



Two groups will receive Dodd Prize in human rights

BY RICHARD VEILLEUX

The third biennial Thomas J. Dodd Prize in International Justice and Human Rights will be awarded jointly to the Center for Justice and Accountability and Mental Disability Rights International on Oct. 1.

The 11 a.m. prize ceremony, on the plaza of the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, is the first of three human rights-related events that will open the month of October.

The second, which follows the ceremony, is a 1:30 p.m. program and book signing with U.S. Sen. Christopher Dodd, whose first book, *Letters From Nuremberg: My Father's Narrative of a Quest for Justice*, will be released Sept. 11.

Then at 4 p.m. on Oct. 2, Harold Koh, dean of the Yale Law School and an internationally acclaimed leader in human rights, will deliver the 13th Raymond and Beverly Sackler Distinguished Lecture on Human Rights with a talk entitled, "Repairing our Human Rights Reputation."

"Clustering these three wonderful events into a 24-hour period will allow the UConn community and guests a rare opportunity to immerse themselves in a variety of issues concerning human rights, which has become a very important part of UConn's academic identity," says Thomas Wilsted, director of the Dodd Center.

The Center for Justice and Accountability (CJA) is an international human rights organization dedicated to ending torture and other severe human rights abuses around the world, and advancing the rights of survivors to seek truth, justice and redress.

The San Francisco based non-governmental organization uses litigation to hold perpetrators individually accountable for human rights abuses, develop human rights law, and advance the rule of law in countries transitioning from periods of abuse.

Founded in 1998 with support from Amnesty International and the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, the CJA has won judgments against a Bosnian war criminal, a mayor of Beijing, two Salvadoran ministers of defense and a vice minister of defense, a Honduran chief of military intelligence, a Chilean death squad member, and a Haitian parliamentary leader.

Pamela Merchant, director of CJA, will accept the center's award.

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PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Emily Nirshberg, a senior majoring in English, studies alongside Mirror Lake.

Austin Chair to honor President's 11-year legacy

BY JOHN SPONAUER

When President Philip E. Austin steps down after 11 years of leading the University of Connecticut, his legacy will include a refurbished campus, a five-fold growth in endowment, an increased reputation for academic excellence, national athletic success, and many other points of pride.

In addition, as a result of the generosity of donors and the efforts of the UConn Foundation, Austin's name will live on through a new \$1.5-million endowed chair established in his honor.

Officially announced on April 14 at the 2007 Founders Society celebration, the Philip E. Austin Endowed Chair will fund a highly visible faculty position, once approved by the Board of Trustees. The drive to fully fund the chair is supported by some of the University's most prominent donors and leaders, each of whom has worked closely with Austin during his historic tenure as the University's president.

"Part of Phil's legacy is, obviously, the physical transformation of UConn with the dramatic assistance of the state," says John W. Rowe, M.D., chairman of the Board of Trustees and an incorporating donor of the Austin chair. "But beyond the bricks and mortar, he has led the University to a much greater level of academic strength and enhanced pride. You simply can't put a price tag on that. This institution today is a reflection of his vision and determination."

Ray Neag, '56, whose transformational gift of \$23 million in 1999 marked a turning point for private giving to support the University, says Austin's personal style of leadership has made the difference.

"We have a professional relationship that has grown into a friendship," Neag says. "It's not often you can find a person with as many qualifications as he has, as a leader and a smart businessman, as well as someone who was adept at meeting the challenges that we faced. He's moved us to a first-class position across the country."

The chair will offer an opportunity to recruit a nationally recognized scholar and highlight the role that private giving plays in recruitment and retention of preeminent faculty.

"We're at a crossroads today where we can grow the University even more, and we need

see **Austin Chair** page 8

Pharmacy school to lead new center

BY BETH KRANE

A federal center to be established at the University may help determine which treatments your doctor recommends and which prescription drugs your health plan covers.

The five-year center also has the potential to immerse UConn faculty, graduate students, honors students, and research fellows in up to one million dollars of federally-funded work each year.

The UConn center, to be led by the School of Pharmacy in collaboration with the School of Business and Hartford Hospital, is one of 14 Evidence-based Practice Centers nationwide. Other institutions that run such centers include Duke, Johns Hopkins, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, and Tufts University-New England Medical Center.

The centers are charged by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality in the U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services with conducting comprehensive, systematic reviews of research on health topics of vital importance to the U.S. healthcare system, and advising federal and state policymakers, professional organizations, and insurance companies on the highest quality, most effective, and most cost-effective healthcare treatments and delivery options.

The topics the new UConn center will review include common medications, exorbitant treatments, and those particularly significant for Medicare and Medicaid populations.

The UConn center is the first to be led by pharmacists, notes its director, C. Michael White, an associate professor of pharmacy practice and expert on cardiac medicine.

It will also forge the first partnership

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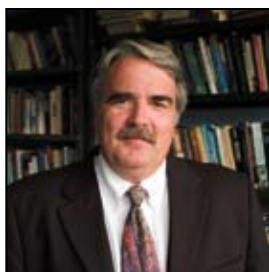
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Speakers announced for Teale Lecture series

"Corporate Environmentalism: Doing Well by Doing Good?" is the title of the first lecture in the 2007-2008 Teale environmental lecture series. The lecture, by Geoff Heal, professor of finance and economics and Garrett Professor of Public Policy and Business Responsibility at Columbia University, will take place on Sept. 20 at 4 p.m.

Heal will discuss the substantial and diverse economic benefits of environmental conservation.

"America needs to rethink fundamentally its attitude toward environmental conservation," he says. "Traditionally justified on moral and ethical grounds, conservation has to be viewed instead as an economic winner."

The Edwin Way Teale Lecture Series on Nature and the Environment, now beginning its 11th year, brings world-renowned scientists and scholars to the University

to present public lectures in the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center and interact with faculty, students, and the general public.

"Over its 11-year history, a crucial goal of the Teale Lecture Series has been to enhance people's knowledge of the complex and varied issues facing the planet," says Gregory Anderson, vice provost for research and graduate education and chair of the lecture series committee. "Having leading and influential scientists and scholars present their ideas at the University presents a special opportunity for multidisciplinary interactions on campus, engagement with interested members of the broader Connecticut community, and for all to broaden their environmental understanding, making informed choices in the way they interact with and shape the environment."

Future speakers in the 2007-2008 series are:

Oct. 4 "Endangered Species Conservation: An Assessment and Prognosis," by Michael J. Bean, attorney, chair of the Wildlife Program, Environmental Defense

Nov. 15 "Emerging New Forests in the Shining Star of the Caribbean," by Ariel Lugo, director, International Institute of Tropical Forestry

Feb. 7 "Brewing Biodiversity: The Ecology of Coffee Farms in Chiapas, Mexico," by Ivette Perfecto, professor of natural resources, University of Michigan

March 20 "Hope in a Dark Time: The Promises of Religious Environmentalism," by Roger Gottlieb, professor of philosophy, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

April 10 "The Heartbeat of Our Mother," by Joseph Bruchac, storyteller and writer

All lectures in the series take place at 4 p.m. in the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center.

Latino studies conference set for Oct. 11-12

The Puerto Rican and Latino Studies Institute at UConn will host an interdisciplinary conference to discuss the intersections of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, class, and sexuality on Oct. 11 and 12.

The conference, "Rethinking the Latin@ Intellectual Ecology" will take place in the Dodd Center and Rome Ballroom.

Guillermo Irizarry, director of the Institute of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies, says the program "locates UConn's intellectual community at the center of a scholarly agenda that labors to understand the changing parameters of self and society, in the middle of a seismic demographic transformation.

"PRLS has gathered an impressive cohort of academics, artists, and activities," he adds, "and has designed a conference that will allow students, faculty, and

community members to interact dynamically and offer new insights into the significance of the Latin@ demographic and cultural explosion for the state, nation, and the Americas."

Keynote speakers are: Tomás Almaguer, professor of ethnic studies at San Francisco State University, and author of *Racial Fault Lines: The Historical Origins of White Supremacy in California*; Elsa Núñez, president of Eastern Connecticut State University, professor of linguistics, and author of *Pursuing Diversity*; and Ilán Staváns, Lewis-Sebring Professor in Latin American and Latino Culture at Amherst College, and author of *Dictionary Days* and *The Hispanic Condition*. A theatrical performance will be presented by performance artist/writer Guillermo Gómez Peña.

