

UConn

Fall/Winter 2011



Out *and* About

*The Rainbow Center leads
support and advocacy for
UConn's lesbian, gay, bisexual,
and transgender community*





/UConnToday

Not True. But if it were, you'd hear it here first.

UConn Today is your official resource for everything UConn.
Breaking news, science and technology, campus activities, athletics, and more.



“Like” us today at facebook.com/UConnToday

contents

UConn | Fall/Winter 2011 | Volume 12, Number 3

Departments

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

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



Cover photo by Peter Morenus

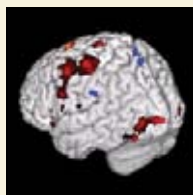
24



Growing the Farm Economy

BY SHEILA FORAN '83 (BGS), '96 Ph.D. | *The Connecticut agricultural economy is a \$3.5 billion industry that includes many alumni from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources who have expanded their core businesses, rooted in food and plant products, to meet new consumer needs.*

28



How Do We Learn to Speak and Read?

BY KENNETH BEST | *World-renowned Haskins Laboratories in New Haven, Conn., has studied the science of the spoken and written word for more than four decades, led by UConn faculty and alumni.*

32



Out and About

BY MARY HOWARD | *In 1999, incidents of gay bias on the Storrs campus made national news, resulting in a movement to establish a community atmosphere for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students. Today UConn is among the nation's most LGBT-friendly campuses.*



Handwritten records from Puerto Rico's Arecibo appellate court district in the 19th Century are being digitized by the UConn Libraries as part of an effort by 50 major academic and research libraries to compile a massive digital library. See page 7.

EDITOR

Kenneth Best

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Stefanie Dion Jones '00 (CLAS)

ART DIRECTOR

Jordanna Hertz

PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Peter Morenus

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

David Bauman, Christine Buckley, Craig Burdick '96 (CLAS), '01 (ENG), Chris DeFrancesco, Mike Enright '88 (CLAS), Sheila Foran '83 (BGS), '96 Ph.D., Mary Howard, Michael Kirk, Lauren Lalancette, Kenneth Noll, Elizabeth Omara-Otunnu, Carolyn Pennington, Colin Poitras '85 (CLAS), Sally Reis '81 Ph.D., Richard Veilleux, Cynthia Weiss

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Daniel Buttrey '00 (SFA), Chris Covatta, Kim Crocker, Lauren Cunningham '13 (BUS), Howard Eckels, Sean Flynn, FJ Gaylor, Gerry Goodstein, Garrett Hacking, Jordanna Hertz, Peter Morenus, Bob Nicholls, Stephen Slade '89 (SFA), Jessica Tommaselli '11 (CLAS)

INTERIM ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT/ COMMUNICATIONS

David Martel

DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

Lisa R. Lewis

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS

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

MANAGER OF DESIGN SERVICES

Leonard P. Blanks Jr. '86 (SFA)

EDITORIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

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

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



alumnimagazine.uconn.edu

From the EDITOR



COURTESY OF LEYLAND ALLIANCE

The Changing Storrs Skyline

DREAM OF A DOWNTOWN CENTER BECOMES A REALITY

The photo opposite this page showing the impressive interior of the University's newest academic building is the latest example of how much the Storrs campus has changed. One of the two new academic facilities – another is under construction on the former site of the Co-op – that will replace the aging Monteith and Arjona buildings used for classes offered in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the simply named “Classroom Building,” is part of the multi-billion dollar investment Connecticut has made in the University that has, in part, resulted in UConn moving into the Top 20 public universities ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* (See p. 6).

The current expansion of the School of Nursing facilities, the Floriculture Greenhouse used for teaching, research and production, and other scheduled improvements under 21st Century UConn will further change the Storrs skyline. However, another significant change to the landscape of the campus is now visible, one that will provide the intangible element that many feel has been needed in the Quiet Corner of Connecticut for a long time. The first phase of Storrs Center, a \$220 million public-private partnership to provide a true downtown for the Town of Mansfield, is now a reality at the corner of Dog Lane and Storrs Road (See p. 13).

The retail and residential structures rising across the street from the School of Fine Arts will include restaurants, shops, and apartments. The UConn Co-op is one of about a dozen retailers that have signed a letter of intent to become part of the new downtown center. The Co-op will maintain its on-campus location, but also will schedule additional activities in Storrs Center. Others who have made commitments to locate there include the Vanilla Bean Café, Froyoworld Frozen Yogurt Lounge, and Select Physical Therapy.

The expectation is that Storrs Center will establish the kind of atmosphere that has long been part of other university communities such as the bustling streetscapes found in Princeton, N.J., and in Chapel Hill, N.C., where local residents, students, faculty, and alumni can come together to enjoy an increasing variety of campus and community activities throughout the year. This might require expanding the Events Calendar (p. 11) that is published in each edition of this magazine. It is a potentially good problem to contemplate.

Ken Best

Opening Shot

The new 70,000-square-foot Classroom Building for courses offered in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences opened in late August and includes two auditoriums that seat 200 and 400 people, as well as 17 classrooms of varying sizes that each seat between 25 and 70 students. It is located between the Student Union and the Center for Undergraduate Education (CUE) on Fairfield Way.



From the **PRESIDENT**

Susan Herbst was inaugurated as UConn's 15th President in September during ceremonies at the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. Video highlights can be seen at <http://bit.ly/vvs8ke>.

Maintaining Your UConn Connection

In 1883, the graduating class of the Storrs Agricultural School – which would later become the University of Connecticut – consisted of a grand total of six people. This past spring, the University awarded more than 7,100 degrees, both graduate and undergraduate, in fields ranging from liberal arts, education, and pharmacy to engineering, law, and medicine, among others.

During the 128 years in between these two classes, UConn awarded more than 250,000 degrees. Today, more than 225,000 of our alumni live in Connecticut, across the U.S., and throughout the world. Some graduated just a few months ago; others have had that proud title – alumnus of the University of Connecticut (or one of our earlier incarnations) – for upwards of 80 years and are now approaching or have already celebrated their 100th birthday.

In that time, we have also gone from a single building to a vast, multicampus institution now ranked as one of the 20 best public universities in the nation. And we are now attracting the kind of major research partners – most recently, Jackson Laboratory – that will make UConn one of the top powerhouses in bioscience research in the nation, and an even greater source of job creation for our state. Yet, no matter which generation you are a part of, it is you, our alumni, who are our proudest, most important legacy.

Your connection to UConn certainly should not come to an end the moment you shed your cap and gown; it is enduring and lifelong. We need to do everything we can to ensure that your bond to UConn remains a strong one. Like old friends, the first and most important thing we can do is just stay in touch. UConn is home to a strong, active, and growing Alumni Association that has nearly 12,000 members; joining will keep you plugged in to your alma mater, connect you with old classmates, and give you the chance to get

to know others you have not yet met. Being an active alumnus can also set the stage for terrific internships, career contacts, job opportunities, and much more. And, whenever possible, getting together and talking with old friends and fellow Huskies is a lot of fun, too.

We will do everything we can to reach out to our alumni and let you know what is happening at UConn. Please don't be shy about letting us know what you are up to! In the back pages of this magazine, you can see news both large and small from our alumni. I can assure you little is more enjoyable for us than bragging about our graduates and your successes – because your achievements reflect so well on UConn.

I hope that this University and your days here mean a great deal to you; you should know that you mean a great deal to us. Let's stay in touch.



Susan Herbst
President

Jackson Lab Plans \$1.1 Billion Genomic Research Center at UCHC

The UConn Health Center's future as a global focal point for medical research took a giant leap forward with the announcement of a \$1.1 billion dollar personalized medicine project on the Farmington campus.

The Jackson Laboratory, a world leader in genomics research based in Bar Harbor, Maine, announced in late September its plan to establish a \$1.1 billion genomic research center in partnership with UConn that will develop new medical treatments tailored to each patient's unique genetic makeup. The project will create 661 research-related jobs, as well as 842 construction jobs and an estimated 6,200 spinoff and indirect jobs.

The announcement by Jackson Laboratory positions Connecticut as a global leader in genomics research and was made just four months after Gov. Dannel P. Malloy unveiled plans for the state to invest in Bioscience Connecticut, an economic development program that aims to jump-start the state's economy by generating long-term, sustainable economic growth based on bioscience research, innovation, entrepreneurship, and commercialization.

"We have the infrastructure, the talent, and the drive to make Connecticut a leader in this emerging science, and I'm pleased to welcome Jackson Laboratory to our state."

—Gov. Dannel P. Malloy

"This is how we begin to reinvent Connecticut. By investing in a smart, strategic project like Bioscience Connecticut, the state sent a loud and clear message around the world to companies and research institutes like Jackson Laboratory that we are ready, willing, and able to be a partner in this up-and-coming industry," Gov. Malloy said.

President Susan Herbst said, "Bioscience Connecticut recognizes that there is a distinct role for higher education in advanced, 21st-century economic development initiatives. Working together in this new collaborative framework, we can harness the vast, creative power and intellectual capital right here in the state – and in the research triangle that touches Storrs, Farmington, New



Haven, and points in between."

The total 20-year capital and research budget for the institute is projected to be \$1.1 billion, with Jackson Laboratory providing \$809 million through federal research grants, philanthropy, and service income, and the state of Connecticut contributing \$291 million. The General Assembly approved funding for the project during a special legislative session in late October.

The Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine will initially total 173,000 square feet and eventually total 250,000 square feet. Officials estimate it will take about 30 months to design and build the lab and have a permanent space by mid-2014.

"We have laid down our marker, and this immediate return on our investment will help attract other companies to do the same," said Malloy. "We have the infrastructure, the talent, and the drive to make Connecticut a leader in this emerging science, and I'm pleased to welcome Jackson Laboratory to our state."

Edison Liu, president and CEO of Jackson Laboratory, said, "The state made a compelling case to establish this lab here, and because of its ideal location between New York City and Boston, its world-class colleges and universities, and its existing work in the bioscience field, it made perfect sense to come to Connecticut. The critical mass is here, the quality of science is here, and we look forward to collaborating with UConn, Yale, all of the regional hospitals, and more."

The Jackson Laboratory is an independent, nonprofit biomedical research institution and National Cancer Institute-designated Cancer Center, with an additional facility in Sacramento, Calif., and a total staff of about 1,400. Its mission is to discover the genetic basis for preventing, treating, and curing human disease, and to enable research and education for the global biomedical community. Annual research grants awarded to Jackson during the 2010 fiscal year totaled \$62.7 million.



U.S. News Moves UConn into Top 20

UConn moved into the top 20 of the nation's public research universities in the 2011 edition of *U.S. News & World Report's* rankings, a jump up from last year's No. 27 listing.

"Breaking the top 20 is important for us as an institution and puts us in some very good company," says President Susan Herbst. "UConn knows it's a great University. The ranking opens other people's eyes."

The move up on the *U.S. News* listing is in part the result of a change in the ranking's methodology to include graduation and retention rates. UConn's graduation rate in 2010 was 81 percent, and the University's freshman retention rate was 93 percent overall and 92 percent for students of color.

"This recent change to the ranking methodology treats UConn favorably, as

we rank among the very best of our peers in retention and graduation rates of our students," says Nathan Fuerst, director of undergraduate admissions in the Division of Enrollment Planning and Management.

Herbst says that while there are different schools of thought on the value of rankings, and institutions can rise and fall for different reasons, the *U.S. News* rankings are helpful to parents and students making decisions about colleges.

"UConn's strong showing in the rankings just solidifies what everyone already knows about our fabulous academic rise over the last two decades," Herbst adds. "Our efforts to ensure our students are staying in school and graduating on time are really paying off. It's gratifying to see the University rise so dramatically in the rankings because of it."

Walter Harrison, chairman of the

National Collegiate Athletic Association's committee on academic performance and president of the University of Hartford, told reporters, "The fact that UConn has made this improvement is noticeable. Everybody around the country knows that."

UConn's improved *U.S. News* ranking reflects the strides in SAT scores its students have made. Between the fall of 1995 and of 2010, average SAT scores of students at the main campus in Storrs increased by 108 points to 1221. Freshman applications to all UConn campuses more than doubled.

The University was one of 172 national public institutions – including 118 "tier one" schools – that were part of this year's survey, which was released at the start of this semester.

An editorial in *The Hartford Courant* said: "The climb in ranking is a result of major investment in the campus over the past dozen years as well as the recruitment of top faculty and staff. Hopefully, under dynamic new president Susan Herbst, the climb will continue, and UConn will be poised to challenge the likes of North Carolina, Michigan, Cal-Berkeley, and Texas, schools that excel in athletics and academics."

In an editorial published shortly after *U.S. News* released its rankings, UConn's student newspaper, *The Daily Campus*, editorialized: "We owe it to ourselves and those who will follow behind us to guarantee that being a Husky means something. It means that we have an insatiable hunger for education and research... It means that success is not determined by how often or not we fail, but by our resolve to learn from our failures and not repeat them. A top-20 ranking shouldn't be a final crowning achievement but rather an incentive to go even further."

U.S. News ranked UConn the best public university in New England for the 13th consecutive year.

White Named Director of Stamford Campus

Sharon White '74 (ED), '76 MA, who has served as a University administrator for more than 30 years, is the new director of UConn's Stamford campus, following an extensive national search. She had served as the interim head of the campus for the past year.

"Sharon has provided outstanding leadership for the campus, including managing its academic programs, the campus budget, fundraising, community outreach and engagement, and faculty and student relationships," says Peter J. Nicholls, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. "Additionally, she has developed important relationships within the community among business and legislative leaders. Her fundraising and entrepreneurial activities have increased scholarship funding for campus students and support for programs."

White arrived at the University in 1980 as coordinator for the Center for Academic Programs at the Stamford campus. She has worked to address both retention of students and the quality of student life on the Stamford campus. She has served on educational and community boards, and has presented extensively at professional conferences. In addition to her undergraduate and graduate degrees from UConn, she earned a doctorate in higher education/student personnel administration from Columbia University. She completed a summer fellowship at the 2010 Peabody Professional Institute for Higher Education Management at Vanderbilt University.

The Stamford campus has more than 1,700 undergraduate and graduate students supported by nearly 100 faculty and staff. Students attend classes in a variety of majors, including American studies, business administration, business and technology, economics, English, human development and family studies, history, political science, psychology, general studies, and professional studies.



Libraries Expand Move to Digital Scholarship

The UConn Libraries are continuing to move toward compiling a massive digital library of published scholarship with two recent developments that highlight their progress.

The Libraries have become the newest member of HathiTrust Digital Library, a collaboration of more than 50 major academic and research libraries, and also have launched a significant digitization project under a grant from LAMP, the former Latin American Microform Project, working with 19th-century court records from Puerto Rico.

UConn is the first public research university in New England to become a member of HathiTrust, which includes among its members Columbia, Princeton, Yale, Duke, and Johns Hopkins universities. HathiTrust includes material from the Google Books Library Project, an effort by Google to scan and make searchable the collections of several major research libraries, as well as material from the Internet Archive, a nonprofit that offers free online access to historical digital collections, in which UConn has been an active participant since 2008.

In the past two years, HathiTrust's partners have contributed more than 9 million volumes to the digital library from their collections. More than 2 million of the contributed volumes are in the public domain and freely available on the Web.

A more specific digital project of note involves manuscript court records from Puerto Rico. Genealogists, historians, legal researchers, and social scientists interested in learning more about the fabric of life in Puerto Rico during the latter half of the 19th century will find a treasure trove of information in original court records now being digitized in Storrs.

The digitization of court records is funded by a new 12-month, \$15,000 grant from LAMP and will capture, enhance, and make available online 5,000 very fragile, double-sided handwritten documents that cover civil disputes over land, slaves, and livestock that occurred in the Arecibo appellate court district from 1844 to 1900, when Puerto Rico was a colony of Spain. These original records continue to be legal documents, so their enhanced accessibility is expected to generate interest among lawyers and others in Puerto Rico.





Setting an Example of Leadership in Education

Mary Broderick '11 Ph.D., an educational consultant in East Lyme, Conn., was elected president of the National School Boards Association. A former chair of the East Lyme Board of Education, she has worked with the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education and with the Connecticut Department of Education.

Wilf Named Lemelson Fellow

Steven Wilf, associate dean for research and faculty development in the School of Law, has been named a Lemelson Fellow for 2011-2012. The Lemelson Center Fellows Program supports projects that present creative approaches to the study of invention and innovation in American society.

Wilf, who is the Joel Barlow Professor of Law, founded the School's Intellectual Property Program, a worldwide area of legal practice that includes information, computer software, and other technology developments connected to electronic commerce and communications media. His most recent book, *Law's Imagined Republic*, was published by Cambridge University Press in 2010.

As part of his fellowship, he will conduct research at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., at the Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation.

NLN Cites School of Nursing as 'Center of Excellence'

The School of Nursing has been named a Center of Excellence by the National League for Nursing (NLN), the nation's premier organization for nursing faculty and leaders in nursing education.

UConn was recognized for promoting the pedagogical expertise of its faculty. It is one of eight schools receiving the Center of Excellence honor this year. Schools may earn Center of Excellence status in one of three categories: enhancing student learning and professional development, promoting the pedagogical expertise of faculty, or enhancing the science of nursing education. Schools must also have a proven commitment to continuous quality improvement.

The UConn School of Nursing is Connecticut's largest producer of new nurses. More than 80 percent of nursing school graduates remain and practice in Connecticut. Construction is under way on a new \$14 million, 15,000-square-foot addition to the school's existing space in Storrs Hall that is designed exclusively for nursing education.



Botanical Society of America Recognizes Outstanding Biology Student

Nikisha Patel '13 (CLAS) was selected as one of 30 students from around the nation to receive a 2011 Young Botanist Award from the Botanical Society of America. The award is usually presented to seniors, but Patel, an Honors biology major, impressed the Botanical Society with her studies of how plants become established, proliferate, and survive in tropical island settings as part of her work in the laboratory of Gregory Anderson, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

Students' Surprising Start to Mentor Connection

Three high school juniors from Connecticut participating in the three-week UConn Mentor Connection program in the Neag School of Education this past summer had a unique introduction to their mentor Nicholas Bellantoni, assistant professor of anthropology and state archaeologist with UConn's Museum of Natural History.

