

UConn

MAGAZINE

SPRING 2017



SAVING CIVILITY

Can the right balance of
humility and conviction rescue
our culture from bluster? p.14

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SNAP!

IT'S JONATHAN'S THRONE

Teams of UConn students worked to solve puzzles and “Escape the Expected” as part of a game that saw Ratcliffe Hicks Arena transformed into rooms from hit HBO shows. Competitors had just six minutes to find hidden codes and uncover clues that would unlock doors leading out of the rooms. After escaping the Oval Office from “Veep,” then the incubator room from “Silicon Valley,” they moved to the courtyard of Castle Black from “Game of Thrones,” where they built a three-dimensional puzzle map to reach their final objective — a chance to sit on the Iron Throne. For more, go to suconn.edu/escape.





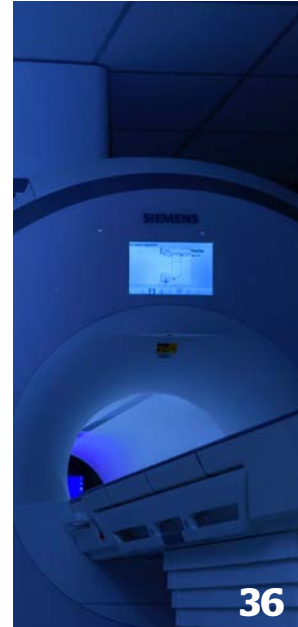
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magazine.uconn.edu

ALL DRESSED UP

In the Costume Shop of the Dramatic Arts Department, students create and re-create countless costumes for the Connecticut Repertory Theatre. In this award-winning video, you'll see a Victorian-style dress go from concept to curtain call.
s.uconn.edu/costume

GROWING OUT OF AUTISM

Hear Jake Exkorn talk about his childhood diagnosis and subsequent "recovery."
s.uconn.edu/jake

BLISS!

See how fellow alums invited UConn to their big day. (flags, dogs, etc...)
s.uconn.edu/bliss

THE REAL MCCOY

Ever wondered where the phrase "the real McCoy" came from? Pour yourself a glass of rum and watch the trailer for this award-winning documentary by alums Bailey and Jennifer Pryor, both '90 (CLAS).
s.uconn.edu/mccoys

Snap! photograph by:

Peter Morenus

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Alex Nabaum, Christa Tubach, Peter Morenus, James Stenson, Peter Morenus.

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FROM THE EDITOR:

Having been a philosophy/poli sci major as an undergrad, it's no surprise that I would relish talking to Michael Lynch, professor of philosophy and director of the Humanities Institute here, about his efforts to mend this country's divides with civil discourse and meaningful rhetoric (see "Saving Civility," page 14). What did surprise me was that our discussions left me feeling hopeful that efforts such as his could indeed make 2017 a year of listening and coming together. It also made me wonder if others were finding reasons to be hopeful in this new year. So I put that question to some of the wisest folks I had the pleasure of getting to know in the course of this job last year. Here are a few of the responses, with more at s.uconn.edu/hope.

I'm hopeful that despite all the fake news and polarization — and partly because of it — there will be renewed faith in the importance of speaking truth to power.
— Michael Lynch, professor of philosophy

I am hopeful that the results of this past election will galvanize college students across America to want to dive deeper into being active participants in shaping the future they desire and deserve.
— Douglas Casa '97 Ph.D., professor of kinesiology

I am hopeful that 2017 will encourage people fortunate enough to live in open societies to more deeply realize the responsibilities that come with such privilege.
— Alexis Dudden, professor of history

Because so many weird things happened in 2016 that anything is possible in 2017: I'm hopeful that President Trump

and Congress will figure out a way to pass meaningful tax reform and comprehensive immigration reform.
— Stu Rothenberg '77 Ph.D., founding editor and publisher of *The Rothenberg & Gonzales Political Report* in Washington, D.C.

I am hopeful (no, certain!) that new advances in understanding or curing rare diseases will be made. There will be at least one kid who has a better life because of scientific progress made.
— Stormy J. Chamberlain, assistant professor of genetics and genome sciences

I hope we will listen more to each other and act accordingly.
— Marie Coppola, assistant professor of psychological sciences and of linguistics

Here's hoping!

TO THE EDITOR

We received a lot of response to our article about Deaf culture and Marie Coppola's research trying to prove that teaching deaf children with cochlear implants (CI) sign language (ASL) in no way interferes with their ability to learn spoken English. Readers, such as Martha Ordaz and Mary McLinden below, applauded her research and testified to their own experiences with ASL. Find more feedback on this article and others at s.uconn.edu/letters.

I agree with your study, and I'm glad you are doing this. I'm a mother of a deaf child, and we are hearing parents. My daughter is 20 months old and has been learning sign language since she was born. She recently received bilateral CI; it's been about three months since her activation and she's already saying about 50 spoken words and signing those words at the same time. I have spent hours with her learning sign language; she knows 100+ signs. I completely believe that she's doing so well with her CI because she knows the words in sign language and it was easier to connect that spoken word with the sign word. I hope that

many people benefit with this study of crucial bilingualism. ASL is a must for a deaf child — they are born to be visual learners, and that will only help them if the parents choose CI.

Martha Ordaz, via our website

Can someone explain the logic behind convincing parents with hearing children to teach their kids baby sign language so they could ostensibly communicate earlier at the same time we were telling people with deaf babies not to let them learn ASL?

Mary McLinden, via our website

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ON CAMPUS

THE VOICE OF WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY

At the Mark Edward Freitas Ice Forum on this November night, Kailey Townsend is in position and ready for the puck to drop on her first women's ice hockey match.

Seated above the bleachers at an elevated table that overlooks the ice, Townsend is prepared. She knows the names of all the UConn players and their numbers.

A communication and political science major from New York, Townsend '18 (CLAS) is the newest play-by-play commentator for the UConn women's ice hockey team. And this season is the first time commentary will accompany the live stream on the UConn Athletics website.

"Tonight's game is my training," she says. "This season is the preliminary, and from here I'll keep going."

Play by play

The best commentators often become the voice of a team. Vin Scully — the famous commentator for the L.A. Dodgers, who retired in September — guided listeners through epic moments throughout the Dodgers' history.

Townsend's commentary, available through a paid subscription, is broadcast to UConn fans and athletes' family members when they can't be in the stands.

At WHUS, UConn's student radio station where she is operations manager, Townsend has crafted her knack for public speaking and covering live events. "And when it comes to sports," she says, "I know hockey, I know how I can explain this."

Townsend's cheat sheets — filled with the names and numbers of the players and technical ice hockey terms — are scattered across the small space in front of her, most of the table being otherwise occupied by switchboards, headsets, and other devices. Someone slips her a list of season statistics to add to the details that she can provide her listeners.

"I need to know how to be more descriptive in the moment," says Townsend. "People can't see what you're looking at, so you have to be the eyes for their ears."

She is consulting her cheat sheets before the game begins, reading a name and number on the list and looking up to match them to each woman practicing on the ice. She records the names and numbers of the visiting team, too, as each of their players skates by.

Even though Division I sports like basketball and football tend to attract the largest fan bases, Townsend feels strongly that this is the sport she wants to be covering.

"It's the empowerment," she says. "In such a masculine sport, it's awesome to support women's part in it."

"People can't see what you're looking at, so you have to be the eyes for their ears."

Once the clock starts running, Townsend pops on her headgear and jumps right into the commentary, effortlessly maneuvering between watching the puck and consulting her cheat sheets, never missing a moment of action or fumbling over her words.

The noise of the stadium completely washes out Townsend's voice. Someone sitting next to her would have difficulty making out what she says. So to those around her at the media table, her communication is limited to an occasional thumbs up.

She recognizes the valuable role she plays in this connection between fans and their favorite team, and says her goal moving forward is to gain a more professional footing. "I listen to the commentary for the men's basketball games and think 'How can I get on that level?'"

Townsend plans to train for the rest of the season by listening to other play-by-play commentators in hopes of polishing her work.

"It takes a lot of skill," she says. "I feel like I'm in the baby stages." —NICOLE HAIBER '18 (CLAS)

Peter Morenus

Kailey Townsend '18 (CLAS) has covered events for WHUS, the student-run radio station, but is new to the world of live-action sports coverage. Spend a day with Kailey via her takeover of UConn's Instagram page at [s.uconn.edu/kailey](https://www.instagram.com/sconn/kailey).

UConn Talks

“IF YOU TAKE OUT THE STUDIES THAT WERE INDUSTRY-FUNDED, THERE IS NO CONTROVERSY. THAT MAKES THIS AN IMPORTANT STUDY.”

Jennifer Harris, social psychologist at the University of Connecticut Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity, discussing a report about 60 experimental studies that examined the effects of sugar-sweetened beverages on metabolic outcomes, such as obesity and diabetes. Thirty-four of those studies, a slight majority, found an association between sugary beverages and obesity; 26 found no association. But the latter group was entirely made up of industry-funded studies, while only one of the positive studies had ties to the industry. *Stat*, Oct. 31, 2016

“I’m thrilled to be joining the Connecticut Repertory Theatre’s Nutmeg Summer Series as artistic director. Six years ago Vince Cardinal brought me to Storrs for my first summer to do ‘My Fair Lady,’ and ever since I’ve been trying to get back as often as I can.”

Three-time Tony Award nominee Terrence Mann on his return to CRT as artistic director of the popular Nutmeg Summer Series. *BroadwayWorld.com*, Nov. 15, 2016

“I went [to UConn] because of him. He just kind of sold me on . . . the idea of trying to go do something that most people thought was going to be impossible and just kind of challenged me to see if I could become the player I wanted to be . . . He’s a really good coach, great recruiter. I have high expectations for him to do a really good job there.”

Dan Orlovsky, Detroit Lions quarterback, on hearing the news that Randy Edsall was being rehired as head coach of Huskies football. *ESPN*, Dec. 28, 2016

“There wasn’t any negative link between [mothers] returning to work early and children’s development, both in terms of academic and behavioral skills.”

Caitlin McPherran Lombardi, assistant professor of human development and family studies, on a study she co-authored that researched children born in 2000 and later. *Quartz*, Dec. 29, 2016

“It’s not usually one video that traumatizes. It’s a lifetime of experiences . . . African-Americans have been dealing with the historical trauma and community trauma and individual trauma in the form of racism and discrimination [for centuries]. These videos are the icing on the cake.”

Monnica Williams, associate professor of psychological sciences, who specializes in the intersection of race, culture, and mental illness, on police shootings and social media. *Christian Science Monitor*, Oct. 13, 2016

“We looked at each other like two little boys in a candy shop.”

Kroum Batchvarov, assistant professor of anthropology, describing how he and a colleague reacted upon spying quarter rudders (large steering oars) on a Black Sea shipwreck, indicating that the vessel dates to medieval times. *The New York Times*, Nov. 11, 2016

“SINCE WHEN IS THREE IN THE MORNING PART OF THE NEWS CYCLE? SINCE NOW.”

Dave D’Alessio, associate professor of communications, on the relationship between the media and politicians during the 2016 presidential election. *Poynter.org*, Oct. 22, 2016

This Just In

IN THE BLOODSTREAM, SIZE MATTERS

A UConn engineering professor has uncovered new information about how particles behave in our bloodstream, an important advancement that could help pharmaceutical scientists develop more effective cancer drugs. Making sure cancer medications reach the leaky blood vessels surrounding most tumor sites is one of the critical aspects of treatment and drug delivery.

Anson Ma, assistant professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering, used a microfluidic channel device to observe, track, and measure how individual particles behaved in a simulated blood vessel.

What Ma found was that larger particles — the optimum size appeared to be about 2 microns — were most likely to get pushed to the cell-free layer, where their chances of carrying medication into a tumor site are greatest. His research team also determined that 2 microns was the largest size that should be used if particles are going to have any chance of going through the leaky blood vessel walls into the tumor site.

“When it comes to using particles for the delivery of cancer drugs, size matters,” says Ma. “When you have a bigger particle, the chance of it bumping into blood cells is much higher, there are a lot more collisions, and they tend to get pushed to the blood vessel walls.” —COLIN POITRAS ’85 (CLAS)

For more on this study, go to s.uconn.edu/particles.



Collections

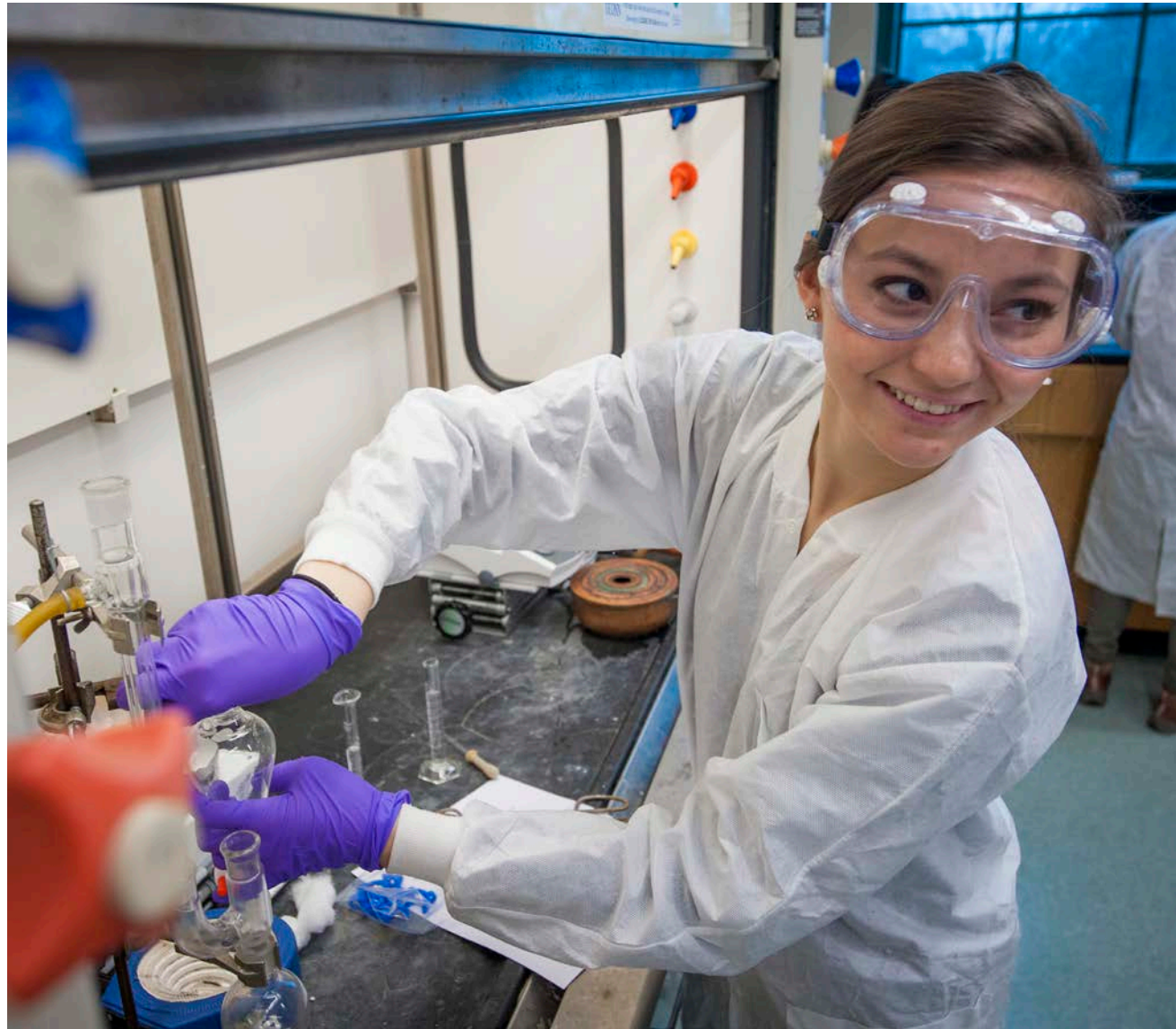
ALL DRESSED UP

Hidden in the Department of Dramatic Arts is a room dressed from floor to ceiling with hundreds of thousands of costumes and accessories in styles from Egyptian and Roman to ultra-modern and fantasy. They are used by the Connecticut Repertory Theatre (CRT), the producing arm of the department. Captain Hook’s jacket and Tiger Lily’s headdress from “Peter Pan,” for instance, are in the fantasy costume section. Many of the items were made in the Costume Shop by students who learn research techniques, costume design, and costume history. They create, alter, and re-create countless costumes every year for the nine shows produced by CRT.

