



Town leaders, researchers discuss local, global environment

BY RICHARD VEILLEUX

The degradation of the environment is a human rights issue, according to Richard Hiskes, director of the University's minor in human rights, whose writings lean heavily toward the environment.

During a conference Nov. 1 on climate change and strategies for life in a changing world, Hiskes suggested the world should view the damage being done to the environment today "as a violation of the human rights of future generations."

"We need to adopt the more powerful language of human rights" to make inroads in the fight to control greenhouse gases and contain other destructive practices, he said. "We can use the moral vocabulary – caring, duty, sacrifice ... they're all great words. But I guarantee you that if those are the words we use in this fight, the environment will be at the back end" of any conversation.

Hiskes was one of the speakers at the conference, which featured a panel of UConn faculty, town officials, and a representative from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. Mansfield and UConn leaders discussed what was being done locally to help the environment, while the professors looked largely at what was being done globally to hurt the environment.

While much is being done locally, the global picture is more challenging.

Climatologist Anji Seth, a faculty member in the geography department, and Dan Civco, a professor of natural resources management and engineering, offered compelling video evidence.

First, Seth showed satellite and other images taken through the years that allowed the audience of about 100 students and community members to watch the polar ice caps disappear, one slide at a time.

Then Civco, who is also a land use specialist, ran through a series of slides that also showed the damage caused by greenhouse gases and, in dramatic footage from the sky, allowed the crowd to watch as, decade by decade, the footprint of Atlanta, Ga. grew. He noted that the massive building and

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PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Cadets salute during the playing of Taps at a Veterans' Day celebration in the Student Union Ballroom Nov. 8.

Sirens to be tested Nov. 20

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

The Alert Notification System sirens installed on the Storrs and Depot campuses will be tested on Tuesday, Nov. 20 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

During that time, the sirens will be sounded multiple times so that the speakers on all 10 poles can be adjusted properly. As part of the installation, University Police will test the sirens on each pole individually, followed by a complete sounding of all the sirens. Other system features to be tested include chimes, a pre-recorded message, and use of the siren speakers as a public address system.

The test is scheduled to take place during the Thanksgiving recess to minimize disruption to classes, although further tests may be held at a later date.

"It is important that we test all the features of the system," says Barry Feldman,

vice president and chief operating officer.

"The system is designed to be used in emergencies and will be one of the ways we will alert people."

In addition to the sirens, in an actual emergency the University may also use text messaging, e-mail, voice mail, a banner notice on University web pages, and the emergency blue phone system to notify people during a crisis.

If an emergency occurs, information will be available at the University's new web site, alert.uconn.edu. If sirens are sounded for an actual emergency, students, faculty, and staff are asked not to exit their buildings to listen to the message, but rather to take shelter in place and refer to the web site alert.UConn.edu or the emergency phone line (860-486-3768) for further information.

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Remote sensing expert receives national award for teaching

BY RICHARD VEILLEUX

Daniel Civco, a professor in the Department of Natural Resources Management and Engineering, has received a National Award for Excellence in College and University Teaching in the Food and Agricultural Sciences. It is the highest honor an educator in the field of agriculture and natural resources can receive.

Civco, an expert on geomatics who specializes in remote sensing and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), was presented with the award on Nov. 11, during a meeting of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC) in New York City. The award is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service.

"Dr. Civco is a world class instructor. He brings the results of his and others' research into his teaching, and provides students with a sound fundamental understanding of his discipline that is complemented by state-of-the-art technology," says Cameron Faustman, associate dean in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. "It's a wonderful honor that results from a very competitive process. Dr. Civco's recognition reflects well on his department and our college and university. We couldn't be more proud."

John Clausen, a professor of natural resources management and engineering and one of those who nominated Civco for the award, says, "Dan is a productive researcher who has kept teaching as his number one priority. He loves to teach, and continually works at becoming a better teacher."

Says Civco, "I believe that my role is not only as a teacher, but also as a facilitator, encouraging students to question, examine, explore, and hopefully develop the level of enthusiasm – and love – that I have for what I teach.

"The accomplishments of an educator are a reflection of his or her students," he adds. "I consider this award a recognition of them as much as of me."

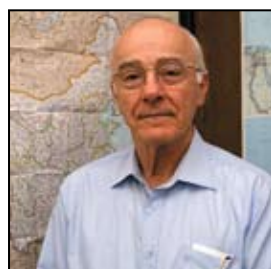
Civco, who earned his bachelor's, master's,

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PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Award-winning educator Daniel Civco, left, a professor of natural resources management, explains a point to Josh Weiss, a senior, in a computer laboratory at the W.B. Young Building.

Charitable campaign reaches midway point

BY LAUREN SHEA

With the 2007 State Employees' Campaign for Charitable Giving past its mid-point, contributions at the Storrs campus are more than half way to this year's goal of \$135,000.

President Michael J. Hogan enthusiastically endorses the Campaign. He shared his perspective on giving in a University-wide e-mail last month.

"A common question is: 'Why contribute through the University of Connecticut?'" he wrote. "There are a couple of good reasons. First, the University receives significant support from the citizens of this state. It's meaningful for Connecticut taxpayers to see that we recognize the support the University receives and willingly give back to our communities.

"Second, the costs of fundraising are substantial – particularly for small agencies," he said. "Umbrella campaigns, such as the State Employees' Campaign, absorb some of these costs for the individual agencies, allowing them to devote more funds to the urgent needs they address in our communities.

"If you have already completed your pledge card and submitted it, thank you! If not, I encourage you to pledge to the charity of your choice," Hogan added.

Every employee has received a pledge card. A card can also be downloaded from the President's website: <http://president.uconn.edu/Pledge%20Card2007-b.pdf>. If using a pledge card from the web site, when completing it be sure to note affiliation with a University of Connecticut campus under the "State Agency Name" section.

Completed pledge cards should be sent to your campus representative or, if you are uncertain who your campus representative is, send the completed card to the President's Office, Gulley Hall, U-2048. Additional information, including directories of charitable organizations, can be found at <http://www.csec.ct.gov/>

The UConn Health Center, the top state agency for giving through the Campaign for the past two years, launched its 2007 campaign with a "Kick-off in the Courtyard" Oct. 3, featuring representatives from charitable organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, the American Cancer Society, Food Share, and the Greater Hartford Arts Council. The Health Center also held a bake sale, and firefighters held a "fill-the-boot" drive.

Health Center campaign chair Mary Ellen Bonelli reports that contributions pledged are more than half-way to the Health Center's 2007 goal of \$170,000.

At the School of Social Work, \$4,340 has been pledged to date, while at the Waterbury campus, \$6,015 has been pledged and the total to date at the Greater Hartford Campus is \$1,694. At UConn's campus in Torrington, amounts pledged have been similar to those of earlier years. At Avery Point, campus chair Joyce Wood says contributions have not yet been tallied, but a chili cook-off fundraiser is planned to benefit the Campaign's charities.

At the School of Law, campaign chair Laurie Werling says the Campaign closed at the end of October, with \$12,483 having been raised. She said the School of Law raised \$8,920 in 2006, making this year's total a 40 percent increase.

In Storrs, Steve Rhodes, special assistant to the president, recently joined the Husky mascot at Chuck & Augie's in the Student Union for the first weekly drawing for donated gifts for Storrs-based employees who complete pledges. Employees become eligible to win one of these gifts as soon as their pledge cards are submitted. Drawings will be held throughout November, as well as at a reception for Campaign supporters in January.

A reception is planned for Jan. 17, for all Storrs-based contributors to the 2007 Campaign, with Jan. 24 as a back-up date in the event of adverse weather.

Teaching award *continued from page 1*

and doctoral degrees from UConn, joined the college as a research assistant in 1976. He became an assistant professor in 1992 and a full professor in 2004. Since

2002, he has been director of the University's Center for Land Use Education and Research.