Anthony Sposato of Plainfield, Rebecca Romero of Meriden, and Nelson Merchan of Danbury were just being introduced to Bellantoni when he was called by New Haven police to extricate a skeleton found at a construction site. The students traveled with Bellantoni to the Elm City, and by week's end they had helped to extricate four skeletons that the archaeologist judged to be 150 years old.

Records indicate the site was a burial ground located behind the old Christ Church, the first Roman Catholic church in New Haven. Built in 1835, the church burned down in 1848 and was rebuilt as St. John's Evangelical Church. Bellantoni says nails found amid the skeletons indicate they were buried between 1830 and 1860. The skeletons will be analyzed by scientists at Yale, then reburied.



State archaeologist Nicholas Bellantoni works with Mentor Connection students, from left: Rebecca Romero, Anthony Sposato, and Nelson Merchan.



Arciero Honored for Contribution to Sports Medicine Education

Robert Arciero, left, professor and chief of the Sports Medicine Division in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the UConn Health Center, was recognized by the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine for his contribution to sports medicine education. He received the George D. Rovere Education Award from Andrew Cosagrea during the society's annual meeting in San Diego. Arciero is a nationally renowned expert in shoulder and knee repair who has pioneered work in developing surgical techniques for treating shoulder and knee instability that more closely restore normal joint function.

Olympians Speak on Leadership

Eight-time Olympic medalist Apolo Anton Ohno, far right, talks with students during a visit to the Storrs campus on Oct. 17. Ohno, a U.S. short track speed skating champion, is the most decorated American Winter Olympic athlete of all time. In addition to Ohno, two other U.S. athletes spoke with students: Marlon Shirley, two-time Paralympic gold medalist and 100-meter champion, far left; and Steve Mesler, 2010 USA Olympic gold medalist on the four-man Bobsled Team.



UConn 16th Among Greenest Colleges

The University of Connecticut has gone from 49th to 16th place nationally among the colleges and universities in the Sierra Club's 5th annual "Coolest Schools" rankings, which were released in August and recognize efforts to improve sustainability and create "green" campuses.

There were 26 state flagship universities ranked in the top 100, including UConn and seven regional campuses of the University of California system. UConn was highest-ranked among Big East schools that made the list, including Villanova (#32), Louisville (#41), University of South Florida (#47), Pittsburgh (#52), and Syracuse (#88).

Institutions are ranked based on a variety of criteria, including energy, efficiency, food, transportation, purchasing, and academics.



What Goes Around, Comes Around: Bike Sharing Returns

A free bike-sharing program operating out of the Homer Babbidge Library is loaning bicycles to faculty, staff, and students for their travels around campus. Once patrons have swiped their University ID card, they will be given a key to the bicycle

lock, offered a helmet, and asked to sign a waiver stating they have read the safety instructions and that they accept responsibility for damage or loss of the bicycle. About 20 bikes, which must be returned to the library, are available.

Pharmacy Partners With FDA to Improve Drug Standards

Top researchers in pharmaceutical science and engineering at the School of Pharmacy are working with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to improve drug manufacturing standards in the United States.

UConn is one of 10 member universities that make up the nonprofit National Institute for Pharmaceutical Technology and Education (NIPTE), which entered into a cooperative agreement with the FDA to conduct advanced research intended to improve drug safety, reduce health care costs, and create jobs. Universities in the consortium will receive cooperative research grants totaling up to \$35 million over the next five years.

"Our research scientists and those at other NIPTE institutions are eager to contribute their knowledge and expertise in helping to advance science and develop new models



Eva Manjani, left, and Roopa Raju, both first-year pharmacy students, hand fill capsules at the dosage forms lab in the Pharmacy/Biology Building.

for the manufacture, delivery, and formulation of not only drugs, but biological products and medical devices as well," says Robert McCarthy, dean of the School of Pharmacy and chairman of the NIPTE Board of Directors. "It is our hope that this effort will bring important new products to the pharmaceutical marketplace more quickly, while ensuring they are safe and of the highest quality."

The research funding comes at a time when the current cost of bringing a drug to market in the U.S. exceeds \$1 billion, and an increasing number of drugs and drug ingredients are being imported from abroad. Investment in the research of drug development and manufacturing is expected to improve America's manufacturing competitiveness and create high-paying jobs. It is also expected to help reverse current outsourcing trends in the pharmaceutical industry by decreasing the cost of manufacture and improving the quality and safety of drugs.

"Over the last several years, NIPTE has contributed a great deal of research toward our understanding of quality pharmaceutical manufacturing," says Helen Winkle, director of the FDA's Office of Pharmaceutical Science. "Progress in this area will mean safer, more efficient, and less costly drug production here in the U.S., and we are looking forward to NIPTE's findings."

10 Researchers Receive \$5.7M in State Stem Cell Funding

The Connecticut Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee has awarded grants totaling \$5.7 million to 10 UConn scientists to support their pioneering embryonic stem cell research.

Nine of the state grants were awarded to scientists based at the UConn Health Center in Farmington, while one large proposal from the Storrs campus was funded by a \$1.29 million grant awarded to a multidisciplinary team of scientists whose research is focused on the cellular and molecular mechanisms of drug-induced liver injury. Liver injury, caused by a large number of drugs taken by patients, is a major clinical problem that also hampers drug development.

Also included in the awards was

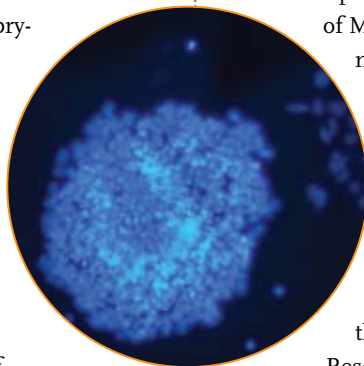
\$1.29 million to Chondrogenics Inc., a new startup company based at the Health Center, to fund its ongoing preclinical testing using chondrogenic cells derived from human embryonic stem cells to repair joint cartilage damaged by injury or aging. This is the first preclinical trial of a stem cell-derived therapy funded by the state stem cell research committee.

"These awards recognize the expertise of University scientists in several promising research areas focused on the treatment of disease," says Marc Lalande,

director of UConn's Stem Cell Institute, Physicians Health Services Professor, and chair of the Department of Genetics and Developmental Biology in the School

of Medicine. "Our scientists are not only advancing the fields of stem cell biomedicine, but also contributing to our state's economic development."

The grants were part of \$9.8 million distributed to 20 investigators by the Connecticut Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee in the sixth round of the state's stem cell research grants-in-aid program established by legislation in 2005.



AROUND UCONN • EVENTS CALENDAR

JORGENSEN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
860-486-4226
jorgensen.uconn.edu

Dec. 1
CENTER CITY BRASS QUINTET
Classical

Dec. 3
BOSTON POPS WITH ROCKAPELLA
Holiday/Pops

Dec. 6
UConn DANCE COMPANY
Contemporary Dance

Dec. 11
CONNECTICUT BALLET: THE NUTCRACKER
Dance

Jan. 27-28, 2012
CHUCHO VALDES WITH AFRO-CUBAN MESSENGERS
Jazz



Feb. 12
CLIFFORD THE BIG RED DOG
Family

Feb. 14
EROICA TRIO
Classical Music

Feb. 17-18
PINK FLOYD EXPERIENCE
Rock Music

March 1
ARCATTACK
Electronica

March 11
THE MAGIC SCHOOL BUS®
Family Theater

March 14
TREY MCINTYRE PROJECT
Dance

March 17
DANU
World Music

March 24
BÉLA FLECK AND THE FLECKTONES
World Music

March 29
MOSCOW FESTIVAL BALLET: SWAN LAKE
Dance

April 10
ANOUSHKA SHANKAR
World Music



April 13-14
BERNADETTE PETERS
Broadway Music

April 22
DARWIN THE DINOSAUR
Family

CONNECTICUT REPERTORY THEATRE
860-486-4226

Feb. 23 – March 4, 2012
ODYSSEUS D.O.A.
By Stephen Svoboda
Regional Premiere
Nafe Katter Theatre

March 22 – April 1, 2012
THE WINTER'S TALE
By William Shakespeare
Studio Theatre

April 12 – 15, 25 – 28, 2012
SPRING AWAKENING
Based on the Play by Frank Wedekind
Harriet S. Jorgensen Theatre

THE WILLIAM BENTON MUSEUM OF ART
860-486-4520
benton.uconn.edu

Jan. 17–March 4, 2012
THE WOMEN OF NEW ENGLAND: COSTUMES FROM THE INDUSTRIAL AGE

UConn STAMFORD ART GALLERY
Stamford.conn.edu/ArtGallery
Dec. 9 – Jan. 20, 2012
4th UConn Stamford Juried Fine Art Photography Show

Jan. 28 – Feb. 25
JURIED FINE ART PORTRAITS
Connecticut Society of Portrait Artists

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

Through Dec. 11
PAMELA ZAGARENSKI, LILIAM CUENCA, MALLORIE OSTROWITZ, RIMA GRAD

Feb 24 – April 8, 2012
FRANK BRUCKMAN, RICK SILBERBERG, SCOTT KAHN
NATIVE AMERICAN ART/ADORNMENT

April 13 – May 27
PAMELA & FRANK BRAMBLE, TONY ARMENDARIZ, GLADYS FORNEY, THE ART OF SOOKY MANIQUANT WITH POEMS OF WILLIAM MEREDITH

CONNECTICUT STATE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
860-486-4460
cac.uconn.edu/csmnh.html



Dec. 7
CELEBRATE THE SEASON BY EXPLORING DECEMBER'S NIGHT SKY!
Advance registration required



The new CONNcept dental clinic in West Hartford, Conn., uses a new approach to clinical dental education.

Innovative Dental Clinic Opens

FACULTY AND STUDENTS PILOT NEW CLINICAL MODEL

The School of Dental Medicine has launched an innovative dental practice facility that could change the face of clinical dental education.

The Connecticut Comprehensive Education and Practice Team, or CONNcept, is a clinical education and care model in which UConn dental students, residents, and faculty run a contemporary group practice with the feel and pace of a private practice. The facility is located in West Hartford, Conn.

"We believe CONNcept could revolutionize clinical dental education," says R. Lamont MacNeil, dean of the School of Dental Medicine. "This is an idea that has been in the works for almost four years: a satellite facility of our clinical operations — not a faculty practice, not a community clinic, but a service to the general community by way of extension of our clinics."

In CONNcept, students, residents, and faculty take a team approach to treating patients. They use a practice mode that merges all three groups into a training phenomenon that is a change from the traditional model, in which the students, residents, and faculty operate as separate, distinct groups.

"This model treats the same patient groups, but as a team. The patient moves seamlessly through. That facilitates learning," says Steven Lepowsky, associate dean for education and patient care who has been instrumental in bringing CONNcept to fruition. "We hope to demonstrate that this is a more valid and richer educational model, because they'll learn, they'll learn better, and they'll do more."

CONNcept has a primary care focus, which in dentistry means general, family, or pediatric dentistry. The CONNcept team includes a hygienist and full dental assistant staff support. The School's specialist faculty is also involved, participating as consultants to the team and providing clinical expertise as needed.

MacNeil says that another goal of CONNcept is to demonstrate the financial viability of this innovative approach to dental education and practice.

"It is set up to be more productive than the traditional model and have a patient mix that will make it sustainable," he says. "Providing care to our community's underserved is part of our clinical practice mission, but it's not exclusive to that population."

Alumni Association Elects New Board Members

The UConn Alumni Association elected six members to its board of directors for three-year terms.

New board members include Liana Fresher '85 (CANR), executive director, Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundation Inc.; Mikki Meadows-Oliver '06 Ph.D., assistant professor of pediatric nursing, Yale University; and Alicia Young '95 (CLAS), executive vice president, RuderFinn Inc.

Re-elected board members include Eric Judge '87 (BUS), '92 MBA, director of product management, The Hartford; Francis Onofrio '81 (CLAS), president, Mason Inc.; and David Sturgess '78 (BUS), partner, Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C.

The new president of the Student Alumni Association serving on the board is Adam Apicella '12 (CLAS), a double major in math and education.

New officers of the Alumni Association for 2011-12 include Dennis Cavanaugh '78 (CLAS), partner, Robinson & Cole LLP, president; Frank Milone '92 (BUS), partner, assurance and advisory services, Fiondella, Milone & LaSaracina LLP, immediate past president; David Sturgess '78 (BUS), partner, Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C., president-elect; Laura Cahill '84 JD, deputy state director and counsel for Sen. Joe Lieberman, secretary; and Lori Riiska '84 (BUS), owner, Lori Riiska CPA LLC, treasurer.

The alumni trustee member elected to the board is Richard T. Carbray '75 (PHR), owner, Apex Pharmacy.

Farrow Establishes Darfur Archive

Actress and humanitarian activist Mia Farrow, who delivered commencement remarks in Storrs this past May, has donated a collection of materials from her humanitarian work in Africa to the Archives and Special Collections section of the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center.

The collection contains correspondence, newspaper clippings, notes, photographs, writings, and speeches pertaining to Farrow's activism and

advocacy in Africa, particularly regarding Darfur, Sudan, and neighboring countries. There are also materials relating to Chad, the Central African Republic, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Farrow has traveled to the Darfur region of the Sudan many times during the past seven years. She blogs and posts analyses on her website and

speaks regularly in the United States and Canada about human rights.

At commencement, Farrow spoke passionately about how she first became struck by the conflict and genocide in Darfur, and how she was uplifted by the spirit of the nation's people.



Mia Farrow, the actress and human rights activist, during one of her many visits to Darfur, Sudan.



Renovations to the expanded Student Union were completed with the opening of a new patio area, landscaping at the back entrance of the building, and new walkway access from Glenbrook Road.



Storrs Center Rises Along Route 195

The first phase of construction for the \$220 million Storrs Center is now visible at the corner of Dog Lane and Storrs Road (Route 195) across from the School of Fine Arts.

The first phase will include about 27,000 square feet of commercial space for some current and some new businesses, 127 market-rate apartments, and a new parking garage, scheduled to open in August 2012.

The next phase will include approximately 42,000 square feet of additional commercial space and 160 apartments, scheduled to be completed by fall 2013. For more information about Storrs Center, including residential and commercial opportunities, go to www.mansfieldct.org/mdp.

Andrea Dennis-LaVigne Scholarship Honors Alumni Trustee's Service

When Andrea Dennis-LaVigne '03 (BGS) gave the commencement address to the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources in May, graduating students and their families were shocked to hear that the successful veterinarian and business woman's career plans were almost derailed by an advisor who said she would never get into vet school, despite her excellent grades.

"I wasn't sure if it was because of my diverse background, or because I'm female," said Dennis-LaVigne. "It was 1977."

Undeterred, she was determined to pursue her dream and not only was awarded a place at veterinary school, but also gained early admission after her junior year and earned her DVM before completing her undergraduate degree. She returned to UConn years later to finish her bachelor's degree through the Bachelor of General Studies program.

Grateful for the education she received at UConn, Dennis-LaVigne has spent years giving back to the University. She has served as president of the Alumni Association, as a member of the UConn Foundation Board of Directors, and on a variety of UConn planning committees, and recently completed two terms as the elected alumni member of the UConn Board of Trustees.

To celebrate her long history of service, an endowed scholarship to promote diversity at the University has been established



in her name, with a \$50,000 gift from an anonymous donor and a matching gift from former UConn athletic director Lew Perkins and his wife, Gwen.

Rachel Rubin, chief of staff to President Susan Herbst and executive secretary to the Board of Trustees, who was a primary advocate for the scholarship's creation, says the Andrea Dennis-LaVigne Scholarship for Advancing Diversity is intended to benefit a student "who thinks that diversity and multiculturalism are vital to a college campus, and approaches the issue with the same dedication, energy, and spirit that Andrea has always shown."

Diversity is an issue dear to Dennis-LaVigne's heart, and she has devoted much of her career of service at the University to promoting the acceptance of difference.

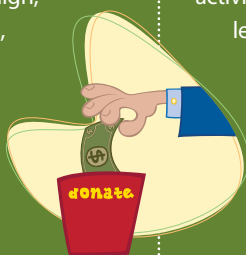
"When you come from a diverse background, you want people to see you the person, not you the race," says Dennis-LaVigne, whose maternal grandfather was one of the first African-American dentists in Hartford. "I want to make sure we look at each other as people."

She also hopes the scholarship will make a difference in the recipients' quality of life by relieving them of some of the financial burden of getting a college education.

30,000 Reasons to Support UConn

While the current \$600 million development campaign, *Our University. Our Moment.*, is ambitious and historic in terms of long-term support for the University, just as important to UConn's students are the regular, recurring annual gifts to the Fund for UConn.

Contributions to the Fund for UConn are put to use immediately where there are pressing, current needs on campus. In recent years, the Fund for UConn has been



tapped to provide resources for scholarships, undergraduate research grants, Study Abroad and internships, faculty support, diversity initiatives, and student activities. This flexibility allows University leadership to respond to ever-changing needs and circumstances, and ensures these opportunities will always be a part of educating the entire student.

"Annual support for the Fund for UConn plays an important role in what we are trying to accomplish on a strategic scale," says President Susan Herbst. "By providing funding that can be applied where and when needed, donations to the Fund for UConn help

to ensure that a UConn education is recognized as among the truly best in the nation. Each of the 30,000 students at UConn benefits in some way from a gift of any size to the Fund for UConn."

The Fund for UConn is by far the most commonly supported fund among the more than 1,300 at the UConn Foundation, and there is a proud tradition of recurring giving among many alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the University. About one-quarter of UConn's donors have supported the University for more than 20 years, often by making annual gifts to the Fund for UConn through the mail, the UConn Phonathon, or on the Foundation's website. For more information, visit giving.uconn.edu.

Soltys Family Establishes Scholarship in Athletic Communications

The family members of Joseph J. Soltys, who served as UConn's pioneering sports information director from 1959 to 1984, have established an endowed scholarship at the University of Connecticut in memory of their parents. The Joseph J. and Elizabeth A. Soltys Scholarship will be presented annually to an undergraduate student assistant in the UConn athletic communications office who is interested in pursuing the field as a career.



