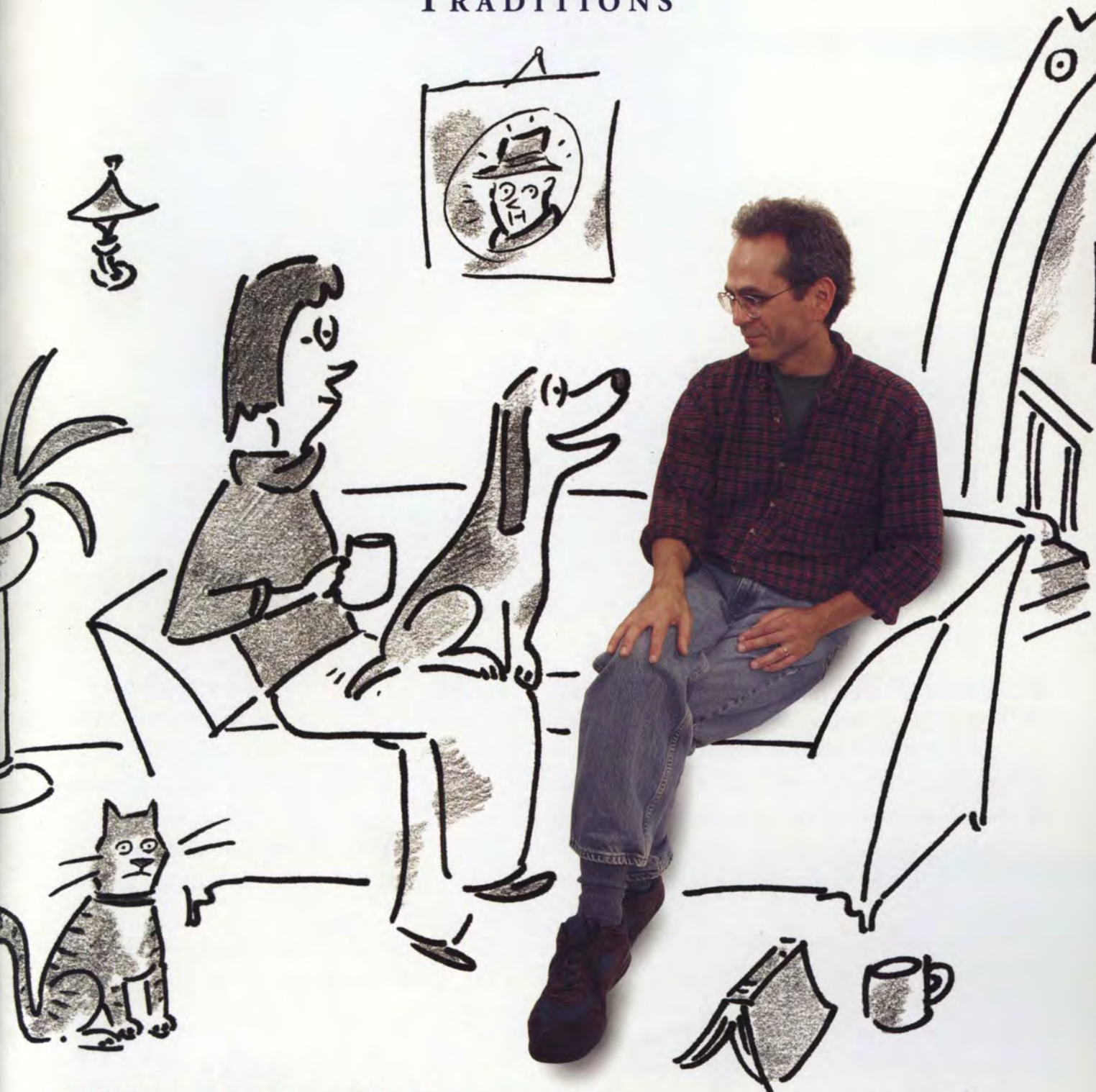


# UConn

Fall/Winter  
2000

TRADITIONS



## Michael Maslin's world

UConn alum carves out niche at *The New Yorker*

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## A Message from the Editor

### UConn Traditions, Volume 1: It's a Wrap!

With this third issue of *UConn Traditions*, we close the books on the first year of this still-new magazine. In order to give credit where credit is due, I asked the people who have contributed to this magazine (as many, at least, who could be gathered at one time) to pose for this photograph. For most of these individuals, along with those not pictured, contributing to *UConn Traditions* is only a part of their duties at the University. They also are but a small

portion of the people within the UConn community, including our advisory committee, editorial working group, UConn Alumni Association, UConn Foundation, and the deans, faculty, and staff of each school and college, who have helped us to achieve a measure of success in its first year. The input and support from you, the reader, has been invaluable to the magazine's evolution as well. On behalf of everyone who helps to bring *UConn Traditions* to fruition, I wish you a joyful and safe holiday season and a happy 2001. See you in the spring.

— Gary E. Frank



Jennifer Kim

*UConn Traditions* staff and contributors, in a photo taken in the great hall of the Centennial Alumni House. From left to right, first row: Megan Soukup, Allison Thompson, Shannon McAvoy '02 (SFA). Middle row: Mark Roy '74 (CLAS), Tina Modzelewski, Peter Morenus. Back Row: Sean Flynn, Leonard P. Blanks Jr '86 (SFA), Gary E. Frank, John E. Bailey '84 (SFA).

**Clarification:** An article on Aetna Financial Services' contribution to the School of Business in the summer '00 issue of *UConn Traditions* did not mention that Aetna Financial Services President John Y. Kim is a UConn alumnus. Kim earned a master's in business administration in 1987.

# UConn TRADITIONS

Volume 1, Number 3 • Fall/Winter 2000

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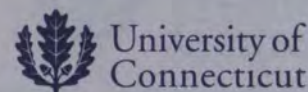
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Want to keep up with news and events at the University? News releases, upcoming events and activities are posted on the World Wide Web at [www.uconn.edu](http://www.uconn.edu).



# President

## Response to environmental crises a reminder of the University's public service mission

Shortly after I arrived at the University of Connecticut I mentioned that, although I was new to the state, I felt at home here because I had spent so much of my life at land-grant universities. That characterization took a few people by surprise. In the Northeast, the "land-grant" designation sometimes sounds more appropriate to the Midwest or the West. Even at UConn, which proudly traces its roots to the Storrs Agricultural School founded in 1881 and continues to maintain a vitally important College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the term at first glance seems a historical artifact.

I believe the land-grant concept is as relevant to the needs of today's technology-based society as it was to those of an agricultural society in the late 1800s. Through the past 100 years, the state's economic base shifted to heavy industry and then to technology, social and demographic change accompanied economic transition, and our curriculum has evolved to reflect these changes. The fundamental mission of teaching, research, and service to the people of the state, embodied in our role as a public university in the land-grant tradition, has remained constant throughout.

UConn's public service mission has been especially evident lately in tackling environmental problems that threaten the vitality of wildlife in the Northeast. In 1999, after six people in Brooklyn, N.Y. died mysteriously, UConn pathologists teamed with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and soon proved that the West Nile virus was to blame.

Since the discovery, UConn laboratories have examined dead birds



Peter Morenus

Richard French, associate professor of pathology, center, Kristen Hobbie, resident veterinary pathologist, right, and graduate student Spencer Russell, perform autopsies on lobsters at the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab in Storrs.

(mostly crows) collected from communities throughout the Northeast for evidence of West Nile virus. UConn scientists are working with state and local governments to investigate options to control exposure to the virus and are looking for antibodies that could lead to a long-term solution in controlling its spread.

At the same time, UConn pathologists came to the aid of the state Department of Environmental Protection in investigating the cause of a massive lobster kill in Long Island Sound. They now suspect the probable cause of the kill is a microscopic parasite that causes an infection in the lobster's nervous system leading to death. Continued research suggests that other factors could cause conditions that render lobsters susceptible to the parasite.

Although these are examples of UConn's response to public needs, they are but a few of the many instances in which our teachers, researchers, students and staff put their talents and energies to work for the state's citizens. The University reaches out to the state

though educational programs in urban areas, law and health clinics, and a score of other endeavors, many of which are reported on in each issue of *UConn Traditions*. These efforts, and many others like them, allow us to put the land-grant philosophy into practice. I believe that these efforts are important not only on their own terms but also as a demonstration of a critical concept; that of the public, land-grant university committed to the state's service. This commitment is not only an intrinsic part of the University of Connecticut's heritage. It is also a living, working reality that impacts communities at all points along the economic spectrum. We exist not only to educate the students who enter our University, but also to meet the needs of every resident of our state. At the start of the 21st century, that mission is as compelling as it ever has been.

*Priscilla Austin*

**Two-party system beats alternatives**

*UConn Traditions* is a fine publication, based upon the first two issues. The article “The Measure of Character” in the first issue was especially good. The article “Demopublicans and Republicrats” [Summer '00] was interesting, but distressing, to me.

Professor [Daryl] Harris talks of the “dangers of a divided electorate” as if all African Americans have, or should have, identical political interests—i.e., race dominates every other consideration. But Professor Harris’ article cites statistics that clearly show why some African Americans may be inclined to vote Democrat and some Republican. The two-party system, while not perfect, seems better than the alternatives. The failure rate of governments based

upon coalitions of several parties is high, while long-term domination by a single party is seldom in the peoples’ best interest. While neither major party may meet all of one’s needs or desires, certainly one will be better aligned with an individual’s positions on key issues, given the distinct differences in the two parties’ [platforms]. Moreover, individuals working to make the major parties more responsive to their needs will better serve all Americans than will the balkanization of the electorate. Colin Powell is a powerful, but not isolated, example of this premise.

*William B. Hewitt '68 M.S.  
Charleston, S.C.*

**Fred Waring’s own UConn Husky**

As you wrote in “A Page from the Past,” our first UConn fight song was composed by Fred Waring and premiered November 24, 1939, in New York City.

In appreciation, the student body raised sufficient funds to purchase a purebred Alaskan husky for Waring. He was named Jonathan. We presented Jonathan (see photo) to Waring on the stage of the Vanderbilt Theatre before a packed house and 50 Fred Waring Pennsylvanians.

I had the honor of making the presentation. Years later, Fred called me to say Jonathan had been



Photo courtesy of John B. Humphries

In this photo sent to us by alumnus John B. (Jack) Humphries, '40 (CLAS), popular 1930s radio host Fred Waring is presented a pure-bred Alaskan husky puppy on stage at the Vanderbilt Theatre in New York City. Humphries is third from the left, shaking hands with Waring.

killed by a car in front of his Shawnee, Pa., home, and to thank the University for the many happy times they had shared.

*John B. (Jack) Humphries  
'40 (CLAS)  
Aiken, S.C.*

**Bane, not boon**

I’m afraid that I have two small corrections to your article on Polls [Summer 2000 issue].

In the table of contents, you have the subheading on polls as “Are public opinion polls a boon or a blessing to democracy?” Since “boon” and “blessing” are synonymous, the question is redundant. “Bane” might have been a better choice unless you REALLY like polls. In the article, the failure to properly predict the Truman-Dewey outcome was

blamed on taking the final survey in mid-October instead of later. A bigger factor in the error was that the poll was taken by telephone. At that time, telephones were somewhat of a luxury in many neighborhoods. I remember, as a child, running through my apartment building in Brooklyn to tell one neighbor that (s)he had a call in someone else’s apartment. Those who had phones were usually a bit better off and more likely to be Republicans. Dewey was a Republican and the polls correctly predicted that the majority of telephone owners would vote for him. It was the problem of setting up a truly representative data base instead of an available one.

*Michael Ross '64 M.S.  
Fair Lawn, N.J.*

**Letters to the editor**

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

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E-mail: [uconntraditions@uconn.edu](mailto:uconntraditions@uconn.edu)

## Huskies mine gold and silver at Sydney Olympics

The University of Connecticut was represented in outstanding fashion by seven individuals, including two gold medal winners and one silver medalist, at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia.

The UConn presence in the 2000 Olympic Games included six athletes, representing four different countries, and one coach.

**Kara Wolters '97 (CLAS)** was a member of the U.S. women's basketball team, which defeated the host country, Australia, 76-54, to win the gold medal. UConn women's basketball coach **Geno Auremma** was an assistant coach of the U.S. squad, while current Husky **Svetlana Abrosimova '01 (BUS)** played for the Russian women's basketball team.

Former UConn men's basketball star **Ray Allen** played for the U.S. men's basketball team. Allen scored a team-high 13 points in the gold medal game as the U.S. team defeated France, 85-75. Wolters and Allen are the second and third athletes with ties to UConn to earn Olympic gold. **Rebecca Lobo '95 (CLAS)** brought home a gold medal as a member of the U.S. women's basketball team at the 1996 Olympic Games, in Atlanta.

**Sara Whalen '98 (CLAS)** earned a silver medal as a member of the U.S. women's soccer team, which lost to Norway in the gold medal game.

**Dudley Dorival '97 (CLAS)**, one of only two four-time track and field All-Americans at UConn, competed for Haiti in the 110-meter hurdles. Dorival, the UConn record holder in the 110-meter hurdles at 13.48 seconds, finished seventh in the finals, with a time of 13.49 seconds.

**Joanne Durant '98 (CLAS)**, an eight-time New England sprint champion while at UConn, competed for Barbados in both the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes. She was timed at 11.82 seconds for the 100 meters and 23.90 seconds for 200 meters. Durant holds the UConn outdoor record for 200 meters, with a time of 23.93.



Peter Morenus

### Students welcomed back.

UConn students enjoy a moment in the sun at the picnic marking the end of this year's Husky Week of Welcome. More than 2,900 new students arrived at UConn in late August, a 9.7 percent increase over 1999. In addition to the annual Convocation, the students heard from Bobbie Ann Mason '72 Ph.D., whose novel *In Country* they were assigned to read during the summer.

### Dedicated players

The UConn Hard Bop Jazz Quintet performs at von der Mehden Recital Hall during the dedication concert in October for the School of Fine Arts Music and Dramatic Arts Building.



## New construction transforming face of UConn

Now in its sixth year, UCONN 2000, the University's 10-year, \$1 billion capital improvement initiative, together with related projects, is the most tangible indicator of the University of Connecticut's transformation. Since 1995, when Gov. John Rowland signed the landmark legislation authorizing the initiative, 16 new buildings have sprung up on the main campus. Another 16 have been renovated at Storrs and the regional campuses. More than 70 classrooms have been outfitted with the latest technological advances, and a new underground infrastructure has been put in place. In order to achieve a visual balance, the new buildings have been designed to blend in with the older, and still beautiful, buildings on campus. Anyone who has been away from UConn for even a short time is likely to be quite surprised and pleased with what *The New York Times* called "a building boom . . . that would be the envy of most university presidents." Here is a visual sampling of some of the projects that have been completed, are currently underway, or are planned for the near future.

The new chemistry building opened in the fall of 1998. The five-story, 208,000-square-foot building was listed as one of the best-designed buildings in the world in the 2000 *International Architecture Yearbook*.



Peter Morenus

Banners representing each school and college of the University adorn the new campus core.



# The Future



One-third of this year's freshmen are now housed in the new Northwest residence area, which also includes a new dining commons offering food-court-style dining. Students living in the new residences participated in the "Northwest Experience," an extended orientation program intended to help first-year students make a smooth transition to university life.



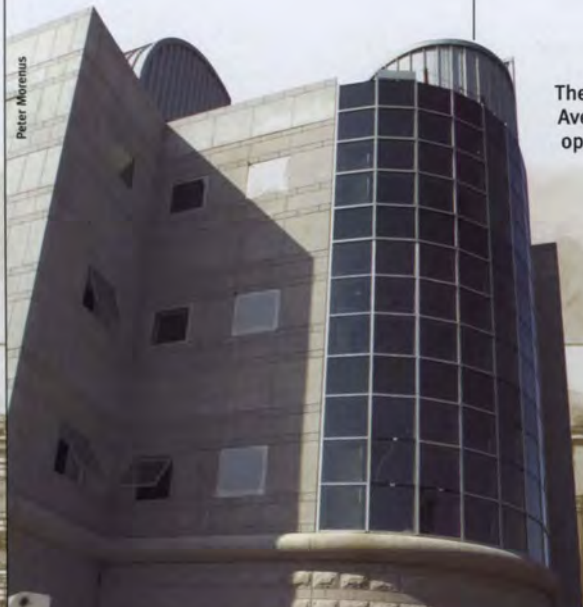
(Above) The architects' rendering shows the building that will house a new 1,200-space parking garage and a relocated and enlarged UConn Co-op across from Gampel Pavilion. The building is expected to be completed by the spring of 2001.

(Left) An ironworker secures a roof beam on the future home of the School of Business. Classes are expected to begin in the state-of-the-art facility in the fall of 2001.



The Lodewick Visitors Center is the new gateway to the main campus. Here, student guide Angha Sabnis '02 (CLAS) gives her family a tour of the Visitors Center.

(below) The architects' rendering shows a student apartment complex now under construction near the Hilltop residence halls. When completed, the complex will house more than 900 students in suite-style apartments.



The Marine Sciences Institute at the Avery Point campus is scheduled to open in February 2001.





## USN&WR again ranks UConn top New England public university

*U.S. News & World Report* has ranked the University of Connecticut as the top-ranked public university in New England for the third time in four years, according to the magazine's latest listings of the nation's best colleges, released in September.

UConn is one of only a handful of institutions in the Northeast to make the *USN&WR* ranking of the top national public universities. The magazine rated UConn in a four-way tie at 38th nationally, a change of one position from last year's six-way tie at number 31, ahead of the universities of Vermont, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, all ranked 47th.

Each year, *USN&WR* rates about 1,400 accredited four-year colleges. The magazine considers retention and graduation rates, quality of students, and alumni giving and evaluates a survey of the school's reputation among high-ranking officials of other colleges.

Although the rankings sell magazines, the real indicators of UConn's ascent to the top ranks of public universities are more telling. Since 1997, freshman enrollment at UConn has grown 34.5 percent, minority enrollment has grown 58 percent, and SAT scores are up 28 points. In addition, the number of high school valedictorians in the incoming class jumped from 13 four years ago to 34 this year.

UConn's successes also include renewed emphasis on undergraduate education and new programs that invigorate campus life; recruitment of an impressive roster of new faculty; large increases in private giving to the University (See article on page 9.); a 30-percent increase in research funding in the last four years; new construction and renovations at a level unprecedented in the University's history (See pages 6–7.); athletic success, including national championship men's and women's basketball teams and outstanding teams in men's and women's soccer, field hockey, and track, among others.