Panel speakers are: Carlos Ulises Decena, an assistant professor

who teaches in the departments of women's and gender studies and Latino and Hispanic Caribbean studies at Rutgers; Jossiana Arroyo Martinez, who teaches in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of Texas at Austin; Stephen Pitt, a professor of history and American studies, and director of the Ethnicity, Race, and Migration Program at Yale; and Mari Castañeda Paredes, associate professor of communications at UMass-Amherst.

Register at <http://www.conferences.uconn.edu/latinoecology/reg.htm>.

For more information, contact Anne Theriault, anne.theriault@uconn.edu, 860-486-3997; or Wendy Wilbert, wendy.wilbert@uconn.edu, 860-486-0229.

Frank Rich, former UConn trustee, dies

Frank D. Rich, business leader, philanthropist, and former member of the University of Connecticut's Board of Trustees, died Aug. 7. He was 83.

Rich, of Darien, was chairman of the F.D. Rich Co. real estate development firm and chairman of the Stamford Center for the Arts. Rich led the transformation of downtown Stamford from a deteriorating factory district to an office and commercial center.

A member of the University's Board of Trustees from 1974 to 1993, he played a key role in the long effort that culminated in the opening of the downtown Stam-

ford campus. He also contributed to the campus.

The University awarded him a University Medal in 1994, and an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 1999.

"He was an extremely effective trustee," says Peter McFadden, professor emeritus of engineering and a longtime UConn administrator. "He served long and well as chairman of the finance committee. His requirements for studies and his thoughtful questioning were legendary. It was a pleasure to work with him."

Rich served as a first lieutenant in the Marines in World War

II and graduated from Princeton University with a bachelor's degree in engineering.

He was the driving force behind the creation of the Stamford Center for the Arts and its Rich Forum theater, named for his family. His company has also been involved in other projects, including Landmark Square complex, the Stamford Town Center, and the Stamford Marriott Hotel.

Rich is survived by his wife, Jean Hopkins Rich, four daughters, two sons, and 13 grandchildren.



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Mike Grovier goes up for the shot, while playing basketball with fellow first-year students (from left) Will Loturco, Ryan Grace, and Kyle Cohen.

Jerry Hadley, tenor, dies

Operatic tenor Jerry Hadley, a former adjunct professor at UConn, died July 18. He was 55.

Hadley, who taught at UConn from 1978 to 1979, became an international opera star. He sang with many of the world's leading opera companies, including the New York City Opera, where he made his professional debut in 1979, the Metropolitan Opera, the Vienna State Opera, the Royal Opera at Covent Garden in London, and the Lyric Opera of Chicago.

Constance Rock, assistant professor of music, says Hadley was an "incredibly gifted and versatile singing actor. He was one of America's finest contributions to the operatic world. We were fortunate to have him teach at UConn."

Recalling a performance by Hadley at UConn in 1999, Rock adds, "His ability to communicate with his audience through the music was perhaps his greatest gift, and it was a joy to see the effect his performance had on our students."

Hadley received international recognition for his interpretation of the great Mozart operatic tenor roles and those of the French romantic and bel canto styles. He also became known for his expertise with 20th-century and American operas. He was comfortable in the realms of Broadway musical theater, operetta, and popular song.

He collaborated with Leonard Bernstein on many projects, and was a Grammy-award winner.

Advance

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

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Mandatory water conservation announced

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

University officials have asked water users to observe mandatory conservation measures after the third driest August on record, with no appreciable rain in the immediate weather forecast.

The measures are more stringent than those implemented in early August when the University issued a water conservation alert, asking all its water system users to voluntarily conserve water.

The conservation alert was based on a special trigger that is part of the University's plan to cut back on consumption during dry weather conditions, says Thomas Q. Callahan, associate vice president for operations. It is based on environmental factors and not on the system's ability to meet current or projected demand.

However, daily consumption has increased by approximately 30 percent because of the return of students and the start of the fall semester.

The University and its professional water system operator and manager, New England Water Utilities Services, have continued to closely monitor and assess daily consumption, well field produc-

tion and storage; environmental conditions; and the precipitation forecast, and have determined it is now prudent to move to a Stage II drought watch, he says.

A drought watch advisory means conservation measures are mandatory. That means:

- Lawn watering for all University and non-University users is limited to four hours per day or less and to the hours of 5-9 a.m. and 7-9 p.m. Athletic fields are limited to two hours' watering each day during the same hours.
- Filling public or private pools must be provided via pool truck.
- Washing motor vehicles is banned. The University's wash bay is closed until further notice.
- The use of ornamental or display fountains is banned.
- The use of water for washing and wetting down streets, sidewalks, driveways, or parking areas is banned, unless required by the local public health authority.
- The use of UConn water for dust control at construction sites is banned. Contractors are required to provide water for dust control from off site.
- The use of hydrant sprinkler caps is banned.

• Water main flushing will only be used to address water quality issues.

The University expects to take additional voluntary steps to curtail consumption in its dining facilities, central utilities, and irrigation systems.

The Aug. 6 water conservation alert also remains in effect. Students, faculty, staff, and other members of the University community and other UConn water system users should:

- Take shorter showers.
 - Run dishwashers and washing machines with full loads.
 - Avoiding letting water run continuously when washing dishes, shaving, and brushing teeth.
 - Avoid power washing buildings.
 - Raising thermostats in UConn buildings, particularly when leaving at night.
 - Immediately report any leaky fixtures in UConn buildings to Facilities Operations: 860-486-3113.
- Says Callahan, "By reducing consumption during these dry weather conditions, you can help us reduce groundwater withdrawals and protect local streams and the aquatic life they support."

Rec facility members get free access at other schools

Faculty and staff who are paid members of the Student Recreational Facility are now able to use the fitness facilities at many other universities free of charge.

The Division of Athletics' Department of Recreational Services has signed onto a national program that will allow access to the facilities of potentially hundreds of other institutions.

The Health & Wellness Passport Program, sponsored by the National Intramural Recreation Sports Association (NIRSA), is free to member institutions who choose to join the program.

Announced during the summer, more than 40 universities have already signed on, says Patti Bostic, executive director of recreational services. She expects there may be up to 300 venues available by the end of the semester.

"It's a good service for us to offer and a great opportunity for all our members," Bostic says. "Faculty and staff often travel to other campuses, and if they

enjoy working out, they now have access to some excellent facilities."

There are currently about 600 members of UConn's recreational facility who are eligible for the benefit, Bostic says. Those who are traveling to another campus and are interested in using the facilities there must pick up a voucher at the recreation office. The voucher is good for 30 days.

Membership of UConn's facility is available to all faculty and staff for \$100 per semester. It entitles individuals to use of the Guyer Gymnasium, which includes basketball, volleyball, and badminton courts; the Greer Field House, which includes basketball courts, an indoor track, and table tennis; racquetball courts; free weights; cardiovascular equipment; resistance training machines; the Brundage pool; a climbing center; and daily use of locker rooms.

The fee may be paid through payroll deduction.

Puppeteer, historian named director of Ballard puppet museum

BY SHERRY FISHER

John Bell, an internationally renowned puppeteer, professor, and historian of puppet theater, has been appointed director of UConn's Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry (BIMP). He started his new job June 9.

BIMP, located on the Depot Campus, houses a collection of more than 3,000 puppets, many created by leaders in the field including Tony Sarg, Margo and Rufus Rose, Bil Baird, and Jim Henson. It also maintains a collection of books, letters, musical scores, designs, and scripts of importance to researchers in the puppet arts. The institute and museum, until now, has been run by volunteers. It was designated the state's official museum of puppetry in 2003.

Bell's duties include preserving and building the institute's collections, organizing exhibits, and conducting archival work on puppets. His position is part-time.