Soltys was part of some of the proudest moments in UConn athletic history, including the men's basketball team advancing to the NCAA Eastern Regional Final in 1964, three trips to the College World Series in 1965, 1972, and 1979, and the men's soccer team winning the 1981 NCAA Division I Championship. Elizabeth (Kearney) Soltys was active in the Storrs community, including at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, the League of Women Voters, the UConn League, the Benton Museum, and Mansfield public schools.

The Soltys family includes Mike Soltys '81 (CLAS) and his wife, Teresa '81 (CLAS), of Southington, Conn., and their children, Katie '09 (SFA), Sean '12 (CLAS), Christie '15 (CLAS), and Jason; Anne Otto, who recently retired from UConn Dining Services, and her husband, Bob, of Storrs; and Judy DiCristofaro of Hingham, Mass., her husband, Don, and their son, Devin.

GIVING DIGEST

A Teacher, a Banker, and an Enduring Gift

A strong advocate for education as both a teacher and statewide leader in the field, Carla Klein '72 (ED) and her family are honoring the memory of her late husband, John Klein '71 (CLAS), '77 JD, with a major gift supporting the Neag School of Education. Building on her past support of graduate students in the Neag School, Klein's gift will fund a professorship focused exclusively on urban education, with another gift over time to build an endowment for urban education.

Neags Fund Chair to Honor Sister's Memory

Ray '56 (CLAS) and Carole Neag have honored Ray's late sister through a gift of \$1.5 million to create the Letitia Neag Morgan Chair for Educational Psychology in the Neag School of Education. Ray's mother died when he was 10, and his older sisters stepped in to raise the family. Among them was Letitia Neag, whom Ray remembers with particular fondness. "This gift will help UConn with its goals to get the brightest and the best," he says, "and Letitia would have liked that."

President Herbst Leads by Example

President Susan Herbst and her husband, Douglas Hughes, have announced a gift of \$100,000 to establish a scholarship for students in the School of Fine Arts or College of Liberal Arts and Sciences who demonstrate both academic achievement and need. With this gift, President Herbst also hopes to underscore the critical nature of philanthropy to public higher education: "In these difficult times, UConn desperately needs increased private funding of student scholarships, faculty research, and building projects, in order to become the

top flagship University the state of Connecticut and its citizens deserve."

Sackler Gift Promotes Regenerative Engineering

Internationally prominent philanthropists Raymond and Beverly Sackler have provided a major gift to support pioneering tissue regeneration research at the UConn Health Center. The Sacklers' gift will enhance collaboration among the Health Center's leading physical scientists, biomedical researchers, and engineering experts, including those within the multidisciplinary Institute for Regenerative Engineering.



UConn business librarian Shikha Sharma, right, helps out veteran Jacqueline White-Tolefree at the Entrepreneurial Bootcamp for Vets.

Bank of America Boosts EBV Program for Veterans

The Bank of America Foundation announced a \$50,000 grant to support the continued development and expansion of the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities (EBV) program at the School of Business. The EBV program is an experiential business development initiative provided through a network of some of the best business schools in the U.S., including UConn. UConn joined the EBV consortium in 2010 and conducted its second training program this fall.

To read more about these and other Stories of Giving, please visit the UConn Foundation website at: ourmoment.uconn.edu.



Assistant head coach Rich Miller '95 (ED), right, with Ben Waruch '13 (CLAS).

Coaching Cross Country

RICH MILLER '95 (ED) GUIDES RUNNERS OVER CHALLENGES OF HILLS, FIELDS, AND WOODS

Rich Miller '95 (ED) is head coach of men's cross country and associate head coach of men's track and field. He has been part of the Huskies' coaching staff for 16 years and as a student-athlete was named the 1995 UConn Club Outstanding Scholar-Athlete. He was a co-captain of the track and field teams that won back-to-back New England Indoor Championships. He spoke with *UConn Magazine* about coaching men's cross country.

What should people know first about cross country?

We race over 5 miles in the woods and in the fields. Each course varies in the level of difficulty because of the terrain we run on. You have both individuals competing and a team competition. You are scored based on the place that you come in – you get one point for being in first place, 30 points for being in 30th place – as well as the time you have. You add up the points for the top five runners on the team, and that's the score you come in with. It's like golf in that the lowest score wins.

What makes a good championship course?

A challenging course. Runners have different strengths and weakness, and you have some runners who may favor the hillier

course, some who favor a flat course, or those that are good in the fields or the woods. The weather also plays a factor. Some courses get muddy when it's raining, and others drain pretty well. To me, a good championship course combines a lot of things, giving you some flat running as well as open running.

Is most of the team's training done on or off campus?

One of the great things about being here is there are a lot of varied routes nearby. We have some traditional loops on campus here: near Mirror Lake, Horsebarn Hill, and some trails up the fields behind Charter Oak in the woods. We'll also go down to Mansfield Hollow a number of times during the year. It's great training for these guys.

Is it difficult that you don't have the chance to coach your student-athletes as they are competing in cross country as other coaches in other team sports can do?

There's always final minute adjustments right before the competition starts but, by and large, most of the work has happened already leading up to that competition. There is a race plan for the kids to be disciplined, aggressive, and to follow the plan set up for them. Success or failure will be based on that. It is unique in that once the race starts, you turn into a cheerleader.

What are the elements of a race plan?

I believe in racing aggressively and in putting yourself in a position to win and not waiting for something to happen. A lot of it starts with mental preparation and race concepts. We work on understanding the benchmark is running five-minute miles over a 5- to 6-mile race. If you're able to run at that level, by and large, you're going to be successful. Guys need to be in position as they move into the rest of the race. And you need to do it without exerting the energy you need for the rest of the race.

What do you feel is unique about cross country racing at the intercollegiate level?

One of the great things in the sport is that we're all starters. There's no looking around for someone to take the ball away from you. I have my opportunity to succeed or fail, be a champion – and it's up to me, not the guy next to me. If I can be my best on the day that I'm preparing to be my best, nobody can take that away.



1971 Football Team Reunion

Members of the Huskies' 1971 Yankee Conference Champions were honored at Rentschler Field during the Oct. 1 football game against Western Michigan.

Front (L-R): Interim director of athletics Paul Pendergast, assistant coach Nick Nicolau, Joan Giannelli (wife of assistant coach Joe Giannelli), Bob Innis '72 (BUS), Jim Pisciotano '72 (CLAS), Mark McEwen '72 (ED), John O'Grady '73 (BUS), Paul Scaffidi '74 (CLAS), Mike McCarthy '74 (ED), Greg Gorski '72 (ED), Al Akowitz '72 (CLAS), and head coach Bob Casciola.

Back (L-R): Assistant coach Tony Casarella, assistant coach Bob Weiss, assistant coach Andy Baylock, Bob Bundy '74 (CLAS), Gerry Deroche '72 (CLAS), Bob Bacewicz '73 (CLAS), Joe Bacewicz '73 (CLAS), Tom O'Neill '72 (CLAS), assistant coach Len Rivers, Rich Foye '74 (CLAS), manager Barry Neistat '76 (ED), Mark Svencer '72 (CLAS), Bob Robustelli '74 (BUS), Keith Kraham '72 (ED), Bob Warren '74 (BUS), Brian Usher '74 (ED), Lou Allen '75 (ED), and assistant coach Tom Ryan.

Reid Gets 350th Career Win

Head men's soccer coach Ray Reid was recognized for his 350th career win, a 1-0 victory over Tulsa on Sept. 9. Reid, in his 15th season as the Huskies' head coach, was presented with a ball noting his accomplishment. The Huskies were ranked the top Division I men's soccer team for five weeks in 2011.



Head men's soccer coach Ray Reid talks with forward Mamadou Doudou Diouf '14 (CLAS).



Huskies 2011 WNBA All-Stars

The 2011 WNBA All-Star game in San Antonio served as a reunion for six former Huskies. From left: Maya Moore '11 (CLAS) of the Minnesota Lynx, named 2011 WNBA Rookie of the Year; Renee Montgomery '09 (CLAS) of the Connecticut Sun; Diana Taurasi '05 (CLAS) of the Phoenix Mercury; Tina Charles '10 (CLAS) of the Connecticut Sun; Sue Bird '02 (CLAS) and Swin Cash '02 (CLAS), Most Valuable Player of the WNBA All-Star Game, both of the Seattle Storm. Bird and Taurasi were honored as two of the top 15 WNBA players of all time as part of the league's 15th anniversary. In October, Moore and Charde Houston '08 (CLAS) helped the Lynx win their first WNBA championship.

Scientists Find Gene Linked to Alcohol Consumption

AUTS2 GENE PREVIOUSLY ASSOCIATED WITH AUTISM, ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER

Researchers have found a gene that appears to play a role in regulating how much alcohol people drink, a discovery that could lead to a better understanding of drinking behaviors that can lead to alcoholism.

Victor Hesselbrock, interim chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and director of the Alcohol Research Center at the UConn Health Center, was one of about 100 scientists worldwide involved in the three-year research project that combined data from five different large-scale genetic studies. The Alcohol Research Center focuses on the causes and treatment of alcoholism.

The findings were published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, one of the world's most-cited multidisciplinary scientific journals.

The scientists identified a gene known as "autism susceptibility candidate 2," or

AUTS2, that appears to influence levels of alcohol consumption. The gene has previously been linked to autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, but its function remains unknown.

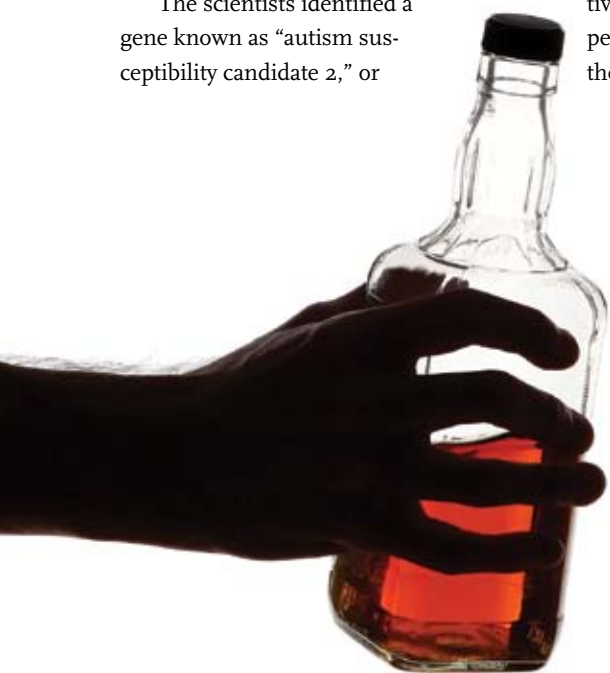
In a study of more than 47,000 people worldwide, the researchers found two versions of the AUTS2 gene, one of them three times more common than the other. Individuals with the less common version of the gene drank on average 5 percent less alcohol than people with the more common version. The AUTS2 gene is most active in parts of the brain associated with neuropsychological reward mechanisms, suggesting that it might play a part in regulating the positive reinforcement that people feel when they drink alcohol.

Identifying the gene and figuring out how it functions could lead to more effective interventions for alcoholism and for people with drinking problems, such as those who engage in binge drinking.

"When we can understand the functionality of a gene, then perhaps we can intervene with more targeted pharmacological agents," says Hesselbrock, who holds the Physicians' Health Services Chair in Addiction Studies and has dedicated most of his career to understanding the underlying behavioral mechanisms of alcohol consumption and dependence.

Hesselbrock was involved in the project because of his ongoing work with the Collaborative Study on the Genetics of Alcoholism (COGA). The study, which began in the U.S. in 1989, is one of the largest extended family studies in the world designed to identify genes that influence one's vulnerability to alcoholism and related conditions.

Excessive alcohol consumption is one of the leading causes of preventable deaths in the United States. There are many reasons why people drink, but scientists have long hypothesized that genetic and



environmental influences are involved in the process. COGA has previously identified about 20 other genes associated with alcohol dependence, including several genes associated with alcohol metabolism.

The finding of an association between alcohol consumption and the autism AUTS2 gene is novel, in that this gene was first linked to a nonaddictive, early onset childhood disorder. These results suggest that some genes may contribute to a variety of poor outcomes, not just to a specific disorder.

The study was led by Gunter Schumann of the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London, and Paul Elliott of the School of Public Health at Imperial College London.

"The difference that this particular gene makes is only small, but by finding it we've opened up a new area of research into the biological mechanisms that control drinking," Elliott said at the time the findings were released.

What makes the study particularly impressive, says Hesselbrock, is the comprehensive testing that supported the findings. Schumann not only identified the gene, he replicated the finding twice, first in a separate living sample and then in samples of brain tissue. He also did functional studies in mice models and fruit flies. The findings indicate that AUTS2 seems to be involved in the regulation of alcohol intake in a number of different species.

"This is an important first step toward the development of individually targeted prevention and treatments for alcohol abuse and addiction," said Schumann.

As exciting as the latest findings are, Hesselbrock cautions that alcoholism, like other behavioral disorders, is very complex genetically and much more work needs to be done.

"We know alcoholism and alcohol dependence most likely involve a constellation of genes. There could be 20 to 30 other genes involved," Hesselbrock says. "This is an important piece, but it is not the whole story."

—Colin Poitras '85 (CLAS)



Eleanor Roosevelt was an advocate for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations after World War II.

Researchers Create Index to Measure Commitment to Human Rights

Treating other people fairly seems like a simple task. But when it comes to assessing whether governments of entire nations are treating their citizens in a just manner – respecting global human rights – things get complicated.

Susan Randolph, associate professor of economics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and co-authors Sakiko Fukuda-Parr and Terra Lawson-Remer at The New School in New York City have produced a metric that measures how well countries are meeting their commitments to ensure their people's basic economic and social rights.

Since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was created in 1948 by the United Nations, various indices have been used over the years to assess the extent to which human rights are realized around the world. But the methods have focused only on self-reported outcomes from each country's government.

"Countries have been able to set their own benchmarks until now, which in practice has made the principle nonoperational," Randolph says. A country that sets its own goals, she points out, will surely set them so they will meet or exceed them.

The index developed by Randolph and her co-authors, called the Index of Social and Economics Right Fulfillment, or SERF, creates benchmarks that are feasible for countries with different resource capacities. Randolph says this makes it possible to hold countries accountable and take countries to task for failing to meet their commitments under established international law.

In addition to organizing and teaching workshops for nonprofits around the globe about the use of this index, Randolph has received a \$235,000, three-year National Science Foundation grant to understand the relationship between economic growth and the fulfillment of basic economic and social rights.

Team to Sequence Poultry Viruses



An interdisciplinary team of researchers from UConn and Georgia State University is studying the genomic diversity of an infectious bronchitis virus (IBV) that is the single-largest cause of economic loss in the U.S. poultry industry.

The research team led by Ion Mandoiu, associate professor of computer science and engineering in the School of Engineering, is conducting its study under a grant of more than \$400,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to develop computational methods enabling the characterization of genomic diversity of an IBV that costs U.S. poultry farmers millions of dollars each year in lost revenue.

Mandoiu's research colleagues include Mazhar Khan, professor of pathobiology and veterinary medicine, and Rachel O'Neill, professor of molecular and cell biology, both in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; and Alex Zelikovsky, professor of computer science at Georgia State University. The grant was made by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

While generally not fatal except among young chickens, IBV restricts growth in broiler chickens and reduces egg production in those that are laying. Like most bronchial diseases, it spreads rapidly in the dense living conditions

found on most commercial poultry farms.

Over the two years of the project, Mandoiu and his colleagues expect

to develop user-friendly, Web-based bioinformatics tools that will be made available free of charge to the research community. This will allow other

researchers to improve and customize the tools to their needs, and will create a community of users that will ensure long-term maintenance and further developments.

Mandoiu expects that the tools will be applicable to the study of vaccine design for many viruses affecting animal health, not only IBV in poultry. In addition, he says, the work will lead to improved diagnostics and monitoring of viral outbreaks in bird and animal populations, reduced vaccination costs, improved animal health, and improved yield of animal production.



Mohan Has Vision for Drug Research for Eye Disease

Royce Mohan is the new John A. and Florence Mattern Solomon Chair in Vision Biology and Eye Diseases at the UConn Health Center. He is creating the Laboratory for Chemical Biology and Drug Discovery to attract scientists of varied backgrounds to help in the process of drug discovery for eye diseases. "It's the first thing you do when you wake – open your eyes," he says. "It's the most important sensory organ. It's how we perceive the world."

Studying Termites to Turn Wood into Energy

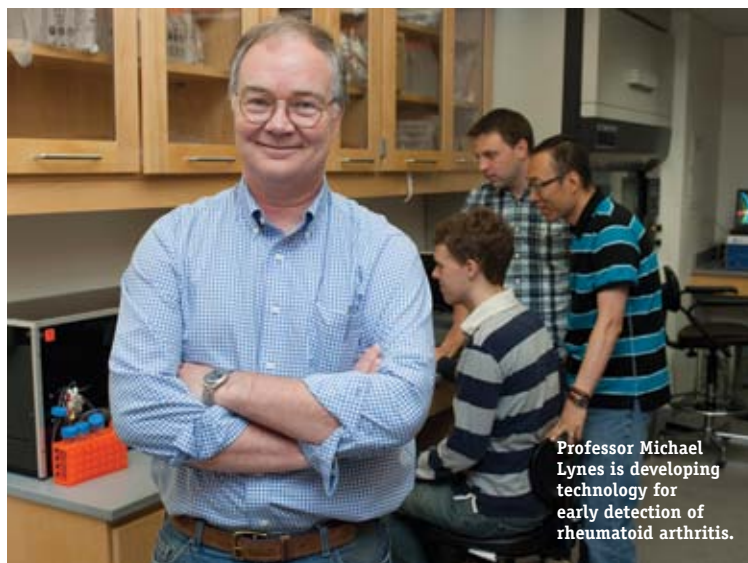
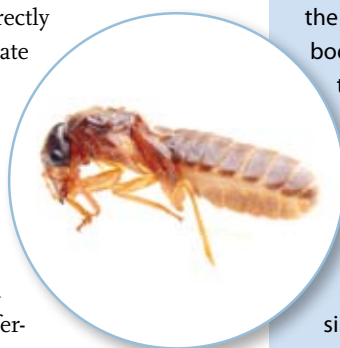
The bane of many a homeowner, the dreaded termites, may gain new respect as a source of clean energy. An interdisciplinary team of researchers at UConn and CalTech has won a \$2 million grant from the National Science Foundation to explore how communities of microbes found in the guts of termites interact to efficiently metabolize wood cellulose.

