



## President's inauguration slated for April 13

The formal inauguration of UConn's 14th president, Michael J. Hogan, will be held on Sunday, April 13, at 3 p.m. in the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts.

Following the ceremony, a University-wide celebration and festival will take place on the Storrs campus, featuring food and refreshments, entertainment and music, and a variety of celebratory activities. If the weather permits, the festival will take place outside on the former site of the UConn Co-op, across from Homer Babbidge Library.

All members of the University community are invited to attend both the ceremony and the festival. Other events are being planned to coincide with the inauguration.

The events will provide a chance for faculty, staff, students, alumni, friends, and neighbors of UConn to participate, says Stephen Rhodes, special assistant to the president. "We hope that the inauguration will allow people to connect with President Hogan and join in a University-wide celebration of who we are and what we can become."

Information and details about inauguration activities, including a dance in the student union with a live band, and an alumni reception in Hartford, will be available in late winter.

Hogan became UConn's president on Sept. 14. He succeeds President Philip E. Austin, who served as president from 1996 to 2007.



A view of the Ratcliffe Hicks Building after a recent snowfall.

PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

## Hospital's financial problems continue, officials tell Board

BY KRISTINA GOODNOUGH

The Health Center administration outlined its ongoing financial difficulties in a presentation to the Board of Trustees last week, advising members that the Health Center is running a deficit of \$10.3 million for the first six months of the fiscal year.

The major driver of the current deficit is John Dempsey Hospital, according to Daniel Upton, the Health Center's chief financial officer. Another problem is reduced federal grant spending, which reduces the amount of money recovered by the Health Center for costs related to facilities and administration. Expenses also have increased, particularly related to hospital staffing.

The John Dempsey Hospital deficit grew from \$5 million in November to \$9 million at year's end, according to Upton. Hospital financial difficulties stem, in part, from lower hospital admissions.

Declining visits to the UConn Medical Group had a negative impact on hospital admissions, since the medical group is the major source of referrals to the hospital.

Patient visits and admissions were affected by December's snowstorms and mid-week holidays. In fact, the Connecticut Hospital Association reports lower admissions generally for the region's hospitals.

Another factor is the recent change in the

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## Trustees name three faculty Distinguished Professors

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

Three faculty members have been named University of Connecticut Board of Trustees Distinguished Professors.

The three – Richard Bass, professor of mathematics; Cheryl Tatano Beck, professor of nursing; and Dipak Dey, professor and head of statistics – were named last week by the trustees because of their "exceptional distinction in scholarship, teaching, and service while at the University of Connecticut."

Bass, who received the Chancellor's Research Excellence Award in 2001, has an international reputation for his research in probability theory. He has used innovative probabilistic techniques to obtain important

results in harmonic analysis, partial differential equations, mathematical physics, and mathematical finance.

Bass, the editor of *Transactions of the American Mathematics Society*, one of the foremost mathematics journals in the world, and his co-authors have also solved a number of long-standing open problems in mathematics.

Beck, one of the pre-eminent scholars in qualitative inquiry in nursing research, is a leading nurse researcher on post-partum depression. The post-partum depression screening scale she developed is used worldwide and has been translated into 13

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PHOTO BY JESSICA TOMMASELLI

Jelena Jukic, a sophomore, shops at the UConn Co-op for books for her spring semester classes.

# Pentagon Papers focus of Jorgensen performance

BY CAROL DAVIDGE

In a democratic society, should a government be allowed to protect secrets in the name of national security if those secrets are used to cover up politically damaging actions by that government?

This issue will be explored in a production of the historical docudrama, *Top Secret: The Battle for the Pentagon Papers*, at Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts on Tuesday, Feb. 5 at 8 p.m. It will be performed by LA Theatre Works, a leading radio theater company, and stars Hollywood actors John Vickery, Gregory Harrison, Shanon Cochran, and John Heard.

This live on-stage radio show depicts The Washington Post's decision to publish the Pentagon Papers, a top secret study documenting U.S. involvement in Vietnam. It provides a behind-the-scenes look at one of the most important cases on freedom of the press ever to go before the Supreme Court, examining the government's relationship to the media, the citizenry's right to information, and the First Amendment, against the canvas of the Vietnam War and the secretive

Nixon White House.

"The Pentagon Papers case helped to legitimate the media's assaults against government secrecy at a time when officials were hiding behind blanket claims of national security to disguise their own deception," says David Yalof, associate professor of political science. "Even today, the modern media's efforts to hold federal government officials accountable by publishing information against the government's wishes owes a great deal to that landmark First Amendment decision."

*Top Secret* was written by the late Leroy Aarons and Geoffrey Cowan, a professor at the University of Southern California. The production is a hybrid of traditional and radio theatre, with a minimal set, costumes, and lights. The actors carry scripts, speak into microphones, and play multiple roles. As in radio theatre, a foley artist creates the sound effects, such as pouring drinks and opening doors.

For tickets and information, call 860-486-4226 or go to [www.jorgensen.edu](http://www.jorgensen.edu).

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hospital's patient caseload, with fewer Medicare cases, which have favorable reimbursement rates, and more Medicaid cases, which have unfavorable reimbursement rates.

Expenses related to staffing have also increased, Upton told board members, as the hospital maintains staffing levels appropriate to patient safety needs and regulatory requirements. The hospital has been successful in reducing staffing costs related to the use of temporary agency nurses, but it has not experienced the expected decline in overtime costs because of the need to provide coverage while newly hired nurses, aides, and unit clerks complete mandatory orientation.

The research enterprise at the Health Center is running a deficit of about \$2.8 million, largely because of the decline in spending on federal grants, which reduced the budgeted recovery of costs for facilities and administration by about \$1.1 million.

Not all the news was negative, Upton told board members.

Patient admissions rose in January, particularly in areas with good reimbursement rates. Surgery cases in the hospital have reached an all-time high. "We should hit budget targets for admissions," he said.

The Health Center has hired a consulting team, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, to help develop a turnaround plan for the board's review.

"Clearly the current deficit doesn't represent good news," said Dr. Gerald Burrow, chairman of the Health Center's Board of Directors. "The Health Center continues to look for cost containment and revenue enhancement, but the big problem for John Dempsey Hospital is that it is a flawed model. With only 108 medical surgical beds, it's impossible to be profitable at the current state of reimbursements."

Burrow explained that the immediate fiscal challenge exists in a larger context. Last year, the General Assembly recognized the need to address the structural problems by commissioning a study of UConn's hospital, the

needs of the medical and dental schools, and the potential impact of the public academic medical center on other hospitals and on economic development throughout the Hartford region. This study, undertaken by the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE), is expected to be completed in March.

The CASE report and the hiring of PriceWaterhouseCoopers to identify revenue enhancements and cost containment strategies are important initiatives to help improve the Health Center's financial situation, Burrow told the Board of Trustees.

In addition, discussions by President Hogan and other university administrators are underway with other hospitals in the region to work on mutually beneficial solutions.

Upton said updated financial information would be provided to the Board before its meeting in March.

## Outstanding advisors sought as award nominees

Nominations are sought for the 2008 Outstanding Undergraduate Student Advisement and Advocacy Award.