Shop Supervisor Susan Tolis ’92 (SFA), ’94 MA gave *UConn Magazine* a tour of her “closet,” complete with massive moving racks like you see at the dry cleaner, stacks upon stacks of shoe storage, and the most magnificent accessory arrays. The costumes shown above represent dress styles that span the 19th century, says Tolis. The Regency style of the early 1800s (an example is third from right) is characterized by high waistlines and long, flowing skirts and was used in “Sense and Sensibility” last spring. The Victorian style of the late 1800s (the dress second from right) might have a bustle under the back of the skirt and could be seen in period pieces, such as “The Pirates of Penzance.” —EMMA CASAGRANDE ’18 (CLAS)

Watch a Victorian-style dress go from concept to curtain call in this award-winning video at s.uconn.edu/costume.

Peter Morenus



Sean Flynn

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

BRIDGET OEI '18 (CLAS)

This environmental chemistry honors student from Hebron, Conn., stays in step, whether designing a better pacemaker, volunteering as a medical aide in Peru, or winning Irish Dance championships.

Why did you decide to come to UConn?

At first, I thought that I wanted to go somewhere really far away, and I also thought initially that I wanted a smaller school, but then I got this really great scholarship from UConn — I got a full ride with the Nutmeg scholarship, and on top of that I got a Stamps scholarship. That kind of changed my perspective. Then I met with a couple of professors here and we talked about plans, including access to research, because research at the undergraduate level was super important to me. So I came, and I've loved it ever since.

When did you first know you wanted to be involved in science?

I think it was after sixth grade, when I came up with my first idea. I was in Grand Central Station thinking about the amount of energy that humans have, wondering about

doing something to harness this human energy. That's how I came up with my first prototype, a piezoelectric tile that generates electricity from people walking on it.

Was that the high school research you got a grant to continue here?

No. My sophomore year of high school, I came up with a way to harness the air that emanates from human lungs so that it will vibrate a piezoelectric prototype



Catherine Fiehn Photography; Feis Photos

that I made, and from there it can power a pacemaker. I wanted to come up with a renewable energy source for pacemakers so that you can constantly recharge the battery while it's in your body.

Before 'scientist,' what did you think you'd be when you grew up?

I think I wanted to be a waitress — a waitress and a mermaid. I still haven't had a waitressing job, but that's okay.

What's been your most memorable UConn experience so far?

I would say freshman year in Buckley. I met so many people from across the country, which kind of erased my worry of being so close to home.

What's your most embarrassing freshman memory?

I have an embarrassing sophomore memory. I lived in Connecticut Commons on the third floor. Coming home from the library after studying, I came up to the second floor and walked into what I thought was my room . . . it was not, and there was someone sleeping. I felt so bad. I don't think they woke up, but I was like, "This is not my room."

For four years you've been the first-place winner at the New England Irish Dance competition. How do you balance your training with your academic life?

Last year, I worked with a choreographer, and I work at my dance school, which is



off campus. So I dance on Fridays and Saturdays with my teacher, and then through the week I go off campus and practice in the studio.

How often do you train?

I try to get in 20 hours a week. That's at least three times during the work week as well as weekends. There are definitely some days when I'm too busy. But I just love it — it's a lot of fun, keeps me in shape, and keeps me focused.

Do you feel like you connect your passion for science with your dancing?

Absolutely. As a dancer, you're so aware of your level of energy, the other dancers around you, their energy, movement, position, spatial awareness. It's definitely all connected.

Is there anything else you like to do in your free time — if you have any?

I also like to surf. I go to New Jersey and surf there. I've been to a couple other places; I actually surfed in Peru when I was there doing medical volunteering.

Can you talk about your time volunteering in Peru?

On campus I'm involved with Medlife, which is a national organization that sends medical brigades to third world countries. Last winter I went to Lima, Peru, and we set up global clinics and brought health care to, I think it ended up being 1,500 patients in Lima.

It was a great experience. I got really

From left: Oei in the lab; in evening wear at the Miss Connecticut 2016 pageant at Mohegan Sun; and at the 2016 World Irish Dance Championships in Glasgow, Scotland, where she placed 12th of 200 competitors. Oei credits scholarship money for much of her success and recently starred in an NPR campaign for the UConn Foundation Transform Lives initiative — listen at s.uconn.edu/bridget.

close with the other people on the trip, and to go to another country that speaks a different language and become aware of their health issues and various ways to solve them was really eye-opening. It definitely set me on the path of "I love global health and I think that global health is so important."

You were first runner-up in the Miss Connecticut pageant this year. What made you decide to compete in a pageant?

I don't want to say I did it as a joke. It wasn't a joke, but I was like, you know what, I'm from Connecticut . . . I'm just going to do a local pageant and see what happens. So I did the Greater Rockville pageant and I won! So I'm Miss Greater Rockville for this year. And then back in June I competed at Miss Connecticut, which was a lot of fun. For most of the week I really didn't know what I was doing, but the reason I did that pageant was because talent is one of the biggest categories. I thought, "Oh, I can dance, I can do something onstage."

What is your post-grad goal?

Med School.

Do you have a favorite quote that keeps you motivated?

"Always know that you are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think." It's from *Winnie the Pooh*. —MEGAN KREMENTOWSKI '16 (CLAS)

CHEESY BAKED POTATO SOUP

Baked potato soup isn't just for winter — it's a year-round favorite in dormitory and café-style dining halls around the Storrs campus. It's especially popular in the serve-yourself venues where students pile on the toppings: grated cheddar cheese, diced scallions, crumbled bacon, minced jalapeño peppers, and sour cream.

Cheesy Baked Potato Soup | Makes 6 Servings

½ pound of smoked bacon, chopped (reserve some for garnish)
 1 large Vidalia onion, diced
 1 rib celery, finely chopped
 3 tablespoons flour
 1 quart vegetable or chicken broth
 6 large Russet potatoes, peeled and diced
 1 ½ cups light cream
 8 ounces sour cream
 12 ounces extra sharp cheddar cheese, freshly grated
 Kosher salt, to taste
 White pepper, to taste

Garnishes:

Grated cheddar cheese, diced scallions, crumbled bacon, minced jalapeños, sour cream

Directions:

Heat a large pot on the stove over medium heat. Add all the bacon strips to the pot and cook until crisp. Remove the bacon from the pot and place on a plate lined with paper towels. Drain the bacon grease from the pot, and place the pot back on the stove over medium heat. Add the onion and celery, cooking until tender, about 5 minutes. Sprinkle the flour over the onions and celery and cook, stirring constantly, for about one minute. Slowly add in the broth, whisking constantly, until smooth. Add the potatoes and bring to a boil. Let simmer until the potatoes are softened, about 20 minutes. Using a potato masher, crush the softened potatoes so that the starches release to slightly thicken the soup. Stir in the light cream, sour cream, and grated cheese, simmering until the cheese is melted and the soup is hot, about 10 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper, ladle into soup bowls, and garnish with your choice of toppings — cheese, scallions, bacon, jalapeños, and sour cream.



Real bacon crumbles

As you like it

Visit s.uconn.edu/recipes for printable recipe cards, including this soup.



Janine Gelineau/UConn Health

IN DEVELOPMENT

NEW PRODUCT SEEKS TO PREVENT PREMATURE LABOR

When Dr. Courtney Townsel (above) sees an expectant mother with a rare but serious condition called cervical insufficiency, she has only a few treatment options. And, despite steady advances in the treatment of mothers and unborn babies during high-risk pregnancies, none of those options is ideal. In fact, the surgical procedure most commonly performed to treat cervical insufficiency has remained largely the same since the 1950s.

“Just because it’s what we’ve always done doesn’t mean we should keep doing it the exact same way,” says Townsel, a maternal-fetal medicine fellow at UConn Health. “I thought we could do better.”

Townsel is at work on a product that will replace this surgical procedure involving hospitalization with a quick, in-office procedure. She is now transforming that idea into a viable product with the help of Accelerate UConn, the University’s National Science Foundation Innovation Corps site. —JESSICA MCBRIDE

Find more at s.uconn.edu/townsel.

THE WHOLE TRUTH

BIG MONEY IS SPENT MARKETING UNHEALTHY BABY FOOD

Marketing for baby and toddler food and drinks often contradicts the advice of health professionals, using messages that may lead parents to believe these products are healthier alternatives to breast milk or homemade food, according to a new study by the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity at UConn.

“Babies and toddlers should not consume any added sugar,” says Marlene Schwartz, Center director and a report author. “But many of the products companies are marketing for very young children contain cane sugar, sucrose, agave, and corn syrup. This must stop.” —DANIEL P. JONES

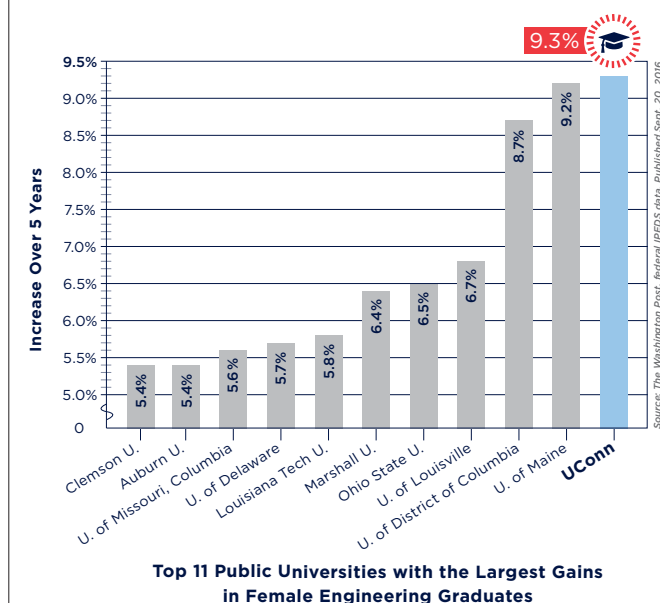
Find out more at s.uconn.edu/babyfood.

Peter Morenus

KUDOS

UConn IS #1

Women make up 24.3 percent of UConn’s engineering graduates. That’s a 9.3 percent increase in female graduates over the past five years, the biggest jump among public institutions nationally.



IN GOOD HEALTH

WHAT TO DO AFTER A LOW-GRADE PROSTATE CANCER DIAGNOSIS? WATCH AND WAIT, SAYS THE LATEST EVIDENCE

A new study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* supports “watchful waiting” or “active surveillance” as the best medical option for many prostate cancer diagnoses, according to Dr. Peter Albertsen, chief of UConn Health’s Division of Urology.

If a man is found to have low-grade prostate cancer, says Albertsen, there’s growing evidence to support the idea that the best course of action is nothing. Nothing right away, that is — no surgery, no radiation — nothing other than to keep an eye on it and monitor how it progresses.

“I don’t want to say that men don’t die of prostate cancer,” says Albertsen. “But a lot of older men have what we know are slowly growing prostate cancers. In the past they would die of heart disease or lung problems or something else long before their prostate cancer could kill them. That’s still true.”

Albertsen consulted on a ten-year Oxford University study that followed more than 1,600 men, ages 50 through 69, who were diagnosed with localized prostate cancer and divided them into three study groups. One group was treated with surgery, one group was treated with radiation, and one group was monitored under active surveillance. The study found no significant differences in prostate cancer mortality among the three groups. —CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

BRICKS & MORTAR



Peter Morenus

CITY CAMPUS

UConn will soon return to the heart of Hartford from its current spot in West Hartford. In August 2017, classes are expected to begin at the new downtown campus, anchored by the former Hartford Times building (above), and integrated into the surrounding community of cultural institutions and government offices, revitalizing that downtown space. In addition to undergraduate programs, the campus will house the School of Social Work and the Department of Public Policy.

When the Hartford campus opens its doors this fall, it will mark a return to its urban roots. The campus began as an extension center in Hartford in 1939, and occupied five different sites in the city before moving to its current location in West Hartford in 1970. The original purpose of the branch campuses was to provide a basic two-year curriculum for students who would move on to advanced work at Storrs.

For a history/gallery of the Hartford campus, go to s.uconn.edu/hartford.



Andre Serreira

NOT THE MONTEITH YOU REMEMBER!

The 57-year-old Henry Ruthven Monteith Building received a 68,000-square-foot expansion last year. The construction provided crucial academic space for classrooms and faculty offices that have been displaced by the renovation of other campus buildings. The classrooms and offices once used by the social sciences departments of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences now will be used by the Department of Mathematics.

Wondering who Henry Monteith was? Go to s.uconn.edu/monteith.



UConn Builds Its First Dorm Outside of Storrs – In Stamford

UConn Stamford will bring housing to more than 300 students in an effort to offset the lack of affordable housing that deters students from living close to campus. Set to be completed this summer, the new apartment building will mark the first time UConn has offered housing outside of the Storrs campus. The addition answers a boost in student enrollment at UConn Stamford and the desire to offer students a more traditional college experience.

The new six-story building will have 116 apartments – 10 studios, 49 single bedrooms, and 57 two-bedroom units – as well as a first-floor meeting room, additional study lounges on each floor, and retail spaces for renters on the ground floor. Students will be able to move in just in time for the fall 2017 semester.

EAT YOUR GREENS

In an effort to make room for the students housed in the new NextGen Hall, Putnam Refectory received a \$23 million renovation, completed in fall 2016. The dining hall, which previously seated 350 students, was expanded to seat 700. The now two-story eatery boasts improved self-service buffets and more vegan and locally sourced options. Putnam also is the first dining hall to incorporate features like a high-tech dining room that can be reserved for lectures and demonstrations, a grow wall that houses live herbs used in many dining hall dishes, and a new juice bar.

How did this hall help UConn's Sierra Club rating? See s.uconn.edu/cool.



Ryan Glista (2); Sean Flynn





SAVING CIVILITY



We'll need high doses of humility, conviction, and passion. Stat!

By Michael Lynch, philosophy professor and director of the Humanities Institute

"The best lack all conviction," William Butler Yeats noted, "while the worst are full of passionate intensity." Rarely has the Irish poet's famous warning against the perils of dogmatism seemed more apt. We are so deeply divided in this country that our disagreements extend past values, past even the facts, to the very meaning of what a fact is. As a result, many in the United States believe there is no point in talking to the other side. Why bother, when you already know you are right and they are wrong?

Democracies need passionate citizens. Without conviction, nothing gets done — either personally or politically. But we also need to listen to one another. That means more than just being civil or polite. Really listening means being open to the possibility that we could learn something from those with differing views, that our views can always improve, that we don't know it all. That's a kind of humility — what researchers call intellectual or cognitive humility.

Striking the right balance between this sort of humility and strong conviction is not easy. That's partly because of certain facts about human psychology. Each of us is prone to both confirmation bias — we

tend to agree with that which fits what we already believe — and the Dunning-Kruger effect — a tendency to think we are experts on subjects we in fact know little about. That is what makes teenagers so frustrating; they think they know it all. As Mark Twain wrote, "When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years."

In that sense, we all struggle with our inner teenager all the time. We are certain we are right and that other folks don't get it.

Arrogance Amok

The challenge of acknowledging our limits extends well beyond the political.

In 2007, for example, much of the financial industry knew that the strategy of bundling mortgages was only going to benefit investors, just as, a few years earlier, the "smartest guys in the room" knew that Enron was a safe bet of a company.

In both examples, the mistake was in confusing a heady mix of success and self-interest for expertise. That encour-

aged the thought that things were locked down, that nothing would go south, that the future would be as they were convinced it would be.

The same problem has occurred in the military realm, from the historic blunders of both Napoleon and Hitler in Russia, to the more recent assurances before the Iraq War that we knew that Iraq was developing weapons of mass destruction and had contributed to 9/11.

Even more dramatically, intellectual or cognitive arrogance defines many people's religious lives, as they interpret their beliefs as the one true faith, granting them certain knowledge about not only the afterlife, but life here and now. This kind of unflinching certainty can lead to political violence, as testified by the sad trail of historical events from the Crusades to the Paris terrorist attacks.

Less dramatically but still harmfully, it is intellectual arrogance that causes people to think that they can put all religious believers in a box, assuming that all Christians are conservatives or every Muslim is a terrorist or a terrorist sympathizer.

Perhaps the most complex and intriguing example is in the realm of science.

“The sheer amount of information available weirdly encourages informational overconfidence ... ‘evidence’ for any belief you have — I mean *any* belief — can be found on the internet.”

The scientific method embodies intellectual humility, the idea that we need to be open-minded toward the evidence. But across a variety of issues — from vaccines to evolution to climate change — many people ignore the evidence, preferring to stick with what they feel certain is true, even while claiming that the scientific establishment is doing the same thing.

Fake News Fiasco

The challenge of overcoming our natural tendency toward unwavering conviction has only deepened with the increasing dominance of social media.

