



## New consulting procedures adopted to comply with change in state law

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

A change in state law approved by the General Assembly last spring exempts consulting by faculty and members of a faculty bargaining unit from oversight by the Office of State Ethics when certain conditions are met. The recently enacted legislation also requires the University to adopt policies and procedures to ensure that it provides stringent oversight, management, and transparency of faculty consulting.

The legislative change necessitates some modification of the consulting policy adopted earlier this year by the Board of Trustees to bring the policy into conformance with the new legislation.

The revised policy and new procedures were approved recently by the Board of Trustees.

Members of the AAUP bargaining unit and faculty members at the Health Center and the Law School must obtain permission before they perform consulting work. Consulting is defined as any employment outside the University that is based on an individual's professional expertise or prominence in his or her field.

The legislation specifies that failure to secure approval from the University in advance of any consulting activity will mean the individual can not qualify for exemption from oversight by the Office of State Ethics.

"The legislature's willingness to transfer authority over consulting to the University is an indication of their understanding of the needs of our unique academic environment and its benefits to the state," says Scott Wetstone, director of health affairs policy planning at the Health Center. "It also demonstrates their willingness to trust the University in overseeing ethical behavior at a time when government has been extraordinarily sensitive to ensuring the highest level of conduct from state officials and employees."

While most state employees are discour-

see Revised consulting policy page 6

## Human rights efforts recognized



Sen. Christopher Dodd, left, presents the 2007 Thomas J. Dodd Prize in International Justice and Human Rights to Pamela Merchant of the Center for Justice and Accountability (above) and Eric Rosenthal and Laurie Ahern of Mental Disability Rights International, on Oct. 1.

PHOTOS BY PETER MORENUS

## Dee Rowe given University Medal

Donald "Dee" Rowe, a member of the UConn community since 1969, was awarded the University Medal Oct. 2, one of the highest honors the University awards.

Rowe is a former head coach of Men's Basketball and retired development officer who continues to serve the Division of Athletics, its coaches, and student-athletes as mentor, fund raiser, and goodwill ambassador.

The medal was established by the Board

of Trustees to recognize individuals whose "life and achievements serve as examples of the University's aspirations for its students" and who "have had a significant influence on the University."

The first medal was awarded in 1983, to then Gov. John Dempsey. Other winners include former U.S. Rep. Sam Gejdenson, former Speaker of the State House of Representatives Tom Ritter, and Peter McFadden,

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## Stem Cell Institute approved by Trustees

BY DAVID BAUMAN

The creation of a Stem Cell Institute at UConn was recently approved by the Board of Trustees, marking an important milestone in the University's stem cell research efforts.

The Institute will be a cross-campus, collaborative effort, uniting under one umbrella two major UConn programs that explore the nature of stem cells and other early-stage cells: the Center for Regenerative Biology in Storrs, and the Health Center's Department of Genetics and Developmental Biology and Center for Regenerative Medicine and Skeletal Development in Farmington.

The Institute will also draw on faculty from other schools and colleges to bring together the interdisciplinary expertise needed to translate the basic science of stem cells – where most work to date has been accomplished – into clinical practice, with the goal of realizing the development of cell replacement therapies.

Provost Peter J. Nicholls says the Institute "will provide a critical coordinating, supporting, and promotional structure to enhance the research environment for stem cell investigators from all campuses.

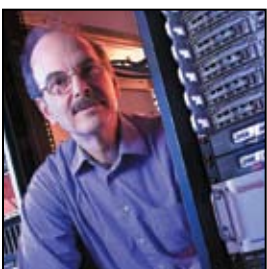
"It will facilitate the scientific training and ethics education of the next generation of basic research and clinical scientists," he adds, "and will disseminate the scientific impact and ethical considerations of stem cell research to the general public."

Eventually, the Institute's home will be in Farmington, where the University has purchased the former FarmTech building, located across the street from the Health Center campus. The nearly 113,000-square-foot building will be completely renovated by 2010. The new facility will also house related interdisciplinary research programs and provide incubator space for businesses eager to commercialize stem cell science.

Creation of the new institute comes as researchers across Connecticut are preparing for the state's second stem cell grant competition. Last month, the Connecticut Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee, which oversees the grant program, received 87 "letters of intent," or preliminary proposals, up from 75 last year. The proposals request a total of \$45 million in funding for the \$10 million available.

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## Inside



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PHOTO BY ANDREW WASHINGTON

The main entrance to the Torrington Campus is undergoing renovation and has a new canopy, thanks to UConn 2000.

## Torrington Campus undergoes renovation

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

The sweeping lawn and mighty trees at the Torrington Campus are no longer the only things that welcome visitors to the campus.

Thanks to a UConn 2000 renovation project, the main entrance to the campus has been renovated and now boasts a canopy, graded sidewalk, and handicapped accessibility.

The project also includes new glass walls and wider hallways to make various key offices accessible to students and others in wheelchairs. The work also included some renovations to the auditorium to make it

accessible, too.

“With these improvements, we will ensure that all folks will be able to access the building in equal measure,” says Michael Menard, campus director. “The renovation is a practical and important project for the campus. It will help us reach our goal of making the campus more accommodating to students, faculty, staff, and the public, and a resource and destination for the citizens of Litchfield County.”

The \$650,000 project includes renovations to a lecture hall, new hardware for faculty offices, and improvements to restrooms.

## COMING TO CAMPUS

*Coming to Campus* is a section announcing visiting speakers of note.

Those who wish to submit items for this section should send a brief description (maximum 300 words)

of the event, including the date, time, and place, and giving the speaker's name, title, and outstanding accomplishments to: Visting Speaker, *Advance*, 34 North Eagleville Road, Storrs, CT 06269-

3144, or by e-mail: [advance@uconn.edu](mailto:advance@uconn.edu).

The information must be received by 4 p.m. on Monday, a minimum of two weeks prior to the event.

### Columnist to discuss how to boost role of science in policy making

David Goldston, who writes the monthly column “Party of One” about Congress and science policy for *Nature* magazine, will give a public talk at UConn on Thursday, Oct. 11, about “The Politicization of Science: Consequences and Prescriptions.”

The event will take place in the Class of '47 Room in Babbidge Library, beginning at 4 p.m. A reception will follow.

He will discuss how to increase

the role that science plays in policy design, and the need for sound scientific information to inform government policy.

Goldston was chief of staff for the U.S. House Committee on Science from 2001 through 2006, when he retired from government service after 20 years on Capitol Hill. He is now a visiting lecturer and practitioner-in-residence at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School.

He also serves on panels writing policy reports for the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Physical Society. He is on the advisory committee for the National Center on Atmospheric Research.

His talk is hosted by Mark Peczuh, associate professor of chemistry, and Kathleen Segerson, professor of economics, both in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

### Visiting economist to make case for substantial tax on gas

A distinguished visiting economist will speak on campus on Friday, Oct. 12, making the case for “Why We Should Tax Gas, and Substantially So.”

