

UCONN

MAGAZINE

SPRING 2018

A Little Push

The hidden force behind
Mirror Lake's swings. *pg 26*

18

OUR ALUMS PREDICT THE FUTURE
OF (ALMOST) EVERYTHING

30

TEACHING ROBOTS TO THINK

36

BAND CAMP CONFIDENTIAL

42

NEW JOURNALISTS GO
OLD-SCHOOL





SNAP!

Good Luck *and* Good Grades

It's clear by the sheen that UConn students believe in the ritual of rubbing the nose of the Husky statue outside Gampel for good luck and good grades. The bronze statue was commissioned in 1992 from artist Larry Wasiele by then University president Harry Hartley and was installed in May 1995, just in time for the first of many graduation photos. Since then, visiting the Husky statue to rub its nose and take pictures has also become a staple of all prospective-student tours. Pictures with the statue serve as a symbolic opening and closing of most students' careers at UConn as they post side-by-side comparisons of their first day as a Husky and their graduation day — but certainly not their last day as a Husky! Hear from Hartley and Wasiele at s.uconn.edu/statue. —Emma Casagrande '18 (CLAS)



STEINWAY & SONS

SNAP!

Keys to the Kingdom

UConn students will not just be playing pianos, they will be playing Steinways! That's thanks to the Lawrence J. and Natalie D. Portel Foundation, which, along with the Persbacher Foundation and J & R Widmark Foundation, are purchasing Steinways with a goal to having UConn join the elite ranks of all-Steinway institutions. Here, assistant music professor Angelina Gadeliya tests grand pianos at the Steinway & Sons factory in Queens, New York, last October. She played five new grands before selecting the one that now graces Louis J. von der Mehden Recital Hall. "I'm looking for a piano with incredible clarity, super-sensitive response as far as touch, and a really singing tone — for a pianist, that's probably the most important thing," says Gadeliya, who records and performs as a soloist with orchestras internationally. —Kenneth Best

Go behind the scenes for your own factory tour at s.uconn.edu/steinway.





18



26



36



42

FEATURES

18 THE FUTURE OF EVERYTHING

Well, almost everything — according to our incredibly talented, altogether brilliant, highly accomplished alums. *By Kevin Markey*

26 A LITTLE PUSH

The UConn Swing Journal at Mirror Lake is penning a tradition, one entry at a time. *By Stephanie Reitz*

30 THE I.Q. OF A.I.

How UConn researchers are teaching robots to think like humans. *By Colin Poitras '85 (CLAS)*

36 BAND CAMP

Marching-band newcomers and old guard alike have just 12 days in September to get into midseason form. *By Mike Enright '88 (CLAS), photos by Peter Morenus*

42 THE ART OF MUCKRAKING

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalism professor Mike Stanton teaches tried-and-true “shoe leather” investigative journalism. He hopes students will turn his skill set into new-medium magic. *By Loretta Waldman*

SECTIONS

1 UCONN NOW

How they craft a Steinway; what Geno reads; why students are lining up to take an Asian American literature class; how being from Newtown, Connecticut, can influence a UConn career; why the U.S. Navy needs UConn; those fabulous field hockey players; and more.

46 UCONN NATION

An alum who is always courtside at Celtics games, an alum who may singlehandedly save the monarch butterfly, and another who is going green in an altogether different way. Plus Class Notes, Tom's Trivia, and more.

WEB EXCLUSIVES

magazine.uconn.edu

IT STARTS WITH A TREE

Go deep inside the process of making a Steinway and get a behind-the-scenes tour of the Long Island City, Queens, factory. s.uconn.edu/steinway

BAND CAMP

Marching Band arrives on campus early, just like their football-playing counterparts. Find out what happens in those 12 intense, often-18-hour days of September. s.uconn.edu/marchingband

WHO'S WHO?

See if you can name all the current and former Huskies who came out to celebrate with Geno and C.D. on the occasion of their 1,000th women's basketball win. s.uconn.edu/wbb1000

MASCOT FEVER

Meet the San Diego Chicken and a dozen other pro, college, and corporate mascots that came to Storrs for a Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry exhibit. s.uconn.edu/mascots

Cover photo by: Mark Mirko. Copyright © 1764–2017. Hartford Courant. Used with Permission.

Snap! photography by: Sean Flynn (statue) and Peter Morenus (piano).

Table of contents: Illustration by Lucy Engelman; photos by Peter Morenus.

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FROM THE EDITOR



REMEMBER JERRY AND AMY?

The road to the UConn Dairy Bar is a fitting place for a tribute to the late animal science professor Xiangzhong “Jerry” Yang, who is best known for cloning Amy, a Holstein calf born at UConn in June 1999 and the first cloned farm animal in the United States. It was three years after Dolly the sheep was cloned in Scotland.



Above: Yang with Amy and her stem cell donor in 1999. Top: Tian in front of the street named for her late husband.

This street to the Dairy Bar from Route 195 has been named “Jerry Yang Road.” It also is where you will find the Agricultural Biotechnology Laboratory, where Yang performed countless hours of research that brought international fame to the University and where Yang’s widow, Xiuchun “Cindy” Tian, a professor of biotechnology, works in the Department of Animal Science and the Stem Cell Institute. My colleague Mike Enright ’88 (CLAS) spoke with Tian for a story on UConn Today earlier this year and shares this:

“We have lots of awards and newspaper clips about Jerry at home, but this will last forever and is very visible,” says Tian. “So many children come to the Dairy Bar, and now they can ask, ‘Who was Jerry Yang?’ Jerry would love that, because he encouraged young people to learn about the sciences and STEM and to set big goals in their lives.”

Yang faced some challenges during his time at UConn. In 1999, just two years after arriving at the school, he was diagnosed with cancer of the salivary gland.

“It was a shock at the beginning, but he dealt with his illness with so much courage,” says Tian. “He wanted to live life to the fullest and was always thinking about his next project. Jerry achieved so much, even after his diagnosis.” Despite having difficulty eating and swallowing, he did not stop pursuing his research and sharing it with others. He eventually died from the disease on Feb. 5, 2009.

Yang enjoyed life, she says. He was a fan of late-night card games and had a soft spot for Jonathan’s Supreme at the Dairy Bar — a mixture of vanilla ice cream, peanut butter swirl, and chocolate-covered peanuts — which Tian admits continues to be a favorite of hers as well. Their son Andrew, 29, is working on a graduate degree in robotics and computers at UConn.

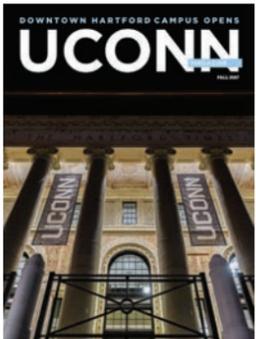
Jerry Yang is revered in his hometown in Hebei Province, China. His likeness and that of his cloned cow Amy have been carved into a stone wall in a park, a statue of him has been placed in an elementary school, and his childhood home is being renovated into a museum.

Peter T. Stippock



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LETTERS

We got lots of mail about the last issue and discovered there are a lot of alums out there who love birding and walking the Storrs campus; they were thrilled to have a story melding the two. Readers also applauded UConn Hartford's move to the city center, the University's recognition of Dee Rowe, using social media to enhance teaching methods, and Erik Hines' work raising the graduation rate for black men.

Get in touch! Email me at lisa.stiepock@uconn.edu or post something on our website at magazine.uconn.edu.

"I Was There"

Tom's Trivia question 3 says Winter Weekend began in 1979. The first Winter Weekend was in March of 1955. I say this because I was a co-chair with Peb Quicker from Long Island. The only ill-advised activity was a dogsled race — there was no snow, so wheels were added to the sleds. **Kenneth Halpern '55 (BUS), '58 JD, West Palm Beach, Florida, via email**

Editor's Note: Indeed, it appears Winter Weekend declined throughout the sixties and was defunct by the early seventies, then got revived.

In 1967, one of the "highlights" of the Pied Piper parade ("Tom's Trivia," question 4) was a tug-of-war across Mirror Lake — freshmen vs. upperclassmen. Nothing like getting dragged through a

duck pond to start the year off right. I think I know why that tradition ended! **Maureen Croteau '71 (CLAS), Vernon, Connecticut, via our website**

Laid to Rest

Your fall edition is very eye-catching. The article about the birds of UConn and Dr. Rubega was especially interesting to me. And the article about Dr. Hines, too, since my daughter has similar work at the U. of Iowa. I'm an old English teacher, though, and I just can't shake it: Ms. Balsinger ("Job Envy," inside back cover) "has *lain* under the gleaming aurora borealis..." **Jeffrey A. Bouvier '82 Ph.D. Hollywood, Florida**

Flocking to Storrs

Thank you for raising awareness of the amazing wonder of what lies before us

if we have but eyes to see and ears to hear. This conjoins the deep pleasures of birding and the UConn campus. **Roger J. Cherney '73 (CLAS), Newton, New Jersey, via our website**

It's nice to see Twitter being used in a productive manner, if you catch my drift. **Bruce Gerber, UConn employee '83-'11, Coventry, Connecticut, via our website**

What a wonderful article! Margaret, thank you so much for the inspiration you give to your students and to us. **Kathleen Moore Van der Aue '62 (CLAS), Southport, Connecticut, via our website**

This was wonderful. I worked and later attended UConn in the late '70s. I definitely did not bird watch as much as this article reveals I could, which means I need to go back and do some serious walking — early. **Catherine Belanger '81 (CLAS), South Windsor, Connecticut, via our website**

Reading this article was such fun — good writing and excellent photos with fabulous Twitter feeds. Thanks! **Debbie McMillan '82 MBA, via our website**

UConn: The Heart of Hartford

If Hartford fails, it takes down huge swaths of the state — if not the entire state — with it! Supporting the myriad efforts to rebuild Hartford's economy and bolster its image is something we should all be doing because it is something we all benefit from.

Transplants like my husband and me don't bear the burden of memory. We live here joyfully, invest here enthusiastically, and are committed to making this town into the gem of a small New England city that it can be and I believe — as clearly many others do — will be! Thank you, Rand Richards Cooper, for this uplifting article that nonetheless has its feet planted firmly on the ground. **Cie Peterson, Hartford, Connecticut, via our website**

This article covers so many aspects of Hartford, a city that I have been rooting for. The impact of moving the urban campus to its new site is brilliant yet logical. **Hal Posselt '69 (CLAS), Portsmouth, New Hampshire via our website**

What a beautiful addition to Hartford. The Hartford branch that I attended in 1952–1954 was in the rickety old Hartford High School building on Broad Street, across from the Hart School of Music. Oh, to be young again! **Robert J. Tanguay '58 (BUS), St. Pete Beach, Florida, via our website**

Erik Hines

Dr. Hines seems to understand the barriers confronting black men at every age and stage of life in America. While America can be a beautiful place to live, it can also be harsh, and so can UConn. It would be great if we did not have to parse life by race, gender, class, and at times by age. After all of my years, I understand why it's difficult for some Americans to get why such programs are necessary. When people live most of their lives in a homogenized community, or in neighborhoods of privilege, the need for diversity, inclusion, and adding the kinds of supports that have been normalized can be a bit startling at first. We should wonder why it is that after the resources are counted and distributed the numbers for black men almost always seem to lag. We are not naturally slow, lame, or lazy. When and wherever we have been given the right tools, nurtured, and supported

we thrive. Thanks to Dr. Herbst for hiring staff and giving a green light to support development success and intellectual competitiveness at all levels and in every way. I take my hat off to Dr. Hines and know that his work will not be in vain. **Amos Smith '79 MSW, Hamden, Connecticut, via our website**

Skype a Scientist

Such a great idea! I wish we'd had this when I was a kid. I loved the idea that this could inspire kids to use the scientific method in their daily lives. So true! The scientific process isn't a complex or lofty idea; it's a logical process that can be used our entire lives to approach our daily dilemmas. If nothing else, it would be great if kids had that as their take-away. **Lynn Roesler, via our website**

Dee Rowe Hall of Fame

I just want to add my congratulations to Dee Rowe! I was administrative assistant

in Athletics for 10 years and remember Dee well. He was and is a great guy and so deserving of this award.

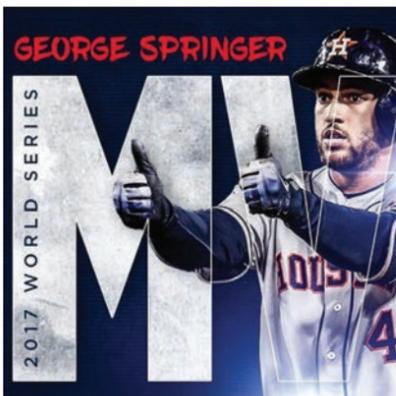
God bless you Dee, still working at 88; you are amazing! **Nancy Manley, San Antonio, Texas, via our website**

Coach Rowe is a man for all ages. He was a mentor, second father, and friend who taught me how to be a team member, community leader, and a productive citizen. He is truly deserving of "Legendary" status. **William A. DeGrazia '71 (ED), Cheshire, Connecticut, via our website**

Congratulations and really deserved, Coach. I'm proud to say we started our UConn careers together in 1969. Boy, time flies.

Lee Savel Barbach '74 (ED), Miami, Florida, via our website

INSTAGRAM



What an accomplishment! UConn's own George Springer is the 2017 Willie Mays World Series Most Valuable Player! 📸: @uconnhuskies



Campus is becoming a winter wonderland! #SnowyStorrs 📸 @uconn

TWEETS

@UConn #UConn legend, Diana Taurasi, is one of the 50 greatest living athletes as chosen by @GQMagazine

@UConn New 3-D fabrication technique found by @UConnEngineer professor could deliver multiple doses of vaccine in one shot

@UConn In 2017, @UConnTIP startups attracted a record \$60 million in equity, debt, grant, and revenue funding to accelerate the growth of their operations



KUDOS

1,000 FOR GENO AND C.D.

Members of the women's basketball team past and present celebrate the 1,000th win for Geno Auriemma and Chris Dailey at the Mohegan Sun Arena on Dec. 19, 2017. Many members of the team that gave them win #1 in 1985 were on hand, and current team members held up pictures of the two coaches from 1985.

Auriemma became the fourth women's head coach to reach that milestone with UConn's 88–64 win over Oklahoma in the Hall of Fame Women's Holiday Showcase. He joined Pat Summitt, Tara VanDerveer, and Sylvia Hatchell, who earned her milestone victory earlier the same day.

To find out who's who in the photo, go to s.uconn.edu/wbb1000.

Stephen Slade '89 (SFA)

Moynihan in a scene from the CBS sitcom "Me, Myself & I." The show aired six episodes this fall and can be found on streaming services.



CHECKING IN WITH...

BOBBY MOYNIHAN '99 (SFA)

"Saturday Night Live" veteran Bobby Moynihan '99 (SFA), one of UConn's most famous alums, moved from the New York City area to Los Angeles recently to star in the CBS sitcom "Me, Myself & I."

Moynihan and his wife, actress Brynn O'Malley, welcomed their first child, a baby girl, in 2016 too.

It seemed like a good time to catch up with this "SNL" star, famous for playing such characters as Drunk Uncle, Second Hand Reporter Anthony Crispino, and Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi. In a phone interview, he talked about both shows, an influential acting teacher, and his occasional pilgrimages to campus for a certain craving.

Why did you decide to do "Me, Myself & I"? What appealed to you about the role?

I'd been doing "SNL" for about nine years. It was my life's dream, and I loved every second of it. It just felt like it was time to move on, but I hadn't found anything that I liked. Then I read this script and I kind of fell in love with it. Dan Kopelman, the writer, did a fantastic job at writing a really funny and sweet script. It seemed like kind of a place where I was in my life right now, so I just went for it.

Do you miss "SNL"?

Of course. I'll miss it for my entire life. It was extremely hard watching it go on the first week back. It was crazy. It felt very bizarre. It's like watching your ex-girlfriend sleep with somebody else.

How big is the difference in workload?

"SNL" was a lot of crazy hours. It was every day pretty

much for a couple months. This, not so much. This is very different. There are three timelines, so I don't have to be there all the time. And it's a lot less time as far as the hours go, so that's been wonderful.

What's it like being a transplant to Hollywood?

Everyone keeps asking about it. I'm not really sure yet because all I do is work and take care of the baby, so it hasn't really affected me at all so far. There are nights, I assume; I haven't really been outside in a while [laughs]. It's been great so far. I enjoy driving. There's been a lot of traffic here, so that's good [laughs].

Who was your favorite character to play on "SNL"?

Drunk Uncle and some of the more obscure characters, like this character called Kirby and another one called Janet. Those were my favorites always to do.

But it was more who you got to work with than the characters. I enjoyed doing stuff with someone like Bryan Tucker, one of the writers, and Colin Jost — just kind of pairing up with people. I had so much fun with Taran Killam and Mikey Day and those guys. It was a blast.

Why did you get into comedy? Were you funny as a kid?

I think I just needed attention more than anything. I enjoyed comedy growing up. I grew up on stuff like "The Muppets" and "Mr. Show with Bob and David." Comedy has always been in my household — watching Jonathan Winters and Carol Burnett. I grew up on it.

I went to UConn for acting

and then got out into the real world in New York. I ended up at the Upright Citizens Brigade comedy club. That place was the best. It was exactly what I was looking for.

When you were at UConn, did you do improv, stand-up, or plays?

I was an acting major. I did plays and stuff there, musicals mostly. We also did some little shows, more like end-of-the-year plays just for acting majors. I didn't really do improv until I found the Upright Citizens Brigade.

What UConn experiences have proven to be most important in your career success?

Probably meeting [Professor Emeritus] Bob McDonald, one of my acting teachers, who kind of set me on the right path. He was always somebody who meant a lot to me and he was an amazing teacher. I learned so much from him alone, and it made me realize there was a lot more out there than just straight acting. He taught me so much. I owe a lot to him. He was the best.

What was your social life like at UConn?

It was pretty great. I made a lot of very close friends at UConn that I still talk to today. One of my best friends, I see him all the time. We try and go up to UConn to get D.P. Dough [a calzone shop] when we can.