Our online life enables us access to a universe of information. Yet it also rewards, tweet by tweet, arrogance and hyper-defensiveness. The sheer amount of information available weirdly encourages informational overconfidence (“Just Google it!”), making us think we know

more than we do. One reason for that is “evidence” for any belief you have — I mean *any* belief — can be found on the internet.

Another reason is that the wonderful freedom the internet brings enables us to curate our own politically tinged information bubbles and echo chambers. Our technology is facilitating, rather than compensating for, our natural human disposition to bias, overconfidence, and blind trust in authority. This is what has made the issue of fake news on Facebook and other social media platforms so effective and yet also so frightening.

Fake news sites go well beyond mere “click-bait” or the use of bombastic and misleading headlines to lure people in for commercial purposes. They play directly on bias by supplying false information that conforms to a person’s political views as expressed — perhaps only

implicitly — by the trail of information they have left on the web. Marry this type of propaganda with a tendency to think your political viewpoint is perfect and you get a dangerous, reinforcing mix. We are always right — just ask us.

Humble Pie

This is why we need to investigate how to recapture a sense of intellectual humility. Such an investigation can’t be one-dimensional. It needs to draw not only on social science but also on the deepest lessons of the humanities. One such lesson — particularly salient, perhaps, in our present political environment — comes from Abraham Lincoln’s willingness to form a “team of rivals” in his cabinet.

Lincoln was imperfect, as all of us are, but he was a man of conviction — conviction strong enough to lead the country into war. Yet he combined that with enough humility to propose appointments that allowed for a hearing of views with which Lincoln himself often did not agree.

Indeed, the Lincoln example illustrates an important point: He understood that it is when you are in power that intellectual arrogance is most tempting, that it is when you are in power that you are most tempted to think you know it all — and when you probably don’t.

Hope

Our research project based at the Humanities Institute (see “Humility & Conviction in Public Life” at right) is aimed at combining many of the disciplines I mentioned



here — psychology, philosophy, and history, to name just few — to address the problem of arrogance and its effect on public discourse.

A striking example of the promise of this research comes from an initial study

humility, open-mindedness, and similar ideas, together with group work meant to help students model these ideas, would have any effect on students taking a philosophy course that explicitly dealt with divisive issues over ethics.

Students taking this training were the target group — call it the “humility group.” Students taking the same course, but without the extra training, were the control group.

We tested both groups before and after the class using a measure designed to track behavior associated with open-mindedness and intellectual humility. The results at first seemed discouraging: the “humility group”

ended up having stronger convictions than when they started, and they were more willing to defend their opinions, while the control group’s convictions lessened.

But the data also suggests something

“This kind of unflinching certainty can lead to political violence, as testified by the sad trail of historical events from the Crusades to the Paris terrorist attacks.”

run by our project this summer with Ben Meagher of Franklin & Marshall College and Hanna Gunn, Brendan Kane, Nate Sheff, Casey Johnson, and me at UConn.

Our question was whether exposure to research on implicit bias, intellectual

deeply interesting: Members of the target humility group rated one another much higher on the humility scale than the members of the control group rated one another. In short, they had strong convictions, but they regarded one another as more humble and willing to listen.

While this research is still in the early stages — more testing is needed — these initial results point to the promise of this project. They point to the possibility that we might be able to look past arrogance and balance democracy’s two competing values — humility and conviction — after all. ☺



Michael Lynch, professor of philosophy and director of the Humanities Institute.

Brian Diaz

HUMILITY & CONVICTION
IN PUBLIC LIFE

How can we balance our most deeply held convictions with humility and open-mindedness in order to repair public discourse? This is the central question guiding Humility and Conviction in Public Life, a UConn project investigating how intellectual humility — being aware of our own cognitive limitations and biases, and being responsive to the evidence — can promote healthier and more meaningful public conversation.

The three-year academic research and public engagement initiative led by

Brendan Kane and me received a \$5.75-million grant from the John Templeton Foundation.

Engagement activities include summer institutes for high school teachers on how to incorporate intellectual humility into the classroom (held jointly with UConn’s Thomas J. Dodd Research Center); a free and globally available online course on self-examination and public life; partnerships with public institutions and community groups in Hartford to practice humble dialogue over the divisive issues of our day; and a series of awareness-raising media initiatives.

Among its applied research activities are a

visiting fellowship program hosting leaders from the academic, media, and nonprofit sectors; an international, competitive funding initiative to support interdisciplinary teams of researchers pursuing project themes; three research workshops hosted at UConn; and a partnership with UConn’s Mellon Foundation-funded “Scholarly Communications Design Studio,” which is looking at inventive, dynamic ways to get scholarly knowledge into the world at large.

The project is hosted by the UConn Humanities Institute, which has a long history of sponsoring both publicly engaged and interdisciplinary research.

As such, the Institute is a natural mechanism for implementing a project that seeks to apply research in the social sciences and humanities for the purpose of elevating the tone and outcomes of public discourse in our society.

Stay Involved

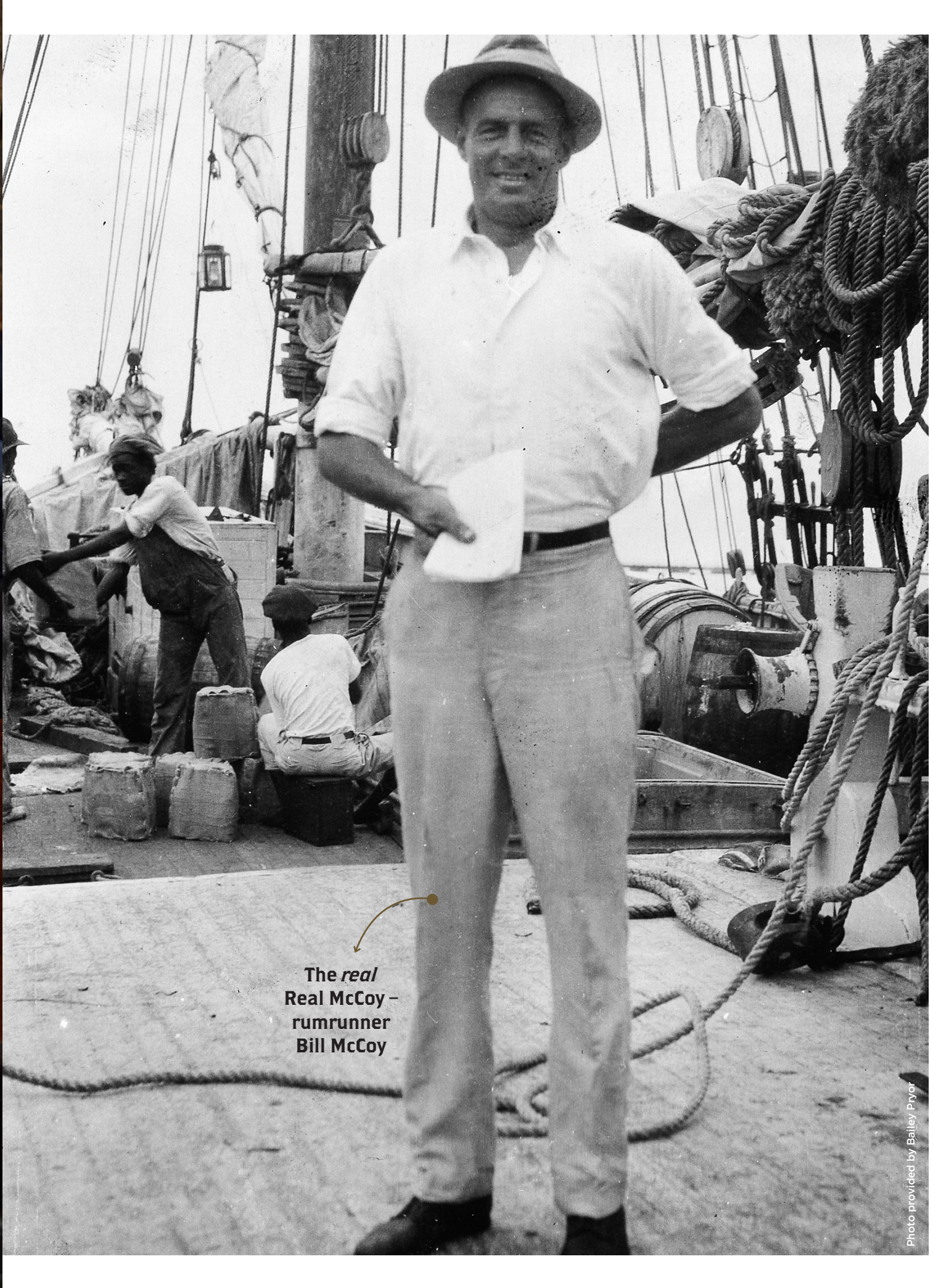
To participate in, and stay informed about, the project, please consult its website at humilityandconviction.uconn.edu, where you can join events, keep updated on research, and learn how to connect to other people and organizations working to instill a greater sense of intellectual humility in our national conversation. —M.L.



The Real McCoy's

Making a film about rumrunner Bill McCoy led alums Bailey and Jennifer Pryor, both '90 (CLAS) to market a Prohibition-style rum that's the real deal.

By Katharine Whittemore | Photos by Peter Morenus



The *real* Real McCoy – rumrunner Bill McCoy

Photo provided by Bailey Pryor

Deep dark secret: Bailey Pryor's career is founded on a bribe. To hear the sordid story, let's slow fade to August 1987 and Mystic, Conn., where the filmmakers of "Mystic Pizza" have just checked in at the Mystic Hilton, their base for scouting the area. Pryor is 19, a local kid hell-bent on a film career ever since seeing "Star Wars" in fourth grade when "it completely blew my mind," he says.

"I went to the front desk," Pryor '90 (CLAS) recalls of that summer day, smiling at his naive and nervy younger self. "What room are the movie people in?" I asked the bellhop. I didn't think he'd tell me — so I slapped down a five-dollar bill." The bellhop burst out laughing at the audacity, the ridiculous amount. He shook his head, pushed back the fiver — and revealed the room number.

When Hollywood producer Mark Levinson answered Pryor's knock, the adrenalized teenager let it fly: "I've lived here my whole life, I know everyone in town, every place in the area! You need me!" The producer of "Teen Wolf" and "Home Alone" looked him up and down. "Okay, kid, you're hired," he said. "Go get me a van, rent some office furniture, and be back in three hours."

For the next two months Pryor continued to go-get. He helped the location manager find the Stonington Borough mansion for Julia Roberts' rich boyfriend in the film, plus the by-the-train-tracks house for Roberts' character. When an early snow messed with a scene, he shoveled it out. He scared up the boats and cars used in the background (in some shots you can spy his dad's orange Volkswagen bug). Meanwhile, Pryor learned everything he could from each department — lighting, sound, art direction, wardrobe, transportation, you name it.

By the end of the shoot, he had a new nickname: "Just Ask Bailey."

Blockbuster

"Just Ask Bailey" has come a long way since then. The communications major has worked on seven feature films as well as 130 TV shows for ESPN, Discovery

Channel, Animal Planet, Travel Channel, and more. He's won five Emmys. He's shot on location in places like China, Iceland, and New Zealand. His documentaries (on robber baron Jay Gould and the whaling ship *Charles W. Morgan* to note two) have aired on PBS. If you're a ski nut, you've inhaled his gorgeous ski films

directs many of her husband's films, overseeing everything from title fonts to costumes to props to set design.

She's the oldest of four and grew up in Brimfield, Mass. (she made extra pocket money as a kid parking cars in their yard during the renowned Brimfield Fair). Her dad was a civil engineer, the

"I can't tell you how many people see me and say, 'I've got a great idea for a movie,' but in this case, it was."

for Warren Miller Entertainment.

But Pryor's not just a film guy. These days, he's spending most of his time running an artisanal rum company with his wife and collaborator, graphic designer Jennifer Miller Pryor '90 (CLAS). Inspiration for the projects came from their award-winning 2012 film "The Real McCoy." McCoy as in Bill McCoy, the famous Prohibition rumrunner who never cut his liquor with the usual nasty fillers, such as prune juice or turpentine — hence the saying "the real McCoy."

Backdrop

Filmmakers love the establishing shot, so here's one for you: Picture a lovely, not large, yellow, center-chimney Cape in Mystic's historic district, built by a ship's carpenter in 1844. This time, I'm doing the knocking, and Bailey and Jennifer warmly greet me at the door, maneuvering around their cheerful, elderly puggle (that's a pug-beagle), Linus. Linus snuffles underfoot as we sit in the kitchen, sun pouring through the windows.

Filmmakers also love close-ups, so now zoom in on a looser, New England version of Coach and Tami Taylor of "Friday Night Lights": Bailey, tall and dark-haired, and Jennifer, also tall, understatedly stylish, with a strawberry blonde mane. Pan to Jennifer, who art

vice president of the physical plant at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and her mom a midwife and midwifery activist. The Millers often participated in the American Host program, hosting foreign teachers and families from all over Europe. Thus inspired, Jennifer spent one year of high school in Frankfurt, Germany. At UConn, she thought she might major in German.

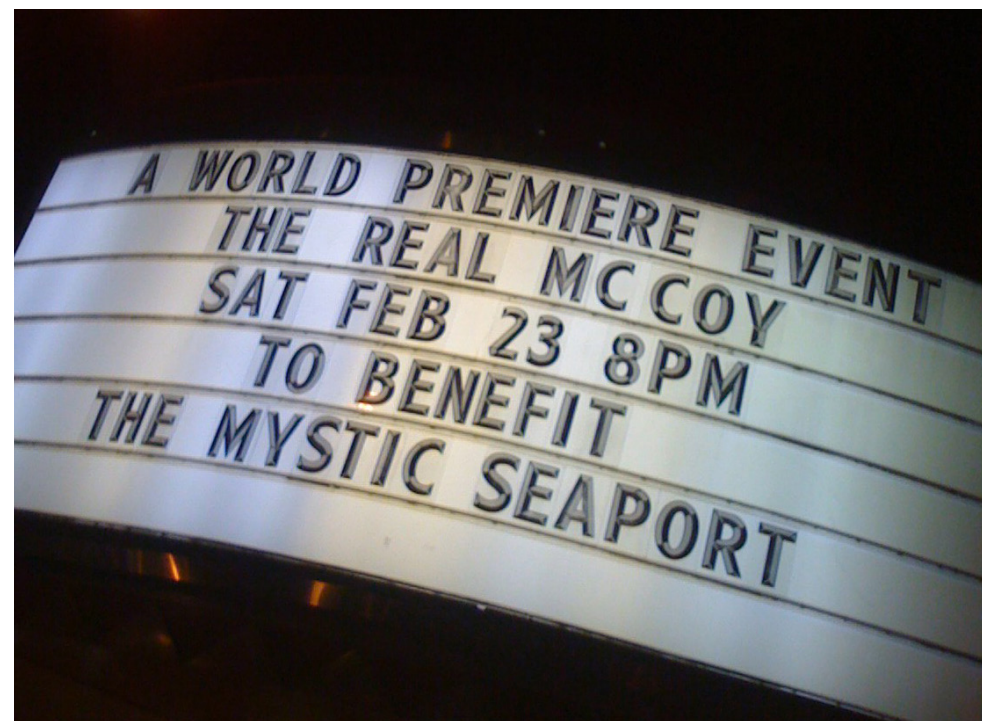
But she ended up an English major, and particularly remembers her classes with "the phenomenal, very insightful" English professor Marilyn Nelson, who later became the poet laureate of Connecticut. She also took a few studio art classes, "which gave me great foundation in perspective and fundamental design elements," that play a vital part in her work life today.

Pan back to Bailey: He's the youngest of four (one sister is Mary Day '88 BGS), whose dad worked as an engineer at General Dynamics and whose mom is a craftsperson and author. Bailey was a born entrepreneur. At 15, he started a snack bar at his parents' yacht club. At 16, he began a scuba diving business. At 18, he formed his own production company.

After "Mystic Pizza" came out, therefore, he was hot to take another risk. Cinematographer Tim Suhrstedt asked him to move to L.A. to assist on "Feds,"



Prohibition agents in Brooklyn in 1923 dump illegal alcohol; this photo was used in "The Real McCoy" documentary.



Life of Bailey

Clockwise from top left: Installing a helicopter camera rig for a flight above New York City in 2014 for the film "Gluten Free," premiering on PBS this year.

Filming Sebu Kuhlberg snowboarding in Breckenridge, Colo., for Warren Miller's "Fifty."

