



## Public policy still puts blacks at disadvantage, says historian

BY ELIZABETH OMARA-OTUNNU

Water everywhere, people on rooftops, clinging to trees. A Southern governor pleading with the President to help. The President busy because he's on vacation.

When the levees break, the water pours in, leaving tens of thousands of people – mostly poor, mostly black – stranded with no food or potable water, and polluted water all around them. By the time the feds get there, it's too late.

New Orleans in 2005? According to historian Carol Anderson, the description is just as apt for the great Mississippi flood of 1927.

Anderson, an associate professor at the University of Missouri and the 2008 Day Pitney Visiting Scholar at the UConn Law School, made her remarks during a March 5 lecture titled, "When the Levees Broke: The Un-Civil Rights Movement in America."

"There are almost 80 years' difference between Jim Crow 1927 and 'we value diversity' 2005," she said. "How is it we can have the same languages, the same images, the same results? The answer is: This is not an equal rights society, because it's not a human

see 'Un-civil rights' page 6



PHOTO BY SPENCER SLOAN

Carol Anderson, associate professor of history at the University of Missouri, delivers the Day Pitney Visiting Scholar lecture at the Law School on March 5.

## Women's basic rights ignored in many countries, says speaker

BY SHERRY FISHER

Despite widespread acceptance of treaties and declarations that bar discrimination based on gender, "women's most basic rights – the right to work, to own property, and to make choices on family status and reproduction – have been subordinated in too many parts of the world that dictate subservience to husbands, fathers, brothers, even in-laws," Patricia Wald says.

Wald, who was U.S. Judge on the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia at The Hague starting in 1999, gave the 14th annual Raymond and Beverly Sackler Distinguished Lecture in Human Rights at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center on March 3. She discussed "Perplexing Predicaments in Human Rights Law:

Women, Terror, and Tribunals."

The war crimes tribunals and international humanitarian law jurisprudence brought some women's rights to center stage as enforceable mandates of international law, she said. But in some places "women's rights have fallen prey to the supremacy of male power in family relationships, enforced by religious or tribal courts purporting to follow customary law," she said, noting that women in many countries in the Middle East and in Asia are denied the rights to be educated or to work in occupations outside the home.

Wald, who was born in Torrington and earned degrees from Connecticut College and Yale Law School, recently participated

see Women's rights page 2

## Gift from Dorothy Goodwin to support museum education

BY JENNIFER HUBER

Former State Rep. Dorothy C. Goodwin, a retired professor of agricultural economics, bequeathed more than \$140,000 to the University of Connecticut, her alma mater. She died last June at the age of 92.

The gift, which is unrestricted, will be used to establish the Dorothy C. Goodwin Fund for Teacher Preparation, according to the University of Connecticut Foundation.

During her lifetime, Goodwin generously supported the University and the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The fund will support museum programs aimed at improving teacher quality that are consistent with the principles of Teachers

for a New Era, an initiative sponsored by the Carnegie Corp. of New York.

"Both Teachers for a New Era and the museum directly serve the needs of UConn students and the youth of the state of Connecticut," says Douglas Hamilton, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and a member of the Teachers for a New Era Leadership Committee. "With this new endowment, both programs will have a second layer of impact, because they enhance the training and knowledge of the next generation of Connecticut's teachers."

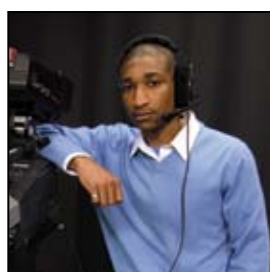
The Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and the Neag School of Education will collaborate on programs

see Goodwin gift page 5

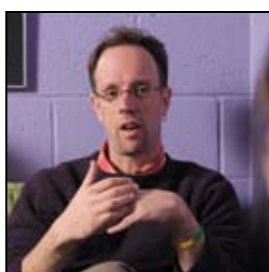
Inside



3 Protein analysis



4 Creating a major



8 Mental health services



## Women's rights *continued from page 1*

in a U.S.-based training course for the first group of 31 women ever appointed as judges in Egypt.

"We gave them the standard instruction in our gender discrimination laws and practices here in the U.S.," she said, "and on the requirements of the commission to end discrimination against women, a treaty which Egypt, interestingly, has ratified and the U.S. has not. But their principal questions to us were in the realm of whether women here could inherit money and own property, get divorces, and get custody of children."

She said the Egyptian female judges didn't have offices as such; they would hear cases in courthouses, then return home to work on the judgments. Nonetheless, she said, "their mere appointment was hailed as a monumental advance for women in Egypt."

Becoming a judge "may not qualify in everybody's vocabulary as a human right, vital to an individual's existence," Wald said, "but the Egyptian situation does point out one of the strongest reasons why women in so many parts of the world have such a hard time gaining access to fundamental human rights, however defined."

She noted that some people claim gender-blind rights included in treaties and international declarations "are themselves too



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Judge Patricia Wald, second from right, the speaker for the 2008 Sackler Distinguished Lecture in Human Rights, with, from left, Tom Wilsted, director of the Dodd Center, philanthropists Raymond and Beverly Sackler, and University President Michael J. Hogan.

antiseptic, and ignore the binding realities of cultural and religious mores that dominate the lives of women outside the West." Such critics describe the scope of rights defined in these documents as not truly universal, but rather derived from Western Anglo-Christian and Judaic cultures, and say they

don't fit the lifestyles of ordinary women in countries such as Afghanistan, Cambodia, or Central Africa.

Wald said a series of global women's and human rights conferences held around the world in the 1990s sought to "rend the veil of iron between the public pieties

and the private realities of women in those countries, and to elevate interfamilial abuses of women to full-fledged human rights violations."

But, she said, "the progress in that struggle is slow and erratic."

Reform will have to "emanate from within [each] society itself,

slowly, and most likely issue by issue," Wald said.

While the female judges in Egypt may not be able alone to change discriminatory laws, she said, at some point they may feel confident enough to speak out against them and, when there is a sound basis, interpret them in a way that affords women more leeway and choices.

"The structural inequality that characterizes a government of men will never be addressed effectively by treaties or declarations interpreted and administered exclusively by men," she added.

Wald, who served on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit for two decades, encouraged international human rights groups to continue to "press for governmental recognition of accepted universal rights for women," and not to accept the incorporation of religious law into the national legal system."

She also said that international development and loan agencies and private companies need to be "more aggressive in making their assistance to countries conditional on women's equal access to employment, education, and other essential opportunities."

## Nancy Johnson to speak on health care, March 25

Former U.S. Rep. Nancy Johnson (R-CT), a 24-year veteran of Congress and recognized authority on health policy, will deliver a lecture at UConn titled "The Birthing of a New Healthcare System" on Tuesday, March 25. The event will take place in Konover Auditorium at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, beginning at 4 p.m..

Johnson will discuss problems of rising healthcare costs in both the private and public sector and loss of coverage; the future of healthcare in the United States; and factors she believes will create an efficient and successful healthcare system, such as improving

quality measures, stressing the importance of patients' involvement in their care, and the adoption of an interoperable health information system.

Johnson represented the 5th district of Connecticut from 1983 to 2007, following six years of service in the State Senate.