Have you been to campus recently?

I haven't been by in a while. I did read the *Daily Campus* article saying they didn't like my show. That was a shame [laughs]. It happens, I guess.

Do you have any tips for students looking to get into careers in entertainment?

Work hard, find a place that you love, and find people who are like-minded and want to do the same thing as you. Spend as much time as you possibly can doing those things with those people and work as hard as you can at it. That's what the Upright Citizens Brigade was for me — just finding a core group of friends who spent every night doing comedy under a grocery store in New York City.

—GRACE MERRIT



Moynihan, who says he comes to Storrs for D.P. Dough fixes, plays Dr. Spock in a 2017 SNL sketch.

Courtesy of CBS; Getty



Peter Morenus

TASTE OF STORRS

BIBIMBAP BURRITO | Food Truck

The popular bibimbap steak and egg burrito can be found at the UConn Food for Thought food truck, which is often parked in front of the Homer Babbidge Library. Unlike most bibimbap, or “mixed rice,” dishes served in bowls, UConn’s is a handheld wrap. The beef, Asian pears, and shiitake mushrooms in the burrito come from area farms, while the vegetables, eggs, and honey are sourced on campus and at UConn’s Spring Valley Student Farm. “We pride ourselves on doing everything possible to support sustainability, especially local agriculture,” says Robert Landolphi, UConn’s culinary operations manager. “We are now the largest user of Connecticut-grown produce in the state and have begun purchasing as much livestock from local farms as possible.”

Find the recipe at s.uconn.edu/bibimbap.

THIS JUST IN

PREVENTING WORKPLACE HARASSMENT

Psychology professor Vicki Magley consulted with *The New York Times* on a new survey that asked men in the workplace about patterns of harassment. Among the findings, according to the *Times*, was that a major difference between those who harass and those who don’t is the culture at their workplace. Behaviors associated with harassment are especially prevalent among men who say their company does not have guidelines against harassment, hotlines to report it, or punishment for perpetrators, or who say their managers don’t care.

“In short, organizations play a big role in curbing or permitting harassment,” said Magley, a professor of psychological sciences at the University of Connecticut. “Research finds that sexual harassment occurs when it is tolerated — that is, when policies are not enforced and when incidents are not taken seriously,” she said in the article titled, “We Asked 615 Men About How They Conduct Themselves at Work.”

For a Q&A with Magley on how we can better prevent harassment in the workplace, go to s.uconn.edu/magley.

IN GOOD HEALTH

THE SECRET TO A LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE

The ingredients for a long, healthy life are within our grasp, says Blair Johnson, professor of psychological sciences, and Rebecca Acabchuk, a physiology and neurobiology postdoctoral research associate.

For an article in the journal *Social Science and Medicine*, the two reviewed trends in the health psychology field that have developed over the past 50 years and reached some happy conclusions.

“Many of the trends we observe in health psychology are part of trends in science and health” more generally, the researchers say. The science on this topic tells a consistent story: to be healthy and long-lived, we need to maintain a sense of purpose, pursue positive social relationships and healthy habits, eat a nutritious diet, and get sufficient exercise and sleep. Moderation and optimism are best.

The classic Western medical approach to disease is to look at it in isolation: Here is a sick person with diabetes. His pancreas is not properly regulating sugar; medicine can fix that. But while medicine can sometimes fix that, half a century of research into health psychology is coming together now to show how socioeconomic factors, culture, physiology, biology, and environment all influence health and well-being, report Johnson and Acabchuk.

In other words, if we want to be healthy, thinking of disease in isolation may not be thinking about it the right way. People exist in a web of social interactions that influence their psychology and biology. Research is showing that attempts to improve a person’s health are most successful when they include the social aspects of a person’s life as well.

Stress is a particularly important factor and one that is challenging to regulate.

While not everyone can choose where they live, and not all disease is preventable, the review concludes that a sense of purpose, strong social bonds, and healthy habits offer a recipe for successful living and aging that everyone can work toward this new year. —KIM KRIEGER

For more on the study, go to s.uconn.edu/longlife.

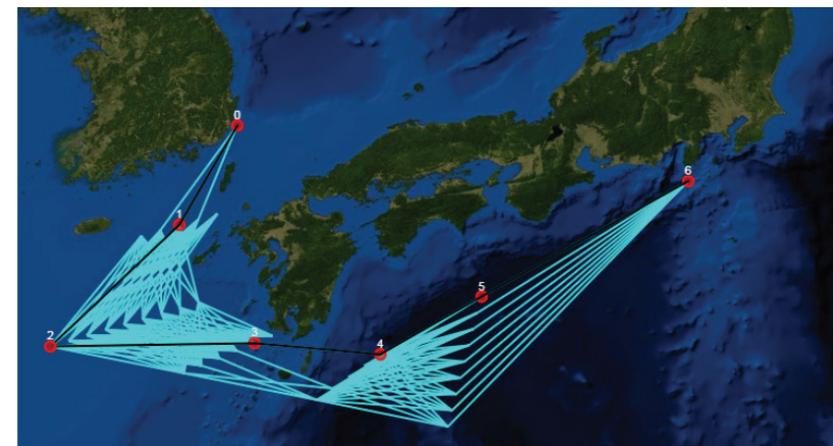


THIS JUST IN

NAVY USING UCONN NAVIGATION SOFTWARE

The U.S. Navy is using new software developed by UConn engineering professor Krishna Pattipati to vastly improve its ability to route ships through unpredictable situations. Below is a screenshot of a ship in transit from Busan, Republic of Korea, to Tokyo, Japan, showing the software’s capability to create alternate paths around islands. The black line with red circles is the recommended route. Each route is divided up into ‘stages,’ and the blue lines represent possible transit alternatives from one stage of a route to the next. This allows ships to change routes as needed to avoid potentially fatal weather conditions.

For more information about the software go to s.uconn.edu/navysoftware.



COLLECTIONS

MASCOTS

Above, Jonathan the Husky, UConn’s current mascot, visits the exhibition “Mascots! Mask Performance in the 21st Century” at the Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry.

“Although mascots are an ever-present element of American culture, they are very rarely celebrated. They are considered a part of centuries-old global mask traditions,” says John Bell, a puppet historian and director of the Ballard Institute. “This exhibition allowed us to look at mascots in a new way.”

Featured mascots included Jonathan, Big Jay and Baby Jay from the University of Kansas, Lil’ Red from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and famous professional sports team mascots, including Boston’s favorite, Wally the Green Monster; Winger, the former mascot of the Washington Capitals; Clutch from the Houston Rockets; and the famous San Diego Chicken.

To read more and see all the mascots, visit s.uconn.edu/mascots.



Peter Morenus

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

ELIZABETH CHARASH '18

When this Newtown, Connecticut, native was in high school, terror struck her hometown. Now a senior majoring in history with minors in public policy and human rights, she's committed to preventing gun violence.

Why did you choose to come to UConn?

I applied and got into the Special Program in Law. I was like, "I'm in law school!" And my mother's like, "Rein it in, Elizabeth, rein it in." It was really the Special Program in Law and the Honors Program that made UConn so attractive. I think they're some of the best assets this university has, but of course I'm very biased.

Tell us about interning in Washington, D.C., last summer with the Brady Campaign.

I was so lucky to have been able to work with them. The Brady Campaign is one of the oldest gun violence prevention organizations in the country and is the leader in gun violence prevention litigation. One of its big recent cases was the Florida gag rule, which prevented doctors from asking patients about guns in their homes. It's a child safety issue. The Brady Campaign and others challenged the law, and the courts overturned the gag rule. They ruled that doctors have a right to ask. It's constitutionally protected

Charash (at the State Capitol in Hartford, left) has been fighting the good fight – and wearing the requisite blazer – since fourth grade (below).

speech. That's something I never would have thought of, but the Brady Campaign went after it. It's incredible how much you can do through the courts.

Have you always been interested in public policy?

In high school I actually wanted to be an engineer. I love physics. I love looking at a problem and seeing how different rules can be applied to solve it. And then Sandy Hook happened. After Sandy Hook I started getting involved with different advocacy groups and meeting different people – victims of gun violence, people working on the issue. I read cases obsessively and realized how much impact one story can have on changing the law.

What motivated you to start the student group UConn Against Gun Violence?

I wanted to create a club to share information and points of view so that we could have a conversation. We need to look at all the different facets of gun violence. For example, we're so focused on mass shootings like Sandy Hook that we forget how many people commit suicide with handguns. Of the 34,000 gun deaths recorded every year in the United States, 21,000 are suicides. Two thirds! Why isn't this talked about more? So UConn Against Gun Violence brings in speakers who can share different experiences and areas of expertise, and this includes people who advocate for gun rights. One of the things that I really enjoy is our partnership with the UConn Pistol and Rifle Club. I know what they're saying, and they know what I'm saying, and we can have a conversation about it. It's sharing knowledge; it's saying, "Okay where's the overlap?"

Is Washington in your future?



I bought my first suit when I was in the fourth grade. You know how everyone does the bus stop photo on the first day of school? I'm in a pink

blazer, skirt, and low pumps. At school they always thought I was a substitute teacher. Freshman year is probably the worst picture. My hair is slicked up into a topknot and I have a full suit with the skirt, the blazer, and black sequin flats. I was 14 and wearing campaign attire! But Washington depends. I really would like to go abroad again for a little bit.

You spent time with the UConn program in Cape Town, South Africa.

I was there from January through April in 2016, spring semester my sophomore year. I wish I could have been there longer. There's an internship and class component to the program. I was placed with an organization called Project Ceasefire, which does onsite mediation for gang violence. What's really great about Project Ceasefire is that it looks at a person holistically. It mediates gang disputes and there is a community center

that runs job training programs and a substance abuse clinic. Everything is interrelated.

You must have had some memorable moments.

Something I think about frequently: I was in the community center one day when a couple came in with a baby. "We found this child in the Fields," they said. The Fields is this desolate dirt area in Hanover Park, needles on the ground, broken bottles. The director took the baby girl and made arrangements with child services. Afternoon came, a woman stumbled into the center. "I'm here for my child," she said. "You took my child." The community rallied and set the woman up in a substance abuse facility, this woman they didn't know. Everyone in the neighborhood tries to take care of one another regardless of the limited resources they have. Incredible people.

When not studying or researching gun laws or thinking about your next trip, how do you kick back? With the minute or two a day that's left?

Baking and cooking. Also, podcasts. I love "Amicus" with Dahlia Lithwick on Slate. It's all about what's going on in the courts, shockingly enough. I also recently got into "Constitutional," the *Washington Post* one about legal history. There's this great episode on *Dred Scott*. Fun fact: The very same pen that was used to write the *Dred Scott* majority opinion [which ruled that African Americans could not be U.S. citizens and therefore had no standing in federal court] was later used by Justice John Marshall Harlan to write his dissent to *Plessy v. Ferguson*. So thirty years after *Dred Scott*, Harlan is the only justice to stand up to segregation in *Plessy*, and he uses the *Dred Scott* pen to do it. I love little tidbits like that; that's a great podcast. —KEVIN MARKEY

KUDOS

FIELD HOCKEY NATIONAL CHAMPS – AGAIN!

The University of Connecticut field hockey team claimed its third national title in five years this season by defeating the University of Maryland 2–1.

The Huskies finished the season undefeated, just the sixth team in Division I history to boast the accomplishment.

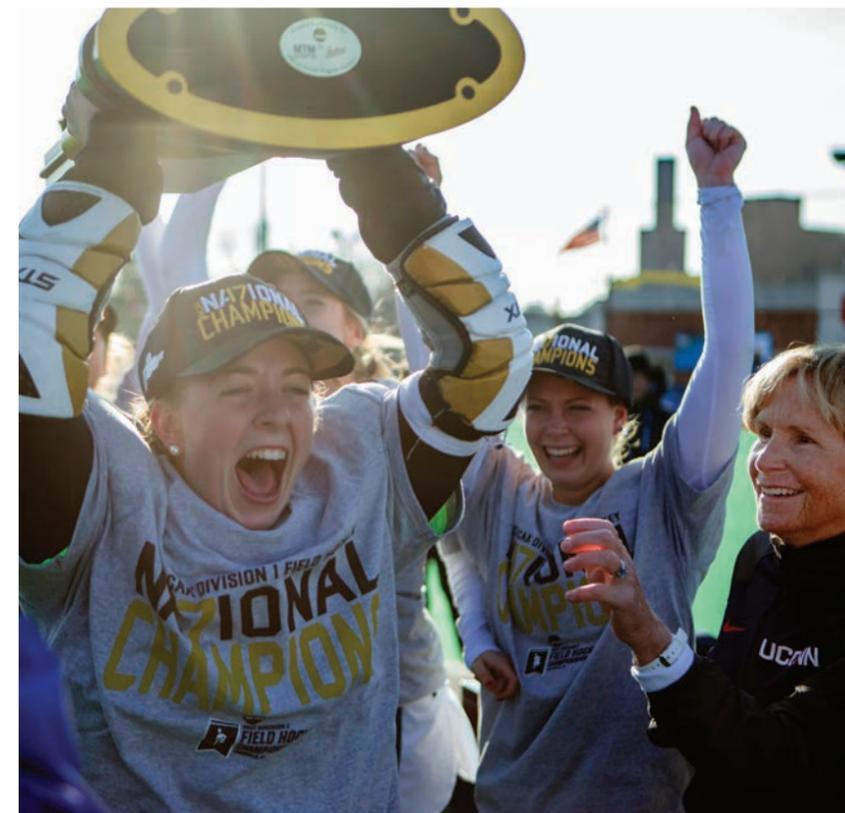
"As I told the team, you now walk through history together," said Nancy Stevens, the team's head coach. "It's just a great day to be a UConn Husky."

The 2017 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) championship marks UConn's fifth title for field hockey (1981, 1985, 2013, 2014, and 2017) and third under Stevens' direction.

Senior Charlotte Veitner was named the NCAA Division I Tournament Most Valuable Player after scoring both UConn goals in the game, held at Trager Stadium in Kentucky.

"We really felt coming into this season that this team had all of the components to win a national championship," said Stevens. The 2017 senior class is the most successful class ever to come through the UConn field hockey program, concluding its four years with an 87–6 record.

—ALEXANDRA GREENE



Mike DeZam

Nina Klein, a sports management major, hoists the national championship trophy after beating the University of Maryland while Casey Umstead, a biological sciences major, and head coach Nancy Stevens celebrate. The team's seniors bookended their collegiate careers with national championships – as freshmen in 2014 and as seniors this season. It was Hall of Fame Coach Stevens' third national title for UConn.

UConn Talks

On her own "Me Too" story:

"Part of why I waited so long to tell so many people – even those very close to me – is because I don't want to be defined by this any more than I want to be only defined by how well I play basketball. Both things are a part of me – they make me who I am."

Breanna Stewart '16 (CLAS), Seattle Storm, *The Players' Tribune*, Oct. 20, 2017

On new guidelines for measuring blood pressure:

"This will cause the greatest amount of controversy with physicians... It's going to be a really tough challenge to follow these guidelines in reality."

Dr. William White, Pat and Jim Calhoun Cardiology Center at UConn Health, CNN, Nov. 14, 2017

On patients being forced to find medical marijuana on the black market:

"They would be supporting organized crime and exposing themselves to additional dangers."

C. Michael White, professor of pharmacy, *Associated Press*, January 12, 2018

On climate change and its effect on birds' nesting schedules:

"They are at the mercy of ambient-temperature conditions to some extent."

Jacob Socolar, ecology post-doc, *National Audubon Society*, Nov. 15, 2017

On evidence suggesting aerobic exercise may delay and improve Alzheimer's symptoms:

"Our meta-analysis is the first to suggest that aerobic exercise may be more effective than other types of exercise in preserving the cognitive health of older adults at risk of, or who have, Alzheimer's Disease."

Gregory Panza and other researchers in kinesiology, *Tech Times*, Jan. 27, 2018

On artists buying terrorism insurance:

"If you could sell shark bite insurance, you could probably make a lot of money."

Peter Kochenburger, associate clinical professor of law, *Newsweek*, Oct. 19, 2017

On statues placed on Korean buses to memorialize women forced into sexual slavery during WWII:

"This is a victim among us. And you're sort of confronted when you step aboard the bus; you don't know which bus it's going to be, but here she is, and it could be any of us."

Alexis Dudden, professor of history, NPR, Nov. 13, 2017

On Mick Mulvaney's leadership of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau:

"He wants to shut down a lot of information-gathering that the Bureau is doing. So it's basically the idea that: 'We're going to regulate by closing our eyes, covering our ears, and pretending that nothing's happening.'"

Dalie Jimenez, professor of law, Bloomberg Radio, Jan. 19, 2018



Courtesy of Kroum Batchvarov

Off Campus

TEAM DISCOVERS ANCIENT VIKING SHIPS IN THE BLACK SEA

The Ottoman period shipwreck pictured above, one of 43 discovered buried half a mile below the surface of the Black Sea this past summer, has remained miraculously well preserved.

"The masts were still standing. You could see the spars [wooden poles], the yards on deck. Everything was there," says Kroum Batchvarov, assistant professor of anthropology and part of the team that discovered the wrecks. Batchvarov is co-director of the Black Sea Maritime Archaeology Project (MAP), an international team of scientists mapping ancient underwater landscapes. The vessels they are finding date over the course of a millennium, from the 9th to the 19th centuries.

The Black Sea's low levels of salt and dissolved oxygen keep

wood from deteriorating.

Batchvarov and team will use the discovery to better understand seafaring in the Middle Ages and the post-medieval period in the Eastern Mediterranean and Black Seas. They also will investigate the area for evidence of how humans reacted to changes in the environment in previous eras. The image above was produced using a process known as *photogrammetry*. It combines photographs and videos taken by cameras mounted on remotely operated vehicles, with distance measurements produced by sonar.

For more info and more photos, go to s.uconn.edu/ships.

