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Revised Academic Plan nearing completion

BY ELIZABETH OMARA-OTUNNU

A revised Academic Plan that will set the future direction and priorities for the entire University, including the Health Center, is now nearing completion.

A public forum to discuss the draft Plan will be held on March 4, at 4 p.m. in Konover Auditorium. An updated draft will then be presented to the Board of Trustees at its April meeting.

Parts of the Plan are already available in draft form on the Web at www.academic-plan.uconn.edu/ and the whole draft will be posted there prior to the March 4 forum.

The Plan builds on the previously identified themes of health and human behavior; the environment; and education and economic and workforce development. Newly organized into four sections – undergraduate education, graduate education, research, and outreach – it includes specific goals for each theme, designates the office responsible, and identifies timelines and metrics to evaluate the accomplishment of each goal.

The reworked Plan takes into account input from a dozen faculty colloquia on specific themes and feedback from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges reaccreditation team, as well as the recent reorganization that aligns the Health Center more closely with the rest of the University.

"The new Academic Plan will reflect the whole University," says Provost Peter J. Nicholls, whose portfolio will include the academic programs at the Health Center. "The Health Center has been doing strategic planning for a couple of years and has a document in close to final form," he says. "It's a question of melding the two plans, especially where we're working on some of the same things."

Nicholls says he appreciates the "very substantive input" he has received from many different constituents. The topic that has generated the most discussion so far, he says, is interdisciplinary work.

"The broad themes we've identified are all interdisciplinary," he says. "Interdisciplinary work is the cutting edge across the board, not just in the sciences. UConn, like most universities, is organized around strong disciplines, and faculty are concerned about barriers and incentives to work across disci-

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PHOTO BY SHERYL ROSEN

University President Michael J. Hogan, left, speaks with Donald Peterson, director of the biodynamics laboratory, center, and Donald Kreutzer, professor of molecular biology, after a 'town meeting' at the Health Center Feb. 15. Hogan, Dr. Peter Deckers, and Provost Peter Nicholls discussed the reorganization, the Health Center's financial situation, and the search for a new vice president and dean of the medical school.

Endowed fellowship fund to honor CLAS dean

BY CINDY WEISS

When Ross MacKinnon, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS), was asked how friends and colleagues could honor him when he retires at the end of this academic year, his wish list had one item: by giving to the new CLAS Graduate Fellows Fund.

The non-endowed fund began last fall as a new annual appeal to graduate alumni of CLAS. It provides fellowships and awards for graduate students and offers support for the summer, when graduate students often have no financial aid. It may be used to supplement grant support for students collaborating with faculty on research, and to enhance teaching assistantships for students who mentor undergraduates.

MacKinnon recently gave the fund a major boost with his own gift.

In honor of MacKinnon, faculty, staff and friends have also established a new endowed fund in his name to provide a permanent source of support for his chosen cause. The Dean Ross MacKinnon Endowment for CLAS Graduate Fellows will offer critical merit- and need-based support to graduate students in perpetuity.

So far, more than $20,000 has been raised for the CLAS Graduate Fellows Fund, and more than $13,000 for the Dean Ross MacKinnon Endowment for CLAS Graduate Fellows.

The endowment is a fitting tribute to a dean who has served CLAS for nearly 12 years, overseeing the development of a strategic plan that makes support for graduate education a major goal.

With 23 departments in the sciences, social sciences, and humanities, CLAS is the University's academic core. In 2007, CLAS accounted for nearly a third of the University's graduate students. The College granted 307 master's degrees and 157 doctorates last year.

Offering fellowships and awards will enable the College to recruit a diverse, high-caliber pool of graduate students. The endowment will also enhance the University's competitiveness for the best graduate students by offering dissertation fellowships, multi-year stipends, and project funding.

"This fund reflects Ross's appreciation of the importance of graduate education to the health of the College," wrote the CLAS associate deans, in describing the endowment to faculty and staff. "After all, master's and doctoral students are crucial to the College's teaching and research missions."

To support the MacKinnon endowment, please contact Frank Gifford at 860.486.6798.

Inside

Photo by Peter Morenus

University President Michael J. Hogan, left, speaks with history faculty at Wood Hall. Also shown are Professor Shirley Roe, center, chair of the department, and Fiona Vernal, an assistant professor.

Math professor Israel Koltracht dies

by Sherry Fisher

Israel Koltracht, professor of mathematics, died Feb. 17. He was 59.

Koltracht, who lived in Storrs, joined the UConn faculty in 1987.

"He was an internationally respected expert in the areas of numerical linear algebra, numerical analysis, and computational mathematical physics," says Professor Michael Neumann, chair of the mathematics department.

Neumann says the department has been receiving e-mails from colleagues, former students, and friends from around the world expressing condolences. "They all echo the same sentiments," he says, "what a dedicated and helpful colleague, teacher, and advisor Israel was. He will be deeply missed."

Neumann says Koltracht contributed much to interdisciplinary research at UConn, in particular to cooperation between the mathematics and physics departments.

Koltracht received his master's degree from the USSR Academy of Sciences at Novosibirsk and his Ph.D. from the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel. He went on to become a research associate at Stanford University, and held a similar position at the University of Calgary.

Vadim Olshevsky, a professor of mathematics, says Koltracht "made first-rate contributions to the area of matrix computations," adding that his other scientific contributions "had a remarkably strong influence on the concurrent development of modern structured scientific computing.

"I think we have lost one of the leading experts in the field of structured matrices, a truly irreplaceable colleague and a terrific friend," Olshevsky says.

George Rawitscher, professor of physics, worked closely with Koltracht. The two jointly taught a graduate course in scientific modeling.

"We taught the course over the years, and out of it came a paper in 1996 published with our students," Rawitscher says. "Since then, we have been collaborating on research. He taught me very interesting properties of spectral expansions of functions, which, when applied to physics problems, permitted very elegant numerical solutions. And out of that research work came seven more papers."

Rawitscher says Koltracht was "a kind and caring person. People found him to be a gentle soul, always kind and helpful."

Koltracht is survived by his wife Marina, a daughter, Jane, and a son, Michael.

Former International Criminal Tribunal judge to give Sackler human rights lecture March 3

Patricia Wald, who served for two decades on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and also was U.S. Judge on the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia at The Hague, Netherlands, will deliver the 14th Annual Raymond and Beverly Sackler Distinguished Lecture in Human Rights on March 3. Her talk, "Perplexing Predicaments in Human Rights Law: Women, Terror, and Tribunals," will take place at Konover Auditorium in the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, beginning at 4 p.m.

Wald received her bachelor's degree from Connecticut College and her law degree from Yale Law School, were she was editor of the *Law Journal*. She began her career as a law clerk to Judge Jerome Frank of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. She was an associate in the Washington, D.C. firm of Arnold, Fortas & Porter; an attorney in the Office of Criminal Justice of the Department of Justice; attorney for Neighborhood Legal Services; member of the District of Columbia Crime Commission; co-director of the Ford Foundation's Project on Drug Abuse; attorney with the Center for Law and Social Policy; and litigation director of the Mental Health Law Project.

In 1977, Wald was appointed Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs in the U.S. Department of Justice; and in 1979 President Carter appointed her to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, where she served until her retirement in 1999. From 1999 to 2001, she served on the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, where she rendered significant decisions in the field of international humanitarian law; from 2002 to 2004, she was chair of the Open Society Justice Initiative; and from 2004 to 2005, was a member of the President's Commission on U.S. Intelligence Capabilities Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Wald is a council member and former first vice president of the American Law Institute and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She is the author of *Law and Poverty* (1965), and co-author of *Bail in the United States* (1964) and *Dealing with Drug Abuse* (1973). She has also published many articles on a wide range of legal subjects.