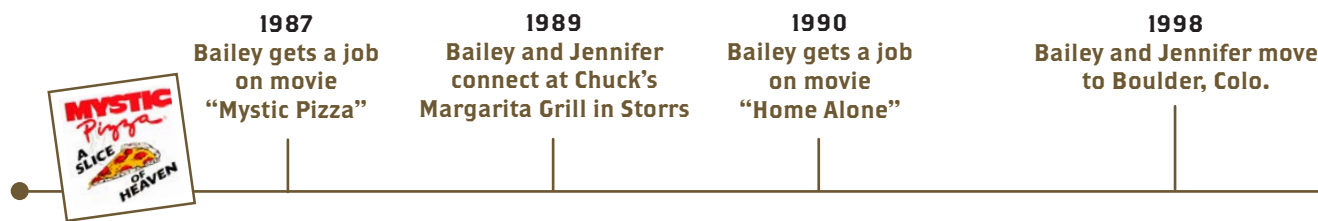
The marquee for the "The Real McCoy" premiere at the Garde Arts Center in New London, Conn.

At the 2013 Emmy Awards after winning in five Documentary Film categories: Cinematographer, Editor, Writer, Director, and Best Picture.

Professor Stephen Jones teaching maritime history at UConn Avery Point. Jones' book *The Actual McCoy* served as the inspiration for the Pryors' documentary film.



Photos provided by Bailey Pryor; photo of Stephen Jones by Peter Morenus





with Rebecca De Mornay (Pryor was the clapper, as in the guy who claps the slate that identifies each scene). Later, he was Levinson's assistant on six movies, including "Home Alone." Levinson "was a fantastic mentor and taught me so much about filmmaking, budgeting, scheduling, and more," says Pryor.

Between shoots, he did a few semesters at The Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara. But "I'm a New Englander, and I wanted to be here," says Pryor. He transferred to UConn and took whatever classes might help him become a film producer and screenwriter: communications, acting, journalism, accounting, statistics, marketing, and finance.

Cue Kiss

Jump cut to Chuck's Steak House and Margarita Grill in Storrs. It's the summer of 1990, and Jennifer (waitress) and Bailey (I.D. checker) show up to work. She's supposed to train him on how to wait tables, but there's a kitchen fire — cue the flames and pulsing sound track — and the restaurant has to close temporarily. The two end up hanging out.

"I fell madly in love with Jennifer," says Bailey, smiling at her. But they stayed friends for a year, at which point Bailey planned to head to L.A. to help on post-production for "Home Alone."

On an impulse, he bought Jennifer a plane ticket to California and asked her to join him in driving his car back east. She did, "and our first real date lasted 18 days," says Bailey.

The couple married in 1992 and have two children. Maddie, 20, is studying food justice and sustainability at Green Mountain College in Vermont. Finn, 17, is a sound engineering and music composition student at Icon Collective in Los Angeles.

Montage

Like many families in heavy-travel fields such as entertainment or sports, the Pryors homeschooled, so they weren't separated during months-long shoots. The kids "got a very unique education seeing the rest of the world," says Jennifer. Indeed. The family has stayed in 21 countries, sometimes for months at a time. For Chris Pratt's first movie, "The Extreme Team" (2003) — think "Point

Break" but with extreme athletes as undercover agents — they lived in New Zealand. For "Aid to Artisans" (2007) — about third world artisans selling their wares to first world outlets like Pottery Barn — it was Egypt and South Africa. Then Thailand, Spain, and Australia for the Tennis Channel's "Origins of the Game" (2009). Meanwhile, for all those Warren Miller ski films, Bailey deadpans, "I had the terrible, awful job of skiing around the world."

Crosscut

The Pryors essentially make their living telling stories. Not a shocker, I suppose, when an English major marries a communications major. "My specialty is summarizing," says Bailey. "I'm about taking a huge subject and putting it into 90 minutes maximum on film." Jennifer is all about forging the look for that story: "I am the backstage person, where I prefer to be," she says.

Both have honed their ability to recognize a good story, too. The "Real McCoy" tale came by way of another UConn connection, Stephen Jones, a longtime English professor at UConn Avery Point

(his specialties: Shakespeare, maritime studies), and an old friend of Bailey's parents.

Jones also runs Flat Hammock Press, which republished a 1930s book on McCoy and then published *The Actual McCoy*, an in-depth look at the man by Jones himself. Jones pitched Pryor on following up with a film. "I can't tell you how many people see me and say 'I've got a great idea for a movie,'" says Pryor, "but in this case it was."

McCoy was a boat builder in Holly Hill, Fla., when Prohibition passed. He outfitted a schooner, sailed south to the Bahamas to procure rum, registered the boat under British papers (to avoid American laws), then sailed north to the waters off New Jersey and Long Island, anchoring outside the three-mile limit to avoid the law yet again. So many booze-vending boats followed suit, the area was dubbed "Rum Row." But McCoy, aka "the gentleman rumrunner," had the purest stuff, plus he didn't price gouge or truck with gangsters. "He was an innovator," says Jones, "not a violent man."

To cope with the wave of bootleggers at sea, President Coolidge doubled the budget of the Coast Guard, and a sort of arms race ensued, with each side improving their boat speed and engine size. McCoy evaded capture many times until the U.S. secretly negotiated a treaty with the U.K. to arrest him in international waters.

The chases, McCoy's jail time, and many other scenes are reenacted in the movie. The Pryors shot the nautical footage off Martha's Vineyard, Mass., and some train scenes at the Colorado Rail Museum in Golden, Colo.

Meanwhile, the Pryors' office space in

Noank, Conn., once a vaudeville theater, was converted into a speakeasy. And Jennifer fashioned the wardrobe from local thrift shops and loans from the Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, Conn.

Greenlight

Around this time, Bailey Pryor idly wondered if the phrase "the real McCoy" was trademarked. His lawyer discovered,

"This guy was a film producer, and I thought if he treats the business trivially, I'll tell him where to go."

unbelievably, it wasn't.

The Pryors secured a trademark and noted that, in archival photos, some of McCoy's rum barrels bore a customs stamp from Barbados. Archivists there speculated that the Seale family, of Four-square Rum Distillery, may have sold McCoy his rum. But there was no, shall we say, proof.

Bailey reached out to Richard Seale, fourth-generation owner, a legend in the rum world (voted Distiller of the Year in 2011) and a fairly crusty guy.

"When Bailey first approached me, I was extremely skeptical," he told me. "Ninety percent of the people who come to us to make a new spirit waste our time. This guy was a film producer, and I thought if he treats the business trivially, I'll tell him where to go. But the irony was his idea was a very good fit for us. I would never have guessed such a backstory could exist, but it did. McCoy bottled his rum with the highest integrity, and so do we."

Buzz

Since *The Real McCoy* (film plus company), the storytellers have become the story. Those juicy narrative hooks — filmmaker turns rum maker, the origin of the phrase "the real McCoy," the five Emmys — have lured coverage from publications, such as *The Wall Street Journal* and *GQ*. The cachet and the solid business plan also have attracted investors. Big-time investors including John Esposito, former CEO of Bacardi, and John Sculley, former CEO of Apple. Sculley told the Pryors they were way ahead in the startup game because they had both a brand name *and* a great story.

Over the last couple of years, *The Real McCoy* rum has won 85 industry awards. True to

its backstory, and unlike the vast majority of rums, which contain sweeteners and spices, this rum is unadulterated. Today, it sells in 16 states and 18 countries.

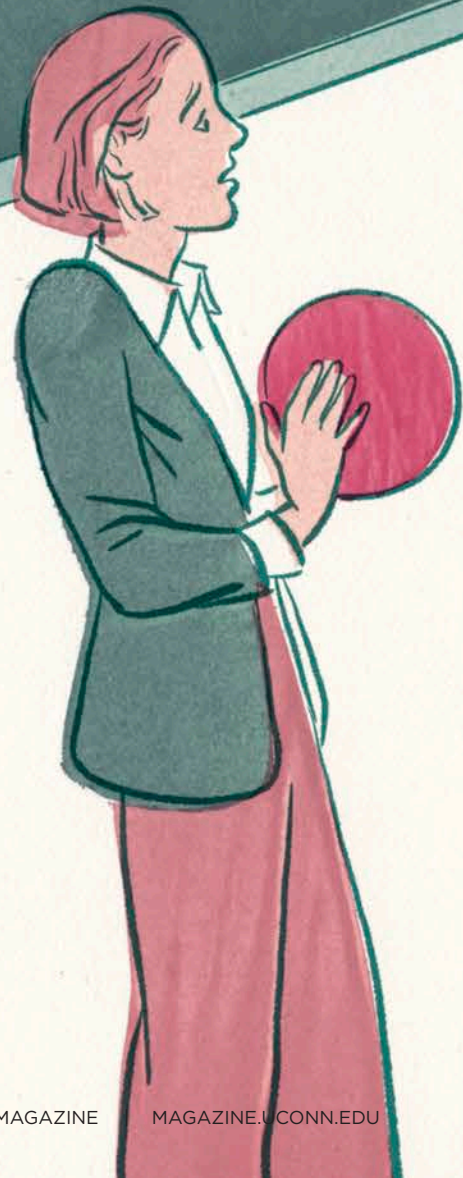
"Starting this business is the most consuming of all the projects I've ever taken on," says Bailey. He's on sabbatical from the film business for now — though he has shopped a screenplay about the Huskies' legendary coach Geno Auriemma as well as a Hollywood version of "The Real McCoy," under Universal Studios, with Chris Pratt signed to play the lead.

Meanwhile, the Pryors have embraced this new direction, going to industry trade shows, seminars, and, as Seale says, "asking me thousands — thousands! — of questions."

Jennifer marvels at this "constant process of self-education and endurance." Bailey nods, then chimes in: "In many ways, we don't look at the rum business as a business, though. We look at it as a movie. Building a brand is about telling a great story. That's what we do." ☺



Class Action



Trying to keep students safe while providing them a decent education, school administrators these days are bombarded by questions of privacy and equity that increasingly land them in court. It's almost like you need a law degree to be a principal these days.

By Stefanie Dion Jones '00 (CLAS)
Illustrations by Alex Nabaum

If your child were to call his or her kindergarten classmate a name, you might expect to hear from the teacher or the school principal — not from a police officer who just finished questioning your child without having first informed you.

Yet numerous parents in one New Jersey community this past year encountered just such a scenario after school district officials adopted a policy under which nearly every student discipline incident, even minor behavior infractions, were reported to local law enforcement.

The news story on the controversial policy, which received national attention, is one that UConn alum Brian Hendrickson '10 (6th Year) recalls reading with the reaction "How did this happen?" Hendrickson, who earned a law degree prior to embarking on his career in education, is the assistant superintendent of public schools in Suffield, Conn.

"So many times, school administrators get themselves in hot water because they do not understand the legal ramifications of some of their actions," says Hendrickson. "Leaders can get bogged down in conflicts and issues. If they had more training, they might have a clearer perspective and be able to more efficiently handle an issue. This would then allow for more time and focus on teaching and learning."

While the policy has since been reversed, it remains, says Hendrickson, a striking reminder of just how crucial it is for school principals, superintendents, and other educational leaders and administrators to understand the implications of their decisions on the legal front.



“School boss: Student has right to wear Confederate clothing”
PLUM, Penn.

“School boss changes ruling, bans Confederate flag clothes”
PLUM, Penn.

From Tweeting to Twerking

One need look no further than the Sandy Hook or Columbine tragedies to understand one of the top concerns for today’s school leaders across the country: safety.

“School administrators want to create a safe environment,” says Preston Green III, John and Carla Klein Professor of Urban Education. “But how do you come up with policies that on the one hand keep people safe, but on the other hand respect the rights of students? You have to think about when you can intervene.”

Green, who also has a law degree and affiliate appointment with UConn’s School of Law, points to a case out of Minnesota where, in 2014, an honors student and captain of the high school football and basketball teams faced a long-term suspension his senior year for a single tweet in which he made a sarcastic joke about a teacher. The student sued the school district, its superintendent, and others — resulting in a \$425,000 federal court settlement in favor of the student.

The year prior, a high school in Southern California suspended more than 30 seniors for creating a “twerking” video that ended up on YouTube. When parents threatened to sue the school board for the suspensions, as well as for banning the students from prom and graduation, the school agreed to expunge the students’ records.

“If students are expressing themselves in ways that may not make people comfortable but are perfectly protected by the First Amendment, you don’t intervene,” says Green. “Intervening where you don’t have a legal right to do so may expose you to a lawsuit.”

The spate of cases in recent years in which school districts have faced legal action after making missteps that infringe on students’ rights, particularly amid the rise of social media where the laws are still evolving, prompted Green to consider how UConn could help educate school leaders in addressing this delicate balance between maintaining safety and honoring the rights of students.

Green has since initiated and designed a new academic program at the University known as UCAPP (UConn Administrator Preparation Program) Law. Launched this past fall, it combines the Neag School’s UCAPP educational leadership program and UConn law school’s JD program. Designed for professionals interested in obtaining a law degree as well as certification in educational administration, the program is believed to be the first of its kind in the nation.

You Posted What?

Students are not the only ones whose questionable behavior has landed them in the center of legal wranglings of late. Several years ago, a high school outside Philadelphia, for instance, issued laptops to its students. When attempting to track down misplaced computers, it used the laptop webcams to observe and even photograph those students in the privacy of their own homes. After learning of the breach in privacy, the parents of one sophomore filed a federal lawsuit; the school district ultimately settled the case for upwards of \$600,000.

Teachers and other school employees across the country have similarly been penalized for their conduct, including actions taken online or outside of school grounds.

In 2013, for example, one Chicago-area high school guidance counselor was fired after self-publishing a racy book giving advice on sex and relationships. Although he sued the school for what he claimed was a violation of his First Amendment rights, the lawsuit was dismissed — on grounds that some students

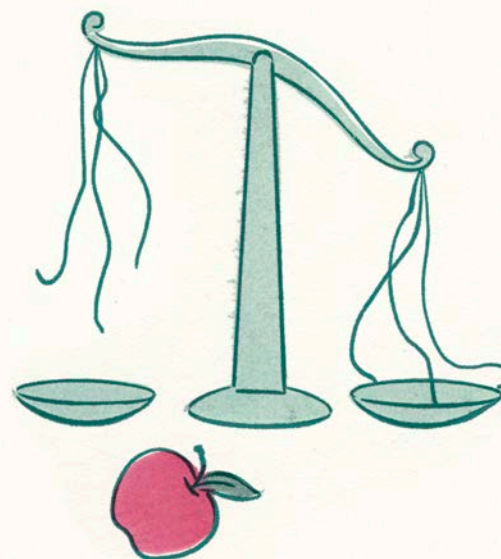
“Family pushes for cyberbullying laws after teen’s suicide”
TEXAS CITY, Texas

who “learned of the book’s hypersexualized content would be reluctant to seek out [the counselor’s] advice” — in essence, “disrupt[ing] the learning environment” at the school.

Social media has caused its fair share of problems for instructors, too. In Memphis, a teacher was suspended after criticizing her kindergartners on her Facebook page. A teacher’s aide in Michigan lost her job after posting a photo to social media that one of her Facebook friends, who also happened to be the parent of one of her students, reported to school authorities as inappropriate.

These examples may be extreme but are far from uncommon, says Green. Teachers, he says, often do not receive any in-depth professional development about law — whereas properly trained principals and superintendents could be in a position to help bridge this knowledge gap.

“An administrator who understands the law can explain to teachers very clearly that they have to behave in ways that get



“There are the needs of the teacher and the school as a whole, and there is the need of the student who is at risk. What do you do?”

the students to see them as role models,” he says, and can ultimately help them “understand the connection between their outside behavior and their employment.”

In contrast, without the benefit of legal training, a school administrator “may not even be aware of an issue [and] may not know to pick up the phone to call the school’s legal counsel,” says Anjali Prakash ’93 (CLAS), a practicing special education lawyer who advocates on behalf of students with disabilities and their families in the Washington, D.C. area. Even a baseline awareness around situations that may raise a red flag can be valuable, she says.

The need for administrators to acquire legal training, says Assistant Superintendent Hendrickson, is clear. In dealing regularly with issues as diverse as sexting, cyberbullying, and teacher contract negotiations in his district, he says his background in law has helped him not only in modeling for his staff appropriate approaches to a variety of challenges, but also in identifying multiple solutions to any given issue.

“When you start thinking in black and white, you’re going to make a bad leadership decision,” he says. “I think what legal training does is help you problem-solve. The best lawyers are problem solvers; they help you navigate out of tricky situations.”

Code of Conduct

Andrew Minor ’04 (SFA), who is among UCAPP Law’s first enrollees, says that school principals and superintendents “are in the messy business of human development, which is unlike a corporate model.” Yet these educational leaders still need to be able to make sound decisions — in what Minor says is “usually a very gray setting” — while balancing the interests of many, including teachers, students, and parents.

