



## Holder of first endowed chair in mechanistic toxicology installed

BY BETH KRANE

Urs Boelsterli, a professor of pharmaceutical sciences and toxicology, was installed as the first Boehringer Ingelheim Endowed Chair in Mechanistic Toxicology on Oct. 25.

The endowed chair, established through a \$1.25 million gift to the School of Pharmacy from Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc. in 2006, is the first such chair in the nation.

Mechanistic toxicology is the study of the processes and mechanisms underlying the toxicity of chemicals. It explains how foreign compounds such as drugs, environmental pollutants, and industrial chemicals exert their potentially damaging effects on cells and tissues.

The field is widely regarded as the next frontier for drug development and medical breakthroughs. It has the potential to greatly reduce the number of drugs that fail to meet FDA safety standards during the extensive clinical trial period, and to limit the number of drugs launched but later recalled because of rare but unpredictable adverse effects.

Boelsterli was selected after an extensive international search.

The Swiss-born researcher comes to UConn from the National University of Singapore, where he directed the toxicology program. He brings more than 25 years of combined academic and industry experience to his new post, including a previous position as head of molecular toxicology for Switzerland-based Roche Pharma.

Boelsterli has published more than 80 peer-reviewed original articles and reviews, and is the author of a best-selling textbook on mechanistic toxicology. He also consults for a number of pharmaceutical companies, and founded a consulting company focusing on drug-induced liver injury.

More than 600 medications approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration can inflict liver injury. In some cases, the injury is severe enough to require a transplant, and

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PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER  
Pianist Menahem Pressler performs during the Alice Murray Heilig Memorial Concert in the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts on Oct. 21.

## UConn's Dempsey Hospital wins national quality award

*Superior patient outcomes put hospital in top 1 percent*

BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

The UConn Health Center's John Dempsey Hospital has been named to another exclusive group.

The hospital has won a 2007 Premier | CareScience Select Practice National Quality Award for superior patient outcomes in both quality and efficiency. Only 1 percent of U.S. hospitals earn this distinction from Premier Inc., the nation's largest independent health care alliance. That makes UConn one of just 49 hospitals or health systems so recognized in the 2007 report.

"This is an enormous honor and a well-deserved tribute to our outstanding staff at John Dempsey Hospital," says James Thornton, hospital director.

Hospitals do not apply for the Premier | CareScience Select Practice National Quality Award. The formula to determine the winners relies solely on the latest available

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## Two faculty members named AAAS Fellows

BY CINDY WEISS & KRISTINA GOODNOUGH

Two UConn researchers will be made fellows of the American Association of Arts and Sciences (AAAS) at its annual meeting in Boston in February.

The two are Sally McBrearty, a professor of anthropology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Laurinda Jaffe, a professor of cell biology.

The AAAS, the world's largest general scientific society, announced its new fellows in the journal *Science* on Oct. 26.

McBrearty was cited "for distinguished contributions to the field of hominid origins and African paleolithic archaeology, and particularly for her work on the origins of modern human behavior."

She is known in her field as the co-author of a landmark paper in the *Journal of Human Evolution* in 2000, "The Revolution That Wasn't: A New Interpretation of the Origin of Modern Human Behavior."

That issue of the journal was devoted to the article by McBrearty and Allison Brooks of George Washington University, in which they challenged the then-prevailing view that modern human behavior did not appear until some 45,000 years ago, far later than the appearance of anatomically modern humans.

McBrearty and Brooke reviewed what was known about early humans and concluded that humans were exhibiting modern behavior much earlier.

As McBrearty and co-author Chris Stringer from the Natural History Museum in London wrote in a recent commentary in *Nature*, "a competing interpretation is that beads, art objects, and other forms of technological and behavioral complexity emerged gradually over the course of the Middle Stone Age (some 285,000 to 45,000 years ago), tracking morphological evolution more closely.

"In this view, early *Homo sapiens* were essentially neurologically and cognitively identical to modern humans," they wrote.

The recent, highly publicized *Nature* commentary discussed new finds by other researchers at a South African cave that support an early origin for modern human behavior, including shellfish used as food and red pigment used as paint.

McBrearty has contributed an article about her views on early human behavior to an upcoming book, *Rethinking the Human Revolution*.

She is known also for finding the first fossil chimpanzee ever found. In 2004, she found fossil chimpanzee teeth in the Rift Valley of Kenya. That was the basis of a *Nature* article, "First Fossil Chimpanzee" in 2005, with co-author Nina G. Jablonski of Pennsylvania State University.

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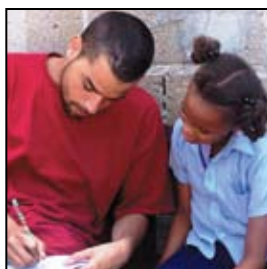
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PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

President Michael J. Hogan meets with faculty at the Waterbury Campus on Oct. 23. Seated at right is his wife, Virginia Hogan.

## Aztec Empire focus of Sackler symposium Nov. 2

“The Aztec Empire: Iconographies and Ideologies of Power,” will be the focus of the 2007 Beverly and Raymond Sackler Art and Archaeology Symposium on Friday, Nov. 2, at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, beginning at 2 p.m.

The symposium will address issues including the Aztec promotion of hegemonic (vs. strictly military) control over a diverse group of quasi-independent city-states, and imperial integration of economics, religion, and politics in state rituals. Speakers will also examine the complex interactions between ruling metropole and subject peoples. Through these interactions, the central Aztec state negotiated economic and social stability with its neighbors to counteract political instability.

Speakers and their presentations include:

**Michael E. Smith**, Arizona State University, “Material Culture of the Aztec Empire in Central Mexico: Local, Regional, and Global Patterns,” 2:15 p.m.

**Cecelia Klein**, University of

California, Los Angeles, “From Clay to Stone: The Role of Ceramic Figurines in the Formation of the Official Aztec Pantheon,” 3 p.m.

**Elizabeth Brumfiel**, Northwestern University, “Cosmology at Home,” 4 p.m.

**Eulogio Guzman**, Boston Museum of Fine Arts School/Tufts University, “Iconographic Variability: Shifting Meanings in Aztec Sculpture and the Political Expansion of the Mexican State,” 4:45 p.m.

The event is open to the University community and the public. Admission is free.

The Beverly and Raymond Sackler Art and Archaeology Symposium, now in its sixth year, fosters an exchange of ideas between scholars, faculty, and students across the University and throughout New England. The event is made possible by support from philanthropists Raymond and Beverly Sackler.

For more information, e-mail Professor Robin Greeley at robin.greeley@uconn.edu.

## Neuroscience conference speaker to discuss how changes in the brain may explain changes in behavior

Dr. José Delgado-García will present a lecture titled “Associative Learning as a Distributed Process,” during the fall 2007 “Neuroscience at Storrs” annual conference.

The lecture will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 31, at 5 p.m. in the Biology/Physics Building, Room 130.

Delgado-García, a professor of physiology and chairman of the Division of Neuroscience Uni-

versity Pablo de Olavide, Seville, Spain, is presently investigating changes in the brain that may explain changes in behavior.

The highly complex circuitry of the brain must be modified every time an individual learns a small detail about spatio-temporal relationships. Although the brain changes most during growth and development, that is not the time when people learn most. Most of the learning occurs after the

developmental process, when the acquisition of new motor and cognitive abilities occur through still largely unknown neural processes involving sub-cellular and molecular changes. Delgado-García’s presentation will address these issues and the new information he has obtained from neural recording techniques in mammals.

## Emeritus professor of English to read poems at UConn Co-op

Poet James Scully will give a reading at the UConn Co-op for the annual Creative Sustenance event, to benefit the Covenant Soup Kitchen in Willimantic. The reading will take place on Thursday, Nov. 1, beginning at 7 p.m.

