

THE FIGHT FOR PHYSICAL LITERACY // MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH DAN HURLEY

UConn

MAGAZINE

FALL 2018



➔ Graduating with a C.E.O.

Meet 14 young entrepreneurs — students and alums like Ashley Kalinauskas '12 (CAHNR), whose Vetivax vaccine is making it easier and cheaper to treat cancer in pets. pg 18

SNAP!

Bright Ideas

The dawning of a late summer day lent shimmer to the new Innovation Partnership Building (IPB) on Discovery Drive in Storrs. One of UConn's most specialized R&D facilities, the IPB brings together world-class academic researchers with industry partners from the private sector to accelerate the development of ground-breaking technologies in materials science, additive manufacturing, cybersecurity, flexible electronics, energy, and other fields.

Anchor partners include United Technologies Corp., General Electric, Comcast, Pratt & Whitney, and Eversource. And the IPB is home to one of the most advanced microscopy centers in the country thanks to a partnership with Thermo Fisher Scientific. Students in fine arts and engineering worked together to install "Wall Drawing 867," a colorful mural conceptualized by late Hartford artist Sol LeWitt, onto the walls of the glass lobby. Their collaboration was one of many initiatives planned between students of arts and sciences.





SNAP!

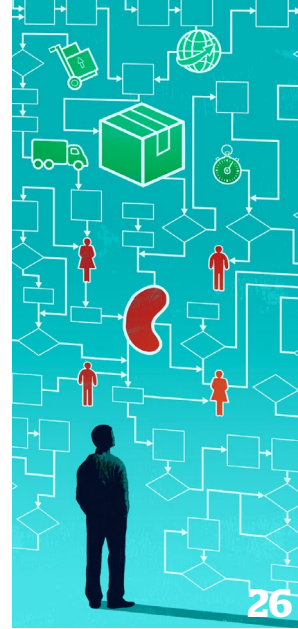
Firefly Underground

Fireflies light up our world for three to six weeks each summer. But UConn professor of physiology and neurobiology Andrew Moiseff is researching the larval stage of these burrowing (yes, they burrow!) insects — that may glow in the dark even then. Firefly larvae spend about a year in the soil and are equipped with specific adaptations for life in a subterranean environment, in stark contrast to their familiar above-ground adult form. Since not a lot of research has been done with firefly larvae, Moiseff's team is delving into new territory, learning about how the same animal has adapted to two distinct lifestyles. —ELAINA HANCOCK '09 MS

To watch a video of fireflies in both forms, hear more about the research, and to learn how this photo of lightning bugs in a field in Storrs was created, go to s.uconn.edu/fireflies.



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Elementary schools are associate professor Lindsay DiStefano's battleground. "Move" is her rallying cry! *By Elaina Hancock '09 MS*
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"My expectations are higher than those of the most delusional fan," says Dan Hurley, the new men's basketball coach. *By Elizabeth Omara-Otunnu*



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WEB EXTRAS

magazine.uconn.edu

MORE YOUNG TALENT

Meet more alums, so young and successful their stories will make your teeth hurt. s.uconn.edu/CEOs

FIREFLIES

Capture the glow of fireflies above — and below — ground. s.uconn.edu/fireflies

UConn 360

Catch up with the only podcast devoted to all things Husky. s.uconn.edu/podcast

CLASS OF 2022

Who are they and how did they celebrate their first days at UConn? s.uconn.edu/2022

ROBOT MILKER

Cows push each other out of the way to get into the robotic milking machine. s.uconn.edu/happycows

TOM'S TRIVIA

Find the answers at s.uconn.edu/oct18trivia

Cover photo by: Peter Morenus

Snap! photography by: Peter Morenus (IPB) and Angelina Reyes (Fireflies)

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Photo Credit/Caption info from page 34: Slave family in a field near Savannah, with a barrel full of cotton and dog lying in front, ca. 1860s. Stereograph File, PR 065-0081-0018, New-York Historical Society, 50482. Photography ©New-York Historical Society

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FROM THE EDITOR



JULIE'S UNCLE

She's an extremely polite person, but at the end of their second podcast together, Julie Bartucca '10 (BUS, CLAS) straight-up interrupts Tom Breen '00 (CLAS) with an exclamation: "Wait! Barry Berman is my uncle!"

She goes on to say it's possible he's not the same Barry Berman that Breen has just mentioned while teasing a story for podcast #3, but the timing would be right. And Uncle Barry Berman '73 (CLAS), along with many others in Bartucca's extended family, is indeed a UConn alum. And, as it turns out, he is indeed that UConn alum.

Uncle Barry himself turns up in episode #3 of the UConn 360 podcast to regale listeners and hosts Breen, Bartucca, and Kenneth Best with the story of how he and a fellow student made national news in 1972 by getting one Bill X. Carlson elected both president and vice president of UConn's Associated Student Government. Why was the landslide election of Bill X. Carlson national news? As Breen puts it, "In a very narrow technical sense, he does not exist."

You'll have to listen to the podcast to find out what that means. It's a fantastic story told well — the specialty of the biweekly UConn 360 podcast, which now has some 16 episodes and counting.

Bartucca, Breen, and Best are all colleagues here at University Communications, where they write for the University in all kinds of ways, including for this magazine. But the podcast is different, says Bartucca, in that it allows quick, easy, slice-of-life storytelling. Huskies share a sensibility, she says. They can remember that sense of connection they felt when they were on campus. For the podcast, she says, whether it's a former accounting professor now selling gorgeous screenprint artwork, a student WHUS DJ sharing her favorite playlist, or an uncle who once had a hand in toppling a disliked Student Government, it's all about what Bartucca's mother and Berman's sister-in-law, Mary (McCarthy) Stagis '85 (SFS), fondly refers to as "that UConn feeling."

"I try to find stories that evoke that," says Bartucca.



Top from left, Bartucca, Best, and Breen record episode #15 of their UConn 360 podcast; above, Bartucca with her uncle, the legendary Barry Berman.

Lisa T. Stiepok

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LETTERS

The Hidden UConn quiz was as popular as we'd hoped, with enough *what abouts* . . . that we may need a reprise soon. And our website is full of questions and answers on all the latest scary tick activity from this summer (the lone star tick is indeed making its presence known in Connecticut). We also found there are as many nonbelievers as believers on the bitcoin scene. See our website for all the comments. And please join in the fun for this issue.

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

Correction: In the "By a Thread" feature, Summer 2018, we identified Julie Wagner as an associate professor. She is a full professor. She also is the principal investigator of the UConn Health study that is testing the "Eat, Walk, Sleep" program that has been so beneficial to Cambodian refugees (NIH grant 5R01DK103663).

Hidden UConn Quiz

➔ Ahh, Husky Hill (pic#5), as we called it back when we had a varsity ski team at UConn. I remember running down the hill during dry land training every fall afternoon before the snow flew and then carrying one of my teammates back up the hill on my back. We actually trained there periodically when it snowed — doesn't look to be an option these days based on the trees that took over. James McGrath, '77 (BUS), '80 MBA Fishkill, New York, via our website

➔ I enjoyed this article. I wish had known some of these things existed in

'64-'68. Delta Zeta here's to thee! Patti Killeen Brown Felton '68 (ED) Penn Valley, California, and San Tan Valley, Arizona, via our website

➔ Benson Ginsburg's family and friends are thrilled to see this snippet of history included in the Summer 2018 issue! Thank you so much for remembering a great man and his pioneering work. Can you tell me if this kennel is still standing and if so, might I visit it? Sue Hamilton '69 (CLAS) Harwinton, Connecticut, via email

Note: The kennel is still standing in the UConn Forest behind Horsebarn Hill.

Bitcoin Believers

➔ I understand both poker and pizzas as well as having been a student of the financial markets since graduation from UConn. I can say that a lot of people have made a lot of money getting involved with Bitcoin. The only question should be . . . who will be the last sucker?

Cryptocurrencies have value only in the minds of believers who see other people making a bunch of money. But they actually have nothing behind them. Gold and silver have value as commodities. Paper money, although likely over-printed, is backed by the gross national product of the country printing that fiat money. Real estate has value, as do most items considered assets.

Off in the future, when the technology involved is used with something of value behind it, there may be an opportunity for real success. Meanwhile, the suckers appear to be buying into a nickel, dime poker game with hundred-dollar bills. Phil Becker '69 (CLAS) Glendale, California, via email

By a Thread

➔ Really enjoyed reading this issue; so proud of the help for Cambodians. There should be info in case people would like to donate to that project in particular. Also proud of [department head Michael] Bradford and what he's doing for the theater department. Good job! Bessy Reyna '72 MA, '82 JD Connecticut, via email

Note: Donate to this project by sending a check to: Khmer Health Advocates, attn: Mary Scully, 1125 New Britain Ave. #202, West Hartford, Connecticut, 06110.

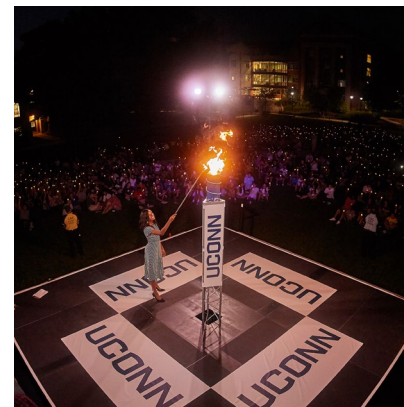
Serenade

➔ I have been away from UConn for many years. Having played basketball at UConn and having coached both on the university and professional ranks, I must say I was so very impressed and taken by the UConn Choir and its European tour. Besides the excellence of the choir's singing ability, the passion I observed in the video was so very special. Bravo — a great representation of the University. Great to see UConn in the light of joy, happiness, and wholesome fellowship.

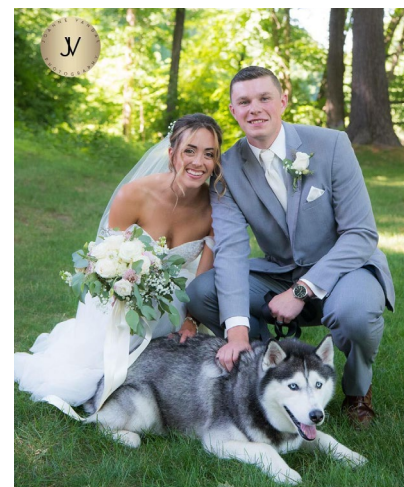
Alan Keith Srebnick '71 (BUS) Weston, Florida, via our website

➔ These voices are so beautiful that words cannot capture their power. Frederick Charles Shakir Jr. '84 (CLAS) Quaker Hill, Connecticut, via our website

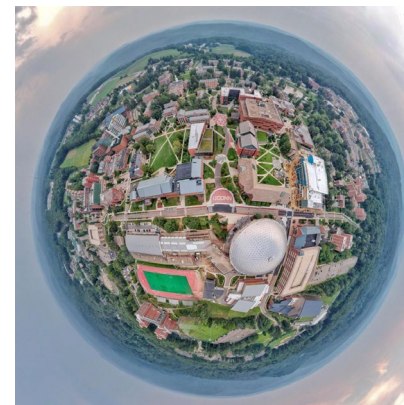
INSTAGRAM



#UConn22 gathered at the Torch Lighting Convocation Ceremony — the only time prior to graduation that the entire entering undergraduate class will be together as one. #UConnNation @uconn



It was my privilege to help these two get engaged and my honor to be at their wedding. Wishing you many many years of happiness. #studentstodayhuskiesforever #vandalphotography #uconn #huskies #uconnnation @jonathanhusky14



A bird's eye view #UConnViews @miltonlevin



ON CAMPUS

UConn to House Maurice Sendak Archive

The finished artwork for his published books, and certain manuscripts, sketches, and other related materials created by Maurice Sendak, considered the leading artist of children's books in the 20th century, will be hosted and maintained at the University of Connecticut. Under an agreement with, and supported by a grant from, The Maurice Sendak Foundation, the artwork and source materials for books, such as *Where the Wild Things Are*, *In the Night Kitchen*, and *Outside Over There*, will serve as a resource for research by students, faculty, staff, and the public. They will be part of Archives & Special Collections at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center.

Sendak lived in Connecticut and supported UConn for many years, speaking to the children's literature classes of Francelia Butler, professor of English, in the 1970s and 1980s and receiving an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree.

"You would only have to spend an afternoon with Maurice to know that he was the ultimate mentor and nurturer of talent," says Lynn Caponera, president of The Maurice Sendak Foundation. "He profoundly admired UConn's dedication to the art of the book, both in its collections and in its teachings. We, the friends who he entrusted to carry on his legacy through the Foundation, couldn't be more pleased with this exciting collaboration."

"Maurice Sendak created books that will live forever. His work changed the course of children's literature in the 20th century," says Katharine Capshaw, professor of English and president of the Children's Literature Association. "Sendak's books connect profoundly to children's inner fears and vast resourcefulness. He treated young people with respect, valuing their creativity and sense of ethics, and his work illuminated the joy and mystery of the imagination."

"Imagine now opening up students to the world of one of the most celebrated creators of visual literature for children's picture books . . . and walking across campus to take part in what amounts to a private master class with Maurice Sendak," says Cora Lynn Deibler, head of the Department of Art and Art History and a professor of illustration. "As you pore through the work, you will be receiving a one-on-one tutorial in excellence in the form — from creativity and concept, through design and execution."

—KENNETH BEST



➔ Following what has become an annual late-fall tradition, *Beetle Bailey's* Aug. 16 strip this year features the UConn Husky, in this case on the back cover of *UConn Magazine*! Cartoonist Bill Janocha says he's been doing this for the past few years to coincide with the start of the new semester. Janocha's son Chris is a junior at the Storrs campus. Janocha says he has assisted Mort Walker on the "Beetle Bailey" strip "and countless other projects" since 1987. Walker died earlier this year and, besides continuing as a "Beetle Bailey" cartoonist, Janocha is working on "a major book about Walker's early magazine cartoons and a full examination, through them, of the development of Beetle in 1950." See more at s.uconn.edu/beetlebailey.

CHECKING IN WITH...

DAN ROUSSEAU LIGHTS IT UP

Dan Rousseau '08 (SFA) has never been in front of a TV camera and it's been years since he had an acting role in the theater. Yet you can enjoy his workmanship every day of the week on CNN, and if you tuned in to hockey at this past Winter Olympic Games in South Korea, you saw his work there as well.

Rousseau works in the world of television lighting as both a designer and director. Since 2008, he has worked for the Lighting Design Group Inc. at CNN, where he has permanent spots on three shows: "Cuomo Prime Time," "Anderson Cooper Full Circle" (a Facebook Live show), and "Quest Means Business" on CNN International. He floats on other shows, including "The Van Jones Show."

Rousseau has won two Emmys — in 2012 for NBC News coverage of presidential election night and in 2016 for the special event "CNN Heroes." We caught up with him this summer on the set of "The Van Jones Show" at the CNN studios near New York City's Columbus Circle.

What is it about lighting that interests you?

You can do almost anything with lighting. You take essentially a blank canvas and end up crafting a story through texture, through color, through movement. Plus, there's just so many cool toys to use. There are no two lights that are the same, and then there's the whole infrastructure of how it's controlled. There is a computer nerding-out aspect to the whole thing.

Is the audience even aware of lighting?

If it's done right, you never notice it. As part of attending

or watching a show, your goal is to get lost within the show. If the lighting is bad, you are going to be noticing that, and it's going to distract from the actual event. If the lighting is good, you're going to feel like you are actually there and you are part of that scene. You feel the same emotion that the characters are feeling. The same thing goes if you are at a concert. I've lit a number of concerts in my career, and the big thing for me is how to take a song, lyrics, a melody and translate that visually.

What's it like to light a new show like "Cuomo Prime Time"?

The challenge was making a distinctive look that separated our show from all the other shows done in the same studio while keeping it under budget. We were able to completely change the color palette of the set. There are a lot of little tricks I have tucked away in that set to get that look!

What's the difference between working in the studio at CNN and out in the field like at the Olympics?