The four-year project, funded under the agency's Emerging Frontiers in Research & Innovation program, may lead to novel energy applications in addition to shedding light on the complex signaling mechanisms that allow the gut community to convert wood into useful energy.

Leading the investigation is Ranjan Srivastava, an associate professor of chemical, materials, and biomolecular engineering (CMBE) in the School of Engineering. His co-investigators include Leslie Shor and William Mustain, both of CMBE; Joerg Graf, Dan Gage, and Kenneth Noll of molecular and cell biology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; and Jared Leadbetter, professor of environmental microbiology at CalTech and an expert on termite gut bacteria.

"This is an exciting project in which investigators are learning from nature, says Aleksandr Simonian, program manager at the National Science Foundation. "By exploring the complex community of microbes that lives in a termite's gut, the researchers will exploit what they learn to develop more efficient ways to degrade woody plant materials, a critical step for creating alternative fuels and sustainable chemicals directly from plants. The team will also create some clever outreach and education activities that should engage students, teachers, and the public, and make the science and engineering of the project accessible and exciting."

The digestive tracts of so-called "lower" termites contain many different species of microorganisms. This microbial community, in cooperation with the termite host, can effectively break down the rigid, woody material in plants called lignocelluloses. Understanding how the microorganisms work together, handling different responsibilities and responding to changes in the environment, is an important aim of the project.



Professor Michael Lynes is developing technology for early detection of rheumatoid arthritis.

Researchers Work to Identify Early Marker for Rheumatoid Arthritis

Imagine that, with a prick of your finger, a doctor could detect the early stages of rheumatoid arthritis long before you felt any joint pain. That same tiny blood sample might also be screened for other conditions, such as diabetes, infection, or leukemia.

Michael Lynes, professor of molecular and cell biology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Ernest Guignon, director of engineering at Ciencia Inc., in East Hartford, Conn., and an adjunct professor in biomedical engineering in the School of Engineering, are developing such a technology with a research grant for more than \$1 million from the National Institutes of Health Small Business Innovation.

Their technology is based on a phenomenon called surface plasmon resonance, in which laser light that is reflected off a gold surface is affected by the weight of the material adhered to the gold. In one form of the Ciencia device, antibodies are attached to the gold surface of the device's microelectronic chip. These antibodies can capture molecules that are markers of cellular processes that lead to disease. If such molecules are in a blood sample, a doctor one day may detect the onset of an illness before it develops to an untreatable stage.

There may not be a single molecular marker for a disease, so the new Ciencia microchip allows Lynes to examine up to 4,000 different molecules per square centimeter of chip. This allows him to test for the presence of many kinds of molecules simultaneously.

Lynes notes that current drugs have many side effects, so that by identifying which cellular molecules are involved in a disease, one might target those specific molecules to limit side effects. This approach could even become personalized so that patient-specific cellular molecules could be targeted.



Twins Matt, left, and Colin McDonough '12 (CLAS), covering a football game at Rentschler Field in East Hartford, Conn.

Twins Share Coverage of Huskies Sports at *Daily Campus*

JOURNALISM MAJORS GREW UP AS FANS OF BASEBALL, BASKETBALL, AND FOOTBALL

That Matt and Colin McDonough '12 (CLAS) grew up as sports fans is not surprising. Their father, Jim, a native of the Boston area, encouraged them to follow the Celtics and Patriots.

"Our father was obsessed with the Celtics," says Matt, who was born three minutes before his brother. "We skipped our first Little League game to go to a Celtics game. Our bedtime stories were about Bill Russell, Red Auerbach, John Havlicek, and Sam and K.C. Jones."

Colin says he and his brother grew up playing baseball and spending their family vacations traveling to ballparks around the United States. When a friend became editor of the Hamden (Conn.) High School student paper, the twins were not only

asked to write about sports, but also became co-editors of the sports section.

Now journalism majors in UConn's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the McDonough twins continue their writing in journalism classes and for *The Daily Campus*. This year, with Matt serving as sports editor and Colin as associate sports editor, they will both cover football and men's basketball in addition to their editing duties.

Matt says their father, who majored in journalism at Duquesne before moving into a sales career, inspired them with his Boston sports stories and their family baseball vacations. He says their mother, Marcy, a preschool teacher, has grown to become a sports fan.

"She'd tell all her co-workers where we were sitting at the game when we were working at the men's or women's basketball games," Colin says. "When we were at the men's Big East Tournament, she'd follow the games on the computer during [her classroom's] nap times."

The McDonoughs, who interned at the *New Haven Register* in 2010, say they feel fortunate to be covering sports for *The Daily Campus* during a time when Huskies teams went to NCAA tournaments in several sports, won national championships in men's and women's basketball, and the football team played in its first BCS bowl game.

"After freshman year, when we lost in the men's Final Four, we thought it would be our only chance to see a possible title,"

Colin says. "This year, [the NCAA title] came out of nowhere."

"I think we're really lucky we came here when we did and got the job we did," adds Matt.

They admit it is sometimes difficult to separate their fan enthusiasm from the job they must do as reporters, as well as find time just to be students.

"You feel bad some nights when you

want to meet up with friends and they want to know when, and you say, 'When I get done,'" Colin says. "Our friends now encourage us because they know it's not just another job. When you have a support group, the job gets easier, and people start to realize putting out a newspaper isn't like anything else."

Like many twins, Matt and Colin have not spent much time apart. In fact, when Matt went to the men's basketball NCAA

regional in Washington, D.C., it was the first time they spent a day without seeing each other. But they know this will likely change sometime soon.

"This time next year, I could see Matt in Boston and me in California," Colin says. "That's why we were glad to be able to work together. We've been together our whole lives. You never know when that will end."

—Kenneth Best

DeVinney Finds Husky Swim Team a Family Affair

Erin DeVinney '12 (NUR) is a student-athlete who exemplifies Husky pride, individually and as part of a team.

A Big East Academic All-Star with a 3.3 GPA, she is captain of the women's swimming team. She also leads weekly learning groups — six-hour study halls that are required for freshman members of the swimming and diving teams.

Her team enjoyed a winning season last year (7-2) — with the College Swimming Coaches Association of America honoring the Husky men's and women's swimming and diving teams as Scholar All-American Teams, for maintaining an overall team GPA of 3.0. "Winning helps," DeVinney says, "but more important is being part of the swim team family."

When DeVinney was being recruited by head coach Bob Goldberg, he told her she would have 27 friends on the swim team.

"It really was like that," DeVinney says. "In fact, I was just invited to a former teammate's wedding who graduated a couple of years ago. The swim teams are like one big family."

Swimming and Huskymania are part of DeVinney's own family as well. Her older sister, Katie DeVinney '09 (ED), '10 MA, graduated with an Integrated Bachelor's/Master's degree from the Neag School of Education and also was on the swim team.

"Katie swam for four years and during her fifth year, which was my sophomore year, she was an assistant coach," DeVinney says. "I will be here for a fifth year, too, so hopefully I'll coach as well."



Offering encouragement as team captain and perhaps assistant coach is valuable preparation for DeVinney's goal of becoming a nurse. Diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes as a high school freshman, DeVinney says, "Ever since I've had diabetes I've wanted to be a nurse. I like being in the hospital setting. I'd like to see if there's a way to help other people like me, who have juvenile diabetes."

An Arizona native who hopes to launch her nursing career in her home state's Mayo Clinic, DeVinney came to Storrs on a recruiting trip for the swim team. "I fell in love with UConn's swim program and was really impressed by UConn's School of Nursing," she says.

As a nursing major and student-athlete, DeVinney manages a grueling schedule. In addition to carrying five classes each semester, weekly swim meets last three to four hours — plus travel time — and she practices 20 hours weekly during swim season.

Not that life is all work. "UConn is a great University — there are always exciting games to go to, and I've met tons of people," DeVinney says, adding that being a nursing major is one of the best aspects of being a Husky. "I learn something new every day."

"With her training and hard work Erin has overcome some difficulties with diabetes because it affects everything she does," says Goldberg. "She's taking a really tough major and opted to go five years so she can give her all to both school and swimming. She's an unsung hero. She is what intercollegiate athletics is supposed to be all about."

—Lauren Lalancette



From left, Rick Holmberg '68 (CANR), '72 (ED); Diane Holmberg '72 (ED), '78 MA, '91 MS; and Russ Holmberg '04 (CANR) at Holmberg Orchards.

Growing the



Economy in Connecticut

By Sheila Foran '83 (BGS), '96 Ph.D.
Photos by Sean Flynn & Peter Morenus

From orchards to vineyards, UConn alumni thrive as part of the state's agriculture industry

Not every industry is affected by factors as varied as seasonal rainfall, the price of feed crops, transportation logistics, or hordes of invading insects. Likewise, few industries in the United States can claim a long history of contributing to the nation by helping to establish a system of public higher education — through the 1862 Morrill Act, which established land grant universities such as UConn — that has led to advances in science, technology, social sciences, and the arts.

According to “Economic Impacts of Connecticut’s Agricultural Industry,” a 2010 UConn study produced by researchers in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Nutmeg State’s agricultural industry remains vital. It encompasses activities as diverse as aquaculture, dairy farming, ornamental horticulture, forestry, poultry farming, wineries and vineyards, and orchards. The study reports that agriculture in Connecticut is a \$3.5 billion dollar industry that generates more than \$500 million in cash receipts annually and employs nearly 20,000 workers on farms throughout the state.

“Agriculture in Connecticut is a very modern, value-added industry,” says Professor Rigoberto Lopez, head of the Department

of Agricultural and Resource Economics, who led the study. “It has to do with adding value to satisfy consumer needs in the 21st century by meeting market niches. There is a renaissance in local agriculture. People want to know where their food is coming from and are willing to pay more for local food. It’s not just a business. Agriculture is a mechanism for maintaining cultural heritage and provides cultural benefits of maintaining open space.”

Alumni Reinvigorate Family Farms

Numerous alumni from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, including the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture, own farms and related agricultural businesses throughout the state. Their contributions to the state’s economy vary, particularly as they have expanded their core business to meet new consumer needs.

In the case of Rick '68 (CANR), '72 (ED) and Russ '04 (CANR) Holmberg, the family business today known as Holmberg Orchards goes back four generations to Russ’ great-grandparents. Their farm in Gales Ferry has been in the family since 1896, first producing vegetable crops and gradually transitioning into orchards of apples, peaches, and pears. With

wholesale clients and a busy pick-your-own business that starts with blueberries in July and ends with pumpkins and apples in October, Holmberg Orchards has largely escaped the effects of a sluggish economy. Its year-round retail outlet offers locally produced gourmet foods and, since 2007, a line of award-winning fruit wines, recognized in both the Eastern International Wine and Finger Lakes International Wine competitions. Wine grapes planted in 2010 have been harvested this year and are being turned into the farm's first generation of Pinot Blanc.

Kristin (O'Leary) '79 (CANR) and Peter '79 (CANR) Orr's farm in Thompson has been in agricultural use for more than 300 years. After buying the 320-acre farm from Kristin's parents in 1989, the Orrs took a fledgling wholesale nursery business and transformed it into Fort Hill Farms, a multifaceted operation named by *Yankee Magazine* as one of the top 10 places to visit in New England. The farm, a member of the Farmer's Cow dairy consortium, has a dairy herd numbering 400 cows. Their own creamery makes Farmer's Cow ice cream, which is sold on the premises, while the farm offers a variety of seasonal activities, including a lavender fest in June; an Ice Cream, Blueberry, and Bluegrass Bash in July; a corn maze that opens in August; and hot-air balloon rides in October.

The Holmbergs and the Orrs have both repositioned their farming operations to take advantage of changing consumer habits.

"I'm a fruit grower," says Russ Holmberg. "I've been interested in wine grapes for a long

while, and now we've harvested our first crop. We're part of the Connecticut Wine Trail, and we offer an experience for the whole family ... from picking apples and peaches with the kids to wine tastings for the adults."

For the Orrs, farming and marketing go hand in hand. "We want the farm to be a destination for people interested in knowing where their food comes from," Peter Orr says.

Business Off the Farm

Other UConn alums are running businesses beyond the farm. For Brandon Hyde '01 (CANR), following in the footsteps of his father, Harlan '99 (RHSA), was a foregone conclusion. As an elementary school student, when asked to draw a picture of what he wanted to be when he grew up, Brandon says he drew a picture of his father, the owner of a landscaping business.

"I drew a picture of my dad with a lawnmower and a little sun," he says. "Even then I knew I wanted to be just like him."

Harlan started Hyde Park Landscaping in Norwich in 1980. Brandon later joined the business, which has continued to attract both commercial and residential clients throughout the southeastern part of the state despite recent economic downturns. Father and son agree that there are several reasons for their business success, including the experience of their longtime employees.

"When we make presentations to potential clients, we talk about the fact that we have people who have been with us for 15 or 20 years, and we trust them to represent our company well,"



Harlan Hyde '99 (RHSA), left, and Brandon Hyde '01 (CANR) of Hyde Park Landscaping show their work at a home in Groton Long Point, Conn.



The Holmberg Orchards retail store in Gales Ferry offers locally produced foods and wine.



Study: State Agriculture Industry at

Agriculture is a \$3.5 billion industry in Connecticut, providing more than 20,000 jobs and significant social and ecological benefits, according to a 2010 University of Connecticut study – the first comprehensive study to assess agriculture's contribution to the state's economy.

Conducted and authored by professors and research assistants at UConn's Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics in cooperation with the Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis, the study used direct agricultural sales generated in 2007 to calculate the industry's \$3.5 billion contribution to Connecticut's total gross product of \$212 billion that year – roughly the size of the economy of Ireland or Israel.

Some highlights of the study include:

- Each dollar in sales in the agricultural industry creates up to an additional dollar's worth of economic activity statewide.
- The agricultural production sector generates between 13 and 19 jobs per million dollars in sales.
- The highest job creators per million dollars in sales are support activities for agriculture: the greenhouse, nursery, and floriculture industries; tobacco farming; animal production; and commercial fishing.
- The greenhouse and nursery industry is the state's largest agricultural production sector, accounting for nearly half of the state's agricultural product sales.
- The highest job generator is the greenhouse, nursery, floriculture, and sod production sector (nearly 7,000 jobs); followed by cheese manufacturing; animal slaughtering and processing; fruit and vegetable canning, pickling, and drying; tobacco farming; forestry; fruit farming; and fluid milk manufacturing.



**\$3.5
Billion**

says Harlan, who first completed a certificate program in floriculture at UConn in 1967 before returning to earn an associate's degree in 1999. "We have a core group of workers, and there's a mutual respect between us. It pays off in customer satisfaction."

Ira Feinberg also knows something about long-term employees, since many of his key associates at The Plant Group in Franklin are UConn alumni. Twenty-five years ago, Feinberg purchased land, enrolled in horticulture classes at UConn, hired fellow student Phil Allegretti '88 (CANR) as his nursery manager, and began a wholesale nursery that now produces more than 2,000 varieties of container-grown perennials for sale to retail garden centers, wholesalers, landscapers, landscape architects, parks, and golf courses throughout the Northeast. Other alumni at The Plant Group include: Mark Alpert '84 (CANR), sales manager; Marc Andrew '95 (CANR), assistant nursery manager; and Judy (Vosburgh) Mattson '78 (CANR), sales representative.

"Everyone here has the best interests of the nursery in mind – more than you could reasonably expect from most people," Feinberg says. "Everyone's been here over 15 years, and that plays a big part in our continued success."

UConn's alumni will continue to play an important role in the state's agricultural economy, says Gregory Weidemann, dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, noting that an extensive network of alums are working in businesses that provide critical support to those who produce the nation's food.

"We're training the professionals of the future who are going to support the agriculture industry in some way," Weidemann says. "Whether they go out and become a commodities trader, make agricultural loans as a bank officer, or go on to become a professor in a university's College of Agriculture, many of our students are going to be engaged in some way supporting that industry."

word

science

good reader?

Haski

spatial resolution

real

time resolution

neuron orientation

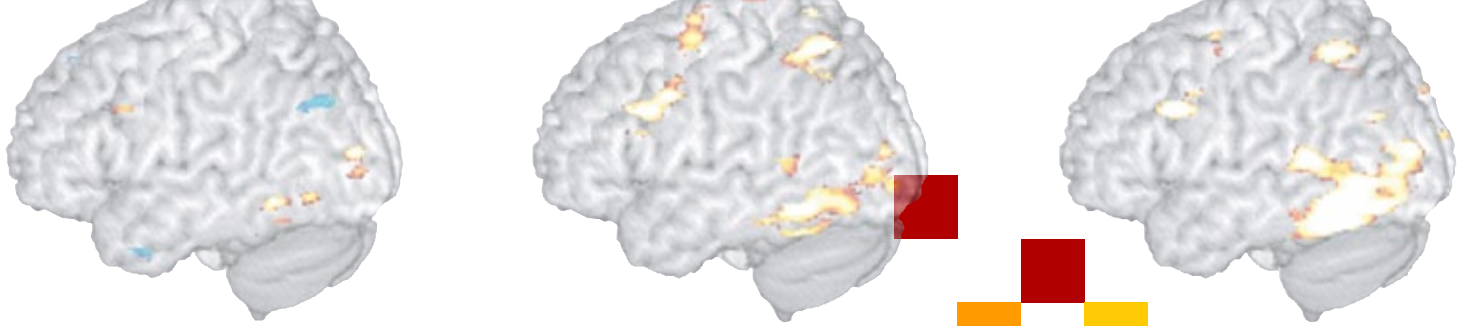
@@@@@ dysconnectivity

Right

LEFT

written

spoken



ns Laboratories

UConn faculty and alumni lead research into the science of the spoken and written word in a four-decade collaboration with Yale University.