The public lecture by Professor Gregory Mankiw of Harvard University, former chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisors, will begin at 11 a.m. in the C80 lecture hall of the Infor-

mation Technologies Engineering Building.

Mankiw is well known for his macroeconomic theories, and as the author of college economics textbooks, *Macroeconomics* and *Principles of Economics*.

He has been a research associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research and an adviser to the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

and the Congressional Budget Office.

The lecture is sponsored by the Association of Graduate Economics Students, with support from the Economics Department, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and several other departments and centers on campus.

### Grateful Dead drummer to bring Global Drum Project to campus

The Global Drum Project, featuring Grateful Dead drummer Mickey Hart, Zakir Hussain, Sikiru Adepaju, and Giovanni Hidalgo will appear at the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts on Friday, Oct. 12 at 8 p.m.

Activist, author, and drummer Hart reunites with tabla master Hussain, Nigerian talking-drum virtuoso Adepaju, and Latin percussionist Hidalgo for a celebration of percussion and rhythm. Their appearance in Storrs is part of a limited tour in honor of the 15th anniversary of their ground-breaking album, *Planet Drum*, which earned the first-ever Grammy for Best World Music Album.

Hart's collection of world percussion and music began in 1968, when he met Allah Rakha, Ravi Shankar's tabla player. By the early 1980s, Hart had begun an in-depth investigation into the worldwide sociocultural history of percussion. In 1996, he composed a major drum production with 100 percussionists for the opening of the Centennial Olympic Games.

In 1999, Hart was appointed to the Board of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, where he heads a subcommittee on the digitization and preservation of the Center's vast collections.

He has written four books: *Drumming at the Edge of Music*;

*Planet Drum*, a history combined with an album; *Spirit into Sound: The Magic of Music*; and *Songcatchers: In Search of the World's Music*. He also has created musical scores, soundtracks and themes for movies and television.

The Global Drum Project performance will include dozens of instruments, from human and animal bones to bells, chimes, and metal brushes.

Tickets range from \$25 to \$30 (some discounts apply). For information or to order tickets, call 860-486-4226, or order online: [www.jorgensen.uconn.edu](http://www.jorgensen.uconn.edu).

## Charitable campaign begins

The annual State Employees' Charitable Campaign is now under way.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for us to support all the causes we love and, often, use,” says Lauren Davis Shea, the University's 2007 chair. “Whether it's health care, the environment, performing arts, or social action, there's something for everybody among the more than 900 agencies we can contribute to. Even \$1 per paycheck can make a big difference.”

Shea has set a goal of \$135,000 for this year's campaign, which kicked-off Oct. 4 with a 1950s-themed ice cream social at the UConn Dairy Bar for faculty and staff who have volunteered to serve as departmental coordinators. It runs through November.

Last year, employees at Storrs, the regional campuses, and the Health Center donated more

than \$300,000 to the effort, more than employees at any other state agency.

It's a campaign that also is dear to University President Michael Hogan's heart.

“I am delighted that the start of my UConn presidency coincides with this annual appeal,” says Hogan, who was previously involved in the campaign at the University of Iowa. “I enthusiastically support Lauren's goal and hope we can all contribute to its fulfillment.”

Volunteers will be delivering packets of information and pledge cards across campus this week. Donations of as little as \$1 per pay period are accepted. Contributions can be made regularly through payroll deduction, or on a one-time basis.

# UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT Advance

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# Health Center professor named to endowed chair in cell sciences

BY KRISTINA GOODNOUGH

Leslie Loew, professor of cell biology and computer science and engineering, and director of the R.D. Berlin Center for Cell Analysis and Modeling, has been named to the Boehringer Ingelheim Chair in Cell Sciences at the Health Center.

Since joining the Health Center in 1984, Loew has established a broad research program characterized by innovations in technology

applied to fundamental problems of cell biophysics.

"Cells are little chemical factories, and I am a chemist," he says.

Dr. Peter Deckers, executive vice president for health affairs, says, "Leslie Loew is one of the pre-eminent research scientists at the Health Center and in the entire UConn research community. His work and that of his team is recognized nationally and internationally by their peers to be

at the cutting edge of cellular and molecular biomedical research.

The promise of their research is almost unlimited."

Loew, who holds a Ph.D. in chemistry from Cornell, has devoted his career to understanding cells' biochemical workings.

Much of his work has been devoted to designing and developing voltage sensitive and fluorescent dyes capable of recording the electrical activity of the cell

membrane. This membrane is the first point of encounter for external signals.

"We want to understand how living cells respond to external cues or triggers over time," he says.

In order to do that, he has helped develop innovations in microscope imaging.

"We had to upgrade our microscopes so we could watch the dyes," he says.

Loew was instrumental in establishing the Center for Biomedical Imaging and Technology in 1994 (later renamed the Center for Cell Analysis and Modeling). The Center brought together sophisticated imaging equipment, such as confocal microscopes that allowed users to generate three-dimensional images, and, later, nonlinear optical microscopy, which used lasers to look into biological tissues with less damage to the cells and better resolution, depth discrimination, and light penetration.

"We also had to upgrade our computers," says Loew, who helped develop the Virtual Cell, a computational modeling platform that includes sophisticated distributed software and hundreds of servers: some that compute, some that store information, and some with software that can handle the massive calculations necessary to model and simulate cellular processes. The Virtual Cell is linked to the Internet, to serve as a reposi-

tory of the models and simulations developed by scientists around the world.

Last year, Loew led a multidisciplinary team of scientists developing a complex grant proposal that resulted in a \$12.3 million award from the National Institutes of Health. The grant, one of the largest federal grants received by the Health Center, will fund research and development of tools and technologies to measure, manipulate, and model the function of biochemical networks in living cells.

Loew is also director of the new Technology Center for Networks and Pathways.

"Biological processes or functions, such as wound healing or muscle contraction, for example, depend on communication among genes, proteins, and cells through multiple interactions or pathways," he says. "If we understand the pathways, we can begin to understand whether disturbances in pathways contribute to disease, and how normal function can be restored."

Loew's appointment to the chair was approved by the Health Center's board of directors in August. The chair was renamed from the Chair of Clinical Pharmacology, which was held by James Freston until his retirement last year. It is one of 32 endowed chairs at the Health Center.