Wald is a fellow of the American Philosophical Society and a former member of the executive board of the American Bar Association's Central European and Eurasian Institute. She received the American Bar Association Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award; the annual award of the Environmental Law Institution; and the annual award of the International Human Rights Law Group. She has received many honorary degrees from universities and law schools, including most recently the degree of Doctor of Law at Yale University.

Human rights archive conference March 3-4

A symposium titled "Human Rights Archives and Documentation: Transforming Ideas into Practice" will take place at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center on March 3-4.

The symposium will bring together archivists, librarians, and human rights scholars to address specific needs and unique issues in human rights documentation and to create strategies for the future.

The keynote address for the symposium will be the Sackler Distinguished Lecture in Human Rights given by the Hon. Patricia Wald. Her talk will take place at 4 p.m. on March 3.

The second day of the symposium will consist of working group sessions for archivists, librarians, faculty, and graduate students working with human rights materials to share information and address issues specific to human rights documentation.

Trudy Huskamp Peterson, an expert on preserving the records of Truth Commissions and former Acting Archivist of the United States, will be a special guest.

Further information and a detailed schedule are available on the Web at www.lib.uconn.edu/online/research/speclib/ASC/events/human_rights_symposium.htm

For more information, contact Valerie Love, curator for human rights collections at the Dodd Center at 860-486-2384, or valerie.love@uconn.edu.

Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources set for March 10

The second annual Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources will be held March 10 at the Student Union, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with a poster session from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Registration begins at 8:15 a.m.

The conference is intended as a forum to bring together the conservation and environmental community interested in Connecticut's natural resources, says Jason Vokoun, an assistant professor of natural resources management and engineering who is conference co-chair.

The conference will feature a mix of professional, technical, and informal forums throughout the day. The plenary speaker is Gary Yohe, Woodhouse/Sysco Professor of Economics at Wesleyan University and a senior member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. His address, "Climate Change in Connecticut: Global Perspectives and Local Vulnerabilities," will open the conference.

Later in the day, a keynote speaker, Trevor Corson, author of *The Secret Life of Lobsters,* will give a presentation titled "Sexy Lobster, Succulent Fish: Is There a Future for Seafood?"

The event will also include presentations and poster sessions on topics such as conservation at the community level; "green" and sustainable environmental engineering; natural resource inventories and classification of ecosystems; urban natural resource management; and preparing for a changing climate.

The conference is open to the public as well as members of the University community.

"We encourage people from various disciplines to attend," says associate professor Glenn Warner, director of the Connecticut Institute of Water Resources and conference co-chair.

Visit the conference web site at: http://www.ccnr.uconn.edu/ for more information.

The event is hosted by the Department of Natural Resources Management and Engineering. Additional sponsors are The Nature Conservancy, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, and three UConn centers: The Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering, Connecticut Institute of Water Resources, and the Center for Land Use Education and Research.

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Alumni living abroad tapped to become Husky ambasssadors

BY RICHARD VEILLEUX

The UConn Alumni Association has started a program to reach out to graduates who live overseas, hoping to reconnect them to the University and seek their assistance in welcoming study abroad students and visiting faculty to their countries of residence.

The Association's executive director, Lisa Lewis, and Debra Crary, manager of membership and international alumni relations, have begun an effort to identify what could be thousands of alumni living overseas. They hope to persuade some of them in as many countries as possible to become Husky ambassadors, who will help faculty, staff, and current students who travel there.

"It was clear when I arrived here that there was a desire for our undergraduate and graduate students to become global citizens, to provide them with a more international focus," Lewis says. "We thought that we should support that effort, and there was a sense that we could contribute and, at the same time, help our alumni reconnect to the University."

The idea of creating a UConn presence abroad has percolated for several years, says Crary, but the program really starting taking off after Lewis became executive director of the Association just over a year ago.

"As UConn becomes more international in its reach, with not only our alumni but faculty and students crossing the globe," she says, "we want to make sure there's somebody there for them. A smiling face, a ready handshake, a colleague who can help them learn about a new country."

Gregory Waddell was one of the first alumni to respond to the call from Storrs for overseas graduates to help the Alumni Association internationalize its efforts.

A 2002 UConn graduate now living in London, Waddell says, "I'll always value my experiences at UConn and feel incredibly fortunate to have studied at one of America's classic universities."

Waddell is involved in international marketing management and corporate social responsibility for the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators. "As an ambassador in London," he says, "I hope to convey to UConn students the importance of appreciating a broader international business community and the potential of emerging markets, in addition to galvanizing the strong network of alumni living in the UK."

Lewis and Crary have also received enthusiastic responses from alumni in Argentina, France, Israel, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Turkey, and Dubai. Staff from the Office of Multicultural and International Affairs, the Department of International Services and Programs, and the Study Abroad program have pitched in, too, as have a number of deans and department heads who responded to an e-mail by contributing the names and contact information for alumni they know.

"Our biggest challenge is trying to find our alumni," says Lewis. "We don't have as many of the tools to find them overseas as we do here, so much of our knowledge is anecdotal. As we do find them, though, we ask them who they know, and start to build that list. And when we do talk to somebody, we're finding that many of them want to do more."

Count Dr. Paul Zakowich among them. Zakowich, a 1974 biology graduate who opened an internal medicine practice in Singapore in 1983, has not only agreed to be an ambassador but, several years ago, started an alumni chapter there. And he wants to do more.

"In addition to encouraging fellowship with alumni in the region, I would be pleased to talk to students here who may consider applying to UConn," he says. "Every year, there is a career day at Singapore American School that is attended by many public and private colleges. I strongly believe this would be a worthwhile venture for UConn."

Chawki Madaoui, a 2003 MBA working with Mazars & Guerard in France, has the same idea. He has offered to set up a table and attend fairs in the region to meet potential applicants.

Elliot Shubert, who earned a doctorate in biology in 1973 and now works as a research scientist in the botany department at the Natural History Museum in London, is also keen to help.

"I received an excellent education at UConn, which has carried me very well into my professional life," he says. "I had caring professors who maintained high standards of teaching and learning, and I had the support of the University with a pre-doctoral fellowship. I would be happy to give something back."

Several of the schools and colleges are also helping. The School of Engineering has partnered with the Association to sponsor an alumni reception in Cairo on March 18, and the School of Business is helping with a reception in Taiwan on July 18. Receptions also are planned for London on May 17 and Rome on Sept. 20, and similar events have already been held in Paris, London, Athens, and Rhodes, often in conjunction with the Association's international travel program.

Besides helping identify alumni, Lewis and Crary also are hoping that faculty traveling overseas will sometimes contact alumni living in the countries they visit.

"If they're willing to have breakfast, coffee, or even make a phone call, just to say hello and keep that person engaged, it would help build the program," says Lewis. "They can be the arms and legs of our program, helping us reach alumni."

FILE PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Lisa Lewis, executive director of the UConn Alumni Association. The Association is seeking to reconnect alumni living overseas with the University.

Marine scientist advises UN on deep sea fishing practices

BY CINDY WEISS

A marine sciences faculty member in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is participating in a United Nations process to draft deep sea fishing management guidelines that will protect ecosystems and vulnerable species in the high seas.

Peter Auster, associate research professor of marine sciences and science director of the National Undersea Research Center at UConn, was a member of the U.S. delegation to talks earlier this month at the headquarters of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome.