Her legislative accomplishments include a variety of matters related to health care, children, taxes, manufacturing, and the environment. She co-authored the national Children's Health Insurance Program; was a principal author of the Medicare Modernization Act; and authored several taxpayer rights bills as chair of the

Oversight Subcommittee.

As a senior member of the House Ways and Means Committee and a free-trade proponent, Johnson played an integral role in passage of every major tax bill, trade agreement, and health care initiative during her tenure on the committee.

She currently works as a senior public policy advisor at Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell, & Berkowitz, P.C. in Washington, D.C.

Johnson's talk is co-sponsored by the Dodd Center, the School of Nursing, and the Student Leadership Legacy Program.

## Talk on gender-specific approaches to AIDS

Gender-specific approaches to preventing HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases will be the topic of a talk by Nabila El-Bassel on Thursday, March 20, from 3 to 4 p.m. in Student Union Room 421G (the Women Center's Program Room).

El-Bassel, a professor of social work at Columbia University, has spent 17 years designing and testing HIV prevention strategies in clinical trials for women, men, and couples recruited from drug treatment, primary care, criminal justice, and international settings.

She directs Columbia University's Social Intervention Group, a

multidisciplinary research center on HIV and drug abuse, and the university's recently established Global Health Research Center based in Almaty, Kazakhstan, which serves countries in Central Asia. El-Bassel also directs the National Institute of Mental Health's HIV training program for racial ethnic minority researchers.

The event, sponsored by the Southeast HIV and AIDS Research and Evaluation Project (SHARE) at the Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP) and the Women's Center, marks National Women and Girls' HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

## Forum on open access mandates set for March 26

A public forum on the impact of recent developments in scholarly publishing will take place on Wednesday, March 26 from 3 to 5 p.m. in Konover Auditorium at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center.

The event, titled, "Mandatory Open Access: Friend or Foe? Coming to Terms with National Institutes of Health and Federal Research Public Access Act legislation," will explore the newly passed NIH public access mandate which became law in December 2007. The NIH mandate requires that journal articles resulting from NIH-funded research be made

freely available to the public 12 months after publication.

The forum will also look at proposed legislation, such as the 2006 Federal Research Public Access Act, that would expand the mandate to include research funded by other U.S. government agencies.

Scheduled speakers include: Heather Joseph, executive director of the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition, and former president and chief executive officer of BioOne, a non-profit collaboration to bring biology society journals into the digital realm; Kent Holsinger, professor of

ecology and evolutionary biology, past president of the American Institute of Biological Sciences, and a member of the Board of Directors for BioOne; and Gregory Anderson, vice provost for research and graduate education and dean of the graduate school at UConn, also a past president of the American Institute of Biological Sciences, who will serve as moderator.

The forum is sponsored by the University of Connecticut Libraries' Scholarly Communications Team.

# UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT Advance

Elizabeth Omara-Otunnu  
Editor

Contributing Writers ..... David Bauman, Sherry Fisher, Michael Kirk, Mark J. Roy, Richard Veilleux  
Health Center Writers ..... Chris DeFrancesco, Kristina Goodnough, Maureen McGuire, Carolyn Pennington  
Designer ..... Betsy J. Surprenant  
Calendar Editor ..... Christian Shank  
Photo Editor ..... Peter Morenus  
Student Photographers ..... Frank Dahlmeyer, Jessica Tommaselli  
Manager, Media Communications ..... Karen A. Grava, APR

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

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



# Health Center, Stanford venture may lead to advance in MS treatment

BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

A collaboration between the UConn Health Center and the Stanford University School of Medicine may lead to an advance in the treatment of multiple sclerosis (MS).

Using data analysis from the Proteomics and Biological Mass Spectrometry Core at the Health Center, Stanford researchers were able to identify therapeutic targets associated with MS. Proteomics is the large-scale study of proteins.

Proteomics core director David Han says the research, published in the Feb. 17 issue of the journal *Nature*, is one of the first studies where human disease tissue proteins are carefully analyzed to come up with important molecules in the progression of MS. Han is one of the senior authors of the paper.

"The collaboration with David Han and his team gave us the opportunity to combine proteomics and immunology," says Dr. Lawrence Steinman, chair of the Stanford immunology program. "Proteomics is one of the most important technological tools for hunting proteins in the brains of multiple sclerosis patients. We combined this tool provided by the expert team at UConn with

our own skills in understanding the immunology of inflammation. David Han's team opened a gold mine for identification of new targets in MS."

Steinman's team had tissue samples of brain lesions from deceased MS patients. The connection to UConn was made through Han's sister Dr. May Han, a postdoctoral scholar at Stanford. The Stanford researchers sent the samples to the Health Center for proteomic analysis, a high-tech process of studying protein structure and function. The result was the identification of more than 2,500 proteins, the largest catalog of MS brain lesions to date.

"Their in-depth knowledge and keen insights in disease pathogenesis enabled the Stanford scientists to select important molecules from the list of identified proteins we were able to catalog," says David Han.

The Stanford researchers identified two specific proteins having to do with blood coagulation as potential therapeutic targets. Using drugs that block either of those proteins in mice with MS symptoms, they noticed improvement in the severity of the disease.

Once possible therapeutic

targets are identified, clinical trials are needed to prove them in humans, David Han says. "This is a good case of collaboration with another institution, where cutting-edge proteomic methods can be used to identify proteins that are important for human diseases. These methods may one day help accelerate the whole drug discovery process."

May Han says, "If our hypothesis is correct, the findings can be directly applied to patients." She adds, however, that researchers are still very early in the process of being able to tailor drug therapies for humans.

The UConn Proteomics and Biological Mass Spectrometry Core has six mass spectrometers, which scientists use to carry out this large-scale analysis of proteins. Its scientists have been developing and optimizing tissue-based proteomic methods to help identify human disease markers for eight years. Last year, they published studies on the use of proteomic analysis in the research of prostate cancer, leukemia, and human heart disease cells.

"Those other studies led to the optimizing of our proteomics technologies," says David Han. "This latest study is the showcase