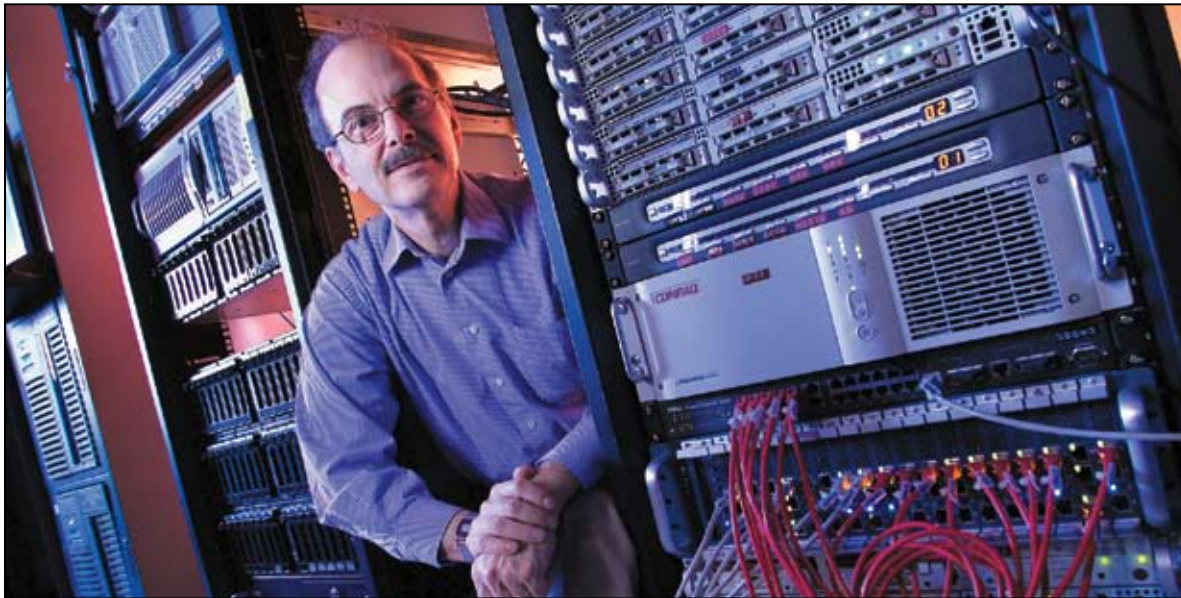


PHOTO BY AL FERREIRA

Leslie Loew, the new Boehringer Ingelheim Chair in Cell Sciences, with some of the servers that make up the Virtual Cell, which can mimic cellular events in three dimensions over time and space.

# U.S. must address tarnished human rights reputation, speaker says

BY ELIZABETH OMARA-OTUNNU

Policies pursued by the United States since Sept. 11, 2001, both at home and abroad, have tarnished the country's human rights reputation, according to Harold Koh, dean of the Yale Law School. And, he says, restoring it will take a concerted effort across all branches of American society.

Koh made his remarks during the 13th Raymond and Beverly Sackler Human Rights Lecture, "Repairing Our Human Rights Reputation," at the Dodd Center Oct. 2.

He said that before Sept. 11, an international vision prevailed that included diplomacy backed by force as a last resort; human rights based on universalism; and a belief, promoted around the world, that democracy is the best way to bring about human rights.

Just six years later, he said, the world has been turned upside down. Too often, the United States uses force first, accepting preemptive strikes and wars of choice; our human rights policy rejects universalism ("the only freedom we care about now is freedom from fear," he said); and our foreign policy is characterized by antipathy to international law and indifference to global cooperation.

"Who knew so much damage could be done in such a short period of time?" Koh said.

Not only has the country's international vision been inverted,

he said, so has our constitutional vision.

Six years after 9/11, Koh said, there is unfettered executive power; law-free zones (military commissions) that are exempt from judicial oversight; executive infringement of civil liberties based on a vague legislative mandate; and sharp and growing distinctions between citizens and aliens.

He said the U.S. is increasingly seen as hostile to human rights.

The incidents at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison suggest that the U.S. has moved from zero tolerance of torture to zero accountability, he said: "Privates in the army have been tried and convicted, but no one higher up."

Torture has been redefined, and "public acceptance is growing that torture is inevitable and justified in the war on terror." In the TV series 24, for example, which averages 15 million viewers in the U.S., government officials are regularly depicted as justifiably committing war crimes.

Even America's closest allies no longer regard us favorably, Koh said. For example, 85 percent of Germans now believe U.S. policy involving prisoners held at Guantanamo, Cuba, is illegal, and 65 percent of people in the U.K. think the same.

Guantanamo, where no prisoner has been tried and no one has been convicted, "created a human

rights black eye for the U.S.," he said. "Cuba, Iraq, and Guantanamo are taking us from the moral high ground. Our global image has slipped."

Koh said there is some hope in the response of various parts of civil society that "have come back to object."

The news media, for example, were responsible for bringing Abu Ghraib to public attention, he said, and the country's librarians, among others, banded together to force changes to the U.S. Patriot Act so that certain private records would not be disclosed, as originally had been proposed.

Koh said a 2006 Supreme Court case, *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld*, which invalidated military commissions, was a turning point. Military commissions afford fewer civil rights than regular trials, and were part of the Bush administration's plan to deal with detainees it links to al-Qaeda.

The lessons from *Hamdan* are much bigger than military commissions, he said. The case indicated that the President's response to terrorism must fit within the fabric of existing statutes and treaties.

If the United States acts upon the principles stated in the *Hamdan* decision, he said, it will enable

the country to turn what is now upside down, right side up again.

"We need to get 'back to the future' to reassert the basic principles of truth telling, universal standards, accountability, curbing ongoing abuses, and preventing future abuses," Koh said.

In recent years, he said, the United States has adopted a double standard with regard to human rights, failing to hold its allies accountable for their abuses, or to address America's own abuses.

"There has been a sad failure to endorse universal standards," he said.

President Bush withdrew the country's signature on the International Criminal Court treaty, Koh noted, and has undermined United Nations mechanisms for the protection of human rights. And the U.S. still has not ratified the Treaty for Elimination of Discrimination against Women or the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

"My daughter's mother is from Ireland," Koh said. "If she was living there, she would be protected. Here, she is not."

He said the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches, and civil society, all have a responsibility to bring the U.S. back into compliance with the rule of law.

"Ours is a country founded on human rights," he said. "If we violate these human rights, we no longer know who we are."



PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Harold Hongju Koh, dean of the Yale Law School, delivers the Raymond and Beverly Sackler Human Rights Lecture at Konover Auditorium on Oct. 2.

# Public policy group says some neighborhoods neglected after Katrina



PHOTO BY THOMAS CRAEMER

Graduate students from UConn work on a Habitat for Humanity project in New Orleans.

BY CINDY WEISS

A visit last spring to the Lower 9th Ward of New Orleans, hard hit by Hurricane Katrina, has prompted graduate students and a faculty member in the Department of Public Policy to research why the government's response to reconstruction has been so slow.

Thomas Craemer, an assistant professor of public policy at the Greater Hartford campus, visited New Orleans twice last year. In May, he rallied a group of graduate students to go there to help build a Habitat for Humanity house.

The contingent of 15 people included members of the Graduate Association of Public Policy Students and Chris Farmer, who works in the mailroom at the Greater Hartford Campus.

What they found when they crossed the canal bridge into the

Lower 9th Ward shocked them – rusted cars, upended houses, and few signs of outside help.

The Lower 9th Ward has seen little reconstruction.

"It's sad to think that two years later, the majority of the 9th Ward is still uninhabitable," says Barbara Rua, current president of the Graduate Association of Public Policy Students.

