



UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

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Deckers stepping down from Health Center leadership

BY KRISTINA GOODNOUGH

Dr. Peter J. Deckers, dean of the School of Medicine since 1995 and executive vice president of health affairs since 2000, has announced that he will step down from both positions on June 30, at the conclusion of his appointment.

On behalf of the University, President Philip E. Austin expressed "deep appreciation for Dr. Deckers' farsighted leadership at the Health Center.

Austin said the timing of the announcement will allow for an orderly transition. "In order to begin the process of choosing a new executive vice president and dean," he said, "I am establishing a search committee that will be chaired by Dr. Richard Garibaldi and supported by the services of a national recruitment firm. Other members of the committee will be announced shortly."

Garibaldi, who recently stepped down as chair of the Department of Medicine, has been with the Health Center since 1982. He served as director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program for 17 years, before becoming department chair 10 years ago.

"The initiation of the search comes at a time when the committee charged with recruiting my own replacement is narrowing the list of candidates," said Austin. "I expect the Board of Trustees will appoint the new University president shortly. Ultimately the decision on the next executive vice president and dean will be made by the next president and the Health Center Board of Directors. Nevertheless, Board of Directors Chairman Dr. Gerald Burrow, Board of Trustees Chairman Dr. John W. Rowe, and I believe that it is prudent to begin the search for a new Health Center leader now," said Austin.

Deckers' leadership of the UConn Health Center has been marked by a transformation of the educational curriculum, by a dramatic increase in patient care provided by John Dempsey Hospital and the UConn Medical Group, and by strong growth in public and private research awards to biomedical scientists and clinicians.

Deckers joined the Health Center in 1987. He took the top administrative position in

see Health Center leader page 2



PHOTO BY NATHAN ADAMS

Helen Rozwadowski, associate professor of history and coordinator of maritime studies at the Avery Point campus, climbs the rigging of a whaleship at Mystic Seaport.

Chief financial officer to retire

BY SHERRY FISHER

Lorraine M. Aronson, the University's chief financial officer, will retire in May 2008.

She says she is retiring for personal reasons, including a wish to spend more time with her family. "I've been in high pressure, high profile positions for 25 years. I've come to a point in my life where my priorities are changing."

Before coming to UConn in 1995, she held top positions under Govs. William A. O'Neill, Lowell P. Weicker Jr., and John G. Rowland. These include service as deputy commissioner of education, commissioner of the Department of Income Maintenance (now the Department of Social Services), and deputy secretary of the Office of Policy and Management.

At UConn, Aronson was assistant to the chancellor, associate vice president of institutional advancement, and in 2000 became vice president for financial planning and management, assuming responsibility for the University's budget and finance activities. In 2003, business/accounting functions were added to her portfolio as vice president.

Of her decision to retire at the end of May, she says, "I want to do this in an orderly way. This timetable will allow me to assist President Austin for the remainder of his tenure as president, and will give his successor the opportunity to get to know the University and its financial operations. We've got a fabulous fiscal team, both at Storrs and at the Health Center, so I know

see Chief financial officer page 7

New dean of engineering named

BY MICHAEL KIRK

Mun Young Choi of Drexel University has been named as the next dean of UConn's School of Engineering. He will begin in January 2008.

Choi, 43, is currently the associate dean for research and graduate studies at Drexel University's College of Engineering in Philadelphia, where he also heads the department of mechanical engineering and mechanics.

"I believe that in Mun we have found an outstanding leader for the school," says Provost Peter J. Nicholls. "He will not only lead the school to the next level of excellence but has already shared with me many exciting possibilities for collaborations with other schools and colleges at UConn that will be to the great benefit of the entire university.

"His significant interest and experience in increasing opportunities for engineering education and innovative programming for students at all levels will be invaluable to us as we realize the new academic plan," Nicholls adds.

Choi is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and received his Ph.D. in mechanical and aerospace engineering from Princeton University in 1992. He served as a National Research Council Post-Doctoral Fellow at the National Institute of Standards and Technology and as a faculty member in the mechanical engineering department at the University of Illinois at Chicago before joining Drexel University in 2000.

Choi's primary research interests are in the areas of combustion, energy, and experimental diagnostics. His programs have been funded by various federal agencies, including the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, and NASA for experiments to be performed aboard the International Space Station.

Choi says that during his interactions with faculty, staff, and administrators at UConn, he sensed "tremendous excitement" about the opportunities for the University and the School of Engineering. He also noted a strong commitment from the University and from the state to elevate the School to become one of the premier engineering schools in the nation.

"The key elements are already in place for success," Choi says. "The School has excel-

see Engineering dean page 7

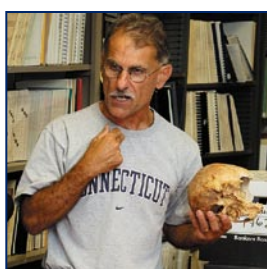
Inside



UConn firefighters



College prep



Archaeology school

English language program teaches students about American culture



Turkish students in UCAELI's High School Intensive English program perform a sneaker commercial they created during a language class.

BY KALA KACHMAR

Students from more than 25 countries on six different continents come to UConn each year for one purpose: to learn English at the University's American English Language Institute.

UCAELI teaches students formal English language skills, and encourages them to engage in cultural activities that help them understand American life.

A warm July evening when the sky is ablaze with fireworks is a backdrop for conversation.

Roasting marshmallows is the talk of the hour at a local campsite.

A day baking on the beach is another forum for communication with Americans.

"Experiences like these are invaluable to our students," says Arthur Galinat, program coordinator of UCAELI. "Going camping or going shopping stimulates more conversation than a traditional classroom setting."

UCAELI offers several programs to students of different ages at various English-speaking levels to help improve their language skills and assimilation into life in the U.S.

"When I lived in New York, there were so many other international students that I didn't get a chance to meet with Americans," says Jiyoun Myung, who came from South Korea to New York University graduate school. "When I came to UConn for UCAELI, I made American friends and met families, and I learned what suburban America was like."

UCAELI programs include the Intensive English Program, the High School Intensive English Program, evening courses for international undergraduate and graduate students looking to improve their language skills, and the Summer English Experience, a three-week program for teenagers ages 13 to 17.

"Most of the students are learning English to prepare to transfer to a U.S. college, but we have some who are children of international

faculty and visiting scholars, and also some new Connecticut residents," Galinat says. "We hope they remember UConn when they apply to college."

The majority of UCAELI students enroll in the Intensive English Program, a 15-week program during the fall and spring semesters, or eight weeks during the summer.

The Intensive English Program is the only nationally accredited university-based English language program in New England. It is intended primarily for students college-age and older, and focuses on three main areas: listening and speaking; grammar and communication; and reading and writing.

Students also take electives that are put together by the UCAELI teachers.

"I took an entertainment class and learned about celebrity life, the red carpet, and slang words," says Nucharin Puensakul, a UCAELI student who came from Thailand to prepare for graduate school in the United States. "They were fun and interesting to learn about."

Many of UCAELI's programs entail field trips to complement classroom work. The Summer English Experience program in particular focuses on recreation and field trips as a way to learn English.