Peter Morenus

### You can't steal this!

These American flag socks and buttons with provocative slogans are from a collection of materials that belonged to the late radical activist Abbie Hoffman, donated to the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center by Hoffman's brother, Jack. The materials include copies of Hoffman's five books, thousands of pages of FBI and New York City Police Department surveillance files, dozens of letters from Hoffman to his family, and many of the activist's T-shirts, political buttons, posters, family photos and other ephemera. The collection is housed in the Dodd Center's Alternative Press Collection, which was founded in the late 1960s as a repository for radical and ephemeral publications from activist movements for social, cultural, and political change.

## ALUMNI INVITED TO RECRUIT PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions has established the Student Referral Program, an initiative that engages UConn alumni in the recruitment of bright, talented young men and women to the University of Connecticut.

"The Student Referral Program will provide alumni an opportunity to shape future classes of incoming students and to enrich the pool of applicants," says Wayne Locust, director of undergraduate admissions. "Making a referral is an easy way for alumni to make a crucial investment in UConn's future."

When an alumnus or alumna contacts the admissions office with the name and address of a potential future scholar, the information pertaining to that student is entered into a "prospective student" file so that student can receive recruitment materials and a call from a current student. "We find that prospective students are pleased to receive personal attention from UConn, and that they can easily relate to our current students," says Locust.

To make a referral, contact the Student Referral Program at 860-486-3137, e-mail [admiss41@uconnvm.uconn.edu](mailto:admiss41@uconnvm.uconn.edu), or write Student Referral Program, Office of Undergraduate Admissions, 2131 Hillside Road, Unit 3088, Storrs, CT 06269-3088

## Another record-setting year for fund raising

\$37 million raised in fiscal '00

The University of Connecticut Foundation, Inc. enjoyed its most successful year ever during fiscal year 2000, receiving \$37 million in gifts, a 44 percent increase over the previous year, when gift receipts totaled \$25.6 million.

The Foundation has functioned as the primary fund-raiser and manager of private contributions to the University since 1995, when gift receipts totaled \$8.2 million. Concurrent with the Foundation's fund-raising success, the University's endowment has grown from \$50 million in 1995 to \$221 million in 2000. Contributing to the endowment's success is a special provision in the UCONN 2000 legislation that ensures that gifts made to UConn endowments are matched, in part, by state funds.

"Private investment in UConn is the driver needed to attain the highest level of excellence in teaching, research and service," says Edward Allenby, vice president of institutional advancement and president of the Foundation. "UConn relies on private support from alumni, businesses and other friends to advance academic quality and student opportunity. Public incentives, such as the UCONN 2000 endowment matching funds program, magnify the impact of private gifts."

More than half (52 percent) of all gifts received by the University came from corporations, charitable foundations, and other organizations, which is higher than the national average. Foundation officials believe this

percentage reflects the University's strong relationship with the business community. One of UConn's longstanding strategic goals has been the development of partnerships with the state's corporate leaders and businesses across the nation. More than 300 corporate contributors provided 26 percent of total gifts received by the University in fiscal year 2000.

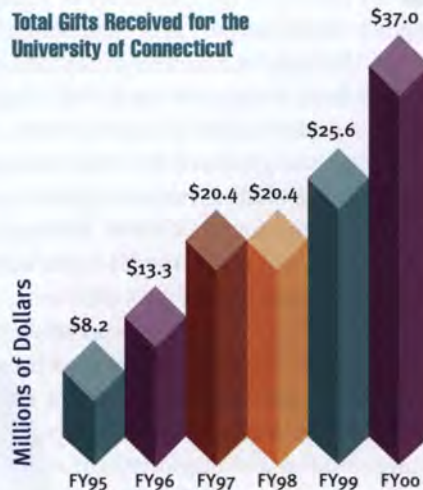
"Whether it's a Connecticut-based business supporting the University's academic departments and athletic teams, a gift from an alumnus, or a national foundation recognizing the

### Private investment in UConn helps ensure the highest academic quality

achievements of our students and faculty, the University's corporate and charitable partners are critical to the future of our programs," says President Philip E. Austin.

Gifts earmarked for endowment totaled \$16.9 million, up from \$12.7 million in fiscal year 1999. Endowment funds support donor-designated projects and University needs, including

Total Gifts Received for the University of Connecticut



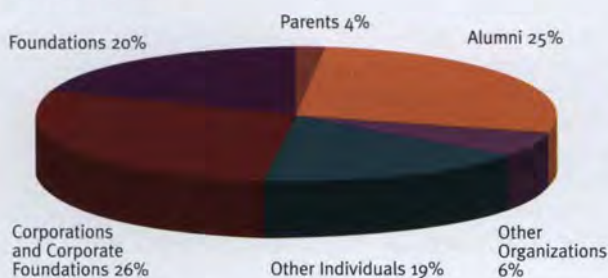
undergraduate scholarships, graduate fellowships, professorships, and academic programs. Endowment funding also helps in the acquisition of information technology, as well as library and research materials.

Effective financial management has also made a sizeable contribution to the growth of the endowment. The \$221 million in endowment accounts reflects a \$45 million increase over the prior year, with two thirds of the endowment support directed to faculty positions, scholarships, and student aid. The endowment enjoyed an outstanding return on investment of 16.5 percent.

"Long-term investment by private donors helps UConn to ensure the highest academic quality over time," says Austin. "It is the critical combination of both private and public dollars that will deliver, and sustain, UConn's transformation as the state's flagship institution of higher learning."

— Gary E. Frank

Sources of Gifts



## UTC gives \$4 million to School of Engineering

*Largest gift ever to public school of engineering in New England*

United Technologies Corporation has committed \$4 million to the University of Connecticut School of Engineering to support new engineering education initiatives.

The UTC gift, announced in September, is the largest ever to the School of Engineering and the largest corporate gift ever to a public school of engineering in New England. It is also the largest gift that UTC, which employs more than 1,500 UConn alumni, has ever given to an educational institution. The state's UCONN 2000 endowment matching gift program will match the UTC gift with an additional \$2 million, boosting the gift's total value to \$6 million.

"The timing of this gift is especially opportune as a national crisis looms on the horizon because of a shortage of engineering students," said President Philip E. Austin. "For more than 50 years, we have been partners with UTC in educating students and improving the economy of a state noted for its enterprise and innovation. This gift will help the School of Engineering achieve the highest levels of excellence in research and teaching, set a new standard for public schools of engineering in the nation, and enhance UConn's ability to continue to produce highly qualified engineering graduates who are able to serve the changing needs of corporations such as United Technologies."

Two million dollars of the UTC gift, plus \$1 million in state matching funds, will support three endowed chair professorships in research: the UTC Chair in Systems

Engineering, the UTC Chair in Thermal-Fluids Engineering, and the Pratt & Whitney Chair in Design and Manufacturing.

The gift will also provide \$1.33 million, plus \$667,000 in matching state funds, to endow an Advanced Technology Clinic for joint research between the School of Engineering faculty and UTC. The endowment will allow four professors to work with graduate students and undergraduate research assistants and provide the professors with summer positions at a UTC business unit or at the UTC Research Center.

The UTC contribution also includes \$670,500, plus \$333,000 in state matching funds, to create at least 10 undergraduate scholarships per year for four years.

"In a global economy, knowledge-based work will be the focus of future U.S. economic success," said George David, UTC chairman and chief executive officer. "This gift demonstrates our belief that education will be the key to maintaining the competitive positions of not only UTC, but also other technology-focused companies."

Connecticut Gov. John G. Rowland praised UTC as a model for other corporate donors, citing the corporation's donation to the state last year of land that will be the site of a new football stadium for UConn in East Hartford.

The UTC gift, the governor said, will help the University attract top students. "If we want to keep wonderful talent here in the state of Connecticut, we must invest in our universities," Rowland said.

## School of Business receives \$3.25 million to support e-business programs

The School of Business has received private contributions totaling \$3.25 million to support e-business programs at the main campus and regional campuses in Greater Hartford and Stamford.

A total gift of \$1.6 million, including \$1.25 million from the SGM Scholarship Foundation of New York City and \$375,000 from the UCONN 2000 matching gift program, will support construction of a new Gladstein Management Information Systems Research Laboratory in the new Business Learning Center, establish an endowment fund to support the lab, and establish the Gladstein Professorship in Information Management and Innovation at the main campus. The position will be filled by Associate Professor Paulo Goes.

A gift of \$1.5 million, including \$1 million from the Treibick Family Foundation and \$500,000 from the UCONN 2000

matching gift program, will endow the Treibick Family Chair for the Connecticut Information Technology Institute (CITI), based in Stamford.

A \$150,000 gift will fund the Shenkman Family Chair in e-business, to be based at the main campus, and support business-related teaching, research, and outreach activities across UConn's campuses. The chair will be filled by Jim Marsden, professor and head of the Department of Operations and Information Management and interim executive director of CITI.

"These gifts help us continue the momentum in establishing e-commerce as an important area of both research and teaching," says Thomas Gutteridge, dean of the School of Business. "The information revolution is to the 21st century what the industrial revolution was to the 20th century. These gifts will ensure UConn's ongoing contribution to that revolution."

## This dog had quite a day

*Jonathan IV the attraction when the Huskies reached their first NCAA tournament in 1951*

In his first meeting with Yale's mascot, "Handsome Dan," just three days after arriving on the Storrs campus, Jonathan IV grabbed the bulldog by the nose.

He was known to growl when players for opposing teams scored baskets against the UConn men.

When the men's basketball team played for the first time in an NCAA tournament, this Husky was the Top Dog in the Big Apple, an appearance that would be remembered by students and alumni for years.

Jonathan IV, a white husky with brown markings, arrived at UConn in September 1949 from Brud's Husky Farm, a kennel in Vermont. He had been born on December 10, 1947.

He would serve as mascot for more than nine years. His career included a dog-napping by University of Massachusetts students in 1956, just days after he had been injured in a minor accident. Dozens of UConn students flocked to Amherst, Mass., to search for him before he was safely recovered.

In his career as UConn's mascot, Jonathan's greatest moment was in the spring of 1951, when the UConn men faced St. John's University March 19 in an NCAA first-round game at the old Madison Square Garden. The team, coached by the late Hugh Greer, had won 22 of its 25 regular season games and, as the 1951 *Nutmeg* noted, was "sparked by Vin (Yogi) Yokabaskas, who created new Connecticut records every time he scored . . ."

Yokabaskas, a 1953 graduate of the School of Education, was the first UConn player to score 1,000 points during his college career.

"There was no lack of campus spirit . . . when we beat Holy Cross



# 1951

**The greatest ovation ever given a school mascot in Madison Square Garden**

to the NCAA basketball wire," wrote the editors of the 1953 *Nutmeg* in summing up the season that led to the tournament. "Classes went the way of all flesh, and anything on wheels trundled students to Madison Square Garden in New York City. A special train was chartered from Hartford to [New York], and we got a parade permit from Grand Central Station to the Garden."

Because he was at City Hall meeting with New York City's vice mayor,

Jonathan wasn't in the parade. He had been at Grand Central to meet the UConn fans, but was whisked away in a taxi cab to City Hall. Writing in 1959, *San Francisco Examiner* sports columnist Wells Twombly, a Willimantic, Conn., native, described the scene at Madison Square Garden:

"Only seconds remained before game time . . . Then, Jonny IV burst through the door, a young, virile pooch leaping and bounding ahead.

"With a roar, 18,000 Madison Square Garden fans stood and cheered him.

"New York's newspapers called it 'The greatest ovation ever given a mascot of a school in Madison Square Garden.'"

The Huskies lost to St. John's, 63-52, but Jonathan IV returned home triumphant, making a long series of appearances through the state, including guest shots on local television stations. As Jonathan approached his 10th year of service, it was determined that he would be retired in the spring of 1959, and go to the home of one of his earlier trainers. But Jonathan passed away in his sleep on January 16, 1959, just a month before his last scheduled appearance at a men's basketball game against Syracuse University. In a front-page tribute, the *Connecticut Daily Campus* wrote "He was a UConn tradition to be sure, but he was a very warm symbol of that tradition. His personality was a very real quality which made him a wonderful mascot and a wonderful friend."

— Mark Roy '74 (CLAS)

## School of Fine Arts

### Gary English elected president of national theatre association

Gary M. English, head of the Department of Dramatic Arts and artistic director of the Connecticut Repertory Theatre, has been elected to a two-year term as president of the board of directors of the University/Resident Theatre Association.

The U/RTA is the nation's oldest and largest consortium of professional, graduate theater training programs and associated professional theater companies.

"Gary is an inspired choice to lead the U/RTA into the new millennium," says U/RTA Executive Director Scott Steele. "Under his leadership, the Department of Dramatic Arts at the University of Connecticut, and its performance arm, Connecticut Repertory Theatre, have emerged as a model of the interaction between university theatre departments and university based professional theatres."

English came to UConn in 1988 and has been head of the Department of Dramatic Arts since 1994. He founded the Connecticut Repertory Theatre at Storrs as a professional summer theater in 1994 and expanded it to a year-round theatre in 1997. Since then, CRT has won the New England Theatre Conference Award for contributions to the professional theater community, and won three Connecticut Drama Critics Circle awards.

English earned a B.F.A. in drama from the University of Arizona in 1974, and an M.F.A. in stage design from Northwestern University in 1977. Before coming to UConn he taught at the State University of New York at Geneseo and at Carnegie Mellon University. He was promoted to full professor at UConn in 1992. English served one year as interim dean of the School of Fine Arts after the death of Dean Robert Gray.

English, who negotiated a national contract between university based theaters and Actors Equity, says the U/RTA is seeking ties with major unions representing stage directors, scenic artists and dramatists. "This process is having a national impact on the way university theater is evolving," he says. "As a result, professional theater and university theater are becoming more integrated and mutually supportive while the students graduating from major theater programs such as UConn's are finding much more success after graduation."

Peter Morenus



Gary M. English

## School of Law

### Helping students excel at crunch time

Most first-year law students realize that succeeding in law school requires moving beyond the days of memorization and standardized tests. Adapting to the rigors of a legal education is often more difficult than students expect though.

Jeremy Paul, professor of law and associate dean for academic affairs, has co-authored a book meant to help students make the transition from successful undergraduate to stellar law student. In *Getting to Maybe: How to Excel on Law School Exams*, Paul and co-author Richard Michael Fischl explain law school exams in an effort to improve the reader's performance.

"There's a certain point in the education of an adult when rote learning is no longer what you want to accomplish," Paul says. "The law school exam changes the question from 'Did the person memorize the rules?' to 'Did the person solve the problem?' We try to explain why there are these problems."

The two authors originally came up with the idea for the book in the early 1980s when they were both starting their academic careers at the University of Miami law school. Although the idea for the book struck early in Paul's and Fischl's careers, they decided to put it on hold while they focused on their academic work.

After Paul arrived at UConn in 1988, he contacted Fischl, now a professor of law at the University of Miami, and suggested they resume working on the book, which was published by Carolina Academic Press last year.

Response to the book has been overwhelming. In an online review, Yale Law School Professor Atticus Falcon, who wrote *What You Need to Know Before You Go to Law School*, calls *Getting to Maybe* a "Godsend." Professors at law schools around the country have told Paul that the book is required reading for students who need help on exams.

At the UConn School of Law, Professor Deborah Calloway requires students in her methods course to read the book.

It's not only professors who are raving about the book.

"I had a student who'd won an award come up to me on awards day and say, 'I never would have won this award without your book,'" Paul says.



## School of Dental Medicine

### When preschoolers use fluoride—less can be more

Changes in children's and parents' behavior could prevent many cases of dental fluorosis in children, according to David G. Pendrys, associate professor in the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Community Health. Results of Pendrys' study were published in the June issue of *The Journal of the American Dental Association*.

Dental fluorosis, a disruption in tooth enamel formation, is caused by ingesting fluoride above optimal levels. It occurs only when teeth are still forming under the gums. In its mildest form, white streaks are visible only to dental experts during examinations. Noticeable white lines that often consolidate into larger opaque areas characterize mild to moderate fluorosis. Although the lines may cause cosmetic concern, there are no known health effects.



"Using fluoride toothpaste is important for the prevention of tooth decay, but proper use should be taught to preschool children," says Pendrys. "Because young children are apt to swallow toothpaste during brushing, a pea-sized amount for children under six—as recommended by the American Dental Association—is all that is needed."

Pendrys says it is important for parents to supervise their preschool children when they brush and encourage them to spit out, rather than swallow, toothpaste. Parents should avoid special flavors that may tempt children to eat toothpaste. Once permanent teeth have erupted, there is no longer a risk of fluorosis.

Teaching children (and parents) how to use fluoride products may reduce the cosmetic-marring effects of enamel fluorosis, says Pendrys. "After all, all parents want their children to show a wonderful smile."

## School of Business

### Executive MBA.com develops e-business leaders

The School of Business is now offering the first executive MBA program in the nation specifically designed to develop business leaders for e-commerce.

"The program is based on the fundamental principle that business leaders who are proficient with information technology and understand how IT enables and empowers good business practice will be the ones whose companies succeed in this rapidly changing environment," says Thomas Gutteridge, dean of the School of Business.

The program is being offered at the Stamford campus because Fairfield County is the home to many major businesses, as well as many new dot.com start-up companies. "Building on the School of Business' success with the Connecticut Information Technology Institute (CITI), the EMBA.com program stresses information technology as a set of building blocks that serves as the foundation for integrated and effective understanding of the successful business processes and functions in the new economy," says Richard N. Dino, associate dean of the School of Business.

The program's curriculum is nourished by the School of Business's research on such e-business topics such as network

optimization, electronic auction markets, computer and data security, dynamic database restructuring, supply chain management, and electronic customer servicing.

Because of the Internet's impact on worldwide commerce, having employees well acquainted with information technology is crucial not only to dot.com start-ups, but also to well-established companies such as General Electric, Pitney Bowes, Xerox and others, each of which have employees enrolled in the new executive MBA program.

"We're not creating programmers. We're creating business leaders who have a deep and specific knowledge," says Dino. "Information technology becomes the lens through which they look at everything else they're going to learn."

The new program is replacing the traditional executive MBA program at Stamford and is in line with a national trend at business schools to develop niche, or specialty, programs in the face of competition.

"There is a school of thought that an MBA is an MBA," Dino says. "There's another school of thought that we're subscribing to that the traditional skills learned in a regular MBA program, while very valuable, don't go far enough to be successful in the new paradigm."

## School of Pharmacy

### Teaching professional skills to students

Sixteen Connecticut pharmacists, most of whom are UConn alumni, are volunteering their time to help train first-year pharmacy students at the University.

"It is turning out to be a very effective teaching method," says Neil Facchinetti, an associate professor of pharmacy, who enlisted the help of practicing pharmacists for a course he teaches on interpersonal skills development.

With more than 2.8 billion prescriptions being filled in the United States each year, pharmacists must be able to communicate effectively with patients. Patient counseling is also critical

because more people are taking over-the-counter drugs and herbal remedies, which Facchinetti says opens the door for potentially dangerous interactions with prescription drugs.