Minor is a high school art teacher in Farmington, Conn., who decided to seek a law degree as one way to diversify his skill set. The son of a UConn law school alum, Minor — who had long admired his father for the legal support he offered to friends

and family in times of need — was also inspired to pursue his own legal education in order “to advocate for the arts, students, and the community.”

While leading his lessons in ceramics and sculpture, Minor says he is already seeing valuable practical applications for his newfound legal knowledge. He finds himself conversing with his art students about landmark free-speech court rulings and sharing with them relevant knowledge about intellectual-property law. In hopes of educating them to become more informed artists, he also uses examples to which they can personally relate — pointing out, for instance, the implications of blindly accepting terms and conditions of certain social media platforms, which reserve the right to license artwork posted by their users, worldwide and royalty-free.

Minor, who was heading into his second year as a UConn law student when he learned of the joint program combining law and educational leadership, says he felt “vindicated” for having sought to expand his career in education with a law degree.

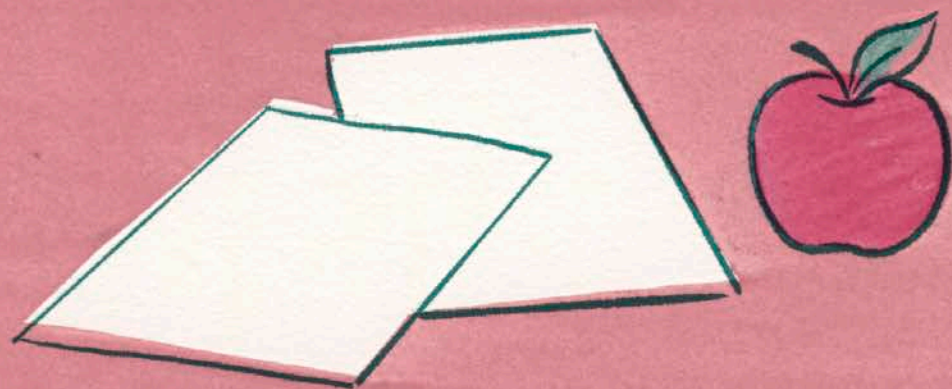
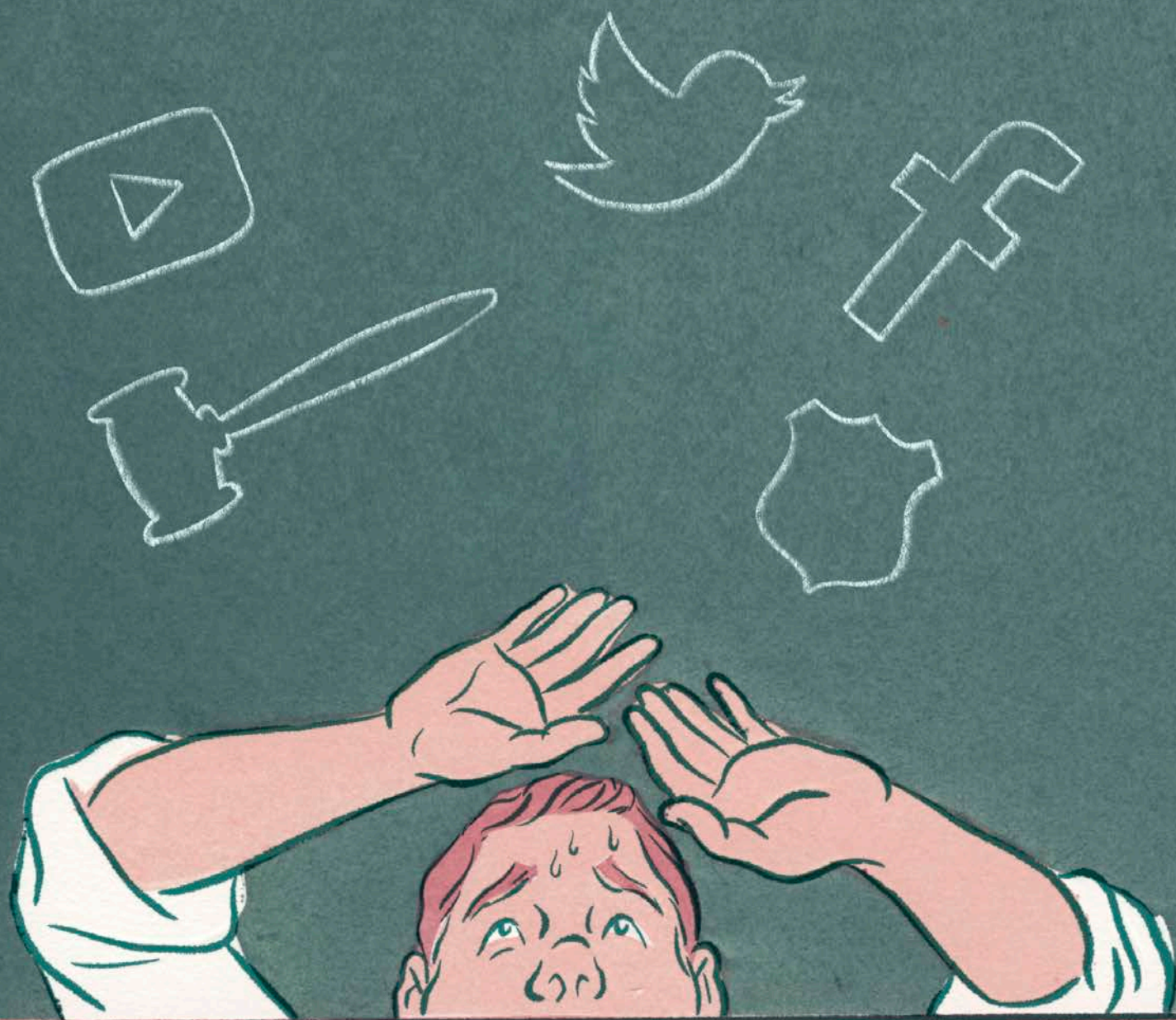
“Legislators are passing more laws to try and protect students, but administering those laws in the schools is complicated,” he says, adding that some policymakers may have an “insufficient understanding” of the reforms they are attempting to institute or the impact that certain mandates can have in the classroom.

He offers the example of a school that may lack some of the necessary support services for students.

“As an administrator, if there is [a student causing] some potentially dangerous or disruptive behavior, you need to get them out of the classroom so that the teacher can address the needs of the rest of the students,” he says. “But the legislators have made it very difficult to remove those students. So there are two sides: There are the needs of the teacher and the school as a whole, and there is the need of the student who is at risk. What do you do?”

Knowing that the overlap between schools and legal issues certainly “isn’t getting less complicated,” Minor took on the additional layer of UCAPP curricula in part because of the opportunity he believes it will provide in approaching school policy from different sides of the table.

“For people who have gone to law school and then decided to go into education, there was something in law that didn’t meet some kind of need for them; or you’re a teacher who was turned off of teaching and went to law school,” he says. “I’m



“Suspended novels return to school shelves in Virginia county”
ACCOMAC, Va.

“Ocean County first in N.J. to equip school nurses with Narcan”
TOMS RIVER, N.J.

“Education board member resigns over anti-white tweets”
CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va.

“Teen suspect in shooting outside school to stay in custody”
WEST JORDAN, Utah

approaching this feeling positively about both. At the end of these experiences, I will have great insight into different approaches to developing lifelong learners.”

Minor continues to work full time as an art teacher and plans to complete the combined program in four years.

‘Invisible Red Tape’

Just as “states are beginning to recognize the importance of legal training in the operation of schools and school districts,” says Green, UCAPP Law may now offer young people interested in social justice a career path that combines the best of both worlds.

Green says that, especially the students of color he’s talked to through the years, want to get into law, and to use their legal skills for good. “They thought they had to make the choice between education and law,” he explains. “But school administration is a way they can take their legal skills to help create an environment that protects students in schools.”

Graduates of the UCAPP Law program will be able to seek admission to the bar and, with five years of teaching experience, also will become eligible for endorsement as a Connecticut Intermediate Administrator, a statewide certification required of educators serving as administrators in Connecticut’s schools.

In addition to the JD degree requirements, the program incorporates UCAPP coursework covering such topics as education policy and school climate — as well as an internship that places enrollees in public schools run by educational leaders with successful track records of running highly functioning schools.

In today’s increasingly complex public education system, where student discipline, privacy issues, ever-evolving social media laws, special education statutes, and other education policies are integrated into a school principal’s everyday job,

practical training in law can help “cut through a lot of what I call ‘invisible red tape,’” says Assistant Superintendent Hendrickson, calling the new program “trendsetting.”

“If your time is spent on things other than the priorities of teaching and learning, it’s going to be very difficult for you to move the district forward,” he says. “[Professor] Green gets a lot of credit for making this program happen. In the end, it is going to help the state of Connecticut have leaders who are better equipped for the day-to-day realities of the job.”

Or, as Prakash puts it: “Everyone wins.” ☺

Find more about the UCAPP Law program at s.uconn.edu/ucapplaw. To read about a UConn Health program that combats school bullying by empowering bystanders, visit s.uconn.edu/bullying.



Peter Morenus

Preston Green III, professor of educational leadership and law and the John and Carla Klein Professor of Urban Education, is the mastermind behind the UCAPP Law Program.



Show Him The Money

By Robert Ito Photographs by James Stenson

Three decades ago Greg Economou '88 (CLAS) was playing for Coach Calhoun. These days, he's the man behind the curtain of spectacles like "New Year's Rockin' Eve," the American Music Awards, and the Golden Globes. The former Husky says many of Calhoun's principles still apply.

If you're chosen to be the closing act of the American Music Awards, you go big. So when Justin Bieber got the job in 2015, his show featured laser lights, break dancers, thousands of hot pink glow sticks color-matched to the stage, and mammoth video screens three times as tall as the pop star himself. Seconds before his final song, the heavens opened up inside L.A.'s Microsoft Theater and unleashed torrents of water, digital and actual, onto the heads of Bieber and his crew of dancers. The crowd, predictably, went wild.

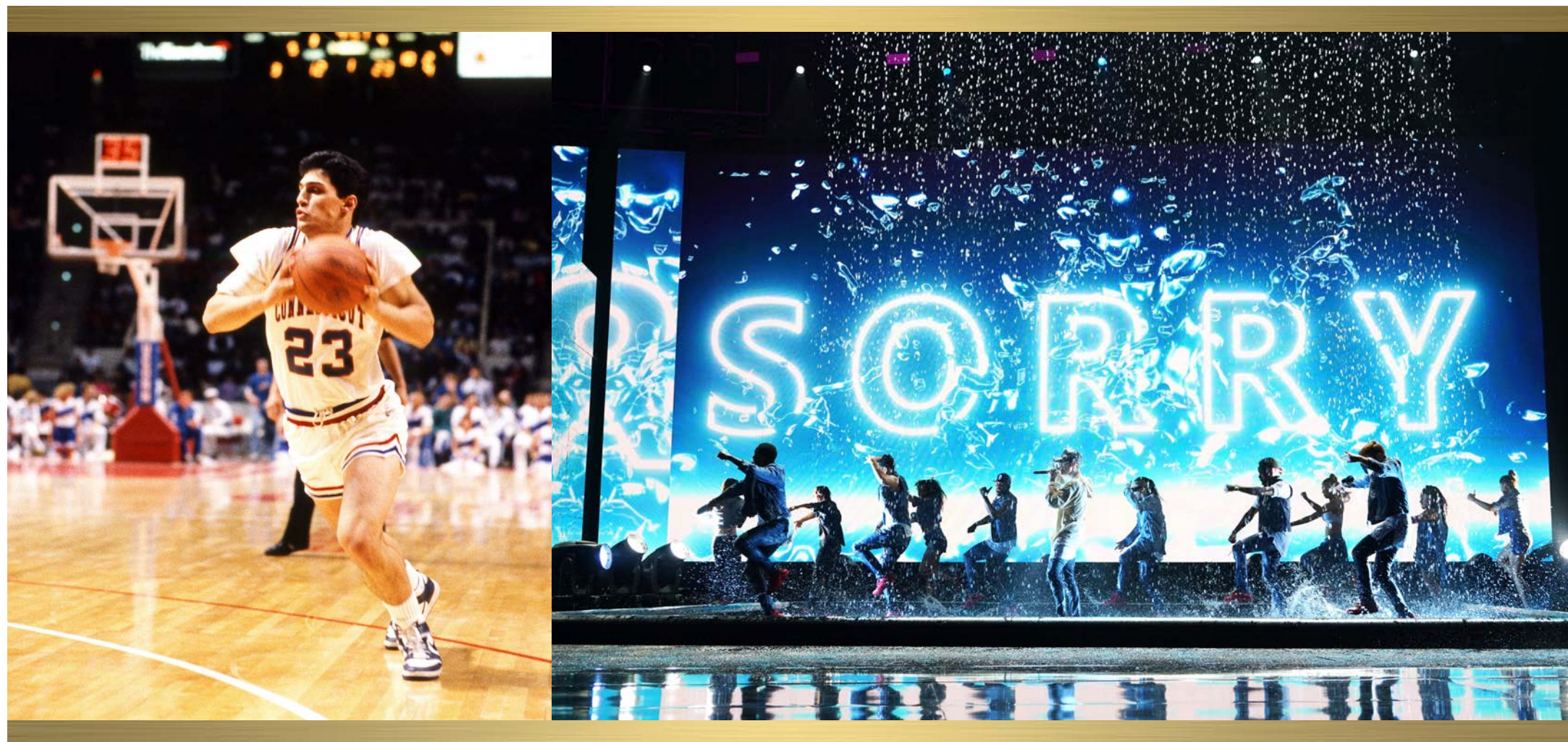
If you enjoyed the performance, you have Greg Economou to thank. Economou didn't rig the lights or cue the rain, but the show wouldn't — and couldn't — have gone on without him. Same with the six-song medley Britney Spears performed at the 2016 Billboard Music Awards or Jason Aldean's star turn at the most recent Academy of Country Music Awards.

Economou is the executive vice president and chief revenue officer for Dick Clark Productions, which produces awards shows from the Golden Globes to the Billboard Music Awards to the AMAs. The shows are lavish affairs staged in some of the country's most iconic venues: the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, the Beverly Hilton, Dallas' AT&T Stadium. All of this costs. Bob Romeo, CEO of the Academy of Country Music, had one word to describe the price tag on their 2015 show: staggering.

So who pays for all this? In the old days, it was TV commercials. But now, as budgets have exploded and audiences are just as likely to watch the shows on their laptops and cell phones as on their TVs, funding these massive productions has gotten exponentially more complex. And with increasing costs, mega-sponsors like Coca-Cola and T-Mobile aren't satisfied with just existing between show segments. They want in on the show — and on your phone, and on your favorite social media sites. Economou and his team at Dick Clark oversee all of it, engineering deals that straddle everything from branded programming — like Bieber's 2015 AMA show, aka "The AMA T-Mobile Finale" — to preshow red carpet clips posted on Facebook and YouTube. Picture the aspirational sales pitches of Don Draper and the in-the-moment quarterbacking of Peyton Manning, and you'll get a small sense of what Economou does for a living.

Economou is in his third-floor corner office at Dick Clark Productions in Santa Monica, explaining how he came to be here. At 51, Economou is tall (6'3") and fit, with more than a passing resemblance to a young Robert De Niro, circa "The Godfather Part II." Before he came to Dick Clark, Economou worked a variety of sales gigs, for entities that sold themselves (Madison Square Garden, the NBA) and others that, well, did not (the now-defunct Charlotte Bobcats). Before that, he played basketball under legendary UConn coach Jim Calhoun, back before UConn basketball was UConn Basketball, writ large. On that overperforming team he learned something he's carried with him to every gig and challenge, big or small, ever since. "You just have to outwork people," he says.

Economou was never supposed to be a starter for UConn. A strong player in high school, he was on intramural squads his first three years of college. When he finally made the team, it was as a walk-on, one of four little-used players. If a pal of his, team captain Gerry Besselink, hadn't seen him play in pickup games and told his coach, hey, you ought to give this guy a look, he wouldn't have been there at all. But there he was, and there was Calhoun, a



Number 23, Greg Economou, went from being a UConn walk-on to starting in a game at the Boston Garden. Years later he would find himself working in sales at Madison Square Garden. These days he's in Hollywood at Dick Clark Productions, where he's a rainmaker, sometimes literally — as with Justin Bieber's wet and wild "Sorry" finale at the 2015 American Music Awards.

granite cutter and gravedigger before becoming one of the NCAA's winningest coaches, grabbing him after practice. "You're gonna start against BC," he told Economou. Boston College. In a nationally televised game in storied Boston Garden, home of Larry Bird and that iconic parquet floor. Do your thing, Calhoun told him. Play hard.