Civco becomes the sixth member of the CANR faculty to be

honored with an USDA award, but the first to win the national award. Karl Guillard, a professor of plant science, won a regional USDA award in 2002.

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population boom contributes to greenhouse gases.

"I could show you dozens of similar situations," Civco said. "The urban footprint is exploding in cities all over the world."

Richard Parnas, chair of the chemical engineering department, and Kathy Segerson, a professor of economics, said that reducing greenhouse gases, limiting energy use, and creating more efficient fuels that don't pollute can be done – just not at the right price.

"Economic factors are driving the increase [in greenhouse gases]," she said. "Increasing wealth leads to increased consumption and increased energy use. But as wealth increases, people also tend to demand environmental changes."

Segerson said increasing gas taxes, while anathema to most Americans, would help decrease the dangerous gases because it would force people to drive less or purchase more efficient vehicles.

Parnas, head of the UConn Bio-fuels Consortium, said, "Replacing

diesel with biodiesel could reduce the greenhouse gases [emitted by an individual car] by 90 percent, without having to change the vehicle's engine."

Parnas is currently discussing the construction of a biodiesel facility at UConn that could produce as much as 1 million liters of biodiesel fuel annually. The Biofuels Consortium now produces about 50 gallons every

"The urban footprint is exploding in cities all over the world."

Daniel Civco
Professor, Natural Resources Management & Engineering

other week. That amount is added to the University's diesel fuel tanks at the motor pool and allows most UConn vehicles to run on at least a 2 percent mixture of biodiesel, according to Richard Miller, UConn's director of environmental policy.

There are many other ongoing

efforts at the University, he said: the year-old cogeneration plant, for example; outreach efforts to encourage students to conserve water and use compact fluorescent light bulbs; and contests between residence halls to see who can be more energy efficient.

The Town of Mansfield also puts a lot of effort into staying green, said Town Manager Matthew Hart. He listed hybrid town vehicles, the recycling coordinator, green cleaning supplies in the schools and town offices, organic products to maintain town athletic fields, and a long-running partnership with the University to provide free fare buses for townspeople and students as some of the ways the town tries to help the earth.

Other efforts are in the works, he said.

"We've begun to construct sidewalks to encourage people to walk more," Hart said, "which is something you don't often see in small towns."

Hartford and the School of Law will be tested at a later date.

Siren test *continued from page 1*

Feldman says the sirens will be tested regularly. However, the routine Saturday tests will not have an audible siren, although there may

be a popping sound heard as the speakers demagnetize after the test.

Sirens to be installed at West

PUBLICATION NOTICE

The *Advance* will not be published next week, owing to the Thanksgiving break. The next issue will be published on Nov. 26. Happy Thanksgiving!

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT Advance

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Diplomat discusses emergence of India on world economic stage

BY MICHAEL KIRK

Amid news of martial law in Pakistan, war in Afghanistan, a crackdown on pro-freedom dissidents in Myanmar, and nuclear saber-rattling in Iran, India is beginning to look like “an oasis of democracy” in a troubled region, according to Neelam Deo, India’s consul general in New York City, who spoke at UConn on Nov. 2.

The lecture, “India’s Emergence as a Major Political/Economic Power,” was hosted by the India Studies Program and sponsored by the Center for International Business, Education, and Research. Deo also visited the business school and spoke to the MBA Business Club, and met with members of the administration, including President Michael Hogan.

Deo, an economist and former ambassador to Denmark and the Ivory Coast, said that when India gained independence in 1947, the country faced serious economic hardship as a result of its colonization by Britain.

“We really inherited a very difficult economic situation as well as

social situation,” she said.

But in the last 20 years, India has gone from an economic growth rate of about 6 percent a year to 9.4 percent last year; and while 51 percent of the population lived in poverty 20 years ago, that number is now at 20 percent.

Today, India is the world’s fourth largest economy.

“It really is Asia that is growing,” said Deo, noting that she foresees a similar rate of growth through 2020 for her nation.

The vibrant economy has helped create a middle class of more than 300 million people, and is fueled by India’s two million new college graduates each year. Deo said that while her nation has distinguished itself in the field of information technology, it is also expanding into new economic frontiers including biotechnology and nanotechnology.

She said when foreigners visit India, they will find a “huge sense of optimism” and, among the work force, “a fiercely competitive spirit.”

The growing economy has also created new challenges: like

many industrial nations, India is concerned about maintaining access to sources of energy; fighting disease, terrorism, and natural disasters; and improving the quality of life among its people.

“It is the objective of successive governments to improve the standard of living,” said Deo.

One of India’s top foreign policy priorities is continuing to build a strong relationship with the U.S. The goal is apparently mutual. Deo cited statements by U.S. Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns, for example in the pages of *Foreign Affairs*, where he hailed the rise of a democratic and economically powerful India.

She added that Indian students and Indian immigrants working in the U.S., especially in the fields of medicine, law, and academia, provide a strong link between the two nations.

Deo suggested that India’s increasing importance on the world’s stage merits its inclusion in the United Nations Security Council, which currently includes only China, France, Russia, the U.S., and



PHOTO BY DANIEL BUTTREY

Neelam Deo, Consul General of India, speaks about India’s political and economic growth during a lecture in the Class of ’47 Room on Nov. 2.

Britain as permanent members.

She also said that while India’s stability makes it an attractive and “safe” place for international investment, that is in contrast to many its neighbors.

“Our own immediate neighborhood is really an area of concern,”

she said. “All of our neighbors are facing varying degrees of difficulty in making the transition to democracy. Instability in the neighborhood is not good for anybody.”

Health Center experts describe treatments for aching backs

BY KRISTINA GOODNOUGH

Back pain hits eight out of 10 people in this country at some point in their lives, and is the single biggest culprit behind missed work and disability, according to back and spine experts from the Health Center’s New England Musculoskeletal Institute during a recent Discovery Series event.

But they said, there are both non-surgical and surgical treatments that can ease the suffering and help people get on with their lives.

Having surgeons, medical doctors, and researchers work together can help ensure appropriate care for those suffering back pain, said orthopedic surgeon Dr. Jay Lieberman, director of the Musculoskeletal Institute. The Institute brings together experts in treatment and research to address problems affecting bones, joints, muscles, and connective tissue.

Presenters at the event included Dr. Syed Hasan, a physiatrist who specializes in physical and rehabilitation medicine or non-operative treatment for the back; Dr. Alexander Mohr, an orthopedic surgeon whose specialty is operative treatment of spinal disorders; and Dr. Patrick Senatus, a neurosurgeon with expertise in treating movement disorders as well as acute neck and back pain.

“Our goal is to identify and treat the underlying cause of the pain,” said Hasan. Sources of back pain can be the disc, which acts like a shock absorber, the vertebra body or bony front part of the spine, the facet joint that locks the vertebrae together, or the sacroiliac joint between the base of the spine and the pelvis.

Once the source of pain is identified, treatment may include lifestyle modifications, therapeutic exercises, medications – sometimes injected directly into the spine, and treatments with electrotherapy and ultrasound.

Hasan said alternative therapies can also be useful in treating back pain. These include massage therapy, acupuncture, and yoga and pilates to strengthen muscles around the spine.

The cervical spine performs a remarkable set of functions, said Senatus. It is a conduit for the spinal cord and nerve roots; it allows flexion and sideways bending; and it supports the head, which weighs more than a gallon of water.

Mohr said surgical approaches should only be tried if non-surgical approaches are not effective. For some painful conditions, such as spinal stenosis, caused by a narrowing of spaces in the

spine that increases pressure on the spinal cord or the nerve roots, treatment may be a laminectomy. This involves trimming part of the vertebra to relieve pressure on the nerves, or fusing two or more vertebrae to prevent slippage or curving of the spine.

A more recently developed treatment uses an implant, called an x stop, to provide more space between the vertebrae to reduce pressure on the nerves. “It can be quite effective in reducing pain,” Mohr said.