Camping at Rocky Neck State Park, taking a day trip to the Big E, or visiting exhibits at the Museum of Contemporary Art with UCAELI staff and UConn volunteers, introduces English language students to U.S. culture and tradition, while providing opportunities for everyday conversation, Galinat says.

Another UCAELI program, High School Intensive English, is specifically designated for Turkish students aged 13 to 16. UCAELI has a partnership with the Putnam Science Academy, where the students stay during the academic year.

All students in a UCAELI

program are assigned conversation partners, volunteers recruited from the UConn community who engage in one-on-one discussions with the students.

"I loved having conversation partners," Myung says. "We were able to meet with them in and out of class, and I often went to dinner and hung out with my partner."

"This interactivity gives UCAELI students a chance to meet someone different and talk about American life," Galinat says. "At the same time, volunteers can learn what life is like in Asia or the Middle East."

UCAELI students are encouraged to participate in University activities on campus during the school year.

"We feel it's important for our students to learn about campus life and participate in UConn activities as well," Galinat says.

UCAELI has also created specialized English as a second language programs for companies upon request. In 2004, the University's Dining Services funded a program that taught English for daily living to 10 of its employees.

"UCAELI is constantly creating and changing programs to fit the needs of interested participants," says UCAELI director Kristi Newgarden.

UCAELI staff members help students with immigration documents, medical insurance, transportation, and accommodation. UCAELI students in the Intensive English Program can make their own living arrangements, but many choose to live on campus in graduate and undergraduate dormitories with UConn students, or with local host families.

"The students bring diversity to campus and the local community," Galinat says. "In addition to teaching English to international students, UCAELI also gives UConn students and faculty the opportunity to gain insight into the world as a global community."

Health Center leader *continued from page 1*

2000, after a year as interim. At the time, the Health Center was in a period marked by low reimbursement rates from Medicare, Medicaid, and health insurers looking to rein in skyrocketing costs. Deckers was instrumental in the lobbying effort that won for the Health Center special financial assistance of \$20 million from the state legislature.

He then helped engineer a turnaround that achieved \$74 million in cost reductions and revenue enhancements, focused resources on areas of excellence, stepped up recruitment of nationally prominent physicians and researchers, and brought more patients to the Health Center.

"It's been a remarkable tenure," says Dr. Bruce Koeppen, dean of academic affairs.

Deckers believed that the Health Center's special strength came from its combined mission of research, education, and clinical care, Koeppen adds. By supporting the development of research strategic plans, he pushed the institution to identify specific areas of expertise and to focus its resources on those areas of strength.

"The ultimate purpose of our signature programs is to build a stronger Health Center by closely linking areas of research excellence with areas of clinical excellence," Deckers said at the time.

The Health Center built a new building to house its New England Musculoskeletal Institute and expand research and clinical care in orthopedics, arthritis, bone biology, biomaterials and biomechanics. Musculoskeletal disease and bone biology is one of the Health Center's signature programs — along with cancer, cardiology and public health — that grew out of the strategic planning process.

His leadership yielded significant results. Between 1999 and 2005, external research award expenditures by the Health Center almost doubled, to nearly \$93 million. During roughly the same time frame, annual admissions to the hospital increased 42 percent to 9,826, and annual patient visits to the UConn Medical Group rose 49 percent to 507,000.

Also under his leadership, the

Health Center was recognized several times by Solucient, a leading health care information company. In 2007 it was named a top 100 hospital, and in both 2006 and 2005 it was named a top 100 performance improvement leader.

The Health Center, in collaboration with the University's Storrs campus, also became a national leader in human embryonic stem cell research by spearheading research projects that won the lion's share (60 percent of \$20 million) of Connecticut's first disbursement of funds for stem cell work.

As dean of the School of Medicine, Deckers supported the development of a new curriculum that won national recognition for the Health Center.

And during his tenure, the School of Dental Medicine twice ranked No. 1 among the country's 55 dental schools, based on national examination results.

Deckers earned his medical degree from the Boston University School of Medicine, where he received the Outstanding Physician Award. He completed his residency in general surgery and was a U.S. Public Health Service trainee in academic surgery at Boston University Medical School, where he began his career. He joined the Health Center after three years as chairman of surgery at Hartford Hospital.



Dr. Peter Deckers, executive vice-president of health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine

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ING names UConn a priority recruiting partner, makes gift



PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

From left, Mohamed Hussein, interim dean of business, Provost Peter J. Nicholls, Bob Crispin, CEO of ING Investment Management, and Kathleen Murphy, CEO of ING US Wealth Management, during a press conference held at ING in Hartford in June.

The financial services company ING has named UConn an official priority-recruitment school, as part of a global effort to partner with higher education institutions around the world.

The ING Foundation also has pledged \$450,000 over three years to support initiatives in the School of Business.

The recruiting partnership, the first in ING's Americas region, will include the creation of internships,

mentorships, research projects, and lecture opportunities to benefit UConn students and faculty as well as ING.

"The aim of ING's university recruitment approach is to attract talented, diverse, and smart future leaders by partnering with selected universities in a focused manner," says Kathleen Murphy, CEO of ING U.S. Wealth Management. "The University of Connecticut embodies the characteristics we're

looking for in a leading school: a high-quality institution, a global perspective, and educational programs that fit well with the needs of a world-class financial institution."

This commitment to the University builds on a robust relationship through the ING Center for Financial Services and the ING Chair in Financial Services, which were established at the UConn School of Business in 2001. The

ING Center specializes in research and development of real-world solutions to marketing challenges such as identifying profitable customers and optimizing customer acquisition and retention. Corporate clients have included IBM, Bristol-Meyers, and L.L. Bean.

"This effort builds on an already strong partnership between ING and UConn," said Robert Crispin, chairman and CEO of ING Investment Management Americas, "and is mutually beneficial. ING gains by focusing our efforts to recruit talented future leaders, and UConn students get access to enhanced learning opportunities and gain an edge at becoming part of a global business leader."

Provost Peter J. Nicholls, executive vice president for academic affairs at UConn, says, "Expanding UConn's relationship with ING ties in strategically with the University's academic plan, which places priority on globalization, curricular diversity, and workforce development. The opportunities for experiential learning and mentorship will have tremendous benefit for students."

ING's recruitment efforts will target a variety of disciplines, primarily business, accounting, and actuarial science. The company is developing programs that will support workforce development in these fields, including internships, scholarships, and networking

events.

ING is also continuing its support of UConn with a gift of \$450,000 to The University of Connecticut Foundation Inc., paid over three years.

"This grant to benefit the University of Connecticut is symbolic of ING's global commitment to supporting communities in which we live and do business," says Rhonda Mims, president of the ING Foundation. "Supporting education is a core component of ING's philanthropic efforts."

ING's gift will support School of Business initiatives in three areas: career services; graduate assistantships, scholarships, and projects; and the ING Center for Financial Services.

"The creation of the ING Center for Financial Services and ING Chair in Financial Services in 2001 has enabled our faculty and students to pursue cutting-edge research in the field of financial services — an industry that is vital to the state of Connecticut," says Mohamed Hussein, interim dean of the School of Business. "ING's latest commitment will help us enhance the breadth and depth of experiential learning opportunities available to UConn business students. These experiences are critical in preparing students for today's workforce."