The students and Craemer began to analyze what they saw. They interviewed residents, counted Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) trailers, and took pictures of overturned houses and hearing notices tacked to houses – "Blighted property: public nuisance."

"I was overcome with a sense of how massive the devastation was and what the next steps are," said graduate student Ryan Tully.

The group noticed markedly fewer FEMA trailers in the Lower 9th Ward, which had been a largely African-American neighborhood, compared with the adjacent Arabi neighborhood in the largely white St. Bernard Parish.

Were people in the Lower 9th not applying for trailers? Did they not have the property titles needed to obtain them? Was racial discrimination a factor in rebuilding?

These are questions they are probing in their research. Craemer will give a presentation on the topic at a conference in New Orleans in January.

Their preliminary findings raise more questions. In a half mile of road in the Lower 9th Ward, 13 percent of housing units have trailers, compared with 63 percent in a half mile in the adjacent Arabi neighborhood.

Craemer compared this with a complete trailer count of both neighborhoods, using Google Earth aerial photos from 2006, and got similar results.

He also compared the results with the trailer count for Lakeview, another largely white neighborhood in the same parish as the Lower 9th, and found that Lakeview had nearly three times as many trailers as the Lower 9th.

All three areas suffered similar damage in the hurricane and are located in low-lying areas.

Comparing reconstruction in New Orleans with the rebuilding of Banda Aceh, Indonesia, after the 2004 tsunami destruction, Craemer found that 45 percent of damaged houses in Indonesia were under construction or finished two years after the disaster, but only 15 percent of those in New Orleans were reconstructed. The U.S. government is one of the largest contributors to the Indonesian reconstruction effort, he notes.

The students and Craemer presented their findings recently at the Greater Hartford Campus.

Craemer came to the United States from Germany in 2000. He completed his Ph.D. at Stony Brook University before joining the faculty of UConn's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 2005.

He said it was the "can-do" spirit in this country that attracted him to the U.S.

"Why not in this case?" he asks.

Rua says the New Orleans experience has piqued her interest in disaster preparedness policy nationwide.

"It really makes you contemplate what exactly the role of government should be," she said.

The public policy graduate students are planning to return to New Orleans for a community service trip next spring.

The response to Hurricane Katrina has directly involved the Department of Public Policy's new head, Amy Donahue, whose expertise is in disaster management and the role of first responders.

Donahue, who is also an associate professor of public policy at UConn, was on sabbatical leave at Louisiana State University last spring and summer, where she organized and served as interim director of the new Stephenson Disaster Management Institute.

Disaster management is a research specialty of Donahue. She studies the productivity of emergency service organizations and the nature of citizen demand for public safety services.

Donahue is a former senior adviser for homeland security to the administrator at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

While there are many capable and dedicated emergency responders around the country, Donahue says, when disasters strike, major gaps are evident in the ability to respond to large, complex events.

"The frustration," she says, "is that we seem to confront the same obstacles disaster after disaster – somehow we can't seem to learn some of the critical lessons and solve these persistent management problems."

## Stem Cell Institute *continued from page 1*

Of the 87 proposals submitted, 60 were from UConn scientists.

"This is an overwhelming response by UConn researchers to the state competition," said Dr. Marc Lalande, professor and chair of the Department of Genetics and Developmental Biology and associate dean for research planning and coordination at the Health Center. "It demonstrates that stem cells represent the most promising research in the 21st century."

"Our goal is to further expand our basic research efforts and lead the way in developing therapeutic strategies," adds Lalande, who will direct the new Institute. "The Institute provides the framework to hand our stem cell discoveries in test tubes to our clinical research colleagues at the Health Center, where the medical infrastructure exists to develop the field of regenerative medicine."

The stem cell grant competition program, approved by the legislature and Gov. M. Jodi Rell in 2005, set aside \$100 million for Connect-

icut-based embryonic and adult stem cell research through 2015. Last November, when \$20 million was awarded representing the first two years of the funding program, about \$12 million – 60 percent of the total – went to UConn faculty. The committee will award \$10 million a year for the next eight years.

On another front, UConn stem cell researchers were honored during a recent event unveiling the 2007 edition of the *Connecticut State Register and Manual*, a reference resource about how state government works that is widely known as the "Blue Book." As copies were distributed at the state Capitol, Connecticut Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz, whose office compiled the new volume, dedicated this year's issue to stem cell scientists and researchers at UConn, Yale, and Wesleyan universities "for the tremendous benefit their cutting-edge research will have on Connecticut citizens, our nation, and our world."



PHOTO SUPPLIED BY THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz, second from right, dedicated this year's Blue Book to the Stem Cell Initiative during a ceremony at the State Capitol on Oct. 3. From left, are Prof. Ren-He Xu, Dr. David Rowe, Prof. Anne Hiskes, Dr. Marc Lalande, and President Michael J. Hogan.

# Global House living-learning community brings cultures together

BY SHERRY FISHER

Eight students from France, Korea, India, and Colombia congregate in Akanksha Bajaj's room. Their discussion centers on the issues between India and Pakistan and between North and South Korea. But after a while, the conversation drifts from politics to apparel.

"We started talking about how, at one point in Korea, miniskirts weren't allowed," Bajaj says. "That escalated to discussing what clothing is acceptable for men and women in different cultures."

Chats like this are not unusual in Global House, one of UConn's living/learning communities. Located on the fifth and sixth floors of McMahon Residence Hall, it brings together students from the United States interested in learning about global society and other cultures, and international students attending UConn. The community opened this semester.

Establishing a global living/learning community was one of the recommendations of a task force created by Provost Peter Nicholls to develop strategies to help UConn students develop a global outlook.

"Our students need to know about the rest of the world," says Morty Ortega, an associate professor of natural resources management and engineering who is director of Global House. "You can send students across the ocean or across the borders, but not everyone is willing to go or can afford it. You can preach and you can teach, but there is nothing that will replace the direct relationship with another person."

Veronica Makowsky, vice provost for undergraduate education and regional campus administration, says, "Global House is an important step toward UConn's goal



PHOTO BY SEAN FLYNN

A student in her room in Global House, a new living/learning community in McMahon Residence Hall.

of a network of learning communities. UConn is a large university, but through learning communities – some with and some without a residential component – we can make the University individualized, supportive, and engaging."

Activities offered at Global House include international films, music events, lectures, and trips, many of which take place on the weekends. The academic component consists of a one-credit course taught by Ortega and Mark Oliver, a graduate student from Australia who is working on his doctorate in educational psychology.

"We want to teach students what global awareness is," Ortega says. Students recently gave short presentations on a country of their choice. They have also discussed gender issues with a staff member

from the women's center. There are plans to examine other global issues, such as access to health care systems in the U.S. compared to other countries.

Oliver and Ortega also want to support students who are new to the college experience.

"In addition to the academics, we're also conscious that about 50 of the students are freshmen and we want to support them," Oliver says. "So we integrate student success strategies, such as stress management and time management skills, as well as orientation to the campus."

