



'Make your time matter,' Hogan tells new students

BY ELIZABETH OMARA-OTUNNU

Convocation this year launched the UConn careers of some 3,000 undergraduates. It also marked the start of incoming President Michael Hogan's duties at the University.

"I'm a freshman too," Hogan told members of the Class of 2011 assembled in Gampel Pavilion Aug. 24.

He noted that this year's freshmen are the first UConn class he will see all the way through to graduation.

"Because we're starting out on this amazing journey together," he said, "I know how you're feeling today."

In a speech that drew laughter and applause from the audience, he said he also understood how the parents were feeling.

As the parent of four children, all of whom are college graduates, he said, "If I see any of you tearing up because your baby is leaving home, I won't think you're crazy."

On the other hand, he added, some parents may be thinking about how to "repurpose" their kid's bedroom – as a TV room, perhaps, or a study.

Hogan said as a parent, history professor, and university administrator, he likes to give advice.

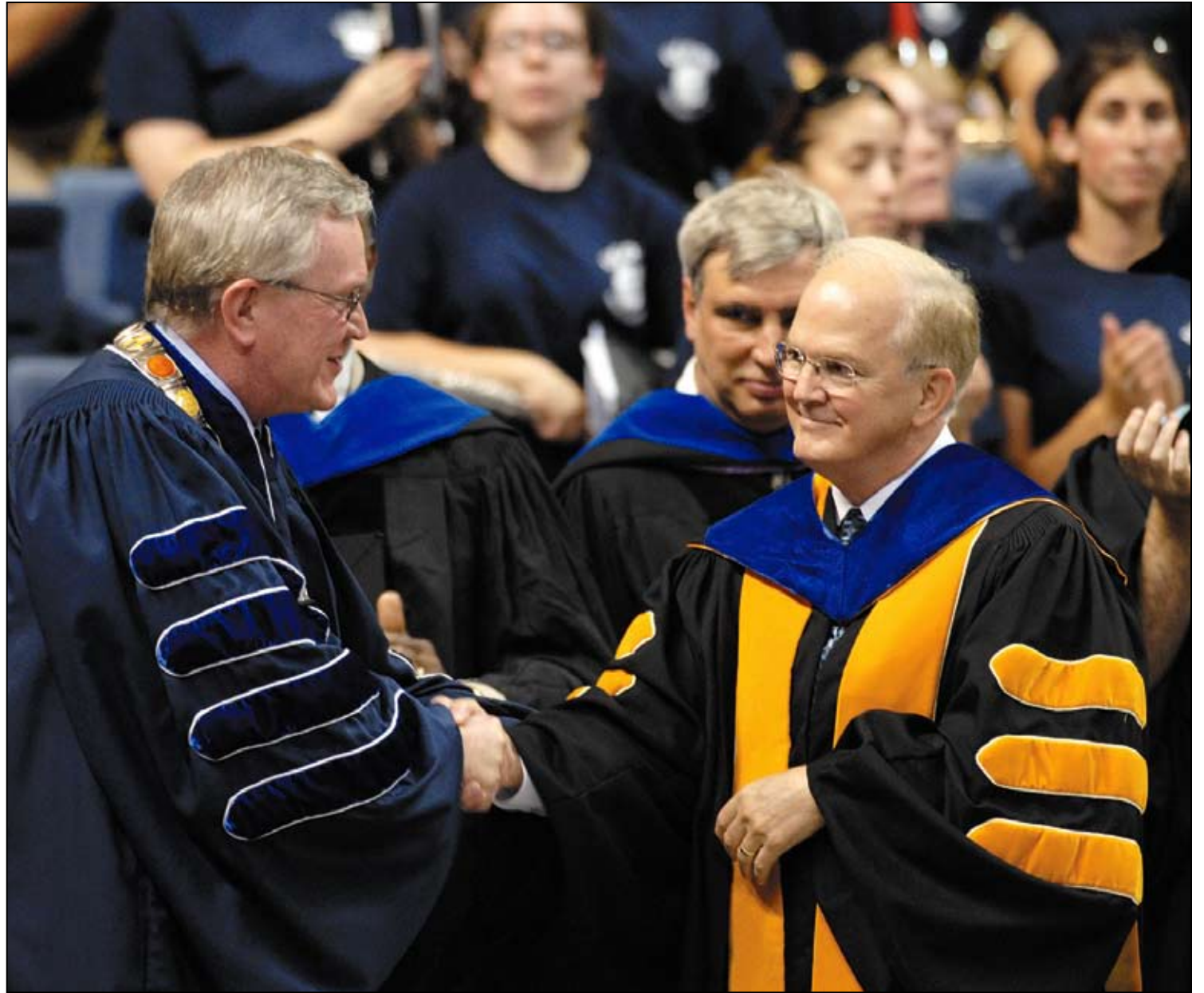


PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

University President Philip E. Austin, left, welcomes incoming President Michael J. Hogan during Convocation at Gampel Pavilion Aug. 24.

see Convocation address page 5

UConn hiring additional faculty

UConn has hired 40 additional faculty members for the 2007-08 academic year, thanks to internal spending reallocations and additional funding from the Legislature.

"A great university needs a great faculty – great in quality and sufficiently great in numbers to meet our high standards in research, teaching, and outreach," says Provost Peter J. Nicholls. "Although UConn looks good due to its physical transformation, has many wonderful faculty, and has acquired great students through a steady climb in SAT scores and enrollments, faculty hiring has not kept pace with our other achievements."

The University already has made some progress in hiring faculty beyond replacing those who have retired or left. Two years ago, 51 additional faculty were hired; last year there were 13; and this year there

are 40.

Nicholls credits this achievement to "the efforts of the schools and colleges to reallocate resources to focus on our greatest needs; high-quality faculty; and important new state initiatives such as the Center for Entrepreneurship and the Eminent Faculty Program."

The new faculty are part of UConn's goal to hire 175 additional faculty, or at least 35 per year for five years. They are being funded by \$1 million in additional funds from the General Assembly and internal funding reallocations.

The additional faculty members will help serve the student body, which grew from 22,316 to 28,876 over the past 11 years. In contrast, the faculty only increased from 1,106 to 1,300, resulting in a student-faculty ratio of 17 to 1, instead of the desired 14 or

see Additional faculty page 8

Two new buildings planned to replace Arjona, Monteith

BY RICHARD VEILLEUX

UConn officials have decided to replace the aging Arjona and Monteith buildings with two structures fronting Fairfield Way, rather than one massive building at the former site of the UConn Co-op.

Following a series of deliberations during the summer with deans and department heads, the University's master planner, architects, and others, the group decided that replacing the social sciences and humanities buildings with a single structure located between the Homer Babbidge Library and Hawley Armory was not feasible.

"By early summer, it became increasingly apparent that any affordable alternative plan regarding the new building and library access would result in compromises that no

one was happy with," says James Bradley, associate vice president for architectural and engineering services. "It also became increasingly clear from a programming as well as a campus and especially a local neighborhood standpoint, that the proposed new building might simply be too big."

The planning group had been discussing whether to replace the two buildings, both constructed in 1959, with two new buildings or a single, multi-story, 180,000-square-foot structure on the site of the former Co-op. The proposal for a single building fell increasingly out of favor as discussions continued, because a building of that size would have crowded the Armory, the Bousfield Psychology Building, and the library.