Recent grad dies in swimming accident

A remarkable story ended tragically when Devin Gaines '07 died in a swimming accident July 10.

Gaines, who graduated from UConn in May, had achieved an extraordinary feat: He had earned 276 credits in five years, enough to earn five degrees — in computer science, cognitive science, theatre studies, linguistics/psychology,

and an individualized major in cinema, culture, and cognition.

He accomplished this while maintaining a 3.2 grade point average.

He had planned to continue his education by pursuing a master's degree in educational communications technology at New York University.

"Devin really embraced all aspects of university life," says David G. Woods, dean of the School of Fine Arts. "He was a creative artist, had a mathematical mind, was witty, and he was caring. Those of us in fine arts enjoyed and cherished our friendship with him and will miss him and his many artistic talents."

Classroom building plans to be discussed July 31

There will be a special meeting of the Capital Projects Planning Advisory Committee on Tuesday, July 31 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. in Bishop Center room 7.

The committee will discuss several ideas for replacing the Arjona and Monteith classroom buildings. The committee will discuss where

replacement buildings could be sited.

Previous plans called for replacing the two buildings with a single building located on the site previously occupied by the UConn Co-op, which moved to Hillside Road.

Special district okayed for Downtown Storrs

BY RICHARD VEILLEUX

The Mansfield planning and zoning commission this summer approved a request from the developers of Storrs Center to create a special design district, one of the final hurdles in efforts to build a new downtown area off Storrs Road.

The commission has also approved the first building for the project, designed to accommodate some of the businesses that will be relocated in the Storrs commercial area. The building will be located off Dog Lane, near the entrance to Bishop Center. Cynthia van Zelm, executive director of the Downtown Partnership, says 10 to

15 businesses will be canvassed to ascertain their interest in obtaining space in the building, and then designers will draw plans for the structure.

Storrs Center is being designed as a center of civic activity that links the University, Mansfield businesses and civic functions, local residents, and visitors within a pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use, "main street" environment. The project will include on-street retail and restaurant activity, offices, public gathering places, and up to 800 units of new housing.

On July 19, officials held a ribbon-cutting in front of Mansfield Town Hall, dedicating the brick

walkway envisioned to connect the town hall and the community center with the downtown. The walkway is lined with trees and benches. And, on Sept. 16, from noon until 5 p.m., the partnership, UConn, and Mansfield businesses will celebrate the fourth annual Festival on the Green, in the parking areas behind Storrs Commons and Store 24.

The planning and zoning approvals will be followed by the required site plan approval process, with an eye toward a groundbreaking next year.

Convocation set for Aug. 24

Faculty and staff are invited to join incoming students, their families and friends at Convocation on Friday, Aug. 24 at 5 p.m. in Gampel Pavilion.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Sandra Weller, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor and chair of Molecular, Microbial, and Structural Biology at the Health Center.

Weller is one of the nation's leading scientists in viral DNA replication. She conducts research on the herpes simplex virus Type 1.

In 2000, Weller was elected to the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering, and in 2001, she was elected a fellow in

the American Academy of Microbiology.

She was awarded the Method to Extend Research in Time (MERIT) award by the National Institutes of Health, and trained two students who received the prestigious Henderson Award given at the Health Center each year for the best thesis.

She serves on the Faculty Review Board, the Medical Council, and the School of Medicine Oversight Committee, and is a member of the University's ESCRO committee, which oversees the ethics of stem cell research.

Full-time firefighters’ fast response helps keep campus safe



PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

UConn firefighter Patrick Selburg drives across campus to make a routine safety check.

BY RICHARD VEILLEUX

When a fire alarm sounds at UConn’s Storrs campus, a cadre of full-time firefighters scrambles into action. The first engine can be on the scene of a fire anywhere on campus within three minutes.

UConn is the only New England public university, and one of only a handful of campuses nationwide, that employs its own paid and fully staffed fire department. And the three-minute response time is not only faster than most departments – college or town – can match, it far exceeds the minimum standard recommended by the National Fire Protection Association, which is four minutes for the first responder, eight minutes for a full cohort.

“An average response time of three minutes or less is unheard

of, regardless of whether it’s a municipal or a university setting,” says Barry Feldman, UConn’s chief operating officer and former West Hartford town manager.

The UConn Fire Department receives about 3,000 fire and emergency calls a year. But the daily business of the 29 uniformed UConn firefighters, all University employees, includes more than responding to those calls.

The department also undertakes building inspections, monthly sprinkler system inspections, valve inspections (some 2,600), and running fire drills, both during the academic year and in the summer when camps and conferences on campus are in full swing.

And during the academic year, firefighters also provide fire safety training to all the community as-

sistants in the residence halls, and to many students.

The University’s 2007-08 budget recommends two additional firefighters, owing to UConn’s growth during the past decade.

“We do many things that other municipal or even city departments don’t,” Fire Chief Francis Williams says, “including emergency medical services, hazardous material emergency response, fire education. And we’re also part of a large mutual aid partnership. We’ve been called to assist many Windham County towns.”

Robert Hudd, director of public safety, adds, “This is a very hard-working department. They have plenty to keep them busy, and they do it well.”

The department has a full complement of equipment, includ-

Middle-schoolers get college prep at Stamford campus

BY TOM CHIAPPETTA

With summer vacation in full swing, why are more than 100 Stamford middle school kids ecstatic to still be in school? It’s because these rising eighth graders are heading to classrooms and laboratories for a special four-week college experience at UConn’s Stamford Campus.

The “University Pals” program, which began July 9, is the brain-child of Michael Ego, associate vice provost for the Stamford campus. The new college preparation program is designed to provide first-generation college-bound students an introduction to the significance of pursuing higher education.

Although other institutions have given middle and high school students opportunities to attend college classes in various forms, Ego says, the Stamford campus University Pals (UPals) program has a number of components that go beyond the traditional approaches. “This is not strictly an academic format,” he says. “It is a blend of college courses, co-curricular activities, and the kids getting a chance to visit and interact with local community and business leaders directly related to possible

career paths.”

Perhaps the most important part of the UPals experience is the requirement of parental participation. Parents of each student came to a one-day orientation before classes began. They are also expected to attend a mandatory

parental meeting two weeks into the program. Since the parents did not attend college themselves, these sessions provide them with information about how to prepare their children for high school and college.

The students’ day runs from 9

ing one of only two aerial trucks in the region. It also has two engines, two basic life support ambulances, and a pair of hazardous material response trucks, one of which is outfitted to tow a fully self-supporting decontamination trailer in case of a toxic release or nuclear accident.

UConn has had its own department for more than 80 years, gradually growing into the fully certified, well-trained unit it is today. Hudd credits the University for making a long-term commitment to the safety of students and faculty by providing its own specially trained fire and emergency rescue service, a service not generally found on-site at other colleges.

“The University recognized many years ago that our location requires a rapid response in the event of an emergency,” says Hudd.