The FAO is charged with developing guidelines to carry out UN General Assembly resolutions on high seas fisheries management.

Deep sea fishing uses trawlers with freezers, long lines, traps, and nets that go thousands of meters down. It can endanger vulnerable species such as cold water corals and sponges, underwater sea mounts that are home to sensitive species, and vent habitats.

Deep sea fishing takes place in waters beyond a country's 200-mile limit, sometimes at depths of 2000 meters. Spain, Russia, and Portugal are among the countries with the biggest deep sea catches. The U.S. has a minor role.

Some 53 countries and the European Community had representatives at the Rome talks, working through translators in six different languages to iron out details of how deep sea fisheries management will work.

Auster's role as one of a half dozen members of the U.S. delegation was to advise on scientific issues. His research specialty is the ecology of marine fishes. He has conducted multiple studies on the effects of fishing on fish habitats and the role of marine reserves as a conservation tool in outer continental shelf regions.

Last year, he served as an expert consultant at a guidelines drafting session in Bangkok.

The main issues at the first formal talks in Rome were defining terms such as "vulnerable marine ecosystems," "significant adverse impact," and "sustainable fishing," and setting the scope of the guidelines.

The heads of delegations spoke during plenary sessions, and smaller groups negotiated technical details in side sessions.

"It was a very interesting experience to see how this works, and attempt to bridge the science-policy gap," says Auster.

"There was clearly a tension between those people who were on the fisheries side of the issue and those on the conservation side," he says. "The bottom line is which side to err on in decision making."

Species that might be affected by deep sea fishing practices are still being identified in the deep ocean, Auster says. "We really don't know all that is there.

"The question becomes," he adds, "do you forego fishing opportunities to ensure that all vulnerable communities are conserved, even when you are uncertain if they are present, or do you keep economic opportunities open unless you are certain that vulnerable communities are at risk?"

Participants in the U.S. delegation included people with ties to the scientific community, policy makers, lawyers, and a representative from the fishing industry. The delegation was led by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State David Balton, who is U.S. Ambassador for Oceans and Fisheries.

The goal of the talks is to better protect fragile species and habitats from irresponsible fishing practices, according to the FAO.

Extensive deep sea fishing is a relatively new practice. From 1950 to 1977, it made up less than one percent of all marine catches on average, the FAO reports. By 2005, it had increased to four percent. The catch of some fish, such as orange roughy, has declined due to exploitation.

A final round of talks will be held in August in Rome.

Researcher explores potential cancer vaccine using tumor cells

BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

It's possible that a cancer patient's tumor holds the active ingredient for a drug that could provide a cure, according to Pramod Srivastava, a professor of immunology at the UConn Health Center.

Srivastava has been studying the effectiveness of a vaccine derived from tumor cells. His research suggests that this custom-made drug therapy, called vitespen, triggers the immune system to recognize and attack cancerous cells. The findings are published in the Feb. 20 issue of the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

"In this approach to treating cancer, one does not have the vaccine in a bottle off the shelf so that everyone gets the same medicine," Srivastava says. "We take a patient's tumor and make the vaccine from it for that patient, on a patient-by-patient basis."

Central to the concept behind the personalized cancer vaccine is the combination of heat shock proteins and peptides. Heat shock proteins are cell components present in all living organisms. Peptides are protein fragments, or the pieces that are left when the body replaces old proteins with new ones.

To make the vaccine, heat shock proteins bound to peptides are drawn from tumor tissue.

"Extensive animal studies have shown the efficacy of this idea in studies with cancers of mice, rats, and frogs," says Srivastava. "Most importantly, the scientific principles behind the approach are increasingly clear."

PHOTO BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

Immunology professor Pramod Srivastava has been testing individualized cancer vaccines. .

This is the only individualized tumor-derived protein therapeutic vaccine to have been tested in a randomized Phase III trial, he says. Phase III is the last phase in the clinical trial process before a drug has been shown to work and is granted a license.

Srivastava is not only the Physician Health Services Chair in Cancer Immunology and director of the Center for Immunotherapy of Cancer and Infectious Diseases at the Health Center, he is also the scientific founder of Antigenics, a publicly-traded company that develops potential treatments for cancers and infectious diseases.

"When the science behind the approach became somewhat clear to me, way back in 1992, I realized that this would take a lot of testing, a lot of money, a lot of years, and you can't do it on grants from the National Institutes of Health," Srivastava says. "These trials cost tens of millions of dollars, if not hundreds of millions, so it's not doable except through a commercial entity."

The Antigenics laboratory in Lexington, Mass., is where vitespen was produced for the trial featured in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology* article. An abstract of the study is available at http://jco.ascopubs.org/cgi/content/abstract/26/6/955.

The subjects of Srivastava's clinical trial were people with Stage IV melanoma, one of the most serious types of skin cancer, for which there is no curative treatment. One group of patients was randomly chosen to receive a vaccine made from their own tumor cells; those in the other group would get whatever standard treatment their physician thought was best. The researchers then kept track of how long each patient lived.

The overall results showed no significant difference in survival rate between the two groups. But Srivastava suspects a number of variables skewed the data. Nearly 40 percent of the patients assigned to the group receiving vitespen, for various reasons, didn't end up getting it, but for the sake of the trial had to be counted with those who did. Additionally, not all of those who did take the vaccine got more than a single dose.

When the data comparing patients who got at least four or more vaccines with the patients who received the traditional treatment were analyzed, Srivastava says, it became apparent that there was a link between the number of doses of vitespen received and how long the patient survived. The link appeared statistically significant in the subset of patients who received 10 vaccinations. The results also showed that patients who had tumors in the skin, lymph nodes, or lungs appeared to benefit the most from vitespen.

"The next step is to accrue in a new trial of Stage IV melanoma patients, those for whom we can make at least 10 vaccines," Srivastava says. "Then half of them get regular treatment, and the other half get our vaccine. We'll see what happens. If the results are consistent with what we saw in this trial, the FDA may approve this as a drug."

Srivastava, who has simultaneously been attending the UConn School of Medicine as a student and in May will have an M.D. to go with his Ph.D., also is investigating the efficacy of vitespen on kidney cancer patients.

English professor's book compares lives and times of Grant and Lee

BY SHERRY FISHER

A new book by UConn professor Robert Tilton examines the lives of Civil War foes Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant.

Lee and Grant, a comparative biography of the two figures, was written with William Rasmussen, curator of art at the Virginia Historical Society. The book, published by Giles Ltd., London, accompanies a traveling exhibit the two curated for the society.

"We look at the lives of both figures, before and after the Civil War," says Tilton, chair of the English department. "We try to answer questions about them, such as why did Lee make the decision to give up his commission in the United States Army? Why did he choose to fight on after the cause was lost? Was Grant an alcoholic? And was his presidential administration the most corrupt in American history?

"We also wanted readers to learn about the America of the mid-19th century in which Lee and Grant lived, and to get a sense of the moments in their lives that we rarely see," Tilton says.

Tilton and Rasmussen have collaborated on three other exhibitions. Tilton, a New Yorker, says it was interesting writing a book about Lee and Grant with his co-author, who is from Virginia. "We both learned a lot," he says.

The book has more than 270 illustrations, including ones of the generals' uniforms, letters, paintings, photographs, prints, and decorative objects.

"We had to begin by reading some of the many, many biographies written about Lee and Grant," Tilton says. "A good deal of the information about Grant came from his book *Memoirs*, which is one of the finest books of its kind written in America."

Tilton points to parallels and contrasts in their lives.

"Both Lee and Grant went to West Point. Lee went through his entire academy career with no demerits; he was a model cadet. Grant had many demerits.