At the start of each class, the students learn about several commonly prescribed drugs, such as Prozac, Zantac, and Dilantin. Then they pair up for role-playing.

Each pair of students goes to a mock counseling center, where one of the volunteer pharmacists is stationed. The volunteer pharmacist hands a bottle of prescription drugs to the student "pharmacist." The student "patient" is handed a rough script outlining family background, medical history, and other factors that will help test the student pharmacist's abilities to listen, evaluate, and counsel in relation to the drug that has been described.

The volunteer pharmacist observes the aspiring pharmacists' body language, questioning techniques, listening skills, and use of factual details. When the exercise is over, the volunteer critiques the exercise, using a videotape to review each student's strengths and weaknesses. The videotape enables students to monitor their progress throughout the semester, says Facchinetti.

Facchinetti says this teaching method would be impractical and too expensive without volunteers like Bill Colburn '77 (PHR).

"I received a good education at UConn and was well prepared for my profession. I wanted to give something back to UConn and to the School of Pharmacy," Colburn says. "And I have to say I feel good about the students I've been working with. They seem very professional and are quite smart, and they're keeping me on my toes."



Isabelle Dervaux

## School of Nursing

### Nursing prof's video helps elderly manage pain

Associate Professor Deborah McDonald's research on decreasing postoperative pain has led to the development of a 15-minute video designed to help patients better communicate their pain after surgery.

McDonald's research indicated that despite advances in pain management, many patients continued to have high levels of pain following surgery. She began conducting research to examine how patients, particularly older adults, manage their pain and how doctors and nurses can best help them.

The first part of the video, "Managing Your Pain After Surgery," concerns general techniques for dealing with pain and pain medication. McDonald emphasizes in the video that it is rare to become addicted to medication taken for postoperative pain. She also suggests procedures that may enhance a patient's sense of well-being and reduce pain, including relaxation techniques, deep breathing, massage, and distraction,

such as listening to music or watching television.

The second part of the video, "Communicating Your Pain After Surgery," illustrates what McDonald believes is a major problem in pain management: miscommunication between caregivers and patients. Patients may believe they should not complain or take up too much of a caregiver's time. Others may communicate ineffectively, omitting important information such as the location or intensity of the pain.

"Caregivers make a mistake by frequently opening conversations with patients by asking 'How are you feeling?'" McDonald says, adding that this might encourage patients to respond in a socially acceptable way and not complain of their pain. A better approach might be to say, "Tell me how much pain you're having."

McDonald urges patients to be clear when talking about their pain, identifying its precise location; how it feels (e.g., burning, pounding); and how it responds to medication. The main point, she says, is to help people keep their pain low and under control, so they can get better faster and back to a more active, healthy life.

The video was produced by the University's Center for Instructional Media and Technology and was filmed at a local hospital using real doctors and nurses, along with volunteers who played the roles of patients.

Deborah McDonald, associate professor of nursing.



Peter Morenus



## School of Medicine

### *Lecture series offers public a glimpse of medical education*

The Mini-Medical School is back in session at the University of Connecticut Health Center. The six-week lecture series, which began in 1992, is designed to introduce to the public the basic sciences underlying present-day medical knowledge and provide an overview of medical topics.

The Mini-Medical School is one of the first two such programs in the nation. The UConn program has become a model for similar medical school programs around the country.

Each week a different topic is presented in the same manner that medical students receive instruction. Lecturers are School of Medicine faculty. The lectures, though scientifically based, are presented in a manner that make them more readily understandable to the lay person.

"We are very pleased to offer this program to the public," says Dr. Bruce Koeppen, dean for academic affairs and education at the School of Medicine. "It's a wonderful opportunity for people to learn more about the causes and treatment of disease and become better-informed health-care consumers and ultimately active participants in their health care."

The topics covered in the program vary each session, depending on a number of factors, such as availability of

faculty. The spring 2000 session included lectures on genetic medicine, ethics and medicine, emerging infectious diseases, immunology, cancer biology, bone biology and osteoporosis. The fall 2000 session included lectures on anatomy, cardiovascular disease, psychiatry, sleep and circadian biology, neuroscience, occupational and environmental medicine, and information technology in medical education.

Nancy Duffy, of Newington, Conn., was so impressed by the program she signed up for two sessions. "It's a great program," says Duffy. "I was a little intimidated at first, but the doctors and professors who taught it were just excellent. They were clear, concise, and able to make difficult and esoteric subject matter interesting and understandable."

The next session is planned for spring 2001. For more information or to be placed on the mailing list, call 860-679-2904.



## School of Allied Health

### *A collaboration to fight diabetes*

When Joann Dark Eyes, a former member of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council, spoke at the School of Allied Health's first diabetes conference in 1997, it was much more than a mere speaking engagement. Dark Eyes' aunt, Victoria Plousse Hayward, died from complications of the disease, which afflicts one in eight Native Americans. Since that time, the Mashantucket Pequots and the School of Allied Health have joined forces each year to host the event, held at the tribe's museum and conference center in Mashantucket, Conn.

The next conference, scheduled for March 2001, will be the fourth of a six-year commitment the tribe has made to the event. The tribe provides free facilities for the conference and accommodations for the keynote speaker and assists with a health fair that precedes the conference.

For the past three years, the conference has included a speech by Tribal Chairman Kenneth Reels, a Type II diabetic who discusses his battle with the disease as well as its grasp on many elderly citizens. The prevalence of diabetes among Native Americans also prompted the tribe

to establish the Victoria Plousse Hayward Scholarship Fund at the School of Allied Health.

Cynthia Adams, associate dean and director of outreach at the School of Allied Health, says the conference has been effective for many reasons. "The location of the conference has been wonderful, not only because the facilities are so accommodating, but because the casinos draw many older people who are at a great risk of becoming seriously ill from diabetes. Most important, the conference addresses an issue that is so important to Native Americans."

Previous conferences have featured people of various ethnic and racial groups, such as Sharon Robinson, whose father, baseball legend Jackie Robinson, suffered from diabetes. A diverse array of speakers is crucial, Adams says, because diabetes does not discriminate. "Approximately 16 million people, six percent of the U.S. population, have diabetes," Adams says. "But nearly six million of them have not even been diagnosed. Research has also shown that Type II diabetes, which typically afflicts adults, is showing up in young children. This is an issue that demands our attention."



## School of Social Work

### *State grant to fund study of juvenile female offenders*

The School of Social Work has received a \$70,462 grant from the Connecticut Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency to conduct a 10-month study of juvenile female offenders.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency has recognized Connecticut's need to develop a comprehensive profile of its female offenders in order to identify the specific needs and issues of that population. The study, which will be conducted by three members of the UConn community, will identify programs and services the state can implement to best serve female juvenile offenders. The School of Social Work has a history of working with state agencies that address human service issues and needs.

"Increasingly, there has been recognition that female offenders are getting caught in the criminal justice system," says Eleanor Lyon, an adjunct faculty member of the School of Social Work, who will be the principal investigator for the

study. "And while the impression exists that females get involved in illegal activity in different ways than males, there hasn't been much in the way of programming to address these differences. In addition to helping the government design and implement programs geared toward females, the information we obtain through the study will provide data on how many adult female offenders began in the juvenile system."

"We plan to look across the various systems that deal with juvenile offenders. We will be examining data from agencies such as the Department of Children and Families, the juvenile court, and the early stages of adult court to determine what happens to young women when they're handled by each of these agencies," says Catherine Havens, associate dean of academic affairs at the School of Social Work, who will provide consultation to the project on design and data analysis.

Lyon and Havens will implement the study with Robin Spath '91 (BGS), '94 M.S.W., who will serve as program coordinator.

## College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

### *Giving coyotes a better reputation*

Jonathan Way '00 M.S. felt that coyotes were getting a bad rap, so he spent two-and-a-half years studying them for his master's thesis in natural resources management and engineering.

While studying a group of eastern coyotes on Cape Cod, Way learned that the animals aren't fearsome at all and tend to shy away from humans. Way, who currently works at the Bronx Zoo, plans to continue his research on the animal while pursuing a doctorate.

"I felt so fortunate to be able to do this and give the animals a better name," says Way. "They're actually fascinating animals and not the vermin people sometimes think they are."

There has been little research on the coyote, which began appearing in the Northeast only 50 years ago. After the gray wolf was exterminated from the eastern United States during the 1900s, the coyote began its migration eastward.

The eastern coyote is the largest coyote in the country and is believed to have mixed with the gray or red wolf. Similar to a German shepherd in appearance, coyotes weigh from 30 to 50 pounds and are 4 to 5 feet long.

What most surprised Way was the eastern coyote's territorial habits. A coyote's home range

can be up to 100 square miles. Coyotes quickly claim an area and the few pups that survive to adulthood set out looking for their own space, thus expanding the range of the species. Their territory is usually about 12 to 40 square miles per coyote family group of three.

Coyotes will move in a predictable pattern only during the spring, when there likely is a litter of pups that must be tended to and fed. Coyotes may become accustomed to human beings, trotting through residential areas, but Way points out that there is a difference between being bold and being threatening. He says the coyotes are behaving normally and they do not pose a danger to people. Way hopes this information will help calm people's fears of coexisting with the coyote.

"I hope that if anything comes from this study, it is to ensure the long-term survival and well-being of this magnificent animal," Way says.



Jonathan Way '00 M.S. releases a tranquilized coyote after weighing and measuring it, and installing a radio-collar tracking device.

Greg Auer

## School of Engineering

### New method to combat groundwater pollution discovered

A revolutionary new method for vanquishing the toxic solvent tetrachloroethylene (PCE) has been discovered by Thomas Wood, an associate professor of chemical engineering. The method, involving bacterium *Pseudomonas stutzeri* OX1 and one of its enzymes, solves an environmental dilemma that has nettled scientists for decades: how to break down dangerous organic compounds aerobically.

PCE is used in dry cleaning and manufacturing operations around the world. When released into the soil, PCE and other solvents slowly seep through soil layers until they encounter an impenetrable layer of clay or bedrock. Groundwater passing through the soil slowly dissolves and transports the solvents, where they can further migrate through the soil, causing potentially significant contamination of groundwater. The Environmental Protection Agency has deemed it a suspected carcinogen and requires that PCE be remediated to less than five parts per billion.

"For perspective, consider that a single drop of human sweat in the average swimming pool is at a concentration of 1 part per million is roughly 200 times the acceptable concentration of PCE," Wood says.

The key enzyme discovered by Wood and his team, toluene-o-xylene monooxygenase, degrades PCE (and other less-chlorinated, similar compounds) into chloride ions, a harmless by-product.

Since mixtures of chlorinated wastes are frequently found at contaminated sites, mixtures such as PCE, trichloroethylene, dichloroethylenes, and vinyl chloride are all degraded by this enzyme. The team also found that PCE actually activates the enzyme responsible for its degradation.

Since delivering the enzyme to the contaminated soil and groundwater requires an innovative approach, the team plans to clone the enzyme into another bacterium that bonds symbiotically with the roots of certain trees, such as the fast-growing poplar. (See "Miracle microbes to the rescue" in Spring '00 issue of *UConn Traditions*.) When planted in a contaminated area, these trees would quickly send their roots down to the site of the solvent; the host bacteria containing the enzyme could then go to work oxidizing the solvents.



**Tom Wood, associate professor of chemical engineering.**

## College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

### Four political science faculty receive national recognition

Four UConn political science faculty were honored in September at a meeting of the American Political Science Association. The honors included three writing awards and an award for innovative teaching methods.

Assistant Professor David Yalof, a presidential scholar and Supreme Court expert, won the Richard E. Neustadt Award for best book on the U.S. presidency for *Pursuit of Justices: Presidential Politics and the Selection of Supreme Court Justices*. In *Pursuit of Justices*, Yalof reveals the behind-the-scenes political machinations leading up to Supreme Court nominations made by presidents Truman through Reagan.

Professor David Walker received the Best Book Award for a study "published more than 10 years ago that remains relevant" for his book *Toward a Functioning Federalism*, which examines how the role of the federal government evolved from the late 18th century through the early 1980s, with the heaviest emphasis on the period between 1964 and 1980. These years, Walker asserts, were unusual in American history because of the rapid expansion of the federal government's role in areas such as civil rights, the environment, and the economy and the resulting changes in the roles of state and local governments.

Associate Professor Mark Boyer won the Rowman and Littlefield Award for Innovative Teaching for developing an Internet-based simulation that teaches high school students the art of compromise through real-time international negotiations with their peers in other schools. Boyer's Connecticut Project in International Negotiations simulation employs an active-learning approach to international relations and diplomatic training and highlights the cross-cultural difficulties inherent in international negotiation.

Instructor Sandra Anglund '88 M.S., '97 Ph.D., won the Theodore J. Lowi Award for Best Article in the *Policy Studies Journal* for her article "Policy Feedback: The Comparison Effect and Small Business Procurement Policy," which examines how comparisons of the federal government's treatment of different groups impacts the formulation of public policy. The basis of the study was the development of federal policies affecting small businesses during World War II.

"What is particularly flattering for the Department of Political Science about the four awards is that they demonstrate excellence at a variety of levels," says Professor John Rourke, chairman of the department.

## School of Family Studies

### *The Center for Applied Research established*

The School of Family Studies has joined with the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources to form the Center for Applied Research. Stephen Anderson, professor of family studies, is director of the Center. Carole Eller, senior extension educator in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, is assistant director.

Anderson says the center's purpose is to provide expertise to local human service agencies to help them satisfy the requirements mandated by their funding sources or by state or federal law that they otherwise might have difficulty meeting.

As an example, Anderson cites a collaborative effort, funded by the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, between the School of Family Studies and the staff of 25 urban teen drop-in centers to evaluate their efforts to combat juvenile delinquency and substance abuse. A team from the School of Family Studies, which includes Anderson, Professor Ronald Sabatelli, Assistant Professor Preston Britner, and two graduate student assistants, is working with the drop-in centers to

refine expectations for the study and develop an appropriate method for evaluating its results.

Some of the center's projects will involve both the School of Family Studies and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, such as a joint effort to develop a handbook for Cooperative Extension staff and for personnel in other human service agencies. "Each project relies on finding people who have the necessary expertise for that particular project," says Anderson.

Charles Super, dean of the School of Family Studies, believes this kind of collaboration among academic faculty, Cooperative Extension faculty, and outside agencies has a long tradition at UConn. "The Center for Applied Research is in some ways an old idea redesigned for modern realities," Super says. "It's exciting to see the work of the School of Family Studies and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources reconnected in this way. I have high expectations that there will be tangible benefits to the citizens of Connecticut in a very short time."

Anyone interested in learning more about the Center for Applied Research is urged to contact Anderson by telephone at (860) 486-3865 or by e-mail at [anderss@uconn.edu](mailto:anderss@uconn.edu).

## Neag School of Education

### *Dean's Advisory Board established*

Richard Schwab, dean of the Neag School of Education, has chosen 16 prominent citizens to be advisors to the School.

The Dean's Advisory Board, as the group is named, is working closely with Schwab and his colleagues as they strive to make the Neag School of Education one of the top 10 schools of education in the country. (*U.S. News & World Report* has ranked the school's elementary and secondary teachers education programs, respectively, 19th and 23rd in the country.) Schwab discovered that, other than those at Harvard University and Teachers College at Columbia University, advisory boards at schools of education are a rarity.

For business schools, however, it is a different story, and Schwab turned to Thomas Gutteridge, dean of the School of Business, for guidance. He also sought assistance from Edward Allenby, vice president of institutional advancement, who helped to identify potential candidates. More than 50 prospective advisors were interviewed.

Mary Heslin '51 (ED) a former commissioner of consumer protection for Connecticut, is chairperson of the board. The board members include U.S. Rep. John Larson; John MacDonald, a former undersecretary for the U.S. Department of Education; Judge Dumisa Ntsebeza, chief investigator of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa;



Logan Clarke Jr., former chairman of the Connecticut Board of Governors for Higher Education; Cheryl Dickinson, professor of special education at Southern Connecticut State University;

Carmen Effron '72 (ED), '82 M.B.A.,

founder and president of the C. F. Effron Company LLC; Bettye Fletcher, a former educator and administrator in Connecticut public schools; Beverly Greenberg, a former teacher and a member of the state Board of Education; Diana Jepsen, a public relations executive for GE Capital; Howard Klebanoff '62 J.D., a lawyer in private practice; Raymond Smart, president of the Smart Family Foundation; Robin Schader, a doctoral candidate in Gifted and Talented Education at the Neag School of Education; Karen Timmons '73 (ED), chief executive officer of Joint Commission Resources; Gregg Watson, vice president for public and urban affairs for Xerox Corp.; and Raymond Neag '56 (CLAS), who in 1999 gave \$23 million to the University, including \$21 million to the School of Education, the largest single gift to a school of education in the country.

"We wanted to compose a symphony of voices and opinions from a multitude of backgrounds," Schwab says. "The single common thread among the board members is their deep commitment to public education."

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**School of Family Studies****SFS Alumni Society News**

The School of Family Studies Alumni Society is now in its second year. SFS alumni are invited to correspond with the society's leadership and to send news of your professional activities and personal lives. The current officers of the SFS Alumni Society are: *President*, Lorraine McClatchey Wetherell '58; *Vice-President*, Grace Caruso Whitney '72, '90 Ph.D.; *Secretary*, Rosemarie Peila Syme '68; *Corresponding Secretary*, Julie Goldberg '92; and *Treasurer*, David Lytwyn '94. The society's board of directors includes Mishonda Rankin Baldwin '94, Kim Chambers '95 Ph.D., Marilyn N. Cummings '68, Heather Dudek '97, Tere Foley '85 M.A., Meg Galante-DeAngelis '97 M.A., Jean O'Connor Gallati '84, Virginia Garvey '47, Louise Johnson '36, Becky N. Person '71, '76 M.A., Fernando Rausch '91, Georgia A. Potterton Spratt '62, and Georgie Winter '94 Ph.D.

If you have news to share or are interested in volunteering in support of the SFS Alumni Society, contact Julie Goldberg, 325 West 93rd Street, Apt. 66, New York, NY 10025, e-mail [Jlgold@deans.umd.edu](mailto:Jlgold@deans.umd.edu). Mark your calendar for the school's annual meeting and the SFS Alumni Society banquet on May 1, 2001.

**SFS Alumni Society e-mail list**

Board member Kim Chambers is setting up an e-mail list of SFS alumni so they may

correspond with each other and the Society. If you are interested in joining this list, contact Kim by e-mail at [Kim@gulley.vpa.uconn.edu](mailto:Kim@gulley.vpa.uconn.edu)

**School of Pharmacy**

The School of Pharmacy is seeking nominations for its Distinguished Alumnus Award. The award is presented annually to an alumnus/a who has distinguished him/herself in the profession of pharmacy. Nominations, along with supporting information, should be sent to Daniel C. Leone, University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy, 372 Fairfield Road, U-92, Storrs CT 06269-2092. The award will be presented at the Annual School of Pharmacy Alumni Association Meeting and Banquet in May 2001.