Williams, the fire chief, says very few campuses have their own departments because they are located in or in close proximity to a city. “In Storrs, we have local volunteer departments that are nearby,” he says, “but at their size, they couldn’t take care of our daily business.”

Hudd says the fact that UConn has its own fire department sits very well with parents. “Most people have come to expect police service at a major university,” he says, “but a campus with its own fire and ambulance service is highly valued by parents, who often are handing the task of ensuring the safety of their children to someone else for the first time.”

The universities of Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire,

Rhode Island, and Vermont all rely on fire departments in the towns contiguous to their campuses for fire protection. The Amherst Fire Department has 40 paid full-time firefighters, and the department in Burlington, Vt., employs 50, while the others use a volunteer force. All those departments also are responsible for far more than the university that’s located in their town. The Amherst department, for example, covers UMass, Amherst and Hampshire colleges, and the town of Amherst – more than 75,000 people living in a 28-square-mile area. The Burlington department also covers a town of nearly 40,000 residents.

Ed Comeau, director of *Campus Firewatch*, an electronic newsletter focusing on issues of campus fire safety, says that besides UConn, he can think of only a handful of full-time, on-campus departments. These include Clemson University, Purdue, New Mexico State, and the University of California at Davis.

Williams says he’s proud of the services his department provides – services that are complemented by the addition of sprinklers to on-campus residence halls over the past few years.

“The rapid response time, coupled with the automatic fire alarm detection system in the residence halls, allows fires, when they do occur, to be controlled very quickly,” Williams says. “Sometimes they are extinguished even before the fire has spread to the point where the sprinklers would have activated. And even though the alarm system has evacuated the residents, they don’t know that a fire actually occurred.”



PHOTO SUPPLIED BY UCONN STAMFORD

From left, Kumari Willoughby, Christina Sanon, and Aaron Young, participants in the University Pals college preparation program for middle schoolers at the Stamford campus, work on a project in the biology lab.

a.m. to 4 p.m. They go through a simulated daily routine of going to college, which includes attending classes in the morning, having lunch with classmates, being part of study groups, going to the library, and other scheduled activities. Courses are taught by UConn Stamford faculty and also by community members. Current UConn students act as mentors and group leaders for the middle-schoolers.

Each Friday afternoon, the program takes the middle schoolers to visit a range of businesses in the community. The local organizations include Stamford Hospital, the Stamford Advocate, the Marriott Courtyard hotel, Purdue Pharma, and the City of Stamford.

The program has met with enthusiastic support from the Stamford community. It is funded entirely through corporate and foundation grants, with in-kind resources from the Stamford campus.

Ego and the principals of the five local middle schools spent nearly a year preparing the curriculum and activities of this initiative.

“The application process was similar to what students have to do

in applying for college,” said Ego. “They had to fill out forms, write an essay, and register for courses.”

UPals students take required courses in English, math, science, and college preparation, and can choose from a variety of elective classes, including history, communication sciences, human development and family studies, and psychology.

Also offered are two special courses connected with existing UConn academic programs: “Introduction to Shadow Puppetry,” taught by recent UConn puppet arts graduate Kate Katz, and “Selling Computer Games: Imagination at Play,” taught by staff from the edGELab, a collaborative partnership between UConn and General Electric that is housed at the Stamford campus.

The UPals program will culminate in a commencement ceremony on Aug. 3, when the students will become UPals alumni. They will return for enrichment activities in subsequent summers, until they enter college in 2012.

Ego hopes to expand the program in the future to include other school systems in the southwest region of Connecticut.

‘Masked ball’ to benefit Health Center’s skin cancer program



PHOTO BY AL FERREIRA

Dr. Jane Grant-Kels, chair of the dermatology department and melanoma program, will lead a new skin cancer program at the Health Center.

BY MAUREEN MCGUIRE

An elegant masked ball is planned for this fall to raise funds to expand the Health Center’s skin cancer program. Proceeds from the ball will support the development of a Cutaneous Oncology Center.

“The incidence of melanoma is increasing at an alarming rate,” says Dr. Carolyn Runowicz, director of the Carole and Ray Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center, chair of the National Cancer Advisory Board, and former president of the American Cancer Society. “Our goal is to raise funds to recruit new faculty and bolster research initiatives in the area of skin cancer and melanoma.”

The new skin cancer initiative will be led by Dr. Jane Grant-Kels, director of the Health Center’s Department of Dermatology and one of the region’s leading skin cancer experts. Grant-Kels is also chair of the melanoma program at the Health Center.

“With the creation of the new center, we can focus on promising research initiatives, as well as enhanced education and outreach efforts,” says Grant-Kels. “We especially want to reach young people, who can prevent skin cancer by avoiding sun exposure.”

She adds that although the chances of developing melanoma increase with age, it is one of the most common cancers in young adults.

“All types of skin cancer are on the rise, including the most serious form, melanoma,” says Grant-Kels. “And melanoma is particularly frightening – someone dies every hour in the U.S. from this disease.”

The Health Center offers special services to help individuals detect melanoma in its earliest form, as well as providing comprehensive care if melanoma is diagnosed.

The inaugural “Imagine ... Unmasking a World without Cancer,” ball will be held on Saturday, Oct. 20, at the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford, and will include dinner, dancing, and entertainment. It is planned to become an annual event to benefit programs within the Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Wendy Lux of the UConn Foundation says, “This inaugural event will celebrate the extraordinary individuals at the UConn Health Center who make a difference every day in the lives of cancer patients and their loved ones, and will raise awareness of many of the cutting-edge services within the Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center.” Lux has been working with a volunteer committee to organize the event.

Three well-known individuals who have each made considerable contributions to raise awareness about cancer will be honored during the ball.

Jim Calhoun has led the UConn men’s basketball program to two NCAA National Championships (1999, 2004) and earned basketball’s highest honor, election into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. In addition to his many professional successes, Calhoun has a long connection with the Health Center. He and his wife Pat have supported cardiology research for many years. In addition, he continues to be a role model for cancer survivors across the nation. This year, he started the Big Y Jim Calhoun Cancer Challenge Ride to benefit the Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Coaches vs. Cancer. He logged in 50 miles for the inaugural ride

on June 9. The ride is intended to become an annual event.

Dr. Jack W. Rowe is chairman of the University’s Board of Trustees. He served as chairman and CEO of Aetna Inc. for many years and was an inspirational leader during a critical time in the company’s more than 150-year history. In addition, Rowe is a national leader in health care policy.

Dr. Judith Reichman is a household name because of the medical advice she regularly shares with viewers of NBC’s *Today* show. In addition to her television and speaking appearances, Reichman maintains an active practice in Los Angeles, specializing in gynecology, infertility, and menopause, and is the author of many health-related books.

“All three of these individuals have made enormous contributions to help raise awareness about cancer prevention, detection, and treatment,” says Runowicz. “We are so pleased they can join us for this event to acknowledge our thanks and appreciation.”

Individuals or businesses interested in becoming sponsors, purchasing tickets, or making a gift to the Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center’s melanoma program may call Christine Capasso at the Health Center: 860-679-4569.

Archaeology enthusiasts learn basics at new field school

BY KALA KACHMAR

After years of sifting through dirt and rocks in her own backyard, Carolyn Read-Burns has been able to put her skills to use this summer in a formal archaeological dig.

