book, *Normandy Nights,* a historical romance based on a true story that takes place during the invasion of Normandy. He is president of LaPorta Enterprises, a global consulting firm. **Dr. Allen R. Jones Jr. '87 (CLAS)**, owner of



JOB ENVY

As founder and director of the Dolphin Communication Project, **Kathleen Dudzinski '89 (CLAS)** has a job description that includes swimming with dolphins to record and study the tactile, behavioral, and acoustic signals they use to communicate as individuals within groups. Could this get any better? Well, yes. Her research time collecting data is spent chiefly among three destinations: the Roatán Institute for Marine Sciences (RIMS) in Honduras; Dolphin Encounters at Blue Lagoon Island in Nassau, the Bahamas; and at Zoo Duisburg in Duisburg, Germany. Dudzinski is shown here recording spotted dolphins in the Bahamas.

To learn more about the Dolphin Communication Project and Dudzinski's work, visit s.uconn.edu/dolphins.

John Anderson

UCONN NATION | ALUMNI

Dominion Physical Therapy & Associates and Dominion Pediatric Therapy, has been elected vice president of the Virginia Board of Physical Therapy. He also received the Distinguished Public Service Award from the Virginia State University Alumni Association, Peninsula Chapter. **Dr. Peter Oettgen '87 MED** was recently named *EBSCO Health DynaMed* editor in chief. *DynaMed* is a reference tool that provides health care providers with the latest information from medical experts. **Anne Alzapiedi '88 MPA** has been promoted to executive human resources business partner at GE Power–Gas Power Systems in Windsor, Conn. **Joseph Dec '88 (CLAS), '04 MBA** has accepted a position as corporate controller at Voalte Inc., a health care communications company headquartered in Sarasota, Fla.

1990s

Philip L. Dukes '91 (CLAS), '99 MBA was recently named senior policy advisor and counsel to the New York City Mayor's Office of Pensions and Investments. **Andy Heidel '91 (CLAS)** reports that after a 10-year career in publishing as a publicist, he started his own business. The Way Station bar and music venue, in Prospect Heights, N.Y., is in its fifth year of operation. **Scott D. Camassar '92 (CLAS)** was made partner of the law firm now known as Stephen M. Reck & Scott D. Camassar LLC, a personal-injury firm based in North Stonington, Conn. **Tim Crader '94 (BUS)** was recently promoted to vice president of sales for North America at Trilliant Networks. **Jim Jinks '94 (CLAS)** was named vice president of business development at Mediabids, a direct-response advertising company. In 2015, he was appointed to the Cheshire (Conn.) Planning and Zoning Commission, and will complete a master's degree in public policy from Trinity College in May 2016. He lives with his wife and four children in Cheshire, Conn. **Sharon Healy-Yang '95 Ph.D.** reports that her first novel, *Bait and Switch,* was published in December 2015 by Touchpoint Press. She describes the novel as a blend of humor and suspense against the backdrop of a World War II New York City rife with Nazi Fifth Columnists. **Lynne Bourassa '96 (CLAS)** married Anthony Bittues on Halloween 2015. The couple currently resides in Picayune, Miss. **Julienne Carey '98 (CLAS)** was recently named director of marketing for Michelle&Company at William Raveis Real Estate in Westport, Conn.

2000s

Kristy (Rebello) Murray '00 (CLAS) was married on Oct. 4, 2014, to Christopher Murray. They are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Isabella Juliet, in Nov. 2015. **Theresa Cramer '03 (CLAS)**, editor of *EContent magazine,* has published a new book, *Inside Content Marketing,* about how to create meaningful content marketing strategies. **Matthew Necci '03 (CLAS)** and **Brian E. Tims '05 (BUS), '08 JD** were selected as Rising Stars on the 2015 Super Lawyers List, a nationally accredited rating service of lawyers who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. **Melanie Dykas '04 (CLAS), '10 JD** has been chosen as a member of the Connecticut Law Tribune's New Leaders in the Law, an honor that recognizes her qualities as a forerunner in the areas of firm leadership, bar association efforts, casework, publications, pro bono work, and peer recognition. **Christophe Pane '05 (BUS)** has joined the strategy practice of KPMG as a director in its New York office. He helps corporations and private equity firms with issues related to corporate strategy and due diligence. **Devon (Martin) Tiani '07 (ED)** and **Timothy Tiani '07 (BUS)** are proud to announce the birth of a baby girl, Taylor Elizabeth. She was born in May 2015. **Matthew Allen '08 (CLAS)** received a master of arts in geography from the