With the Olympics, we are taking the biggest show that could possibly be put on the air and creating a studio in somebody else's arena. I was working the hockey venue and they didn't have a television studio, so we had to build one on our own. It's incredibly challenging. You are under the clock and you have to make what you have on your equipment list work.

What did you learn at UConn that you use the most today?

The biggest thing that helped me at UConn was the net-

working. I learned how to work with others and how to advertise myself. I learned how to communicate with a lot of different disciplines. That's something I do a lot with now.

Does working at CNN make you take a strong political stance one way or the other?

It's made me a news junkie just by the culture I work in. I feel connected to every story that's going on. When it comes to the politics, I'm immune to it all, because I am exposed to so much of it.

That's not to say there aren't certain stories that stop me in my tracks because I realize I am a part of that moment. One that I especially remember is when the Chilean miners were trapped [in 2010]. We were here until 3 a.m. watching them all come out of that little rescue pod, and we were glued to it.

With an Emmy for "CNN Heroes," that show must be very special for you.

We do it at the Museum of Natural History and only

have 72 hours to load the whole show and then we go live. All the stress and hard work really pays off because it's about people doing good in the world. Hundreds of people are nominated and 10 finalists are brought to the event and then we announce the CNN Hero of the Year. You see these people that are putting smiles on other people's faces and making positive change. I feel humbled by it because I realize that I am helping give them this special night.

What do you do for fun in New York?

When I need to get out of the studio, I just go and explore the city. I walk around, look at all the buildings — it's an architectural buffet. I love the parks. I am inside so much — the more I can be outside, the better it's going to be for me when I have to go back inside.

Is there anything you miss about Storrs?

I always miss Dairy Bar ice cream, but I will say I also miss the quiet setting.

—MICHAEL ENRIGHT '88 (CLAS)



Peter Morenus



Rousseau on the CNN set of "The Van Jones Show" (left) and at the recent Winter Olympic Games in South Korea (above).

UCONN TALKS

On being named WNBA MVP at age 23:

“We have team goals, and I have individual goals for myself. And being MVP was a goal that I had.”

Breanna Stewart '16 (CLAS), Seattle Storm forward, *Sports Illustrated*, Aug. 27, 2018

On times when it may not be a good idea to get creative:

“The last thing I’d want to hear my pilot saying is something like, ‘It’s a routine flight, there’s this body of water here, I thought I could try this creative water landing I’ve been thinking about.’”

Ronald Beghetto, professor of educational psychology and director of Innovation House, Public Radio, Aug. 1, 2018

On preventing findings from the first long-term study of the deep ocean’s “twilight zone” from being put to commercial use without thoughtful regulations:

“New knowledge can lead to unforeseen consequences.”

Peter Auster, professor of marine sciences, *Boston Globe*, Aug. 4, 2018

On the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that online retailers must collect sales taxes even in states where they have no physical presence:

“I think what we will see is that Amazon will start collecting the sales tax on behalf of third-party vendors and impose a commission for doing so. So this is really going to create another profit center for Amazon.”

Richard Pomp, professor of law, SiriusXM Business Radio, July 9, 2018

On working with scientists at UConn to create “smart” machine components:

“This changes the way we look at manufacturing. We can now integrate functions into components to make them more intelligent. These sensors can detect any kind of wear, even corrosion, and report that information to the end user.”

Sameh Dardona, associate director of research and innovation at United Technologies Research Center, *Science News*, July 30, 2018

On commercial gyms that provide tanning beds:

“We would be astounded if gyms provided tobacco to patrons.”

Sherry Pagoto, professor of allied health sciences, Salon, July 21, 2018

On the ruling against Roundup-maker Monsanto for \$289 million to a plaintiff who alleges his terminal cancer is from using the herbicide:

“This verdict is just the first in what could be a long legal battle over Roundup, and proving causality in such cases is not easy.”

Richard Stevens, professor of medicine, *Business Insider*, Aug. 16, 2018

On her study showing that in just one week an average American household’s diet generates as much greenhouse gas emissions as a drive from D.C. to Trenton, New Jersey:

“If people reduced their spending on protein foods by 18 percent, they’d see almost a 10-fold reduction in household greenhouse gas emissions.”

Rebecca Boehm, postdoctoral fellow at UConn’s Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity, *The Washington Post*, June 11, 2018



ON CAMPUS

MORE ROBOTS, HAPPIER COWS?

Having cows right on campus is one of the things that makes UConn special. It’s the high-quality milk produced by those cows that is the main ingredient in the ever-popular UConn Dairy Bar ice cream. In fact, *Hoard’s Dairyman* ranks UConn’s herd in the top 20 of some 47,000 dairy herds nationwide.

In keeping with these high standards, UConn is now one of the first universities in the United States to adopt the most technologically advanced way of managing and studying a dairy herd: two new robots have been introduced to the herd that enable the cows to choose when to be milked.

The new voluntary milking system will change the day-to-day life of the herd. Previously, each cow was milked three times a day, at the same time every day. When the cows were ready to be milked, they got noisy, says Steve Zinn, department head and professor of animal science in the College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources.

There’s a different atmosphere in facilities with voluntary milking systems. Since the cows are milked on demand around the clock, they are generally quiet and calm and spend a lot of the time lying down relaxing.

When ready for milking, the cow walks to the robot, which starts each visit by washing the cow’s udders before attaching a separate milking unit to each teat or “quarter.” If one quarter finishes milking before the others, that quarter’s machine will stop and be removed, which is likely more comfortable for the cow, while the other quarters finish being milked.

After six to eight minutes, and after around 30 to 50 pounds

of milk has been collected, the milking units detach and the cow walks away from the robot. With the new system, each cow is expected to visit the robots voluntarily one to four times a day.

The voluntary milking system also provides new research opportunities for UConn. Each of the more than 80 cows is equipped with a smart device gathering data 24 hours a day on the cows’ behaviors, health, and milk production. A flood of data begins flowing as soon as the milk does, and all of this data needs management, analysis, and interpretation, which is where UConn Engineering comes in.

“We are working to figure out how we are going to use the data, how we analyze it and start making predictions with it,” says Matthew Stuber, assistant professor in the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering.

For instance, data on the cow’s movement — or lack of movement — can be an indicator of health, and data on milk quality can indicate what kind of grain is best for a particular cow. By analyzing that information, the engineers hope to develop ways to predict exactly how to tailor conditions for each cow and achieve better outcomes for the facility as a whole.

Since the robots are taking care of the milking, says Zinn, this leaves caretakers more time for managing the whole cow, and researchers more time for new and innovative research.

—ELAINA HANCOCK '09 MS

See the robotic milker in action — and watch cows lining up to go in — at s.uconn.edu/happycows.

STUDENT PROFILE

AKSHAYAA CHITTIBABU '19 (CLAS)

Akshayaa Chittibabu is, among other things, a STEM Scholar in UConn's Honors Program, a 2016 Holster Scholar, a 2017 Newman Fellow, a UN Foundation Global Fellow, and a 2018 Truman Scholar. After she received the Truman, a highly selective national award that honors our next generation of public service leaders, Provost Craig Kennedy said, "She represents everything we at the University of Connecticut challenge our students to be."

With a dual major in biological sciences and sociology, Chittibabu is planning to pursue both MD and public policy graduate degrees. But if things don't work out for her on the science end of the scale, she could always take her bona fide artistic skills and become a poet or a painter. Better still, she could try being a stand-up comic because this high achieving scholar has a quick wit and a keen sense of timing when it comes to delivering a punchline. Yes — she is funny, too.

You grew up in Westford, Massachusetts, and graduated from the Massachusetts Academy of Math and Science. Why UConn?

I initially wanted to study physiology and neurobiology, and UConn is one of the few colleges with that undergraduate major. Once I came for a visit, I fell in love with the campus. Everyone I met was warm and enthusiastic, and it just felt right to be here. Plus, I look great in navy blue!

You are interested in many things. What drew you to the sciences?

My mom is a computer science engineer and my dad specializes in materials science and nanotechnology. I was full of questions when I was a kid: *Why are leaves green? Why is the sky blue?* They always answered me in a matter-of-fact, but scientifically correct, way. I am grateful that they always encouraged my questions and they explained things in a way that made science non-intimidating.



Photos provided by Akshayaa Chittibabu

Have you a favorite class or teacher?

I have so many. But a class that literally changed my life was Sociology of Health with [assistant professor] Kathryn Ratcliff. In that class, I realized that if I wanted to create change in health care, I would have to look upstream, not just at the clinical level.

How did you put that realization into action?

With Professor Ratcliff's encouragement, I helped organize the first Global Health Symposium in Connecticut. It was held here on campus on March 24, 2018, with the theme "Think Global, Act Local." We had speakers presenting global health research, and others who explained local engagement opportunities for students.

Chittibabu has traveled the world studying languages and advocating for global malaria and polio prevention. Top, South Korea; bottom, rural Panama.

Our goal was to bring the global health conversation to UConn and to expose our peers to ways they can get involved and become leaders in the field. I think we did that.

How many languages do you speak, and what's the story behind them?

I speak five. Because of my parents, I speak Tamil and Telugu. I learned Tamil as a child — it is an Indian language and one of the official languages of Sri Lanka, Mauritius, and Singapore. Telugu is an Indian language that I grew up speaking

natively. I also speak Korean because in eighth grade I had a Korean-American science teacher, and I fell in love with the language and culture of South Korea. I taught myself the alphabet and went from there. Finally, I learned Spanish at UConn and, of course, I speak English — that's important!

Favorite restaurant in Storrs?

Does Sgt. Pepperoni count? And I love the spiced chai latte at Dog Lane Café.

Interests when you are not studying?

I trained in watercolor painting for several years, so painting is something I love doing. In my first two years at UConn, I was also involved with the spoken word slam poetry space. That was a great community where I met a lot of people and grew as a poet. I also love all kinds of music. I really stretch my student Spotify subscription.

Tell us something that most people don't know about you.

Well, maybe people do know this, but I'm pretty outspoken. I may even come across as brazen. As soon as a thought pops into my head, I say it. The thing is, I get all my energy from other people, and that's what drives me. I live my life with no expectations, and I'm almost always pleasantly surprised and rarely disappointed by the way things turn out.

What are your plans for the future?

I'm planning on medical school, but first I'm going to take a gap year. Through the Truman Scholarship, I will be able to spend eight weeks in Washington, D.C., next summer as an intern working in a government agency or think tank. After that, I hope to work for nine more months as a Truman-Albright Fellow working on public service problems on a full-time basis, before heading to graduate school. Eventually my goal is to help build equitable and accessible local and federal health programs. I'd like to take my clinical experiences as a physician to inform public health policymaking and program building.

When do you sleep?

I love my sleep and I'm a great desk napper. You can find me in Babbidge [Library] taking desk naps any time during the semester. —SHEILA FORAN '83 (BGS), '96 PH.D.

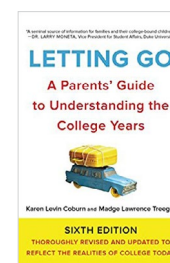
3 BOOKS



SANDRA CHAFOULEAS

We talked with the Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Educational Psychology in the Neag School of Education this spring. She was seeking summer reads that would "stretch her in new ways" but also relate to the field of study she's so passionate about. Her preference is print: "There's nothing better than a tabbed, dog-eared, hard copy book with writing in the margins."

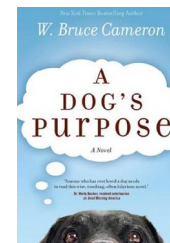
Just Finished:



Letting Go: A Parents' Guide to Understanding the College Years by Karen Levin Coburn and Madge Lawrence Treeger

I picked up this book as our oldest child was heading off to college and really wish I had read it a year earlier, as it covers the full roller coaster — from the admissions process through the undergraduate years. There are useful tidbits of advice and many resources for parents to help navigate it all, but the most interesting pieces are the interviews sharing perspectives from students, parents, and college personnel. You finish the book understanding that there is no single path or right decision for anyone, and that it is truly normal to experience peaks, valleys, and twists. As a professor, reading the book left me with greater appreciation of the issues that students could be facing. As a parent, it helped me take a deep breath of acceptance in reflecting not only on our past year but what might be next.

Currently reading:



A Dog's Purpose by W. Bruce Cameron

Actually, I am rereading this book, as I first read it when it was published in 2010. Given the feature film that came out last summer, I can't resist picking it up again for summer reading. It is such a great story, even if you are not a devoted dog lover like me. The story is about a dog who is reborn again and again into new situations and experiences with different human interactions. In each life, the dog is trying to figure out the reason for its being — which I find very moving. It makes you pause and reflect

on your own life and the lessons you are intended to be learning throughout different situations — both joyful and challenging — that you are having or have faced.

On Deck:



Blind Spot by Mahzarin R. Banaji and Anthony G. Greenwald

I have had this book for a while but have not had a chance to start it yet — it's on the definite summer reading list. It is about implicit bias, which means our attitudes or stereotypes that can affect what we do in an unconscious way. We all have implicit bias, as it is part of the way our brain organizes information, but it also has been shown to lead to discriminatory behavior (with race, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation) — even in school settings. So it is important to learn about it, recognize it, and adjust our behavior to avoid acting on our unconscious biases.



Peter Morenus

COVETED CLASS

POLITICS OF CRIME AND JUSTICE (POLS 3827)

The Instructor:

Kimberly Bergendahl's interest in justice and the law started when she was just 7 years old. Her father's struggle with alcohol was rocky at times and the Tiverton, Rhode Island, police came to her home more than once. After her parents divorced, Bergendahl, still in her preteens, discovered her voice, arguing frequently with a crusty landlord when she believed he was failing to uphold his side of the bargain in keeping her mother's subsidized four-room apartment properly maintained.

It is exactly that experience that assistant professor Bergendahl believes makes her a better instructor when it comes to teaching "The Politics of Crime and Justice."

"I've seen the law from the good end and I've seen it from the bad end," says Bergendahl. "I want my students to see me as a person who has had real world experiences and not just someone who comes in professing to know everything or who is looking to present one particular point of view. My students know that I don't use the class as a soapbox to promote a specific agenda."

But that is not to say Bergendahl is without convictions. She has always been a person committed to righting wrongs, holding people in power accountable, and making sure individuals are treated fairly under the law.

"I think it comes from my background of always being the underdog. My mother and

Bergendahl at the Brooklyn Correctional Institution in Brooklyn, Connecticut. The professor wants students to see how the law works in real life, so she introduced community-based service programs to her class's curriculum, including the opportunity to tutor inmates at BCI.

I weren't financially comfortable. It was just the two of us. So after my parents divorced and we moved into an apartment, I was the one often dealing with the landlord, and I was pretty vocal," Bergendahl says with a chuckle. "Even though I was basically a shy person, if there was something I thought was right, I would stand up for it."

Class Description:

By sharing her personal experiences and doing classroom simulations, Bergendahl shows students how the law she teaches in class works in real life. The class begins with a general overview of the purpose and philosophy behind the criminal justice system and different types of crimes and punishment. Bergendahl then focuses on individual parts of the justice system.

"I hope students leave the course with a more realistic understanding of the system from all perspectives," says Bergendahl. "I would like them to realize that it is not a one-size-fits-all point of view of law enforcement, prosecutors, or judges — that is why we call it 'The Politics of Crime and Justice,' because there are different political decisions and political actions that each one of these actors undertakes.

"Just because the law and the Constitution say what kinds of rights exist, we see that those rights have been interpreted in different ways throughout history. I also hope the students see how each actor influences the others. If law enforcement doesn't do its job, it makes the prosecutor's job harder and so on. I don't expect them to remember everything, but they should at least know how all of the interdependent parts work together and what that means for the rights of individuals who move through the system."

Bergendahl's Teaching Style:

The highlights of the class are the classroom simulations. When discussing law enforcement, for example, Bergendahl shows a video that puts students in the role of a police officer responding to a call. The situation escalates and ends

with the officer (and the class) having to decide whether the officer should fire his weapon. The officer is white and the other person black. Justification for the use of deadly force is far from clear.