Read-Burns was one of the participants in UConn’s first archaeological field school for adults, which gave her the opportunity to dig at a 3,000 to 4,000-year-old Native American encampment in

Connecticut.

The five-day field school was organized by the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and Connecticut Archaeology Center, part of UConn’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

“This was an opportunity for people to partake in an important archaeological research project in our backyard,” says Nick Bellantoni, the State Archaeologist, who led the field school. “Hopefully

what we found will be helpful in uncovering Connecticut’s past.”

Read-Burns, a member of Lisbon’s historic society, has previously helped uncover artifacts near the historic Bishop House in her hometown.

“When I first learned about the field school, I jumped at the opportunity,” she says. “I thought I would finesse what I’d already learned.”

Not all the participants in the

field school had previous experience. The purpose of the school is to teach interested adults the basics.

The first day served as a training session. Participants learned about the cultural, legal, and theoretical aspects of archaeology, as well as what to expect in the field.

Three of the five days were spent in the field. One day was spent in the lab, cataloging items and learning how to determine the gender, age, and lifestyle of humans by looking at their bones.

“We want people to get not only the excitement from this experience, but to understand that it’s work too,” Bellantoni says. “It’s exciting when someone finds something that hasn’t been seen in 1,000 years or longer.”

Each student was responsible for a 25-square-foot grid of earth. They were provided with hand tools, including trowels, brushes, and bamboo picks, which they used to slice and scrape the earth level, one centimeter at a time, in a way that allowed for artifacts to be recorded in place.

Understanding the association of the objects with the place they are found is crucial, Bellantoni says.

“An artifact alone doesn’t tell us a lot of information,” he says. “Artifacts are material culture. They are nothing more than manifestations of our technology, morals, and beliefs, all which reflect our behavior. We take all the artifacts from a site together with their lo-

cation and try to interpret human behavior.”

Sam Lee, a high school student who hopes to be an archaeologist in the future, found a wet stone polishing tool and a piece of stone jewelry on his first day digging.

“This experience has made me want to do it more,” Lee says. “It also taught me how to be patient.”

Another participant, Herb Davidson of Somers didn’t have to dig deep before encountering an artifact. He found a quartz flake, the byproduct of a tool that was made long ago.

“There’s a lot to discover about the past underneath the earth’s surface,” he says.

Although some other institutions offer archaeology field schools, most are longer than UConn’s, making it difficult for the general public to participate, according to Bellantoni. Participants came from all over the east coast, and as far south as Virginia.

“People in this area will no longer have to travel to the southwest United States, Mexico, or Europe to take part in a dig,” he says.

The Connecticut Archaeology Center also offers field schools for children.

“We’ve long been involved in doing this for children and students,” says David Colberg, public information coordinator for the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History. “The adult field school is an offshoot of that – it’s a chance to let adults play in the dirt.”



PHOTO BY PETER MORENU

State Archaeologist Nicholas Bellantoni looks over artifacts with archaeology field school students.



PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Shoko Yamamoto, left, a research specialist at the Center for Regenerative Biology, and her husband Masakazu, a post doctoral fellow, share an ice cream sundae outside the Student Union.

GRANTS

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

Prin. Investigator	Department	Sponsor	Amount	Award Period
Accorsi, M.	Connecticut Transportation Institute	Conn. Dept. of Transportation	\$311,082	5/07-5/08
Connecticut Cooperative Highway Research Program (CCHRP) Agreement, Work Program for 2007-2008				
Babb, I.	National Undersea Research Center	Dreyfus (Max and Victoria) Foundation	\$9,000	6/07-5/08
Video Equipment/Education and Outreach Programs				
Barnes-Farrell, J.	Psychology	International Business Machines Corp.	\$15,000	1/07-1/08
IBM Applicant Reactions Survey				
Boggs, S.	Institute of Materials Science	Consolidated Edison Company of New York Inc.	\$61,900	4/07-11/07
Feasibility Study of Partial Discharge Diagnostics for Manholes				
Bouvier, M.	Pharmaceutical Sciences	Nat'l Institutes of Health/Nat'l Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases	\$1,432,476	4/07-3/12
In Vitro Folding and Assembly of Class 1 Major Histocompatibility Complex (MHC) Molecules				
Bresnahan, P.	Natural Resources Management & Engineering	Conn. Dept. of Environmental Protection	\$40,000	3/07-12/07
Data Needs Assessment for Basin Planning Purposes				
Burdette, S.	Chemistry	Dept. of Interior/US Geological Survey	\$17,892	3/07-2/08
Development of a New Generation of Sensitive, Fluorescence-Based Nitrate Sensors for Use in Soil and Water				
Cienkowski, K.	Communication Sciences	Vivatone Hearing Systems LLC	\$13,850	1/07-6/07
Insertion Loss and Occlusion Effect				
Dang, K.	Pharmacy Practice	Conn. Dept. of Public Health/West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District	\$3,600	2/07-12/07
Elderly Medication Screening				
Daniels, M.	Geography	Dept. of Commerce/Nat'l Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration/Nature Conservancy	\$24,563	3/07-9/07
Environmental Impacts/Alternatives Assessment for Poliak Pond, West Redding, Conn.				
DeGuise, S.	Pathobiology & Veterinary Science	Dept. of Commerce/ Nat'l Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration	\$41,500	2/07-1/08
Connecticut Sea Grant College Program: Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship, Christopher Meaney E/K-14 Subaward to Yale				
Enderle, J.	Electrical & Computer Engineering	Veterans Admin./Conn. Healthcare System	\$45,086	4/07-9/07
Clinical Engineering Internship Program at West Haven VA Hospital				

