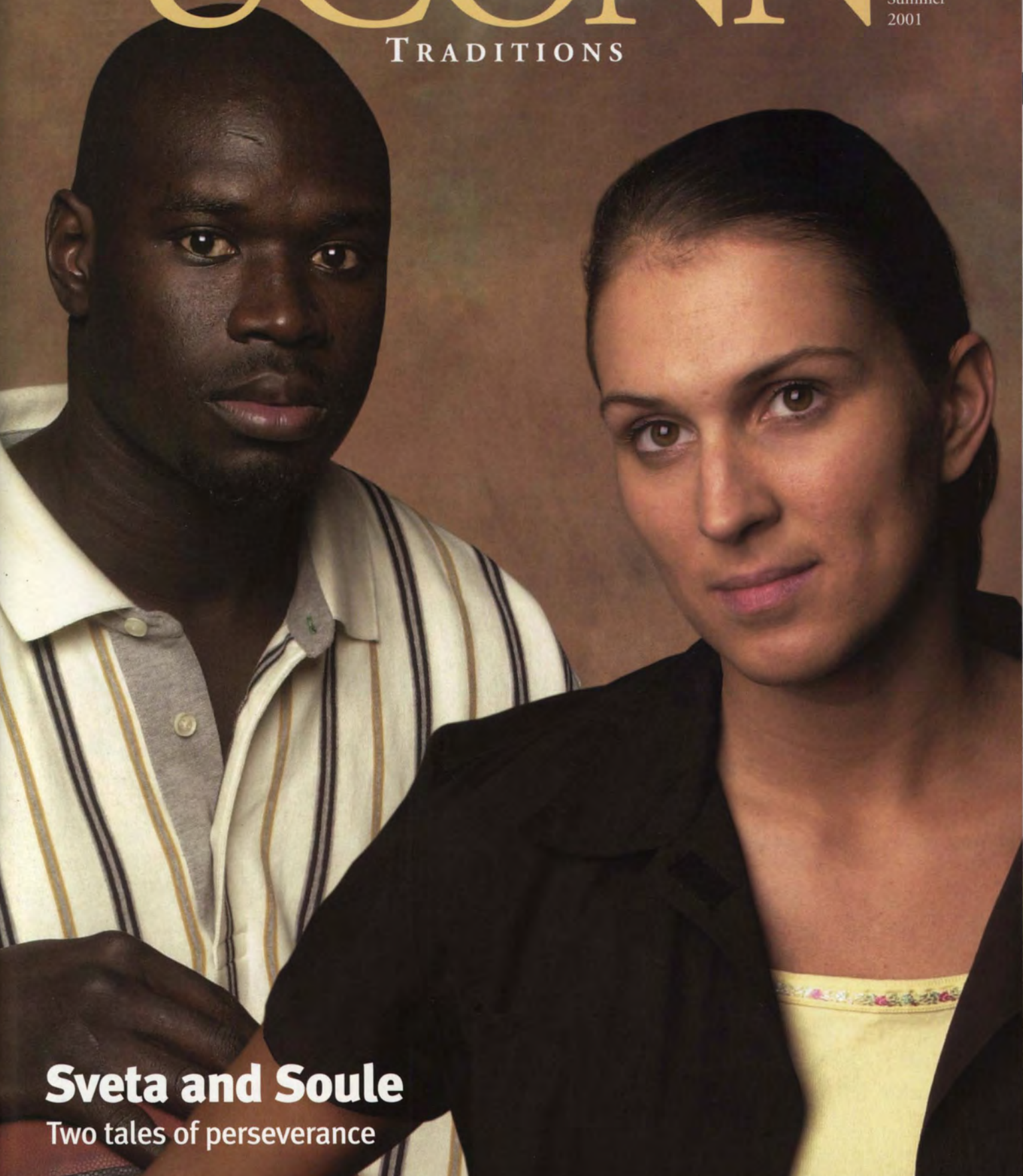


UConn

Summer
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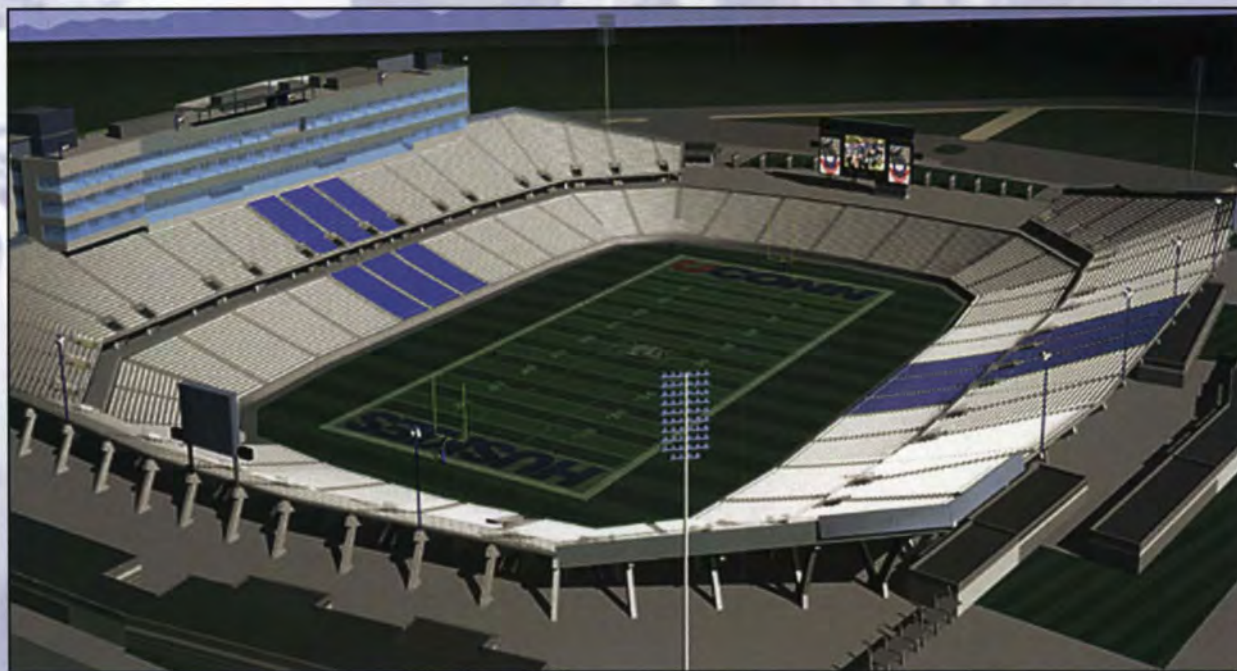
TRADITIONS



Sveta and Soule

Two tales of perseverance

SHOW YOUR HUSKY PRIDE



UConn football is a whole new ball game. Coach Randy Edsall and the Huskies are preparing for their second year of Division I competition. This is college football action at its best, and you can see it only here. Season tickets are very affordable – just \$60 for adults and \$30 for the kids.

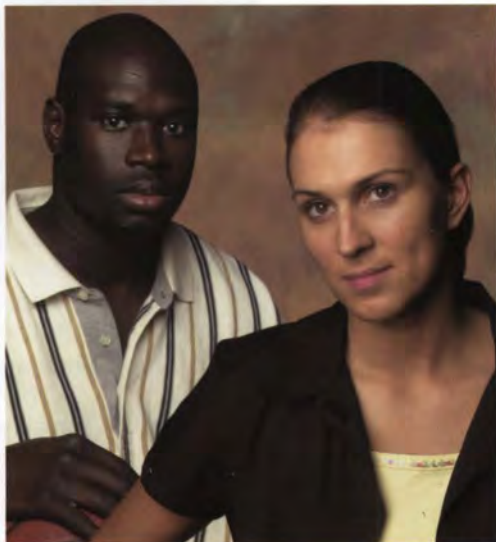
It's time to start making plans for five super Saturdays in Storrs. Plus, a season ticket now gives you priority when UConn begins play at Rentschler Field in 2003. Call now to join the fun and show your Husky pride.

2001 HOME SCHEDULE

September 8	Eastern Washington
September 22	Buffalo
October 6	Eastern Michigan
October 27	Ball State
November 10	Utah State

The logo for the UConn Club, featuring a stylized 'U' with a grid pattern inside, followed by the text "UConn Club" in a bold, sans-serif font.

Call 1-877-AT-UCONN, or
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A Message from the Editor

TWO APPEALS, ONE CHANGE

After each issue of UConn Traditions is published, we often receive comments, suggestions and, yes, criticism from our readers as to how we're doing. Now, I'd like to ask you, our readers, to assist us on two projects—one serious, one frivolous—that we hope to bring to fruition within the next year.

First, the serious request. December of this year marks the 60th anniversary of the United States' entry into World War II. To salute the UConn alumni, faculty and staff who served their country, we hope to publish a photo essay about life at UConn during the war. Consequently, we're looking for photographs from that era. If you have any such images and are willing to share them, please send them to the address printed below. We will return any images that are sent to us.



On the frivolous side, we're looking for photographs of alumni license plates that demonstrate their owner's allegiance to their alma mater.

We're especially interested in license plates from outside Connecticut because it might be fun to see how UConn alumni show their school spirit out there where the Tar Heels, Wolverines, Fighting Illini, Crimson Tide, Blue Devils and all the others live. Nevertheless, we still want to hear from Husky fans in the Nutmeg State as well. So if you show your Husky spirit through your license plate, no

matter where you live, please send us a close-up photo. We hope to reproduce the license plates in a future issue. Please send your photos, along with a return address, to *UConn Traditions*, University Communications, 1266 Storrs Road, Unit 4144, Storrs, CT 06269-4144.

We have made a slight change to the "Schools and Colleges News" section of *UConn Traditions* by adding news from the College of Continuing Studies and a second news brief from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. To make room for this, we have eliminated the Announcements page from the section. We apologize for any inconvenience that might cause. — Gary E. Frank



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Gary E. Frank

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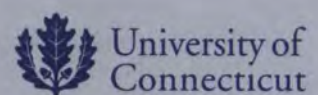
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Want to keep up with news and events at the University? News releases, upcoming events and activities are posted on the World Wide Web at www.uconn.edu.



President

Even as UConn progresses, significant challenges remain

A little more than a year ago, I wrote in the inaugural issue of *UConn Traditions* that the magazine is a good metaphor for the transformation taking place at the University of Connecticut. Both the magazine and the institution, I said, subscribe to underlying values of quality and community that have served UConn well for 120 years. But, also like the magazine, the University at this moment in its history is undertaking profound changes—all of them designed to bring us from the status of the best public institution in New England to a position of national leadership among public universities.

After another successful academic year, it is tempting to say simply that the University's progress continues virtually unabated. The physical evidence is incontrovertible: the recently dedicated Agriculture-Biotechnology building; the new School of Business building, soon

"A sense of rising expectation is now woven inextricably into UConn's culture . . ."

to open its doors; new student residence halls and apartments at Hilltop, scheduled to house about 1,400 students this fall; the Marine Sciences and Technology Center at Avery Point, slated for dedication this September; plans under way for a new downtown campus in Waterbury—and this is just a partial list. The quality, rigor and consequently, the national reputation of our academic program continue to grow. The recruitment of outstanding new faculty, including several internationally recognized scholars named to



Peter Morenus

President Philip E. Austin addresses the class of 2001 during the University's 118th commencement ceremonies held in Gampel Pavilion in May.

endowed chairs, enhances our standing as a center of excellence in research and creative endeavor. As both the result of our forward movement and a contributing factor to it, enrollment is growing in size, strength and diversity—a trend that began roughly at the time UCONN 2000 was adopted and will continue this September.

A sense of rising expectation is now woven inextricably into UConn's culture, following the pattern set by our athletic program beginning in the early 1990s. We are not yet where we want to be in terms of automatic inclusion in the list of top American public universities. However, no one now questions—as some did question just a few years ago—that membership in that select company is a realistic goal. Additional private support is an essential precondition, but even there we have every

reason to believe that the \$300 million goal we set for the campaign is, if anything, overly modest. Most of the other key elements are well in place.

Significant challenges remain, of course. The State of Connecticut has yet to complement the farsighted commitment embodied in UCONN 2000 with operating support appropriate to our needs, let alone our aspirations. The town that is home to our main campus has a long way to go before it becomes as culturally and socially exciting as many students would like a college town to be. As our reputation for excellence grows, so does student demand—a happy situation for any university—but at times a vexing one

as we race to meet needs for housing and academic course selection.

The support of UConn alumni is a vital resource as we meet these challenges and, more fundamentally, as we maintain our movement toward what are now the University's consensus goals. I urge you to continue to look closely at what is happening at your alma mater, to become or stay more involved, to offer advice, to support our capital campaign, to visit frequently, and to help us realize this institution's capacity to make a growing contribution to our students, our state and our society.

Philip Austin

Voting with their feet

A response to "From the President: Reversing Connecticut's 'brain drain.'" [*UConn Traditions*, Spring '01] Perhaps it is a matter of perspective—however, the cause and the solution appear obvious to me. A number of years ago [Connecticut] gubernatorial candidate Julie Belaga made a statement, "The rich vote with their feet," [which is] an accurate and perceptive assessment of reality that also has further implications. It applies not only to "the rich" but also to business. High levels of taxation and regulation create an onerous climate. Corporations have no links to any location.

A fact to consider: Connecticut has lost another congressional seat in the 2001 reapportionment. Florida has gained two seats and will continue to gain.

Matthew K. Garvey '55 (BUS)

Nasbah Hunter

I just had to write and tell you how much my wife and I enjoyed that wonderful photograph of Nasbah Hunter taken by John Craig and shown in the [Spring '01] *UConn Traditions*.

The photograph of that grandmother is totally fascinating, and John Craig obviously has the skill to "catch" her at just the right moment. It is a photograph to be cherished.

Seward E. Beacom '54 Ph.D.

Diversity Programs

I received my spring issue of *UConn Traditions* and felt it was important to write you regarding the article on diversity programs at UConn. As the editor of a quarterly journal that focuses on diversity and as an alumna ('79), I was disappointed that the article talked only about the GE investment and e-initiatives

Letters to the editor

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

UConn Traditions
1266 Storrs Road, Unit 4144
Storrs, CT 06269-4144

E-mail: uconntraditions@uconn.edu

and literally said nothing about the plans for diversity programs.

It is a sad state of affairs for institutions and corporations that receive funding for this important work and then don't seem to know what to do with the resources or are oblivious to the value of communicating how such resources will be allocated. What are the plans for applying these resources for UConn diversity programs?

Wendy Conklin '79 (CLAS)
Editor, The Diversity Factor

Fond memories

While reading the spring edition of *UConn Traditions*, I saw the picture of the sports memorabilia included in the article "Memorabilia Sought for Husky Heritage Sports Museum."

A bell went off in my mind.

In my garage, I have tacked up on the wall a poster titled "Welcome Cotton Bowl Visitors." I got this my freshman year at UConn from a Texas A&M fan. Anyway, I always had this in my dorm rooms, and there are a lot of handwritten notes written by many of my classmates over four years. Also taped to the poster is a ticket stub from the September 25, 1965 football game, UConn vs. Yale. I was at the game, and it was the first time in many, many years we had beaten Yale.

You have a good magazine. Thanks for bringing back the memories.

Matt Jordan '67 (CLAS)



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Perpetuate a scholarship, fellowship or program by remembering UConn in your will or other estate plans.

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

Commencement '01

More than 4,800 degrees were awarded during the University of Connecticut's 118th commencement in ceremonies at Storrs, Hartford and Farmington.

Speaking at the undergraduate ceremonies, U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige told graduates they were "the salt of the Earth."

"Your knowledge and wisdom to sustain the people of your family and your neighborhood is clearly there," said Paige. "Use the gift you've been given and the light of education to cut through the darkness of ignorance."

More than 3,200 bachelor's degrees were awarded during ceremonies held May 19 at Gampel Pavilion. Honorary degrees were awarded to Shirley Ann Jackson, president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and former head of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; Thomas D. Ritter '77 J.D., former speaker of the Connecticut House of Representatives; Charles H. Thornton, chair of the Thornton-Tomasetti Group; Mary Frances Berry, chair of the United States Commission on Civil Rights; Ray Neag '56 (CLAS), founder and director of Arrow International and namesake of the Neag School of Education; and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Philip Roth.

Speaking at the graduate school ceremonies on May 20, environmentalist Lester R. Brown, founder and chair of the board of the Worldwatch Institute, urged about 1,200 master's and doctoral degree graduates "to work together to build a new economy."

"Most of us," Brown said, "think the environment is part of the economy. In reality, the economy is part of the environment. Unless we understand the need to make this shift, it is difficult to develop an economy that's compatible with the Earth's ecosystem."

Four UConn faculty were honored for their research at the ceremony: Robin Cote, assistant professor of physics; Margaret Gilbert, professor of philosophy; Steven Suib, professor of chemistry; and Peter Turchin, associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology.

At the School of Law, Clare Dalton, a leading feminist legal scholar and a professor at Northeastern University School of Law, told 173 juris doctor and 24 master of law graduates that whatever motivates them to help those in need, they will want to do so when they feel they gain from the experience.

"The reality is that we give more readily when we feel ourselves to be rich, and that giving comes most easily of all when we feel ourselves enriched by the very act of giving," Dalton said.

The schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine awarded degrees to 79 new physicians and 38 new dentists on May 24. Forty-three graduates from the master of public health program and 13 graduates of the master of dental science program also received their degrees.



"Use the gift you've been given . . . to cut through the darkness of ignorance."

— Rod Paige,
U.S. Secretary of Education



(Top) U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige delivers the keynote address at undergraduate commencement ceremonies.

(Above) Graduates process during commencement ceremonies at the School of Law in Hartford.

(Below) Four new UConn grads join together to form a mortar-billboard.



New Ag-Biotech building dedicated

The new Agriculture-Biotechnology building was dedicated in April. Those in attendance included (Inset, from left to right) President Philip E. Austin; Shirley Ferris, commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture; Kirklyn Kerr, dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources; and U.S. Representative Rosa DeLauro. The building is one of the latest projects to be completed in the sixth year of UCONN 2000, the 10-year, \$1 billion capital improvement initiative.



Husky House rises in Willimantic

A corp of volunteers including students, faculty, staff and alumni recently came together for the Husky House Project, an effort to build a home for a needy family in Willimantic, Conn. The project was proposed by the UConn student chapter of Habitat for Humanity. (Below) Harold Furr, associate professor of nutritional sciences and advisor to the UConn chapter, at work with Miriam Lee '03 (CLAS), chapter vice president.



Morty Ortega Jr.

Fall 2001 designated Human Rights Semester

To underscore the importance of human rights and ensure that members of the UConn community are informed about and engaged in this critical topic, Chancellor John D. Petersen has designated the fall 2001 semester a Human Rights Semester. Through a series of lectures, programs and conferences, faculty, staff, students and alumni will have the opportunity to learn about and discuss human rights in this country and abroad.

"As an academic community, we have a responsibility to discuss issues that affect those of us on campus, as well as those living in our state, our nation, and our world," says Petersen. "Human rights is one of those issues that must be discussed in an open forum, whether the topic is racial discrimination, voting rights, or wartime atrocities."

The Human Rights Semester will kick off September 20 with a lecture on human rights and the culture wars by Rhoda Howard Hassman, Gladstein Visiting Professor of Human Rights at UConn and sociology professor at McMaster University in Canada. Other scheduled events include a comparative human rights conference under the auspices of the UConn-ANC Partnership on Education for Human Rights; an exhibit at the William Benton Museum of Art by Polish sculptor Magdalena Abakanowicz; and lectures by Lani Guinier, whose nomination for assistant attorney general was withdrawn by President Bill Clinton after critics attacked her positions on affirmative action and voting rights; and Randall Robinson, the author of *The Debt: What America Owes to Blacks*. (For a complete list of Human Rights Semester events, go to www.humanrights.uconn.edu.)