Scully’s work is noted for its social engagement. His 11th collection of poems, *Donatello’s Version*, was published recently. His 10 previous poetry collections

include *The Marches*, *Avenue of the Americas*, *Words Without Music*, and *Boxcars*.

An emeritus professor of English at UConn, Scully won the 1967 Lamont Poetry Award. He has also received two fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, an Ingram Merrill Foundation Fellowship, and a Guggenheim Fellowship.

The reading, which is spon-

sored by the University’s Creative Writing Program, is free and open to the public. Audience members are invited to make a donation or bring canned goods to support the Covenant Soup Kitchen.

For more information, go to the UConn Co-op’s web site, [www.bookstore.uconn.edu](http://www.bookstore.uconn.edu), or the Creative Writing Program web site at [www.longriver.uconn.edu](http://www.longriver.uconn.edu)

## Correction

A story in the Oct. 22 *Advance* reported that federal funding for sequencing four mouse genomes would be directed to Baylor College of Medicine Human Genome Sequencing Center. However, the National Human Genome Research Institute has not determined an appropriation or a center

for sequencing four species of the *Peromyscus* mouse. In addition, the quotation by faculty member Rachel O’Neill, “We’ll be seen as taking the lead in getting four genomes sequenced in a very competitive process,” should refer to all collaborators on a paper accepted by the NHGRI for which she was

the lead author and co-authors are from the *Peromyscus* Genetic Stock Center at the University of South Carolina, the Baylor College of Medicine Human Genome Sequencing Center, and the College of Medicine at the University of California Irvine.

## Academic, cultural activities planned for International Week, Nov. 8-15

UConn’s Office of International Affairs will join the national celebration of International Education Week Nov. 8 through Nov. 15.

The week-long series of activities includes lectures, films, music, performances, art work displays, storytelling for children, and other cultural events.

“International Week is a time to reflect on the importance of international education in the formation of global citizens, a key goal of the University,” says Boris Bravo-Ureta, executive director of the Office of International Affairs.

The celebration opens with this year’s Robert G. Mead Jr. lecture, presented by Kay Warren of

Brown University. Her talk, “When Numbers Count: The Practice of Combating Human Trafficking from Colombia to Japan,” will take place on Thursday, Nov. 8, from 2 to 4 p.m., in the Student Union Theatre. President Michael J. Hogan will give welcoming remarks.

World Fest 2007, an international fair and cultural dance festival showcasing more than 17 student organizations, will take place on Sunday, Nov. 11, from noon to 6 p.m., in the Student Union Ballroom. Ethnic foods will be available.

For more information on events, visit: <http://oia.uconn.edu/events.html>.

# UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT Advance

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The *Advance* is published weekly during the academic year, except during breaks. It is distributed free to faculty, staff, and students at the University of Connecticut. Published by University Communications, 34 North Eagleville Road, Storrs, CT 06269-3144. Phone: 860.486.3530. Periodical permit (ISSN 0746-3170, USPS 703-730) at Storrs, CT. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the *Advance* at the above address.

Advance website: <http://www.advance.uconn.edu>  
E-mail: [advance@uconn.edu](mailto:advance@uconn.edu)

# Report: Inability to understand health info costly to nation

BY DAVID BAUMAN

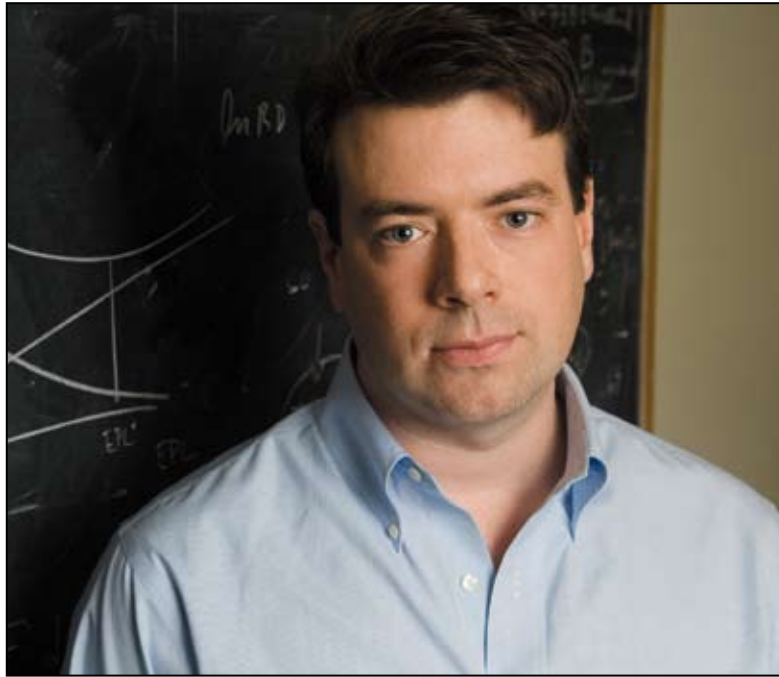
A new UConn-generated report released recently in Washington, D.C., says the inability of millions of Americans to understand health care issues costs the U.S. economy between \$106 billion and \$236 billion annually.

According to the report, *Low Health Literacy: Implications for National Health Policy*, the savings that could be achieved by improving health literacy would translate into enough funds to insure every one of the more than 47 million people who lacked coverage in the United States in 2006. That number is larger than the number of people with diabetes, breast cancer, obesity, and HIV/AIDS combined, the report says.

"Our findings suggest that low health literacy exacts enormous costs on both the health system and society, and that current expenditures could be far better directed through a commitment to improving health literacy," says the report's principal author, John Vernon, a professor of finance in UConn's School of Business and a Faculty Research Fellow with the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Vernon, joined by a team of health policy experts who helped prepare the report, presented the findings at a press conference on Oct. 10. Health literacy is defined as the degree to which individuals have the capacity to read, understand, and act upon basic health information.

"At virtually every point along



FILE PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

John Vernon, a professor of finance and principal author of a recent report on low health literacy as a significant national problem.

the health care services spectrum," notes the report, "the health care system requires patients to read and understand important health care information. This information is dense, technical, and has jargon-filled language. Examples include completing health insurance applications, reading signs in hospitals and clinics about where to go and where to sign in, and following written and oral instructions in brochures and pamphlets, as well as prescription medication directions. The health care system itself can pose a serious barrier to appropriate health care."

The study found that 36 percent of all adults – 87 million people – have a below-average ability to read prescription directions, medi-

cal consent forms, and health insurance applications, and to follow written instructions in brochures or pamphlets.

Although ethnic minority groups are disproportionately affected by low health literacy, the majority of people with low health literacy skills in the United States are white and native-born, the report says.

"It's a very serious and costly phenomenon – not knowing how to navigate the health-care system," Vernon says. Being literate does not mean that a person is health-literate, he adds. "It is more difficult to read medical literature that is specifically health-related."

Using the U.S. Department of Education's 2003 National As-

essment of Adult Literacy, which measured health literacy among adults in the country for the first time, Vernon and his team compared health literacy levels on the one hand and poor health outcomes on the other. Among their principal findings:

- Among 242 million adults in 2003, two out of every five adult Americans have difficulty in obtaining, processing, and understanding the basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions, the National Assessment of Adult Literacy survey showed. Nearly 90 million Americans – 39 percent of adults in the U.S. – are limited in their ability to understand medication and self-care instructions which, in turn, has a negative impact on health outcomes and the entire health system.

- If left uncorrected, the future costs of low health literacy could range between \$1.6 trillion to \$3.6 trillion over the next 30 to 50 years.

Because of the spiraling costs of health care in the United States, public policy plays an important role in addressing low health literacy and its effects, Vernon says.

The report highlights two basic types of health policy interventions. The first is elimination of disparities in health insurance coverage. The second focuses on specific actions to improve the ways in which health insurers and health care providers relate to and interact with patients.

