



Experts weigh impact of technology, Internet on democracy

BY SCOTT BRINCKERHOFF

Government should follow the example of the online encyclopedia Wikipedia by tapping into the expertise of ordinary people, a New York Law School professor said during a UConn symposium on "e-democracy." The Feb 7 event was sponsored by the *Connecticut Public Interest Law Journal*.

The digital age and Internet are benefiting democracy but also bringing challenges, speakers agreed. Panel discussions at the UConn Law School event covered campaigning on the Web, the mechanics of voting, political speech, and the power of blogging.

The keynote speaker, Professor Beth Noveck of New York Law School, described a "Wikipedia-like" project she has under way with the U.S. Patent Office. Its purpose is to use technology to improve the quality of information that patent examiners see before deciding whether to grant a patent.

The idea behind the project, she said, is to allow experts on various subjects to "self-select" and weigh in on pending patents, in much the same way that people contribute to the online encyclopedia Wikipedia.

Noveck said the Patent Office and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to name just two Washington groups, tend to make decisions based on consultation with people who may not be the true experts.

"We confuse professionalism with expertise," she said. Governance and rule-making, she added, "should be split into smaller tasks to allow people to participate where they can and should; in other words, when participation fits with their skills, their know-how, and their passions."

The Patent Office has a significant backlog and often makes far-reaching decisions in only 18 hours, Noveck said. Patent examiners routinely use Google to research the science embodied in applications, coming up with a vast number of citations, but Noveck's project focuses instead on inviting a "micro elite" to comment.

"We don't need 10,000 people participating in the work of the EPA, to decide on an issue about asbestos, or 10,000 people

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Monica Tine, a sophomore majoring in pathobiology, makes a Valentine's Day card in the Benton Museum.

PHOTO BY JESSICA TOMMASELLI

University Medal winners announced

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

Two individuals who have contributed significant public service to the UConn will receive the University Medal at commencement ceremonies in May.

Claire Leonardi, a former member of both the University Board of Trustees and the Health Center Board of Directors, and Samuel Kalmanowitz, '61, were selected by the Board of Trustees for the honor.

Leonardi was a member of the Board of Trustees from 1993 to 2003 and a founding director and chair of the Health Center Board of Directors from 2002 to 2007.

She helped lay the foundation for the UConn 2000 program, and testified about the program to the General Assembly before it was approved. She also headed the Health Affairs committee of the Board of Trustees. During her tenure on that committee and on the Health Center Board of Directors, she played a critical role in addressing major financial challenges confronting the Health Center.

"Ms. Leonardi's contributions to the University cannot be overstated," says President Michael J. Hogan. "She has worked tirelessly, and often behind the scenes, to help the University make progress on many fronts."

Kalmanowitz, who received a bachelor's degree in pharmacy in 1961, has for the past four decades been a leader in the practice of community pharmacy and in technological innovation in the field. He started Kaye's Pharmacy in Meriden in 1963, owning and operating it until he retired and sold it in 2003.

"Sam is a very special person," says Robert McCarthy, dean of pharmacy. "His commitment to the School of Pharmacy, his patients, and his community has been a model for us all."

Kalmanowitz has served as a mentor to students and new members of the profession, and has served on several advisory boards, including one for Hospice and one for the Visiting Nurse Associations. He also was a founding member of the School of Pharmacy advisory board.

A frequent donor to the school, he also helped the school win a major software donation. During his career, he has earned

Grad student first to complete master's in clinical, translational research

BY CINDY WEISS

The first master's degree student in a new Storrs campus-Health Center program has successfully defended her thesis, a milestone for a collaborative effort that aligns the University with the National Institutes of Health "Roadmap" for the direction of medical research.

Colleen Jackson completed her master's degree in clinical and translational research in late January. A psychology student continuing toward her Ph.D. in clinical neuropsychology, she took her coursework and defended her thesis at the UConn Health Center, where she was one of five students in various stages of the new master's program.

Three others are physicians – two are junior faculty members in pediatrics from the

Children's Medical Center and Department of Psychiatry at the Health Center, and the other a Health Center fellow in urogynecology. The fifth is another psychology graduate student.

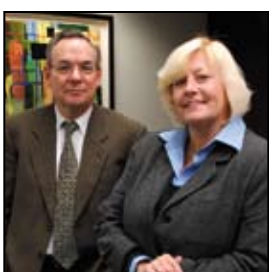
The clinical translational master's degree is designed to bridge a gap between research and practice, reflecting an NIH priority to speed, streamline, and improve the delivery of research findings to patient care and encourage innovation.

Physicians typically do not receive formal training in research, says Dr. Anne Kenny, associate professor of medicine at the Health Center and co-director of the master's degree program.

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PHOTO BY JESSICA TOMMASELLI

From left, Kristina Jablonski, a freshman pre-teaching major, Cara Flynn, an exploratory freshman, and Annemarie Hovasse, a sophomore psychology major, enjoy an ice cream at the SUBOG One Ton Sundae event, Feb. 8.

Students urged to complete software survey

A group studying the feasibility of the University providing discounted software packages to all students is seeking input from students via a survey.

The survey is available through a link on the UConn student home page: students.uconn.edu.

Faculty and staff are encouraged to urge students to complete the survey.

The survey, which takes less

than five minutes to complete, asks students what software they commonly use, and polls them on potential participation and cost options.

It has been compiled by the Student Software License Group, an ad hoc committee of the University's Software License Group, which was charged with searching for less expensive software solutions for faculty and staff. The ad hoc

committee was formed to explore the possibility of extending cost savings such as volume licensing to students, with a goal of providing UConn students with the opportunity to obtain essential software at greatly reduced rates.

The results of the survey will be incorporated into the Student Software License Group's recommendations to the University administration.

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virtually trailing around a senator or congressman, overseeing their work," she said. "We need a micro elite of self-interested collaborators."

Other speakers looked at the intersection of technology and democracy in a political context. The power of blogging was illustrated in a comment by Paul Schiff Berman, Jesse Root Professor of Law, during a panel discussion he moderated.

Berman said one of the panelists, Tim Tagaris, who has served as internet director of two Connecticut-based political campaigns, had correctly predicted in his blog that Hillary Clinton's campaign was in money trouble, days before that became common knowledge.

Tagaris's insight, Berman said, stemmed from his observation that Clinton had mentioned her web site address in three consecutive speeches, an unusual comment for her. The reason, Tagaris surmised, was that she wanted people to log on and contribute.

Tagaris, one of several internet professionals to discuss their work, said the online part of a campaign needs to complement the rest of the campaign, not be a substitute for it.

Several speakers noted that some candidates seem more comfortable with the freewheeling environment of the Internet, while



PHOTO BY SPENCER SLOAN

State Sen. Gayle Slossberg speaks on a panel about the mechanics of voting, during a symposium on 'e-Democracy' held at the Law School on Feb. 7.

others are cautious.

Democrats Ned Lamont and Howard Dean, respectively candidates for senator and president several years ago, fell into the comfortable category, said Diana Cohen, visiting assistant professor of government and law at Lafayette College.

"They allowed open discourse to occur right on their web sites, even though they couldn't control it," she said.

In today's campaign, Barack Obama seems to be making more of a serious connection with voters on his web site than Hillary Clinton is on hers, said blogger Melissa Ryan of CTLocalPolitics.net and

MyDD.com.

Experts also recalled the 2000 presidential election and its aftermath in Florida, where voters learned for the first time about "chads" and "hanging chads." This year, they agreed, chads won't be a problem, but such technologies as scanners and touch screen computers may bring new ones.

One expert said the new technologies are subject to both human error and viruses. State Sen. Gayle Slossberg (D) said the General Assembly is closely watching how the new systems work, and will randomly audit results – in public – following the election.

Nominations sought for student life awards

The Department of Student Activities is seeking nominations and applications for the 2008 Student Life Awards.

This is an opportunity to recognize students' contributions to the University community and their leadership roles. Students may be nominated for a variety of awards recognizing scholarship, community service, outstanding programming, leadership, school pride, and more. Many of the honors include a cash award. There are also awards recognizing outstanding advise-

ment and support of students and student organizations by faculty and staff members.

More information about the awards and the nomination process can be found at www.leadership.uconn.edu (click on 'Student Life Awards').

Nominations will be accepted through Friday, Feb. 29.

Award recipients will be recognized during "Recognition Week" April 14-18. For more information, call 860.486.6588.