BioBlitz sets new record for finding species in urban parks

For the third consecutive year, scientists from UConn joined their counterparts from Yale University, the U.S. Forest Service and other schools and agencies to conduct BioBlitz, an attempt to show the array of biological diversity found in some of Connecticut's urban parks.

This year, BioBlitz, which was organized by the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History at UConn, visited Tarrywile Park in Danbury, where 2,519 species of plants and animals were collected and identified, shattering the record set in 2000. More than 1,000 species identified during the 24-hour event were insects, and 568 were plants. Only 19 mammals were listed. Among the rare finds were an American ginseng plant; a bluegill-pumpkin fish hybrid; and a breeding population of tiger spiketails, a dragonfly that can be found in only two other places in the state.

"We're starting to hear the word *biodiversity* a lot more, but it's always with the rain forests, the tropical areas," says Ellen Censky, director of the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History. "This was a great way to show people that there's lots of diversity in their backyards."

UConn held its first BioBlitz at Keeney Park in Hartford, in 1999. BioBlitz moved to Meriden's Hubbard Park last year. This year's event will be featured in a National Geographic documentary that will air on CNBC on August 5 at 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.



The News Times/David Harple

David Wagner, associate professor of biology and evolutionary biology and leader of the moth team at the 2001 BioBlitz in Danbury's Tarrywile Park, looks for a new species to add to his count with the help of a mercury vapor light.



BUSINESS SCHOOL HONORS 2001 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

The School of Business honored the 2001 inductees to its alumni and student halls of fame at a gala held in May in the Rome Commons Ballroom, South Campus. The honorees are

ALUMNI

Keith Fox '80 (BUS)
vice president of worldwide corporate marketing, Cisco Systems

Patrick Harris '70 (BUS)
chief operating officer, Los Angeles Urban League

Janet M. Hansen '78 M.B.A.
president and chief executive officer, BHC Company

David A. Gang '81 (BUS)
senior vice president, America Online, Inc., and executive vice president of iPlanet™ E-Commerce Solutions

John Kim '87 M.B.A.
president and chief executive officer, BondBook LLC.

STUDENTS

Paul Alaimo '01 M.B.A.

David C. Baldrige, Ph.D. candidate

John M. Denson, Jr. '01 M.B.A.

Lyn A. Fox '02 M.B.A.

Matthew B. Galligan, Jr. '02 (BUS)

Sidney M. Wang '01 M.B.A.

James J. Moravec '01 M.B.A.

David A. Vining '01 M.S.

Men's NCAA soccer title leads 2000-01 Husky sports campaign

For the third consecutive academic year, the ongoing success story of intercollegiate athletics at the University of Connecticut was highlighted by the crowning of a national champion as the UConn men's soccer team won the 2000 NCAA Division I National Championship (See *UConn Traditions*, Spring '01).

UConn's 24 intercollegiate programs compiled an overall record of 276-180-9 (60.3 percent) during 2000-01. The 13 women's programs were 166-93-2 (64 percent) and the 11 men's programs were 110-87-7 (55.6 percent).

In addition to the national championship for the UConn men's soccer team, in 2000-01 four other Husky teams earned berths in NCAA championship tournament play. UConn women's basketball followed its 1999-2000 national championship season by earning a second consecutive berth in the NCAA Final Four. UConn's women's soccer and field hockey teams each advanced to the NCAA Elite Eight. The UConn softball team advanced to the NCAA Championship Tournament.

Connecticut won Big East regular season titles in four sports—women's basketball, field hockey, men's soccer, women's soccer—and added Big East tournament titles in three sports—women's basketball, field hockey, and softball. UConn's men's track and field team won both the New England Indoor (eighth consecutive year) and Outdoor championships (second consecutive year), and the Husky women's track and field squad won both the New England Indoor (second consecutive year) and Outdoor championships. Women's track and field had a spotless 20-0 record in dual meet competition for the entire academic year (9-0 indoors, 11-0 outdoors).

The 2000-01 winter season saw the UConn women's basketball team continue its unprecedented dominance of the Big East Conference, winning both the regular season and tournament titles for an unprecedented eighth consecutive year. UConn earned its 13th consecutive NCAA berth, and the Huskies advanced to the Final Four for the second straight year. The UConn men's basketball team, which recorded the program's 10th 20-win season in the past 12 years, was invited to the National Invitational Tournament. It marked the 14th consecutive year the program earned a national post-season tournament berth.

In the 2000-01 winter season, UConn women's ice hockey became the 24th intercollegiate varsity sport. The Huskies will officially join the ECAC Women's Ice Hockey League during the 2001-02 academic year.

The UConn men's ice hockey team earned a berth in the quarterfinal round of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Tournament.

The UConn softball team used a 22-game regular season winning streak to serve as a catalyst entering post-season competition. UConn won the Big East Conference Tournament in three consecutive games en route to claiming an NCAA Championship Tournament berth.

During the 2001 spring season, Andy Baylock recorded his 500th victory as head coach of the UConn baseball program. Baylock has served as head coach of the Huskies for the past 22 seasons, posting 504 wins.



Members of UConn's 2000 NCAA title-winning men's soccer team pose with their trophy just one more time after commencement in May.



UConn's Tamika Toppin set school and Big East records in the high jump, both indoors and outdoors. A four-time All-American, Toppin won 12 Big East, New England and ECAC high jump titles.

Pitcher Barb Cook '03 (CLAS) urges on her teammates on the UConn softball team. Cook was named Big East Most Outstanding Player in leading the Huskies to a 35-21 regular season record and a berth in the NCAA tournament.

For a complete rundown on the 2000-01 Husky sports year, consult www.uconnhuskies.com, the official Web site for University of Connecticut athletics.



Bob Stowell

Reaching the next level of excellence

Campaign UConn to raise \$300 million by 2004

The University of Connecticut has launched the most ambitious private fund-raising campaign ever conducted by a public university in New England—Campaign UConn. The goal is to raise \$300 million in private funds for endowments, scholarships and programmatic enhancements by 2004.

In preliminary campaign work under way since 1998, the University has raised \$150.2 million. Campaign UConn intends to increase annual private giving from the \$20 million level of 1998 to \$70 million a year by 2004. All campuses and professional schools are included in the campaign.

“Perception is now a reality—UConn is a place where great things are happening,” President Philip E. Austin said during the campaign kick-off event on the plaza of the Homer Babbidge Library. With the facilities upgrades to UConn campuses since the UCONN 2000 capital improvement program passed the General Assembly in 1995 and the private funds that will be raised through Campaign UConn, the University will be “a model for public higher education in the 21st century,” Austin said.

Recognized as the premier public university in New England, UConn has set its sights on becoming one of the top 25 public universities in the nation, joining the ranks of institutions such as the University of California at Berkeley and the universities of Michigan, Virginia, and Wisconsin. All these institutions have major private fund-raising programs to supplement public funding. (State support accounts for less than half of the University’s budget.)

Of the \$300 million raised in Campaign UConn, half will go toward



President Philip E. Austin announces the \$300 million goal of Campaign UConn, with the assistance of Board of Trustees Chairman Roger Gelfenbein '65 (BUS), Ray Neag '57 (ED), Denis J. Nayden '76 (CLAS), '77 M.B.A., chair of the Steering Committee for Campaign UConn.

“Perception is now a reality—UConn is a place where great things are happening.”

the University’s endowment and half toward programs and facilities. About \$75 million will be directed to endowed faculty chairs and professorships. In all, the campaign seeks to triple the number of endowed faculty positions at UConn. Currently, there are 47 endowed chairs and 12 endowed professorships.

Another \$75 million will be designated for student scholarships and the Honors Program. Half the goal will be directed toward enhancing undergraduate and graduate programs and improving facilities that are ineligible for UCONN 2000 building funds.

UConn’s current total endowment is approximately \$210 million, up from \$50 million six years ago.

Besides providing facilities funding, the state’s matching endowment grant program encourages private support for UConn by matching private donations to the endowment. The current match is 1:2, or one state dollar for every two eligible private dollars.

“I get [asked] all the time, why does UConn need private fund raising,” says Denis J. Nayden '76, '77 M.B.A., chairman and chief executive officer of GE Capital and chair of the Steering Committee for Campaign UConn. The answer, he says, is “to raise the extra money to take the University to the next level of excellence.”

— Cindy Weiss

Alumni House expansion to include hall of excellence, sports museum

A 12,000-square-foot expansion to the Centennial Alumni House will double its size and add a new sports museum, an alumni hall of excellence, and an alumni library. Work is expected to be completed by Homecoming weekend in October.

The three-story addition, which is being built into the hill between the existing Alumni House and Greer Field House on the Storrs campus, will be a symbol of the expanding role of the UConn Alumni Association, says John Feudo, executive director of the Association.

He says plans for the addition began with the development of the Association's strategic plan nearly two years ago. The addition is being built with private funding as part of the University's Campaign UConn.

"The Alumni House is a short distance from the Lodewick Visitors Center at the new entrance to campus," Feudo says. "The expansion of the house represents an evolution of both the purpose of the building and the mission of the association: to serve the needs of all members of our community. We want to engage as many alumni as possible in the life of our University."

The expansion will include the J. Robert Donnelly Husky Heritage Sports Museum, named for the former UConn sports legend in football and basketball, who is now a successful attorney. Donnelly, who graduated in 1941, established endowments for sports scholarships and received the Red O'Neill Award, an honor given annually to a UConn graduate who has moved from intercollegiate athletics to a distinguished career.

The museum will feature photos, videos, plaques, banners, uniforms and

other memorabilia, including NCAA national championship trophies of the men's and women's basketball teams and the men's soccer team.

The entryway to the addition will be an alumni hall of excellence to com-

The existing Alumni House is also being renovated, including expansion of the large reception room on the ground floor. "We have more than 400 events a year going on at the house now," Feudo says. "When the house opened in 1989,



Construction on the addition to the Centennial Alumni House is expected to be completed by October.

Peter Morenus

memorate alumni volunteers, award winners, association presidents, and others who represent a history of excellence in supporting the Association and the University, Feudo says.

An alumni library will feature books written by alumni and faculty. Computers will enable alumni to log on to University and association Web sites, career information sites and other UConn resources.

The building project will also include alumni staff offices, meeting rooms, and space for conferences and activities of groups and organizations from the University community.

it was rarely used except for Alumni Association meetings. But we know that there is a need to provide space for even more activities than we are currently able to accommodate."

Feudo estimates that housing the sports museum in the addition may bring 50,000 visitors to the Alumni House each year. "This is definitely a way to enhance Alumni Association membership, services, and products and is indicative of our great partnership with athletics," he says.

— Karen Grava '73 (CLAS)

The renewal of a UConn tradition

The Connecticut Museum of Natural History harks back to the University's early days

The relocation of the Connecticut State Museum of Natural

History on the Storrs campus marks the renewal of a tradition that dates to the earliest days of the University.

The first Museum of Natural History began with specimens collected by Benjamin F. Koons and other faculty members. Hired to teach natural history when the Storrs Agricultural School opened in 1881, Koons became principal two years later. In 1893, when the school became a college, his title changed to president. When Koons stepped down as president in 1898, he was appointed curator of the Natural History Museum and was promised funds and facilities for developing collections.

The specimens were kept in the Old Main Building, which stood on what is now a grassy field between Beach Hall and the former Waring Chemistry Building. One room was devoted to the display of mounted birds, animals, skeletons, rocks and minerals enclosed in glass cases. The center of the room held an enclosed cabinet so large that a person could enter it and arrange the exhibits.

The late James H. Barnett, emeritus professor of sociology, wrote in 1980 that Koons "maintained a lifelong interest in nature and was immensely fond of the landscape of the local area."

Barnett also noted that Koons began a wild garden on the piece of land just



(Left) A glass case contains a collection of specimens in the Natural History Museum in the Old Main Building, circa 1900. (Below) Current exhibits in the new museum.



Shannon McAvoy

behind the Storrs Congregational Church. On the edge of the garden, there is a large granite boulder on which graduates of Connecticut Agricultural College placed a bronze tablet. It is dedicated to Koons, who is described as "Instructor at Storrs" and "First President of the College." It might also read "First Curator of the Natural History Museum."

In the mid-1980s, Carl W. Rettenmeyer, now an emeritus professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, recognized that the museum's scattered collections could be a great asset to the University beyond their continued use supplementing classroom and laboratory

teaching. He gathered support from faculty, students and staff and successfully made a case to the Board of Trustees for a new museum. In 1985, the museum received the support of the General Assembly, which renamed it the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History. During his term as museum director, Rettenmeyer more than doubled the number of display materials.

Ellen Censky, a world-renowned expert on reptiles, was named museum director in 1998. Today, plans are under way to bring all exhibits and offices together into the former horticultural storage building on Hillside Road in Storrs.

In January 2001, Phase I of renovations was completed, and the museum opened one small exhibit area. The second phase of renovation will include a three-story addition that will provide the museum with a new entrance and an orientation area. The second and third floors of the current building will also be renovated. The second floor will be devoted to exhibits that explore the natural world of southern New England, and the third floor will house an expanded Discovery Center where visitors may engage in self-guided learning experiences meant to enhance the permanent exhibits.

The latest incarnation of the museum is worth celebrating, but it also celebrates a tradition that goes back nearly 116 years. — *Mark J. Roy '74 (CLAS)*

School of Business

New home for School of Business to be dedicated

Dedication ceremonies for the new home of the UConn School of Business will be held on October 26 at 3:30 p.m. The ceremonies will take place in front of the new building, which is located on Hillside Avenue on the main campus, across from Gampel Pavilion.

The new, four-story, 100,000-square-foot facility, which is scheduled to open for the fall semester, will house the school's five departments—accounting, finance, management, marketing, and operations and information management. The facility will also serve as the linchpin in the delivery of long-distance learning to the University's regional campuses. It will be wired for Internet and networking capabilities from any room and any seat.

"Quality has long been the hallmark of our academic and research programs," says Dean Thomas Gutteridge. "Thanks to UCONN 2000, we will now have a physical facility in Storrs, fully connected to our regional campuses, that reflects this quality and provides the technological environment to help us reach the next level of excellence."

The new building will not only add to the school's reputation as one of the top technology-oriented business schools in the country, says Gutteridge, but also enhance its ability to transfer "the fruits of its knowledge and research to the business community."

Once completed, the building will have two atria, offering abundant natural lighting. The first and second floors will house classrooms, and faculty and administrative offices will be located on the third and fourth floors. The facility will include a café-commons area, a 40-seat boardroom and a spacious courtyard.

A reception and tours of the building will begin immediately following the dedication. Alumni and guests attending the dedication are invited to make a weekend of their visit to campus, which coincides with Homecoming. A breakfast for School of Business alumni is planned for Saturday morning. A limited number of rooms are available for the weekend in the newly opened Nathan Hale Inn, adjacent to South Campus. For information on the dedication and other related activities, call Campus Events at (860) 486-1001.

School of Medicine

George A. Kuchel named to chair in geriatrics

George A. Kuchel, M.D. has been named to the Travelers Chair in Geriatrics and Gerontology at the UConn Health Center as well as head of UConn's Center on Aging and director of the Division of Geriatric Medicine.

Kuchel comes to the Health Center from McGill University in Montreal, where he was an associate professor in the Department of Medicine and director of the Division of Geriatric Medicine at McGill University Health Center.

Kuchel says a number of factors made the Health Center position attractive. "The UConn Center on Aging already holds one of the strongest groups of geriatricians and gerontologists in the country," he says.

He cites a number of Center on Aging research initiatives, including those on osteoporosis, hormone replacement therapy, health outcomes research and the genetics of aging. He says other areas of strength at the University, with possibilities for expanded collaborative research, include strong basic science departments, physical therapy, occupational therapy, allied health sciences and social work.

Kuchel is a graduate of McGill Medical School, where he also trained in internal medicine. He completed a geriatric fellowship at Beth Israel Hospital and the Division on Aging at Harvard Medical School, followed by post-doctoral research training at Harvard and Mount Sinai School of Medicine. He is a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in internal medicine and geriatrics.

The elderly, particularly those older than 85, face a variety of health conditions that can lead to a loss of independence and autonomy, accompanied by increased care needs. These conditions include dementia (Alzheimer's disease), resulting in decreased cognitive function; deficits in balance and mobility, which can result in falls and fractures; and loss of continence, with its significant impact on quality of life.

"It is a wonderful time to be in this field," Kuchel says. "Although we care for the elderly, geriatric medicine is a young field—little more than 20 years old. We've just barely begun to define the questions," he says. "Yet, as we start to tackle well-defined questions using exciting new research methodologies, the answers will follow."



George A. Kuchel, M.D.

School of Nursing

Nursing partners with Yale on health care relationship study

The clinician-patient relationship is the focus of a study being conducted by researchers at the School of Nursing and colleagues at Yale University. The study is funded by a \$2.8 million grant from the Patrick and Catherine Weldon Donaghue Medical Research Foundation.

The partnership is focused initially on how these relationships affect adherence, or how well patients follow instructions about such matters as taking medication and making lifestyle changes.

Regina Cusson, a professor of nursing at UConn, is the program's site director at UConn. "The focus of research is usually on trying to find a cure for illness," she says. "We are now looking at a shift toward helping people live with chronic disease or—better still—helping people stay well. That broadens the scope of what you must examine."

Donaghue trustee Raymond S. Andrews notes that "The human aspect of health care is a critical aspect that isn't getting as much rigorous scientific attention as we'd like to see.

If we could systematically dissect these relationships, we might find the key to better care."

Clinician-patient relationships are hard to quantify with traditional research methods. But the UConn-Yale program is designed to delve into this nontraditional area without sacrificing scientific rigor.

"One of the reasons that the relational aspects of care are so little studied is that it is easier to look at outcomes associated with defined interventions," says Judy Krauss, a professor of nursing who will serve as Yale's site director for the project.

"Seeking to understand the process of care, in the context of the health care relationship, however, may well illuminate important pathways to desired outcomes," Krauss adds.

Project director Sally Cohen, an associate professor of nursing at Yale, sees enormous potential for improving health care in understanding its relational aspects. "It's an area we know so little about, and this project will give us the opportunity to take the lead," she says.

The Donaghue Foundation is funding the collaborative program as a prototype, with the possibility that the study of relationships may in the future be expanded beyond the area of adherence.

School of Fine Arts

Jazz sextet tops the score at festival

The UConn Jazz Sextet, directed by assistant professor of music Earl MacDonald, won first place at the Villanova University Jazz Festival in March.

MacDonald, who also is director of jazz studies, says the group's success at the festival has already proven to be a boon for recruiting budding jazz musicians to UConn.

"When we have a great band like this, and it's out there performing, high school students see that and they want to be a part of this program. We've already recruited some fantastic young players who will be here in the fall," says MacDonald, who was pianist and arranger for Maynard Ferguson's band Big Bop Nouveau before coming to UConn.

Schools participating in the festival included Johns Hopkins University, Temple University, Canisius College, Towson University, Grove City College, Lebanon Valley College, Montclair State University, and Central Connecticut State University.

Members of the sextet, all of whom are music or music education majors, are Fran Ieraci '01 (SFA), bass; Matt Janiszewski '04 (SFA), alto sax; Floyd Kellogg '01 (SFA),



Members of The UConn Jazz Sextet rehearsing in a School of Fine Arts practice room.

drums; Mark Obolewicz '02 (SFA), tenor sax; Tom Thorndike '02 (SFA), piano; and Bill Longo '02 (SFA), trumpet.

The sextet performed Wayne Shorter's arrangement of Duke Ellington's "Caravan," Michael Philip Mossman's "The Perpetrator," and Lee Morgan's "Totem Pole," with an arrangement by Longo.

"We were so incredibly pleased to win because there were a lot of great jazz combos at the festival," says Longo. "We felt confident about our performance because we play pretty well together."

In addition, MacDonald arranged to have the rhythm section of the UConn Jazz Ensemble, which also performed at the festival, accompany 80-year-old jazz legend Clark Terry during an afternoon master class on different approaches to improvisation. A trumpet player, Terry is a veteran of the Duke Ellington, Count Basie, and *Tonight Show* orchestras.