Vertebral compression fractures are most often the result of osteoporosis, which affects 24 million Americans. A treatment called kyphoplasty uses a special cement to stabilize the fracture and restore the height of the vertebrae.

“It’s important to remember that most spinal surgery requires good quality bone, which is not always available in patients suffering from osteoporosis,” Mohr said.

Vertebral compression fractures related to osteoporosis can set patients on a downward spiral, he said. Pain reduces a patient’s mobility and results in less activity, which increases bone loss. That, in turn, can lead to more curve in the spine, which can increase abdominal compression and result in a loss of appetite. Patients often try to counteract the stooped spine by bending their knees. That unfortunately can result in changes in balance and increased risk of falling.

All the physicians emphasized the importance of a healthy lifestyle for a healthy back, especially not smoking, maintaining an ideal weight, and doing appropriate exercise.



IMAGE SUPPLIED BY UCONN HEALTH CENTER

Early College Experience program accredited

BY RICHARD VEILLEUX

UConn’s Early College Experience (ECE) program, the oldest high school-to-college transition program in the nation, has become the first ECE program in the Northeast to earn accreditation from the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP).

It is one of just a handful of accredited programs in the nation.

“This is a very positive, important step in our continued growth, and really puts us in the vanguard of the national movement toward concurrent education programs,” says Gillian Thorne, director of UConn’s program.

The program brings UConn courses to high school juniors and seniors across the state. High school teachers who apply to teach one of the courses are certified by a departmental coordinator at UConn, given training on the UConn curriculum, and attend an orientation program in Storrs.

To maintain certification they must attend conferences and annual professional development seminars, and work with their UConn coordinator to ensure continued course compatibility. Once certified, they are considered adjunct professors.

Certified high school teachers and students who enroll in

ECE also have access to a range of UConn resources, including library databases, WebCT Vista, and e-portfolios. The students register and participate in add-drop just as UConn students do.

“These are UConn courses, top to bottom,” says Thorne.

Students who successfully complete a course earn UConn credit. This year, there are 128 high schools in Connecticut participating in the program, and nearly 5,000 students. Forty-five courses are being offered.

Leaders in the concurrent enrollment community consider the program to be far more effective than the more popular Advanced Placement program, because concurrent enrollment classes mirror those actually taught in the college offering them.

AP credits are based on testing and classes that some say are not college level, and are often taught by high school teachers whose specialty is in another subject. UConn’s ECE courses must be taught by somebody whose specialty is in the field they teach.

ECE courses also are reflected on the student’s college transcript. AP courses are not.

UConn’s program started in 1955 as the High School Co-op program. It became the Early College Experience in the late 1990s.

Economics professor reports on workers' compensation in China

BY CINDY WEISS

An emeritus faculty member in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences who is an expert on workers' compensation systems has reviewed the People's Republic of China's new workers' compensation program and reported to the government there on how it is working.

Peter Barth, professor emeritus of economics, has traveled to China five times during the past year and a half to interview central and local government figures, lawyers, employers, and union officials.

He recently submitted a report that is being studied by high-level Chinese government officials.

China had a small-scale workers' compensation program until 2004, when a nationwide program began.

Now workers' compensation is administered by the government and coverage is required by law, although companies are known to evade it. Additional hazardous work accident insurance is available from private insurance companies and is supposed to be provided by employers.

Barth found what he described as "two countries" – a countryside where 60 percent of the population lives and people have no workers' compensation or work accident insurance, and urban areas where coverage is more common but where many are excluded, especially part-time, migrant workers from rural areas.

He found that more than 120

million people in China now have protection under workers' compensation, up from 85 million at the end of 2005, after the program's first year. But as many as 700 million people are still left without it.

The central government is concerned about high rates of industrial injuries and fatalities, Barth says. Government compensation and private insurance programs are managed locally, however, where the highest priority often is on production, employment, and profitability goals.

The problem is akin to current product safety problems, he notes – what the central government seeks may be undermined by pressures to produce goods in a booming economy.

"The central government may have a harder time implementing its goals at the local level than our federal government does," he says.

This surprised him. "It's a single party system, and you'd think that a strong central government could get whatever they want done at the local level," Barth says.

Instead, local officials have a saying that translates loosely as, "The emperor is far away and there are many hills between here and there."

In some cases, companies may not report injuries, and workers may not be aware they are entitled to the new coverage. Migrants from rural areas often take the most hazardous jobs. If they are injured or killed, their relatives

may not know where they worked, that they were injured, or that compensation is due, Barth says.

Companies skirting the law may disappear and reorganize under a new name.

The whole notion of employment is different in China, Barth says. Many in the countryside work the land or work for small family enterprises. The government's insurance provider won't always accept certain employers, despite the new laws, and there is no insurer of last resort.

When companies evade the law or are left out, he says, it "messes up your insurance system – you don't know where the potential risks are."

In China's legal system, contingency fees for attorneys were introduced recently and can be difficult for attorneys to collect, making redress for injuries harder to obtain through the courts.

Barth's report includes data; descriptions and analysis of the current program and best practices; and suggestions for consideration, rather than recommendations.

"As a foreigner, it would seem arrogant or immodest to make recommendations based on a one-and-a-half-year study," he says.

Working with academic colleagues in five other countries and at the People's University of Beijing, Barth collected detailed information on how workers' compensation programs function in the U.S., Australia, Argentina, Japan, Germany, and the People's

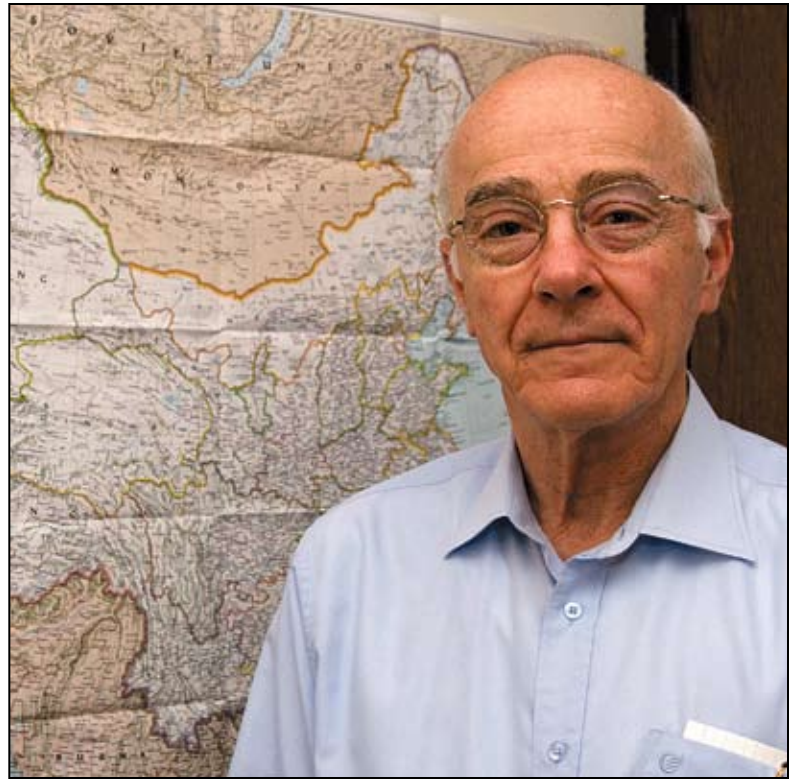


PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Peter Barth, professor emeritus of economics, has analyzed China's workers' compensation program and submitted a report to the Chinese government.

Republic of China.

He supplemented this with information he acquired on his visits to Beijing and to Chongqing, a city with more than 31 million people, and Liaoning Province in the northeast. He worked with translators, since he knows only a couple of words of Mandarin and many government officials do not speak English.

Barth cautions that China's problems with workers' comp are no different, although larger in scope, than some of the problems still associated with the older U.S. system, which is controlled largely by state governments.