"It generates a lot of discussion," says Bergendahl. "It puts students in a position where they have to make a potentially life-and-death decision very quickly. It helps them understand and maybe appreciate things from both the law enforcement perspective and from the perspective of those who encounter the police."

As a follow-up to the simulation, UConn Police Lt. Jason Hyland speaks to the class about laws surrounding the use of force and gives students a firsthand perspective of one of the most difficult decisions officers must make in the field.

In the section in which the class discusses the role of prosecutors and defense attorneys, Bergendahl has her students manage a simulated caseload. With limited resources, the student prosecutors must decide which cases are best suited for plea bargains, which ones should go to trial, who they would recommend be kept in jail, and who should be released on bail.

"I'll walk around the room and they'll ask me, 'What should we recommend for this person's bail?' and I tell them I don't know," says Bergendahl. "Do prosecutors

know in the real world? There's not a book somewhere that says bail should be this or that for this particular crime. They have to learn on the job. They need to quickly assess who that defendant is, what is the likelihood they might flee, and whether they might re-offend."

When looking at the role of juries and judicial selection, Bergendahl splits the class into prosecutors and defense attorneys and has them pick a jury from a list of 30 potential jurors.

The last phase of the class looks at sentencing, punishment, corrections, probation, and parole.

"We talk about three strikes, the sex offender registry, the history of corrections and how it has changed, and what probation and parole are. One of my favorite things in this section is having the students watch parole board hearings for three different inmates. They have to decide whether an inmate should be released on parole based on their respective hearing. The students then get to see if their decisions matched up to what really happened. It's fascinating."

Why We Want to Take It Ourselves:

Several years ago, Bergendahl secured a fellowship that allowed her to add a service learning component to the

course. It turned out to be one of the best decisions she ever made. That first year, students had an opportunity to work with a variety of community-based service organizations, such as the UConn Police Department, the Connecticut Office of the Victim Advocate, and Perception Programs, a nonprofit dedicated to helping people with concurrent substance abuse and mental health problems.

Some students tutored inmates at the Brooklyn Correctional Institution. Others organized a talent show for women in the Next Step Cottage at Perception Programs in Willimantic to help build their self-esteem. Both projects helped students connect with people who have been through the system, Bergendahl says. It allowed them to see these individuals not as inmates, but as real people who are working toward rehabilitation and eager to get their lives back on track.

"I want them to leave here thinking, 'Okay, how can I become a more engaged citizen?'" says Bergendahl. "I think that is something we, as a political science department, should be doing more. We should be encouraging others to be more active citizens. Yes, we are teaching them knowledge, but it shouldn't end there. I don't want to just teach, I want to empower!" —COLIN POITRAS '85 (CLAS)

THIS JUST IN

UConn PARTNERS WITH WADSWORTH ATHENEUM

The School of Fine Arts will relocate its Master of Fine Arts program in Arts Administration to the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, the oldest continuously operating public art museum in the nation, further expanding UConn's presence in the capital city since the opening of the new Hartford Campus last year.

Under a five-year agreement the Wadsworth will provide work space for students, a seminar room, and faculty offices. "All of our students undertake intensive internships and hands-on research with arts institutions in Hartford. This partnership is mutually beneficial," says Anne D'Alleva, dean of the School of Fine Arts. —KENNETH BEST

For more on the partnership, please go to s.uconn.edu/wadsworth.



Peter Morenus



ON CAMPUS



Sean Flynn

NEW ENGINEERING & SCIENCE BUILDING

In June, UConn celebrated the opening of its new Engineering & Science Building, a state-of-the-art facility whose carefully planned design and modern labs will help the University and its researchers drive new innovations in a range of scientific disciplines.

The School of Engineering uses three floors, housing programs such as robotics, advanced manufacturing, cyber physics, virtual and augmented reality, mechatronics, and other subjects. The Institute for Systems Genomics is on two floors, including its Center for Genome Innovation, microbial analysis and resource service, and other programs.

“This building is the culmination of significant investment by the state of Connecticut in STEM fields, and in the future of engineering,” says Kazem Kazerounian, dean of the UConn School of Engineering.

“Nearly 40 percent of our state’s economy is generated by engineering-related industries, and with our 70 percent increase in engineering enrollment, and significant investment in resources, UConn is providing research, talent, and technology that will pay dividends for decades to come.”

IN DEVELOPMENT



SMARTPHONE SOUP

In the bottom drawer of your desk at home lie all the “must-haves” of yesteryear — a bundle of knotted earphones, a broken computer mouse, some overplayed CDs, a flip phone, an iPod. A study in *The Global E-waste Monitor 2017* reported that in 2016 humans generated 44.7 million metric tons of electronic waste (e-waste). And in that graveyard of a desk drawer, the basement, or a landfill, all these devices will rot for hundreds, even thousands, of years before degrading. The glass used in just one cell phone takes some 500 years to decompose.

But what if the future smartphones and tablets were made of edible materials? To chemistry professor Challa Kumar, a future where you can pop your cell phone in a pot of water, swirl it around, bring it to a boil, and have yourself a yummy iPhone stew is not science fiction but a future reality of his research in bionanotechnology, or what he calls “edible chemistry.”

Kumar and his team of graduate students created a white LED light from bovine serum albumin (BSA), a waste product of the meat industry. White LEDs are used in electronics like phones and TVs that emit white light from their screens. Kumar’s “ham-burger protein” LEDs emit white light at a higher resolution than current LEDs and, says Kumar, “When you are done with the device, you could eat it.”

“We are the only group in the world doing this where both products and reactants are edible — to humans, plants, or bacteria,” he adds.

The team’s research has clinical significance, too. The edible LED also has inexpensive pH and glucose sensing capabilities. Combined with the team’s food-based batteries, these LEDs could replace current electronic glucose meters for diabetics. Kumar also is exploring the possibility of using lipids from coconut oil to replace the toxic elements in current cancer cell-targeting treatments. He and his students believe the uses for edible chemistry are limitless, that it is the future of technology as well as environmental awareness.

In the not-too-distant future, they say, we could be watching our favorite Netflix series on screens made from the same materials as last night’s burgers. —CARA WILLIAMS '18 (CLAS)

COLLECTIONS

WE’VE GOT SPIRIT, YES WE DO!

Among the many hidden gems in Archives & Special Collections at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center in Storrs are these old UConn football game programs from as long ago as 1928. Clockwise from top left: versus Rhode Island, Nov. 16, 1963; versus Maine, Oct. 17, 1964; versus New Hampshire, Nov. 3, 1951; versus Maine, Oct. 21, 1978; versus Rhode Island, Nov. 17, 1928; versus Buffalo, Oct. 28, 1961; versus Yale, Sept. 23, 1950; versus Delaware, Sept. 29, 1951; versus Brown, Nov. 8, 1952; versus Rhode Island, Nov. 7, 1942; versus Rutgers, Nov. 3, 1973; versus Maine, Oct. 19, 1974; versus Maine, Oct. 21, 1950; versus Maine, Oct. 21, 1967; versus Kent State, Nov. 20, 1948; and versus Yale, Sept. 24, 1949.

➔ Graduating

with a C.E.O.

Meet 14 entrepreneurs — young alums and current students, many of whom have successful businesses that were well off the drawing board before the ink on their diplomas was dry. Find six more on our website.



Brian Kelleher '17 (SFA), CTO; Case Polen '17 (SFA), Senior Designer; Jeffrey Santi '18 (ENG), Chief Architect; Andrew Ginzberg '16 (SFA), CEO (shown left to right)

Loki, Hartford, Connecticut; loki.live

Frustrated with the limited perspective offered by traditional newscasts, digital media and design students Ginzberg, Kelleher, and Polen teamed up as undergrads with Santi, an electrical engineering student, to create a revolutionary new live-streaming platform called Loki. The company's proprietary technology gathers the myriad points of view an audience of smartphone users can capture at live events — concerts, breaking news, Husky basketball games — and lets viewers knit the streams together into unique, personal video feeds. Winner of the School of Business' 2017 Innovation Quest, Loki makes viewers the editors, directors, and producers of their own content, right down to which camera angles they choose. How we receive our news may never be the same. —KEVIN MARKEY; PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS



Nadav Ullman '12 (BUS), CEO (left); Thomas Bachant '13 (ENG), Co-founder and CTO

Dashride, New York, New York; dashride.com

When Dashride rolled out its automated dispatching software five years ago, some 200,000 taxi and limo companies operated in the United States — and every last one of them was under pressure from new ride-sharing apps. “Many had been using the same practices for 20 or 30 years,” says Ullman. “They didn’t have the technology to meet customer needs.” Dashride hooks them up with cutting-edge tools like advance booking capabilities; full back-office support of billing, customer management, and accounting; and detailed mapping and routing services. It is now the leading provider of software for taxi, medical, corporate, and driverless fleets across the United States and in Europe and Asia. For an enterprise that Ullman and Bachant started at UConn to provide safe rides to classmates after nights out on the town, it’s one heck of a ride.—CLAIRE HALL; PHOTO BY NATHAN OLDHAM



Ashley Kalinauskas '12 (CAHNR), Founder and CEO, with Dave

Torigen Pharmaceuticals, Farmington, Connecticut; torigen.com

This year in the United States some 8 million pets will be diagnosed with cancer. Half of all dogs over the age of 10 will die from the disease. Kalinauskas hopes to change all that. Founder and CEO of biotech startup Torigen Pharmaceuticals, which is supported by the UConn Technology Incubation Program, she and her colleagues have developed a highly customizable vaccine that uses an animal’s own cancer cells to induce an aggressive immune response. Called Vetivax, the experimental treatment has produced eye-opening results and shows great potential as the company continues nationwide clinical trials. “Few adverse events,” reports Kalinauskas, who majored in pathobiology and veterinary sciences with a minor in business. “We are extending lives.” Millions of pet owners rejoice.—KEVIN MARKEY; PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS



➔ Fareed Rasheed '08 (CLAS) Co-founder (left), Jason Ellis '08 (CLAS) Co-founder
TNB (There's Nothing Better), New Britain, Connecticut

Fun is serious business for these friends and four-year UConn roommates. Through TNB, Rasheed and Ellis bring young professionals together at venues around the state to share ideas, make social and professional connections, and add excitement to the life side of the work-life balance. The company's popular "Network and Chill" and "Connecticut Daybreak" events have featured virtual reality sets, vintage video game consoles, and photo booths along with dance music and drinks. But all a party really needs to be successful, says Rasheed, is a critical mass of people ready to have a good time. The outgoing impresarios have been engineering fun since undergrad days, when their "Late Night at the Student Union" sober events (karaoke, bounce houses) and "Get on the Bus" outings for the Black Student Alliance drew loyal followings. Both earned MBAs, and Ellis went to work in the financial industry, while Rasheed turned to a career in sales. TNB grew out of the frustration they and friends felt at limited nightlife options available to urban professionals in and around Hartford. "If there isn't a space there for us, let's create it," says Rasheed, who believes everyone should make it a practice to talk to five strangers at any social gathering. "What have you got to lose?" —KEVIN MARKEY; PHOTO BY CONNECTICUT DAYBREAK



Kiersten Tupper '12 (CLAS), '15 MA, Co-founder (right); Karlyn Tupper '14 (CLAS), Co-founder and CEO

Tenacity, Syracuse, New York; tenacityjeans.com

"We couldn't find the jeans we wanted," says Karlyn, "so we made them ourselves." What the Tupper sisters wanted were jeans to fit their athletic curves (Karlyn and Kiersten played lacrosse at UConn; older sister and business partner Kendall played at Cornell). Standard-issue cuts were always too big in the waist and too tight everywhere else. After a pitch for athletically engineered real jeans (no jeggings or leggings, please) earned positive feedback at UConn's CCEI Business Plan Competition during Karlyn's sophomore year, the sisters took time to refine patterns, test prototypes, and source materials. This past March, they officially launched Tenacity. Grown and sewn completely in the United States, the flattering garments are made in Texas from cotton harvested and milled in Georgia and Alabama. Active women everywhere can easily breathe a big sigh of relief. —KEVIN MARKEY; PHOTO BY SKERPON PHOTOGRAPHY



Ben Grosse '21 (BUS), Co-founder and CMO

MXERS Audio, Minneapolis, Minnesota; mxersaudio.com

While still in high school, Ben Grosse launched MXERS Audio, a maker of bespoke earbuds. He and friend and business partner Bharat Pulgram built the prototype by hand in a suburban Minneapolis basement. Today, their growing company produces a full line of devices that are customizable by color, style, and fit, and are specifically tuned for different genres of music. "What's undervalued by prospective entrepreneurs is the *why* factor," says Grosse, who serves as a student advisor to UConn's Peter J. Werth Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. "Why should you buy our earbuds — or any other product?" For MXERS fans the answer is crystal clear: cool design and quality audio that cuts through the noise of a crowded market. —CLAIRE HALL; PHOTO BY NATHAN OLDHAM





Mark Smith '13 MS, CEO

Macroscopic Solutions,
Tolland, Connecticut;
macroscopicsolutions.com

Winner of the 2013 Innovation Quest competition, Smith designs, manufactures, and markets the Macropod, a microscope imaging system that produces astonishingly detailed pictures of the hidden natural world. NASA uses a Macropod to study microbes present in the closed environments of spacecraft. Other customers include the United States Geological Survey, Harvard University, the Department of Agriculture, and natural history museums the world over. "The Smithsonian is one of our top clients," says Smith, who runs the business with his wife, Annette Evans, a Ph.D. student in evolutionary biology at UConn. One key to the company's success? Its drive to constantly upgrade both technology and customer service. "What can we do better?" Smith asks. "What features would clients like to see? That's what we've been able to do pretty well, and that's what we'll continue to do." —KEVIN MARKEY; PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS



Brittany Molkenthin '17 (NUR), CEO

Lactation Innovations,
Hartford, Connecticut

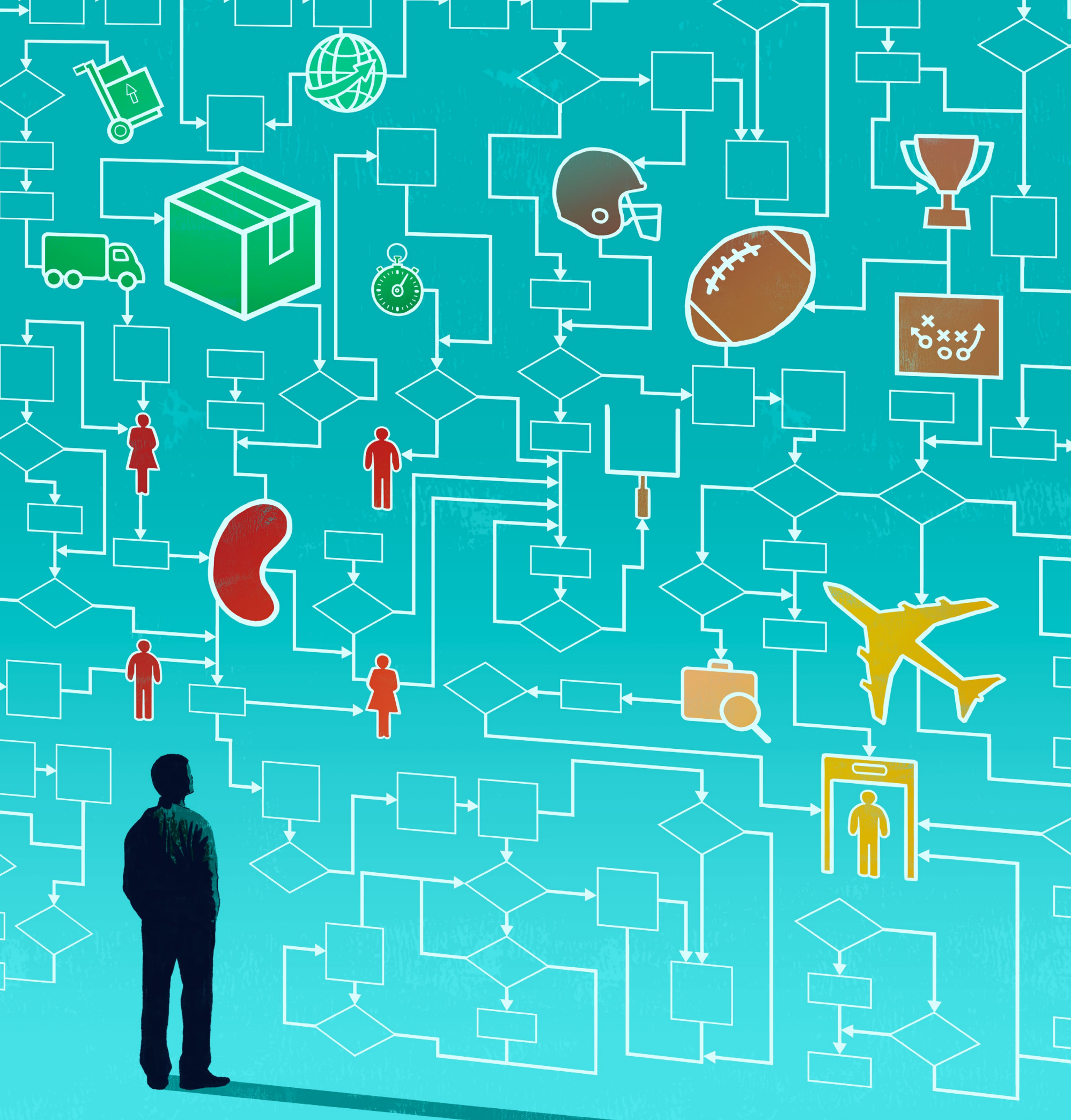
Inspiration for the device that Molkenthin has already secured a provisional patent for came to the recent nursing grad during her junior year, while she was spending a day at a hospital shadowing a lactation consultant.

