



## Series of moves to renovated space under discussion

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

A preliminary plan to phase in a series of moves will create new and renovated space for biology, mathematics, physics, the Institute of Materials Sciences, and University Information Technology Services without any department moving more than once.

The plan was outlined to the Capital Projects Planning Advisory Committee in May, and because it was received favorably, it will be explored in detail over the next few months.

The plan, which retains the former warehouse building near the Health Services facility, would accomplish a series of renovations at a lower cost and more quickly than replacing Torrey Life Sciences with a building of equal or larger size, said Provost Peter J. Nicholls. Both the warehouse and the new Torrey building could be done simultaneously.

It would also mean that no department would move more than once. This is especially important, since many of the departments involved have large and complex labs, he said.

The plan's focus initially would be the  
*see Relocation plan page 2*



PHOTO BY AL FERREIRA

Medical students applaud during the Health Center commencement ceremony at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford.

## Emergency siren to be tested May 30

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

The University's long-dormant Storrs emergency siren will be tested on Wednesday, May 30, between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Originally installed in case of air raids, the siren has not been used for many years. But concerns about warning students in emergencies, in the wake of recent shootings at Virginia Tech, have caused University officials to reactivate the siren.

The siren will be tested first at 11 a.m., to determine whether it can be heard throughout the Storrs campus. If it does not perform adequately, technicians will check equipment, power, or telephone connections and retest it throughout the afternoon until 3 p.m.

The siren is not the only emergency communication the University is considering. A committee, headed by Michael Kerntke, associate vice president and chief

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## Future physicians, dentists, lawyers graduate

BY MICHAEL KIRK & KRISTINA GOODNOUGH

Peace is one of the fundamental rights of humanity, and without it all other fundamental rights lose their meaning, said Nobel Peace Prize-winner Shirin Ebadi in her native Farsi.

Ebadi, using an interpreter, delivered the commencement address at the School of Law on May 20, where 227 degrees were awarded. She spoke about the nature of peace, social justice, and democracy.

Peace is possible only if people know their rights are not violated and their dignity is respected, said Ebadi. "Peace stands on two pillars. These pillars are democracy and social justice.

"Peace is one of the fundamental rights of humanity," and without it, she said, "all other fundamental rights lose their meaning."

Ebadi, a lawyer, was awarded the Nobel peace prize in 2003 for her work to advance democracy and human rights, especially the rights of women and children. She is the

first Iranian and the first Muslim woman to receive the prize.

"Democracy is not a present you can bring to a people," she told the audience. "It is not a commodity you can export to a country. Democracy has to be born and bred from within."

She also discussed income disparity throughout the world. "A society where there is a large gap between the poor and the rich cannot be a stable society," she said.

Ebadi is the founder and leader of the Association for Support of Children's Rights in Iran. The author of a number of academic books and articles focused on human rights, she has had several books translated into English, including *The Rights of the Child: A Study of Legal Aspects of Children's Rights in Iran*, published with support from UNICEF; and *History and Documentation of Human Rights in Iran*. In 2006, Random House published *Iran Awakening*, Ebadi's memoir co-written with Iranian-American Azadeh Moaveni.

As a lawyer, Ebadi has been involved in a number of controversial political cases. She was the attorney for the families of the writers and intellectuals who were victims of serial murders in 1999-2000. She worked to reveal the principals behind the attack on the students at Tehran University in 1999, where several students died. Her work has led the Iranian government to imprison her on numerous occasions. She campaigns for peaceful solutions to social problems.

Ebadi earned a law degree from the University of Tehran. From 1975 to 1979, she served as president of the city court of Tehran, where she was one of the first female judges in Iran. After the Iranian revolution in 1979, she was forced to resign. She also has served as a professor at the University of Tehran.

In her closing message to graduates, she said: "Let us fertilize science just as we fertilize land. Let us become wind and spread righteousness and friendship. Let us

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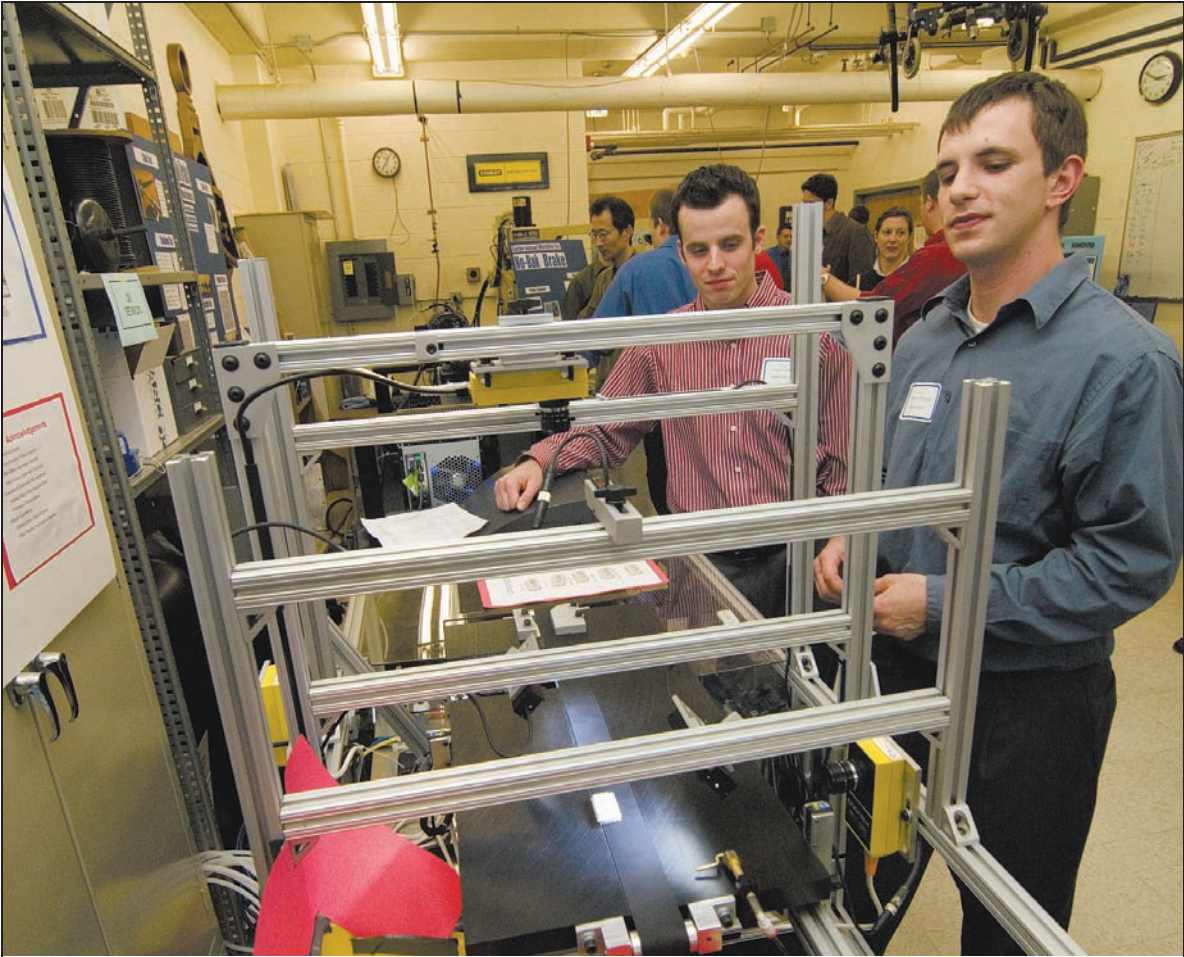


PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Matthew Dieringer, left, and Daniel Sadlon demonstrate a storing device, one of the Department of Mechanical Engineering senior design projects.