That crowding, together with the build-

see Classroom buildings page 5

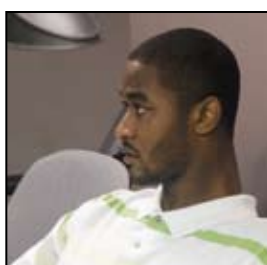
Inside



4 IT & world politics



5 Scientific paper



8 Finishing a degree



PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Freshman Chelsea Matarese sends a text message before moving into North Campus residence complex Aug. 24.

Renowned civil engineer Jack Stephens dies

Jack Stephens, professor emeritus of civil and environmental engineering, died Aug. 6. He was 83.

Stephens, who lived in Storrs, joined the University faculty in 1950 and retired in 1989. He was head of the civil engineering department from 1965 to 1972.

He earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from UConn in 1947, and his master's and Ph.D. degrees from Purdue University in 1955 and 1959, respectively.

Stephens helped shape many facets of Connecticut's transportation-related governance and research infrastructure. He was instrumental in the state's decision to fund the Connecticut Cooperative Highway Research Program at UConn, run jointly with the Connecticut Department of Transportation, in 1962, and the Connecticut Transportation Institute in Storrs in 1974, where he was its first director. As part of the Institute, he established the Technology Transfer (T2) Center,

which provides training for town employees, and the Connecticut Advanced Pavement Laboratory, which researches and tests hot-mix bituminous concrete.

"Following Jack's distinguished career, I was honored to induct him into the School of Engineering's Academy of Distinguished Engineers this past spring," says Erling Smith, interim dean of the School of Engineering. "He was an alumnus of national distinction and attained an exemplary record as a vital faculty member and an active emeritus. Jack was a great colleague. We'll all miss him."

Peter McFadden, professor emeritus of mechanical engineering, described Stephens as a "gifted teacher and effective leader. He impressed me as an educator who recognized our obligation to the citizens who support us. His scholarship and research can be seen in the roads of our state."

He adds, "You never met anyone with a smile more ready than his."

Stephens was a life member and

past president of the Connecticut section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, past president of the Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers, and past chair of the Transportation Committee of the Connecticut Academy of Science & Engineering.

Stephens received the UConn Alumni Association's Distinguished Public Service Award, the Engineering Alumni Award, and the Connecticut section of the American Society of Civil Engineers' Benjamin Wright Award.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Virginia, four children, several grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

Memorial donations may be made to the Jack E. Stephens Scholarship Fund, with checks payable to the UConn Foundation, and mailed to the University of Connecticut Foundation Inc., 2390 Alumni Drive, Storrs, CT 06269-3206.

Social work emeritus Albert Alissi dies

Albert Alissi, professor emeritus of social work, died Aug. 21. He was 77.

Alissi, who lived in Simsbury, joined the UConn faculty in 1968 and retired in 2002. After retirement, he remained involved in the School of Social Work's doctoral program.

For some 30 years, Alissi was on the board of trustees of Open Hearth, a nonprofit agency that provides emergency shelter for homeless men and services to help

them get back on their feet. As president of the board during the 1990s, he was instrumental in the construction of a new building.

"He was an incredible man," says Catherine Havens, associate dean for academic affairs and director of the master's in social work program at the School of Social Work. "He had clear values and was committed to them – helping the oppressed, homeless, and poor. He was a tremendous role model for students, and they

regarded him highly."

He was also a well known scholar in the field of social work group practice, Havens says.

Alissi had also been involved with Community Partners in Action, an agency providing services for people being released from prison.

He is survived by his wife Sarah, a son, a daughter, and several grandchildren.

Emeritus language professor Herbert Lederer dies

Herbert Lederer, professor emeritus of German, died July 18. He was 86.

Formerly of Storrs, Lederer, who lived in West Hartford, joined the UConn faculty in 1969 and retired in 1989.

Internationally recognized in the field of German studies, Lederer was head of the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages from 1969 to 1979 and was a vocal member of the University Senate. He expressed his interest in modern German drama through essays and reviews, and by directing student theater productions. He was known as a dynamic teacher, and authored textbooks and articles on teaching methods.

"Herbert Lederer was a most accomplished scholar of German and Austrian literature," says Katharina von Hammerstein, professor of German. She says Lederer was "an expert on Franz Kafka, a fan of theater who put on stage many productions, and a pillar of the University of Connecticut community. He was truly a great man and colleague. We will miss him."

Gene Barberet, professor emeritus of French, described Lederer as a "splendid man in so many

ways." He noted Lederer's passion for teaching, love and concern for students, and "tremendous devotion" to his late wife of 50 years, Eva Marie.

Lederer chaired and served on many national committees devoted to the improvement of foreign language instruction. He was also on the faculties of Queens College (CUNY), Ohio University, Wabash College, and the summer language institute at Middlebury College. He founded a German theater competition that fostered student enthusiasm in German drama throughout New England.

The Austrian government awarded him the Austrian Cross of Honor, First Class, and the German Federal Republic gave him a Certificate of Recognition for his achievements.

Lederer is survived by his daughter Barbara, his son George, and three grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to the Herbert Lederer Scholarship Fund, with checks payable to the UConn Foundation, and mailed to the University of Connecticut Foundation Inc., 2390 Alumni Drive, Storrs, CT 06269-3206.

Mansfield's fall festival set for Sept. 15-16

A weekend of events is scheduled for Sept. 15-16 to celebrate the Town of Mansfield and the future development of Storrs Center.

A fireworks display will kick off the festivities at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 15, at Mansfield Hollow State Park.

On Sunday, Sept. 16, from noon to 5 p.m., the Mansfield Downtown Partnership will hold its annual Festival on the Green in the town's commercial area along Route 195.

Highlights of the festival include

a pie baking competition, cooking and floral arranging demonstrations, a juried art show, and music from Kidsville Kuckoo Revue, Aztec Two-Step, and the Mohegan Sun All-Stars.

Members of the community are invited to participate in the Bikes, Tykes, and Trikes Parade featuring children with their decorated bikes parading down Route 195.

For information, call 860-429-2740 or send e-mail to: mdp@mansfieldct.org.

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT Advance

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Psychiatry department new site for program to help families at risk

BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

The Children's Trust Fund, an independent state agency whose mission is to prevent child abuse and neglect, is expanding its Nurturing Families Network program. One of its new sites is the Department of Psychiatry at the UConn Health Center.

The Nurturing Families program offers parents a resource for care coordination and services, family development groups, and home-based support, particularly for teen parents and first-time parents.

"The goal of Nurturing Families is to provide services to women and families who may have risk factors like age, socio-economic disadvantages, or lack of social support," says Karen Steinberg, an assistant professor of psychiatry at the Health Center, who is managing the Nurturing Families program in Farmington.

The psychiatry department is providing referrals, family development, and other support services. Families receiving services through the obstetrics and gynecology department, neonatal intensive care unit, newborn nursery, and pediatrics are eligible, as are members of the surrounding community.

"We will try to meet with every first-time mother to let her know about the available services, and see if she would be interested in or eligible for any of them," Steinberg says.