"I saw a lot of new mothers struggling, upset, even tearful," she says. They were frustrated and asking, "How do I even know if my baby is getting enough breast milk? She seems like she's fed, but then she's crying as though she's still hungry."

Later, in a Healthcare Innovations Program class, professors Christine Meehan and Anna Bourgault asked students what they would design if they could improve something in the medical field. Molkenthin began collaborating with several UConn biomedical engineering students and before the end of her senior year had a working model for her device. A sensor on the infant's stomach calculates breast milk consumption based on reflection and absorption and transmits that data via Bluetooth to an app that a mother can track to figure out what works best for her baby. "It takes something that's so subjective right now and makes it objective," says Molkenthin.

—JESSE RIFKIN; PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

For more entrepreneurial alums go to s.uconn.edu/CEOs



How to Win Your NFL Pool, Thwart a Terrorist, Maximize Delivery Routes — and Find the Perfect Kidney Match

All you need is the everything algorithm, says professor Bergman

By Jeff Wagenheim
Illustrations by Rob Dobi

David Bergman grew up in White Plains, New York. His mother had immigrated from Morocco, his father from Israel. “They had no idea about American football,” says Bergman, who nonetheless became a huge football fan. It wasn’t the Giants or Jets who piqued his passion, though. Bergman’s chosen team was, and is, the Minnesota Vikings. Now what are the odds of that?

Well, if anyone can tell you the odds of that, it would be Bergman himself. An assistant professor in the Operations and Information Management Department of UConn’s School of Business, Bergman teaches and researches in the field of optimization, which falls under the umbrella of analytics. And he’s found a way to work American football into the mix.

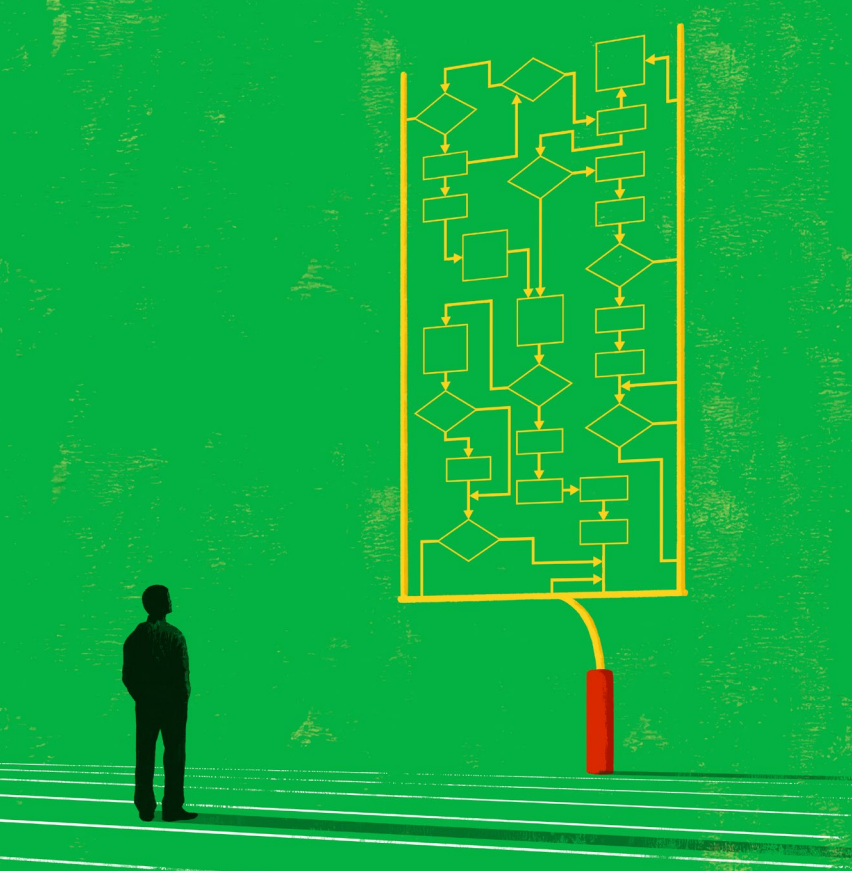
Bergman’s specific area of academic study is computational optimization, which involves developing computer algorithms for automated decision-making — a field called prescriptive analytics. It differs from the other branches of analytics in that it doesn’t just interpret data, as in descriptive analytics, or predict future events based on that data interpretation, as in predictive analytics. Prescriptive analytics uses the ongoing collection

of data to automate decision-making in an ever-changing landscape.

“The problems are super complex and they can have a really large impact,” says Bergman. But basically, “it’s a way to drive efficiency or effectiveness in your organization.”

Hence, Bergman is called upon to tackle the streamlining of quandaries in fields ranging from cybersecurity risk assessment and military equipment procurement to parcel delivery timelines and airline crew scheduling. His expertise also happens to work well in football gambling, particularly for NFL fantasy survivor pools.

If you’re unfamiliar with that type of football pool, it’s really simple. And not simple at all. You enter a survival pool at the start of the NFL season, and your first task is to choose one of the winning teams from among the 16 games in Week 1 (in order to survive to do the same in Week 2, and so on). So let’s say the New England Patriots, who have played in three of the



“Problems that took three months to solve 10 years ago now take a second or two on my laptop.”

last four Super Bowls, are scheduled to open the season against the Cleveland Browns, who were 1-31 the last two seasons. You couldn't find an easier pick than that, right?

“Yes, you would be very confident in picking the Patriots to win that game,” says Bergman. “But they might not be your best Week 1 pick.”

That's because there's a twist in the rules of a survivor pool: Once you make a team your weekly pick, you cannot choose that team again for the remainder of the season. If you survive to the 17th and final week of games, then, you will have used up 16 teams — one a week — and will have only 16 from which to choose a winner. It could be slim pickings if you don't plan ahead. So you might want to save those high-flying Pats for later in the schedule, when your options are limited.

Don't Just Take Things One at a Time

This type of quandary is called a sequential stochastic assignment problem, says Bergman. “It's a mouthful.”

To take a bite out of this type of problem, you must make a sequence of choices in which each one places limits on the choices available to you in future decision-making. Bergman worked with University of North Alabama economics professor Jason Imbrogno to create an algorithm to automate these decisions, which can address matters far more critical than football.

The same algorithm can be applied, for instance, to such high-stakes concerns as the allocation of donor kidneys to patients. One patient in need might be a perfect match for the first kidney that becomes available, but that patient also might have a compatibility broad enough to match later kidneys. So the greater good might be served by matching the first kidney with a patient with less universal compatibility.

“How do you match a donor with a patient in a way that not only maximizes the probability of a good match in that case,” asks Bergman, “but also gives your next patient-donor decision the best chance of success?”

Bergman believes his algorithm also could enhance airport security screening. Airport security staff has a finite number of agents available at each checkpoint and a constant flow of passengers to be screened or allowed to pass. Every time an agent is with someone, that's one fewer agent available to deal with the approaching horde. So the ongoing decisions on who to screen must be spot-on. “You want to maximize the agents' availability without compromising security,” he says. “There are sequential decisions that can be automated.”

The same is true of military or airline crew scheduling, both of which are complex tasks that cry out for efficiency and automation. As does parcel delivery — 10,000 packages to handle in a day, picked up within specific time windows, delivered within specific time windows, going here, there, and everywhere via various modes of transportation. “The decision-making that the parcel services face every day is so large-scale and so complicated,” says Bergman, “that they employ fleets of people with my background.”

The possibilities for applying his calculations are “literally endless,” says Bergman. “There are a lot of ways we can make an impact in optimizing decisions using our algorithm. With automated decision-making using predictive models, you can maximize almost anything, as long as you know what you want to maximize.”

The Secret to Winning Your Pool

As for the NFL survivor pool, the appeal is to conquer an increasingly popular pastime — one that is potentially enriching as well, with millions of dollars being bet each season. And the entirety of the problem is set out in front of you all at once, with the available data just a jumping-off point for finding optimal solutions. The key to success is establishing the framework for your decision-making.

If you take the most myopic approach to the pool, considering only which team has the best chance of success this week, you have a high probability of making it through several weeks. But then things will get difficult. “You run out of good options,” says Bergman, “and your probability of survival tanks.”

You also can end up being left with bad choices later in the NFL schedule if you

take the opposite approach: plan out your picks for the entire 17-week season in your initial calculations. Teams rise and fall, stumble and regroup as the weeks go by. Those defending champions might look unbeatable as the schedule is getting under way, but by Week 10 — which is when your preseason analysis told you to pick them as your weekly winner — they're in last place, their season in wreckage. “Probabilities change as the season progresses, sometimes substantially,” says Bergman. “So if you plan out your whole season, you might end up saving a team that later on makes no sense.”

Bergman and Imbrogno suggest that you adopt a half-season-remaining plan.

gorithms have never been more efficient. In the last 20 years, Bergman estimates, optimization technology has sped up by a million times. “That is not an exaggeration,” he says. “Problems that took three months to solve 10 years ago now take a second or two on my laptop.”

But while Bergman can calculate for you the optimal picks for the next eight weeks of the NFL season, he would be selling your chances short if he did so and left it at that. The optimal strategy calls for one more step. “Even football experts are able to predict the outcomes of NFL games with only around 65 to 70 percent accuracy,” he points out, “so the probability of you lasting the whole season is

an opportune time,” he says. “I didn't pick this career path with any expectation that this was going to be a super exciting time to do it. But timing is everything.”

Of course, Bergman recognizes that timing has its own complexities. He and his wife recently became parents, and they've already been inundated by information and warnings about children's screen time and access to technology. He is equipped more than most dads to recognize the benefits, and he's in the process of gaining firsthand experience with the challenges. “As a society, we are going to have to work on being more conscious,” he says. “But that's not my research area. I just work on making things more



“You can maximize almost anything, as long as you know what you want to maximize.”

Base your Week 1 pick on probabilities for the first eight weeks. For Week 2, refine the probabilities through Week 9. And so on. “A rolling horizon is the way to go,” says Bergman. “This strategy has proved better than millions of other strategies people employ. You're planning ahead, but with the flexibility to recalculate.”

Those calculations — sorting through 15 or 16 games a week for eight weeks — might sound complicated, but they can happen in milliseconds these days. Computers gain speed every year, and al-

minuscent.” The way to go, then, is to buy in with multiple entries — as many as the organizers will allow — and play each entry against the others. “This is the secret sauce,” he says. “Your probability of surviving in the pool increases significantly.”

Timing Is Everything

Bergman considers himself lucky to be living in this time in history when advances in technology have put analytics at center stage in the business world and elsewhere. “I got my Ph.D. in this field at

efficient.”

Including his own survival pools. “Football is such a complex game, with so many factors having an impact on every play. There's so much going on that it's a very hard game to predict. But I love trying.”

And if things get too topsy-turvy for any algorithm, Bergman can always return to the childhood technique that made him choose the Vikings and started his NFL fandom: “I think it was because I liked the team colors.”

The Fight for

Physical Literacy

Elementary schools are associate professor Lindsay DiStefano's battleground. "Move!" is her rallying cry.

By Elaina Hancock '09 MS
Photos by Peter Morenus



Spend any amount of time around kids and it quickly becomes evident that they need to move. Running, jumping, and dancing are not just outlets for the limitless childhood energy we wish we could bottle up and use as adults — they are another form of literacy, says Lindsay DiStefano, an associate professor in kinesiology at UConn. Just as with reading literacy, she says, a strong early foundation in physical literacy will have lifetime benefits. Studies show that developing a good sense of balance, for example, can cut the risk of ankle and lower-leg injuries by half.

Much of DiStefano's research these days is focused on measuring the benefits of activity breaks for elementary school students. Schools across the country are facing budget choices that result in cuts to physical education programs and decreased recess time.

In the same vein as "sitting is the new smoking," this trend of shortening recess and cutting physical education opportunities in today's schools is doing a disservice

to children far beyond just keeping them at the desk when they could be moving.

A recent study published in *The Journal of Pediatrics* showed that more physical activity for school-age kids resulted in improvements in behavior and academics, namely in math and reading skills. The National Association of Physical Literacy (NAPL) states that 87 percent of students who practice physical literacy day to day are more successful academically, are more comfortable in social situations, and are happier overall. This is a message DiStefano, who serves on the NAPL advisory board, is eager to get out.

Using lesson plans or resources available online, such as the GoNoodle exercise videos, DiStefano and her students have been working with Jennifer McGarry and the Husky Sport program to get school kids moving.

"In general, physical literacy is just like learning to read," says DiStefano. "Gaining reading literacy is important for kids in order to succeed throughout their education. Physical literacy is important for children to develop in order for them to be physically active for a lifetime."

Q: What is physical literacy?

A: The definition being adopted in the U.S. is the ability, confidence, and desire to be active. If kids don't have foundational physical skills, if

they don't know how to do the basics like jump properly, they won't feel confident being active and will be less likely to participate in physical activities in the future.

Q: You studied sports medicine in undergrad and grad school at Boston University and then UNC-Chapel Hill. How did you get from there to researching physical literacy in young children?

A: My research background in sports medicine started specifically with identifying and correcting risk factors for common injuries. I saw that a lot of what we consider today as risk factors for injury are actually related to children not learning normal motor control. If a child isn't given adequate physical opportunities and experience, there's a risk that they will not know how to control their body correctly when they try to play a sport as an adult, which may be setting them up for the risk of injury. And they will be less likely to participate in physical activity across their lifetime.

Q: So how do we fix that?

A: The best way to reach every child is through school. A big component is getting teachers to incorporate physical activities into the classroom experience. This gives teachers the opportunity to help children learn how to control their body and be exposed to different types of movement. And classroom-based physical activity breaks have been shown to improve student attention, behavior, and academic performance. This is really a win-win for teachers and students.

Q: How much of an activity break is enough to yield positive effects?

A: The longer the better, how-

ever there have been studies done that show even a five-minute break can give kids an effective dose of activity. So if they had two five-minute breaks a day, that's an extra 50 minutes of physical activity they are getting over the course of a week, and that makes a big difference.

Kids should be getting at least 60 minutes of physical activity per day. Even better, if they got five minutes every hour throughout the school day, that would give children roughly an extra 30 minutes per day, so that would be huge when you think about children's overall physical activity levels in our country.

Basically the message is just do *something*. I think a lot of teachers, when you ask them to do a five-minute break each hour, that might seem a little too daunting, whereas if you say just try at least once a day, give these kids five to ten minutes, that seems like a good place to start.