Compensation programs vary widely in the U.S. and problems of evading coverage still can be found

here, though on a lesser scale.

China will achieve fuller coverage, but it may take a decade or more, he predicts.

Barth, who retired in 2002, has written several books on workers' compensation.

Barth, a former Brookings Institution Fellow, served as executive director of the President's commission to review the nation's workers' compensation laws in the early 1970s, and director of the Office of Research for the U.S. Department of Labor. In 1973, he came to UConn as head of the economics department.

Barth will return to China in December, to give seminars for government officials in two cities about his report and next steps.

Dietitian offers weight management course for cancer survivors



PHOTO BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

Outpatient oncology dietitian Rachel Rodek at the UConn Health Center speaks with cancer survivors about weight management.

BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

Many people, when they find out they have cancer, promise themselves they'll do whatever it takes to beat it. Once the last round of therapy is over, the time is right to make good on that promise by committing to

a healthier lifestyle, says Rachel Rodek, an outpatient oncology dietitian at the Health Center's Carole and Ray Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center.

"Nutrition and weight loss are very important for survivorship," Rodek says. "To help prevent a

recurrence, or development of other cancers, weight loss has been shown to be a key factor. This is especially true for hormone-based cancers, such as prostate and breast. With these, the patients receive therapies that typically result in weight gain, and these extra

pounds cause increases in circulating hormones, which increase the risk of recurrence. So getting that weight off is really important."

This fall, Rodek introduced a five-week "Weight Management for Survivorship" course, and her first class of five students "graduated" Oct. 31.

"We're eating healthy, and it's preventing disease," says one of the participants. "Rachel gave us a way to find optimal health for ourselves. I wish I knew this as a young person."

Rodek says she designed the course with cancer survivors who've completed therapy in mind.

"We really don't want patients to start losing weight while they're still receiving either radiation or chemotherapy," she says. "A significant drop in weight can change the toxicity of chemotherapy or, if the patient is undergoing radiation, it can change their position on the table, altering the exact location of the beam. But more importantly, weight loss during therapy can prolong recovery time and wound healing, and decrease tolerance of the side effects of therapy."

Still, says Rodek, the lessons are useful to anyone who would benefit from losing weight. "Just

general healthy eating can help decrease the risk of developing several illnesses, such as diabetes and heart disease," she says. "So patients who follow a healthy diet are helping themselves not only in terms of keeping the cancer at bay, but also by helping prevent other health issues that are linked to a heavier weight."

Among the topics the course covers are: changing nutrients to make a diet healthier; portion sizes and nutrition labels; improving eating and lifestyle habits; making healthy choices at restaurants; and maintaining weight loss.

Pamela Goulet, a clinical coordinator at the Neag Cancer Center who works with cancer survivors, says she lost 11 pounds in the first three weeks of the class.

"It's unbelievable all the things I didn't know for years, like how to shop, how your plate should look, just the little tips she's given us: types of menus, how to be more creative with vegetables and organic things, and how to substitute more natural grains for starchy things so you're actually getting the best nutrition," Goulet says. "It's a natural way to help yourself."

She plans to offer another session early next year. Details will be available at 860-679-7692.

Academic administrators find leadership training helpful

BY SHERRY FISHER

Two UConn administrators spent almost a month this summer attending classes, workshops, and seminars to learn more about higher education – and themselves.

Andrea Hubbard, associate dean in the School of Pharmacy, and Lin Klein, associate dean in the School of Business, participated in the HERS Bryn Mawr Summer Institute for Women in Higher Education in July. Held on the Bryn Mawr College campus in Pennsylvania, the residential program offers female administrators and faculty intensive training in education administration.

Seventy women from 30 states, Guam, and South Africa were selected for the Institute. They came from four-year liberal arts colleges, major research universities, and community colleges. Participants were in class for at least six hours a day, including several hours on weekends.

“We got to interact with successful administrators who talked about what contributed to their success,” Hubbard says, noting that living on the campus for nearly four weeks was an advantage. “We were immersed in the experience and got to interact with many different people.”

Hubbard says the institute originally started “when women’s traditional roles were expanding. Women were moving into more non-traditional fields like law, business, and medicine. There

were few women in leadership positions at universities, and the idea was to give women the tools to move up the ladder.”

Hubbard came to the University as an assistant professor in the School of Pharmacy in 1988. In 2004, after an internal search, she was offered the job of associate dean. So that she would be better prepared for the position, the dean of the school had her “shadow” the retiring associate dean for a year.

Robert McCarthy, dean of pharmacy, says such shadowing is useful for someone moving into a new position.

“I think it really helps prepare and develop skills,” McCarthy says. “Placing a faculty member in an administrative position without the proper training can be overwhelming. Oftentimes, we take faculty who are very good at what they do and put them in administrative positions without giving them the tools to help them succeed. That’s why leadership opportunities are so important.”

Hubbard says she took away a lot of helpful tips this summer. One of the discussions she found particularly interesting was knowing when to say yes to a challenge, and when to say no.

“Very often women are chosen to serve on work-intensive, low-visibility committees because it’s known that they will get the work done,” Hubbard says. “Women are good at multitasking. But who gets the recognition? Learning to say

yes or no to those kinds of requests is an important skill.”

The women at the institute had many common challenges, Hubbard says. “Regardless of age, institution, or part of the country we were from, there was a lot of, ‘Oh, you’ve had that problem too.’”

She says she was impressed with discussions about the important role of community colleges.

“Community colleges may be one of the few options that an individual has for breaking out,” she says. “Taking community college courses at night, for instance, can help someone move to a higher position or help them decide to pursue a different career entirely.”

Klein, who joined the School of Business faculty in 1988 and became associate dean in 2006, says attending the institute was “an opportunity to help me understand the breadth of issues facing higher education administration that I felt was missing in my background as a faculty member. It gave me a tremendous look at how higher education in general is positioned, the critical issues we face, and how various schools are approaching those issues.”

Klein says she found one task particularly helpful.

“We had to identify a local leadership project that we would be interested in bringing to fruition,” she says. “We were asked to think about the project before coming to the institute so that it could be enhanced through team discussion.

“That forced me to step back from an incredibly busy schedule to think about the future and identify something I would really like to accomplish in this job,” Klein says. “I decided to work on developing a stronger undergraduate business community, with increased involvement of student leaders and alumni. I’ve already started implementation.”

The conference also helped women understand and articulate

their accomplishments and identify a career map.

“That was valuable for those want to move into higher administration positions,” Klein says.

She says she recommends taking part in leadership activities because “they help you hone your skill set, offer the opportunity to share ideas with other people, provide a wonderful peer support group, and give you a sense of confidence about what you’re doing.”



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Andrea Hubbard, associate dean of pharmacy, recently attended a leadership training program for female academic administrators.

Courses improves TAs teaching skills, offers additional qualification

BY ELIZABETH OMARA-OTUNNU

When a small but growing group of UConn teaching assistants graduate, they will have credentials not only in their academic specialties, but also in education.

Those students have taken one or more courses with Keith Barker, director of the Institute for Teaching and Learning, who offers three education courses for TAs through the Neag School’s Department of Curriculum and Instruction.

The cluster of courses includes a one-credit introductory course, a two-credit seminar, and a three-credit independent study. More than 180 graduate students have taken the one-credit course, now in its ninth year. The seminar accommodates six to eight students at a time, and the independent study is offered on demand.

“In many of UConn’s Ph.D. programs, students are required to earn six credits outside the discipline,” says Barker, a professor of computer science and engineering. “They can get them here.

“These courses give TAs certification,” he adds. “Not only have they had practical experience in teaching, they have taken courses on education and had experiences that made them better teachers.”

The heart of Barker’s approach is the seminar class, which meets every two weeks for two hours during the fall semester. Co-taught with David Moss and John Settlege, associate professors of curriculum and instruction, each

session focuses on an area that one of the TAs identifies as a challenge in his or her teaching.