By Kenneth Best

Illustration by Eva Lee

Still from "Word Brain,"
silent digital animation,
3 min 48 sec, 2010.

Do you remember how you learned to speak? Most people do not recall learning how to talk, or know how it is that they can understand others. The process involves a complex coordination of moving air from our lungs in coordination with the larynx, palate, jaw, tongue, and lips to form vowels and consonants that express a thought originating in the neural network of the brain.

You may recall the difficult process of learning how to read – associating a letter of the alphabet with a sound and then putting letters together to form words and sentences. In comparison, learning to speak may seem to come to us more naturally.

Ultimately, finding the answers behind how we learn to speak and read could help those who have an impaired ability to speak or understand others, as well as assist those who have difficulty learning to read and write.

UConn's Experts

UConn faculty and alumni associated with world-renowned Haskins Laboratories in New Haven, Conn., have been working on the science of the spoken and written word for more than four decades. Founded in 1935 by Caryl Haskins and Franklin Cooper, Haskins is an independent, interdisciplinary research center affiliated with UConn and Yale University.

"We have a literacy crisis in this country," says Philip Rubin '73 MA, '75 Ph.D., Haskins chief executive officer and former director of the Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences at the National Science Foundation. "Many of our kids struggle with reading. At the heart, what we do is address those that are struggling. What makes them different than kids who don't struggle ... is the kind of work that we're doing."





UConn researchers at Haskins Laboratories in New Haven, Conn., use the latest technology to study the science of the spoken and written word, including brain scans to learn the cognitive and neurobiological foundations of speech and language.

The National Center for Educational Statistics says about 22 percent of adults in the United States have “minimal literacy skills,” meaning that they can read some words but cannot understand simple forms, such as a job application, or instructions, such as how to operate a computer.

Haskins researchers have been responsible for major scientific advances in speech and reading, including the development of the first reading machine for the blind, which ultimately led to the synthesis of artificial speech in computers. One of the scientists who conducted early research on the device was the late Alvin Liberman, a psychologist who served as director of Haskins for a decade and helped create the Department of Linguistics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) in Storrs. Liberman and Donald Shankweiler, professor emeritus of psychology in CLAS, collaborated with other Haskins colleagues in 1967 to produce “Perception of the Speech Code,” a landmark study published in *Psychological Review* that remains

among the most cited papers in the literature of psychology.

“Haskins Labs in the 1950s was beginning to ask the question: What are the bits of sound, physical sound, that are conveying consonants and vowels?” says Shankweiler. “That was not an easy question to answer. Speech recognition is still less than perfect, but it depended very much on the research done at Haskins Labs over the past 40 to 50 years.”

Shankweiler says the link between speech and reading results in literacy, which provides the key to unlocking the ability to learn. “One of the main advantages of reading is that we are not limited by the speech we hear,” he says. “We extend our knowledge through print. A scholar will learn more through print than the spoken word. It’s a way to expand our use of language to increase knowledge.”

Talking Shop

With speech and reading research at the core of Haskins, its scientists have expanded their investigations to include the neural basis of reading

development, examination of “birth-to-five” development through a Child Language Studies Laboratory, and increased attention to the cognitive and neurobiological foundations of bilingualism.

“You can do things in this place that you can’t do elsewhere; it’s really an interdisciplinary model,” says Kenneth Pugh, president and director of research, who also serves as a psychology professor in CLAS. “It provides an opportunity for researchers to be involved with really good technology. It’s a very good resource for UConn graduate students and faculty.”

The strength of the connection between the University and Haskins is evident by the cadre of graduate students who have been drawn to Storrs by the opportunity to associate with pioneering faculty researchers that include the late Isabelle Liberman, professor of educational psychology and an authority on reading disabilities, and the late Ignatius Mattingly, professor of linguistics who conducted groundbreaking

research on speech synthesis; as well as Michael T. Turvey, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Psychology Emeritus and director of the Center for the Ecological Study of Perception and Action, and Leonard Katz, professor of psychology emeritus in the Department of Psychology.

"It's tremendously energizing," says Turvey of the collegial discussions between faculty and students focused on their research. "It's not just happening when we're in the laboratories. We're doing this on Friday night in the pub. The most important graduate students tend to come from UConn."

For many of those graduate students, Haskins is where they were mentored and encouraged to continue their research, leading to their own independent research and careers as scientists. While a graduate student in Storrs, Julia Irwin '98 Ph.D. was nominated to become a Haskins research assistant. She and other UConn students would carpool from Storrs to New Haven each week to work on their projects, a tradition that continues today.

"I came here as a very low-level research assistant and was mentored by a number of UConn faculty and Haskins scientists," says Irwin, now an assistant professor of psychology at Southern Connecticut State University and senior scientist at Haskins, whose research focuses on the role of the face in audiovisual speech perception. "I'm getting at the very fundamental level of speech sound. When there is a face that accompanies a voice, it's pretty heavily used. What I've argued is that when people are speaking, there's tons of information on the face."

Carol Fowler '73 MA, '77 Ph.D. first learned of Alvin Liberman's

work as an undergraduate at Brown and became interested in the relation of speech production to speech perception and how phonemes – the smallest segments of speech that distinguish one word from another in a given language – work. Her 1983 paper published in the *Journal of Experimental Psychology* on how vowels are produced as part of the rhythm of speech, broke new ground in the field.

"We need to understand what it is about the language system that gives it the power that it has," says Fowler, a former president and director of research at Haskins. "Why can we talk about anything we can think about? Why can we understand sentences we have never heard before in our lives? Why can we generate sentences we've never said before in our lives and expect others to understand them?"

UConn Scientists and Haskins Laboratories

Former Faculty at Haskins

The late **Alvin Liberman**
Professor of Psychology; Former President and Research Director, Haskins

The late **Isabelle Liberman**
Professor of Educational Psychology

The late **Ignatius Mattingly**
Professor of Linguistics

Current Faculty at Haskins

Arthur S. Abramson
Professor Emeritus of Linguistics

Heather Bortfeld
Associate Professor of Psychology

David Braze
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Linguistics

Claudia Carello
Professor of Psychology
Director, Center for the Ecological Study of Perception and Action (CESPA)

Carol Fowler '73 MA, '77 Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology
Former Director, Haskins

Leonard Katz
Professor Emeritus of Psychology

Kenneth Pugh
Professor of Psychology; Current President and Director of Research, Haskins

Donald Shankweiler
Professor Emeritus of Psychology

Michael T. Turvey
Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Psychology Emeritus and

Director of the Center for the Ecological Study of Perception and Action (CESPA)

James S. Magnuson
Associate Professor of Psychology

Jay G. Rueckl
Associate Professor of Psychology; Head of Perception, Action Cognition

Diane Lillo-Martin
Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor and Department Head of Linguistics

Whitney Tabor
Assistant Professor of Psychology

Alumni at Haskins

Philip Rubin '73 MA, '75 Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer and Senior Scientist, Haskins; Former Director, Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences, National Science Foundation

Susan Brady '72 MA, '75 Ph.D.
Professor of School Psychology, University of Rhode Island

Lawrence Brancazio '98 Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology, Southern Connecticut State University

Laurie Beth Feldman '78 MA, Ph.D. '80
Professor of Psychology, SUNY Albany

Stephen Frost '97 MA, '01 Ph.D.
Senior Scientist, Haskins

Julia Irwin '98 Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Psychology, Southern Connecticut State University

Gerald McRoberts '89 MA, '90 Ph.D.
Senior Scientist, Haskins

IT'S NOT EASY ADJUSTING TO college. But for Vu Tran '10 (MS) the usual challenges of navigating freshman year were complicated by the fact that he was in the process of coming out to his friends and family as a gay man.

"There were some awkward moments," he recalls. "My roommates would be talking about the girls they liked; I'd be talking about guys."

But an introduction to the Rainbow Center — UConn's educational resource for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) campus community — helped him find his way. "The Rainbow Center gave me a niche and helped me get my legs under me," he says.

After a rocky start, Tran excelled, not only academically, but socially. He reached out to the Women's Center as a facilitator for its Violence Against Women Prevention Program. He became a "Sexpert" with the Health Education



By Mary Howard

Out and A



Office, a position for which he received a Peer Educator of the Year award. He mentored new students through the University's First Year Experience Program and told his coming-out story to classes and groups as part of the Rainbow Center's Speakers Bureau.

In 2008, Tran made UConn history when he became the first openly gay Homecoming King. "It was a really nice feeling," he says. "Especially after not wanting to go to my high school prom or Homecoming dance because I was worried about what people would think about my date."

Tran, who received his master's degree in accounting at UConn last December and now works at Ernst & Young LLP, feels his story is not unusual. In the past decade, there has been a deliberate effort by the administration to address homophobia and make the campus a more welcoming environment for all students.

GLENN KOETZNER, CRAZY DOG PHOTOGRAPHY, WWW.CRAZYDOGPHOTOS.COM

*Rainbow Center leads support network
for LGBT students on campus*

about

UConn has hosted the Annual True Colors Conference, the largest LGBT youth conference in the U.S., for the past four years.

‘Enough is enough’

In 1999, *The New York Times* ran an article on the growing trend of gay-bias incidents on UConn’s campus. From chalking “If you’re gay, go away” on sidewalks to vandalizing doors of openly gay students, 21 incidents were reported to campus police that fall. That same year, the *Princeton Review* ranked the University No. 12 among the 20 most homophobic college campuses in the country.

In response, students organized a rally in support of the LGBT community and presented a list of demands to then-president Philip Austin. The response by administration was immediate. Austin released a statement deploring the incidents and proposed four steps to counter gay-bias acts: advocating immediate police investigation, making diversity part of the learning experience, fostering a community atmosphere, and proclaiming an act against one group as an act against the entire campus.

“The *Times* article provided traction for a movement to make UConn more LGBT-friendly,” says Fleurette King, Rainbow Center director.

“The University said ‘enough is enough,’” says Bill Hickman ’05 (BGS), the Rainbow Center’s administrative assistant. “That’s when things started to change.”

Today, UConn is listed in *The Advocate College Guide for LGBT Students*, and the LGBT-Friendly Campus Climate Index, an online resource, gives the University a 4.5 out of 5 rating.

“It didn’t just happen,” says John Saddlemire, vice president for student affairs. “It was a quiet, concerted effort by a lot of people who went back and re-examined the way we were doing things in an effort to make the campus more user-friendly and accepting.”

The Rainbow Center, which opened one year before the 1999 rash of bias incidents, exemplifies the change seen on campus in the past decade.

“We started with one room,” says Margaret Breen, professor of English in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and



associate department head, who named the Center. “The ‘closet’ metaphor would not have been a stretch.”

Now occupying a suite of offices in the Student Union, the Center is a haven for LGBT students and their allies.

“I can always count on my friends at the Rainbow Center,” says Alycia Washington ’12 (CLAS), a psychology major who works at the Center. “Fleurette is just the best boss-mom-sister ever. She and Bill are the perfect tag team. Even if you don’t realize it, they’re helping you. They’re always out and about on campus.”

The Center’s weekly “Out to Lunch”

lecture series — which students can take as a three-credit class — hosts speakers on topics related to queer studies, from the high incidence of suicide in gay youth to the origins of homoerotic literature. And they offer training to campus constituents who wish to become allies to the LGBT community.

Through the Rainbow Center, students have access to an extensive library of LGBT-related literature and can join a number of support and social groups, including My Soul, for LGBT campus members of color, and Queers United Against Discrimination (QUAD).



"We recognize that when a student walks through our doors for the first time, it's a big deal," says Fleurette King, director of the Rainbow Center, left. Bottom left: The Annual True Colors Conference drew more than 2,000 attendees to the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts last year. Below: The Rainbow Center staffed a booth at the Connecticut Gay Pride in Hartford's Bushnell Park this past September.



No Longer Feeling Alone

But the Rainbow Center isn't the only avenue of support for the LGBT campus community.

Some students may not be ready to identify with a particular group. Kristin Van Ness '09 (CLAS) found her safe haven at the Women's Center. "There wasn't an assumption about why I was walking in there," she says.

Van Ness, a psychology and human development and family studies double major, attended the Between Women support group "for women who love women or think that they might." It was there that she realized she wasn't alone.

"It was this amazing realization that I'm not the only person who feels this

way," she says. Listening to group members tell their coming-out stories helped Van Ness normalize her experience: "For the first time, I felt like a completely normal human being."

The Women's Center, which opened its doors in 1972, promotes educational advocacy around gender equity, and that includes LGBT issues, says Kathleen Holgerson, the Center's director. "You can't serve one part of the spectrum without concern for all of the spectrum," she says. The Between Women support group has been part of the Center since 1994, the year Holgerson came to UConn.

When Cassy Setzler '12 (CLAS) came to UConn, she was not sure how to get involved. On a whim, she applied for a position as a Sexpert with the Health Education Office. "It was something new, something I hadn't done before. At that point, I hadn't even come out to myself," says Setzler, a double major in psychology and human development and family studies.

Trained by Joleen Nevers, UConn's health education coordinator, Sexperts are peer educators who present programs in residence halls and to various campus groups to help promote positive and responsible sexuality and create awareness of sexuality issues. The program has received regional and national awards, says Nevers.

Unsure of her sexual orientation, Setzler found the support she needed in Nevers and the Sexperts program. "They really didn't care how I identified," she says.

"We teach sex education while keeping in mind all the different expressions of sexuality," says Nevers. "We are very careful about our language at the Health Education Office. We don't want to exclude anyone."

In her sophomore year, Setzler became involved through the Rainbow Center with Shades of Grey, a support group for people who love more than one gender, which she still helps run. Setzler also is a part of the Rainbow Center's Speakers Bureau, through which she had the opportunity to speak about her coming-out experiences in one of her own classes. "People had no idea. They were so surprised when they saw me get up and walk to the front of the

class." Being a peer educator is therapeutic for Setzler. "Every time I tell my coming-out story, it gets more normal. It helps me feel like I'm doing OK."

Challenging Presumptions

Campus centers and offices — like the Rainbow Center, Women's Center, and Health Education Office — have done much to support and advocate for the LGBT community. But there is also an intellectual piece, says Breen, a specialist in LGBT literature and gender theory who teaches "Introduction to LGBT Literature," which she pioneered in 1995, and "Genders and Sexualities," a course that consistently fills to capacity.

"There's a huge need for LGBT students to have an intellectual framework where they see themselves in the world," Breen adds.

"It's important for all students to examine the hetero-normative aspect of our society," says Nancy Naples, professor of sociology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and director of the Women's Studies Program. "Classes [on gender and sexuality] provide a place for students to challenge their presumptions."

"We need to challenge students to think of things from different points of view. That's what college is for," says Christine Wilson, director of student activities. Wilson oversees UConn's alternative spring breaks, which includes a program on gender and sexuality where students can volunteer at the True Colors Annual Conference, an LGBT youth conference held on UConn's campus.

Twelve years after *The New York Times* article appeared, there are still challenges on campus. "We've made some excellent changes," says Nevers, "but bias incidents still happen." However, the University remains steadfast in its commitment to move forward.

"Our goal is to provide all students with successful academic experiences," says Saddleire. "And that includes our LGBT community."



Forecasting With a Global Perspective

ANAGNOSTOU TAKES AN UNEXPECTED PATH TO WEATHER PREDICTION

Emmanouil Anagnostou, professor of civil and environmental engineering and the Northeast Utilities Endowed Chair in Environmental Engineering, can predict the movement of water using complex mathematical equations. But he could not have predicted the path his career would take to get to this point.

“When I was a kid I was more interested in electrical engineering stuff,” says Anagnostou, who received the Faculty Excellence in Research Award from the UConn Alumni Association in October for his innovative work in hydrometeorology. “At school I was always playing with electronics. I never understood how they worked, so I was basically destroying electronics. I was always opening any toy I had.”

Anagnostou is a world-renowned

expert on remote sensing applications in atmospheric and hydrologic sciences. In particular, he has a keen interest in the complex physical processes that shape precipitation and enable the more accurate and timely prediction of severe weather and floods. He studies this with highly sophisticated electronics.

“I’m not really developing sensors,” explains Anagnostou. “I’m building the scientific and physical background for the use of those sensors; the algorithms that really drive those sensors.”

While fascinated by aerospace and movies with computers that filled rooms, Anagnostou says the educational system’s selection process steered him away from electrical engineering.

“I didn’t rank as high to get into electrical engineering, to tell you the truth.

I ranked high enough to get into civil and environmental,” he says.

So Anagnostou moved away from electronics and began thinking about how water is converted to energy. From there, he became interested in modeling the movement of water – writing the mathematical equations that predict what will happen when precipitation hits the ground.

“I was driven by the mathematical equations that are driving the predictability,” says Anagnostou. “And after getting into this game, I realized how complex everything is. How nature is probably the most complex aspect of engineering.”

Anagnostou’s Ph.D. degree work at the University of Iowa dealt with rainfall estimation using weather radar, but he wanted “something more.”

“Something more” became NASA, where Anagnostou transitioned from ground-based sensors to satellite-remote sensing.

“I think that was a very good move because radars have a great potential for monitoring over developed countries, but satellites are giving us a global view of what’s going on.”

Over the past 10 years, Anagnostou has been a member of NASA’s Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission Science Team, where he has helped profile precipitation over oceans and inaccessible areas like rainforests. And, in his role as Northeast Utilities Endowed Chair in Environmental Engineering, Anagnostou draws on all of his experience to date.

“We try to take our severe weather forecasts, and all the work I’ve been doing on severe weather prediction, and translate that into potential damages,” says Anagnostou. “Of course, for a power utility company, damages are focused primarily on the power lines, so they want to know where and when these things can happen so they can prepare their repair crews and place them in the right locations.”

—Craig Burdick '96 (CLAS), '01 (ENG)

Protecting the Privacy of Consumer Records

KRISTIN KELLY SEEKS TO UNDERSTAND PUBLIC'S CONCERN ABOUT PRIVACY ISSUES

The digitalization of daily life has made a number of things easier and faster – from paying bills to transferring records to simply communicating – but it also poses new threats to the privacy of consumers. Will your mobile device provider sell information about you to a third party? Will a server containing your credit card number be hacked? How secure are your electronic medical records?