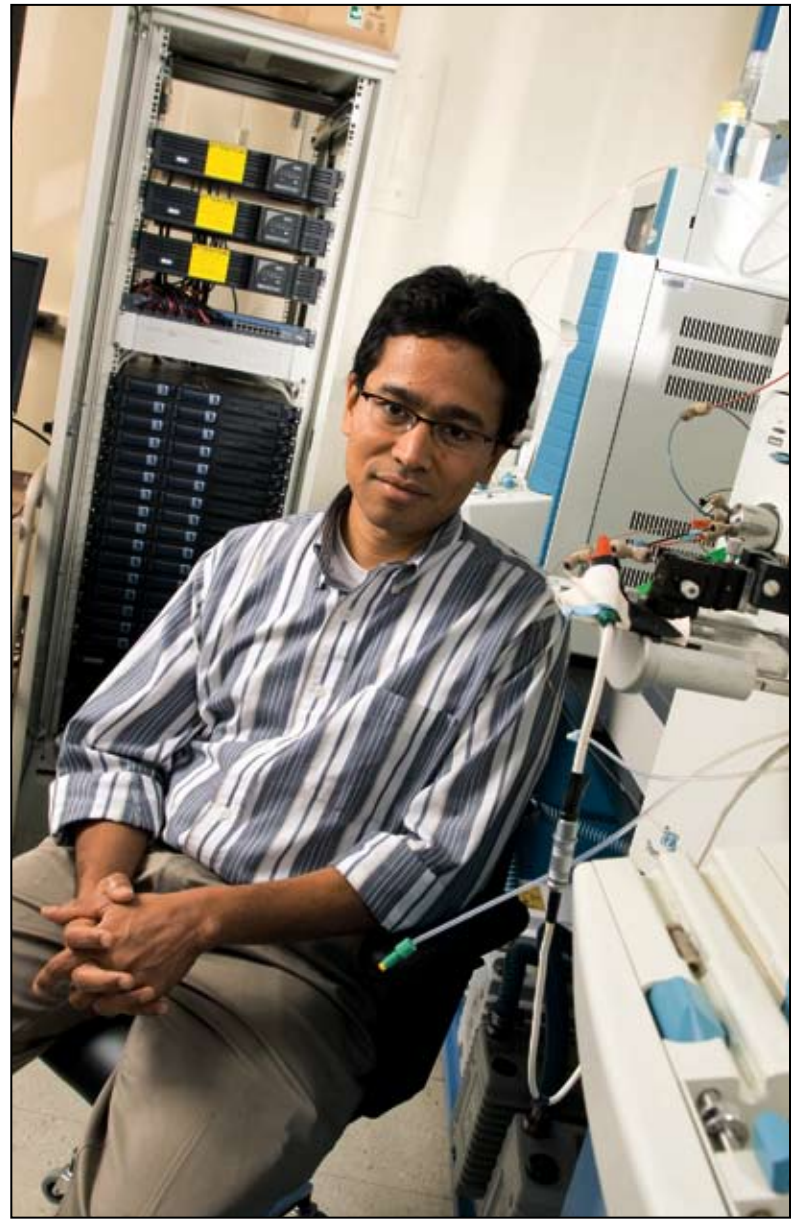


PHOTO BY AL FERREIRA

Researcher David Han in the proteomics lab at the UConn Health Center.

where we can now interface with human disease. Proteomics has the potential to be a reliable tool for translational medicine."

The study abstract is available at [dx.doi.org/10.1038/nature06559](http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/nature06559).

## Alumni couple gives back to Waterbury Campus

BY JOHN SPONAUER

A couple who met while they were undergraduate students at UConn have committed \$100,000 to support scholarships at the Waterbury campus.

Dorothy Bessette-DeSomma '66 and Martin DeSomma DDS '66 have established an endowment to assist financially challenged students, a decision that they attribute to their working-class upbringing.

"UConn has helped us move through life, and it was a wonderful experience for both of us," Martin DeSomma says. "Because of where we came from, and having developed a work ethic early in life, supporting students who have a financial need just makes sense to us."

The DeSommas attended UConn's Waterbury campus from 1957 to 1959, and met while serving on opposing parties in student government. They both graduated from Storrs in 1966, after Martin DeSomma was drafted into the U.S. Army and had served in Europe for several years. Today, he operates a successful dental prac-

tice in Woodbury, Conn., and the couple frequently travels back to France for vacations. One of their children also attended UConn.

"We've been very lucky and fortunate in our life, and there comes a time when you have to think about others, not just yourself," DeSomma says.

"In 10 years' time, I hope our gift will allow young men and women to possibly gain their footing to get into the middle class," he adds. "Hopefully, they'll use their education to do something productive for society."

Originally from the Town Plot section of Waterbury, the DeSommas believe that the University's presence in the city was a major factor in their decision to give.

"The Waterbury campus is outstanding," he says. "When I was growing up, Waterbury was a strong industrial town, with lots of different groups living and working together. Today, some of that has changed, but the campus - with the renovations - has become an even bigger boost to the city. We're very impressed with what we see."

## Sustainable energy event to feature technology, business, policy issues

BY MICHAEL KIRK

Sustainable alternative energy will be the focus of a symposium at UConn from March 31 to April 1. The event will feature talks by top federal and state lawmakers, as well as in-depth policy workshops on topics ranging from new technology to business development and public policy issues in the field.

"Our main goal is to show the broadest group of people how multi-faceted the energy issues are, and the intensity of effort being put forth by a very broad group of scientists, engineers, business people, and political leaders right here in Connecticut," says conference organizer Richard Parnas, director of the chemical engineering program and head of the UConn Biofuels Consortium.

Parnas says that, in contrast to a similar symposium in 2007 that was almost entirely devoted to biofuels, this year the sym-

posium will discuss sustainable energy more broadly, including biofuels, solar energy, and fuel cells, as well as the plant science and agriculture that are necessary to support biofuels.

The first day of this year's symposium will feature remarks from U.S. Reps. Joseph Courtney and Rosa DeLauro, as well as State Senate President Donald Williams, House Speaker James Amman, and House Minority Leader Lawrence Cafero.

The event will be introduced by President Michael J. Hogan.

The second day will offer workshops for smaller groups that require more hands-on experience in biofuels, fuel cells, investment, and business development.

"Sustainable energy sources are essential to reducing our dependence on fossil fuels and stemming the environmental impacts of their use," says Richard Miller, director of the

University's Office of Environmental Policy and a fellow organizer of the symposium.

He notes that new energy sources need to be advanced in order to make a smoother and more rapid transition from fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas, to sustainable and renewable alternatives.

"It is part of the University's educational mission not only to share information but also to set an example for the societal change needed to prevent the more serious environmental impacts, and even catastrophic consequences, of global climate change," Miller says.

For registration information and further details on the symposium, go to [biodiesel.engr.uconn.edu](http://biodiesel.engr.uconn.edu).



# Individualized majors help students shape their undergraduate careers

BY SHERRY FISHER

When Brandon Cardwell was a UConn freshman, he didn't know what he wanted to study.

"I had thought about studying business, but it wasn't my best fit as a major," says Cardwell, who was also interested in communication, music, and entertainment.

Thanks to some good advice, it wasn't long before he found himself meeting with Margaret Lamb, director of UConn's Individualized Major Program. The program allows students to create their own plans of study.

"When I told them I was one of the founding members of Husky Entertainment, [a student-run record label], and we talked about my other interests, we came up with the major 'Mass media, popular culture, and entrepreneurship,'" says Cardwell, who spent his first two years at UConn at the Stamford Campus. He also has two minors: communication sciences and business.

"It has been perfect for me," says Cardwell, who plans a career in television and music production.

The individualized major program is available to undergraduates based in the Colleges of Liberal Arts & Sciences and Agriculture & Natural Resources. Acceptance into the program is based on submission of a formal proposal, and approval by faculty advisors and an admissions committee.

Cardwell says the program has made his academic career relevant to his future goals. "It's relevant and tailored to what I want to do," he says. "Rather than go to a class, and wonder why I'm there, I'm going to class saying, 'I need to know this; this is going to help me later on.'"

His hands-on experience has

included working as assistant production manager at WHUS, the student radio station, and working as advertising director for UCTV, the student-run television station.

Currently, some 120 students are taking individualized majors, and each year, about 70 students graduate with an individualized major degree. Up to 200 faculty members are working as advisors with individual majors.

"The program motivates students to take charge and shape their undergraduate careers," says Lamb. "I'm very happy to see them doing it, whether it's a stand-alone major or part of a double major program."