Women's studies conference

A conference on "Transnational Feminism, Community Activism, and the Politics of Empowerment" will take place on Friday, Feb. 29 and Saturday, March 1 at Rome Ballroom. The conference, which is sponsored by the Women's Studies Program, will feature a keynote address by Cecilia Fire Thunder, the first tribally elected president of the Oglala Lakota (Sioux) Nation.

Fire Thunder is one of the founders of the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and of Cangleska, an organization that provides advocacy and services on issues of domestic violence and sexual assault to citizens of the Oglala Sioux Tribe.

The conference will also include a performance of spoken word slam poetry by writer, hip hop theater artist, and poetic activist Aya de Leon on Friday evening, and breakfast on Saturday morning with Nancy Wyman, the first

woman elected as State Comptroller of Connecticut.

For more information and to download the registration form, go to: www.womens.studies.uconn.edu.

Registration for graduate students and others with limited means is \$20 for one day, \$35 for two days. For the public, registration costs \$45 for one day; \$85 for two days. There is no charge for UConn undergraduates to attend. Checks should be payable to Women's Studies Conference, and sent to the Women's Studies Program, Beach Hall U-2181, 354 Mansfield Road, Storrs, CT 06269.

The UConn Women's Studies Program focuses on the critical analysis of gender and the pursuit of knowledge about women, and is committed to a vision of women and gender that is international and cross-cultural.

University Medal-winners *continued from page 1*

a number of awards from professional associations, including the Elan Pharmaceutical Award in recognition of innovative pharmacy practice from the Connecticut Pharmaceutical Association in 2002.

He received the UConn Alumni Association's Award for distinguished service in 1994. A resident of Meriden, he has also served

on the Meriden Redevelopment Authority and helped to oversee a major redevelopment of the downtown area.

"Mr. Kalmanowitz is an example of what we hope all of our alumni will become – a leader both in his profession and in his community," says Hogan. "He sets a fine example for all of us."

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Hogan's team reaches out to community

BY SHERRY FISHER

Lisa Troyer's calendar is packed, but that's exactly how she likes it.

"I love my job," says Troyer, one of two people who came to UConn from the University of Iowa with President Michael J. Hogan. She is his senior associate and chief-of-staff.

Steve Rhodes is Hogan's executive assistant.

Troyer, a professor of sociology, was interim associate provost at the University of Iowa when Hogan, who was provost there, asked her to join him at UConn.

Troyer was at Iowa for 12 years. Her research program there involved innovative problem-solving and change in groups and organizations. She studies how communication and computer-mediated technologies, such as e-mail, mobile phones, and virtual interaction affect the innovativeness of groups and organizations. She has taught courses on group dynamics, technology and society, sociological theory, social psychology, and complex organizations.

At Iowa, Troyer also chaired a variety of university committees.

"Mike was in charge of writing the strategic plan at Iowa," says Troyer, "and I was asked as one of the faculty to be part of that group. That's how I got to know him. Near the time that we were finishing it, he was already looking ahead to implementation and realized that he needed more help to work on projects as they came up."

He offered Troyer an administrative fellowship to work with him. "I joined him in 2005 and we finished the plan," she says, "and started working on a lot of different things." One project involved handling the absorption of students who came to Iowa after Hurricane Katrina. She also worked on disaster preparedness: A tornado had come through the campus.

"The tornado hit right before

finals," Troyer says. "We had to work with all the colleges to figure out how we could accommodate all the students who were affected.

"Mike called me 'Dr. Disaster' for a while," she adds.

In 2007, Hogan invited Troyer to become interim associate provost of academic administration. Her duties included program review and development, and space and capital planning.

"When we learned Mike was coming to UConn, we were devastated," she says. "He has incredible leadership qualities and charisma. He has the ability to get people together around an issue and find the common ground and move ahead. He also has a vision for how to take the university forward."

So when Hogan asked her to join him at UConn, she jumped at the chance. "I knew that I wanted to continue working with and learning from this kind of leader," Troyer says.

Her husband, who is still in Iowa, plans to join her soon.

Since her arrival, Troyer has been "learning about the organization, the opportunities, and the challenges," she says. That involves meeting with faculty, staff and administrators. "People will sometimes contact Mike, and his schedule is so full it's hard to get on his calendar. He'll often ask me to contact the person and see if they'll meet with me instead."

Troyer grew up in Seattle, earning a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Washington, and her master's and Ph.D. degrees in sociology from Stanford University.

She enjoys the variety in her job. "Every second is different," she says. "There are so many smart people doing incredible work."

"I never know who is going to be calling," she adds. "One of my jobs here is to receive calls that are about sensitive issues the Univer-

sity has to confront, and I work with the president to implement his solutions.

"Our team also works with the state, the governor, and the Board of Trustees," she says. "We have to be effective, responsive, and quick. And the staff here, with all their experience, help us do that."

Steve Rhodes was, until now, a lifelong resident of Iowa. "I grew up in Des Moines and worked in Iowa my whole life – 30 years at the University of Iowa," he says.

Rhodes earned a bachelor's degree in studio art from Carleton College in Minnesota and two master's degrees in studio art at the University of Iowa, where he specialized in print making.

After graduation, he took a position as the director of a small art museum in Fort Dodge, and worked there for about seven years.

"I liked working in the museum," he says, "but I was also eager to try out a career on my own as an artist to see what I could do. That didn't work out as well as I had hoped, and I had four children, so I started working for the University of Iowa as a support person in the College of Law."

From there, Rhodes moved to the Provost's office, where he was involved in supporting a variety of activities, including accreditation and oversight. When Hogan became provost at Iowa in 2004, Rhodes worked with him.

"As provost, Mike met regularly with students and I worked with them also," Rhodes says. "He engaged with student government leaders and was very actively involved in the community."

"When Mike was hired as the president here, he said, 'How would you like to come to Connecticut?' and my wife Judy and I looked at each other and said, 'why not?'"

At UConn, Rhodes helps Hogan "connect with people," he says, "especially students, staff, people

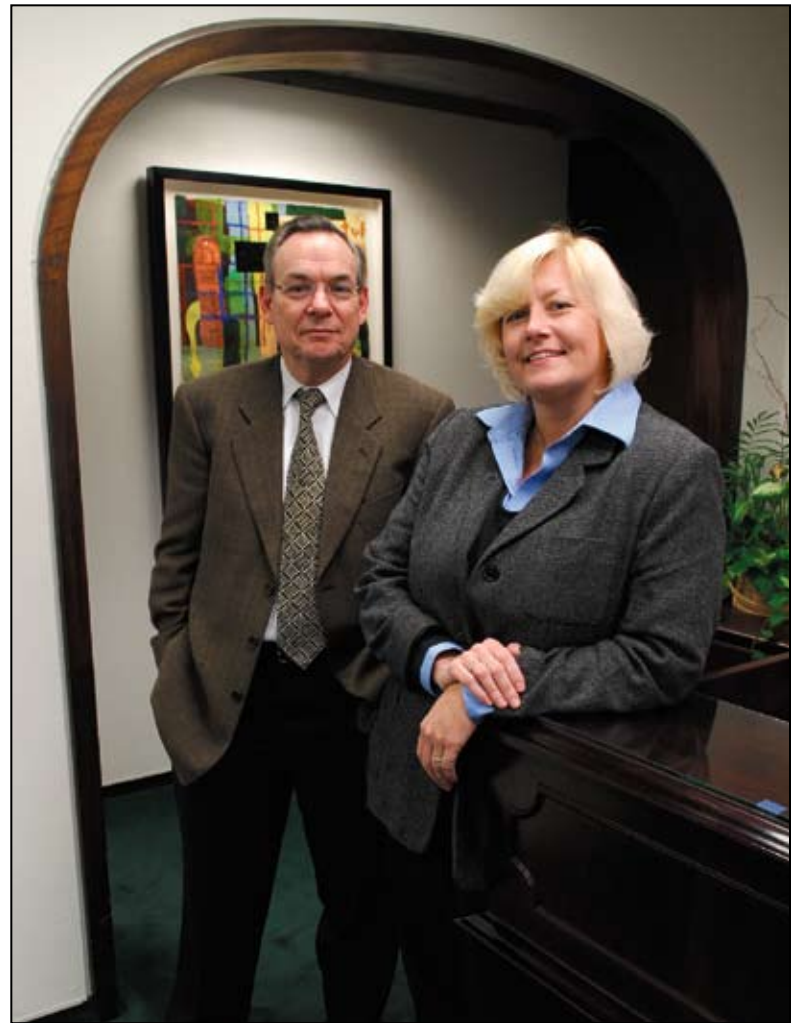


PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Steve Rhodes and Lisa Troyer, at the President's office in Gully Hall.

in the town, and outside constituencies. I'm looking for opportunities if people want to get together with him. I watch the newspapers and the *Advance*. If Mike, who reads all the papers, says he'd like to get together with certain people, I make the contacts."