The services include outreach and telephone support, prenatal and parenting groups, and home visiting services. About the home visits, Steinberg says, "We can help parents read their baby's cues and signals."

Jennifer Vendetti, Nurturing Families coordinator in the psychiatry department, says, "the program offers an important and

much-needed service here."

The Children's Trust Fund is providing \$200,000 a year for the Health Center's Nurturing Families program, made possible with the help of Farmington's two state representatives, Beth Bye and Demetrius Giannaros. The psychiatry department is managing the budget.

"I am delighted that the UConn Health Center in Farmington has volunteered to house the Nurturing Families Network program," Giannaros says. "Our priority should be to support kids and families toward a healthy and productive life. The Nurturing

Families Network will help us accomplish this objective."

The Health Center is one of nine locations in Connecticut designated as a new Nurturing Families site. UConn's opened June 1.

"The availability of programs like NFN to new parents is critical in preventing child abuse and neglect," says Karen Foley-Schain, executive director of the Children's Trust Fund. "With this expansion, every new mother and father in Connecticut will have access to NFN's program providers and resources."



PHOTO BY AL FERREIRA

Karen Steinberg, assistant professor of psychiatry at the Health Center who manages the Health Center's new Nurturing Families Network site. The network is supported by the Children's Trust Fund.

Biking through 50 states, alum tests physical limits

BY KAREN SINGER

During the recent Steeple Chase Bike Tour through Northeastern Connecticut, Gary Gianetti was not among the leaders of the pack.

It didn't matter. The 29-year-old UConn alum was pedaling to make a point.

The Aug. 18 ride from Willimantic marked the beginning of Gianetti's attempt to cycle 100 miles a day in every state for 50 consecutive days. The last ride, in Hawaii, is slated for Oct. 6.

Along the way, Gianetti hopes to raise \$100,000 for family cancer support and to educate people about cancer prevention.

University of Connecticut researchers are monitoring Gianetti's progress, and will be analyzing his weight, the amount of calories he consumes, and other physiological data, as well as "qualitative" measures such as how he has slept and how he feels when he wakes up, according to kinesiology professor Linda Pescatello, his former adviser.

"It will be interesting to see how Gary does with build-up of fatigue over time, and how it's going to influence his performance," she says. "He's a pretty determined man, but this is going to be a tough thing to complete. He's truly testing the limits of what a person is capable of doing."

Assistant kinesiology professor Laura Burton is also involved in the qualitative portion of the research.

Data about Gianetti's speed, distance, altitude, cadence, and power also are being collected by a gadget attached to his bike wheel.

Gianetti says he's eating about 9,000 calories a day, consuming power bars, a lot of fats (nuts and olive oil), carbohydrates (pasta, pancakes, oatmeal cookies), "tons of vegetables (especially broccoli and spinach), and bananas, kiwis and other fruit."

During his first 100-mile ride starting from Willimantic, Pes-

catello and kinesiology professor Larry Armstrong were among the faculty and former students cycling with him.

Cancer prevention is a cause close to Gianetti's heart. In 2002, he lost his mother, Francine, who smoked, to lung cancer. The illness, he says, brought his family together.

A former smoker turned bodybuilder and marathon runner, Gianetti currently lives in Steamboat Springs, Colo., where he's a personal trainer and ski- and snowboard instructor.

Gianetti grew up biking, running, and playing football in Trumbull, then went to UConn, where he earned a bachelor's degree in nutritional sciences and exercise physiology and a master's in health promotion.

Inspired by ultra marathoners, he came up with the idea for his biking challenge last year, while running the United Technologies Greater Hartford Marathon and reflecting how hard it was on his knees and joints.

Since then, he has developed a team of UConn alums who helped plan his journey with the help of friends, family, and sponsors, and cycling 450 to 500 miles a week on mountainous Colorado roads.

In some states he is participating in scheduled rides, such as the one in Willimantic. In others, he'll follow the course of bike races or rides. He has found other mapped-out routes in states that have no cycling events.

As he travels, Gianetti is meeting – and cycling – with cancer survivors and families who've lost loved ones to cancer. He plans to donate at least \$5,000 to the Lance Armstrong Foundation; the rest of the money he raises will go to local family cancer programs.

"Part of my purpose is to educate people about cancer prevention," Gianetti says. "This is about educating, empowering, and engaging communities."

Producers to discuss 9/11 documentary after screening at Torrington campus

BY BETH KRANE

The University's Litchfield County Writers Project will mark the sixth anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks with a screening and discussion of the 2002 HBO documentary, *In Memoriam, New York City, 9/11/01*, at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 10, at UConn's Torrington campus.

Following the screening of the award-winning, one-hour documentary, Davyne Verstandig, director of the Litchfield County Writers Project, will lead a discussion of the making of the film

with Sheila Nevins, president of HBO Documentary Films and a Litchfield County resident, and John Hoffman, vice president of HBO Documentary Films, both of whom produced *In Memoriam*, and its editor, Paula Heredia. A reception will be held after the discussion.

In Memoriam, which won an Emmy for Outstanding Picture Editing for Non-Fiction Programming, was produced by Brad Grey Pictures and HBO. The documentary film draws on a collection of still and video material from more

than 100 people who witnessed the events of that day, including former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

In 2005, Nevins received the Emmy Lifetime Achievement Award for her contributions to the art of the documentary. She is responsible for overseeing the development and production of all documentaries and family programming for HBO and Cinemax and their multiplex channels. During her tenure, HBO's documentary and family programs have won numerous awards. As execu-

tive producer or producer, she has received 17 Prime Time Emmy Awards, 24 News and Documentary Emmys, and 25 George Foster Peabody Awards. She also has supervised and assigned projects to filmmakers that have gone on to win 18 Academy Awards.

Hoffman's most recent HBO credits include the 14-part series *Addiction* (2007); *All Aboard! Rosie's Family Cruise* (2006); and Emmy nominee, *Last Letters Home: Voices of American Troops from the Battlefields of Iraq* (2005).

Heredia won an Emmy for

In Memoriam, New York City, 9/11/01. She edited the HBO feature length documentaries *Addiction*; *The Vagina Monologues*; and most recently *Alive Day Memories – Home from Iraq*, executive produced by Nevins and James Gandolfini.

Alive Day Memories will air at 10:30 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 9, the night before the Torrington campus event.

Impact of information technology on world politics explored in book

BY KALA KACHMAR

Several years have passed since Betty Hanson started her latest book. But it's not because she has writer's block.

Hanson, a political science professor at UConn, has undertaken the analysis of the growing world of information and communication technologies to explain how they affect world politics.

Her book, *The Information Revolution and World Politics*, looks at how technology has affected three areas of global politics: diplomacy, war, and peace; the global economy and the distribution of the world's wealth; and national sovereignty, identity, and culture.

The book looks at individual controversies regarding the impact of the information revolution on world politics. For example, Hanson examines the role of the Internet in opening up China's political system. Another example is how satellites affect what citizens of individual countries see about the world on television.

She examines how these have reduced the time and cost of communicating over great distances, and the variety of channels of communication and sources of information that are available.

Few scholars have attempted to

look at the overall picture of global communications and how it influences world politics, Hanson says, but a lot of research about individual technologies has been done.