This award honors faculty and professional staff members who exemplify excellence in academic advising and advocacy.

Academic advising and advocacy assists students in the development of meaningful educational plans that enrich their studies

and promote the achievement of goals. It is fundamental to creating motivation to pursue academic excellence.

The award is one way in which the University expresses its commitment to this important component of higher education.

One faculty member and one professional staff member will be selected to receive this award.

Nominations are accepted from

students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

Nominations can be made by completing the online form at [http://uei.uconn.edu/advisor\\_award\\_08.htm](http://uei.uconn.edu/advisor_award_08.htm)

Nominations are due by Feb. 1. Nominees will be asked to provide requested information by Feb. 11.

The recipients of the advising awards will be announced at the Instructional Excellence Recognition Dinner on April 24.

## Alumni Award nominations sought

The Alumni Association has called for nominations for this year's awards honoring outstanding faculty and alumni. The awards recognize faculty and alumni who have made extraordinary contributions to the University and to society.

Faculty, alumni, former award recipients, professional colleagues, and members of the UConn community may submit nominations for the following awards:

- Faculty Excellence in Research (in the humanities/social sciences and sciences)
- Faculty Excellence in Teaching (at the undergraduate and graduate levels)
- University Service
- Humanitarian Award

- Distinguished Alumni
- Alumni Association Service
- G.O.L.D. (Graduates of the Last Decade) Award

Nomination forms may be downloaded from the Association's website: [www.uconnalumni.com](http://www.uconnalumni.com).

A full list of past award winners is also available on the website. For more information, contact Kim Lachut at 860-486-4181 or 888-UC-ALUM-1.

The deadline to submit nominations and any supporting materials is Friday, April 11.

Individuals chosen to receive awards will be honored at an awards gala in October.

# 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)

# Center for entrepreneurship celebrates a year of success

BY MICHAEL KIRK

A year ago this month, UConn's Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (CCEI) opened for business in Connecticut and on Jan. 23, it officially moved into its new space in the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology offices in East Hartford.

An event held last week to recognize both milestones was attended by University President Michael J. Hogan; Lt.-Gov. Michael Fedele; State Senate President Donald Williams; the commissioner of Connecticut's Department of Economic and Community Development, Joan McDonald; state legislators; faculty; students; and business owners.

Funded by the legislature as part of the 21st Century Jobs bill that was passed in 2006, the center is a partnership between UConn's Schools of Business and Law. It was created to facilitate "the development of transformational technology businesses in Connecticut" and enhance the state's economic climate by assisting new and existing companies in solving complex business and legal problems.

"After just one year, the Center is already providing the state's economy with talented, knowledgeable, and skilled entrepreneurs," said Hogan. "Creating the Center has been a true partnership among the University, the legislature and state government, and Connecticut businesses. For all of us, this is a good example of how we can proceed on a number of initiatives in the future that will require our cooperation and dedication."

The Center comprises many programs, including the business school's Innovation Accelerator, Venture Consulting Initiative, Student Entrepreneurial Organization, and Family Business Program.

Under the Innovation Accelerator program, teams of students and faculty work with entrepreneurial ventures with the goal of moving the businesses closer to the market by doing market analysis and working out strategic road maps and business models.

The Venture Consulting Initiative provides experiential learning opportunities for students to serve as consultants with client firms. The Student Entrepreneurial Organization organizes conferences, panel discussions, and network-

ing events to facilitate sharing new knowledge and best practices in entrepreneurship between students and inventors. And the Family Business Program deals with family-owned businesses in Connecticut, and key issues facing the development and operation of family-owned companies.

The business school has also expanded the entrepreneurship curriculum it offers at the undergraduate, MBA, and doctoral levels.

The Center for Entrepreneur-

ship and Innovation benefits the state in two major ways: first, it helps new and existing companies in critical technology-based industries to grow and contribute to the state's economy; secondly, since students are an important component, it helps provide skilled, well-prepared graduates in these areas, says Richard Dino, associate professor of management and executive director of the Center.

Noting that nearly 150 students from across the University and from a range of degree programs

– including not only business and law, but also engineering and liberal arts and sciences – took part in the Center during its first year, Dino says: "We bring together exceptional University resources in a dedicated efforts to help the entrepreneurial community succeed. With innovative thinking and teamwork, one never knows what may trigger new products and business success. It's a great formula for success."

As part of this center, the law school's newly created Intellectual Property and Entrepreneurship Law Clinic is staffed by law students. Under the guidance of supervising attorneys, they provide pro bono legal advice to start-up and expanding businesses, both to protect their intellectual property and, more generally, to navigate the legal hoops required to establish a business and move it forward. The services the clinic provides include patent searches, patent filings and trademark applications, drafting non-disclosure agreements, and forming corporations and Limited Liability Companies.

Through the Clinic, law students are now offered both a basic clinical course and an advanced fieldwork course in intellectual property law. These clinical courses provide a complement to an already wide array of intellectual property courses and to the School's Intellectual Property Certificate Program.

Since it opened, more than 130 companies from a wide range of industries have been aided by the Center, with an additional 45 scheduled for the spring. The clients include companies from the software, biotech, energy, and engineering industries.



PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Lt.-Gov. Michael Fedele, left, University President Michael J. Hogan, and State Senate President Donald Williams, at a reception for the Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. The event was held in East Hartford.

## Stamford Campus student center named for Devin Gaines

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

The Board of Trustees has authorized naming the Stamford Campus Student Involvement and Activities Center in honor of Devin Gaines, a 2007 graduate who died in a swimming accident last July.

Gaines, who graduated from UConn just two months before his death, had achieved an extraordinary feat: He had earned 276 credits in five years, enough to earn five degrees – in computer science, cognitive science, theatre studies, linguistics/psychology, and an individualized major in cinema, culture, and cognition. He accomplished this while maintain-

ing a 3.2 grade point average.

Raised in Stamford, Gaines studied at both the Storrs and the Stamford campuses. He had planned to continue his education by pursuing a master's degree in educational communications technology at New York University.

Provost Peter J. Nicholls told the trustees, "The naming of the Stamford Campus Student Involvement and Activities Center is proposed in recognition of Mr. Gaines' unprecedented academic achievements, joy of learning, and engagement in student activities and community involvement."

## Nursing School plans to offer new doctoral program in nursing practice

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

The University of Connecticut plans to offer a new doctoral program in nursing practice – the only program in Connecticut and just the second in New England – beginning in the fall.

The program is designed to serve nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, midwives, nurse anesthetists, and administrators who prefer an alternative to doctoral programs focused on research.

"The program is being developed in direct response to the national need for doctorally prepared leaders in practice," says Anne Bavier, dean of the School of Nurs-

ing. "The program will emphasize the scientific basis of knowledge, evidence-based practice, and development of leadership expertise within advanced practice nursing."

The only other nursing practice doctoral degree in New England is offered at the University of Massachusetts.

The UConn program, recently approved by the Board of Trustees, awaits approval from the state Board of Governors of Higher Education. Once it is approved, students will be admitted.

The program will be headed by Regina Cusson, a professor of nursing who is also a registered nurse and advanced practice reg-

istered nurse. Cusson previously coordinated the neonatal nurse practitioner faculty special interest group of the National Association of Neonatal Nurses.