"It was neat to hear what a legend thinks of jazz," says Kellogg, who was also recognized as an outstanding soloist at the festival, "especially from someone who helped to define the music."

School of Family Studies

Busy doesn't mean successful

A powerful and individualistic consumer culture is creating a growing trend of "overscheduled kids and unconnected families" according to William J. Doherty '78 Ph.D.

"[Being] busy is equated as successful, and it's hard for individual families to buck the trend," says Doherty. "Parents view parenting as product development and see themselves as competitive providers of services to their children, while children are overscheduled in a frantic pursuit of experiences and opportunities for personal enrichment and advantage over peers."

Doherty, a professor in the Department of Family Social Science, and director of the Marriage and Family Program at the University of Minnesota, made these remarks in a lecture "Family Life 1st: Reclaiming

Family Time from Hyperactivity," presented at the Dodd Center in April as part of the School of Family Studies Barbara Foote Johnson Commemorative Lecture Series.

During his research, Doherty studied the "frenetic pace of family life with children" and discovered that "parents feel that they don't have enough clout to say no to their children" when it comes to the dozens of organized activities available. This frenetic pace has led to a decrease in family rituals, including family dinners, conversations, weekend outings, and family vacations, he says. Busy schedules combined with cultural individualism lead to what Doherty calls "the McDonaldization of family meals" with no conformity of food items or meal times and a typical scenario of a child who returns home from a scheduled activity, puts a frozen burrito in the microwave, and calls it dinner.

A therapist, researcher, scholar, teacher and author, Doherty was instrumental in the development of Family Life 1st, a grass roots democratic movement of citizens in suburban Minneapolis committed to building a community in which family life has first priority. Family Life 1st takes a "no villains" approach and does not put the blame on anyone. Instead, members work with parents, clergy, coaches and other social and educational program leaders to help families achieve balance between internal bonds and external activities.

"Parents have to be responsible for their kids by taking leadership and having balance in their lives," Doherty says.



William J. Doherty

School of Pharmacy

First Pharm.D. graduates receive degrees

Fifty-four students graduated with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Connecticut in May, the first class at UConn to earn the Pharm.D. degree, a new six-year program.

Previously, UConn's future pharmacists completed a five-year bachelor of science degree program in pharmacy that prepared them to sit for the state licensing exam. The last five-year class graduated in 1999.

Students in the expanded program complete two years of pre-pharmacy requirements before admission into the School of Pharmacy for an additional four years.

The new program provides students with a variety of experiential training. During their final year, students are placed in nine different clinical settings, from institutional and community pharmacies, to long-term care facilities and the pharmaceutical industry.

"We are preparing our students for the highest level of pharmacy practice in the nation," says Michael Gerald, dean of the School of Pharmacy. "The people of Connecticut will be served by very well-educated and trained individuals."

The new professional degree program is critical to the 75-year-old school's future, Gerald says. Within a few years, all schools of pharmacy will be required to offer the Doctor of Pharmacy in order to maintain accreditation.

Twenty of this year's graduates have been placed in prestigious post-Pharm.D. residencies and fellowships. "Their success is a real measure of the quality of our program," Gerald says.

UConn pharmacy graduates also find plenty of job opportunities in the field. This year's graduates are being actively recruited for positions in community and hospital pharmacies, clinical placements in hospitals, the pharmaceutical industry and government service.

There is a nationwide shortage of pharmacists likely to exist for the next five to 10 years, Gerald says.

Reasons for the shortage include the growing range of job options for licensed pharmacists, increasing numbers of prescription drugs needed by the nation's aging population, and the rise and expansion of drugstore chains.

"It's not that pharmacy schools around the nation are turning out fewer graduates but rather, that the demand for the graduates is increasing," Gerald says.

He anticipates that by 2005, UConn will graduate 90 new pharmacists each year.



School of Allied Health

Olympic champion addresses women's health conference

For Jackie Joyner Kersee, the road to Olympic glory began with words of encouragement from her mother.

"She helped me believe I could do anything I put my mind to but also told me I had to work hard and be committed to what I wanted to do," said Kersee in her keynote address to the 14th Women's Health Update, "Menses Through Menopause," sponsored by the School of Allied Health at the Artists Collective in Hartford in April.

This year's Women's Health Update focused on preventative health to help women avoid, or cope with, the complications associated with aging, says Cynthia H. Adams, associate dean and director of outreach for the School of Allied Health.

"Baby boomers aren't having babies anymore; we're having hot flashes, and we don't like it," Adams says.

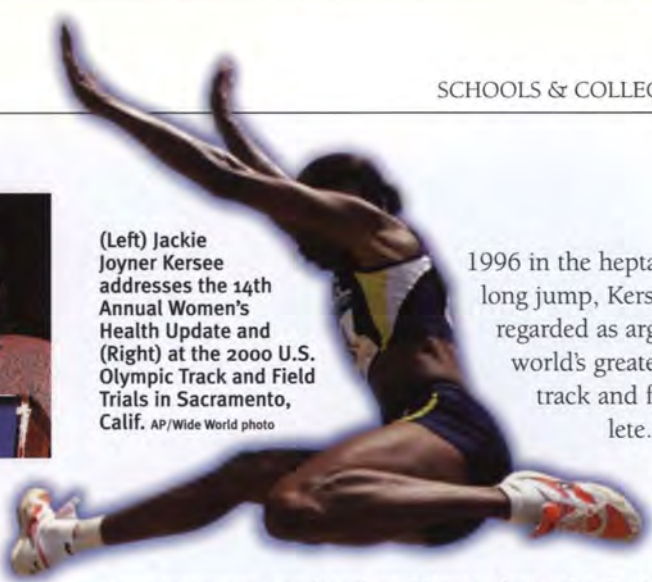
Adams believes the continued success of the Women's Health Updates, which drew more than 300 this year, is because the events "have struck the right balance between education and fun."

After winning six Olympic medals between 1984 and



Peter Morenus

(Left) Jackie Joyner Kersee addresses the 14th Annual Women's Health Update and (Right) at the 2000 U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials in Sacramento, Calif. AP/Wide World photo



1996 in the heptathlon and long jump, Kersee was regarded as arguably the world's greatest female track and field athlete. A 1985 graduate of UCLA, today Kersee is

an entrepreneur and author. Kersee chairs the St. Louis Sports Commission, the first woman and the first African American to hold the post.

Her mother died suddenly of spinal meningitis during Kersee's freshman year at UCLA. A year later, Kersee was diagnosed with allergies and asthma, a condition she denied having to the point of not taking medication and being hospitalized as a consequence.

"Because I was letting asthma control me, the dreams that me and Mom talked about couldn't happen," Kersee said. "You can find a way to conquer—in your own way—things you have control over. Conquering the death of my mom is celebrating her life. Her inspiration is the reason why I'm here."

School of Law

Three new scholarships honor law school alums

Three new scholarships have been created at the School of Law to commemorate notable alumni.

The Bessye W. Bennett Scholarship has been established in honor of the first African American woman admitted to the Connecticut Bar. Bennett, who died last year, graduated from the School of Law School in 1973 and was admitted to the bar the following year. In addition to her law career, Bennett held numerous business and volunteer positions.

The Bennett Scholarship will be awarded to a first-year law student who shares Bennett's commitment to the law and the community. Initial funding of \$75,000 came from the Knox Foundation, where Bennett was president, and her husband, Dr. John H. Bennett, of Bloomfield, Conn.

Another scholarship was established in memory of Charles E. Gooley '78 J.D. At the time of his death last year, Gooley was the president and chief executive officer of Yankee Energy Systems, Inc., a subsidiary of Northeast Utilities. He also served as an assistant attorney general for Connecticut and was a director of the University of Connecticut Foundation.

The scholarship will be awarded to a student whose background and potential personifies Gooley's career. Nine Connecticut law firms, the Connecticut Bar Association Public Utility Section, and Connecticut Light and Power are founding contributors of the initial fund of more than \$60,000.

The I. Milton Widem Scholarship honors a 1955 graduate of the School of Law who was a prominent real estate attorney for more than 45 years. He was chairman of the Real Property Section of the Connecticut Bar and the State Law Revision Committee, and a director of the Connecticut Attorneys Title Insurance Company. He was also a guest lecturer on real property litigation at the School of Law.

The Widem Scholarship, to be awarded with preference to an entering student in the evening division, is initially funded by the Real Property Section of the Connecticut Bar Association and Widem's wife, Selma. It totals more than \$37,500.

All the scholarships are matched under the state's matching endowment grant program. Contributions to the scholarships may be sent to the University of Connecticut Law School Foundation, 45 Elizabeth St., Hartford, CT 06105. For further information, call (860) 570-5428.

School of Social Work

Trustees give go-ahead for Ph.D. in social work

The University Board of Trustees gave unanimous approval to a proposed new Ph.D. program in social work at the School of Social Work. Pending approval by the state Board of Higher Education, it would be the first such program at a public university in New England and one of few in the Northeast.

The program, which could enroll its first students by the fall of 2002, would meet a growing demand for social work scholars, researchers and educators. (The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts the number of employed social workers in the United States will rise to 822,000 by 2008.) These scholars will help the profession develop and test theories of intervention across a broad range of social problems, Dean Kay Davidson says.

"This graduate program is extremely important to the School, to the University and to the state," Davidson says. "The program is a natural complement to scholarly research conducted by the faculty. Graduation of highly skilled

Ph.D.-level social workers is also consistent with the University's mission as a major research institution."

The program will also help alleviate the shortage of Ph.D.-level social workers in Connecticut and elsewhere. "Because there are no social work Ph.D. programs in Connecticut, students must travel to New York City or Boston to earn their degrees," Davidson says.

The program will provide a rigorous education in research methods, social science theories, and theories of intervention and social change. The program will consist of 54 graduate credits, including nine core courses, three electives and 18 credits related to dissertation research. The electives will include courses in other schools such as Allied Health, Business, Family Studies, Law, and Medicine.

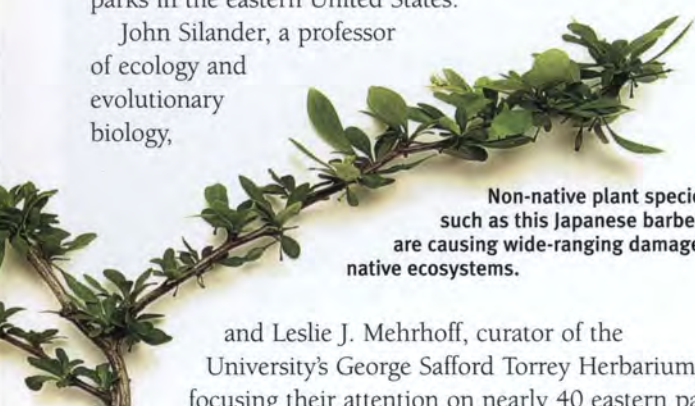
UConn's program will admit five to six students a year and will eventually have more than two dozen students in the program. The Ph.D. candidates will serve as graduate assistants and lecturers in the master's degree program, Davidson says, and the School of Social Work will seek fellowships to provide support for students in the Ph.D. program.

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

UConn scientists combat invasive plants for National Park Service

Researchers from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources have been tapped by the National Park Service in an effort to combat an increasing number of invasive, non-native plants upsetting the ecological balance in national parks in the eastern United States.

John Silander, a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology,



Non-native plant species such as this Japanese barberry are causing wide-ranging damage to native ecosystems.

and Leslie J. Mehrhoff, curator of the University's George Safford Torrey Herbarium, are focusing their attention on nearly 40 eastern parks in New England and south to the Virginias. The agreement is expected to last for a number of years and unfold through a series of phases. Silander and Mehrhoff's efforts received an additional boost of a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to study the impact of invasive plant species in New England.

Non-native plants such as watercress, Norway maple, yellow iris, Japanese barberry and Asiatic bittersweet are

causing wide-ranging damage to native ecosystems. A study published last spring in the journal *Issues in Ecology* notes, that "plant invaders can completely alter the fire regime, nutrient cycling, hydrology, and energy budgets in a native ecosystem; greatly diminish the abundance or survival of native species; and even block navigation or enhance flooding."

A major goal of the project is to help the Park Service learn how to identify and deal with invasive plants. To begin, the two researchers will assist the Park Service in developing a list of plants to watch for and protocols for identifying and dealing with those plants. Through workshops, Silander and Mehrhoff will acquaint park personnel with the plants, assist them in establishing inventories, and help them develop plans for monitoring and remediation.

"Early detection is the future of pest management in the parks," says Wayne Millington, regional integrated pest management coordinator for the Park Service's northeast region. "The Park Service doesn't have enough human resources to do all that is needed, so on an individual level we need to become more effective. That's what this relationship with the University of Connecticut is about."

Students benefit from the relationship as well. Mehrhoff and Silander expect project funding to allow them to employ students in many ways, including internships and assistantships.

School of Engineering

Conquering phobia—virtually

People suffering from paralyzing phobias, such as a fear of flying, will soon have a new treatment option thanks to research being conducted by UConn researchers in partnership with a Connecticut firm specializing in virtual reality (VR) technology. Eugene Santos, associate professor of computer science and engineering, in collaboration with Irving Kirsch, professor of psychology, and Argus VR International, has received a \$150,000 Yankee Ingenuity Technology Competition award for the joint project. It is intended to demonstrate the effectiveness of virtual reality as a tool in treating phobias and other anxiety disorders.

Central to the research is the concept that controlled encounters with the fear-inducing object or experience will allow sufferers to gradually become desensitized to the experience, thereby helping them shed the panic reaction. About four in 10 who have tried the virtual reality therapy program developed at UConn to combat their fear of flying were later able to take airplane flights. Among them was Robin Surwilo, a UConn graduate student from Rocky Hill, Conn., who says she was eager to enroll in the flying phobia program and is thrilled with the results.

"I consider myself 95 percent O.K. with flying," Surwilo says. "Now I feel like I can fly and not freak out."

Researchers have found that people need not be exposed to the real fear-producing object, or even a precise virtual reality facsimile, for the treatment to be effective. As long as the treatment induces a sufficient fear response, it can be a useful therapeutic tool. Santos and his collaborators are seeking to develop custom-designed VR programs to help individuals overcome their specific phobias. During an initial phase, the researchers will conduct clinical trials on a

prototype VR system to determine its strengths and weaknesses. In the second phase, the team will develop a final VR system and conduct extensive trials in preparation for field use.

A living VR laboratory that was inaugurated last November at UConn will serve as the main site for the clinical trials.

Full-scale therapy sessions will be conducted by Kirsch and his students.

About four in 10 people who have tried the virtual reality therapy program developed at UConn to combat their fear of flying were later able to take airplane flights.

Peter Morenus

College of Continuing Studies

College's first year a success

The College of Continuing Studies (CCS) observed its first anniversary in May. Formerly the Division of Extended & Continuing Education, the College has successfully made the transition to an academic unit and established the foundation for a strong future during the past 12 months.



Krista Rodin, dean of the College of Continuing Studies

"During this first year, the college has been in the process of transforming itself as it's shaping the lives of its students," says Krista Rodin, dean of the College of Continuing Studies. "Working together with other units within the University and with other partners, CCS has made significant progress in developing curricula to meet the needs of today's workforce."

To meet the needs of the 21st century learner, the college's Labor Education and Distance Education Centers redesigned UConn's existing Occupational Safety and Health courses for on-line delivery, resulting in a dynamic learning community that includes students from around the country.

The college also established the Workforce Development Institute (WDI), which has connected continuing education administrators statewide and formed an industry council representing more than 20,000 companies. Changing workforce development and human-resource needs in health care led to a collaboration between the college and the School of Allied Health, resulting in a new focus in Allied Health for Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) students. CCS, in collaboration with the School of Business, has also developed a number of successful programs at the Traveler's Education Center in Hartford, designed to meet the learning needs of the corporate community in and around the state's capital city.

CCS has also debuted an international studies program. Cultural Study in Nepal was an overwhelming success, with 22 students enjoying an experiential curriculum that integrated academics, cultural appreciation and outdoor adventure. The trip was so successful that the college is now working with Tribhuvan University, the leading public university in Nepal, on developing a distance education program on cultural studies of the Himalayan region and on a partnership for the Bachelor of General Studies program with Kathmandu University, Nepal's leading private institution. This summer, CCS offered a program of music and cultural study in Cuba. Interdisciplinary programs are also under development for China, India, Honduras and New Zealand.

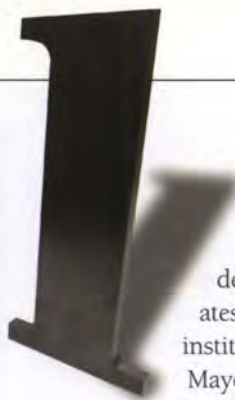
School of Dental Medicine

Dental school ranks No. 1 in national test scores

For the first time, the UConn School of Dental Medicine is ranked the top dental school in the United States, based on students' test scores on the National Board Dental Examinations.

"This is phenomenal," says Dean Peter J. Robinson. "The students in the Class of 2001 ranked first on the national board Part II. They ranked second on Part I. Coupled with their incredible success in the residency placement match, there's no doubt in my mind they are the top graduating dental school class in the nation this year, and we are the top dental school."

The dental program at the Health Center is recognized as one of the country's very best. Nationally, 34 percent of dental graduates enter advanced dentistry programs upon graduation. At UConn, between 75 and 80 percent of dental students usually go on to advanced academic programs. This year, 92 percent will take advanced dental education. Although 54 percent of dental school graduates nationally enter private practice, less than 10 percent of UConn's



graduating class will go immediately into practice.

UConn dental graduates are prized in dental residency circles: Class of 2001 graduates will enter residency programs at teaching institutions including Massachusetts General, the Mayo Clinic, Pittsburgh Medical Center and the University of Washington, among others.

The school's reputation is such that top students from other schools come to UConn for advanced programs. The oral surgery program will include graduates from Harvard and UCLA. Other dental specialties—such as orthodontics, periodontics, endodontics, prosthetics, pediatric dentistry and advanced general dentistry—all received their top picks of residents.

Robinson said that being the nation's top-ranked school was a pleasure but added that the school has been accomplishing its mission in the state for more than a generation.

"We replenish the Connecticut profession with skilled, state-of-the-art practitioners," Robinson says. "More than 50 percent of our graduates stay in Connecticut to practice, making UConn the greatest supplier of new dentists for the state."

Neag School of Education

Former federal education leader comes on board

John MacDonald '60 Ph.D., assistant secretary of elementary and secondary education during the first George Bush administration, is now professor-in-residence at the Neag School of Education.

In his new position, MacDonald's prime goal is to establish a center for educational policy and leadership, that will provide information to schools and government leaders throughout the northeast.

"Jack is a person of incredible integrity and experience who has achieved universal respect in the worlds of politics and education," says Dean Richard Schwab '79 M.A., '80 Ph.D. "By joining us, he's in a position to share his immense experience, knowledge and connections with the next generation of education leaders and with our faculty."

MacDonald says one reason he accepted the position was because "The Neag School of Education has one of the strongest teacher-training programs in the country."



MacDonald's career spans more than four decades. He began as a teacher in the Groton, Conn., public schools, eventually becoming a principal. He served as superintendent of schools in Wallingford, Conn. and in two Massachusetts school districts. In 1986, he was appointed commissioner of education for New Hampshire, serving under governors John Sununu and Judd Gregg. Nearly four years later, he became a principal advisor to the secretary of education on all elementary and secondary education issues.

When the Bush presidency ended, MacDonald was asked to join the Council of Chief State School Officers, a non-partisan advocacy and service organization representing the nation's state education commissioners. On the council's behalf, MacDonald established the State Leadership Center, which provides information and direct technical assistance to school leaders and policymakers in every state.

Now his mission is to work with Sharon Rallis and Mark Shibles, professors of educational leadership, to establish an education policy center at UConn.

"We'll maintain good currency on good practices, but a big part of the center will not just be the paper," MacDonald says. "We'll have the experts who can help implement it."

Professor-in-residence John MacDonald '60 Ph.D.