**School of Nursing****Alumni & Friends Society Update**

Congratulations to the alumnae honored at the fourth annual School of Nursing Distinguished Awards Banquet in October. The honorees were

**Rachel Freddette Schiffman '81 M.S., '88 Ph.D.** *Associate Professor, Michigan State University* — Kramer Outstanding Alumni Award for Research

**Charlene Phelps '62 (NUR)** *Vice President, Medical/Surgical/Nursing/Patient Care Services, University Hospitals*

*of Cleveland* — Eleanor K. Gill Outstanding Alumni Award for Clinical Excellence in Nursing

**Marian Snyder '64 (NUR)** *Dean, Columbia College of Nursing*  
Beverly L. Koerner Outstanding Alumni Award for Education in Nursing

**Shirley Sherman Langford '65 (NUR)** *President, Interim Health Care*  
Carolyn Ladd Widmer Outstanding Alumni Award for Leadership in Nursing

**Save these Dates:**

*December 3—Sigma Theta Tau, Mu Chapter Induction Ceremony*  
Location: Konover Auditorium, Thomas J. Dodd Research Center,  
Time: 2 p.m.—5 p.m. Luncheon \$5 guests, free for inductees.  
RSVP to Carol Polifroni at 860-486-0511

**Winter—RN/MS, AGS, Ph.D. Information Sessions**

Please call the Academic Advisory Center at 860-486-4730 for dates, locations, and to confirm attendance.

For more information about School of Nursing events, contact Kathe Gable, director of Public Affairs, at (860) 486-0613, or by e-mail at [Kathe.Gable@uconn.edu](mailto:Kathe.Gable@uconn.edu). Check the school's Web site ([www.nursing.uconn.edu](http://www.nursing.uconn.edu)) for additional updates.



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**UConn Club**

## Unlocking the ocean's treasures

*Charles Yarish and colleagues aim to bring aquaculture to New England*

Peter Morenus



Charles Yarish, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, in his lab at the Stamford campus working with nori. The seaweed could have potential benefits as a food source and for combating harmful algal blooms in the waters off New England.

To Charles Yarish, it seems unfair to refer to such a valuable plant by its common name of seaweed.

"I call it 'red gold,'" says Yarish, a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, who has been at the center of investigating whether nori, a type of red algae, can be farmed successfully in the waters off New England.

There are many good reasons to ask such a question. The production of nori, prized as the delicate, flavorful wrapper for sushi, is a \$2 billion industry dominated by Japan, China and South Korea. The red, tissue-like leaves contain fluorescent pigments worth as much as \$35,000 per gram to medical researchers. Nori's ability to remove pollutants from the water may make it crucial to the future of fish farming.

Two of its amino acids show promise in reducing blood cholesterol in humans. It may even hold a substance that shrinks tumors.

Yarish, perhaps better than anyone, knows that not all nori is created equal. Between Long Island Sound and Canada's Maritime Provinces, he and his colleagues have discovered more than 120 types of nori, some of which

may be new to science. The characteristics of these seaweeds—for example, whether any can be cultivated to produce a texture, color and taste pleasing to the demanding palates of sushi aficionados—is a focus of this stage of Yarish's work.

In the Rankin Laboratory's recently completed greenhouse at UConn's Avery Point campus sit 32 tanks, some with a capacity of more than 250 gallons, ready to hold nori samples. Lighting, temperature and the acidity of the water can be controlled to determine how the plants' growth rate, amino acid levels, protein content and other characteristics react to different environmental conditions. Yarish plans to control the

The investment gives UConn "perhaps the finest facility in the United States, if not the world, for seaweed research," says Ira Levine, the former chief executive officer of PhycoGen and founder of Biological Services.

In Chen's laboratory, research on transferring a synthetic gene to nori, to protect it from harmful fungal infections that can break out when the plant is grown in large quantities is already under way. If successful, the technology could be of great benefit to shellfish and finfish aquaculture. "The work is very promising," said Chen.

Raising nori for food is only part of the picture. In response to the depletion of fishing stocks, federal policymakers

Mexico, are conducting research to see whether nori can be both food source and sewage treatment plant for the abalone, a shellfish that brings \$20 a pound in the Japanese market.

How much nori, and what type, will it take to counterbalance a given number of fish in a given location? No one knows. That is one of the key questions Yarish and his colleagues are trying to answer.

"Charlie is one of those effective scientists who has a specific focus for his laboratory and field work. He's unique in his ability to grasp both the scientific results and their practical application," says Edward C. Monahan, director of the Connecticut Sea Grant College Program in Groton.

Yarish, the president-elect of the Phycological Society of America, the leading society dedicated to the study of algae, "is one of our very best," says James P. McVey, director of the federal Sea Grant College program in Silver Spring, Maryland. "I think Charlie is laying much of the foundation for how we're going to go down this path in the future," McVey says.

Yarish is excited about the possibilities. "We're just getting started," he says. — *David LaChance*

## UConn has one of the world's best facilities for seaweed research

plants' environment by computer, from his home in Newtown, his office at UConn's Stamford campus, or anywhere else.

"Nobody's done research on local [New England] nori before," says Yarish, "We're going to have a field day, once we get enough of each species growing."

Stored near the greenhouse are the components of a small demonstration nori farm Yarish hopes to install in Long Island Sound. The farm was provided by PhycoGen, Inc. of Portland, Maine, an industrial partner since replaced by Biological Services of Poland, Maine. The construction was made possible by \$296,000 grant from the Critical Technology Program of Connecticut Innovation Inc. to Yarish and partners Dick Cooper, director of UConn marine programs; Thomas Chen, director of UConn's Biotechnology Center; and Thierry Chopin, professor of marine biology at the University of New Brunswick at Saint John.

have called for the quintupling of the nation's \$1-billion finfish aquaculture industry in the next 20 years. Excessive nutrients from fish excrement and uneaten fish food can contribute to harmful algal blooms, though Yarish and his colleagues believe that nori, a fast-growing plant capable of absorbing large amounts of nitrogen and other nutrients, could be the answer.

"I see seaweeds as nutrient scrubbers. That is their role in the ecosystem," says Chopin, who has teamed up with Yarish, George Kraemer of the State University of New York and Chris Neefus of the University of New Hampshire under a two-year, \$330,000 federal grant to find out how seaweed culture and finfish culture can complement each other. An earlier grant launched the group's work in 1995.

In an extreme example of such integrated aquaculture, Yarish and José Zertuche, a visiting professor from the State University of Baja California in



The value of nori, a \$2 billion industry dominated by China, Japan and South Korea, extends beyond the sushi bar and into the fields of medical and environmental research.

# Students

## A burning desire for knowledge

*UConn a natural choice for Abby Lynn Demars*

Most people who know what ion mobility spectrometry (IMS) instruments are identify the devices with their use at airports to effectively detect narcotic and explosive residue.

Abby Lynn Demars '01 (CLAS), a molecular and cell biology major, sees yet another global benefit of the instruments. The Norwich, Conn., resident, who shares her time between the main and Avery Point campuses, has been researching the use of the devices to detect bacteria. So far, the research has shown that the instruments can in fact detect bacteria far quicker than current testing devices, a finding that resulted in a significant award.

Demars connected with UConn in the summer of her senior year in high school, before beginning her undergraduate studies there. After graduating from high school, Demars began working part-time at the UConn Coastal Environmental Laboratory. After becoming involved in a study of nutrient distribution on the Thames River, she couldn't wait for the fall semester to begin. A science buff since her youth and a freshman winner of her high school science fair, Demars admits that the path to her current research came from a fascination with bacteria.

"Bacteria are so powerful," Demars says. "They can do so many things. I was curious to discover how they work, why bacteria like e coli and salmonella can make someone so sick."

Demars says the IMS instrument has been shown to find such bacterium much more quickly and efficiently. She has been working with other students and faculty on the research, which she hopes one day will reduce the number of illnesses that bacteria cause.

"The researchers at Avery Point were just beginning to see the possibilities of the research when I came on board," says Demars. For months, the team would monitor the device, looking for signs that the instrument could detect the bacteria. "It took us a year to identify one peak of a compound that we had isolated from a bacterium, but that was a big moment."

The breakthrough resulted in an award from the Society for Industrial Microbiology in 1999.

Kathleen Usher, program associate in UConn's honors program, says Demars' commitment to education is exceptional.

"I think she's the epitome of the scholar at UConn," Usher says. "The fact that she was involved with research before she enrolled at UConn is indicative of her drive. She's one of those people who doesn't wait for something to come her way; she seizes every opportunity."

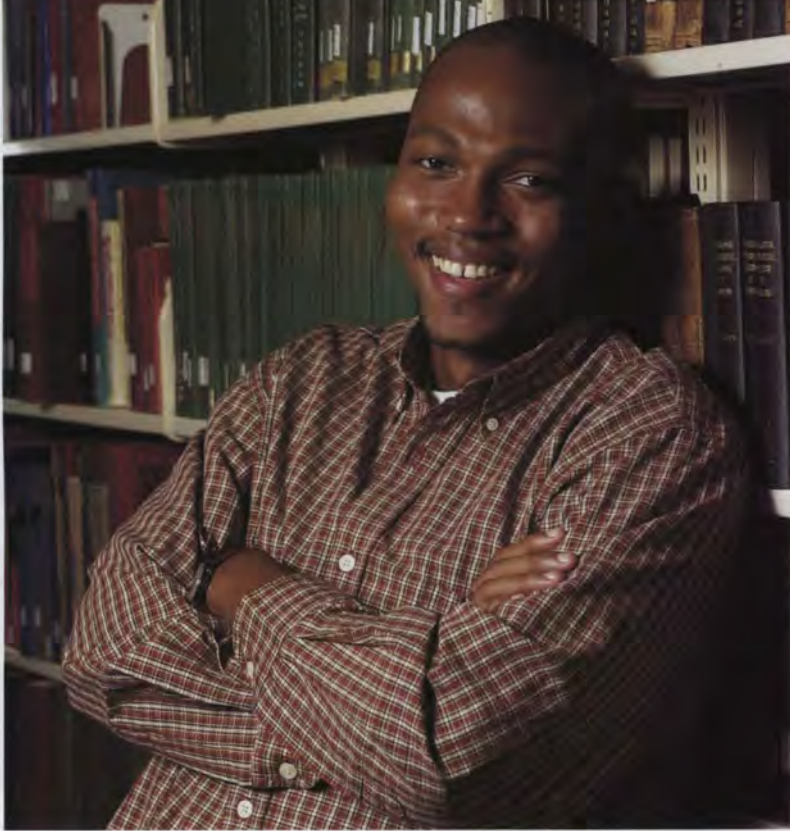


Peter Morenus

**Abby Lynn Demars '01 (CLAS) became involved with research at UConn even before she enrolled as a freshman.**

Upon graduation next May, Demars, who is also a Gold Key Honor Society member and a New England Scholar, hopes to continue her studies of bacteria in graduate school at UConn. Although commuting from her Norwich home to Groton and Storrs has been grueling at times, she says she has no problem making the trip. "The things that I have been able to learn at UConn have made every trip worth it," she says. — *Andrea Comer*





Peter Morenus

For his activism at UConn, Martin Sybblis '01 (CLAS) was a co-winner of the 2000 Donald L. McCullough Outstanding Student Leader Award.

## The Rt. Hon. Martin Sybblis

*UConn could be a springboard into Jamaican politics*

**M**artin Sybblis '01 (CLAS) arrived at UConn in 1997 during the dead of winter, with the bleak Connecticut countryside a stark contrast to the tropical, Eden-like beauty of his Jamaican homeland.

"I was cold and lonely," says Sybblis. "I wanted to go home."

He might have done just that had his first roommate, a native of Portugal, not been a fan of reggae music. "I walked into my dorm room, and he had a big poster of Bob Marley on the wall."

The psychology major took it as a sign. He got through his first semester and his first New England winter by listening to Marley's music like a mantra. "The words are very powerful," he says. "They are about struggling, fighting, and finding meaning."

Sybblis decided he could find meaning by becoming involved in campus life. He served as chairperson of the Honors Council revitalization committee, a student group that rewrote the constitution of the Honors Program Coordinating Council, and as president of the West Indian Club. He was a mentor to fellow students through the UConn Connects program, which lends a helping hand by connecting students to the various academic assistance programs offered at UConn. Sybblis also excelled in the classroom, becoming a New England Scholar while

**"His accomplishments on campus are a testament to his potential to evolve into an extraordinary leader."**

maintaining a 3.76 cumulative grade point average. In recognition of these efforts and others, Sybblis was a co-winner of the 2000 Donald L. McCullough Outstanding Student Leader Award, the University's highest student leadership award.

Sybblis says his success is attributable to the values instilled in him by his mother and grandparents, who raised him in the one of the poorest neighborhoods of Kingston, Jamaica's capital city. "We lived in the ghetto, but they were very strict," he says. "They made me study hard."

That Sybblis has excelled as both a leader and a student is no surprise to Marvin Cox, an associate professor of history at UConn. When Sybblis was in Cox's western civilization class, he visited Cox during office hours every week. Initially, says Cox,

Sybblis would ask him to clarify a point or issue raised in class. Gradually, Cox says, the office visits became almost a "parallel" course to the western civilization class, a time for further dialogue about history, philosophy, or life at UConn. Even after the course ended, Cox says, Sybblis continued to stop by his office to chat. "I consider Martin a friend," Cox says. "I'm immensely proud of him."

Although Sybblis had considered pursuing a career in clinical psychology, he now plans to attend law school. After gaining some work experience, Sybblis hopes to return to Jamaica and, perhaps, run for elective office.

"In Jamaica, politicians are thought of as having plundered the country," Sybblis says. "I want to show that it is possible for a politician to be honest and truly care about the welfare of the people."

Kingsley Stewart, a government relations associate at UConn and a fellow Jamaican, has no doubt that Sybblis will make his mark.

"His accomplishments on campus are a testament to his potential to evolve into an extraordinary leader," Stewart says. "I'm thoroughly convinced that if Martin continues on his present track, he is destined to be a great leader for Jamaica."

— Gary E. Frank



The 400-member South African National Assembly in session in Cape Town. The National Assembly is one of two houses of the nation's parliament.

# A Bold Experiment

## UConn's EMERGING TIES WITH SOUTH AFRICAN DEMOCRACY

By Elizabeth Omara-Otunnu

Every day, Chresta Matontsi comes face-to-face with the ironies of history.

A tour guide in the Parliament building in Cape Town, she ushers groups of tourists and visitors through the red plush chamber where, at the turn of the 20th century, the prime minister of Cape Colony, diamond and gold baron Cecil Rhodes, introduced laws that dispossessed black South Africans of their land and mineral rights.

She also guides them through the "Green Room" where, in the early 1950s, Hendrick Verwoerd drew up the legislative blueprints for systematic racial segregation in South Africa, formalizing the racial discrimination that had existed for centuries.

**D**uring the apartheid regime—*apartheid* means "apart-ness" in Afrikaans—black South Africans were not allowed to enter the Parliament building and were denied any form of representation in government.

These are the laws under which millions of black South Africans suffered for years. Matontsi, a recent college graduate, is part of a new generation whose lives are unfolding in the post-apartheid era.

The building where she works is no longer just the place where the laws that buttressed the system of apartheid were passed. It is now the epicenter of a bold experiment in democracy and human rights, achieved only recently after decades of white minority rule.

This is the new South Africa, a country with which the University of Connecticut is forming reciprocal ties.

"The successful struggle against apartheid and South Africa's current effort to build a society based on truth and justice represent one of the truly inspirational stories of modern times," says UConn President Philip E. Austin.

UConn is building strong partnerships with the African National Congress, the ruling political party, and with the University of Fort Hare, the oldest and most prestigious traditionally black university in South Africa and former South African president Nelson Mandela's alma mater.

The partnership with the ANC got off the ground last February with a well-attended comparative human rights



Leonard Blanks

A tour guide at the former prison on Robben Island gestures toward the cell where former South African president Nelson Mandela was held for 17 of his 28 years behind bars.



Peter Morenus



Frene Ginwala, speaker of the South African National Assembly, meets with students during a visit to UConn in September for the announcement of grant worth more than \$1 million to support UConn's joint projects with South Africa.

conference at UConn that brought together the offspring of world-renowned anti-apartheid and civil rights activists. UConn is beginning to record oral histories of former ANC leaders and to collect copies of materials from the ANC archives that will assist in writing the history of South Africa and those who fought against apartheid. In July, a high-level delegation of UConn faculty and administrators visited South Africa to launch the linkage with the University of Fort Hare.

The projects will include training South Africans in archives management and oral history techniques, as well as collaborating with counterparts in the administration at Fort Hare and coordinating faculty and student exchanges between the two universities. The projects will form the basis for a major comparative human rights program at UConn.

"These partnerships are a concrete example of the University of Connecticut's commitment to the study and advancement of international human rights," says Amii Omara-Otunnu, executive director of the UConn-ANC Partnership and director of the linkage with Fort Hare. "They are an effective avenue for us to make a practical contribution to the expansion of opportunities for those who were previously denied them."

In September, the University announced the receipt of more than \$1 million in private funding to support the joint projects. "We believe our partnership with the University of Connecticut is something quite rare and will bring rewards to both sides," said Frene Ginwala, speaker of the South African Parliament and chair of the ANC Archives

**"It's a partnership of substance but it's also a partnership of ideals which we share."**

Committee, during a press conference at UConn. "It's a partnership of substance but it's also a partnership of ideals which we share."

### Apartheid's legacies

It is just six years since the South African Parliament welcomed Mandela, a former political prisoner, as the first president of a multiracial and democratically elected government. At the same time, a new constitution was drafted with more provisions to ensure respect for human rights than perhaps any other in world history.

The apartheid laws not only kept South Africans separate according to race but also denied non-white people, more than 80 percent of the population, fundamental rights. The system had a profound, perhaps indelible, impact on millions of lives.

Now, throughout the society for which the new government is charting the course, opportunities for people across all races are opening up—in work, in housing, in education. Many individuals have powerful personal stories of hardships overcome and hope for the future.

There is Meshack Masuku, for example, a self-taught potter now widely recognized as one of South Africa's most talented ceramic artists. Masuku comes from an impoverished rural background, and his early education extended only to the equivalent of third grade. After working for more than 20 years, he began studying for a college degree at the



The UConn delegation during the first day of their visit to the University of Fort Hare.



Leonard Blanks

Scenes from the campus of the Fort Hare University in South Africa's Eastern Cape Province.

formerly all-white Port Elizabeth Technikon in 1994, taking literacy classes and working to support his family at the same time.