Q: Why is it so important to start young? Is it too late for older children or adults to improve their physical literacy?

A: There have been a lot of studies that show that just 10 minutes of active warm-up prior to a game or practice — those exercises that emphasize balance, flexibility, agility, strengthening, and plyometrics — can substantially reduce the risk of sport-related injury.

But we also know that it's substantially harder for an adult to learn a new task than for a child. Mature motor development happens between 10 and 12 years of age. This is where we believe the push should really be made, in elementary and middle school children, because at these ages they should have the ability to improve much easier and much faster.

"A lot of my research centers on preventing any injuries from happening, because once you sustain one injury, you're more likely to sustain more."

Q: What would you say are the main enemies of physical literacy today?

A: Cutting back on recess, cutting back on physical education activity, lack of free play, more video games, and families not having as much time to enjoy physical activity together. All of these are big factors that decrease physical literacy. Also, adults are role models for activity. Low levels of adult physical activity in this country is also hurting the children.

Q: When you say that physical literacy decreases the chance of injury, what kinds of injuries can be reduced?

A: A lot of lower-body injuries, knee pain, ACL injuries, and stress fractures; they share common risk factors. Activities to reduce any one injury will reduce all of those injuries. Basically a lot of those injuries happen because an athlete or child does not know how to properly control their body during fastpaced movement and so they load their joints improperly. A lot of my research centers on preventing any injuries from happening, because once you sustain one injury, you're more likely to sustain more.

Q: Did that happen to you?

A: I grew up playing soccer and ice hockey. I played hockey at BU and had seven different orthopedic surgeries: shoulder, knee, ankle, wrist, hands. But I worked with great athletic trainers to help me return to play. Because of an injury my senior year at

BU, I got to work closely with a fantastic orthopedic surgeon who was actively engaged in research — and that's how I got the research bug.

Q: Do you still play ice hockey?

A: Now I just play sports for fun with my kids, and I coach youth hockey. I've got three little kids, so I have that motivation to ensure that they and their peers grow up and know how critical moving throughout their lives can be. All of my kids' teams do preventive training and we've started evaluating kids for physical literacy. It definitely helps communicating with the parents of athletes that I coach now.

Q: You're an advocate of sports sampling. What is that?

A: It's much easier to learn movement control if children are exposed to a lot of different types of movement activity. Therefore it's important to sample a lot of different sports, aka "sports sampling." If you hear, "I don't like sports" or "I don't like basketball," well, have you tried different activities? Have you tried one of the 100 other options? If children try a lot of different types of activities, it is more likely they will find something they're really passionate about. It also means they will learn a lot of different types of movement and body control. So controlling objects with the upper body — hitting and striking, using the lower body — kicking or

controlling an object with the feet — different types of activities control different aspects of the body.

Q: How do you counsel parents on sports specialization, something we are hearing so much about these days?

A: Sports specialization is the opposite of sports sampling. Basically it is when a child starts to only play one sport for the majority of the year at the expense of playing other sports. Frequently it happens when athletes demonstrate some talent and their coaches or parents start to think they are likely to get a scholarship or play professionally, so they end up playing that sport year-round.

When kids start specializing before the age of 12, they tend to get burned out or hurt. A good rule of thumb is to ensure your child is active 60 minutes a day, one sport per season, a different sport every season. Kids can go outside and play all they want, but should have no more hours per week of organized activity than their age, so a 9-year-old should not be doing more than nine hours of organized physical activity per week.

The goal is for children to improve their physical activity participation, and it's not as simple as creating opportunities for them. We need to do a better job of ensuring that kids have developed the skills and desire to be active, so they can be safe while they are active and so they can stay active for life. ☺

"Gaining reading literacy is important for kids in order to succeed throughout their education. Physical literacy is important for children to develop in order for them to be physically active for a lifetime."

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY



NO, KANYE, THAT'S NOT HOW IT HAPPENED.

For photo information see page 5

MANISHA SINHA'S HISTORY LESSONS TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT SLAVERY IN THE UNITED STATES.

When Draper Chair of American History Manisha Sinha was a child, growing up in India between Patna, one of the oldest inhabited places in the world, and Delhi, one of today's most populous cities, dinnertime was a lot like it is for most families. Or so she insists.

"Every family has its disagreements, and we were no different," she says. "We would argue about history over the table."

Sinha's father, Lt.-Gen. Srinivas Kumar Sinha of the Indian army, and her mother, a Gandhian nationalist, often recalled stories from India's declaration of independence in 1947. She and her two sisters, one of whom also is an endowed professor of history and the other a high school history teacher, and her brother, India's current ambassador to the United Kingdom, were thoughtful children. Drilled into them at an early age was a passion for debate, grounded in the idea that no successful future is possible without understanding the past.

Perhaps it's no surprise, then, that this summer, when Kanye West called the 400-year legacy of slavery in the U.S. "a choice," Sinha wasn't having it.

Drawing on her decorated 2016 book, *The Slave's Cause: A History of Abolition*, she told *Time* magazine that West would do well to read the history, including the slave spirituals, that his own music stems from. "He ought to know that even when

blacks were enslaved, their minds were not enslaved," she said. "When they did not have the right to vote, they voted with their feet."

The Slave's Cause, which was long-listed for the National Book Award for nonfiction among a half-dozen other awards, illustrates the many and often overlooked ways that slaves fought for their own freedom. Sinha's work teaches students, politicians — and yes, the odd celebrity — that history matters.

"These are historical legacies — we still live with them today — and we must learn from them," she says.

A 'TYPICAL' IMMIGRANT

Sinha's light laugh lilts down the corridor outside her Wood Hall office. She has worked here since fall 2017, arriving from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where she spent the first 20 years of her career and received that university's highest honor, the Chancellor's Medal. Before that, she attended Columbia for her Ph.D.; before that, college at Delhi University. Now, with the Connecticut breeze blowing her hair through the opened window, she notes that she's lived longer in the U.S. than in the country of her birth.

"It's a pretty typical immigrant expe-

rience," she muses. "I got my first job, my first car, everything — here in the U.S."

Her father, who would later be called "the thinking man's soldier" and a "sensitive, sympathetic, and enlightened general" by the press, spent his career wedged between a deep patriotism for his native country and a struggle for respect from Britain and its leaders.

As one of the first Indian officers in the British army, Srinivas argued in his writing — and at his dinner table — that it was of utmost importance for Indians to be represented in British institutions. Yet Sinha's mother, Premini, who wore only hand-woven Indian khadi robes and espoused the Gandhian principles of Indian patriotism and nonviolence, often challenged Srinivas' positive view of the British.

"My father said that Indians being in British institutions allowed for access to resources Indians might not have," says Sinha. "Yet then there was my mother, the Gandhian."

In part because of these discussions, Sinha held from early childhood a deep fascination with colonial India and its independence. She studied the writings of Mohandas Gandhi, and from there turned to the similar writings of Martin Luther King Jr.

"I became very interested in race in American democracy because of India's history of colonialism with the British,"

Sinha says.

“During the civil rights movement, Martin Luther King Jr. invoked Gandhi’s idea of nonviolent protest. But in fact there were American abolitionists and thinkers who had used it even before Gandhi, like Thoreau in his *Civil Disobedience*.”

At Columbia, her dissertation on slaveholders was nominated for the competitive Bancroft Prize and eventually became her first book, *The Counterrevolution of Slavery: Politics and Ideology in Antebellum South Carolina* (The University of North Carolina Press, 1994).

“After all that, I wanted to write a book about people I actually liked,” she says with a laugh.

THE SLAVE’S CAUSE

In 2004, Sinha spent a year at the American Antiquarian Society on a coveted National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship. There she spent weeks reading abolitionist newspapers and experienced a true historian’s thrill when she uncovered original pamphlets signed by prominent black abolitionist Martin Delany.

The culmination of this research, 10 years in the making, was *The Slave’s Cause*. The book counters the position, held by many historians, that white abolitionists by and large delivered slaves from bondage through their own newspapers, speeches, and petitions. After all, how could slaves work on their own behalf when they were enslaved?

In fact, some of the earliest anti-slavery organizations were started in Connecticut, says Sinha. Slaves and black freemen were petitioning for emancipation here and in Massachusetts and New Hampshire as early as the Revolutionary era. These early black abolitionists’ anti-slavery, desegregation, and racial equality ideals in turn influenced white abolitionist speakers and publishers.

“These groups were already imagining the interracial democracy we live in today,” says Sinha.

But the bulk of our histories focus too much on white abolitionists as the savior of the black man. In many cases, she says, historians are too influenced by the perspectives of their primary sources.

“For too long historians of abolition have told its story in a fragmented fash-

ion and continue to do so along the lines of race and gender,” she writes in the book’s introduction. “I have found them [traditional abolitionist divisions] to be far less important than the attention lavished on them suggests and highly conducive to the perpetuation of stereotypes that defy the historical record.”

Sinha says that historical studies are now enjoying something of a renaissance, with the perspectives of traditionally oppressed groups, such as women and people of color.

“We’ve come to a point where we can tell big stories with many historical actors,” she says. “Now, we can rise above telling simple histories. We can show that people who were excluded from formal politics could still act politically. We can tell representative histories.”

A BIG YEAR

The smashing success of *The Slave’s Cause* surprised even Sinha.

“It blew my mind. I didn’t think it would have this attraction outside academia, but it did. It was a big year for me.”

On Sept. 14, 2016, *The Slave’s Cause* was named to the National Book Award for Nonfiction long list, an honor given to only 10 U.S. books each year. In October, Sinha set off on a monthlong book tour in the U.K., with stops in Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Nottingham, and London. She was celebrating her birthday on

“THESE GROUPS WERE ALREADY IMAGINING THE INTERRACIAL DEMOCRACY WE LIVE IN TODAY.”

Nov. 2 back in Massachusetts when her father called from Delhi. He wished her a happy 54th birthday but also mentioned that he’d just fallen.

“I said, ‘Oh my God, have you called the doctor?’” remembers Sinha. “And he said, ‘No, I wanted to wish you a happy birthday first.’”

Sinha flew to Delhi and spent a week with Srinivas in the hospital while he recovered from a successful surgery to mend a broken leg and hip. The parade of friends, family, and government officials who came to visit all heard about his daughter’s glory.

“He kept telling everyone my book won the U.S. National Book Award, and I would say ‘No, Dad, it’s on the long list, it didn’t win!’” Sinha laughs.

During that week, Srinivas touched up his recently finished autobiography and penned the last of a long line of op-eds, according to Sinha. With his prognosis for recovery good, Sinha said goodbye and returned to a country that had just elected Donald Trump president.

“I thought, that cannot be,” said the self-described Clinton supporter. “And then I got the call that my father was back in ICU with sepsis.”

He died a few days later, just short of his 92nd birthday.

So while her fellow National Book Award honorees spent a weekend in New York for the annual awards celebration, Sinha found herself back in Delhi for the funeral.

“We were all influenced by our father.

He wrote more books than me and my sister combined,” says Sinha. “I would video chat him in the mornings when I’d be getting ready to write. He really was my biggest supporter.”

Srinivas’s biography, *Raj to Swaraj (War to Independence)*, was published posthumously in 2017.

GREAT DEBATES

On a crisp September day in 2017, in a classroom in Wood Hall, Sinha asks students in her History 3510: Civil War in America class to take sides.

Chaos had erupted in Charlottesville, Virginia, two months earlier, when a neo-Nazi march to protect Confederate monuments was met by anti-racist counter-protesters, one of whom, Heather Heyer, was killed. The flames of the national debate about Confederate monuments were fanned, and Sinha wanted her class to participate.

“I divided the room in half, and I said okay, this side must defend keeping the monuments, and this side must advocate for taking them down,” she says. “It was a big challenge.”

But by that point in the class, says Sinha, her students had read enough newspapers, speeches, and essays from the Reconstruction era when many of the statues were erected to understand the context of their construction.

“Because they knew the context, they did a fabulous job arguing with each other,” she says. “They learned the history through direct engagement with sources, and that demands more of them.”

There’s always a waiting list for Sinha’s class, and she loves teaching it, especially since the room is full of freshmen through seniors, who are unafraid to disagree with one another — or with her. She engages with students from all sides of the political spectrum, ensuring that they use primary documents to inform their opinions.

“Sometimes people will say: ‘The war wasn’t about slavery, but about states’ rights,’” she says. “To that I say, I’m not going to argue with you about that, I’m just going to point you to the letters that Southern officials wrote to one another, trying to work out how to keep slavery alive.”

These debates also teach students the relevance of the humanities, Sinha says.

“It’s through these kinds of interactions that my students learn to understand the present moment, with context,” she states. “They learn that history matters.”

As the endowed James L. and Shirley A. Draper Chair in American History, Sinha is charged with enhancing the academic experience in early American

of Abraham Lincoln.

“I would prescribe it,” she says. “He confronted the worst crisis in this country’s history. Presidents should learn from his humility and from what he understood as patriotism. It was not to triumph. It was not jingoism. He knew that the highest form of patriotism can be dissent.”

“THESE ARE HISTORICAL LEGACIES — WE STILL LIVE WITH THEM TODAY — AND WE MUST LEARN FROM THEM.”

studies at UConn. She inaugurated biannual symposiums in American history, with themes like Confederate monuments and history and the law. In spring 2019 it will delve into the Reconstruction era, the topic of her upcoming book. The symposium draws historians and public intellectuals from around the country, an exceptional experience for her students.

“I really get to know my students,” she says. “It’s a wonderful thing about UConn, that classes can be small and you can have real discussions. It helps me, too, by influencing my writing, because I can figure out where my audience is coming from.”

A HISTORY PRESCRIPTION

Kanye West isn’t the only public figure who could learn from her students’ example, says Sinha. Precious few politicians seem to know their history, she says, including members of Congress and presidents. If she had her way, all presidents would read the complete writings

Sinha has written extensively in the popular press about historical parallels. She’s likened the progressive politics of the Obama administration to equal rights gains during the Reconstruction era, and cautioned that those gains could slip away, just as Reconstruction gave way to the Jim Crow era. ☺



Sinha teaching this fall. To see photos of her with her father, go to s.uconn.edu/sinha.

Peter Morenus

WHAT'S NEXT?

“My expectations are higher than those of the most delusional fan,” says Dan Hurley, the new men’s basketball coach.

By Elizabeth Omara-Otunnu
Photos by Peter Morenus

Just watching a Dan Hurley workout is exhausting. He’s constantly on the move, gesticulating, goading, galvanizing his players. He doesn’t wear a whistle. He wants the players to keep moving, switching seamlessly from one drill to another, heeding instructions on the fly, making the most of every NCAA-allowed minute.

These hourlong summer workouts are intense and highly competitive. There are winners and losers. Scores are kept and posted in the gym, the locker room, and the weight room for all to see. Hurley seems to notice every detail of every individual, and not just their basketball skills. He’s observing pace, effort, and demeanor as well, and has even called out a couple of guys for being poker-faced. If you’re on Coach Hurley’s team, you need to show your passion.

While he’s intent on preparing his current players for the upcoming season, Hurley also has an eye to the recruits who come to Storrs and watch a workout, knowing it will appeal only to those who are ready for that level of intensity. “If you’re a competitive player,” he says, “you’ll love this kind of environment.”

Embracing the Hurley way is the one condition he laid out when, little more than 24 hours after he decided to accept the position of head coach at UConn, Hurley met — alone — with his new team in the locker room at the Werth Family UConn Basketball Champions Center.

The players were demoralized from a second losing season and uncertain about

their future. Addressing the 10 eligible to return, he told them things were going to be different, but they would have to allow him to coach and that would mean being hard on them.

Minutes later, beneath the championship banners on the practice court, Hurley was formally introduced to UConn Nation as the Huskies’ new coach. The future of UConn Men’s Basketball had begun.

The Power of the UConn Brand

Hurley inherited a UConn program that had lost its way coming off the era of Hall of Fame Coach Jim Calhoun and struggling to adapt to new conference realities, despite winning its fourth National Championship under Kevin Ollie just four years ago.