Those threats, how they're perceived by Americans – particularly regarding medical records – and what can be done about it is the focus of research being conducted by Kristin Kelly, associate professor of political science in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

"The big question – and the objective of my research – is to really gain an understanding of what people are concerned about with regard to their privacy," says Kelly, who received the Faculty Excellence in Teaching at the Undergraduate Level from the UConn Alumni Association in October. "Politically, privacy doesn't typically have a lot of traction with most people, and it's a somewhat murky concept."

However, in the United States there are efforts to speed the transition from paper medical files to electronic records, which can easily be shared by multiple medical providers. While this effort aims to enhance efficiency and reduce mistakes, it also raises questions: Who "owns" these records, who is responsible for safeguarding them – and do patients care?

Kelly's research includes case studies, such as interviews with patients.

"A lot of people are surprised by the amount of personal data about themselves that is out there," she says. "But you either have concerns about it, or you don't. Some see privacy protections as roadblocks, while others have a good deal of anxiety

about their personal information."

Kelly says that there is something of a generation gap between consumers. Older people are generally more concerned about their privacy than younger people. She notes that her undergraduate students in a course having to do with privacy rights were relatively savvy about their personal privacy, but came out of the class more alarmed about the issue than when they started.

"When they thought about the larger, long-term implications of how data is exchanged and things like companies that exist solely to collect personal data, it certainly brought them a new level of awareness that led them to change their behavior as a result – especially on their phones and Facebook," says Kelly.

She adds that her research has found there is not a great deal of confidence among consumers that companies have their best interests at heart.

"Consumers are interested in having a fair deal. They want to know that steps are being taken to protect sensitive data," she says. "When it comes to medical records, consumers need to be educated, and plans designed by doctors and health care providers to address the needs and concerns of patients with regard to privacy need to be established."

"There needs to be proactive public policy about these issues. What can businesses and [medical] practices do for people to help protect their privacy with some measure of assurance? Finding answers to this is one of the major goals of this research."

—Michael Kirk



Alumni News & Notes

We want to
hear from you!

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

1940s

Francis J. DiVesta '42 (ED) has co-authored *Classroom Assessment in Action*, published by Rowman & Littlefield in June. The book targets what teachers should know about assessments in the school, with a functional emphasis on formative assessment.



John Spallone '58 (ENG) is retired and living in Nashua, N.H. He volunteers for the New Hampshire Association for the Blind and enjoys spending time with his family and watching UConn basketball.



Karl Larew '59 (CLAS) has published six novels, including *Candles in the Window*, which is set at UConn. All six novels are available on Amazon.com, Smashwords.com, and Nook.com.

1950s

Bernard Sippin '52 (BUS) was named "Outstanding Citizen of the Year" by the town of Monroe, Conn., in recognition of his vitality and generosity in the commercial and cultural life in the town.

Dave W. Carlson '54 (BUS), '64 MA and his wife, Joyce, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on April 28, 2011, with friends and family in Florida. He retired in 1991 as a principal and assistant superintendent in Ware, Mass.

Paul J. Magnarella '59 (BUS) recently published the book titled *Human Rights in Our Time*. He serves as director of Peace and Justice Studies at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, N.C.

Lois Greene Stone '55 (ED) and her husband, Dr. Gerald E. Stone, celebrated 55 years of marriage and welcomed their 15th grandchild this spring. Lois, a writer and poet, is syndicated worldwide.

Peter van Dernoort '57 (BUS), executive director of The Children's Treehouse Foundation in Denver, provided a presentation about the foundation's psychosocial intervention program, CLIMB®, in support of children of parents with cancer, at the International Psycho-Oncology Society Congress in Antalya, Turkey. The specialized program is currently used by more than 60 cancer centers in the United States and internationally.

Daniel Uman '57 (CANR) is senior cost estimator at ITER in St. Paul en Provence, France, where he is assisting in developing and constructing the first 600MW plasma fusion-powered power plant. He previously served as principal estimator at his own cost consulting firm.

1960s

Emanuel Melichar '61 Ph.D. is retired from the Federal Reserve Board. His website, Emelichar.com, contains his papers on the farm financial boom-bust of 1972 to 1986, among others. He taught money and banking courses at UConn from 1958 to 1959.



Maurice Doolittle '65 (ED) has retired after working as a physical therapist in five different states. He is looking forward to his retirement in Louisiana with his wife, Sunnie.

Pat Hinckley Aust '66 MSW, who has worked with many children and teens who have attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, has had her most recent children's novel, *Hyper Harry*, published through the Kindle store at Amazon.com. The novel tells the story of Ted, 13,

who seeks to help his hyperactive younger brother, Harry, who tries to leave home after getting suspended from school.



Mary Lee (Washburn) Donahue '66 MA received an award for responsible journalism from the New Jersey Press Association in 2010 in recognition of a series of editorials she wrote for South Jersey Newspapers.

Gary Goshgarian '66 MA is the author of *Tunnel Vision*, a psychological thriller written under his pen name, Gary Braver, and published by Forge Books in June.

James Zullo '66 (ED) retired as a high school basketball coach in New York with 528 wins.

Stuart M. Roth '67 (BUS), '71 JD is counsel for the firm Rogin Nassau LLC in Hartford, Conn., and litigates family law and personal injury cases.

Janice Law Trecker '67 MA, '92 Ph.D. retired from the UConn English department in 2010 after serving 20 years as an adjunct professor. She had a solo show of her paintings this past summer at the Eastern Expansion Gallery in Chicago.

Robert M. Valuk '67 MA, '73 6th Year is the author of his first work of fiction, *The Collector: Bar Napkins Memoirs*, published by Outskirts Press Inc. in April.

Kathleen A. Butler '68 (CLAS), '70 MA, '81 Ph.D., acting dean of the School of Education at Saint Joseph College in West Hartford, Conn., is full professor of education.



CRT Production Reunites Alumni

The Connecticut Repertory Theatre production of "My Fair Lady" during the 2011 Nutmeg Summer Series served as a reunion for School of Fine Arts alumni in the show's cast and crew. From left: Kevin Thacker '08 MFA, David Alan Stern '69 (SFA), Richard Ruiz '98 MFA, and Nathan Leigh '05 (SFA). Watch Stern, who also served as dialect coach for the cast, reveal his method of teaching accents by using your smartphone's barcode scanner application to scan the Quick Response Code at right. Don't have a smartphone? Visit <http://bit.ly/nGTEaD> to watch the video.

YouTube



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

Fax: (860) 486-2849

Email: alumni-news@uconn.edu

Submit your information at
UConnAlumni.com/HAN



Career Path From Waterbury to Washington

**HEIDI MCINTOSH '92 (SFS), '98 MSW
ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN**

As she moved from front-line caseworker to state-level administrator to national policy advisor, Heidi McIntosh '92 (SFS), '98 MSW has come to appreciate how complex issues can become at the next level.



"It's 10 times more complex at the national level," says McIntosh, senior policy advisor in the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. "Your advocacy skills have to be tempered. There are a million and one issues in America. To keep pushing children's issues to the top with the economy, war, debt ceiling, it's one piece of a bigger puzzle."

Appointed in September 2010 as top assistant to Bryan Samuel, ACYF commissioner, McIntosh is responsible for helping to develop and implement programs to protect children, prevent abuse and neglect, and find permanent placement for children who cannot safely return to their homes. The agency has a budget of \$8 billion.

She began her career in social work as a trainee in the Connecticut Department of Children and Families, working cases in the Waterbury area. In 2004, she was named deputy commissioner of DCF before moving to Washington, D.C., and the Administration on Children, Youth and Families.

"There is no typical day here," McIntosh says. "We're always getting congressional requests for information, providing technical assistance on a bill they want to either push forward or are developing, or serving on work groups for the White House or other federal agencies."

She says that with middle-class Americans increasingly touched by the struggling national economy, more children are being affected by the fallout of parental substance abuse and mental health issues. Having such an advocate for children's issues in the White House as First Lady Michelle Obama, who has supported adoption issues, has provided unexpected assistance in the ongoing quest for funding programs, she adds.

"In these lean economic times, the president has chosen not to take money away, but introduce an additional \$250 million of federal child welfare funding to align financial incentives with improved outcomes for children in foster care and those receiving in-home services from the child welfare system to prevent entry or re-entry into foster care," McIntosh says. "We're working on improved monitoring systems, working with states to hold them accountable for how kids and families are doing in their system."

—Kenneth Best

Steven Stack '69 (CLAS), '70 MA, '73 MA, '76 Ph.D. is the co-author of *Suicide Movies, Social Patterns: 1900-2009*, published by Hogrefe in August. He is a professor in the psychiatry and criminology departments at Wayne State University in Detroit.

1970s

William H. Daughtrey Jr. '70 MBA is interim executive director of Dominion Resources GreenTech Incubator in Ashland, Va. He has more than 30 years of experience in business and financial consulting with companies across the U.S., Canada, and Indonesia.

David C. Gillon '71 (BUS) is senior associate dean for administration and finance at Quinnipiac University's School of Medicine in Hamden, Conn., where he acts as liaison between the school and the related administrative, personnel, and financial offices, as well as university staff. He also oversees and coordinates the administrative, personnel, and financial operations of the school.

Gary Storhoff '71 MA, '75 Ph.D., is the co-author of *Writing as Enlightenment: Buddhist American Literature into the Twenty-first Century*, published by SUNY Press in August. He is an associate professor of English at the UConn campus in Stamford.

Gerry W. DeRoche '72 (BUS), '80 MBA is chief executive officer of Dogs for Deaf and Disabled Americans in Princeton, Mass. He previously held positions with Fleet Bank and Bank of America.

Carol Quirk '72 (CLAS), '75 MA is among the 15 people appointed by President Barack Obama to the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities. She is

the executive director for the Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Education in Hanover, Md.

Frank Sanchez '72 (CLAS) has been appointed to the board of directors of Regulatory Data Corporation Inc. He is chief executive officer of OurBond Inc. in Bethesda, Md.

Richard Giarniero '73 MFA wrote the play "Boy Wonder?," which opened in September at the Crystal Theatre Benjamin Franklin Community Center in Norwalk, Conn.



Robert Kimble '73 (BUS), financial advisor at Ameriprise in East Hartford, Conn., received the CT Lottery

Community Hero Award for his volunteer work with the Arthritis Foundation over the past 15 years. He has served on the foundation's Board of Governors in various roles since 1998 and has chaired or served on committees for multiple fundraising events for the foundation. He and his wife, Nancy, reside in Cromwell, Conn.

Craig Treiber '73 (BUS) is self-employed in Oklahoma as an oil and gas well consultant. He was previously employed with Pawnee County, Okla., as an environmental and regulatory consultant.



Jerry R. Lodynsky '74 (SFA) has been a self-employed graphic designer for 30 years. He has received numerous national and international awards for his work, including recognition from the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Robert Wendel '74 (SFA), '76 MFA is a freelance conductor



Learning Lessons at Play

TOY COMPANY BUILT ON SUBOG LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Doug Bernstein '85 (CLAS) says he always had a lot of energy but had to learn to channel it in the right direction, which became a lasting lesson from his time at UConn.

"Energy can become well allocated or misplaced," he says, with a smile. "I was involved in some interesting and creative late-night activities at UConn that brought me to the attention of some top administrators."

Bernstein decided to put his enthusiasm and energy into the Student Union Board of Governors (SUBOG), eventually becoming its president. He worked with students to plan events and concerts, negotiate contracts, and organize meetings.

"Everything I do now as part of our business, I did as part of SUBOG," says

Bernstein, who with his wife, Melissa, started an educational toy company in 1988. Today, Melissa & Doug is one of the world's leading toy manufacturers, with 2,500 products aimed primarily at children ages 2 to 8. The company is based in Wilton, Conn., where the firm's product development, sales, and marketing staff works, with offices at manufacturing sites in the U.S. and abroad.

Created in his parent's garage, the company's first product was an interactive sing-along video for children that the Bernsteins marketed by driving the family station wagon to educational toy stores around the Northeast. Spending weekends in toy stores talking with customers and children, they discovered a growing interest in puzzles and created a tactile "fuzzy puzzle."

"It was all about getting as close to the consumer as possible," Bernstein says. "We spent so much time with children, parents, and educators. We think that's why our business has succeeded. We didn't think about profitability. We do what we believe is right. If we make a mistake, we'll climb mountains and do what it takes to make our customer happy again."

Bernstein says his company's ongoing strategy is to focus on developing toys that will "be as important 20 years from now," and that by resisting trendy products, such as those tied to films or television, Melissa & Doug is now seeing second-generation customers.

"We've always had an integrity and discipline about the educational aspect of our products because every day ideas pass our desk that are for amazingly interesting toys that may lack educational value," he says. "What's a child learning from this? There has to be an educational bent to it."

Bernstein also extends his educational bent to Storrs. In 2007, he and his wife helped to launch the Leadership Legacy Experience, a program for students who participate in a yearlong leadership enhancement that builds on their legacy as University leaders. He returns to campus to meet with student leaders as part of the program.

"At the end of the session, when you talk with a bunch of students, that's the most exciting part of it," he says. "I've received email from the kids who have been through the program, and it's great to know what they're doing. That's the rewarding part, when you feel that you're helping them."

He also has continued his involvement with the Student Union, where as part of the building's expansion under UConn 2000, students now can channel their energy outside of class in the Doug Bernstein Game Room, which includes mini bowling, pinball, a pool table, video game consoles, and other activities.

—Kenneth Best

and composer. He was awarded fourth place nationally in the first American Prize in Composition for his "Towers of Light."

Carol (Ewing) Garber '75 (ED), '83 MA, '90 Ph.D. is associate professor of movement sciences and education at Teachers College, Columbia University in New York, N.Y. She serves as vice president of the American College of Sports Medicine.



Tom Ingrassia '75 MA is co-founder of Mental Massage, a fusion of guided visioning and physical massage designed to reduce stress and enhance mind and body balance.

Loren R. Nauss '75 (CLAS) is an attorney at Jones Gill LLP in Houston. He was previously employed at Burseson Cooke LLP as senior counsel.

Robert J. Smith '75 MA, '83 6th Year, '86 Ph.D. celebrated his 10th anniversary as director of the Carol Autorino Center for the Arts and Humanities at Saint Joseph College in West Hartford, Conn. He lives in Pomfret Center, Conn., with his wife, **Janet (Trudeau) Smith '72 (ED), '79 MA.**



Pamela Q. Weaver '75 (CLAS) was appointed to the 25-member Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants' advisory council for the organization's 2011-2012 activity year.

Jeffrey Carter '76 DMD presented his lecture "Megatrends in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery: Healthcare Reform, Technology, Diversity, Subspecialization, and Education Debt" at the fifth annual Pinson Memorial Lecture in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Howard University School of Dentistry in Washington, D.C.

Robert H. Glasser '76 (BUS) is the New York-based partner heading East Coast property and business interruption claims practice for

Dempsey Partners LLC, a forensic accounting, claims, and risk consulting firm. He previously was managing director of BDO USA LLP.

Charles Slacik '76 (BUS), chief financial officer and senior vice president of finance for Beckman Coulter, has been appointed to the board of directors at Sequenom Inc., a life sciences company providing innovative genetic analysis solutions and headquartered in San Diego.

Don Steigman '76 (BUS) is chief operating officer for Jackson Health System in Miami. He was previously a chief executive of a software services company and senior vice president of Tenet Health System in Dallas.



Thomas Casola '77 (CLAS), vice president of Global Regulatory Affairs for Ireland-based Shire Pharmaceuticals, has been honored with Shire's CEO Award, the company's highest employee recognition.

Joette Katz '77 JD, commissioner of the Department of Children and Families in Connecticut, was named the chair of the editorial board of the *Connecticut Law Tribune* – the first woman to hold this role. She is retired from serving as associate justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court for more than 18 years.

Dennis Cavanaugh '78 (CLAS) was elected president of the University of Connecticut Alumni Association Board of Directors for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. He resides in Glastonbury, Conn.

Marilyn Brine Gilmour '78 MSW, a licensed independent clinical social worker, was plenary speaker at the annual conference for women living with metastatic breast cancer in Philadelphia, sponsored by Living Beyond Breast Cancer. She has been facilitating metastatic cancer support groups at the Virginia Thurston Healing Garden in Harvard, Mass., since 2005, as well as at her private psychotherapy practice in Natick, Mass.

Robin (Randall) Purcell '78 (SFA) earned her signature membership

in the American Watercolor Society by being accepted into three consecutive international exhibitions at the Salmagundi Club in New York City. Her painting "Rare Sight" appears on the cover of the June 2011 issue of *The Artist's Magazine*.



Michael Malcy '79 (CLAS) is senior vice president of business development for Alticast, an interactive television solutions company with North American headquarters in Broomfield, Colo. He previously was vice president of marketing for the Americas at Advanced Digital Broadcast and Vidiom Systems. He has more than 19 years of experience in the digital media industry.

Timothy M. Shine '79 (BUS) is managing principal at Parmenter Realty Partners, headquartered in Miami. He has more than 30 years of institutional real estate experience and was previously managing director and co-head of Commonfund Realty.

Lisa C. Taylor '79 (CLAS), '81 MA, part-time faculty member in the department of English at Eastern Connecticut State University in Willimantic, Conn., received the Elizabeth Shanley Gerson Reader of Irish Literature designation, along with Irish poet and writer Geraldine Mills, at a reading and reception held at UConn on April 5, 2011.

1980s



Andrew W. Krevolin '80 JD has joined the firm Rogin Nassau LLC in Hartford, Conn., as a member of the firm's litigation and dispute resolution practice group.

Irwin Krieger '82 (SSW) is the author of *Helping Your Transgender Teen: A Guide for Parents*, published in February by Genderwise Press in New Haven, Conn.