Bell earned a Ph.D. in theater history from Columbia University in 1993. While there, he did extensive research in the Brander Matthews Collection of puppets and masks, one of the oldest collections in the United States. He initiated preservation projects for the collection and mounted an exhibition of parts of the collection in the library. After earning his doctorate, he became a founding member of the award-winning Great Small Works theater company. He was a consultant and

curator for the exhibits *Revealing Roots: Uncovering Influences in Contemporary American Puppet Theater* and *Puppets and Performing Objects in the Twentieth Century*, both at Lincoln Center Library for the Performing Arts. These were part of the Jim Henson International Festivals of Puppet Theater.

Bell taught at Emerson College from 1999 to 2007. He has been involved with puppetry since the mid-1970s, when he became a member of the acclaimed Bread and Puppet Theater. In addition to producing and performing with Bread and Puppet, he also played an active role in the creation of the Bread and Puppet Museum in Glover, Vt. Bell has authored several books. His latest, *American Puppet Modernism*, is forthcoming from Palgrave/Macmillan publishers.

"John Bell is one of the best historians and researchers of puppetry in the United States. We're delighted to have him," says David Woods, dean of the School of Fine Arts.

"We have the largest collection of any museum in the nation, and now one of the most important archival collections in puppet history," Woods adds. "Because this is a research institution, we should be focusing on archival material, and we've started that. The appointment of John Bell as the first position line director of the Ballard Institute and Museum of



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JOHN BELL

John Bell, right, wearing burlap, during a performance with members of the Bread and Puppet Theater in Cambridge, Mass.

Puppetry takes us to another level of excellence in the puppet arts."

Bart Roccoberton, director of UConn's Puppet Arts Program, is excited to have Bell on board. "He is an internationally known puppeteer, researcher, and author," says Roccoberton. "We have a well-known champion of puppet arts leading our museum."

Bell says he's excited about his new position.

"We're the American center for puppetry education and training," he says. "People in puppetry from all over the globe know about us.

"Our collection has not only

Frank Ballard's work, but also important puppet collections of the early 20th century from many pivotal figures in puppetry," he says. Bell plans to continue the work of Frank Ballard in preserving puppets in the collection and continue to improve preservation and cataloging. He hopes to augment the collection with other 20th-century materials and "let more people locally and internationally know that the Ballard Institute is an invaluable center for research and a resource for puppetry."

Bell says he is impressed by the work done so far at BIMP.

"The Ballard Institute has benefited so clearly from a strong community of volunteers and supporters in the Storrs area."

He and Roccoberton have been discussing the possibility of starting a monthly puppet event that would involve lectures, films, and performances.

He says the Ballard Institute has applied for a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to improve storage and archival endeavors. "We're looking into becoming a home for even more examples of puppetry," he says.

On Sept. 15 from 1 to 4 p.m., there will be a welcoming reception for Bell at the Ballard Institute, on Weaver Road at the Depot Campus.

At 1 p.m., Bell, his wife Trudi Cohen, and their son Isaac will perform two Great Small Works productions: *The Short Entertaining History of Toy Theater* and a toy theater spectacle about religious tolerance in medieval Spain, *Three Books in the Garden*. A reception will follow.

Visitors will also have a chance to enjoy the *Shadows and Substance* exhibit in the museum, as well as the works featured in the new permanent collection galleries.

The Puppet Arts Complex on Bourn Place, also at the Depot Campus, will be open. Roccoberton invites the community to see marionettes being built for upcoming productions.

Professors in new education center tackle behavior problems in schools

BY SCOTT BRINCKERHOFF

UConn's George Sugai and his colleagues at the Neag School's new Center for Behavioral Education and Research have embarked on a daunting mission: to help U.S. schools improve their teaching environments and adopt ways of positively addressing problem behaviors.

Against a backdrop of negative headlines about violence in schools, mediocre test scores, and escalating school budgets, Sugai's approach to improving education is easily summarized, but perhaps not so easily implemented.

"Our Center focuses on establishing safe and positive school climates where problem behaviors are addressed in a constructive, rather than punitive manner," Sugai says.

"To develop a sense of shared responsibility and maximize success, schools must include everyone, from bus drivers to principals, family members to paraprofessionals, security guards to substitute teachers," he says. "Everyone needs to believe that all students can thrive and learn vital social skills in their school."

Sugai came to UConn two years ago from the University of Oregon, whose special education programs are ranked among the top in the country. He has published extensively and is one of the nation's top experts on classroom and behavior management, school discipline, and educating students who demonstrate "at-risk" behaviors.

He holds the Carole J. Neag Endowed Chair at the Neag School of Education, and has helped establish the new Center for Behavioral Education and Research which

includes UConn researchers such as Sandra Chafouleas, Michael Coyne, Mike Faggella-Luby, and Brandi Simonsen.

Sugai also co-directs the National Technical Assistance Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Education to conduct research and disseminate "best practices" to schools around the country. The PBIS Center supports nearly 6,000 schools across more than 40 states.

When Sugai looks at U.S. schools, he sees places that can enhance the academic and social needs of all students and be a resource to communities-at-large. He believes schools often fall short because they emphasize a "get-tough" approach to discipline rather than teaching and encouraging student social skills associated with respect, responsibility, safety, and relationships.

Sugai stresses that giving school, family, and community members the tools to create constructive teaching and learning environments is one of the best ways to improve the surroundings for all students. In addition, it can often prevent antisocial behavior.

Although metal detectors, security personnel, and surveillance cameras may be necessary in some places to ensure safety, they are no substitute for a school climate where academic and social instruction are paramount.

Many students come to school prepared to learn and ready to accept disciplinary rules and consequences for violating them. But some students do not conform, and need additional support rather than tougher, more severe

consequences.

Sugai and his colleagues have seen what happens when schools fall into the trap of "getting tougher." For example, in one academic year, a school of 800 students processed 5,000 office discipline referrals for major rule violations. In another district, more than 400 kindergartners were expelled. A teacher in one school sent students to the school administrator more than 250 times for classroom disruptions, and at another, one student was sent to the office or in-school suspension room more than 49 times.

Of such cases he says, "The research is clear – if the primary or only way of responding to bad behavior is punishment, the problem is exacerbated, not resolved."

Sugai says school climates can improve when students are involved in activities such as drafting a code of conduct, identifying positive school values, and developing lessons for teaching those values. Students who participate in such ways, he says, are more engaged, disrupt teaching less, and are generally better behaved – all of which results in improved academic achievement.

Unacceptable behavior can be found to some degree in all sorts of schools – urban poor, isolated rural, crowded suburban. But when classrooms, hallways, and lunchrooms are predictable and upbeat environments, students can be taught to adjust their behavior to local expectations. Sugai says he has seen schools with healthy climates where kids soften their demeanor and their language the minute they walk in the door.

The PBIS approach involves



PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Professor George Sugai, director of UConn's Center for Behavioral Education and Research, speaks to teachers at Illing Middle School in Manchester.

frequent and sustained training in which the emphasis is on giving local staff the capacity to establish effective practices.

Sugai acknowledges that change is difficult. But in some states, schools have accepted the training protocol with enthusiasm. One year after training, schools in those states experienced a decline in "problem behaviors," a better self-perception of safety, better quality attention given to youngsters who did exhibit behavior problems, and noticeable gains on statewide achievement tests.

Much of what Sugai has to say sounds like common sense and it is, says Richard Schwab, dean of the Neag School of Education. He applauds Sugai's "holistic" and evidence-based approach to fixing the nation's schools.

"George is doing a brilliant job, and he's also helped attract some bright young talent," Schwab says. "They're doing excellent research in all sorts of areas, including early literacy, classroom management, early vocabulary development, and adolescent literacy."

Course helps dentists bring latest technology into practice

BY CAROLYN PENNINGTON

By combining research, innovative technology, and business know-how, a dental professor at the UConn Health Center is pioneering an emerging dental

specialty known as Biodontics.

Dr. Edward Rossomando, a professor of craniofacial sciences at the School of Dental Medicine, has developed a program that moves biotechnology more efficiently

from scientists and inventors to dental practitioners.

Biodontics has become a specialized educational program that introduces the entrepreneurial process to dental students, faculty,

and practitioners.

