



UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

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PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

President Michael J. Hogan and members of his family follow the UConn Marching Band up Hillside Road, after the Inauguration ceremony at the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts on April 13.

Community celebrates Hogan's Inauguration

BY SHERRY FISHER

Music resonated through Jorgensen Auditorium on Sunday afternoon and continued at the festivities afterwards, as the University of Connecticut celebrated the inauguration of its 14th president, Michael J. Hogan, on April 13.

Hogan's address stressed the importance of collaboration, focusing on the theme "in unity there is strength."

"Where we've previously seen the pieces, I ask that we see the whole," he said, "to imagine the possibilities of collaboration, and to turn those possibilities into real strategies, real partnerships, and ultimately real successes in which we can all take pride."

He urged departments, colleges, and campuses to work together to establish a solid union and build on the academic culture.

"We've learned to think too much in terms of *my* research, *my* teaching, and *my* service," he said. "We can't move to the next level of prominence if we continue to look inward, in self-driven and competitive ways, for a sense of purpose and value as members of what's really a university community."

see **President's Inauguration** page 4

Draft of academic plan presented to Board of Trustees

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

A revised academic plan that focuses on the themes "Our World, Our People, and Our Future" was presented to the Board of Trustees on April 15.

The plan is still under revision, as further input is gathered from various University constituencies. In addition, an "environmental scan" is being prepared that will outline such factors as economic and population trends that affect the University's operations, Provost Peter J. Nicholls said.

"Universities are in a rapidly changing environment and economy," he said. "We have to be sure to have an appropriate level of consultation that allows us to identify the assumptions under which we will be able

to pursue our priorities, strengths, and opportunities."

The plan will be particularly helpful for allocating resources, with funds going to those programs that represent UConn's strengths and opportunities.

"Decisions related to the distribution of revenues, recruitment and retention of faculty, students, and staff, space assignment, capital improvements, and curricular enhancements will be driven by their effects on the goals of the Academic Plan," Nicholls said. Decisions that stimulate greater achievement of our goals across the plan will be given priority."

The plan identifies the overall vision for

see **Academic Plan** page 2

New dean of agriculture joins UConn from Arkansas

BY MICHAEL KIRK

Gregory Weidemann of the University of Arkansas has been named the new dean of UConn's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. He will begin in July.

Weidemann is currently dean of the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food, and Life Sciences in Arkansas, where he also serves as associate vice president for academic programs.

"I am so pleased to be joining the leadership team at UConn and serving the needs of the faculty, staff, and students at this great university," Weidemann says. "I was very much attracted to the ambitious vision that has been set for the University and the important role the College of Agriculture and

Natural Resources will play in achieving that vision. The college is central to the history of UConn and will be an integral part of its future success."

At Arkansas, Weidemann served as dean and associate vice president for research and as the director of the University of Arkansas's Agricultural Experiment Station.

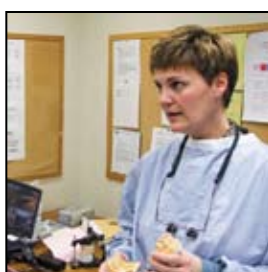
He joined Arkansas's Department of Plant Pathology in 1983. As a faculty member, his research focused on the taxonomy and biology of plant-pathogenic fungi and biological control. He has received several awards, including the National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Award of Merit in 1990, the John W. White Teaching Award,

see **Dean of agriculture** page 2

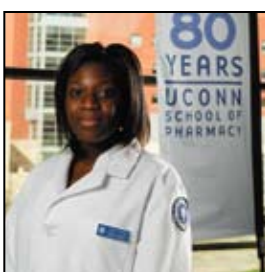
Inside



2 **Women's rights**



5 **Outstanding teacher**



8 **Graduating students**

Middle East studies award given to women’s rights activist



PHOTO BY JESSICA TOMMASELLI

Fatemeh Haghighatjoo, former elected parliamentarian in Iran, speaks about the Iranian women’s movement, in the Class of ’47 Room in Babbidge Library.