Suggested ways to improve

health literacy through public policy initiatives include:

- Offer incentives to health insurers and health care professionals to ensure that patients understand instructions;

- Encourage public and private health insurers to provide translation and interpreter services, in addition to developing oral instructions and written handouts that can be understood at all reading levels;

- Create federally funded health literacy centers to study innovative ways to improve health literacy practices and programs at the state and local level;

- Provide federal support for education programs in the fields of medicine, nursing, and pharmacy that focus on health literacy skills among patients.

The UConn study was designed to yield a basic understanding of the effects of health illiteracy, says Vernon, adding that this year's study can be used as a baseline for future studies, in order to determine whether public policy initiatives – if adopted – are helping to improve health literacy.

"I hope the federal government will pay more attention to public health issues," he says.

Besides Vernon, the research team included Antonio Trujillo of the University of Central Florida; Sara Rosenbaum of George Washington University; and Dr. Barbara DeBuono, executive director of public health and government at Pfizer Inc., which subsidized the research.

## Conference examines impact of environmental issues on human rights

BY SHERRY FISHER

In many locations around the world, native names are being ignored, thus denying people's cultural pasts and histories, says Jim Enote, a Zuni tribal member, farmer, artist, and activist for the environment.

Enote was the keynote speaker Oct. 23 in the Student Union Theatre during the Eighth Annual UNESCO Chair and Institute of Comparative Human Rights Conference. The event's topic was human rights and the environment.

"Indigenous people around the world have always had names of places, but in many cases those names have all been eliminated and replaced with other languages, other terms, and words that are foreign to us," Enote said. "In many cases, these are a direct denial of our past and history."

For example, Bear Spring in New Mexico is now called Fort Wingate, Enote said.

"What is embedded in my language is thousands and thousands of years of environmental monitoring," he added. "It's all part of these languages that are becoming

extinct around the world."

The Zuni are indigenous Americans living in New Mexico.

Indigenous peoples have a lot to contribute to the dialogue about the environment and human rights, he said.

"Somewhere in the lives of society and cultures, we all want a piece of the pie," he said. "We all want that security. We have always sought something better. Somewhere, from the time of our innocent birth to the time we grow up, we develop a sense of compassion, a sense of sharing. But what happens when our environmental resources are stretched?" he asked. "What about the ethics of helping each other, the ethics of sharing our resources? Which voices are being heard and which aren't?"

He said that human beings have "an urge to get something you don't have – to seek something better. But in that process comes about conquering and displacement. Many native communities around the world have been conquered and displaced."

Enote urged the audience to "respect each other's languages,

respect where you come from. Everyone has something to contribute and no one should be left behind."

Another speaker, Pam Dashiell, a community activist in New Orleans, said the U.S. government failed to deal with Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. She is from the Holy Cross neighbor-

hood in the Lower Ninth Ward, where Katrina's storm surge broke the levee at the Industrial Canal flooding dozens of homes.

"There are people who want to return, and there hasn't been a concerted effort to bring them back or ever find them," she said.

Other issues, she said, are "the

crumbling infrastructure, loss of housing, and toxic sediments."

Dashiell said, "With the help from universities, corporations, charities, and individuals, we were able to plan and implement a Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development. We are determined to come back. The 'green' rebuilding is going inch by inch."

She said it is a human right "to be protected from the storms and the stresses. She also said that without the help of ordinary people, recovery in the Ninth Ward wouldn't have come even as far as it has.

"We need to have fresh eyes on what exists. We need accountants, lawyers, doctors, engineers, and architects, and are appreciative of the help that has already been given," she said. "The eye-opener is that there is no government will to fix it; only the will of the people."

The conference was co-sponsored by the Office of the Vice Provost for Multicultural and International Affairs, the Office of the Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, and the Department of Residential Life.



PHOTO SUPPLIED BY ITL PHOTO

Environmental activist Jim Enote gives the keynote presentation during a conference on human rights and the environment in the Student Union Oct. 23.

# New book offers educators techniques to train teaching assistants

BY SHERRY FISHER

Graduate students need to be prepared for success in their teaching and mentoring responsibilities, says Catherine Ross, director of Faculty and Teaching Assistant Programs in the Institute for Teaching and Learning.

Ross has co-edited a new book that offers ideas and techniques to those who train graduate teaching assistants. She and Jane Dunphy of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have published *Strategies for Teaching Assistant and International Teaching Assistant Development: Beyond Micro Teaching*.

The book includes the ideas of some 50 educators from a variety of programs throughout the U.S. that can help teaching assistants and international teaching assistants learn the skills to become effective teachers of undergraduates, Ross says.

"The book is for anyone who works with graduate students to support their teaching efforts at research universities," she says. "You may work as a program director who serves as an institute-wide resource, responsible for developing fall orientation workshops or seminars for TAs. You may be a department-based teaching expert – even a head TA who works with new TAs in a particular discipline. Or you may be a person whose

focus is international teaching assistants and you address language and cultural issues."

Graduate students "need to know how to present information, manage a classroom, lead a discus-

sion and conduct lab sessions," Ross says. "They also must learn to be comfortable in one-on-one interactions. Oftentimes, the TA will be the person the student meets with for help, and his or her success depends on that TA. Our commitment is to make sure that our teaching assistants feel prepared to do the best job they can do."

The first part of the book focuses on teaching assistant development. The section "Getting Started" includes exercises for new teaching assistants.

"These are workshops that we felt would be most effective with brand new TAs who really haven't had much teaching experience," Ross says. "There is an exercise on identity and authority in the classroom, for example. TAs may struggle with establishing their authority in the classroom. They're almost the same age as their students, and that can make them uncomfortable."

An exercise on impromptu speaking skills is included.

"Teaching assistants are going to have to stand up in front of students and talk," she says. "That's another thing they're fearful of." Other exercises include engaging students in active learning, planning and facilitating a discussion, and teaching in lab settings.

A section on "Advanced Skills"

includes exercises for the more experienced TA, including classroom management skills, online teaching and learning, group problem solving, and effective feedback.

The second half of the book is devoted to international teaching assistant (ITA) development. Here, there are exercises that deal with cultural adjustment and diversity awareness.

Ross says ITAs have "very specific needs. They're adjusting to the culture of higher education in the U.S. They're also thinking about their own cultures, how they were taught, and what their educational systems valued. There's often not a match there.

"For example, the idea that undergraduate students would interrupt a professor and ask a question is odd to many of our international students," she says. "Many come from cultures where students listen to a professor and take notes, but would never question them."

Ross contributed an exercise that she uses with ITAs: A high school visit.

"I take them to E.O. Smith High School [in Storrs] so they can see an American high school. High schools in the U.S. are even more different than universities across countries. It helps ITAs understand where our students are coming from."



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Catherine Ross, director of Faculty and Teaching Assistant Programs, in the Center for Undergraduate Education building.

## Endowed chair *continued from page 1*

may even lead to death. Though extremely rare, such reactions are unpredictable and may prompt drug withdrawals from the market and halt the development of promising future drugs, he says.

Boelsterli specializes in understanding the cellular and molecular mechanisms that cause this type of idiosyncratic drug-induced liver injury. He is working to develop tests to help determine which patients are at highest risk for such adverse drug reactions and to identify chemical compounds that could protect mitochondria – regarded as key mediators of cell death – against these dangerous effects.

"I was drawn to UConn by the excellent reputation of its toxicology program both nationally and abroad, and by the unique research and teaching opportunities presented by the creation of the first endowed chair in my field," Boelsterli says.

"Ultimately, our research could open new avenues to potential therapeutic interventions and aid in the design of safer drugs," he adds, "but that kind of progress will only be possible through close collaboration with other national and international research institutions and the pharmaceutical industry. Those are precisely

the kinds of collaborations the Boehringer Ingelheim Chair will facilitate."

In addition to fostering multidisciplinary research collaborations at UConn and beyond, Boelsterli will develop a course in mechanistic toxicology, and will encourage faculty and students to present their research findings nationally and internationally.