Jody Dillon Sherman '82 MBA is the director of marketing and public relations at the Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Jonathan Zarkower '82 (BUS), Jay Wedin '81 (CLAS), and the other former members of Narrow Escape, a popular UConn rock-and-roll band from the early 1980s, reunited at the Old Well Tavern in Simsbury, Conn. Nearly 200 fellow alumni, friends, and family came out to see the band. Net proceeds from the event benefitted the Foundation for Educating Children with Autism. Wedin is an officer with FECA.

Peter H. Lewis '83 (ENG), '88 MBA is vice president of finance and administration at BioScale Inc., in Cambridge, Mass., where he is responsible for finance, accounting, IT, human resources, and facilities functions for the company.

Laura Cahill '84 JD was elected secretary of the University of Connecticut Alumni Association Board of Directors for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. She resides in Glastonbury, Conn.

David Hancock '84 (CLAS) is litigation support manager with Akerman Senterfitt, a law firm in Orlando, Fla., where he oversees the firm's litigation support efforts.

Deborah M. Murphy '84 (BUS) is vice president of global marketing for Zebra Technologies Corporation, headquartered in Lincolnshire, Ill. She oversees the company's ongoing efforts to increase global market share and further strengthen its core business and leadership position in specialty printing, auto identification, and asset tracking solutions.

Lori Riiska '84 (BUS) was elected treasurer of the University of Connecticut Alumni Association Board of Directors for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. She resides in Winsted, Conn.



Louise Tarnowski Plack '84 (ED), '90 MA is a special education teacher at Marlborough Elementary School and executive board member of Pocketful of Joy, a nonprofit organization that provides health care and education opportunities to children in northern Tanzania. From January to March 2011, she worked in Tanzania with

ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

educators at the local and district level to improve education for primary and secondary schoolchildren.

Suzanne Bona-Hatem '85 (SFA) organized and performed in the fourth annual "Music Among Friends" concert, held in June to benefit the Literacy Council of Clermont and Brown Counties in Ohio. She is a longtime volunteer tutor and member of the Literacy Council's board of directors.

Liana Fresher '85 (CANR) was elected to the University of Connecticut Alumni Association Board of Directors for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. She resides in Manchester, Conn.

Robert F. Marrs '85 MBA is vice president of international business development for ThermoEnergy Corporation in Worcester, Mass., where he is charged with developing strategies, budgets, and goals for international expansion of the company's wastewater recovery and emissions-free, clean coal power generation technologies.



George C. Springer Jr. '85 (CLAS), '88 JD is counsel for the firm Rogin Nassau LLC in Hartford, Conn., in its business, corporate, and commercial law and litigation and dispute resolution groups.

Laura K. Taylor '85 (BUS), vice president of strategic sourcing and procurement at Pitney Bowes in Stamford, Conn., was elected chair of the board of the Women's Business Enterprise National Council.

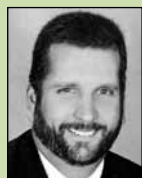
John Whalen-Bridge '85 (CLAS) is the co-author of *Writing as Enlightenment: Buddhist American Literature into the Twenty-first Century*, published by SUNY Press in August. He is an associate professor of English at the National University of Singapore.

Stephen Gavazzi '86 MA, '91 Ph.D. is dean and director at The Ohio State University at Mansfield in Mansfield, Ohio. He is also a professor in the department of human development and family science at the university.

Karl Hobbs '86 (CLAS) is director of men's basketball administration at UConn. Hobbs was point guard and captain of the Huskies in the early 1980s and spent the past decade as head coach at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Lauren (Binder) Blinder '87 (BUS) and Roger Blinder married on June 20, 2010. They announce the birth of their son, Braeden Alex, on March 10, 2011. They reside in Boca Raton, Fla.

Gino Brino '87 (CLAS), '98 DMD received his fellowship in the Academy of General Dentistry.



Christopher G. Johnson '87 (BUS) is assistant vice president and manager of the downtown Stamford, Conn.,

location of TD Bank, where he is responsible for new business development, consumer and business lending, and personnel and daily operations. He previously was sales and operations leader at Fairfield County Bank in Westport, Conn., and has more than 25 years of experience in retail banking.



Allen R. Jones Jr. '87 (ED) opened Dominion Physical Therapy & Associates' seventh office, in Norfolk, Va. Dominion specializes in sports, work, and personal injuries.



Christopher S. LaRoche '88 (CLAS) is a usability consultant at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Mass. He recently was elected to the board of directors for the Usability Professionals' Association's Boston chapter and celebrated his 10th year of teaching at Northeastern University in Boston.

David Albrycht '89 MBA is chief investment officer of multi-sector strategies at Newfleet Asset

Management in Hartford, Conn. He was previously executive managing director and senior portfolio manager of Goodwin Capital Advisers in Hartford.

Nancy DeCrescenzo '89 (CLAS) received the National Career Development Association's 2011 Outstanding Career Practitioner Award at its global conference in San Antonio in June. She is the president of the Connecticut Counseling Association and director of career services at Eastern Connecticut State University in Willimantic, Conn.

Steven A. Gentile '89 (CLAS) is associate chair of finance and administration for Yale Cardiovascular Medicine in New Haven, Conn. He previously was clinical administrator for Yale Neurosurgery/Orthopaedics and the executive director of Yale Cardiology Network. He holds an MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.



Richard Stoelzel '89 MM is professor of music at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Mich. He has two CDs

with Albany Records, "Born to be Mild" and "A Mild Fantasie," which have received international critical acclaim.

1990s

Deirdre (Radzveich) Childs '90 (CLAS) is director of marketing and communications at Weiss & Hale Financial in Pomfret Center, Conn.

Sean M. Genden '90 (BUS) is chief executive officer for Travelers Europe, where he is in charge of supporting its strategic and growth initiatives in the European property and casualty market. He previously was chief operating officer at Travelers Europe.

Stacey Fuller '91 (CLAS), partner and shareholder at Gawthrop Greenwood, PC in West Chester, Pa., was elected to the board of directors of the Chester County Bar Association. She has been an active member of the association since 2004 and has supported

many of their events and programs. She focuses her legal practice in municipal and land use law as well as special education and special education law.



Charles Pickett '91 (CLAS) is deployed at Camp Leatherneck in Afghanistan with the 814th Multi-Role Bridge

Company from Fort Polk, La., where he has logged 52 combat patrols and more than 2,000 miles maintaining Army and NATO bridging in Helmand and Kandahar provinces. This is his second tour in the Middle East, and he looks forward to returning to Connecticut.

Stephanie A. Burbine '92 (BUS), vice president and cash management officer at Florence Savings Bank in Florence, Mass., is a board member for Community Enterprises Inc., a nonprofit community rehabilitation program with locations in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York.



Tracy King '92 (BUS) is commissioner of the Division III Liberty League. He has nearly 20 years of experience in collegiate athletics.

Jim Laurino '92 MBA is an accomplished painter whose work will be on display in the Celeste LeWitt Gallery at the UConn Health Center in Farmington, Conn. His collection of representational paintings titled "A Connecticut Perspective" will run from Dec. 8, 2011, through March 12, 2012.



Heidi (Reichenberger) McIndoo '92 (CANR), a registered dietician, is the author of *When to Eat What*, published by Adams Media in December 2010.

Frank Milone '92 (BUS) was elected immediate past president of the University of Connecticut Alumni Association Board of Directors for

Fighting Hunger, Obesity Is New Challenge for Alum Behind Food Nutrition Labels

The next time you pull a jar of goodies off the shelf in the grocery store to check its calories or fat content, you might give a nod to Jerold Mande '78 (CANR) before tossing it in your cart.

After all, the ubiquitous Nutrition Facts label that appears on virtually all packaged foods was created by Mande when he served as a supervisory policy analyst at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 1992. The simple, yet informative chart earned Mande the Presidential Award for Design Excellence in 1997.

Today, Mande serves as senior advisor to the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, where he helps millions of hungry and poor Americans daily through programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), more commonly known as food stamps; the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program for low-income mothers and their families;



and the National School Lunch Program.

The challenge is enormous. The number of people using food stamps hit an all-time high in May 2011. According to the USDA, 45.7 million Americans used the SNAP program so far this year, up from 28.3 million people in 2008.

"Feeding programs such as SNAP, school meals, and WIC make up 70

percent of the USDA's budget," says Mande, this year's recipient of the Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Award. "We are spending about \$100 billion in 2011 on these hunger programs. Most people don't know that. They assume most of our budget goes toward agriculture subsidies for farmers. The truth is it goes mostly to families who are struggling to pay their bills and put food on the table."

At a time when record numbers of people are struggling to put food on the table, America today is dealing with a daunting obesity epidemic. Twenty years ago, Mande says, not a single state had more than 15 percent of its population who were obese. Today, more than two-thirds of adults are either overweight or obese.

"My greatest challenge in my current position is to fight hunger and obesity at the same time, often in the same person," Mande says. "We have to review our hunger programs to make sure they are part of the obesity solution and not part of the problem. That's a new challenge that hunger and nutrition experts are working together to solve."

—Colin Poitras '85 (CLAS)

Fiscal Year 2011-2012. He resides in Amston, Conn.

Carlos A. Ruisanchez '92 (BUS) is chief financial officer and executive vice president of strategic planning and development for Pinnacle Entertainment Inc. in Las Vegas. He is responsible for managing the financial and administrative functions of the finance department.

Bill Guerrero '93 (CLAS), executive director of the Purchase College Association in Purchase, N.Y., worked with students in his entrepreneurship class at Purchase College to create Purchase Park 2 Fly, a new discount parking service offered by the Purchase College Association for passengers traveling to Westchester County Airport.

Peter MacGillis '93 (ED), '98 MBA was featured on the Travel

Channel's "Man v. Food Nation" on Aug. 18, 2011.

N. John Phan '93 (BUS) is senior consultant at the employee benefits consulting firm KSPH in Glen Allen, Va. He has more than 18 years of experience in account management, sales, financial underwriting, and operations management with Cigna Healthcare and Aetna.

Renee M. Savage '93 (NUR) was elected treasurer of the New England chapter of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, where she will serve a two-year term. She is certified in infection control.

Marie (Wacaser) Stroup '93 (CLAS) announces the birth of a boy, Steven Russell, on May 31, 2011, in Syracuse, N.Y.

Mike Butler '94 (CLAS), '04 Ph.D., assistant professor of political science at Clark University in Worcester, Mass., was named "Teacher of the Year" by the university.

Joseph P. Cafferelli '94 (BUS) is managing director with Aon Risk Solutions, the global risk management business of Aon Corporation, where he is responsible for business development and managing client services in Phoenix.

Ofar Doron '94 (CLAS), '98 DMD received his fellowship in the Academy of General Dentistry.

John T. Sweeney '94 (BUS) is administrator for Masonicare at Newtown, Masonicare's long-term care rehabilitation and assisted-living campus in Newtown, Conn., where he is responsible for

managing the daily operations of the facility to ensure its continued commitment to providing residents and patients with the highest quality of care.



Bill Brough '95 (CLAS), president of the government affairs firm Brough Consulting Inc., was elected to the City Council of Dana Point, Calif., and sworn in on Dec. 13, 2010, for a four-year term. He is a former presidential appointee, congressional aide, and U.S. Army veteran.

Zygmunt F. Dembek '95 Ph.D., '05 MPH was awarded the Legion of Merit for his work as director of education and training at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases in Frederick, Md.

ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES



Christopher R. Fee '95 MA, a Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Humanities at Gettysburg College, is the author of *Mythology in the Middle Ages: Heroic Tales of Monsters, Magic, and Might*, published by Praeger in January.

Scott L. Sadowsky '95 MBA is chief financial advisor and senior vice president of finance and operations at Aspen U.S. Insurance and has been named to Aspen Specialty's U.S. Surety Team in Rocky Hill, Conn. He has more than 22 years of surety underwriting, reinsurance, and operational experience at the field and home office levels. He previously held positions at NacRe, Travelers, and The Hartford.

Alicia Young '95 (CLAS) was elected to the University of Connecticut Alumni Association Board of Directors for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. She resides in Port Chester, N.Y.

Amy Kopchak '96 (BUS), '03 MBA is director of marketing at Flowery Beauty Products Inc. in Danbury, Conn. She was formerly an associate product manager at Playtex Products Inc. and the director of marketing for the W.E. Bassett Company.

Chad Landmon '96 (CLAS), '99 JD, partner at Axinn, Veltrop & Harkrider LLP in Hartford, Conn., was named in the 2011 "40 Under Forty" list of the *Hartford Business Journal*.

Karen (Muller) Smith '96 (CANR) and Richard Smith announce the birth of twins – a daughter, Isabella Sophia, and a son, Henry Herbert – on Jan. 19, 2011.

Beth Sylvia Caldwell '96 (BUS), president of the Sylvia Group of Insurance Agencies in Dartmouth, Mass., has been recognized along with her company as a "Top 100 Women-Led Business in Massachusetts" by the Boston Business Journal and the Commonwealth Institute, a nonprofit organization created to help women business leaders build successful companies. She is a certified insurance counselor.

Kristen (Terninko) Buch '97 (CANR) and Alan Buch announce the birth of a daughter, Cara Adele, on March 15, 2011, who joins older brothers Todd, 5, and Ben, 2.

Todd E. Cusano '97 (CLAS), '00 JD, counsel at Updike, Kelly & Spellacy P.C. in Hartford, Conn., was named in the 2011 "40 Under Forty" list of the *Hartford Business Journal*.

Eric S. Darmofal '97 (BUS) is senior attorney at Horizon Technology Finance Corporation in Farmington, Conn., where he negotiates contracts and advises on general corporate legal matters. He has more than a decade of experience in representing and advising corporations on legal matters, including formation, financing, mergers, and acquisitions as well as compliance with federal and state regulations.

Theresa (Dombrowski) Forbes '97 (ED), '98 MA, '05 6th Year

and Sean Forbes announce their marriage on July 16, 2011, in Manchester, Conn. Theresa is a teacher in Glastonbury, Conn.

Brian L. Fox '97 (BUS) is chief financial officer at the accounting firm Marks Paneth & Sharon LLP in the New York City area.



Robin Carr '98 MFA, associate professor of voice and speech at the University of Southern Mississippi in

Hattiesburg, Miss., was awarded a sabbatical to begin a Lessac-based voice and speech program at the University of Rijeka in Croatia in the fall of 2011. She is a certified Lessac Trainer, one of 36 in the world, a member of the Actors' Equity Association, and voice and speech committee chair for the Southeastern Theatre Conference.

Nicole (Perras) Fuller '98 (RHSA) and **Greg Fuller '97 (ED)** announce the birth of their second child, Evan, on July 15, 2010. He joins older brother Jackson, 4.

Stephen Jordan '98 (CANR), '00 MS, senior manager of innovation and collaboration technology at Pfizer in La Jolla, Calif., returned from a six-month assignment as Pfizer Global Health Fellow with the Carter Center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The center advances health care programs to combat guinea worm, river blindness, malaria, and trachoma among other tropical diseases while supporting a mass drug administration initiative, which treated more than 9 million people in November 2010.



Brian J. Kelleher '98 (BUS), assurance and advisory services partner with Fiondella, Milone & LaSaracina LLP in

Glastonbury, Conn., is treasurer of the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants (CSCPA) for the organization's 2011-2012 activity year. He is also a board member and treasurer of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Enterprise Forum of Connecticut.



Maura McGurk '98 (SFA) exhibited her painting in July 2011 at Wauregan Gallery in Norwich, Conn., in a show titled "Lavender

Menace: Paintings by Maura McGurk in Response to Gay Bullying." She donated 10 percent of proceeds to the "It Gets Better Project" to support its work with gay youth.

Martin Spielman '98 DMD received his fellowship in the Academy of General Dentistry.

Karen T. Staib '98 JD, partner at Shipman & Goodwin LLP in Hartford, Conn., was named in the 2011 "40 Under Forty" list of the *Hartford Business Journal*.

Colleen H. Webb '98 (CLAS), '03 MA graduated with a bachelor of science degree in nursing from MGH Institute of Health Professions in Boston.



A Taste of France in West Hartford

After moving from Paris to Connecticut to study at UConn, Alexandra Litor '06 MBA and her business partner decided to open an authentic French bakery. La Petite France French Bakery and Cafe in West Hartford, Conn., celebrated its first anniversary in January.



Paradors and Pousadas: Historic Lodgings of Spain and Portugal

April 16-30, 2012

Stay in distinguished lodgings and experience the rich history of Portugal and Spain during this two-week Iberian sojourn. Beginning in Lisbon, tour the capital city's highlights and take an excursion to the National Palace of Queluz. Travel through picturesque Alentejo, a region of olive groves, vineyards, and wheat fields, to one of Portugal's finest pousadas set in a former 15th-century convent. Cross into Spain and see the ancient, ruin-filled city of Merida, the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Cordoba, and Seville, with its marvelous Moorish architecture. Visit Toledo, the capital of medieval Spain, and receive a tour highlight. In Madrid, tour the majestic Palacio Royal, the Plaza Mayor, and the world-famous Prado.

Additional travel opportunities:

**Islands of Antiquity
May 1-16, 2012**

**British Isles Odyssey
June 5-18, 2012**

**Discover the American
West - A Discovery Retreat
June 17-22, 2012**

**London and the 2012
Olympics
August 4-13, 2012**

**Baltic Treasures
August 9-21, 2012**

Jonathan Zupnik '98 (BUS) is executive vice president of ON Corp US Inc. in San Diego. He secured his license in early 2010 to manufacture televisions under the RCA brand. He previously was senior vice president of ON Corp US.

Michael Bishop '99 (BUS) is chief financial officer at FuelCell Energy Inc. in Danbury, Conn. He had formerly served as vice president and controller of the company since 2007.

Kim S. Johnson '99 (CLAS) received an MBA in marketing and entrepreneurship from the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Va., on May 15, 2011.

Jeff Robke '99 (ENG) and **Shannon (Browne) Robke '99 (CLAS)** announce the birth of a son, Tobias Leonard Robke, on Feb. 25, 2011. He joins an older sister, Emma, 2. The family lives in Apex, N.C.

Avril Sanz '99 (PHR), '01 Pharm.D. and **Daryl Woods '03 (BUS)** announce the birth of a daughter, Sydney Marie, on Nov. 22, 2010, at Bridgeport Hospital.