BY CINDY WEISS

Fatemeh Haghighatjoo was in the fifth grade in Iran when the 1979 revolution establishing an Islamic republic took place. She was in secondary school there when war broke out between Iran and Iraq. Now she is monitoring events in her home country from afar, as an assistant professor-in-residence in women’s studies at UConn.

Haghighatjoo, a women’s rights activist and former member of the Iran’s reform parliament, was awarded the first Middle East Studies Achievement Award last week by Ross MacKinnon, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, which is home to an interdisciplinary Middle East Studies group of scholars.

The award recognizes Haghighatjoo’s service, scholarship, and commitment to Middle East Studies and her lifetime achievements

in the promotion of knowledge and awareness about the Middle East.

Haghighatjoo was one of 13 women elected in 2000 to parliament in Iran, which was dominated by reformists. She resigned in 2004 when anti-reform measures began, and after the judiciary sentenced her to 20 months in prison. The sentence was later reduced to 10 months, which she has not served.

Last year Haghighatjoo was a visiting scholar at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University. This year she has taught two classes in CLAS at UConn.

In a lecture preceding her award, Haghighatjoo drew close connections between the women’s and students’ movements for greater freedom in Iran. Advocates for women’s rights are trying to change laws that give husbands au-

thority over where their wives can travel; that prohibit joint custody of children; and that allow women to be married at 13, among other things.

Women who demonstrate for greater freedom are arrested, handcuffed, beaten with batons, and kept in prison, she said. In one of the latest crackdowns, in March 2007, women who gathered to protest the arrest of other women a year earlier were placed in solitary confinement in jail for two weeks, or released on onerous bail charges, she said.

Still, she remains optimistic that those seeking greater human rights in Iran will prevail. Some people have been arrested twice and continue to advocate, she said.

“I see they are standing on their rights,” she said. “So I am optimistic – why not?”

Academic Plan *continued from page 1*

the University, with detail on how that vision will be realized coming from plans developed within each school and college, Nicholls said. “In today’s environment, the University cannot be or do everything. So we will have to invest, reallocate, and allocate carefully.”

The plan has already had input from a number of committees, faculty groups, and others, and will be completed sometime this summer, Nicholls said. It will include specific metrics that identify current levels of accomplishment and establish targets over the five-year life of the plan. These metrics offer a mechanism for tracking the University’s performance with regard to achieving the plan’s goals.

The three themes “serve to unify the plan and link new interdisciplinary initiatives to the strong traditional disciplines from which they emerge and in which they must remain grounded,” he said.

The “Our World” theme emphasizes UConn’s strengths in environmental research and education and its preparation of students for jobs and personal success in an internationalized economy and increasingly diverse society.

The “Our People” theme draws on the University’s “landmark accomplishments in health care and human behavior to improve the quality of life for people in this state and beyond.”

And the “Our Future” theme stresses the importance of collaborating with the state and the private sector to develop new products, processes, and entrepreneurial opportunities and to foster economic growth and opportunity, he said.

“This plan emphasizes a holistic and global environment and emphasizes not only the physical and natural sciences, or business, engineering, and technology, but also health care, the social sciences, legal reform, the humanities, and the arts,” Nicholls said.

Three areas of excellence are outlined in the plan:

- The environment, including human health, sustainable ecosystems, and sustainable energy;
- Health and human behavior, including basic and clinical biomedical science, the relations between policy, law, behavior, science, and health, and the translation of discoveries in basic sciences to products, policies, and practices that improve health and quality of life for people everywhere;
- Arts, culture, and society from a local to a global perspective, including human rights, intellectual property, research on multicultural and international topics, and cultural enrichment in the humanities and fine arts.

The plan also outlines the strengths of each regional campus. Avery Point, for example, is known for marine sciences and maritime studies. Greater Hartford is known for a focus on metropolitan issues, public policy, and health policy; Stamford is noted for international business and selected arts and sciences programming; Torrington is known for arts and humanities; and Waterbury for civic and community engagement, Nicholls said.

The plan also identifies six broad areas and the strategies to achieve the goals in each area, including reallocation of existing resources, asking the General Assembly for additional funding for academic positions, and raising private funds to support programs.