But, he says, he likes to fix things, and it would be hard to find a coach with a résumé better suited to the task. The son of Hall of Fame high school coach Bob Hurley (“I learned 95 percent of what I know from my dad”), he scored more than 1,000 points as a point guard at Seton Hall, coached four years at Rutgers as an assistant, nine years as head coach at St. Benedict’s prep school, and is entering his ninth year as a Division I head coach after stints at Wagner and the University of Rhode Island.

He has a track record of building or rebuilding programs. He transformed St. Benedict’s into a national high school basketball powerhouse; turned Wagner



In a rare still moment, Hurley crouches under the basket to watch players during a summer workout.

“THE WORKOUTS ARE INTENSE, BUT WE KNOW IT’S GOING TO PAY OFF.” —Christian Vital

around in just two years; and in six years led the struggling Rhode Island Rams from just seven wins the previous season to an Atlantic 10 conference championship, regular season championship, and two consecutive trips to the NCAA Tournament.

Hurley, long familiar with the UConn brand — both as a player on a rival Big East team and as a high school coach whose players were sometimes recruited by Coach Calhoun — says being the Huskies’ coach is his dream job. Though the brand was forged during the glory days of the Big East, he is determined to both carry it forward and reshape it, blending UConn tradition with Hurley family reputation. “We’re going to build a program so strong that conference affiliation isn’t what the fans or the media are talking about,” he says.

While others will doubtless measure his success based on Final Four appearances, championships won, and the number of first-round NBA picks he produces, that won’t be enough for Hurley: “I measure myself that way too — I’m as competitive as anyone you’ll ever meet — but I measure myself by the impact I have on my players’ lives.”

Building a Championship Culture

Hurley wasted no time starting to build the program — getting to know his players and reaching out to their families, the academic advisor, and the athletic trainer in an effort to understand his team.

No player left, and none was asked to leave. No matter that he hadn’t recruited them. “My relationship with players is about trying to transform the people that you meet,” he says.

The players believe in his ability to lead them forward. “He came from a winning background,” says junior guard Christian Vital. “Every place he went, it was struggling to begin with and ended up in a better place because of him.”

After watching video of more than 20 of last season’s games, Hurley picked out clips where he felt the players weren’t aggressive, or played selfishly, where they were out-rebounded, or allowed the other team to dictate the game. That’s never going to happen again, he told them.

He filled the three open scholarships with two graduate transfers and a freshman he had previously recruited to URI, chosen not only for their talent but for character and work ethic as well. One of the graduate students, Tarin Smith, played for Bob Hurley Sr. in high school.

And he set out to hire “one of the best all-around staffs in the country.” In short order, he named three assistant coaches, selected for their all-around skills and “head coach quality.” Kenya Hunter, Kimani Young, and Tom Moore are experienced Division I coaches with long-standing networks of relationships that between them cover the key recruiting areas of New York, New Jersey, New England, and the mid-Atlantic.

Strength and conditioning coach Sal Alosi was brought in to develop a 24-hour wellness program, while former UConn standout and 2004 national championship point guard Taliek Brown was hired as director of player development. Brown also is tasked with strengthening connections with former Huskies, a process Hurley kicked off soon after his arrival by sending about 500 personal letters introducing himself to the program’s former players and student managers.

Hurley wants everything that touches his players to contribute to the championship culture he is aiming for, and there is no detail too large or too small for his attention. “If we have Final Four aspirations and championship goals, everything has to function at a high level,” he says, “from our facilities, to the way we’re marketing the program, to our academic support program.”

With so much to be done, the new coach’s days begin at 5 a.m. — with meditation, prayer and Bible reading, journal writing, and an hourlong physical workout before he even begins his commute to Storrs (90 minutes each way from Rhode Island for most of the summer). From workout to the weight room to media interviews to meetings with administrators, followed by a huddle with his assistants in the conference room, he doesn’t stop. Not even for lunch — instead he brings healthy snacks from home.

But he does recognize that he occasionally needs to press the reset button. And when the shades are drawn on the door to his office, his staff know not to disturb him. He finds meditation, part of his practice of Thai yoga, helps him think more clearly. “I’m making so many choices during the day that will have such an impact on so many people,” he says, “I’ve gotta have my mind right.”

Creating New Habits

As the summer days and weeks lengthen into months, the Huskies are practicing hard, eating better, sleeping more, and growing closer as a team. The new conditioning regime has some beefing up, others slimming down, and all looking toned and fit. Thanks to a sleep tracker on their phones, they are monitoring their own sleep, aiming to get the eight hours a day recommended by “Coach Sal.” And they are all doing better at eating three meals a day.

“Paying attention to the small things now is going to amount to achieving our bigger goals as a team,” says senior guard Jalen Adams. “The workouts are intense,” says Vital, “but we know it’s going to pay off.”

“We’re trying to put ourselves in the best position possible, physically and mentally,” says point guard Alterique Gilbert, a former McDonald’s All-American who missed two years in a row due to injury and is still rehabbing this summer after shoulder surgery. Hurley and his assistants are working with him



The logo is the spot for huddles and team meetings, including weekly book club. “Our job is to educate the guys for the 40 to 50 years when they’re not playing basketball,” says Hurley.

“BETTER, SMARTER PEOPLE MAKE BETTER PLAYERS.”

individually, to get him up to speed and build his confidence without prematurely exposing him to contact.

Gilbert says Hurley is a very hands-on coach. “He’s such a great leader. He knows exactly what to do and when to do it. He pushes you in a way you still feel motivated.” The players agree that Hurley is tough but say he takes the time to explain what he’s doing and why. “He’s gonna tell you the truth, whether that’s good or bad,” says Gilbert.

Hurley also holds his players accountable. “If you mess up, he’s not going to let you get away with it,” says Adams. “He lets the whole team know, and the whole team has to come up with a way to resolve it.”

When Coach rips into two players for slacking on sprints — the sprints themselves being a penalty — two of their teammates call the entire team together for an impromptu players-only meeting to discuss the situation.

Hurley demands nothing less of his players than to be the best they can be in everything. It’s not just about competing and performing every single drill at the highest level. It’s also about going to every class, earning the highest grades they’re capable of, and even standing out among teammates in community service with youngsters: “Be the player the kids remember most,” as he puts it.

“Our job is to educate the guys for the 40 to 50 years when they’re not playing basketball,” says Hurley.

“All the coaches are on us about having more to our identity than basketball,” says Adams. “They say, ‘When basketball stops, who are you?’”

One of Hurley’s strongest messages is the importance of constantly learning and growing. “Better, smarter people make better players,” he says. To that end, the coach — who taught history at St. Benedict’s and aims to read a couple of books a month in his spare time — launched a team book club.

When he handed out copies of the motivational book *Chop Wood Carry Water: How to Fall in Love with the Process of Becoming Great*, it prompted some side-

ways glances. But when players, coaches, and staff gathered on the practice court around the Husky dog logo for the club’s first meeting, Hurley says he was “blown away” that every single player had read the set passages and joined actively in the discussion. Little more than two months since he’d taken over, there already was a different mindset on the team.

“Everybody’s buying into the process of what we have to do to be successful,” says Gilbert. “It’s definitely a different vibe. In just a couple of months, it’s crazy he’s had that big of an impact.”

The Climb Up

It was Hurley’s father, a probation officer as well as a coach, who taught him how to use sport as a vehicle to achieve a better life. “The things you learn about yourself in sports, the habits you develop, the work ethic, competitiveness, how to interact with people from all backgrounds, the skill set, can all help you become a successful person,” says Hurley, who knows firsthand the ups and downs of a college basketball player’s career.

Like many of his players, he and his older brother Bobby were raised in the inner city — specifically the schoolyards, streets, and parks of Jersey City, and on the basketball court of St. Anthony under the watchful eye of their father, Bob Hurley Sr., Naismith Hall of Fame coach.

But after a highly structured childhood and high school career, he says he lost focus during his early years as an undergraduate at Seton Hall. On the court, he struggled to live up to the Hurley name and was stung by the fans’ belittling comparisons to his brother Bobby, a four-year starter and two-time national champion at Duke who was then a rookie with the NBA’s Sacramento Kings. Early in his junior year, he says, he hit rock bottom and took a leave from the team, heading home for winter break unsure whether he would even go back to school.

Then Bobby was almost killed in a car accident. “He should have died,” says Hurley. “That was perspective right there. I had been losing my mind over not play-

ing well, but life is a lot bigger than that.”

So he returned to school, rejoined the Pirates as a redshirt, and began the climb back up. The following season he began playing for a new head coach, Jersey City native George Blaney, who would later move to UConn as associate head coach under Jim Calhoun. “Coach Blaney cared about me as a person,” he says.

“He believed in my talent as a player. He worked so hard with me to get me right. He taught me there could be love there.”

In his senior year, Hurley found love outside of basketball as well. He met his future spouse, Andrea (now his wife of 21 years and the mother of their two sons).

With his confidence and passion for the game restored, Hurley finished his college career with 1,070 points, and could have had a promising career as a professional basketball player. But he had found his calling elsewhere in the sport: “I knew, after all the things I had been through and learned as a player, that I could best use my skills as a coach.”

Can We Shock the World Again?

So where will Hurley’s coaching skills take UConn? The Huskies are hungry and so are the fans.

“We definitely want to be a tournament team. And I want one of those,” says Gilbert, with a nod to the signed 2014 championship basketball on display in Coach’s office.

But no one has higher expectations than Hurley himself. “My expectations are higher than those of the most delusional fan,” he says. “I came here to challenge myself. I want to be an elite coach, and bring UConn back to the elite level.”

As the weeks count down to the 2018-19 season, he vows there won’t be a team in the country that will play harder. “They’ll be a strong team, communicating with each other, having each other’s back, motivating each other. Those are things we can control,” he says.

No one knows how far they will go. But, says Hurley, “my goal is to be the surprise team of college basketball this year.” ☺



Peter Morenus

For information on alumni events everywhere, visit uconnalumni.com/events.

UCMB Honors Parkland Victim

Hours before kickoff for UConn’s first football game of the 2018 season, Max Schachter already knew what he’d be doing at halftime. “I’m probably going to be crying,” he says. Schachter’s 14-year-old son, Alex, was killed in a shooting at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, in February, along with 13 fellow students and three staff members.

Before the season started, the UConn Marching Band announced it would pay tribute to Alex, a trombone and euphonium player in his school marching band, by performing his favorite song, Chicago’s “25 or 6 to 4,” at halftime. Although he lived in Florida, Alex was a passionate Husky fan, growing up with a strong attachment to the University his mother and uncle had attended. Alex’s family would often include visits to campus as part of summer trips to see relatives in Connecticut.

Back home in Florida, Alex displayed his devotion by constantly wearing the same gray and blue UConn sweatshirt. “I said to him, ‘Alex, if you wear the same sweatshirt every day, people are going to think I don’t buy you any other clothes,’ and he said, ‘Dad, I don’t care,’” recalls Schachter.

After the shooting, upon hearing of Alex’s devotion, University officials sent him a posthumous letter of acceptance and named him a member of the marching and pep bands. The band hung a photo of Alex in their practice room and left an empty chair in the trombone section.

“This was early on, when I was just trying to come to grips with the enormity of the tragedy,” says Schachter. “It really touched our family, and it was a beautiful gesture of kindness to show they know that Alex loved UConn.”

In May, Schachter and his wife, Caryn DeSacia, started a UConn scholarship in Alex’s memory, intending for it to be awarded every year to a student in the marching band. Schachter says he’s hoping to raise at least \$25,000 for the fund, which people can donate to by texting UCMB to #41444 or by visiting s.uconn.edu/schachter. —TOM BREEN ’00 (CLAS), JULIE BARTUCCA ’10 (BUS, CLAS).

CLASS NOTES



➔ **Dan Mannheim '54 (CLAS)** reports that he retired in 1990 after 35 years with Sprague Electric. He has been living in Casselberry, Florida, since 1976 and says he keeps in touch with a few fraternity brothers from the former PSD chapter at UConn.



➔ **Lenny Carlson '62 (ED), '63 MS** has been named a professional basketball talent scout for Interperformances, a premier sports and

entertainment agency in Europe. ➔ The Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants recently honored **Daniel S. Firestone '63 (BUS)** of West Hartford, Connecticut, with a 50-Year Award recognizing his years in the association. Daniel owns the public accounting firm of Daniel S. Firestone, CPA, in West Hartford. He is active in the community as a member of the West Hartford Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission, a founder of the Cycling Without Age Program, and current chair of the Democratic Town Committee. He also collects and restores antique automobiles, primarily Hudsons. ➔ **Dean F. Paul '66 (CLAS)** has retired from the private practice of law and is living in Fort Worth, Texas. His recent book, *Second Thessalonians*

2:1-12 Unlocked: The Key to the Timing of the Rapture, is an expositional study of one of the most important prophetic passages in the New Testament. ➔ **Judy Strom '67 (CLAS)** and her husband Rob are grandparents to Emory Joseph Strom, who was born to Tammy Strom, of Redding, Connecticut, in August at Danbury Hospital. The baby also has an aunt, Jessica Strom, in Ridgefield, Connecticut, and an uncle, David Strom, and cousin, Juliet Strom, both in Centerville, Virginia.



➔ **Bobbie Ann Mason '72 Ph.D., '02 H** released a new book with The University Press of Kentucky

entitled *Patchwork: A Bobbie Ann Mason Reader*, a selection by the author of excerpts from her novels and memoirs, short stories, essays, interviews, and an introduction by bestselling author George Saunders. ➔ **George Jacobi '72 (CLAS)** is working as a guest curator with the Archives and Special Collections team at the Dodd Center at UConn on an exhibit titled "Dayglo and Napalm – UConn from 1967–1971" that will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the dramatic student unrest period with an exhibition running from Aug. 5, 2019, to Oct. 25, 2019. As part of the display, he and the team are requesting one-page essays from students and faculty present in those years, from all points of view, explaining their thoughts and convictions then and now. *Says George: The focus will be on cultural as well as political elements. Letters will be displayed next to photographs from that time in which the author is seen (if possible and acceptable to him or her), with the hope of giving current students a look at an era in which UConn people helped move the needle of human rights and world affairs. We want active participants, and will do our best to include all opinions. If you have anything to contribute, please email George at gifishn@sbcglobal.net.*

➔ **Joe Wocoski '73 (CLAS)** reports that he recently published his first novel, *Andy Anders and the Rebel Spies*, under the pen name Allen Alright. The novel for teens and young adults is set at the start of the Civil War in the fictional town of Mercyville, Connecticut. ➔ **Barbara Entman Synnott '76 (CLAS)** was honored with the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award, the highest accolade from *Who's Who in America*. As a student on the Storrs campus, Barbara served as publicity director and



BLISS

As usual, summer meant weddings and weddings meant Huskies everywhere (see page 7 for nuptials that featured *the Husky*, aka Jonathan, in a starring role).

1. Jeff Piascik ('14 BUS) and Zoe (Basso) Piascik '14 (CLAS) in Waterford, Connecticut, surrounded by 2014, 2015, and 2017 grads.
2. Marissa Seagrave '14 MFA and John Seagrave '12 MS with their UConn peeps in Saratoga Springs, New York.
3. Assistant band director Jessica VonVillas '12 (SFA), '16 MM with new husband Josh Dickerson and band alums in Newport, Rhode Island.
4. Alicia Affinito '17 (ENG) and Tom LaFemina '17 (ENG) with fellow proud alums – and dog.