Economou had slipped in practice the day before and was nursing a groin pull, but Calhoun didn't know that. Who was going to tell him? Certainly not Economou. Nothing was keeping him out of that game. Under all those championship banners and retired jerseys, amid all those cameras and screaming fans, Economou sank his first shot, a three pointer, then went four for four at the foul line after a poke in the face from a BC player left him with only one good eye. UConn won, 66-60, ending a six-game losing streak against their rival. The Cinderella story was so improbable, its hero so unlikely, that it was written up in *The New York Times*

that week with the headline "Walk-on Takes Big Strides." "It was a fairy tale," Economou remembers.

That fairy tale had its beginnings in Montrose, New York, a tiny town about an hour from Manhattan by train. That's where Economou was born and raised, the middle son of three. His father was a high school principal and college professor; his mother taught eighth-grade English at the same school for 35 years. A three-sport athlete, he was the guy you'd see shooting baskets for hours in his folks' driveway while his friends were hanging out at the park. "I wasn't the best athlete, but I was really dedicated," he says.

After graduating from UConn in 1988, Economou was drafted by Olympiakos, a Greek pro basketball team. A proud Greek on his dad's side, Economou got to meet relatives in his home country, reconnect with his Greek heritage, and see parts of the world closed to many Americans at that time. He played in Moscow during the waning days of the Cold War. He toured areas of southern Poland so impoverished that people stood in lines without even knowing what they were there for. "They need everything, so when they see a line, they get in it," a tour guide explained to him.

Three years later, after a debilitating back injury, Economou returned to UConn to work in the athletic department. It was there, he says, that he caught the fundraising bug. It was more than just taking folks out golfing and schmoozing donors over

steak dinners, he quickly learned. There was an art and science to it all, whether you were engineering huge corporate deals or getting alums to open their wallets for the annual drive. "I liked both sides," he says.

The next year, Lou Perkins, UConn's athletic director at the time, recommended Economou for a position running external affairs for the athletics department at SUNY Stony Brook. The university was trying to move up the ranks to Division I, but its sports program was eclipsed in popularity and community love by, of all things, the local high school. Even worse, both shared the

Under all those championship banners and retired jerseys, amid all those cameras and screaming fans, Economou sank his first shot, a three pointer.

same team name, the Patriots. Economou went to work, helping create a flashier logo and fiercer nickname (the Seawolves). The reboot was a success. "I didn't really know anything about branding," Economou says. "All I knew was, I wanted to get out of the shadow of that high school."



What if the branding strategies used to market Knicks games and the NBA finals could be applied to, say, the American Music Awards?

He was a quick study. Sports team branding was in its infancy, and over the next decade, Economou headed marketing and branding teams for everyone from the L.A. Kings and the University of Alabama to the Houston Rockets and NASCAR. In 2010, he got another opportunity, a la Stony Brook, to build a team's marketing program from the ground up. The team was the Charlotte Bobcats, one of the most unpopular squads in NBA history. A new team and a poor one, it was hated even in Charlotte, which had recently watched its previous team, the beloved Hornets, leave town for New Orleans. "Fans still wore their Hornets gear," Economou recalls.

Economou quickly took the lessons he learned from Coach Calhoun and assembled a marketing team built on hustle. The Bobcats were stinking things up on the court, so Economou and his young crew focused on things like regional pride and the fan experience to fill seats. They worked the community, building relationships with corporate stakeholders and fans alike. "It was Greg leading the charge," says Mike Tomon, the Bobcats' then-VP of ticket sales. "I have never seen anyone maximize his calendar the way Greg did."

Success in Charlotte led him from the NBA's outhouse to the entertainment world's penthouse: Madison Square Garden. The situation couldn't have been more different. There was no need to build the fan base at the Garden, of course. But shows there had enormous budgets, which meant Economou had to generate similarly enormous funds. Before he arrived, the Garden sold huge corporate deals, but people weren't renewing them. After he got there, his team secured renewals from some of the world's biggest companies: Coca-Cola, Budweiser, Kia, Lexus. "Corporate money grew steadily, five, seven percent every year," says Mark Peterson, the Garden's then-vice president of operations, corporate sales, and solutions. "And it's because Greg's just a great leader. People want to work for him."

One of the reasons for Economou's success was his ability to see funding and branding opportunities where others did not. In sports, companies had put their names on everything from scoreboards to team jerseys for years. But what if you could apply that same approach to other forms of entertainment—say, awards shows? What if the branding strategies used to market Knicks games and the NBA finals could be applied to, for instance, the American Music Awards? The prospect brought Economou west, to Dick Clark, in 2011.

Step into the offices of Dick Clark Productions in Santa Monica and you'll see framed photos of star after star. There's Prince at the AMAs and Taylor Swift at the Academy of Country Music Awards. There are the Justins—Bieber and Timberlake—as well as Beyoncé, J. Lo, and Tim McGraw. And why not? Dick Clark's awards shows are built on stars, always have been.

Sporting events are built on stars, too. But there are key differences between marketing sporting events and branding

awards shows. In sports, corporate sponsors put their names on every bit of real estate, from the stadiums themselves (Staples Center, Target Field) to everything inside them. Game after game, all through the season, fans see the Budweiser logo on the scoreboard. But how do you brand a star of a single-night event?

You don't. Rather than have Justin Bieber come out in a T-Mobile jersey at the AMAs, Economou had the corporate giant sponsor the star's entire three-song finale—rainstorm and all—and put their name on that. Instead of branding stars (who often have their own promotional deals) or the awards show venues themselves (ditto), Economou went after the performances as well as every other aspect of the shows. The result: prizes like the AMAs' "New Artist of the Year Presented by Kohl's," and ancillary events, like an exclusive John Legend concert tied to the Billboard Music Awards and sponsored by Citi. Sponsors love these "integrations" and "branded performances" because it gets them into the shows themselves. Artists love them because, well, they get their lavish sets and rainstorms.

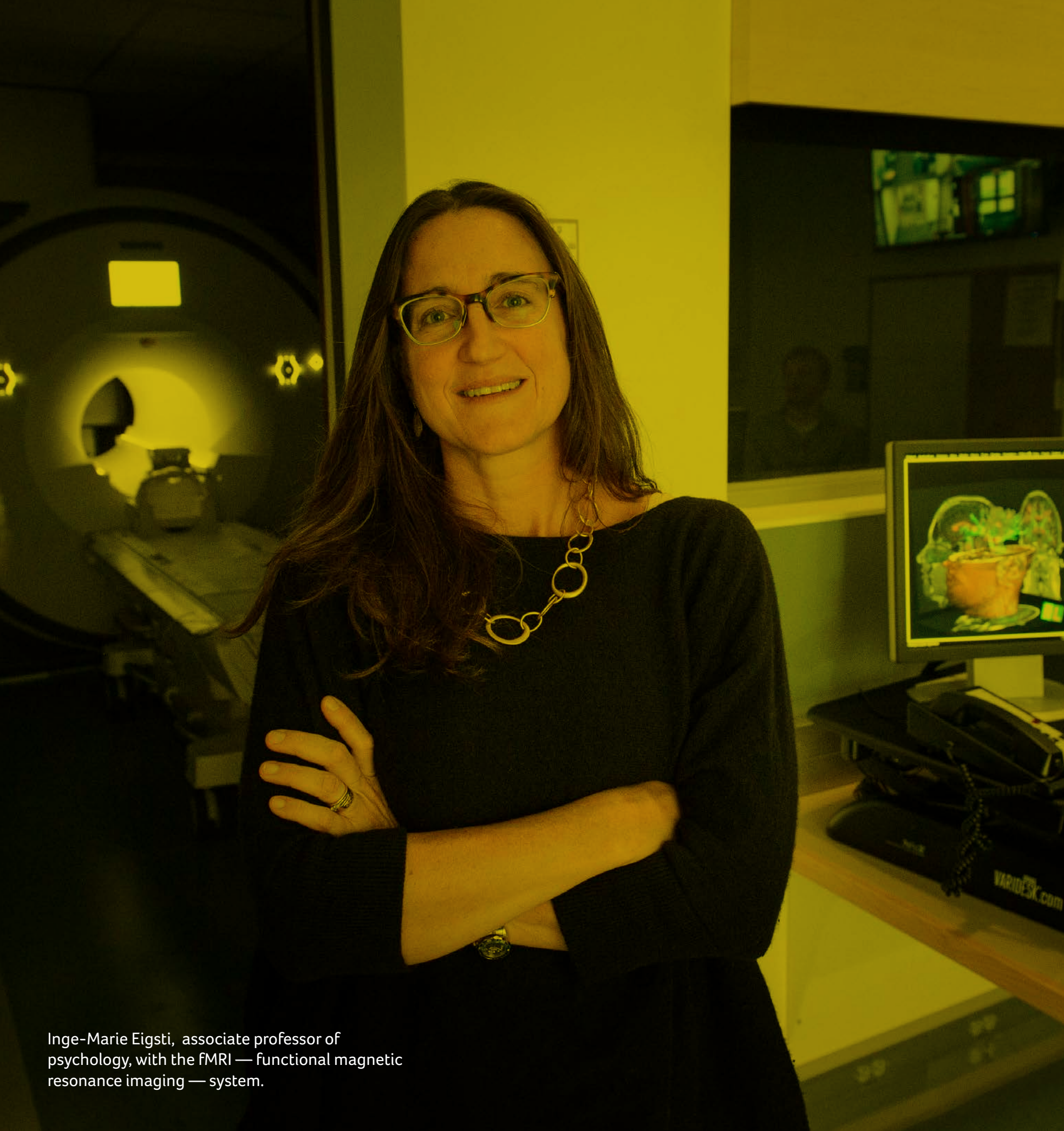
As I talk with him right now, Economou is gearing up for another awards season, although he'll be the first to admit that, for him and everyone else at Dick Clark, the work goes year round. January kicks off with two of the biggest shows on television: "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve with Ryan Seacrest"

followed the very next week by the Golden Globes. In April it's the Academy of Country Music Awards and in May, the Billboard Music Awards. Economou, for his part, goes to every show, but most of the night, he's working. "You enjoy it at the end," he says. "It's over, we got everything done, there were no red flags."

Economou credits what he learned at UConn for much of his current success. The outhustle work ethic from Coach Calhoun. The love for the art and science of marketing from UConn's athletic department. The connections he made there that led to his stint at SUNY Stonybrook, where he took a stab at sports branding that launched his career.

And most of all, the importance of building relationships, a necessity in the interconnected world of corporate branding. "There was a certain camaraderie about that campus because there wasn't a town, per se, when I went there," he says. "There weren't restaurants or bars to go to, so you really had to be creative in terms of your social life. You became very reliant on your friends to do anything."

Of course, now Economou goes to some of the biggest parties on the planet, even if it is just another part of his day job. And the thrills he gets from working the AMAs or the Golden Globes aren't all that different from the buzz he got playing with UConn, whether at Boston Garden or Gampel Pavilion. "Just being in the building, whether it's at a game or an awards show, that's enough," he says. "You're there, you're in it. To me, there's nothing better than being a part of that action." ☺



Inge-Marie Eigsti, associate professor of psychology, with the fMRI — functional magnetic resonance imaging — system.

New Research Proves That Some Kids “Grow Out” of Their Autism Symptoms

Scientists at UConn are using a high-tech fMRI system to figure out how — and why.

By Elaina Hancock
Photographs By Peter Morenus

Nearly 30 years ago, research was published claiming to have documented recovery from autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in some children.

“People were for the most part pretty dubious,” says UConn Distinguished Professor of Psychological Sciences Deborah Fein of the research that was largely brushed off.

Fast forward almost 20 years. In Fein’s own practice, she noticed a subset of kids who seemed to “fall off the spectrum” during their course of treatment for ASD. Why was this true for some children and not others?

“That is when my interest began,” says Fein. She and Inge-Marie Eigsti, associate professor of psychology, have been studying these individuals, whom they refer to as “optimal outcome” or “OO,” ever since. Unlike researchers 30 years ago, they have fMRI (functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging), a powerful technology that lets them peer into the brain in search of nitty-gritty details about how these individuals lose their diagnosis.

Is OO achieved by reverting to typical neural pathways? Do OO individuals use entirely different areas of the brain not typically accessed for certain functions? Why *these* children?

GETTING UNDER THE HOOD

Fein and Eigsti are using fMRI to find answers inside the brain, looking for patterns that could reveal the ways that interventions and therapies for ASD may have helped these OO individuals lose their symptoms.

“The [fMRI] imaging is important to seeing patterns that have developed as these individuals have compensated,” says Eigsti. “On the outside they appear typically developing; we couldn’t tell them apart from their typically developing peers. One really interesting question this leaves is what’s going on in the brain. Is there a fingerprint or a history of the disorder left in the brain? What is happening under the hood?”

To find out, they had study participants lie in the scanner and read statements while the researchers noted what parts of the brain were active as they processed the information. Some of the phrases were designed to engage areas of the brain more involved with visualization, such as “A pair of glasses turned on its

side looks like a snowman, true or false?” Others were designed to illuminate areas of the brain processing language, such as “Thanksgiving Day falls in the month of December, true or false?”

When processing high- and low-visualization language, different areas of the brain are recruited, and the resulting fMRI images give a glimpse into how the mind is piecing together and comprehending information. The results are not immediate, notes Fein. Once the images are taken, a lot of complicated data are crunched before anything can be gleaned.

SHEDDING LIGHT

In this case, the results were somewhat surprising. Rather than the OO partici-

“In the past, autism was considered a lifelong disorder. People conceptualize autism in much the same way other lifelong disorders are considered.” These images seem to prove that this isn’t the case.

pants’ brains resembling their typically developing (TD) peers or their ASD peers, their brains looked different, with aspects of both ASD and TD processing.

With obvious excitement, Eigsti explains that her team noticed “very sharp differences” among the groups. The OO kids were activating distinct areas in the brain that are important in control and attention regulation, motivation, and decision making — and they were showing greater amounts of activation than their ASD or TD peers.

“We saw activation in areas on the left side of their brain involved in classic language processing, but also in those same areas on the right side of the brain, so bilateral activation,” says Eigsti.

“In the past, autism was considered a lifelong disorder,” she adds. “People conceptualize autism in much the same way other lifelong disorders are considered.” These images seem to prove that this isn’t the case.

FLIPPING THE SWITCH

In 2000 the rate of autism spectrum disorder in the U.S. was estimated to be about 1 in 150. By 2014, that rate had jumped to an estimate of 1 in 68. No clear cause has been identified for the alarming escalation but, in light of these statistics, parents of young children are kept on their toes with questionnaires at well-child doctor visits.

The forms, some of which Fein helped develop, ask questions like “Have you ever suspected your child is deaf?” or “Does your child make eye contact with you?” Though cumbersome to complete with a squirming baby in tow, they are pivotal for noticing signs of ASD early on.

A mother of one of Fein and Eigsti’s study participants described her child’s subtle spiral into autism by saying it was as if her child was on “a dimmer switch,” slowly retreating into himself. If the questionnaires do their work and a diagnosis is made early, children with ASD seem to have a better chance of switching the light back on and leaving their diagnosis behind them.

For most individuals who achieve “optimal outcome,” or OO, the path seems to be one of diligent observation and early diagnosis followed by extensive behavioral treatment, such as applied behavioral analysis, or ABA. With ABA small tasks or behaviors often taken for granted, such as making eye contact, are practiced repeatedly with plenty of positive feedback and celebration as reward for task completion. This repetition may be key in forging compensation pathways seen in OO individuals’ brains, the pathways that help flip the switch.

But not always. Fein recalls two early patients. “It was a very poignant example,” she says. “Two mothers of autistic children became friends. They went through the same treatments, and one child recovered whereas the outcome for the other was quite different; he is still seriously disabled. The parents were highly supportive of one another, very close. The mother of the child who did recover felt terrible. Why did her child respond to the treatment and recover when the other child did not, even though both kids underwent the same treatment?”

The hope, of course, is that these fMRI images that illuminate compensation measures in the OO brain will not only confirm recovery but help figure out the whys and hows behind it.

Reflecting on the amazing plasticity

Language/image processing in various brains

The **yellow shading** shows roughly the areas where the vast majority of the public will process language, especially sentences that involve visual imagery. The yellow shading also shows areas of the brain often associated with self-reflection, imagination, and logic. The **blue shading** depicts results from Eigsti et al’s paper; teens with a history of autism show increased involvement of language areas. The **teal shading** in the OO brain shows the heightened activity of regions of the brain involved in motivation, logic, and control. The OO brain activity is unique, showing greater activity than both the TD and ASD brain patterns.