Fisher, J.	Psychology	Nat'l Institutes of Health/National Institute of Mental Health	\$90,523	6/07-8/09
HIV/AIDS Disclosure Decision-Making and Outcomes, Predoctoral Fellowship for Stephenie Chaudoir				
Faghri, A.	School of Engineering, Office of Dean	Exxon Mobil Corp.	\$49,500	2/07-2/08
Analysis of Heat Pipes for Heat Recovery from High Temperature Exhaust				
Frisman, L.	School of Social Work, Dean's Office	Nat'l Institutes of Health/Nat'l Institute on Drug Abuse/Conn. Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services	\$90,000	3/07-8/07
Hartford Step'n Out				
Gould, P.	Physics	Dept. of Energy	\$395,472	4/07-3/10
Experiments in Ultracold Collisions and Ultracold Molecules				
Gray, P.	Dept. of Extension	Liberty Bank Foundation	\$2,000	4/07-3/08
4-H Lift				
Holsinger, K.	Ecology & Evolutionary Biology	Nat'l Science Foundation		
\$11,965	6/07-5/08			
Dissertation Research: Exploring the Mode of Speciation in the South African Genus Protea (Proteaceae)				
Johnson, B.	Psychology	Nat'l Institutes of Health /National Institute of Mental Health	\$62,334	6/07-5/09
The Impact of Acculturation on HIV Risk in a Young Hispanic Population, Predoctoral Fellowship for Marcella Boynton				
Kraemer, W.	Kinesiology	Lonza Inc.	\$111,472	1/07-5/08
The Importance of L-Carnitine L-Tartrate in Recovery from Physical Exertion in the "Baby Boomer" Generation				
Kraus, C.	Center for Survey Research & Analysis	The Hartford Courant	\$10,000	3/07-2/08
Connecticut Poll				
Kraus, C.	Center for Survey Research & Analysis	Conn. Dept. of Public Health	\$13,000	3/07-12/07
Avian Flu Survey				
Kraus, C.	Center for Survey Research & Analysis	Judicial Council of California/Administrative Office of the Courts	\$17,051	1/07-9/07
National Survey of State Trial Court Judges				
Magnuson, J.	Psychology	Nat'l Science Foundation	\$271,779	4/07-3/10
Compensation for Coarticulation: Implications for the Basis and Architecture of Speech Perception				
Magnusson, R.	Electrical & Computer Engineering	Nat'l Science Foundation	\$300,000	5/07-4/10
Tunable Photonic Nanostructures Exhibiting Plasmonic and Leaky-Mode Resonances				
Marcus, P.	Molecular & Cell Biology	U.S. Dept. of Agriculture/ Agricultural Research Service	\$75,000	3/07-2/08
Avian Influenza Virus: Evaluation of Interferon Induction and Resistance to Interferon Action				
McAvoy, R.	Plant Science	U.S. Dept. of Agriculture/ Geremia Greenhouse	\$25,000	4/07-8/08
Partial Saturation Ebb and Flow Watering System for a Flooded Floor Greenhouse				
Miller, J.	Mathematics	Nat'l Science Foundation	\$70,091	7/07-6/10
FRG: Collaborative Research: Algorithmic Randomness				
Molter, T.	Connecticut Global Fuel	Dept. of Energy Cell Center	\$1,868,580	3/07-2/11
Effects of Impurities on Fuel Cell Performance and Durability				
Pikal, M.	Pharmaceutical Sciences	Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturing of America (PhRMA)	\$40,000	2/07-1/09
Phase Separation in Freeze-Dried Amorphous Solids: Implications for Product Quality				
Prisloe, M.	Dept. of Extension	Institute for the Application of Geospatial Technology	\$20,000	1/07-12/07
Integrating NASA Earth Observation Data into National Applications: RS and GIT for Government Applications				
Reifsnider, K.	Connecticut Global Fuel	Exxon Mobil Corp. Cell Center	\$200,000	2/07-2/09
Cold Temperature Fatigue of Inner Liner Materials				
Salamone, J.	Psychology	Lundbeck, H. A/S	\$9,983	3/07-3/08
The Assessment of the Behavioral Effects of Adenosine A2A Receptor Antagonists				
Shea, D.	Civil & Environmental Engineering Conn.	Dept. of Transportation/ Dept. of Transportation	\$36,078	4/07-3/08
Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation and Safety Education				
Siegle, D.	Educational Psychology	University of Iowa/ Institute for Research & Policy on Acceleration	\$13,855	5/07-5/08
Exploring Teacher and Administrator Attitudes Toward Acceleration				
Tehraniipoor, M.	Electrical & Computer Engineering	Semiconductor Research Corp.	\$282,000	4/07-3/10
Timing-Aware ATPGs for Maximizing Crosstalk/Signal Integrity Effects on SOCs				
Teschke, C.	Molecular & Cell Biology	Nat'l Institutes of Health /National Institute of General Medical Sciences	\$1,138,302	4/07-3/12
Mechanism of Phage 22 Assembly, a Model dsDNA Virus				
Valiquette, E.	Dept. of Extension	Danbury Public Schools, Danbury, Conn.	\$2,100	2/07-6/07
4-H After School Programs				
Vokoun, J.	Natural Resources Management & Engineering	Dept. of Interior/Conn. Dept. of Environmental Protection	\$58,433	1/07-2/10
Winter Drawdown Effects on the Hatch Date, Growth Rate, and Survival of Young-of-Year Fishes in Connecticut Impoundments				
Wilhelm, N.	Dept. of Extension	Monsanto Co./ Nat'l 4-H Council	\$2,000	4/07-12/07
2007 4-H Volunteer Initiative Grants				
Zhu, Q.	Electrical & Computer Engineering	Nat'l Institutes of Health /National Institute of Biomedical Imaging & Bioengineering	\$369,616	4/07-2/11
Near Infrared Diffused Light Imaging with Ultrasound Guidance				

CALENDAR

Monday, July 23, to Monday, August 27

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 Monday, Aug. 27 through Tuesday, Sept. 4. Those items must be entered in the database by Monday, Aug. 20. 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).

Academic

Friday, 8/24 – Convocation.

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.-10 p.m.; Friday, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m.-6 p.m.

Law Library. July hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, closed. August hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5p.m.; Saturday, 8/4, 25, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, 8/11 and 8/18, closed; Sunday, closed.

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 Library. 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.

Meetings

Tuesday, 7/31 – Capital Projects Planning Advisory Committee meeting. 9 a.m., Room 7, Bishop Center.

Ph.D. Defenses

Monday, 7/23 – Psychology. *The Functional Impact of Neutrons in the Dorsal Lateral Geniculate Nucleus on the Awake Cortex*, by Carl Stoelzel (adv.: Swadlow). Noon, Room 160, Bousfield Building.

Monday, 7/23 – Agricultural & Resource Economics. *Efficiency in Higher Education: An Analysis of the “Traditional Universities” in Chile*, by Jose Maripani (adv.: Bravo-Ureta). 3 p.m.,

(adv.: Kendall). 10 a.m., Room 201, Biology Physics Building.

Friday, 7/27 – Natural Resources Management. *Modeling Temperature, Recession Curves, and Event Response for Two Third Order Eastern Connecticut Streams*, by Juan Stella (adv.: Warner). 10 a.m., Room 205, Young Building.

Tuesday, 7/31 – Special Education. *Enhancing Vocabulary Intervention for Kindergarten Students: Strategic Integration of Semantically-Related and Embedded Word Review*, by Richard Zipoli Jr. (adv.: Coyne). 9 a.m., Room 142, Gentry Building.

Thursday, 8/2 – Comparative Literary & Cultural Studies. *La Tecnica Cubana:*



A still life painting by Janet Shafner on display in an exhibit at the Celeste LeWitt Gallery at the Health Center. The exhibit runs through Sept. 5.

Room 209, Young Building.
Wednesday, 7/25 – Industrial/Organizational Psychology. *Pre and Post Evaluation of a Participatory Ergonomics Approach to Promote Usage of Patient Lifting Equipment*, by Renee Fekieta (adv.: Henning). 11 a.m., Room 160, Bousfield Building.

Wednesday, 7/25 – Business Administration. *A Maximal Stochastic Volatility Model for Commodity Prices*, by W. Keener Hughen (adv.: Giaccotto). 4:30 p.m., Room 463, School of Business.
Thursday, 7/26 – Biochemistry. *Functional and Structural Analysis f Signal Peptide with SecA and SPase I of the Sec-Dependent Transport System in Escherichia coli*, by Musial-Siwiek

A Revolution in Dance, by Martha John (adv.: Loss). 2 p.m., Room 221, Arjona Building.