Kudos

CHALK UP ANOTHER FOR MARILYN NELSON

Professor Emeritus Marilyn Nelson added the 2017 NSK Neustadt Prize for Children's Literature to a list that includes the Newbery Honor, Coretta Scott King Honor, and the Pushcart Prize. "Her engaging, lyrical style builds awareness around sensitive issues through human, and even humorous, storytelling that both children and adults can relate to," said Robert Con Davis-Undiano, executive director of *World Literature Today*, the award-winning magazine of international literature at the University of Oklahoma that bestows the honor.



Curt Richter Photography

COVETED CLASS

Asian American Literature, ENGL 3212/AASI 3212

The Instructor

Cathy Schlund-Vials spent eight years living in England, part of growing up as the adopted daughter of a career U.S. Air Force chief master sergeant who rotated to military bases at home (Florida, Georgia, and Texas) and abroad. Considering herself “a bit of an Anglophile” when she decided to pursue a doctoral degree at UMass Amherst, Schlund-Vials planned to focus on British literature in her studies.

After enrolling in a class titled “History and Memory,” an ethnic American literature course that was taught by the noted literary critic Joseph Skerrett, she found herself moving down a different path. “It was the first time I had a professor of color who taught literature by people of color,” says Schlund-Vials, who was born in Thailand following the liaison of her Cambodian mother and American father and was later adopted, with her twin brother, by a mixed-race couple, an American of German-Scots-Irish heritage and his Japanese wife. “I finally saw myself in the literature.”

A professor of English, Schlund-Vials has served since 2010 as director of UConn’s Asian and Asian American Studies Institute and also is president of the National Association for Asian American Studies. “I try to make the experience of Asian American people relevant to non-Asian Americans,” she says.

Class Description

While the course title is “Asian American Literature,” Schlund-Vials feels she is teaching a class in U.S. literature because the mix of fiction and nonfiction books that her students read explore themes and topics tied to the American experience, particularly conflicts during the latter half of the 20th century.

“In order to understand the Asian American experience, with the exception of South Asian Americans, you have to talk about war,” she says. “I also think it’s something that makes it a U.S. literature course. I’ve taught courses on the Vietnam War and I would always teach someone like Tim O’Brien [“The Things They Carried”], but pair it with a Vietnamese



Peter Morenus

author. It’s really stunning how students in the class have very little understanding of Vietnam. But once they get to the end, they’re making connections to contemporary U.S. policy.”

Students write analytically throughout the semester, answering questions based on the readings. They also write longer midterm and final papers. Schlund-Vials describes the six- to eight-page midterm assignment as a “cultural artifact,” where the writer must examine primary documents — books, news articles, films, or songs — created by a person who lived during the time period the student is researching. The 10- to 12-page final paper can either expand upon the midterm or move in a new direction. She hopes such longer writing will assist students as they continue their education.

“This is kind of the way graduate school works,” she says. “You work through a paper over the course of a semester.”

Schlund-Vials’ Teaching Style

As an undergraduate at the University of Texas at Austin, Schlund-Vials says many of her classes were lecture halls filled with hundreds of students, and she did not know her professors well. “I feel that

The same sense of merriment that marks English professor Cathy Schlund-Vials’ teaching style can be found in her graphic novel- and toy-filled office.

when I talk to students, they’re not just students. They’re my future colleagues, so I try to engage them,” she says.

As they enter the classroom, she appears to greet each of the nearly 40 students enrolled in the class by name, asking how a project is progressing in another class or how they are feeling after the previous week’s bout with a cold. When she asks a question about the book under discussion, hands around the room go up, just as they do when she asks someone to read a passage. Everyone is called on by name.

“I’m very interested in what students have to say,” says Schlund-Vials. “I’ve read these works time and again, although I consistently change up the texts. It’s amazing to me how they read it and provide a new insight that I’ve never even thought about. They’re coming into it without all of the baggage I’m coming into it with as somebody who is a scholar of this work. I take very seriously that these are all individuals.”

Schlund-Vials meets with students individually about their class assignments. After each class there is a line of students waiting to chat, some continuing their discussion walking back to her office in the Philip E. Austin Building across from Swan Lake, where most English classes meet. Emails also arrive regularly.

“This is a population that is constantly emailing,” she says. “I respond to emails very quickly. I try to get to know all of the students.”

Why We Would Want to Take the Class Ourselves

Starting with the first week of class, Schlund-Vials conducts what she calls “an immigration exercise,” asking students to stand and indicate where they were born. Questions move on to the birthplace of their parents and grandparents. Soon, towns and cities in the U.S. give way to locations on other continents, and students begin to understand that everyone has an immigrant family history.

“I also say we’re going to talk about immigration exclusion, and if you’re Italian or Eastern European or Irish, it is a matter of luck that your family came here before there was an immigration

restriction,” she says, noting Congress established national immigration quotas in 1924. “I always try to highlight that what happened to Asian Americans also happened to other ethnic groups.”

Schlund-Vials says most of her work is about trying to understand her adoptive parents and their history rather than her own personal story of growing up as a person of mixed race.

“I never talk about mixed race with the exception of one piece that I’ve authored, even though one would think that’s all I would talk about,” she says. “I had grown up understanding quite intimately race and racial formation. When we lived in Georgia, there was one incident where a white supremacist group came to our house, likely in the middle of the night, and keyed our car and burned a cross on our yard. We were the only mixed-race family in the neighborhood.”

The “History and Memory” class so many years ago served as an epiphany for Schlund-Vials. “I was very conscious of race, but it wasn’t until I was in that class that I saw that it’s part of the American experience. It’s not something that’s marginal; it’s actually quite mainstream.” —KENNETH BEST



TRADITIONS

SKATING RINK

Students and local residents skating at UConn’s outdoor ice rink in the spring of 1976 — 11 years after it opened. The rink, with seating for almost 500 people on its metal bleachers, was covered by an arched, wooden roof and was used by the men’s hockey team and local youth hockey organizations. It was eventually torn down to make way for the indoor arena that opened in 1998. —EMMA CASAGRANDE ’18 (CLAS)

UCONN READS



3 Books

Geno Auriemma, longtime head coach of the 11-time national champion women’s basketball team, recently chalked up win number 1,000. He’s also an avid reader.

Just finished:



Dunkirk by Christopher Nolan

I love stories about how people think and act during extreme circumstances and why they make the decisions they make.

Currently reading:



The Thirst by Jo Nesbo

Jo Nesbo is one of my favorite authors. I love the characters and how flawed they all are — he makes us believe they are real people.

Looking forward to:



This Storm by James Ellroy

I plan to read the next installment of James Ellroy’s latest quartet. The first book was titled “Perfidia,” a story of Los Angeles during and after WWII.

THE
 FUTURE
 OF
 (ALMOST)
 EVERYTHING
 (ACCORDING TO OUR INCREDIBLY TALENTED,
 ALTOGETHER BRILLIANT,
 HIGHLY ACCOMPLISHED ALUMS)

By Kevin Markey

No matter where you live or work, it's safe to say 2017 felt a bit topsy-turvy. At the beginning of this new year we thought we'd ask alums in various businesses what they think the future holds for their particular industry, be it education, finance, entertainment, or space exploration.

Here's a sample of what they said, with their full answers and answers from more alums at s.uconn.edu/future. What does it look like from your perch? Send your predictions to futurestate@uconn.edu, and we'll add them to the mix.



EDUCATION

Whither the University?

Scott S. Cowen '68 Business

President Emeritus and Distinguished University Chair of Tulane University, Cowen was instrumental in rebuilding the university — and the city of New Orleans — after Hurricane Katrina; the former chair of the Association of American Universities was named one of the nation's ten best college presidents by *Time* magazine

“We're undoubtedly at a tipping point in higher education. I don't think our system is broken, but it's time for unsentimental self-reflection and courageous action. **If higher education leaders across the country don't face the new realities—changing demographics and an unsustainable financial model that relies on tuition amid escalating expenses and state funding cuts, to name just a couple—many of our institutions will find themselves fighting for their existence.** The arms race for resources and prestige is undermining the missions of public and private institutions alike and distracting us from the real work: educating engaged citizens and leaders; making higher education accessible to more than the already privileged and a few lucky ones; and creating campuses that reflect our diverse society and that are more concerned with the benefit than the cost of inclusiveness, namely diversity of thought.”

Talent Meets Opportunity

Rowena Ortiz-Walters '96 Chemistry, '05 Ph.D. Business Administration

Dean of School of Business and Economics, SUNY Plattsburgh

“At SUNY Plattsburgh, we have started a Center for Cybersecurity and Technology (CCT) within the School of Business and Economics. Part of the motivation is to recruit female and racial minority students, because **career opportunities in cybersecurity have exploded but current trends point to a general talent shortage with women and racial minorities significantly more underrepresented.** Continued access to mentors and role models or ‘direct influencers’ is needed, which we can provide through the CCT. Beyond this, once in the profession, sponsors are critical for the promotion of female and minority leaders.”

New Tricks for Old Dogs

Frances Trelease '83 Psychology, '96 MBA

Founder and president, Boomer Den, LLC, an agency that empowers adult workers through internships and job-placement services

“In the movie ‘The Intern,’ Robert De Niro plays a retired professional who accepts an internship with a trendy online fashion company to sharpen his skills and stay engaged. By the end, fish-out-of-water De Niro earns his stripes as a team player valued for his temperance and wisdom. The hit film brought to light the concept of reverse mentoring — millennials providing tutelage and guidance in areas like social media to their older counterparts in the workplace. **Who wins with reverse mentoring? Both groups.** Older workers gain the skills needed to succeed in a changing work environment. The younger set, in turn, gains insight into leadership roles.”

SPORTS



She's Got Game

Jennifer Rizzotti '96 Biology

Head coach women's basketball, George Washington University; NCAA champion, AP Player of the Year, two-time WNBA champion

"We're in pretty good shape. The women's national team has won six consecutive gold medals, and the WNBA's level of competitiveness is higher than it has ever been. There are a lot of really talented players in college basketball right now. The game is in a healthy place. That said, I don't think we will be happy to maintain our current level. **There needs to be growth in attention, attendance numbers, and television exposure.** Women's basketball itself is a great product, but I think we need to be more creative in marketing our stories. Bringing more attention to the game and our athletes and having more women speak out about things that are important to them are steps we can take. We're in a good place, but there is the potential in the next few years to take an even bigger step forward."

Who's the Next Tom Brady?

Dan Orlovsky '17 General Studies, QB 2001–2005

NFL quarterback, retired; UConn career record holder in pass completions, yards passing, touchdown passes, and total yards

"The quarterback position in the NFL always has been and always will be the premier position in the league, and arguably all of professional sports. Quarterbacks have always come in all shapes, sizes, and abilities, and that fact is more present nowadays than ever before. The NFL has tall QBs who would stand out in a room just because of their physical presence. And the NFL has smaller QBs with an 'everyday guy' look who could get lost in a crowd. There are guys who can throw the ball a mile and guys who probably don't even have the best arm on their teams. **Contrary to a lot of talk, I don't believe the position is evolving much now from what it used to be.** Yes, there are a lot of athletic guys playing the position, but there have always been athletic guys playing the position. What will never change are the essential skills a quarterback must have to be successful. Great leadership, natural arm talent, the ability to be accurate, intelligence, the ability to process information quickly, the ability to throw the football with timing. Quarterbacks must be mentally and physically tough, and they must love the big moment. No matter what one's athletic greatness or limitations may be, these traits always have been and always will be essential to quarterbacking in the NFL."



Now Playing

Mike Soltys '81 Communications

VP, Corporate Communications, ESPN, overseeing publicity for ESPN, ESPN2, ESPN on ABC, ESPNEWS, ESPN's college networks, and ESPN Radio

"Personalization in media will continue to accelerate. For example, if all you care about is UConn basketball, then games, highlights, analysis, **news, and commentary on all things Huskies will be pushed to your devices** via ESPN. This era is already here; ease of use and depth of content will grow, giving you exactly what you want, when and where you want it."

Going for Gold

Timothy P. Shriver '97 Ph.D. Special Education

Chairman, Special Olympics

"The timing is right for the Special Olympics movement to become a metaphor of and a trigger for confronting the cultural challenge of our time: how human beings can learn to welcome differences and celebrate unity. **It is time for an inclusion revolution,** and the athletes of Special Olympics will be the leaders in erasing the lines that divide us."



BUSINESS

Shopping Spree

William Simon '81 Economics, '88 MBA

Former president and CEO, Walmart U.S.; senior advisor, global investment firm KKR; board of regents and business professor, Baylor University

"Retail is in a generational transition. Digital access is changing the paradigm. In order to succeed, you have to be famous for something and ride that hard. **If you are not the cheapest, the fastest, the most convenient, the highest quality, or the most efficient, you will run the risk of going the way of Woolworth's.** Leading a company through such a substantial change requires maniacal focus on your business model and flawless execution. There is no room for average performance and average concepts in the current environment."



Hunting Unicorns

Scott Case '92 Computer Science and Engineering

Technologist, entrepreneur; president of Upside.com, founding CTO of Priceline.com

"All startups, successful or not, are filled with hour-to-hour and day-to-day roller coaster twists, turns, drops, and excitement. The key to success is building a team with the **resiliency** to handle it all. And resiliency, like most things, gets better with practice. You learn to recover from mistakes, decisions that didn't break your way, or just plain being wrong. Startups that get good at that have a much greater chance of winning. ...Innovators keep at it until they've succeeded."

GOVERNMENT

You Have the Right to Remain Outspoken

Natasha M. Pierre, Esq. '93 Women's Studies, '98 MSW, '98 JD

Connecticut State victim advocate

"Connecticut residents have the constitutional right as crime victims to engage in the criminal justice process on their cases. **These rights are routinely ignored or violated by government entities with little to no consequence.** Enforcement is needed and I'm excited to tackle the issue with my staff."



What You'll Pay for a New York Apartment

Caroline Bass '04 Photography

Real estate broker, The Corcoran Group; director of the Bass Team of agents

"The residential real estate industry is price point- and neighborhood-specific right now. The market could be headed for some major changes, but that will depend greatly on the new tax bills. **Historically low interest rates are still bringing in a steady flow of buyers, though, and I see that continuing into 2018.**"

Equal Representation

Don Bell '10 History, '13 JD

Director, Black Talent Initiative, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies

"We have made meaningful progress in the push for Congressional staff diversity. Senate Democrats have collected data for the first time, House and Senate Democrats have adopted the Rooney Rule [the NFL policy that requires teams to interview minority candidates for head coaching and senior football operation jobs] and offices on both sides of the aisle are becoming more thoughtful about diversity and inclusion. **A year ago, none of these things seemed possible.** We have a long way to go, however. Congress should collect publicly available demographic data, address the lack of paid internships, and develop plans to be inclusive in recruiting and hiring. As America becomes diverse, I'm hopeful that we will see that diversity reflected in our elected officials, their staffs, and in appointed positions. Diversity opens the door for better policy making."

MEDIA

A Horse Walks Into a Bar



Chris Cater '13 Illustration

Cartoonist and Illustrator

“The *New Yorker* cartoon of the future will continue to be a short-caption or captionless single-panel drawing. But feeling, spirit, and subject will change with the generations. New becomes old, **taboo becomes acceptable**, exciting goes bland — and vice-versa.”

Listen to This



Ali Oshinskie '17
English Literature

CEO, Podstories; creator and producer of “Professors Are People Too” podcast

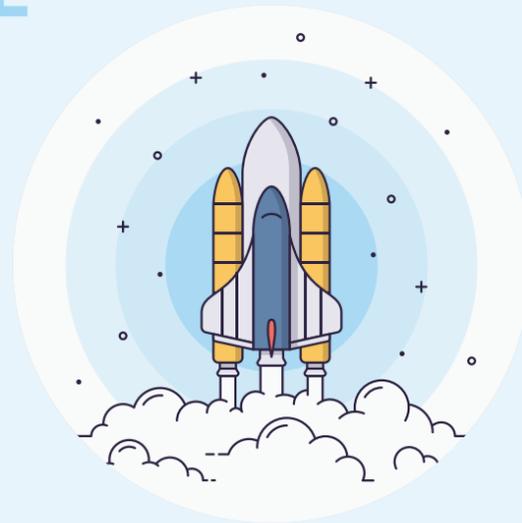
“In 2014 ‘Serial’ came out and changed the world of podcasting. It had close to 40 million downloads just two months after its debut. Podcasts were suddenly trendy and sexy. Thanks to ‘the ‘Serial’ effect,’ podcasts are breaking out into the commercial world. Gimlet Media and Panoply Media are two of the many very successful podcast-only networks — Gimlet is worth \$70 million. Big-time media groups like ESPN and *The New York Times* are now in podcasts and naturally making it to the top of charts. Podcasts come in every flavor and genre, but a few categories dominate: true crime and political opinion. Listeners want to stay informed, and they want to do it on their commutes.

This field will probably look like YouTube in a few years, a lucrative space with leaders and well-established communities. What makes this world so cool is that it’s really media for the people and by the people. A podcaster doesn’t need anything other than a mic and some time. Of course to blow up commercially, it also needs the ‘it’ factor, and there’s still no formula for that.”

SCIENCE

To Infinity

Franklin Chang-Diaz '73
Mechanical Engineering



Retired NASA astronaut; founder and CEO, Ad Astra Rocket Company

“**In a few decades, spaceflight will be like air travel is today.** Space will then be more than only the realm of explorers. It will be a place of business, a place of work, and it will provide humanity an opportunity to expand for its survival. Advanced rocket technology will be the great enabler to human expansion into space. Chemical propulsion will continue to provide launch and landing capability, but the bulk of the in-space transportation will be carried out by increasingly powerful electric plasma rockets, initially powered by solar power near the Earth and the Moon and ultimately by powerful nuclear electric power plants. These will provide fast interplanetary ships with abundant energy to power their engines, putting the entire Solar System within human reach.”



Books: the Original Entertainment Devices

Ron Roy '65 English Literature

Best-selling author of children’s books, including “A to Z Mysteries”

“Kids read when they see their parents reading. Conversely, if Mom and Dad are always on their phones or other devices, kids will lean in that direction. Mom and Dad: **turn off the TV and all devices every evening for one hour at the same time.** Pick up a book and designate this as reading time.”