Peter Morenus

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Alumnus gives \$1.5 million for chair in history

James L. Draper '41 (CLAS) has committed a \$1.5 million endowment gift to establish the James L. and Shirley A. Draper Chair in American History.

"My wife was very interested in history, particularly Colonial history," explains Draper. Shirley Draper '41 (CLAS) served a long tenure as president of the Colebrook (Conn.) Historical Society, and the couple collected antiques and lived in a home built in 1747, the oldest house in Colebrook.

The Drapers met while undergraduates at UConn. After graduating with a degree in economics, Draper saw combat in the U.S. Army during World War II and the Korean War. After 22 years in the Army, Draper acquired a real estate and insurance business in Virginia. A few years later, he co-founded a company that eventually owned and operated 23 radio stations across the country. Shirley Draper, who earned a degree in sociology at UConn, was a high school teacher and guidance counselor for 23 years in Fairfax, Va. and for two years at an American school in Germany.

The Drapers retired to their home state of Connecticut and became enthusiastic supporters of the University, establishing scholarship funds to help needy students and students graduating from high school in Litchfield County, Conn. "We always thought highly of the education we received and had planned to endow a chair in our wills," says Draper. When his wife passed away in October, he decided to honor her memory by carrying out their plan as soon as possible.

Ross D. MacKinnon, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, anticipates appointing a prominent scholar to the new chair by the 2002-03 academic year. "This will provide additional academic leadership that will improve the quality of both our undergraduate and graduate programs in history," MacKinnon says. "This scholar will also enhance the intellectual climate of the entire college, particularly within the humanities."

Professor Altina L. Waller, who chairs the History Department, is excited about the prospects the chair provides. "This gift will enable us to further build on our already excellent program in early American history, which is already one of our strongest programs," she says.



Kurt Haller's work honored with festschrift

After pushing forward the mathematical frontiers in the world of theoretical physics for nearly four decades, Kurt Haller, professor of physics, was recently honored with a Festschrift by the respected journal *Foundations of Physics*, on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

German for "celebration writing," a festschrift is a volume of scholarly articles written by academic peers as a way to acknowledge and pay tribute to the accomplishments of an esteemed colleague.

"This was a great surprise," says Haller, who joined the University in 1964. "I do not claim to be as distinguished as they make me out to be. It's

healthy to remain modest about oneself in research."

Haller's colleagues disagree. "In this instance we filled three issues of the journal," notes Munir Islam, a UConn professor of physics who served as guest editor for the festschrift along with colleagues Gerald Dunne and Philip Mannheim and Professor Larry Horwitz of Tel Aviv University. "We ended up with 28 articles," adds Islam, "which speaks to the fact that so many people in our field respect Kurt, know his work, and were prepared to contribute."

The roster of physicists previously honored with Festschriften by *Foundations of Physics* include a number of Nobel laureates, including Louis-Victor de Broglie, Erwin Schrodinger and Paul Dirac, "people who helped to invent quantum mechanics," says Dunne, referring to the rules that govern the behavior of matter and energy on the smallest scales.

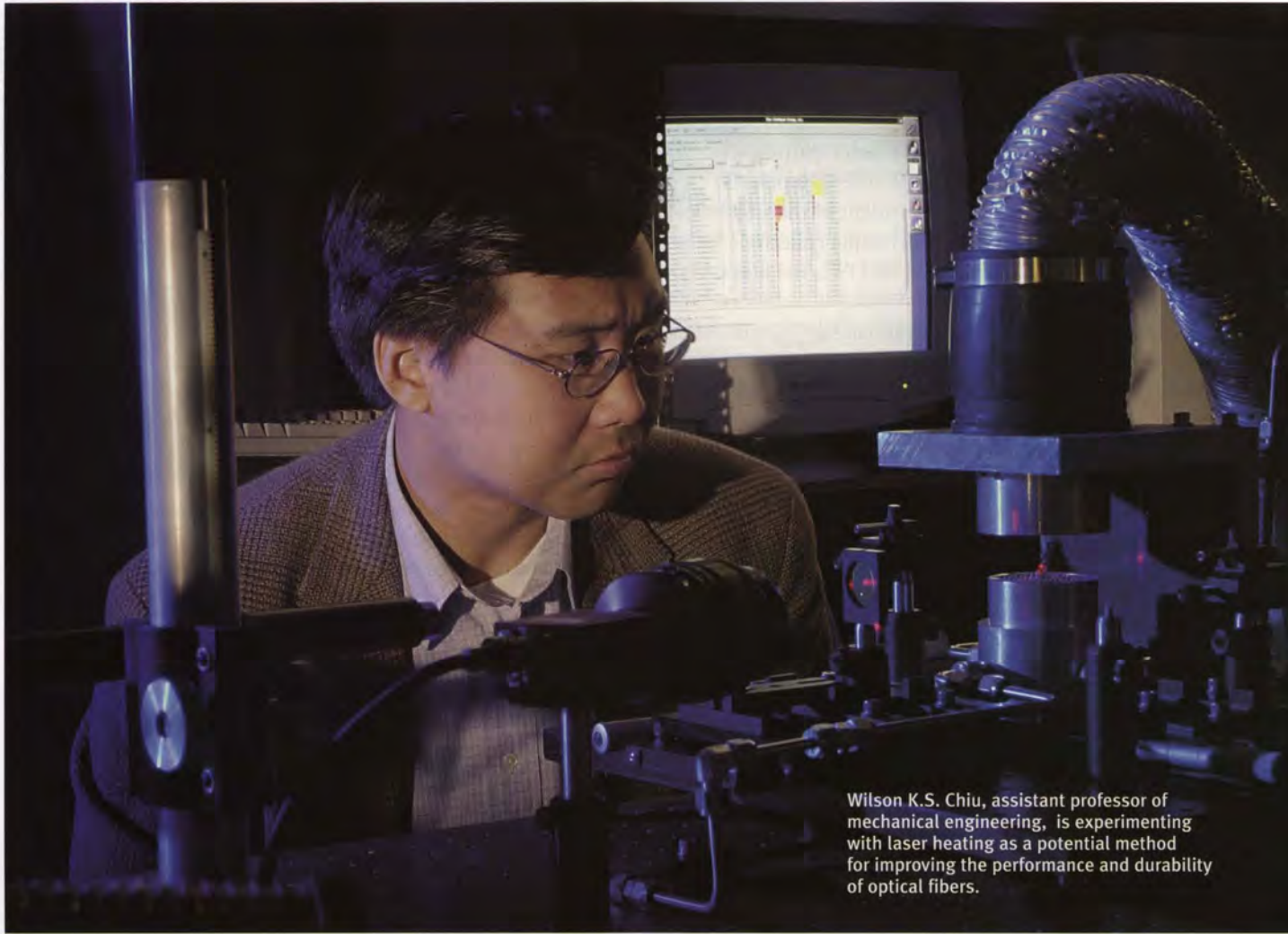
Physicists have developed a theory called the Standard Model that describes the known properties of all matter in the universe and how they interact, or exert forces on one another. The Standard Model is an example of what physicists and mathematicians call a "gauge theory." The study of gauge theories is where Haller has made his most significant contributions.

"The big question," says Dunne, "is whether we can make the transition from theory to practice" and demonstrate that what was shown to be true in theory works in practice as well. "It's one thing to say what a theory is, but Kurt's expertise is to make it work. His gift is to do the extremely difficult mathematical calculations that make the theory work consistently."



Kurt Haller, professor of physics

Shannon McAvoy



Wilson K.S. Chiu, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, is experimenting with laser heating as a potential method for improving the performance and durability of optical fibers.

Guiding light

Wilson K.S. Chiu expands the potential uses of optical fibers

Optical fibers are currently revolutionizing the telecommunications industry, in part because these hair-thin strands of glass transmit dramatically more data than conventional copper wires do. Wilson K.S. Chiu, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, sees their potential being much greater than just telecommunications. Chiu foresees a future in which optical fibers can be used reliably as chemical, bio-

logical, environmental and industrial sensors. They might be inserted into a person's body to determine oxygen level or other elements of blood chemistry, for example, or embedded into a bridge or building structure to gauge whether it is still sound after an earthquake.

"Optical fibers make excellent sensors," explains Chiu, "because light traveling through them is measurably

affected by temperature, pressure, chemical composition, and other variables in their environment. The difficulty, however, is that they also degrade quickly under extreme conditions."

The polymer coatings currently used in telecommunications-grade fibers provide only a limited defense. Chiu's research, for which he recently garnered two prestigious awards, centers on developing new coatings that offer

critical protection and at the same time capitalize on the fiber's significantly improved sensing capability.

Boosting performance and reliability

Chiu's efforts have been recognized in the form of significant grants from the National Science Foundation and the Office of Naval Research. These awards recognize exceptional young scientists and engineers who are considered most likely to become the academic leaders of the 21st century.

The five-year, \$385,000 National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development Award is supporting Chiu's work with coatings made by a process known as chemical vapor deposition (CVD). In CVD, a mixture

of gases interacts with the heated glass fiber, causing the gas molecules to break up, leaving a film of material behind. It's a process that requires precision. The optical fibers themselves are typically 125 microns in diameter—the width of a human hair. The protective coating is thousands of times thinner, consisting of a mere several hundred layers of atoms. By experimenting with different gases and such variables as the temperature and pressure during the deposition process, Chiu hopes to develop a better fundamental understanding of how the protective coating is deposited.

Chiu's work in this area is supported by a Young Investigator Award of \$330,025 from the Office of Naval Research. The project is specifically geared toward improving the performance of optical fibers used in underwater acoustic sensing. Optical fibers can be deployed in the ocean, explains Chiu, to measure sound waves created by a nearby vessel. The sound waves will propagate across the fiber and alter the signal within it. By monitoring the signal, one could track the vessel's position and trajectory. Chiu espouses a two-pronged approach to research, which includes establishing scientific knowledge and developing real-world applications, as illustrated by his projects. Working closely with Lucent

Industries and Sandia National Laboratories and the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Chiu is seeking solutions that are not only grounded in "good science" but also reliable, cost-effective, and repeatable in large-scale laboratory or industrial settings.

Chiu's doctoral dissertation focused on coatings and thin film deposition, and when he came to UConn he leaped at the opportunity to put the two areas of interest together and to integrate them with his teaching. Chiu advises four graduate and several undergraduate students in his Optical Fiber Manufacturing Research Laboratory on the main campus. Under his guidance, the students have designed and constructed laboratory experiments, assembled testing devices, interfaced instruments with computers, and experimented with various kinds of computer modeling software, among other tasks. Chiu's graduate students are building their careers as they complete coursework and work on their thesis projects.

Meanwhile, his undergraduates are able to apply in the lab the concepts they learn in class as they work alongside Chiu and the graduate students.

Although he has received two of the scientific community's most competitive research awards, Chiu continues to regard himself both an educator and a student in the relatively young field of optical fibers, which was pioneered in the 1960s by scientists at Corning and Bell

Laboratories. Chiu says that interacting with the industry's most experienced people has been "awe-inspiring."

"I'm very grateful. I feel fortunate to be where I am today, and it's a humbling experience for me," says Chiu.

— Leslie Virostek

The fibers are the width of a human hair

In a related project, Chiu is experimenting with laser heating as a way to improve fiber performance and durability. "If glass is heated and cooled in a certain way—that is annealed—we can change its properties," says Chiu. "Thus, a laser can be used to anneal the optical fiber to increase its strength, reduce defects, and enhance its sensing performance."

A humbling experience

Chiu earned his master's degree and doctorate from Rutgers University, where he gained experience in optical fiber science through courses and lab work. "During my education, I started to realize that fiber optics is going to be a very important area of growth for our society in the future," he says.



Students



Peter Morenus

Jennifer Darius '01 (SFA) performs at the black tie gala following the formal announcement of Campaign UConn in May.

“I could hear it every week. Her voice would just get better and better.”—Constance Rock

The daughter of Haitian immigrants, Darius was raised in Hampton, Conn. She and her two sisters grew up singing Haitian and French songs. As a child, she took lessons in violin, piano and clarinet but had no special

training in classical music.

Singing has now become her life. “The opportunity to make music is phenomenal,” Darius says. “You learn how to sing in different languages, and the enjoyment of knowing what a particular piece means and being able to express a feeling that somebody else—a poet or composer—is trying to portray in a piece of music is a wonderful opportunity.”

In the spring, Darius received the prestigious Francesco and Hilda Riggio Award at the Metropolitan Opera district auditions in New Haven, Conn. The award is given to encourage and assist a contestant below age 29 who shows great potential. One of the competition’s judges, the executive director of *Opera News*, was so impressed by Darius’ audition he wrote an article about the budding opera talent for the publication’s June issue.

At the auditions, Darius sang “Tu Che di Gel” from Puccini’s *Turandot*, “My Man’s Gone Now” from Gershwin’s *Porgy and Bess*, and “Porgi Amor” from Mozart’s *The Marriage of Figaro*.

“I just wanted to make Connie proud,” says Darius, who will start work on her master’s in music degree at UConn this fall. “She only wants what’s best for her students. She has worked hard to help me through so much. Everything I have done singing-wise, and all my training, I owe to Connie.” — Sherry Fisher

A marvelous instrument

Jennifer Darius sets sights on opera career

When Jennifer Darius '01 (SFA) finished her audition for the University choir five years ago, Peter Bagley knew he had heard something special.

I thought to myself, ‘This is a marvelous instrument,’” recalls Bagley, professor of music and director of choral activities. “It was a very musical sound and a very warm voice, particularly for an incoming freshman. I asked Jennifer if she had studied voice, and she said no.”

Darius had come to UConn to study medicine. Although she had been in the chorus at Windham (Conn.) High School, she had never had a singing lesson. Bagley encouraged her to start. She began to take lessons with Constance Rock, a lecturer in voice and diction at UConn, who would become her mentor and friend. Darius continued studying the sciences.

As time passed, however, Darius had second thoughts about a medical career. “By spring semester of my sophomore year, I knew I wanted to switch my major,” she says.

Rock saw it coming. “I could hear it every week. Her voice would just get better and better,” she says.

Ravenously curious

For Luis Gonzalez, tackling new challenges is second nature

Luis Gonzalez '01 (CLAS) doesn't hesitate when asked about the toughest course he has experienced since arriving at UConn four years ago. It was a graduate level course he took this past spring, Theories of Judicial Decision Making, and it was, Gonzalez says, "killing me."

Tellingly, he says this with a smile. Equally interesting, when asked about his favorite professor at UConn, he quickly says it was David Yalof—a political science professor who also teaches the judicial decision making course.

That his favorite professor is also his toughest says a lot about Gonzalez, a Day of Pride scholar with a 3.9 grade point average as an Honors student. But Gonzalez' life nearly took a detour during his senior year of high school in Madison, Conn. He was breezing along with straight A's, but citing financial and, atypically, academic concerns, Gonzalez decided college wasn't for him. However, guidance counselor Beverly Eisenberg knew what he was capable of.

"She kept hounding me. I'd get notices from her about scholarships, she'd talk to me in the hall, she never let up," Gonzalez says. "One day, she mentioned the Day of Pride scholarship at UConn and asked if she could nominate me. She did, and they chose me. If she hadn't goaded me into it, I wouldn't be here."

That helping hand hasn't been forgotten. Gonzalez has mentored a student at Windham (Conn.) Middle School, continuing weekly visits even after the student left the program. He worked daily for two months last semester in an after-school program in Hartford, designed to help working mothers. He also has volunteered at the Willimantic Food Bank, and was a member of the Economics and Chess clubs at UConn.

Now, says Gonzalez, an economics major who will graduate in December, he knows that coming to UConn is one of the best decisions he ever made.

"I'm a lot better off than I would have been," he says. "I never dreamed I'd see the places I've been to or do the things I've had a chance to do."

And, oh, the places he's been—to Austin, Texas, last summer for an eight-week "economics boot camp," surrounded by graduate students and college seniors studying econometrics, microeconomics, and applied theory and to Washington,

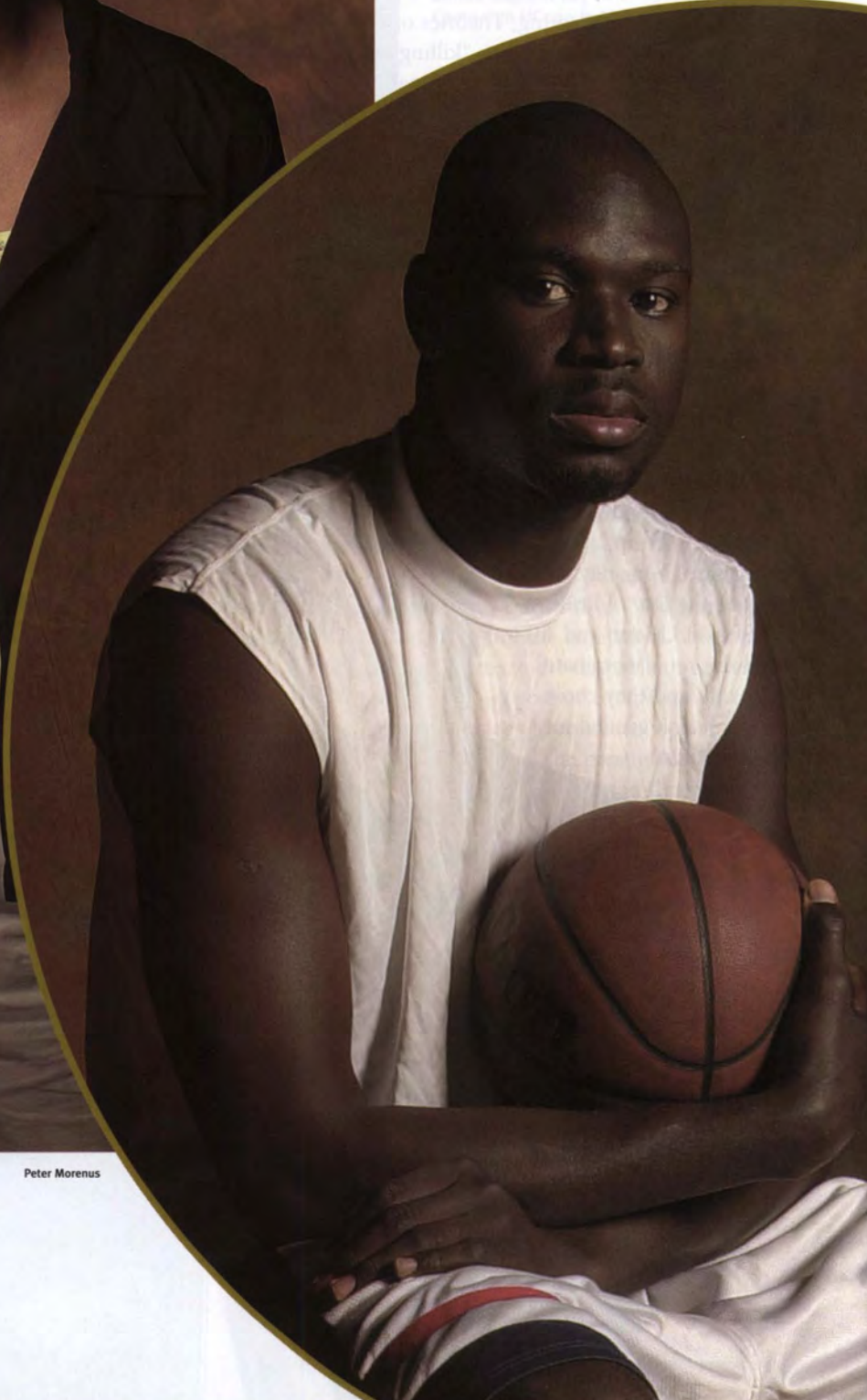
"I never dreamed I'd see the places I've been to or do the things I've had a chance to do."

D.C., last fall as one of only four undergraduate student interns in the country to serve on Senator Joseph Lieberman's staff during the 2000 presidential election. During the spring 2001 semester he served a fellowship with the Federal Reserve Bank in New York—one of seven in the country but, says his academic advisor, Arthur Wright, easily the most important of all the regional federal banks.