The first two chapters of her book trace the information revolution back to days long before the Internet existed. Hanson looks at the use of communication devices such as the printing press and the telegraph, and explains how these are stages in a long line of communication technologies with a significant impact on global politics.

The rest of the book focuses on newer, globalizing technologies including the Internet, satellite, and cable.

Hanson uses a historical perspective to demonstrate one of her main arguments: that the future of technology was, and still is, open-ended and indeterminate.

She says the direction and impact of the new technologies, like earlier ones, depend on government policies, market forces, and social uses.

She concludes that the impact of the information revolution will be the net result of choices made by individuals, groups, enterprises, and states operating at local, national, and global levels.

One of her goals in writing the

book is to bring the topic to the attention of scholars in international relations.

"Betty has written about a wide variety of topics in international relations throughout her career," says Howard Reiter, head of the political science department. "What I find inspiring is that she's been willing to stick her neck out to delve into this emerging field of study before anyone else."

"Betty's research will hopefully fuel more research on this topic, not only in international relations, but across the social sciences," he adds.

Hanson says the book is relevant in the fields of both communication sciences and political science. It's written to be understood by the average person.

She has written and rewritten parts of the book over a period of several years, trying to keep up with new and changing technologies, policies, and economic and social conditions.

"It's a big, dynamic subject that's always changing," she says.

"I wanted to get the big picture, but it was difficult to figure out how to organize the book," she adds. "Such a broad topic is difficult to conceptualize. I tried many methods before I hit on the



PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Political science professor Betty Hanson, author of a new book, in her office.

right one."

Hanson has had to add a section on cellular phones, for example, while working on her book, because they have become so widespread in the past few years.

"So much is changing so rapidly in the information world," she

says. "There are always new and relevant things I want to add."

Kala Kachmar, a junior with a double major in journalism and political science, is a student in the Honors Program.

Two Health Center employees receive recognition awards



PHOTOS SUPPLIED

Pam Miles of University Dentists, left, and Susan Lapalme of the York Correctional Institute, are the Health Center's latest Husky Heroes.

BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

In her 10-plus years at the UConn Health Center, Pamela Miles has earned a reputation as someone who goes above and beyond. That must be why people keep nominating the University Dentists faculty practice manager for the PAWS award.

PAWS are recognition awards for Health Center employees. PAWS is an acronym for "Part of a

team, Awesome attitude, Wonderful work ethic, and Superior service." The title Husky Hero goes to four-time PAWS winners.

Susan Lapalme, a correctional hospital nursing supervisor at York Correctional Institution in Niantic, also has been racking up PAWS awards, and her latest made her a Husky Hero too.

"Sue has a can-do attitude, and is committed to superior perfor-

mance," says Connie Weiskopf, director of nursing, quality improvement, and patient care services in correctional managed care.

Weiskopf has nominated Lapalme several times for her role in achieving and maintaining York's accreditations. York became the first women's prison in the country to receive accreditation from the National Commission on Correctional Health Care in 2002. It won reaccreditation in 2005. And in 2004, York became the nation's first correctional facility to earn accreditation for its opioid treatment program; it was reaccredited this year.

"While people are coming and going, administrators are coming and going, Sue has been responsible for ensuring that standards continue to be met," says Weiskopf. "She is the glue that holds things together."

Eileen Borowski, health services administrator at York, says Lapalme has demonstrated depth of knowledge of the subject matter as well as operational detail during the various accreditations over the past five years.

The accreditation process for the opioid treatment program

was new territory, as the program – "essentially a methadone detox program," Lapalme says – had no precedent at any U.S. correctional facility. The staff had to start from scratch.

"We have policies, procedures, and standards we have to comply with," says Lapalme.

Miles has been nominated over the years for helping the Department of Patient Relations handle patient complaints and requests, implementing her department's new dental management information system, demonstrating leadership as the faculty practice's business manager and, most recently, her work during her office's relocation this spring.

According to the nomination from Dr. Sarita Arteaga in the Department of Reconstructive Sciences, Miles "came in on Good Friday – a day on which the clinic was closed, but the day after the move – to unpack boxes, scrub floors, and be certain the clinic was ready for operation the next Monday, when patients were already scheduled."

Dr. Monty MacNeil, dean of the UConn School of Dental Medicine, says Miles "leads by example,

and that's what she did on this move. She really rolled up her sleeves."

University Dentists staff members say that was just one, recent example.

"Whenever you need help she's always there," says dental assistant Agnes White. "She's there for the patients, she's there for the staff, she's there for the faculty."

Patient service representative Christine Nadolski describes Miles as "a very good leader and motivator. She's approachable and easy to work with, and she brings out the best in people."

Both Lapalme and Miles are quick to point out the support they get from those around them.

"University Dentists is an excellent department with dedicated providers as well as staff," says Miles. "A day doesn't pass by without patients stopping me to share kind words about their experiences at UD."

Says Lapalme, "These are ... not my accomplishments, they're for York. As a group, we're very proud of what we've done, but I didn't do it. We did it."

Biologists find evidence supporting controversial genetic theory

BY CINDY WEISS

Biologists in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and their collaborators at other universities have found experimental evidence that supports a controversial theory of genetic conflict in the reproduction of some animals.

The research provides a rare example of Darwinism in action at both the DNA and the species levels.

It supports the idea of a genetic “arms race” or “battle of the sexes” occurring at the molecular level in animals that support their developing offspring through a placenta.

At stake is the fetus’s growth rate and how much that costs the mother, who supplies its nutrients.

The research was described in a scientific paper that was the cover story of the July 24 issue of the scientific journal, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. The editorial board has reported that the paper is one of the 20 most-read papers online during the month of July.

Michael O’Neill, associate professor of molecular and cell biology, is the lead author. Rachel O’Neill, associate professor of molecular and cell biology, faculty from other institutions, and graduate students and a postdoctoral fellow from UConn and elsewhere are co-authors.

The O’Neills, who are married, are active researchers at UConn who often hold joint meetings of their research groups and collaborate on projects.

The paper was edited by Shirley Tilghman, president of Princeton University and a molecular biologist with a particular interest in this area of study. She was Michael O’Neill’s postdoctoral adviser.

Part of the significance of the research is in providing experimental proof of a theory offered in the 1990s by Harvard University biologist David Haig and others.

It holds that in animals with a

placenta, genetic material from the father and the mother promote different growth rates in the embryo, which produces a conflict over nutrients.

In most animals, the male provides his genetic material for the offspring and leaves. The mother has a more intimate relationship with the fetus, nurturing it through her placenta and, in some animals, nursing and caring for the baby after it is born.

But while the father may not be present, the genetic material he provided is hard-wired to provide fast fetal growth, so that his offspring will be the hardiest, best survivors, the ones who demand the most of the mother’s placental nutrients.

The mother, on the other hand, provides genetic material that promotes the same growth level for all of her offspring, so that her nutrients will be available to support her and the offspring from all her matings.

So the initial skirmish in the battle of the sexes could be said to take place at the embryonic level. Whose genetic material will prevail in the offspring, and which offspring will prevail in the survival of the species?

Evidence to support the “parent-offspring conflict theory” has been found in placental mammals. But the O’Neills’ study is the first to look for this conflict in any of the many species other than mammals that have evolved placental reproduction.