"Attracting a researcher of Urs Boelsterli's caliber to our endowed chair in mechanistic toxicology – the first of its kind nationwide – raises our profile nationally and internationally and cements our standing among this country's elite schools of pharmacy," says Robert McCarthy, dean of pharmacy.

Dr. Peter Farina, senior vice president of development at Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc., says the company "has a long-standing commitment to academic excellence. It is important for us to support universities, so they in turn can develop highly trained and academically well prepared scientists. We also seek to support universities that pursue cutting edge science and provide scientists who will serve mankind through discovery and development of break-through medicines. We are convinced that UConn is the right place to accomplish this, and are

pleased with the University's selection of Urs Boelsterli as the first professor to fill the Boehringer Ingelheim Endowed Chair in Mechanistic Toxicology."

The company's gift to the School of Pharmacy is the third signifi-

cant donation the school has received from a major Connecticut-based pharmaceutical company in the past three years. Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc. previously donated \$250,000 to name a laboratory in the new

Pharmacy/Biology Building that specializes in dosage forms. And in 2004, Pfizer Global Research and Development, a division of Pfizer Inc., created a distinguished endowed chair in pharmaceutical technology.



PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Urs Boelsterli, the first holder of the Boehringer Ingelheim Chair in Mechanistic Toxicology in the School of Pharmacy, has a medal placed around his neck by Provost Peter J. Nicholls during the installation ceremony Oct. 25.

# Vice President discusses emergency communications systems

In response to the tragedy at Virginia Tech this past spring, a committee was established to develop the University's emergency communications plan. Vice President Barry Feldman, the University's chief operating officer who convened the committee, discussed the University's emergency communications systems recently with *Advance* editor Elizabeth Omara-Otunnu.

**Q How is the University approaching the potential need to communicate with faculty, staff, and students in the event of a crisis?**

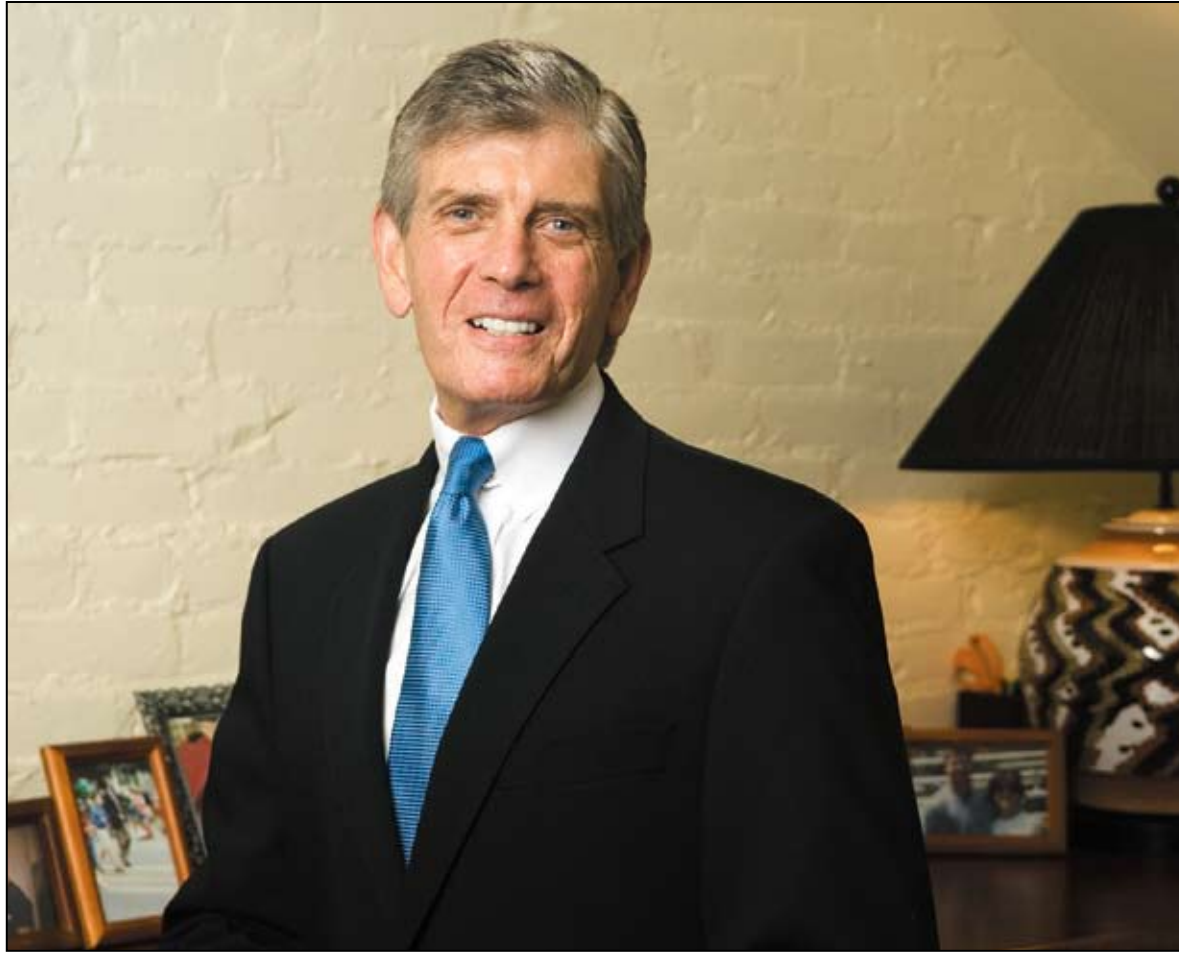
**A** We established a committee with representatives from Storrs, the regional campuses, the Health Center, and the Law School, and we have been meeting weekly since May. We've developed an emergency communications plan for contacting students, staff, and faculty in the event of an emergency. If that should happen, our plan would be to use a variety of communication methods to let people know of the event and what to do next. Let me take this opportunity to remind everyone that while a strong communications strategy can mitigate the potential for harm, it cannot completely eliminate risk.

**Q What sorts of situations are being considered as emergencies?**

**A** We're defining an emergency as a life and death situation – an event where people's lives are in danger.

**Q What mechanisms have been put in place so far?**

**A** We decided to invest not in one but in a variety of communications systems. We've purchased and installed nine public address sirens throughout the Storrs campus, one at the Depot campus, and one each at the Greater Hartford campus and the Law School. We're also working with the blue phones, text messaging, e-mail, voice mail, and web banner activation. And there's a new web site: <http://alert.uconn.edu>. We determined that the best way to notify people is to incorporate redundancy into the system, to be as safe as we can. Word of mouth will play a big role, too. In addition to the technology we're using, old-fashioned word of mouth is going to be an important factor in spreading the



FILE PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Barry Feldman, vice president and chief operating officer, in his office at Gulley Hall.

information too.

**Q Which of the systems have been tested and what was learned from the tests?**

**A** We tested the text messaging system and the blue phones to determine how well they perform. We're also going to test the sirens in the next few weeks.

The test of the blue phones earlier this semester was successful. There are 220 of these phones. All but seven functioned in the test, and all of those have now been repaired.

The phones not only transmit an audible message, they provide a visual cue – a light flashes and that tells you there's an emergency event.

We found that text messaging performed slower than we anticipated. The University has nearly 16,000 students, staff, and faculty who've registered their cell phones – perhaps one of the highest percentages of any university. We intended to send a message in a relatively brief time, but our expectations so far have been greater than the technology's ability to perform.

University Information Technology Services is now working with the vendor, Reverse 911, to

reduce the time it takes sending it. We'll test again in a couple of weeks.

Text messaging was designed for one-to-one communication. It wasn't intended for instant mass communication. The issue is one of capacity. When the message arrives at the gateways for text messaging, it might experience delays, especially if there's a high volume of people using their cell phones at that time.