"It's the premier federal reserve bank. Luis landed this on his own," says Wright, an economics professor, without a hint of surprise at the feat.

He's a wonderful student to advise," Wright continues. "He's always open to new ideas, challenges and opportunities. He's absolutely ravenous in his curiosity about the world." — Richard Veilleux

TWO TALES OF



Peter Morenus

PERSEVERANCE

LANGUAGE
PROVED NO
BARRIER TO
ACADEMIC SUCCESS
FOR SVETLANA
ABROSIMOVA AND
SOULEYMANE WANE

BY GARY E. FRANK

It's roughly 4,100 and 3,750 miles, respectively, between Storrs, Connecticut and St. Petersburg, Russia, and Dakar, Senegal, although the cultural distances could well be measured in light years. ❖ For Svetlana Abrosimova '01 (BUS) and Souleymane Wane '00, '01 (CLAS), crossing those distances—literal and cultural—has meant the adventures of a lifetime. ❖ There is the adulation and recognition inherent in competing at the highest level of intercollegiate basketball, as well as being members of NCAA-title-winning basketball teams. ❖ Through their hard work, discipline and devotion, Abrosimova and Wane have earned the respect of their teammates, coaches and fans. ❖ Through their dedication to their studies, each is a reminder that athletic success and academic achievement aren't mutually exclusive.

Abrosimova and Wane are hardly the first foreign-born student-athletes at UConn. As with other UConn students from outside the United States, they adjusted to life in this country even as they negotiated the transition from high school to college. Like their teammates, Abrosimova and Wane had to find the appropriate balance between the demands of Division I basketball and academics. Before these student-athletes could do that, they had to hurdle the first barrier any foreigner faces upon arriving in a strange, new land—the language.

UNSTOPPABLE OFF THE COURT

"People forget that I'm just 20 years old," says Abrosimova, seated not far from the Gampel Pavilion basketball court that was the scene of so many of her exploits during her UConn career. (Abrosimova turned 21 in July.) The mention of her age is a sobering reminder of just how much Abrosimova has experienced in her short life. As one of, if not the best, junior women's basketball players in Russia, she traveled to several countries, including France, Germany and Poland, to play in various international competitions while still in high school. However, when she arrived at Storrs in 1997, the 17-year-old Russian was painfully aware that her fate rose and fell on her ability to learn English.

"SHE HAS A FUNDAMENTAL UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT MOTIVATES PEOPLE."

"My English wasn't too bad, but yes, it was a problem," says Abrosimova. "I would go to class and have no idea what the teacher was talking about. There were just too many words I didn't know."

"Many students have issues in making the transition to college," says Professor Bruce Cohen, academic advisor to the women's basketball team. "Sveta's work ethic was so incredibly strong that she just decided to kind of bull her way through things."

For Abrosimova, that meant taking class notes in English and then working with tutors and other students to get a better understanding of what was going on in class. She would rewrite her notes in Russian, so she could study them, and then translate them back into English to prepare for exams.

"She would stay up until three or four o'clock in the morning every day because it would take her twice as long to do everything, on top of competing and practicing," Cohen says. "But to the best of my knowledge, she never missed a class or an appointment with a professor."

Characteristically, Abrosimova credits her teachers, tutors and classmates for helping her to succeed academically. "They appreciate the fact that I work hard," she says. "They're always willing to help anyone who is trying hard." This was especially helpful during the end of the spring semester, when Abrosimova's commitment to playing for the Russian national team required her to take final exams as much as two weeks ahead of time. Through it all, she managed to steadily improve her grade point average from 2.78 after her first semester to 3.3 by the end of her junior year, a performance that led to Abrosimova's induction to the School of Business Student Hall of Fame last year.

Professor Jack Veiga, who heads the management department in the School of Business, became Abrosimova's academic advisor during her junior year. "My first reaction was that she is a relatively shy person, which surprised me," says Veiga. "I watch all the women's basketball games, and I expected someone that confident out in front of that many people wouldn't be all that shy."

Veiga realized that the shyness he perceived masked a passionate and insightful intellect when he assigned an independent study project for Abrosimova the summer between her junior and senior year. The assignment required that she



(Above) A nine-year-old Svetlana Abrosimova at the start of her basketball career in St. Petersburg, Russia. (Below) Emotions bubble over for Abrosimova and her teammates as victory nears over Tennessee in the 2000 NCAA women's basketball championship.

read, compare and analyze two separate papers on management practices in Russia as the country struggles in its shift to a market economy.

"She did a very good job of understanding both articles," says Veiga. "But what intrigued me was her analysis. She suggested that the author of one article didn't understand Russian culture very well and pointed out that the Russians are painfully aware of these huge pay gaps between the typical worker and the top manager in Western companies."

When her playing days end, Veiga believes Abrosimova, who majored in management, has a bright future in business. "She has a fundamental understanding of what motivates



people, what makes teams of people work well together," Veiga says. "My hunch is that she will be very, very savvy when it comes to managing people."

The 6-foot, 2-inch Abrosimova is the first UConn women's basketball player to be named a Kodak All-American three times. A member of the Russian national team, she competed in the 2000 Olympic Summer Games in Sydney, Australia. She was the first round draft choice of the Minnesota Lynx of the Women's National Basketball Association, and the seventh overall pick of the 2001 WNBA draft. After her playing career is over, Abrosimova says she's interested in a business career connected with athletics, perhaps for a company such as Nike or Adidas.

"I'd really like to live here, in this country, but I also miss home," she says. "When I'm at home, people think of me as American. Here, they consider me Americanized but still Russian. Right now, I just want to play."



(Left) A 17-year-old Souleymane Wane, far right, in Dakar, Senegal, with members of his family. (Below) Wane meets with Professor Ted Taigen, academic advisor to the men's basketball team.

A PROMISE KEPT

Souleymane Wane arrived at Redemption Christian Academy in Troy, N.Y. in 1995, wearing a T-shirt, carrying a brown paper bag full of clothes and speaking very little English. He was unprepared for winter in the small city in upstate New York, which can be dreary even when the weather is temperate. To defray the costs of running Redemption, students are expected to work in the school bakery, whose goods are then sold in local stores. Wane found himself rising from bed at 5 a.m. to bake dozens of pound cakes. Between the cold weather, the tough early morning work, and struggling to adjust to his new surroundings, he soon became homesick. "There were so many new experiences being thrown at me, they got into my mind so much that I just wanted to quit," Wane says.

Wane didn't quit because of a promise he made to his mother, Maguette. "I promised my mom that I would get a degree and do the things that are necessary to be successful," he says.

Although Wane improved his English skills at Redemption, achieving a 3.0 grade point average, he was poorly prepared for the verbal section of the Scholastic Aptitude Test. He sat out what would have been his first full year to retake the SAT and became a full-time student and eligible for the men's basketball team during the second semester of the 1997-98 academic year. Undaunted by his slow start, Wane threw himself into his studies and completed a bachelor's degree in political science in three and a half years. Because he completed his degree early, the NCAA gave the 6-foot, 11-inch Wane an extra year of eligibility, during which he completed a second bachelor's degree in French, matching the 3.0 grade point average he had maintained in his upper division classes.

To Professor Ted Taigen, academic advisor to the men's basketball team, there is no great secret to the 25-year-old Wane's academic success. "He did it by working his tail off," says Taigen. "He has a resolute, deep commitment and sense of responsibility to doing well in the classroom."

Wane traces his will to succeed not only to his mother, but also to his father, Amadou Ibra Wane, a high school French

teacher who died when Wane was only 10 years old, as well as his older brother, Sada, who is coming to the United States this fall to

study nursing in Florida. Wane praises his family for instilling the drive to excel.

"That's something very important in life, being able to get the help from your parents that can guide you into the future," Wane says. "That's the reason why I've been successful."

"My brother Sada was an influence to me because he was always the best student in his class," Wane continues. "I just wanted to follow his steps, and I'm sure he got it from my dad. My dad was a very good teacher."

As crucial as his work ethic is to his academic success, Wane is a "genius" at handling people, Taigen believes.

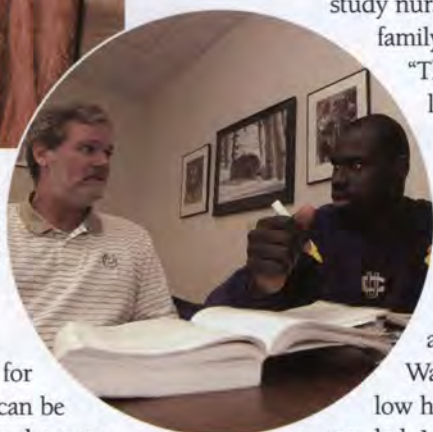
"I don't think I've ever met anybody who was as good at making people feel welcome and relaxed in

his presence," Taigen says. "Part of his genius is that he has a way of transmitting a sense of accessibility to people that makes them feel comfortable."

Eliane DalMolin, associate professor of French, agrees. "He's a very pleasant and intelligent young man," DalMolin says. "I think he's managed to separate his life between athletics, which I'm sure is extremely important to him, and a life away from athletics because his future as an active member of society is also extremely important to him."

Although Wane would like to play professional basketball, he is preparing for a life away from sports. He's interested in teaching French in the United States and then someday returning to Senegal and, perhaps, pursuing a career in politics or diplomacy, areas in which being multilingual is clearly an asset.

"I had an opportunity to come over here and learn, and I just feel that it's right," Wane says. "I feel that when I go back home, I have to give something back to my people, the whole community."



Peter Morenus

"HE DID IT BY WORKING HIS TAIL OFF."

WHERE THE WATER CARRIES DEATH

A journey to Bangladesh carried meaning far beyond satisfying an Honors requirement **By Jim H. Smith**

January 2001 in Bangladesh

The engineers were exhausted when they arrived in Dhaka. They'd been 23 hours in flight and still had to travel to the clinic on the city's outskirts that would serve as their base for two weeks. First they had to assemble their baggage—personal gear and 40 assorted crates of equipment.

Environmental engineer Philip Larese-Casanova '00 (ENG) was posted to guard the growing mountain of packages while his associates checked the inventory. A month after graduation, Larese-Casanova had signed on to assist Nikos Nikolaidis, professor of civil and environmental engineering. Nikolaidis and Larese-Casanova went to Bangladesh as part of a team organized by Columbia University and funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health and Science to test a novel arsenic remediation technology (AsRT), a filter Larese-Casanova had helped Nikolaidis perfect for two years as a project to fulfill his UConn Honors requirements.

Larese-Casanova was the team's youngest member. Up to then, the farthest he'd ventured from his hometown of Mystic, Conn. was South Carolina. However, he was fast becoming a seasoned traveler.

Three days before departure, his visa had been hung up at the Bangladeshi embassy in Washington, D.C. Then there



Nikos Nikolaidis

Thanks to the AsRT technology invented by UConn's Nikos Nikolaidis, these Bangladeshi children will have a safer water supply.

was a ticketing snafu at Kennedy Airport, and he was nearly bumped. Now he faced the dreaded Bangladeshi customs officers he'd heard so much about.

They spotted him right away, and presently one sauntered over and asked about the boxes. Larese-Casanova nervously tried to explain they contained geologic tools. The official's eyes glazed over. Yawning, he waved off the explanation. If there's anything Larese-Casanova doesn't look like, it's a smuggler. Besides, it was 4 a.m.

The engineers stuffed their gear into rented vans and headed out of town, weaving through streets choked with cyclists, rickshaws, trucks and the odd

elephant. "I saw the most horrible living conditions," Larese-Casanova wrote in his trip journal that night. The street was lined with shacks. Many residents took advantage of the cool, dry winter weather to sleep outside, often only feet away from open sewers.

In the world's most densely populated nation, Larese-Casanova would quickly conclude, pragmatism is a necessity. "Americans are fixated on career and entertainment and consumption," he says. "The people we met in Bangladesh have next to nothing. But they often seemed more content. They find deep satisfaction in their relationships with one another and their work and the land."

A people who daily celebrate such enduring values should have an easier go of it. Yet, Larese-Casanova will tell you determination is the greatest asset many bring to the game of life. It's not much compared to what they're up against.

Bangladesh is an astonishingly beautiful country where 128 million people inhabit an area slightly smaller than Wisconsin. Eighty percent of women give birth without professional health care, and more than 70 of every 1,000 babies die in infancy. Resting on the alluvial plain of three great rivers—the Jamuna, Ganges and



Philip Larese-Casanova (ENG) and Professor Nikos Nikolaidis, with an arsenic remediation technology (AsRT) unit, a system they installed in Bangladesh to test and remove arsenic from well water.

Peter Morenus

Brahmaputra—Bangladesh is blessed with rich soil. It is also mostly flat, and practically every summer, it floods.

Water is, at once, life and death. Sometimes, as in 1988, when the monsoon inundated three-fourths of Bangladesh and left 30 million people homeless, it is everywhere and undrinkable. At other times, when the bony hand of drought touches the region, even saliva is precious.

In a land where cholera and dysentery can be as common as a cold, the parched may quench their thirst at peril. Twenty years ago, a new plague—arsenic poisoning—emerged and it has grown worse ever since. To rural Bangladeshis, the progressive symptoms are all too familiar: stomach cramps; indigestion; chronic respiratory problems; swollen limbs; wart-like lesions; bleeding, gangrenous sores; certain death.

So many have succumbed, the survivors have lost count. Philip Larese-Casanova went to help them. He ended up helping himself.

The largest mass poisoning in history

Throughout Bangladesh, shallow wells, the principal source of drinking water, contain arsenic. Most scientists believe the poison washed down from the Himalayas in rivers such as the Jamuna which, alone, dumps 900 million tons of silt on the delta annually.

To call the water polluted, however, is to miss the magnitude of the matter. Wells in two-thirds of the country contain five times the levels of arsenic considered safe by the World Health Organization. More than 40 million people drink that water every day. In its 1999 annual report, the World Bank described this calamity as “perhaps the largest mass poisoning in history.”

The AsRT was the consequence of



one of those serendipitous accidents that occasionally propel science forward. In 1996, a graduate student brought Nikolaidis jugs of water from an industrial landfill in Maine contaminated with arsenic. The water sat in his laboratory,

“In the world’s most densely populated nation . . . pragmatism is a necessity.”

untested, through a weekend. When he finally checked it, he was surprised to discover much of the arsenic had settled out of solution. A light went on!

“I had a jar of iron filings in my office,” he recalls, “and I knew arsenic would react with iron.”

He blended the iron filings with sand, packed the mixture into makeshift “filters,” and poured the polluted water through. The arsenic promptly bonded with the iron and, just like that, Nikos Nikolaidis had figured out how to purify water polluted with arsenic.

Turning the discovery into technology that could easily be used in places such as Bangladesh was the next step. Nikolaidis had just begun that task when Larese-Casanova showed up at his laboratory.

Sick and depressed

Day two. The engineers drove to Arahazar, the country village 25 kilometers west of Dhaka where they would focus their efforts. While colleagues from Columbia and Stevens Institute of Technology launched a series of experiments, Nikolaidis and his assistant began installing the AsRT at two homes whose residents had agreed to participate in the test.

The project began inauspiciously. Nikolaidis was compelled to hire a local electrician when electric transformers specially designed to run his water pumps failed almost immediately. Glad for an unprecedented piece of business, the electrician devoted himself to the job tirelessly. Still, two days passed before he had the AsRT units operating.

At that point, Larese-Casanova

should have been able to start monitoring, testing the effluent emerging from the filters to ensure they were performing appropriately. Instead, despite consuming only boiled water and thoroughly cooked foods prepared at the clinic, he succumbed to a parasite and spent the fourth day wrenchingly ill and deeply depressed.

“It was the lowest point in my life,” he would later write. “I was really sick, in a strange country half a world away from home, and there were 10 days to go.”

Larese-Casanova sought solace in his faith. He adopted a mantra-like solicitation that, he believes, eventually elicited a response. “I couldn’t imagine taking work in a place like that



“Discovering ways to clean water has always been a significant part of what civil engineering is about.”

ever again,” he says. “I kept saying, ‘God, take this cup away from me!’”

Providence did no such thing. The next day, weak but recovering, the young engineer dragged himself out of bed and returned to Araihasar where, over the next nine days, he discovered that completing his Honors work was, arguably, least among the reasons he was in Bangladesh.

While he monitored the AsRTs, farmers, laborers, homemakers—many exhibiting the unmistakable scars of arsenic poisoning—came to watch and ask questions. Local children nicknamed Larese-Casanova “Salmon Shah,” after a popular Bangladeshi film star whom he resembled. Darting in and out of modest homes, they flocked around him, overwhelming him with adulation and offers of help.

As he came to know these gentle people and understand all they endured, he soon realized he could not “walk away from this experience with only an appreciation for the ease of Western

standards of living. This was a trial, preparing me for more, similar work in the future.”

A potential boon for Bangladesh

Well before the two weeks ended, Nikolaidis knew the AsRTs worked perfectly. “There is still much to do, though,” he says. “Few people in Bangladesh have electric pumps, but they want more than just a solution to the arsenic problem. They want the convenience of water in their homes.”

Nikolaidis hopes major international funding will soon make that possible, through the creation of municipal water systems that generate clean water for large populations. He’s also optimistic about the creation of a new industry manufacturing the AsRTs in Bangladesh for domestic and international markets. If he’s right, the technological response to the “largest mass poisoning in history” may turn out to be a boon for Bangladesh, improving drinking water while enhancing the economy.

Grateful to the people of Araihasar, the engineers pooled their resources and had deep wells dug for the families who had accommodated them, as well as the school attended by the youngsters who nicknamed Larese-Casanova “Salman Shah.”

Nikolaidis’ and Larese-Casanova’s trip to Bangladesh is in keeping with civil engineering’s long tradition of doing good for humanity says Prof. Erling Murtha-Smith, associate dean of engineering. “Discovering ways to clean water has always been a significant part of what civil engineering is about,” he notes. “It is fair to say that worldwide life expectancy has increased because of how environmental engineers have helped solve biological water pollution. Today, they find themselves dealing more and more with chemical pollution.

“The opportunity we were able to make available to Phil Larese-Casanova is the kind we hope to provide for more undergraduates—a chance to really experience engineering in practice and to expand their view of the world simultaneously.”

This autumn, Larese-Casanova will take that experience with him to graduate school at the University of Iowa.

“I’m very grateful for the opportunity to go to Bangladesh,” he says, “but I’m even more grateful for what I learned about myself. To understand your own culture and yourself, sometimes you’ve got to step outside what’s familiar to you. Bangladesh was a big step for me.”

Larese-Casanova and Nikolaidis take a break from installing arsenic remediation technology (AsRT) equipment in the village of Araihasar, Bangladesh.



Nikos Nikolaidis



The gentle art of matching

ROOMMATE

Sharing a room with someone unfamiliar is the most significant adjustment for incoming students *By Elizabeth Omara-Otunnu*



Julia Langellotti '04 (CLAS), left, and Liz Klish '04 (CLAS) in their room in Shippee Hall.

exchanged telephone calls during the summer, when their parents dropped them off at North Campus—famously known as the Jungle—in the room that would become “home,” they had never met.

Nine months later, the roommates had reached an acceptable compromise, sharing food, laundry detergent, and the ups and downs of college life.

“We offer students a spectrum of housing options.”

“We’re both really respectful of each other,” says Bennett, an honors student from Vermont. “When I want to sleep, for example, Matt keeps his music down.”

Sixty-nine percent of UConn students live on campus, more than at any other public research university in the country. One reason is that presently there is relatively little off-campus housing in and around Mansfield. But the University has long held the philosophy that living on campus is an important component of the university experience. This is evidenced by the expansion and improvements to on-campus housing in recent years. The new South Campus residence halls, opened in 1998, offer suite-style living. The newly renovated Northwest Campus, a predominantly freshman complex, reopened last year,

and new apartment and suite-style accommodations in the Hilltop area will become available to students in the fall.