The areas of the plan are:

- Undergraduate education, which focuses on continuing to advance UConn’s intellectually challenging and diverse learning environment by combining opportunities in the liberal arts and sciences with strong pre-professional education, co-curricular activities, and research collaborations with faculty members;
- Graduate and professional ed-

ucation, which emphasizes maintaining already strong graduate and professional programs, while building national and international distinction in select programs;

- Research, scholarship, and creative activity, which emphasize increasing UConn’s productivity in these areas by building on existing strengths and focused areas of excellence, developing a stronger extramural funding portfolio, and expanding the infrastructure that supports research and strengthens the University’s ability to translate new discoveries into practical applications;
- Diversity, which highlights the importance of ensuring an enriched learning and work environment by creating a more inclusive community that recognizes and celebrates individual differences;
- Public engagement, which underscores strategies to enhance the contributions of faculty, staff, and students to the state, nation, and world through appropriate collaboration with partners in both the public and private sectors;
- Administrative organization, capital infrastructure, and budget processes, stressing the importance of aligning the University’s infrastructure and processes to the goals of the plan.

Finally, the plan outlines an implementation process, highlighting the role that colleges, schools, and administrative units will play in defining the specific contributions they can make to help the University achieve its goals.

“This is an ambitious plan, with a challenging aspiration and equally challenging goals,” said University President Michael J. Hogan. “Realizing the plan’s aspirations and goals will be a collective effort, just as crafting the plan has been; and I know that by working together we can achieve these outcomes and continue on our upward trajectory.”

Dean of agriculture *continued from page 1*

and the Gamma Sigma Delta Teaching Award of Merit. In 1993, he was elected to the University of Arkansas Teaching Academy.

Weidemann has served in a number of leadership roles within the land grant university system, including chair of the Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors.

A native of Wisconsin, he holds a bachelor’s degree in zoology and a Ph.D. in plant pathology from the University of Wisconsin.

“It is a thrill to welcome Greg to the university,” said Peter J. Nicholls, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at UConn. “The positions he has held in Arkansas have given him a wealth of experience in areas such as personnel management, stakeholder and alumni relations, budget and policy development, fund raising, and strategic planning. In addition to the normal agricultural disciplines, Greg’s administrative responsibilities have included programs such as human

nutrition, hospitality, family studies, forestry, and natural resources. He will clearly be a great asset to UConn.”

The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources is the original component of the University of Connecticut, which was founded in 1881 as the Storrs Agricultural School.



PHOTO SUPPLIED BY UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
Gregory Weidemann

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Advance

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PHOTO BY CHRIS DEFRADESCO

Lori Gordon, a certified medical assistant, takes a patient's blood pressure at the UConn Health Center's Carole and Ray Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Cancer program earns high rating

BY CHRIS DEFRADESCO

The Carole and Ray Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center continues to impress the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons.

The UConn Health Center's cancer program has won the commission's highest possible overall rating, "three-year approval with commendation."

This level of approval is awarded to facilities that have voluntarily committed to providing the highest level of quality cancer care and that undergo a rigorous evaluation and review of their performance. They must undergo an on-site review every three years to maintain approval.

"This further validates the work of our cancer program," says Dr. Carolyn Runowicz, director of the Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center. "We've assembled a team of surgical and medical experts who have outstanding credentials and provide our patients with the same level of care that they would

receive at any other major cancer center in the country.

"Our mission is to be a regional center of excellence in cancer, based on our research, clinical practice, and education," Runowicz adds. "This certification by the American College of Surgeons acknowledges that our multidisciplinary, comprehensive team approach has created such a center."

The Health Center first won Commission on Cancer approval in 1977 and has maintained that status ever since. In this latest survey period, eight other Connecticut facilities earned scores that put them in the highest tier of approval.

"This award from the Commission on Cancer is a recognition of our ongoing commitment to preventing and treating cancer," says Dr. John A. Taylor III, who chairs UConn's cancer committee and specializes in the treatment of urologic cancers, with a focus on bladder cancer.