"She is well versed in issues facing advanced practice educators in the United States," says Bavier.

The school plans to hire two additional associate professors this spring to staff the program. Ten students per year are expected to enroll in the program.

The School of Nursing also offers a traditional Ph.D. program in nursing.

# Barker suggests techniques for engaging students in large classes

BY SHERRY FISHER

Be well organized, give students a comprehensive syllabus, and encourage them to get to know you. Those are some of the key suggestions Keith Barker provided UConn faculty during a recent talk on "Engaging Students in

Large Classes."

Barker, associate vice provost and director of the Institute for Teaching and Learning, offered his advice Jan. 18, during a day-long program sponsored by the Institute and held in the Center for Undergraduate Education.

The event, the first University-wide winter teaching institute, drew about 70 faculty from Storrs, the regional campuses, and the Health Center.

Sessions were also offered on integrating technology in the classroom, online teaching, testing and

grading, helping students handle test anxiety, and teaching every student.

A video clip of Barker from decades ago, complete with Beatles' music, drew chuckles from the audience.

"We have to start off really well, particularly in large classes," he said. "It always amuses students when you show early pictures of yourself. It's one of the ways I start to get involved with the class, irrespective of size."

Small talk builds the relationship between professors and students, he said: "Greet students and make them feel it's an individual experience. Chat with people in the aisles. If they see you doing that, they'll be more inclined to talk to you."

Barker said organization is key when teaching a large class: "Don't plan to ad lib. You have to be prepared for alternatives. There is much more preparation and organization when dealing with a large class."

The course syllabus should be comprehensive and well defined, Barker said. "More should be there rather than less. I believe in writing a narrative syllabus."

Students need to be told what is expected in the class, he said. "Guide them on exam techniques. Explain test and exam formats and how to interpret multiple choice questions. We want to help them succeed."

Also, tell students what is important for them to know. "Suggest that they take really good notes," he said. "Tell them to reflect about what went on during that hour of class after they leave, and to write down some notes."

He said students in large classes generally need more motivating than students in smaller ones. "You have to personalize, have a

variety of activities, and deal effectively with the increased diversity of students and where they are in terms of learning," he told the audience.

There will be more disruptions when teaching a large class, Barker noted. "Students will arrive late and leave early," he said. "Some will sleep in class; others might be reading the newspaper or talking on a cell phone. Tell them to check the syllabus for rules of conduct."

Use humor, Barker said: "If the class is particularly long, add a bit of humor every 20 minutes. It gets students' attention, and helps them return to concentrating."

He advised the audience to "watch your mannerisms and speech patterns. Avoid 'ums' – just leave a gap if you can't collect your thoughts," he said. "Videotaping yourself might be useful. You get a lot of information."

Barker urged faculty to communicate with students, noting that e-mails are a good way to send reminders about important dates and events.

He also encouraged them to tell their students to get to know their instructor, by visiting him or her during office hours and sending e-mails with good questions.

Explain to students that you will not be able to get to know all of their names, but you will try, he said. "Tell them what you want to be called, and how to contact you. Invite them to come to your office during office hours. Ask for names on all points of contact with students."

Barker said he makes a list of everything he needs before going to class. "If I'm using PowerPoint, the first frame gives me a list of all the things I need for the class," he said. "Have alternatives listed too, in case you finish early."



PHOTO BY DANIEL BUTTREY

Keith Barker, director of the Institute for Teaching and Learning, gives a presentation on engaging large classes, during a winter teaching institute for faculty on Jan. 18.

# New DVD helps doctoral students in job search

BY RICHARD VEILLEUX

It may sound surprising, says Larry Druckenbrod, assistant director of the Department of Career Services, but students who are closing in on their doctoral degree sometimes need as much help as undergraduates when it comes to finding a job.

"They're often working so hard on their research that they may not have given it much thought," Druckenbrod says.

Hoping to make the job search easier for graduate students, Druckenbrod led a team that has produced a well received new DVD, "Ph.D. and the Job Search." The DVD consists of a roughly 45-minute video workshop that features UConn professors and an industry official explaining key aspects of the curriculum vitae, the job search process, and the interview.

"I found it very helpful," says Jessica Chau, an environmental engineering student with about a year left in her studies. "It gives perspectives on hiring Ph.D.'s in both academic and industry

settings. The presenters give very specific tips on how to prepare for interviews, such as rehearsing answers to typical questions and memorizing a 30-second summary of your dissertation. I would recommend the DVD for all Ph.D. students."

Druckenbrod is working hard to get the video into the hands of doctoral students. He and Michael Illuzzi, a video design technician in the Institute for Teaching and Learning who shot and edited the disc, made 300 copies of the DVD. They have distributed about 130 so far, giving them to doctoral students who attend Career Services' in-person workshops, and delivering a couple of dozen to deans and department heads.

Druckenbrod also has sent a copy to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, the national organization for career services professionals. The DVD is being peer reviewed and he hopes the Association will give him the green light to market the DVD to other universities. That would allow him to help graduate students

elsewhere too, and to recoup some of the \$6,000 or so the product cost to make.

After a brief orientation, the workshop opens with a segment on CV's that includes tips on length, what to include, what to highlight, and the difference between a CV and a resume, each of which requires different material and points of emphasis.

Featured in the various sections are Ernesto Callegari, director of Pfizer Global Research and Development; Rachel O'Neill, associate professor of molecular and cell biology; Richard Schwab, dean of the Neag School of Education; and Gregory Semenza, associate professor of English. They discuss what they look for when reviewing a CV, conducting a job search, or interviewing a candidate.

For Bo Dai, a Ph.D. student in animal sciences, several comments stood out. Semenza's point, for example, that besides seeing how you conduct yourself during a seminar or during formal questioning, members of the department you're seeking to join are also wondering

whether they can socialize with you and what kind of colleague you'll be.

"I also was interested in their comments about how to prepare a resume," Dai says. "I didn't realize I should list my mentorships, for instance. It's very useful."

The DVD is a handy reference for students.

"We wanted something that used the current technology, that we could hand out and the students could refer back to when they had a question," says Druckenbrod.

Druckenbrod will speak about the DVD at the National Career Development Association conference in Washington, D.C., in July.

He hopes to create a similar DVD for liberal arts students, bringing employers to the screen to discuss what they can do with a liberal arts degree. "It would fill a need," he says, "for the students who see business majors and engineers moving on, who are saying 'What about me? What about my degree?' The employers can answer that."

# Distinguished Professors

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languages.

Beck is the co-author of two seminal texts on nursing research, one for undergraduates and one for graduate students, that are also used worldwide. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, the highest honor for U.S. nurses.

Dey is an elected fellow of the American Statistical Association and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and an elected member of the International Statistical Institute. He has written more than 170 refereed journal articles and book chapters, and co-authored five books or edited volumes.

He received the 2005 Research Excellence Award from the UConn Alumni Association and, in 2004, the Research Excellence Award from the UConn Chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

Purdue University, where Dey earned his Ph.D., awarded him the Outstanding Alumni Award last year.