In March, he received his longed-for bachelor's degree and is now a lecturer—a career previously closed to non-whites—at the Technikon, a higher education institution similar to a community-technical college in the United States.

There is Dumisa Ntsebeza, a former political prisoner who earned his law degree through correspondence courses. During the proceedings of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission—a tribunal established by Parliament as a vehicle for national healing—he served as chief investigator. Now he has been appointed a high court judge, a position only recently opened to non-whites.

There is Lionel Davis, a former anti-apartheid activist and political prisoner, who has returned to the jail on Robben Island where Mandela was imprisoned. Davis now spends his days educating the public—without a trace of bitterness—about the harsh conditions in the prison and the resilience of the prisoners. At the end of the day, however, he is free to walk away.

To an outside observer, it seems a miracle that the transition to an emerging democracy has been relatively peaceful. What's more, so many people are full of hope rather than hate. This partly stems from an implicit resolve by those who formerly suffered discrimination not to perpetuate discriminatory practices themselves.

Many, when asked, also point to the shining example of Mandela, who—after years of incarceration—went so far as to invite his former prison wardens to his home, a dramatic indication that he held no grudges.

“There are many lessons the world can learn from the efforts in South Africa to build a non-racist nation based on principles of reconciliation and social justice,” says Omara-Otunnu, who is also director of the UConn-ANC Partnership's comparative human rights program.

Yet the tasks are enormous and the new government in South Africa has its work cut out to provide for the majority of the population, whose rights were denied for so long. Ambitious plans are underway to reform education and health care, provide housing, and install water and electricity in the townships—the crowded areas on city outskirts where the black labor force had to live—

and in the homelands, the agricultural wastelands to which the rural black population was relegated. The poverty of the townships and squatter areas is still no more than a stone's throw from mansions as fine as any in Greenwich, Conn., or Scarsdale, N.Y.

Speaker Ginwala says international involvement in South Africa is as important now as it was during the anti-apartheid struggle. “We still have to overcome the legacy of apartheid in terms of development,” she says.

### Reinventing Fort Hare

The UConn-University of Fort Hare linkage comes at a critical point in Fort Hare's history, as the university seeks to become a key player in post-apartheid South Africa.

Ironically, the end of apartheid has had some negative consequences for Fort Hare. Paralleling the experiences of black colleges in the United States in the wake of desegregation, enrollment at South Africa's historically black institutions has declined sharply, as the better endowed, former white institutions have been able to draw the most highly qualified black students.

This spring, Fort Hare's management team unveiled an ambitious strategic plan that aims both to preserve the best of the university's historical legacy and to meet the challenge of making education relevant to its students and to the community.

“We want to reinvent the university completely, so it becomes much more relevant to the needs of South Africa,” says Vice Chancellor Derrick Swartz, whose role is equivalent to that of president at an American university.

*Continued on page 47*



Leonard Blanks

A group of children wave to the camera in a township outside Cape Town. Few things will challenge South African democracy more than extending educational opportunity to all of the nation's children.



First Big Snowfall of the Season Takes Albert Cranfield by Surprise.

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# The world according to Michael Maslin

By Gary E. Frank

Since he was 16 years old, Michael Maslin '76 (SFA) has known exactly what he wanted to be. The source of his epiphany was a copy of *The New Yorker* that someone brought into his childhood home in New Jersey.

“From the time I first saw it,” says Maslin, “the first time I really looked at, I thought, ‘Wow! That’s for me.’”

*The New Yorker* has defined wry, ironic, urban humor since the 1920s, often through cartoons that coupled complete irreverence with witty, rapier-like punch lines. The roster of the magazine’s cartoonists—which included the likes of Charles Addams, Whitney Darrow Jr., Mischa Richter, William Steig, George Booth and James Thurber—reads like a Who’s Who of 20th-century American cartoon humor. With no small amount of chutzpah, the teenaged Maslin decided he wanted to be in that august number and soon began submitting his own work to *The New Yorker*. The magazine’s response, which would remain

Peter Morenus





unchanged for nearly a decade, was no. Undeterred, Maslin continued to submit cartoons to the magazine throughout high school and college until 1977, when he made his first sale to *The New Yorker*.

"The ironic thing was they [*The New Yorker*] did not buy the cartoon," says Maslin. "They rarely do this anymore, but they will buy ideas from people, which are then assigned to an established cartoonist."

Maslin's idea was executed by Whitney Darrow Jr. In the cartoon, a fortune teller tells a man "Nothing will ever happen to you."

***"I have an involuntary ability to say the inappropriate ..."***

"They bought an idea from me, which was not what I wanted, but still, I'd sold them something, and as the expression goes, I got my foot in the door," he says. Within a year, Maslin sold four of his own cartoons to *The New Yorker* and has been a steady contributor ever since. Four collections of his work have been published by Simon and Schuster: *The More The Merrier*, *The Gang's All Here*, *The Crowd*

*Goes Wild*, and *Mixed Company*. With his wife and fellow *New Yorker* cartoonist, Liza Donnelly, he co-edited a collection of cartoons, *Fathers and Sons*, and co-authored two additional collections, *Husbands & Wives* and *Call Me When You Reach Nirvana*. Although sales of these collections didn't put him in Gary Larsen territory, Maslin maintains a positive attitude about the experience.

"None of them sold very well, but I didn't care," he says. "I was just thrilled to have books out. Who wouldn't want to be published by Simon and Schuster?"



*"Those responsible for putting my client in charge of the henhouse should be on trial here, not my client, who, as a fox, was only doing his job."*

### Education's loss, humor's gain

As Maslin started college though, he had a different career in mind. He enrolled at Newark State College (now Keane College) in New Jersey with the idea of becoming a history teacher. But his experience in his first college history class prompted a change of heart. "My teacher was burnt out, and in the first class he told us how awful his life was and how he didn't want to be a teacher anymore," says Maslin. "I thought, O.K., I don't want to do that."

After completing two years at Newark State, Maslin decided to transfer to UConn and major in drawing. Maslin says UConn professors such as John Gregoropoulos, Gus Mazzocca and the late Oscar Walters were a profound influence on him. "It was just a wonderful time. They allowed me to do what I wanted to do, which was risky on their part, but it worked," says Maslin, who graduated magna cum laude.

"I loved the Wilbur Cross library," he continues. "I never had a library card,

but it didn't matter, I just liked going there. You don't see stacks like that anymore. I remember that they had bound volumes of *The New Yorker*, all the way back to the beginning of the magazine. They also had a great Thurber collection. I just loved it."

Although Maslin sold four cartoons to *The New Yorker* within two years after graduating from UConn, it certainly wasn't enough to pay the rent. "When I was first starting, I tried to get into every publication that possibly had a cartoon," he says. "I'd go down to the magazine store and look at magazines to see which ones had cartoons in them. I submitted work to golf magazines, UFO magazines, anything."

It's an approach that eventually paid off; Maslin's cartoons began appearing in such publications as *The New York Times*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *Esquire*, *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Mother Jones*, *Omni*, *The Utne Reader*, *Harper's*, and others. The mainstay of Maslin's career, however, remains

*The New Yorker*. "Nobody in the magazine world is nicer to a cartoonist than *The New Yorker*," Maslin says. "They treat you very well, and I don't just mean financially. They respect you and they treat you well enough that you just want to continue working with them."

### A history teacher after all

Maslin and Donnelly live in a quiet corner of Dutchess County, N.Y., on a 19th-century farm that they share with their two daughters and a small menagerie of cats, dogs and horses. Despite his success, Maslin believes that what drives him to be a cartoonist is something elemental to his nature. "I love to draw. It's one of the earliest things I remember doing," he says. "All I know is when I sit down, I really feel like I want to draw something. I have no forethought as to how it's going to go. That's what makes it interesting."

In fact, Maslin says drawing is probably the easiest part of being a



cartoonist. "What really sells the cartoon is the idea, not the drawing, although you obviously have to be able to draw something well," he says. "I spend most of my time playing with words, not drawing, trying to create something that works."

Maslin points to a cartoon above the mantel in the small cottage he uses as an office. In the cartoon, a dog says to a cat, "You realize I'm taking an enormous personal, as well as professional, risk just being seen with you." "You never know where inspiration comes from," says Maslin. "There is



**"Bill, come inside before there's trouble."**

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the cartoonists from *The New Yorker's* storied history, placing him in the enviable position of being able to exercise his ideas and creativity while tapping into a potent thread of American humor.

"I love history and I've never really had a way to use it before now," Maslin says. "I get to investigate a period of

time, the 1920s and the 1930s, that I don't know much about. I went into college thinking I might be a history teacher, and now, through all these things—the Arno book and my love of humor and cartoons—I get to teach a little history. Things have worked out beautifully."



humor in every setting, even if it's just a man and a woman sitting on a couch.

"I have an involuntary ability to say the inappropriate," he adds. "Sometimes that results in something bordering on the humorous, and sometimes it gets me into trouble."

These days, in addition to his cartoon work, Maslin also is working on a new book, a biography of the late cartoonist Peter Arno, whose work appeared in *The New Yorker* for nearly half a century. "He [Arno] joined the magazine about four months after it was started," Maslin says. "Of all the greats that started with the magazine, he is about the only one who has not been written about."

Working on the Arno biography has allowed Maslin to connect with many of



**"It's very important that you try very, very hard to remember where you electronically transferred Mommy and Daddy's assets."**

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# Everything

Mark Lee



Rebecca Martello in a laboratory at Johns Hopkins University, where she spent her senior year involved in research for a treatment for cystic fibrosis.

# happens for a reason

**For Rebecca Martello '00 (SAH), achievement is much more than its own reward**

By Jim H. Smith

**T**hey are warm memories, flush with life. When Rebecca Martello's parents recount these scenes from her lifetime—and theirs—it is as though they are taking them out of a box where they have been preserved. The colors are still vivid. The feelings are still fresh.

Peter Bastien, Martello's stepfather, recalls a little girl rushing home from school one day beaming with pride because her painting had won an award from Mensa, the international organization for people with high intelligence.

Her dad, Scott Martello, remembers when his daughter was but six years old and separated from him by a 1,000 miles, and wrote him letters that were elaborate, two-page accounts of her life, rich in detail and love.

Brenda Grant, her mom, has a videotape of her daughter when she was seven, maybe eight years old. Martello sings, dances, and reads lively stories with delightful precocity.

"She was an early learner," says Grant. "Right from the start, she always did well in school. She has always been inquisitive, always had incredible drive and self-motivation. When she was tested as a gifted child, no one was surprised."

Least of all Martello, who has long since grown accustomed to achievement.

Consider the honors she earned during her four years as a UConn undergraduate. An honors student, she was named University Scholar, Presidential Scholar, and New England Scholar. She is a member of the Golden Key National Honor Society, the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, and Alpha Eta, the national honor society for allied health students. Last spring, she was singled out as the School of Allied Health's Outstanding Senior Woman.

These scholastic accolades don't even begin to reveal the many other faces of this very talented young woman. In junior high school, for instance, she dreamt of becoming an interior designer. In high school she ran competitively on her school's cross-country team and still jogs two to three miles several times weekly as part of a fitness regimen that also includes weight training. At 17 she was an international champion in standard breed horse jumping

competition. At UConn, she was a Husky Ambassador for the admissions office and a member of the Voices of Freedom gospel choir.

Being gifted, Martello will tell you, demands circumspection. Gifts come with built-in responsibilities. It is not enough simply to be intelligent or artistic or athletic. At every stage of her life, she has known people who have squandered such talents. Lazy people. Arrogant people. Cynical people. Early on, she determined that she would not be one of them.

"Everything happens for a reason," she says. If anyone is entitled to harbor such a faith, it is Rebecca Martello.

**If I'm gifted, then these challenges are gifts too.**

## **Failure to thrive**

Twenty-three years ago, Martello began life as a very sick child. For the first eight months of her life, doctors said she suffered from a "failure to thrive." Then, at Children's Hospital in Boston, experts finally got to the truth and the news was not good. Martello had cystic fibrosis (CF), the incurable hereditary disorder that causes the body to produce thick, sticky mucus, clogging the lungs and pancreas and impeding breathing and digestion.

Thirty years ago, a diagnosis of CF was practically a death sentence for infants. During Martello's lifetime, however, improvements in both diagnosis and treatment have dramatically improved the prognosis. Today, more than 60 percent of children with the disorder grow, like Martello, into adulthood. With further advances—especially in the rapidly expanding field of gene therapy—there is even more reason for CF victims to be hopeful.

But then, Martello would not wish to be thought of as a victim. Nor was it how she was raised. "My mom realized very early that I had potential and she raised me that way," Martello recalls. "She instilled in me a hunger to learn. She taught me how to read when I was very small. She taught me how to tell time and do math. When she realized I had a high aptitude, she played games with me that helped me

to learn, such as Scrabble and Boggle. She made learning, in general, a positive experience.”

Grant was determined that cystic fibrosis would not derail her daughter's life. And it did not.

Neither did the fact that her parents separated when she was very young. While her father remained in Massachusetts, Martello moved with her mother and stepfather to Florida. She would be separated from her father for the next eight years. Then, when her mother and stepfather separated, Martello moved to Maine and lived with her father and his second wife until she graduated from high school.

### The lessons of Brother Mendel

It was there, as a freshman in high school, that Martello first learned about Gregor Mendel, the Austrian monk whose 19th-century experiments with pea plants formed the basis of modern hereditary theory. “When I found out about Mendel, something important began coming into focus for me,” Martello recalls. “It was as though my disease took on a different meaning and I began to see how I could do something meaningful with it. Eventually, it became my dream.”

By the time she was ready to start considering colleges, she was also actively entertaining the idea of a double major, in medical technology and genetics.

By then, she had also been diagnosed, incredibly, with diabetes. The diagnosis came almost as an accident, a consequence of laboratory tests she habitually underwent every three months at a CF clinic in Bangor, Maine.

“In some ways, I was actually better equipped to handle it than some people might have been,” Martello says. “I grew up with CF. I spent my whole childhood dealing with a health condition. Diabetes was just something else I had to adjust to.”

So was the speech impediment she believes she might have inherited from her father, who also stutters.

“When others look at everything I've had to overcome,” she says, “they are understandably amazed. But for me, it has been a lifetime experience. If I'm gifted, then these challenges are gifts too. They have taught me to be more sensitive, to feel for others. As the saying goes, you're dealt a hand and you've got to play it.”

### Playing the hand

It was through the Bangor CF clinic that Martello found out about the UConn School of Allied Health. At that time, students from the school often completed internships at Eastern Maine Medical Center, which was affiliated with the clinic. A health professional at the clinic, knowing Martello was interested in an education that would prepare her for medical research, contacted her and urged her to apply to UConn.

Last year, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, in Maryland, helped Martello get closer to her dream of making a difference for people with the disease. The foundation assisted her in researching and applying for positions in laboratories conducting CF research and by November, Martello was ensconced in a Johns Hopkins University laboratory, deeply involved in hands-on research involving mice and a chemical compound that could lead to a breakthrough in CF treatment. The project kept her busy for nine months.

“My project at Johns Hopkins involved testing a chemical compound called 4-phenylbutyrate on both normal mice and mice with cystic fibrosis,” Martello explains. There is evidence to suggest the compound can restore the protein trafficking defect associated with the most common cystic fibrosis mutation. And thus there is hope.

In August, just after wrapping up her Johns Hopkins project, Martello landed a job as a research associate with Neurogen Corporation, a small biotechnology company in Branford, Conn. “It's nice to be back here,” she says, adding that after a lifetime of moving around, the Nutmeg State,

where she has developed a network of friends and professional contacts, has begun to feel like home.

“I'm realistic,” Martello will tell you. “I know I can't cure cystic fibrosis, but I'm happy if there's some small part I can play in conquering the disease. I know people whose health won't allow

them to do the things they dream of.”

For those who know Martello, who have had an opportunity to witness, firsthand, what she can accomplish when she invests herself, few challenges seem insurmountable.

“She is very strong-willed,” says Raymond Poole, the young man who captured her heart when they met as juniors at UConn. “She has strong opinions. She knows, very clearly, what she wants in life. And she goes after her goals with tremendous energy.”

“You have an opportunity to work with a student like Rebecca about once in a life,” says Ellen Darrow, director of the Academic Advisory Center in the School of Allied Health.

Martha Cagle, Director of the Diagnostic Genetic Sciences program at the School, concurs. “It's been a joy to know Rebecca,” says Cagle, who also was Martello's advisor. “She has shown great courage and determination in dealing with adversity. She has an unusual ability to overcome virtually anything in order to do what she wants to do.”

Perhaps her stepfather, Peter Bastien, puts it best. Along with Grant and Scott Martello, he was on campus, looking on with pride, when she graduated last May. When he is asked what her life has meant to him, he answers without hesitation. “She's my hero,” he says.

When I found out about [Gregor] Mendel, something important began coming into focus for me.

# Faculty

## Comedy is hard, teaching harder

*Regina Barreca demands much of her students and of herself*

Readers worldwide may know Regina Barreca for her sense of humor, but among UConn students, Barreca's got a vastly different reputation.

"I like to think I'm an engaging teacher, but I know I'm a tough teacher," says Barreca.

A member of the English department faculty in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences since 1987, Barreca teaches a course on modern British literature nearly every semester. The reading list includes books by D. H. Lawrence, James Joyce and other challenging authors.

Most semesters, a significant percentage of Barreca's students are familiar with her humor columns and books. They soon learn, however, that their classroom experience won't mirror one of their teacher's humorous essays or speeches.

"They realize this is a not a two-drink minimum," Barreca says. "This is a two-book minimum."

Students with any lingering doubts about Barreca's teaching style have them banished the first time they show up late for her class. Barreca always tries to teach at 8 a.m. because, she says, "nobody takes an 8 o'clock class for convenience."

While some professors maintain an open-door policy, allowing blurry-eyed students to wander in throughout the class, Barreca shuts the door to her classroom promptly at 8 a.m. No stragglers are admitted once class—which typically includes a five-minute writing assignment on the reading for that day—begins.

Students can expect to be called on often and quickly learn that they must do their work if they want to succeed in Barreca's class.

"They do their work. That's not an issue for me," Barreca says evenly.

The students aren't the only ones Barreca holds to a high standard. By the second week of class, Barreca has learned the students' names and uses them often. Outside the classroom, she also makes every effort to read anything related to the research being done by the many graduate students she advises.

"I get assignments from them and believe me, if I haven't done my work, they let me know," Barreca says.

Barreca's devotion to her students and the classroom hasn't gone unnoticed. In 1998, she received the Prize for Excellence in Teaching from UConn's Institute for Teaching and Learning.

Barreca's commitment to her craft also includes writing popular prose and academic texts. Although some skeptics may believe that Barreca's outside activities interfere with her teaching duties, she says the opposite is true.

**"This is not a two-drink minimum.  
This is a two-book minimum."**

"The writing of the popular and academic books dovetails wonderfully with the teaching," Barreca says.