Students in the program get first-hand experience using the most advanced dental products, equipment, and therapies, thanks to dental equipment manufacturers and scientists who present their new tools to the class. They recently learned, for example, about vaccines for tooth decay, and received hands-on training with a new laser that cuts out cavities almost without pain.

The UConn program has attracted dental students from prestigious schools across the country including Howard, Marquette and New York Universities, and the University of Southern California.

"I think the most important experience I got out of the course was the understanding that dentistry is much more than drill and fill," say Todd Lyman from Marquette dental school, who recently completed the Biodontics course. "I now look at the way we do things in dentistry or patient care in general, and I look for new and better ways to provide the best

care possible."

Rossomando says, "Most dentists realize it is in the best interest of their patients to introduce new products and technologies into their practice. But existing office routines and habits can present obstacles to change." His research has found that dentists often believe they can't afford to stop treating patients in order to adopt new technologies or learn new procedures, not realizing that new products and technologies can allow them to treat larger numbers of patients more efficiently.

Rossomando hopes that teaching dental students the principles of entrepreneurship and how to be early adopters of new technology will create dental practitioners capable of effectively incorporating new procedures and therapies into their practices for the benefit of patients. The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, a branch of the National Institutes of Health, has awarded Rossomando grant money to bring the concept to educational reality.



PHOTO BY JANINE GEUNEAU

Dr. Edward Rossomando, wearing white shirt, looks on as a dental equipment company representative speaks with students in the School of Dental Medicine about new technology in dentistry.

Health Center research team finds path to vision loss

BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

A research team led by Timothy Hla, director of the Center for Vascular Biology at the UConn Health Center, has found a molecule in blood plasma that may hold one of the keys to vision loss.

The discovery could ultimately lead to the development of a way to treat and prevent blindness.

Central to the research of Hla and graduate assistant Athanasia Skoura, which is published in the September 2007 issue of the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, are blood vessels in the retina and a lipid molecule called sphingosine 1-phosphate, or S1P.

"We studied a specific receptor that binds to sphingosine 1-phosphate and showed it is essential for the proliferation of abnormal blood vessels in mice," Hla says. "These abnormalities often lead to blindness in people with diabetes or age-related macular degeneration."

Diabetes and macular degeneration can damage the retina, through low oxygen levels. The conditions then are right for the

development of a network of vision-robbing blood vessels.

But when Hla and Skoura took S1P receptor-2 out of the equation, the outcome was very different. The mice bred without it experienced normal blood vessel growth in the retina, which is essential for healthy eyesight.

"We wanted to study the role of the S1P receptor-2 in retina vascular development of the mouse because it's a nice model to compare to human disease," Skoura says. "We found that the receptor enhances pathological mouse retinal angiogenesis."

Adds Hla, "This is the first time this molecule has been connected with blood vessel abnormalities in mice."

Skoura says it may be possible to design a molecule-antagonist that will specifically target the receptor, inhibiting its function while sparing healthy tissue and therefore avoiding harmful side effects.

Two drugs currently on the market have been shown to inhibit the growth of abnormal blood

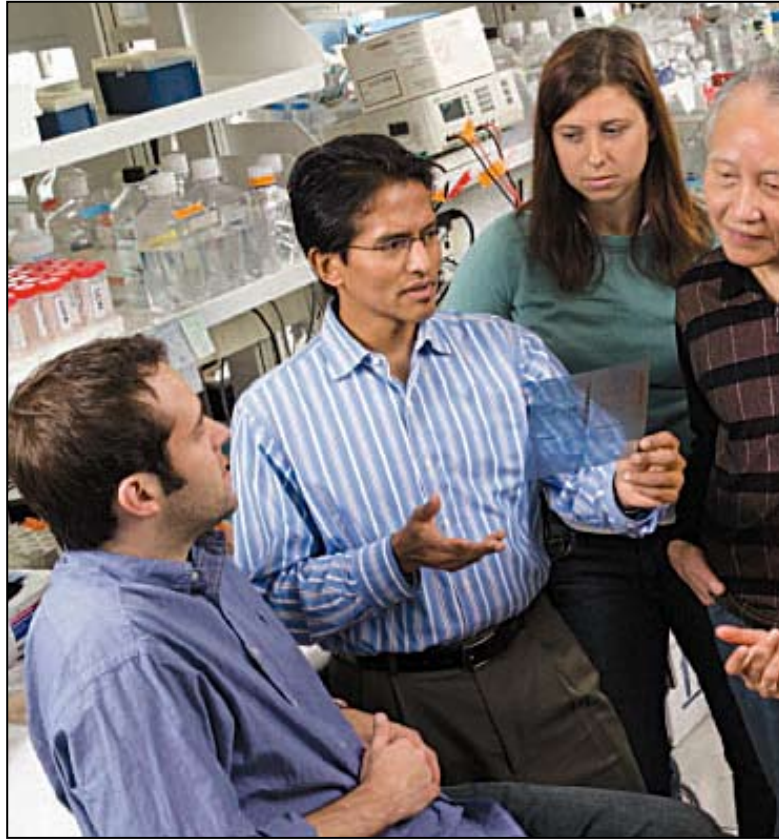


PHOTO BY AL FERREIRA

Timothy Hla, director of the Center for Vascular Biology, speaks with research colleagues in a lab at the UConn Health Center.

vessels and in some cases actually improve the vision of the macular degeneration sufferer.

If Hla and Skoura's research translates to humans, drug therapies could address the problem

earlier in the process, focusing instead on what makes the blood vessels abnormal in the first place.

"Our study suggests that drugs or therapies that inhibit S1P receptor-2 could be useful in the treatment of blood vessel abnormalities in the retina that lead to blindness," Hla says.

What remains unclear is why the body produces S1P receptor-2. This research suggests it also controls inflammation and blood vessel leakage.

Skoura says the research was a big part of her thesis project. She and Hla starting working on it three years ago.

The *JCI* is a free access, peer-reviewed biomedical research journal. It is published by the American Society for Clinical Investigation, an honor society of physician-scientists. Research appearing in the September issue, including this study, is available online at www.jci.org.

A patent application has been filed on the discovery by UConn's Center for Science and Technology Commercialization.