State University of New York at Buffalo and has accepted a position as an urban planner for the town of Groton, Conn. **Rebecca Auger '08 (CLAS)**, of Hampstead N.H., and **Robert Ryan McHardy '09 (CLAS)**, of Bentonville, Ark., were married on June 27, 2015, at St. Christopher's Church in Chatham, Mass. Many UConn alumni were present, including groomsmen **Robert Slattery '09 (CLAS)**, **Ryan Krompinger '06 (CAHNR)**, and **Benjamin Lavoie '07 (ENG)** and maid of honor, **Natasha Nejdl '11 (ED)**. The couple currently resides in Norwalk, Conn.

Mike Berka '08 (CLAS) was promoted to director of sales for the West Coast for Invoke Solutions' entertainment research business unit. He has been with the company for four years, having started as project manager at the company's Boston headquarters. **Michael Bogatz '08 (BUS)**, whose last name was Connerty when he graduated, and **Sapora Turenshine '08 (CLAS)** were married on Oct. 11, 2015, in Brookfield, Conn. In attendance were **Debbie Bogatz '74 (ED)**, mother of the groom; **Rabbi Dana Bogatz '84 (CAHNR)**, wedding officiant and cousin of the groom; **Dr. Jay Sher '72 (CLAS)**, uncle of the bride; and many friends from UConn. **Kelly Pielech '08 (CLAS)** and **Sean Lawler '08 (CLAS)** were married June 21, 2015 in Topsfield, Mass. **Kristijan Begic '08 (CLAS)** was the best man and several UConn alumni were there to celebrate. **Lauren (Foster) Tenenhaus '08 (CLAS)** and her husband, Brian, welcomed a baby girl named Mila Grace in Sept. 2015. **Jennifer Mathieu '09 (CLAS)** and **Patrick Murphy '08 (BUS)** were married Aug. 1, 2015, in Connecticut.

2010s

Richard Kremer '10 (CAHNR) was named assistant superintendent at the Hop Meadow Country Club in Simsbury, Conn. **Jordan Bennett '11 (CLAS)** was recently promoted to deputy press secretary for Muriel Bowser, mayor of Washington, D.C. **Lynsey-Lyn Genauer '13 Pharm.D.,** a pharmacy manager for CVS, has been selected for the CVS Emerging Leaders Program for pharmacy supervisors.

SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH UCONN NATION!

Your classmates want to know about – and see – the milestones in your life. Send us news about weddings, births, new jobs, new publications, and more – along with hi-res photos – to: alumni-news@uconnalumni.com **or via snail mail to Alumni News & Notes, UConn Foundation, 2384 Alumni Drive, Unit 3053, Storrs, CT 06269.** *Submissions may be edited for clarity or length.*

Twins **Ettore** and **Angelo Rossetti (both'92 ED)** set a new Guinness World Record for longest tennis volley at 30,576 hits.

UConn Nation at the wedding of **Michael Bogatz '08 (BUS)** and **Sapora Turenshine '08 (CLAS)** in Brookfield, Conn.

Capt. **Matt Marcella '08 (CLAS)** shared his pride from Afghanistan with a little help from Sgt. William Evola.

Newly hatched members of UConn Nation, twins Owen and Elliot Marie, showed their spirit this April at UConn Health.

Clockwise from top left: Susan Warner; courtesy Michael Bogatz; Janine Gelineau; Sgt. William Evola.

Courtesy of CatalystCreativ

Amanda Slavin with actress Rosario Dawson, one of the Learning is Beautiful speakers at the 2015 Life is Beautiful festival in Las Vegas.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

THIS IS NOT YOUR MOTHER'S WAY OF TEACHING

Amanda Slavin '08 (ED), '09 MA is using her degree to teach, but in a most unconventional way. "I want to use events to educate and inspire," says Slavin, founder and CEO of the marketing company CatalystCreativ.

As an example, one of her clients is the huge Las Vegas music festival Life is Beautiful, to which Slavin and her colleagues added a Learning is Beautiful complement of speakers and workshops. Even Slavin seems amazed at its success. "We had five hundred to a thousand people coming to these talks — during a music festival!"