She says the program attracts highly motivated students.

"Each of these students has an idea, is motivated to pull together a plan, and can convince others it's a good one," she says. "And they follow through. Individualized majors like creative challenges. The fact that their major doesn't exist in traditional form is not a barrier; it's an opportunity."

Lamb says students are asked to prepare statements of purpose that include writing about the importance of studying a particular subject.

"For example, if a student wants to focus on international trade, it's important to combine economics, some business administration, and political science courses," she says. "They then need to think about how they are going to put theory into practice. Are they going to study abroad or do internships, and if so, where does that lead? If they're planning on going to graduate school, what type of plan would fit?"

"We don't tie them down to particular plans," she adds, "but we help shape the way they frame the

problems and challenges of their undergraduate education."

Kathryn Strother Ratcliff, an assistant professor of sociology, advises students and serves on the individualized major board.

"I encourage students to consider an individualized major if they have an interdisciplinary passion," she says. "The program allows students to follow a passion, show intellectual initiative, and develop a student-centered curriculum."

Ratcliff says the program's broad exposure "challenges students to see issues in their real world complexity, not limited by disciplinary boundaries."

Steve Wisensale, professor of human development and family studies, is also on the advisory board.

"I think the program offers a wonderful opportunity for students who think beyond the traditional disciplinary boxes that exist at most universities," he says. "The most impressive applications I've seen usually revolve around international relations. These students are quite skilled in seeking out the appropriate courses and pulling together a proposal that is coherent, interesting, and academically challenging for them."

He adds, "I always emphasize with each applicant the importance of finding and completing an outstanding internship or two. These become the real springboard for graduate school and/or their careers."

Katy Laguzza, a senior, has an individualized major in puppetry and human rights. "The best part is being able to look at my college education and feel like I've received a good, well-rounded education, completely tailored to my interests."

Senior Billy Haubrich says, "I



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Brandon Cardwell, a senior with an individualized major in "Mass media, popular culture, and entrepreneurship," at the campus TV studio.

wanted the challenge of creating my own major and fulfilling the requirements that I would set for myself. I decided on Sport Promotion and the Media because I wanted to get involved in the field of sport communication. It also complemented my other major of communication sciences."

He says his advisors have been "extremely helpful throughout this process. Ever since my first visit, I have felt more like a family member than a student."

Haubrich has interned with two minor league baseball organizations in his home state of New Hampshire: Nashua Pride and the Concord Quarry Dogs.

"They were great internships

to gather experience," he says. He is currently the media relations intern for the Travelers Championship, a PGA Tour event, where he is involved in researching, writing, and producing a media guide. He also handles some marketing, sales, and promotions.

"Being involved with a professional sporting event is the best experience I could receive for my major," he says.

Haubrich adds, "The Individualized Major Program has really helped me to decide what I want to do after graduation. Before entering this program, I had no idea what life had in store for me."

# New Husky mascot makes debut at men's basketball game



PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Jonathan XIII poses for a portrait, with help from students Julie Jungwirth, left, Kelsey Bahre, center, and Danielle O'Reilly. The three are members of the service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega, which cares for the UConn mascot.

BY RICHARD VEILLEUX

There's a new mascot at UConn. Jonathan XIII, a rambunctious, brilliant white, 100 percent pure Siberian Husky made his official debut during the men's basketball game against Cincinnati March 8.

"We let him stay for a little while, then brought him home," says Danielle O'Reilly, treasure of Alpha Phi Omega, the co-ed service fraternity that has cared for the UConn mascot since the 1970s. "We'd been bringing him through Gampel Pavilion previously so he was familiar with it, and we'd had him at basketball practice, but he hadn't seen that many people before."

The 14-month-old Jonathan XIII was selected from Northern Manor, a breeder in Pennsylvania. He has been in the Storrs area for about five months, and has been receiving training at Connecticut

K-9 and Behavioral Services in Watertown.

Like previous UConn Husky dogs, Jonathan XIII will be hosted by an area family, and either O'Reilly or co-Husky chair Lauren Ide will retrieve him when he's needed for an event.

The Husky became UConn's mascot in 1934, after the University's name changed from Connecticut Agricultural College to Connecticut State College, and athletic teams could no longer be called "Aggies." The Alumni Association board of directors, one of whom had found a Husky pup at a Connecticut breeder's, put the question of a mascot to a student vote, and the students voted overwhelmingly to accept the dog as the new mascot. A contest to name the mascot led to the tag Jonathan, after Connecticut's first governor, Jonathan Trumbull.



# Donation of books on mosses expands biology collections

BY CINDY WEISS

A paleo-ornithologist who is a senior scientist at the Smithsonian Institution has donated his personal collection of books about mosses to the Biological Research Collections in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Storrs L. Olson, the donor, assembled more than 1,000 books, journals, and reprints in the field of bryology, the study of mosses, liverworts, and hornworts.

The donation, which includes books dating from the 1700s, gives the Biological Research Collections at UConn one of the most comprehensive libraries on mosses in the nation and one of the top-ranked libraries in the entire field of bryology, says Bernard Goffinet, associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology. Goffinet specializes in the field.

The collection is rivaled only by libraries in a handful of places, such as the New York Botanical Gardens.

The UConn collection includes one of only 251 copies in the world of a 1741 book, *Historia Muscorum*, as well as books from the 1800s that are housed in velvet boxes, books with delicate pressed mosses on their pages, and current books.

The collection completes a set of *Revue Bryologique* from 1874 on, building on an earlier donation by a former Duke professor, the late Lewis Anderson. It includes a set of *The Bryologist*, the oldest North American journal in the field, from 1898.

"It is an incredible resource for us," says Goffinet, "— an inspiring collection of great books in the field."

The field itself has long attracted knowledgeable amateur naturalists. In the collection is a classic from 1906, *Mosses with a Hand Lens*, a book for amateur collectors by Abel Grout, a "grandfather" in the field of North American bryology, says Goffinet.

The hand lens of moss hunters has helped amateurs and scientists



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Bernard Goffinet, associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, with the recently donated collection of books and manuscripts on the study of mosses.

identify new species, but it also has sharpened insights into evolution and biodiversity.

"These organisms are shown to be the closest relatives of the earliest land plants," says Goffinet.

Books in the collection offer researchers ready access to literature that is often unavailable by loan or from the Internet. The detailed descriptions in books from the 1800s and early 1900s are invaluable to scientists today, Goffinet says.

The collection has books by

people who were contemporaries of Charles Darwin. It even includes a novel with the name of a moss as its title: *Ulota*, published in 1934 in Belfast.

Olson, the donor, first became interested in mosses in 1966 when he was a student at Florida State.

He gained permission to take a graduate course in bryology taught by Ruth Breen, author of *Mosses of Florida*, and became fascinated by the exposure to a new world of small plants.

Olson went on to earn a doctorate at Johns Hopkins University. His career has focused on the study of fossil birds and island ecosystems. He is now the curator in charge of the Division of Birds at the Smithsonian.

But he remained interested in mosses, and in 1992, 20 years after earning his doctorate, he made the first purchase in his bryological book collection when Columbia University Press put a two-volume set of *Mosses of Eastern North America* on sale at half price.