# John Szarlan, learning consultant, dies

BY SHERRY FISHER

John Szarlan, a learning consultant in the Institute for Teaching and Learning, died unexpectedly on May 11. He was 58.

Szarlan, who lived in Ludlow, Mass., joined the Department of Counseling Services in 1994 as a learning skills counselor.

About three years ago, he became part of the Institute for Teaching and Learning’s design group, concentrating on helping students understand how to learn more effectively.

“He was a dedicated academic whose research was well published,” says Keith Barker, associate vice provost and director of the Institute. “He cared for his students and spent much time helping the faculty.”

Barker described Szarlan as “modest, and a real gentleman. He will be sorely missed by the UConn community, but mostly by those closest to him.”

JoAnne Lewis, a former counseling supervisor at UConn, says, “John was a professional in every sense of the word. He was creative, supportive, a team player, and he enjoyed sharing ideas – new and old – with his colleagues.

“His great sense of enjoyment came from launching new and innovative program initiatives for students and staff alike,” Lewis says. “John was a wonderful human being and hundreds of lives have been made richer and more meaningful because they were touched by him.”

Friend and colleague Kevin Sul-

livan says Szarlan’s passion was researching what worked best for student performance.

“He wanted students to be the best they could be,” says Sullivan, assistant director of First Year Programs. “He was very caring and got along with everybody. Students really liked him.”

Szarlan was a noted presenter at professional conferences, and received many awards for his service to the University.

Szarlan graduated from Clark University with a bachelor’s degree, and master’s degrees in psychology and special education.

A member of the National Guard, he was an avid outdoorsman.

He is survived by his mother Jennie (Wojtowicz) Szarlan.

## Relocation plan *continued from page 1*

former warehouse building, which was built so solidly that two floors can be added without major structural renovations. Although the building has few windows, they could be added easily, as the outside walls are not load-bearing.

After renovations, he added, the warehouse would house the mathematics department and UITS, freeing up space in the Gant Complex that could be renovated for

the physics department. Once physics moved, its space could be renovated for the Institute of Materials Sciences. The north wing of Gant could then be renovated to provide space for the biology units.

Torrey would remain functional while a replacement building was constructed

The plan would also provide enough space to accommodate

biology teaching labs that are currently located in Bronwell Engineering building, to free up that space for engineering programs.

“We have not yet looked at the square footage in detail, nor at the cost of the plan,” said Nicholls. “But it is clear that it provides us with more flexibility. The next logical step will be to look at scope, cost, and the needs of each department.”

## Emergency test *continued from page 1*

information officer, has been appointed to devise additional ways to allow the University to warn faculty, staff, and students of life-threatening emergencies.

“We would like to be sure that we’re as prepared as possible for emergencies that could be life-threatening to our students, faculty and staff,” says Barry Feldman, vice president and chief operating officer. “There are many

lessons to be learned from the situation at Virginia Tech. It’s important for us to take the time this summer to get as many emergency systems up and running as we can.”

The committee is looking into various technologies, including using the blue phones to broadcast messages; installing message boards; developing text messaging systems that would leave messages

on cell phones; and using screens in high-tech classrooms and elsewhere to communicate.

The committee is also considering communications strategies for the regional campuses, and the Schools of Law and Social Work.

The committee will meet throughout the summer, with the goal of having emergency communication systems operational this fall.

# Retired professor dies in crash, husband injured

BY RICHARD VEILLEUX

Antonia Brancia (Maxon), a long-time professor in the Department of Communication Sciences, died May 13 after a car accident in Long Island. Her husband and colleague, Sjef van den Berg, was badly injured in the crash.

“Toni was absolutely committed to advancing education and practice in pediatric audiology. She touched the lives of many children and their parents,” says James Watt, a communication sciences faculty member until his retirement in 1999 and a close friend of the two. “She was also an excellent mentor of graduate students, many of whom are now prominent practitioners.

“What came across was her concern for their learning, and her demands that they become excellent in their clinical skills,” Watt adds. “None of them ever resented her for this. Quite the opposite. She was one of the best-liked professors in the department. This regard extended to her colleagues. She was a genuinely nice person with whom it was pleasant to work.”

Brancia and van den Berg were on Long Island to attend their son Pieter’s graduation from C.W. Post when the accident occurred. The two were waiting at a traffic light when another car ran into the rear of theirs at high speed, igniting a six-car collision. Brancia was killed instantly, and van den Berg was rushed to the hospital in critical condition with multiple fractures and internal injuries. His condition has since been upgraded, and he is expected to begin a lengthy rehabilitation process soon.

The driver of the other car was arrested and charged with criminally negligent homicide.

Brancia, 60, began working full-time at UConn in 1977, working through the ranks and being named a full professor in 1994. She retired in August 2001 to devote her efforts to the New England Center for Hearing Rehabilitation, which she and a friend, Diane Brackett, founded in 1999.

“Toni was an excellent teacher and a gifted clinician,” says Carl Coelho, head of the Department of Communication Sciences. She was internationally renowned for her work in pediatric audiology and rehabilitation of infants and children with cochlear implants.”

“Sjef has always been an advocate for students and a warm, caring individual who continues to be an asset in the Communication Sciences Department,” he adds.

Brancia was considered a pioneer in the field of pediatric audiology, and was an expert in the field of cochlear implants. She wrote dozens of books and journal articles, most on hearing impairments in children, many of them co-authored by Brackett, her business partner.

Van den Berg joined the communication sciences department in 1974, retiring in 2001. He is an expert in organizational and intercultural communication. He authored or co-authored three books discussing effective research methods in the field of communication sciences.

A memorial service for Brancia will be scheduled at a later date. Plans are also being made to develop a scholarship in her name. For more information about the scholarship, contact Art Sorrentino: asorrentino@foundation.uconn.edu.

## Publication Notice

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UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

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# Professor authors guide to evaluate success of marine protected areas



PHOTO BY PEG VAN PATTEN

Bob Pomeroy, a professor of agricultural and resource economics, has co-authored a guide about evaluating the effectiveness of marine protected areas. The guide has been adopted by countries around the world.

BY PEG VAN PATTEN

How do you evaluate how well a portion of the ocean is being protected? Not an easy task, but Robert Pomeroy, an associate professor of agriculture and resource economics and Sea Grant fisheries specialist, is up to the challenge.

He is one of three authors who have created a 216-page guidebook to evaluate the success of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), called *How is Your MPA Doing? A Guidebook of Natural and Social Indicators for Evaluating Marine Protected Area Management Effectiveness*.

MPAs are critical to managing the world's ocean resources and protecting them from human impact for a wide range of purposes. These include wildlife conservation and biodiversity, restoring depleted fisheries stocks, maximizing tourism activities, and minimizing multiple-user conflicts. But a measure of protection is effective only if it really works – that is, if it achieves the goals established for it.

Every MPA is different, because each has different biota, geology, location, physical and chemical characteristics, and associated human communities that depend on the ocean's resources. Some MPAs protect commercially important, over-exploited species from harvest, in order to facilitate recovery; others may be important

spawning areas for fish or critical habitat.

The guidebook, which represents the culmination of three years of work, has become the standard tool for evaluating Marine Protected Areas, not only in the United States – where it is used by NOAA's National Ocean Service – but also in many other nations around the globe. It has been translated into Chinese, French, Italian, and Spanish, and can be downloaded in English or any of the other four languages at <http://effectivempa.noaa.gov/documents/documents.html>.

Developing the MPA guidebook involved assessing research by experts from 17 nations. The result is a tool with specific indicators developed to measure aspects of a healthy marine environment and sustainable coastal communities.