Political scientist brings philosophical issues home to students

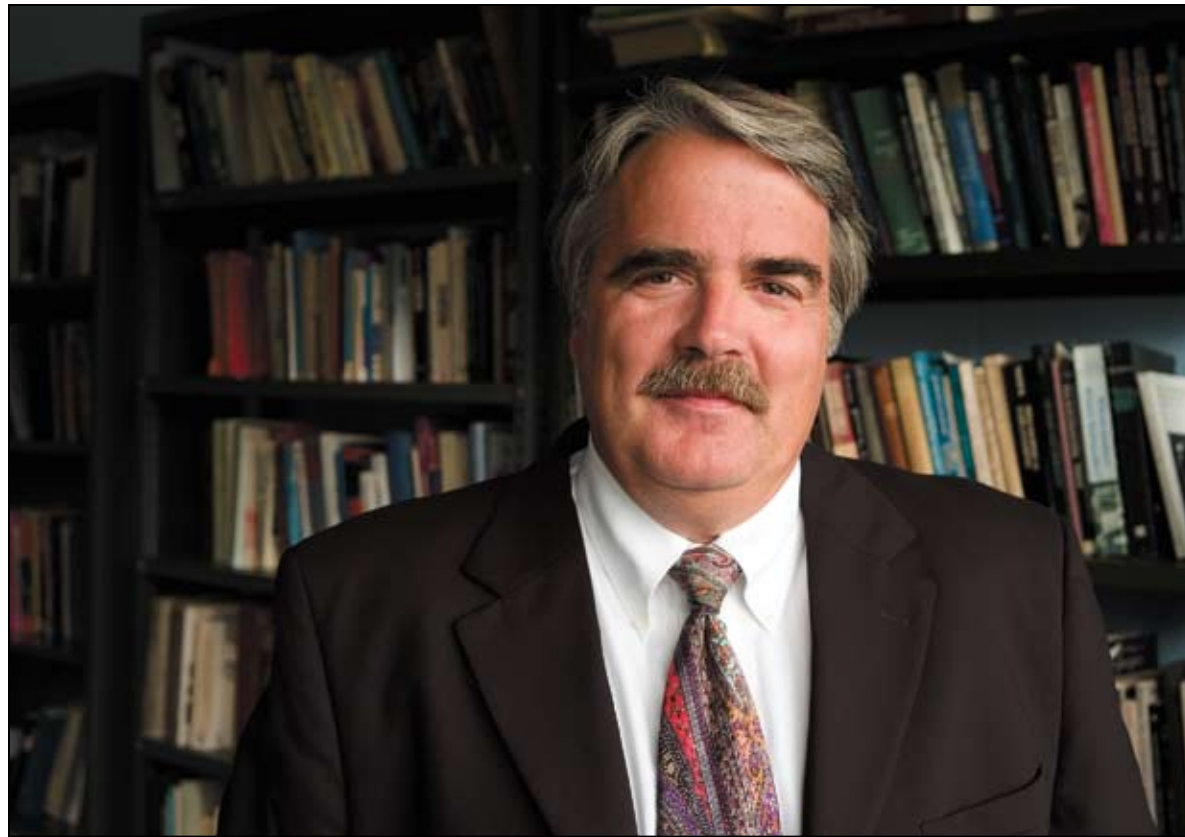


PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Richard Hiskes, professor of political science, recently received an Alumni Association undergraduate teaching award.

BY SHERRY FISHER

Richard Hiskes teaches his political theory course by having students participate in what is called "The Great Conversation."

"The term was coined by Machiavelli, but it began with Plato and the classical Greeks," says Hiskes, a professor of political science. "It's about having students look at the real world around them, and through a process of discussion, find out what the persistent philosophical issues are that our everyday events manifest."

What is Hiskes' teaching style? "I walk and talk," he says.

It doesn't matter whether it's a class of 20 or 200; he tries to make eye contact with every student. "I want to make them feel like they're having a small conversation."

He doesn't use PowerPoint or other technology, but his students don't seem to mind. For 27 years, his student evaluations have been at the highest levels of the department and college. So it's not surprising that he was given the UConn Alumni Association's 2007 Faculty Teaching Award for Undergraduate Teaching.

Hiskes specializes in modern and contemporary politi-

cal thought, democratic theory, environmental ethics, and human rights theory.

"We might be reading Plato, Marx, or Machiavelli, but I try to get students to see the theory-ladenness of their everyday lives," Hiskes says. "For instance, a major philosophical issue that Americans think about is the nature of consent. So I'll ask the students what counts as consent."

He describes how he brought the issue close to home during a class discussion about expressed and tacit consent: "It turns out to be a cold day, and at noon you

go back to your dorm to get your sweater," he told the class. "Your sweater's not there. Your roommate comes in and she's wearing it. You say, 'I never said you could wear my sweater.' Your roommate says, 'Yes, but you left your closet open so I just assumed that it was okay.' That's a tacit consent situation," Hiskes says.

"Conceptual issues of consent, democracy, justice, liberty, rights and responsibility, and political obligation are as alive today as in ancient Athens," he says. "Students are amazed when they realize that they've been grappling with major, timeless philosophical questions their whole lives. And they thought they were just arguing with their parents."

Hiskes says he tells students: "I promise you this class will make you realize you're in college. You may not like it that much. You may think it's boring reading. But it doesn't mean it's not worthwhile."

He enjoys teaching freshmen. "I find it's helpful. You can't lose the ability to talk about sophisticated, highbrow research simply, in ways that ordinary people can understand it, without losing your ability as a researcher," he says. "I always talk about my research in my classes. In some courses, I have students read articles I've written, to see what they think."

Hiskes says he has concerns about higher education: "Some universities are in danger of losing the intellectual side of what they do. A university is a place where there is a huge amount of human knowledge in every area.

Universities are the depositors and distributors of the intellectual legacy of the species. UConn has done better than most."

When students ask which courses they should take, Hiskes tells them: "These four years are probably the only time in your life to develop interests that will carry you for the rest of your life. You need to stretch while you're here,

"Students are amazed when they realize they've been grappling with major, timeless philosophical questions their whole lives. And they thought they were just arguing with their parents."

Richard Hiskes
Professor of political science

and find interests that will sustain you. Take a course in Shakespeare or movie-making, or something you wouldn't normally take.

"We have to be the place where our students come to be intellectually stimulated," he says.

Hiskes' current research focuses on environmental human rights and justice across generations. He is working on a new book on environmental human rights.



PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

A view of the Biology/Physics Building.