The UConn scientists and their collaborators studied a family of live-bearing fish that includes the popular aquarium species of mollies and guppies. Most fish are egg-layers, but some species in this family have evolved a placenta-like structure and give live birth.

The O’Neills have maintained for their research a colony of desert top minnows at UConn, the Poeciliopsis Genetic Stock Center, which was established here 30

years ago by another collaborating couple in biology, Jack Schultz and his wife, Mary, both now retired.

The new research tested the conflict theory by studying samples of the IGF2 growth hormone (insulin growth factor 2) collected from 50 species of minnows. The IGF2 gene is found in all vertebrates, including fish and people. It is the primary fetal development growth hormone.

The IGF2 gene sequences looked different in some species of the minnows, showing that segments of the gene had evolved. It appeared the biggest changes were in those species of minnows that had developed placentas. Some species of the minnows are egg-laying, and some evolved placentas.

The question for the researchers was, did the changes they saw in the IGF2 gene sequence exactly correlate with the evolution of the placenta? Was there a cause and effect, or was the change just random?

The researchers found that the change they saw supported the Darwinian theory of natural selection, providing independent support for the theory of conflict between the male and female genetic material in producing offspring.

The genomes of placental animals are fundamentally affected by being placental, and it is the imbalance of parental investment in the offspring, or the battle of the sexes at the molecular level, that changes the genome, the researchers found.

“It’s very rare to find good examples of Darwinian selection,” says Rachel O’Neill, “but we can definitely say it is placental, and that has led to Darwinian selection.”

Michael O’Neill likens the pattern of evolutionary change they saw to the “genetics arms race” that also takes place when bacteria develop resistance to an antibiotic,



PHOTO BY DANIEL BUTTREY

Researchers Rachel and Michael O’Neill, both associate professors of molecular and cell biology.

and new antibiotics are developed to counter it.

About 50 species of minnows were used in the new study. Besides the UConn minnows, research specimens were provided by co-authors from the University of California-Riverside, Texas A&M University, and the University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras.

Detailed statistical analysis of the findings was done by Dawn Carone and Gianni Ferreri, Ph.D. students advised by Rachel O’Neill,

using a large array of parallel computers in UConn’s Biotechnology Center. The computer power made it possible to analyze data in hours rather than days, notes Michael O’Neill.

The research project was funded in part by the National Science Foundation, with additional funding from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the University of Connecticut Research Foundation.

Convocation address *continued from page 1*

He said that having made one of the smartest decisions in their life to come to UConn, the students now have access to the resources of the number one public university in New England.

“You have the chance to work with top-notch faculty and with peers who will challenge and inspire you,” he said, as well as myriad opportunities outside the classroom.

“Learn about everything you can,” he advised, “and if something interests you, give it a try. You never know where it might lead, and it might make you a more interesting person. That’s always an advantage.

“It’s also important to recognize the big, big difference between

high school and college,” he continued. “You suddenly have much more freedom than ever before – and a whole lot more responsibility to go along with it. ... You need to make smart choices ... learn how to organize and manage your own time.”

Hogan suggested the students begin to make two ongoing lists, one of what matters to them, the other of how they spend their time, and to work on bringing the two lists into alignment: “Make it your ambition to make your time matter.”

Looking ahead to graduation, Hogan said, “four years from now, let’s hope ... we’re going to look back on what we went through together” – everything from making

lifelong friends to gaining weight from eating a lot of pizza.

At graduation, he told the students, your parents will take pride in how much you’ve grown, and wonder what to do with all the money they no longer have to spend on your tuition.

Hogan closed by expressing appreciation to outgoing University President Philip Austin for “more than a decade of very dedicated work.”

He said UConn is a great university “in large part because of the work of this astonishing academic leader. We are standing on the shoulders of generations that came before us.”

Classroom buildings *continued from page 1*

ing’s height, would have created a “canyon effect,” says Bradley. It also would have created a problem with deliveries to the library, since the main access road to Babbidge – a short, narrow street curving up from Mansfield Road – would have been blocked by the new building. Many of the possible solutions discussed would create conflicts between pedestrians and vehicles.

When a large outcrop of rock was discovered at the site during test borings, the fate of the earlier plan was sealed. A new, smaller building will avoid the outcropping.

The new plan proposes one building of approximately 115,000 square feet at the former Co-op site, and a second, roughly 75,000-square-foot building, on space

formerly occupied by the Hewitt Pharmacy Building.

The architectural group Leers Weinzapfel will begin the design phase of the projects in the near future, after decisions have been made regarding how classrooms and offices will be assigned to each building, says George Kraus, interim director of planning and project development.

Construction is expected to start sometime in 2009, with a goal of completion in 2011. Until construction begins, the site of the old pharmacy building will remain a grassy entrance to the Student Union Mall, which is currently being renovated and landscaped. Fencing will remain in place until spring, allowing the new lawn time to become established.”

Dr. John Rowe, left, current chairman of the Board of Trustees, with past chairs Roger Gelfenbien, center, and Lewis Rome, during a reception in honor of University President Philip E. Austin in August. The event, which included many past and present members of the Board, took place at the Hartford Club.

PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS



GRANTS

The following grants were received through the UConn Health Center's Office of Grants and Contracts in April 2007. The list represents new awards as well as continuations. The list of grants is supplied each month to the *Advance* by the Office of Grants and Contracts.

Department	Prin. Investigator	Sponsor	Amount	Award Period
Federal grants				
Community Medicine & Healthcare <i>Delphi Evaluation of Alcohol Advertising Codes</i>	Babor, T.	National Institute on Alcohol Abuse & Alcoholism	\$56,020	1/06-11/07
Immunology <i>Antigen Presentation after Influenza Virus Infection</i>	Cauley, L.	National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases	\$370,000	4/07-3/08
Surgery/Calhoun Cardiology Center <i>Myocardial Preservation During Ischemic Arrest</i>	Das, D.	National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute	\$346,731	4/05-3/08
Neuroscience <i>GDP/GTP Exchange Factors: Nucleus Accumbens Plasticity</i>	Eipper, E.	National Institute on Drug Abuse	\$309,343	4/04-3/08
Oral Health & Diagnostic Sciences <i>Human Salty and Bitter Taste Mechanisms</i>	Frank, M.	National Institute on Deafness & Other Communication Disorders	\$47,045	1/03-12/07
Medicine <i>Action of Anabolic Factors on Bone Formation in Mice</i>	Hurley, M.	National Institute on Aging	\$206,229	4/04-3/08
Cell Biology <i>Regulation of Meiotic Arrest by a GS-Linked Receptor</i>	Jaffe, L.	National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Disease	\$199,508	4/05-3/08
Biochemistry <i>Molecular Analysis of Flagellar Dynein Function</i>	King, S.	National Institute of General Medical Sciences	\$273,645	4/05-3/08
Neuroscience <i>Neural Mechanisms of Binaural Hearing</i>	Kuwada, S.	National Institute on Deafness & Other Communication Disorders	\$509,808	4/07-3/08
Center for Immunology of Cancer & Infectious Diseases <i>Role of Cell Surface HSP GP96 in Immunity</i>	Li, Z.	National Cancer Institute	\$225,478	4/04-3/08
Center for Immunology of Cancer & Infectious Diseases <i>Roles and Mechanisms of GP96 in Chaperoning Inmate Immunity</i>	Li, Z.	National Institute of Neurological Disorders & Stroke	\$370,000	4/07-3/08
Neuroscience <i>Cell Biology of Bioactive Peptide Secretion</i>	Mains, R.	National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases	\$408,701	5/03-3/08
Medicine <i>RPOS Regulation of Borrelia Burgdorferi Genes in Vivo</i>	Radolf, J.	National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases	\$523,541	4/07-3/08
Endocrinology/Medicine <i>Factors Influencing Bone Metabolism</i>	Raisz, L.	National Institute of Arthritis & Musculoskeletal & Skin Diseases	\$312,782	4/04-3/08