Photos by/courtesy of: 1. Jeff Piascik; 2. Marissa Seagrave; 3. Alyssa Wood of Isa Images; 4. Alicia Affinito



Bob Stowell '70 (CLAS)

KUDOS

Welcome Back, Jamelle Elliott

"It feels good to be home," said **Jamelle Elliott '96 (BUS), '97 MA**, after being named UConn's associate athletic director for the National C Club. The mission of the just-formed C Club is to unite and engage current and former student-athletes with opportunities, such as networking and mentorship. After playing for the Huskies (she remains the sixth all-time leading rebounder with 1,054), Elliott was on the Women's Basketball coaching staff here for 12 years before heading to Cincinnati, where she was head coach from 2009 to 2018.

radio producer at WHUS-FM and was in Photopool. Upon graduating, Barbara became a professional radio broadcaster, a career that lasted nearly 20 years. She is currently a customer service professional at PSEG Long Island. ➔ **Gloria Jean Berry '78 (6th Year)**, of Windsor Locks, Connecticut, a former Hartford public school teacher, has teamed up with Createspace-Amazon to publish a combination book and journal titled *Crossroads: The Discovery Journal: Reflecting and*

Reaching Out. Although the publication targets late teens and young adults in the area of enhancing decision-making skills, she says it has something to offer other readers as well. ➔ **Tom Vaughan '79 (CLAS)** was elected National President of UNICO National, the largest Italian-American service organization in the country. UNICO National raises and donates about \$5 million a year for local and national charities and scholarships. UNICO's 5,000-plus volunteer members in 110 local chapters also work

to preserve Italian-American heritage.



➔ **Mark Vergnano '80 (ENG)**, president and CEO of The Chemours Co., has won this year's Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2018 award for the Greater Philadelphia region. ➔ **Dr. Paul Tortland '81 (CLAS), '84 MA**, a specialist in sports medicine, non-surgical orthopedics,

and regenerative medicine and orthobiologics for more than 22 years, opened the New England Stem Cell Institute in April in Glastonbury, Connecticut. He is a leader in the field of regenerative medicine treatments, including stem cell and platelet-rich plasma injections. ➔ **James Hupp '82 MD** was recently appointed professor of surgery and vice dean for academic, student and faculty affairs at the new Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine at Washington State University in Spokane,

Peter Morenus



KUDOS

HAIL TO THE CHIEF: RICHARD ROBINSON '79 (CLAS) IS THE CONNECTICUT SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE

"I was having dinner at home in the family room, watching television. My phone rings — a Stamford number that I didn't recognize. I didn't want to answer it, because I thought it was one of those robocalls," says **Richard Robinson '79 (CLAS)**. "But my wife said to answer it."

On the other end of the line was Gov. Dannel Malloy, saying that he would nominate Robinson to become Chief Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court.

"I kissed my wife and asked, 'Did you find that different...?'"

She said, 'Why?'"

I said, 'I thought you might find it different — kissing a Supreme Court Chief Justice!'"

Her reaction, he says with a laugh, "was loud."

Liberal Arts

Such an accomplished legal career didn't seem likely when Robinson first entered UConn in 1975. For one thing, he was an English major.

"I fell in love with Middle English and *The Canterbury Tales*," he says. "I can

still recite the intro." Asked to prove it, he rattles off the first eight lines: "Whan that Aprille with his shoures soote / The droghte of Marche hath perced to the roote..."

Robinson, 60, spent his first three years at UConn Stamford so he could commute. He worked several part-time jobs to help pay for school, including driving the intra-campus bus. He transferred to Storrs his senior year, desiring "that true college experience," and lived in the tight-knit, 50-person Jefferson Hall one semester.

"At Jefferson, we did a fundraiser for a charitable cause. We had this one bike going for a week, which we all had to ride for an hour at a time. The bike would go continuously around the campus," Robinson recalls. "I seem to remember being assigned the 2 to 3 a.m. shift a lot."

Sliding Doors

Graduating with a major in English and minor in ecology, Robinson told his mentor Ben Magubane, an anthropology professor who had been exiled from his own home country of South Africa, that

he was considering law school. "That's a waste of time. Go into medicine," Magubane replied.

After much thought, Robinson decided on law school and graduated from the University of West Virginia in 1984. He roots for UConn sports to this day, though admits to feeling conflicted during the seasons when the two teams competed in the same Big East conference.

"After those games," Robinson explains, "I would say I had rooted for whichever team won."

Aisle Crossings

Working for 16 years as legal counsel for the city of Stamford and the Connecticut chapter of the NAACP, Robinson gained a reputation as a rare bipartisan figure in the state.

He was nominated for his first two lower court judgeships by two Republican governors, John Rowland and Jodi Rell, and then was nominated to the Supreme Court and later appointed Chief Justice by a Democratic governor. The politically divided Senate and House both confirmed his nomination unanimously.

Which ruling does he consider his most important during his court tenure?

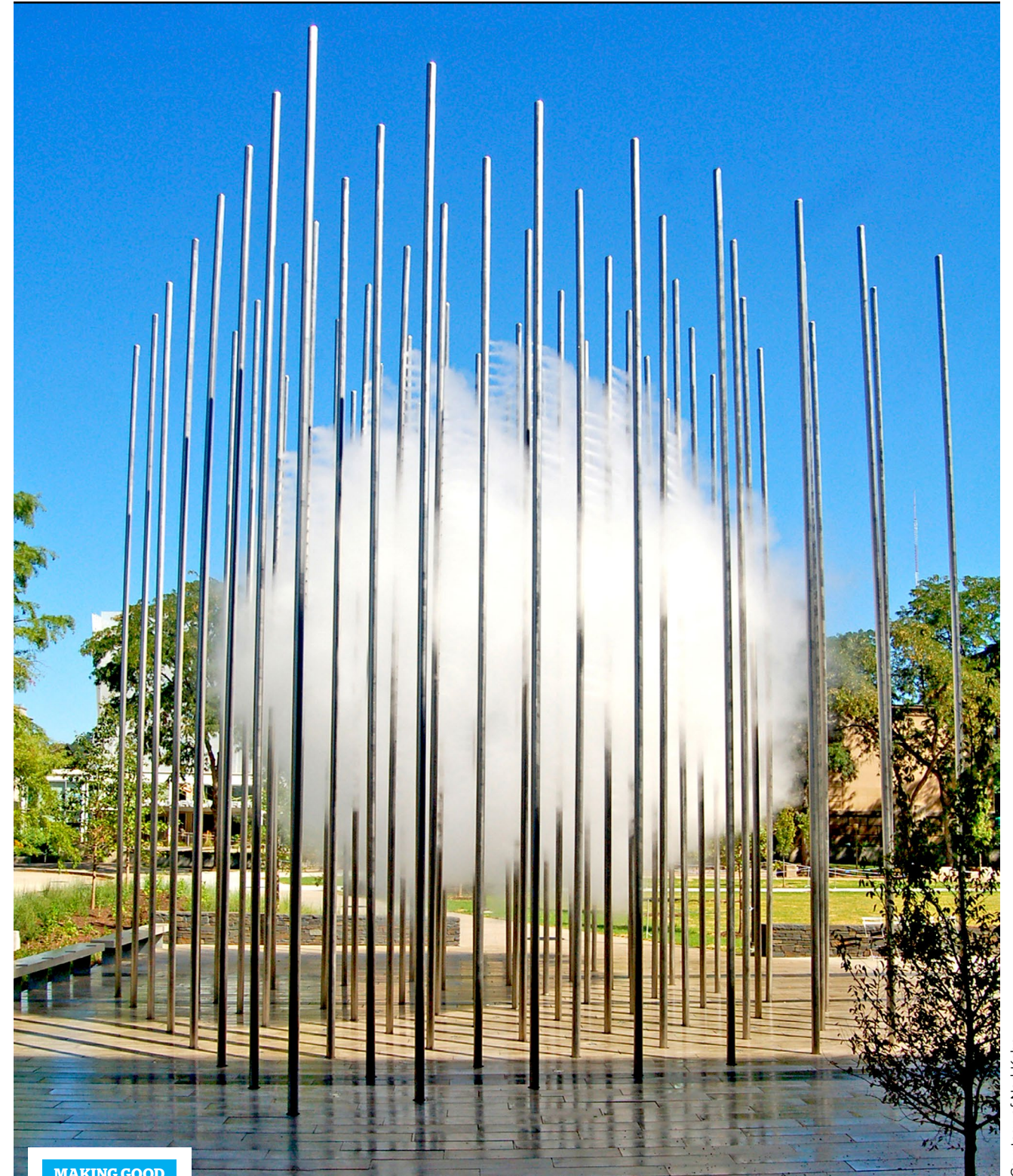
"It's always the last case that went out," he says. "My view is this: No one case is more important than the other. For every litigant, that's the most important case to them. That's how a justice should think about it."

"So I tend not to watch the press coverage of cases when they're issued," Robinson continues, "because I don't feel that's the important part of it. It's how it impacts the law, the jurisprudence, how it impacts the people who were involved in it. I don't look at whether it's popular or not."

A 4th-degree black belt in karate, Robinson says he even practices with the UConn Karate Club from time to time, and laments that the group didn't exist when he attended. His wife Nancy, however, is a 6th-degree black belt. "I have sparred with my wife a couple times, and she beat me every single time," Robinson admits. "She's too fast."

Robinson says he hopes to lead the Connecticut Supreme Court for the next decade, until the state-mandated retirement for all judges at age 70.

"When I was 20, I probably thought that rule made a lot of sense," Robinson says. "Now that I'm actually nearing 70, I don't think it makes much sense at all." —*JESSE RIFKIN '14 (CLAS)*



MAKING GOOD

THE SHAPE OF WATER

Environmental artist **Ned Kahn '82 (CLAS)** creates massive kinetic sculptures that mix natural elements, such as wind, water, and even fog, with the structural. He has more than 100 such installations around the world including this, the "Cloud Arbor," in Buhl Community Park in Pittsburgh. Kahn describes the 2012 collaboration with landscape architect Andrea Cochran and the Pittsburgh Children's Museum as a sphere of fog that forms inside a forest of stainless steel pipes. High-pressure fog nozzles embedded in the 30-foot-tall poles convert water into a cloud that appears and vanishes every few minutes.

To read more about Kahn and to see his sculptures in motion, go to s.uconn.edu/kahn.

Courtesy of Ned Kahn

Washington. He will also oversee development of the college's planned medical residency programs. Most recently, he was founding dean of the School of Dental Medicine at East Carolina University. ➔ Attorneys **James P. Ray '84 (ENG), '92 MBA, '92 JD** and **Robert S. Melvin '81 (ENG), '91 JD** are among 68 lawyers elected a 2018 Fellow of the Connecticut Bar Foundation's James W. Cooper Fellows Program, which recognizes distinguished service to the legal system. Both men are partners at the

Robinson+Cole law firm in Hartford. Robert was previously an environmental engineer and inspector with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. He lives with his wife and two sons in Simsbury. James, who serves on many Connecticut Bar Association committees, also served as a Connecticut and Western Massachusetts board member for the National Conference for Community and Justice and as a member of Connecticut Science Center's Programming Committee. ➔ The Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants recently elected

Brian P. Reilly '85 (BUS), of Kensington, to serve as a member-at-large of its board of directors for its 2018–2019 activity year. He is senior vice president and chief auditor of The Travelers, Hartford. ➔ **Mark Boxer '87 MBA** was awarded a doctorate in Health Administration from the Medical University of South Carolina. His dissertation was titled "Improving Underserved Population Health: Attitudes on Medicaid Financial Incentives for Medication Adherence in Asthmatic Children." Boxer is executive vice president and global CIO at Cigna and serves on the UConn Board of Trustees. ➔ **Joan Ostaszewski Geronimo '88 (BGS)** retired as a certified energy manager from Northeast Utilities (now Eversource) in June 2008 after 36 years. She is currently a substitute teacher in Flagler County, Florida, and her favorite classes to teach are at Matanzas High School. She also enjoys being the on-air DJ for the "Ladies of Jazz" every Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m. on Flagler College Radio WFCF 88.5 FM, an iHeartRadio station.



➔ **Larry Davis '90 MA, '01 Ph.D.** was recently appointed as a Center Associate at the Davis Center at Harvard University. The Center supports research and teaching in Russian and Eurasian Studies. Larry is a professor of history at North Shore Community College in Danvers, Mass. ➔ **Elizabeth M. Johnson '91 (CLAS)** is founder and owner of Spark Equity, a boutique consulting and training firm based in Durham, North Carolina. The firm specializes in helping healthcare providers understand how patient trauma impacts quality of care, as well as their own

quality of life. ➔ **Grant W. Westerson '92 (BGS)**, of Old Saybrook, Connecticut, reports that he has worked as a professional in the recreational marine industry in Connecticut since 1963. He is a marine surveyor by trade and captains a cruise ship for the Valley Railroad. He has served on many state, local, and national committees, and was recently appointed a director of the Connecticut Port Authority. ➔ **Jonathan Andersen '92 (CLAS), '12 MA**, an English professor at Quinebaug Valley Community College in Danielson and Willimantic, Connecticut, was awarded the 2017 David Martinson — Meadowhawk Prize by Red Dragonfly Press for his second full-length collection of poems, *Augur*. ➔ **Tara (Curtis) Mead '94 (CLAS)** is now account director, public relations, for Gavin Advertising, a digitally minded public relations and marketing agency in York, Pennsylvania. She lives in suburban Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, has three children, Cameron, Cassandra, and David, and is married to Bill Mead, news director for WHP580-AM. ➔ **Jeffrey Andriess '96 (CLAS)** married **Nicole Mizejeski '95 (CLAS)** in April in Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Florida. While Jeff and Nicole were one year apart at UConn with the same major, they did not meet until matched completely randomly through an online dating service in August 2015 in Fort Lauderdale, where Jeff works as a graphic designer and Nicole as a speech-language pathologist. ➔ **Stacie Boening Collier '97 JD** was recognized as a Leading Lawyer in Labor and Employment in Rhode Island by Chambers and Partners in its 2018 edition of *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*. ➔ **Courtney Clay '98 (ENG)** is working in Paris with her company, Seppic. She moved with her two



ALUMNI PROFILE

JENNIFER ZEYNAB JOUKHADAR '08 (CLAS)

In 2015, after years of intense study, a bachelor's in molecular and cell biology followed by a Ph.D. in pathobiology as well as two postdoctoral fellowships, Jennifer Zeynab Joukhadar '08 (CLAS) walked away from science to pursue her childhood dream — to be a novelist.

"I wanted to give myself a chance to write full-time for six months to a year and see where it led," she says.

Where it led is to Joukhadar's first novel, *The Map of Salt and Stars*, which was recently published by Simon & Schuster. The book's dual narrative follows two fatherless girls as they each embark on long and dangerous journeys across the Middle East and North Africa.

As 12-year-old Nour flees the Syrian civil war with her family, she comforts herself by recounting a story her father used to tell her about Rawiya, a teenage girl who apprentices herself to a medieval mapmaker charting trade routes. Joukhadar switches back and forth between the two tales that are as similar as they are different. Rawiya's story is a fairy tale; Nour's is a nightmare.

Says Kirkus Review, "Joukhadar plunges the Western reader full force into the refugee world with sensual imagery that is immediate, intense, and at times overwhelming."

When Joukhadar began work on her

novel, the Syrian civil war had raged for four years. As a Syrian American (her father emigrated from Syria to Manhattan), Joukhadar could not tune out the news of the fighting and the refugees. "I was thinking of the ways my community was grieving for people that were lost, places that were lost. I wondered if could we redefine home as something other than a place, so we can't lose it. I started to think of the power of stories, not to just heal but to be vehicles of what we can take with us."

Though the war felt personal for her, what the author knew of it was mostly from news accounts. Joukhadar grew up in Manhattan and in Fairfield, Connecticut. Her mother is American.

To tell Nour's story Joukhadar turned to first-hand accounts of refugees, reading as many as she could. She also researched her own passions, geology and mapmaking, which she weaves into the book as symbols and plot devices. Nour, for example, carries a piece of lapis lazuli riven by bands of salt, a metaphor for the unavoidable trauma in life. Though Rawiya's story is fantastical, complete with a kind of monstrous bird, she apprentices to al-Idrisi, a real-life Arab medieval geographer who was one of the most advanced mapmakers of his time.