Effective evaluation, Pomeroy says, analyzes whether the actions taken have produced the desired results, rather than merely how much money was spent, what permits were issued, or how large the area protected. The socioeconomic needs of the surrounding peoples are also important to outcomes, so the manual incorporates social as well as ecological indicators of success.

## Expert discusses ethnic, racial disparities in incidence of obesity, cancer among women

BY SHERRY FISHER

Several of the risk factors for cancer, including a poor diet and obesity, are more prevalent among African-American women and Latinas than among non-Hispanic white women, according to a nationally known cancer expert.

"Obesity is clearly a risk factor for a number of cancers," says Tim Byers, a professor of preventive medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and deputy director for cancer prevention and control at its cancer center. Byers was the keynote speaker at a May 16 conference, "Reducing Cancer Disparities in Connecticut and Beyond," held in the Rome Ballroom.

Byers said there is a "huge ethnic disparity in obesity in women. African Americans have the highest levels, with Hispanics following. Non-Hispanic white women are not increasing in obesity levels."

He noted that there are several elements to the concept of risk.

African Americans have a lower risk of getting breast cancer, he said, but if they do get it, they are more likely than other groups to die of the disease.

"This appears to be the result of biology and social circumstances," he said.

And although Latinas have a higher prevalence of many risk factors for breast cancer than

their non-Hispanic white counterparts – such as obesity and low levels of physical activity – they have lower cancer incidence rates.

Among both groups, when breast cancer is diagnosed, it tends to be at a later stage in the disease.

"In African Americans and Latinas, breast cancer is at a more advanced stage at diagnosis," Byers said. "They are larger cancers, the histological factors are worse, and they are less likely to be hormone-responsive."

Some 120 health care providers, researchers, students, and representatives of community organizations attended the event, which was sponsored by UConn's Center for Eliminating Health Disparities Among Latinos (CEHDL). Participants heard about cancer prevention, screening, and treatment among minority groups; cancer epidemiology among minorities; and programs for Latinos to improve cancer outcomes.

Obesity by itself doesn't explain the differences in cancer risks for different racial and ethnic groups, Byers said, but "I think with African Americans and Hispanics, obesity will be an important prognostic factor ... the bottom line is that obesity increases cancer risk, and reduces survival rates."

African American women have a higher incidence of colorectal cancer than Hispanics and non-

Hispanic whites, he said, but there is some good news overall: Death rates for this type of cancer are going down, due to changes in diet and screenings.

Byers said public health workers as well as academics need to offer minorities more information about gaining access to nutrition information.

Conference chair Rafael Perez-Escamilla, a professor of nutritional sciences who is director of the CEHDL, said ethnic minority health is one of the major challenges facing the country this century.

"There are 100 million ethnic minorities living in this country, representing one third of the U.S. population," he said. "Largely because of social injustice, throughout the lifecycle, poverty and correlated infectious and chronic diseases are heavily concentrated in ethnic minorities. And minorities are much less likely to have access to quality health care."

"Because minorities are crucial for the economic and social development of Connecticut and the rest of the country," Perez-Escamilla added, "it is essential that we build and support academic-community-health care system partnerships such as CEHDL, that can help address the major existing health inequalities."

## Feds renew funding for UConn's Upward Bound

BY SHERRY FISHER

UConn's Upward Bound program has been awarded nearly \$1.2 million over the next four years from the U.S. Department of Education.

The pre-college program helps prepare and motivate academically at-risk youth from high schools in Hartford, New Haven, and Windham.

The University's Upward Bound program is one of only four in the state to receive funding this year, according to Maria Martinez, director of the Center for Academic Programs. The grant process, which occurs every four years, is highly competitive.

"This particular cycle of grant writing was extremely difficult, due to the Department of Higher Education's emphasis on eliminating programs that are deemed inadequate or ineffective," says Martinez. "However, the more pressing issue for the Department has been its budgetary objective to reduce the per student cost." About 100 programs did not receive funding this cycle.

Martinez says UConn's program has been successful in meeting the goals of motivating students to finish high school and

ensuring that students are placed in a college or university of their choice. Currently 100 percent of students in the University's Upward Bound program graduate high school, and on average, 95 percent of them enroll in a post-secondary institution, with an 85 percent graduation rate.

"UConn benefits greatly from having this successful pre-college program, since it promotes the University's strategic goals for community outreach, recruitment, and diversity," Martinez says.

Students in Upward Bound are selected during the ninth grade, and attend programs at UConn during the summer following their 9th, 10th, and 11th grades. They must meet guidelines set by federal and state governments.

The six-week residential program at UConn places emphasis on literature, composition, foreign languages, science, and math. During the school year, the Upward Bound students are engaged in social, recreational, and career-related activities, in conjunction with tutoring, developmental workshops, and weekly team meetings.



# Geographical patterns of South American birds attract researchers



PHOTO BY JORDAN BENDER

Biology professor Robert Colwell uses computer modeling to map bird species in South America.

BY SCOTT BRINCKERHOFF

Tropical rainforests teem with plant and animal life, including birds, but dry and cold environments are much less hospitable, as any armchair naturalist knows. The question is “why?”

Scientists, including Robert Colwell, a professor in UConn’s Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, are not content merely to describe the phenomenon known as “species richness” – they want to understand its causes.

In pursuit of this end, Colwell and a graduate student, Thiago Rangel, have dedicated years to

the “spatial mapping” of species richness on a continental scale. The theories that have come out of their research have attracted both support and dissent in academia, along with significant grants.

Using computer modeling, Colwell, Rangel, and their associates have undertaken the mapping of the known distribution of all 2,248 species of birds on the continent of South America, then reproduce the pattern.

What they are learning has applications in species preservation, global climate studies, evolutionary theory, and biogeography.

Their findings may help scientists predict what will happen to birds living in different locations on the planet, depending on trends in such environmental factors as elevation, topography, temperature, and rainfall.

Their research is based around simulations that use existing data about where South America’s bird species are found, and in what richness or paucity of species. Colwell and Rangel are especially interested in species that have smaller geographical ranges.

“We think it’s important to separate narrow-ranging species from

wide-ranging ones,” Colwell says. “If we were working in the United States, for example, we wouldn’t pay as much attention to American robins, since they’re found almost everywhere. They’re like someone who gets to vote many times in an election. But Kirtland’s warbler is quite another story.

“The narrow-ranging species are the ones we have to worry about,” he adds, “because there’s a greater risk that some unfortunate event will wipe out the species. We don’t have to worry about the robins.”

As one might expect, computers are key to sorting through the data produced by 2,248 species of birds and at least a half dozen scientists on Colwell’s team. Based on what is known about where various species live, the scientists constructed algorithms that reduce the characteristics of those locales to numbers and symbols.

These are then used literally to paint colorful maps of South America that reflect the number of bird species living in one part of the continent or another.

The computer models are used to predict what is actually occurring in the field. Factors, including random ones that the scientists view as supportive of species richness, are implicit in the maps that are then cross-checked with empirical data.

Colwell uses an analogy to explain the work: “Suppose you were interested in where people ideally want to retire in the United States. Maybe the top factors are good medical care, cultural opportunities, warm weather, ocean

breezes, and cheap housing. If you could find locations where various combinations of these factors converge, you could create a map and see a pattern. We’re doing something similar with the birds.”

Colwell says the research is almost wholly dependent on computers, as controlled experiments would be impractical.

“Unfortunately, carrying out planned, hands-on experiments with the biogeographical distribution of organisms is neither feasible nor ethical,” he says.

The computer model simulates the geographical range of different species and reveals factors that seem to play a role in species richness. For example, topography was shown to be critical for narrow-ranging species, while climatic factors proved more important for wide-ranging species.