"Both fought in the Mexican War. Lee was one of that war's great heroes, while Grant, 15 years younger, was still a junior officer."

He adds, "Both left the military in the 1850s. Grant, posted on the west coast, was lonesome for his wife Julia and his children, so he decided to give up his commission and return home. He took up farming in Missouri, at which he was a dismal failure.

"Lee, who had married Mary Randolph Custis, the great-granddaughter of Martha Washington, inherited Arlington House, which is where Arlington National Cemetery is now," Tilton says.

Lee's life was dominated by George Washington. "He wanted to be just like him. Lee's father, 'Light-horse Harry' Lee, was one of Washington's commanders, and Lee grew up hearing stories about the 'Father of His Country.'"

After the war, both Grant and Lee were interested in reconciliation, Tilton says: "When there was a move to arrest the Confederate officers who had surrendered to him, Grant put a stop to it. He told President Andrew Johnson that he had paroled Lee, as he had a right to do when deciding on surrender terms. Johnson caved in and no arrests were made."

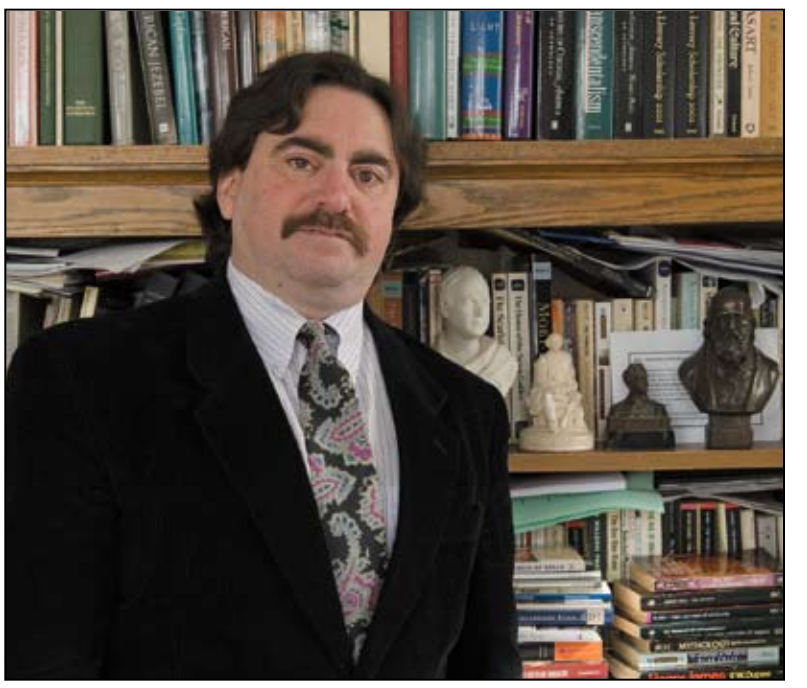

PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMEYER

Robert Tilton, chair of the English department, in his office. His book *Lee and Grant* was published recently.

Tilton says that one of Grant's faults during his presidency was his loyalty to those he had appointed. "We often view him now as a president who didn't know what was going on in his administration," he says, "but when he became aware of any scandalous behavior, he did his best to correct the situation. He also attempted to protect the rights of the freedmen, and to deal fairly with Native Americans."

Tilton says the book is for general readers as well as scholars. "It needed to be accessible to the reader who is not a specialist in 19th-century American history, but who wants to learn something about Lee and Grant."

Economist contrasts old and new corporate structures

BY SCOTT BRINCKERHOFF

Corporations lend themselves to all sorts of labels, depending on one's point of view. They can be innovative or exploitative; creative or conniving, and perhaps for MSNBC watchers, they're just symbols scrolling across the bottom of a television screen, ripe for investment.

But for Richard Langlois, an award-winning UConn economics professor, corporations are like Lego toys, structures that can be configured in any number of ways. He often sees them as "vertical" or "horizontal," simple labels that make a convenient jumping-off point for the kind of discussion economists have been having for at least 100 years.

Much of his research focuses on the work of the prominent economist Joseph Schumpeter, who died in 1950, and a business historian named Alfred Chandler Jr., who taught at Harvard and died earlier this year. Langlois's 2004 book, *Dynamics of Industrial Capitalism,* received the 2006 Schumpeter Prize of the International Joseph A. Schumpeter Society.

In the book and in other research, Langlois looks at the views of Schumpeter and Chandler and assesses how well they have stood the test of time. Often, he finds bends in the economic road that they could not have foreseen.

"Chandler was writing in the middle of the 20th century, when protectionism was common and markets were more closed," Langlois says. "He saw the rise of the large, vertically integrated company as the inevitable product of economic development. His argument would be less persuasive today."

Economists call a company vertically integrated if it tends to handle most stages of production by itself. An example, Langlois says, is the IBM of yesterday. "IBM used to make its own transistors, its own motherboards," he says. "It owned divisions that made almost every part of the computer, and the company was structured like a silo."

No longer. "Today, corporations are mostly horizontal, with production spread out among many companies and entrepreneurs everywhere," he says. "That's the idea of the new economy."

Langlois is interested in how corporations evolve, and why. In the case of IBM, he says, the company started keeping all the components of a computer under its corporate roof, but before long had to yield to specialist companies that were moving different computer technologies forward faster and more economically than the large corporation could.

A similar situation evolved with the oil companies, Langlois says. They used to handle all aspects of production, from exploration to refining to distribution and sale to consumers, or, as Langlois puts it, "They did it all, everything but making the steel that went into the drills, or the typewriters in their offices.

Langlois argues that it's wrong to see a large vertically integrated corporation as "the apotheosis of organizational form." Instead, he sees it as the second-best form, "the form you would get when markets can't catch up to supply what is needed for success," he says.

"If you specialize in only doing a few things," he adds, "that's better than trying to do everything, particularly in view of the possibilities created by globalization."

In an article written in 1992 for the Harvard *Business History Review,* Langlois takes a detailed look at the early days of the computer industry. Though dated now, the article is filled with insights about why so many of the early names – among them Digital Equipment Corp. (DEC), Leading Edge, Atari, and Wang – are distant memories today.

In the article, he also discusses another favorite theme, modular systems, and the benefits they have brought to consumers and businesses alike.

In describing the computer industry as it had evolved to that point, Langlois concludes that Chandler's view that strong, vertically integrated companies are the best engines of economic growth could not apply to the computer industry.

DEC's missteps were many, Langlois says. On the question of how to structure the business, he wrote:

"… DEC chose to ignore existing third-party capabilities. Except for the hard disk and the line cord, DEC designed and built every piece of the Professional. The company tooled the sheet metal and the plastics, manufactured the floppy drive, and even developed the microprocessor."

Successful companies like Compaq, Langlois noted, realized right away that they should not produce all components in-house. He tells the story of a Compaq senior manager sending several executives to a computer trade show. "They discovered that the company could buy parts in the market and assemble a PC for far less than Compaq's own internal production costs," Langlois wrote.

The computer industry, he added, "is largely a story of external economies … of the development of capabilities within the context of a decentralized market, rather than within large vertically integrated firms."

Langlois said the industry contrasted diametrically with Chandler's vision of one company effectively buying its way into a dominant position in an industry, putting in place along the way such keys to success as excellent management, marketing, and production.

Henry Ford, Langlois wrote, had to integrate vertically "because external markets could not create capabilities as fast as he could." But decades later, IBM went outside its own walls "because the company could not create capabilities as fast as the market could." Ironically, Ford pioneered mass production, the very force behind so many of the successful computer component enterprises.