Another limitation is that the message has to be very brief – 160 characters maximum – so we're limited in what we can say in the message. We're also working to make the [alert.uconn.edu](http://alert.uconn.edu) site mobile device-accessible, so people can call up the site instantly on a BlackBerry or web-enabled cell phone.

We ask faculty, staff, and students to participate in the continuing tests and offer feedback. We expect that when a system is tested for the first time, it may not operate at optimum effectiveness. The key is to identify the problems and work to fix them quickly. We may test the various systems a number of times before we're fully satisfied.

**Q What remains to be done?**

**A** There is going to be an

emergency banner that automatically appears on every University web site that uses the University's standard web template, when an emergency occurs. We plan to have this functioning by mid-November.

We're also investigating adding all classroom telephones to the blue phone system, so the same message being broadcast on the blue phones will be heard in the classrooms.

We're still considering message boards, but given the size of the campus, we recognize that a centralized location may not be the most effective way to communicate.

**Q Who will decide whether an emergency communication will be sent out?**

**A** The University's public safety department will determine the extent and severity of a situation and decide whether to activate the systems.

**Q Will different types of emergency trigger different communication mechanisms?**

**A** In the most extreme situation, we will activate everything, but some situations might require us to use only some of our communications options.

**Q How will the message be conveyed to outlying buildings, such as those at Horsebarn Hill or the Depot Campus?**

**A** The Depot Campus has a siren, and we expect the sound from the Storrs campus will carry to Horsebarn Hill. We'll confirm the system's range when we test the sirens. Of course, the electronic communications can be used at all University locations.

**Q How will people who might be on their way to campus be contacted?**

**A** Text messaging is one way. Also, if we want people to stay away from campus, we would contact the media – radio and TV.

**Q Will a message be sent locally to the Town of Mansfield, E.O. Smith High School, and area businesses?**

**A** We expect the sirens will be heard in the local community, but if there is danger to the surrounding area, we will also contact town officials.

**Q What will the message tell people to do?**

**A** It will notify them that there is an emergency situation and recommend that they check the [alert.uconn.edu](http://alert.uconn.edu) web site for more information. It may also identify certain places to avoid.

**Q After the initial emergency message, how frequently will the University issue updates, and how?**

**A** Updates will be through the web – the [alert.uconn.edu](http://alert.uconn.edu) site – as often as necessary.

**Q Will there be training in what to do in the event of an emergency?**

**A** Yes. Over time, we hope to do exercises that simulate a major event happening. But first we need to make sure all the systems we've put in place are operable.

**Q How will the University keep the system up to date?**

**A** One thing is for people to update their cell phone number if there's a change. They can do that any time on the web at <http://alert.uconn.edu>. We will send out reminders periodically and perhaps fold that into the directory update process too.

The emergency communications committee will continue to meet, to help the University stay abreast of new technologies.

## AAAS Fellows *continued from page 1*

McBrearty has done field work in East Africa for more than 25 years and has worked since 1990 in the Kapthurin Formation, a large area with about 60 fossil sites near Lake Baringo in Kenya. She is affiliated with the National Museums of Kenya.

Among her major research interests are human evolution, the origin of *Homo sapiens*, paleolithic archaeology, and African prehistory. Her research has been funded almost continuously since 1993 by the National Science Foundation.

Jaffe was cited for "distinguished contributions to the field of de-

velopmental cell biology, particularly for elucidating the molecular pathways by which fertilization triggers the initiation of embryonic development."

Jaffe has been investigating the process of egg development and fertilization for more than three decades. Working first with marine animals and more recently with mice, she has focused on a question of basic science: what controls the maturation and fertilization of an oocyte so that it can develop to form a new individual?

Oocytes are stored in the ovaries of females for a long time – up to

50 years in humans – until needed for reproduction.

"My research has been directed at understanding the signals that control the processes of oocyte maturation and fertilization," Jaffe says. "Oocytes are acted on by hormones to wake them up and cause them to prepare for fertilization. Then another signal, this one from the sperm, causes the egg to begin development. My research concerns how hormones and sperm communicate signals to the egg."

Jaffe's research has relevance to clinical problems of infertility.

"One of the current ideas about

treating infertility is a process called in vitro maturation," she says. "Eggs would mature in a petri dish rather than in a woman's ovaries. That could eliminate some of the side effects, pain, expense, and time associated with using large doses of hormones to stimulate egg maturation in the ovaries and then retrieving them for in vitro fertilization."

Seeking connections between her work and practical problems is important, says Jaffe, who also teaches nerve and muscle physiology to medical students. But often these connections arise in unan-

anticipated ways.

"Since the communication systems in all cells are very similar, we can never really predict the possible clinical significance of the experiment we're working on," she says. "We could be doing experiments with eggs and learn something that will eventually have practical benefit with regard to nerve, muscle, gland, or skin cells, not necessarily eggs."

"Every question you answer opens up other areas for investigation," Jaffe adds. "You never run out of questions."

## Hospital recognized

continued from page 1

clinical and quantifiable data: adverse outcomes, length of stay, and patient risk assessment based on 16 clinical factors.

A complete description of the methodology is available online (<http://www.premierinc.com/about/news/awards/select-practice-methodology.jsp>).

The honor is the second national award the Health Center has won for its hospital this year. In March, Solucient, a leading source of health care information, named John Dempsey Hospital a "Top 100 Hospital" for 2006, another mark of prestige in health care.

"We have a tremendously skilled, dedicated group of professionals who provide the finest care every day," says Ellen Leone, director of nursing at John Dempsey Hospital. "They're the reason for this kind of recognition. They deserve every bit of it, and more."

More information about Premier Inc. is available at <http://www.premierinc.com>.



PHOTO BY AL FERREIRA

Dr. Joseph Palmisano, center, with from left, Dr. Julia Biernot, nurse practitioner Rosemary Swanke, nurse Jennifer D'Amico, and Dr. Raja Pullat, in John Dempsey Hospital's intensive care unit.

## GRANTS

The following grants were received through the UConn Health Center's Office of Grants and Contracts in July 2007. The list represents new awards as well as continuations. Additional grants received through the Office of Grants and Contracts in July were published in the Oct. 22 issue.

Department	Prin. Investigator	Sponsor	Amount	Award Period
<b>State Grants</b>				
Psychiatry	Ford, J.	Dept. of Children & Families	\$616,634	5/07-6/09
<i>Trauma Clinic for Emily J Targeted Children</i>				
Center on Aging Management	Kuchel, G.	CT Office of Policy & Management	\$105,000	7/07-6/08
<i>MOU Between UConn Center on Aging and the Office of Policy &amp; Management</i>				
Immunology	Liu, B.	Dept. of Public Health/CI	\$100,000	4/07-4/09
<i>Seed Grant – Stem Cell</i>				

The following grants were received through the Office for Sponsored Programs in August 2007. The list represents only new awards. Additional grants received in August will be published in a future issue.