According to the Commission

on Cancer, patients receiving care at an approved cancer program are ensured access to:

- comprehensive care, including a range of state-of-the-art services and equipment;
- a multi-specialty, team approach to coordinate the best treatment options;
- information about ongoing clinical trials and new treatment options;
- access to cancer-related information, education, and support;
- a cancer registry that collects data on type and stage of cancers and treatment results and offers lifelong patient follow-up;
- ongoing monitoring and improvement of care;
- quality care close to home.

The American College of Surgeons, the world's largest organization of surgeons, established the Commission on Cancer, a consortium of professional organizations dedicated to improving survival and quality of life for cancer patients.

Humanities Institute announces Fellows

The Humanities Institute has announced its fellowship awards for 2008-2009. The recipients are:

External Faculty Fellowship

Awards:

Barbara Fultner (Philosophy, Denison University)
Meaning, Intersubjectivity, and Social Practice: Social Theories of Meaning

Stuart Liebman (Cinema Studies and History, Queens College, CUNY)
The Representation of Atrocity: The Cold War and Early Holocaust Cinema

UConn Faculty Fellows:

Amanda Bailey (English)
Of Bondage: Human Capital and the Early Modern Theater

Jonathan David Bobaljik (Linguistics)
(Grammar of) Itelmen: A Language on the Brink

Rosa Helena Chinchilla (Modern & Classical Languages)
Literary Patronage in Spain (1500-1560)

Jeremy Pressman (Political Science)
Sixty Years of Conflict: The

Central Historical Themes in Arab-Israeli Relations

Helen Rozwadowski (History)
Always the Last Frontier: The 1960s Ocean

Nancy Shoemaker (History)
New England Indians and the American Whaling Industry

Roper Center creates database of CBS polls

BY MICHAEL KIRK

The Roper Center – a nationally-recognized repository of public opinion polls going back to the 1940s – has inked a deal with CBS News to organize and catalog the network's recent political public opinion polls in the lead-up to the November elections.

The Center has created a searchable database of the CBS/*Wall Street Journal* polls, on topics ranging from presidential approval ratings to candidate horserace numbers to approval (and disapproval) of the war in Iraq, among others. The database was compiled by Marc Maynard, director of technical services for the Roper Center.

The polls can be found on the CBS News website:

www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/10/12/politics/main3362530.shtml

"CBS wanted to do this in preparation for the crush of hits they expect on their politics website as we grow closer to the election," says Mark Abrahamson, director of the Roper Center. "We were able to provide a valuable service for them, and we're working with other news organizations to do the same."

In addition to being able to track the rising and falling fortunes of candidates, Congress, and the president, visitors to the site can see how Americans feel about health care, the economy, and immigration.

Earth Day events planned at Avery Point, Storrs

The University will celebrate Earth Day with collaborative events at its Storrs and Avery Point campuses on April 21-22.

The Avery Point Earth Day celebration will take place Monday, April 21, from noon to 2 p.m. on the gazebo lawn. The event will move to Branford House if it rains.

Activities will include: a free locally grown organic lunch, tree planting ceremony, hybrid car display, kite flying competition, information booths, and free compact fluorescent light bulbs.

The Storrs Earth Day Spring Fling will take place all day Tuesday, April 22, the official Earth Day, with a celebration on Fairfield Way from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The rain date will be April 30.

Events will include: a locally grown and organic cook-out featuring local burgers, hotdogs, mushroom burgers, Mountain Dairy milk, and UConn ice cream; live music from noon-1 p.m.; alternative energy displays and free bike tune-ups; educational tables featuring various organizations, including the Willimantic Waste Paper Co., which will collect plastic bags for recycling; games, including a recycling relay and "think outside the bottle tap vs. bottled water taste test;" an outdoor mar-

A search for "presidential job approval" turns up 25 different poll questions asked on the subject since January 2007. The news for the outgoing leader is grim: the polls show that only 27 percent of the public approved of the job President Bush was doing this month.

Visitors are able to click on the related CBS story on the poll, or on another link to examine the poll in its entirety. The search also links to additional relevant sites within the Roper Center archives.