In an article to appear in *The American Naturalist*, Rangel and Colwell and Brazilian colleague José Alexandre Diniz-Filho said the patterns of bird species richness are complex across South America.

“Some regions, such as the Amazon Basin and the Atlantic Forest are highly species rich. ... Richness decreases toward higher latitudes.”

Scientists differ over which factors are most important in determining species richness. Often, the differences focus on the role played by contemporary environment versus evolutionary history. Colwell and his colleagues tried to build computer models that give equal weight to both kinds of factors, as well as random processes.

## Commencement ceremonies *continued from page 1*

become fire and burn ignorance and fanaticism. Let us be kind to one another.”

### Health Center

The medical, dental and biophysical science graduates were congratulated on their hard work and success and exhorted to continue during the Health Center’s 36th Commencement on May 13.

“Our graduates are going out into a brave new world of medicine,” said Dr. Peter Deckers, dean of the School of Medicine. “We have decoded the human genome and are moving into an era of molecular diagnosis and molecular therapies. Our students are well prepared to participate in these scientific endeavors.

“This is the most exciting era of medicine,” he added.

Commencement speaker Dr. Charles Bertolami told the graduates, “You are all so smart. You all are accustomed to seeing a lot of losers along the sidelines. Being a winner can come to seem extremely natural.”

Bertolami, is dean of the School of Dentistry at the University of California-San Francisco. He held his first faculty position as an assistant professor at the UConn Health Center.

He joked that it was difficult to understand how “a white coat, 35

percent cotton, 65 percent polyester blend, can give someone so much arrogance.”

To avoid that, Bertolami urged graduates to nurture emotional traits in a conscious effort to build character to prepare themselves for later hard times. Doctors and dentists have to learn how to brace themselves, especially when they encounter severe trauma. Bracing can be desensitizing, and that is necessary for handling difficult cases.

“But you also have to recognize that it is an extremely dangerous game. You can end up repressing your feelings,” he cautioned graduates.

“Character is entirely a matter of the emotions. It occurs while you marinate positive emotions of altruism, joy, contentment and love,” said Bertolami. “People may forget what you tell them, but they never forget how you make them feel.”

In remarks on behalf of the

alumni Dr. Lynn Kosowicz, MD ’80, complimented the graduates on finding time during their busy school years for volunteer activities ranging from offering clinics for migrant farm workers and the homeless, to providing care to the underserved on travels to Peru, Haiti, and Nigeria, and other countries. She urged them “to continue these good works that you started on the hill in Farmington.”

The commencement ceremonies, held this year for the first

time at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, added 77 physicians and 36 dentists to the roster of those with MD and DMD degrees earned at the UConn Health Center. In addition, 12 Ph.D. degrees and 21 MPH degrees were awarded.

Justin Clemow, who received his DMD degree, spoke for the dental students; and Daniel Colunno, who received an MD degree, spoke on behalf of the medical students.



PHOTO BY TINA COVENSKY

Nobel Peace Prize-winner Shirin Ebadi delivers the Commencement address at the School of Law on May 20.



PHOTO BY AL FERREIRA

Medical student Mitesh Kabadi shows family members his degree certificate after the Health Center Commencement ceremony May 13.



# Medical, dental, law school students address peers at Commencement

## Daniel Colonno



BY JANE SHASKAN

Just before his junior year at Middlebury College, Daniel Colonno decided to change his major from American literature to pre-med and pursue a career in medicine.

"It was an introspective decision," says Colonno. "I sought a career that would allow me to combine interests in humanities and science, with people and their stories being just as important as the scientific fact and process."

Graduating magna cum laude from Middlebury, he accepted a scholarship from the UConn School of Medicine, where he soon became interested in physical medicine and rehabilitation, a field he found inspiring.

"To work with dedication and commitment for the slowest progress and smallest functional gains can mean everything to a patient and family, and to a physician," he says. "The process becomes the reward as much as the results."

Dunn found that the teamwork, commu-

nication, and open-mindedness in this medical field suited his nature, which he says was rooted in his background as a team athlete.

He played team sports including football, wrestling, and baseball through college, and still plays pick-up games when he can and participates in marathons and triathlons.

"Physical medicine and rehabilitation is built on teamwork, and I think my character and abilities will complement my work," he says.

Colonno also became interested in acupuncture. "It's a fine-tuned idea, a rethinking of how the body works and how we look at it, and something to explore as an additional treatment option," he says. "Sometimes those options are limited and the willingness to look for new ways to make lives better can help patients."

On a medical school elective, he traveled to China, where he studied acupuncture and traditional Chinese medicine. "The trip was incredible," he says. "I learned about their system and culture of medicine and gained a new perspective."

During medical school, Colonno volunteered at a number of clinics, a nursing home, and at Hartford schools, where he taught health education. He has also conducted research in the area of aquatic rehabilitation related to arthritis.

Colonno was the students' choice for commencement speaker. "I'm proud to represent the class," he says.

He will stay at the UConn Health Center for an internship in internal medicine, before starting his residency next year in physical medicine and rehabilitation at the University of Washington Affiliated Hospitals in Seattle.

## Justin Clemow



BY JANE SHASKAN

As a pre-med student, Justin Clemow researched brain development at Thomas Jefferson Hospital while attending the University of Pennsylvania. After graduating with an interdisciplinary degree in the biological basis of behavior, he worked on gene-targeting and heart-related research at the university's cardiovascular division.

Then he met a dentist who loved his work.

"He pointed out the better hours, lower insurance, and better lifestyle of dentistry compared to medicine," says Clemow. "As an oral surgeon, I would have the best of both worlds. I also liked the idea of helping a patient right away. Fixing a smile for good oral health is important, but so is the confidence that a healthy smile brings."

While in dental school at UConn, Clemow worked in Emory University's operating room, helped manage trauma

patients at the University of Pennsylvania's hospital, and assisted in the operating rooms and emergency departments at John Dempsey and Hartford hospitals.

His most memorable experience, however, was in Riobamba, Ecuador, he says, where he performed extractions and assisted with a cleft lip repair under the supervision of Dr. Richard Topazian.

"It was a moving experience," he says. "The way they tolerated pain and gave us big hugs when the work was done. The people were so grateful. Every single person was appreciative of our help."

Clemow will attend the University of Florida College of Medicine, where he will pursue a medical degree as part of his residency in oral and maxillofacial surgery. He says the dental school has prepared him well.

"The first two years were tough and we're all thrilled it's over, but we learned much more than graduates of other dental schools. All dental students are exposed to medicine in dental school," he says, but UConn's curriculum is more thorough.

He expects his future will hold a combination of the things he loves about dentistry and medicine. "I'll be working not only on implants and third molars, but also on facial trauma cases, jaw surgery, and facial reconstruction, to name a few," he says.

Clemow is an American Red Cross-certified instructor and a certified emergency medical technician. He volunteered at the student-run clinics and programs, the Red Cross, and the Madison (New Hampshire) Rescue Squad, serving as an EMT and firefighter. While in college he was a member of the varsity crew team and was awarded the All Ivy-League Academic All American Award.

## Christine Edwards



BY SHERRY FISHER

Law school felt a lot like running a marathon, Christine Edwards told graduates and guests at the law school commencement ceremony May 20. "The evening division is for endurance athletes only," she said.

Edwards works full time at Travelers in the Claim Legal department and has an 11-year-old son. She also is a marathon runner.

"The majority of us have gone through this program working full-time and raising families," she said. "We drive in from all over the state, eat dinner from vending machines ... and try to steal minutes at lunch to read cases that we will be responsible for that very same evening."