Prin. Investigator	Department	Sponsor	Amount	Award Period
Anagnostou, E.	Civil & Environmental Engineering	Nat'l. Aeronautics & Space Admin.	\$24,000	8/07-8/08
<i>Understanding the Use of Satellite Rainfall in Flood Prediction for Complex Terrain Basins</i>				
Aneskievich, B.	Pharmaceutical Sciences	American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education	\$6,000	9/07-8/08
<i>Mechanisms of Corepressor Recruitment by Nuclear Retinoid Receptors</i>				
Asandei, A.	Institute of Materials Science	American Chemical Society/Petroleum Research Fund	\$90,000	9/07-8/09
<i>Metal Catalyzed Living Radical and Ring Opening Polymerizations for Complex Polymer Architectures</i>				
Babb, I.	Nat'l Undersea Research Center	Dept. of Commerce/Nat'l Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin./	\$847,000	1/07-12/07
<i>Nat'l Underwater Research Center for the North Atlantic &amp; Great Lakes</i>				
Bahr, B.	Pharmaceutical Sciences	Merz Pharmaceuticals	\$122,294	5/07-4/09
<i>Properties of Allosteric Modulators of the Metabotropic Glutamate Receptor (mGluR): Pilot Project</i>				
Bailey, W.	Chemistry	Inficon	\$53,000	9/07-5/08
<i>Development and Testing of Protocols for Use with GC/MS System</i>				
Barnes-Farrell, J.	Psychology	Northeast Utilities	\$19,338	6/07-10/07
<i>Northeast Utilities Western Massachusetts Electric Company Safety Project Phase I Managers</i>				
Barnes-Farrell, J.	Psychology	Northeast Utilities	\$19,338	6/07-10/07
<i>Northeast Utilities Western Division Safety Project Phase I Managers</i>				
Bergman, T.	Conn. Global Fuel Cell Center	Nat'l. Science Foundation	\$80,000	8/07-8/08
<i>SGER: Engineered Microclimates for Enhanced Biomass Production</i>				
Berkowitz, G.	Plant Science	Nat'l. Science Foundation	\$208,798	8/07-8/08
<i>IPA Assignment to the Nat'l. Science Foundation</i>				
Best, S.	Center for Survey Research & Analysis	Pew Charitable Trusts	\$3,000	5/07-6/07
<i>Project Planning Meetings</i>				
Boggs, S.	Institute of Materials Science	Consolidated Edison Company of New York Inc.	\$12,500	7/07-8/07
<i>Analysis of 138 kV Cable System Operated for 10 Days without Solid Ground</i>				
Bogner, R.	Pharmaceutical Sciences	Parenteral Drug Association	\$9,000	8/07-8/08
<i>Chemical Stability of Drugs in the Presence of Pharmaceutical Silicates</i>				

Bucklin, A.	Marine Sciences	Dept. of Defense/Navy/Office of Naval Research/Woods Hole Oceanographic Inst.	\$69,000	8/07-10/07
<i>Charter of R/V Connecticut for MVCO Operations</i>				
Burdette, S.	Chemistry	American Chemical Society/Petroleum Research Fund	\$40,000	9/07-8/09
<i>Investigation of O<sub>2</sub> Activation with Metalloendriimer Models of Copper Monooxygenases</i>				
Burgess, D.	Pharmaceutical Sciences	U.S. Pharmacopeia	\$192,000	8/07-8/09
<i>2006-2007 Fellowship: Development of In Vitro Testing Methods for Parenteral Liposome Products – Upkar Bhardwaj</i>				
Carstensen, F.	Economics	Town of Bridgeport, Conn./Buckhurst Fish & Jacquemart Inc.	\$28,000	1/07-9/07
<i>Bridgeport CEDS</i>				
Casa, D.	Kinesiology	HealthSouth Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation Center	\$25,821	8/07-6/08
<i>Athletic Training Services for Area High Schools: A Partnership with HealthSouth (Rockville High School)</i>				
Casa, D.	Kinesiology	RHAM High School, Hebron, Conn.	\$20,771	8/07-6/08
<i>Athletic Training Services for Area High Schools: A Partnership with Regional School District No. 8 (RHAM High School)</i>				
Casa, D.	Kinesiology	Windham Public Schools, Windham, Conn.	\$25,335	8/07-6/08
<i>Athletic Training Services for Area High Schools: A Partnership with Windham Public Schools (Windham High School)</i>				
Chi, Z.	Statistics	Nat'l. Science Foundation	\$64,098	8/07-7/08
<i>Scientific Computing Research Environments for the Mathematical Sciences (SCREMS)</i>				
Choi, Y.	Mathematics	Nat'l. Institutes of Health/Nat'l Center for Research Resources/Univ. of Conn. Health Center	\$26,446	9/07-7/08
<i>Nat'l. Resource for Cell Analysis and Modeling</i>				
Cui, J.	Computer Science & Engineering	Nat'l. Science Foundation	\$5,000	9/07-8/08
<i>ACM WUWNet Workshop 2007: Student Travel Awards, will be held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada on Sept. 14, 2007</i>				
Cui, J.	Computer Science & Engineering	Nat'l. Science Foundation	\$319,998	8/07-7/10
<i>Collaborative Research: CRI: IAD: Developing a Novel Infrastructure for Underwater Acoustic Sensor Networks</i>				
D'Andrade, R.	Anthropology	Nat'l. Science Foundation	\$8,000	9/07-2/09
<i>Doctoral Dissertation Research: Group Allegiance and State Institutions in Kyrgyz Identity (S. Wheeler)</i>				
D'Andrade, R.	Anthropology	Nat'l. Science Foundation	\$13,500	9/07-11/08
<i>Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant – Social Boundaries and Cultural Identity in Implications for the Well-Being of Nicaraguan Immigrants (M. Prosser)</i>				
Daniels, M.	Geography	Environmental Protection Agency	\$111,000	8/07-8/10
<i>Environmental Protection Agency STAR Fellowship for Graduate Environmental Study</i>				
Dickson, D.	Dept. of Extension	U.S. Dept. of Agriculture	\$399,000	9/07-8/11
<i>Addressing the Impacts of Land Use on Water Quality: Continued and Enhanced Coordination of the Nat'l. NEMO Network</i>				
Doyle, M.	Curriculum & Instruction	Connecticut Science Center	\$28,990	8/07-5/08
<i>Doctoral Candidate at the Conn. Science Center (K. Love)</i>				
Faghri, A.	Conn. Global Fuel Cell Center	Nat'l. Science Foundation	\$300,342	9/07-8/10
<i>Transport Phenomena in Micro/Miniature Passive Vapor Feed Direct Alcohol Fuel Cells</i>				
Faustman, C.	Animal Science	U.S. Dept. of Agriculture	\$369,276	9/07-8/10
<i>Mechanistic Bases for the Reciprocal Interaction Between Lipid Oxidation and Myoglobin Redox Instability</i>				

## CALENDAR

Monday, October 29, to Monday, November 5

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, Nov. 5 through Tuesday, Nov. 13. Those items must be in the database by 4 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 29.

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

## Academic

**Monday, 10/29** – Last day to drop a course. Last day to convert courses on Pass/Fail option to letter grade.

## 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, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1-9 p.m.

**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-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.

## University ITS

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

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

## Ph.D. Defenses

**Monday, 10/29 – Communication Processes & Marketing Communications.** *Priming, Framing, Repetition, and Their Effects on the Attitudes and Behavioral Intentions of Young Voters in Public Relations and Advertising Contexts*, by Mark Cistulli (adv.: Snyder). Noon, Room 139, Phillips Building.

**Wednesday, 10/31 – Anthropology.** *Understanding Lyme Disease: Illness Experience, Prevention, and the Health Belief Model*, by Mark Macaуда (adv.: Erickson). 1 p.m., Room 450, Beach Hall.

## Lectures &amp; Seminars

**Monday, 10/29 – Health Care Lecture.** “Cultural Competency and Health Literacy,” by Peter Tyczkowski. Noon, Room 320, CUE Building.

**Monday, 10/29 – Indian Studies Lecture.** “Indian Voice, Indian Tongue: Indian philosophy under Colonialism” by Jay Garfield, Smith College, and Nalini Bushan, University of Massachusetts. 4-5:30 p.m., Room 130, Biology/Physics Building.

**Monday, 10/29 – Atomic, Molecular, & Optical Physics Seminar.** “The Scattering T-Matrix in Configuration Space,” by George Rawitscher. 4-5:30 p.m., Room P121, Gant Science Complex.

**Monday, 10/29 – History Lecture.** “The History of Romantic Love in

Africa,” by Megan Vaughn, University of Cambridge. 4:30-6 p.m., Konover Auditorium.

**Tuesday, 10/30 – Health Care Lecture.** “Interdisciplinary Roles in Primary Health Care,” by Cunegundo Vergara and Louise Reagan. Noon, Room 320, CUE Building.