During fieldwork in Hawaii to collect fossil birds, he met the only local bryologist in Hawaii, William Hoe. They struck up a friendship.

"Bill Hoe was an avid, almost fanatical, collector of bryological publications and had collected a very extensive library himself over a couple of decades or more," says Olson.

When Hoe died suddenly, his collection was passed along to his nephew, and Olson was able to purchase the bryological books.

They filled two large shipping pallets with the books, reprints, and other files, which were sent to Olson's home in Arlington, Va. He says it took him months to unpack.

About three years ago, he moved from Arlington to smaller quarters in Fredericksburg, and decided that it was time to fulfill his longstanding plan to donate the collection.

Goffinet, the only bryologist at UConn, heard about Olson's plan and wrote to him about research

that he was doing in Chile, where mosses are prevalent and diverse. Olson had considered giving his collection to Chile but decided to donate the collection here instead.

"He wanted to see the library being used by students in the field," Goffinet says.

Goffinet's research group includes two Ph.D. students and a postdoctoral researcher. Much of his work centers on far southern Chile, where mosses are the dominant plants.

Goffinet and John Silander, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, are among the co-authors of a new paper in *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* that calls Cape Horn and southern Chile a "hotspot" for bryophytes and non-vascular plants. (The lead author, Ricardo Rozzi of the University of North Texas and the Universidad de Chile, is Silander's former graduate student at UConn.)

More than 50 percent of liverwort and moss species are native to the temperate rainforests of southern South America. The authors of the new paper showed that more than 5 percent of the world's bryophytes are found on less than .01 percent of the earth's land surface at the southern tip of South America.

The ecological role of mosses is not just of interest to biologists, Goffinet says. "Tourism with a hand lens" has become big business in Chile, where the Cape Horn Biosphere Reserve protects mosses.

On the island in the Cape Horn region where Goffinet has conducted field studies, eco-tourism has become so important to the local economy that "everyone wants to have a hostel." And his field guide to mosses was published by the Chilean Ministry of Tourism.

The lure of observing and recording species of mosses, many of which are documented in the books in Olson's collection, continues to attract amateur naturalists as well as professional scientists.



## Goodwin gift *continued from page 1*

that expand hands-on training for students.

"The new museum experiences will help on many different levels to make the curriculum align more meaningfully with the real-world classroom and informal science settings that these teachers will eventually find themselves in," says Leanne Harty, museum director.

The new fund adds to a pair of endowments Goodwin set up at UConn during her lifetime: the Dorothy Goodwin Teaching Innovation Fund and the Professor Dorothy C. Goodwin Teaching Institute Endowment Fund. The endowments reflect Goodwin's lifelong commitment to public service and education.

Goodwin was born in Hartford in 1914. After graduating from Smith College in 1937, she was stationed in the U.S. and abroad, working for various federal agencies, including the Department of Economic Warfare and the U.S. Foreign Agriculture Organization.

After returning to Connecticut, she earned the first doctorate awarded in agricultural economics at UConn in 1957. She worked at UConn for 22 years as a professor and assistant provost, and published widely on economics and state aid for education. She retired in 1965.

In 1974, Goodwin won a seat in the Connecticut House of Representatives. She served five terms and was co-chair of the

Education Committee. After retiring from the General Assembly in 1984, Goodwin was appointed by the governor to the state Board of Education, where she remained until 1990.

UConn awarded Goodwin an honorary Doctor of Law degree in 1988.

"Dorothy Goodwin had a deep commitment to education," says Hamilton. "The Teachers for a New Era program that partners the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences with the Neag School of Education to strengthen K-12 teacher preparation is certainly a fitting way of honoring her lifelong engagement with educational issues."



PHOTO FROM UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Dorothy Goodwin in 1988, with University President John Casteen.



# Health Center specialists discuss little known heart conditions



PHOTO BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

Dr. Michael Dahn, left, and Dr. Kanwar Singh, both of the Pat and Jim Calhoun Cardiology Center, answer questions about cardiovascular conditions, during a recent Discovery Series lecture.

BY MAUREEN MCGUIRE

A heart attack isn't the only cardiovascular condition that can seriously threaten someone's health. Other heart problems – less widely understood by the public and often symptom-free – can be just as serious, for both men and women.

That was the message experts with the Pat and Jim Calhoun Cardiology Center delivered Feb. 26 during a Discovery Series lecture at the Health Center.

"Most people are familiar with the signs, symptoms, and even the causes of heart attack," said Dr. Bruce Liang, director of the Cardi-

ology Center. "Our goal is to raise awareness about some of the other extremely dangerous cardiovascular conditions such as valve disease and peripheral arterial disease."

The approximately 200 people who attended the nearly three-hour program were told that:

- The risk of all types of cardiovascular disease increases with age and with the existence of factors such as cholesterol disorders, smoking and diabetes.
- Problems in one part of the body's cardiovascular system can lead to other complications, including heart attack and stroke.
- Men and women need to work

with their physicians to understand their risk of all facets of cardiovascular disease.

"Valve disease can be quite silent even when a valve is very leaky," said Liang. He explained that the heart valves work like flaps to keep blood flowing in one direction. Normally, the mitral valve opens to let blood flow from the left atrium to the ventricle. The aortic valve opens to let blood flow from the heart into the aorta.

"When either valve fails to close properly, a condition known as regurgitation occurs," he said. "In this condition, blood flows or leaks back into the area of the heart that

it just left, sometimes resulting in shortness of breath and easy fatigue."

Another common valve disease is aortic stenosis, the narrowing of the aortic valve.

"The key is to detect and diagnose valve disease at an early stage," Liang said, noting that echocardiography, a non-invasive test that allows experts to visualize the heart's chambers, is the best diagnostic and surveillance test for valve disease.

Treatments for valve disease include medications and, if necessary, surgical interventions such as valve replacement or repair, all of which are offered at the Calhoun Cardiology Center.

Dr. Kanwar Singh, director of vascular medicine and intervention who recently joined the faculty of the Cardiology Center, and Dr. Michael Dahn, a vascular surgeon and director of the endovascular service, discussed the causes and treatments of peripheral arterial disease (PAD).

Like valve disease, PAD can have no symptoms, even when the condition is in an advanced stage. Fortunately, they explained, there is an effective screening test that is strongly recommended for everyone over age 70.

"PAD is a set of disorders that affects arteries that are not in the heart," Singh said.

Added Dahn, "It is caused when the process of atherosclerosis occurs, and fatty plaque in the arteries occupies space normally occupied by blood flow."

As is the case with coronary artery disease, the plaque that fuels PAD is caused by factors such as smoking and cholesterol disorders, as well as diabetes, autoimmune problems, and inflammatory conditions, the speakers explained.

The screening test for PAD is called a highly accurate one that contrasts blood pressure readings in the arms and just above the ankles to detect the presence of PAD in the leg.

UConn specialists urge all people over age 70 to be screened, and encourage those over 50 with significant risk factors, such as smoking or diabetes, to start screening.

"PAD is a ubiquitous disease," said Dahn. "If you have a blockage in your leg, you are likely to develop a blockage in your heart leading to a heart attack, or your carotid artery, leading to a stroke. This is very serious and requires immediate attention."

He said the Health Center offers both open surgical procedures, such as femoral bypass surgery to remove plaque from arteries, and minimally invasive procedures, which do the same thing without general anesthesia, large incisions, or scarring, and promote faster recovery periods.