A prolific writer, Barreca has authored five books. Her latest, *Too Much of a Good Thing Is Wonderful*, was recently published by Bibliopola Press/UConn Co-op. Barreca has also edited numerous books and writes columns that appear in newspapers nationwide.

In addition to her classroom and writing duties, Barreca is also a sought-after speaker. Despite her many outside commitments, Barreca's first love will always be the classroom. "All the other stuff I do, I love, but teaching is really my vocation," she says.

— Allison Thompson

# The expanding influence of Harry Frank

*Chemistry prof a leading expert on carotenoids*

Peter Morenus



Henry Adams could have been writing about Harry Frank.

“A teacher affects eternity,” wrote Adams in 1907 in *The Education of Henry Adams*. “He can never tell where his influence stops.”

For Frank, observing his 20th anniversary as a chemistry professor in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the influence is worldwide.

During the past decade, Frank has taught a course in general chemistry to some 200 undergraduates each semester and has advised more than a dozen graduate students in their research on carotenoid molecules. Frank and his students have been examining the roles of carotenoid molecules, the compounds that give orange and yellow colors to certain fruits and vegetables. Carotenoids are considered factors in reducing the risk of certain diseases.

“One important role of carotenoids is that of protector,” says Frank, who is president-elect of the International Society on Carotenoids, a organization dedicated to studying the compounds. “The manner in which they serve as

protectors of plants may also have relevance in human health. In humans, carotenoids act as biological antioxidants to delay or even prevent the onset of certain kinds of cancer, atherosclerosis, blockage of arteries, cataracts, macular degeneration, or stroke.”

During the 1999–2000 academic year, Frank, whose work combines teaching with research and community outreach, traveled to Australia, Sweden, Turkey and Israel to present papers on research conducted in his laboratory. This past summer, he stayed closer to home and attended the Gordon Conference on Photosynthesis in New Hampshire to present a paper on the mechanism of energy transfer by carotenoids in photosynthetic organisms.

The ABCs of chemistry and science also reaches young ears. Frank’s community outreach work includes presentations to youngsters in local pre-schools, kindergartens and middle schools. The fall semester found Frank completely on home turf though.

“For the first time, I’m teaching the honors general chemistry course, so I’ve had to cut back on my travel schedule,” says Frank, adding that he feels especially rewarded by his students.

“The reward for me comes from working side-by-side with all levels of students—undergraduates, graduates, and post-doctoral associates—whose laboratory skills are so impressive that almost no experiment seems impossible,” says Frank.

“Our beautiful new laboratories are attracting more and more of these kinds of students. The future looks bright.”

A native of Memphis, Tenn., Frank earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from Boston University. He did post-doctoral research at the University of California at Berkeley, where he worked in the laboratory of Nobel laureate Melvin Calvin.

A Fulbright Scholar, Frank has garnered many honors during his career, including the 1999-2000 UConn Alumni Association’s Faculty Excellence in Research Award, The American Chemical Society Connecticut Valley Award, and a postdoctoral fellowship with the National Institutes of Health. The seasoned professor considers research and teaching intertwined and the contributions of students and teachers reciprocal.

“When you’re in the lab doing research with students, you may be teaching them,” says Frank, “but they are also teaching you.” —Claudia G. Chamberlain

**“The reward for me comes from working with all levels of students.”**

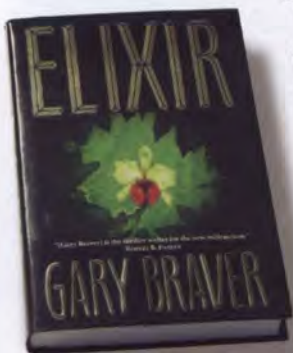


## Creative Currents

### Recently published works by UConn alumni and faculty

#### Treading on divine turf

In the first chapter of *Elixir*, an ambitious young biochemist named Christopher Bacon snatches a mysterious plant from a fire without getting burned. As things turn out, it might have been better for Bacon if the plant had been consumed by the fire.



"If you put your hand into the fire and pull it out without being burned, you'll likely be tempted to go back and challenge fate again," says Gary Goshgarian '66 M.A. while discussing *Elixir*, a thriller about the discovery of a flower that offers the possibility of eternal youth but has the potential for horrific side effects.

*Elixir* (Forge) is Goshgarian's fourth novel and the first under the pen name Gary Braver. *Library Journal* called *Elixir* "among the best of its genre . . . an outstanding addition to all fiction collections."

"What's the hottest fantasy in the universe, one that transcends sex, power and money? Clearly, it's staying young forever," Goshgarian says. "The entire cosmetics industry is dedicated to keeping people looking young. The pharmaceutical industry is scrambling for anti-aging drugs, creams, compounds, serums and elixirs. It's what Adam and Eve lost when they were kicked out of the Garden of Eden."

Goshgarian, who also teaches creative writing at Northeastern University, views *Elixir* as a cautionary tale that, like the ancient myth of Prometheus, warns against mortals trespassing on divine turf. "There are moral and ethical dilemmas to being eternally young," he says. "I focused on what it would do to the family. What would happen if you were to take it but your lover, spouse, whoever, refused to? What would happen if you were to remain in your 30s and your lover continued to age? What if you gave it to a child? A child who is five years old forever is the definition of parenting hell."

—Gary E. Frank

## ALSO OF INTEREST

#### *A Perfect Time for Butterflies*

Camille Lavieri Forman '55 (SFA)

(Mount Hope Books)



While recovering from a stroke, Camille Lavieri Forman began to write down a short, informal account of her family's history to be read one day by her infant grandson.

Those writings eventually evolved into *A Perfect Time for Butterflies*, a memoir that recalls Forman's childhood; being a "faculty wife" (the former University librarian is married to Professor Emeritus Kenneth Forman); escapades in locales such as Oaxaca, London and Paris; and her family's colorful history. UConn Professor Emeritus Joseph Cary describes *A Perfect Time for Butterflies* as "the story of an intelligent woman's response to the possibilities and pressures of what must be called a happy life."

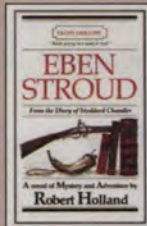


#### *Job Offer! A How-to Negotiation Guide*

Maryanne L. Wegerbauer '92 (BGS)

(JIST Publishing)

In today's tight job market, argues Maryanne L. Wegerbauer, job content, salary, and bonuses—even working arrangements and schedules—are more open to negotiation than ever before. *Job Offer!* offers strategies on how to successfully negotiate the bottom line and helps people think through career-related issues such as: what should be considered before accepting an offer, how to determine the important work-related factors that are unique to each job opportunity, and how to negotiate, and receive, the rewards that will provide the most work satisfaction.



#### *Eben Stroud: From the Diary of Stoddard Chandler*

Robert Holland '62 (CLAS)

(Frost Hollow)

Robert Holland's sixth novel for teenage readers explores the convoluted happenings of small town Woodstock, Conn., during the late 18th century. The story is told through the eyes of Stoddard Chandler, a 17-year-old farmer's son who has been accepted to Yale College. Eben Stroud, a hunter, trapper, and former chief scout for General George Washington, recruits Chandler to help him pursue horse thieves on behalf of the Woodstock Theft Detecting Society, a real organization that still meets. A 15-year-old reader describes *Eben Stroud* as "a book of awesome imagination."

# News & Notes

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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

## 1940s

Helen Wand Molloy '44 (CLAS) writes to say that although she was proud to read a profile of her daughter Susan Molloy Hubbard '68 (NUR) in the summer issue of *UConn Traditions*, she is equally proud that her family includes three more UConn alumni; herself, her late husband, Charles Molloy '47 (CLAS) and her daughter Joan Molloy '71 (ED), '83 J.D. Helen lives in Hamden, Conn., and would like to hear from other UConn alumni from the 1940s.

Ed Chrostowski '49 has been elected to the board of governors of the New Canaan Historical Society and is in charge of the society's oral history department. He is editor of the *New Canaan Advertiser* and is president of the Poinsettia Club.



## 1950s

Barbara Goossen Capelle '50 (CLAS) has been named chairperson of the Conference Committee on Mission Personnel for the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. The committee is responsible for identifying and recommending to the General Board of Global Ministries persons for mission service in the United States and abroad.

Henry H. Katten '53 (BUS) has been elected to the West Haven Democratic Town Committee. Henry is also

vice president of the University of Connecticut Alumni Association's Greater New Haven Chapter.

Anton Jungherr '54 (BUS) is setting up a tuna fish processing plant in the South Pacific nation of Tonga and assisting on a USAID project in Uganda, in East Africa.

Lois Green Stone '55 (ED) is an author and poet whose works have been syndicated worldwide. Two of Lois's published poems are included in an anthology printed by Harmony Books. Her writings have also been published by the Crossing Press and House of White Birch.

Jean Merrill Balderston '57 (CLAS) is the co-winner of the 2000 The Writer Magazine/Emily Dickinson Award given by the Poetry Society of America. The award honors the memory and poetry of Emily Dickinson. (Jean's winning poem, "Dickinson Weather," appears on page 48.)

## Reunion News

■ *Class of 1951: Welcome Home* —The Class of 1951 will be holding its 50th year reunion the weekend of June 1–2, 2001. This is a fitting time to celebrate your connection to UConn and to visit with old friends. The weekend will include luncheons, school and college gatherings, seminars by University professors, a bus tour of campus, a reunion breakfast with "Classic Classes" (alumni who graduated more than 50 years ago), and much more!

For more details, call Kim Lachut or Julie Sweeney at the Alumni Association at 888-822-5861 or 860-486-2240.

Information is also available on the World Wide Web at [www.uconnalumni.com](http://www.uconnalumni.com).

Karl G. Larew '59 (CLAS) has published *Candles in the Window*, a novel set at UConn during the 1950s.

Lewis Turco '59 (CLAS) has received an honorary doctor of humane letters from Ashland University. Lewis is a nationally prominent poet and scholar who has made major contributions to several generations of young poets.

## 1960s

E. William Gourd '60 (CLAS) retired in December 1999 after 35 years of an academic career that included faculty positions at the University of Texas at El Paso, Cleveland State University, and Saginaw Valley State University in Michigan. Bill founded SVSU's department of communication and theater in 1978 and chaired the department for 14 years thereafter. In 1995 he received the University Faculty Association's Annual Service Award and in 1996 was given a University Professorial Continuing Achievement Award.

Jerry S. Copsinis '61 (CLAS), '70 (6th year) has retired as principal of Hall High School in West Hartford, Conn., after a 37-year career in education.

Bernard Fried '61 Ph.D. was recently honored for distinguished teaching, scholarly research, and service to Lafayette College at the college's annual trustee-faculty dinner. Bernard retired from teaching in May after 37 years at Lafayette. The Gideon R. Jr. and Alice L. Kreider Professor Emeritus of Biology at Lafayette College, Bernard is regarded as one of the world's foremost experts in the field of parasitology.

Kenneth L. Gold '61 (CLAS) has been appointed chairman of the Rotary International Foundation for Northern New Jersey. He is also the chairman of communications for the local Rotary district. Kenneth lives in Wayne, N.J.



Edward J. Sondik '63 (ENG), '65 M.S. has been named the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics. Edward is also senior advisor on health statistics to Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala.

## ABBREVIATION KEY

School and/or College abbreviations for baccalaureate graduates

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

Graduate/professional degree abbreviations

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



**Marvin Johnson '65 (PHR)** has been awarded the 2000 Bowl of Hygeia Award by the Vermont Pharmacists Association for outstanding community service. Marvin is employed at Brooks Pharmacy in Essex Junction, Vt., and belongs to the Vermont Pharmacists Association's legislative committee. Marvin and his wife, Judith, have four children and live in Essex Junction.

**Gary Goshgarian '66 M.A.** has had his fourth novel, *Elixir*, published, under the pen name, Gary Braver. (See "Creative Currents" on page 37.) Gary is a professor



of English at Northeastern University in Boston, Mass., and is the author of three other novels: *Atlantis Fire*, *Rough Beast*, and *The Stone Circle*.

**Jacqueline Dembar Greene '67 (ED)** received the National Jewish Book Award for Children's Literature for her book, *David's Star*. Jacqueline and her husband, Malcolm, live in Wellesley, Mass.

**Robert W. Fitzgerald '69 Ph.D.**, a professor of civil and environmental engineering and fire protection engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, has been named a fellow of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers.



**Joseph W. Meuse '69 (ENG)**, who has worked for General Electric since graduation, recently completed a three-year assignment in Saudi Arabia, managing the construction and commissioning of a 1200-megawatt combined cycle plant. Joe and his wife, Linda, are currently living in Taiwan, where he is overseeing the construction of a 600-megawatt plant for TaiPower. They have

four sons and are expecting their second grandchild.

## 1970s

**Sandra Donaldson '70 M.A., '77 Ph.D.** received the award for Outstanding Faculty Development and Service at the University of North Dakota's annual Founder's Day banquet. Sandra is currently a professor of English and director of the university's Women Studies Program. The award also recognizes her work with the university's Peace Studies and Interdisciplinary Studies programs.



**Abraham C. Reich '71 (CLAS)** has been named managing partner of Fox Rothschild O'Brien & Frankel, LLP in the firm's Philadelphia office. Abraham will be responsible for management of the largest of Fox Rothschild's seven offices.



**William F. Adiletta '73 (CLAS)** is chief information officer of Global Crossing Ltd. Bill was previously chief technology officer of IXnet/IPC, which was acquired by Global Crossing in June.

**Jeff Davidson '73 (BUS), '74 M.B.A.** is the author of *The Joy of Simple Living* (Rodale Press 1999), which has been published in 14 languages, including Czech, Polish, Italian, Indonesian, Japanese and Mandarin Chinese. Jeff's books, which include *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Managing Stress*, have sold more than 1.1 million copies worldwide. Jeff lives in Chapel Hill, N.C.



## PROFILE

### The not-so-dismal scientist

When **Jim Griffin '66 (CLAS), '70 M.A.** talks about economics, the so-called "dismal science" doesn't seem quite so dismal after all.

As a columnist for the *TheStreet.com*, Griffin might invoke Hamlet when commenting on Denmark's vote on joining the European Monetary Union or singer Kenny Rogers when he's discussing a market redistribution. He may suggest that investment analysts "with a vulture's instincts and the stomach for carrion may come across stocks so beaten down and bloodied that it's possible to imagine there's nowhere left to go but up."

Griffin's passion for economics comes through most when he's asked what he likes about studying the complexities of financial markets. "Absolutely everything," he says. "That's the beauty of the kind of economics that I get to do because almost everything has some kind of impact."

Since retiring in 1999 after a 30-year career as a corporate economist and investment strategist, Griffin has been writing, primarily for *TheStreet.com* and *Fortune*, and doing some public speaking before business groups anxious to hear his insights. "Jim has the ability to write in style that is clear and thought-provoking, and that is all too rare in financial news," says David Kansas, editor-in-chief of *TheStreet.com*. "He takes a generally murky topic and makes it very accessible."

A native of Meriden, Conn., Griffin says his enthusiasm for economics was sparked at UConn by professors such as Ted Booth, Emmanuel Wexler, and Alpha Chiang. "They were very stimulating teachers," Griffin says. "They encouraged a spirit of inquiry, of intellectual thrust and parry."

After graduation from UConn, Griffin served a two-year hitch as an Army intelligence officer in Germany before returning to the University to complete a master's degree in economics. He also married Meg Junge-Griffin '66 (CLAS). The couple have a son and a daughter.

After working for the former Hartford National Bank for about eight years, Griffin moved to Aetna, Inc. Griffin says his interest in international economics made the insurance and financial services giant an especially compelling place to work because of its wide-ranging business interests. During his 22 years at Aetna, Griffin says, he never had any doubts that UConn had prepared him well. "Aetna recruited a lot of people from Ivy League schools. I never felt I had inferior preparation," Griffin says. "It was quite the contrary. I was taught by an absolutely fabulous faculty."

—Gary E. Frank



Peter Morenus

**James M. Funk '74 M.S.** has been named president of Equitable Production, the natural gas unit of Equitable Resources. James joins the company after a 23-year career at Shell Oil, where he most recently served as president of Shell Continental Companies.

**Carol Ewing Garber '75 (ED), '83 M.A., '90 Ph.D.** received the Health Impact Award of the American Heart Association's New England affiliate. Carol works for Brown University School of Medicine in Pawtucket, R.I.

**Debbie Weathers '75 (CLAS)** has been named director of



communications for Forbes.com. Debbie is responsible for internal and external communications for the Internet media company.

**Nancy M. Beck '76 (CLAS)** has joined eLEC Communications Corp. as regulatory counsel.

**Robert B. Dobeck '76 (BUS)** has joined the National Clergy Council as general counsel and vice president for operations, located in Washington, D.C. Robert is also president of prelawadvisor.com.

**John A. Tobin '76 (CLAS)** has joined McLarens Toplis, a leading global risk management group, to head up the group's transportation division. John and his wife, Jayme, live in Franklin, N.J., with their daughter, Jillian.

**Michael K. Noles '77 (BUS), '81 M.B.A.** is managing director of Metris' Business Services, a new division of Metris Companies. Most recently, Michael served as president and chief operating officer for VerticaLease.

**Lee Bennett '78 J.D.** has been elected vice president of the International Association of Defense Counsel. Lee, who is senior vice president and general counsel of the St. Paul Companies Claim Services, is also chairman of the IADC Insurance Executive Committee.

**Joanne T. Jozefowski '78 M.S.** has published a book, *The Phoenix Phenomenon: Rising From the Ashes of Grief* (Jason Aronson Publishers), which was recently voted "one of the best books of 1999" by the *American Journal of Nursing*. Joanne's book maps the journey from tragedy to transformation after the loss of a loved one.

**Capt. Syrena Thompson Gatewood '79 (PHR)** was recently appointed chief pharmacist at FMC Butner, a new 506-bed center for the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Syrena has been a commissioned officer in the U.S. Public Health Service for 15 years. She lives with her family in Creedmoor, N.C.

## Save the Date!

The UConn Alumni Association's African American Alumni Council is planning a reunion on Saturday, February 10, 2001 in celebration of Black History month. Mark your calendars and plan to join us for a day of festivities.

For more information contact Kristina Giuliano at 860-486-2240, or by e-mail at [kgiuliano@alumni.uconn.edu](mailto:kgiuliano@alumni.uconn.edu)

**Theodore G. Pashos '79 (CLAS)** is a partner in the law firm Niedner, Bodeux, Carmichael, Huff, Lenox and Pashos in St. Charles, Mo. Theodore earned his law degree at the St. Louis University School of Law.

**Lloyd H. Storey '79 M.B.A.** has been named vice president and chief information officer of Riverwood International Corporation.