**Tuesday, 10/30 – Women's History Lecture.** “The Renaissance Origins of Feminism: Women Intellectuals and Patriarchal Culture in Italy and England,” by Sarah Ross, Princeton Society of Fellows. 4 p.m., Class of '47 Room, Babbidge Library.

**Tuesday, 10/30 – Latino Studies Lecture.** “Factors and Variables:

Noon, Room 320, CUE Building.

**Thursday, 11/1 – Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Seminar.** “Effects of the Zebra Mussel Invasion on Freshwater Ecosystems: The Hudson River and Beyond,” by Dave Strayer. 4 p.m., Room 130, Biology/ Physics Building.

**Thursday, 11/1 – Statistics Colloquium.** “The Evolving American Census,” by Barbara Bailar, University of Chicago. 4:30-7:15 p.m., Room 344, CLAS Building.

**Friday, 11/2 – Connecticut Law Review Symposium.** “Unconscious Discrimination 20 Years Later: Application and Evolution.” 8:15 a.m.-



PHOTO BY ANDREA DININO

*Familia (Sagrada)*, a painting by Melissa Smith now on display in the Stevens Gallery at Homer Babbidge Library.

Explaining Electoral Participation Levels among Mainland and Island Puerto Ricans.” 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, 10/30 – American Experience Lecture.** “Free Enterprise in Southeastern Connecticut: Great History, Questionable Future,” by Rob Simmons, State of Connecticut Business Advocate. 7:30 p.m., Avery Point Campus.

**Wednesday, 10/31 – Out-to-Lunch Lecture.** “Contemporary Issues for Lesbian Parents,” by Claudia Ciano-Boyce & Lynn Shelley-Sireci. Noon, Rainbow Center, Room 403, Student Union.

**Wednesday, 10/31 – Polymer Science/Chemistry Seminar.** “Biologically-Derived Microlens Arrays and Other Applications of Perfluorinated Polyethers,” by Edward Samulski, University of North Carolina. 4 p.m., Room 203, Chemistry Building.

**Wednesday, 10/31 – Neuroscience at Storrs Conference.** “Associative Learning as a Distributive Process,” by Dr. José Delgado-García, University Pablo de Olavide, Seville, Spain. 5 p.m., Room 130, Biology/Physics Building.

**Thursday, 11/1 – Environmental Lecture.** “Climate Change: Science, Policy, and Strategies for Life in a Changing World.” Advance registration required, \$10 admission. 8 a.m., Room 7, Bishop Center.

**Thursday, 11/1 – Comparative Pathology Seminar.** “Molecular Diagnostics for the Detection of Human Respiratory Pathogens,” by Jonas Winchell, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 11 a.m., Room A001, Atwater Annex.

**Thursday, 11/1 – Public Health & Health Policy Lecture.** “An Exploration: Primary Care as an Effective Universal Health Care Model,” by Brian Benson.

4:15 p.m., UConn School of Law.

**Friday, 11/2 – Polymer Science Seminar.** “Materials Technology for Protective Systems,” by Walter Zukas, U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center. 11 a.m., Room IMS20, Gant Science Complex.

**Friday, 11/2 – India Studies Lecture.** “India's Emergence as a Major Political/Economic Power,” by the Hon. Neelam Deo, Consul General of India in New York City. 11 a.m., Class of '47 Room, Babbidge Library.

**Friday, 11/2 – Animal Science Seminar.** “The Growth Problem: Looking to the Development and Function of Adipose Tissue for Solutions,” by Terry Brandebourg, University of Cincinnati. Noon, Room 209, George White Building.

**Friday, 11/2 – Health Care Lecture.** “Barriers and Access to Primary Health Care,” by Nancy Humphries. Noon, Room 320, CUE Building.

**Friday, 11/2 – Environmental Engineering Seminar.** “Hydrologic Applications of Remote Sensing Precipitation Products: Challenge and Opportunity on the Path toward a Global Flood Warning System,” by Yang Hong, University of Oklahoma. Noon, Room 212, Castleman Building.

**Friday, 11/2 – Transnational Women's Movements Colloquium.** “Changing Opportunity Structures: The Women's Movements in South Africa,” by Amanda Gouws, University of Stellenbosch; and “The Interactions between the Feminist and Islamic Women's Movements in Morocco,” by Zakia Salime, Michigan State University. 2:30 p.m., Women's Center, Student Union.

**Friday, 11/2 – Faculty Colloquium Series.** “Do Wrongful Discharge Laws Impair Firm Performance?” by John Knopf. 6:30 p.m., Stamford Campus.

**Monday, 11/5 – Atomic, Molecular,**

**& Optical Physics Seminar.** “Heavy Rydberg Systems: Large Molecules of Significant Interest,” by Ralph Shiell, Trent University. 4 p.m., Room P121, Gant Science Complex.

## Exhibits

**Friday, 11/2 through Sunday, 12/16 – Alexey von Schlippe Gallery.** Works by Gar Waterman, Joanne Schmaltz, Alston Stoney Conley, and Kim Sobel. Opening reception Friday, 11/2, 6-8 p.m. Exhibit hours: Wednesday-Sunday, noon-4 p.m., Branford House, Avery Point Campus.

**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.

*Libraries: Safeguarding Access to Government Information*, Gallery on the Plaza; *Altered Focus*, paintings by Melissa Smith, Stevens Gallery; *The Connecticut Industry Mural*, by Michael Borders, Plaza West Alcove. For hours, see Libraries section.

**Through Friday, 12/21 – Dodd Center.** *His & Hers: New Yorker Cartoons*, by Michael Maslin & Liza Donnelly, Gallery; *The Connecticut Children's Book Fair: Celebrating Children and the Books they Read*, West Corridor. For hours, see Libraries section.

**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 welcome.

## Sports

**Thursday, 11/1 – Men's Basketball vs. Assumption.** Exhibition game. 7:30 p.m., Gampel Pavilion.

**Friday, 11/2 – Women's Basketball vs. USA National Team.** Exhibition game. 7:30 p.m., Gampel Pavilion.

**Saturday, 11/3 – Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving vs. Brown.** 1 p.m., Wollf-Zackin Natatorium.

**Saturday, 11/3 – Volleyball vs. Marquette.** 2 p.m., Gampel Pavilion.

**Saturday, 11/3 – Men's Ice Hockey vs. Sacred Heart.** 7:05 p.m., Freitas Ice Forum.

**Saturday, 11/3 – Football vs. Rutgers.** Rentschler Field, East Hartford.

**Sunday, 11/4 – Women's Ice Hockey vs. Brown.** 1 p.m., Freitas Ice Forum.

**Sunday, 11/4 – Men's Basketball vs. Bryant.** Exhibition game. 1 p.m., Hartford Civic Center.

**Sunday, 11/4 – Volleyball vs. Syracuse.** 2 p.m., Gampel Pavilion.

## Film

**Thursday, 11/1 – Human Rights Film.** *Doc*, by Immy Humes. 6 p.m., Konover Auditorium.

**Performing Arts**  
**Monday, 10/29 – Jazz Combos.** Earl MacDonald, Kenny Davis, and Bill Reynolds, direct 1950s “Cool Jazz”, in the styles of Chet Baker, Gerry Mulligan, Lee Konitz, Dave Brubeck, Shorty Rogers, Jimmy Giuffre, and Lennie Tristano. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall.

**Sunday, 11/4 – Concert Choir and Women's Chorus.** Constance DeFotis, directs American Arts, featuring the world premiere of *Decima*, by William Funk. 3 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall.

**Sunday, 11/4 – Tenor in the Trunk.** Student saxophone quartet. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall.

**Monday, 11/5 – UConn Jazz 10tet.** Earl MacDonald, director. Featuring new music by Jim McNeely, the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra's composer-in-residence. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall.

**Potpourri**  
**Monday, 10/29 – Co-op Book Reading.** Min Jin Lee will read from his novel *Free Food for Millionaires*. 4:30 p.m., UConn Co-op.