Rosario Dawson speaking about *Voto Latino* was a big draw, says Slavin, but the real shocker was Bill Nye the Science Guy. "Two thousand people were screaming, 'We want Bill, we want Bill.' We had to call in extra security." Which, Slavin asserts, proves her theory that people crave education, and if you give it to them in engaging ways, they will come.

While working toward her master's in UConn's accelerated 5-year Neag program, Slavin did the usual teaching stints. But it was the work on her thesis that inspired her atypical career path.

"I worked with classroom engagement and found that the most successful way to engage students was to get them outside and working within their communities," she says.

It was "that exact same thing that got me so excited about the Downtown Project in Las Vegas," says Slavin. The Project was CatalystCreativ's first client — and its inspiration for being. A private initiative by Tony Hsieh of Zappos, Downtown Project invests in small businesses to energize the city's center.

Slavin met Hsieh at a conference during which she says he invited her to come see him in Las Vegas. "When I got there we started to talk and he said, 'I don't really remember you.'"

Nevertheless, the two kept talking and ended up in a business partnership that saw Slavin moving to Vegas to start CatalystCreativ.

It turns out that Slavin had been percolating on a project like this since her UConn graduation, when she entered a recessed job market and zigged from her expected teaching path to accept a full-time job with the New York restaurant company she'd done party planning for during school.

"A lot of events are open bars," says Slavin. "People go, mingle, and leave not really any different than when they came. I wanted speakers, workshops, and — just like with my thesis — ways to engage people in the city or environment they are in."

When it started with Hsieh, CatalystCreativ employed just Slavin. It now has two full- and eight part-time employees creating marketing and brand campaigns on- and offline. The team works entirely remotely from Los Angeles, Atlanta, Milwaukee, New York, Philadelphia, and Las Vegas.

Working from Philly is creative director and fellow UConn alum **Mike Mason '10 (BUS), '13 MS**. He and Slavin met in Storrs when they both lived at Carriage House. —*LISA STIEPOCK*

IN MEMORIAM

Below is a list of deaths reported to us since the last issue of *UConn Magazine*. Full obituaries for many can be found at s.uconn.edu/mayobits. Please share news of alumni deaths and obituaries with *UConn Magazine* by sending an email to alumni-news@uconnalumni.com or writing to Alumni News & Notes, UConn Foundation, 2384 Alumni Drive Unit 3053, Storrs, CT 06269.

Faculty & Staff

Carroll Osborne "C.O." Bennett
Jan. 9, 2016
Charles Owen Woody Jr.
Feb. 13, 2016
Gaston Eduardo Hernandez Diaz
June 13, 2015

Alumni

Aaron Anderson '87 (CLAS)
Feb. 7, 2015
Donald W. Linskey Sr. '60 (BUS)
March 12, 2015
Fred Charamut '54 (BUS)
Aug. 15, 2015
Patricia Grace (Ingraham) Vinsonhaler '74 (CLAS), '79 MFA
Sept. 8, 2015
Stanley Perkowski Jr. '72 (ENG)
Dec. 17, 2015
Robert G. Feller '50 (ENG)
Dec. 23, 2015
Paul J. Lombardi Sr. '63 (CLAS)
Dec. 24, 2015
Paul Alan Tibbitts '53 (CLAS)
Jan. 6, 2016
Linda Y. Dods '69 Ph.D.
Jan. 7, 2016
Leon C. Kirk '53 (ENG)
Jan. 9, 2016
Susan Quenk Lehr '49 (CLAS)
March 1, 2016
Ernest A. Moeckel '68 (BUS)
March 23, 2016

Antonio Campelli '15 (SFA) in a drawing class taught by Professor Deborah Dancy in the School of Fine Arts.

Courtesy of Antonio Campelli

KUDOS

FINE ARTS GRAD WINS MARSHALL SCHOLARSHIP

Recent graduate Antonio Campelli '15 (SFA) has been named a winner of the prestigious Marshall Scholarship. He is one of just 32 selected from among 916 applicants this year.

As the fourth Marshall recipient in UConn history — and the 10th finalist since the 2005–2006 academic year — Campelli joins an impressive lineup of students who have gained the attention of the Marshall selection committee. Of the 10, Campelli is the first to have graduated from the School of Fine Arts; the others have come from a variety of majors in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the School of Engineering.