# Researcher becomes spokesperson on night shifts and cancer

BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

Richard Stevens, a cancer epidemiologist at the UConn Health Center, has been theorizing about a link between artificial light and breast cancer since the mid-1980s.

Now, it seems, the scientific community may finally be ready to listen.

Last fall, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), part of the World Health Organization, decided to classify shift work as a “probable human carcinogen,” a designation also given to agents such as diesel emissions and ultraviolet radiation.

By some estimates, as much as 20 percent of the workforce in developed countries is on a night shift.

“It was interesting to have been involved in this area for so long and have it way under the radar screen,” Stevens says. “Now, with this classification by the IARC, it’s not an oddity, it’s mainstream.”

In the past two months, this cancer research milestone – which was published in the *Lancet Oncology*, a British journal comparable in prestige to the *Journal of the American Medical Association* – has become world news.

## International panel

The IARC based its determination on the recommendation of an international panel of experts, including Stevens. The group recom-



PHOTO FROM CBS NEWS

Julie Chen of CBS News interviews Dr. Richard Stevens, a cancer epidemiologist at the Health Center, about the possible link between artificial light and cancer.

mended a Group 2A classification, one step down from the status of “proven carcinogen,” reserved for things like tobacco and asbestos.

“The 2A classification is taken very seriously by OSHA, the EPA, and the FDA,” Stevens says, “so it will probably have some implications for regulation. But those agencies are really going to watch this field now, because there’s a lot more coming out.”

Stevens is one of many contributors to the work that led to the IARC’s declaration on shift work, which has to do with the disruption of the body’s circadian rhythm and therefore the production of hormones that affect breast cancer risk.

“But there’s potentially much more to it biologically than that,” he says. “If we become sure that it is shift work, that it’s the lighting

that’s changing these hormones, then we need to figure out the actual mechanism: What kind of light, what time of the night, what’s doing it? Once we figure that out, then we might be able to implement effective intervention.”

## Communicating research

Although he was not named among the nine co-authors of the *Lancet Oncology* article, Stevens ended up being a chief spokesperson for this far-reaching story.

In October, after talking to a *Washington Post* reporter about the end of Daylight Savings Time, Stevens thought the conversation about the impact of longer nights was missing something.

After consulting with the head of the IARC Carcinogen Identification and Evaluation Group, Stevens told the reporter about the upcoming study on shift work. Its mention in the *Washington Post* story drew the interest of the Associated Press in London, which ran a story just before the Dec. 1 publication date for the *Lancet Oncology* article. The story was picked up by hundreds of media outlets, from Connecticut to Russia. Stevens appeared live on CBS and Fox News, and did nearly a dozen local television, newspaper, and radio interviews.

Stevens, a professor at the UConn School of Medicine, says although working with the media

can be time-consuming, he regards helping reporters as his obligation as a scientist: “If you don’t answer the reporter’s questions, you can be sure he’ll move on until he finds someone who will, someone who may not be as qualified as you, and that would be a disservice to the science.”

Dr. Carolyn Runowicz, director of the Carole and Ray Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center at the UConn Health Center, says, “The public pays for a significant part of research through donations to foundations, philanthropy, and taxes, which ultimately fund grants from the National Institutes of Health. Talking to reporters, and in doing so, educating the public, gives us a chance to show the return on that investment, and with that comes the potential for additional funding to advance the science.”

Says Dr. Lawrence Raisz, director of the UConn Center for Osteoporosis, “Any time you have a chance to explain your work and have it recognized by laypersons, you should do so, under any circumstances, with any size audience. You should promote your work by realistic statements and in understandable terms.”

Adds Stevens, “When a reporter calls, it’s not a nuisance but an opportunity.”

# Philosopher studies theory and foundations of human rights

BY SHERRY FISHER

When Serena Parekh was an undergraduate at McGill University, she hoped to have a career working in Third World countries.

“I wanted to go into international development,” says Parekh, now an assistant professor of philosophy at UConn, with a joint appointment at the University’s Human Rights Institute. But after spending a semester in Guyana, she changed her mind.

“It was a good experience,” she says, “but it taught me that I was not cut out for that kind of work.”

When she got back, her interests shifted to the theoretical. The subjects of feminist theory and political philosophy became her passion.

“They sparked what I was interested in thinking about: questions of justice and questions of equality,” she says.

After graduating from McGill, she continued her studies in philosophy at the University of Louvain in Belgium. She went on to earn a Ph.D. in philosophy at Boston College, joining the UConn faculty in 2005.

Parekh studies the theory and foundations of human rights. “I do very abstract work on human rights,” she says.

She has a special focus on critics of human rights, particularly the European perspective in the 20th century. Much of her work

centers on contemporary political philosopher Hannah Arendt, who is the focus of her new book, *Hannah Arendt and the Challenge of Modernity: A Phenomenology of Human Rights*.

Arendt was a German Jew who fled from Germany to France in the 1930s. After Germany invaded France, she was sent to a French internment camp there, but managed to leave and come to the U.S.

“She wrote a lot about what it means to be deprived of human rights and what it means to have human rights,” Parekh says. “Arendt was very critical of people who said, ‘We all have natural in-born human rights.’ For her, saying that wasn’t enough for people who are denied their rights.”

“Theoretically, in the 18th and 19th centuries, human rights were understood as something that existed by virtue of us being human beings,” Parekh says, “so it was less important to put human rights into law, to construct political societies so that people’s rights were protected. But the Holocaust taught us that certain groups of people are, in fact, very vulnerable. Arendt said it is important to belong to a political society that could protect your rights. She is very critical of the discourse of human rights, but with the aim of reforming it and making it better. She didn’t want complacency.”

Arendt was concerned about

refugees or displaced peoples, Parekh explains. “She was specifically concerned about people who lack citizenship. If you’re outside the city-state, if you’re a refugee, you have no citizenship. No government wants you. You’re basically abandoned. When we talk about human rights as being inalienable, what we really mean

is that they’re inalienable if you belong to a political state that cares about them.”

The majority of refugees in the world today are in Africa and Asia, says Parekh. Reciprocal treaties between governments dealing with the treatment of refugees are minimally enforced.

“For example, women are often

sexually assaulted in refugee camps,” she says, “both by other refugees and by the people who are supposed to be in charge of taking care of them. Where do they go? Who do they petition?”

“Arendt points out the limitations in how we think about human rights,” says Parekh. “If we were really serious about them, we would grant the right to belong to a state as a condition of human rights. Of course, no state in the world would grant that.”

Parekh says she loves teaching. “It challenges you to be really clear and to present the material in a way that students can understand and absorb,” she says.

She and Anne Hiskes, associate professor of philosophy and director of research ethics and education for stem cell research, developed a new course which they will teach this spring: Bioethics and Human Rights in Cross-Cultural Perspective.

“Usually when bioethics and philosophy are taught, you discuss abortion, euthanasia, medical treatment, and so forth,” Parekh says. “We’re covering cutting edge topics – stem cell research, the idea of perfecting the human species, genetic testing, and ethics. We’re also going to examine other cultures, religious traditions, and feminist critics of biotechnology in the West.”



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Serena Parekh, assistant professor of philosophy, in her office.