Typically Developing (TD) Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Optimal Outcome (OO)

of the brain and on some of the factors that may come into play for answering this question, Eigsti explains, “It was always thought you can’t teach old dogs new tricks and that you had to be young and flexible to learn new things. Now we know that, though difficult, it is certainly possible.”

In this case, we are referring to children, and among this cohort the “old dogs” may be toddlers or preschool kids, which demonstrates how key earlier intervention may be.

WHAT NEXT?

The next stage of the team’s research will focus on monitoring the OO group’s progression into adulthood.

Follow-ups are likely to involve bringing back some of the OO kids to see how they are doing as they transition into young adulthood — how they’re doing with things like finding housing and living independently, for instance.

“We want to follow them into their twenties and see how life goes,” says Fein. “We also want to study other aspects, such as are they more prone to anxiety or depression?”

Of course they don’t want to lose track of success stories either. One early study participant, Jake Exkorn, and his mom still check in at significant milestones. “He is now a busy, active college student,” notes Fein. She also is quick to say that this may not be the best path for everyone. “OO is one kind of good outcome, not the only good outcome.” ☺

👉 Watch Jake Exkorn and his mom talk about his childhood autism diagnosis and subsequent “recovery” at s.uconn.edu/jake.



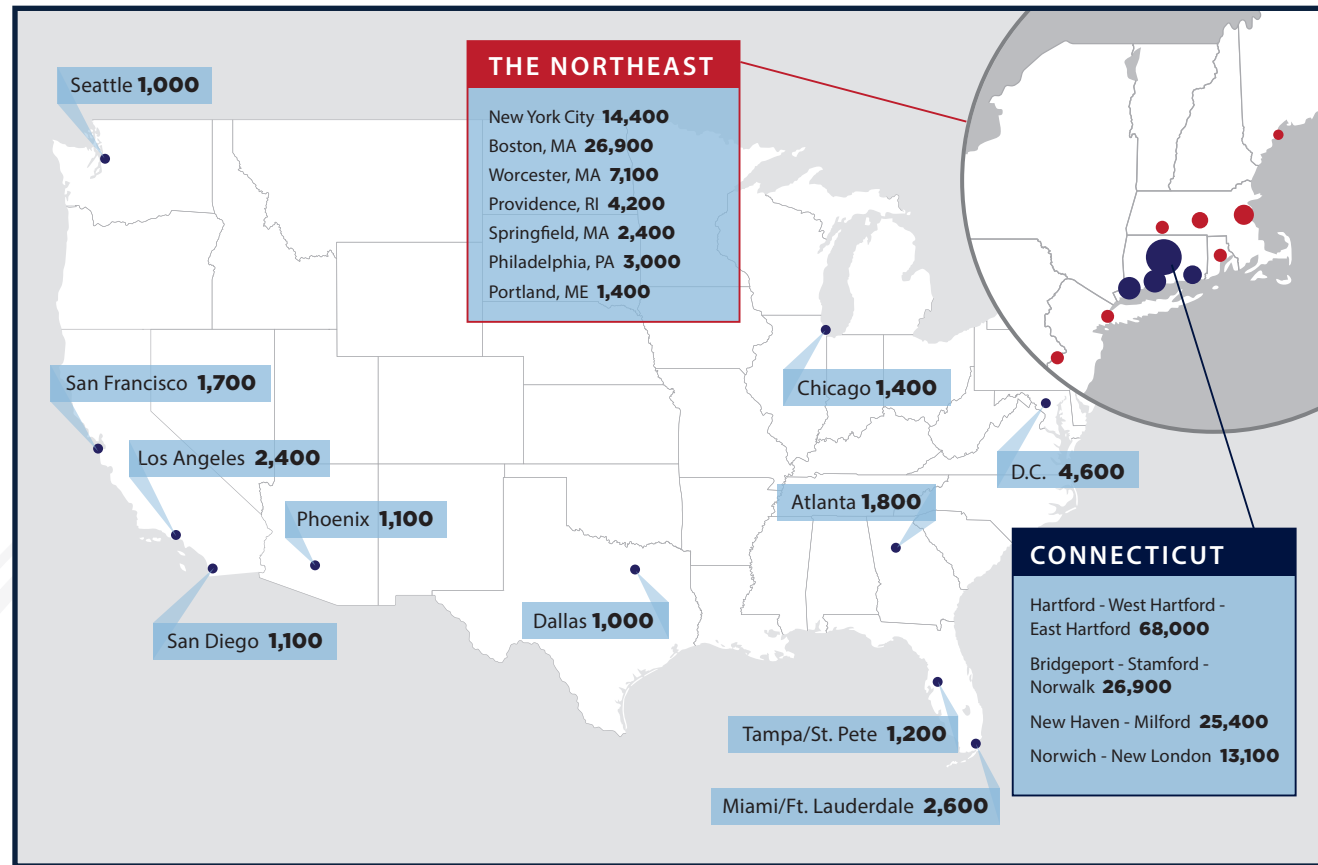
HOW DOES THE fMRI SYSTEM WORK?

To understand how a magnetic field can turn thoughts into colorful display outputs and exciting data sets, one must follow the pathway traveled by a red blood cell and consider some quantum mechanics.

Blood becomes oxygenated as it is pumped through the lungs where, with each breath, red blood cells pick up oxygen molecules destined for cells throughout the body. Cells rely on a steady supply of oxygen to survive, especially those of the brain, which consume around a quarter of the oxygen we inhale.

Cells are ultimately composed of molecules that contain nuclei that spin more or less randomly unless their spins are disrupted, for instance if they are caught in a magnetic field. The strong field produced by the fMRI machine captures and aligns the nuclei, causing them to become synchronized. In their synchrony the machine then bumps the nuclei. This nudge will cause the nuclei to fall out of synchrony, and the rate at which they work their way out of this alignment emits radio frequencies that are picked up by the machine.

When a thought materializes, information is processed, or one reacts to a question, neurons respond and transmit signals to various regions of the brain. This process changes how blood flows, with active areas calling for more oxygen and therefore more blood. This change in blood flow, or hemodynamics, elicits signals registered and displayed by fMRI in beautiful and powerfully informative data sets.



UConn Nation Around the Nation

As you can see from this map, UConn Nation extends well beyond Connecticut and the Northeast. So, too, do our alumni programs. We have UConn Alumni networks all over the world so you can take advantage of lifelong learning opportunities that highlight our incredible faculty (such as Alumni College or the various Science Salons), catch up on all of our Husky athletics, expand your career network, or participate in our UConn Cares community service projects. A few of the events worth highlighting over the next few months are a West Coast President's tour in February and, in April, two big events — Alumni College in Washington, D.C. and the annual White Coat Gala, a fundraiser for our medical schools, in Hartford. See you here, there, and everywhere...

— MO COTTON KELLY, ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

For information about alumni happenings in your neck of the woods, visit uconnalumni.com/events.

CLASS NOTES

1950s

➔ At age 97, **Hugo DeSarro '50 (CLAS)** has just published his first book of poetry, *Stone Steps*, and was appointed Poet Laureate by the town council in his hometown of East Hampton, Conn. DeSarro, who attended UConn after WWII on the G.I. Bill, has published

poems, stories, and essays in a wide variety of publications throughout the U.S., Canada, Australia, and Europe. DeSarro also writes a weekly column for the *Rivereast News Bulletin*, his daughter, **Doreen DeSarro '69 (ED)**, reports.

1960s

➔ **Len Simoni '65 (ENG)** of East Windsor, Conn., retired from Westinghouse

Electric Co. in 2014 and is currently performing consulting engineering services. Previously, he worked for Combustion Engineering and United Technologies. ➔ **Nelson Wikstrom '65 MA, '69 Ph.D.** was recently designated professor emeritus of political science at Virginia Commonwealth University, where he taught for 45 years. He is the author or co-author of five books and a score of referred journal articles focusing on local politics and

intergovernmental relations. ➔ **Richard Pirozzolo '67 (SFA)** co-authored a debut novel with Michael Morris. *Escape from Saigon* tells the story of the final 30 days of the Vietnam War through the lives of journalists, French expats, Vietnamese civilians, diplomats, CIA operatives, and double agents. Much of the novel is based on Pirozzolo's experience in Saigon as a United States Air Force public information officer and a spokesperson for 7th Air Force. ➔ **Janet A. Myder '68 (CAHNR)**

of Mount Pleasant, S.C., co-founder of the Low Country Myasthenia Gravis (MG) Support Group, was honored as Volunteer of the Year by the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America (MGFA) in May. A former member of the MGFA Board of Directors, she has been involved with MGFA for 19 years, starting in Maryland and continuing her advocacy and dedication in South Carolina since 2009. In 2010, she co-founded the Low Country MG Support Group in Mount Pleasant, S.C., the first MG support group established in the state, and is editor of the MGFA quarterly e-update.

1970s

➔ **Joe Wocoski '73 (CLAS)** won the 2016 Little Tokyo Short Story Competition, sponsored by the Little Tokyo Historical Society in Los Angeles. His winning entry, "The Last Master of Go," is published in the science fiction and fantasy short story anthology *The Last Master of Go and Other Strange Tales* by J. B. Wocoski. ➔ **Paul F. Pizzo '76 (CLAS)**, after 16 years with Travelers Life and Annuity and MetLife, has established a freelance voiceover business called Paul Christopher Voiceover Associates in West Hartford, Conn. Paul Christopher was his air name as an announcer and news director at WHUS-FM on campus.

1980s

➔ **Dan Delventhal '80 (BUS)**, who owns and operates a carbon-neutral lawn care company called MowGreen in Fairfield, Conn., was named Townvibe's Greenest Individual in Litchfield and Fairfield Counties for 2016.



Stephen Schirra '14 (CLAS) in Bahía de Caráquez, Manabí, Ecuador, in April of 2016. At each stop, Schirra leaves the kids with soccer balls so they can keep the game going.

MAKING GOOD

Te Gusta Fútbol?

How do you turn a passion for soccer and travel into a career? If you're **Stephen Schirra '14 (CLAS)**, you create your own nonprofit, "Around the Worlds, Around the World," teaching underprivileged children across the globe how to play soccer.

What started as a photo-based travel blog has evolved into an internationally recognized charity, recently picking up a Community MVP Award from Major League Soccer. For the spark that became Around the Worlds, Schirra credits his extracurricular time at UConn, playing club soccer and volunteering in the surrounding community.

"The community outreach we participated in as a team made me look at soccer as more than just a game — as not just a sport but rather a platform to inspire others. Mentoring inner-city kids at a school in Hartford and working with Special Olympics athletes, it all just really cemented in my mind that soccer had the potential to be used for a much greater purpose," says Schirra. At the time, he says he could not have imagined those interests becoming a career. However, just one year after graduating, Schirra began leading free soccer clinics at orphanages and schools in Latin America, Asia, and Africa.

The work, he says, is at turns fascinating, rewarding, and heartbreaking. He has seen soccer transcend barriers built by language, religion, and class and act as a universal language that connects him to the children he meets. He says their pure passion for playing the game, and gratitude for a break from past or present struggles, shines through in his clinics. "The coolest thing has been seeing the smiles and genuine happiness on their faces when they have a ball at their feet. I know that look because it's the same one I had whenever I played soccer at that age, and it's the one I still get nowadays when I have an opportunity to play," he says.

"For some, soccer might mean opportunity — opportunity to break away from poverty, using the sport as an outlet," he says. A young orphan named Gabriel, whom Schirra worked with in the Dominican Republic, recently received a soccer scholarship at his new school. Despite all the recognition and accolades his nonprofit has received, Schirra calls that his biggest triumph to date.

—NICOLE HAIBER '17 (CLAS)

Photo courtesy Stephen Schirra



BLISS

These weddings have a lot in common — dancing, giving toasts, cake cutting, and UConn spirit in the form of alum flag photos. Check out s.uconn.edu/bliss for other ways couples worked their alma mater into the festivities, such as having the huskies as surprise wedding guests and serving husky dog groom's cake. Further proof that UConn students are huskies forever. — EMMA CASAGRANDE '18 (CLAS)

1. Kameron Escajeda '10 (NUR) and Jeffrey Endicott '12 Pharm.D.
2. Matt Raspanti '11 (CAHNR) and Jodi Raspanti '12 (CLAS)
3. Michael Push '08 (CLAS) and Vallerie (Rivera) Push '08 (NUR)
4. Kayleigh (MacRae) Boynton '11 (CAHNR) and Eddie Boynton '11 (ED), '12 MA
5. John Sulzicki '12 (CLAS) and Danika Ham '12 (CLAS)
6. Sarah Garfield '11 (BUS) and George Kastanaras '11 (BUS)
7. Sean Morrisroe '13 (ENG) and Paige Morrisroe '13 (CLAS)
8. Ed DiPrimio '07 (CLAS) and Erica DiPrimio
9. Emily Volz '10 (CLAS) and Kenneth Lupi '11 Pharm.D.
10. Alison (Arnone) Lang '06 (BUS) and Keven Lang

Photos by 1. Orchard Cove Photography; 2. Adrian McDonald of Lexon Photography; 3. Fritz Photography; 4. Tracy Rodriguez Photography; 5. Rachel Hulin; 6. Julia Jane Studios; 7. Catherine O'Hara Photography; 8. Elario Photography; 9. Annie Lee '09 (BUS); 10. Leah Haydock Photography

Delventhal, who uses no-gas push mowers, is also a sales manager at LANStatus of Trumbull, Conn. ➔ **Robert Kanehl '81 (CLAS)** reports that his sixth young adult book, *Guiding Spirit*, has been released by Cambridge Books. Kanehl writes historical mysteries and paranormal books for the middle school-level reader, including *Murder in the Newsroom*, *Haunted Past*, *Hannah's Ghost*, *Lost Spirit*, and *Facing the Fire*. ➔ **Thom Parrino '83 (CLAS)**, who has been practicing family law for more than 27 years, has been selected an America's Top 100 Attorneys Lifetime Achievement member for Connecticut. Principal and co-founder of Nusbaum & Parrino P.C. of Westport, Conn., he is past president of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. ➔ **Suzanne Schwertman '85 (BUS)** of Frederick, Md., has joined Maryland Public Television as the station's vice president and chief financial officer. Previously, she had been chief operating officer and chief financial officer for the Maryland School for the Deaf for nearly 17 years. ➔ **Tom Sciuto '85 (CLAS)** and Kazuko Sciuto are excited that their son, **Justin Sciuto '19 (BUS)**, has begun his sophomore year in the UConn School of Business, majoring in finance. He is a ZBT member and a football team intern.

SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH UCONN NATION! Your classmates want to know about the milestones in your life. Send news about weddings, births, new jobs, new publications, and more 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.*



➔ **Stephen C. Pikiell '90 (BUS)** has been hired by Rutgers University in New Jersey as its men's basketball coach. He was captain of the 1990 team that won the Huskies' first Big East title and most recently had been coach at Stony Brook University in Stony Brook, N.Y. ➔ **Autumn (Backman) Sutherland '91 (CLAS)** designed, built, and manages Matterhorn Mini Golf in Canton, Conn., which was named one of the 10 Great Courses Across the USA by *USA Today* in August. She writes that she is thrilled to be honored nationally in what is only her second year of business. ➔ **Kim A. Keck '93 MBA** was appointed as the president and chief executive officer of Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island, the first female president and CEO of that unit. Previously, she was a senior vice president at Aetna. ➔ **Susan (Rutherford) Orred '93 (CLAS)** is director of development at the Hill-Stead Museum, a Colonial Revival home and National Historic Landmark in Farmington, Conn., that holds some of the most important Impressionist paintings in the world. Hill-Stead recently hosted a visit from the Right Honorable Countess of Carnarvon, who resides at Highclere Castle, where "Downton Abbey" was filmed. ➔ **Jennifer (Royal) Whelan '95 (ED)** was selected to umpire the NCAA D2 National Championships for Women's Lacrosse in Denver, Colo., on May 21, 2016. ➔ **Nicole Blake '98 MFA** and **Mark Adams '98 MFA**, who met at UConn as graduate students and have been together for more than 20 years, are engaged. They met when they were cast romantically opposite each other in their first show, "The Three Musketeers." The epic

marriage proposal was an all-day affair that involved the help of 43 "elves" at Disney World and the Four Seasons Orlando. It ended at the Hollywood Studios Launch Bay, where Chewbacca gave a celebratory wookiee victory cheer after she said yes. The couple resides in Edgewater, N.J. ➔ **Lisa Feingold-Buckland '99 (MBA)** of Los Angeles, Calif., is excited to be moving her biopharmaceutical market research and consulting company, Collective Acumen, Inc., to Stamford, Conn., in January 2017.