The Marshall Scholarship is Britain's flagship government-funded program for American students who represent some of the finest and brightest college graduates in the United States. It is named after former Secretary of State George C. Marshall, and was established as a gesture of gratitude to the people of the United States for the assistance the United States provided after WWII under the Marshall Plan.

Campelli, who grew up in Tolland, Conn., was home-schooled by his mother in traditional academic subjects. He also learned about wiring a house for electricity and how to shingle a roof while still a preteen, guided by his dad and friends from church.

He started picking vegetables for a local farmer when he was 11, took the makings of a greenhouse she offered him, and built his own flower propagation business in his backyard. He used the money he made through this business to start attending Manchester Community College when he was 15.

For the record

In his personal statement, Campelli told the selection committee that he didn't immediately decide to be an art major. He had not experienced any organized art education through his high school years, and was interested in investigating as many subjects as possible.

"Art developed as a means of recording that which captivated me," he wrote. "If I experienced or learned something remarkable, I would write about it; I would sketch it or record it through photography and video. In this way, art became an alternative yet intuitive form of communication."

Entering UConn in fall 2012 as a member of the Honors Program, he graduated three years later magna cum laude as a University Scholar, the University's highest academic distinction. Along the way, he was the recipient of both Summer Undergraduate Research Fund (SURF) and IDEA (Imagine, Develop, Engage, Apply) grants to study experimental book formats and installation art.

Campelli says coming to UConn was the best choice he could have made, although he was not aware of that when he was choosing his college.

"I initially thought I'd be attending art school," he says, "because I thought I needed to be among other artists all the time. As it turns out, what I really needed was the space of a big university and the chance to be with people who were doing lots of other interesting things — English majors and political science majors and people with all sorts of ideas so I was having lots of different conversations all the time."

He smiles when he says that coming to UConn "was a weirdly fortunate accident that ended up being perfect."

Mixed media

During his undergraduate years, he was a founding member of Everybody Arts, a student organization dedicated to arts outreach on campus and at local schools; served on the School of Fine Arts Student Advisory Council; and curated his senior thesis project — a solo exhibition titled "This Uncommon Language" — combining sculpture, painting, poetry, and installation art.

During the summers, Campelli continued a longtime tradition of joining his church group when they traveled to rural West Virginia to rehabilitate houses and organize events for impoverished local children.

He also worked as an assistant cataloguer at the William Benton Museum of Art, painted murals for both private and public patrons, coached preschool gymnastics, and held a number of part-time jobs to help fund his education.

Those who recommended Campelli to the Marshall committee portray him as not only extremely competent academically but delightfully accomplished in a variety of creative ways.

In her letter of recommendation, Anne D'Alleva, now dean of the School of Fine Arts, said: "Many of our graduates go on to successful careers in a variety of artistic fields and endeavors. But once in a while, an extraordinary student comes along who has the ability to be something more, a true leader in culture and the arts, a distinctive voice for change — these alumni are our *New Yorker* cartoonists, our Twitter and Facebook design executives, our Guggenheim-winning artists. It's clear already that Antonio will be part of this select group."

In his Marshall application, Campelli wrote, "Recently I have moved past the sky above my house and I am transitioning to places where the stars are entirely new."

In his case, the sky above him will be over England, where he plans to attend Goldsmiths, University of London to pursue an MFA.

Previous UConn Marshall Scholars were Ethan Butler in 2012, Michelle Prairie in 2009, and Virginia DeJohn Anderson in 1976. —*SHEILA FORAN '83 (BGS), '96 PH.D.*

Sean Flynn

REMEMBER THIS?

The weather cooperated for the 33rd year of UConn's OOzeball tradition with light rain and the temperature hitting 60 degrees. More than 300 teams competed this year, prompting University President (and participant) Susan Herbst to suggest that next year she wants to see all 30,000 students competing. Find more pics and a video at s.uconn.edu/ooze.

Tom Williams/Roll Call

FOUR QUESTIONS FOR...

STU ROTHENBERG '77 Ph.D.

Stu Rothenberg '77 Ph.D. is the founding editor and publisher of *The Rothenberg & Gonzales Political Report,* a nonpartisan newsletter covering U.S. politics, and a regular columnist for *Roll Call,* Capitol Hill's premier newspaper. He is one of the most respected political analysts in Washington, and has served as an election night analyst for PBS, CBS News, and CNN. He recently talked with *UConn Magazine* about the 2016 presidential election campaign.