Leayn Pinette, a junior majoring in early childhood development and education, swims at the Student Recreational Facility.

PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

## GRANTS

The following grants were received through the Office for Sponsored Programs in October 2007. The list represents only new proposals awarded, and excludes continuations. The list is supplied to the *Advance* each month by the OSP.

Prin. Investigator	Department	Sponsor	Amount	Award Period					
Armstrong, L.	Kinesiology	Danone Research	\$470,877	9/07-10/08					
<i>Influence of Progressive Mild Dehydration on Cognitive Performance and Mood in Men (Phase A) and Women (Phase B)</i>									
Arnold, C.	Dept. of Extension	Conn. Office of Policy and Management	\$150,000	7/07-6/08					
<i>Connecticut Land Use Academy: Year Two</i>									
Barber, T.	Conn. Global Fuel Cell Center	United Technologies/UTC Power/UTC Fuel Cells	\$6,000	9/07-6/08					
<i>Alternate Method for Design of External Manifold Retention System for Fuel Cell Applications</i>									
Bender, N.	Dept. of Extension	U.S. Dept. of Agriculture /Conn. Dept. of Agriculture	\$145,000	10/07-9/08					
<i>Crop Insurance Education and Information for Connecticut Agriculture</i>									
Best, S.	Center for Survey Research & Analysis	Harvard University	\$10,000	5/07-12/07					
<i>Elite Interview</i>									
Best, S.	Center for Survey Research & Analysis	University of Minnesota	\$32,000	5/07-9/07					
<i>Americans' Political Preferences</i>									
Burgess, D.	Pharmaceutical Sciences	Parental Drug Association	\$9,000	9/07-9/10					
<i>Effect of Ethanol as a Co-Solvent on the Physicochemical Properties and in Vitro Release Profiles of Parenteral Microspheres</i>									
Burgess, D.	Pharmaceutical Sciences	Nat'l Institutes of Health/Nat'l Heart, Lung, & Blood Institute	\$679,052	9/07-9/10					
<i>Miniaturized Wireless Implantable Biosensors for Metabolic Monitoring</i>									
Cobb, C.	Educational Leadership	Magnet Schools of America Inc.	\$15,000	5/07-5/08					
<i>Magnet Schools Research &amp; Conference</i>									
DeGuise, S.	Sea Grant College Program	Environmental Protection Agency/Long Island Sound Office	\$39,783	10/07-9/09					
<i>Long Island Sound Synthesis Report</i>									
Dickson, D.	Agriculture & Natural Resources	Dept. of Commerce/ Nat'l Oceanic & Atmospheric Assn./ Univ. of New Hampshire/ Coop. Inst. for Coastal & Estuarine Env. Tech.	\$216,524	9/07-8/09					
<i>The Dissemination and Deployment of a Web-Based Tool to Support Natural Resource-Based Planning at the Local Level</i>									
Dickson, D.	Dept. of Extension	U.S. Dept. of Agriculture	\$83,636	9/07-9/08					
<i>Forest Resource Education for Municipal Officials: Continued &amp; Enhanced Efforts to Integrate the Forest Resource into NEMO Educational Programs</i>									
Fisher, J.	Center for Health, Intervention & Prevention	Nat'l Insts. of Health/ National Institute of Mental Health	\$145,395	1/07-12/09					
<i>Integrating HIV Prevention Into Clinical Care for PLWHA in South Africa – Research Supplement</i>									
Gokhale, S.	Computer Science & Engineering	Dept. of Defense/Army /Qualtech Systems Inc.	\$30,408	5/07-11/07					
<i>System Software Reliability</i>									
Greenshields, I.	Computer Science & Engineering	National Science Foundation	\$47,721	10/07-9/08					
<i>U.S.-Egypt International Workshop on Supercomputing Applications in Climate Sciences and Remote Sensing, March 17-19, Cairo, Egypt</i>									
Kalichman, S.	Psychology – Center for Health, Intervention & Prevention	Nat'l Institutes of Health/National Institute on Alcohol Abuse & Alcoholism	\$3,011,785	11/07-10/12					
<i>Multilevel Alcohol-HIV/AIDS Prevention in South Africa</i>									
Karan, O.	Educational Psychology	Wallingford Public Schools	\$51,000	7/07-6/08					
<i>Counseling Internship – Deirdre Mullen</i>									
Kiayias, A.	Computer Science & Engineering	National Science Foundation	\$50,000	10/07-9/08					
<i>SGER: Collaborative Research: Secure and Auditable Privacy Contracts</i>									
Kraus, C.	Center for Survey Research & Analysis	Conn. State Elections Enforcement Commission	\$6,700	8/07-12/07					
<i>Campaign Financing Survey</i>									
Kraus, C.	Center for Survey Research & Analysis	Conn. Children's Medical Center	\$20,800	8/07-11/07					
<i>Perception Study</i>									
Kraus, C.	Center for Survey Research & Analysis	Conn. Board of Education and Services for the Blind	\$8,000	4/07-10/07					
<i>2007 Consumer Satisfaction Survey</i>									
Lee, J.	Molecular & Cell Biology	National Science Foundation	\$688,000	9/07-8/11					
<i>Mechano-Sensing and the Integration of Cytoskeletal Function in Moving Cells</i>									
Lynes, M.	Molecular & Cell Biology	Nat'l Institutes of Health/Nat'l Inst. of Allergy & Infectious Diseases/Ciencia Inc.	\$80,000	4/07-3/09					
<i>Protein Microarray System for Rheumatoid Arthritis Diagnostics</i>									
Mangle, H.	Dept. of Extension	Conn. Dept. of Social Services	\$30,000	7/07-6/08					
<i>All Children Considered Newsletter</i>									
Morris, T.	Plant Science	U.S. Dept. of Agriculture/Conn. Dept. of Agriculture/ Univ. of Vermont	\$115,342	10/07-9/09					
<i>Regional Coordinator of Northeast U.S. Dept. of Agriculture SARE Professional Development Program</i>									
Olderman, N.	CCS – Academic Partnership & Special Programs	Dept. of Homeland Security	\$1,334,200	10/07-9/10					
<i>UConn Homeland Security Leadership Development Lab</i>									
Pattipati, K.	Electrical & Computer Engineering	Toyota Technical Center USA Inc.	\$155,502	9/07-8/08					
<i>Intelligent Diagnostics and Vehicle Health Management</i>									
Pescatello, L.	Psychology – Center for Health, Intervention & Prevention	Nat'l Insts. of Health /Nat'l Heart, Lung, & Blood Inst./Hartford Hospital	\$215,965	6/07-5/11					
<i>The Effect of Statins on Skeletal Muscle Function</i>									
Shelton, D.	Nursing Instruction & Research	Nat'l Institutes of Health /National Inst. of Mental Health/Univ. of Conn. Health Center	\$53,065	5/07-1/08					
<i>Mental Health Research Infrastructure in Corrections</i>									
Shelton, D.	Nursing Instruction & Research	Dept. of Justice/ National Institute of Justice/Univ. of Conn. Health Center	\$26,828	5/07-9/07					
<i>Conn. Correctional Health Research Program</i>									
Valiquette, E.	Dept. of Extension	J.C. Penney Afterschool Fund Inc./National 4-H Council	\$37,500	8/07-6/08					
<i>Danbury Afterschool</i>									
Wagner, D.	Ecology & Evolutionary Biology	Conn. Dept. of Environmental Protection	\$3,000	11/07-6/08					
<i>Classification and Biomass Estimation of Aquatic Invertebrates in Coastal Wintering Black Duck Habitat</i>									
Whitlatch, R.	Marine Sciences	Northeast Utilities/ Environmental Science Services Inc.	\$318,462	9/07-10/10					
<i>NUSCO 1385 Cable Replacement Project – Conn. Waters Continuation of Pre-Construction Monitoring</i>									
Yang, X.	Center for Regenerative Biology	Conn. Dept. of Public Health	\$200,000	10/06-9/08					
<i>Generation of Insulin Producing Cells from Human Embryonic Stem Cells</i>									
Yang, X.	Center for Regenerative Biology	National Institutes of Health/Evergen Biotechnologies Inc.	\$60,800	9/07-3/08					
<i>Derivation of Germline Competent Rabbit Embryonic Stem Cell Lines (Phase I)</i>									
Yang, X.	Center for Regenerative Biology	U.S. Dept. of Agriculture/Agricultural Research Service	\$546,260	5/07-4/08					
<i>Improving Cloning Efficiency</i>									