Rhodes says he works closely with Student Affairs, helping organize different events, "whether it's the community outreach programs such as the winter break trip to Biloxi, Miss., or entertainment events. The president wants to be involved with students, and wants to do it in an informal way – like riding the bus to football games."

One of his current projects is helping plan Hogan's inauguration on April 13.

"Mike wants the whole Univer-

sity community involved," Rhodes says. "He wants it to be a celebratory event, not so much for him, but for the University to celebrate itself."

Rhodes says he enjoys working with Hogan: "He is so positive and is such a decent human being. He cares about people, and he's very good at what he does. I'm always learning from him."

Rhodes says he likes working with young people, too. "College students bring so much energy and a fresh outlook on everything."

Rhodes adds, "To make the University a place where people can grow and learn in a positive way, I think there should be something fun about what we do. It's an important part of a positive experience."

Researchers make progress in areas of heart disease, muscle injury

BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

Researchers at the UConn Health Center have identified a gene they believe plays a significant role in the development of heart disease.

Lead investigator Lixia Yue, assistant professor of cell biology, says the TRPM7 gene provides a conduit that enables calcium to get into fibroblasts, a type of heart cell. Abnormal calcium levels in fibroblasts can lead to cardiac fibrosis.

"Fibrosis often leads to a variety of cardiac diseases, including irregular heartbeat, enlarged heart, heart failure, and sudden cardiac death," Yue says. "If you can control the calcium level, you can stop the fibrosis. Our focus is on the TRPM7 channel protein. The question now is, how do we moderate this channel to prevent fibrosis?"

Yue, a faculty member in the Pat and Jim Calhoun Cardiology Center, presented her findings at an American Heart Association conference in Orlando, Fla., last fall. The study abstract was

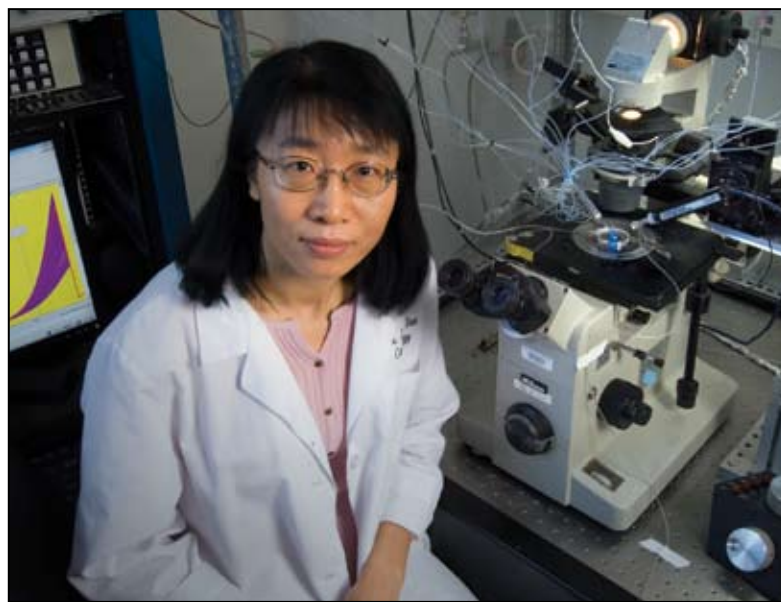


PHOTO BY AL FERREIRA

Lixia Yue, assistant professor of cell biology, in her lab at the Health Center.

published in the American Heart Association journal *Circulation*. Yue's team is now following up on this initial lead.

"This work provided the first evidence of this channel's existence in human cardiac tissue, and has yielded novel information that will

give us a better understanding of how certain cardiac diseases can originate," says Dr. Bruce Liang, director of the Calhoun Cardiology Center.

Jiayang Du, Heun Soh, and Dr. David Silverman collaborated with Yue and Liang on the research.

Liang also was the principal investigator on a study that found a possible key to reducing vulnerability to skeletal muscle injury, published in the December issue of the *American Journal of Physiology – Heart and Circulatory Physiology*.

Liang led a team of scientists who have identified a specific receptor (adenosine A3) with protective qualities that decrease muscle injury in mice.

The Department of Defense provided funding for this research, with the objective of determining how to reduce muscle injuries in U.S. military personnel.

"Our soldiers suffer a high rate of skeletal muscle injury during the rapid-fire physical training, as well as during combat in adverse conditions, such as in a harsh climate or at high altitude," Liang says. "Having a way to treat and reduce skeletal muscle injury in soldiers has the potential to be very beneficial."

The research team included Jingtang Zheng, Dr. Ruibo Wang, and

Dan Wu, from the Health Center, and researchers from the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine in Natick, Mass., and the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md.

"This work describes our novel findings on establishing a mouse model of skeletal muscle injury, and perhaps of equal importance, on a new therapeutic target to treat skeletal muscle injury," Liang says. "Agents that stimulate adenosine A3 receptors represent an attractive therapeutic target because their use is not associated with any side effects, such as changes in heart rate or blood pressure."

"Our work showed that administration of such agents in intact animals can bring about a significant reduction in the muscle injury without any apparent ill effect," he adds. "Since there is no clinically effective drug that can reduce skeletal muscle injury, the work opens up a new area that could lead to better treatment for muscle injury."

Chemist explores nanotechnology to address greenhouse gases at source



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Challa Kumar, professor of chemistry, with research equipment that he and some of his students developed as part of a project to keep greenhouse gases from entering the atmosphere.

BY MICHAEL KIRK

Much of the discussion about fighting global warming centers on new technologies and behaviors that could limit carbon dioxide emissions – the substance that causes climate change – such as using hybrid cars, nuclear power instead of coal, and biofuels instead of diesel.

UConn chemistry professor Challa Kumar and ThoughtVentions Inc. (TvU), a Connecticut company, are developing a prototype device that will test another approach: Instead of trying to produce energy without creating CO₂

gases, they are looking for a way to “sequester” the greenhouse gases that are produced at the source so they don’t reach the atmosphere, literally creating a kind of chemical filter for, say, a coal power plant.

Their work is funded by a joint \$100,000 Small Business Innovation Research grant from the National Science Foundation.

“Currently, coal-fired power plants emit nearly 60 percent of the total carbon emissions, but our current economy can not afford to shut these plants down,” says Kumar. “Instead, we believe that

our approach would mean that the CO₂ pollutants produced at a power plant are stopped from escaping into the air, thereby reducing their build-up in the atmosphere. This approach could buy us enough time to develop alternate, cleaner sources of energy.”

A large fraction of power in the U.S. is generated by burning coal and it is estimated that the nation has enough coal reserves to last for more than 200 years, says Kumar. Clean coal technology may reduce our dependence on oil imports from the Middle East, he adds.

The technology would work this

way: Kumar and his collaborators would attach a specific enzyme to nanoparticles that would trap the carbon dioxide molecule, after it is created but before it is released into the atmosphere. Enzymes are catalysts that can accelerate specific chemical and biological processes. For example, the enzyme the research team is investigating for carbon sequestration also plays a key role in respiration, where it facilitates the sequestration and exhalation of carbon dioxide through our lungs. A similar enzyme in saliva is responsible for the zing of cola drinks, causing the sudden release of carbon dioxide bubbles in the mouth.

The enzyme-laden nanoparticles created by the research team would then convert the carbon dioxide from the flu-gases of a power plant into water-soluble “bicarbonate” – a harmless material. The research teams at UConn and TuV will develop a particle gas absorber that will be used to sequester carbon dioxide for disposal in geologic formations such as depleted gas fields, deep ocean bottoms, or deep saline formations. Alternatively, the sequestered CO₂ can be used as a major ingredient in the manufacture of pharmaceutical intermediates, polymers, or economic building materials.

“Such new technologies can transform CO₂ from a pollutant into a huge resource,” says Kumar. “For example, our atmosphere currently contains enough CO₂ to build storm-resistant, affordable, fire-proof houses for every human being on this planet and still use only a fraction of CO₂ in the

atmosphere.”