"Whenever possible," he added, "we go with minimally invasive surgery."

*For more information about the Calhoun Cardiology Center, go to [heart.uchc.edu](http://heart.uchc.edu). To be added to the mailing list for upcoming Discovery Series programs, call 800-535-6232.*

## 'Un-civil rights' *continued from page 1*

rights society."

Anderson said the people trapped in New Orleans in 2005 barely "had a handle" on civil rights, such as the right not to be illegally searched and seized, or the right to vote. They certainly did not have a handle on human rights – the rights to a decent education, health care, housing, and employment opportunities – "rights that would have given them the ability to withstand mother nature and government incompetence."

The disaster in New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina was "the legacy of decades of public policy," said Anderson.

Anderson is the author of an award-winning book *Eyes Off the Prize: The United Nations and the African American Struggle for Human Rights, 1944-1955*. It is based on a Ph.D. dissertation she wrote at Ohio State University, where Michael Hogan, now UConn's president, was her advisor.

In her talk, she gave a historical sketch of the tortuous path of civil and human rights in the U.S. during the 20th century.

"When human rights were beginning to gain traction in the system, about the time of World War II," she said, "there were forces in the U.S. that wanted nothing to do with human rights and fought back."

At that time, she said, black Americans faced grim conditions. For example, the poll tax requirement in some states and "election-day terrorism" effectively disenfranchised many. Eighty percent of African Americans were educated in segregated schools that were separate but not equal to those of white students; the unemployment rate for black Americans was 41 percent; and lack of access to health care meant that African Americans lived, on average, 10 years less and experienced an infant mortality rate double that of the white population.

After the war, Americans saw that the growing human rights movement had the potential to alleviate such conditions, but those in political power resisted attempts to embed those rights in the United Nations charter, she said.

Although forced to concede that the charter should include a provision against discrimination, the U.S. countered with a clause that ensured the UN had no authority over matters within a state's domestic jurisdiction.

"The UN could not require a state to change its immigration policy or Jim Crow legislation," Anderson said. The American delegates were "seeing to it that human rights didn't penetrate U.S. borders."

During the Cold War era, she said, the ground shifted some, but the U.S. found a way to "use human rights as a cudgel to beat on the Soviet Union."

When the Soviets raised the issue of the protection of minorities, the U.S. responded by redefining minorities as people with a separate culture, language, and political agenda, and claimed that so defined, America had none.

Anderson said that although the Declaration of Human Rights was intended as a complete listing of universal human rights, the U.S. used its clout to break it into

two parts, so that political and civil rights were separated from economic and social rights.

Calling economic and social issues not "rights" but "aspirations," U.S. political leaders depicted them as "communistic," she said, and used denigrating terms such as "socialized medicine" to stave off any potential movement toward universal health care at home.

In addition, a clause separating federal and state responsibilities allowed the federal government of the U.S. to sign off on the treaty, said Anderson, but because of the country's political system, no state had to abide by its provisions.

Even Eleanor Roosevelt, known as a champion of civil rights and human rights, played a role in keeping rights violations against African Americans off the United Nations' agenda, Anderson said. When the NAACP planned to submit a petition to the UN, the former First Lady resigned as a member of the Association's board of directors, agreeing to stay only when the NAACP backed off from its human rights agenda.

"As the civil rights movement was beginning," said Anderson, "already the platform for the struggle for equality had been significantly narrowed, from human rights to civil rights."

Decades later, Anderson said, African Americans still suffer the "cumulative toll" of lack of access to decent education, affordable housing, health care, and employment opportunities. For example, fewer than 5 percent of African Americans own their own home; and many major school districts graduate less than 50 percent of students: only 42 percent of New York City's 1.2 million students graduate.

"Think what this means about the rest of human rights in the U.S.," she said.

Recalling civil rights leader W.E.B. DuBois' comment in the early 1900s, "The problem of the 20th century is the problem of the color line," Anderson said the history of critical public policy choices in America has left the color line the problem of the 21st century as well.



## CALENDAR

Monday, March 17, to Monday, March 24

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, March 24, through Monday, March 31. Those items must be in the database by 4 p.m. on Monday, March 17.

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

## Academic

**Monday, 3/24** – Registration for the fall 2008 semester via the Student Administration System begins.

## 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. 3/8-3/15: Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed weekends.

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

**Torrington Campus Library.** Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; Friday-Sunday, closed.

**Waterbury Campus Library.** Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Sunday, closed.

## University ITS

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

## Ph.D. Defenses

**Tuesday, 3/18 – Curriculum & Instruction.** *Latina Educational Leaders: Three Narratives*, by Marina Melendez (adv.: Reyes.) 10:30 a.m., Room 246, Gentry Building.

**Thursday, 3/20 – Music.** By Stella Roden. 5 p.m., Room 107, Music Building.

## Lectures &amp; Seminars

**Monday, 3/17 – Stamford Faculty Colloquium Series.** "Congress and U.S. Foreign Policy after Sept. 11," by Eugene Kogan. 12:30 p.m., GE Global Learning Center, Stamford Campus.

**Monday, 3/17 – Humanities Lecture.** "The Fugitive Slave Law and Remapping of National Politics, 1850-1860," by Robert Bonner. 4 p.m., Room 301, CLAS Building.

**Monday, 3/17 – Hascoe Distinguished Lecture in Physics.** "Visualizing and Controlling Picometric Quantum Ripples in Molecules," by Kenji Ohmori, The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, Japan. 4 p.m., Room P38, Gant Science Complex.

**Tuesday, 3/18 – Marine Sciences Lecture.** "The History of Containerization: Trucking, Intermodalism, and the Global Economy," by Arthur Donovan, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. 7:30 p.m., Room 103, Marine Sciences Building, Avery Point Campus.

**Wednesday, 3/19 – Out-to-Lunch Lecture.** "Color Me Queer: The History of Trans and LGB People of Color Political Organizing in the U.S.," by Imani Henry, activist. Noon, Room 403, Student Union.

**Wednesday, 3/19 – Art History Lecture.** "Reading a Medieval Book of Remedies: Images, Information, and Communication Design," by Jean Givens. 4 p.m., Benton Museum.

**Wednesday, 3/19 – '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

**AIDS Awareness Day Talk.** "Gender-Specific Approaches to Preventing HIV/AIDS and Other Sexually Transmitted Diseases," by Nabila El-Bassel, Columbia University. 3 to 4 p.m., Room 421G, Student Union.

**Thursday, 3/20 – Stamford Faculty Colloquium.** "Accentuate the Positive: Policy, Research, and Practice in Contemporary School Discipline," by Anne Farrell. 4 p.m., Multi-Purpose Room, Stamford Campus.

**Friday, 3/21 – Animal Science Seminar.** "Bionanotechnology for Remediation and Detection of Organophosphorus Pesticides," by Yu Lei. Noon, Room 209, White Building.

**Friday, 3/21 – Environmental Engineering Seminar.** "Evaluating the Impacts of Climate Change and Variability through Hydrologic Modeling," by Sharika Senarath, South Florida Water Management District. Noon, Room 212, Castleman Building.