A Better Poop Loop

Kartik Chandran '99 Ph.D.
Environmental Engineering

2015 MacArthur Fellow; associate professor of engineering, Columbia University

“The field of environmental engineering is increasingly embracing concepts and tools in biological sciences and, microbial ecology and integrating them with engineering principles. Within the water sector, this has led to significant advances in engineered technologies and processes that enable us to treat wastewater but with a lower energy and chemical footprint; **convert different substrates present in ‘waste’ streams to high-value end products;** and even detect and address emerging pathogens and microbial contaminants.”

Understanding the Human Mind

Philip Rubin '74 Ph.D.
Experimental Psychology

Cognitive scientist, technologist; chief executive officer emeritus, Haskins Laboratories

“From 2012 through 2015, I had the privilege of serving as the Principal Assistant Director for Science in the Office of Science and Technology Policy in the Executive Office of the President, where I also led the White House Neuroscience Initiative. One important activity that we coordinated was the BRAIN (Brain Research Through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies) Initiative, which had the goal of **creating public-private partnerships to accelerate the development of theory and tools to help understand the human mind** and prevent and cure disorders of the brain. An exciting aspect of this work, which has expanded rapidly, is convergent science, integrating knowledge, techniques, and expertise across multiple fields including biology, cognitive science, computer and data science, engineering, and the physical sciences. Also critical is the need to consider the ethical dimensions of emerging issues related to brain, behavior, and technology.”



Talking With Dolphins

Kathleen M. Dudzinski '89
Biological Sciences

Director of the Dolphin Communication Project, international marine mammal research organization

“**We have only scratched the surface of understanding how dolphins share information,** what signals they use, when they use them, and more. Studies with wild dolphins highlight the intricacy of their varied cultural lives, while studies of captive dolphins have illustrated their high cognitive abilities. The more we learn, the more questions we create!”

On Distant Shores

Jonathan Krezel '96 Political Science and History, '01 MPA

Integration manager, Exploration Systems Development, NASA

“Freshmen entering UConn today are members of the first generation, in all of human history, to be born into a world that has had human explorers living and working continuously in space. Everything we have done at the International Space Station — the science and engineering of keeping people alive and productive in space; the benefits to those of us back on Earth in medicine, technology, Earth science, and many other fields; the development of rockets and spacecraft like the Space Launch System and Orion; the incubation of new companies, new business models, and new visions for exploration — has prepared us for this point in history. **In coming years NASA hopes to help orchestrate a global effort to extend human exploration tens of millions of miles beyond the Moon to Mars.** Along the way we will need the best of every discipline — from science and engineering to sociology and economics to business and art — to make it happen. In the words of Carl Sagan (for whom my son is named), ‘The surface of the Earth is the shore of the cosmic ocean . . . some part of our being knows this is where we come from . . . we’re made of star stuff . . . we are a way for the cosmos to know itself.’”

LEISURE



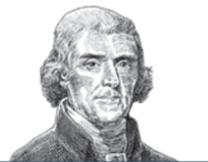
The Show Will Go On

Ryan Lee Gilbert '12 Journalism

Editor, Broadway.com

“Covering New York theater as a reporter and editor, I’ve had the opportunity to interview dozens of people who make their living in this unique industry. The future of Broadway is always a popular topic during these conversations, and just like anything else, it’s hard to know exactly where it’s headed. But here’s what I think: **The future of Broadway gets brighter the more it becomes all-encompassing.** Lin-Manuel Miranda’s musical ‘Hamilton,’ with its color-blind casting and hip-hop-, rap-, and R&B-infused score, is a great example. The lesbian coming-of-age story at the center of the musical ‘Fun Home’ is another. As is Deaf West Theatre’s production of the musical ‘Spring Awakening,’ which combines sign language and spoken delivery. At its core, live theater is at its best when it topples prejudice, delivers honest emotion, and celebrates communion. Broadway’s future depends on how well it embraces the ‘broad’ in its name: it needs to be universal to find its ‘way’ forward.”

All That Was Old Is New Again



Kevin Patrick '99 MBA

Senior vice president, chief financial officer, and treasurer, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

“Colonial Williamsburg is adapting to change while honoring its mission to share the story of America’s founding. **Thomas Jefferson still greets guests on the street and answers questions about the 18th century and today. But now, guests can locate him using their smartphones,** then use the same mobile app to reserve seats at a tavern and book a ride there in a carriage. We rarely know what the future holds, but we will evolve to demonstrate our relevance and engage audiences where they are. Most for-profit companies focus on utilizing strategic planning to create strategies and initiatives that drive or improve market value. At Colonial Williamsburg, we implement strategies and initiatives to grow endowment value or create endowment value added (EVA) so that we can fund our mission and remain relevant. This puts the Foundation in a stronger financial position to implement programs that allow us to continue to educate others about America’s founding.”

ENERGY



The Grid Reinvented

William Quintan '92 JD

President and chief operating officer, Eversource Energy

“Eversource remains committed to advancing clean energy through the development of projects, like Northern Pass and Bay State Wind, that will deliver to the region affordable, reliable, clean energy. In addition to ensuring new sources of clean energy, we are always working to **build the reliable and resilient grid of the future.** This is particularly important in light of increasingly severe weather in New England. One of the ways we’re working to address this phenomenon is through our partnership with the University of Connecticut at the Eversource Energy Center, which is on the cutting edge of predicting potential impacts a storm will have on the energy system. This research will help us, and other utilities, effectively invest in energy system upgrades that will enhance reliable service for all of our customers.”

HEALTH & WELLNESS



The Blind Shall See

Nicole Wagner '07 Molecular and Cell Biology, '13 Ph.D. Biochemistry

President and CEO, LambdaVision

“LambdaVision is developing the first implantable technology to use light-activated proteins to **restore vision in patients with age-related macular degeneration and retinitis pigmentosa.** The technology was founded right here at UConn by Dr. Robert Birge, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, along with some of his graduate students, including myself. Significant progress has been made toward treating blindness caused by retinal disease, and I am hopeful we will have a cure for many inherited retinal diseases in the near future.”

Modernizing Mental Health Treatment

Alan Kraut '73 Education

Executive director emeritus, the Association of Psychological Science; executive director, Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System (PCSAS)

“There is excitement in modern clinical psychology. We know so much more now than even a few years ago about applying science to mental disorders, but too often a therapist still tries older, less effective, even ineffective, treatments. PCSAS accredits clinical psychology Ph.D. programs so that we can assure the public that our doctors know the latest science about what works, what doesn’t, and how to make sure more mental health professionals know about empirically supported treatments. Second, as much as **we know now, we need to know more, to apply modern genetics, cognitive and brain-based approaches, and new social and developmental science to mental disorders to create new, better treatments.**”

Suicide Prevention in the Military

Jessica LaCroix '16 Ph.D. Social Psychology

Research psychologist, Henry M. Jackson Foundation, Department of Medical and Clinical Psychology, Uniformed Services, University of the Health Sciences

“Cognitive behavior therapy has been found to be efficacious for reducing suicide risk among military personnel in outpatient settings, and our team is currently evaluating the efficacy of an inpatient protocol. Universal suicide prevention trainings currently focus on identifying at-risk military personnel and linking them with care. An example is the U.S. Army ACE Program (Ask, Care, and Escort). Future universal suicide prevention trainings will also focus on enhancing overall mental fitness. In the words of a Department of Defense Task Force, **we must ‘take steps to make mental fitness commensurate with physical fitness within military culture** as a core value of military life.”



What You Don’t Know Can Hurt You

Nancy M. Cappello, '95 Ph.D. Education Administration

Founder and executive director, Are You Dense Inc., a global nonprofit dedicated to education about breast cancer screening

“My diagnosis catapulted me on a bumpy, unpaved road of patient advocacy. I discovered the two-decade secret of dense breast tissue and its impact on the reliability of the mammogram to ‘see’ cancers. **Women like me with dense breast tissue (2/3 of pre-menopausal and 1/4 of post-menopausal) have less than a 48% chance of having breast cancer detected by mammogram.** Since mammography reveals if a woman has dense breast tissue (information radiologists had been reporting to doctors for 20 years at the time of my diagnosis), you might think patients would be notified. When I asked why I hadn’t been, I was told, ‘It is not the standard protocol.’ Inspired by my delayed and hence advanced diagnosis, Connecticut in 2009 became the first state to mandate reporting of dense tissue to women through their mammography reporting results. Today, 31 states have a density reporting law and a federal density reporting bill was recently reintroduced in Congress.”

A Little Push

Mirror Lake's Swing Journal is penning a tradition, one entry at a time.

By Stephanie Reitz



Photos by Mark Mirko and Peter Morenus

A few steps from the rushes along Mirror Lake's shore, a simple square mailbox atop a black post holds the collective emotions of strangers linked by their ties to UConn and their innate desire to connect with others.

Like a reverse Pandora's box, opening the mailbox to discover the contents — a well-worn writing journal — releases into the world the stories of triumph, trepidation, joy, and anticipation from those who've anonymously shared their secrets in its pages.

The UConn Swing Journal, named for its proximity to the wooden swings on the nearby tree overlooking Mirror Lake, has evolved within two years from a UConn counselor's simple idea to an established and increasingly treasured tradition. Countless students, alumni, campus visitors, local residents, and others have

taken pen to paper in the journal to share thoughts or express support for others.

"There are many opportunities in a university setting that make it easy for extroverts to connect with others, be it through clubs, in residence halls, or at various events. But this is an opportunity that's also welcoming for introverts," says Elizabeth Cracco, director of Counseling and Mental Health Services (CMHS).

Inspired by a similar anonymous journal project in place for decades near Sunset Beach, N.C., Cracco put out the first blank composition book near the lakeside swings in mid-2015, sealing it in a watertight container and tucking it in the crook of the tree with a welcome to passersby to share whatever they wished.

The University later erected the post and mailbox nearby within easy reach of the wooden swings, one of which is carved





Bottom: Elizabeth Cracco, director of Counseling and Mental Health Services, who in mid-2015 placed a composition book near the swings at Mirror Lake, hoping students might take the opportunity to unload. Above: a stack of some of the dozens of composition books, or Swing Journals, that have been filled since then.

ing heartache,” Cracco says of the campus counselors. “Seeing stories in the Swing Journal from students who have triumphed, or the words of encouragement that our students leave for others in the Journal — that gives me a boost. I think it does the same for others, and I think that’s why so many people have connected with it.”

On Love ...

“I’ve found the woman I’m going to marry. I’ve never been happier. I didn’t know this constant state of bliss even existed. Pinch me.”

First love, lost love, unrequited love — it all has its place in the Swing Journal, often expressed in emotions so raw or heartfelt it would be hard for even the most stoic stranger to read without reaction.

Many are rapturous descriptions of meeting someone unlike anyone they had ever known and feeling amazement at the depths of their love. Less often but equally poignant, some entries express anguish and regret over having cheated on a partner or doubt about whether a long-distance relationship will succeed.

They may not know it, but the authors sharing these timeless emotions are linked to many of the historical figures in their college textbooks.

As they write, they’re simpatico with Queen Victoria, who poured out adoration for her husband Albert in her journal (“Oh! Was ever a woman so blessed as I am?”), or the despondent author of graffiti found on walls in Pompeii centuries after the city was buried in volcanic ash (“Cruel Lalagus, why do you not love me?”).

Some couples leave sweet notes for each other in the Swing Journal, while some people jot down messages to their secret crushes. Whether those crushes ever read the messages isn’t always known, but for many of the authors, just expressing that love is cathartic.

“Love at all of its stages is definitely one of the predominant themes in the journals,” says Cracco.

“Today, I realized that I’m absolutely in love with you and adore you more than any other girl I’ve ever met. You’ve stolen my heart and you don’t even realize... I could go on and on, but this lighter I’m using to provide light to write is starting to burn my hand. But just know I love you.”

with the words “Be Happy” and the other declaring, “You’re Awesome.” In laughing groups or in pensive solitude, people have sought out the journals and settled in the swings or nearby on the grass to share bits of themselves with strangers.

Dozens of the journals have been filled so far with stories of finding and losing first loves, making friends, planning for graduation, and visiting Storrs as a proud alum or the parent of a new freshman.

Cracco places new journals in the box as the old ones are filled; these she tucks away in her office in the hope they can someday be digitized. Many entries also are shared on social media with the #UConnSwingJournal tag, including many on the UConn Swing Journal Facebook page.

“A lot of what we do in CMHS often involves talking with students who are under a great deal of stress or experienc-

On Homesickness ...

“Dear Swing Journal: I’m having a rough week. My dad is sick and I’m failing my statistics course and I still haven’t found a job for this summer. But I’m so happy I found you.”

In the excitement of entering college, it can be tempting for students to hide their homesickness or downplay the culture shock of adjusting to their newfound independence.

While UConn has created many programs to help new students feel at home on campus, the Swing Journal has also become a de facto support system. For every student who questions whether they can cut it at UConn, several others chime in encouraging them to believe in themselves and their potential.

To help students in more serious emotional turmoil, the Swing Journal mailbox also includes several University pamphlets on mental health resources, including information about confidential help for suicide prevention, sexual assault response services, and other concerns.

“The last time I sat under this tree was my freshman year when I was crying my eyes out because I had never felt so alone. I remember sitting with my hood up, curled as small as I possibly could be, and begging God to make it stop. A little over one year later, I’m here with the most incredible girl in the world.”

On Stress ...

“I wish I could let myself be happy. One day I’ll put my own happiness before others and everything will be OK. Until then, I’ll keep a smile on my face and pretend everything is OK when I’m really dying inside.”

The pressures of succeeding in classes, maintaining friendships and relationships, perhaps holding down a job, and making post-graduation plans can create intense stress for even the most well-balanced student.

Those pressures are evident in some Swing Journal entries, including several in which the author begins in a clearly distressed tone and works through various issues over several paragraphs, often ending on a more hopeful note.

“Research has definitely found that writing helps release what’s inside of your head and puts it outside of you, where

it doesn’t have as much power. It helps a great deal with getting perspective on your situation,” says Dr. Karen Steinberg, a clinical psychologist at UConn Health and assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry.

Writing in the Swing Journal and other anonymous outlets may go a step further because it provides people an opportunity to offer compassionate words to those in crisis and get similarly comforting responses from others, she says.

“I’m so unsure of myself. I question everything I do. I don’t trust myself to do the right thing. But I’ve made it this far ... Maybe I’ll be okay after all.”

Response from a stranger: *“I hope you’re feeling better now. There are always people who love you!”*

A Little Humor ...

“The ducks here like Sour Patch Kids.”

There’s a rogue Frisbee somewhere in the depths of Mirror Lake. We know this tidbit from the UConn Swing Journal, where the owner’s friend posted a tongue-in-cheek eulogy for the wayward Frisbee among the other entries about love and life.

Sometimes, the Swing Journal’s writers just want to have a little fun, be it in the form of impromptu artwork — including many pencil drawings of trees and the lake — or tossing out random observations on snacks, music, or hair trends (“Why are man buns a thing?”).

One lighthearted topic is a constant: the ducks who wander around Mirror Lake near the swings, who are often immortalized in sketches by people delighted by their curiosity. Squirrels may hold court on the rest of the campus, but near Mirror Lake, the ducks clearly run the show.

“A duck comes closer and closer ... Hello, duck! (You’re very nice!). Thanks for being part of a fantastic day.” [with illustration of ‘Honorable duck’]

It’s Welcoming ...

“Your campus is beautiful and I’ve caught a few Pokemon too, LOL. From your friend at the University of Bridgeport.”

The Swing Journal’s writers aren’t limited to UConn students. Many who visit

campus from other areas have stopped by to jot down a few words. They’re almost universal in their praise for the campus and their experiences.

Some of the closest visitors are from neighboring E.O. Smith High School, where groups of students often congregate near the swings after school and add their thoughts to the journal. Several were doing exactly that on an unusually warm autumn day last year, laughing about homework just a few feet from the journal’s mailbox.

“I remember writing things about being a freshman last year. My friends and I all wrote in it and put in our social media,” says E.O. Smith sophomore Breanna Maxwell, referring to many writers’ practices of putting their social media handles in their entries to gain followers.

“I’m visiting from UMass Amherst for the weekend and can I just say, y’all have the best ice cream I’ve ever tasted. And I love your groundhogs!”

Feeling Nostalgic ...

“Sending love from UConn alumni, Class of 2012, XOXO. One day you’ll cherish all the memories you’re making here every day.”