GRANTS

The following grants were received through the Office for Sponsored Programs (OSP) in May 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	Award total	Award Period
Abikoff, W.	Mathematics	National Science Foundation	\$25,000	6/07-5/08
<i>The Lars Ahlfors Centennial Conference</i>				
Abrahamson, M.	Roper Center & Institute for Social Inquiry	Library of Congress/ University of Michigan	\$139,000	9/07-2/09
<i>Digital Social Science Acquisitions and Preservation Partnership</i>				
Accorsi, M.	Civil & Environmental Engineering	Dept. of Defense/ Army Natick Soldier Center	\$57,286	5/07-11/07
<i>Validation Study of Computational Structural Models for Simulation of Airdrop Systems</i>				
Ammar, R.	Computer Science & Engineering	Dept. of Defense/ Air Force/Advanced Virtual Engine Test Cell Inc.	\$99,999	3/07-4/08
<i>An Advanced Multi-core Micro-server Development System</i>				
Auster, P.	National Undersea Research Center	Pew Institute for Ocean Science/University of Miami	\$6,600	2/07-1/08
<i>The Edge of the Deep: An Ocean Literacy Project</i>				
Best, S.	Center for Survey Research & Analysis	Dept. of Labor/ Employment & Training Activity/ Washington State Workforce Training & Education	\$241,500	6/05-12/06
<i>Washington Workforce Investment Act</i>				
Bogner, R.	Pharmaceutical Sciences	American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education	\$6,000	9/07-8/08
<i>Chemical Stability of Pharmaceuticals Amorphized with Silicates</i>				
Bucklin, A.	Marine Sciences	Dept. of Interior/U.S. Geological Survey	\$50,000	9/07-9/07
<i>Coring and Bottle Sampling Cruise for USGS</i>				
Bucklin, A.	Marine Sciences	WET Labs	\$21,000	5/07-5/07
<i>R/V Connecticut Charter by Wet Labs</i>				
Byrne, T.	Center for Integrative Geoscience	National Science Foundation	\$236,874	6/07-5/10
<i>Extrusion, Extension and Exhumation in an Emerging Mountain Belt, Taiwan</i>				
Casa, D.	Kinesiology	Gatorade Sports Science Institute	\$16,260	4/07-3/08
<i>Examining the Effects of Dehydration and Intensity on Physiological Responses and Performance During Trail Running in the Heat</i>				
Dautrich, K.	Public Policy	Knight (John S. and James L.) Foundation	\$100,000	5/07-8/07
<i>2007 Future of the First Amendment</i>				
Dierssen, H.	Marine Sciences	Nat'l Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin./Goddard Space Flight Center/WET Labs	\$38,423	4/07-9/09
<i>Improving Coastal Ocean Color Validation Capabilities through Application of Inherent Optical Properties</i>				
Duane, A.	English	National Endowment for the Humanities	\$24,000	6/07-12/07
<i>African American Education and Identity in Antebellum in New York City</i>				
Ellis, D.	Plant Science	U.S. Dept. of Agriculture/Conn. Agricultural Experiment Station	\$30,485	1/07-12/07
<i>FY 2007 Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Program</i>				
Elphick, C.	Ecology & Evolutionary Biology	Conn. Dept. of Environmental Protection	\$24,543	3/07-5/08
<i>Estimating the Demographic Consequences of Wetland Fragmentation: Movement and Survival Patterns in a Threatened Salt Marsh Bird</i>				
Enderle, J.	Electrical & Computer Engineering	University of Conn. Health Center	\$101,004	8/07-8/09
<i>Clinical Engineering Internship Program at UConn Health Center</i>				
Gai, M.	Physics	Dept. of Energy	\$486,000	4/07-4/10
<i>Studies in Low Energy Nuclear Physics</i>				
Gebremichael, M.	Civil & Environmental Engineering	National Science Foundation	\$141,173	5/07-6/10
<i>International: A US-Ethiopia Collaboration in Hydrological Studies of Semiarid Regions</i>				
Gibbons, C.	Dept. of Extension	Conn. Dept. of Agriculture/Endes & Associates	\$7,000	5/07-10/07
<i>Middletown Farmland Preservation and Farmers' Market Expansion</i>				
Goldhamer, D.	Center for Regenerative Biology	Conn. Dept. of Public Health/University of Conn. Health Center	\$131,250	4/07-4/08
<i>Development of a Mouse Model to Study Muscle Stem Cell Activity and Differentiation Capacity of Human Embryonic Stem Cells</i>				
Gordina, M.	Mathematics	National Science Foundation	\$219,938	5/07-6/10
<i>Infinite-Dimensional Stochastic Analysis</i>				
Hebert, R.	Institute of Materials Science	National Science Foundation	\$290,000	5/07-4/10
<i>Accumulative Roll-Bonding Processing of Bulk Nanocomposite Materials</i>				
Heffley, D.	Economics	Conn. Dept. of Economic & Community Development	\$18,000	4/07-9/07
<i>Database Project</i>				
Heffley, D.	Economics	Conn. Dept. of Economic & Community Development	\$22,000	6/07-10/07
<i>Economic Research and Analysis and Economic Modeling Services</i>				
Jones, R.	Physics	Dept. of Energy/ Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility	\$70,050	5/07-4/08
<i>Development of Radiators and Instrumentation for the Hall D Tagged Photon Beam</i>				
Joo, K.	Physics	Dept. of Energy	\$615,000	4/07-4/10
<i>Medium Energy Nuclear Physics with CLAS at Jefferson Lab</i>				
Kazerounian, K.	Mechanical Engineering	National Science Foundation	\$99,958	8/07-7/08
<i>SGER: A Mechanics Framework for the Analysis and Design of Protein Based Nano Machines</i>				
Li, B.	Center for Environmental Sciences & Engineering	National Science Foundation	\$37,995	8/06-9/08
<i>The Collaborative Research on the Application of Molecular Biology for Environmental Engineers</i>				
Luh, P.	Electrical & Computer Engineering	National Taiwan University/Taiching Foundation of Science & Technology	\$7,196	5/06-1/07
<i>Design for Manufacturing and Testing Optimization in Subwavelength Process Technology</i>				
McCoach, D.	Educational Psychology	American Educational Research Association/Indiana University	\$5,000	5/07-4/08
<i>Modeling Resiliency in the Prevention of Special Education Identification</i>				
Pikal, M.	Pharmaceutical Sciences	Pfizer Inc.	\$20,000	12/06-12/07
<i>Sensors to Measure Sublimation Rate and Detect Sublimation End-Point</i>				
Pikal, M.	Pharmaceutical Sciences	Nat'l Institutes of Health/Nat'l Cancer Institute/Physical Sciences Inc.	\$30,000	3/06-8/06
<i>Process Endpoint Monitor for Lyophilized Biologic Drugs for Cancer Treatment</i>				
Ramprasad, R.	Institute of Materials Science	National Science Foundation	\$270,000	8/07-7/10
<i>Electrical Degradation in High-K Dielectrics Based Devices: A Computational Study</i>				
Rodriguez, N.	Nutritional Sciences	Donaghue Medical Research Foundation/ University of Conn. Health Center	\$35,200	10/06-6/08
<i>Leucine as a Bioactive Nutrient: A Pilot Study</i>				
Rubega, M.	Ecology & Evolutionary Biology	National Science Foundation	\$123,104	4/07-3/09
<i>Seed-Dispersal Mutualisms: The Spatio-Temporal Dynamics of Fleshy-Fruited Plants and their Avian Dispersers</i>				
Shaw, L.	Chemical, Materials & Biomolecular Engineering	National Science Foundation/Innovative Technology Inc.	\$47,040	5/07-3/09
<i>Solid-State Spray Forming of Nanostructured WC/Co Coatings for Improved Wear Resistance</i>				
Suib, S.	Chemistry	Range Fuels Inc.	\$60,000	3/07-3/08
<i>Synthesis and Characterization of Catalysts</i>				
Taylor, U.	Dept. of Extension	U.S. Dept. of Agriculture/Smith-Lever	\$636,000	5/07-4/12
<i>Connecticut Sustainable Communities Project</i>				
Vokoun, J.	Natural Resources Management & Engineering	Dept. of Interior/U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service/Conn. Dept. of Environmental Protection	\$46,918	1/07-5/09
<i>Evaluating Effects of Water Withdrawals on Fish Assemblages in Connecticut Streams</i>				
Volek, J.	Kinesiology	Glanbia Nutritionals Inc.	\$141,363	6/07-5/08
<i>Effect of a Novel Whey Protein on Markers of Vascular Function</i>				
Wang, G.	Civil & Environmental Engineering	FM Global	\$10,320	5/07-7/07
<i>Use of Hydrological Models to Provide Loss Prevention Solution</i>				
Wilhite, B.	Chemical, Materials & Biomolecular Engineering	Dept. of Defense/ Navy/Office of Naval Research	\$41,054	5/07-5/10
<i>Heat-Integration in Hydrogen Production from Logistics Fuels: Creation of Scalable, Cartridge-Based Microreactor Reformers</i>				
Yelin, S.	Physics	National Science Foundation	\$150,000	7/07-6/10
<i>Light Propagation Effects in Strongly Interacting Gases</i>				
Zhou, S.	Electrical & Computer Engineering	Dept. of Defense/ Navy/Office of Naval Research	\$359,998	6/07-5/10
<i>The Next Milestone: Multicarrier Acoustic MODEM with Channel-and Network-Adaptivity for Underwater Autonomous Distributed Systems</i>				
Zhu, L.	Institute of Materials Science	Dept. of Defense/Air Force/South Dakota School of Mines & Technology	\$25,000	4/07-8/08
<i>Synthesis of Side Chain Liquid Crystalline Polymers</i>				
Zhu, Q.	Electrical & Computer Engineering	Nat'l Institutes of Health/National Institute of Biomedical Imaging & Bioengineering	\$1,360,000	4/07-2/11
<i>Near Infrared Diffused Light Imaging with Ultrasound Guidance</i>				

CALENDAR Monday, September 10 to Monday, September 17

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 in the database 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. 17 through Monday, Sept. 24. Those items must be in the database by 4 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 10. 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).

Academics

Monday, 9/10 – Courses dropped after this date will have a "W" for withdrawal. 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. **Tuesday, 9/11** – Late Add/Drop begins in the Office of the Registrar, Wilbur Cross Building. **Monday, 9/17** – Last day for students to make up Incomplete or Absence grades.

Libraries

Homer 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, closed. **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

Monday, 9/10 – **University Senate.** 4 p.m., Room 7, Bishop Center. Orientation session for new members at 3:15 p.m.

Human rights prize *continued from page 1*

Mental Disability Rights International (MDRI) is the world's leading international human rights group dedicated to the protection of people with mental disabilities. MDRI works to promote the human rights and full participation in society of children and adults with mental disabilities worldwide.

Founded in 1993, MDRI has worked in 24 countries throughout Latin America, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East.

Wednesday, 9/12 – **LGBT Faculty/Staff Group.** 5:30 p.m., Blue Oak Café, Nathan Hale Inn.

Ph.D. Defenses

Wednesday, 9/12 – **Chemistry.** *Conducting Polymers from Processable Precursor Polymers and Their Applications to Gold Nanoparticles and Surfaces*, by Mustafa Selman Yavuz (adv.: Sotzing), 3 p.m., Room A304, Chemistry Building.

Lectures & Seminars

Tuesday, 9/11 – **Neuroscience Seminar.** 4 p.m., Room 13, Academic Research Building, Health Center, Farmington.

Wednesday, 9/12 – **Statistics Colloquium.** "Partly Functional Temporal Process Regression with Semiparametric Profile Estimating Functions," by Jun Yan. 4 p.m., Room 344, CLAS Building.

Wednesday, 9/12 – "The Hospitable US: Transacting Hemispheric Agency, Human Rights, and Border Epistemologies." 5 p.m., Room 413, Beach Hall.