## Exhibits

**Monday, 3/17 through Friday, 5/16 – Babbidge Library.** *Bramble and Bramble: Remnants, Glyphs, and Palimpsests.* Gallery on the Plaza, Frank Bramble; Stevens Gallery, Pamela Bramble. See Libraries section for hours.

**Through Friday, 5/16 – Dodd Center.** *The Ethnic American Press*, Gallery; *His & Hers*, New Yorker



PHOTO SUPPLIED BY ALEXEY VON SCHLIPPE GALLERY

"Vessel," from *The Question*, an installation by Pamela Pike Gordinier, on display in the Alexey von Schlippe Gallery at the Avery Point Campus.

110, Chase Hall, School of Law.

**Thursday, 3/20 – Comparative Pathology Seminar.** "Role of the FMDV Lab-Lb Region in the Virus Pathogenesis," by Maria Piccone, Plum Island Animal Disease Center. 11 a.m., Room A001, Atwater Building.

**Thursday, 3/20 – CHIP Brown Bag Lecture.** "One Size Does Not Fit All: Alternatives to Clinic Based Behavioral Interventions for Obesity," Deborah Tate, University of North Carolina. 12:30 p.m., Room 204, Ryan Building.

**Thursday, 3/20 – Women and Girls' HIV/**

*Cartoons*, by Michael Maslin & Liza Donnelly, West Corridor. For hours, see Libraries section.

**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, 3/19 – Emily Schubert will speak about Pamina Traylor, whose exhibition *Tagged* is on display at the Benton.

**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 Sunday, 4/20 – Alexey von Schlippe Gallery.** *The Question: "If there is a God, what one question would you ask?"* by Pamela Gordinier; photographs by Gretchen Higgins; paintings by Lise Lemeland; and paintings by Annelie Skoog. Hours: Wednesday-Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Admission \$3; free for members and students.

**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 Wednesday, 6/11 – Health Center.** *In the Moment*, paintings by Rita Bond; and *Pubs/Structures/Large and Small*, paintings by Arthur Bredefeld. Daily, 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Celeste Le Witt Gallery.

**Ongoing. State Museum of Natural History & Connecticut Archaeology Center.** *Human's Nature: Looking Closer at the Relationships between People and the Environment.* Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday & Monday, closed. Free admission, donations welcome.

## Film

**Monday, 3/17 – India Film Series.** *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai.* 6:30-9 p.m., Room 106, Fine Arts Building.

**Thursday, 3/20 – Documentary Screening.** *A Dream in Doubt*, the story of an immigrant in post-9/11 America. 7-9 p.m., Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts.

## Performing Arts

**Thursday, 3/20 – University Symphony.** Jeffrey Renshaw, conductor. Featuring music by Johannes Brahms, Jennifer Higdon, and Modest Mussorgsky. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Tickets, \$7. Free with student ID.

## Sports

**Thursday, 3/20 – Men's Tennis vs. Quinnipiac.** 2 p.m., Tennis Courts.

**Thursday, 3/20 – Women's Tennis vs. Quinnipiac.** 2 p.m., Tennis Courts.

**Monday, 3/24 – Baseball vs. Massachusetts.** 3 p.m., J.O. Christian Field.

## Potpourri

**Wednesday, 3/19 – Way Past Counting Sheep.** Discussion on what to do when you can't fall asleep, why people wake from a sound sleep, and which sleep remedies may be right for you. 6 p.m., Henry Low Learning Center, Health Center.

**Wednesday, 3/19 – Book Discussion and Signing.** Novelist Marie Bostwick will discuss her work, including her latest novel, *On Wings of the Morning*. 6:30 p.m., Hogan Lecture Hall, Eads Building, Torrington Campus.

**Thursday, 3/20 – Creative Writing Program.** Discussion with Keith Gessen, founding editor of n+1 journal. 4 p.m., Stern Lounge 217, CLAS Building.

**Monday, 3/24 – sIAAm! Book Club.** Author Brian Leung will read from his book, *Lost Men*. 4:30 p.m., UConn Co-op.

## GRANTS

The following grants were received through the UConn Health Center's Office of Grants and Contracts in November 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 |
|---|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| <b>Federal Grants</b>   |                    |                                      |           |              |
| Community Medicine & Health   | Babor, T.          | National Institute on Drug Abuse     | \$268,040 | 9/04-8/08    |
| <i>Brief Interventions for Nicotine and Cannabis Use</i>                                    |                    |                                      |           |              |
| <b>Private Grants</b>   |                    |                                      |           |              |
| Immunology  | Goldschneider, I.  | UConn Foundation                     | \$3,291   | 3/07-12/07   |
| <i>Pfizer-Goldschneider Fund</i>  |                    |                                      |           |              |
| Traumatology/Emergency Medicine   | Delgado, J.        | Denver Health & Hospital Authority   | \$10,000  | 11/06-12/07  |
| <i>Characterization of Repeated Supratherapeutic Ingestion of Acetaminophen in Children</i> |                    |                                      |           |              |
| Psychiatry  | Hesselbrock, V.    | American College of Gastroenterology | \$9,999   | 7/07-12/08   |
| <i>A Pilot Study to Assess DNA Methylation Patterns in Alcoholics and Controls</i>          |                    |                                      |           |              |

|  |               |   |           |             |
|--|---------------|---|-----------|-------------|
| Surgery  | Taylor, J.    | American Cancer Society                     | \$20,000  | 11/07-10/12 |
| <i>Inflammatory Cytokines and Bladder Cancer</i>                 |               |   |           |             |
| Child & Family Studies Institute Program                         | Bruder, M.    | Orelena Hawks Puckett                       | \$50,000  | 10/07-9/08  |
| <i>Center for Early Literacy Learning – Subcontract</i>          |               |   |           |             |
| Medicine   | Cherniack, M. | UMass Lowell                                | \$380,139 | 7/06-6/08   |
| <i>Health Improvement through Training and Employee Control</i>  |               |   |           |             |
| Center for Vascular Biology                                      | Hla, T.       | Vanderbilt University                       | \$223,055 | 5/07-4/08   |
| <i>Mechanisms for Prevention of Colorectal Cancer</i>            |               |   |           |             |
| Oral Health & Diagnostic Sciences                                | Reisine, S.   | University of Michigan                      | \$59,981  | 8/07-7/08   |
| <i>Detroit Center for Research on Oral Health Disparities</i>    |               |   |           |             |
| Medicine   | Kream, B.     | Jackson Lab                                 | \$126,702 | 9/07-5/08   |
| <i>A Chromosome 10 QTL Associated with IGF-1 and Bone Mass</i>   |               |   |           |             |
| <b>State Grants</b>  |               |   |           |             |
| Oral Health & Diagnostic Sciences                                | Litt, M.      | CT Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Svcs. | \$6,000   | 9/06-8/08   |
| <i>Criminal Justice Drug Abuse Treatment Services Initiative</i> |               |   |           |             |



# Communication key to helping students with mental health issues

Barry Schreier joined the University last July as head of Counseling and Mental Health Services.

He recently sat down with Karen Grava from the *Advance* to discuss some of the issues faced by college students with mental health issues and by counseling services. This is an edited transcript of their interview.