Before focusing on the engineering of economic systems, Langlois earned degrees in physics, English literature, and astrophysics. He has received many awards at UConn, including the Provost's Research Excellence Award in 2006, and the Alumni Association Faculty Excellence in Research Award in 2007.

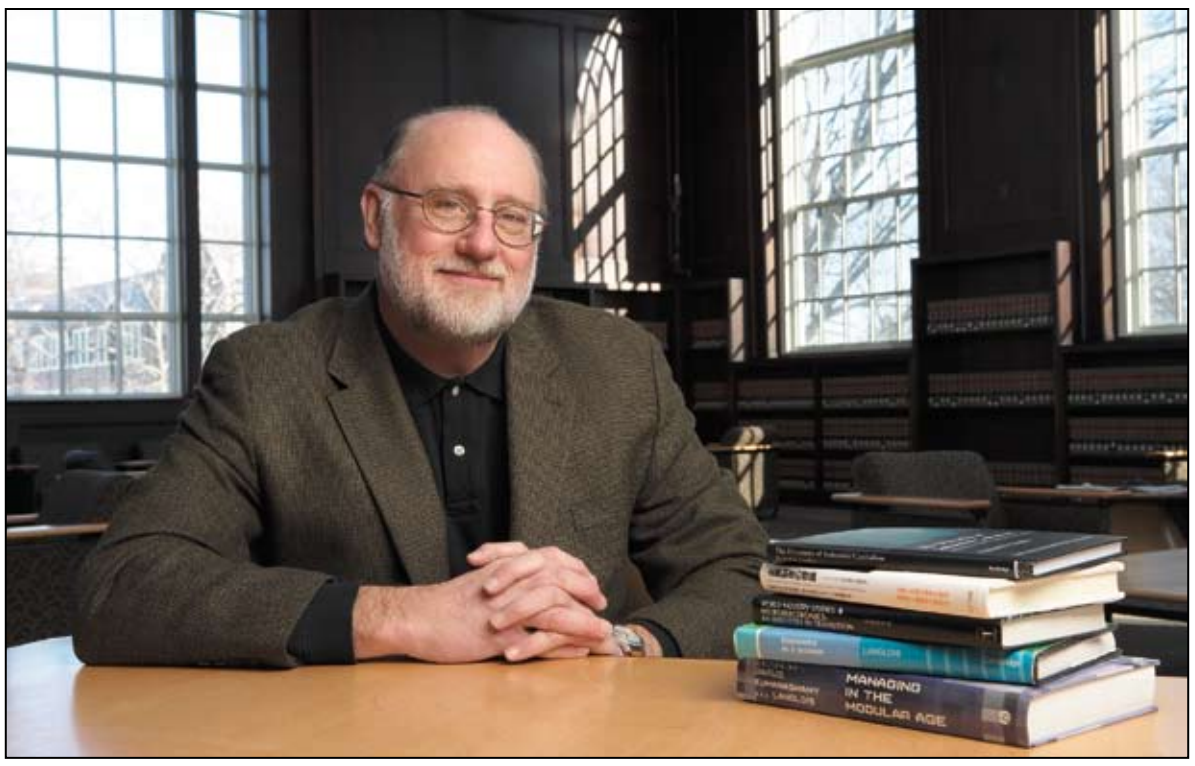

PHOTO BY LANNY NAGLER

Richard Langlois, professor of economics, is interested in how corporations evolve.

Academic Plan *continued from page 1*

plinary boundaries."

One possibility being explored, says Nicholls, is to establish one or more interdisciplinary departments with tenured faculty lines. Currently, he says, some interdisciplinary units offer joint faculty appointments, but an individual's "tenure home" is still a particular academic department.

"We will always aim for strength in the basic disciplines – such as math, English, and history – but faculty engaged in interdisciplinary work feel pulled because of the promotion and tenure process and merit review," he says. "If the University is stressing interdisciplinary work, then that has to be given weight."

Nicholls says he anticipates the plans for a new research vice presidency spanning the entire University will open up many possibilities for collaboration. "Hopefully, a lot of current obstacles to joint research between Storrs and the Health Center will be eased or even removed," he says.

When the state announced its intention to put significant funding into stem cell research, Nicholls says, "we had to come together as a university and decide who the scientists would be and where to site the labs, and submit grant proposals for the entire institution. Our significant success in the state competition attests to the fact we can do this.

"Our work in the area of human stem cells falls under the health and human behavior theme of the Academic Plan," Nicholls adds. "It encompasses significant work both at Storrs and at the Health Center."

He says there are many other research strengths, including for example nanotechnology, musculoskeletal science, genomics, and human behavior, that pertain to more than one campus. Others, such as the fuel cell program, which relates to the environmental theme of the Academic Plan, are concentrated at one campus, in this case Storrs.

Nicholls says the Academic Plan will also guide the development of the regional campuses, noting that they represent a significant piece of both the undergraduate education and the outreach components of the Plan.

In addition, he says, they host various special programs that aren't offered elsewhere. The marine sciences research at Avery Point, for example, reinforces the environmental theme, and the business programs at the Stamford Campus are important to workforce development in the southwestern portion of the state.

Nicholls says the Academic Plan will shape decision making in the allocation of resources, such as new faculty hires, as well as the choice and sequence of 21st Century UConn projects.

"The priorities will derive from the Academic Plan," he says.

For example, once the Arjona/Monteith buildings are replaced, the next major project will be the science/technology neighborhood involving the Gant Complex, the old warehouse, Torrey Life Sciences, and engineering. "What's housed there are units that are going to be very significant contributors to several areas in the Plan, including some of the basic sciences, the Institute of Materials Science, and some of the biology programs," Nicholls says.

The renovation of Storrs Hall will also assume a high priority, he says; the School of Nursing, which is housed there, will play a critical role in workforce development. And the deferred maintenance program will address critical needs in many structures that are "desperately needed for teaching and research." Capital projects planned at the Health Center are also prioritized on the basis of this kind of strategic planning.

Infused throughout the Plan are the concepts of globalization and diversity. Undergraduate education, for example, includes the goals of increasing the diversity of the undergraduate population, as well as raising the percentage of students who study abroad, expanding the new global living/learning community, attracting more foreign students, and infusing the curriculum with more international material.

In the research arena, Nicholls says, one of the goals is to identify a handful of overseas institutions with which UConn may establish not only strong research connections and undergraduate exchanges but possibly also joint graduate degree programs.

Once the Plan is approved by the Board, it will enter the implementation phase. This, says Nicholls, will require both new funding and reallocations, and also the establishment of a central fund.

He adds, "In this Plan, the institution has mapped out a path for its future. We have deliberated thoughtfully in setting our agenda, and as we move forward, our decisions will be guided by the priorities of the Plan. We hope to see interdisciplinary units of one form or another assume a more central role, and we hope to see a lot of collaboration and interactions with our colleagues in Farmington."

The "Darwin Orchid," *Angraecum sesquipidale,* blooms in the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Greenhouse. The orchid has a very long nectar spur, which prompted Charles Darwin to postulate there must be a long-tongued moth to pollinate it. His hypothesis was confirmed 40 years later.

Photo by Frank Dahlmeyer

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. The list is supplied to the *Advance* each month by OSP. Additional grants received in November were published in the Feb. 19 issue.