"Despite all of the things seemingly

stacked against us, we've made it, and I challenge you to find anyone better at multi-tasking, or anyone more ready to meet the demands of practicing law."

Family and friends "have gotten us through this race," she said, "much like the aid station volunteers you would find at a marathon – those people who hand out water and energy gels, offer encouragement, and call an ambulance when you just can't walk another step."

Edwards said she is grateful for the friends she made. "We have had an incredible, binding, common experience," she said. "We cheered each other on when we had done well, and offered encouragement to one another when things didn't quite go our way."

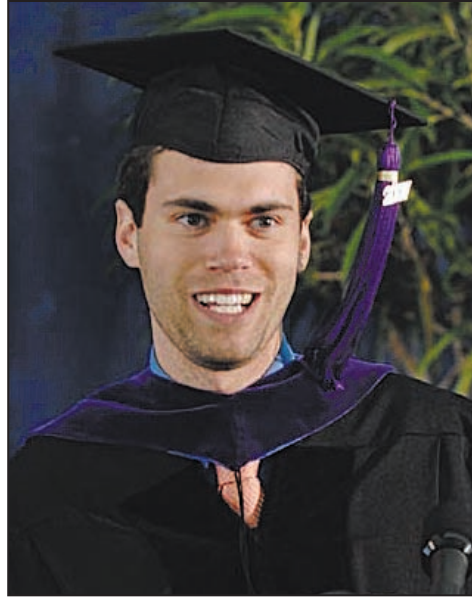
She said the law school offers students incredible opportunities. "There is a diverse curriculum with many different specialties. You can't possibly sample them all."

Edwards earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Eastern Connecticut State University, and an MBA from the University of New Haven. "But I always wanted to go to law school," she said.

She spent her first year of law school at Western New England College, School of Law. At UConn, she participated in the Criminal Clinic Trial Division, a year-long course. "We were able to go to court and gain practical litigation experience, while helping defendants who didn't have a lot of resources available to them," she said.

Edward says for now she is focusing on passing the bar exam, and is weighing her options as to where to begin her legal career.

## Robert Dunn



BY SHERRY FISHER

It's not surprising that Robert Dunn decided to become a lawyer.

"I've always liked to argue," he says. "I remember when I was in the second grade, we played kickball at recess and the captain picked teams. One day, I was one of the first kids picked. Someone asked why I – who wasn't particularly good at the sport – was chosen first. The captain said, 'I'm sick of arguing with him.'"

Dunn delivered remarks to the graduating class at the School of Law commencement ceremony May 20.

He went to Conard High School and

earned his bachelor's degree at Holy Cross College in history and political science. "I was really interested in both subjects," he says. "I've always enjoyed reading history books, and I've always been fascinated by politics. The two majors meshed well."

Dunn says law school requires stamina and commitment.

"The first semester was consuming," he says. "Then it eased up a bit. I think the biggest lesson I learned is that hard work is the key to success. Putting in the hours. It's not just about innate talent; that only takes you so far."

Dunn is inspired by people who are "passionate about goals and willing to make sacrifices," he says. "I'm intrigued and inspired by people who work hard and enjoy their success."

He says he will always treasure the friends he made at UConn. "I have been truly lucky to meet an incredible group of people and spend three years with them," he says.

Next year, he will be working at the law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom in New York City.





PHOTO BY DOLLIE HARVEY

Lauren Mocko, left, a first-year student, Gia Bass, center, a senior, and Mason Jager, a junior, all members of the Pre-vet Club, wash Cassie during a fund raiser April 29.

GRANTS

The following grants were received through the Office for Sponsored Programs (OSP) in March 2007. The list represents only new proposals awarded, and excludes continuations. The list is supplied to the *Advance* each month by OSP.

Prin. Inv.	Department	Sponsor	Awarded	Award Period
Alphabetical, by Principal Investigator				
Andrew, S.	Animal Science	Walker (George) Milk Research Fund	\$20,000	1/07-12/07
Methods to Prevent and Eliminate Mycoplasma Mastitis on Dairy Farms				
Barnes-Farrell, J.	Psychology	National Society of Black Engineers	\$21,561	2/07-10/07
2007 National Society of Black Engineers – Student Survey				
Bohlen, W.	Marine Sciences	Northeast Utilities/Environmental Science Services Inc.	\$111,221	1/07-12/07
NUSCO 1385 Cable Replacement Project Pre-Construction Monitoring				
Carter, M.	Center for Regenerative Biology	LFB Biotechnologies, S.A./Evergen Biotechnologies Inc.	\$76,000	1/07-1/08
Service for Production of Factor VII Transgenic Rabbits				
Chazdon, R.	Ecology & Evolutionary Biology	National Science Foundation	\$320,260	1/07-12/11
Collaborative Research: LTREB Successional Pathways and Rates of Change in Tropical Forests of Brazil, Costa Rica, and Mexico				
Conover, J.	Physiology & Neurobiology	Nat'l Inst. of Health / Nat'l Inst. of Neurological Disorders & Stroke	\$1,390,599	4/07-3/12
Cellular and Molecular Interactions in the Aging SVZ Niche				
Cote, R.	Physics	National Science Foundation	\$210,000	9/07-8/10
Probing Fundamental Physics with Ultracold Systems				
Dam Guerrero, H.	Marine Sciences	National Science Foundation	\$370,000	3/07-2/10
The Adaptive Importance of Toxin-Resistant Phenotypes in Calanoid Copepods				
Edson, J.	Marine Sciences	National Science Foundation	\$330,334	5/07-4/10
Collaborative Research: Southern Ocean Air-Sea Co2 Exchange				
Ellis, D.	Plant Science	U.S. Dept. of Agriculture/Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service	\$5,500	1/07-12/07
Noxious Weeds Work Plan for Calendar Year 2007				
Ellis, D.	Plant Science	U.S. Dept. of Agriculture/Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service	\$9,350	1/07-12/07
Biocontrol Work Plan for Calendar Year 2007				
Enderle, J.	Electrical & Computer Engineering	Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers	\$70,000	1/07-12/08
Editor-in-Chief of the Engineering in Medicine and Biology (EMB) Magazine				
Fan, T.	Mechanical Engineering	Conn. Dept. of Public Health	\$200,000	3/07-3/09
Quantitative Analysis of Molecular Transport and Population Kinetics for Stem Cell Cultivation in a Microfluidic System				