“We offer students a spectrum of housing options,” says Vicky Triponey, vice chancellor for student affairs. Most students spend their freshman, sophomore and perhaps their junior year in a traditional residence hall, living in a large community and developing the skills to live with other people, she says. Many will opt to live in a suite in their junior year, in which up to four students share a living area, a bathroom and two bedrooms. When the new apartments are available, they will offer students greater independence that will help them prepare for the transition to life after college.

Blending personalities successfully

Many of the freshmen arriving on campus each fall are living away from their parents for the first time. Sharing a room is one of many social and academic adjustments that incoming students must make.

When freshman Julia Langellotti’s first roommate changed residences after the first semester, that opened up a space in Shippee Hall for Liz Klish ‘04 (CLAS), who wanted to move to the campus after a semester of living at home.

“Before I came to UConn, I didn’t feel ready to leave home,” says Klish, “but for

S

Geoff Bennett '04 (CLAS) listens to rock and alternative music; Matt Hale '04 (CLAS) prefers punk and heavy metal. Bennett is deciding between history and education for his major; Hale plans to major in math or actuarial science. Bennett likes running, Hale’s into computer games.

Fate brought the two freshmen together as roommates. Although they had

ROOMMATES

me to have a sense of belonging I needed to know people.”

The two knew each other from class. Klish, who is shy, was drawn to Langellotti's outgoing personality.

Like many freshmen, college is the first time either of them has had to share a room. They soon adjusted, though.

“We're pretty easy going,” says Klish. “That's why we get along,” adds Langellotti '04 (CLAS). “We're pretty chill about a lot of things.”

Although they get along just fine, they don't spend a

legends Pulp and The Clash. And on the window sill are silk flowers Klish and Langellotti bought together on a late-night shopping spree.

Self-expression is an important factor in building confidence, says Jeffrey Fisher, a professor of psychology. “Personalizing one's own space is very important,” he says.

Learning to live with each other's differences is also a critical part of student life. “Part of the living and learning experience involves learning to appreciate people

more involved on campus.”

Kiernan recalls an occasion when the two of them went to see a documentary in a foreign language with subtitles. “It was something I never would have done on my own,” she says, “but it was very interesting.”

The two began to open up to each other in the evenings as they chatted about their experiences during the day. “With Charlotte, we always had nightly conversations,” says Kiernan. “That's how our

through e-mail, and Sarah hopes to travel to Paris now that she has graduated.

Ties that endure

“College is a time in life when students can form very deep relationships,” says Fisher. “Sharing new and atypical experiences can be a very bonding kind of thing, and the residence hall is a place that can support that.”

By the time they graduate, some roommates have built up an extensive fund of

“We're trying to pull students out of their safety zones—to challenge them to grow and think differently.”

lot of time together. Between her classes and her on-campus job, Klish spends long days away from the residence hall. Most days, she leaves the room at 7 a.m. and doesn't get back until 5:30 p.m. Langellotti's first class is at 11 a.m., so she gets up later. She also plays in a band when she's not in class. “Julia is never up when I leave,” says Klish. “There are some days when I don't even see her.”

The successful blend of these two personalities is mirrored in their room decor. Klish—the quieter one—brought along a bedspread, rug and microwave, all in deep purple. Langellotti—whose personality is also reflected in pink-dyed hair—has a bedspread in a leopard-skin design. Posters of the Beatles and James Dean are mingled with others bearing the

from different backgrounds,” says Triponney. “We're trying to pull students out of their safety zones—to challenge them to grow and think differently.”

No one knows that better than Sarah Kiernan '01 (SAH), a physical therapy major who is one of this year's senior class representatives. Last year, she was assigned to share a room with a student from Paris. “I was terrified coming into my junior year,” says Kiernan, who speaks no French. “It was very awkward at first.”

As the weeks went by, she says, sharing a room with Charlotte Latour turned out to be one of the best things that happened to her at UConn. “Charlotte really wanted to get the most out of her experience at UConn,” Kiernan says. “By going out of my way to make sure she had a good time, I became



Amy Penikas '01 (BUS), Jaclyn Sharp '01 (CLAS), Danielle McGrath '01 (CLAS), and Jen Donnelly '01 (BUS) in their four-student suite in the South Campus Honors Residence Hall.

relationship developed.”

Kiernan learned about French culture—what her roommate missed most was French bread and French cheese. When Thanksgiving came, Kiernan took her roommate home to Newtown, Conn., to learn more about the Irish American and Italian American culture in which she grew up. In the process, says Kiernan, “I learned a lot more about myself.”

Their ties didn't end when Latour returned to France. The two have stayed in touch

shared experiences, as Danielle McGrath '01 (CLAS), Jaclyn Sharp '01 (CLAS), Amy Penikas '01 (BUS), and Jen Donnelly '01 (BUS) have discovered. They lived the past academic year in a suite in a South Campus residence hall reserved for honors students.

Their ties go back to their freshman year, when they met in First Year Experience honors classes, introductory classes that help students make the transition from

continued on page 47

Faculty

Board of Trustees select 2001 Distinguished Professors

Each of the five University of Connecticut professors named a Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor unabashedly trace their success to others who greatly influenced their lives, especially at a young age.

The five honorees acknowledge that people—be they fathers and mothers, wives, bosses, teachers or mentors—were their breakfast of champions.

The faculty members honored this year are: **Carl David Benson**, professor of English; **Robert K. Colwell**, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology; **Ruth Millikan**, professor of philosophy; **Steven L. Suib**, professor of chemistry; and **Jack Veiga**, professor and head of the management department in the School of Business.



Carl David Benson

Carl David Benson's professional summary reads like a *Who's Who* in literature. There are more than a dozen honors and distinctions, including a Guggenheim Fellowship. Benson has authored nearly 200 articles, essays, and reviews and is regarded as one of the world's most distinguished experts on the English poet Geoffrey Chaucer.

A graduate of Harvard, Benson was the first in his family to attend college. "It opened up an entire new world for me and I've never left the university world since," he says. An undergraduate course on Chaucer excited Benson about medieval literature. "It was love at first sight."

During the past academic year, Benson returned to Harvard as a visiting professor, where he taught undergraduates, well, Chaucer.

Benson earned master's and doctoral degrees at the University of California at Berkeley, where he was influenced in particular by two professors he labeled as "inspirational and wildly passionate." One was Alain Renoir, grandson of Pierre Auguste Renoir, the French impressionist painter and sculptor, who taught Benson medieval English literature. The other professor was Charles Muscatine, who, Benson says, read poetry so well and so carefully.

"Professor Muscatine trained me to read poetry," says Benson. "He also taught me that all the research in the world isn't important if you can't bring it into the classroom."

Robert K. Colwell

The photo of Robert K. Colwell, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, on the department's home page reflects his love of the environment.

In the photo, he's sitting on a rock in the middle of a rushing tropical stream in Costa Rica. There's a pleasant smile on his face, one that perhaps reflects happiness in having found nirvana and a place to cool off after a long day's hike in the sweltering rain forest.

Wild land settings are natural to Colwell, who was raised on his family's cattle ranch in Colorado and inherited his parents' respect for nature. His mother taught him how to capture butterflies and other insects. His father, one of the founders of Outward Bound in Colorado, was a public school teacher and later, a high school principal. "My father was always finding ways for his students to experience what they were learning," recalls Colwell.

Colwell's current areas of research include the interactions and co-evolution of species, especially between plants and animals, such as nectar-feeding mites that live in tropical flowers and are transported in the bills of hummingbirds.

Colwell says he has the best of both worlds: research and teaching.

"In research, the most rewarding things are new ideas and discoveries, whether the focus is something concrete, such as some bizarre interaction between different species in a tropical rain forest or something abstract, such as a new geometric theory of biodiversity patterns," says Colwell.

"In teaching, my best rewards come from seeing growth and change in my students that I can attribute to my efforts."



Peter Morenus

“One has to be bitten by philosophy”

—Ruth Millikan

“Much of our work is governed by desires to improve the environment”

—Steven L. Suib

Ruth Millikan

“One has to be bitten by philosophy,” asserts Ruth Millikan, professor of philosophy.

Millikan was bitten as an undergraduate at Oberlin College during the 1950s when philosophy professor Paul Schmidt introduced her to the intellectual discipline.

“He taught exclusively by the Socratic method and made us all feel that if we thought hard enough for a day or two, we might answer a question that had been hanging around unanswered for 2,500 years,” recalls Millikan.

Millikan, whose work, *Language, Thought, and Other Biological Categories*, is highly regarded in the field of contemporary philosophy, spent 12 years raising four children and only then returned to academia. (Her husband, Donald Shankweiler, is a professor of experimental psychology at UConn.)

Millikan, who first taught at UConn as an instructor in 1962, credits philosophers Daniel Dennett, director of the Center for Cognitive Science at Tufts University, and Charles Morris, then retired from the University of Chicago, as catalysts in moving her career forward while she remained a stay-at-home mom.

“Dennett read papers of mine even though he did not know me, wrote an introduction to my first book, and has since advertised my work throughout the world,” says Millikan.

“Morris, who read my completed dissertation that a friend gave him in 1969, told me I must keep on working in spite of my babies,” she adds. “He said I had carved out an important lifetime of work.”

She earned her Ph.D. in philosophy from Yale in 1969 and on the advice of Morris, kept remembering, thinking and writing. Millikan, who became a full professor in 1996, has authored three books with another, *Varieties of Meaning*, due to be published soon. She has written dozens of articles, commentaries and reviews. Among her current honors is the Jean Nicod Prize from Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique of France.

“My research interests span many topics in the philosophy of biology, philosophy of [the] mind, philosophy of language, and ontology,” she says. “The aspects of these fields that interest me are continuous with relevant scientific work and with the philosophy of science.”

Steven L. Suib

“Teaching and research involve constant change, meeting new people, going new places and in our research, making new materials,” says Steven L. Suib, professor of chemistry and an international leader in the field of zeolite synthesis.

The research he conducts involves collaborative efforts with people in industry and academia. Since the early 1980s, Suib has worked with more than two dozen Fortune



Peter Morenus



Peter Morenus

100 companies and prominent organizations, including DuPont, Rubicon, Fujitsu, Shell, United Technologies, Duracell, Texaco, and A. D. Little.

“Much of our work is governed by desires to improve the environment,” says Suib. “We try to find ways to make materials using less energy, with less-toxic or non-toxic reagents, and at lower overall cost.”

He points with considerable pride to University research that has led to the synthesis of a new class of porous materials, which are now being used in the auto, chemical and battery industries.

For Suib, there are two clear reasons for being in academia. One is the ability, he says, to choose for oneself a research direction or philosophy to pursue. The other, he adds, is the desire to teach and to learn from others.

“Interactions with students and colleagues are at the core of both of these activities,” said Suib. “Having taught undergraduate and graduate courses at the University, it’s exciting to see the changes that occur throughout a student’s stay.”



Peter Morenus

“I couldn’t imagine someone like myself... becoming a college professor”

—Jack Veiga

Jack Veiga

A boss who was a straight shooter, a father who owned a gas station, and a wife of 36 years who reminds him of the importance of a balanced life have all greatly influenced the world of Jack Veiga, professor and head of the management department in the School of Business.

“My dad was my model in dealing with customers and people in general,” recalls Veiga. “I’ve always tried to emulate the way he talked to people and cared about them.”

After graduating from Gannon University, Veiga went to work as an engineer at Kaiser Aluminum, where his boss, a gentleman named Frank, provided a second set of role-model qualities.

“Frank was an honest, straight shooter with the ability to tell people the unvarnished truth and still maintain warm relations with everyone,” says Veiga. “I’ve also tried to emulate him.”

Veiga took a leave from Kaiser to pursue a doctorate in business administration at Kent State University but never went back to the company. While at Kent State, his doctoral advisor strongly suggested Veiga owed it to himself to try teaching, at least for a year.

“I couldn’t imagine someone like myself who grew up with a love for drag racing and dirt under his fingernails becoming a professor,” says Veiga.

The advice, however, was on the mark, and the one-year trial period stretched into a lifetime of achievement. Last year, Veiga was among the very first academics in his field to be named to the Academy of Management’s newly created Hall of Fame. He’s also an Airbus Industrie International Scholar and Northeast Utilities Chair in Business Ethics. Co-author of half a dozen books and several dozen articles, Veiga has developed executive programs and seminars for major organizations, including the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

His current research delves into the effectiveness of accommodations under the Americans With Disabilities Act.

“We’re not merely focusing on the expensive types of accommodations, such as a new elevator, but rather on the low cost, day-in and day-out accommodations that disabled people must have in order to do their jobs,” says Veiga. “Our research has implications beyond the business world.” — *Claudia G. Chamberlain*

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

Save the date!

■ Class of 1952 wants you!

The Class of 1952 50th Reunion Committee is looking for enthusiastic volunteers. If you are interested in joining the committee or know someone who might be, please contact Kim Lachut or Julie Sweeney at (888) UC-ALUM-1 or by e-mail at kimberly.lachut@uconn.edu or julie.sweeney@uconn.edu.

1950s

Edmund Enos '57 (ED) was recently honored by the Mashantucket Pequot Nation for his significant contributions in "helping Indian Tribes maintain their social and cultural integrity and bringing Native Peoples together." Edmund is chairman of the board of directors of the Association for International Cultural Exchange Programs (AICEP).

Marjory Yale Stitt '59 (CLAS) has retired after 21 years of teaching in the San Diego Unified School District and now resides in Chula Vista, Calif.

1960s

Bernard Fried '61 Ph.D., a Krieger professor emeritus at LaFayette College, was featured in the Discovery Channel program *Parasites: Eating Us Alive*, which premiered in May.

Jonathan M. "Jack" Schofield '62 (CLAS), chairman of Airbus Industrie of North America, has been elected to the board of directors of Aviall, Inc., an independent producer of new aviation parts.

Rochelle W. Tyl '63 (CLAS), '68 Ph.D. is a scientist at the Center for Life Sciences and Toxicology in Research Park, N.C. Rochelle is also a member of the Society of Toxicology, the Teratology Society and the Neurobehavioral Teratology Society.

Joel Hirschhorn '64 (CLAS) has been elected secretary of the American Board of Criminal Lawyers.

Richard M. Weist '64 M.A. has been named a distinguished



professor by the State University of New York Board of Trustees. A professor of psychology at SUNY Fredonia, Richard is the fifth professor from the college to earn this designation.

Richard Dillman '65 (BUS) edited *The Major Essays of Henry David Thoreau* (Whitston Publishing), the only single-volume version of Thoreau's major essays now available.

C. Michael Jacobi '67 (BUS) has been appointed to the board of directors of Hometown Auto Retailers Inc.

Stanley J. Kavan '67 (CLAS) is senior vice president at Zurich Insurance Services in Jacksonville, Fla. and **Claudia W. Kavan '67 (ED)** is southern zone litigation manager for Universal Underwriters Groups, Overland Park, Kan.

Robert J. Klancko '67 (ENG) was awarded the Environmental Educator of the Year Award from the Connecticut Environmental Education

Association (COEEA) in March. Robert is an adjunct assistant professor at the Lally School of Management & Technology and adjunct lecturer of metallurgy in the Department of Engineering at Rensselaer at Hartford.

Jason D. Traiger '67 M.A. is the manager of technical publications on the telecommunications industry at NetPlane Systems Inc. in Boston, Mass. Jason received merit and achievement awards from the Boston Chapter of the Society for Technical Communication for his software books.

David M. Kirstein '68 (CLAS) has been elected partner in the law firm of Baker & Hostetler LLP in Washington, D.C. David's practice is concentrated in the areas of business, international transportation and aviation.

Roy C. Carriker '69 Ph.D. has been named vice chairman of



Teleflex Incorporated, with responsibility for the company's global affairs. Roy is involved with developing strategic business initiatives for Teleflex throughout the world.

Billie R. DeWalt '69 (CLAS), '77 Ph.D. is director of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Chris Donovan '69 (SFA) directed the Golden Globe Awards this year for the third time. Chris also directed the Independent Film Awards.

Jerry Lieberman '69 (BUS) has been appointed executive vice president of finance and operations of Alliance Capital in New York City. Jerry and his wife, Eileen, live in Harrison, N.Y.

Banavar Sridhar '69 M.S., '73 Ph.D. has been elected a Fellow by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA). Banavar was honored for fundamental contributions to automated guidance of aerospace vehicles and the development of a passive ranging system for low-altitude, high-speed helicopter operation.

1970s

Joy Baggish '72 (SFA) has completed the latest film assignment for her design corporation, Connecticut Yankee Ltd., which emphasizes historically correct costumes and quilt designs. Joy is an active participant in the Screen Actors Guild Performers-with-Disabilities Committee.

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
Pharm.D. – Doctor of Pharmacy
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

Save the date!

■ Class of 1976 25th Reunion

The Class of 1976 will hold its 25th year reunion at the Storrs campus on October 26 and 27, 2001. The reunion is being held in conjunction with Homecoming. Invitations will be mailed in early August.

■ Class of 1977

Interested in helping to plan your upcoming 25th Reunion? The Class of 1977 25th Reunion Committee is looking for volunteers. If you are interested in joining the committee, or know someone who might be, please contact Kim Lachut or Julie Sweeney at (888) UC-ALUM-1, or by e-mail at kimberly.lachut@uconn.edu or julie.sweeney@uconn.edu.

Lon R. Hultgren '72 M.S. was named one of the Top Ten



Public Works Leaders for 2001 by the American Public Works Association. Lon is director of public works and town engineer in Mansfield, Conn. Lon lives in Mansfield with his wife, **Debra B. Hultgren '80 (ED), '86 M.A.**,

who is director of special services at E. O. Smith High School in Storrs, Conn.

Richard G. Quinn '72 (ED), '75 M.A. retired from the Los Angeles Unified School District last September, and has accepted a position as principal of Grace Brethren Elementary School in Simi Valley, Calif.

Thomas P. Evans '73 (CLAS) is the author of *Home from the War: Memoir of a Walking Dead Survivor*. (See page 45.) Tom is president of Thomas P. Evans, Inc., a computer consulting firm in Shelton, Conn.

Charlotte Gradie '73 (CLAS), '75 M.A., '90 Ph.D. is the



author of *The Tepehaun Revolt of 1616*. Charlotte's book presents a study of the Spanish conquest of the Jesuit missions among the Tepehaun Indians of northern Mexico. Charlotte is an associate professor of history at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Conn.

Janet E. Rubin '74 M.F.A. is a professor of theatre and chair of



the Department of Theatre at Saginaw Valley State University in University Center, Mich. Janet has been a faculty member at SVSU since 1983.

Roger Downie '75 (BUS) and **Elaine Muszynski Downie '75 (CLAS)** celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on April 2, 2001. Roger is a materials management supervisor for the department of Veteran's Affairs Home and Hospital in Rocky Hill, Conn. Elaine is a laboratory manager in the Department of Molecular Studies at Yale University. Elaine and Roger reside in Winsted, Conn.

Philip C. Harrington '75 (CLAS), '79 D.M.D. has completed his term as president of the New Haven Dental Association. Phil has been practicing in New Haven for more than 20 years after finishing his general practice residency at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. Philip and his family reside in Madison, Conn.

Vladimir Wozniuk '75 (CLAS) has published his third book, *Politics, Law and Morality* (Yale University Press).

Joe Connelly '76 (CLAS) is practicing law in Eugene, Oreg., where he lives with his wife, Carrie.

PROFILE

Delighted and proud

The University of Connecticut has long played a significant role in the life of **Patricia Wilson-Coker '78 (CLAS), '81 M.S.W., '81 J.D.** Her father, a former Air Force officer and Tuskegee Airman, was director of personnel at the University from 1970 to 1980, and she has fond memories of discussing juvenile justice with sociology professor Al Cohen "who I knew more as a friend than a professor," she says.



Peter Morenus

Wilson-Coker is winner of the UConn Alumni Association 2001 Distinguished Alumni Award. "UConn has many distinguished graduates and alumni, and I'm humbled that someone would see fit to nominate me," she says. "My family has been part of UConn for many years in one way or another, and I could not be more delighted or more proud."