But first, an economic method of carbon dioxide sequestration needs to be established and that is what Kumar’s team is working on.

“We are testing nanomaterials laden with enzymes for this purpose, and there are several challenges to be overcome,” he says. The research team has successfully stabilized several enzymes in nanomaterials, in a study that is also currently being supported by the NSF via another large grant.

“When successful, this new approach would allow the major sources of CO₂ to go green, that is, operate on traditional energy without adding to global warming since little or no CO₂ would be released into the atmosphere,” Kumar says.

One of the major obstacles to sequestering carbon dioxide using current technologies is the cost – between \$100 and \$300 per ton of carbon emissions – which would substantially increase the cost of the power generated. Given that hundreds of millions of tons of carbon fuels are burned annually by the power industry, this cost would be prohibitively high. If successful, Kumar’s method is expected to reduce the cost substantially, making it far more economical for use on a large scale.

The \$100,000 grant from NSF is “seed money” to begin building a prototype device to test and check whether it works the way Kumar and his collaborators believe that it will.

Says Kumar, “This is a radically new approach to battling pollution and global warming.”

Companies will prosper by ‘going green,’ says conference keynote

BY CAROLYN PENNINGTON

Ray Anderson often refers to himself as a “recovering plunderer.”

Anderson is the founder of Interface Inc., one of the most profitable carpet manufacturing companies in the world. But his Herculean efforts to make his company 100 percent sustainable by the year 2020 are what is winning him accolades.

Anderson was the keynote speaker at last week’s conference on Alternative Products and Green Chemistry sponsored by the Health Center’s Occupational and Environmental Health Center. The conference attracted more than 150 business owners, state and local health officials, academics, and environmentalists from all over the region.

Anderson helped set the tone for the conference – a conference focused on identifying the tools and resources business leaders need to compete in a greener marketplace and comply with new international chemical policies.

For the first 21 years of Interface’s existence, Anderson never gave a thought to what his company – a petroleum-intensive industry – took from or did to the Earth, except to be sure they obeyed all laws and regulations.

Then in August 1994, he had a “spear in the chest” epiphany after reading Paul Hawken’s *The Ecology of Commerce*.

It spurred him to develop “Mission Zero,” the company’s goal of eliminating any negative impact on the environment by the year 2020, through pioneering new technologies, redesigning products, and reducing waste, while increasing renewable materials and sources of energy.

“My competitors said it was impossible, and called me a dreamer. Now they are scrambling to catch up,” says Anderson. “The status quo is an opiate, a powerful opiate. Abandoning the comfort of the status quo can produce unimagined results, but it does not come naturally – only through extraordinary commitment.”

Anderson’s commitment has paid off in two ways – in higher company profits and lower environmental impact. Interface’s sales have increased by 60 percent, and now top \$1 billion. At the same time, his factories use 55 percent less energy derived from fossil fuels, and six of 11 factories run completely on renewable electricity. Scrap to the landfill is down 70 percent; and the factories now use 79 percent less water, largely by abandoning wet printing. The

company is half way there, and right on schedule to meet its “Mission Zero” goals, Anderson said.

For business leaders who want to follow in Anderson’s footsteps, he recommended changing linear practices into cyclical ones.

“That’s nature’s way,” he said. “In nature, there is no waste; one

organism’s waste is another’s food.” For manufacturing companies that means taking technical “food” – petro-chemical, man-made raw materials – and recycling them into the product’s next life cycle. So a carpet manufacturer would harvest yesteryear’s carpets, recycle old petro-chemicals into new

materials, and convert sunlight into energy. There would be zero scrap going into landfills, and zero emissions into the biosphere.

“Literally, companies will grow by cleaning up the world, not by polluting or degrading it,” Anderson said. “They’ll be doing well by doing good.”

Anderson didn’t address only the business community in his talk. He challenged the academics in the audience to become part of the solution. He encouraged them to teach new ways of thinking, and train students to become “agents of change, rather than caretakers of the system of destruction.”

He also discussed government’s potential role in a greener marketplace. Anderson believes government’s greatest power is not its regulatory power, but its taxation power.

“We should begin to shift taxes away from good things like your income and mine – things you want to encourage – to bad things, like waste and pollution, things you’d really like to discourage and tax right out of existence.”

He said that has already begun to happen in Europe: “If enlightened politicians in this country would just follow, we could truly begin to change the world.”



PHOTO BY CAROLYN PENNINGTON

Ray Anderson, founder of a carpet manufacturing company, speaks at a conference about how businesses can reduce their environmental impact.

Improved retention, graduation rates linked to good advising

BY ELIZABETH OMARA-OTUNNU

The University's retention and graduation rates are up, and a big part of the reason for that is improved advising, according to Dolan Evanovich, vice provost of enrollment management.

The latest statistics show that 61 percent of students who were freshmen in 2003 graduated in four years, up from 43 percent of those who entered the University in 1996. The five-year and six-year graduation rates are also up.

And 93 percent of freshmen at Storrs who entered the University in 2006 came back for their sophomore year, a statistic that places UConn among the top 20 public universities in the U.S.

"The research shows that students who receive good advising tend to be more successful," Evanovich says, "and more graduate on time. The University's improved graduation rates have a lot to do with giving students good advice on the front end."

Over the past five years, the University has increasingly emphasized helping students to complete their degrees in four years, and has developed an infrastructure to support this goal. Steps taken include improved advising; a wide range of First Year Experience (FYE) programs to help first-year students adjust to college life; packaging of classes for entering students in certain majors with stringent sequential requirements; additional seats and sections of required courses; increased availability of courses during the summer and winter intersession; a revitalized W and new Q Center to provide writing and quantitative skills support; and an early warning system and mentoring services for students who are struggling.

Although students are still generally advised by a faculty member in their major department or professional school, there also has been a growth in the number of professional advisors and the role they play.

The Academic Center for Exploratory Students (ACES), which is staffed by professional advisors, was established about 10 years ago to provide advising to first- and second-year students who have not yet declared a major.

Not only did this alleviate the problem of students' having to change their advising "home" if

they switched from one major to another, but it entailed a philosophical shift: Calling such students "exploratory" rather than "undecided" was intended to encourage them to explore their options.

"ACES is the umbrella organization that can catch students and help redirect them," says Evanovich.

University-wide resource

ACES has become a University-wide resource for advising.

"We work with students in transition – transition first to the institution, and then to departments and majors," says Steve Jarvi, director of the Institute for Student Success, which includes ACES, FYE programs, and the Center for Academic Programs. "We have created a pool of expertise and resources on issues related to first and second-year students."

Jarvi encourages faculty, including those in the professional schools, to refer students to the ACES advising center, which offers walk-in appointments for students.

their school or college."

The University has taken steps to support advisors and foster good advising. An institution-wide Advising Council, for example, which includes representatives of both professional and faculty advisors, serves as a way of promoting information flow among the various groups involved. Activities include presentations by speakers from other offices on campus, such as Student Health Services and the Center for Students with Disabilities, to which advisors may refer advisees. In addition, awards are now offered annually for outstanding advising among both professional advisors and faculty.

New challenges

The role of advisors has changed over the years, with new challenges facing them.

The introduction of new general education requirements, for example, ushered in a new set of rules to be mastered and posed some challenges during the transi-

students with drug and alcohol issues, including use of prescription drugs, is going up.

Evanovich says one of the major challenges for advisors is that the expectations of students – and their parents – have increased.

"We survey students when they enter the University," says Evanovich. "They expect somebody to be interested in them and help them be successful. They don't understand the difference between faculty and professional advisors because they're more familiar with the high school guidance counselor model."

Unlike high school, he says, the University operates on a decentralized model. "The University has a number of different resources for students: if they have a health problem, they go to Student Health Services; if they have a mental health issue, they go to Mental Health Services," Evanovich says. "In high school, they get all these services in one place – the

"Each student needs a community of people around them. The academic advisor is one member of that community."

*Douglas Hamilton,
Associate dean, CLAS*

who's not happy about the courses their son or daughter is taking next semester. That's very different from when I was a student. My parents would never have thought of calling to complain that their child couldn't get into a course."

The College has its own Undergraduate Council, similar to the University-wide Advising Council, which meets monthly to discuss advising and other academic issues. And the Academic Services Center has produced an advising handbook that is distributed to all faculty advisors in CLAS.