“This seminar encourages students to identify difficult or troublesome aspects of their instruction and then provides a non-threatening environment where they can share it with colleagues,” says Barker. “During the discussion, the group is able to identify with the issues, and offer suggestions to solve or improve the situation.”

Although the TAs come from different subject areas, many of the problems they face are the same.

“When TAs raise issues in class, it turns out everyone has the same problems,” Barker says.

Lily Alpert, a Ph.D. student in family studies who took the seminar last year, said she was concerned about maintaining authority in the classroom, because she was so close in age to the undergraduates. Barker suggested tips, such as moving around more in the classroom, that helped change her relationship with the students.

“It was very helpful for the second half of the semester,” Alpert says. “Some of what we discussed in the seminar were things I knew before, but I needed confirmation to feel more confident.”

Another TA said she had a “problem student” in her class. After discussing the situation in

the seminar, she talked with the student about his learning style.

“Before that, I felt the student was there to give me a hard time,” says Denise Lee, a doctoral student in biochemistry. “After talking with him, it opened my eyes to his specific needs. I realized that if a student takes longer to digest the information, it doesn’t necessarily mean they don’t prepare.”

A third TA, James Hilliard, a Ph.D. student in finance, shared his frustration with the volume of grading for a series of writing assignments. Guest presenter Tom Deans, director of the Writing Center, suggested ways to keep the task manageable, such as focusing

on a limited number of grammatical errors in a paper, rather than trying to catch them all.

After discussing the problem and proposing solutions, the seminar instructors and other TAs sometimes visit the class where a TA has been experiencing a problem, to see how the solution works.

Jason Gibson, a doctoral student in molecular and cell biology taking the seminar this semester, says he has learned more about establishing a presence in the classroom and setting clear expectations.

Sourish Das, a Ph.D. student in statistics, says he learned how to teach abstract mathematical concepts using graphics and PowerPoint.”

Anne Black, a doctoral student in education, says she finds it tough teaching groups with diverse educational backgrounds and skill levels. “Dr. Barker’s courses provide very practical advice.”

In addition to helping the TAs improve their teaching at UConn, Barker’s EDCI courses are designed to equip them for future careers as educators.

Benjamin Franek, a Ph.D. student in geography who took the seminar last year, is now applying for jobs in academia. “Many of the job advertisements specifically ask that applicants establish a solid commitment to teaching,” he says. “Having taken the EDCI series will help potential employees declare their dedication to dynamic teaching and learning.”



PHOTO BY ALEX BOTHELL

Clockwise from left, Ph.D. student Lily Alpert, a TA in family studies, Professor Keith Barker, and Ph.D. students Sadie Smith, animal science, and Lara Watkins, anthropology, discuss teaching strategies.

GRANTS

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

Department	Prin. Investigator	Sponsor	Amount	Award Period
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Federal Grants

Surgery	Maulik, N.	National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute	\$343,715	8/03-7/08
<i>Ventricular Remodeling in the Adapted Heart</i>				
Center for Cell Analysis	Loew, L.	National Institute of Biomedical Imaging & Bioengineering	\$343,715	9/03-7/08
<i>Potentiometric Dyes and Membrane Permeability</i>				
Molecular Medicine	Delany, A.	National Institute of Arthritis & Musculoskeletal & Skin Diseases	\$178,389	8/04-7/08
<i>Function and Regulation of Osteonectin in Bone</i>				
Psychiatry	Petry, N.	National Institute of Mental Health	\$378,886	9/04-7/08
<i>Cognitive-Behavioral Treatments & Pathological Gambling</i>				
Psychiatry	Petry, N.	National Institute on Drug Abuse	\$416,283	9/04-7/08
<i>Group-Based Contingency Management & Outpatient Treatment</i>				
Neurology	Wolfson, L.	National Institute on Aging	\$586,274	9/04-7/08
<i>Brain Changes and Risk Factors Causing Impaired Mobility</i>				
Molecular, Microbial, & Structural Biology	Hoch, J.	National Center for Research Resources	\$304,366	8/05-7/08
<i>Signal Processing Software for Biomolecular NMR</i>				
Genetics & Developmental Biology	Graveley, B.	National Institute of General Medical Sciences	\$339,387	8/06-7/08
<i>The Mechanisms and Regulatory Networks of Alternative Splicing in Drosophila</i>				
Medicine	Brammer, A.	Centers for Disease Control	\$311,079	8/06-7/08
<i>Active Hearing Protectors and Audibility of Critical Communications</i>				
Surgery	Sarfarazi, M.	National Eye Institute	\$516,117	8/06-7/08
<i>Molecular Genetics of Primary Congenital Glaucoma</i>				
Neurology	Wang, Z.	NSF, Behavioral & Natural Sciences	\$197,453	8/06-7/08
<i>Electrical Coupling of Body-Wall Muscle Cells of C. elegans</i>				
Genetics & Developmental Biology	Lichter, A.	National Center for Research Resources	\$143,708	8/06-7/08
<i>Creating Multi-Gene Reporter Mice Via "Recombineering"</i>				
Medicine	Bracker, A.	Centers for Disease Control	\$16,658	8/06-7/08
<i>Workshop Series: Control Banding: A Risk Assessment Toll for Joint Labor/Management</i>				
Molecular Medicine	Rosenberg, D.	National Cancer Institute	\$305,945	9/06-7/08
<i>Altered Arachidonic Acid Balance and Colon Cancer</i>				
Surgery	Kreutzer, D.	National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases	\$354,999	8/07-7/08
<i>Inflammation and Glucose Sensor Function</i>				
Cell Biology	Mehlmann, L.	National Institute of Child Health & Human Development	\$254,345	8/07-4/08
<i>Signaling Mechanisms that Regulate Meiosis in Mammalian Oocytes</i>				
Center for Cell Analysis	Loew, L.	National Center for Research Resources	\$1,065,554	9/07-7/08
<i>National Resource for Cell Analysis and Modeling</i>				
Center for Cell Analysis	Loew, L.	National Center for Research Resources	\$2,645,057	8/07-7/08
<i>Polarity in Networks and Pathway Score 1 Project 1 Measure</i>				
Genetics & Developmental Biology	Kalajzic, I.	National Institute of Arthritis & Musculoskeletal & Skin Diseases	\$74,000	8/07-7/08
<i>Strategy to Assess the Function of Osteocyte Restricted Genes</i>				
Oral Rehabilitation, Biomaterials, & Skeletal Development	Rowe, D.	U.S. Army	\$504,537	8/07-7/08
<i>Improving Soldier Recovery from Catastrophic Bone Injuries</i>				
Center for Vascular Biology	Claffey, K.	National Cancer Institute	\$271,728	8/07-7/08
<i>VEGF MRNA Expression Mechanisms in Hypoxia</i>				
Private Grants				
Neurology	Felice, K.	Johns Hopkins University	\$10,500	1/93-12/08
<i>MDA-Sponsored Clinic</i>				
Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center	Kurtzman, S.	University of Pittsburgh	\$3,100	2/97-1/08
<i>NSABP Breast and Bowel Cancer Treatment DHHS BC0107-185</i>				
Psychiatry	Drazinic, C.	Narsad	\$31,309	10/05-6/08
<i>A Molecular Survey for Chromosome 22Q11 Deletions in Psychotic Patients</i>				
Center on Aging	Robison, J.	City of Holyoke	\$24,287	4/07-6/08
<i>City of Holyoke War Memorial Multipurpose Senior Center</i>				



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Brent Learned discusses his artwork during the opening of his exhibit in the Student Union Art Gallery in celebration of Native American Heritage Month.