➔ **Danielle (O'Leary) Muir '01 (CLAS)** and her husband, Ryan, of Southington, Conn., are proud to announce the birth of their twins, Sophie Rose and Henry William, in August 2016. These future Husky fans are ready for basketball season. ➔ **Matthew Applebaum '07 (CLAS)** and **Bethany Angiolillo '06 (CLAS)** are engaged. Matthew, who was on UConn football's offensive line from 2002 to 2007, is currently an offensive line coach at Davidson College in Davidson, N.C. Bethany is director of advising for the School of Education at the University of Miami. A July 2018 destination wedding is planned. ➔ **Matt Fleury '07 MBA** has been named the new chairman of the Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education. Fleury is currently the president and CEO of the Connecticut Science Center. He also serves as a board and executive committee member of the International Association of Science and Technology Centers and as a board member of the MetroHartford Alliance. ➔ **Krista (Forte) Tarasovic '08 (ED)**, **'09 MA** and **Nicholas Tarasovic '06 (CLAS)** are

proud to announce the birth of their son, Nicholas Joseph, born July 2016. Nicholas joins big sister, Ava. ➔ **Maria E. Marcuccio '08 (CLAS)**, an insurance defense paralegal for Halloran & Sage LLP in Hartford and a licensed Realtor, announces that she is marrying Nhel Theam on May 7, 2017, in Waterbury, Conn.



➔ **Dimitri Pan '11 (CAHNR)** was recently promoted to financial planner with The Vanguard Group in Charlotte, N.C., where he manages portfolios and creates financial plans. ➔ **Samantha D'Angelo '12 (SFA and ED)** of Putnam, Conn., is pursuing a master's in teaching from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Conn. She recently received the Freeman Graduate School Award from The Rectory School in Pomfret, Conn., where she is director of instrumental music. She is happy to announce her engagement to Alexander Wiegel. ➔ **Patrick B. Lee '14 MS**, of Winfield, Kan., was named in the CPA Practice Advisor's 40 under 40 Accounting Professionals Leading the Profession. ➔ **Jeff Jorczak '14 MBA** of South Windsor, Conn., recently published a novel under the pen name Cody Leet. *Spheria* is about a computer simulation and the humans who play God there. A good portion of the techno thriller takes place at the UConn Health Center in Farmington, Conn. ➔ **Salman Alzayani '15 Ph.D.** has been appointed assistant professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the College of Medicine and Medical Sciences in the Arabian Gulf University in the Kingdom of Bahrain. He also was elected as a member of the College Council for the current academic year.



LEGENDS

Upon announcing his retirement from the NBA after 18 years, two NBA titles, and 10 NBA All-Star selections, the league's three-point scoring leader (2,973 three pointers made), Ray Allen, wrote a letter to his 13-year-old self that ran in *The Players' Tribune* in partnership with Chase. Below is the portion about UConn.

Dear 13-year-old Ray,

When you get off the school bus tomorrow, you're going to be in a whole new world. This is nothing new. Every time your father gets stationed at a new Air Force base, you have to say good-bye to your friends and start a new life. It's the same routine once every three years or so. New school, new culture, new faces . . .

When you start getting attention from colleges, some of your own teammates will say things like, "UConn? You'll sit on the bench for four years."

Just because you don't drink, they'll say, "Man, you're gonna be an alcoholic once you get to college. You won't be ready. All they do is drink there."

A lot of people don't want to see you succeed. Don't get into fist-fights with these kids. Trust me, it will accomplish nothing. Instead, remember exactly who said those things. Remember how they said it. Remember their faces. Keep these voices inside your head and use them as fuel every single day when you wake up.

And the voices telling you you're the man? Those are the voices to keep out. When you start getting some national attention in high school, you'll hear things like, "Ray's jump shot is God-given."

Listen: God doesn't care whether or not you make your next jump shot. God will give you a lot of things in life, but he's not going to give you your jump shot. Only hard work will do that. Don't be so naive as to think you're ready for college ball. Young fella, you're not ready. In high school, you might think you understand what it takes to be a great basketball player, but you will truly have no idea. When you get to UConn, your coach will show you what hard work really is. His name is Jim Calhoun. Don't get on this man's shit list. When you walk into the gym for that first practice, get ready for hell on wheels. You're going to be all excited to put on your Huskies gear and start shooting around. But then Coach Calhoun is going to flip the script. "Freshmen!" he'll say. "You think you deserve to wear this uniform? You don't deserve the privilege. Not yet." Then the assistant coaches will start handing out these plain gray shorts and T-shirts to all the freshmen. "I want to see some sweat," Coach will say. Up until that very moment, you'll think basketball is all about going out and putting up some jump shots and showing your skill. When you get put through Coach Calhoun's first practice you'll realize, oh, this game is a sonofabitch. You will be put through the hardest workout of your life. You'll be gasping for air, hunched over. But the thing is, the gym in Storrs is air-conditioned. Your body is used to playing in the sweatbox gyms in South Carolina, where there's no air-conditioning. At the end of the practice, coach Calhoun is going to line everybody up and walk down the line, looking at every player. When he gets to you, he'll look down at your shirt. There will be a single bead of sweat trickling down your Adam's apple. He'll look at you. Then he'll look at the little bead of sweat. Then he'll look back at you. "That's it? I guess we didn't work you hard enough, Allen." The next practice is going to be even tougher. This man is going to damn near break you, but he's going to make you a much better player and person. This will be your introduction to what it really takes to be great. A few days later, you're going to have one of the most memorable moments of your life. You're going to wake up at 5:30 a.m. and go to the weight room to get your workout in, and then you'll come back to the dorm and shower before class. You'll put on a shirt and tie, throw your backpack over your shoulder, and walk across campus to your first class of the day. It's early, so it's still quiet. The leaves are crunching under your feet. You're sore, but your clothes are on point. You got your work in. You're prepared. You have a purpose. I don't know what it is about this moment in particular, but as you're walking, you'll think, *Wow. I'm a college student. No matter what happens at the end of this tunnel, I'm going to make my family proud.* When you get to your public-speaking class and sit down, this girl will turn to you and say, "Hey, why are you so dressed up?" You'll say, "Because I can." In that moment, it will feel like you have conquered the world. I could end this letter right here, and you would still probably be excited about what you are going to accomplish in life. But you still have an 18-year NBA career ahead of you . . .

You can find the entire letter at www.theplayerstribune.com/ray-allen-letter-to-my-younger-self/.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Peter Morenus

In Storrs recently, Oswald visited the maker space in the new NextGen Hall. To her right is a 3-D printer. Behind her, her favorite thing — the sewing station.

school course, her life might have taken a very different path. “That gave me confidence that being an engineer was definitely achievable. It wasn’t this big, scary thing in the sky.”

A Man’s World

Engineering is still an overwhelmingly male-dominated field, with women making up only about 15 percent of the profession. To boost that number, the University’s School of Engineering offers an annual summer program called BRIDGE for accepted freshmen from underrepresented groups, including women, African-Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans. Oswald was one of the program’s beneficiaries, spending five weeks on campus in the summer before her freshman year taking engineering courses.

Oswald excelled at the coursework, and by the end of the summer she had won a scholarship from the aerospace giant United Technologies, which would later lead to summer internships at the company.

At UConn she became one of only 10 or 12 female mechanical engineering students out of a total group of around 100. “It took a little bit of getting used to at the beginning that there were so few women, but by the end I almost considered it a benefit, because everybody knew who I was,” Oswald said. “I wasn’t lost in a sea of people. If I called one of my professors and said, ‘This is Caitlin,’ they knew exactly who I was.”

Scholarships kept coming, including the 2008 Altschuler

FOR CAITLIN OSWALD ’09 (ENG), IT IS ROCKET SCIENCE

Growing up, Caitlin Oswald always wanted to be a ballerina. Then, in high school, she enrolled in an introductory engineering course called Scientific Principles. Oswald was the only girl in the class of 15. “We did electronics and robotics, and we built LEGO

cars, and pneumatics, and all that stuff,” she remembers. “I absolutely loved it, and I think I did better than all the boys did. They all tried to cheat off me, and I wouldn’t let them.”

Today Oswald is a mechanical engineer at LAI Interna-

tional, a leading aerospace and defense contractor. In 2015, *Fast Company* magazine named her to its annual list of the 100 Most Creative People in Business for her pioneering work in additive manufacturing. Oswald said that if she hadn’t taken that high

Family Scholarship.

After earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees in mechanical engineering at UConn, Oswald took a job at the United Technologies subsidiary Pratt & Whitney, where she helped design high-tech aircraft engines. She became an expert in the emerging field of additive manufacturing, which uses 3-D printing technology to simplify the design process for complex products. “With subtractive manufacturing, you start with a big block of material and you machine off what you don’t need,” Oswald explains. “With additive manufacturing, instead of starting with a big block, we start from nothing and only build material where we need it.”

Additive manufacturing was revolutionizing the field of mechanical engineering, and Oswald was becoming known as a leading expert in

the field. At Pratt & Whitney her team developed new technologies that ended up in various platforms, including the Airbus geared turbofan jet engine that uses 16 percent less fuel and significantly reduces CO₂ emissions. The team used 3-D printing every step of the way, creating life-size models of the engine parts to study how they could be improved. “With additive manufacturing, the iteration of designs is very fast — you get a much quicker sense of how an assembly goes together, where the high-stress locations are on a part,” she says. “It’s very helpful to have a visual for that.”

Her work on the Airbus engine earned Oswald a place on *Fast Company*’s 2015 list of the world’s most creative businesspeople. The magazine flew Oswald and many of the other honorees to L.A. to participate in a conference

on creativity and to tour area businesses, including Jessica Alba’s line of baby-care products, The Honest Company. “That was a very cool thing,” Oswald said. “I had never met a celebrity like that before.”

Embrace It All

Last October Oswald left Pratt & Whitney to join LAI International, a smaller aerospace and defense contractor where she was given the opportunity to assume a more prominent national role in the development of additive manufacturing. She gives regular talks to industry trade groups and is now on a team that is creating the material and product specifications that will be adopted by the Federal Aviation Association and the Department of Defense.

Oswald still gets frustrated at the lack of women in engineering. Part of the solution,

she says, is to provide early encouragement and opportunities for girls to explore the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields. “I think it’s really important to introduce women to STEM at an early age,” she said. “And then you have to maintain their confidence in middle and high school.”

She also emphasized that becoming an engineer doesn’t mean you have to abandon your other interests. Although she never became a professional ballerina, Oswald still enjoys dancing. “My goal when I talk to younger girls who are contemplating STEM is to tell them that you can do engineering and still be the person you want to be. If you love science and technology, you can do that and still be a fashionista. You can embrace all those things about you that make you who you are.” —MICHAEL HARDY



Les Stukenberg

KUDOS

Men’s ice hockey won its first tournament trophy since 2003 thanks to a 4–1 victory over Brown to take the Desert Hockey Classic in Prescott Valley, Ariz., at the end of December. “When I first got here four years ago, I said I had three goals: graduate players, make them better men, and win trophies. This is the first [trophy] and I am really happy for that group in there,” said head coach Mike Cavanaugh.

IN MEMORIAM

Find more obituaries for alumni and faculty at s.uconn.edu/feb17obits. And please share news of alumni deaths and obituaries with us by writing Alumni News & Notes, UConn Foundation, 2384 Alumni Drive Unit 3053, Storrs, CT 06269 or emailing alumni-news@uconnalumni.com.

Alumni

- **Martin James Lewis ’79 (ENGR)** June 2, 2016
- **Donald J. Chadwick ’62 (BUS)** July 2, 2016
- **Donald Kasden Deitch ’48 (CLAS)** July 13, 2016
- **Edward C. Keough, Sr. ’56 (ENGR)** July 16, 2016
- **Daniel A. Lehn ’81 (ENGR)** July 19, 2016
- **Frank Wuest ’82 (BUS)** Aug. 13, 2016
- **Norman D. Sills ’49 (CAHNR)** Aug. 28, 2016



Peter Morenus

JOB ENVY

Valentine's Day is her company's third biggest holiday, after Christmas and Easter, says **Karen Munson '86 (CLAS)**, president of Munson's Chocolates. Talking with *UConn Magazine* at her flagship store in Bolton, Conn., Munson quickly adds that this holiday is entirely different than any of the other holidays. "Valentine's Day is defined by its last-minute nature," she says. "It's unbelievably concentrated, basically the 12th to the 14th. The industry tells us that's because it's male-driven and post-Super Bowl."

Munson grew up in the biz. She says she was always a popular kid because she brought candy to school for every special occasion: "You could do that back then; it's something my daughter, who's now a freshman at UConn, was unable to experience."

She says she feels incredible pride having her daughter be a third-generation Husky, which hit her recently while tailgating with her college roommates, who are still her best friends: "Our kids are there now!"

Munson still brings chocolates to all sorts of occasions. "I never lose sight of how special it is to show up at someone's house with a platter of chocolates." You have to watch your timing in some cases, though. "For the rest of dinner, you end up playing 'guess the chocolate center.'" —LISA STIEPOCK

For more of our interview with Karen, go to magazine.uconn.edu/munson.



Each spring, Charles Lewis Beach Society members are welcomed to a special thank you event. Last spring, it was a farm-to-table brunch followed by a tour of the famously delicious UConn Dairy Bar!

Planned Giving 101

EVER WONDER WHAT PLANNED GIVING MEANS?

Simply put, it's a way to give back to the University you love – and feel secure knowing your impact will be felt for generations.

With thoughtful planning, you can create win-win solutions for you and UConn. And there are many ways you can make a planned gift:

- Wills
- Living Trusts
- Retirement plans
- Real estate
- Personal property
- And more!

Making a planned gift also means you're invited to join the Charles Lewis Beach Society, named for a man of foresight and good works whose love of UConn extended beyond his lifetime.

President Beach, teacher and leader of the young Connecticut Agricultural College from 1908–1928, honored his late wife Louise through his will. He provided support for student enrichment and for the institution that was to grow into the University. By joining the Charles Lewis Beach Society, you become part of a special group of people dedicated to UConn's future!

As a member of the Charles Lewis Beach Society, you will be recognized as legacy donors at special events, seminars, and our annual thank-you event!

Are you ready to make an impact on the University and create a lasting legacy? Visit our website at <https://www.legacy.vg/uconn> and get started!

**UConn
FOUNDATION**

STRENGTHENING UConn
ONE RELATIONSHIP AT A TIME

**TOM'S
TRIVIA**

CHALLENGE YOURSELF TO TOM'S TRIVIA!

Go to s.uconn.edu/feb17trivia to see if you know as much as King of UConn Trivia and University Deputy Spokesperson Tom Breen '00 (CLAS).

- 1.** UConn's athletic teams are known for their winning ways, with 22 national team championships. But who is the only student-athlete to win an individual NCAA championship?

A: Ben Stockton, men's 200m race, 1953
B: Marina Greene, women's pole vault, 1985
C: Ronald Evans, men's decathlon, 1972
D: Rachel Holcomb, women's tennis, 1990
- 2.** The "little stone house" has stood on North Eagleville Road since 1937. What is its significance?

A: It memorializes UConn students who fought in World War I
B: A gift from the Conn. Grange, it holds a stone from each state
C: It was a gift from the Storrs family, with stones from the original family farm
D: It was the result of a Works Progress Administration project during the Great Depression
- 3.** UConn's plan for Stamford student housing marks the second time it has had a residential campus outside Storrs. What was the first?

A: The Hartford campus in the early 1950s
B: UConn Polar Station One, a research dorm in Antarctica
C: The short-lived Willimantic campus in the 1900s
D: The Fort Trumbull campus in the late 1940s
- 4.** By 1960, this annual charitable event was the third largest of its kind in the U.S. and the largest on the East Coast. What was it?

A: Huskython, a dance marathon
B: The Benjamin Koons Memorial Basketball All-Star Game
C: The Campus Community Carnival
D: Kill-a-Keg



- 5.** In 1943, UConn received its first-ever visit from a First Lady, when Eleanor Roosevelt came to Storrs. What was the purpose of her trip?

A: She came to meet members of the Women's Land Army, a wartime agricultural support group
B: She was visiting UConn President Albert Jorgensen, who had placed Franklin Roosevelt's name into nomination at the 1940 Democratic National Convention
C: She delivered an address on human rights
D: She was in Storrs to lend support to UConn's wartime dairy programs, posing with prize-winning bull "Golden Lad"