**Monday, 10/29 – Long River Reading Series.** Bring a poem, short prose piece, or music to share at the open mic. 7 p.m., Room 217, CLAS building.

**Tuesday, 10/30 – Ross Miller on Philip Roth.** Miller, who is editing the Library of America collection of Roth's works, will share his insights on the best-selling novelist. 6 p.m., UConn Co-op.

**Wednesday, 10/31 – Co-op Book Reading.** Sydney Landon Plum will read from her newly-published collection of essays, *Solitary Goose*. 4 p.m., UConn Co-op.

**Thursday, 11/1 – Creative Sustenance Benefit with James Scully.** 7 p.m., UConn Co-op.

**Sunday, 11/4 – Museum of Natural History Event.** *Cultural Sky: Archaeoastronomy and Star Lore Around the World*. 3 p.m., Connecticut State Museum of Natural History.

**Monday, 11/5 – Off Yer Rockers.** Faculty rock band fundraiser. 4 p.m., UConn Co-op.

**Through Friday, 12/21 – Homer Babbidge Library.** *Federal Depository*

# Study Abroad in Dominican Republic an eye-opener for students



PHOTO BY CHELSEA KROMBEL

Arnaldo Perez Jr., a UConn senior, teaches a student in a barrio school during an international service learning program.

BY ELIZABETH OMARA-OTUNNU

Fifteen UConn students got the opportunity to put their idealism into practice, and to grapple with understanding the root causes of poverty, during a Study Abroad program this past spring in the Dominican Republic.

The students spent three weeks there in May under the guidance of Kathryn Strother Ratcliff, an assistant professor of sociology. Ratcliff says that for students, exposure to a foreign setting where they interact with people living in extreme poverty is a powerful experience.

"Intense immersion changes students," she says. "Seeing the actual living conditions of people in extreme poverty leads to a whole new level of understanding."

Many of the students were taken aback by the level of poverty in some areas.

"I've worked in underprivileged areas in the U.S.," says Melissa Czajkowski, a sophomore majoring in nursing with a minor in human rights. "I've seen destruction after Hurricane Katrina. But it didn't compare to the daily life of Haitians in the Dominican Republic."

Haiti, the poorest country in

the Western Hemisphere, shares the Caribbean island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic. Haitians in the Dominican Republic are an impoverished and politically marginal minority.

Adds Charlayne McStay, a junior majoring in chemistry with a minor in human rights, "I've always considered myself fairly worldly, but seeing people without sufficient food and water and health care put things into perspective for me." McStay hopes to become a doctor.

"Being on a college campus, we hear and read about poverty," says sophomore Chelsea Krombel. "I think it's important to step out of our comfortable lives. This was an opportunity to do that."

The three-credit sociology course, one of a growing cluster of classes at UConn that integrate service with academics, was organized jointly by the sociology department and the Office of Community Outreach and sponsored by Study Abroad.

"We want Study Abroad at UConn to help students become global citizens, and this program exemplifies our efforts," says Ross Lewin, director of Study Abroad. Ratcliff says the Dominican

Republic is an ideal place for sociological study. In an economy largely dependent on tourism and sugar cane, the same company that developed a 7,000-acre resort also owns the cane fields, where workers struggle for a meager living.

"It's sociology in your face," says Ratcliff. "If you don't understand power relations and exploitation after this . . ."

From a base at the Haitian Mission Baptist Church in the town of La Romana, the students worked with Haitian immigrants. They visited the bateys – villages where sugar cane cutters live – to provide health education, and taught English in local schools.

In preparation for the trip, the students studied the social history of the Dominican Republic, the epidemiology of HIV/AIDS, and some Spanish and Creole. While there, they kept journals and participated in daily sessions reflecting on how their activities related to their reading. On their return, they had to write a sociological paper.

Ratcliff says the students were full of idealism and the desire to help. Yet she encouraged them to look beyond the helping model to understand the need for more fundamental change.

"I hope they came away feeling they learned something, but not that they solved the problems," she says. "I tried to help them see the problems as structural problems, and give them a better understanding of the complexity of social, economic, political, and human rights issues."

She also pointed out to the students that solutions developed in one setting may not work in a different social context. Condom use as a strategy to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, for example, is of limited application where the cost of a single condom is 50 percent of a family's daily disposable income.

"We talked about some of the historical, social-structural, and corporate reasons for poverty as it now exists, and the importance of international pressure in seeking structural change and promoting respect for human rights," Ratcliff adds.

Some students say the experience changed their outlook on life.

"One country changed my whole view of the world and me," says Czajkowski, the nursing major. She now hopes to specialize in international public health.

Dmitry Poletayev, a senior majoring in anthropology, says "This was probably the best three weeks of my life. The experience made us all grow." Poletayev wrote a paper titled "Haitian Workers in

the Dominican Republic: Facing International Apathy and Human Exploitation." He hopes to go to graduate school and become involved in international development and humanitarian aid.

For others, the experience changed or cemented their plans for the future.

"I was playing with ideas for a major," says Krombel, who wrote a paper about the sugar industry titled "Sweet Deal." "Now I know it will be human rights or political science-related."

Asked whether they would recommend the program to others, the participants are enthusiastic.

"Every student should have the opportunity to go," says Czajkowski.

Arnaldo Perez Jr., a senior majoring in human development and family studies, wrote a paper about the education system and how it perpetuates various types of discrimination. He hopes to pursue a career working with inner city teens, and says he would definitely recommend the program.

"You can learn a lot about yourself," he says. "Your strengths and weaknesses, getting along day-to-day in close quarters, learning how to collaborate with a group, and how to get information across to people."

Reporting by Sherry Fisher is included in this article.



PHOTO BY CHELSEA KROMBEL

Adaliss Rodriguez, a sophomore, teaches children about food groups in Batey Campo Nuevo in the Dominican Republic.

## Quick response at Health Center saves faculty member's life

BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

For more than four years, Leo Lefrancois and Sara-Jayne Nocera have been reporting to work on the third floor for the UConn Health Center's main building.

If their paths crossed in the hallway, it was never long enough for them to formally meet, even though their offices are around the corner from each other.

They finally met last month – in the emergency room at John Dempsey Hospital. Nocera, a transportation aide, had gone there to check on a stranger whose life she

tried to save moments earlier.

The "stranger" was Lefrancois, head of the Division of Immunology in the School of Medicine.

Lefrancois was entering the building one morning in September, when he started feeling dizzy.

"I stepped aside, thinking 'I'll recover in a minute or two,'" he says, "but at that point, I was going down. I woke up looking into the face of some paramedics and wondering what happened."

He didn't find out until later that his heart had stopped. With help from Nocera, however, he was

out for less than three minutes, and within an hour, he was in the Health Center's cardiac catheterization lab getting stents to open three arterial blockages.

Nocera remembers hearing commotion as she came to work that morning. When she saw a man fall to the floor, she checked his pulse and began CPR.

Transportation aides are required to have CPR certification, but this was the first time Nocera had to put that training to use. She and a colleague continued administering CPR until paramedics

from the fire department arrived.

"Sara's quick reaction and initiation of CPR helped prevent a lack of oxygen to his brain and other vital organs," says nursing manager Debra Abromaitis. "His quick and complete recovery is a direct result of her timely actions."

Dr. Kanwar Singh, one of the interventional cardiologists who treated Lefrancois, says, "Most patients who suffer cardiac arrest die in the field, more than 50 percent. Whoever resuscitated him in the field clearly saved his life."

Lefrancois, 51, is in generally

good health, and not the typical heart attack candidate. There is a family history of cardiac problems, he says, but a recent EKG was fine.

After four days in the hospital and a week out of work, he shows no ill effects from what was determined to be a mild heart attack.

"The ER people, the cardiology people, the ICU crew, everybody was great," he says. "It's a testimony to the quality of the cardiology group as well as to the dedication and initiative of all the employees, particularly Sara, in being very quick to respond."