## It seems more students have mental health issues these days. Is that true?

It is. The Association of University and College Counseling Center Directors, a national organization, surveyed 662 counseling center directors last year. According to the 2007 survey, 82 percent of counseling center directors noted that the number of students coming for counseling who have significant psychological problems is increasing. The survey also shows that 85 percent of counseling centers reported an increase in the number of students coming for counseling services who are already on medication. Mental health is a growing concern at every college and university in the nation.

## How is the University addressing these growing needs?

We have asked the University to reallocate some funds from student fees so that we can hire additional mental health professionals in time for next fall.

The International Association of Counseling Services and the American College Health Association say that colleges should have at least one mental health staff member to 1,500 students, and that the "platinum standard" is one professional for every 1,000 students. At the moment, our ratio is higher than that, but we have requested four additional staff so hopefully, by the fall, we will have one for every 1,300 students.

## Are there certain times of the year when mental health issues are more apparent than at other times?

Certain months are more hectic than others. October through mid-

November and all of March and April are the busiest for Counseling and Mental Health Services. As the semester goes on, the pressure mounts.

## Are some students more at risk than others?

Most of the students who come to us with concerns are a little bit older. Usually the problem is not with first-year students, who need time at school before realizing they need assistance.

And there are more female students than male who seek out help. Sometimes that is because culturally, some men feel they should be able to take care of themselves.

There are also cultural issues for some students in asking for help – they would not typically go to a stranger and tell them family secrets.

## People are worried that some students with mental health issues might be a danger to others on campus.

One thing we do know is that when you think about danger to anyone, overwhelmingly it is that the students may be a danger to themselves. Shooters are few and far between, and suicides are far more typical.

In fact, when violence is involved at all, there is usually a problem primarily or at least additionally with drugs and alcohol.

## Is suicide on college campuses more prevalent today that it used to be?

I don't know for this campus. Epidemiologic studies nationwide show that suicide is no more or less prevalent than it was 100 years ago. But suicide rates can go up and down in a specific community, and we can lower the suicide rate by the actions we take as a community.

We'll be embarking on Suicide Prevention Week next September with a multi-campus coalition with the central vision of remembering those we have lost and reducing the chances of it happening on our campus.

## How can you prevent things from getting out of hand?

The biggest preventative tool is communication between members of the campus. When you look at the report done for the governor of Virginia in the wake of the incident at Virginia Tech, my read is that everybody who was involved with the student, including the counseling center, more or less did his or her job as prescribed. But they all did their jobs separately and did not comprehensively discuss what they were noticing with each other.

## What has Counseling and Mental Health Services done to promote communication at UConn?

We have formed a very organized network within Student Affairs. Counseling and Mental Health Services has informal weekly meetings with Student Affairs professionals about students who are of concern to us. This way we can work together to help students in distress, and prevent things from becoming worse.

We are also working to educate the University community and help them recognize when there's a problem and when to encourage a student to seek help.

## What can people outside Student Affairs do?

People need to realize that where there is smoke, there is often fire. If they think something is wrong, it probably is. We don't want them to ignore it because they think it's not their business or they don't want to say or do something to make it worse. Most of the time, intuition is the best way of knowing that a student is in trouble. Training faculty and staff to recognize that will help us get help for those students.

We want faculty and staff to feel confident in their observations and to feel that they can call the counseling center and share their worries with us. The counseling center will offer information about what to look for in a student in distress, what to be concerned about, and what to say to the student.



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Barry Schreier, director of Counseling and Mental Health Services.

## What else might you do?

We will also check with the residence hall staff and other constituencies to see if concern is rising there as well. If there is, we might make contact with the Dean of Students or the police.

Students can live on a floor in a residence hall of 60 other students and feel isolated. Again, our greatest tool is communication.

If we're worried that a student is at risk of suicide, we might try to locate the student and help with transporting him or her to the hospital so disaster can be averted.

## Aren't students supposed to seek out help on their own?

Yes. But it's our job to be very good advocates for them. We also want faculty and staff to know that it's important for them to encourage a student in distress to come in for help. If the counseling center calls a student as a cold call, that will guarantee he or she will not come in. There are things you can say and do as an advisor, friend, roommate, parent, or professor that uses your relationship to urge the student to seek help. We are also working with the religious communities on campus, and with the cultural centers.

## How is your office getting the word out to the community?

We have a new web site – [www.counseling.uconn.edu](http://www.counseling.uconn.edu) – that provides online assessment tools and self-help information for faculty, staff, parents, and students. It includes the handbook for helping students in distress.

We are also producing a Counseling and Mental Health Services newsletter. The first one focuses on depression, and we will also have newsletters on eating disorders and relationship issues going out this semester. The newsletter is distributed to a broad range of faculty and staff, as well as to the clinics and some student organizations. It will also soon be posted to our web site.

Sept. 7-13 is National Suicide Prevention Week. We will be providing "QPR Training," which is the national standard for suicide prevention training, to members of our campus to "question, persuade, and refer" people to counseling and other support services. We are also working with the Dean of Students Office and others to develop an on-campus training program to accompany the handbook on helping students in distress.

In short, if we all work together, we can help students work through, adapt to, or outgrow their concerns, and avoid acting out on them.

# Law library to be named for former Gov. Meskill

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

The School of Law library will be named for former Gov. Thomas J. Meskill, the Board of Trustees decided last week.

Meskill, who was governor from 1971 to 1975, was a 1956 graduate of the School of Law. He died last fall at the age of 79.

Meskill was mayor of New Britain, his home town, from 1962 to 1964; a U.S. Congressman from the sixth district from 1967 to 1971; and a member of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit from 1975 to 1993.

He served as the court's chief judge from 1992 to 1993, and held senior status on the court from 1993 until 2007.

In 1972, the Law School Alumni Association presented him with the Distinguished Graduate Award; and in 1982, the *Connecticut Law Review* presented him with the Law Review Award.

Mike Nichols, a student trustee and law school student, said he supported the library naming, noting that it celebrates Meskill's distinguished career.

# Languages professor Mortimer Guiney dies

Mortimer Guiney, a professor of modern and classical languages from 1965 to 1989, died Feb. 14 in Paris. He was 78.

Guiney specialized in 20th-century French literature, and taught at UConn for nearly 20 years.

"He was a lifelong Francophile who shared his love of France, its literature, and its people with his students, friends, and family," says Patrick Guiney, his son. "He was passionate about art, music, and lively conversation about any topic."

Guiney was instrumental in creating the University's Study Abroad program in Rouen, France in 1967, and led it many times.

He also helped create the comparative literature program.

T.A. Perry, emeritus professor of modern and classical languages, says Guiney was an expert on modern French poetry and a "dynamic teacher of students."

Guiney's contributions to the field of 20th-century French poetry include two books: *La poésie de Pierre Reverdy* and *Cubisme et littérature*, and he has been published in both the *French Review* and *Modern Language Journal*.

Marvin Cox, associate professor of history emeritus, describes Guiney as a true rarity among American professors of French.

"He managed to have two ca-

reers: first, teaching French to students at UConn, and then teaching French students about their own culture," Cox said. "And in the course of both careers, he enriched the lives of those who knew him by combining learned discourse with great personal warmth."

After retiring from UConn, he moved to Paris with his wife Eliane, who survives him.

"Mort will remain a legend to the many who knew him and learned with him and loved him," says Perry.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by four children and three grandchildren.