## PROFILE

### The virtue of being stubborn

When she was 13 years-old, **Mary Jane Lis '77 (CANR)** saw one of her pet rabbits die because a veterinarian didn't know how to treat the sick animal.

Lis, whose grandparents were farmers, knew then that she wanted to be a vet. It wasn't enough to have animals as pets; she wanted to know how to save their lives. Lis, who was appointed state veterinarian for the Connecticut Department of Agriculture in 1999, has found it challenging being a woman in a traditionally male-dominated field.

"I've basically got to where I am because I was pig-headed enough to stick it out," says the Hartford native. "My parents always said if I tried hard enough I would get where I wanted to be."

The daughter of Polish immigrants, Lis says her father, a self-employed painter, and mother, a former machine operator for Heublein, emphasized the importance of academic achievement. Still, fierce competition and limited slots made attending veterinary school difficult.

"The odds were that two people from Connecticut would get into vet school," says Lis. "And if it was two people from



Peter Maroneus

Connecticut, it wouldn't be a woman, it would be two guys because they wouldn't waste their time on two women. So you still had some of that mentality to work through."

While an undergraduate, Lis worked at the University's beef and sheep barn to gain experience working with animals. Her persistence later earned her a master's degree in veterinary microbiology and animal nutrition from Purdue University, and a doctorate in veterinary microbiology and animal science at the University of Minnesota.

Prior to her appointment as state veterinarian, Lis ran her own veterinary services on her 400-acre farm in Durham, Conn., where she lives with her husband, David Greenbacker, a dairy farmer.

Lis's responsibilities as state vet for the past year have included developing animal disease control policies and programs and working to prevent and control animal disease outbreaks, in particular, the mosquito-borne West Nile virus that hit the Northeast the past two years. She has advice for anyone willing to challenge popular conventions:

"It's not always going to be easy, but it is rewarding," says Lis. "What's nice about this job is that it's a challenge everyday."  
— Grace Simpson

## 1980s

**Lynn M. Rippel '80 (CANR)** works at the Middlesex Hospital in Middletown, Conn. Lynn resides in Middletown with her two children.

**Rosanne Shea '80 (SFA)** received her M.F.A. from Vermont College in 1996. Rosanne is working full-time as an art teacher at Holy Cross High School and part-time as an adjunct art instructor at Naugatuck Valley College, both in Waterbury, Conn. Rosanne lives in Watertown, Conn., with her son and husband.

**Donald E. Bodell '81 M.B.A.** has been named president of Ingersoll-Rand's Industrial Division (Torrington Company). Donald and his wife, Julie, and their three children have relocated to Simsbury, Conn.

**John McGinty '81 M.B.A.** has been appointed director of the Loyola-Notre Dame Library in Baltimore, Md.

**Bruce Taggart '81 M.P.A., '93 Ph.D.** has been named vice provost for information resources at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa.

**Dana Lawrence Manner '83 (BUS)** and his wife, Yvonne, announce the birth of twins, Tyler and Lauren, on April 12. Dana was recently promoted to senior manager of finance at Ryder System, Inc.

**Lori (Messier) Budnick '84 (BUS)** has been named director of the Not-for-Profit Services Group of the accounting firm Blum Shapiro in West Hartford, Conn.



**Elizabeth Meryl Gross '84 (NUR)** is working part-time as a neonatal nurse at Stamford Hospital in Stamford, Conn.

**John Krenicki, Jr. '84 (ENG)** has been named president and

## Nominations Sought

The UConn Alumni Association is looking for individuals interested in serving on its board of directors. Anyone interested in serving a three-year term on the board should send a short biography (or a nomination letter for someone else) to the Nominating Committee, UConn Alumni Association, Alumni Drive, Storrs, CT 06269, or by e-mail to [uaa@alumni.uconn.edu](mailto:uaa@alumni.uconn.edu).

The deadline for nominations is December 31, 2000. The board election will be held at the Alumni Association annual meeting in June 2001.

For more information call 888-UC-ALUM-1.

chief executive officer of GE Transportation Systems in Erie, Pennsylvania.

**Douglas King '84 (CLAS), '87 M.S. and Karen Bosco King '85 (CLAS)** announce the birth of their first child, Angela Marie, on July 19. The family resides in Bedford, N.H. Douglas is an engineering manager for Freudenberg-NOK. Karen is a speech-language pathologist for the Weare School District.

**Pablo Malavenda '84 (CLAS), '92 M.A. and Kristin Malavenda '91 (CLAS)** announce the birth of their second child, Zoe Katherine, on June 12.

**Timothy Considine '85 (BUS) and Cheryl Thayer Considine '84 (BUS)** announce the birth of their second son, Brian Patrick, on January 12.

**Stacie Lovell Markoski '85 (ED)** has been a senior investigator for the Connecticut Department of Social Services for eight years. Stacie earned an M.S. degree from Southern Connecticut State University in May 1994 and is currently pursuing a post-master of science degree at Central Connecticut State University. Stacie and her husband, Steve, have three sons.

**David B. Oestreicher '85 (CLAS), '88 M.B.A. and Edina Oestreicher '90 (CLAS)** announce the birth of their second daughter, Maya Diana, on May 25. Maya joins her older sister, Aliyah Aoe. The family lives in Bridgeport, Conn.

**Andrew T. Rose '85 (ENG), '86 M.S.** is assistant professor of civil engineering technology at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, Pa. Andrew and his wife, Rhonda, were married June 27, 1998.

**Sheila Walsh Schanck '85 (CLAS)** and her husband, Chris, announce the birth of their first child, Faith Delle Elizabeth, on January 6. The family resides in Elliot City, Md.

**Rebecca Tumicki '85 (CLAS)** has completed her M.S. in geography from San Jose State University. She was a Peace Corps volunteer in Nepal from 1989 to 1991. Rebecca is a freelance business analyst in Littleton, Colo., and has started her own line of greeting cards called Simply Simon.

**Denise Abercrombie '86 (CLAS), '87 (ED)** has been named Teacher of the Year 2000 by her colleagues at E.O. Smith High School in Storrs, Conn., and was granted a sabbatical to write for the cabaret stage. Denise lives in Willimantic, Conn., with her husband, **Jonathan Andersen '92 (CLAS)**, her son, Miles, and one on the way.



**Stephen M. Holcomb '86 M.B.A.** has been named president of Trumbull Services LLC, a subsidiary of The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. Stephen was previously a senior vice president at Specialty Risk Services, another subsidiary of The Hartford.

**Erin M. Perez '86 (CLAS)** and her husband, Jay, announce the birth of their second child, Drew Jay, on June 22. Drew joins his sister, Caelan.

**Gretchen Mehringer Stalters '86 (SAH)** and Brian Stalters announce the birth of their twin boys, Corey and Brandon, on May 18. Corey and Brandon join their older brother, Cameron. The family resides in Norton, Mass. Gretchen is a pediatric dietitian at Hasbro Children's Hospital.

**Gail M. Valuk '86 (BUS)** announces the opening of the law firm of Fogarty & Valuk, LLP in Providence, R.I. Gail earned her law degree at the Detroit College of Law.

**Anne Varrone-Lederle '86 (CLAS)** and her husband, Jeff, announce the birth of their first child, Elizabeth Anne, on May 6.

**Debi (Cady) Weinberg '86 M.B.A.** has escaped from the insurance city and is now manager of marketing services in the UConn Office of University



Communications. Debi lives in Glastonbury, Conn., with her son, Sean Cady, and her husband, David Weinberg.

**Dennis M. Dolan '87 M.B.A.** has joined e-Media as chief financial officer. Dennis most recently served as executive vice president and chief financial officer for Air Express International. Dennis resides in Fairfield, Conn., with his wife and daughter.



**Steven Friedman '87 (BGS)** has written a book titled, *Voices of America: Golden Memories of the San Francisco Bay Area*, a collection of poignant, humorous, and revealing portraits

## IN MEMORIAM

## ALUMNI

Mary Frances (Brown) Alexander '77 M.A.

Francis C. Bidy '71

John Cecchini '65

Ethan J. Durst '97

Albert A. Fruscione '54

Walter M. Gajewski '49, '51 M.S.

Charles E. Gooley '78 J.D.

Joyce (Pond) Hatch '46

Stephen Hermaszewski '66 M.A., '87 (6th year)

Shirley (Brander) Horwitz '42

Philip W. Levin '57

Donald J. Mendence '61

Mary K. (Fitzgerald) Porrell '81

John L. Renkavinsky '59

Dorothy K. Weber '56 M.A.

## FACULTY

Carl W. Moeller Jr.

Anthony Terenzio

David A. Wicklund

## STAFF

Frederick den Broeder

Alexandra "Sandy" Schulte

of the people and places of the San Francisco Bay area. Steven and his wife live in San Francisco with their two-year-old son.

**Andrew Goldstrom '87 (BUS), '91 M.B.A.** has been promoted to partner and managing director for the southeast region for United Systems Integrators Corporation, located in Atlanta, Georgia.

**John J. Russell '87 (CLAS)** and his wife announce the birth of their first child, Allison Barbara, on June 22.

**Darren Gill '88 (CLAS), '91 J.D.** has been named senior vice president of marketing for Musicmaker.com. Previously, Darren was director of merchandising at HEAR Music, a music retail chain and mail order catalog. Darren practiced law for three years before entering the music industry.

**Chad Stewart '88 (CLAS)** has accepted a position as vice



president and relationship manager at First Union National Bank in its commercial division. Chad and his wife, Donna, announce the birth of their first child, Sean Edward, born on December 30, 1999.

**Chris Andresen '89 (SFS)** has been working with the Connecticut Department of Public Health doing HIV prevention work for over 10 years and was just promoted to director of AIDS Prevention Education Services in the Bureau of Community Health.

**Louis C. Gelada Jr. '89 (CLAS)** has earned a master's degree from the Fairfield University School of Engineering. Louis is manager of application integration at GE Capital Vendor Financial Services in Danbury, Conn. His wife, **Teresa Lacaria Gelada '89 (BUS)**, has earned a master's degree from the Fairfield University School of Business Administration. Teresa was also selected for membership in Beta Gamma Sigma, the honor society for collegiate schools of business.

**Patricia McGowan '89 (BUS)** has joined the law firm of Kostin, Ruffkess & Company, LLC in West Hartford, Conn.

**Kristen E. Melendez '89 (CLAS)** and Keith M. Dalton were married at the Chapel in the Gardens in Allendale, Fla. on March 17. The couple live in Ormond Beach, Fla.

**Marikate Murren '89 (CLAS), '96 M.A.** has been named director of campus recreation at Gettysburg College, in Gettysburg, Pa. Marikate is also a member of the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association, the National Intramural-Recreational Sport Association, and the United States Tennis Association.

**Dena Coccozza O'Hara '89 (CLAS)** and her husband, Keith, announce the birth of their fourth child, daughter Duun Marie, born on June 29, 2000. Duun joins her sisters, Dylan and Rhone, and a brother, Keith.

**Margaret Chrabolowski Walsh '89 (BUS)** and her husband announce the birth of their daughter, Delaney, in May 1999. Margaret is the investor relations manager at People's Bank in Bridgeport, Conn. Margaret and her family reside in Stratford, Conn.

## 1990s

**Britt D. Briatico '90 (BUS)** graduated from Purdue University School of Business Management in December 1999. Britt currently works as a financial manager at Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford, Conn.

**Fred Contrata '90 (BUS)** has been named chief financial officer of Zurich Global Energy. Fred was previously vice president and controller for Zurich.

**Thomas E. Murray '90 (CLAS), '94 Ph.D.** has been granted tenure as an associate professor of biology at Elizabethtown (Pa.) College. Thomas resides in Elizabethtown.

**Jack Lynch '91 (CLAS)** and **Nell-Ayn Aloi Lynch '91 (ED)** announce the birth of their second child, Brady-Ayn, on June 9. Brady joins her older brother, Jack Francis. The family lives in Trumbull, Conn. Jack is an account executive for BKM Total Office in Milford, Conn.,

and Nell-Ayn teaches seventh grade in Newtown, Conn.

**Dale Martin '91 (ENG)** and **Susan Arakelian '95 M.B.A.** were married November 20, 1999, in East Lyme, Conn. The wedding party included **Dean Martin '90 (CLAS)**, **Amy Brouwer '90 (SAH)**, **Susan Jackson Vincent '89 (BUS)**, **Dave Gatto '90 (CLAS)**, '92 M.S., **Dave Wharmby '89**

## Do you know an outstanding alumna/ alumnus or faculty member?

Reward their excellence by nominating them to receive an Alumni or Faculty Excellence Award for 2001. The University of Connecticut Alumni Association has established numerous awards for the purpose of recognizing outstanding contributions and achievements by alumni, faculty, and supporters of the University.

The national and international recognition of the University as a distinguished educational institution is in large measure attributable to the diverse professional accomplishments of our alumni and faculty. The UConn Alumni Association is proud of these achievements and welcomes the opportunity to extend recognition through the following awards:

- Connecticut Alumni Service Award
- Distinguished Alumni Award
- Honorary Alumni Award
- Outstanding Young Alumni Award
- University Service Award
- Faculty Excellence Award in Teaching
- Faculty Excellence Award in Research

Nomination forms are available at the Centennial Alumni House, by calling 888-UC-ALUM-1, or by visiting [www.uconnalumni.com](http://www.uconnalumni.com).

The deadline for nominations is December 1, 2000.

## PROFILE

## Making travel safer for children

According to the National Transportation Safety Board, 16,500 children under 10 were killed in car crashes between 1990 and 1999.

**Karen DiCapua '88 (ED)** can't make peace with statistics like that. As director of child passenger safety at the National SAFE KIDS Campaign, an injury prevention organization based in Washington, D.C., DiCapua knows that consistent and correct use of seat belts and car seats saves lives. Traveling the country to work with SAFE KIDS Coalition members at the state level, DiCapua oversees a set of national programs designed to equip and educate families. One program partners with the NAACP and the Latino La Raza organization to distribute free car seats and teach safety to parents in low-income and minority communities. Another initiative employs roving vans to bring seat belt and car seat checkup events to shopping plazas, day care centers—wherever parents are likely to be found.

While DiCapua has touted buckling up on ABC's *Good Morning America* and MSNBC, she has also been on the front lines, showing police officers, doctors, nurses, and parents how to use



E. Jane Enright

restraints properly. She'll never forget the father of triplets who openly sobbed at being given car seats for his babies or the happy endings in 26 documented cases in which SAFE KIDS child passenger safety programs have saved lives.

DiCapua, whose degree is in special education, gave up her teaching career for one in injury prevention, hoping to make an even bigger difference in kids' lives. She notes, however, that education is still a huge part of her work, and she credits UConn's special education program with not only developing her teaching skills but also for helping her grow as a person. (UConn holds an especially important place for the DiCapua family. DiCapua grew up in Storrs; her dad, Richard DiCapua, is a retired professor of immunology; and her mom, Jean Kenny, is a graduate of

the School of Family Studies and earned a master's of social work. Many other relatives are also UConn alumni.)

Teaching adults, notes DiCapua, sometimes means reminding them that times have changed: There are more vehicles on the road than ever and today's kids spend a lot of time in cars as parents shuttle them to soccer practice, piano lessons, or the mall. "Car crashes are the number-one killer of children," says DiCapua. "There's still a lot to be done." —*Leslie Virostek*

(BUS), Glenn Duzy '91 (ENG), '94 M.S., and Steve Geib '89 (BUS). Dale is a senior design engineer at Hubbell Premise-Wiring in Stonington, Conn, and Susan is an employee resources assistant at Pfizer in Groton, Conn.

**Ron Peterson '91 (ENG)** and **Cathy Stoddard Peterson '87 (CLAS)** announce the birth of their second child, Calvin Michael, on January 4. Calvin joins his older brother, Riley Thomas. The Petersons reside in Watertown, Conn.

**John T. Roberts '91 (CLAS)** and his wife, Cathy, recently celebrated the second birthday of their son, Parker. John is the owner of Soundbyte, Inc., an Atlanta-based music and sound production house catering to various nationwide television networks and corporations. John and his family reside in Roswell, Ga.

**Heather (Brumfield) Spottiswoode '91 (CLAS)** and her husband, Mike, announce the birth of their first child, Caitrin Heather, born July 8. Heather is a program assistant with the Neag Center for Gifted Education & Talent Development at UConn. The family lives in Windham, Conn.

**Eleanor Burke Day '92 (CLAS)** and Patrick Day were married May 18, 1998, in Wilmington, Del. Eleanor earned an M.A. in International Affairs from the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Eleanor and Patrick announce the birth of their daughter, Madeleine Kaarina Taylor, on April 11.

**Michelle Grant '92 (BUS)** and her husband, Martin, announce the birth of their first child, Alexander Michael, on January 23. The family reside in Colchester, Conn. Michelle works part-time as an accountant at Accounting Resources, Inc. in Glastonbury, Conn.

**Rob Hughes '92 (CLAS)** has been given the *Hartford Business Journal* "40 Under Forty" Award, which recognizes Hartford-area business leaders who are 40 years of age or younger. Rob is president and chief operating officer of CMGI Solutions, an internet professional services firm. He shared the award with his brother, Jack, who is the company's acting chief executive officer.

**Rachel Tonucci O'Connell '92 (CLAS)** and her husband, Michael, announce the birth of their daughter, Honor Caroline, on April 25. Rachel earned a master's degree in library science from Southern Connecticut State University in May 1999. She is a library media specialist at Conard High School in West Hartford, Conn.

**Susannah M. Pryal '92 (CLAS)** and her husband, David, announce the birth of their

daughter, Katherine Muir, on May 15. Susannah, David, and Katie live in Austin, Tex.

**Jan Vlasto '92 (BUS)** and Catherine Traiforou were married September 25, 1999, at Christ United Methodist Church in New York City. The groom's parents are **George Vlasto**, a retired professor of biology, and **Annemieke Vlasto**, a former mathematics professor, who both taught at UConn's Stamford campus. **Solon Vlasto '89 (SFA)** served as the best man. UConn alumni in attendance included **Paul Calabrese '91 (CLAS)**, **Craig Thiel '92 (BUS)**, **Joseph Stake '92 (BUS)**, **David Wyzykowski '90 (CLAS)** and **Chris Rothermel '99 (ENG)**.

**David R. Will '92 (CLAS)** and his wife, Nicole, had their first child, Zachary Leon, on June 26. David is a principal consultant with Akibia, Inc., and the family reside in Marshfield Hills, Mass.

**Susan M. Case '93 J.D.** has been named vice president of industry transformation for Corporate Systems in Amarillo, Texas. Susan was previously vice president of product development at CIGNA Integrated Care.



**Alvin R. Wilson Jr. '93 J.D.** has been named director and legislative counsel of the University of Connecticut Office of Governmental Relations. Alvin and his wife,



**Marie-Line Bruhl-Wilson '93 J.D.**, live in West Hartford, Conn.

**Michael Goba '94 (BUS)** is an attorney for the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps. Michael earned a law degree at the Judge Advocate General's School at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.