"While this is a recent history of CBS polls, the Roper Center itself is a treasure trove for any researcher looking to examine the evolution of public opinion over the last 60 years," says Abrahamson, who noted that the questions on polls from decades ago are just as interesting as the answers, especially considering the presidential candidates this year. For example, Gallup posed the question in the 1940s: "If a woman was running for president and was qualified in every other way, would you consider voting for her?"

Abrahamson says he will likely announce additional partnerships with other news organizations in the coming months. Like the CBS-Roper web page, he expects all future joint endeavors will have links to UConn, bringing thousands of new visitors to the University's home page.

ket featuring locally grown organic food and eco-friendly clothing vendors; sneaker recycling collection outside Gampel Pavilion.

Also, a sustainable living fair will be held all day at the UConn Co-op. All talks are free. To reserve a seat, call 860-486-5027.

Featured speakers and topics include: Dorion Sagan, "Notes from the Holocene;" Beth Byron (Connecticut Clean Energy Fund), on growing vegetables; "Growing Vegetables You Don't Have to Plant Every Year;" "Easy Effective Composting;" and "Everything you Want to Know About Farmer's Markets." An eco-fashion show with live music will be held from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom. Fashions will be provided by sustainable clothing designers.

A recycled art competition, where visitors can check out submissions and choose the winner, will be held at Benton Museum.

For more information about the Avery Point Earth Day Celebration, contact the Office for Student Activities at 860-405-9014.

For more information about the Storrs Earth Day Spring Fling, visit www.ecohusky.uconn.edu/earth-day2008.htm.



PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Gov. M. Jodi Rell speaks during the Inauguration of Michael J. Hogan as 14th President of the University. Seated left to right are Willard “Sandy” Boyd, president emeritus of the University of Iowa, Philip E. Austin, UConn president emeritus, Hogan, and Dr. John W. Rowe, chair of the Board of Trustees.



PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Students watch the fireworks Saturday evening, from a bench along Fairfield Way.

2008

INAUGURATION

Michael J. Hogan



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

The Voices of Freedom gospel choir performs during the Inauguration ceremony at Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts.



PHOTO BY DOLLIE HARVEY

President Michael J. Hogan and his wife Virginia dance during the Student Gala at Rome Ballroom on Saturday evening.



PHOTO BY JESSICA TOMMASELLI

Tom Johnson, a junior, joins President Michael J. Hogan at the UConn Trivia Game Show in the Student Union Friday evening, part of Live @ The U.

President's Inauguration *continued from page 1*

Research, teaching, and service are not separate activities, Hogan said.

“Having grown up in Iowa, in the heart of the Corn Belt, I find myself falling back on the old milking stool analogy,” he said. “Like a milking stool, there are three legs to the University’s mission, and if one leg is too short or is taken away, the stool falls over. By enhancing our research mission, we’ll also be strengthening the other two legs of the stool – our teaching and service missions, including our engagement with the community around us.”

He said the University should congratulate itself on its outstanding students. “Today’s students are the best prepared undergraduates in the University’s

history,” he said. He noted that they have a first-year retention rate of 93 percent and a six-year graduation rate of 74 percent.

Hogan said UConn students are taught and inspired by faculty who “are among the most accomplished in their fields of study.”

He noted that the University has gotten where it is today “through the tireless commitment and hard work of many faculty and staff. These faculty and staff, many now among our most senior colleagues, stuck it out through thick and thin, through good years and bad, always persevering in their search for excellence.”

He urged the community to build on its success.

“We’ve got great programs,

but we can still do better,” Hogan said. “At the undergraduate level, we need to expand our honors program, create more living and learning communities, and offer students more opportunities to study abroad and to collaborate with faculty on research projects.”

At the graduate level, he said, “We need to have more programs ranked in the top 25 among all public universities.”

Gov. M. Jodi Rell, who was on the presidential search committee, said Hogan “fell in love with Connecticut almost as quickly as we fell in love with him. It made our job a whole lot easier.”