A rewarding role

Hamilton says the advising relationship benefits both student and advisor.

"In a big University like UConn, advisors have a role in trying to personalize it a bit," he says. "Each student needs a community of people around them. The academic advisor is one member of that community."

Hamilton, a physics professor, adds that advising is a "wonderful opportunity" to do some teaching. "It's more than just suggesting what courses to take next semester. It's an opportunity to talk about why the student is here at the University, what he or she hopes to accomplish, and what I, as their advisor, can do to help make their four years here more successful."

The biggest reward, he says, comes at Commencement.

"Nothing is more rewarding than going to Commencement and seeing one of the students you've worked with for four years shaking hands with the dean and picking up his or her diploma," Hamilton says. "Advisors have a very challenging and often underappreciated role, and a lot of unrecognized work has to be done before a student walks across Gampel Pavilion and picks up their diploma. Yet with all the great challenges, there are great rewards."



PHOTO BY JESSICA TOMMASELLI

Statistics professor Nalini Ravishanker, right, with advisee Ross Yudowitch, a sophomore majoring in mathematics and statistics. Ravishanker was 2006 recipient of the Outstanding Faculty Advisor award.

"It's unrealistic to expect faculty to keep abreast of every new rule, every catalog change," he says. "A lot of questions involve nuts and bolts, and that's where ACES advisors can help. That enables faculty to focus on what they do best – mentoring, and offering advice about graduate programs, careers, capstone projects, and research."

Adds Jarvi, "We don't turn any student away, although we do encourage them to follow up with

tion. And there has been a growth in the number of students taking double majors and minors.

"We enroll ambitious and creative students," says Jarvi, "and they're looking at how to maximize their experience at UConn. One of the ways they can do that is through double majors or minors."

The growing number of transfer students have a special set of advising needs; they're new but not freshmen. And the number of

guidance counselor does it all."

In addition, parents are often more involved with college students than was the case a generation or so ago.

Douglas Hamilton, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences who oversees the CLAS Academic Services Center, a centralized resource for advising in the College, says, "One of the big challenges some departments face is the phone call from the parent

High-achieving student-athletes recognized for academic success

Continuing an established tradition, on Feb. 12 the Division of Athletics honored the University's student-athletes who have a 3.0 grade point average. The ceremony took place at half-time during the UConn vs. Georgetown women's basketball game.

Approximately 300 student-athletes and team managers were eligible to take part in the ceremony, after earning a 3.0 grade point average in the 2007 spring and/or fall semesters. They also were

named to the Athletic Director's Scholar-Athlete Honor Roll. Members of the UConn pep band and cheerleaders with a 3.0 GPA were also honored.

A number of student-athletes were honored for earning a perfect 4.0 GPA in either or both the fall and spring semester of 2007. These include four members of the women's track and field team: Phylcia George, a physiology and neurobiology major; Cassie Buckwalter, an education major;

Mercedes Ball, an economics and political science major; and Kaitlin Vaughn, a molecular and cell biology major; two members of the rowing team: Elizabeth Littlewood, a physiology and neurobiology major; and Stephanie Bryant, a human development and family studies major; William Magin of the men's swimming and diving team, a bio-medical engineering major; Nicole Tritter of the women's ice hockey team, a biology major; Megan Doran of the women's ten-

nis team, a pre-kinesiology major; and Joseph Michaels of the men's tennis team, a marketing major.

The UConn women's tennis team, coached by Glenn Marshall, was again recognized as the top Husky athletic team in terms of grade point average, with an average GPA of 3.2. A total of seven Husky teams earned an average GPA of 3.0 during the past academic year.

Staff members from UConn's Counseling Program for Inter-

collegiate Athletes were also recognized during the event, including Bruce Cohen, director, Linda Bourgeois, Felicia Crump, Alana Linick, Ingrid Hohmann, Lisa Kuchmarsky, John Miceli, Mansour Ndiaye, Uyi Osunde, Vernon Percy, Ellen Rennie, Ted Taigen, Becky Taylor, and Michelle Wardwell.

GRANTS

The following grants were received through the Office for Sponsored Programs (OSP) in November 2007. The list represents only new proposals awarded, and excludes continuations. Additional grants received in November will be published in a future issue.

Prin. Investigator	Department	Sponsor	Amount	Award Period
Altobello, M.	Agricultural & Resource Economics	U.S. Dept. of Agriculture/ Conn. Dept. of Agriculture	\$60,000	10/07-9/08
<i>Risk Management and Crop Insurance Education and Outreach Development for Connecticut Agriculture</i>				
Armstrong, L.	Kinesiology	Dept. of Defense/Army/ Medical Research and Materiel Command	\$59,808	10/07-10/08
<i>Effect of a Nutritional Supplement on Maximal Aerobic Capacity</i>				
Auster, P.	National Undersea Research Center	Dept. of Commerce/ Nat'l Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin./ Woods Hole Oceanographic Inst.	\$191,280	10/07-6/10
<i>A Mobile Benthic-Pelagic Observatory to Support Fisheries and Ecosystem Management</i>				
Bar-Shalom, Y.	Electrical & Computer Engineering	Dept. of Defense / Missile Defense Agency / Technology Service Corp.	\$33,040	8/07-2/08
<i>Data Association and Consistent Multisensor Tracking</i>				
Bogner, R.	Pharmaceutical Sciences	U.S. Pharmacopeia	\$25,000	1/08-1/09
<i>Investigation of the Kinetics of Solution Mediated Conversion as a Function of Hydrodynamics During Dissolution</i>				
Bucklin, A.	Marine Sciences	Dept. of Defense/Navy/ Office of Naval Research	\$60,000	11/06-12/07
<i>R/V Connecticut Charter: SPACE 07</i>				
Bucklin, A.	Marine Sciences	Dept. of Defense/Navy/ Naval Oceanographic Office / Woods Hole Oceanographic Inst.	\$15,000	8/07-10/07
<i>Charter of R/V Connecticut by Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution</i>				
Byrne, T.	Marine Sciences	Joint Oceanographic Institutions	\$34,814	11/07-1/08
<i>Anelastic Strain Recovery: An Exploratory Study of IODP Cores</i>				
Carstensen, F.	Conn. Center for Economic Analysis	Environmental Defense	\$47,750	8/07-2/08
<i>Economic Impact of Green House Gas Reduction in Connecticut</i>				
Colbert, R.	Educational Psychology	Futures Inc.	\$13,000	8/07-5/08
<i>Counseling Psychology Internship – Shane Bryant</i>				
Colbert, R.	Educational Psychology	Futures Inc.	\$13,000	8/07-5/08
<i>Counseling Psychology Internship – Tina Tedeschi</i>				
Colbert, R.	Educational Psychology	Futures Inc.	\$51,402	2/07-1/08
<i>Post-Doctoral Counseling Intern – Laura Roberts</i>				
Colbert, R.	Educational Psychology	Futures Inc.	\$12,133	9/07-5/08
<i>Counseling Psychology Internship – Krista Nordmark</i>				
Dierssen, H.	Marine Sciences	National Aeronautics & Space Admin.	\$1,147,149	10/07-10/10
<i>Differentiating Sources of Backscattering in the Southern Ocean to Improve Remote Carbon Pool Assessments: Calcite, Bubbles and Other Optical Constituents</i>				
Farley, M.	Student Activities Office	Corp. for National & Community Service/Jumpstart Inc.	\$67,292	9/07-8/08
<i>Jumpstart Program at the University of Connecticut-Storrs</i>				
Farley, M.	Student Activities Office	Jumpstart Inc.	\$2,389	7/07-8/07
<i>Jumpstart Start-Up</i>				
Fridell, Y.	Allied Health Sciences	Nat'l Insts. of Health / Nat'l Inst. on Aging	\$65,761	11/07-4/08
<i>Putative Drosophila Uncoupling Proteins and Aging</i>				
Fridell, Y.	Allied Health Sciences	Nat'l Insts. of Health / Nat'l Inst. on Aging	\$139,564	11/07-4/08
<i>A UCP2 Transgenic Model for Glucose Metabolism and Aging</i>				
Frisman, L.	Social Work, Office of Dean	Nat'l Insts. of Health / Nat'l Inst. on Drug Abuse / Conn. Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services	\$23,631	10/07-12/07
<i>Dissemination of EBPs in Addiction Treatment</i>				
Frisman, L.	Social Work, Office of Dean	Open Society Institute/ Corp. for Supportive Housing	\$10,200	8/07-7/08
<i>Shelter to Jail Population Estimation</i>				
Frogley, A.	Music	Yale University	\$13,000	1/08-5/08
<i>British Music and National Identity from Elgar to Radiohead</i>				
Gao, P.	Institute of Materials Science	Honda R&D Americas Inc.	\$50,000	11/07-10/08
<i>Dendrite Composite Nano-Catalysts for Auto-Emission Control</i>				
Greeley, R.	Art & Art History	Howard (George & Eliza Gardner) Foundation	\$25,000	7/07-6/08
<i>Howard Foundation Fellowship – Robin Greeley</i>				
Greeley, R.	Art & Art History	Harvard University	\$49,823	9/07-1/08
<i>Visiting Associate Professor/Art History in the Department of History of Art & Architecture, Harvard University, Fall 2007</i>				
Hannafin, R.	Educational Psychology	Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology Inc.	\$6,854	8/07-1/08
<i>Educational Technology Internship – Yingjie Liu</i>				
Havens, C.	Social Work, Instruction & Research	U.S. Dept. of Education/ Hartford Public Schools, Hartford, Conn.	\$20,000	8/07-7/08
<i>Safe Schools/Healthy Students</i>				