**Cynthia Gaudio DePillo '94 (ED), '95 M.A.** and her husband, Ray, announce the birth of their second child, Daniel Vincent, on May 4. The family reside in Westfield, N.J.

**Rebecca Jean Chonko '95 (CANR)** and Jason Douglas Moellinger were married February 14 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Appalachicola, Fla. **Lauri Chonko '97 (CANR)** was maid of honor. The couple reside in Birmingham, Ala.

**Richard Juknavorian, Jr. '95 (CLAS)** and Susan Simonian were married January 8. **Todd Camassar '96 (CLAS)** served as an usher. The couple live in Lowell, Mass.

**Brett H. McGurk '96 (CLAS)** is a clerk for Chief Justice William Rehnquist of the United States Supreme Court. Brett previously was a clerk to Judge Dennis Jacobs on the Federal Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in New York City. Brett graduated from Columbia University Law School in May 1999.

**Lanette Roulier '96 (CLAS)**, a registered dietician and member of the American Dietetics Association, has been named corporate dietician for Doctor's Associates Inc., the franchisor of SUBWAY Restaurants, located in Milford, Conn.



**Kimberly Vozzo '96 (SFS), '98 M.A.** and **Brian Nickolenko '97 (BUS)** were married October 23, 1999, at Woodwinds in Branford, Conn. The wedding party included **Andy Holt '97 (CLAS)**, **Brian Sedor '99 (CLAS)**, **Michael Whyte '97 (BUS)**, **Heather Berns '96 (CLAS)**, **Jessica Heeney '96 (ED)**, **Kerry O'Rourke '96 (SFS)**, and **Tammy Wheelock '97 M.A.** Brian works for Mass Mutual in Hartford, Conn., and Kimberly works at Fairfield University in Fairfield, Conn. The couple reside in Hamden, Conn.

**Juergen Rochert '97 M.B.A.** has been named president of Daimler Chrysler Financial Services (debis) Canada. Juergen resides in Windsor, Ont.

**Joanna L. Wasti '96 (BUS)** and **Matthew J. Dufour '97 (BUS)** were married June 10 at St. Mary Church in Windsor Locks, Conn. They reside in Cheshire, Conn.

**Michael C. Pelletier '98 (BUS)** is working as a consultant for Pinnacle Decision Systems, located in Middletown, Conn., and is currently pursuing a M.B.A. and a M.S. in computer science at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute-Hartford.

**Thomas Vaughan Rhodes '99 (CLAS)** is serving in the Peace Corps in the Republic of Cape Verde as a TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) instructor.

*Alumni News & Notes compiled by Megan Soukup and Sara Seckington*

## AT THE WILLIAM BENTON MUSEUM OF ART

### "People and Places of Childe Hassam and Maurice Prendergast, 1887-1923" • January 23-March 16, 2001

This collaborative exhibition by the William Benton Museum of Art and the New Britain Museum of American Art features the oils, pastels, watercolors and drawings created between 1887 and 1923 by two classical artists influenced by the vivid palette of Impressionism, both noted for their beautifully painted landscape scenes of Paris, New York City, and rural Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Childe Hassam, *Old Mumford House, East Hampton, Long Island.*



Maurice Brazil Prendergast, *Bathers* (ca. 1912), watercolor. Gift of Eugenie Prendergast Foundation.

For more information on events at the University of Connecticut, consult the campus master calendar at [www.ca.uconn.edu/mastercalendar](http://www.ca.uconn.edu/mastercalendar).

## The University of Connecticut Alumni Association Officers and Directors 2000-2001

<b>OFFICERS</b>	<i>Third Vice President</i>	<b>DIRECTORS</b>	Kim M. Lamagna '80 (CLAS), Andre F. Lesperance '61 (ENG), '66 M.S., Christine Lodewick '67 M.A., Denise W. Merrill '88 (BGS), Lawrence F. Morico '58 (CLAS)
<i>President</i>	Steven H. Rogers '73 (ENG), '78 M.B.A.	Theresa H. Allsop '81 (CLAS), '84 J.D., Pamela F. Bellmore '91 (CLAS), Audrey E. Brown '76 (CLAS), Richard T. Carbray, Jr. '75 (PHR), Steven R. Donen '80 (CLAS), '83 J.D., Gary B. Draghi '83 (BUS), Michael J. Galchus '66 (CLAS), '71 M.B.A.	
Timothy J. Riordan '76 (BUS)	<i>Secretary</i>		
<i>First Vice President</i>	Jennifer M. Ryley Welsh '90 (CLAS)		
Gina M. Petrokaitis '89 (BUS)	<i>Treasurer</i>		
<i>Second Vice President</i>	Joshua E. Dunn '92 (CLAS)		
Jeffrey M. Kونسپore '79 (CLAS)			

## UConn Alumni Association Chapter and Club Network

For the latest information on events and contact information visit  
[www.alumni.uconn.edu/contacts/](http://www.alumni.uconn.edu/contacts/)

### **ARIZONA, Phoenix**

Joanna Hagan '73, (h) 602-947-0364

### **CALIFORNIA, Los Angeles**

Aaron Spicker '86, (h) 310-374-2518, (w) 213-629-3647  
 aspicker@aol.com

### **San Diego**

Steve Balaban '77, (h) 619-283-1822, (w) 619-544-6557  
 cosmo29@IDT.NET

### **COLORADO, Denver**

Mary Shields '85, (h) 303-733-3159, (w) 303-477-0767  
 mksimage@rmi.net

### **CONNECTICUT, Danbury**

Christopher Burns '88, (w) 800-577-8445  
 christopher.burns@painewebber.com

### **Fairfield County**

Peter Slavin '76, (w) 203-849-8916 x17, (h) 203-834-2582  
 pslavin@metlife.com

### **Greater Waterbury**

Gina Petrokaitis '89, (w) 203-756-6955,  
 gpetrokaitis@petrokaitislaw.com

### **Greater University**

David Wehner '81, (h) 860-423-8226, (w) 800-954-5369  
 bkviadella@snet.net

### **Hartford**

Jim Phelps '74 '92, (w) 800-554-5420, ext. 1438, phelps@mail2.nai.net

### **New Haven**

Robert Johnson Jr. '65, (h) 203-234-8012, rrejrl@prodigy.net

### **Northwest Hills**

Annette Lombardi '76, (h) 860-489-5161, alombardio3@snet.net

### **Southeast**

Judy Beatrice, (h) 860-449-0751, jbeatrice@snet.net

### **FLORIDA, Southeast**

Margaret Gorra-Porter '76, (h) 954-752-2425, (w) 954-344-5880  
 maggiemie314@aol.com

### **Southwest**

Tom Williams '60, (h) 941-434-2015, (w) 941-775-4090, twwilli@aol.com

### **Tampa**

Jim Senk '68, (h) 813-885-9715, (w) 813-228-4020, psenk@aol.com

### **GEORGIA, Atlanta**

Laura Sharrard '91, (h) 770-641-7740, (w) 770-399-9910 x2203  
 laura\_sharrard@mindspring.com

### **ILLINOIS, Chicago**

Phil Barufkin '90, (h) 773-868-1499, (w) 312-660-3407  
 pbarufkin@hotmail.com

### **LOUISIANA, New Orleans**

Russell Dean '92, '95, (h) 504-736-9439, (w) 504-862-8233  
 rdean@mailhost.tcs.tulane.edu

### **MAINE**

Dave Seaman '67, (h) 207-781-8263, (w) 207-846-2715

### **MASSACHUSETTS, Boston**

Darren Cinti '97, 617-523-2898, 617-250-1011, dcinti@psgboston.com

### **Springfield**

Jason Russell '92, (h) 413-572-9817, (w) 413-846-0170, uconnjr@aol.com

### **MICHIGAN, Detroit**

Celia Bobrowsky '80, cbobrowsky@detroitigers.com  
 Bill Sluben '92, '95, wdsлубen@mslrp.com

### **MINNESOTA, Minneapolis**

Fred & Virginia Sweeney '66, (h) 612-941-4225, fred@millcom.com

### **MISSISSIPPI**

Steve Pranger '81, (h) 601-638-3719, (w) 601-634-3706  
 pranges@wes.army.mil

### **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Paul Perregaux '58 '67, (h) 603-788-2878, (w) 603-431-6061

### **NEW JERSEY**

Ralph Autuore '91, (h) 609-926-1489, (w) 609-926-7868

### **NEW MEXICO, Albuquerque**

Mike Daly '84, (h) 505-828-2058, (w) 505-889-2879

### **NEW YORK, Long Island**

Linda Landy '73, (h) 516-741-8451, (w) 516-484-5876  
 landyint@erols.com

### **New York City**

Brian Schulz '97, (h) 718-376-0434, (w) 201-518-1922 x579  
 schulz@majorleaguebaseball.com

### **NORTH CAROLINA, Triangle Area**

Steve Sanborn '92, (h) 919-676-3653, (w) 919-783-5657  
 sanborn@ibm.net, ssanborn@nchealthlaw.com

### **OHIO, Cleveland**

Marvin Schiff '81, (w) 216-781-1111

### **PENNSYLVANIA, Pittsburgh**

Richard Germano '87, (h) 412-362-3353, (w) 412-762-8287

### **SOUTH CAROLINA, Hilton Head**

Homer A. Boynton '50, (h) 843-689-6642, Alhome@aol.com

### **TEXAS, Dallas**

Scott Vanalstyne '93, (h) 214-485-2322, (w) (972) 960-1620  
 scott\_vanalstyne@phl.com

### **Houston**

Art Fitts '90, (h) 713-430-1571, afitts@msch.com

### **VERMONT, Burlington**

Allyn deVars '96, (h) 802-864-4071, aircoold@together.net

### **VIRGINIA, Richmond**

Bob Pasquella '89, (w) 804-281-2276, rmpasque@rmc.com

### **WASHINGTON, Seattle**

Jim Walker '60 '64, (h) 206-285-1029

### **WASHINGTON, D.C.**

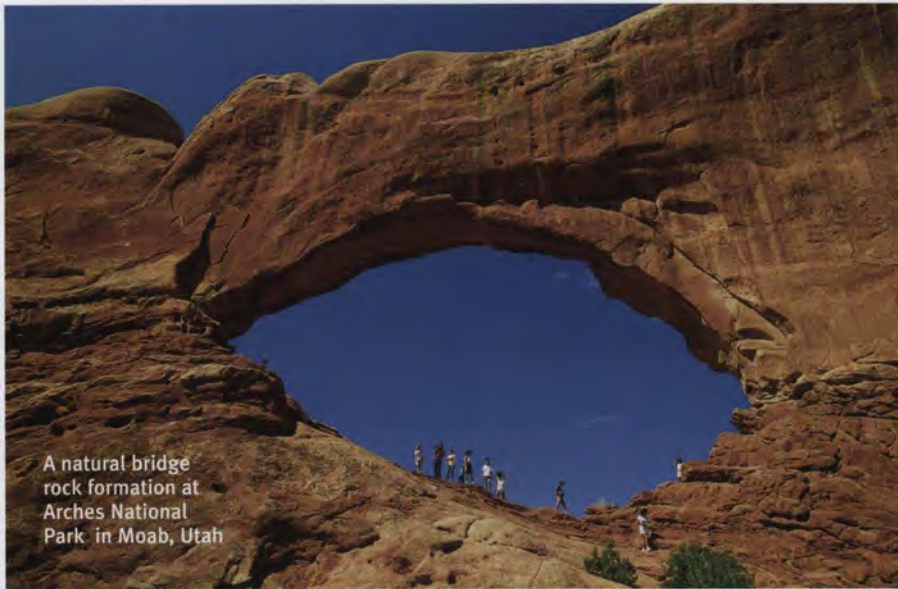
Lee Stebbins '67, (h) 703-352-8858, (w) 202-728-6532  
 StebbinsL@usa.redcross.org

### **WISCONSIN, Milwaukee**

Marian Snyder '64, (h) 414-332-0783, (w) 414-961-3531  
 msnyder@ccon.edu

For more information about joining an alumni club or forming a new  
 alumni club, contact Paul Clifford at 1-888-UC-ALUM-1 or visit  
[www.uconnalumni.com](http://www.uconnalumni.com) and fill out our online club participation form.

# Traveler



A natural bridge rock formation at Arches National Park in Moab, Utah

## National Parks—June 2001

This 15-day, leisurely paced, fully escorted, memorable journey includes stops at Yellowstone, Grand Teton, Arches, Monument Valley, Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, and Zion national parks as well as Salt Lake City and Las Vegas. Follow the call of adventure to seven of America's most spectacular national parks and monuments. Seven nights' accommodations within the parks include two nights in Yellowstone and two nights on the south rim of the Grand Canyon.

## A Taste of Britain's Gems— including the Eisteddfod Festival in Wales—July 3-13, 2001

A unique British treat is in store for you in the summer of 2001. We have designed a lovely tour that includes three nights in Wales, three nights in the Lake District, and three nights in the famous spa town of Harrogate, the stepping stone to the Yorkshire Hills

and Dales. This is the time of the Eisteddfod, the annual musical festival in Llangollen, Wales, featuring magnificent choral concerts. On to the Lakes District, long the inspiration of artists and poets amid the beauty of mountains, lakes, and villages. We will use special vehicles that will allow us to spend time visiting remote parts of the Lake District including the Hardknott and Wrynose passes. Drive across the north of England, through the rugged national parks and James Herriot country to the stylish town of Harrogate, on the outskirts of the great cathedral city of York.

You may choose to continue on to Scotland, by taking the train northward for another three nights in Edinburgh, staying in an historic hotel right in the center of town. Tour the "Athens of the North," with the historic castle, the Royal Mile, and

Holyroodhouse to Princes Street. Included are visits into the Trossachs, with a glimpse of the Highlands.

## Legendary Waterways of Europe— August 2-17, 2001

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## *A Bold Experiment, continued*

He sees higher education as an instrument of the emerging democracy. "Education is an exciting theater for the social experiment that's underway," he says.

In shaping the linkage, priorities set by Fort Hare were matched with UConn's demonstrated strengths. Participants in this summer's fact-finding visit included top officials in the areas of recruitment and retention, public relations and marketing, fund-raising, academic support for underprivileged students, the library, education, and agriculture. Members of the UConn group will draw on their experience in expanding enrollment, increasing state and private support, and improving support systems as they work with their counterparts at Fort Hare.

At the core of UConn's partnerships with South Africa is a new model for international interaction, based on the concept that each side can learn from the other. It's a model designed to foster international understanding and cooperation, and it was the articulation of this model that led the ANC and Fort Hare to select UConn as a partner from among a number of competing institutions of higher education in the United States and overseas.

"The selection of this university as a partner represents a vote of confidence in the University of Connecticut by the people of South Africa," says Omara-Otunnu. "It shows that our approach to building partnerships is distinct and has international appeal."

Members of the University community who have visited South Africa under the new international relationship, and others who have had the opportunity to interact with South Africans visiting UConn, have been profoundly moved by the experience.

M. Dolan Evanovich, associate vice provost for enrollment management and a member of the UConn delegation to Fort Hare in the summer, says he was touched by a visit to Soweto, the Johannesburg township where, in 1976, hundreds of black students were killed by police during an otherwise peaceful demonstration for access to quality education.

"It really hit home when we visited Soweto," Evanovich says. "The group of students who were killed were the same age as me, the same generation. While I was enjoying myself in high school, they were fighting for their freedom."

"Being there gave me a greater appreciation of the historical problems in South Africa," he adds. "It was one of the most powerful experiences I've had."

In addition to the potent lessons on human rights, the University's partnerships with South Africa will offer significant opportunities for UConn students to study overseas.

"As a great university serving a great state, UConn must be part of the global community," says President Austin.

The partnerships will bring South African students to UConn, where their experiences and insights will boost the diversity of the student body and add to the value of a UConn education. In a land that has significant potential for trade and holds powerful economic opportunities, some may even become future business partners.

The developing ties with South Africa also bring the University considerable national and international prestige.

"Institutions, like individuals, are known for the company they keep," says Austin. "We are deeply honored to be linked with the Republic of South Africa, and specifically with the African National Congress and the University of Fort Hare, in these great endeavors."



## *Build a* **LEGACY**

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For more information, call Nancy Schroeder at The University of Connecticut Foundation, 860-486-6216 or 800-269-9965

## Poetic licenses

"Touched by poetry," Octavio Paz wrote, "language is more fully language and at the same time is no longer language; it is a poem." Since the first issue of *UConn Traditions*, we have been reminded that a great many alumni express themselves through poetry. In that regard, we are sharing this brief selection of verse with you. We will continue occasionally to share poetry from your fellow alumni in future issues.

— Gary E. Frank

### I Learn to Accept a Certain Amount of Melancholy

Everyone does not swoon at light  
glinting off a lake just after dawn  
or swell at the skittering of water striders  
mottling the surface as if rain  
fell from a clear blue sky.  
This is strange to me.

You sidle into the day, unconvinced,  
with a weight of previous days and years  
stretching back before you were born,  
in spite of yourself.

These forces sometimes clash.  
One makes curtains just to draw them,  
pulls a dark green sheet over her head  
to keep the day at bay. One wakes always  
before the alarm, is quick to leave a dream,  
lifted by clouds that scud across the skylights.

From seeing your ways I see my own  
and all our attempts to contain what must overflow.

— Steve Straight '80 (CLAS), '89 M.A.  
Steve Straight teaches English at  
Manchester (Conn.) Community College.

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

### Dickinson Weather

Snow is another country.  
Where snow light fills a room  
the hyacinth burns bluer.  
A stillness like a swoon  
swathes air in alabaster.  
The soul in such surround  
becomes as almond  
blanched to bone,  
a lozenge in the palm  
where flake unfurls a firmament  
and firmament a calm.

— Jean Merrill Balderston '57 (CLAS)  
Jean Merrill Balderston is an educational  
therapist in private practice in New York City.  
She shared the 2000 *The Writer Magazine/Emily  
Dickinson Award* given by the Poetry Society of  
America for "Dickinson Weather."

### to kerouac

sweet jack  
holy searching drunk  
our blessed poet monk who thunk up  
this universe  
under train yard lights  
floating cork secrets  
divine new york subway wine  
uptown & skid row flats  
sweet jack-who penned it down  
two octaves, one breath  
of glimmering sad saxophone  
sunset tin cans  
circling chimney stack  
smoke of being  
how you shivered  
and smiled  
lovestruck  
this god bless  
america so real  
i can't hardly sleep

—Bob DeMorro '89 (ENG), '91 M.B.A.  
Bob DeMorro is a sales representative of air  
distribution products. He lives in Bolton, Conn.

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Peter Morenus

A moment of contemplation and study on an autumn afternoon near Mirror Lake.



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