Depression and life stresses will also be discussed, Ortega says: "We're dealing with many students who've come here with just two suitcases and nothing else. They are away from their families, and may be depressed or down at cer-

tain times. We want to help them succeed."

In addition to excursions to Hartford, New York, and Boston – and places further away, like Puerto Rico – there are plans to take a shopping trip every week or so, Ortega says. "We want to enrich the lives of students, to acclimate them to different cultures, but also to help them live their everyday lives here."

Bajaj, a freshman, was born in India, lived for part of her life in Thailand, moved back to India, and has been living in the U.S. for the past seven years.

"Global House is like a home away from home," she says. "I miss Indian food a lot, and especially Thai food, because for a big part of my life I grew up in Thailand. You can connect with the people who miss the same things as you do.

## University Medal *continued from page 1*

who was dean of engineering from 1971 to 1985 and then held a variety of administrative positions.

"I was so pleased to hear about Dee," says Peter McFadden, who also served as director of development for the engineering school. "He has been just a constant presence in all parts of the University for decades. He's a genuine supporter of all things UConn."

McFadden and Rowe spent time together in the summer of 1985 as development officers working out of what is now the Tasker Admissions Building. At the time, McFadden says, the entire UConn Foundation was located in that area.

The medal, awarded only 28 times since its creation, was presented at the Annual Endowed Scholarship Dinner of the Athletic Development Fund by UConn President Michael J. Hogan and President Emeritus Philip E. Austin.

Rowe joined the UConn community in 1969 as head coach of Men's Basketball, and served in that position for eight seasons. During his tenure, he led the Huskies to an overall record of 120-88 and was twice named New England Coach of the Year. In his final five years on the sidelines (1972-77), UConn posted winning records in each season and had an 88-48 record.

Under Rowe, the Huskies advanced to the Sweet 16 of the 1976 NCAA Championships. The University also earned berths in the 1974 and 1975 National Invitation Tournaments.

In 1978, he founded the Athletic Development Fund and took the department from a zero base in 1978 to a level of \$2 million in 1990-91, when he retired.

Today, the organization for which Rowe laid the groundwork raises \$15.5 million per year.

"Without question, Dee is

the most visible and successful advocate for this University – not

just for athletics, for the whole University," says Tim Tolokan,



PHOTO BY STEPHEN SLADE

Dee Rowe, former head coach of Men's Basketball who remains active at the University, was presented with the University Medal during a dinner on Oct. 2.

And you can order Chinese food, Thai food, or Indian food and get together and talk about what it used to be like when you were in your country."

Maroun Bou-Sleiman, an exchange student from Université de technologie de Compeigne in France, says living in Global House has been an enriching experience.

"I've met people from all over the world," says Bou-Sleiman, who was born in Lebanon and moved to France. "This is my first time in the United States. I'm used to Europeans, so meeting Americans is a good thing for me."

He says he would recommend Global House to incoming international students: "It's the best way to get rid of our stereotypes and meet people."

Lukas Szabo, an exchange student from the University of Warwick in England, grew up in Slovakia and now lives in Belgium. He is beginning a research project with Oliver. Szabo, a political science and history major who has never conducted research before, says he is looking forward to his project, which deals with the concept of global awareness.

Oliver says, "We want to tap into academically driven students, so we developed a course called Global House Scholars. Lukas is the first student taking part in it. Students who participate in this academic pathway will look at a global issue or concept related to their academic major, and will take it to another level."

A mentoring component has also been formalized, where upperclassmen meet with some of the students regularly to discuss adjustment issues and problems faced by foreign students living in the U.S.

associate director of athletics/licensing and athletic traditions.

"The biggest thing about Dee is his world," he adds. "He'll tell you it's all about the kids and basketball. But it's about people, friendships, relationships, and life-long bonds."

In 1991, when Rowe retired from full-time University service, he became a special adviser to the Division of Athletics, a role that continues today.

"It's so easy to say nice things about Dee," says Ron Dubois, former associate athletic director for operations and a 30-year friend of Rowe's. "His loyalty to his thousands of friends is unquestioned.

"If you look at his calendar," Dubois adds, "it's covered in blue – he uses a blue felt-tipped marker – but he can always make time for anything unscheduled if anybody needs something."

Mateusz Krol, a sophomore, tries out a total station near the Benton Museum, together with classmates from a course on Geomatics and Spatial Measurements. A total station is an optical instrument used in modern surveying.

PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS



## GRANTS

The following grants were received through the UConn Health Center's Office of Grants and Contracts in June 2007. The list represents new awards as well as continuations. Additional grants received in June were published in the Oct. 1 issue.

Department	Prin. Investigator	Sponsor	Amount	Award Period
Dental Dean's Office	Hodge, C.	Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	\$50,000	1/07-8/31
<i>Dental Pipeline Connections Supplemental Grant</i>				
Center for Vascular Biology	Shapiro, L.	Prostate Cancer Foundation	\$47,603	2/07-1/08
<i>Prostate Specific Membrane Antigen in Prostate Tumor Growth &amp; Angiogenesis</i>				
Genetics & Developmental Biology	Ben Mamoun, C.	Oregon Health & Science University	\$132,163	1/03-12/07
<i>Nucleoside Transporters of Falciparum DHHS GBIM00069A</i>				
Pediatrics	Cloutier, M.	CT Children's Medical Center	\$50,079	10/05-6/07
<i>DPH Child Asthma Initiative DHHS 05-179551-06</i>				
Community Medicine & Health Care	Babor, T.	Johnson, Bassin, & Shaw Inc.	\$138,768	9/04-9/07
<i>SBIRT – Evaluation DHHS 270-03-1000</i>				
Psychiatry	Jacob, M.	Penn State University	\$16,787	1/06-12/07
<i>Infertility: Pathway/Psychosocial Outcome DHHS HDo44144A</i>				
Craniofacial Sciences	Hand, A.	University of Florida	\$13,513	2/06-4/08
<i>Salivary Mucous Cell Gene Expression</i>				

Pharmacy Practice Salazar, J. UMass \$54,835 12/06-11/07  
*Pediatric AIDS Clinical Trial Unit*

Pharmacy Practice Salazar, J. City of Hartford \$133,532 3/07-2/08  
*Ryan White 1*

Psychiatry Ford, J. Medical University of South Carolina \$454,073 9/06-5/08  
*Vocational Outcomes for Youth With Substance Abuse Problems & High HIV Risk*

Psychiatry Tanev, K. University of Rochester \$5,775 7/05-6/07  
*Cooperative Huntington's Observational Research Trial*

### State Grants

Medicine Storey, E. Labor Department \$112,129 7/04-6/07  
*Dept. of Labor: Occupational Disease Clinics*

Community Medicine Ungemack, J. Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services \$74,658 9/03-6/07  
*SIG Enhancement Initiative DHHS 03MHA1317*

Community Medicine Ungemack, J. Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services \$129,000 10/04-9/07  
*CT Screening & Brief Intervention – TCE DHHS 005HA1104*

Oral Health & Diagnostic Sciences Asetline, R. Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services \$197,800 12/06-5/09  
*Evaluation of Connecticut's Statewide Suicide Prevention Program*

Oral Health & Diagnostic Sciences Litt, M. Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services \$8,000 9/06-5/07  
*Criminal Justice Drug Abuse Treatment Services Initiative*

## Revised consulting policy *continued from page 1*

aged from engaging with the private sector, faculty are encouraged to consult and collaborate on research projects with the private sector, government agencies, and non-profit organizations. Faculty then share their knowledge through publishing, teaching, and public speaking.