After earning graduate degrees in UConn's dual program in law and social work, Wilson-Coker began teaching full time at St. Joseph's College in West Hartford, where she developed The Center for Child Welfare Studies, the country's first interdisciplinary masters program in child welfare.

Wilson-Coker switched to social work in 1988, working as executive assistant to the Commissioner for the Department of Children and Youth Services. Her new career path led to a position as director of Family Services and her March 1999 appointment as commissioner of the Department of Social Services.

She continues to teach at St. Joseph College as an adjunct professor. "My first love has always been teaching," she says, and credits her years in UConn's dual graduate program for developing her workaholic tendencies.

As social services commissioner, Wilson-Coker has been involved in several innovative programs, including HUSKY (Healthcare for Uninsured Kids and Youth), the Fatherhood Initiative, designed to bring fathers back into the lives of their children; and Kith and Kin Care, designed to provide support services to family members involved in childcare. Another initiative is Connecticut Community Kid Care, a joint venture between the Children and Families and Social Services departments to improve and reform how children's behavioral health services are delivered in Connecticut.

"These are once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to make system changes that will far outlive my administration and, probably, me," she says. "It's tremendously rewarding because at this level, you really have the opportunity to change the way services are delivered to families in need." —*Mary Lou Sullivan*

Kenneth Berman '77 J.D. was a featured guest speaker at the Cyber-Litigation Summit in San Francisco, Calif., a conference that discussed the revolutionary changes the digital economy has brought to traditional litigation practices. Kenneth is a partner in the Boston-based law firm of Nutter, McClennen & Fish LLP.

Jenna Dorn '77 M.P.A. is the president of the National Health Museum and, from 1991 to 1998 was senior vice president of the American Red Cross. Jenna served as assistant secretary of labor from 1989–91.

Joel Hurliman '77 (CANR) has graduated from the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va. Joel is currently second in command of the Shelton Police Dept.

Joseph C. Papa '78 (PHR) has been named president and chief operating officer of DuPont Pharmaceuticals in Wilmington, Del.

Michael J. Poehner '78 M.B.A. has been elected to the board of directors of infoShark, Inc. Michael is president and chief executive officer of DMR Consulting.

Janice Swanson '77 (CANR), '80 M.S. is the recipient of the 2001 Commerce Bank Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award from Kansas State University. Janice is an associate professor of animal science and industry at KSU.

Richard Wilber '78 (CLAS) recently spent three weeks in Vung Tau, Vietnam, working with a group of North Americans from Global Volunteers teaching English

to young adults and adults in Vietnam.

Amy Errett '79 (CLAS) was awarded the 2001 Israel Fellows Prize by the Jewish Community Endowment Fund. Amy is the chief asset gathering officer for E-TRADE.



1980s

Steven P. Eschbach '80 (BUS) has been named senior counselor and lead consultant in the investor relations division for Johnston Wells Public Relations in Denver, Colo.



Richard A. Heyman '80 (CLAS) has been promoted to senior vice president of research and chief scientific officer at X-Ceptor Therapeutics, Inc. in San Diego, Calif.

Dona D. Young '80 J.D. has been elected chief operating officer of Phoenix Home Mutual Life Insurance Company. Dona was named company president in 2000.



Steve Booney '81 (CANR) and his wife, Tammy, announce the birth of their first child, Kathryn Lenora, on December 17, 2000. Steve is a regional technical program coordinator with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. The family reside in Morehead, Kentucky.

PROFILE

Bullish on politics

In an era in which cynicism about politics rivals baseball as the national pastime, Capitol Hill staffers **Jamie Cheshire '99 (CLAS)** and **Mike Ward '00 (CLAS)** are unabashed in their optimism and idealism.

"The reality of what Washington is and what people think it is are two different things. Like the rest of the world, there are good people here, there are hard-working people here, and there are people who are just here for the glamour," says Cheshire, legislative assistant to U.S. Rep. Nancy Johnson.

"The people I work with on a daily basis are here, honestly, to make a difference."

"If you're interested in public policy, this is where the action is, this is where things get done," says Ward, who replaced Cheshire as Johnson's executive assistant last November. "That's what makes it so exciting."

Both political science majors at UConn, Cheshire and Ward reached their current positions after working in various roles for Johnson, a 10-term member of Congress who is the first Republican woman to serve on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee.

As legislative assistant, Cheshire, a native of Farmington, Conn., is responsible for tracking bills for Johnson as they proceed



Mike Ward '00 (CLAS), Jamie Cheshire '99 (CLAS), and Michele Nellenbach '92 (CLAS) are members of the Capitol Hill staff for U.S. Representative Nancy Johnson.

through the legislative process. It's a role she enjoys greatly. "I like it because I get to make decisions that most people my age would rarely be able to," Cheshire says. "I get to help the congresswoman craft policies. She's such a powerful senior member of the House that I really feel I'm involved in an office that get things done that make a real impact for our constituents."

In his role as executive assistant, Ward manages the congresswoman's schedule and her professional affairs on Capitol Hill. "I have friends who have jobs all over the country who make a lot more money

than I do," says Ward, who hails from North Branford, Conn. "That's not why I do this. I do it because I think you can actually make a difference in people's lives from here." (Ward is the son of Robert Ward '74 (CLAS), the minority leader of the Connecticut House of Representatives.)

Cheshire and Ward are joined by **Michele Nellenbach '92 (CLAS)**, a senior legislative assistant for Johnson for the past five years. Nellenbach, who earned a master's degree in public policy from American University, is as enthusiastic as her younger colleagues for her work and for Johnson's leadership.

"There's always something going on here," Nellenbach says. "I learn something new everyday. It's a much different experience than one can get anywhere else." — Gary E. Frank

John T. Breakell '81 M.S. has been named state executive director for the Connecticut Farm Service Agency by President George W. Bush. John, who lives in Goshen, Conn., oversees the administration and delivery of federal farm programs offered by the Farm Service Agency, a branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Matthew Browne '81 (ED) and his wife, Robin, announce the birth of their son, Patrick Matthew, on January 31, 2001. Patrick joins his big sister, Emily Catherine. The family reside in Ridgefield, Conn.

Gail Johnson '81 M.A. was a 2001 research fellow at the University Social Science Research Center at Old Dominion University. Gail recently accepted a teaching position in the master's of public administration program at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Wash.

Robert T. Molleur '81 (RHSA) is a national program manager for the Forestry Incentives Program with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service in Washington, D.C. Robert and his wife, Meryem, reside in Arlington, Va.

Michael Drabik '82 (CANR) and **Linda Romine Drabik '82 (SFS)** announce the birth of their first child, Maya Elizabeth, on January 11, 2001. Michael is the northeast regional manager for Optronics, a manufacturer of digital and video cameras. Linda is the director of product management for Radius Product Development, an industrial design and product development company specializing in plastics.

Elaine Lawrence '82 (CLAS) and her husband, Jay Salhaney, announce the birth of their second child, Eric Lawrence Salhaney, on March 20, 2001. Eric joins his brother, Adam. The family live in Holliston, Mass.

Watch your mail!

You will soon be receiving an important questionnaire. This questionnaire is being sent to give every alumna and alumnus the opportunity to be accurately listed in the upcoming new *University of Connecticut Alumni Directory*.

Don't miss the opportunity to be in your alma mater's most comprehensive directory!

Patricia Kery Vinkenes '82 (CLAS) is the staff director of the Office of Retirement Policy at the Social Security Administration. Patricia and her husband are also the proud parents of a daughter, Audrey Mary, born July 11, 2000, (and eligible to retire sometime between 2065 and 2070).

Karl F. Frey '83 (ENG) has been promoted to vice president for BVH Integrated Service, Inc.

Suzanne Garbarini '83 (BUS) and her husband, Doug, announce the birth of their second child, Elizabeth Lara, on December 22, 2000. Elizabeth was welcomed home by her older sister, Alison. The family reside in Croton-on-Hudson, New York.

David Estes '84 (BUS) has been named senior vice president and small business manager for Banknorth Group, Inc. David and his wife, **Jacklynn Estes '84 (PHR)**, live in Richmond, Vt.



Mary E. Yakimowski '84 M.A., '85 6th Year, '86 Ph.D. has been elected president of the National Association of Test Directors. Mary has also been selected as one of eight representatives to the Joint Committee of Testing Practices.

Chris Richardson Lyons '85 (CLAS) and **Tom Lyons '87 (ENG)** announce the birth of

their second son, Otis Neal, on December 3, 2000. Otis joins his three-year-old brother, Dean Tucker. Chris is an elementary school teacher. Tom is a self-employed engineer and cross-country and track coach at a local high school. The family reside in Fairfax, Calif.

Elliot E. Cazes '86 (CLAS) and **Pam Paris Cazes '87 (ED)** reside in Tampa, Fla., with their four children. Elliot is the owner of his own medical practice, GentleCare Ob/Gyn.

Michelle Girardin Banner '86 (NURS) has been hired as supervisor and team leader by INS, Inc. to implement the new parent support program at the U.S. Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Fla. Michelle is a registered nurse certified in inpatient obstetrics.

Todd W. Maddock '86 (BUS) has joined STERIS Corporation in Cleveland, Ohio, as the global director of marketing in the scientific division.

Carol Tomasetti Records '86 (ED) and her husband, Preston, announce the adoption of a son, Gabriel Joon, on March 26, 2001. The family reside in Windham, Conn.

Cornelius Thompson '86 (BUS) is head coach of the Trotamundo club basketball team in Venezuela. Thompson was previously an assistant coach of the Connecticut Pride of the International Basketball League.

Mark L. Boxer '87 M.B.A. has been named senior vice president of eBusiness for Anthem, Inc.

Suzanne C. Fickett '87 (CLAS) has been named product manager for DxCG, Inc. Suzanne is responsible for managing DxCG product and software development, including RxGroups®, DxCG's new pharmacy-based models.

Virginina Ashley Gasque '87 (CLAS) and her husband, Steve, recently moved to Cairo,

Egypt, where Ashley is director of program development for an economic development program run by the International Executive Service Corp.

Katy J. Harriger '87 Ph.D. has published the second edition of her book *The Special Prosecutor in American Politics* (University of Kansas Press). She is an associate professor of political science at Wake Forest University.

Michelle M. Lusardi '87 M.S., '93 Ph.D. is the co-author of the textbook *Orthotics and*



Prosthetics in Rehabilitation. Michelle is an associate professor of physical therapy at Sacred Heart University in

Fairfield, Conn.

Sonja Fasciano Glatzhofer '88 (CLAS) and **Mark Glatzhofer '88 (BUS)** announce the birth of their daughter, Brooke Emma, born on August 1, 2000.

Margaret Soracchi Morrison '88 (PHR) and **Tyler Morrison '91 J.D.** announce the birth of their son, Franklyn Tyler, on July 20, 2000.

Patty Denham Travaglini '88 (CLAS), 90 M.B.A. and **Paul Travaglini '88 (CLAS)** welcomed their first child, Jack, into their family on July 14, 2000. The family reside in Stamford, Conn., where Patty works for Gartner Group Inc. and Paul works for the Synapse Group.

Karen Davidson Footit '89 (NURS) and **Bruce Footit '92 (CLAS)** announce the birth of their son, Jacob, on February 16, 2001.

Lynn Capella Homquist '89 (CLAS) and her husband, Peter, announce the birth of a son, William Eric, on October 19, 2000. William joins his big sister, Emma Grace. The family reside in Wilton, Conn.

IN MEMORIAM

ALUMNI

- Charles J. Anderson '29
 Robert Wilfred Blanchette '53
 Raymond D. Bonitz '64
 Ernest C. Burnham Jr. '51
 James G. Clark '68
 Robert P. Cook, '82 M.A.
 John E. Creamer '63
 Robert "Bronco" Horvath '70
 John Ironside '55
 Bella W. Karpoff '42
 Gertrude Adams Lathrop '44
 John C. Loiacono '85
 Harriet Yale Mueller '35
 John T. Mullaney, Jr. '70
 Ruth Viets Munsell '32
 Robert J. Norgren '56
 John W. O'Brien '66
 Kristine Metcalfe Pinchbeck '58
 Brian William Poirier '68, '71 J.D.
 Robert E. Priddy '52
 Walter G. Ryba, Jr '75 J.D.
 Jane Elizabeth Clark Stannard '45
 Joyce C. Tamburine '67 M.A.
 Jean Helen Thoreson '68
 Joseph J. Wallace '51
 Arthur J. Walrath '36
 Dorothy K. Weber '56 M.A.
 Eugene H. Zak '57

FACULTY

- John G. Adams
 Ivor Echols
 George A. Ecker '43
 Terry Lafferty
 Elizabeth "Betty" Laliberte
 Michael William Lefor
 Todd M. Schuster
 Seymour Slessinger

Leo Lachut '89 (CLAS) and Kim Terlik Lachut '90 (ED) announce the birth of their first child, Zoe Marie, on January 14, 2001. Kim is assistant director of alumni programs for the UConn Alumni Association, and Leo is a counselor with the Center for Academic Programs at UConn. The family reside in Andover, Conn.

Kathleen Skeffington Murray '89 (SFA) and her husband, John, announce the birth of their son, Kyle William, on July 13, 2000. Kathleen is an art director in the creative services group at Hasbro, Inc, in Pawtucket, R.I. The family reside in North Attleboro, Mass.

Robert Nisbet '89 (CLAS) and Colleen Gogerty Nisbet '92 (CLAS) announce the birth of their daughter, Caroline Suzanne, on October 15, 2000. Colleen is a school counselor in Berlin, Conn., and Robert works for Skip Barber Racing Inc. The Nisbet family reside in Avon, Conn.

Kevin M. Stein '89 (BUS) and LoriBeth Bowman Stein '89 (CLAS) announce the birth of their daughter, Alexandra Paige, on January 14, 2001. Ally was welcomed home by her older brother, Tyler Zachary. The family reside in Milford, Conn.

Eric Stockman '89 (CLAS), '94 J.D. and his wife, Jennifer, announce the birth of their twin daughters, Cailinn and Sian, on June 18, 2000. Eric is a partner at Neubert, Pepe & Monteith in New Haven, Conn., where he specializes in medical malpractice defense and general litigation.

Stephen White '89 (CLAS) has joined RDW Group as vice president and senior accountant executive, responsible for servicing accounts in the medical, gaming, technology, building and construction fields.

Barbara Louise Zirakzadeh '89 M.A. was named the Windham Connecticut School District Teacher of the Year for 2000-01.

1990s

Melissa Inman '90 (CANR), '95 M.S. was awarded the Graduate Research Assistant Award by the University of Nebraska Alumni Association. Melissa is a doctoral candidate and research assistant in veterinary and biomedical sciences at Nebraska.

Thomas J. Leibowitz '90 (CLAS), '92 M.S. is a senior consultant in the San Francisco, Calif., office of Reden & Anders, Ltd., an actuarial consulting firm.

Michael J. McKeon '90 (ENG) has been elected a principal of the law firm Fish & Richardson P.C. in the firm's Washington, D.C., office. Michael's practice emphasizes counseling and litigation relating to intellectual property, including patent, copyright, trademark, trade secret, unfair competition, and antitrust cases.

Laine Joelson Cohen '91 (CLAS) and her husband, Todd, announce the birth of their daughter, Jenna Reese, on December 27, 2000. The family reside in New York City.

Gary Crone '91 (CLAS) and Monica Campos Crone '91 (CLAS) announce the birth of their second child, Tristan, born in May 2000. He joins his older brother, Nicholas, at the family's home in Jersey City, N.J.

Mary Kay Fenton '91 M.B.A. has been named director of corporate finance at Achillion Pharmaceuticals in New Haven, Conn. Mary will be responsible for the management of transactional support and financial reporting.

Majid Hedayati '91 M.B.A. has been promoted to vice president of STV Inc., a national architectural, engineering, planning, environmental, and

construction management firm. Majid and his family reside in Greenwich, Conn.

Kenneth P. Keefe '91 (CLAS) is a staff accountant in the firm Blum Shapiro.

Daniel Kenney '91 (CLAS) and Kathleen Szewczyk Kenney '93 (ED) announce the birth of their daughter, Kylie Nicole, on March 3, 2001. The Kenney family reside in Jamison, Pa.

Tamara A. Miron '91 (BUS) and Dana Rawding were married September 30, 2000, in Brookfield, Conn. The wedding party included Aimee Millette '91 (BUS), Dana Grato '91 (PHR), and Charles Villano '89 (BUS). Lisa Famiglietti '91 (BUS) honored the couple with readings during the ceremony.

Sally A. Wallace '91 M.S. is a business unit manager for Eaton-Navy's controls division. Sally oversees the division's operations in Milwaukee, Wisc., and Danbury, Conn.

Christopher N. Baker '92 (CLAS) received his MAI designation from the Appraisal Institute of Chicago, Ill. Christopher is a commercial real estate appraiser in the Denver, Colo. office of CB Richard Ellis. He lives in Evergreen, Colo. with his wife, Kathy, and son, Alex.

Phil Harmon '92 M.B.A. has been promoted to the newly created position of vice president of finance for Saint-Gobain BTI, Inc. Phil is responsible for the company's finance, information technology, administration, and human resources activities.

Donna R. Jarvis '92 (CLAS) is vice president of AXA Corporate



Solutions Life Reinsurance Company in New York City. Donna is responsible for the underwriting and ongoing management of all individual life and group life and health reinsurance treaties.

PROFILE

Hoop dreams in central Europe

What a difference a continent makes.

Dan Cyrulik '92 (BUS) was a valuable reserve for the men's basketball team during the so-called Dream Season of 1989-90. Fast forward a decade and 6,000 miles to the east and Cyrulik is dominating the Czech Basketball League.

Since arriving in the Czech Republic in 1998, the 7-foot Cyrulik has been a league all-star. He captured the league MVP award and led his team, USK Praha, to the league title the past two seasons. This season, USK overcame a 3-1 series deficit to capture the title, thanks in part to Cyrulik's game-high 25 points in game five.

"My dream was always the NBA," says the gregarious Cyrulik. "But I have absolutely no regrets. That's a lesson I learned from [Jim] Calhoun. There are no 'what ifs.' No regrets about what you do."

After graduating, Cyrulik practiced with the Atlanta Hawks for five months but was released on opening day. He spent the next three years in the Continental Basketball Association and played in France from 1996 to 1998. Then his agent mentioned an opening in the Czech league.

Adam B. Ellick



"The only thing I knew about Prague is that it's the Czech capital and it's beautiful," he says.

Czech clubs, which usually play in front of crowds of fewer than 2,000, are comparable to second-tier, Division I NCAA teams. Cyrulik has a one-year contract and says he won't decide on his future until after the season. When his basketball career ends, he plans to settle in Connecticut or Buffalo, N.Y., his hometown.

"But I still don't know what I want to do when I grow up," he says.

He's learned the Czech language—one of the world's most difficult—without taking a single class. Although he's not completely fluent, his basketball Czech is flawless. When not on the court, Cyrulik can usually be found relaxing with his Czech teammates.

"In the States, everything is so fast paced," he says. "People eat fast food on the way home, and they don't have the time

to sit down and enjoy people's company."

Although his NBA dream never came true, Cyrulik is grateful for his time overseas. "I get the feeling that you can drop me anywhere in the world, and I could get by somehow."

— Adam B. Ellick

Karen Lagasse '92 (NUR) and Mike Schumann were married May 5, 2001 in Bristol, Conn. Alumni in the wedding party included Susan Duttweiler Congiu '92 (CLAS) and Kim Kluck Morrow '92 (CLAS). The couple reside in Milford, Conn.

Brian LaPlante '92 (CLAS) and Noel Torrison LaPlante '93 (SFS), '95 M.A. announce the birth of a daughter, Katherine Hope, on December 2, 2000. Katherine joins her brother, Benjamin. The family reside in Glastonbury, Conn.