Ryan McHardy, president of the Undergraduate Student Government, said, “It takes just one

meeting with President Hogan to know there is something incredibly special about him.”

Francis Archambault, president of the UConn Alumni Association and emeritus professor of educational psychology, said Hogan is “ideally suited to lead this institution to greater heights.”

John DeWolf, professor of civil and environmental engineering and chair of the Senate Executive Committee, said to Hogan, “You’re one of us.”

Dr. John W. Rowe, chairman of the University’s Board of Trustees, described Hogan as “the right leader at the right time.”

Well-wishers attending the inauguration included members

of the University community, state government officials, and dignitaries. The ceremony included the traditional procession of faculty in academic regalia.

Music was performed by UConn’s pep band, wind ensemble, marching band, jazz ensemble, and Voices of Freedom gospel choir.

After the ceremony, the UConn Marching Band and a giant inflatable Husky Dog balloon led the crowd outside to a celebration that included a barbecue, entertainment, and music.

Clowns on stilts, baton twirlers, blue cotton candy, and ice sculptures of Hogan and the Husky Dog added to the festive atmosphere.

Once a student, now an award-winning professor at dental school

BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

The first impression members of the dental school's Class of 2009 had of Dr. Jacqueline Duncan came several weeks before they matriculated.

"We as a class didn't know what to expect when, the July before our first year started, she sent us a huge homework assignment," says Chris Benton, now a third-year student at the UConn School of Dental Medicine.

The students had to show up to the first class with an intimate knowledge of dental form and structure.

But that tall task didn't keep Benton – and many of his classmates – from casting the votes two years later that would make Duncan the winner of a National Dental Honor Society teaching award.

Duncan has a 20-year history with UConn's dental school. She went through the curriculum herself, earning her D.M.D. in 1992, completing the Advanced Education in General Dentistry residency program a year later, then becoming the first prosthodontic resident at the University.

After earning a certificate in prosthodontics and Master's of Dental Science degree in 1996, Duncan joined the faculty. Today she is an associate clinical professor and director of predoctoral prosthodontics in the dental school's Department of Recon-

structive Sciences.

Duncan also sees patients, practicing complex restorative dentistry such as implants, dentures, and replacement of missing teeth. She's also heavily involved in curriculum development. But teaching is what she enjoys the most.

"As faculty, we choose to be here because we love doing what we do, whether it's research, administration, or teaching," Duncan says.

"I'm here because I love to teach. My interaction with the dental students doesn't seem like work."

Duncan believes the caliber of the students and the passion of the faculty are what make the School of Dental Medicine thrive.

"It's the students who make the dental school what it is," she says. "In less than two years in clinic, they go from being dental novices to being competent dentists. It's

rewarding to be part of that."

And the students think highly of Duncan, as evidenced by the 2007 Omicron Kappa Upsilon-Phi Chi Chapter Teaching Award, which recognizes excellence in teaching in the first two years of the pre-clinical dental science curriculum.

"Through all my years of education, Dr. Duncan has been one of the best at creating an environment that makes you want

to learn," says third-year dental student Brian Bell. "As a student, I don't think there is anything more you can ask for in a professor."

Says Benton, "Dr. Duncan has been a great mentor to me and I could never begin to repay her for all that she has taught me. She has been a very demanding teacher, pushing us to become better dentists and better people. She constantly pushes us toward excellence and doesn't accept anything less than our best."

Dr. Monty MacNeil, dean of the School of Dental Medicine, says the award was more a "pleasant affirmation" than a surprise.

"As faculty, we have recognized Dr. Duncan's abilities for some time and knew that it would just be a matter of time before students did as well," MacNeil says. "I think students see her as very passionate about what she does and as someone who will go the extra yard on their behalf in the interests of learning."

MacNeil and Dr. Thomas Taylor, who chairs the Division of Prosthodontics, also credit Duncan for her work on the dental school curriculum.

"Over her years as a faculty member she has created a number of substantial changes in our teaching methodology and direction," Taylor says. "I would say that in our discipline, we have the most modern clinical curriculum available at any dental school."