Thursday, 9/13 – **Comparative Pathology Seminar.** "Aquatic Wildlife

11 a.m., Room IMS20, Gant Science Complex.

Friday, 9/14 – **Physics Colloquium.** "Chiral Symmetry Versus the Lattice," by Michael Creutz, Brookhaven National Laboratory. 4 p.m., Room P38, Gant Science Complex.

Friday, 9/14 – **Environmental Engineering Seminar.** "Ecohydrological Impacts of Climate Change Based on the Latest IPCC Climate Projections," by Clement Alo. Noon, Room 212, Castleman Building.

Monday, 9/17 – **Constitution Day.** "Beyond the Connecticut Compromise: Politics and Principles in the Making and Remaking of America's Constitution," by Akhil Reed Amar, Yale University. 4 p.m., Konover Auditorium, Dodd Center.

Monday, 9/17 – **SUBOG Lecture.** "Female Orgasm." 7 p.m., Room 330, Student Union.

Exhibits

Through Friday, 9/14 – **Student Union Art Gallery.** *Origins.* Daily, Student Union.

Friday, 9/14 through Sunday, 10/28 – **Alexey von Schlippe Gallery.** *I-Park*

Through Friday, 10/12 – **Dodd Center.** *The Cow Jumped Over the Moon*, illustrations by Salley Mavor. Research Center Gallery.

Through Saturday, 11/17 – **Jorgensen Gallery.** *Moku Hanga*, woodcuts by Lynita Shimizu. Gallery located on the lower level of Jorgensen Center. Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

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

Through Wednesday, 11/28 – **Health Center.** *Flowers, Fruits, and Fungi: Explorations in the World of Nature*, art by Marilyn Pet. Main and Mezzanine Lobbies. Daily, 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Health Center.

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 Sunday, 12/16 – **William**

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.

Performing Arts

Thursday, 9/13 – **SUBOG Comedy Event.** Ryan Hamilton, 7 p.m., Student Union Theatre.

Saturday, 9/15 – **SUBOG Concert.** Mat Kearney, 8 p.m., Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. Admission \$15 for UConn students, \$20 for non-students.

Sports

Wednesday, 9/12 – **Men's Soccer vs. Hofstra.** 7 p.m., Morrone Stadium.

Wednesday, 9/12 – **Volleyball vs. Northeastern.** 7 p.m., Gampel Pavilion.

Friday, 9/14 – **Field Hockey vs. Michigan State.** 7 p.m., Sherman Family Sports Complex.

Friday, 9/14 – **Volleyball vs. Hofstra.** 7:30 p.m., Gampel Pavilion.

Friday, 9/14 – **Women's Soccer vs. Brown.** 7:30 p.m., Morrone Stadium.

Saturday, 9/15 – **Volleyball vs. Long Island.** 12:30 p.m., Gampel Pavilion.

Saturday, 9/15 – **Men's Soccer vs. Georgetown.** 7 p.m., Morrone Stadium.

Saturday, 9/15 – **Volleyball vs. Middle Tennessee State.** 7:30 p.m., Gampel Pavilion.

Saturday, 9/15 – **Football vs. Temple.** Rentschler Field. For ticket information, call 1-877-AT-UConn.

Sunday, 9/16 – **Field Hockey vs. Villanova.** Noon, Sherman Family Sports Complex.

Sunday, 9/16 – **Women's Soccer vs. Fairfield.** 2:30 p.m., Morrone Stadium.

Potpourri

Monday, 9/10 – **Asian American Cultural Center Open House.** 4:30-6:30 p.m., Room 428, Student Union.

Monday, 9/10 – **Film Screening and Discussion.** w. 6:30 p.m., 855 University Drive, Torrington Campus. Reception to follow.

Tuesday, 9/11 – **Discovery Lecture.** "Power Up on Prostate Health." 7-9 p.m., Keller Auditorium, Health Center. Free admission.

Saturday, 9/15 – **Festival on the Green Fireworks Display.** 6-9 p.m., Mansfield Hollow State Park. Rain date 9/29.

Sunday, 9/16 – **Festival on the Green.** Noon-5 p.m., Storrs Center Commercial Plaza, Rain location is E.O. Smith High School.

Monday, 9/17 – **Long River Reading.** Bring a poem, short prose piece, or music to share at the open mic. Enjoy coffee, tea, snacks with other members of the UConn creative writing community. 7 p.m., Room 217, CLAS Building.

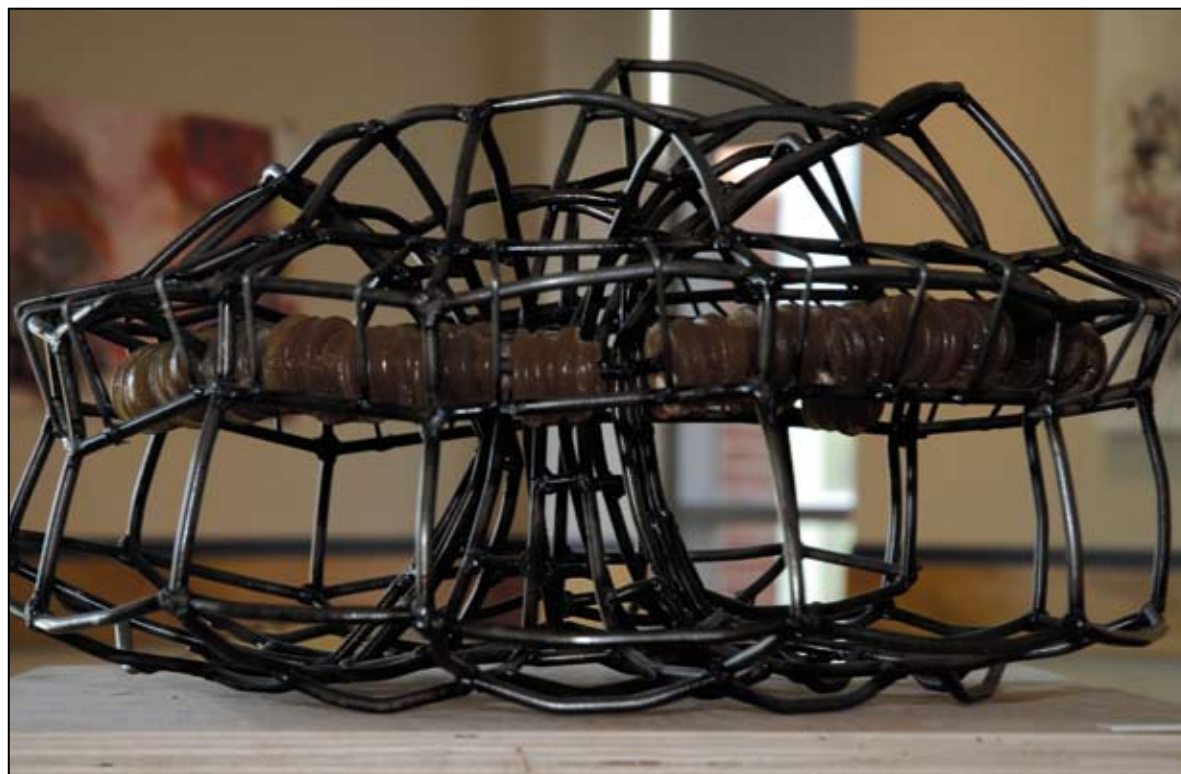


PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

"Untitled," a steel cast fiberglass work by Michael Donovan featured in *Origins*, an exhibit on display in the Student Union Art Gallery through Sept. 14.

and Human Health: Contaminants, Immunity, and Infectious Disease," by Milton Levin. 11 a.m., Room A001, Atwater Annex.

Thursday, 9/13 – **Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Seminar.** "The Ecology of Mutualism and Symbiosis: How Ants Bedevil Devils' Gardens in the Amazon," by Megan Frederickson. 4 p.m., Room 130, Biology/Physics Building.