## CALENDAR

Monday, January 28, to Monday, February 4

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, Feb. 4, through Monday, Feb. 11. Those items must be in the database by 4 p.m. on Monday, Jan 28. 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, 1/28** – Last day to file petitions for course credit by examination.

**Monday, 2/4** – Last day to add/drop courses without additional signatures

## 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, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, noon-4 p.m.; Sunday, closed. Research Center hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; closed weekends.

**Pharmacy Library.** Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-10 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1-9 p.m.

**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-10 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-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, closed.

**Stamford Campus Library.** Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, closed.

**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

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

## Ph.D. Defenses

**Wednesday, 1/30 – Statistics.** *New Development of Bayesian Mixture Models for Survival and Survey Data*, by Yingmei Xi (adv.: Chen). 1 p.m., Room 326, CLAS Building.

## Lectures &amp; Seminars

**Monday, 1/28 – Particles, Astrophysics, and Nuclei Physics Seminar.** Title TBA, by Alex Prygarin, Tel Aviv University. 2-3:30 p.m., Room

P121, Gant Science Complex.

**Monday, 1/28 – Health & Wellness Lecture.** “Nutrition, Empowerment, and Motivation: A Special Series for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.” \$118 for members, \$130 for non-members for six week series. 6:45-8 p.m., Henry Low Learning Center, Health Center, Farmington.

**Tuesday, 1/29 – Health & Wellness Lecture.** “Knees in Motion,” by Drs. Robert Arciero and Jay Lieberman, New England Musculoskeletal Institute. 7-9 p.m., Keller Auditorium, Health Center, Farmington.

**Wednesday, 1/30 – Plant Science Lecture.** “*Pantoea stewartii* subsp. *stewartii* Requires Motility for Plant Infection,” by Carmen Herrera.

1-4 p.m., Room 109, Advanced Technologies Laboratory.

**Wednesday, 1/30 – Law Class.** A faculty member presents a recent case of interest and holds a discussion. 5-6 p.m., Room 110, Cheryl Chase Hall, Law School.

**Thursday, 1/31 – Latin American Studies Lecture.** “Geographies of Super-Vulnerability,” by Carol

**Friday, 2/1 – Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science Cyber Seminar.** “Hydrogeology is the Key to Understanding the Arsenic Crisis on the Ganges Delta,” by Charles Harvey, MIT. 3-5 p.m., Room 306, Castleman Building.

**Monday, 2/4 – Health & Wellness Lecture.** “Nutrition, Empowerment, and Motivation: A Special Series for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.” \$118 for members, \$130 for non-members for six week series. 6:45-8 p.m., Henry Low Learning Center, Health Center, Farmington.

## Meetings

**Monday, 1/28 – University Senate.** 4-6 p.m., Room 7, Bishop Center.

## Exhibits

**Through Friday, 2/8 – Student Union Art Gallery.** *After Life, Art Department Alumni Show.* Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

**Through Wednesday, 2/13 – Health Center.** *Meet Mixus – Mixed Media*

*Tagged*, photo images transferred onto solid-sculpted glass “tongues.” Also, through Sunday, 5/11, *Rome, Italy and Europe.* Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday, 1-4:30 p.m. Admission free. **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

**Thursday, 1/31 – Faculty Trio.**

Theodore Arm, violin; Kangho Lee, cello; Neal Larrabee, piano, perform trios by Beethoven, Rachmaninov, and Brahms. \$28-\$30 regular, \$7 UConn students. 7:30 p.m., Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. For tickets and information, call 860-486-4226. Concert talk by Bruce Bellingham at 6:45 p.m.

**Friday, 2/1 – Don Vappie & The Creole Jazz Serenaders.** Don Vappie's Creole Jazz Serenaders reach back to the French Creole “hot jazz,” revitalizing classic compositions. \$28-\$30 regular, \$7 UConn students. 8 p.m., Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. For

11th Hour. Free screening. 7 p.m., Student Union Theatre. Discussion to follow, led by Anji Seth and Richard Parnas.

**Wednesday, 1/30 – Martin Luther King Panel Discussion.** Panel discussion focusing on Dr. King's quote, “Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor ...” 4-5:30 p.m., Student Union Theatre.

**Wednesday, 1/30 – Focus the Nation: Climate Change Awareness Event.** *The 2% Solution*, live webcast. 8-9:15 p.m., Room 131, Biology/Physics Building.

**Wednesday, 1/30 – Focus the Nation: Climate Change Awareness Event.** *An Inconvenient Truth*, documentary by Al Gore. 6-7:30 p.m.; *The 2% Solution*, live webcast with climate biologist Steven Schneider, 8 p.m. Gen Re Auditorium, Stamford Campus.

**Thursday, 1/31 – Focus the Nation: Climate Change Awareness Event.** Faculty panel discussion, led by Veronica Makowsky and Gregory Anderson. 5 p.m., Konover Auditorium. Preceded by reception at 4 p.m.

**Friday, 2/1 – Walk Your Way to a Healthy Heart.** The easiest way to prevent heart disease is to take a walk. Walk through the corridors and stairwells of the UConn Health Center.