Joukhadar also drew on her experience with synesthesia, a neurological condi-

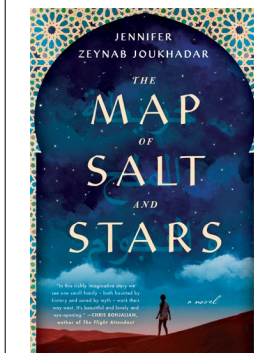
tion that causes people to see shapes and colors in their mind's eye in relationship to music, numbers, or other stimuli. In the book, Nour describes the pink of her sister's laugh and the red of a kitchen timer's chime. "It brings a little bit of color into her world even when she goes through difficult times."

Though Joukhadar began writing stories in third grade, she set her sights on science in college. Her family encouraged her to have a backup plan to writing, and a career as a research scientist became that. She went to Dickinson College in Pennsylvania, but was drawn to UConn's science program and so switched in 2007. Here, she took a heavy course load and worked in Professor Michael Lynes' immunology lab. That didn't leave her much free time, but she kept writing, finishing short stories and a novella.

For the past year Joukhadar has called nowhere home as she went from writer's residency to writer's residency, including a two-month stint in Morocco, her first visit to Northern Africa and a chance to hone her Arabic. She's been working on her second novel, which has to do with Syrian immigration to the U.S. historically. "People don't know they have been immigrating [to the U.S.] since 1860."

Ironically, as she has worked on that book, the Trump administration essentially banned Syrians from even visiting the U.S. While she's been on the road to promote her debut novel, Joukhadar says people at her readings often ask her what they can do to help Syrians. If nothing else, she urges them to read what Syrians themselves have to say about the war.

She hopes her novel is "a gateway for people to seek out the voices of people raised in Syria, to hear them in their own words." —AMY SUTHERLAND



Joukhadar has received high praise for her debut novel from critics, who have compared it to *The Kite Runner*.

Hartford Police Crime Scene Division



KUDOS

David Rosado '93 (CLAS), '07 JD is Hartford's First Latino Police Chief

David Rosado has been making use of his sociology degree since taking over the job of Hartford's top cop early this year. The FBI Academy grad is a Hartford native who's been with the department for more than two decades.

At his swearing-in ceremony, Rosado, a father of three, said of Hartford, "If you can make it here you can make it anywhere. So I say to all those young kids growing up in the city today: *Si tu puedes.*" That translates to "Yes, you can."

Photo courtesy of Susan Brillhart



ALUMNI PROFILE

SUSAN BRILLHART '84 (NUR)

A Voice for the Most Vulnerable

The calls come at all hours. Hard calls, wrenching calls. Like the one that had Susan Brillhart driving from her Hoboken, New Jersey, home to the neonatal intensive care unit at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia so she could advocate for a tiny baby in foster care.

Born 13 weeks premature, the baby tested positive for drugs, was taken from her mother, and released from a New Jersey hospital at 34 weeks to relatives who were named foster parents.

"But they took her out to soccer games and all over and she was still so vulnerable and she got really sick," says Brillhart. The baby went into cardiac arrest four times by the time she arrived by helicopter at Children's Hospital. When Brillhart got there, the radiologist told her the baby's brain scans "were devastating" and she was on full life support.

A court-appointed special advocate

at CASA, a Hudson County, New Jersey, nonprofit organization, Brillhart is a voice for "the most vulnerable among us," medically fragile babies and toddlers placed in foster care because of neglect or abuse by their parent or guardian.

"I don't work for the courts, I'm there to represent the best interest of the child," she says. Like that baby — who recovered.

"It made no medical sense, but then babies don't read medical books. That's why I love little kids; they grow and don't know how to give up, and they survive things that they shouldn't. People toss the word 'miracle' around loosely, but there are times when it really applies."

The baby's mother, who also had a son with cardiac problems, worked closely with a child services caseworker and Brillhart to learn how to care for her chronically ill children. Over time, the

Brillhart with one of her charges, Anthony, on the day he was adopted. His new family stays in touch.

mom and her children were reunited. "They are all doing really well," says Brillhart.

A Calling

It's advocacy work Brillhart has been training for her whole life. While a senior at UConn's School of Nursing, Mount Sinai Medical Center recruited her to work on its Infant/Toddler Unit, starting a 30-year career as a pediatric nurse, manager, professor (she has a Ph.D. in nursing science); and nurse practitioner. In 2000, she landed her "dream job," coordinating the care of 150 chronically ill children in New York's foster care system. On call 24/7/365 "with my pager clipped to my pj's," she became exhausted, developed cardiac arrhythmias, and reluctantly left to return to teaching nursing full-time.

An assistant professor of nursing at the College of Staten Island, City University of New York, she was happy to be teaching the next generation of nurses but missed caring for young patients. So, when she spotted a newspaper ad asking Would you like to advocate for children?, her answer was a resounding yes.

Fifteen years later, she is "our longest-standing volunteer, and she's had more cases than anyone," says Beverly Savage, CASA's executive director. "No one is more qualified or more dedicated." While CASA asks volunteers to commit to one year advocating for a child, case supervisor Georgia Lavey says Brillhart has stayed with cases for years until a child is adopted or reunified with a parent. She has been part of 14 reunifications and seven adoptions and her phone brims with texts and birthday party photos of "her kids."

Her commitment, she says, has its roots in two places: first, her parents, who were foster parents "and had that house where all the kids were — not a lot of money but a loving and happy place — that was our house."

The second is UConn's School of Nursing: "UConn connected me to professors who modeled excellence," says Brillhart. "It was implied — you work hard and advocate well because your patient's outcome depends on you. This is your opportunity to positively change their lives. That's always stayed with me." —JACKIE HENNESSEY '83 (CLAS)

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Submissions may be edited for clarity or length.

children to work as a product manager of natural skin care polymers for the cosmetic industry. ➔ **Jason Jakubowski '99 (CLAS), MPA '01** was recently named president and CEO of Foodshare, the regional food bank serving Hartford and Tolland counties, including UConn and the town of Mansfield, Connecticut. Jason was a former two-term editor-in-chief of *The Daily Campus*, where he met his wife, **Sarah (Treat) Jakubowski '98 (CLAS)**. They live in West Hartford, Connecticut, with their five children.



➔ **Celine Petrie, '00 (CAHNR)** lives in The Villages, Florida, and has been chair of the board of the Humane Society/SPCA of Sumter County since 2016. ➔ The Connecticut Society of Certified Public

Accountants reelected **Michael P. Jordan CPA, '01 (BUS), '02 MS**, of Glastonbury, Connecticut, to serve as Advisory Council chair for the organization's 2018–2019 activity year. He is managing director at Andersen Tax in Old Greenwich, Connecticut.

➔ **Rob Schumann '02 (BUS)** recently joined Propel Insurance as it expands its senior housing presence to the East Coast. He reports that his wife, **Kristina (Peterson) Schumann '02 (CLAS)** recently celebrated the third anniversary of the opening of her private psychology practice, HealthWise Counseling LLC, in Canton, Connecticut. ➔ **Mark Roberts '05 (CLAS)** graduated with a master of public administration from the University of New Haven in May. Roberts, a 12-year trooper with the Connecticut State Police, was also inducted into Pi Alpha Alpha — the global honor fraternity for public administration students — as a result of his academic performance. ➔ **Stephen Napier '06 (CLAS), '09 JD** was recently elected to partnership at Ivey, Barnum & O'Mara LLC, which has offices in Greenwich and New Canaan, Connecticut, and New York, New York.

➔ **Chuck Buder '06 (BUS)** and his wife, **Emma (Emily Buder) Richard '05 ED, '07 MA**, welcomed a daughter, Iona Sophia Buder, into the world in March. The couple, married in 2016, lives in West Hartford, Connecticut.

➔ Construction attorney **Ryan Scordato '07 (CLAS)** recently joined the Orlando, Florida, law firm of Lowndes, Drosdick,

Doster, Kantor & Reed P.A. Ryan, who played lacrosse for four years at UConn, serves as chair of the Orange County Bar Association's Construction Law Committee and is past president of the Christian Service Center Board of Directors. ➔ **Richard P. Zipoli Jr. '07 Ph.D.** was recently awarded the 2018 Connecticut State Universities Board of Regents' Systems-wide Teaching Award. He is an associate professor and clinical instructor in the Department of Communication Disorders at Southern Connecticut State University. ➔ **Lisette Turner '08 (CLAS)** of Bristol, Connecticut, joined the Peace Corps and began training as an education volunteer in Cameroon in May. During her first three months, she lived with a host family to become fully immersed in the country's language and culture. She was then sworn into service and assigned to a community, where she teaches high school-level English and provides professional development for local teachers. She joins 111 Connecticut residents currently serving in the Peace Corps and more than 3,497 Connecticut residents who have served in the Peace Corps since 1961. ➔ **Eric Leknes '09 (ENG), '10 MS**, a biomedical engineering major, was selected as one of three winners of the Outstanding Employee Award for 2017 at Elbit Systems of America. Chosen from 1,600 employees, he was recognized as a top-performing engineer and commended for his high ethical standards and leadership.



➔ The Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants recently elected **Mitchell R. Inero CPA, '10 (BUS)**, of South Glastonbury, Connecticut, as secretary for the 2018–19 activity year. ➔ **Christie D. Jean '11 (CLAS), '14 JD**, of the Robinson+Cole law firm, was elected to the executive board of the George W. Crawford Black Bar Association, an organization committed to enhancing the role and number of black attorneys in Connecticut. ➔ Shortly after **Keely (Nearpass) Floyd '14 MA** graduated from UConn's Higher Education and Student Affairs program, she moved back to Indiana to take a position as a career consultant at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). While there, she recommended **Michelle Maloney-Mangold '10 MA, '15 Ph.D.**, a fellow Hoosier pursuing her doctorate in English, for a job in the office as a student success advisor. Maloney-Mangold not only got the job, but both former Huskies were recently named winners of the Outstanding Service to Students Award for IUPUI's University College. ➔ **Eric Weeks '16 (CLAS)** is a producer at NBC Connecticut in West Hartford. You can catch his work in the early morning from 4:30 to 7 a.m. ➔ **Andrew Caponegro '17 (BUS)** recently passed all four sections of the CPA exams and is employed at KPMG in Hartford, Connecticut, as a tax associate.



Courtesy of Erin Perrine

JOB ENVY

On the Hill

When you ask Erin Perrine '10 (CLAS) how she speaks in such perfect, coherent sentences, she says, “Whenever I can’t think of the words to say, I just pause.” She pauses then and you can almost hear a smile through the phone. “It’s better to pause than to say the wrong thing.”

Perrine is the spokeswoman for House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-California, and her job is all about saying the right thing. Whether chatting with reporters in the press room during a floor vote, writing a news release, or answering urgent queries on her phone, Perrine always has one thing on her mind: What would House Majority Leader McCarthy say, and how can she best represent him?

Perrine’s path from UConn political science major to the office of the House Majority Leader zigzagged but never wavered. She worked for now Speaker of the House Paul Ryan’s, R-Wisconsin, campaign for office in Wisconsin, for a voter contact firm in Washington, D.C., as a deputy press secretary for Sen. John Thune, R-South Dakota, and as the press secretary of the Republican Senate conference. She says she never said no to a job just because she wasn’t sure what she wanted, or because she’d have to move. Every job was an opportunity to become a better writer, to be a better communicator, to work more effectively with the press.

Surprisingly perhaps, this Republican spokeswoman says that working with the press has become her favorite thing. “The Capitol Hill press corps is full of the most passionate, funny, smart people I’ve ever met. It’s great that every day I get to go up there and talk with them,” she says. —KIM KRIEGER

➔ For our entire interview with Perrine, including discussion of her work on the opioid crisis, go to s.uconn.edu/perrine.

IN MEMORIAM

Please visit s.uconn.edu/octobits2018 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/oct18trivia to see if you know as much as King of UConn Trivia Tom Breen '00 (CLAS).

TOM'S TRIVIA

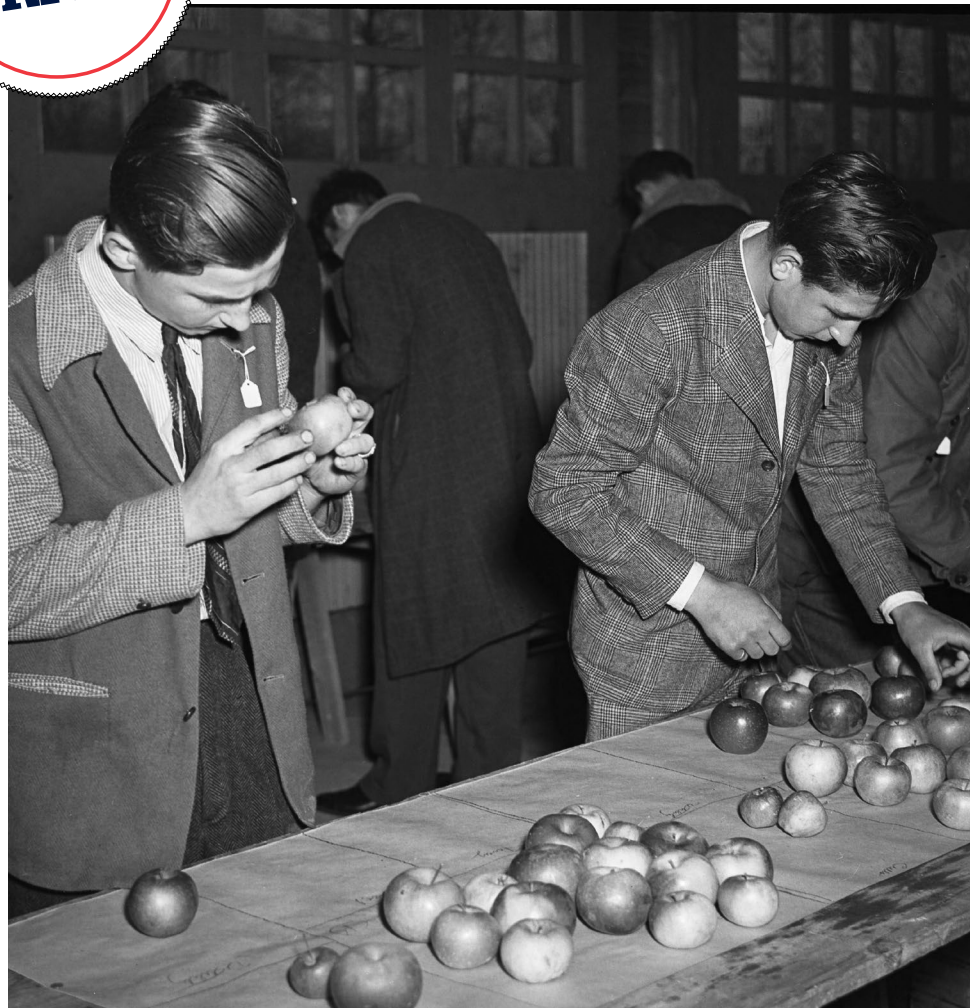
- 1.** A popular campus social occasion, through the 1960s, was a day in the fall semester when residence halls competed in events ranging from sack races to costume contests. What was the name of this day?

A: Dad's Day
B: Derby Day
C: The Community Chest Carnival
D: Fall Carniva
- 2.** Agriculture has been an essential part of UConn since the institution was founded in 1881 as the Storrs Agricultural School. Who was the last president of the school to also have been a farmer?

A. Charles Beach
B. Glenn Ferguson
C. Albert Jorgensen
D. Benjamin Koons
- 3.** When Week of Welcome was Freshmen Week, a panel of three seniors would enforce traditions like a candlelight oath ceremony and beanie-wearing. Their slogan was the forbidding, "Read, Hear, and Obey." What was this group called?

A: The Committee of Three
B: The Archons
C: The Order of the Night Moose
D: The Black Triumvirate
- 4.** The first Husky to have a significant NBA career was the country's top rebounder, led the team to three consecutive NCAA tournament appearances, and memorably scored 30 points in a victory over American International College, when the player guarding him was none other than Jim Calhoun. What was his name?

A: Tom Penders
B: Dee Rowe
C: Toby Kimball
D: Bobby Osborne



One of the Vocational-Agriculture groups on campus as photographed in 1946 by entomology professor and longtime unofficial University photographer Jerauld A. Manter.