Prin. Investigator	Department	Sponsor	Amount	Award Period
Magnusson, R.	Electrical & Computer Engineering	Dept. of Defense/Air Force Office of Scientific Research/ MilSys Technologies LLC	$42,000	10/07-6/08
Multispectral Polarization Imager				
Magnusson, R.	Electrical & Computer Engineering	Conn. Office for Workforce Competitiveness/ Conn. Center for Advanced Technology Inc.	$54,638	10/07-6/08
Development of Nanoscale Imprint Technology for Efficient Fabrication of Resonant Photonic-Crystal Devices				
O'Donnell, J.	Marine Sciences	Dept. of Commerce/ Nat'l Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin./ Woods Hole Oceanographic Inst.	$1,208,649	10/07-9/10
The North East Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System: The Long Island Sound Component				
Orwicz, M.	Art & Art History	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	$42,350	9/07-1/08
Visiting Associate Professorship, Massachusetts Institute of Technology				
Perusse, R.	Educational Psychology	Futures Inc.	$13,000	8/07-5/08
Counseling Psychology Internship – Megan Krell				
Rodriguez, N.	Nutritional Sciences	Gatorade Sports Science Institute	$3,000	11/07-10/08
Gatorade Sports Science Institute Student Grant				
Sammes, N.	Conn. Global Fuel Cell Center	United Technologies-Research Center	$75,000	9/07-8/10
Development of the Novel High-Activity Cathode Catalysts for Intermediate Temperature SOFC				
Settlage, J.	Multicultural Affairs	National Science Foundation/Boston College	$54,230	10/07-9/08
Urban Ecology with Universal Design				
Shaw, M.	Institute of Materials Science	Conn. Office for Workforce Competitiveness/ Conn. Center for Advanced Technology Inc.	$24,658	10/07-6/08
Conductive Nanoparticle-Filled Membranes Structured for Optimum Performance				
Shin, D.	Computer Science & Engineering	Dept. of Defense/ Sonalysts Inc.	$30,000	9/07-3/08
Automation of Strategic Planning Frameworks				
Sotzing, G.	Institute of Materials Science	Conn. Office for Workforce Competitiveness/Conn. Center for Advanced Technology Inc.	$54,983	10/07-6/08
Incorporation of Nanofibers into Commercial Microfiber Mesh				
Suib, S.	Chemistry	Rohm and Haas Co.	$100,000	11/07-4/08
Oxidative Dehydrogenation of Ethane				
Suib, S.	Chemistry	Conn. Office of Policy and Management/Conn. Center for Advanced Technology Inc.	$42,721	10/07-6/08
Nano-Size Pt and Pt Alloy Catalysts for Improved Combustion				
Taylor, G.	Electrical & Computer Engineering	Opel Inc.	$66,000	1/08-1/09
Development of Infrared Detectors				
White, C.	Pharmacy Practice	Public Health Services/ Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality	$15,000	9/07-8/12
HHSA-290-2007-10067-I. General EPC Support: Methods and Dissemination				
Willett, P.	Electrical & Computer Engineering	Dept. of Defense/ Missile Defense Agency/ Vectraxx Inc.	$186,000	10/07-9/09
The PMHT for Track-Before-Detect				
Yan, X.	Mathematics	National Science Foundation	$96,261	10/07-5/10
Critical Points of Variational Integrals				

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

Department	Prin. Investigator	Sponsor	Amount	Award Period
Federal Grants				
Community Medicine & Health	Babor, T.	National Institute on Alcohol Abuse & Alcoholism	$258,674	1/06-11/08
ß*Delphi Evaluation of Alcohol Advertising Codes*				
Surgery	Das, D.	National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute	$192,482	12/05-11/08
Transgenic/Knockout Animals in Myocardial Preservation				
Neuroscience	Oliver, D.	National Institute on Deafness & Other Communication Disorders	$316,068	12/03-11/08
Synaptic Organization of the Auditory System				
Center for Vascular Biology	Pachter, J.	National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke	$129,500	1/07-11/08
Microvascular Endothelial Cell Heterogeneity in the Central Nervous System				
Cell Biology	Rodionov, V.	National Institute of General Medical Sciences	$224,960	12/06-11/08
Regulation of Intracellular Transport				
Molecular, Microbial, & Structural Biology	Setlow, P.	U.S. Army	$143,867	7/07-10/08
Mechanisms of Killing & Resistance to Wet Heat of Spores of Bacillus				
Private Grants				
Psychiatry	Alessi, S.	Donaghue Foundation	$94,222	1/08-12/08
Contingency Management & Pharmacotherapy for Smoking Cessation				
Genetics & Developmental Biology	Bates, I.	Yale Univ.	$12,179	1/08-12/08
Study of WNT Signaling in Bone Biology				
Medicine	Bona, R.	Worcester Memorial Hospital	$40,457	9/06-9/07
Prevention of the Complications of Bleeding Disorders				
Medicine	Ferris, A.	Donaghue Foundation	$133,206	11/07-10/08
Evaluating Changes to the Local Food Environment				
Psychiatry	Hesselbrock, V.	SUNY-Brooklyn	$655,041	9/07-8/08
Consortium on the Genetics of Alcoholism				
Molecular, Microbial, & Structural Biology	Hoch, J.	Univ. of Wisconsin	$68,000	8/04-7/08
New Math Methodology for NMR Spectroscopy				
Surgery	Kurtzman, S.	Univ. of Pittsburgh	$11,000	6/95-5/08
NSABP Breast Cancer Prevention Trial DHHS P5400-5425				
Calhoun Cardiology Center	Liang, B.	UConn Foundation	$50,000	1/08-12/08
To Establish a Separate Cost Center for the Neag Education Fund				
Orthopedics	Lieberman, J.	UConn Foundation	$22,858	5/06-6/08
Chase Family Skeletal Biology Fund				
Medicine	Mukherji, B.	UCLA	$74,000	7/07-6/08
Genetic Engineering of the Human Immune System				
Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center	Runowicz, C.	Derx Foundation	$65,000	1/08-12/08
The Breast Cancer Resource Guide of Connecticut				
State Grants				
Center on Aging	Robison, J.	Dept. of Social Services	$10,005	1/07-12/09
Nursing Facility Transition Grant (NFTG-2)				

CALENDAR Monday, February 25, to Monday, March 3

Items for the weekly *Advance* Calendar are downloaded from the University's online Events Calendar. Please enter your Calendar items at: http://events.uconn.edu/ Items must be in the database by 4 p.m. on Monday for inclusion in the issue published the following Monday.
Note: The *Advance* will not be published on March 10, owing to spring break. The next Calendar will include events taking place from Monday, March 3, through Monday, March 17. Those items must be in the database by 4 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 25.

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

Saturday, 2/29 – Mid-semester progress reports due students from faculty.

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 am.-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

Monday, 2/25 – University Senate. 4-6 p.m., Room 7, Bishop Center.
Wednesday, 2/27 – Board of Trustees. 1-3 p.m., Room 7, Bishop Center.

Ph.D. Defenses

Wednesday, 2/27 – Biomedical Science. *Characterization of Skeletal Phenotype of Conditional Dlx3 Knock Out Mice,* by Mohammad Saiful Islam (adv.: Lichtler). 1 p.m., Room L7033-7037, L-Building, Health Center.