Friday, 8/24 – Computer Science & Engineering. *Multi-Tier Data Access and Hierarchical Memory Design: Performance Modeling and Analysis*, by Marwan Sleiman (adv.: Lipsky). 9:30 a.m., Room 336, Information Technology Engineering Building.

Friday, 8/24 – Special Education. *The Role of Teacher Knowledge: Developing Phonemic Awareness and Alphabetic Skills in At-Risk Kindergarten Students*, by Maureen Ruby (adv.: Coyne). 10 a.m., Room 140A, Gentry Building.

Performing Arts

Tuesday, 7/24 – Courtyard Concert. Tom Wise, jazz sax. Noon, Benton Museum.

Friday, 8/17 through Sunday, 8/19 – Pirates of Penzance. Produced by UConn's Community School of Arts. \$18 for adults, \$15 for seniors, students with ID, and children age 12 and younger. Friday, 8/17, and Saturday, 8/18 at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 8/19 at 3 p.m, von der Mehden Recital Hall.

Exhibits

Friday, 7/27 through Sunday, 9/2 – Alexey von Schlippe Gallery. Featuring works by Forrest Bailey, Marion Belanger, and Janet Van Horne. \$3 for non-members. Second Floor, Branford House. Hours: Wednesday-Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.

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*; and *Summer in the City*. 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 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 Wednesday, 9/5 – Celeste LeWitt Gallery. *Still Life Paintings*, by Janet Shafner, and *Recent Oils and Watercolors*, by Marija Pavlovich McCarthy. Daily, 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Health Center.

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 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.

Sports

Saturday, 8/18 – Field Hockey, Blue and White Game. 11 a.m., Sherman Family Sports Complex.

Sunday, 8/19 – Field Hockey, Alumni Game. 11 a.m., Sherman Family Sports Complex.

Sunday, 8/19 – Men's Soccer vs.

Boston University. 4 p.m., Morrone Stadium.

Saturday, 8/25 – Field Hockey vs. Maine. 11:30 a.m., Sherman Family Sports Complex.

Saturday, 8/25 – Volleyball vs. Manhattan. 3 p.m., Gampel Pavilion.

Saturday, 8/25 – Men's Soccer vs. Duke. 7 p.m., Morrone Stadium.

Sunday, 8/26 – Field Hockey vs. Towson. Noon, Sherman Family Sports Complex.

Potpourri

Friday, 8/3 – Natural History Workshop. *Bats Alive!* Adults and children ages 6 and up; children must be accompanied by an adult. Advance registration required: \$10 for Connecticut State Museum of Natural History members, \$15 non-members. 7-9 p.m.

Saturday, 8/4 – Natural History Workshop. *Butterflies, Beetles, Bugs, and More!* Adults and children ages 6 and up; children must be accompanied by an adult. Advance registration required: \$10 per Connecticut State Museum of Natural History member, \$15 non-members. 9 a.m.-noon.

Tuesdays, through 8/7 – Tons of Fun Tuesday. Fill a 32 oz. bucket with ice cream from the Daily Bar at the Student Union Patio, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. \$2 with student ID, \$3 without.

Wednesdays, through 8/8 – Lively Wednesdays. Enjoy live entertainment on the lawn behind the Student Union, noon-1 p.m. Also, free movie night Wednesdays at the Student Union Theatre.

Thursdays, through 8/9 – Thrilling Thursdays. Programs in Charter Oak Suites and Northwest Dining Hall, 5-7 p.m.

Saturday, 8/11 – Wild Horse and Burro Adoption: America's Living Legends.

All day, Horsebarn Hill Arena, Storrs.
Sunday, 8/12 –Natural History Workshop. *Foraging With the Wildman.*

Adults and children ages 6 and up; children must be accompanied by an adult. Advance registration required: \$20 per Connecticut State Museum of Natural History member, \$30 non-members. 2 p.m.

Friday, 8/17 – Children's Activity: Friday at the Museum. Afternoon cultural and natural history activity. Children entering grades 1 through 5 must be accompanied by an adult. 1-3 p.m., Connecticut State Museum of Natural History.

Saturday, 8/21 – Natural History Workshop. *Whale Watch Field Trip.* Adults and children ages 6 and up; children must be accompanied by an adult. Advance registration required by Aug. 10: \$60 per adult Museum of Natural History member, \$50 per child member; \$75 non-member adult, \$65 non-member child. 9 a.m. bus departure from Storrs to Plymouth, Mass.

Engineering dean

continued from page 1

lent faculty members in each department who are internationally recognized for their scholarship and educational programs. I look forward to working with them to promote multi-disciplinary research programs, inter-department collaboration, and innovative educational programs. We will also conduct outreach to enhance diversity, and strive to instill positive feelings of camaraderie.”

During the transition period, Choi will work with UConn administrators on academic planning and campaign goals for the School.

UConn's School of Engineering has more than 2,000 graduate and undergraduate students, over 100 full-time faculty members, and roughly 20,000 alumni.

Professor emeritus dies

Walter C. McKain Jr., a professor emeritus of rural sociology and gerontology, died July 2 at the Mertens House nursing home in Woodstock, Vt. He was 94.

McKain, of Bridgewater Center, Vt., received his master's degree in 1934 and a doctoral degree in 1947 from Harvard Graduate School.

He joined the UConn faculty in 1947 and retired in 1972. During his career, he was a consultant to more than a dozen national and international civic and public organizations including the Social Security Administration, United States Public Health Service, the National Institute of Mental Health, the United States Census Bureau, and the Department of Health in the Soviet Union.

His work often led to books and articles on aspects of aging, social security, demography, the Soviet

Union, and standards of living. He studied health programs available to the elderly in the former Soviet Union, visiting nine republics between 1964 and 1987.

McKain enjoyed activities including vegetable gardening, raising chickens, growing and maintaining a Christmas tree farm, and playing and teaching bridge. He was also an avid golfer.

He was predeceased by his wife Elizabeth in 2005, and son, Richard, in 1990. He is survived by his children Nancy McKain Jonas, Walter C. McKain III, Douglas Seckerson McKain, and Susan McKain Steiner, 13 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Memorial donations may be made to Mertens House at 73 River Street, Woodstock, VT 05091.

Chief financial officer

continued from page 1

“I’ll be leaving the University in good hands.”

In a letter to the University community announcing Aronson's retirement plans, President Philip E. Austin said, “Lori's contributions to UConn's progress over these years have been highly significant. She has played a critical role in every important University advance in areas related to finance, facilities, and government relations, and has been a trusted and valued advisor in a host of other areas as well.”

Austin cited Aronson's role in the development and implementation of the University's master plan for facilities, the roadmap for the implementation of UConn 2000 and, now, 21st Century UConn; the elimination of the structural deficit that was a fact of life here in the mid-1990s;

the financial restructuring of the Health Center when external factors placed it at risk; and securing state support for the \$1.3 billion 21st Century UConn program that continues the progress of UConn 2000.