"The University's paradigm is to be engaged with the private sector," says Ilze Krisst, assistant vice provost for research and director of research compliance. "Our faculty are much more valuable to our students and to the state because of their interactions with private, public, and non-profit organizations. They bring knowledge back to the classroom and share expertise that helps the state's economy."

The newly revised policies clarify oversight for consulting activities and require annual reporting, at both the Storrs-based programs and the Health Center.

Consulting is permitted based on expertise or prominence in the field, but cannot be conducted on "time due the University." The activities cannot create an unacceptable conflict of interest that affects an individual's decision-making as a state employee or influences decision-making on state-related business. If the potential for bias exists, then it needs to be disclosed and

appropriately managed.

In most cases, consulting may not exceed more than one day during the work week on average, but during periods when a faculty member does not have teaching responsibilities, time due the University will not be a factor in the approval process.

The process will be overseen by the provost in Storrs and the executive vice president of the Health Center and by a new University Consulting Management Committee, which will include two designees of the provost, two of the executive vice president of the Health Center, and one designee of the president. The University's ethics officer, Rachel Rubin, will serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member.

A Health Center and Storrs committee worked during the summer to fine tune the policies and develop procedures and forms.

"There has been a concerted, collaborative effort on the part of the government relations staff and the Health Center and Storrs compliance and other administrative staffs to make all this happen," says Krisst. "Clearly, we will be under greater scrutiny than ever, but we view this as an opportunity to refine the process pertaining to the University's consulting activities and are confident that it can be successfully and

efficiently managed. We look forward to working with our faculty to ensure a smooth transition to the new process."

In order to obtain permission to perform consulting activities, the individual must provide sufficient detail about the project so the University can determine whether or not the activities conflict with the person's state responsibilities. Faculty must also indicate the level of remuneration, number of days needed to complete the activities, and what material use of state resources will be necessary. Financial records provided on the forms will be confidential.

The activities must be approved first by the department head and dean, and then, in Storrs, by the provost or his designee, or at the Health Center, by the executive vice president for health affairs or his designee. Coaches must obtain permission from the athletic director, in place of a dean.

"The new law ensures the privilege of consulting for faculty members will continue," says Wetstone. "It is an important incentive in recruiting and retention of the highest quality faculty and in enhancing the University's reputation as a research institution."

At the end of each fiscal year, no later than Sept. 15, faculty must submit forms

reconciling their activities with the plan submitted the previous semesters. Those forms must include verification that the University has been appropriately reimbursed for material use of state resources.

The law requires two audits per year by the University's Office of Audit, Compliance, and Ethics; annual reports to the Joint Audit and Compliance Committee; and review by an Oversight Committee comprising University and non-University members.

That committee will receive copies of the semi-annual audits and make recommendations for policy changes to the University's Board of Trustees. A copy of such recommendations will be sent to the General Assembly's Education and Government Administration and Elections Committee.

Faculty who provide misleading or false information can be disciplined with a letter or reprimand, loss of consulting privileges, suspension from the University, or dismissal.

For more information, see <http://www.policy.uconn.edu/pages/findPolicy.cfm?PolicyID=264>.

## CALENDAR

Tuesday, October 9, to Monday, October 15

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, Oct. 15 through Monday, Oct. 22. Those items must be entered in the database by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 9.

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

## Libraries

**Homer Babbidge Library.** Hours: Monday-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, 1-9 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1-9 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.; closed weekends.

**Greater 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.

**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.

**Torrington Campus Library.** Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; Friday-**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.

## 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.

## Completed Oral

**Monday, 10/1 – Psychology.**

*Anatomical Organization of Entorhinal-Hippocampal Projections*, by Jamie Bunce (adv.: Chrobak).

## Ph.D. Defenses

**Thursday, 10/11 – Electrical & Computer Engineering.** *Theoretical Study of Quantum Well Lasers and Amplifiers Based on the No-k Selection Rule*, by Weiping Zheng (adv.: Taylor). 9 a.m., Room 336, ITE Building.

## Lectures &amp; Seminars

**Tuesday, 10/9 – David Ivy Memorial Lecture in Judaic Studies.** "A Historian in the Ghetto: Emanuel Ringelblum and the Onyeg Shabes Archive" by Samuel Kassow, Trinity College. 2 p.m., Konover Auditorium. Reception to follow.

**Tuesday, 10/9 – Intellectual Property Lecture.** "Strategies in Trademark Disputes," by Amy Wergeles, Robinson & Cole. 4 p.m., Reading Room, Starr Building, Law School.

**Tuesday, 10/9 – Pharmacy Lecture.** "The Impact of Annealing on the Stability of Pharmaceuticals in Amorphous Solids," by Stuart Wang. 4 p.m., Room 338 Pharmacy/Biology Building.

**Wednesday, 10/10 – Out-to-Lunch Lecture.** "Setting the Record Straight: How to Correct Mainstream Bias in Gay News Reports," by Lisa Keen.

Noon, Room 403, Student Union.

**Wednesday, 10/10 – Women's Studies Lecture.** "War on Women of Iraq: The Impact of Theocracy, Poverty, and Militarization," by Yanar Mohammed, Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq. 4 p.m., Multipurpose Room, Stamford Campus.

**Thursday, 10/11 – Science Policy Lecture.** "The Politicization of Science: Consequences and Prescriptions," by David Goldston, columnist and former chief of staff for the U.S. House Committee on Science. 4 p.m., Class of '47 Room, Babbidge Library.

**Thursday, 10/11 – Puerto Rican & Latino Studies Conference.** "Rethinking the Latin@ Intellectual Ecology." 4-9 p.m., Konover Auditorium.

**Friday, 10/12 – Polymer Science Seminar.** "Dynamic Behavior of Polymer Nanocomposites: Insights from Experiment and Theory," by Sanat Kumar, Columbia University.

Electric Fields: Rovibrational Spectra and Photoassociation," by Rosario Gonzalez Ferez, University of Granada, Spain. 4 p.m., Room P121, Gant Science Complex.

## Exhibits

**Friday, 10/12 – Greater Hartford Campus Art Gallery.** *Noche Latina 2007*, featuring works of Humberto Cruz and Juan Abreu., Art Gallery, Greater Hartford Campus. Opening reception Friday, 10/12, 6-7:30 p.m.

**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. For hours, see Libraries.

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

for non-members.