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

John Bell, director of UConn's Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry, discusses one of the items on display in the Museum's current exhibit, which features shadow puppets from around the world.

Jeffrey, R.	Extension	U.S. Dept. of Agriculture/ Univ. of Vermont	\$15,000	10/07-9/09
<i>Sustainable Agriculture Education and Training: Marketing of Locally Produced Protein</i>				
Kern, S.	William Benton Museum of Art	Conn. Commission on Culture and Tourism	\$17,007	7/07-6/08
<i>The Art of Gaman</i>				
Kiayias, A.	Computer Science & Engineering	Dept. of Homeland Security/Sonalysts Inc.	\$228,995	7/07-7/09
<i>Botnet Detection and Mitigation</i>				
Knecht, D.	Molecular & Cell Biology	National Science Foundation	\$145,392	1/08-12/10
<i>Integration and Dissemination of Inquiry Based Video Microscopy and Image Processing Labs into the Undergraduate Curriculum</i>				
Kraus, C.	Center for Survey Research & Analysis	Univ. of Connecticut Foundation Inc.	\$16,300	9/07-12/07
<i>Attitudes and Awareness Survey</i>				
Kraus, C.	Center for Survey Research & Analysis	Wildlife Conservation Society	\$8,500	10/07-3/08
<i>WCS Bison Survey</i>				
Kraus, C.	Center for Survey Research & Analysis	Center for Instruction, Staff Development & Evaluation	\$6,600	10/07-12/07
<i>CISDE Weighting Project</i>				
Kraus, C.	Center for Survey Research & Analysis	Big East Conference	\$8,000	10/07-2/08
<i>The Big East Survey</i>				
Kraus, C.	Center for Survey Research & Analysis	Sakon Development LLC	\$7,000	10/07-1/08
<i>Glastonbury Development Survey</i>				
Kraus, C.	Center for Survey Research & Analysis	Hartford Club	\$15,000	8/07-12/07
<i>Perception Survey</i>				
Lynes, M.	Molecular & Cell Biology	Nat'l Insts. of Health/ Nat'l Inst. of Environmental Health Sciences/ NY State Dept. of Health/Wadsworth Ctr.	\$1,011,950	8/07-5/11
<i>Biomarker Signatures of Biological, Chemical, and Psychological Stress</i>				
Lyon, E.	Social Work, Instruction & Research	Nat'l Inst. of Justice/ Dept. of Justice/Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence	\$152,543	6/07-8/08
<i>Domestic Violence Shelters: Survivors' Experiences</i>				
Mack, F.	Dramatic Arts	Conn. Commission on Culture and Tourism	\$14,436	7/07-6/08
<i>The Arabian Nights</i>				

CALENDAR

Tuesday, February 19, to Monday, February 25

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. 25, through Monday, March 3. Those items must be in the database by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 19. If you need special accommodations to participate in events, call 860-486-2943 (Storrs), 860-679-3563 (Farmington), or 860-570-5130 (Law School).

Academic

Tuesday, 2/19 – Dean's signature required to add courses.

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.

Meetings

Tuesday, 2/19 – Parking Advisory Committee. 2 p.m., Room 321, School of Business Board Room.

Monday, 2/25 – University Senate. 4-6 p.m., Room 7, Bishop Center.

Ph.D. Defenses

Thursday 2/21 – Nursing. *The Experience of Neurocognitive Changes in Women Undergoing Chemotherapy for Breast Cancer*, by Joyce Thielen (adv.: Kenefick). 1 p.m., Room 117, Storrs Hall.

Lectures & Seminars

Tuesday, 2/19 – UNESCO Human Rights Lecture. "Sierra Leone," by Eugene Harkins, Texaco Latin America/ West Africa. 12:30 p.m., Room 122, CUE Building.

Tuesday, 2/19 – Marine Sciences Lecture. "Fisheries Management Policy," Seth Macinko, University of Rhode Island. 7:30 p.m., Room 103, Marine Sciences Building, Avery Point Campus.

Wednesday, 2/20 – Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Lecture. "Latinos and the 2008 Election: A Swing Vote?" by Richard Fry, Pew Hispanic Center. Noon, Room 437, Student Union.

Wednesday, 2/20 – Stamford Faculty Colloquium. "The Bible's Role in Contemporary Israeli Literature and Culture," by Nehama Aschkenasy. Noon, Multi-Purpose Room, Stamford Campus.

Wednesday, 2/20 – Out-to-Lunch Lecture. "Bridges, Barriers, and Boundaries: Queer Youth, now and then," by Robin McHaalen. Noon, Room 403, Student Union.

Wednesday, 2/20 – Teale Lecture on Nature and the Environment. "Hope in a Dark Time: The Promises of Religious Environmentalism," Roger Gottlieb, Worcester Polytechnic Institute. 4 p.m., Konover Auditorium.

Wednesday, 2/20 – Statistics Colloquium. "Abuse of the Mode in Genomics and an Ensemble Alternative: Forgotten Role of Entropy," by Charles Lawrence, Brown University. 4 p.m., Room 344, CLAS

Thursday, 2/21 – Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Seminar. By Scott Edwards. 4 p.m., Room 130, Biology/Physics Building.

Friday, 2/22 – Consortium of Universities for Advancement of Hydrologic Science Cyber Seminar. "What Does a Hydrologist need to Know and Do about Climate Change Adaptations?" by Upmanu Lall, Columbia University. 3 p.m., Room 306, Castleman Building.

Friday, 2/22 – Statistics Colloquium. "BIG Statistics," by Dennis Lin, Pennsylvania State University. 4 p.m., Room 344, CLAS Building.

Monday, 2/25 – Health & Wellness Lecture. "Reverse the Aging Process." Noon, Henry Low Learning Center, Main Building, Health Center.

Monday, 2/25 – 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.

Exhibits

Through Friday, 3/7 – Student Union Gallery. *S.H.A.P.E.* Hours: 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Room 310, Student Union. Free admission. Opening reception, Wednesday, 2/20, 7-9 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 – Stamford Campus Gallery. *UConn Stamford Art Show*, works by students, faculty, and staff. Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-noon. Free admission.

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 Traylor's *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. Free admission. Wednesday, 2/20, gallery talk by Steven Kern on *The Art of Gaman* exhibit, 12:15 p.m.

Through Wednesday, 4/30 – Health Center. *Quilting Pleasures*, cloth and paper quilting by Phyllis Small. Daily, 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Main and Mezzanine Lobbies.

Through Thursday, 4/3 – Contemporary Art Galleries. *Ornithology: Looking at Birds*. Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Art Building. Free admission.

Ongoing. State Museum of Natural History & Connecticut Archaeology

Manzanar, Meeting at Tule Lake, and Topaz. 2 p.m., Benton Museum.

Monday, 2/25 – Jewish & Queer Film Series. *The Bubble*. 7 p.m., Student Union Theatre.

Performing Arts

Tuesday, 2/19 – Trinity Irish Dance. Company of 20 dancers. 8 p.m., Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets: \$25-\$30 regular, \$7 students. For tickets and information call 860-486-4226.