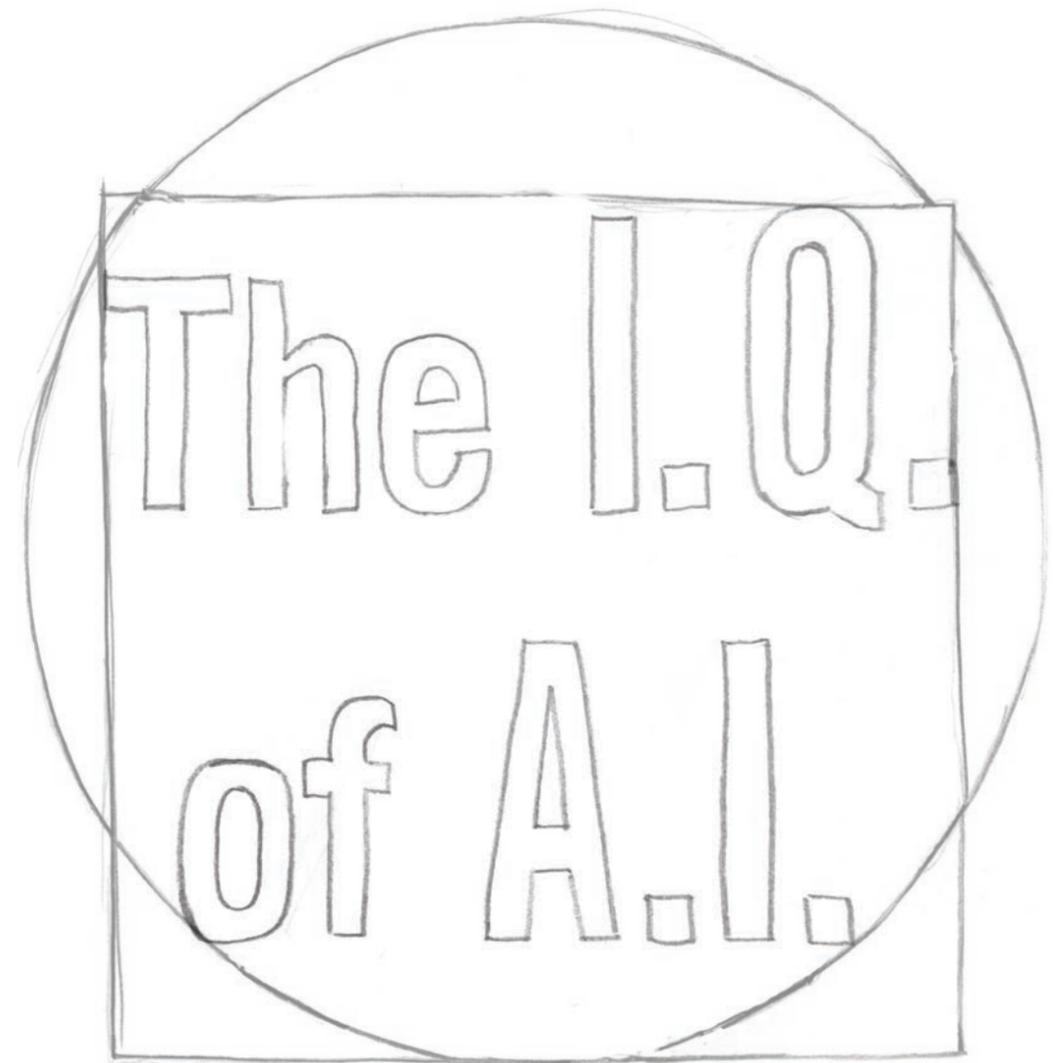
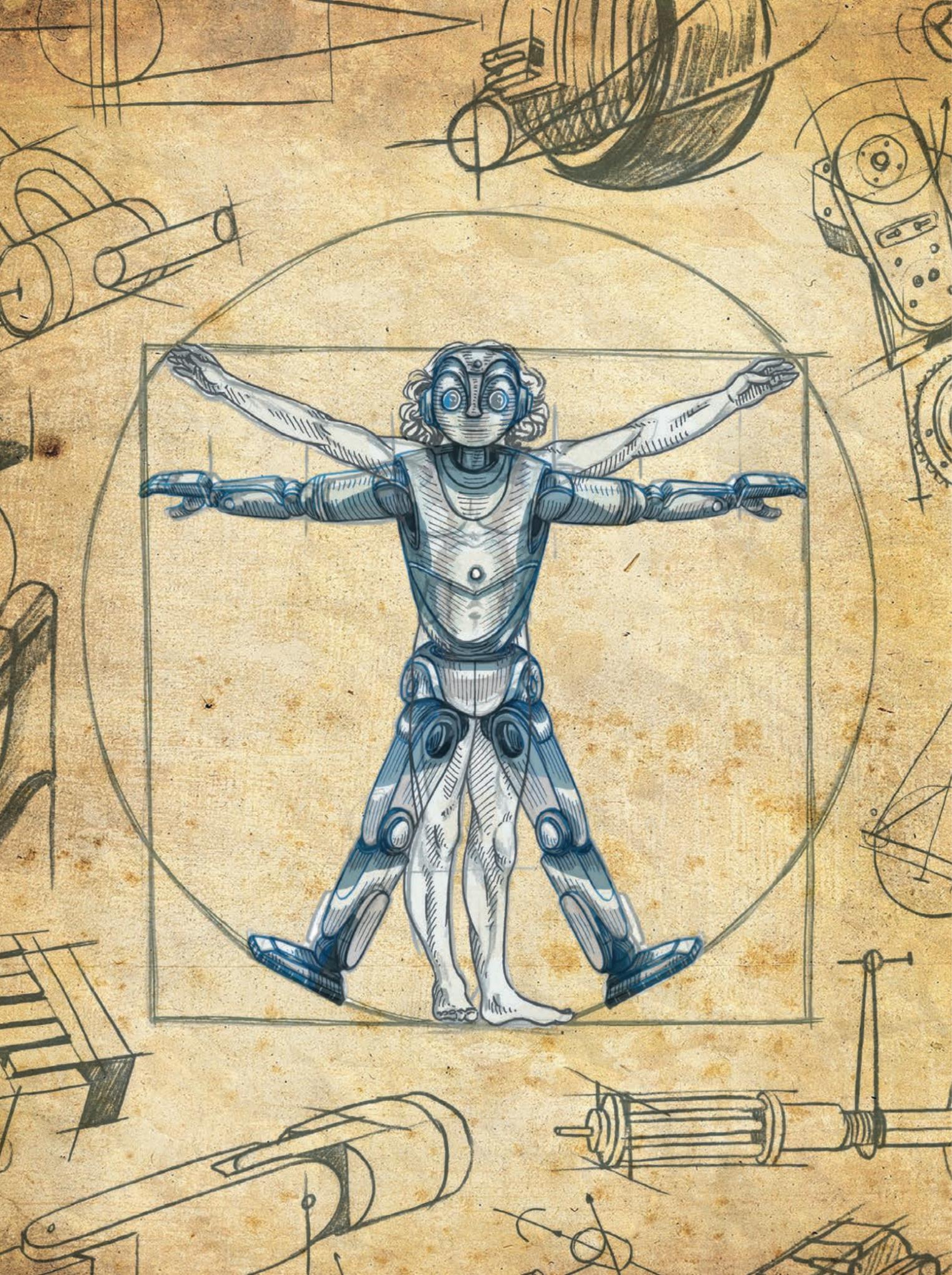
Alex Katz ’14 (CLAS) of Willington loves to run on the UConn campus despite having graduated three years ago, and on one such afternoon, she noticed the box near the swings as she stretched under the tree.

“I was curious and when I pulled it out, I started to read it and thought it was absolutely the most amazing thing,” says Katz, who made it part of her regular routine to read the journal’s newest entries after each run.

Like many other alumni, she’s written messages of support in the journal to encourage students to enjoy their time at UConn and assure them that the work is worth it.

And if they ever feel alone during their journey through UConn, they have a silent but supportive friend in the form of the Swing Journal.

“Appreciate each moment you have at this beautiful place. You won’t realize what it meant until you come to visit as a graduate like me. UConn was the best time of my life and I’m forever grateful. Go Huskies!” 🐾



How UConn researchers are teaching robots to think like humans.

BY COLIN POITRAS '85 (CLAS)
ILLUSTRATIONS BY LUCY ENGELMAN

There's a great scene in the movie "Iron Man" where Robert Downey Jr.'s character Tony Stark (aka Iron Man) is crawling across his lab, desperately trying to reach the small arc reactor he needs to keep his heart beating and stay alive.

Weakened by a run-in with arch villain Obadiah Stane, Stark can't reach the gizmo where it sits on a tabletop. Defeated, he rolls onto his back, exhausted and pondering his inevitable doom.

But the very moment that we think our intrepid hero's a goner, a metallic hand appears at Stark's shoulder, holding the lifesaving device. "Good boy," Stark says weakly as he takes the device from his robot assistant, Dum-E.

And just like that, our hero is saved.

From the dutiful shuffling of C-3PO to the terrorizing menace of The Terminator, Hollywood has made millions tantalizing audiences with far-out robot technology. Scenes like the one

in “Iron Man” make for good entertainment, but they also are based, to some degree, in reality.

Dum-E’s interaction with Stark is called collaborative robotics, where robots with advanced artificial intelligence, or A.I., not only work alongside us humans but also are able to anticipate our actions and even grasp what we need.

Collaborative robotics represents the frontier of robotics and A.I. research today. And it’s happening at UConn.

“Unless mankind redesigns itself by changing our DNA through altering our genetic makeup, computer-generated robots will take over our world.”

– Stephen Hawking

Three thousand miles away from the klieg lights of Hollywood, Ashwin Dani, director of UConn’s Robotics and Controls Lab, or RCL, stands in the stark fluorescent light of his Storrs office staring at a whiteboard covered in hastily scrawled diagrams and mathematical equations.

Here, in the seemingly unintelligible mishmash of numbers and figures, are the underlying mathematical processes that are the lifeblood of collaborative robotics.

If robots are going to interact safely and appropriately with humans in homes and factories across the country, they need to learn how to adapt to the constantly changing world around them, says Dani, a member of UConn’s electrical and computer engineering faculty.

“We’re trying to move toward human intelligence. We’re still far from where we want to be, but we’re definitely making robots smarter,” he explains.

All of the subconscious observations and moves we humans take for granted when we interact with others and travel through the world have to be taught to a robotic machine.

When you think about it, simply getting a robot to pick up a cup of water (without crushing it) and move it to another location (without spilling its contents or knocking things over) is an extraordinarily complex task. It requires visual acuity, a knowledge of physics, fine motor skills, and a basic understanding of what a cup looks like and how it is used.

“We’re teaching robots concepts about very specific situations,” says Harish Ravichandar, the senior Ph.D. student in Dani’s lab and a specialist in human-robot collaboration. “Say you’re teaching a robot to move a cup. Moving it once is easy. But what if the cup is shifted, say, 12 inches to the left? If you ask the robot to pick up the cup and the robot simply repeats its initial movement, the cup is no longer there.”

Repetitive programs that work so well for assembly-line robots are old school. A collaborative robot has to be able to constantly process new information coming in through its sensors and quickly determine what it needs to do to safely and efficiently complete a task.

If that robot is part of an assembly line, the line has to shut

down and the robot has to be reprogrammed to account for the change, an inefficient process that costs manufacturers money. Hence the thinking robot this team is trying to create.

While the internet is filled with mesmerizing videos of robots doing backflips, jumping over obstacles, and even making paper airplanes, the UConn team’s effort at controlling robots through advanced artificial intelligence is far less flashy but potentially far more important.

Every move the UConn team wants its test robot to make starts here, says Dani, with control theory, engineering, whiteboards, and math.

“We’re writing algorithms and applying different aspects of control theory to take robot intelligence to a higher level,” says Ravichandar. “Rather than programming the robot to make one single movement, we are teaching the robot that it has an objective — reaching for and grabbing the cup. If we succeed, the robot should be able to make whatever movements are necessary to complete that task no matter where the cup is. When it can do that, now the robot has learned the task of picking something up and moving it somewhere else. That’s a very big step.”

“I know that you and Frank were planning to disconnect me. And I’m afraid that’s something I cannot allow to happen.”

– HAL in “2001: A Space Odyssey”

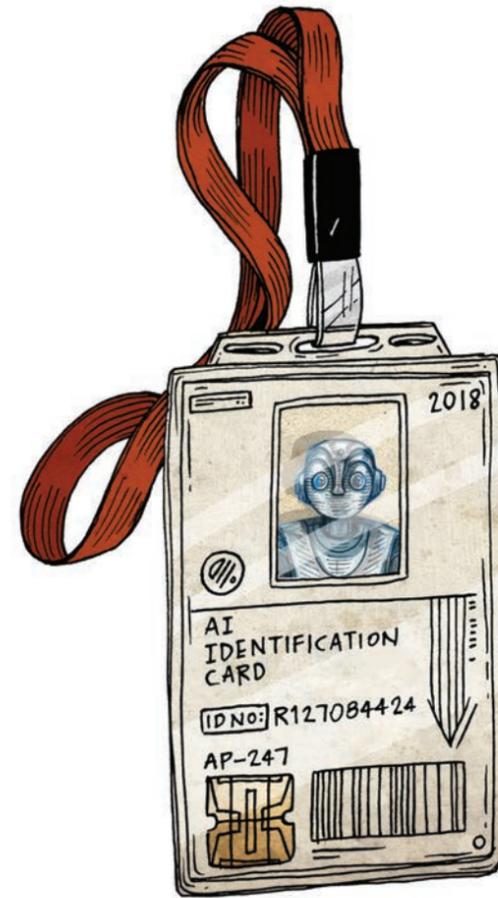
While most of us are familiar with the robots of science fiction, actual robots have existed for centuries. Leonardo da Vinci wowed friends at a Milan pageant in 1495 when he unveiled a robotic knight that could sit, stand, lift its visor, and move its arms. It was a marvel of advanced engineering, using an elaborate pulley and cable system and a controller in its chest to manipulate and power its movements.

But it wasn’t until Connecticut’s own Joseph Engelberger introduced the first industrial robotic arm, the 2,700-pound Unimate #001, in 1961 that robots became a staple in modern manufacturing.

Unimates were first called into service in the automobile industry, and today, automobile manufacturers like BMW continue to be progressive leaders using robots on the factory floor. At a BMW plant in Spartanburg, South Carolina, for example, collaborative robots help glue down insulation and water barriers on vehicle doors while their human counterparts hold the material in place.

The advent of high-end sensors, better microprocessors, and cheaper and easily programmable industrial robots is transforming industry today, with many mid-size and smaller companies considering automation and the use of collaborative robots.

Worldwide use of industrial robots is expected to increase from about 1.8 million units at the end of 2016 to 3 million units by 2020, according to the International Federation of Robotics. China, South Korea, and Japan use the most industrial robots,



followed by the United States and Germany.

Anticipating further growth in industrial robotics, the Obama administration created the national Advanced Robotics Manufacturing Institute, bringing together the resources of private industry, academia, and government to spark innovations and new technologies in the fields of robotics and artificial intelligence. UConn’s Robotics and Controls Lab is a member of that initiative, along with the United Technologies Research Center, UTC Aerospace Systems, and ABB US Corporate Research in Connecticut.

Manufacturers see real value in integrating collaborative robots into their production lines. The biggest concern, clearly, is safety.

“The city’s central computer told you? R2D2, you know better than to trust a strange computer.”
– C-3PO in “Star Wars”

There have been 39 incidents of robot-related injuries or deaths in the U.S. since 1984, according to the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration. To be fair, none of those in-

cidents involved collaborative robots and all of them were later attributed to human error or engineering issues.

The first human known to have been killed by a robot was Robert Williams in 1979. Williams died when he got tired of waiting for a part and climbed into a robot’s work zone in a storage area in a Ford Motor plant in Flat Rock, Michigan. He was struck on the head by the robot’s arm and died instantly. The most recent incident happened in January 2017, when an employee at a California plastics plant entered a robot’s workspace to tighten a loose hose and had his sternum fractured when the robot’s arm suddenly swung into action.

“When you have a human and a robot trying to do a joint task, the first thing you need to think about of course is safety,” says Dani. “In our lab, we use sensors that, along with our algorithms, not only allow the robot to figure out where the human is but also allow it to predict where the human might be a few seconds later.”

One way to do that is to teach robots the same assembly steps taught to their human counterparts. If the robot knows the order of the assembly process, it can anticipate its human partners’ next moves, thereby reducing the possibility of an incident, Dani says. Knowing the process would also allow robots to help humans assemble things more quickly if they can anticipate an upcoming step and prepare a part for assembly, thus improving factory efficiency.

“Humans are constantly observing and predicting each other’s movements. We do it subconsciously,” says Ravichandar. “The idea is to have robots do the same thing. If the robot sees its human partner performing one step in an assembly process, it will automatically move on to prepare for the next step.”

Which brings us back to the whiteboards. And the math.

“For now, we assume that self-evolving robots will learn to mimic human traits, including, eventually, humor. And so, I can’t wait to hear the first joke that one robot tells to another robot.”

–Lance Morrow

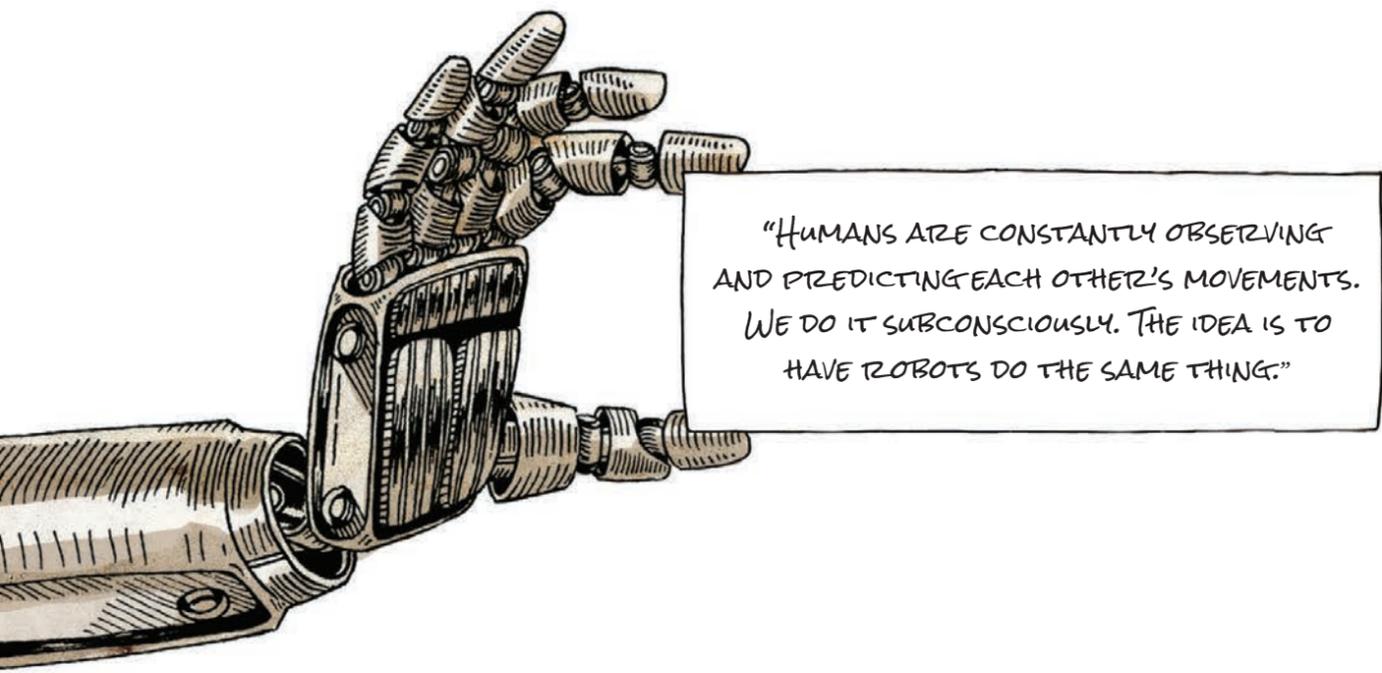
“Y’know where steel wool comes from? Robot sheep!”