In the past, Republicans nominated the next person in line and Democrats were more flexible. It seems they're reversing that history.
Long ago, I threw out the rule book of all the things that I had learned both in graduate school and in life over the last 35 years that have proven to be untrue in the Republican race for the presidential nomination. Often voters flirt with quirky, unusual, interesting candidates with personalities. But when they get down to nominating a candidate, they want somebody who has experience, is measured, thoughtful, and knowledgeable — someone who I would say has the dignity associated with the presidency. This time, the Republicans are poised to nominate somebody who doesn't have any of the traditional qualities.

What you're seeing in the Democratic Party is the exact same development, but it hasn't reached the level of where the Republicans are, in part because we've had a Democratic president for the past eight years. But you can see the Democrats looking more at an outsider than in the past. You don't get much more outsider than Bernie Sanders.

One of the things you've talked about many times is the partisanship in Washington and how it has been exacerbated. Is that part of why we have the situation we have now?
That's a part of it. I think it plays a role in the nomination process. Republicans are so contemptuous of the Democrats that they're not looking for a candidate who talks about getting things done and compromising. They're looking for a candidate who says: We have to stop compromising and have to roll the Democrats.

The Democrats say it's all about how scary Donald Trump and Ted Cruz are and how they're going to destroy women's rights and put people out on the streets. Each side is demonizing the other side constantly, and so it polarizes the voters.

For the Republicans, the idea of another Clinton and four more years of essentially a third Obama term is driving them crazy. For Democrats, the idea of Trump being nominated is totally unacceptable. It's only going to make this election more bitter, nasty, and foul.

Last December in your "Best and Worst" *Roll Call* column you said the weirdest thing in 2015 was the Trump candidacy. Has anything else surpassed that so far this year?
It's Trump as the likely Republican nominee. We never thought he was going to run, never thought he'd want to spend months on the campaign trail. We thought this was to enhance his market appeal for the next TV show. Now he's the Republican frontrunner drawing huge crowds to rallies — that's even stranger than the fact that he was in the race in December, leading in the early polling.

Many in Washington are describing this as a crazy election cycle. How does it stack up to what you've seen before?
We've had crazy elections over the last 35 years, but never anything as crazy as this. This is a reality show that has taken over American politics. The language that is being used, I don't even know how to explain it. It's so strange that if you made it a TV show 10 years ago, nobody would have thought it was serious or credible. The Democrats have an avowed socialist in the race. You have an entertainer who will be the Republican nominee and you had an ideologue, Ted Cruz, as Trump's alternative. The GOP establishment had no serious alternative at the end of the race. It's just totally different than anything we've ever seen.

I can only assume in 2020 or 2024, the Democrats will be nominating Kanye West and the Republicans will be nominating Curt Schilling.
—KENNETH BEST

For more of our interview, go to s.uconn.edu/rothenberg.

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TOM'S TRIVIA

CHALLENGE YOURSELF TO TOM'S TRIVIA!

Go to s.uconn.edu/maytrivia to see if you know as much as King of UConn Trivia and University Deputy Spokesperson Tom Breen '00 (CLAS).

1. **UConn's Department of Journalism turns 50 this year, but the history of news reportage at the University goes back to 1896, when the predecessor of today's *Daily Campus* was founded. What was that newspaper called?**

A: *The CAC Gazette*
B: *The Lookout*
C: *Nutmeg Notes*
D: *The College Standard*

2. **The first-ever graduating class from the institution that became UConn had six members. What did some of them go on to do next?**

A: Finish high school
B: Attend divinity school
C: Join the army
D: Enroll in graduate school

3. **Until the end of the 1960s, what were UConn freshmen required to wear during Orientation Week?**

A: Blue and white sweaters
B: Roller skates
C: Beanies
D: T-shirts emblazoned with the letter *F* for "Freshman"

4. **The Connecticut General Assembly passed a law allowing women to attend what is now UConn in 1893. What year did women actually start attending class?**

A: 1894
B: 1881
C: 1900
D: 1890

5. **Jonathan the Husky has been UConn's official mascot since 1934. Prior to the pup's arrival, though, which animal unofficially represented the University at state fairs and agricultural gatherings?**

A: Royal Otis, a bulldog B: Flossie, a dairy cow C: Clement, a goat D: Dragon Jr., a horse