Aronson demonstrated her legendary quick wit in her letter of retirement to Austin: “As you in know, I long held to the belief that I was still 5’1”, but recent incontrovertible evidence points to the reality that I am now only five feet tall,” she wrote. “My rough calculations suggest that if I do not retire in the near future, I will disappear altogether.”

She told the *Advance* that what she will miss most is working with her assistant, Deb Kapura: “She's the only person I know who is shorter than I am.”

Maritime studies course offers academic, seafaring challenge

BY DAVID BAUMAN

When Michael Bokoff applied to take a brand new maritime studies course at the Avery Point campus this spring, he wanted a real seafaring experience navigating the ocean.

"I didn't want to put into port every night," says the 19-year-old sophomore from Norwich.

Bokoff, a business major interested in the economic effects of maritime policy, was among 23 UConn students ranging in age from 18 to 38 years, selected to participate in the course, "Exploring the Blue."

Although he had little previous nautical training, Bokoff relished the experience, which included time onboard a two-masted sailing vessel.

Recalling storm-tossed days and nights in rough North Atlantic weather, he says, "You don't take this course for a ride; you're part of the crew as well as a student. Physically hauling on lines soaked with cold rain while you're literally being tossed in every direction at night – well, it takes its toll. But the course really challenged me to do new things."

The rigorous three-week, four-credit course was designed by two faculty based at the Avery Point campus: Helen Rozwadowski, associate professor of history and coordinator of maritime studies, and Mary K. Bercaw Edwards, associate professor of English, one of the country's foremost Herman

Melville scholars. Bercaw Edwards also serves as the foreman of the Mystic Seaport demonstration squad.

Rather than drafting a science-based curriculum, as do most education-at-sea programs, they took a multidisciplinary approach that focused on maritime history, literature, and policy. The experiential aspects of the course – students participating in sailing and navigating the ship – complemented the academic component, giving students a comprehensive look at the oceans' influence on people and human history.

"Historians rarely study the ocean: they treat it as a place separate from people," said Rozwadowski. "We treat the ocean not as a surface but as a three-dimensional place with political, economic, and environmental aspects, and also cultural and psychological dimensions – those qualities of ocean literature or the history of the sea that are absolutely critical for understanding the ocean as part of our world."

The course had two parts. The first week was spent on land participating in museum-based exercises and hands-on learning, such as climbing rigging, tying knots, and reading maritime charts, as well as attending lectures. Lecture topics ranged from literature of the sea to maritime law and the environmental history of the ocean. The students also took two day trips on Project Oceanology

vessels.

Rozwadowski says southeastern Connecticut is an ideal place to study connections between oceans and people. "UConn's maritime studies program is able to tap into the resources of Mystic Seaport, Project Oceanology, and the U.S. Coast Guard Museum and Academy," she says. "We benefit from a group of marine scholars and experts that you can't replicate anywhere in the country."

For the remaining two weeks, the class set sail on the SSV (Sailing School Vessel) *Westward*, a 125-foot staysail schooner owned by the non-profit organization Ocean Classroom, which provided a captain and eight crew members. This year's cruise departed Baltimore, Md., on May 13 and sailed north to Nantucket and New Bedford, Mass., visiting a number of important maritime museums along the way. The *Westward* returned to New London on May 26, having completed a voyage of 1,165 nautical miles.

For the voyage, the students were assigned to one of three watches. Each watch was responsible for steering, keeping a lookout, setting and furling the ship's nine sails, and practicing navigation.

UConn faculty taught shipboard classes on topics including the Chesapeake Bay oyster wars, dictatorship as the necessary form of leadership at sea, and the history of fisheries and whaling.

"It's not a pleasure cruise," says



PHOTO BY NATHAN ADAMS

From left, student Mike Bokoff, Sarah Clement, a Mystic Seaport staffer, and professors Helen Rozwadowski and Mary K Bercaw Edwards, row a whale boat.

Bercaw Edwards. "In addition to standing watch, students had required reading for every class, and most class meetings included academic assignments and discussion.

"Going to sea is always a personal growth experience, but we designed this program to be academically rigorous," she adds.

Students had to keep logbooks, write analytical pieces after each museum visit, and research the origin of a maritime term. After

the voyage, there were several writing and research assignments.

One priority in designing this program was to make going to sea both affordable and accessible in terms of timing.

Rozwadowski says the maritime studies program received support that helped create an affordable program. "That speaks to the opportunities UConn makes possible for a well-rounded educational experience," she says.

Liverpool Study Abroad experience an eye opener for students

BY SHERRY FISHER

Before studying in Liverpool, England, Devon Benedict never knew of that city's involvement in the African slave trade.

"It's not something that's mentioned in high school history books," he says.

Benedict was among 10 UConn students who participated in a three-week Study Abroad program at the University of Liverpool this summer.

The group studied black history, focusing on the culture and politics of 400 years of black settlement, and the role Liverpool played in the African slave trade. Students met with individuals and community groups, attended lectures on contemporary issues, and visited social, political, and cultural sites. They earned six academic credits.

The students also traveled to Wales, London, and Germany.

Benedict, a senior from Trumbull majoring in economics, says the experience broadened his horizons. "It gave me a deeper and more complete sense of my history and identity. I learned a more complete and accurate history of the slave trade, and that it all began in Liverpool," he says.

The Liverpool experience had the same effect on Ashley Cazeau, a senior from Stamford majoring in biological sciences.

"The Study Abroad has given me a new way of looking at my surroundings," she says. "I find myself looking at buildings here in the United States and wondering about the history behind them."

The program, in its sixth year, is offered to students who take part in Student Support Services (SSS), through UConn's Center for Academic Programs.

These services are offered to low-income and first-generation college students.

"When I started the program, I had to beg students to go," says Bidya Ranjeet, director of SSS and founder of Liverpool Study Abroad. "Now it has really caught on. The students who participate want to go back there as interns.

"Once the students leave the U.S. and look at this country from another perspective, they gain an appreciation of some of the things they may take for granted here."

Paul Concepcion, a junior from Stamford majoring in economics, says the trip gave him a better understanding of African and Caribbean heritage and how they

contribute to his culture.

He says he can't wait to come back to UConn next semester. "I have a totally different perspective on how I should go about furthering my education," he says. "I've always wanted to do something in business, particularly in financial services. After this trip, my goal is to do an internship abroad."

Vilma Rodrigues-Silva was surprised by the difficulties faced by people of color in Liverpool. "The black community is still living in what we call projects or ghetto areas," she says. "Even people who are educated can't make their way in the world. There's more progress here in America."

Ross Lewin, director of Study Abroad, says, "The UConn Liverpool program serves as a role model for colleges across the nation on how to increase participation in Study Abroad among first-generation students. The Center for Academic Programs has done an exemplary job in finding the funding, facilitating the application process, and developing a curriculum that meets the particular needs of these students."

Rodrigues-Silva says visiting London was a special treat. "It was wonderful to see places I had read about, like the Tower of London and the Houses of Parliament. I studied these in art history, and it was great to be there in person."



PHOTO BY ASHLEY CAZEAU

UConn SSS students, along with some British students, took an excursion to London during a Study Abroad program based in Liverpool. The focus of the course was on black history and Liverpool's role in the slave trade.