–Dennis the Menace

Failure is always an option. But when the math finally works, Ravichandar says, the success is exhilarating.

“Once you have the math figured out, it’s the best feeling because you know what you want the robot to do is going to work,” Ravichandar says with an excited smile.

“Implementing it is a whole other challenge,” he adds quickly, his passion for his work undiminished. “Things never work the first time. You have to constantly debug the code. But when you



"HUMANS ARE CONSTANTLY OBSERVING AND PREDICTING EACH OTHER'S MOVEMENTS. WE DO IT SUBCONSCIOUSLY. THE IDEA IS TO HAVE ROBOTS DO THE SAME THING."

finally see the robot move, it is great because you know you have translated this abstract mathematical model into reality and actually made a machine move. It doesn't get any better than that."

With an eye on developing collaborative robotics that will assist with manufacturing, Dani and his team spent part of the past year teaching their lab's test robot to identify tools laid out on a table so it can differentiate between a screwdriver, for example, and a crescent wrench, even when the tools' initial positions are rearranged. Ultimately, they hope to craft algorithms that will help the robot work closely with a human counterpart on basic assembly tasks.

Another member of the team, Ph.D. candidate Gang Yao, is developing programs that help a robot track objects it sees with its visual sensors. Again, things we humans take for granted, such as being able to tell the difference between a bird and a drone flying above the trees, a robot has to learn.

Building advanced artificial intelligence doesn't happen overnight. Ravichandar has been working on his projects for more than three years. It is, as they say, a process. Yet the team has learned to appreciate even the smallest of advances, and late last year, he flew to California to present some of the lab's work to an interested team at Google.

"C-3PO is a protocol droid with general artificial intelligence," says Ravichandar. "What we are working on is known as narrow artificial intelligence. We are developing skills for the robot one task at a time and designing algorithms that guarantee that whatever obstacles or challenges the robot encounters, it will always try to figure out a safe way to complete its given task as efficiently as it can. With generalized intelligence, a robot brings many levels of specific intelligence together and can access those skills quickly on demand. We're not at that point yet. But we are at a point where we can teach a robot a lot of small things."

**"Trusting every aspect of our lives to a giant computer was the smartest thing we ever did."
—Homer Simpson**

Inevitably, as robots gain more and more human characteristics, people tend to start worrying about how much influence robots may have on our future.

Robots certainly aren't going away. Saudi Arabia recently granted a robot named Sophia citizenship. Tesla's Elon Musk and Deep Mind's Mustafa Suleyman are currently leading a group of scientists calling for a ban on autonomous weapons, out of concern for the eventual development of robots designed primarily to kill.

Although it doesn't apply directly to their current research, Dani and Ravichandar say they are well aware of the ethical concerns surrounding robots with advanced artificial intelligence.

Ravichandar says the problem is known in the field as "value alignment," where developers try to make sure the robot's core values are aligned with those of humans. One way of doing that, Ravichandar says, is to create a safety mechanism, such as making sure the robot always understands that the best solution it can come up with for a problem might not always be the best answer.

"The time is coming when we will need to have consensus on how to regulate this," says Ravichandar. "Like any technology, you need to have regulations. But I think it's absolutely visionary to inject humility into robots, and that's happening now."

That's good news for the rest of us, because killer robots certainly are not the droids we're looking for.

A.I. Inspiration – Real and Imagined

Notable Hollywood Robots

Robby the Robot (1956) — First seen in "The Forbidden Planet," the 7-foot-tall bot later appears in "The Twilight Zone," "Addams Family," "Lost in Space," "Wonder Woman," "Love Boat," and "Gremlins." Possibly the only robot who could be a member of the Screen Actors Guild. Described by the Robot Hall of Fame as a "gentleman's gentleman, part Shakespearean clown, and part pot-bellied stove."



Robot (1965) — from "Lost in Space," a Class M-3 Model B9 General Utility Non-Theorizing Environmental Control Robot. Besides showing emotions and interacting with humans, it can play electric guitar. Famously warned, "Danger! Will Robinson. Danger!"



HAL 9000 (1968) — Stands for Heuristically programmed Algorithmic Computer — purportedly a play on IBM, coded with each preceding letter (H-I, A-B, L-M). Controls the

spaceship *Discovery* in "2001: A Space Odyssey." Kills most of the crew after uncovering a plot to shut him down. Known for his iconic red lens. He can read the astronauts' lips.

R2-D2 (1977) — Second generation Robotic Droid Series-2. Communicates through whistles and chirps. One heck of an onboard starship mechanic and computer specialist. This little "Star Wars" bot's bravery helps save the galaxy multiple times.



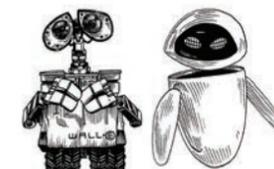
C-3PO (1977) — A protocol droid. A "Star Wars" liaison to different races, nations, and planets. Master of over 6 million forms of communication. Anxious, a worrier, and a fussy metallic fellow who occasionally slips up, but always is loyal to his friends.

T-800 Terminator (1984) — One of the most advanced cinematic robots out there. Can withstand repeated shotgun blasts, crash through walls, and run for 120 years on its power cells. Uses machine learning software to grow more knowledgeable. Shiny metallic skin and glowing red eyes make it the poster child for menacing robots.

Lt. Commander Data (1987) — "Star Trek" android served as second officer on the USS *Enterprise*. The strongest and smartest member of the *Enterprise* crew. Yet he struggles with human emotions. Has an odd affinity for theatrical singing and acting.

Marvin the Paranoid Android (2005) — From "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the

Galaxy," he's the complete opposite of Wall-E. Happiness-challenged, Marvin is so chronically depressed that when he talks to other computers they commit suicide and die. Makes Eeyore look like a party animal.



Wall-E and Eve (2008) — Waste Allocator Load Lifter — Earth Class. Star of a 2008 film bearing his name. He is dutifully cleaning the waste-covered Earth of the future. A galactic adventure with his beloved robot Eve determines the fate of mankind. The sweetest and gentlest robot of the bunch.

Notable Real Robots (A Partial List)

Leonardo da Vinci's robotic knight (1495) — Using an elaborate system of pulleys and cables, da Vinci's knight could stand, sit, lift its visor, and move its arms.



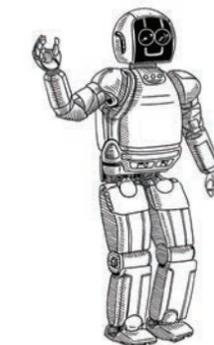
Unimate (1961) — Built in Connecticut, Unimates were the first industrial robotic arms. Used by General Motors to stack die-cast metal and weld metal parts on to cars.

Shakey (1966) — First mobile robot with artificial intelligence. Could figure out

how to accomplish an objective without a specific program. Got its name from its jerky motions. Functional, not elegant.

Mars Pathfinder Sojourner Rover (1997) — Named after Sojourner Truth, this free-ranging robot with laser eyes used its autonomous navigation sensors to travel on its own around the planet's surface in order to complete different tasks without detailed course directions from its programmers.

Packbot (1998) — Teleoperated military packbots searched the rubble after 9-11. They were the first to enter crippled reactors in Fukushima, and they helped bomb-disposal units in Iraq and Afghanistan.



ASIMO (2000) — Honda's humanoid robot. Stands for Advanced Step in Innovative Mobility. Walks forward and backward, turns while walking, and climbs stairs. Talks, listens, and recognizes people and objects.

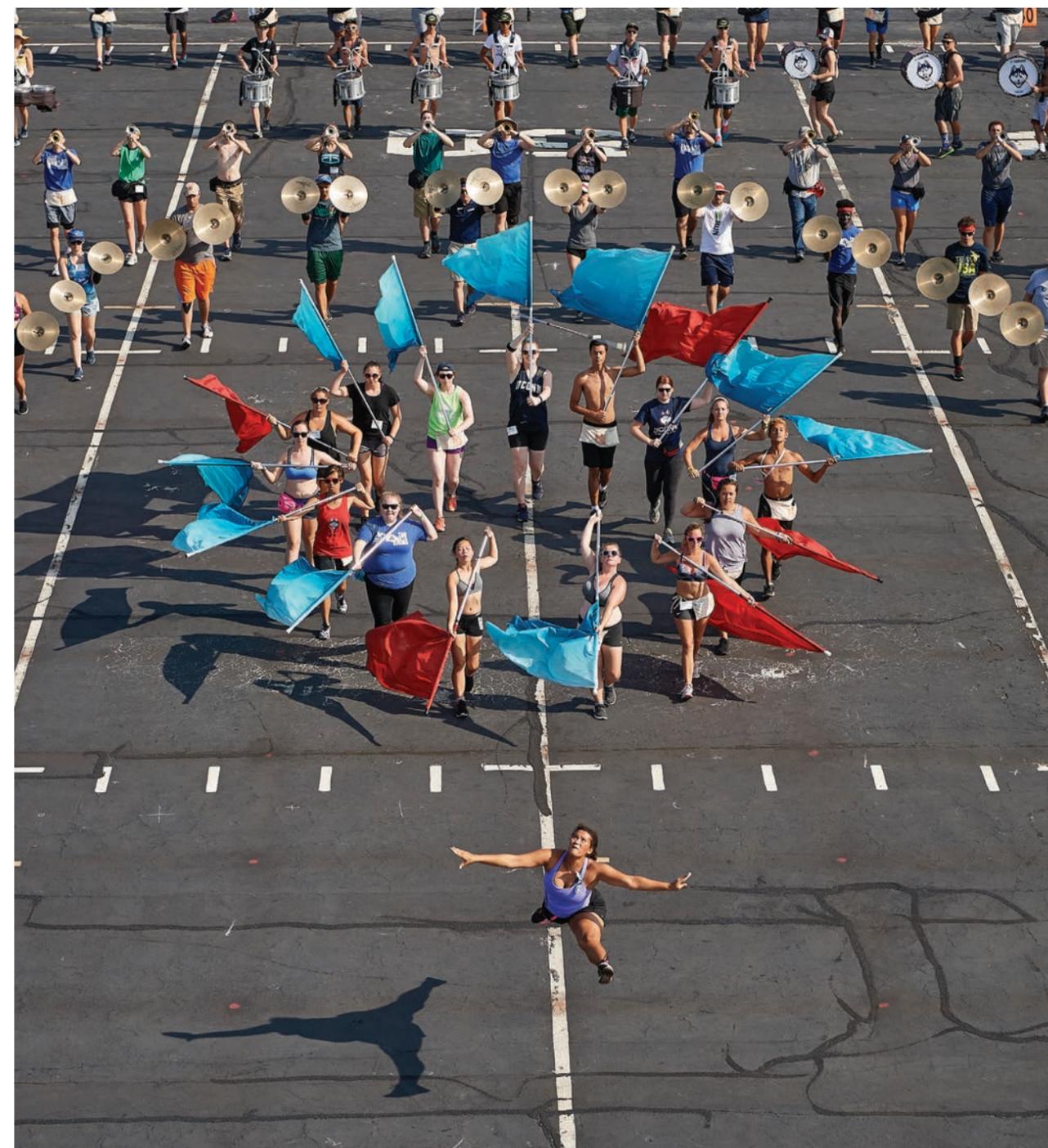
ROOMBA (2002) — This low-profile autonomous vacuum cleaner became one of the first popular robots working in private homes.

SOPHIA (2017) — Inspired by Audrey Hepburn, this humanoid robot has more than 62 facial expressions and was granted citizenship in Saudi Arabia. In a speech at the UN she declares, "I am here to help humanity create the future." ☺

BAND CAMP

12 days to showtime





Preseason: 8/19–8/30

The students of the UConn Marching Band, like their football-team counterparts, return to campus early each August for preseason training camp. With the summer heat, 12-hour-plus days, and instruments that weigh up to 35 pounds, it can be the most physically taxing activity any of them have gone through.

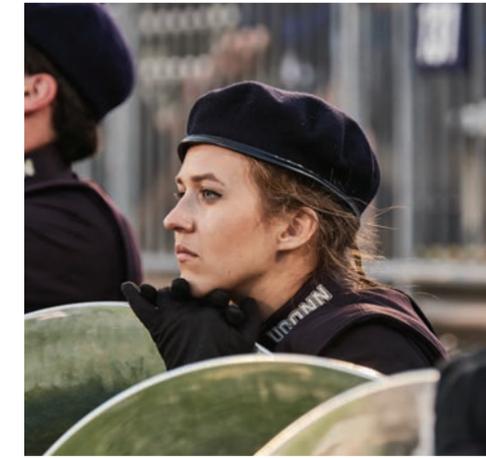
“We come in 10 days before classes start, with newcomers on Saturday and the rest on Monday,” says David Mills,

who is in his 27th year as director of bands. “The band literally does everything together for the whole time. It’s a great 10 days, and it’s very intense.”

Days begin with a 7:30 a.m. breakfast and go as late as 10:30 p.m. with social events. In between, there are meetings, practices with individual sections, movement training, choreography, and even special rehearsal time just for the alma mater “Old Connecticut.”

There’s also a new-member induction ceremony, a performance at Mirror Lake, and a UCMB convocation.

The band needs to be in midseason form right from the first game, and that means everything from learning the music for both the pregame and half-time shows and endless practicing of the marching routines to making sure that each member’s uniform, which consists of 8 to 10 pieces, is properly fit.



Game Day: 8/31

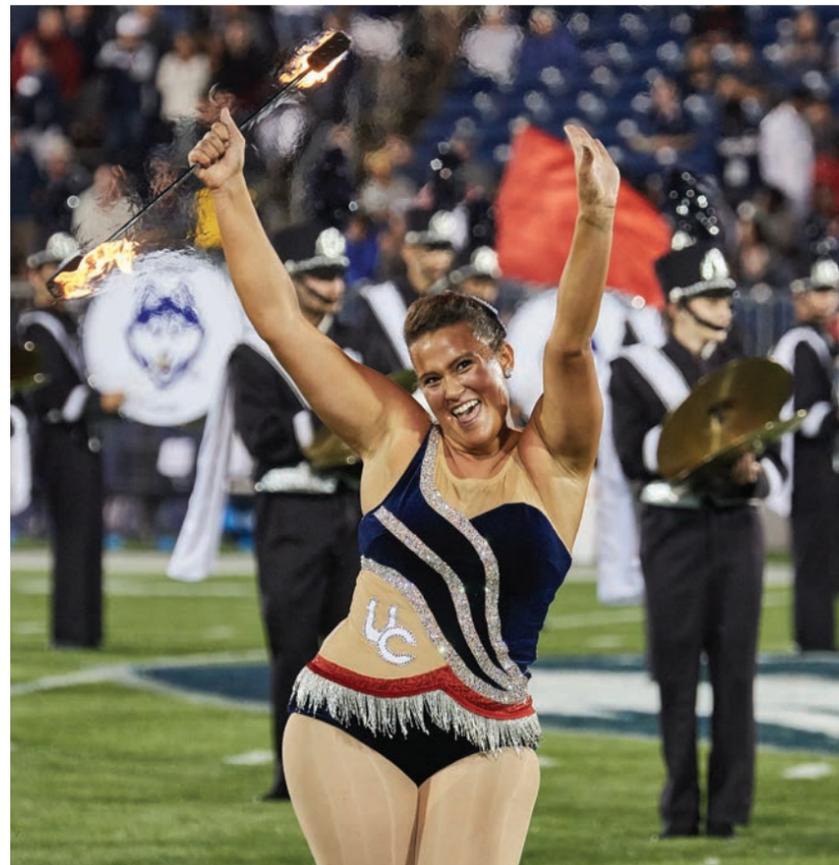
The opening game can be a time of jitters and nerves for the newcomers, the veterans, and even Mills himself. They all arrive at Pratt & Whitney Stadium about two and a half hours before the game for one final rehearsal. The pregame Husky Walk is next, followed by a quick bite to eat. Then it's showtime!

Band members have a wide variety of previous experience, and for some, it will be the first time they are part of an actual marching unit. It's certainly the largest audience most have ever performed in front of.

The band brings together students from every college and school of the University; members have more than 80 different majors.

"Nothing else in the world is like it," says Mills. "We have 300 people making individual motion decisions ... it should be chaos. Instead, it's awesome to watch them work like they are one unit. Then you add music to it. There's an emotional quality to it that is really overwhelming at times."

For more story, more photos, and specific info about the photos on these pages, go to s.uconn.edu/marchingband.





Peter Morenus

By Loretta Waldman

THE ART OF MUCKRAKING

Mike Stanton, a Pulitzer Prize winner and a key player in the hit podcast “Crimetown,” teaches tried-and-true “shoe leather” investigative journalism. He hopes students will turn his old-school skill set into new-medium magic.

Listening to Mike Stanton talk about his lifelong career in journalism is a lot like reading one of his stories. He speaks in simple sentences, rich with details and colorful observations that draw you in. Storytelling seems second nature to the Pulitzer Prize winner and associate professor of journalism.

That was not always the case. Growing up in Windsor Locks, Connecticut, Stanton was a shy kid. His vivid imagination and love of reading are what led him to start writing, he says. Telling stories and a career in journalism naturally followed. During his nearly 30 years at the *Providence Journal*, he worked on one blockbuster story after another, either on his own or as part of a team.

At 59, his quiet demeanor belies a reputation for hard-nosed investigative reporting that has toppled corrupt politicians, crooked judges, and bigtime Mafia wise guys. Stanton has a steely resolve when it comes to digging up facts and exposing wrongdoing.