Genetics & Developmental Biology	Rivera, G.	American Heart Association	\$65,000	7/07-6/08
<i>Regulation of Cell Motility by SH2/SH3 Domain-Containing Adaptors</i>				
Oral Rehabilitation, Biomaterials, & Skeletal Development	Bidra, A.	The Academy of Prosthodontics Foundation	\$1,000	3/07-6/08
<i>Correlations of Facial Soft Tissue Anatomic Landmarks with Facial & Dental</i>				
Oral Rehabilitation, Biomaterials, & Skeletal Development	Bidra, A.	American Academy of Fixed Prosthodontics	\$2,000	4/07-6/08
<i>Correlations of Facial Soft Tissue Anatomic Landmarks with Facial & Dental</i>				
Surgery	Gronowicz, G.	Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation	\$34,765	8/07-12/07
<i>Project for Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation</i>				
Pharmacology	Smilowitz, H.	Institution Regina Mater	\$34,980	9/07-2/08
<i>Combination of Radiation Therapy and Immunotherapy for Advanced F98 Gliomas</i>				
Psychiatry	Connor, D.	Northeastern University	\$15,000	2/07-1/08
<i>Risperidone and the Behavioral Pharmacology of Escalated Aggression</i>				
Center on Aging	Fortinsky, R.	Alzheimer's Association	\$80,659	6/07-5/08
<i>Information and Help Seeking Experiences Among Hispanic Family Caregivers</i>				
Community Medicine & Health	Bailit, H.	Hospital for Special Care	\$41,182	8/07-7/08
<i>Pipeline, Profession, and Practice: Community-Based Dental Education</i>				
Center for Cell Analysis	Loew, L.	SUNY-Syracuse	\$106,221	5/03-4/08
<i>3-D Imaging of Electrical Activity DHHS 1031799-28503</i>				
Psychiatry	Kaminer, Y.	Duke University	\$15,330	7/05-5/08
<i>Relapse Prevention for Suicidal Youths DHHS 128358-1</i>				
Pediatrics	Salazar, J.	CT Children's Medical Center	\$21,600	8/05-6/08
<i>Immunity In Early Syphilis: Pathway to HIV Coinfection (Year 2)</i>				
Psychiatry	Hesselbrock, V.	SUNY-Brooklyn	\$33,795	9/06-8/07
<i>Consortium on the Genetics of Alcoholism</i>				
Psychiatry	Petry, N.	Yale University	\$417,728	7/07-6/08
<i>Psychotherapy Development Research Center</i>				

State Grants

Psychiatry	Hawke, J.	Dept. of Children & Families	\$149,997	4/06-6/08
<i>Quality Assurance Plan for the Emily J Settlement Agreement</i>				
Psychiatry	Bauer, L.	Dept. of Public Health	\$538,605	7/07-2/09
<i>Effects of Tobacco on Brain Structure & Function are Amplified by Genotype</i>				
Molecular Medicine	Tirnauer, J.	Dept. of Public Health	\$299,044	7/07-2/09
<i>Miotic Spindle Positioning in Intestinal Cancer</i>				
Community Medicine & Health	Ungemack, J.	Dept. of Children & Families	\$164,000	8/06-7/07
<i>CT State Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment Evaluation Project</i>				
Medicine	Trestman, R.	Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services	\$10,000	1/07-6/07
<i>Evaluation of the Connecticut Offender Reentry Program</i>				
Medicine	Croteau, M.	Dept. of Public Health	\$8,000	8/06-8/07
<i>All Hazards Training</i>				

CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 13 to Monday, November 26

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 *Advance* will not be published next week, owing to Thanksgiving break. The next Calendar will include events taking place from Monday, Nov. 26 through Monday, Dec. 3. Those items must be entered in the database by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 13.

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

Academics

Sunday, 11/18 – Thanksgiving recess begins.

Saturday, 11/24 – Thanksgiving recess ends.

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. Recess hours, 11/16-11/21: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, noon-5 p.m.; closed on Thanksgiving Day, 11/22.

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. Closed 11/22-11/23.

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. 11/19-11/21: Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; 11/22-11/24, closed.

Stamford Campus Library. Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, closed. 11/19-11/21, Monday-Wednesday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; 11/22-11/25, closed.

Torrington Campus Library. Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; Friday-Sunday, closed. 11/19-11/25, 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. 11/22-11/24, closed.

University ITS

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

Meetings

Tuesday, 11/13 – Academic Integrity Forum. The Senate's Scholastic Standards Committee will present a draft proposal to change the procedures for handling cases of academic misconduct. 3 p.m., Konover Auditorium.

Lectures & Seminars

Tuesday, 11/13 – Engineering Lecture. "New Polymer Membranes for Hydrogen Purification and Proton Transport for Fuel Cells," by Winston Ho, The Ohio State University. 11 a.m., Room 336, Information Technology Building.

Tuesday, 11/13 – Social Work Discussion. *Inequality and Education.* Come learn about the implications of an uneducated society, and the

impact it will have on your profession as a social worker. 12:15 p.m., Room 202, School of Social Work, Greater Hartford Campus.

Tuesday, 11/13 – Latino Studies. "Non-Tradition Religious and Spiritual Beliefs in the Latino Community." 6:30 p.m., Zachs Community Room, School of Social Work, Greater Hartford Campus.

Tuesday, 11/13 – American Studies Lecture. "Working Waterfronts: Perspectives from Providence Harbor," by Austin Becker, University of Rhode Island. 7:30 p.m., Room 103, Marine Sciences Building, Avery Point Campus.

Wednesday, 11/14 – Out-to-Lunch Lecture. "The Inequality of Desire and Difference in Indian Country," by Brian Gilley. Noon, Room 403, Student Union.

Wednesday, 11/14 – Faculty Forum Luncheon Lecture. "Jerusalem from Religion to Tradition," by Hazza Abo Rabia. Noon, Room 162, Dodd Center.

Wednesday, 11/14 – Statistics

Instruct Cells and Tissues," by David Kaplan, Tufts University. 4 p.m., Room IMS20, Gant Science Complex.

Friday, 11/16 – Polymer Science Seminar. "Functional Synthetic Polymers and Particles: New Encapsulants and Transfection Reagents," by Todd Emrick, UMass. 11 a.m., Room IMS20, Gant Science Complex.

Friday, 11/16 – Engineering Lecture. "Micro-Iconics: A Revolution in Portable Power Generation and Environmental Sensing," by Harry Tuller, MIT. 11 a.m., Room 150, United Technologies Engineering Building.

Friday, 11/16 – Engineering Lecture. Discussion of science and technology public policy issues, by Mary Lowe Good, University of Arkansas. 11 a.m., Room C80, Information Technology Engineering Building.

Friday, 11/16 – Animal Science Seminar. "The Impact of Background Aquarium Noise on Captive Beluga Whales as it Relates to their Threshold of Hearing," by Kathryn



PHOTO BY JESSICA TOMMASELLI

"An Italianate Landscape with Sculpture and a Sleeping Youth," part of the *Rome, Italy, and Europe* exhibit at the Benton Museum. See Exhibits.

Colloquium. "Pricing and Hedging Barrier Options in Diffusion Models via 3-Dimensional Bessel Processes," by Kostas Kardaras, Boston University. 4 p.m., Room 344, CLAS Building.

Wednesday, 11/14 – Health Effects of Climate Changes. Mitch Kennedy, Hollfelder Center for Women's Health. 6 p.m., Henry Low Learning Center, Health Center.

Thursday, 11/15 – Comparative Pathology Seminar. "What is the Extracellular Matrix and Why Does Muscle Care if it has One?" by Sandy Vellman, The Ohio State University. 11 a.m., Room A001, Atwater Annex.

Thursday, 11/15 – Panel Discussion. "The Campaign to Ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child." 12:15-2 p.m., Zachs Community Room, School of Social Work, Greater Hartford Campus.

Thursday, 11/15 – CHIP Brown Bag Lecture. "HIV Prevention in the Angolan Military," by Eric Bing, Charles R. Drew University. 12:30 p.m., Room 204, Ryan Building.