Lectures & Seminars

Monday, 2/25 – Health & Wellness Lecture. "Reverse the Aging Process." Noon, Henry Low Learning Center, Health Center.
Monday, 2/25 – Puerto Rican & Latino Studies Lecture. "Migrant Child Labor in the USA," by Robin Romano. 4 p.m., Konover Auditorium.
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 p.m., Henry Low Learning Center, Health Center.
Tuesday, 2/26 – Women's Center Lecture. "Andrea's Voice … Silenced by Bulimia," by Tom and Doris Smeltzer. 7 p.m., Student Union Theatre.
Wednesday, 2/27 – Out-to-Lunch Lecture. "Straight Chick, Gay Flick: The Making of the Film 'In Good Conscience': Sister Jeanne Gramick's Journey of Faith," by Barbara Rick, filmmaker. Noon, Room 403, Student Union.
Wednesday, 2/27 – Humanities Lecture. "Non Mollare (Don't Give In): The Assassination of Carlo & Nello Rosselli," by Joel Blatt. 4 p.m., Room 301, CLAS Building.
Wednesday, 2/27 – 'Recent Cases' Law Lecture. A Law School course in which a different faculty member each week presents a recent case of interest. Lectures are open to the community. 5 p.m., Room 110, Chase Hall, School of Law.
Wednesday, 2/27 – Stamford Faculty Colloquium. "Beyond Staying and Leaving: Battered Women's Responses to Abuse," by Ingrid Semaan. 6 p.m., Gen Re Auditorium, Stamford Campus.
Thursday, 2/28 – Comparative Pathology Seminar. "Interpreting Molecular Conversations in a Squid/Vibrio Symbiosis," by Spencer Nyholm. 11 a.m., Room A001, Atwater Building.
Thursday, 2/28 – CHIP Brown Bag Lecture. "Physiology of Resistance Training: From Basic Science to Practical Applications," by William Kraemer. 12:30 p.m., Room 204, Ryan Building.
Thursday, 2/28 – Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Seminar. "Skeletal Morphology and Wing Biomechanics in Batoid Elasmobrachs: Stiffening Squishy Structures Sans Cialis," by Justin Schaefer. 4 p.m., Room 130, Biology/Physics Building.
Friday, 2/29 – Gallivan Law Conference. "Sustainable Development and the Law," a conference focusing on "green" building. 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Reading Room, Starr Hall, Law School.
Friday, 2/29 – Environmental Engineering Seminar. "Sustainable Geotechnics: From Initial Concepts to Implementation," by Dennis Grubb, Schnabel Engineering, LLC. Noon, Room 212, Castleman Building.
Friday, 2/29 – Geography Seminar. "GIS Tools for Measuring Individual Accessibility in Real and Virtual Spaces," by Harvey Miller, University of Utah. Noon, Room 434, CLAS Building.
Friday, 2/29 – Animal Science Seminar. "Non-Antibiotic Based Strategies for Controlling Bovine Mastitis," by Sangeetha Baskaran. Noon, Room 209, White Building.
Saturday, 3/1 – Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Graduate Symposium. All-day event, where graduate students present their research to other graduate students and faculty. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Room 130, Biology/Physics Building.
Sunday, 3/2 – Museum of Natural History Lecture. "Food Safety and Quality Explained," by Kathryn Kotula. 3 p.m., Room 130, Biology/Physics Building.
Monday, 3/3 – Museum of Natural History Lecture. "For the Prevention of Cruelty," by Diane Beers, Holyoke Community College. 3 p.m., Room 130, Biology/Physics Building.
Monday, 3/3 – Sackler Distinguished Lecture on Human Rights. "Perplexing Predicaments in Human Rights Law: Women Terror, and Tribunals," by Judge Patricia Wald. 4 p.m., Konover Auditorium.
Monday, 3/3 – 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.

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

Photo supplied by Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts
Members of the Monterey Jazz Festival, to appear at Jorgensen Feb. 29-March 1.

Film

Monday, 2/25 – Jewish & Queer Film Series. *The Bubble.* 7 p.m., Student Union Theatre.
Tuesday, 2/26 – Social Work Film. *Sicko,* a documentary about health care, directed by Michael Moore. Gretchen Vivier of the NASW will lead a discussion following the film. 12:15-2 p.m., Room 221, School of Social Work, Greater Hartford Campus.
Wednesday, 2/27 – Rainbow Center Film. *In Good Conscience: Sister Gramick's Journey of Faith,* by filmmaker Barbara Rick. Questions can be asked following the film. 6 p.m., Room 403, Student Union.
Wednesday, 2/27 – Puerto Rican & Latin American Cultural Center Film. – *Real Women Have Curves,* 7 p.m., Room 441, Student Union.
Sunday, 3/2 – Films on a Sunday Afternoon at the Benton. Three films about life in the Japanese American internment camps during World War II: *Manzanar, Meeting at Tule Lake, and Topaz.* 2-4:30 p.m., Benton Museum.
Monday, 3/3 – India Film Series. *Bombay.* 6:30 p.m., Room 106, Fine Arts Building.

Performing Arts

Monday, 2/25 – Jazz Showcase. Samplings from the UConn Jazz 10tet, Lab Band and Combos. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Tickets: $7. Free with student ID.
Thursday, 2/28 – Comedian Vic Henley. Free admission. 7 p.m., Student Union Theatre.
Thursday, 2/28 through Sunday, 3/9 – Love's Labour's Lost. CRT production of Shakespeare's comedy. Preview 2/28, 7:30 p.m.; performances 2/29, 8 p.m.; 3/1, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; 3/4, 3/5, 3/6, 7:30 p.m.; 3/7 and 3/8, 8 p.m.; 3/9, 2 p.m., Nafe Katter Theatre. For tickets, call 860-486-4226. Panel discussion follows 3/1 matinee.
Thursday, 2/28 – Wind Ensembles. Works by Chou Wen-Chung, Edgard Varese, and James Beckel. Jeffrey Renshaw, conductor, with Robert Hoyle, horn. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Tickets: $7. Free with student ID.
Friday, 2/29 – Aya de Leon Performance. A Black/Puerto Rican artist who challenges the status quo. 7:30 p.m., Konover Auditorium. Free admission.
Friday, 2/29 and Saturday, 3/1 – The Monterery Jazz Festival. Cabaret; dinner, dessert, and cash bar $3-$10. 8 p.m., Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets: $34-$45 for non-students, $16-$20 for students. For tickets and information call 860-486-4226.
Friday, 2/29 – Faculty Recital. Minyoung Lee, piano and Kangho Lee, cello. Works by Johannes Brahms and Sergei Rachmaninoff. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Free admission.
Sunday, 3/2 – Music on a Sunday Afternoon at the Benton. Shakuhachi, traditional Japanese bamboo flute, played by Elizabeth Bennett. 5 p.m., Benton Museum.

Sports

Saturday, 3/1 – Men's Basketball vs. West Virginia. Noon, XL Center.
Saturday, 3/1 – Men's Ice Hockey vs. Holy Cross. 7:05 p.m., Freitas Ice Forum.
Sunday, 3/2 – Women's Ice Hockey vs. New Hampshire. 2 p.m., Freitas Ice Forum.
Monday, 3/3 – Women's Basketball vs. Rutgers. 7 p.m., XL Center.

Potpourri

Monday, 2/25 & Tuesday, 2/26 – Andrew Hudgins Poetry Reading. 7:30 p.m., Konover Auditorium.
Wednesday, 2/27 – Getting to a Better Tommorrow. The State of Connecticut General Assembly's Permanent Commission on the Status of Women is hosting a public hearing. 4 p.m., Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center, Student Union.
Wednesday, 2/27 – Litchfield County Writers and Artist Project. Screenplay writer and author Frank Delaney will discuss his work and career. 6:30-9 p.m., Hogan Lecture Hall, Eads Building, Torrington Campus.
Saturday, 3/1 – Museum of Natural History Workshop. An introduction to the theory, method, and practice of oral history. 9 a.m.-noon, Connecticut State Museum of Natural History. Advance registration required: $20 for non-members; $15 for members.
Saturday, 3/1 – Saturday Afternoons at the Museum. Drop in any time between 1-3 p.m. on Saturday afternoon. Connecticut State Museum of Natural History.