2000s

Stephen Jewett '00 (CLAS), '08 MBA is a senior partner at Duby McDowell Communications in Hartford, Conn. Most recently, he was chief spokesman of Connecticut and previously served as campaign manager for the Connecticut Senate Democratic Caucus and senior advisor to Connecticut Attorney General George Jepsen's successful campaign.

Raymie Wayne '00 JD is associate professor of social work/Latino community practice with tenure at Saint Joseph College in West Hartford, Conn.

Kim (Carlucci) Boisvert '01 (BUS) and **Jeff Boisvert '01 (BUS)** announce the birth of their second child, Michael, on June 20, 2011. He joins older sister Megan.

Seth Magnier '01 (CLAS) and Megan Magnier announce the birth of a son, Logan Ryan, on April 13, 2011, at Hartford Hospital. The family lives in Glastonbury, Conn.

John Miceli '01 (CLAS) and **Alison (DeLeo) Miceli '03 (CLAS)** announce the birth of a daughter, Caroline Elise, on July 8, 2011, who joins older sister Alexa Leigh.

Lea Williams '01 (CANR) is an environmental specialist with the State of Florida Orange County Health Department in Orlando, Fla., where she conducts food safety inspections and investigates food-borne disease outbreaks throughout the Orlando area. She recently became a certified Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point Manager from the National Environmental Health Association.

Matthew F. Zuba '01 (BUS) received a Juris Doctorate from Quinnipiac University School of Law in Hamden, Conn., on May 15, 2011. He graduated *cum laude*.

Corey J. Brinson '02 (CLAS), '05 JD, attorney and owner of the Law Office of Corey J. Brinson LLC in Hartford, Conn., and member of the Hartford City Council, was named in the 2011 "40 Under Forty" list of the *Hartford Business Journal*.

Jason Giulietti '02 (CLAS), '04 MPA, research economist at the Connecticut Business & Industry Association in Hartford, Conn., was named in the 2011 "40 Under Forty" list of the *Hartford Business Journal*.

Hillary (Royer) Sirois '02 (CLAS) and **Eric Sirois '09 (ENG)** announce the birth of their first child, Claire Kathleen, on July 13, 2010.

Christa (Homola) Allard '03 (CLAS) and **Ryan Allard '02 (ENG)** announce the birth of a girl, Nora Margaret, on May 10, 2011.

Michael L. Notarangelo '03 (BUS), '03 MS has been appointed to the 25-member Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants' advisory council for the organization's 2011-2012 activity year.



Shannon (Callanan) Schamel '03 (CLAS) was awarded the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine on June 5, 2011.

Katie (Rauss) Sherrick '03 (ENG) and Mark Sherrick announce the birth of a daughter, Lily Karen, on Aug. 5, 2010. The family lives in Bristol, Conn.

Allison Cantor '04 (CLAS), '10 JD is assistant counsel at ESPN Inc. in Bristol, Conn. She previously served as an associate at Day Pitney LLP in Hartford, Conn.

Laurel Jay Carpenter '04 MFA is associate professor of art at Alfred University in western New York. She continues to present her visual art performance as solo work and in collaborations.

Julio A. Concepcion '04 (CLAS), vice president of Hartford Partnerships for MetroHartford Alliance in Hartford, Conn., was named in the 2011 "40 Under Forty" list of the *Hartford Business Journal*.

Michael L. Kraten '04 Ph.D., president of Enterprise Management Corp. in Milford, Conn., and accounting professor at Providence College in Providence, R.I., is chair of the Advisory Council of the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants (CSCPA) for the 2011-2012 activity year. He will also chair the CSCPA's Governmental Issues Task Force for the coming year.

Matthew Luderer '04 Ph.D., associate professor of chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg in Greensburg, Pa., received the 2011 Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award for his contributions to the biology and chemistry curricula at the university. He is one of five recipients and received a cash prize and a \$3,000 grant in support of his teaching activities.

Jennifer Sager '04 (CLAS), director of marketing at Whittlesey & Hadley P.C. in Hartford, Conn., was named in the 2011 "40 Under Forty" list of the *Hartford Business Journal*.



Michelle Venezia '04 (CLAS) is an associate at Hiscock & Barclay, LLP in the firm's Syracuse, N.Y., office.

In Memoriam

ALUMNI

Francis O. Cunningham '41
 Edward L. Munson Sr. '42
 Frederick W. Hanning '47
 Edmund Wilcox '54
 Raymond W. Houghton '62
 Lawrence R. Gottfried '67
 Helene Kern '68
 Richard J. Benesevich '74
 Dave Solomon '74
 Andrew G. Summa '77
 Mary Leeney Oslin '81
 Margaret D. Shirley '87

FACULTY

Milton R. Stern '51

STUDENTS

Austin A. Lindsay '13

For an updated list go to
uconnalumni.com/inmemoriam

Jennifer Carlson-Benoit '05

MSW is a regional planner for the American Red Cross' Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, where she supports 93 emergency management directors in the north-east area of the state. She earned the Certified Emergency Management certification from the International Association of Emergency Managers in the fall of 2010.

Kristen M. Lainas '05 (BUS), '06

MS has been appointed to the 25-member Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants' advisory council for the organization's 2011-2012 activity year.

Kelly (Burke) Lamb '05 (CLAS) and **Craig Lamb** are proud to announce the birth of a boy, **Desmond James**, on July 7, 2011, in Albany, N.Y.

Rico Tiberio '05 (CLAS) and **Antonette (Casole) Tiberio '00 (BUS)** announce the birth of a daughter, **Julie Ann**, on July 14, 2011. She joins her older sister, **Victoria**.

Theodore Wolski '05 (BUS)

accepted a position at Commonwealth Financial Network in Waltham, Mass.

Ben Albert '06 (CLAS) received a doctor of medicine degree from St. George's University School of Medicine in the West Indies on April 8, 2011. He graduated as a member of the international honor medical society, Iota Epsilon Alpha. He began a pediatric residency at Stony Brook University Children's Hospital in Stony Brook, N.Y., in July.

Melanie Angel '06 (BUS) is assistant athletic director, ticket operations, at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Fla. She was previously director of ticket operations at the University of Hartford.

Heather L. Fabiyan '06 (CLAS) received her JD from John Marshall Law School in Atlanta and has passed the Board of Bar Examiners in the states of New Jersey and Georgia.



Samantha Grath '06 (CLAS) and **Shane Fogarty '06 (CLAS)** were married on Feb. 25, 2011, in Hartford, Conn. Shane is in

his second season as a defensive graduate assistant for the University of Connecticut football program. Samantha is a middle and high school social studies teacher for the Capitol Region Education Council in Windsor, Conn.

Mikki Meadows-Oliver '06 Ph.D. was elected to the University of Connecticut Alumni Association Board of Directors for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. She resides in Hamden, Conn.

Matthew Zablocki '06 (CLAS) is a detective at the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office in Hackensack, N.J.

Kristen Hermiz '07 (CLAS) is a lawyer at Motley Rice, LLC, in Mt. Pleasant, S.C.

Connecticut residents,

Ride with Pride!

HuskiesPlate.com



Order your official license plate today at Huskiesplate.com!

CONNECTING ALUMNI. SUPPORTING STUDENTS. STRENGTHENING UCONN.

American Daredevil

At the first stop Leigh Montville '65 (CLAS) made on a guided tour of Butte, Mont., his host asked a very large Harley-loving local if he had known Evel Knievel during the daredevil's time in the now desolate city. The man snorted, admitting he had worked for Knievel once and had been taken for a ride: Knievel neither paid him for his work nor appeared at the restaurant where Evel had said he would buy the man dinner.

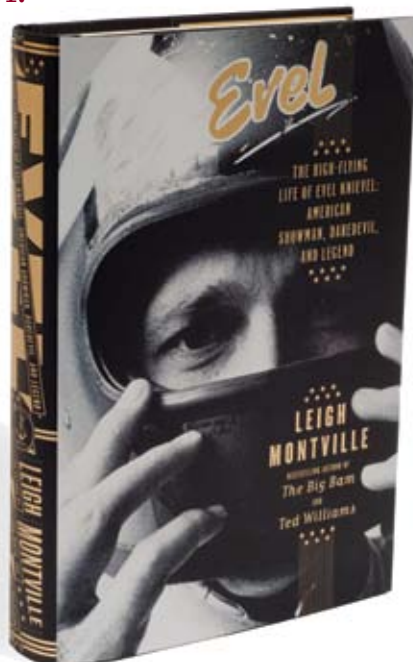
"Everybody I talked to who knew him had a story, and most of the stories ended with a check bouncing," says Montville, whose latest book, *Evel – The High-Flying Life of Evel Knievel: American Showman, Daredevil, and Legend*, was published earlier this year by Doubleday. "He was so diabolical, you had to laugh."

Knievel is an icon of the 1970s, when he would try to jump over just about anything – a row of buses, the water fountains at a Las Vegas hotel, a tank filled with sharks, and the Snake River in Idaho – with many of the stunts broadcast on national television.

"Montville's Knievel book is the latest of his in-depth biographies on sports legends that include Ted Williams and Babe Ruth in baseball and racing's Dale Earnhardt Sr."

"The stories were amazing," Montville says. "Each one would be more spectacular than the last. He did a lot of strange stuff. He was a tough guy. He was the guy your mom was talking about when she said 'If he jumps off a building. ...'"

Knievel grew up in Butte during the hardscrabble town's heyday as a wild frontier town, where the discovery of copper ore turned it into a 20th-century version of a gold rush. Montville says Knievel stood out from an early age in a town where there were nearly as many bars and strip joints as people, developing a reputation as a con man, a thief, an entertainer, and, as he developed his craft, a self-promoter.



One of the nation's best-known sportswriters, having worked for *Sports Illustrated* and as a *Boston Globe* columnist, Montville's Knievel book is the latest of his in-depth biographies on sports legends that include Ted Williams and Babe Ruth in baseball and racing's Dale Earnhardt Sr. He also wrote *Dare to Dream: Connecticut Basketball's Remarkable March to the National Championship* with

Huskies men's basketball coach Jim Calhoun.

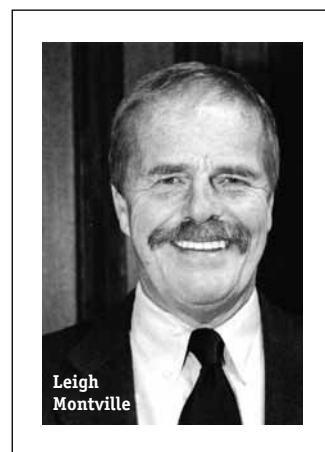
Montville became interested in Knievel in 1974 when the daredevil's Snake River Canyon jump ended when the parachute of Knievel's rocket-powered motorcycle opened too soon and he crashed just short of his landing. The writer was supposed to cover the spectacle for the *Globe*, but was unable to get to the jump site in time. Montville researched the book for about three years, interviewing more than 100 people.

The Butte newspaper, *The Mountain Standard*, described Montville's book as "fresh and exciting" as it details Knievel's life from his boyhood through his last days on earth, in late November 2007. The stories Montville gleaned from the scores of people who knew Knievel are nearly always head shakers,

whether discussing his excesses, his feats, or even his lucid moments as one of America's great salesmen and promoters.

"He wanted to be rich and famous, and he would do whatever he had to do to get it, but he really took it to an extreme," Montville says.

—Richard Veilleux



ROBIN MOLEUX



Enriching a Shared Experience With UConn Reads

By Sally M. Reis '81 Ph.D.

Reading a good book brings so much joy and comfort to so many people. Many of us fall asleep with a good book, explore new and old interests with a good book, and engage others in debate over the merits of and ideas in a book. For many of us, reading has been a lifelong passion. Reading constitutes the core of most of our students' academic lives at UConn, even though they may read differently than past generations – on their smartphones, iPads, or Kindles.

Earlier this year, President Susan Herbst launched a new initiative called UConn Reads. It is designed to provide a common reading experience for all of our campuses and members of our University community. We hope that UConn Reads will enhance our campus community experience by engaging our alumni, students, faculty, staff, and members of our University family in a common reading program.

UConn Reads invites all alumni, faculty, staff, students, and community members to participate in a common intellectual discussion by reading a book selected by a University-wide committee and then participating in events and online discussions with faculty, staff, community members, and students throughout the year.

UConn Reads is designed to:

- Engage our campus and extended community in an enriched and focused reading experience

- Generate discussions and exchanges of diverse ideas
- Promote literary connections among students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the wider community
- Bridge learning experiences inside and outside the classroom

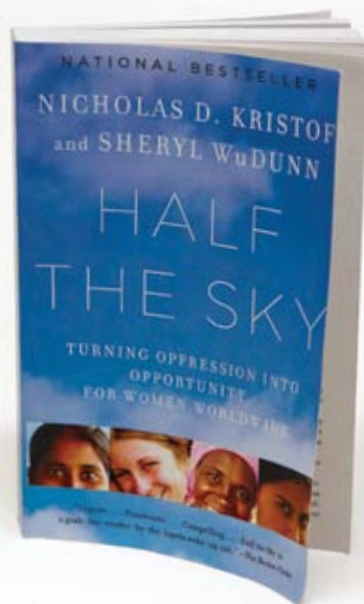
For the inaugural year of our UConn Reads program, the 2011-12 Steering Committee has chosen *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* by Pulitzer Prize winners Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, a nonfiction bestseller centered on the oppression of women and girls in the developing world.

The UConn Reads Steering Committee combed through many worthwhile nominations over the past several months, ultimately narrowing down this year's selection to three finalists. The runners-up were *That Used to Be Us: How America Fell Behind in the World It Invented and How We Can Come Back*, by Thomas Friedman and Michael Mandelbaum; and *A People's History of the United States*, by Howard Zinn.

Come spring, we look forward to bringing Kristof and WuDunn to campus, as well as holding discussion groups and other exciting events in person and online, for our alumni, faculty, staff, students, alumni, and other members of the UConn community.

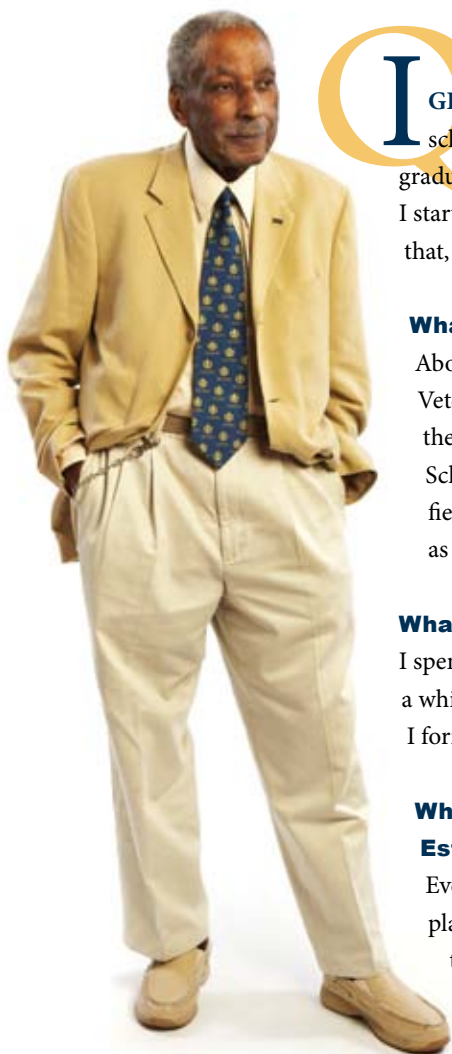
For more information, including how to access this year's book selection, please visit uconnreads.uconn.edu.

Sally Reis '81 Ph.D. is a Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor in the Neag School of Education; vice provost for academic administration; and chair of the UConn Reads 2011-12 Steering Committee.



Breaking Barriers, Giving Back

Emeritus Professor Rollin Williams, 89, the first African-American professor hired at the University of Connecticut, has remembered UConn and the School of Social Work in his will. We asked him why.



Can You Tell Us a Little About Your Background?

I GREW UP IN TULSA. I was the Oklahoma state typewriting champion in high school, valedictorian of my class and a solo violinist in the school orchestra. I graduated from Howard University in Washington, D.C. Then the Army came looking. I started off as a clerk typist and ended up as a personnel sergeant major. Not long after that, I received my master's degree in social work from Boston University.

What Brought You to UConn?

About 1952, after working as a medical and psychiatric social worker for the Veterans Administration in Springfield, Mass., and in Northport, N.Y., I became the first psychiatric supervisor at Norwich State Hospital. An assistant dean of the School of Social Work at UConn called soon after my arrival and asked me to do field training with students. Two years later, the dean offered me a full-time job as an assistant professor.

What Was Your Experience Like at UConn?

I spent many happy years at the University, as a professor, running admissions for a while, and as an interim dean. I treasure those memories and the relationships I formed.

What Led to Your Decision to Remember UConn in Your Estate Plans?

Everything that has ever happened to me has been serendipity—being in the right place at the right time. After I got to UConn, five different schools of social work tried to recruit me because they wanted black professors. Affirmative action laws had been passed. But I said no, I wouldn't take those jobs. UConn brought me in when they didn't have to, and has been better to me than anybody else.

A planned gift costs little or nothing during your lifetime. There are many easy giving options—from naming UConn as a beneficiary in your will to life insurance, gift annuities, trust arrangements and so much more. For more information about planned giving, contact Hal Reed at 860.486.6135 or visit legacy.uconn.edu.



The University of Connecticut
FOUNDATION
INCORPORATED
Invest in UConn. *We'll all benefit.*



34 North Eagleville Road
Storrs, CT 06269-3144

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

First Night Basketball in Storrs

Alex Oriakhi '13 (CLAS) enters the Huskies' First Night celebration at Harry A. Gampel Pavilion before a standing-room-only crowd that saw members of the men's and women's basketball teams introduced for the first time in 2011. Visit <http://bit.ly/v0eC1K> to watch the video.



PETER MORENUS



Mixed Sources

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

www.fsc.org Cert no. SW-COC-001215
© 1996 Forest Stewardship Council