Ferris, A.	Nutritional Sciences	U.S. Dept. of Agriculture/Conn. Dept. of Social Services	\$1,565,969	10/06-9/07
Food Stamp Nutrition Food Stamp Connections				
Fritschle Mason, J.	Geography	Save-the-Redwoods League	\$14,871	3/07-12/07
A Historical Reconstruction of the Pre-Logged Northern Redwood Forest				
Grillo, M.	Department of Extension	New Haven Board of Education	\$30,000	1/07-6/07
The 4-H Horticultural Program				
Javidi, B.	Electrical & Computer Engineering	Lockheed Martin Corp.	\$50,000	2/07-12/07
3D Reconstruction of Occluded Objects Using Passive Sensing Imaging				
Jones, C.	Ecology & Evolutionary Biology	National Science Foundation	\$290,000	4/07-3/10
Collaborative Research: Resistance, Repair, and Redundancy: Traits that Protect Shrubs Against Drought				
Kalonia, D.	Pharmaceutical Sciences	Amgen Inc.	\$215,000	1/07-12/08
Protein Solubility and Protein-Protein Interactions				
Kraus, C.	Center for Survey Research & Analysis	Town of Tolland, Conn.	\$5,200	10/06-3/07
Residential & Economic Development Survey				
Kraus, C.	Center for Survey Research & Analysis	Rice University	\$26,500	12/06-6/07
Environmental Policy Survey				
Les, D.	Ecology & Evolutionary Biology	Conn. Dept. of Environmental Protection	\$14,800	3/07-12/08
A Molecular Genetic Approach to Evaluate Herbicide Resistance and Vectors of Spread for Populations of the Invasive Aquatic Plant Hydrilla verticillate (Hydrocharitaceae) in Connecticut				
Leyden, D.	School of Law Instruction & Research	Dept. of Treasury/Internal Revenue Service	\$85,000	1/07-12/07
Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic				
Lin, S.	Marine Sciences	Environmental Protection Agency/Conn. Dept. of Environmental Protection	\$40,000	1/07-9/07
Long Island Sound Water Quality Monitoring Phytoplankton Identification Project				
Loturco, J.	Physiology & Neurobiology	Conn. Dept. of Public Health	\$561,632	3/07-3/11
Migration and Integration of Embryonic Stem Cell Derived Neurons				
Mahoney, J.	Connecticut Transportation Institute	Dept. of Transportation /Conn. Dept. of Transportation	\$101,944	3/06-2/07
Hot Mix Asphalt Research Investigation for Connecticut				
Marcus, A.	Curriculum & Instruction	Conn. Humanities Council	\$19,731	3/07-12/07
Teaching American History with Film				
Nelson, C.	Molecular & Cell Biology	Conn. Dept. of Public Health	\$200,000	3/07-3/09
Lineage Mapping of Early Human Embryonic Stem Cell Differentiation				
Nishiyama, A.	Physiology & Neurobiology	Conn. Dept. of Public Health	\$529,872	3/07-3/11
Optimizing Axonal Regeneration Using a Polymer Implant Containing Human Embryonic Stem Cell-Derived Glia				
Parnas, R.	Institute of Materials Science	Dept. of Energy/Sandia National Laboratories	\$63,239	10/06-9/07
SANDIA/UConn Collaboration on Polymer Gels and Filled Polymers				
Pescatello, L.	Psychology-Ctr. for Health, Intervention & Prevention	Hartford Hospital	\$16,026	1/07-1/08
Hartford Hospital – UConn Kinesiology Exercise Genomics Projects				
Rasmussen, T.	Center for Regenerative Biology	Conn. Dept. of Public Health/Connecticut Innovations Inc.	\$200,000	3/07-3/09
Pragmatic Assessment of Epigenetic Drift in Human ES Cell Lines				
Rozum, J.	Department of Extension	Environmental Protection Agency/Conn. Dept. of Environmental Protection	\$75,000	1/07-10/08
NEMO: Catalyzing Community Action Toward Addressing Impaired Waters Through Education and Outreach				
Salamone, J.	Psychology	National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Mental Health	\$817,696	3/07-2/11
Effort-Related Functions of Nucleus Accumbens Adenosine A2A Receptors				
Schultz, E.	Ecology & Evolutionary Biology	Conn. Dept. of Environmental Protection	\$25,000	3/07-6/08
Estimating Predation on Declining River Herring: Tag-Recapture Study of Striped Bass in the Connecticut River				
Suib, S.	Chemistry	United Technologies-Pratt & Whitney	\$25,000	1/07-12/0
Investigation in Polymer Processing and Chemical Vapor Deposition				
Valiquette, E.	Department of Extension	National 4-H Council	\$1,400	11/06-8/07
Youth United for Drug-Free Communities				
Volek, J.	Kinesiology	American Egg Board	\$117,147	7/06-6/09
Effects of an Egg-Rich Carbohydrate Restricted Diet High in Either Saturated Fat, n-6 Polyunsaturated Fat, or n-3 Polyunsaturated Fat on Plasma Cholesterol, Plasma Fatty Acid Composition, Inflammation and Glycemic Control				
Willig, M.	Ctr. for Environmental Sciences & Engineering	National Science Foundation/Univ. of Puerto Rico	\$25,000	12/06-11/07
Long-Term Ecological Research in the Luquillo Mountains of Puerto Rico				



CALENDAR

Tuesday, May 29 to Monday, June 18

Items for the weekly *Advance* Calendar are downloaded from the University's online Events Calendar. Please enter your Calendar items at: <http://events.uconn.edu/> Items must be entered by 4 p.m. on Monday for inclusion in the issue published the following Monday.

Note: The next Calendar will include events taking place from June 18 through July 23. Those items must be entered in the database by June 11.

If you need special accommodations to participate in events, call 860-486-2943 (Storrs), or 860-679-3563 (Farmington), or 860-570-5130 (Law School).

Libraries

**Homer Babbidge Library.** Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday noon-5 p.m.

**Dodd Center.** Reading Room hours: Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; closed weekends.

Research Center hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; closed weekends.

**Health Center Library.** Hours: Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m.-11 p.m.; Friday, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-10 p.m.

**Law Library.** Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-11 p.m.; Friday 5/18, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1-9 p.m.

**Torrington Campus Library.** Hours: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Friday-Sunday, closed.

**Stamford Campus Library.** Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.; Friday-Sunday, closed.

**Avery Point Campus.** Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday, closed.

**Waterbury Campus Library.** Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday, closed.

**Hartford Campus Library.** Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, closed.

University ITS

**Hours:** Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Help Desk Hours:** Call 860-486-4357, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Ph.D. Defenses

Tuesday, 5/29 – Biomedical Sciences.

*Molecular Pathogenesis of Parathyroid Neoplasia*, by Jessica Costa-Guda (adv.: Arnold). 1 p.m., Room EGo52, Academic Research Building, Health Center.

**Thursday, 5/31 – Biophysics.** *NMR Studies of Folding Hierarchies and the Role of Electrostatics in Protein Folding*, by William Matousek (adv.: Alexandrescu). 10:30 a.m., Room 130, Biology/Physics Building.

**Monday, 6/4 – Computer Science & Engineering.** *Topics in Parallel Computation and Motif Discovery in Bioinformatics*, by Jaime Davila Latorre (adv.: Rajasekaran). 10 a.m., Room 119, Information Technology Engineering Building.

**Monday, 6/4 – Physics.** *Investigating of Polymer Liquid Systems Through Distant Dipolar Field Effects*, by Priyanga Bandara (adv.: Utz). 11 a.m.,



PHOTO BY MARGO COOPER

“Frank Frost, Clarksdale , Miss., 1998,” a photograph in the *Deep Inside the Blues* exhibit at the Dodd Center. See Exhibits.

Room P121, Gant Science Complex.

**Monday, 6/11 – Music.** *Myroslav: Life and Solo Piano Works*, by Victor Markiw (adv.: Larrabee). Room 108, Music Building.

**Friday, 6/15 – Biomedical Sciences.** *Functional Studies of Dlx5 During Bone Formation – Implications for Dlx Genes in Promoting Osteoblast Maturation*, by Haitao Li (adv.: Lichter). 2 p.m., Room EGo13, Academic Research Building, Health Center.

**Monday, 6/18 – Biomedical Sciences.**

*Elucidation of the Mechanisms by which TGF-beta1 Augments Astrocytic NOS-2 Expression*, by Mary Hamby (adv.: Hewett). 1 p.m., Low Learning Center, Academic Research Building, Health Center.

Lectures & Seminars

**Tuesday, 5/29 – Genetics Lecture.** “The Impact of Horizontal Gene Transfers on Prokaryotic Genome Evolution.” 10 a.m., Room 201, Biology/Physics Building.

**Tuesday, 5/29 – Adult Learning Conference.** “Students’ Interpretation and Application of Feedback in a First-Year English Composition Course.” 11 a.m., Room 246, Gentry Building.