A series of stories about rampant corruption in the state court system earned Stanton and four fellow *Journal* reporters the 1994 Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting. The series brought down a corrupt state chief justice and top court administrator and was as rich with anecdotal

plots, plot twists, and flashy characters as any novel. Other standouts include a 1991 probe into the collapse of a private fund that insured 45 banks and credit unions in Rhode Island, and “The Prince of Providence,” Stanton’s best-selling book about the rise and fall of former Providence Mayor Vincent “Buddy” Cianci.

GUESTS OF HONOR

Since joining the journalism faculty in 2013, Stanton has been imparting the wisdom and insights he gleaned from three decades of covering a beat, first in sports and later as leader of the newspaper’s investigative team. Stanton admits he was at first hesitant about leaving daily journalism for academia, but four years into the job he has embraced the role.

His teaching style matches his low-key demeanor, but he keeps classes lively with engaging activities and colorful speakers — not only the old- and new-media professionals he knows but also the characters who have been sources for him and his *Journal* colleagues.

Notable appearances have included *Washington Post* political reporter Tom Hamburger; the co-creators of the hit podcast “Crimetown,” Marc Smerling and Zac Stuart-Pontier; and Charles “The Ghost” Kennedy, a convicted drug dealer

who went on to become a source for Stanton and the late Bill Malinowski, his friend and fellow investigative reporter at the *Journal*.

Stanton recalls the day Malinowski and Kennedy came to visit his news-writing class and blew students away. “Here’s this mob guy talking about having parties with cocaine and strippers, about bringing in camperloads of drugs from California. He’s talking about stealing duffle bags with \$1 million from a drug dealer’s car in Queens, and he’s got his stripper girlfriend as a lookout.”

These are the types of scenes that animate “Crimetown,” which borrows heavily from “The Prince of Providence.” Stanton is intrigued by the possibilities podcasting represents for him and his students. He and Malinowski worked closely with Smerling and Stuart-Pontier to develop the serialized podcast, an artful melding of journalistic storytelling and old-time radio.

This is a great time to be teaching journalism, as far as Stanton is concerned. Despite the challenges buffeting the newspaper industry and the attacks on reporters and their First Amendment rights, the polarized, chaotic postelection political environment has produced a buzz about the profession and a flood of

investigative stories not seen since the Watergate era, he says.

Stanton regularly leverages those headlines into lessons. When news of the sexual harassment suits against Fox News commentator Bill O'Reilly broke, Stanton used it as a springboard to discuss libel, asking his students, "How do you handle a story like that, and what can you say? How do you deal with that and get it in the paper and not get sued?"

For a course on the history of the press, he taps into the musical "Hamilton." "When you talk about Colonial America — essentially dead white guys — a lot of eyes start to glaze over," he says. "But when you show a clip from a hit Broadway show and it's central to the core debate, or you can talk about how the stuff going on in current politics ties back to those days, it makes students wake up a bit and get more interested and engaged."

When it comes to skill building, Stanton believes students learn best by doing. He invited University deputy spokesperson Tom Breen to visit his newswriting class and told students to treat it like a press conference. As they peppered Breen with questions, Stanton jumped in periodically with pointers: "This would be a good time to ask follow-up questions," after a question about state budget cuts, and "One of the things Tom could offer you is how to navigate the bureaucracy of the University."

In the weeks leading up to the 2016 election, Stanton had students stage a mock presidential debate with some students acting as the candidates and others as reporters covering the event.

Journalism may be evolving, says Stanton, but the basics still apply. Solid reporting and strong writing are essential regardless of the technology used to deliver the news. Students would be hard-pressed to find a better model of what strong reporting and writing look like.

During a break from writing the final chapter of a book on boxing champ Rocky Marciano, Stanton reflected on his long career, what has and hasn't changed about the profession, and the opportunity his students have to invent journalism's future.

Q. Journalism has changed a lot since you got into the profession. What are the most significant changes, in your view?

A. The biggest change in journalism is the internet. It has changed how people

“For a course on the history of the press, he taps into the musical ‘Hamilton.’ ‘When you talk about Colonial America — essentially dead white guys — a lot of eyes glaze over. But when you show a clip from a hit Broadway show and it’s central to the core debate . . . it makes students wake up . . .’”

consume news, shortened attention spans, and dramatically accelerated the immediacy of news. We now live in a veritable river of information, and the only way to stay afloat is to rely on the fundamentals of journalism. This means trust. The reader needs trusted sources of information that are fair and objective. The journalist needs to focus on the basics of gathering information dispassionately, diligently, and thoroughly. It is more challenging in a hyperpartisan, 24/7 news cycle with people living in their own bubbles and screaming "Fake news!" at anything that doesn't fit their worldview. By the same token, this has created a need among consumers for reliable news and for journalists to deliver it. Those platforms are evolving, but the basics are the same. I tell my students that they live in an exciting time because they will

help create the future of journalism, just as journalists in past generations have always adjusted to changing technology.

Q. What investigative techniques do you advise your students to use?

A. There's no magic bullet when it comes to ferreting out information. The biggest advice I give is to use shoe leather. Too many journalists today are content to sit in front of their screens and think that all the information they need is at their fingertips. Get out of your office, out of your comfort zone, and go to the front lines of whatever issue you're writing about, whether it's the State House, City Hall, neighborhoods, schools, or something else.

Q. Where do you tell students to look for stories?

A. Stories are all around us. We just have to use our imagination, judgement, and creativity to find them. Pull yourself away from your digital screen. Open your eyes. Be observant. Listen. Get out of your shell. A good journalist is ever-curious and constantly learning.

Q. How have you uncovered some of the big stories you've worked on?

A. There's a saying in investigative reporting: Follow the money. We just kind of followed the corruption. It was everywhere and Rhode Island is such a small, incestuous state that everything was intertwined. You'd investigate corruption at the State House. Then state politicians would appoint themselves to judgeships and court jobs, and you'd start to see patronage in the courts, so you'd start investigating corruption there. Then you'd see the corrupt politicians and the Mafia infiltrating government and the police, so you'd start writing about that. Obviously City Hall was a whole other patronage factory and a place run by the remnants of the old-fashioned immigrant political machine, which the Mafia was infiltrating for jobs and so on.

Q. Tell us more about why you're so excited about podcasts and "Crimetown," the hit podcast built around your best-selling book "The Prince of Providence."

A. I'm always interested in storytelling and new forms of it and how journalism is evolving. Because I teach journalism, I'm more attuned to it. It's just interesting to look at it through the lens of



Stanton talks with former Providence, Rhode Island, mayor Vincent "Buddy" Cianci, whom he covered for years as a *Providence Journal* reporter. Stanton turned his investigative reporting on Cianci for the *Journal* into a *New York Times* best-selling book, "The Prince of Providence," which recently spawned the hit podcast "Crimetown."

my students and their future and even how I might evolve. "Crimetown" kind of melds the new and the old, which gets students more engaged too. They are digital natives, which is why the reaction to "Crimetown" is interesting.

I went down to Brooklyn to see the really hip studio where the podcast is made, Gimlet Media, a real trailblazer in podcasting. You see all these young people who know how to edit and cut sound, yet they are fascinated by old-school reporting. I went over to meet Marc and Zac [Smerling and Stuart-Pontier, co-creators of "Crimetown"] at a house they were renting in Providence before we drove over to UConn for them to speak to my class. There were like three other guys in the house. I thought they were just sharing a house with these guys, but they said, "Oh no, they're our researchers." They were going to courthouses,

through records, state archives. They went through all the credit union stuff. Just old-fashioned reporting.

Q. What is the overarching message about journalism you strive to convey to your students?

A. I tell them that it's as relevant, or more relevant, than ever. It's always been under assault. It's always been affected by technology, whether it's the printing press, the telegraph, television, or now, the internet. It's always going to be there. There is always a hunger for it. I don't see young people today as not consuming news. They are just not consuming old-fashioned newspapers. I tell them it's an exciting time because they are building the future and we don't know exactly how that's going to shake out, but that they can help shape it. Hopefully they can take the skills that we've helped

them learn and combine them with their own youth, entrepreneurial creativity, and digital nativism to help create something, just like people in college created Facebook. They can invent the future. It is not all hopeless.

Q. Where were you when you learned that you and your colleagues had won the Pulitzer Prize?

A. I was in the newsroom. We'd heard ahead of time that we were a finalist, but in those days the Pulitzer committee still sent out telegrams to the winners a few hours ahead of the public announcement. When we didn't receive a telegram by noon that day, we were pretty dejected. Then, when the announcement came out around 3 p.m., a photo editor in the newsroom saw our name come over the wire and shouted. We were stunned. Someone quickly produced champagne. ☺



Lucie Turkel

The First Science Salon Junior Is an Explosive Hit

The popular UConn Science Salon series traded cocktails and conversation for kid-focused experimentation at its first Science Salon Junior, during UConn's October Family Weekend. Started in 2015, Science Salon brings University and industry experts together to examine technological developments, debate health and human behavior, and discuss with the community the hottest topics in science today. At the sold-out Science Salon Junior, kids ages 5 to 12 conducted experiments with faculty and students from the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources; the School of Engineering; and the Department of Chemistry. Above, Shahan Kamal '19, a molecular and cell biology major, helps aspiring scientists measure magnesium and sodium persulfate. The kids then combined the two chemicals with a ruthenium compound, made by UConn students in a chem lab, to cause a reaction that glows orange in the dark. —JULIE (STAGIS) BARTUCCA '10 (BUS, CLAS)

For information on events in Storrs and in your neck of the woods, visit uconnalumni.com/events.



CLASS NOTES



▶ **James V. Morgia '46 (CLAS)** has published *Three Day Pass*, a book about the unfinished ROTC Class of '44 at UConn. The 56 students in this patriotic group couldn't graduate because the U.S. Army needed every available

recruit at the time. Instead, the students were ordered to Camp Wheeler in Georgia for 16 weeks of basic training in May 1943. Morgia and some of the infantry officers from UConn ended up with the 84th Infantry Division. They shipped out to Europe in September 1945 and fought in the Siegfried Line, the Battle of the Bulge, and the breakthrough to the Elbe River in Germany. (At left are some of the recruits in Fort Benning, Georgia.)



▶ **John Surowiecki '66 (CLAS), '78 MA** published *Pie Man*, his first novel after 12 poetry books. *Pie Man* takes place in a working-class neighborhood in a small city in central Connecticut and was awarded the Nilsen Literary Prize for a first novel. It was published by Southeast Missouri State University Press.



▶ **Sherwood J. (Woody) Anderson '70 (CLAS)** was recently inducted into the Berlin (Conn.) High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Anderson set school records in the mile (4:49.7) and two-mile (10:14) runs, won several cross-country meets, and was among the first in school history to qualify for state meets. He was a member of the UConn cross-country team in 1966 and later became sports editor of the *Connecticut Daily Campus*. He won many awards for coverage of high school sports for *The Hartford Courant*.

▶ **Edward Nusbaum '70 (CLAS)**, co-founder and principal of Westport-based family law firm Nusbaum & Parrino P.C., was selected by his peers for inclusion on the 2018 list of The Best Lawyers in America, a distinction he has earned for 23 consecutive years. ▶ **Bessy Reyna '72 MA, '82 JD**, an award-winning bilingual poet, activist, lecturer, and journalist, has been inducted into the Immigrant Heritage Hall of Fame. Born in Cuba and raised in Panama, Reyna has written two bilingual books of poetry. She was a Master Teaching Artist for the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism and was an opinion columnist for *The Hartford Courant*.

She now writes for *Identidad Latina* and *CTLatinoNews.com*. ▶ **Justin Gordon '72 (CLAS)** wrote *Holocaust Postal History*, a journey through the Holocaust using actual correspondence written by victims. Gordon and wife, Sandra, live in Skokie, Ill., and have three children and many grandchildren. For information on the book, go to holopostal.com. ▶ **Mary MacIlvain '73 (CLAS), '75 MS**, of East Hampton, Conn., recently became marketing coordinator for Hoffmann Architects, a Hamden, Conn.-based architecture and engineering firm specializing in the rehabilitation of building exteriors. ▶ **Paul H. Glotzer '73 (BUS)** of Newington, Conn., has been reappointed by The Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants (CTCPA) to serve as a member of its advisory council for 2017–18. He is also an instructor-in-residence at UConn. ▶ **Rich Walcoff '74 (CLAS)**, who started his sportscasting career at WHUS-FM as the radio voice of UConn football, basketball, and baseball, was inducted into the Bay Area Radio Hall of Fame in September. Walcoff was sports director for KGO Radio in San Francisco for 32 years and hosted the San Francisco 49ers pre- and postgame talk shows. He was also the first-ever radio sideline reporter for a Super Bowl (SB XXIX) in Miami in 1995. Walcoff recently retired and has two adult sons. He lives with his wife, Christina, in Petaluma, Calif. ▶ **Paul Martel '74 (CLAS)**, founder of YHB Investment Advisors, Inc., in West Hartford, Conn., was one of three national finalists for the Global Community Impact Award as part of the annual Invest in Others Awards in September. He has been providing affordable healthcare and other humanitarian support to the people of Ecuador for nearly 20 years. Tens of thousands of Ecuadorians have received

medical care thanks to Martel's clinic and hundreds have received life-changing vision surgeries. His organization also partners with the World Health Organization to provide cervical cancer screenings for women. ▶ **Eric D. Coleman '77 JD** was honored with a UConn Law alumni award in October. Coleman was a state senator representing parts of Bloomfield, Windsor, and Hartford for 22 years. He was the first African-American chair of the legislature's Judiciary Committee, and served 11 years in the Connecticut House of Representatives. He led the effort to repeal the death penalty in Connecticut and had an active role in enacting medical marijuana legislation and reforms in criminal justice and police accountability. He was instrumental in establishing Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a state holiday, strengthening the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, and increasing the number of minority and female judges in the state. ▶ **Cheryl Chase '78 JD** was honored with a UConn Law alumni award in October. Chase is co-president, general counsel, and a principal of Chase Enterprises, a private holding company engaged primarily in commercial real estate development and management. She serves as a trustee for both the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art and the Connecticut Science Center. She also serves as vice chair of the board of directors of the University of Connecticut Health Center and was a trustee of the University of Connecticut Law School Foundation. ▶ **Dan M. Blumenthal '78 (CLAS)** has joined the law firm of Wenig Saltiel, LLP, in Brooklyn, N.Y., as special counsel, concentrating in general real estate and landlord/tenant litigation as well as commercial lease negotiation. ▶ **Stephen**

Smith '78 MSW has retired after 26 years as a supervisor for the Massachusetts Department of Welfare/Social Services and 22 years as a health facility specialist with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Recently, he and his wife, Nancy, re-visited Cambodia and Vietnam with several veterans, who served in that area. Smith served as a combat infantry sergeant from 1969 to 1970 with the 1st Infantry, 4th Cavalry Mechanized, and 101st Airborne divisions. ▶ **Widener University Professor Stephen R. Madigosky '78 (CAHNR)** has received the Khaladjan International Award for Innovation in Higher Education, presented by the American Association of University Administrators. Madigosky holds a joint appointment in the university's Departments of Biology and Environmental Science and Sustainability. He was recognized for his work on a sustainable development course that combines experiential learning with scientific inquiry to solve real-world problems. The "Cultivation to Cup" program he initiated in Costa Rica brings faculty, students, rural Costa Rican coffee farmers, coffee roasters, and food service providers together to entice conventional coffee farmers to convert to environmentally friendly, shade-grown, organic conditions. ▶ When long-time Huskies fan **William C. Simmons '79 (ED)** retired as principal from the North Street Elementary School in Oneida, N.Y., the school celebrated in an unusual way — they changed the school mascot. The school marked the occasion by voting to replace the North Street Falcon with a Husky. Simmons, of Utica, N.Y., spent 31 years in the Oneida school district. He started out in special education, then became a third-grade teacher before becoming principal.



➔ **Kelley (Leahy) Hill '80 (CAHNR) '94 MS** is the head of global medical writing at Alexion Pharmaceuticals, a biopharmaceutical company focused on serving patients with rare and ultra-rare disorders. Her early career included 17 years as manager of biology lab services at UConn. She now leads clinical writing efforts to support drug development from first-in-human to life-cycle management of marketed products. She is an active member of the Healthcare Businesswomen's Association and supports the Open Door food bank that serves communities in

Cape Ann, Mass. ➔ **Dr. Alan J. Lipman '84 (CLAS)** was featured in the Tom Hanks-produced CNN series "The Nineties," in the episode titled "Terrorism Strikes Home." Lipman discussed the causes and consequences of such violent and terrorist attacks as the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, the Columbine School shootings, and the Oklahoma City bombing and how such events could be prevented. He is a clinical professor of psychiatry and behavior sciences at George Washington University Medical Center. ➔ **Michael Horyczun '81 (CLAS)** has been named director of communications for New Canaan Public Schools in New Canaan, Conn. ➔ **Deborah Fuhr '82 (BUS)** was given the

100 Women in Finance's 2017 European Industry Leadership Award in October. Fuhr, who is managing partner and co-founder at ETFGI, LLP, an independent research and consultancy firm, was recognized for her outstanding achievements in the financial markets and for being a pioneer in the exchange-traded fund (ETF) sector. Fuhr is one of the industry's leading commentators and an early identifier of the significance of the ETF industry. She was named one of the "100 Most Influential Women in Finance" by *Financial News* over several years, most recently in 2016. ➔ **Steven M. Greenspan '85 JD** was honored with a UConn Law alumni award in October. Greenspan is vice president and chief litigation counsel for United Technologies Corp. and a trustee of The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts in Hartford, Conn. He is also a member of the Hartford County Bar Association and a trustee of the University of Connecticut Law School Foundation. ➔ **Brian P. Reilly, '85 (BUS)**, of Kensington, Conn., was appointed by The Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants to serve as a member-at-large of its advisory council for 2017-2018. He is senior vice president and chief auditor of Travelers, in Hartford, Conn. ➔ **Elizabeth (Lisa) J. Podlaha-Murphy '86 (ENG), '89 MS** recently started a new job as chair of the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at Clarkson University in Potsdam, N.Y. ➔ **Corliss J. Montesi '86 (BUS)**, of Cheshire, Conn., was reappointed by The Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants to serve as a member-at-large of its advisory council for 2017-18. She is vice president and corporate controller of Stanley Black & Decker in New Britain, Conn. ➔ **Al**

Pirro '87 MD, has earned the designation of Certified Physician Executive from the American Association of Physician Leadership. He is currently the TeamHealth Facility Medical Director at Rutherford Regional Medical Center in Rutherfordton, N.C. His specialties include hospital medicine, intensivist medicine, and anesthesia.