Thursday, 11/15 – Materials Science Distinguished Lecture. "Bioengineering Protein Polymers to

Starke. Noon, Room 209, George White Building.

Friday, 11/16 – Environmental Engineering Seminar. "Predicting Flash Floods in Complex Terrain Basins," by Thymios Nikolopoulos. Noon, Room 212, Castleman Building.

Friday, 11/16 – Cyber Seminar. "Advancing Hydrologic Predictability in a Changing Environment through Interdisciplinary Synthesis," by Murugesu Sivapalan, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. 3 p.m., Room 306, Castleman Building.

Friday, 11/16 – Physics Lecture. "From the Big Bang to the Nobel Prize and on to James Webb Space Telescope," by John Mather, NASA. 4 p.m., Room P36, Gant Science Complex.

Friday, 11/16 – Linguistics Colloquium. "Some Meta-theses on Morphotactics," by Andrew Nevins, Harvard University. 4:30 p.m., Room 317, Arjona Building.

Monday, 11/19 – Diversity Lecture. "UConn and Diversity: Non-Discrimination & Hate Bias." 5 p.m., Room 403, Student Union.

Monday, 11/26 – Engineering Lecture. "Mechanism of Catalyst Degradation

in Proton Exchange Membrane Fuel Cells (PEMFC)," by Anil Virkar, University of Utah. 2 p.m., Room 336, Information Technology Engineering Building.

Exhibits

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 Thursday, 11/29 – Stamford Art Gallery. *A New Vision*, contemporary works from Latin American artists. Art Gallery, Stamford Campus.

Through Friday, 11/30 – Contemporary Art Galleries. *Jackson*, a multimedia exhibition of contemporary works by artists who were influenced by Jackson Pollock's paintings and life. Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Contemporary Art Galleries.

Through Sunday, 12/2 – Jorgensen Gallery. *Fifty Years of Rock and Roll*, poster exhibit. Lower level of Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Through Wednesday, 12/5 – Celeste LeWitt Gallery. *Movement and Light Series*, by Kelly James Carrington; and *Revelations and Realities*, by John Lazarski. Daily, 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Health Center.

Through Sunday, 12/16 – William 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 Sunday, 5/11, *Rome, Italy and Europe*. Tuesday, 11/13 gallery talk by Thomas Bruhn on the *Rome, Italy, and Europe* exhibit, 12:15 p.m. Exhibit hours: Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Saturday & Sunday, 1-4:30 p.m. General admission to the museum is free.

Through Sunday, 12/16 – Alexey von Schlippe Gallery. Works by Gar Waterman, Joanne Schmaltz, Alston Stoney Conley, and Kim Sobel. Exhibit hours: Wednesday-Sunday, noon-4 p.m., Branford House, Avery Point Campus.

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

Performing Arts

Tuesday, 11/13 – Piano Recital. Pianist Irina Plotnikova will perform a program of Chopin and Liszt. General admission \$10, Museum and Chopin Society members and UConn students \$5. 5 p.m., William Benton Museum of Art. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

Tuesday, 11/13 – Chamber Concert. Quartetto di Venezia performs works by Boccherini, Cherubini, Sollima, and Verdi. 7:30 p.m., Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets \$24-\$30. For more

information, call 860-486-4226.

Thursday, 11/15 – RecitalsPlus. Featuring students from the cello class of Kangho Lee Chamber Music for the Cello. 12:15-1 p.m., Benton Museum of Art.

Friday, 11/16 and 11/17 – Solid Blues. Four world-class blues acts: soul and gospel legend Mavis Staples; blues and ham band favorite North Mississippi Allstars; Charlie Mussel White, known as the "world's greatest living blues harmonica player"; and Joe Krown, a favorite of the New Orleans music scene. 8 p.m., Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets \$34-\$45. Dinner, dessert, and cash bar, \$3-\$10. Doors open at 7 p.m.

Film

Tuesday, 11/13 – Human Rights Film Series. "The Exonerated" (2006). 6 p.m., Konover Auditorium.

Wednesday, 11/14 – Film Screening and Discussion. "Absolutely Safe" with Carol Ciancutti-Leyva. 7 p.m., Konover Auditorium.

Thursday, 11/15 – International Film. "The Shape of Water." 4-7 p.m., Women's Center.

Sports

Wednesday, 11/14 – Women's Basketball vs. Holy Cross. 7:30 p.m., Gampel Pavilion.

Saturday, 11/17 – UConn Football vs. Syracuse. Rentschler Field, East Hartford, CT.

Tuesday, 11/20 – Men's Basketball vs. Gardner-Webb. 7:30 p.m., Hartford Civic Center.

Monday, 11/26 – Men's Basketball vs. Florida A&M. 7 p.m., Hartford Civic Center.

Potpourri

Tuesday, 11/13 – Panel Discussion. The Office of Multicultural and International Affairs will offer a thought-provoking panel discussion on art and culture. 4 p.m., UConn Co-op.

Tuesday, 11/13 – Diwali/Eid: South Asian Dinner Celebration. South Asian Law Students' Association invites you to their annual Diwali/Eid dinner. 5 p.m., Reading Room, Starr Hall, Law School.

Tuesday, 11/13 – Book Reading and Autograph Session. Keith R.A. DeCandido, the bestselling author of more than 30 novels, largely media tie-ins such as *Star Trek* and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* tales, will read and autograph copies of his work. 6:30 p.m., UConn Co-op.

Wednesday, 11/14 – Book Reading. Paul Pines will read from his newest novel, *My Brother's Madness*. 4 p.m., UConn Co-op.

Wednesday, 11/14 – Artist Talks and Literary Readings. Artist talk with Guy Waterman and Joanne Schmaltz. 6 p.m., Alexey von Schlippe Gallery, Avery Point Campus.

Wednesday, 11/14 – LGBT Faculty/Staff Group Meeting. 5:30 p.m., Rainbow Center.

Thursday, 11/15 – Book Discussion. Jonathan Spence will talk about his newest book, *Return to Dragon Mountain: Memories of a Late Ming Man*, and Annping Chin will talk about her newest book, *The Authentic Confucius: A Life of Thought and Politics*. 4 p.m., UConn Co-op.

Friday, 11/16 – Retirement Benefits Seminar. One hour seminar, followed by one hour vendor consultation. 8-10 a.m., 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 1-3 p.m., Student Union Ballroom (Room 331).

Saturday, 11/17 – American Museum of Natural History New York City Bus Trip. For information, go to www.cac.uconn.edu/mnhcurrentcalendar.html or call 860-486-4460. Registration/bus fee \$40, or \$30 for Museum members. Bus leaves Storrs at 8 a.m.

Saturday, 11/17 – Saturday Afternoons at the Museum. Drop in on Saturday afternoon for cultural and natural history activities at the museum. 1-3 p.m., Museum of Natural History. Free admission.

Saturday, 11/17 – Ballard Museum of Puppetry Open House. 2 p.m., Mansfield Cottage, Depot Campus.

Honors Study Abroad in South Africa engages students beyond the classroom

BY ELIZABETH OMARA-OTUNNU

While doing an internship in the South African township of Khayelitsha, UConn student Jason Balfour met Vivian, a woman who ran a soup kitchen from her home for HIV/AIDS sufferers. When he learned a few weeks later that her home had burned down, he was moved to try to help.

With fellow UConn student Kelly Witt, he went door-to-door soliciting donations from local businesses. James Tinley, another UConn student who was doing an internship with the Cape Town *Argus* newspaper, wrote an article publicizing Vivian's plight. And an e-mail to UConn's Honors Program prompted an offer of help from director Lynne Goodstein.

Soon, Vivian had the promise of a new home, and free delivery of 30 loaves of bread a day for her clients.

"We learned how easy it is to make a difference," says Balfour.

The students were among a group of 17 from UConn participating in a semester-long Honors Study Abroad program in South Africa, offered this past spring for the second time. The program combines coursework and service in the community. In 2006, the academic component focused on South African ecology. This year, it highlighted another of the country's strengths, its arts and culture. Next year, the program will feature women's studies.

"UConn Honors in Cape Town

goes to the heart of what the University of Connecticut values: human rights, service to those in need, and the development of global citizens," says Ross Lewin, director of Study Abroad.

While in South Africa, the group lived in a rented house in the suburb where the University of Cape Town campus is located.

"The living experience in the house all together is one of the learning situations we create for our students," says Peter Bagley, a retired UConn professor of music, who led the program. "It provides a wonderful opportunity to share their experiences."

The students spent two days a week in class and three days a week at their internship placement. One class, on the politics and culture of South Africa, was taught by a local instructor. The other, a fine arts class, was taught by Bagley.

South Africa is an excellent place to study the arts, Bagley notes, especially because the arts played such a dramatic role in the expression of protest about apartheid.

"Even 10 years into this young democracy," he says, "South Africans feel they have a long way to go to accomplish equality. South African arts reflect that anger."

The final class project was to create a hypothetical School of Fine Arts at Cape Town. Each student had to develop three course proposals in art and art history,

dramatic arts, or music that could be offered in Cape Town but not in Storrs.

"I wanted our students to expand their imagination," Bagley says. "One student came up with courses on the art of beading and how prevalent this craft is, especially in the townships."

While the classes stretched the students intellectually, the internships provided experiences that were potentially life-changing.

"The heart and soul of the program is the internship experience," says Bagley.

Like many classes with a community-based component, the South Africa program benefits from the knowledge and experience of a local contact, in this case the Rev. Vernon Rose. "He knows everyone," says Bagley.

Rose identified the placement opportunities, and came to the U.S. to interview the candidates before they traveled to Cape Town.

Balfour, a junior majoring in accounting, worked at a non-profit organization that trains unemployed people for jobs in the hotel industry.

Chad Sagnella, a senior in UConn's combined medical program, worked at the Red Cross Children's Hospital in Cape Town.

"I was working with kids with HIV, seeing them clinically as well as conducting research that involved antiretroviral drugs," says Sagnella, who will start medical school next fall. "It provided me



PHOTO SUPPLIED BY JASON BALFOUR

UConn students Jason Balfour, left, and Curran Kennedy, with Vivian, whom they met during an Honors Study Abroad program in Cape Town, South Africa.

with an experience you can't get in the classroom."

Tamara Kramer, a senior majoring in political science, worked for an organization that gives free legal advice to people who suffer economic and human rights abuses. Kramer, who hopes to go to law school, undertook research on the problems of undocumented migrant workers.

"It was an amazing experience," she says. "You're getting more than class. You're immersing yourself in the community, working and meeting people in South Africa."

William Janiszewski, a senior majoring in music education, also valued the internship as a way to

become involved in the community.

Janiszewski did his internship at a music school in one of the townships, teaching a class in music theory, giving individual guitar and voice lessons, and helping write some of the curriculum.

When the principal asked him to stay on, Janiszewski spent an extra two months at the school.

Janiszewski says he would recommend the experience to others, "because it's a challenge. It's not going on vacation. It's really getting a different perspective of the world."

Reporting by Sherry Fisher is included in this article.

Event encourages students to reflect on discrimination, oppression

BY SHERRY FISHER

In one room, a person dressed in Ku Klux Klan robes stood in a corner holding a baseball bat. In another room, photographs of women who were victims of violent crimes, were arranged on a table. In yet another room, a student reflected aloud: "What's wrong with me? I can't do anything right" – while a recording repeated "Only selfish people think of suicide."

These were part of The Tunnel of Oppression, an eight-room multi-media, interactive, walk-through experience designed to increase awareness of acts of oppression.

The event took place Nov. 6 and 7 in the Student Union. Guides led visitors, 10 at a time, through "rooms of oppression" that focused on topics including racism, substance abuse, STDs, violence against women, depression, eating disorders, and homophobia. The 45-minute experience included a "processing area," where participants and a guide discussed the experience and shared thoughts about oppression.

"The main objective of the program is to educate students about the oppressions that are occurring in society and around the world, and potentially on campus," says Missy Korduner, program coordi-

nator for the Honors Program.

Dozens of departments, programs, and centers sponsored the Tunnel of Oppression. Although similar events are held at other

college and universities, this is a first for UConn.

"I'm hoping that the experience will open people's eyes to oppression, especially those who

have never experienced it or may not realize that it still occurs," Korduner says. "Hopefully, they'll start discussions in the community about why it is happening and what we can do to promote acceptance and tolerance."

Visitors moved quietly from room to room. In the area dealing with depression and suicide, guide Kathy Hampton emptied a backpack. It was full of bricks bearing words such as "lonely," "worthless," "shame," "grief," and "empty." The bricks were passed around.

"You never know what burdens someone is carrying around with them," said Hampton, a licensed clinical social worker at Counseling and Mental Health Services.

Empty cookie boxes, crumpled chip bags, and frozen food packages were strewn around a toilet in a room focusing on eating disorders. A sign above a scale read, "I'm a Prisoner in My Own Body," while large, cracked mirrors reflected the images.

"Some people think that oppression of certain groups, such as women, or African Americans, was something that occurred in the past only," Hampton says. "If you are not a member of an oppressed group, you may not be aware of the violence that still occurs daily to people."

She adds, "One room in the

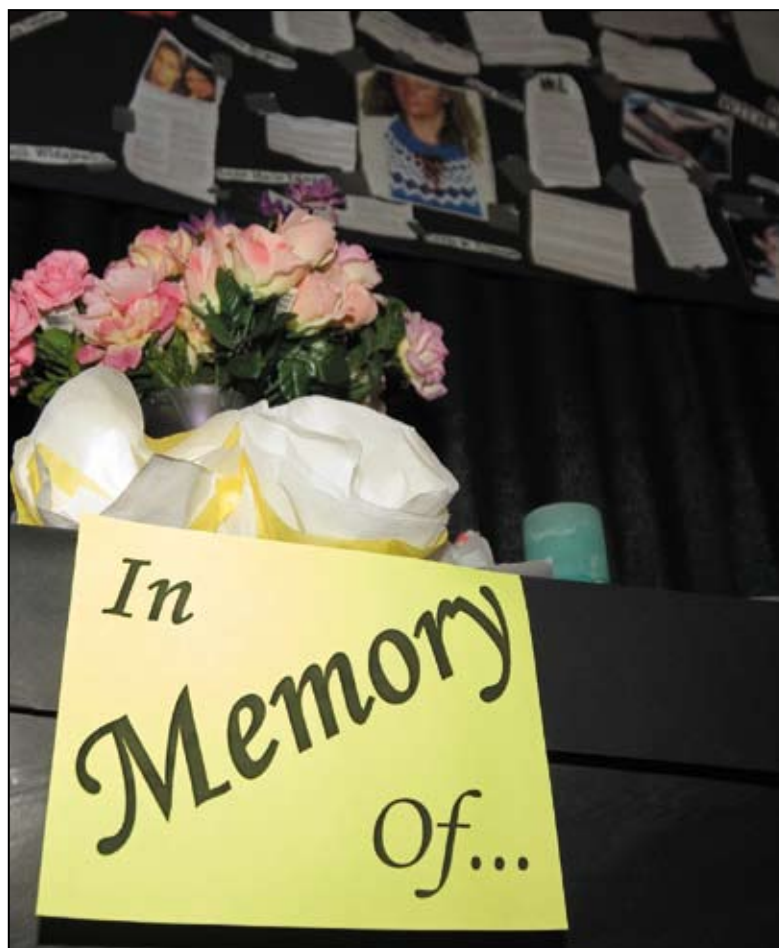


PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

A display focusing on violence against women, part of the Tunnel of Oppression held at the Student Union on Nov. 6 and 7.