**Tuesday, 5/29 – Atomic, Molecular, Optical Physics Seminar.** “Scissors-Mode Oscillations for a Finite-Tempera-

ture Strongly-Interacting Ultracold Fermi Gas,” by Matthew Wright. 2 p.m., Room P121, Gant Science Complex.

**Wednesday, 5/30 – Molecular Medicine Seminar.** “The Surprising Role of a Housekeeping Gene, Beta 2 Microglobulin, in Cancer Growth and Bone Metastasis,” by Dr. Leland Chung, Emory University. Noon, Room EGo52, Academic Research Building, Health Center.

**Tuesday, 6/5 – College Transition Conference.** A colloquium that will examine

public policy and the best practices for student transition from high school to college, workforce, and beyond. 8:30 a.m., Student Union Ballroom. Admission \$65 and \$45. Visit [www.conferences.uconn.edu/collegetransition](http://www.conferences.uconn.edu/collegetransition).

**Thursday, 6/7 – Graduate Student Research Day.** Health Center graduate students present their research. Keynote speaker Dr. Craig Hunter, Harvard University. Academic Lobby, Low Learning Center, Keller Auditorium, Health Center.

**Thursday, 6/7 – Special Particles, Astrophysics, & Nuclei Physics Seminar.** “Black Hole Thermodynamics and Breakdown of the Classical Approximation,” by Daniel Grumiller, MIT. 2 p.m., Room P121, Gant Science Complex.

Exhibits

**Tuesday, 5/29 through Friday, 8/17 – Homer Babbidge Library.** *Deep Inside the Blues*, photography by Margo Cooper, Dodd Center Gallery; *Backyard New England*, nature photographs by Paul Swiacke, Stevens Gallery; and *Splendor in the Glass*, paperweights and sculptural objects, Gallery on the Plaza. For hours, see Libraries section.

**Through Sunday, 6/3 – Alexey von Schlippe Gallery of Art.** Photographs, monotypes, landscape paintings by Mark Dixon of Old Lyme, Estelle Laschever of West Hartford, and Neill Slaughter of South Hampton, N.Y. Also, Friday, 6/8 through 7/22, paintings, mixed media, photography, and sculpture by Ann Culver of Guilford, Joy Floyd of Hartford, David Madacsi of Mystic, Phil Parkes of New London. Also, *Sculpture Path by the Sea*, on the Avery Point Campus grounds. Wednesday-Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Admission free to Museum members and students; non-members, \$3. Opening reception Friday, 6/8, 6-8 p.m., featuring The Count Steadwell and Bill Morrison Jazz Duo.

**Through Wednesday, 6/13 – Health Center.** *Art Inspired by the Old Masters, Thirty Years and Two Continents Later*, featuring *Old Europe*, by Joseph Miranda. On display daily, 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Hospital and Mezzanine Lobbies.

**Through Sunday, 8/5 – Benton Museum.** *Alpine Views: Alexandre Calame and the Swiss Landscape*; and *Arpilleras: Women’s Protest Tapestries from Chile*; and *Connecticut Landscapes from the 20’s and 30’s*. Also, through 6/17, *Tradition and Innovation: Latin American Art from the Permanent Collection*. Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday, 1-4:30 p.m. Free admission, \$2 per person for docent-led tours. Talk every Tuesday, 12:15

p.m., Benton Lobby.

**Through 11/17 – Ballard Institute of Puppetry.** *Shadows & Substance*, 20th anniversary exhibit of puppet preservation at UConn. Hours: Friday, Saturday, Sunday, noon-5 p.m. Weaver Road, Depot Campus. Free admission, donations accepted. Docent-led tours available every day during museum hours.

**Ongoing. State Museum of Natural History & Connecticut Archaeology Center.** New permanent exhibit, *Human’s Nature: Looking Closer at the Relationships between People and the Environment*. Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday & Monday, closed. Free admission, donations accepted.

Potpourri

**Saturday, 6/2 – Garbology Workshop.** Learn about families’ likes, dislikes, and behavior by examining a weeks’ worth of trash thrown out by several households. By Akeia Benard. 10 a.m., Connecticut State Museum of Natural History. Registration required: Admission \$15, or \$10 per Museum member.

**Wednesday, 6/6 – Connecticut Venture Group-UConn Technology Transfer Event.** Avery Point Campu. Presentations on University research and technologies being pursued in faculty labs that may be relevant to industry and entrepreneurs. Panel of industry technology executives will comment on trends in industry and opportunities for commercial application. No cost for faculty and students. Register at [https://www.cvg.org/upcoming\\_event.s.asp](https://www.cvg.org/upcoming_event.s.asp)

**Friday, 6/8 – Latino Leadership in Higher Education: Advancing and Preparing Our Next Generation.** 25th Anniversary Conference. Contact Sanjay Pai.

**Saturday, 6/9 – Connecticut State BioBlitz 2007.** Scientists from several universities will compete to see how many species they can count in a 24-hour period. The public is invited to observe, interact, and participate. 10 a.m., Wilbert Snow School, Middletown, Conn.

**Friday, 6/15 – Benton Museum Annual Tag Sale.** 10 a.m.-4 .p.m. Benton Museum store.

**Saturday, 6/16 – Pest Wars: Good Bugs, Protective Plants, and Safe Sprays.** Donna Ellis, from UConn’s Integrated Pest Management Program, will discuss ways to deal with house and garden pests in ways that are safe for families, neighbors, and local wildlife. 10 a.m., Connecticut State Museum of Natural History. Advance registration required: \$15, or \$10 per member. Contact David Colberg, 860-486-5690.

Family Leave proposal earns recognition for undergraduate

BY KALA KACHMAR

A junior majoring in human development and family studies has won first prize for a public policy proposal and was a finalist in a competition for a prestigious scholarship.

Samantha Sherwood was recently awarded first prize by Yale University’s Roosevelt Institution for her policy proposal on expanding the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA). Family leave policy involves time taken off by employees to take care of foster or adoption issues, a new child, a sick child, a spouse, or an elderly parent.

Sherwood, who is minoring in political science, was also selected as one of 200 finalists for the Truman Scholarship, which is awarded to 65 students in the country, for a proposal on the same topic.

Sherwood became interested in family leave while taking a course

on public policy and the family with Steve Wisensale, a professor of human development and family studies.

“Professor Wisensale helped me develop my proposal,” Sherwood says. “It was great to have him to bounce off ideas.”

Shortly after being a finalist for the Truman Scholarship, Sherwood was contacted by the Roosevelt Institution, based in Washington, D.C., to submit her proposal for publication in a journal.

Her proposal would expand the FMLA, which currently allows workers 12 weeks of unpaid leave every 12 months if a business employs at least 50 people.

Sherwood’s proposed change would lower the requirement from 50 to 20 employees, and offer paid leave that would allow for 50 percent of employee wages, with a cap of \$800 per week. Leave would be expanded to 16 or 18 weeks if a man takes two of those weeks for

child care, in an effort to promote gender equality, she says. To finance this plan, Sherwood suggested that a federal payroll tax be implemented.

“The average worker would get about \$50 per year taken out, and



Samantha Sherwood

the minimum wage worker would get about \$12 taken out,” Sherwood says.

Since California is the only state that offers paid leave, Sherwood used that state’s cost model and expanded it to fit the U.S. population.

The Roosevelt Institution suggested that she pair up with another student, Kaitlin Canty, from Union College in Schenectady, who had a similar proposal.

Sherwood and Canty worked together to create a PowerPoint presentation for the “America’s Social Contract” conference at Yale University, sponsored in part by the Roosevelt Institution.

“We worked together via e-mail to submit an article on expanding the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993,” Sherwood said. “We used my proposal and her statistics and testimony as background information to defend our presentation.”