Richard C. Roth III '92 (BUS) and Jennifer Anne Cockcroft were married on September 9, 2000 at the United Church of Christ in Chester, Conn. UConn alumni in attendance were Anthony Marino '92 (BUS), Mark Shore '93 (CLAS), Mike Mihalek '90 (BUS), '94 M.B.A., Tony Lechner '92 (CLAS), James Clark '93 (CLAS), Steve Anaya '93 (BUS), Dave Moran

'90 (BUS), Phil Gagnon '93 (BUS), John Paul DiMeglio '92 (CLAS), Chris Crooks '92 (BUS), Dave Wharmby '89 (BUS), Belinda Basile '90 (BUS), '95 M.B.A., Sean McCarthy '91 (BUS) and Albert Unger '91 (BUS). The couple reside in Old Greenwich, Conn.

Alex Sinclair '92 (CLAS) and Thanh Nguyen Sinclair '92 (CLAS) announce the birth of their first child, Zoe Anise, on May 24, 2000. The family reside in Bristol, Conn.

William Syme '92 (CANR), '97 M.S. and Jennifer Adinolfi Syme '94 (CANR) announce the birth of their first child, Emily Ann, on January 18, 2001. William is the location manager of Crop Production Services in Broad Brook, Conn. Jennifer is on the UCANRAA board of directors. The family reside in Broad Brook, Conn.

Larry Ward '92 (BUS) is director of undergraduate programs at the American University's Kogod School of Business in Washington, D.C. Larry, who earned an M.A. in higher education from the University of Michigan, most recently was director of the Training and Development Solutions Group at Professional Resource Services, Inc. in Vienna, Va.



Melony C. Williams '92 (CLAS) and Mohamed Abdelati married April 17, 2001, in Egypt. The couple and their six-year-old son, Vaughn, live in Wendell, N.C. Melony has written two books, *Wind Song* and *Suburban Sun*, which were published in March 2001.

Mark G. Zurolo '92 (CLAS) received a master of fine arts degree from Yale University in May.

Kathryn LaFontana '93 M.A., '95 Ph.D. is the author of *Using Statistics in Psychology Research*, published by Primis Custom Publishing. Kathryn is an assistant profes-



sor of psychology at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Conn.

Douglas A. Lathrop '93 (CLAS) earned a doctorate in political science from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Douglas is currently a senior legislative aide to U.S. Representative Jennifer Dunn (R-Wa.).

William J. Bardani '94 (BUS) has started Vision Financial Search, LLC in Stamford, Conn. William's firm specializes in the recruiting of accounting and financial professionals.

Timothy J. Crader '94 (BGS) is a global alliance executive with the GE Digital Energy group. Tim earned his M.B.A. from Sacred Heart University.

Janiss M. Fowler '94 (ED), '96 M.A. married Daniel J. Nicholas on November 18, 2000, in Mystic, Conn. Janiss works as an assistant to the church secretary at the Mystic Baptist Church and the New England Southern Baptist Conference.

Kristi A. Napolitano '94 (CLAS) has earned a master's degree in education from UConn with a concentration in higher education/student affairs. Kristi is assistant director of alumni programs for the UConn Alumni Association.

David DeArmas '95 (SFS) and Lauren Kelly Hill were married on May 26, 2001, in Fredericksburg, Va.

Amy Colonni '95 (CLAS) and Louis J. Demicco III were married on August 12, 2000, at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Gales Ferry, Conn. UConn alumni in the ceremony included **Richard Colonni '73 (CLAS)**, **Susan Colonni Neilan '87 (SFS)**, and bridesmaid **Heather Crowell Gigliotti '98 (CLAS)**. They reside in Jewett City, Conn.

Sharon Foisey Lichota '95 (BUS) and her husband, William, announce the birth of their first child, William Robert, on January 16, 2001. Sharon is a systems coordinator for The Hartford insurance company in Hartford, Conn. The family reside in Newington, Conn.

Tina Tarsitano '95 (PHR) and her husband, Chris, announce the birth of their daughter, Christina Diane, on October 13, 2000.

Amy Gundolfi '97 (PHR) and Daniel Kurzatkowski were married May 6, 2000. **Cara McCarthy '96 (PHR)** served as the bridesmaid. The couple reside in Fairfield, Conn.

Jennifer Kim '97 (SFA) married Peter Morenus on April 21 in Demerest, N.J. UConn alumni in the wedding party included maid of honor **Nicole Tavano '95 (SFS)**. Guests included **Patrick Eisenman '97 (CLAS)**, **Sara Eisenman '97 (SFS)**, **Michael Elterich '98 (CLAS)** and **David Pesci '85 (CLAS)**. Jen is finance manager for the UConn Alumni Association and Peter is a photographer in the UConn Office of University Communications. The couple reside in Willimantic, Conn.

Benjamin Quinn '98 (SFA) is an art director for the marketing firm Mascola in New Haven, CT.

Frances Miceli Zenowitz '98 (BUS) was promoted to senior accountant by Blum Shapiro in West Hartford, Conn.

Rino Nori '99 (BUS) is an associate in the assurance and business advisory services of Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLC.

2000s

Kenneth L. Morico '00 (CLAS) is working as a technical writer in Los Angeles, Calif. Kenneth is the son of **Lawrence Morico '58 (CLAS)**.

Alumni News & Notes compiled by Megan Soukup.

JORGENSEN AUDITORIUM 2001-2002

A Sampling of events from the 2001-2002 Subscription Series

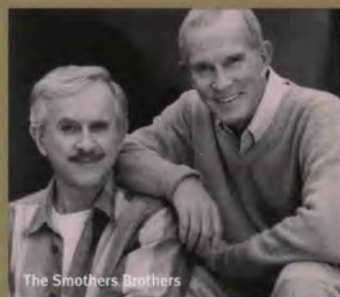
Directions in Music, 75th Birthday Celebration of Miles Davis and John Coltrane featuring **Herbie Hancock, Michael Brecker** and **Roy Hargrove** with John Pattitucci and Brian Blade.
Fri. & Sat. Oct. 5 & 6, 2001, 8 p.m.

The Connecticut premiere of this tribute to the late jazz icons Miles Davis and John Coltrane will feature five of the world's greatest modern jazz musicians in a first-time touring quintet.



Herbie Hancock

Michael Brecker



The Smothers Brothers

The Smothers Brothers and The Kingston Trio

Fri. & Sat. May 3 & 4, 2002, 8 p.m.
The showmanship of these folk/comedy headliners promises to make this a foot-tapping, laugh-a-minute pleasure.

Mystical Arts of Tibet

Thurs., March 14, 2002, 8 p.m.

The exiled monks of Tibet's Drepung Loseling Monastery will invoke healing, harmony, and peace as they perform their hauntingly beautiful sacred rituals, dance, and music in this stunning performance.



For more information about events at the Jorgensen Auditorium, call 860-486-4226. For more cultural happenings at UConn, consult the campus master calendar at www.ca.uconn.edu/mastercalendar



Recent works by alumni and faculty

Jews and Christians: A delicate balance

UConn alum's award-winning documentary to air on PBS

When immersed in a project, documentary filmmaker Gerald Krell '57 (SFA) sees himself as an ombudsman for his audience.

"I always like to think when I'm doing a documentary that basically, I'm not an expert about the subject, but rather I learn as I go through, as the audience learns," says Krell, who heads his own television production company, Auteur Productions.



Gerald Krell '57 (SFA), center, directing on location for his recent PBS documentary, *Jews & Christians: A Journey of Faith*.

Ltd., in Potomac, Md. "I try to make sure that the audience will clearly understand what's being presented."

Clarity was especially crucial with Krell's latest documentary, *Jews & Christians: A Journey of Faith*. The two-hour film explores the common beliefs and rituals of the two religions. Co-produced with Connecticut Public Television, the film also looks at the historical conflicts between Judaism and Christianity and makes an impassioned argument for tolerance through increased understanding and the destruction of outdated stereotypes. The documentary, which premiered on CPTV in May, will air nationally on PBS in the fall. (Consult your local listings.)

"It was a difficult challenge to achieve a delicate balance, to illuminate all the variables in regards of the two religions, and all of the points of view," says Krell, who received a prestigious Silver Angel Award by the Hollywood-based organization, Excellence in Media, in February for *Jews & Christians*.

Krell honed his filmmaking skills during a 35-year career with the United States Information Agency. After completing a master's degree at the UCLA film school, Krell was hired by the USIA when the federal agency was led by the legendary journalist Edward R. Murrow, and its documentary film section headed by George Stevens Jr., who went on to found the American Film Institute. Among the documentaries Krell produced and directed for USIA was the award-winning film *Crimes Against Humanity*, which exposed the systematic brutality against individuals in parts of the former Yugoslavia and the preparations for the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal. — Gary E. Frank

ALSO OF INTEREST

Home From The War

Thomas P. Evans '73 (CLAS)
(Writers Club Press)

Thomas P. Evans '73 (CLAS) was promoted to sergeant as a 19-year-old infantryman and put in charge of a 15-man Marine mortar section in Vietnam during 1967. *Home From The War* chronicles not only Evans' experiences in Vietnam but also his struggles to readjust to civilian life. He describes the depression that began when the story broke about the My Lai massacre and eventually put him in the hospital, and explains his fear of fathering a child when he thought he might have been exposed to the defoliant Agent Orange.



Evans tells how he felt walking down the hallways of the Colt Firearms Company, knowing it produced a defective rifle that killed several Marines in his battalion. Lastly, he movingly writes of the letters he received from the loved ones of fellow Marines killed fighting an unpopular war in a far-off land.



Stories Within Stories: From the Jewish Oral Tradition

Peninnah Manchester Schram '56 (SFA)
(Jason Aronson Inc.)

An internationally renowned storyteller and recording artist, Peninnah Manchester Schram '56 (SFA) has also produced several books, the latest of which is *Stories Within Stories: From the Jewish Oral Tradition*. The book is a compendium of 50 stories, mostly folk tales, that come from various ethnic communities represented in the Israel Folktale Archives, including Morocco, Iraq, Kurdistan, Persia, Yemen, and Eastern Europe. Many of the stories will seem familiar to readers as variants of them are found throughout the world, in Jewish and non-Jewish traditions. "The task of locating these unusual and often far-flung stories required a fine scholar and the ability to tell them so that they come alive required a masterful storyteller," writes Howard Schwartz in the foreword to *Stories Within Stories*. "Peninnah Schram has succeeded on both counts, and the world of books and storytelling is richer by far."

Traveler

Travel the globe with fellow alumni and friends! Cruise down the Danube River from Bucharest to the Black Sea. See the George Bernard Shaw Festival at Niagara-on-the-Lake, cruise on a five-masted sailing ship in the Caribbean, or go horseback riding with your grandchildren in the American Southwest. The University of Connecticut Alumni Association is your destination for travel!

Greece—Campus Abroad
September 5–14, 2001
Arrangements by Alumni Holidays

Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Shaw Festival
October 9–12, 2001
Arrangements by King Travelways

Around the World
October 14–November 17, 2001
Arrangements by Vantage World Travel

The Windward Islands—A Tall Ship Adventure in the Caribbean
Aboard the five-masted, fully rigged sailing ship, *The Royal Clipper*, with Dr. Roger N. Buckley, professor of history —January 3–12, 2002
Arrangements by King Travelways

Springtime on the Dutch and Belgian Waterways at Tulip Time—Aboard the *Switzerland II* including the Floriade—a once-in-a-decade international flower show! April 22–May 4, 2002

America's Southwest—A Family Trip
Sedona, Grand Canyon, Lake Powell, Monument Valley, Canyon de Chelly, and other locales with John Craig, professor of art and photography
June 29–July 7, 2002
Arrangements by King Travelways



Lake Powell, Arizona

Brittany, Normandy and the Channel Islands
June 4–15, 2002—Arrangements by King Travelways

Iceland and Greenland
July 24–August 3, 2002
Arrangements by King Travelways

Danube to the Black Sea
July 1, 2002—Arrangements by Vantage World Travel



(Above) A recent UConn Alumni Association travel group tours a horse farm outside Budapest, Hungary.



Puffins on the coast of Iceland

For information on all UConn Alumni Association travel opportunities, call toll free 1-888-UC-ALUM-1 (1-888-822-5861).

2001 Alumni and Faculty Excellence Awardees



Laura Anastasio '87 (BUS)
Connecticut Alumni Service Award—Alumni Board of Directors, 1994–2000



Margaret Gilbert
Faculty Excellence in Research (Humanities) Philosophy College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



Peter Burns '92 (CLAS), '94 M.A.
Outstanding Young Alumni Award—Visiting Assistant Professor, Trinity College



A. John "A.J." Pappanikou
Honorary Alumni Award Emeritus Professor Educational Psychology Neag School of Education



Patricia A. Wilson-Coker '78 (CLAS), '81 M.S.W., '81 J.D.—Distinguished Alumni Award—Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Social Services



Achilles J. Pappano
Faculty Excellence in Teaching (graduate level) Pharmacology School of Medicine



Douglas J. Cooper
Faculty Excellence in Teaching (undergraduate level)—Chemical Engineering School of Engineering



J. Larry Renfro
Faculty Excellence in Research (Sciences) Physiology and Neurobiology College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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 2002. The University of Connecticut Alumni Association has established awards for the purpose of recognizing outstanding contributions and achievements by alumni, non-alumni and faculty. The UConn Alumni Association is proud of these achievements and welcomes the opportunity to extend recognition through its annual awards. Nomination forms may be obtained at the Centennial Alumni House, by calling 888-UC-ALUM-1, or by visiting us on the Web at www.uconnalumni.com. Deadline for 2002 nominations is December 1, 2001.

Roommates

continued from page 34

high school to college. Three of the four have been in the same suite since their sophomore year; Amy joined the group in her junior year.

The four, all pursuing communications-related fields, have much in common. Self-described over-achievers, they have similar goals and ambitions. "We're all completely into school," says McGrath, a University Scholar who majored in communications. "But we definitely know how to make time for having fun," chips in Penikas, a marketing major. One of the most valuable aspects of her UConn experience, she adds, is having learned how to balance the

academic and the social.

The accommodations in South Campus facilitate that balance. The shared living room can be great for school work, such as the story board for a commercial that Penikas and McGrath are laying out on the floor for a sales marketing class. When the distractions are too many, there's a study lounge down the hall, wired for Internet access for laptop computers, where the residents of the floor may turn their full attention to academic tasks, leaving the living room for playing music, watching TV or just socializing.

The students clearly enjoy one another's company. "Danielle always makes me laugh," says Sharp, a visual communications major, "and

Amy is more entertaining than anyone I've ever met."

When times are hard, the roommates turn to one another for solace. "We are very supportive of one another," says McGrath. "They're all my therapists," adds Penikas.

If pressed, they'll admit they do have a few pet peeves about each other. Penikas has a habit of slamming the door, for example. Sharp tends to leave food lying around. They've learned to talk about the problems before they escalate, though.

"My first roommate didn't let me know until the end of the semester," says Penikas. "Oh, we let you know," jokes McGrath, whose own first roommate experience—with

a friend from high school—also floundered for lack of effective communication. "You need to say from day one 'that bothers me' and find a solution," she adds, "not wait until it's happened the 15th time."

As they embark on their new lives as alumni, McGrath, Penikas and their suite-mates have fond memories from their experience.

"It's hard to find a compatible roommate," says McGrath. "There are some people you can live with and some you can be friends with. Fortunately, we've had both."

The impermanence of all things

A consideration of the destruction of the statues of the Buddha at Bamiyan

By Robert Thorson, professor of geology and geophysics

The world watched in horror as the great Buddha statues at Bamiyan, Afghanistan—colossal statues 175 and 120 feet tall—were destroyed by bullets, mortars, jack hammers, pickaxes, and explosives. The ruling Taliban declared them idolatrous, an affront to Islamic verities. Yet, even as they destroyed these statues, the Taliban unwittingly advertised a central tenet of Buddhist philosophy, the impermanence of all things.

Ashes to ashes. Dust to dust. Beautifully poetic. Resonant with meaning. Yet incomplete, at least through the eye of a geologist.

The centerpiece of this almost Biblical story has gone missing. With respect to life on Earth, ashes do not convert directly to ashes. In between comes life, which grows from the ashes of earlier life, then dies to produce more ash. With respect to abiotic Earth, dust does not convert directly to dust. In between comes the rock near its surface, most of which grew from the residues—sand, silt, clay, salt—of earlier rocks, and will one day yield more of the same.

The deliberate destruction of any archaeological relicts, especially those at the scale of landscapes, is a sad affair to witness, even via the detachment of satellite imagery and surreptitious photography. Geologists—who have glimpsed what the writer John McPhee calls “deep time”—take solace in what their discipline teaches them daily; that all things under the sun are impermanent, including the sun itself.

Sandstone is the raw material from which the statues were carved. This particular stratum was originally deposited as a vast, thick wedge of sediment shed from rising mountains tens of millions of years ago. Golden brown in color, the sandstone is dramatically exposed on the face of a tall cliff that stands above Bamiyan. The cliff is pockmarked by small indentations, shelves of rock, and mini-caves of natural origin produced when rainwater and condensed moisture dissolve the cement between the grains of sand, chemically liberating them from their sedimentary prison. Once freed from its parent rock matrix, the sand blows, falls, and washes, grain by grain, into the valley below.

During rare floods along one of this parched land's few

perennial rivers, the gathered grains of loose sand are washed outward into rivers and thence to the sea.

More than 1,500 years ago, someone must have discovered that the sand was soft enough to be easily carved, yet hard enough to stand for centuries. At that time, the Buddhas

might have already been there, perhaps etched in crude outline by an irregular pattern of gullies, soft strata, and shadows, something not unlike the Old Man in the Mountain of New Hampshire, or Connecticut's Sleeping Giant.

Our species, since time immemorial, is prone to seeing human forms appear in clouds, shadows, forests, and austere arid landscapes. Large sculptures in stone often follow nature's lead as an artist. Thus, the laborers who carved the Bamiyan statues might

have merely improved on what was already there, carved in the soft sandstone by the patient work of wind and weather. We may never know whether this was indeed the case.

What we do know is that even before the laborers put their tools away, the sculptor named Nature went back to work. Beginning one grain at a time, then with pebble-sized lumps, Nature began to erase the crisp details carved by humans. Perhaps an eye became blurred, a knuckle rounded, or a piece of fabric uncreased. This erasure was in progress when the armies of Alexander the Great marched in from the west and, much later, the armies of Genghis Khan from the east. Sometime along the way the statues went blind, their eyes rubbed out by the weather as well as human invaders. The Taliban is merely the latest army to march through this war-torn land, which is also falling apart because of erosion.

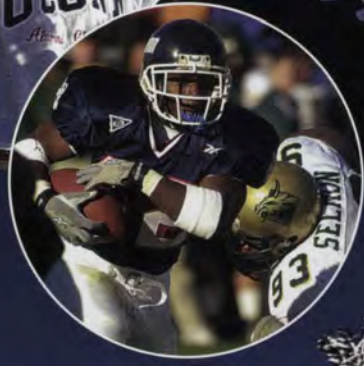
Ashes to ashes. Dust to dust. Sand to sand.

More properly, sandstone to sand, to sandstone, to sand, to sandstone, to sand, indefinitely. The carving of the great Buddha statues at Bamiyan 1,500 years ago greatly accelerated the natural forces already at work shaping the canyon walls. The demolition of the statues by the Taliban represents a return to greatly accelerated rates of local erosion.

All things are impermanent. Every scratch on Earth, whether human or natural, helps take it apart. Time is very, very deep.



Taliban soldiers gather in the aftermath of the destruction of the colossal Buddha statues at Bimayan, Afghanistan.



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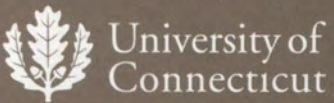
October 27

For more information, contact Kim Lachut or Julie Sweeney at the Alumni Association, 1-888-UC-ALUM-1 or 860-486-2240. www.uconnalumni.com



Peter Morenus

Joshua DuHaime '01 (BUS), left; Shannon Mahoney '01 (BUS); and Michelle Giacomi '01 (BUS) were among the more than 3,200 new UConn alumni who received bachelor's degrees at the University's 118th commencement ceremonies in May at the main campus in Storrs.



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