Friday, 9/14 – **Polymer Science Seminar.** "Polymer Nanocomposites: Structure, Properties, and Utility," by Daniel Schmidt, UMass-Lowell.

by Pamela Zagarensky, and works by other American and Bulgarian artists. Gallery on the second floor of the Branford House, Avery Point Campus. Open Wednesdays, noon-4 p.m. \$3 admission for non-members. Opening reception 9/21.

Through Friday, 10/12 – **Babbidge Library.** *Believers*, paintings by Carol Foley depicting the faces of victims of the 2005 tsunami. Gallery on the Plaza. Also, *Glimpses of Nature*, prints by Barbara Hocker related to her study of Wabi Sabi aesthetics and Asian philosophies. Stevens Gallery.

Benton Museum of Art. *Rodin: A Magnificent Obsession*, sculpture from the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation. \$5 admission charge for this exhibit; museum members, UConn students, and children under 18 free. Gallery talk by Benton director Steven Kern, Tuesday, 9/11, 12:15-1 p.m. Also, through 12/16, *Rodin's Contemporaries*. Also, through 11/4, *42nd Annual Faculty Art Exhibition*. Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Saturday & Sunday, 1-4:30 p.m. General admission to the museum is free.

Eric Rosenthal, executive director of MDRI, and associate director Laurie Ahern will accept the award.

UConn has had a robust human rights program for more than a decade, and now enrolls more than 80 students in its human rights minor, an interdepartmental, interdisciplinary program that includes an internship with a human rights related organization, agency, or group. This semester, the program

is expanding to include a graduate certificate program in human rights, developed in conjunction with the UConn School of Law.

The University also recently became home to the *Journal of Human Rights*. Richard Hiskes, director of the human rights minor, is serving as editor.

Sen. Dodd's book is highlighted by a collection of letters that his father, Thomas R. Dodd, wrote to his wife Grace from the summer

of 1945 through the fall of 1946, while he was chief prosecutor at the Nuremberg Trials. During that period, Nazi leaders were tried for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The archive building is named for the senior Dodd. It houses many of his papers and dozens of letters to his wife.

Summer institute helps Connecticut educators teach writing

BY CINDY WEISS

For 25 summers, teachers from around Connecticut have come to UConn to learn how to teach writing.

They attend the Connecticut Writing Project's Summer Institute, four weeks of graduate-level study of composition and creative writing. When they leave, they can act as teacher-consultants, training other teachers as well as their own students in the art and skills of writing.

The Connecticut Writing Project at UConn, part of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, was one of the nation's first writing projects, says Jason Courtmanche, its new director.

There are now some 160 around the country, including three in Connecticut – at UConn, Fairfield University, and Central Connecticut State University.

The Connecticut Writing Project at UConn receives federal support along with funding from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the English Department, and the Aetna Chair of Writing.

Courtmanche, who earned his bachelor's degree in English at UConn in 1991 and completed his Ph.D. here last winter, brings first-hand experience to his new job.

For 12 years, he taught English at RHAM High School in Hebron. He has also previously been co-director of the Connecticut Writing Project and an adjunct professor here. For his master's degree at Humboldt State University in California, he studied composition.

Now, as director of the Con-

necticut Writing Project, he teaches a course that he once took as a student: "Advanced Composition for Prospective Teachers."

Most of the participants in the Connecticut Writing Project's summer institute are high school teachers, although the program is open to practicing teachers at any level K-12. They study composition theory and creative writing, and they each develop a research-

based workshop on writing that they can present to other teachers. They also develop a portfolio of their own writing.

The ripple effect of the institute makes it a powerful tool to improve student writing, says Lynn Bloom, Aetna Chair of Writing and Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of English.

"These teachers go back to their home schools and other schools to

give workshops to their peers on the basis of what they have learned in the summer," she says.

Since 1988, when the Aetna Chair – the first endowed chair at UConn – began supporting the summer institute, about 400 teachers have attended, but as many as 250,000 in Connecticut and surrounding states have benefited from the ripple effect, "to say nothing of their students," Bloom says.

One premise of the project is to empower teachers to write creatively themselves. Some teachers don't think of themselves as writers, Courtmanche notes.

"The idea is, they've got to be writers and learn their craft in order to teach others," he says.

With \$25,000 or more annual support from the Aetna Chair, the 20 or so teachers who are fellows of the summer institute earn graduate credits toward their master's or sixth-year degree, or they can take a stipend for their work.

Throughout the school year, the Connecticut Writing Project provides professional development for teachers on their in-service days and at the Storrs campus on Saturday mornings. Every other year, it sponsors a student and teacher writing conference; and it publishes a magazine of student writing each year.

This summer's institute attracted teachers from schools that included Wilbur Cross High School in New Haven; Weaver High School in Hartford; Glastonbury High School; and elementary and middle schools in Mansfield, Pawcatuck, and New London.

This year's co-facilitator of the institute, along with Courtmanche, was Kelly Andrews-Babcock, a kindergarten teacher at Killingly Memorial School.

Among the workshops that this year's participants will take back to their home schools are a poetry slam, using drama and acting in the classroom, and how to combine music and student writing.



PHOTO BY JAMES KIMURA-GREEN, '08 SFA

Jason Courtmanche is the new director of the Connecticut Writing Project, a program that guides teachers in the theory and practice of teaching writing.

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private support to do that," says Denis McCarthy, '64, '65, chairman of the UConn Foundation's Board of Directors during much of Austin's tenure. He says the challenge of funding the chair with private funds illustrates the pivotal role that philanthropy plays in maintaining and enhancing UConn's reputation for excellence.

McCarthy recalls "a profound speech" that Austin gave: "He said, 'We – paid professionals – are only passing through the University, but its ultimate direction is determined by alumni and the community.' He was absolutely right about that.

"It is critical that we maintain the level of quality education we've now risen to," adds McCarthy. "Phil has put us on the map, but it's up to us to take it to the next level."

Approximately \$1.4 million has been raised to support the Philip E. Austin Endowed Chair. The founding donors of the Austin chair include:

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To support the Austin Chair fund, please contact John Martin, president of the UConn Foundation, at 860-486-2709.

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between UConn's schools of Pharmacy and Business, he says.

"Pharmacists are healthcare's medication experts and the profession possesses unique insights into patient care that often are underrepresented among leaders formulating the nation's healthcare policies," White says. "Having pharmacists, physicians, and healthcare policy experts all working together will benefit everyone. You need to have practitioners from all healthcare disciplines involved in deciding which questions you ask to provide the best, most useful answers."

Dr. Jeffrey Kluger of Hartford Hospital will be the center's associate director and Craig Coleman, an assistant professor of pharmacy practice, will be the center's project manager.

John Vernon, an assistant professor of finance, who recently completed an appointment as senior economic policy advisor to the Office of the Commissioner at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, will be the new center's health policy chief.

White, Kluger, and Coleman have been working together for almost a decade. Their collaboration has resulted in close to 200 peer-

reviewed publications, including lead articles in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*.

In recent years, the research team has used a review technique known as meta-analysis to study statins, the most commonly prescribed class of medications in the United States, and the popular herbal supplement Echinacea.

Those studies, which are representative of the type of work the researchers will conduct under the new center, made international headlines largely because they pooled the totality of existing research to shed light on controversial medical topics in ways individual studies had failed to do.

"There can be so much conflicting research out there," says Coleman, an expert in a field known as pharmacoeconomics and outcomes research. "Often, practicing physicians and pharmacists aren't aware of all of the available research, or the latest study is the one they remember best. The key is that we'll be looking at all of the evidence as a whole."

Vernon will bolster Coleman's economics expertise and help the center translate its clinical findings into policy recommendations.

"For instance, say you find out that Drug A is better than Drug B, but Drug A is more expensive and the two drugs are not dramatically different in terms of clinical results, where do you go from there?" Coleman says. "We'll be weighing all the repercussions to make the best recommendations possible."

Vernon calls the partnership between the two schools "a very natural alliance," adding that "there are an abundance of important policy-related research questions that can be answered far more effectively from a cross-disciplinary perspective."

UConn members of the new center's leadership team anticipate that the chance to help shape federal healthcare policy will help them better communicate to their students the real-world applications of what they learn in the classroom.

The center will also draw on the strengths of other faculty members in Storrs and at the UConn Health Center, by inviting them to serve as content experts on specific projects.