The journal, *25 Ideas Series*, is a

special series with new policy ideas that will be distributed to more than 2,000 members of Congress and local government officials.

“It was my best chance to get published as an undergraduate,” says Sherwood. “I’ve done a lot of international research and took elements from the current policy and policies of different states and countries.”

Sherwood and Canty’s presentation was selected as the strongest policy proposal.

“It was quite an honor — and a shock to see that people really saw it as an important issue,” Sherwood says, noting that 11 other presentations were given by students from Yale, Brown, Columbia, Princeton, and Dartmouth.

“Her [proposal] is pretty realistic, and the timing is right,” says Wisensale.

Says Sherwood, “This experience helped me learn a lot about myself, my interests and my passions.”



# Two UConn students to join study trip on re-created *Amistad*

BY CINDY WEISS

Two UConn undergraduates will be among up to 10 college students sailing from New Haven to London, England on the first leg of a yearlong voyage of the *Amistad*. Recreated by Mystic Seaport, the ship recalls an 1839 revolt by Africans captured for the slave trade.

The four-semester college program at sea, “Sankofa, Sailing in the Wake of our Ancestors,” will focus on the transatlantic slave trade and the history and legacy of the 53 *Amistad* Africans who were kidnapped from what is now Sierra Leone and sold as slaves.

The voyage also will commemorate the 200th anniversary of England’s ban on the slave trade.

There will be ports of call in Canada, England, Portugal, Africa, the Caribbean, and the U.S.

On board for the summer are Erica Whyte, a maritime studies major from Hartford, and Logan Sennack, an environmental sciences major from Torrington, both students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The schooner will leave New Haven on June 21, stop in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and arrive in London around Aug. 9.

The students will study the underground railroad in Nova

Scotia, the Return to Africa movement, and British connections to the transatlantic slave trade in three courses taught by a historian from Washington, D.C., whose research has focused on the African diaspora and the Black Atlantic.

They will learn practical navigation skills, and study how ships sail and the oceanography of the Atlantic. They will also contribute to the ship’s web log, and will stand watches.

Under close observation by an experienced crew, the students will have a chance to sail the schooner themselves, paralleling the experience of the Africans who took over the original *La Amistad*. They also will offer educational guided tours of the schooner at various ports of call.

The students’ participation in the *Amistad* college program will be fully paid by funds raised from 12 units on campus, including CLAS and several of its departments and programs, International Studies, the Honors Program, the Center for Academic Programs, the Provost’s Office, the Office of International Affairs, the UNESCO Chair and Institute of Comparative Human Rights, and the Avery Point Campus.

The *Amistad*’s voyage will track slave trade routes, and demon-

strate to students that the economies of powers such as France and England and the wealth of the world were rooted in the textile, sugar, and coffee trades that the trade supported, says Jeffrey Ogbar, associate professor of history and director of the Institute for African American Studies.

“The connections between the three different continents – America, Europe, and Africa – are profound,” he says.

Ogbar chairs the UConn student admissions committee for the project and, with Ross Lewin, director of the Study Abroad program, raised funds for students to participate. The program is recruiting a multi-ethnic team of students from several colleges.

The Study Abroad program is administering all college credits for the voyage, which is run by Amistad America, a nonprofit educational organization based in New Haven.

“This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our students,” says Lewin. “The *Amistad* uprising is a key event in Connecticut history, and participation in this program will allow our students to study that history both academically and experientially.”

Unlike the original *La Amistad*, which was a coastal trader, the contemporary schooner is a heav-

ier vessel that has been outfitted to cross the ocean and has been certified by the U.S. Coast Guard. This will be its first transoceanic voyage.

The ship will be manned by nine professional crew members and a captain, Eliza Garfield, who has 20 years of experience in sailing-based education. The vessel is equipped with security and communications technology systems.

The trip has been vetted by nine desks at the State Department, representing every country ship will pass through, Ogbar says. It also has established links with the U.S. Coast Guard and the navies of Britain and Portugal.

Students will begin their orientation to the ship and the history of the *Amistad* on June 7 in New

Haven. A “captain’s party” fundraiser will be held in New Haven in June 20, the eve of the launch.

The fall leg of the voyage, Aug. 11 to Dec. 14, will sail from Liverpool, England, to Sierra Leone, making stops in England, Portugal, and Senegal. The spring voyage will sail from Sierra Leone to Charleston, S.C., with stops in Senegal, Cape Verde, Barbados, and Puerto Rico.

More information about the UConn program is available from the Study Abroad web site, [www.studyabroad.uconn.edu](http://www.studyabroad.uconn.edu), under “New Programs.”



# High schoolers learn financial basics at Business School event

BY KALA KACHMAR

Being trapped with a bad credit score is one less financial burden for Alicja Klysz of Coventry High School to worry about.

Klysz and 25 other high school students from around Connecticut visited the School of Business to participate in the first annual Connecticut Youth Financial Institute, a program, designed to educate students about personal finance.

The high school seniors took part in three informational semi-

nars, each taught by a UConn faculty member. One session was on money and banking; another was on goals, planning, budgeting, and saving; the third was on investing.

“All the things we learned were helpful,” Klysz said. “It’s important to have a basic background in finance.”

While the students were in their sessions, high school teachers participated in informational sessions on resources for financial education; Junior Achievement, an orga-

nization that seeks to educate youth on how to succeed in a global economy; and on admissions and opportunities at the University’s business school.

“I think [financial education] is a must,” said Paula Jussila, who teaches business at South Windham High School. “Students don’t always feel it’s important.

“Most think, ‘we’re young, we don’t need to know this stuff yet,’” she adds. “But they really do.”

Financial education for students

is an area that is getting more attention, especially since there are more opportunities to get into financial trouble, said Linda Klein, associate dean of the School of Business, who instructed the student session on goals, planning, budgeting, and saving.

“Finance is a critical life skill,” Klein said. “If students understand how money works, they will be light years ahead of everyone else.” She said the students were “involved and willing to share their ideas. It was an interactive environment.”

Joe Banach, a senior at South Windsor High School, said, “The budget course will help me now and throughout my life. It’s important to know how to balance your budget.”

The program was also designed to bring high school students into a university setting and allow them to experience college level instructors, according to Lou Golden, president of Junior Achievement of Southwest New England. He is also chair of the Jump\$tart Coalition, an organization comprised of government agencies, financial institutions, and corporations seeking to increase financial literacy among Connecticut’s youth. Both organizations were co-sponsors of the program with the business school.

“UConn has a great business school,” Banach said. “I thought it was a great opportunity to see what college is like and learn about something I like at the same time.”

Luncheon speaker Vincent Armentano, senior vice president for Travelers, spoke with students and teachers about corporate life and reaching career goals.

“More opportunities for students to gain experience through partnerships between businesses and colleges can only add up to a good thing,” he said.

Golden said Jump\$tart teamed up last summer with the School of Business to examine the impact of financial literacy on high school students. The result was an intensive program focused on educating a small number of high-performing students on financial literacy.

“We wanted students to have the opportunity to delve intensively into issues that will affect their lives in the future, like investments and saving strategies,” he said.

The program was publicized to all high schools in Connecticut during the fall and winter. Participants were required to have a 3.2 grade point average, write an essay explaining their interest in financial education, and provide a letter of recommendation.

“I was impressed with the caliber of the students that applied,” said Golden.

Katherine Pancak, professor-in-residence of finance who helped organize the program, said the program will be held again next year.

“We’ve been getting positive feedback,” she said. “It’s definitely worth having again.”



PHOTO BY KATHERINE PANCAK

High school seniors and teachers from around the state attend the first Connecticut Youth Financial Institute at the School of Business.