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

**Through Saturday, 11/17 – Ballard Institute & Museum 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 Friday, 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 Saturday, 11/29 – Stamford Art Gallery.** *A New Vision*, Contemporary works from Latin American artists. Art Gallery, Stamford Campus.

**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.,

**Ongoing. State Museum of Natural History & Connecticut Archaeology Center.** *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, 10/10 – Men's Soccer vs. Providence.** 7 p.m., Morrone Stadium.

**Friday, 10/12 – Women's Ice Hockey vs. Minnesota State.** 7 p.m., Freitas Ice Forum.

**Friday, 10/12 – Women's Soccer vs. Pittsburgh.** 7 p.m., Morrone Stadium.

**Saturday, 10/13 – Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving.** Husky Invitational. Noon, Wolff Zackin Natatorium.

**Saturday, 10/13 – Women's Ice Hockey vs. Minnesota State.** 4 p.m., Freitas Ice Forum.

**Sunday, 10/14 – Women's Soccer vs. West Virginia.** 1 p.m., Morrone Stadium.

**Sunday, 10/14 – Men's Ice Hockey vs. Ryerson.** Exhibition. 1:05 p.m., Freitas Ice Forum.

## Performing Arts

**Thursday, 10/11 – Mapa Corpa.** Performance by Gomez-Pena. 8 p.m., Moebius Theater.

**Thursday, 10/11 – Wind Ensembles.** Conducted by Jeffrey Renshaw. Features Chen Yi's Suite for Cello and Winds with Kangho Lee, soloist. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall.

**Friday, 10/12 – Global Drum Project.** Tickets \$25-\$30, 8 p.m., Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts.

**Through Sunday, 10/14 – The Arabian Nights.** Connecticut Repertory Theater production of Mary Zimmerman's retelling of *The Book of the Tale of the Thousand Nights*, classic Persian folktales. 8 p.m., Nafe Katter Theatre. For performance times and tickets, call the Box Office at 860-486-4226.

## Films

**Tuesday, 10/9 – Human Rights Film.** *Water* (2005), 6 p.m., Konover Auditorium.

**Wednesday, 10/10 – Cinemas of the Maghrib and the Middle East.** *The Syrian Bride*, by Eran Riklis (2004). Room 143, Arjona Building.

**Wednesday, 10/10 – Women's Center Film.** *Dreamworlds III*, by Sut Jhally. 7 p.m., Student Union Theatre.

## Potpourri

**Wednesday, 10/10 – Drawing Open Studio.** Opportunity for UConn and E.O. Smith students and Benton members to sketch the Rodin sculptures. 2-4 p.m., Benton Museum of Art.

**Wednesday, 10/10 – Book Discussion and Signing.** Coach Jim Calhoun speaks about his new book, *A Passion to Lead: Seven Leadership Secrets for Success in Business, Sports, and Life*. 7-9 p.m., Keller Auditorium, Health Center.

**Saturday, 10/13 – MBA Program 50th Anniversary Celebration.** Join alumni, faculty, and current students for the 50th anniversary celebration of UConn's MBA program. 1:30-8 p.m., School of Business.

**Saturday, 10/13 – A Celebration of Life.** A Gathering for Antonia Brancia, professor emerita of communication sciences. A reception with refreshments will follow. 2 p.m., Storrs Congregational Church, North Eagleville Road.

**Sunday, 10/14 – Drawing Open Studio.** Opportunity for UConn and E.O. Smith students and Benton members to sketch the Rodin sculptures. 2-4 p.m., Benton Museum of Art.

**Monday, 10/15 – Long River Reading.** Bring a poem, short prose piece, or music to share at the open mic. 7 p.m., Room 217, CLAS Building.



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

An illustration by Salley Mavor in *The Cow Jumped Over the Moon* exhibition on display in the Dodd Center Gallery through Oct. 12. See Exhibits.

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

**Friday, 10/12 – Environmental Engineering Seminar.** "Usability Scaling for Simulation and Visualization in Applications of Numerical Weather Prediction," by Lloyd Treinish, IBM Systems & Technology Group. Noon, Room 212, Castleman Building.

**Monday, 10/15 – Health & Wellness Lecture.** "Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm," by Patricia Bozeman. Noon, Henry Low Learning Center, Health Center.

**Monday, 10/15 – Atomic, Molecular, & Optical Physics Seminar.** "Heteronuclear Dimers in Strong

Research Center Gallery. For hours, see Libraries.

**Through Tuesday, 10/23 – Student Union. Superheroes**, photography by Dulce Pinzon. Exhibit pays homage to Latino men and women who withstand extreme conditions of labor to help their families and communities survive. 4:30 p.m., Room 310, Student Union.

**Through Sunday, 10/28 – Alexey von Schlippe Gallery.** *I-Park*, by Pamela Zagarensky, and works by other American and Bulgarian artists. Gallery on the second floor of the Branford House, Avery Point Campus. Open Wednesday through Sunday, noon-4 p.m. \$3 admission

Health Center.

**Through Sunday, 12/16 – William 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. 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. Tuesday, 10/9, gallery talk on "Rodin's Contemporaries" by Thomas Bruhn. 12:15-1 p.m.

# Experts say understanding risk factors first step to cancer prevention

BY MAUREEN MCGUIRE

The first step for women who want to reduce their risk of breast, ovarian, and other cancers is to thoroughly understand their risk factors, including family history. The second step is to adopt an ongoing, personalized prevention plan that reflects their unique risks.

That was the message from experts with the Health Center's Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center during a Discovery Series panel discussion on Sept. 25.

"Throughout my career, I've come to see each cancer – especially ovarian cancer, which is very

difficult to treat when detected late – as a missed opportunity for prevention," said Dr. Molly Brewer, director of the Health Center's Division of Gynecologic Oncology.

Brewer, a nationally recognized expert, said one of the reasons she joined the Health Center faculty last year was the opportunity to focus her practice on prevention. Under her leadership, the Health Center recently started a new Women's Cancer Prevention Program within the Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Brewer and the other panelists emphasized that women must learn all they can about their

risk factors.

"It's so important to accurately understand your risk," said Stacy Cruess of the University's Center for Health, Intervention and Prevention and the Women's Cancer Prevention Program. "The tools we have are not perfect, but they will give you the best possible estimation of your risk – and this will help you make appropriate decisions."

One of the best ways to learn about individual risk, the panelists emphasized, is comprehensive genetic counseling.

"Any person who is concerned about a family history of cancer should consider genetic counseling," Brewer said.

Jennifer Stroop, a genetic counselor at the Health Center who is also part of the Woman's Cancer Prevention Program, said, "We work with women to develop a detailed family tree, and use mathematical models to calculate each person's approximate risk of developing certain types of cancer."

For some individuals, genetic counseling may lead to genetic testing.

Researchers have identified two major breast and ovarian susceptibility genes, BRCA1 and BRCA2. The lifetime risk for breast cancer for women with BRCA mutations is between 50 percent and

85 percent. The lifetime risk for ovarian cancer varies even more significantly between families, but may range between 20 percent and 60 percent.