Lifelong learning institute draws hundreds back to school

Photo supplied by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Participants in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute take a walking tour of the Five Points neighborhood in New York City. The tour was organized by undergraduates in Urban and Community Studies at the Waterbury Campus.

by Sherry Fisher

When retiree Dawn Horgan heard that an adult learning program was being offered at UConn's Waterbury campus, she thought she'd "give it a whirl." Now she's hooked.

"The people I met and the programs presented have revolutionalized my life," says Horgan, who lives in Waterbury. "I can't say enough great things about it."

Horgan is one of more than 300 retired and semi-retired adults from around the state who take courses and enjoy other learning experiences through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the Waterbury Campus. Participants choose from 32 non-credit courses in areas including the arts, computers, culture and language, health and wellness, and history. Classes, which run 1½ hours, are offered on Fridays. The average class size is about 25.

Membership of the Institute costs $60 a year, and individual courses, which run for four to eight weeks, are $25. A lunchtime lecture series called "OLLI Café" is offered, along with special events.

"The Institute adds a new dimension to what is already a vibrant campus," says Bill Pizzuto, director of the Waterbury campus. "It brings older adults, with their intellect and experience, together to learn. It's about the joy of learning."

He adds, "I'm so proud of the Institute. It has brought so much to people's lives."

There are 120 Osher Institutes around the country. The Institute at Waterbury is the first and only one in Connecticut.

Brian Chapman, director of the program, says it has grown in both participants and courses since it was launched last year.

"The Bernard Osher Foundation expected us to have 100 students by the end of the first grant cycle," he says. "We had 308 participants. I think that speaks to the needs and the interests of retired and semi-retired individuals. They have an undying desire to be engaged in learning." Course offerings have tripled.

Chapman says the classes are "very discussion based. Many times the participants have as much to say as the instructors, because they've had these grand life experiences. There's a wealth of information going back and forth."

Ninety percent of course instructors are retirees. "They're often not teachers by trade," Chapman says, "but have avocations that they're passionate about. For instance, Dr. Ray Sullivan, a retired surgeon from Waterbury, teaches a course on New England Puritanism. He has written two books."

Horgan says she has been "enchanted" by the program.

"I never went to college," she says. "I married very young. I had three children. I've been working my whole life. I've continued to learn on my own, and I've done a lot of reading. Now I can take courses where there's no tests, no credit, no pressure – nothing but fun and learning.

"We're all learning from each other," she says. "The teachers and students are all equal. I've met some wonderful people."

Horgan is taking a course this semester on Henry VIII – "one of my favorite people in history" – and has taken courses in Chinese medicine, Queens of Europe and Russia, and The Color of the Orchestra.

The course on the orchestra was presented by the Waterbury Symphony. "They gave an amazing introduction to the orchestra, explaining the beginnings," Horgan says. "Then they presented a concert, and my daughter and granddaughter and I went. It was our first symphony with three generations together."

Undergraduates in the Urban and Community Studies Program at Waterbury and OLLI participants have been spending time together. They learned about the Five Points neighborhood in New York, watched a film together, and traveled to New York City by bus on a Saturday. The urban studies students designed a walking tour for the OLLI members, and led them on the tour.

"They adopted us, visited with us, and watched out for us in New York," says Betty Kenyon, a retiree from Oakville.

OLLI members, in turn, sponsored a snack table with bagels, candy and cookies for students during final exam week in December.

Kenyon, who took courses in conversational Italian, and Rome and Venice, says: "It's a lovely experience for older people. It puts some excitement into your life again. I am absolutely thrilled."

Health Center researchers investigate health risks to nail salon workers

by Carolyn Pennington

When you think of hazardous work, manicurist probably isn't the first job that comes to mind. But if you're pregnant, you should be aware of the risks. The polishes, acrylics, and other products used in nail salons contain some 20 chemicals flagged by the Environmental Protection Agency as having potential symptoms and health effects.

"We're seeing a substantial number of women who work in the beauty industry who are concerned about whether they can work during their pregnancies," says Dr. John Meyer, an assistant professor in the Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine at the Health Center.

The Division partners with the Connecticut Pregnancy Exposure Information Service to provide clinical evaluations and expertise in reducing or preventing workplace exposure that may affect fertility, maternal health, pregnancy, and fetal development.

Meyer says the division gets up to 140 calls a year on the toll-free risk line from workers or their physicians.

Anne Bracker, an industrial hygienist at the Health Center who often evaluates worrisome workplaces, says "nail salons have become a hot topic. Complaints have increased, as the number of nail technicians has jumped 374 percent nationwide."

Women make up 96 percent of the industry's workforce. "Many of these women need to stay employed because of their financial situation," Bracker says, "so we try to keep them working, but suggest changes so their work environment is safer."

There's a lack of studies about the potential reproductive toxicity of nail polish. The health risks of a particular chemical are often based on whether it exceeds exposure limits developed for industrial settings.

"The standards are designed to prevent acute problems, like respiratory difficulty or intoxication that develop soon after a large dose," says Meyer. "They aren't set up to protect against cancer and chronic disease that develop from long-term, low-dose exposure."

In addition, many of the standards have not changed since the Occupational Safety and Health Administration first set limits in 1970, when the populations it studied were mostly male.

"They don't take into account female reproductive health outcomes or exposure during pregnancy," Meyer says.

At a nail salon, chemicals of concern include solvents such as acetone. Studies show that when laboratory workers are exposed to similar solvents without proper ventilation, there is a small but increased risk of miscarriages, birth defects, and, at high levels, learning deficits similar to fetal alcohol syndrome, says Meyer.

Dibutyl phthalate, a plasticizer that makes nail polish more flexible, may be toxic to the reproductive system; but most of the research on phthalates is based on animal studies, and it is difficult to predict human response.

The salon should not be using liquid methyl methacrylate (MMA), which the Food and Drug Administration has stated is a "poisonous and deleterious substance that should not be used in fingernail preparations."

Bracker says that if a salon's clients' artificial nails are very hard to remove and if its prices are substantially cheaper for a full set of artificial nails, that should be a red flag that they may still be using products containing MMA.

Following a call to the risk line, a pregnancy exposure assessment may be done. It may include clinical assessment by a physician, evaluation by an industrial hygienist, and review of epidemiologic and toxicologic databases for information on the reproductive hazards of the individual's workplace.

Photo by Carolyn Pennington

Dr. John Meyer, assistant professor of occupational and environmental medicine, and Anne Bracker, an industrial hygienist, at the Health Center.

In some instances, with the the patient's permission, a site visit can be arranged to the worksite to evaluate processes and materials for any potential reproductive hazards that may be present.

Meyer says recommendations may be made to the worker, her workplace, and her physician, obstetrician, or midwife, so that exposures of concern can be reduced or eliminated.

There are several steps nail salons can take to improve the working environment. These include making sure the salon is well ventilated, by keeping windows open or using manicure tables with a built-in ventilation system; covering trash and product containers; and wearing fitted disposable dust masks and gloves.

Thanks to a grant from the March of Dimes of Connecticut, a fact sheet listing potential risks and safety recommendations is now available for nail salon workers. The fact sheets are distributed to physicians' offices and are available online. Bracker and Meyer hope to produce similar fact sheets for other occupations, including dental hygienists, veterinary assistants, and women who work in the cleaning industry.