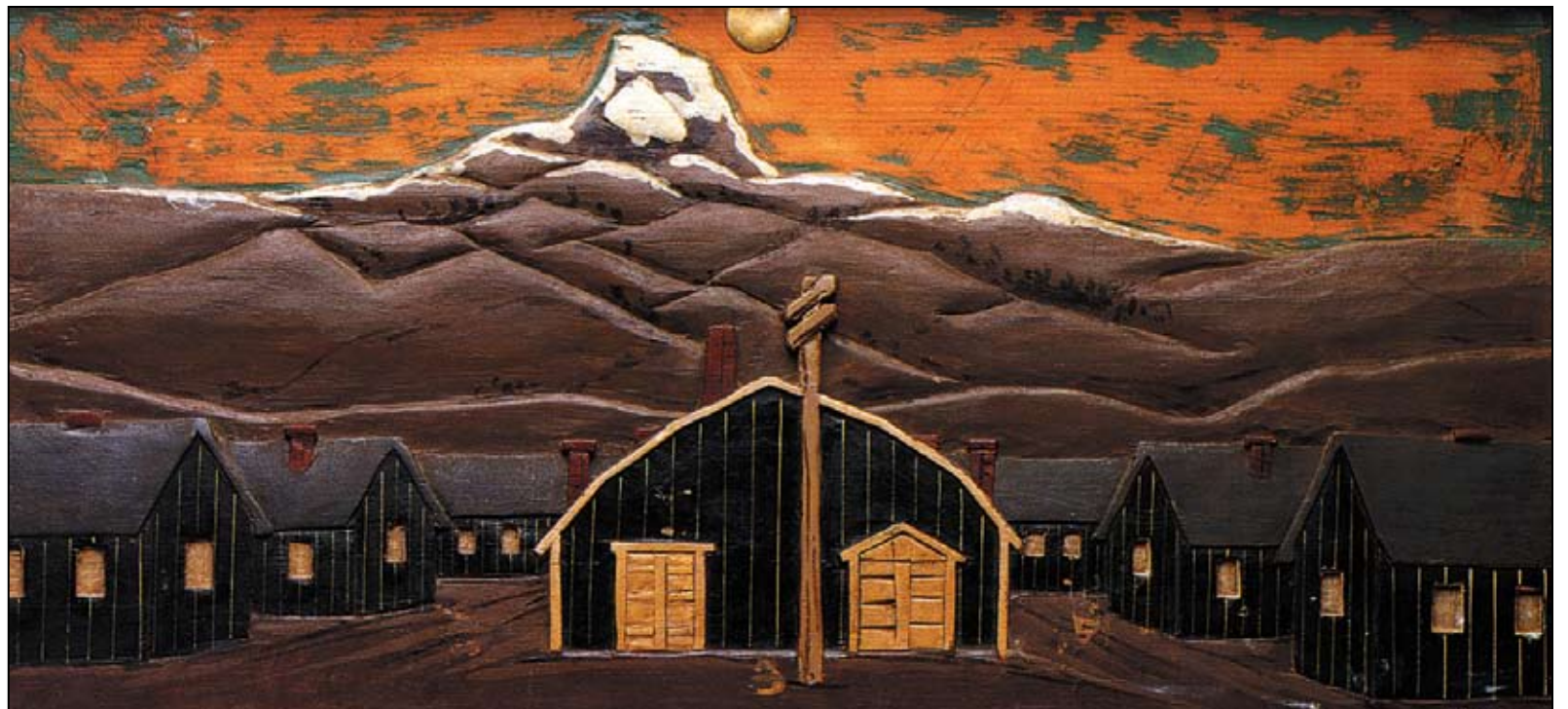


PHOTO BY TERRY HEFFERNAN

A carved and painted wood panel by an unknown artist from the exhibit, *The Art of Gaman: Arts and Crafts from the Japanese American Internment Camps 1942-1946.* The exhibit is on display at the William Benton Museum of Art through March 30.

Atkinson-Palombo. Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies conference room, second floor, Ryan Building, noon-2 p.m.

**Thursday, 1/31 – Focus the Nation: Climate Change Awareness Panel.** Faculty panel discussion, led by Veronica Makowsky and Gregory Anderson. 5 p.m., Konover Auditorium. Preceded by reception at 4 p.m.

**Thursday, 1/31 – Health & Wellness Lecture.** “Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center Collaborative Clinical, Basic and Translational Research Forum on Colorectal Cancer.” 6-8:30 p.m., Henry Low Learning Center, Health Center, Farmington.

**Thursday, 1/31 – Rainbow Center/True Colors Seminar.** “Conflict Resolution: Lions and Tigers and Bears, oh my!” 7-8:30 p.m., Room 403, Student Union.

**Friday, 2/1 – Environmental Engineering Seminar.** “Water, Agriculture, Climate Change and Biofuel Production: Technological Challenges in Inter-Related Systems,” by Daniele Cesano, Harvard University. Noon-1 p.m., Room 212, Castleman Building.

*Artists.* Daily, 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Main and Mezzanine Lobbies, Health Center.

**Through Friday, 3/7 – Homer Babbidge Library.** *Design for the Real World: Student Work in Communication Design at the University of Connecticut,* Gallery on the Plaza; *Photographs at a Different Wave Length*, by Marcia Reid Marsted, Stevens Gallery. For hours, see Libraries section. Opening reception Sunday, 2/3, 2-4 p.m.

**Through Friday, 3/7 – Dodd Center.** *Rail, Rural and River: The Art of John Fleming Gould*, Gallery; *His & Hers*, New Yorker cartoons by Michael Maslin & Liza Donnelly, West Corridor. For hours, see Libraries section. Opening reception Sunday, 2/3, 2-4 p.m.

**Through Wednesday, 3/12 – Celeste LeWitt Gallery.** *Morocco at a Glance*, paintings by Emese El Bissatiné Pásztor, and *Wild America*, photographs by Gary Melnysyn. Daily, 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Health Center.

**Through Sunday, 3/30 – William Benton Museum of Art.** *The Art of Gaman: Arts and Crafts from the Japanese American Internment Camps 1942-1946.* Also, *Pamina T aylor's*

tickets and information, call 860-486-4226.

**Sunday, 2/2 – The Wizard of Oz.** Adults \$13; children \$7. 1 p.m., Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. For tickets and information, call 860-486-4226.

## Sports

**Monday, 1/28 – Men's Basketball vs. Louisville.** 7 p.m., XL Center, Hartford.

**Wednesday, 1/30 – Women's Basketball vs. South Florida.** 7 p.m., XL Center, Hartford.

**Friday, 2/1 – Women's Ice Hockey vs. Northeastern.** 7 p.m., Freitas Ice Forum.

**Saturday, 2/2 – Men's Basketball vs. Pittsburgh.** 1 p.m., XL Center, Hartford.

**Saturday, 2/2 – Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving vs. Georgetown and U.S Merchant Marine Academy.** 1 p.m., Wolff-Zackin Natatorium.

**Saturday, 2/2 Women's Basketball vs. Providence.** 7 p.m., Gampel Pavilion.

## Potpourri

**Tuesday, 1/29 – Focus the Nation: Climate Change Awareness Event.** *The*

Remember to wear red ... and your sneakers. Noon-1 p.m., Keller Lobby, Health Center, Farmington.

**Friday, 2/1 – An evening with Dr. Robert Bullard.** 5 p.m., Konover Auditorium. Bullard is the Ware Distinguished Professor of Sociology and director of the Environmental Justice Resource Center at Clark Atlanta University.

**Saturday, 2/2 – Natural History Museum Workshop: Bird Basics.** Learn about the basics of bird biology, their unique behaviors, sounds, and lifestyles, as well as bird identification essentials with Lena Samsonenko, Cornell University. Noon-2 p.m., Connecticut State Museum of Natural History. Advance registration required: \$15 (\$10 for Museum members). For more information, call 860-486-4460.