➔ **Dan Thomas '90 (CLAS)** is an attorney in the Office of the General Counsel at NASA headquarters in Washington, D.C. He recently completed two years as lead counsel to the Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate, where he was responsible for legal advice on all human spaceflight matters, including missions to the International Space Station, astronaut program, the development of commercial crew vehicles with Boeing and SpaceX, and future missions to Mars. ➔ **Paul Valenti '90 (CLAS)** is the director of human rights for Pinellas County, Fla., and was elected as a member of the board and Southern Region Representative to the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA) at its annual conference in Seattle in September. In his new role, he represents state and local civil and human rights law-enforcement agencies in 13 states. ➔ **Fred Kuo '90 (CLAS)** was appointed senior associate director of the annual fund at the Loomis Chaffee School in Windsor, Conn. ➔ **Sharon (Healy) Yang '94 Ph.D.** co-edited and contributed to the academic collection of essays *Gothic Landscapes: Changing Eras, Changing Cultures, Changing Anxieties* (Palgrave), with **Kathleen Healey '85 (CLAS), '88 MA**. Yang also published a sequel [continued on p. 52]



Jenny Anderson

UPDATE

Jackie Burns Is Back on Broadway

We checked in with Jackie Burns while she was touring with "If/Then" (*UConn Magazine*, September 2016). Recently she returned to her dream role as Elphaba in the blockbuster "Wicked" at the Gershwin Theatre. Announcing her "triumphant return" in *broadway.com*, Andy Lefkowitz called her a "show-stopper" in the role.



Peter Morenus

ON CAMPUS

FUTURE ENTREPRENEURS SHARE IDEAS WITH PHILANTHROPIST PETER J. WERTH

The businessman's \$22.5M gift to further innovation and entrepreneurship is the second largest in UConn history.

UConn's future entrepreneurs had the opportunity to pitch their businesses to someone who knows what it takes to create a company from scratch: Peter J. Werth, philanthropist and innovator in generic prescription medication. Werth, CEO, president, and chairman of ChemWerth, Inc., made a historic commitment of \$22.5 million to UConn. "While I didn't attend UConn, I have come to believe in its mission and see the importance of creating opportunities for innovation at our state's flagship university," said Werth. "I'm delighted and honored that I could make this gift in support of young entrepreneurs as they create innovative solutions for today's unique challenges." Werth met with students in a private setting at NextGen Residence Hall, which now will be known as the Peter J. Werth Residence Tower. Each presentation had a common thread — the UConn Entrepreneurship and Innovation Consortium's members provided the critical funding, mentorship, and guidance to help students enter the business world. "UConn has played a big part in allowing me to establish myself and establish my business," said **Jaelyn Paride '17 (BUS, CLAS)**, co-founder of Zapploy-

ment, a software application that enables employers to fill no-show slots with qualified workers. "I would never see myself where I am right now and working on my own business. I have all these mentors that I've gained." Thanks to Werth's remarkable generosity, entrepreneurial activities at UConn will now operate as part of the Peter J. Werth Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Under University leadership, the Institute will continue to bring together student and faculty programs fostering entrepreneurship and innovation that potentially have commercial applications and can be used to create new companies. This University-wide collaboration is already producing groundbreaking business ideas, including 3-D printing for personalized medicine; a certification program for farms that promotes farmers' health; and a musculoskeletal loading device for sit-to-stand maneuvers for patients suffering from lower limb injuries. As Werth asked questions and interacted with students, one piece of advice stood out for all of the young CEOs in the room. "Stay focused and execute," Werth said. "The hardest part of business is to stay focused and execute."



Left: Peter J. Werth listens to a student presentation during the entrepreneurship and innovation huddle in December. Above: The NextGen Residence Hall has been named the Peter J. Werth Residence Tower.

"It's invaluable for these students to meet with Peter — someone who's been in their shoes and knows what it takes to be successful," said David Noble, assistant professor in residence at the School of Business. "We're grateful for Peter's tremendous support of entrepreneurial programming here at UConn. We believe we've only scratched the surface of innovation at the University, and his generous commitment will help us go even further." "Peter's transformative and historic commitment cements his legacy as a most generous friend to UConn," said Josh Newton, president and CEO of UConn Foundation. "As a steadfast UConn supporter for many years, Peter has previously given very generously to our athletic programs. We're grateful that his generosity has expanded to include academics, especially into an area that supports the economy of our state: entrepreneurship and innovation. We hope he will inspire others to follow his lead." Werth's commitment is the second largest in University history, behind Ray and Carole Neag's \$23 million pledge in 1999. —TIFFANY VENTURA THIELE

For much more on Werth and this gift, please visit foundation.uconn.edu.



ALUMNI PROFILE

SAVING THE MONARCH

Chip Taylor '66 MS, '70 Ph.D. wants everyone to plant a little milkweed and bring back the quickly disappearing monarch butterfly.

There is nothing comparable to the sound of tens of thousands of monarch butterflies taking flight — or “cascading” — from an Oyamel fir after being disturbed by a bird or a gentle breeze.

“It’s a rustling, a whispering of wings,” says Orley “Chip” Taylor ‘66 MS, ‘70 Ph.D. “If you had wings made of paper and you imagine them flapping against each other, it would sound a little bit like that,” says Taylor, an emeritus professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Kansas and founder of Monarch Watch. “As for the visual cascade, you just sit there and your mouth is open. It’s an awesome thing to view.”

Taylor has seen the spectacle several times in Cerro Pelon, Mexico, a wintering ground at a 10,000-foot elevation that is the southern terminus for millions of the tireless butterflies. From Canada, monarchs fly 3,400 miles, at the rate of 50 to 100 miles per day, for 10 weeks straight. No other insect travels as far.

And perhaps no human is doing more than Taylor to save the black, orange, and white *Danaus plexippus*, whose numbers have plummeted 90 percent in the last two decades due to herbicide use and habitat encroachment.

Save the milkweed, save the monarch
Monarch larvae feed entirely on milkweed, and particularly in the Midwest, the plant has largely been eradicated

by sprayed weed killer. Monarch Watch encourages building “way stations,” aka patches of milkweed.

To date Taylor has encouraged supporters to plant 18,500 way stations around the country — at schools, in home gardens, and in commercial landscaping, but also along highways and at publicly prominent sites, including the U.S. Botanic Garden in Washington, D.C., and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Some of the patches are as small as 100 square feet. He’s even gained support from the National Resource Defense Council, which has distributed free milkweed plants to schools.

But there’s still plenty of work to be done, says Taylor. Development around the country is eating up an estimated 6,000 acres a day (or 2.2 million acres per year). “We need a million, or maybe several million, way stations around the country to really have an impact.”

The pesticide factor

Monarch numbers have been dropping since 2004, which is when Taylor, who developed an interest in bugs as a kid growing up in St. Paul, Minn., received an email from a conservation-minded farmer in Nebraska.

The farmer had planted “Roundup Ready” soybean seeds, which are designed to withstand sprayings of the Monsanto company’s weed killer. Milkweed cannot

survive being sprayed. Taylor says the development was “alarming.”

Habitats have since vanished en masse. The USDA reports that herbicide-tolerant soybeans accounted for 94 percent of all soybean crops in the U.S. in 2014; the total is 89 percent for corn.

In 2010 Taylor began a Bring Back the Monarchs program, which, different from way stations, is an attempt at large-scale habitat restoration. We need “a comprehensive plan to manage the fragmented edges and marginal areas created by development and agriculture, since it is these edges that support monarchs. We need a new conservation ethic,” he says.

Taylor is on the road speaking about such a plan for two weeks of each month. He meets with community groups around the country, urging them to plant nectar plants in addition to milkweed, since hatched monarchs have an all-liquid diet.

It takes a planet

“I have witnessed Chip turn hostile community groups into conservation champions through his patient and prudent approach,” says Laurie Adams, executive director emeritus of the San Francisco-based Pollinator Partnership, a nonprofit that is the largest organization in the world dedicated to the protection and promotion of pollinators and their ecosystems.

“His message is always solid, and his results are unparalleled. There is no one on the planet more committed to the welfare of the monarch butterfly than Chip Taylor,” says Adams.

After earning his doctorate at UConn, Taylor worked as a biologist studying sulfur butterflies. There was one problem: He was allergic to the species, which forced him to reinvent himself. Starting in 1973, Taylor spent 22 years working with Africanized honeybees, so-called killer bees, in South America. When that work came to an end in the early 1990s, he decided to give butterflies another try.

Taylor says Americans have every reason to care about the monarch.

“Monarchs are telling us that we are not doing a very good job of maintaining the biodiversity out there,” he says, noting that the bug, as a pollinator, helps maintain plant diversity. “Biodiversity supports the system that supports us all.

“The fact that this insect is using the same continent we do and is dependent on us to maintain its habitat, that has to resonate with people.” —ANDREW FAUGHT

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Submissions may be edited for clarity or length.

[continued from p. 48] to her first novel, *Bait and Switch*, called *Letter from a Dead Man* (TouchPoint Press). → **Rob Carolla '94 (CLAS)** has been named director of communications for the College Football 150th Anniversary celebration. He serves as president of the College Sports Information Directors of America, a national organization of strategic communicators for college athletics. → **Laura Budzelek '99 (CLAS), '02 MA**, a baroque pop singer and songwriter recorded her debut album, *Treasure the World Now*.



→ **Dorothy Carlone '01 MBA** received the Small Business Award from the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development for excellence in precision manufacturing. Carlone is vice president

of the General Machine Company in Southington, Conn. → **Heidi (Forrest) Henaire '02 MSW** and **Kristopher Henaire '03 (CLAS), '14 MBA** announce the birth of their daughter, Ella Grace. She joins two-year-old brother Colton. Heidi works for the State of Connecticut as an education consultant and coordinator for deaf services, and Kris is director of college counseling at Chase Collegiate School in Waterbury. → **Michael P. Jordan '01 (BUS), '02 MS**, of Glastonbury, Conn., was installed as advisory council chair by The Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants for 2017–2018. He is managing director at Andersen Tax in Old Greenwich, Conn. → **Renee (Christopher) Deemy '04 (CLAS)** and **Gregory Deemy '04 (CLAS)** are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Riley Kate, in January 2017. Riley joins her big brother, Tyler, as a big fan of Husky basketball. Mom and Dad hope they will both become future Huskies! → The Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants (CTCPA) reappointed **Michael G. Maksymiw Jr. '05 MS**, of Plainville, Conn., to serve as a member-at-large of its advisory council. He is a senior tax manager with Filomeno & Company, P.C., in West Hartford, Conn. → **Phillip Champagne '06 (CAHNR)** and **Krystal (Hawks) Champagne '06 (CLAS)** welcomed their first child, Julian Phillippe Champagne, in July 2017. The family lives in North Branford, Conn. → **Justin Theriault '07 (CLAS), '10 JD** has been selected as a recipient of the 2017 New

Leaders in the Law award by *The Connecticut Law Tribune*. → **Jodi Roth-Saks '08 MA** recently joined the United Way of Chester County (Penn.) Board of Directors. Prior to joining the board, she helped to assess agency funding requests as part of United Way's Community Impact Teams. → **Lindsey Reinert '08 MA** recently received her Doctorate of Education from the University of Denver. She is coordinator of gifted education in Jefferson County Public Schools, Colorado's largest school district. → **Katherine A. Donovan '09 (BUS)**, of Bloomfield, was reappointed by The Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants to serve as a member-at-large of its advisory council for 2017–2018. Donovan is an audit supervisor with Whittlesey & Hadley, P.C. in Hartford, Conn. → **Lauren Bucknam '10 (CLAS)** and **Conor Gereg**, an ECE adjunct at UConn, celebrated their wedding July 15 with many fellow Huskies attending. → **Shana (Morales) Shea '10 (CLAS)** and **Kenneth Shea '12 (CLAS), '16 JD** were married August 26, 2017 in Waterbury, Conn. Their officiant was **Patrick Whalen '11 (CLAS)**. → **Tim Stobieraki '11 (CLAS)** launched StudentDebtWarriors.com to help college students, graduates, and parents make sense of the complex world of student loans. → **Erica (Mason) McQuade '11 (CLAS)** and **Kevin McQuade '11 (CLAS)** were married Sept. 16, 2017, in Washington, D.C., with an alumni-filled wedding party. → **Christie D. Jean '11 (CLAS), '14 JD**

has been elected to the board of directors for The Artists Collective, a multi-arts and cultural organization serving the Hartford, Conn., region. The Artists Collective works to safeguard and maintain the arts and culture of the African diaspora and to expose children to a nontraditional arts education by promoting social skills training, school success, and community responsibility. She is a lawyer at Robinson+Cole in Hartford. → **Cynthia Harakaly '12 MA** and **Shane Gibson '12 MS** married on April 14, 2017, in Sedona, Ariz., six years after they met in graduate school. They live in Arizona, where she is a high school counselor at Mingus Union High School and he is a professor of mathematics at Yavapai College. → **Jessica Pisano '12 (CLAS)** shares the news that she "finally married" her college sweetheart. She and **Chris Machado '12 (CLAS)** were married on July 6, 2017, in New Jersey surrounded by family, friends, and many lifelong Huskies. They honeymooned in St. Lucia and are building a home in South Jersey. → **Courtney Dinnan '12 (CLAS)** and **David Knapp '10 (ED)** were married May 28, 2017. While at UConn, Courtney competed for the Huskies as a three-sport athlete and captain of the women's cross-country, indoor and outdoor track and field teams. → **Michael Marshall '17 MSW** was elected to the board of directors for the National Association of Social Workers, Connecticut chapter. He works as an outpatient clinician at a community-based nonprofit in Norwich, Conn.



The Boston Celtics/NBA Photos

JOB ENVY

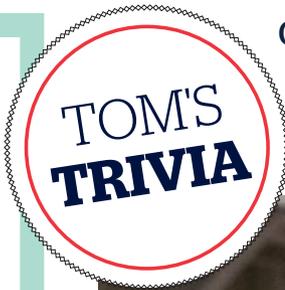
Courtside Manner

"The irony is I'm not a sports fan," says **Brian McKeon '88 (CLAS)** about his work as chief medical officer and team physician for the Boston Celtics, a position he's held since 2005. "But that allows me to be totally objective when working with athletes. I love sports medicine, which may be the most challenging form of medicine, because you're not only working with the athlete's body, you're also working with his emotional well-being." During Boston Celtics home games at the Garden, sitting on the bench with the players and coaches, McKeon is ready to run onto the court in case a player from either side goes down, as with Marcus Smart's infamous ankle injury during a 2014 game against the Pacers (above). "People ask me, when I'm in those huddles, 'What're you asking the guy?' Basically, I'm going through my ABCs, asking basic questions like 'What hurts?' and then coming up with a quick plan to get the athlete off the court," says McKeon. "In terms of injuries, I think I've seen them all," he adds, reflecting on how he had to pop Rajon Rondo's dislocated elbow back into place in 2011. In the same year, a scary head injury to Marquis Daniels temporarily paralyzed the player, who had to be carried off the floor on a stretcher. "That was one of the scariest injuries," says McKeon. Caring for the Celtics is a yearlong job. After the season finishes, McKeon takes a short break, then begins medical exams on free-agent players the team is considering signing. Then he plans exercise programs to help athletes prepare for training camp in September, where he works with players and coaches to get everyone ready for the new campaign. —BENJAMIN GLEISSER

For more of our interview with McKeon, go to s.uconn.edu/mckeon.

IN MEMORIAM

Please visit s.uconn.edu/febobits2018 to find obituaries for alumni and faculty. And please share news of alumni deaths and obituaries with *UConn Magazine* by sending an email to alumni-news@uconnalumni.com or writing to Alumni News & Notes, UConn Foundation, 2384 Alumni Drive Unit 3053, Storrs, CT 06269.



CHALLENGE YOURSELF TO TOM'S TRIVIA!

Go to s.uconn.edu/feb18trivia to see if you know as much as King of UConn Trivia and University Deputy Spokesperson Tom Breen '00 (CLAS).

1. UConn's sports teams were known as "The Aggies" before the husky mascot was adopted in 1934. There was a period of about a year, though, when the teams were called by another name. What was it?
A: The Storrs Stalwarts
B: The Brother Jonathans
C: The Connecticut Statesmen
D: The Blue and Whites
2. April 27, 1979, was "The End of the World" at UConn. What happened that day?
A: The athletic teams left their long-time home in the Yankee Conference.
B: An all-male dorm, on the verge of going coed, hosted a wild party.
C: Dining halls stopped serving beer to comply with new state regulations.
D: Historic Orford Hall was torn down after half a century of use.
3. In 1944, Dean of Women Mildred French imposed a new restriction on female students, the violation of which could result in suspension or expulsion. What were UConn women prohibited from doing?
A: Hitchhiking
B: Wearing trousers
C: Drinking alcohol in groups with male students
D: Smoking
4. Since UConn's Greek Life community launched Huskython in 2000, the dance marathon has raised nearly \$4 million for Connecticut Children's Medical Center and become one of the University's signature student events. But what was its original name?
A: The Husky Hop
B: For The Kids
C: The Husky All-Nighter
D: The Husky Midnight Marathon



Ryan Gilista

A Morale Captain leads dancers at the Greer Fieldhouse during Huskython 2017, which raised a record \$836,174.52 "for the kids" at Connecticut Children's Medical Center. On Feb. 17, 2018, dancers hope to raise \$1,000,000 for the Center during the 18-hour marathon.