Biochemistry <i>Studies of E. Coli Min Proteins</i>	Rothfield, L.	National Institute of General Medical Sciences	\$343,715	4/04-3/08
Molecular, Microbial & Structural Biology <i>Mechanisms of the Killing & Development of Spores of Bacillus Species</i>	Setlow, P.	U.S. Army	\$115,527	9/06-3/08
Center for Immunology of Cancer & Infectious Diseases <i>Heat Shock Protein-Peptide Vaccines Against Ectromelis as a Model</i>	Srivastava, P.	U.S. Army	\$1,272,420	2/06-2/09
Neuroscience <i>Development of the Cerebral Cortex in Mammals</i>	Zecevic, N.	National Institute of Neurological Disorders & Stroke	\$323,343	5/06-2/08

Private grants

Surgery <i>Selenium & Vitamin E Chemoprevent. Trial DHHS 80003</i>	Albertsen, P.	CTRC Research Foundation	\$480	9/01-5/13
Neuroscience <i>Localization of MRNAs in Oligodendrocytes</i>	Barbarese, E.	Multiple Sclerosis	\$428,132	4/07-3/10
Cell Biology <i>To Augment Existing Research Project</i>	Claffey, K.	UConn Foundation	\$1,290	6/05-12/07
Pediatrics <i>Solid Tumor Research – Seraph 2006</i>	Ferrer, F.	CT Children's Medical Center	\$98,200	10/06-10/07
Center on Aging <i>Evidence-Based Fall Prevention in Senior Centers</i>	Fortinsky, R.	North Central Agency on Aging	\$10,000	10/03-9/07
Surgery <i>NSABP Breast and Bowel Cancer Treatment BC 0107-185</i>	Kurtzman, S.	University of Pittsburgh	\$200	2/97-1/08
Neuroscience <i>The Role of Cytoskeletal Proteins in Praxonal Axon-Glia Interactions</i>	Ogawa, Y.	Multiple Sclerosis	\$104,824	8/06-7/09
Psychiatry <i>Psychotherapy Development Research Center DHHS A06057</i>	Petry, N.	Yale University	\$125,632	7/06-6/07
Neuroscience <i>Mechanisms of Neuron-Glia Interactions and Regulation of Axon Function</i>	Rasband, M.	Multiple Sclerosis	\$441,996	8/06-7/11
Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center <i>Julie Epstein Cancer Fund</i>	Runowicz, C.	UConn Foundation	\$1,380	3/98-12/07
Pediatrics <i>Prevention Pie Literature Review</i>	Rusert, J.	Connecticut Children's Trust Fund	\$1,888	1/07-4/07

State grants

Occupational/Environmental Medicine <i>All Hazards Training</i>	Croteau, M.	Department of Public Health	\$40,000	8/06-8/07
Infectious Diseases <i>TB Surveillance, Prevention and Control Program</i>	Pesanti, E.	Department of Public Health	\$70,000	1/06-12/07

CALENDAR Tuesday, September 4, to Monday, September 10

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, Sept. 10 through Monday, Sept. 17. Those items must be entered in the database by Tuesday, Sept. 4, owing to the Labor Day holiday on Monday. 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

Tuesday, 9/4 – Last day to file petitions for course credit by examination.

Monday, 9/10 – Add/drop via the Student Administration System closes. Last day to add courses or drop courses without additional signatures. Last day to place courses on Pass/Fail. Courses dropped after this date will have a "W" for withdrawal recorded on the academic record.

Libraries

Babbidge Library. Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-2 a.m.; Friday, 8 a.m.-10 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m.-2 a.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-6 p.m.
Law Library. Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-11 p.m.; Friday, 1 p.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1-9 p.m.
Torrington Campus Library. Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; Friday-Sunday, closed.
Stamford Campus Library. Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 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.
Waterbury Campus Library. Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Sunday, closed;
Hartford Campus Library. Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m. -4 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

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

Thursday, 9/6 – Law School Pro Bono Meeting. 12:15 p.m., Blumberg Hall, Hosmer Building, Hartford Law School.
Monday, 9/10 – University Senate. 4-6 p.m., Room 7, Bishop Center.

Ph.D. Defenses

Wednesday, 9/5 – Computer Engineering. *High Quality Delay Tests for Very Deep SubMicron Designs*, by Nisar Ahmed (adv.: Tehranipoor). 11 a.m., Room 336, Information Technology Engineering Building.
Wednesday, 9/5 – Materials Science & Engineering. *Ferroelectric Multilayers and Heterostructures for High Performance Tunable Microwave Devices Applications*, by Shan Zhong (adv.: Alpay). 2 p.m., Room IMS159, Gant Science Complex.
Friday, 9/7 – Cognition & Instruction. *Exploring New Literacies Pedagogy and Online Reading Comprehension Among Middle School Students and Teachers: Issues of Social Equity or Social Exclusion?* by Laurie Henry (adv.: Leu). 9 a.m., Room 246, Neag School of Education.

Lectures & Seminars

Tuesday, 9/4 – Neuroscience Seminar. 4 p.m., Room 13, Academic Research Building, Health Center, Farmington.
Thursday, 9/5 – "The Vedic Wedding: Origins, Traditions, and Practice." 2 p.m., Class of 1947 room, Homer Babbidge Library.
Friday, 9/6 – Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Seminar. 4 p.m., Room 130, Biology/Physics Building.
Friday, 9/6 – Particles, Astrophysics, & Nuclei Physics Seminar. "Quantum Gravity and the Quantum Mechanics of Non-Hermitian Operators," by

Philip Mannheim. 4 p.m., Room P121, Gant Science Complex.
Friday, 9/6 – Comparative Pathology