Thursday, 2/21 through Friday 2/22 – The Vagina Monologues. 7-9 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Tickets: \$12 non-students, \$10 students, all proceeds go to local and national organizations that help stop violence against women.

Thursday, 2/21 – Academy of Ancient Music with Richard Egarr. Hear the music of Bach, Handel, and Telemann as it would have been experienced in an 18th century drawing room. 8 p.m., Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets: \$33-\$40 regular, \$7 students. For tickets and information call 860-486-4226.

Monday, 2/25 – Jazz Showcase. Samplings from the UConn Jazz totet, Lab Band and Combos. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Tickets: \$7. Free with student ID.

Sports

Tuesday, 2/19 – Men's Basketball vs. DePaul. 7 p.m., XL Center.

Wednesday, 2/20 – Women's Basketball vs. Marquette. 7 p.m., XL Center.

Friday, 2/22 – Men's Ice Hockey vs. American International. 7:05 p.m., Freitas Ice Forum.

Saturday, 2/23 – Women's Ice Hockey vs. Maine. 1 p.m., Freitas Ice Forum.

Saturday, 2/23 – Women's Basketball vs. St. John's. 4 p.m., Gampel Pavilion.

Sunday, 2/24 – Women's Ice Hockey vs. Maine. 1 p.m., Freitas Ice Forum.

Potpourri

Tuesday, 2/19 – Social Work Symposium. "We All Have AIDS: A Social Work Symposium on HIV/AIDS, Information and Action." Training for social workers and other community workers. 4-8 p.m., Zachs Community Room, School of Social Work, Greater Hartford Campus.

Tuesday, 2/19 – Connecticut Student Poets. Five undergraduate poets, selected as winners of the 2007-2008 Connecticut Poetry Circuit Student Contest, will read their work. 7 p.m., UConn Co-op.

Wednesday, 2/20 – Yiddish Tish Discussion Luncheon. Provides an opportunity for faculty and students to practice their Yiddish listening and/or speaking skills in an informal manner. Noon, Room 162, Dodd Research Center.

Thursday, 2/21 – Crooked Road Straight with Tina Brown. Brown discusses the path taken by Linda, a second-generation welfare recipient and heroin addict, over five decades in Hartford, one of America's poorest cities. 5:30 p.m., Room 407, Student Union.

Friday, 2/22 – Spring Symposium. "Affordable & Fair Housing: Reality or Another American Dream?" 8:15 a.m.-4:15 p.m., Davis Courtroom & Starr Reading Room, Starr Hall, School of Law.

Sunday, 2/24 – Spirituality Study Group. Includes discussion, reflection, dream interpretation and guided meditation. \$10 per class. 7 p.m., Onyiuke Dining Room, Main Building, Health Center.

Monday, 2/25 – Andrew Hudgins Poetry Reading. 7:30 p.m., Konover Auditorium.

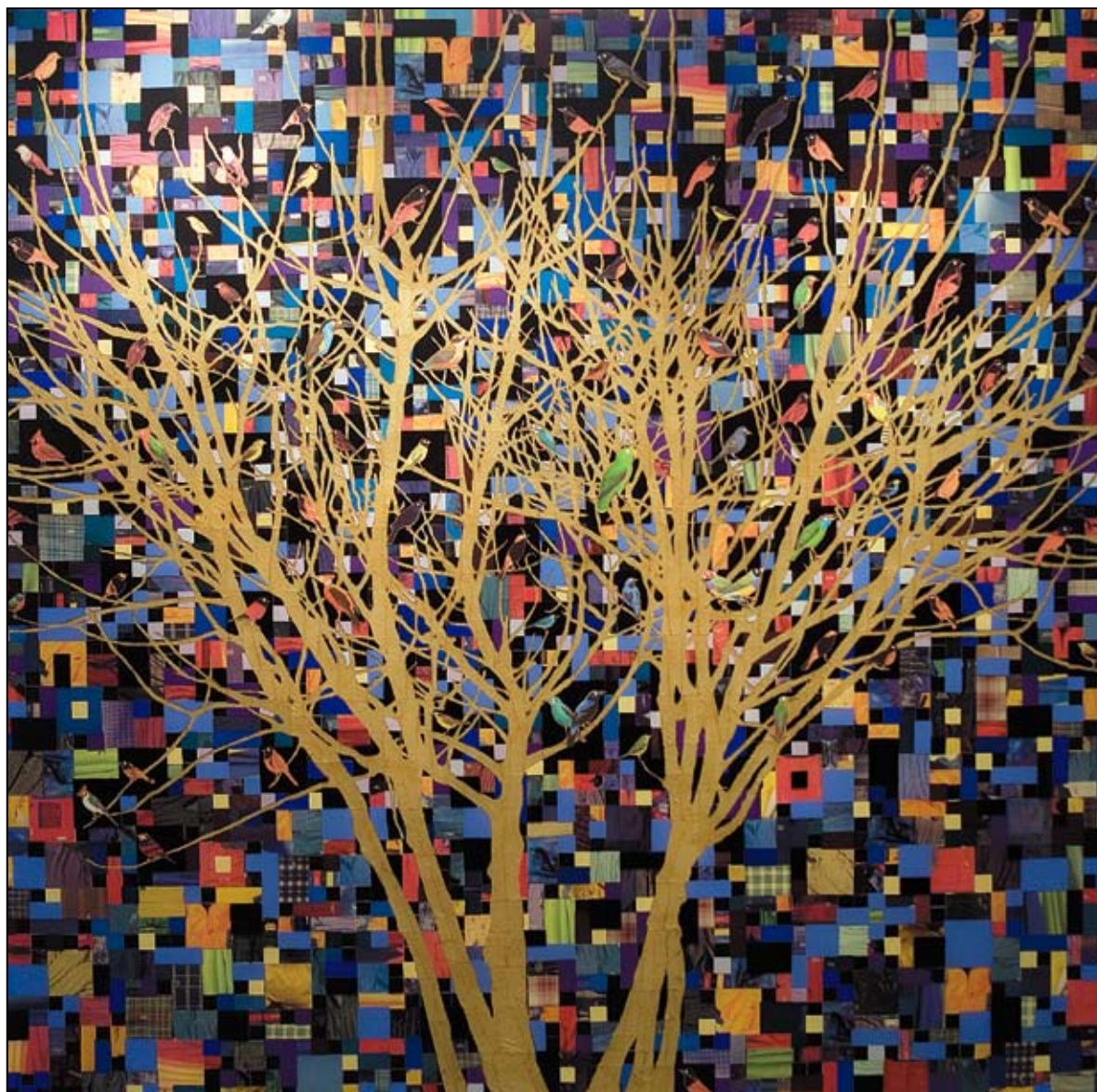


PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

"Natural Selection," a mural by Fred Tommasselli, part of the Contemporary Art Galleries' current exhibit, *Ornithology*.

Building.

Wednesday, 2/20 – 'Recent Cases' Law Lecture. A Law School course in which a different faculty member each week presents a recent case of interest. Open to the community. 5 p.m., Room 110, Chase Hall, School of Law.

Thursday, 2/21 – Comparative Pathology Seminar. "Design of Peptide Nanoparticles as a Platform for Subunit Vaccine Design," by Peter Burkhard. 11 a.m., Room A001, Atwater Building.

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.

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.

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.

Film

Wednesday, 2/20 – Jewish & Queer Film Series. *Aimee & Jaguar*. 7 p.m., Student Union Theatre.

Sunday, 2/24 – Films on a Sunday Afternoon. Three documentaries:

Psychology professor discusses memory and conversation

BY SHERRY FISHER

Informal, everyday conversations often consist of people trading stories about themselves, says UConn psychology professor Jerome Schulster. “The content of these “about-self” stories is supplied or supported by our autobiographical memory,” he says, memory of “our personal and experienced past.”

Schulster, who is based at the Stamford Campus, spoke on “Things We Talk About and the Structure of Autobiographical Memory,” on Feb. 7. His talk was part of a UConn-Stamford Faculty Colloquium Series, now in its second year. The lectures are intended to bring members of the public to the campus, and showcase the faculty.

People present themselves to others in virtually everything they do: how they dress, how they speak, the words they use, the company they keep, and the cars they drive, Schulster said.

“And when you think about conversation, apart from talking about the present moment like, ‘My arm hurts,’ any recount of experiences is going to require memory and language,” he said. “Therefore, if we watch how our everyday conversations go, given



PHOTO BY LAUREN DECHANT

Jerome Schulster, a professor of psychology at the Stamford Campus, speaks about autobiographical memory.

that these are supported by autobiographical memory, we should be able to infer or gain insights about the structural characteristics of that memory.”