Stroop said less than 10 percent of all breast cancers are linked with an identified BRCA mutation.

Brewer noted that genetic testing is not necessary for everyone, and said it should not be offered without genetic counseling, "because it can be overwhelming and, frankly, confusing."

**"I've come to see each cancer, especially ovarian cancer, as a missed opportunity for prevention."**

*Dr. Molly Brewer, Director, Division of Gynecologic Oncology*

"The presence of either of these genes does not guarantee that a woman will develop cancer, nor does their absence guarantee that she won't," she said.

If a woman tests positive for a BRCA mutation, there are several routes she can take to reduce her risk of cancer. The most aggressive approach is to surgically remove her breasts or ovaries. While these measures drastically reduce her chances of developing cancer, no surgery is without risk or side effects, the panelists said.

"Prophylactic surgery is not an option any woman should rush into. She needs to give it a lot of thought," said Brewer.

Added Cruess, "What we have learned, and what studies have shown, is that the process of decision making is best facilitated when women have the opportunity to thoroughly examine the risks and benefits of each risk-reduction option – whether it's surgery, chemoprevention, or increased surveillance – and to make a decision based on a clear understanding of what to expect and of what is important to them."

Other cancer prevention measures include medications such as Tamoxifen or oral contraceptives, as well as lifestyle changes, including a diet high in vitamin A-rich fruits and vegetables, and frequent exercise.

For all women, cancer experts recommend regular screenings such as mammography, breast self-exams, and annual clinical exams.

"Through our program," said Brewer, "we guide women through the entire process of understanding their risk and taking action to protect their health."

For more information about the Women's Cancer Prevention Program, call 860-523-6424. The Health Center's Discovery Series offers free, health-related lectures to the public. To be added to the mailing list, call 800-535-6232.



PHOTOS BY LANNY NAGLER, LEFT, AND JANINE GELINEAU

Dr. Molly Brewer, left, director of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology, and Jennifer Stroop, a genetic counselor at the Health Center.

# Ratcliffe Hicks School continues UConn's land grant mission

BY ELIZABETH OMARA-OTUNNU

Most of the roughly 3,200 first-year students arriving at the Storrs campus this fall hope to complete their degrees in four years. A few hope to earn a degree in two.

Each year, 30 to 40 students enter the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture to pursue a two-year associate's degree with a concentration in either plant science or animal science. Graduates are in high demand.

The School draws students who are looking for a practical education, says Cameron Faustman, professor of animal science, director of the Ratcliffe Hicks School, and associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

He says the School's role and its relationship to the College are not widely understood. A new brochure, *Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture: Then and Now*, is designed to provide this and other information to the public and to potential students.

Ratcliffe Hicks students take classes taught by faculty in the College of Agriculture, as well as at least five general education courses.

Some of the students Faustman describes as "late bloomers." Others are already working in an agriculture-related field but want to pursue a degree. Yet others are seeking a career change.

Experiential learning is a hall-

mark of the Ratcliffe Hicks education, Faustman says. Classroom instruction accounts for about half the coursework, but sometimes the "classroom" is the barn or the field.

Professor Mary Musgrave, head of the plant science department, says, "The two-year program is popular with both students and employers because a lot of hands-on experience and learning takes place in a relatively short time."

About 60 percent of the School's graduates go on to complete a four-year degree, most of them at UConn.

Brittany Florio earned an associate's degree in Ornamental Horticulture. She is now studying for a bachelor's in plant science.

She says the two-year program was good preparation. "Without that solid foundation in study skills, time management, and basic education, I would not be as successful academically now."

Florio welcomed the opportunity to specialize in agricultural topics from the start. "I was able to take a variety of plant science courses in the Ratcliffe Hicks program to test different areas of interest," she says.

Joyce Hart graduated from Ratcliffe Hicks in 1979. She now works with her husband in the three retail garden centers and florist shops they own in eastern Connecticut.

"No one in my family had gone to college before," Hart says, "and I

thought the two-year school was a good place for me to start."

She went on to graduate from the School of Education in 1982.

"After two years at Ratcliffe Hicks, I didn't want to leave," she says. "I got wrapped up in the excitement of learning."

In her business, Hart still deals with people she went to school with. "I made a lot of contacts," she says.

The School was founded in 1941 through a bequest from Ratcliffe Hicks, a former Connecticut legislator. The endowment still supports the school in part.

Faustman says that although having both a two-year and a four-year program is unusual at UConn, other institutions offering certificates or associate of applied science degrees within their colleges of agriculture include Michigan State, Ohio State, Penn State, and the Universities of Maryland, Massachusetts, and Wisconsin-Madison.

Michael Darre, professor of animal science, says some community colleges in the area offer two-year degrees in agriculture, but UConn is the only institution with full programs in plant and animal science, with facilities and animal species close at hand. "You don't have to drive five miles off campus," he says.

Ratcliffe Hicks students also have the advantage of learn-

ing from professors engaged in research and extension specialists dealing directly with industry, who bring the latest information into the classroom, he says.

Faustman says the School benefits both its students and the University.

"The farm units exist anyway for the four-year agriculture programs," he says. "Through the Ratcliffe Hicks School, they can be taken advantage of by up to 80 additional students." The students, in turn, many from agricultural backgrounds, help maintain the farm units that support the College of Agriculture.

Ratcliffe Hicks students pay the same as students in four-year programs, and have access to the same facilities, including libraries, residence halls, student life, and other support services.

There are many employment opportunities for graduates of the program. Those who study Ornamental Horticulture or Turfgrass Management may work in floriculture, landscaping and grounds maintenance, greenhouse and garden center operation, nursery and fruit production, turf management, park and land maintenance, or arboretums and botanic gardens. Those who focus on Equine Studies or Dairy/Livestock Management may pursue a career in animal health, production agriculture, breeding and genetics, nutrition, meat and food science, or food handling and production.

Darre says Ratcliffe Hicks graduates are well qualified to work right away, for example on a farm or golf course. "They can work hands-on, in the trenches," he says.

In some fields, such as turfgrass and horticulture, the state does not currently have enough graduates.

"We have employers calling up and asking to hire students who will be completing the program," says Musgrave. "It's often very competitive for employers to get these new graduates."

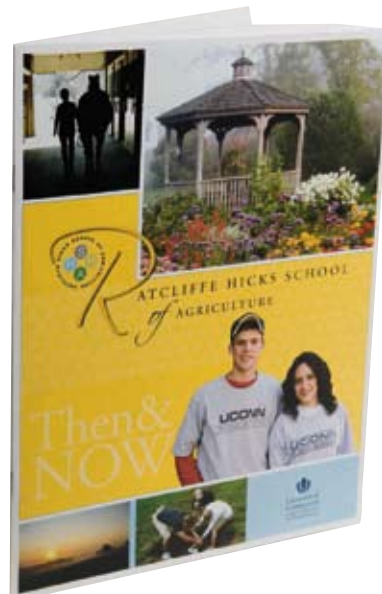


PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS