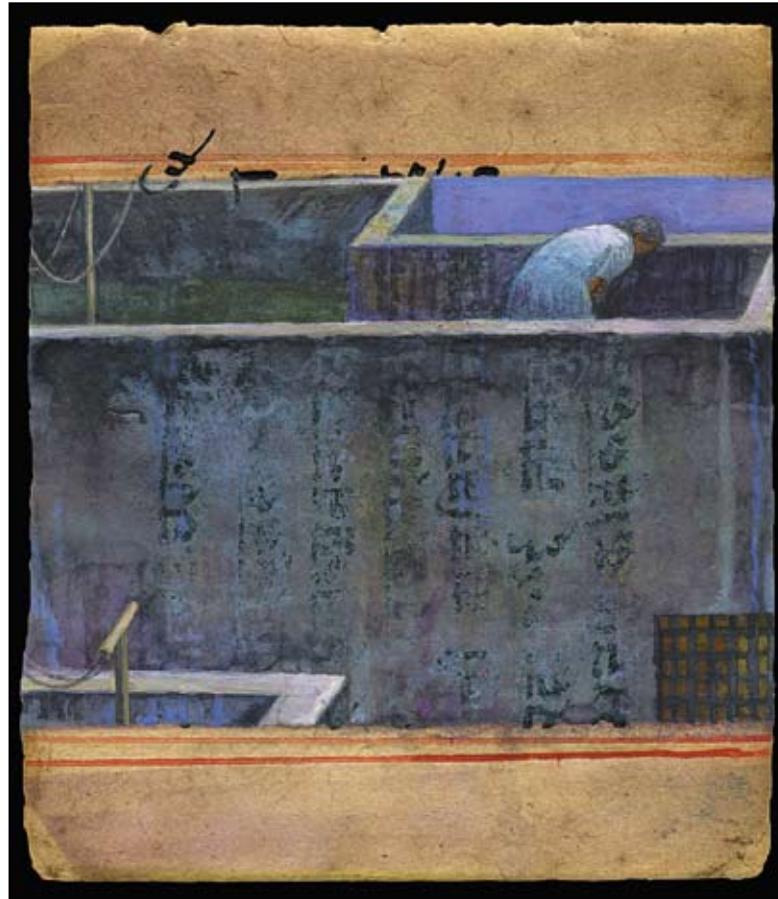


PHOTO SUPPLIED BY BENTON MUSEUM

Obscure and Common Duties (Pondicherry), 2007, by Professor Kathryn Myers, is one of the works on display in this year's Annual Art Department Faculty Exhibition at the William Benton Museum of Art. See Exhibits.

Seminar. "Cytolytic CD4 T cells and Mechanisms of Protection to Lethal Influenza Infection," by Deborah Brown. 11 a.m., Room A001, Atwater Annex.

Exhibits

Tuesday, 9/4 – William Benton Museum of Art. The 42nd Annual Art Department Faculty Exhibition.
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.
Thursday, 9/6 through Wednesday,

12/5 – Celeste LeWitt Gallery. *Movement and Light Series*, by Kelly James Carrington; and *Revelations and Realities*, by John Lazarski. Daily, 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Health Center.
Through Friday, 10/12 – Babbidge Library. *Believers*, paintings by Carol Foley depicting the faces of victims

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

Wednesday, 9/5 – Field Hockey vs. Yale. 7 p.m., Sherman Family-Sports Complex. Free admission.
Thursday, 9/6 – Women's Soccer vs. Penn State. 7 p.m., Morrone Stadium.
Friday, 9/7 – Men's Soccer vs. South Carolina. 7 p.m., Morrone Stadium.
Saturday, 9/8 – Men's Soccer vs. Florida International. 7 p.m. Morrone Stadium.
Saturday, 9/8 – Football vs. Maine. 7 p.m. Rentschler Field
Sunday, 9/9 – Women's Soccer vs. Central Connecticut. 1 p.m. Morrone Stadium.

Potpourri

Tuesday, 9/4 through Sunday, 9/9 – Festival Chorus Auditions. Audition for the town and gown Festival Chorus under the direction of Constance DeFotis. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Room 208, Drama/Music Building. To schedule an audition, call 860-486-2562.
Tuesday, 9/4 – Law School Interviewing Skills and Strategies Session. 12:30 p.m., Janet M Blumberg Hall, Law School, Hartford.
Wednesday, 9/5 – Alexander Technique Lecture/Demonstration. By Elizabeth Huebner. Noon and 6:30 p.m., Room 7, Bishop Center. The Alexander Technique helps people relieve physical discomfort and assists performing artists in perfecting their skills.
Wednesday, 9/5 – Law School Interviewing Skills and Strategies Session. 5:30 p.m., KKB Courtroom, Law School, Hartford.
Saturday, 9/8 – Know Your Town Fair. 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Mansfield Community Center.
Monday, 9/10 – Asian American Cultural Center Open House. 4:30 p.m., Room 428, Student Union.
Monday, 9/10 – Litchfield County Writers Project. Screening of *In Memoriam, New York City, 9/11/01*, followed by panel discussion with 6:30 p.m., 855 University Drive, Torrington Campus.

Extension booklet describes how to install a rain garden

BY KAREN SINGER

A booklet touting the benefits of rain gardens is available from the College of Agriculture.

The free booklet, *Rain Gardens: a Design Guide for Homeowners in Connecticut*, contains guidelines for the placement, size, installation, and maintenance of rain gardens, as well as lists of suitable native plants.

It is available online at www.nemo.uconn.edu/tools/publications.htm or by calling 860-486-3336.

Written by Michael Dietz, a stormwater specialist and former assistant extension educator-in-residence at UConn, and Karen Filchak, an extension educator at the University, the 12-page booklet helps those who are interested in

installing a rain garden on their property.

Dietz says rain gardens not only look nice but are also an effective way to prevent pollutants in rainwater from flowing off roofs, driveways, and other impervious surfaces into sewers and waterways.

Rain gardens are shallow depressions in the ground planted with shrubs, grasses, and trees and covered with a thin layer of mulch. They collect rainwater, which percolates into the ground, trapping pollutants along the way, including nitrogen and phosphorous (known for depleting oxygen in salt and fresh bodies of water).

"Rain gardens are an easy way for a homeowner to make a difference," says Dietz, who earned

a Ph.D. in resources management and engineering in 2005. "They're part of a concept called low-impact development, which aims to keep a landscape functioning as it did in a natural condition.

"In contrast to regular landscaping, which is raised up, rain gardens should be about six-inches deep, which allows water to be stored temporarily," he explains. "If designed and installed properly, there's no issue with mosquitoes." He advises caution when considering whether to plant trees in a rain garden because they "grow big."

Rain gardens may also provide a haven for birds, depending on the kinds of grasses, shrubs, and plant you choose.

Dietz became interested in rain gardens as a graduate student,

while studying with associate professor Jack Clausen, a water quality monitoring specialist.

"We had learned about some work in Maryland, where they were pioneered, but our studies were long-term and field-based," Dietz says. "As part of that we created and monitored a rain garden in Haddam for two years."

They also oversaw installation of several smaller rain gardens on the Storrs campus, and have since consulted on some similar projects around the state.

"Our research shows that using the design method in the guide can reduce pollutants leaving your site by 99 percent, if you're capturing everything off your roof and preventing it from going into the storm drainage system," Dietz says.

Rain gardens can be part of new construction, but also can be "retrofitted" for existing homes.

Since the brochure was published in September 2006, it has become the "most requested publication" from the College of Agriculture, according to Dietz. He adds that a flurry of requests followed a recent *New York Times* story about the Haddam rain garden.

"I think we've really helped to increase awareness about rain gardens," he says. "We've gotten a lot of good feedback."

The authors hope the booklet will motivate people to create their own gardens, either by doing it themselves or by hiring a landscape designer.

Growing number of student-athletes return to complete degrees

BY ELIZABETH OMARA-OTUNNU
& KENNETH BEST

Former men's basketball player Hilton Armstrong was back on campus this summer – not on the court, but in the classroom.