Schulster said that if autobio-

graphical memory supports everyday conversations by supplying the content, “then we could say that perhaps there is a proportional relationship between the amount of cognitive space that we’ve allot-

ted to supporting that content. For example, a person might be able to talk about a topic frequently because he or she has a lot of space for that particular topic.”

If that is so, he added, “it follows that individuals would differ in the amount of time they could talk about a topic. One of the questions I ask my students is: ‘How long could you talk about a topic? How long could you talk about the New York Giants? How long could someone talk about Proust’s *Remembrance of Things Past*?’”

According to a study Schulster conducted, the topics most frequently talked about in adult conversations vary by age, gender, and marital status. In general, younger adults talk more about leisure activities, especially sports, music and partying, shopping, fashion, and romance. Older adults – particularly older married adults, talk more about commuting, work and family, and household-related topics.

Schulster said the amount of time a topic is covered in the news media is roughly proportional to the frequency with which people talk about it in everyday conversation. “How many people watch sport-related shows on cable?” he asked. “How many people watch

that as opposed to ballet? People talk more frequently about sports than they do about ballet.”

Schulster said that during conversations where stories are told sequentially, the content of one person’s story becomes a trigger to the next participant’s story, and will usually “match the mood of the conversation.”

He said that a person’s autobiographical memory must be organized such that there are “access routes to the memory. If we talk about the memory of our holiday party this past year, and being out on the beach with our bonfire, somebody might say, ‘oh bonfires, I remember the time so-and-so ...’ That memory of your bonfire might have been the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, or Girl Scouts, in which case the next story is about Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, or Cub Scouts.”

Remembrances of events differ in value, creating a sort of social currency, Schulster said: “Telling a story about being at the Super Bowl has a lot more currency than having watched the Super Bowl on TV,” he said. “Remembering a Super Bowl that is long past will have more currency – especially if your listeners have only read about it.”

Master’s degree *continued from page 1*

And researchers need to learn to carry new discoveries through clinical trials and out to patients, says the other co-director, Peter Snyder, professor of clinical neuro-psychology and cognitive neuroscience in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the medical school’s Department of Neurology.

The new master’s degree addresses both needs and is expected to attract physicians, medical and dental students, and graduate or post-doctoral students in psychology, nursing, pharmacy, bioengineering, and other fields.

The degree is not terminal but can be completed as part of an MD, DDS, or Ph.D. program, or as post-doctoral training. Physicians can work on the degree part-time over two or three years. The program is taking applications from doctors affiliated with UConn at Hartford and St. Francis hospitals as well as the Health Center.

Offering a clinical and translational degree strengthens UConn’s hand in applying for an NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA), a major award for universities with medical centers.

The NIH estimates that total funding for CTSA awards around the country will be \$574 million over about five years. So far, 24 academic health centers in 18 states have received them.

Training in an area that is such a national priority means that “graduates are going to be a very desirable commodity,” says Professor Charles Lowe, head of the psychology department.

Career tracks available for peo-

ple trained in clinical and translational research include academia, research careers with pharmaceutical companies and government agencies, and working for social programs or non-governmental organizations.

“You need the knowledge base to go from textbook to application,” says Snyder.

Jackson, a native of a Chicago suburb, did undergraduate research at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She wanted to continue in research as a graduate student but also keep a clinical focus.

Her master’s degree work involved preparing a thorough literature review on what is known about biomarkers for Alzheimer’s disease. Biomarkers would enable clinicians to identify people at risk for Alzheimer’s before they show symptoms. Her review paper was accepted without revision by the *Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease* and was published in January.

She also prepared a proposal for a pre-doctoral grant from NIH. Her Ph.D. work will carry forward her research proposal on Alzheimer’s.

Bringing the fruits of research on Alzheimer’s into clinical practice is particularly important, says Snyder, as baby boomers grow into old age. More than 24 million people around the world are now estimated to have Alzheimer’s disease, and that number is expected to grow to 81 million by the year 2040.

Researchers who develop grant-getting skills and learn how to interact with clinicians in industry will have a competitive advantage, and those are areas that the new master’s degree covers, says Snyder.

Students in the new degree program typically take three core courses and a series of electives. They learn the history of clinical research, ethics, modern research methodology, and advanced biostatistics, among other things. They also learn practical skills – grant writing, partnering with industry sponsors, corresponding with journal editors, and creating slide presentations.

Training in biostatistics and modern statistical modeling is particularly important because of the massive amounts of available data – much of it confidential – that must be managed in clinical research, says Snyder.

As many as 54 faculty members at the Health Center and the Storrs campus have agreed to teach or mentor students in the program.

The program formalizes what some physicians previously learned “by hook or by crook,” searching out mentors to guide them in research. Many students do not want to pursue a double degree – Ph.D. and MD – because

it takes so long, says Kenny: “This way they can blend research, clinical care, and teaching.”

Research opens a creative pathway and new options, she says. “It’s a whole different way to attack a problem, without a patient before you.”

As many as 50 percent of the physicians who start out teaching at academic medical centers are not there five years later, she says, because they don’t see opportunities to combine research with teaching and clinical work. This program would give them a foothold for learning how to do research and get into it.

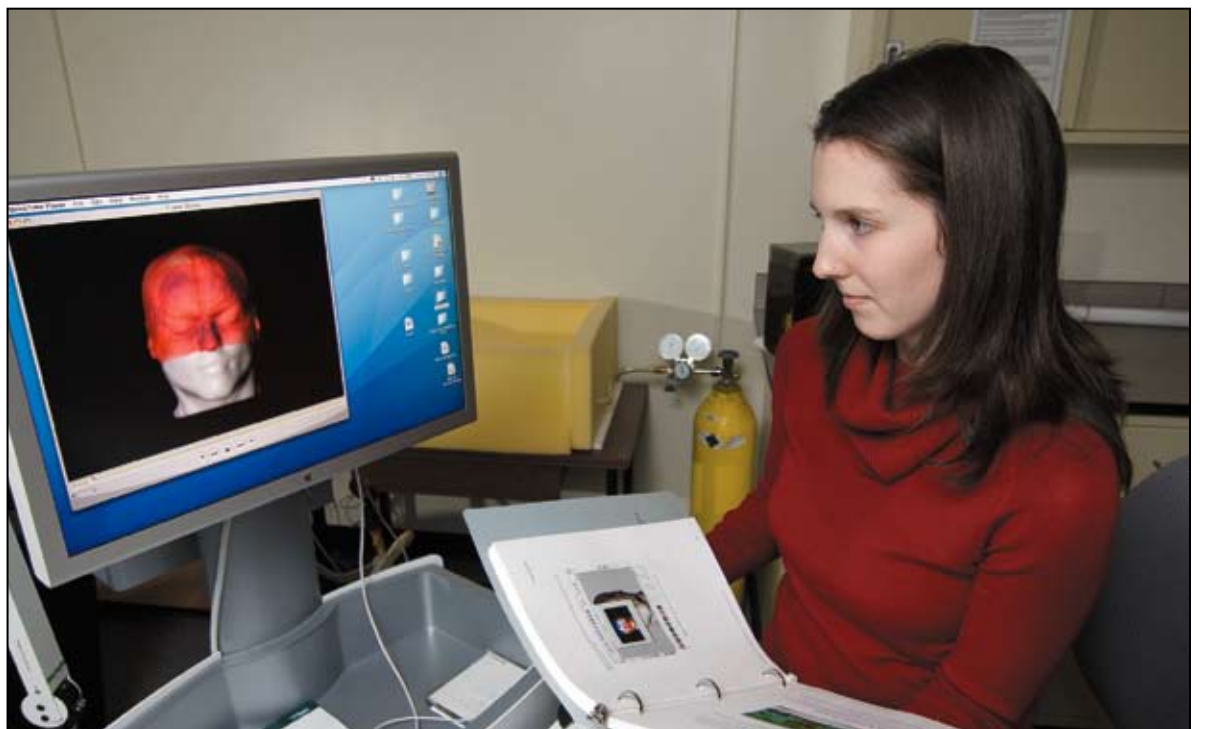


PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Colleen Jackson, a Ph.D. student in psychology, recently completed a master’s degree in clinical and translational research. The program is a collaboration between the Storrs campus and the Health Center.