**Sunday, 2/3 – Natural History Museum Lecture.** “The Human Predilection for Travel,” by Dennison Nash. 3 p.m., Connecticut State Museum of Natural History. Free admission.

# Chudy helps internationals comply with rules, feel at home

BY SHERRY FISHER

Colorful trinkets and objets d'art from around the world pack the shelves and line the walls in Robert Chudy's office. There's even an international collection of Coke cans – some full, some empty.

"Students bring things when they come back after the holidays," Chudy says. "They like to add to the collection. It makes them feel at home when they see an object from their own country."

Chudy, who has been at UConn for 23 years, advises, counsels, and interprets immigration rules and regulations and labor department policies for some 1,700 international students and scholars at Storrs and the regional campuses. He is currently interim director of the Department of International Services and Programs.

"My job is to make sure that the international student or scholar understands the immigration rules and regulations, and to make sure they feel welcomed to the United States," he says. "The International Center is a place where internationals should feel free to discuss any problems they're having."

He often gives workshops and presentations to faculty and staff about rules and regulations, which differ depending on an individual's immigration classification.

Chudy says his job is gratifying.

"I have probably the most rewarding job in the world," he says. "You come to our office, and we are here to help you. And that's the reward: to see that we've helped someone solve a problem – either legal or personal – and maybe,



PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Robert Chudy, interim director of the Department of International Services and Programs.

avoid a catastrophe."

Chudy was one of two people at UConn to receive the 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award in International Affairs from the Office of the Vice Provost for Multicultural & International Affairs. He also received a lifetime achievement award from Region XI (New England) NAFSA, an association of international educators that promotes international education and provides professional development opportunities.

As a member of NAFSA's government regulatory advisory committee he works with other advisors in New England on the interpretation of immigration rules and regulations, often

through presentations.

But Chudy's presentations are not what one would expect, given the topic – which might be seen as dry: He creates full-fledged skits, using characters from history and film, complete with costumes and music.

For example, in one skit, "The Story of Don Quixote: A Candle in the Wind," Don Quixote's quest for the "Impossible Dream" is to get a green card.

"It's a classic example of what happens when brilliant international visitors ignore details and 'cast their fate to the winds,'" says Chudy.

In another program, he uses Dante's *Inferno* to examine the

"crime" that internationals either knowingly or unknowingly commit: misrepresentation on a visa application.

Darth Vader and Princess Leia from *Star Wars* have also appeared in his programs. These characters did not have the appropriate visas to enter the United States, he says.

"You can take something dry – like rules and regulations – make it fun, and have it stick with people," Chudy says. "The skits reinforce concepts in a new way."

Chudy says the terrorist attacks of 9/11 altered the way colleges handle international students, faculty, and staff: "SEVIS [the Student Exchange Visitor Information System] really changed things."

SEVIS was one of the federal government's most ambitious efforts to boost surveillance of visitors from other countries. Schools must notify the Department of Homeland Security when a foreign student has enrolled, dropped out, faced disciplinary action, or changed a name, address, or field of study.

"Every move an international student makes, such as adding or dropping a course or changing their address, has to be reported to the government," Chudy says. "Any time they go on PeopleSoft, we get the message and have to decipher whether immigration has to handle it, or we can talk to the person. For example, an international undergraduate must take 12 credits every semester. If they go below that, they violate their status and are subject to deportation."

At orientation, Chudy says, "We tell students that we don't work

for the Department of Homeland Security, the State Department, or the CIA. We want to make their experience in America a good one, but we also have to make sure they understand the rules and regulations."

And that takes a lot of time, he says: "Every day, there are at least 50 to 100 alerts. One day, at the beginning of a semester, we got more than 1,000 alerts, because people were adding and dropping courses."

Chudy has a bachelor's degree in history and a minor in philosophy from the University of Alabama, and a master's in East Asian Studies from the University of Kansas.

He served in the Peace Corps from 1972 to 1977 in Busan, Korea, where he helped start a linkage/exchange visitor program between the University of Alabama and Busan National University.

"My experience in the Peace Corps really helps in my work," he says. "When someone comes into my office with a problem, I can say, 'I know how you feel, I've been there.' I can help people solve their problems."

These problems run the gamut, he says. "It can be anything from a death in the family or a car accident, to a student wanting to transfer to a warmer place," he says. "Maybe a student isn't getting along with his or her academic advisor, or is having dating issues. Anything you can think of is discussed in this office."

"I never know what to expect from day to day," he adds. "If you like the unexpected, this is the job for you."

## Workshop aims to draw students to dentistry

BY CAROLYN PENNINGTON

A top priority for the UConn School of Dental Medicine is to attract a highly qualified and diverse group of students, with a special emphasis on recruiting Connecticut residents. That's why the School has started offering a special workshop called Passport to Dentistry, aimed at attracting undergraduates to the profession.

"The workshop allows students to explore the world of dentistry as a career option," says Dr. Edward Thibodeau, associate dean for admissions. "We offer them a challenging combination of academic and experiential activities, so they gain insight and a greater appreciation for the dental profession."

Following a successful pilot this summer, the two-day workshop was held at the Health Center in January, with 14 students. Many more applied, but class size is limited.

"I thought it would be a good experience and I could learn more about the profession," says Tiffany Brady, a senior majoring in nursing, who attends UConn's Greater Hartford Campus.

The program, which was limited

to juniors and seniors, gave them an overview of oral health and disease, and highlights some of the current issues affecting the profession. The students also visited dental laboratories, where they were able to experiment with some of the basic "tools of the trade."

An important part of the program was the help students received in preparing for the dental school application process and dental admission test (DAT). Presenters discussed letters of recommendation, application timelines, interviewing skills, and study strategies for the DAT.

"I need to start applying to dental school in just three months, so I need to learn the ins and outs of the process," says Sajal Swaroop, a junior at the Storrs campus, who is interested in biomedical engineering and materials science. "I like working with different materials, and most aspects of dentistry are pretty much materials driven."

Most of the students who attended the workshop are members of the pre-dental society. First organized at UConn four years ago, the society now has nearly 70 active members. The workshop is



PHOTO BY CAROLYN PENNINGTON

Tiffany Brady, a UConn senior, examines a tooth model, during a recent Passport to Dentistry workshop. The two-day workshop is designed to encourage undergraduates to consider dentistry as a career.

a way of helping them explore the profession.

One of the major goals of the program is to get as many Connecticut residents as possible to apply to the dental school.

"As a state school, part of our responsibility is to train Connecticut's best," says Thibodeau. "So we're also going to offer the program to students in the Connecticut State University system, as well as some of the private schools

in the area."

Thibodeau hopes to offer the workshop at least two or three times a year.

Another important objective is to increase the number of minority students applying to dental school.

"The dental profession in general lags far behind in terms of attracting minority students, so we're hoping these types of programs will help them learn more about dentistry," Thibodeau says.

Evelize Cordero, a junior at the Storrs campus who is majoring in biological sciences, says she has been interested in dentistry since she lost a front tooth when she was about eight years old. "I had this huge space and was afraid to smile. It made me realize just how important a dentist could be."

Cordero says the workshop reaffirmed her interest in being a dentist, and offered guidance to help her become one.