Armstrong, who left the University in 2006 to enter the NBA, took two courses and hopes to take one more next summer to earn the remaining credits to qualify for a degree in political science.

He is one of a growing group of former student-athletes who return to the University to complete their degree with the support of the Division of Athletics.

Earlier this year, UConn was recognized for the second consecutive year by the National Consortium for Academics and Sports for the success of its degree completion program.

"The primary mission of UConn's Division of Athletics is for our student-athletes to earn their undergraduate degree," says Jeff Hathaway, director of athletics.

Bruce Cohen, director of the University's Counseling Program for Intercollegiate Athletes, says the program is expanding each year, as former student-athletes learn about the opportunity to complete their degree.

"When we started the program, we called those who didn't complete their degree a long time ago and encouraged them to come back," he says. "Now it's building a life of its own. The students are coming to us wanting to finish."

Among those who completed their UConn degrees in 2006 are baseball's Jeff Hourigan; Kevin Freeman and Rashamel Jones of men's basketball; Roy Hopkins and Tavaar Closs of football; Shannon Connolly of women's ice hockey; Cassie Novak of women's swimming and diving; and April Garner of women's track and field.

For undergraduates participating in NCAA sports, the schedule can be grueling. They must main-



PHOTO BY SEAN FLYNN

Former men's basketball player Hilton Armstrong uses a computer in the study hall at Gampel Pavilion. Armstrong, who is now in the NBA, hopes to finish his degree next year. In the background is former UConn player Ruslan Inyatkin, who completed his degree this summer and now works as an office manager for a Connecticut company.

tain full-time student status by taking 12 credits a semester, and although practice time is limited by the NCAA to 20 hours a week, that doesn't include travel time and games.

Armstrong says being both a student and an athlete is demanding.

"You practice in the morning, go back and get ready for class, and sometimes you go back and practice again later," he says. "There's barely time to relax. It takes a toll, both physically and mentally."

He says he took a few days off from his studies in 2004 after the team won the national championship, but he had to make up for it the next week. "I had to put my face in my books and study 24/7 to catch up," he says.

Cohen says the student-athletes

who need the most guidance are those on teams that either compete both semesters – basketball and swimming, for example – or travel extensively, such as baseball and softball.

He says UConn's student-athlete graduation rates are comparable to those of the general student population – about 70 percent.

"The primary reason student-athletes leave before graduating is for professional sports opportunities," says Cohen. "Others transfer because perhaps they didn't get as much playing time as they wanted, or they leave because of personal issues, such as taking care of a family member."

Although NCAA players' eligibility is limited to four years, their scholarships are available for five years. Some UConn student-athletes, such as former basket-

ball player Shamon Tooles, take advantage of the extra year, says Ted Taigen, associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology and CPIA's academic advisor to the men's basketball team.

Cohen says his staff encourage student-athletes not to leave the University early, "but when there's a good reason for doing so, we make it very clear the doors are open for them to return and make sure they're in a position where they can step back into the degree program."

For those who left many years ago, the adjustment can be considerable. Degree requirements and curriculum have changed, and former players may feel disconnected after being away.

The task may appear daunting, says Taigen, "but I am a relentless cheerleader for them to come back

and finish the job. I bug them, tell them they can do it."

Although those who pursue a professional career in sports may be financially secure, there are other reasons for athletes to complete their degree.

"Many student-athletes are first-generation college students," says Cohen. "It may be very important to the family or for their personal self-esteem to have a college degree and not be marked as a stereotypical student-athlete who goes to college just to play sports."

Says Taigen, "One of the things I tell the guys all the time is that when they finish their degree, it makes a statement about them, not just for themselves, for their families. It's a statement to their parents, and a statement to their children. It changes the landscape for their children to include education."

Armstrong says his mother urged him to complete his degree.

"I didn't argue," he says. "I'll feel more comfortable for myself. Not too many people leave and then finish their degree."

He says when he retires from the NBA, he hopes to work with kids. "I'd like to start some kind of program to help inner city youth," he says. He believes having a degree will earn him respect.

Taigen says a number of basketball players who returned and graduated are now in jobs that require a degree. Rashamel Jones '06, for example, is a caseworker for the Department of Children and Families. Brian Fair, a student-athlete from 1991 to 1995, went on to earn a master's degree and is now an educational administrator in Phoenix, Ariz., and is studying for a doctoral degree.

Cohen notes that many professional athletes' careers are over by the time they are 30. They need other interests and skills for the rest of their life, he says. "You need an education to be a well rounded human being."

Additional faculty *continued from page 1*

15 to 1.

"We have been concerned that our student-faculty ratio has climbed above that of other excellent public universities," says Nicholls.

The hires will be made in areas of highest student demand and in those that best meet the research and outreach goals of the Academic Plan, says Nicholls. He has asked the deans to send him lists of the priorities for their schools and colleges, so that in the next few weeks he can allocate the approximately 30 additional faculty positions anticipated for the 2008-09 academic year.

"Hiring more faculty in our areas of greatest need and in accordance with the Academic Plan," he adds, "will help enhance the quality of the student experience, further the state's economic

growth through research and workforce development, solidify

"Hiring more faculty in our areas of greatest need and in accordance with our Academic Plan will help enhance the quality of the student experience ..."

Provost Peter J. Nicholls

the University's growing national reputation, and maximize the investment of parents and taxpayers by ensuring that students can graduate in four years."

Nicholls notes the strong support for this initiative from the AAUP and from State Rep. Denise Merrill (D-Mansfield), chair of the

Joint Committee on Appropriations, who pushed to obtain funding for new faculty.

"We are very grateful for her support," he says, "and for her efforts to rally others to support it as well."

Merrill says she supported the request because it is clear that it is of paramount importance to the University's future.

"I have become convinced that securing additional faculty to meet the growing needs of the student body is the highest priority for the University," she says. "By funding additional faculty, the Legislature has recognized that UConn's success in attracting and retaining students demands that the budget keep pace, so the University can continue to provide a high-quality educational experience."

Psychologist earns award

BY SHERRY FISHER

Thomas W. Miller, professor emeritus of psychology, has received the American Psychological Association Award for Distinguished Professional Contributions to the Practice of Psychology.

Miller is a senior research scientist with the University's Center for Health Intervention and Prevention, a University Teaching Fellow, and a Diplomate of the American Board of Professional Psychology in clinical psychology. He also is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association, the Association for Psychological Science, and the Royal Society of Medicine.

Miller gave an invited address and received an honorarium for the award at the American Psychological Association's meeting in San Francisco in August.

His 36-year career includes

professorship and tenure at three public universities.

The author of 10 books, his research has included cross-cultural studies of trauma in veterans; victims of natural disasters; medical conditions, including HIV; and applications of telemedicine in providing access to care for rural and underserved populations.

The award citation mentions Miller's "innovative theory, research and clinical practice, teaching, and unparalleled contributions to the field of public sector psychology." It also notes, "Thomas W. Miller's achievements during his 36-year career include publication in highly acclaimed books and journal articles, his Stressful Life Events series, consultation on the national and international levels, and teaching in England, Ireland, Scotland, Australia, and Russia."