PHOTO BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

Dr. Jacqueline Duncan, associate clinical professor, speaks with third-year student Nathan West in the dental clinic.

Socializing via Internet natural for today's teens, says speaker

BY GREGORY HLADKY

If teachers and parents don't know what *Soulja Boy* is or why carmakers are sponsoring virtual-world Internet sites for 13-year-olds, Anastasia Goodstein thinks it's time they learned.

Goodstein, author of *Totally Wired – What Teens and Tweens Are Really Doing Online*, believes adults need to start experiencing for themselves how young people are connecting and interacting in this Internet age.

"You should all be on a 'social network,'" Goodstein told an audience April 11, during the sixth annual Northeast Media Literacy Conference at the Bishop Center, "New Media Literacies for Today's Plugged-In Generation."

The event was sponsored by UConn's Neag School of Education, the national Action Coalition for Media Education, and the Alliance for a Media Literate America, and coordinated by Thomas Goodkind, professor of curriculum and instruction in the Neag School of Education.

Goodstein, one of two keynote speakers at the conference, is the founder and editor of Ypulse.com, an Oakland, Calif.-based daily blog providing news and comment about "Generation Y" for the media and marketing industry.

She said she decided to write a book about young people and the Internet after a media and govern-

ment frenzy erupted several years ago over sexual predators using social networking sites such as MySpace.

"I was beginning to see another wave of social panic," Goodstein said. She said similar adult "anxiety attacks" have happened whenever youngsters started to embrace a new information technology, whether it was comic books or television.

"I wanted to write a book I felt would be really balanced," said Goodstein, who believes that government efforts to curb or block social networking sites for teens are misguided and uninformed.

Today's teenagers aren't fundamentally different from the teens of 30 or 40 years ago, Goodstein said. "What it feels like to be a teenager hasn't changed," but the way teens and pre-teens interact with the world has been revolutionized.

She said the motivation is the same: "It's that age-old desire to stay connected – but amplified."

Instead of hanging out at the mall or spending hours talking to friends on an old-fashioned "land line" telephone like their parents did, Goodstein said today's "wired teen" hangs out online or text-messaging friends at 3 a.m.

She said MySpace was originally a social networking site for musicians, and teens initially gravitated to it in order to connect with their

favorite bands. Even though the site was public and open to everyone, teens began to feel that it was a space essentially for teenagers.

But the furor over Internet sexual predators resulted in what teens felt was an invasion by parents and police.

"Suddenly, their space wasn't their space anymore," she said.

In the past year, according to Goodstein, the majority of MySpace profiles have become private and there has been "an exodus over to Facebook," a networking site originally focused on college students.

She said that well-meaning efforts to block teen use of school and library computers for social networking could end up discriminating against low-income teens who have no home computers.

Instead of blocking social networking sites for teens, Goodstein said, educators, counselors, and parents need to become more actively involved in learning about such technology and teaching young people how to use it responsibly.

Understanding the power of the Internet is a good beginning.

Soulja Boy was at the start nothing more than a homemade video by a Memphis teenager posted on YouTube. It is now an international phenomenon that has produced a dance craze and triggered an outburst of creative video parodies and variations.

Goodstein warned that advertisers and marketers are seeking to manipulate teen and pre-teen consumers in extraordinary ways.

The makers of the Scion car, she said, now sponsor a virtual-world site for pre-teens, to try and imprint that vehicle as something desirable for the consumers of

the future.

Goodstein said teachers and parents need to ask young people how they are spending their time online, ask their help to solve computer problems, and start teaching teenagers and pre-teens about the marketing strategies that are being used to manipulate them.



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Author and blog editor Anastasia Goodstein speaks about social networking on the Internet, during a conference on media literacy on April 11.



From left, Thomas DeFranco, professor of curriculum and instruction, Joseph Glaz, professor of statistics, and Pamela Bedore, assistant professor of English, winners of the 2008 AAUP awards for excellence, with AAUP President Robert Stephens, professor of curriculum and instruction, after a ceremony held in the Old Judiciary Room at the State Capitol on April 15.

PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

GRANTS

The following grants were received through the UConn Health Center’s Office of Grants and Contracts in February 2008. The list represents continuations as well as new awards. The list of grants is supplied to the *Advance* by the Office of Grants and Contracts.

Department	Prin. Investigator	Sponsor	Amount	Award Period
Psychiatry	Alessi, S.	National Institute for Research Resources	\$220,560	02/08-01/09
Contingency Management for Smoking in Substance Abusers				
Molecular Medicine	Arnold, A.	National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases	\$314,500	02/08-01/09
Molecular Pathogenesis of Hyperparathyroidism				
Surgery	Das, D.	National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute	\$48,119	12/05-11/08
Transgenic/Knockout Animals in Myocardial Preservation				
Neuroscience	Eipper, E.	National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases	\$555,690	01/06-12/08
Biochemistry & Physiology of Peptide Amidation				
Genetics & Developmental Biology	Gunzl, A.	National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases	\$247,476	01/04-12/08
Multifunctional Class I Transcription in T. brucei				
Center for Vascular Biology	Hla, T.	National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute	\$338,724	12/03-11/08
Cyclooxygenase-2 Regulation and Function				
Medicine	Kream, B.	National Institute of Arthritis & Musculoskeletal & Skin Diseases	\$237,136	01/05-11/08
Transgenic Expression of 11B-HSD2 in Bone				
Immunology	Lefrancois, L.	National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases	\$458,104	02/08-01/09
Role of CD11c in CD8 T Cell Response to Infection				
Genetics & Developmental Biology	Li, Y.	National Institute of Child Health & Human Development	\$313,416	02/07-01/09
The Role of Alternative Splicing of FGF8 in Mouse Development				
Neurology	McCullough, L.	National Institute of Neurological Disorders & Stroke	\$64,750	01/07-11/08
Gender Differences in Ischemic Cell Death				
Neuroscience	Oliver, D.	National Institute on Deaf & Communication Disorders	\$73,882	12/03-11/08
Synaptic Organization of the Auditory System				
Medicine	Pilbeam, C.	National Institute of Arthritis & Musculoskeletal & Skin Diseases	\$316,632	01/04-12/08
Regulation of the Prostaglandin G/H Synthases in Bone				
Genetics & Developmental Biology	Rowe, D.	National Institute of Arthritis & Musculoskeletal & Skin Diseases	\$302,553	04/05-12/08
Promoter GFP Markers of the Osteoprogenitor Lineage				

Molecular, Microbial & Structural Biology	Ton-That, H.	National Institute of Dental & Craniofacial Research	\$340,276	02/08-12/08
Molecular Assembly on the Cell Surface of Actinoncyces				
Molecular, Microbial & Structural Biology	Weller, S.	National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases	\$257,668	02/06-01/09
HSV 1 Processing/Packaging Genes				
Immunology	Wikel, S.	National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases	\$274,972	02/05-01/09
Tick Polarized T-Cell Responses and Borrelia Infection				

Private Grants

Child & Family Studies Program	Bruder, M.	Children’s Trust Fund Council	\$21,600	01/08-07/08
Families as Partners				
Pediatrics	Ferrer, F.	Conn. Children’s Medical Center	\$25,000	09/06-08/08
Sphingolipid Signaling in Wilms’ Tumor Cells				
Surgery	Klueh, U.	American Diabetes Association	\$138,000	01/08-12/08
Uses of Stem Cells to Enhance Glucose Sensor Function in Vivo				
Oral Health & Diagnostic Sciences	Lalla, R.	American Cancer Society	\$20,000	12/07-11/08
Anti-Inflammatory Intervention in Radiation-Induced Oral Mucositis				
Orthopedics	Lieberman, J.	UConn Foundation	\$11,000	05/06-06/08
Chase Family Skeletal Biology Fund				
Library	Morgen, E.	UMass	\$25,000	11/07-04/09
Connecticut Go Local				
Pediatrics	Salazar, J.	Conn. Children’s Medical Center	\$76,754	01/08-12/08
CCMC CJ Support				
Pediatrics	Salazar, J.	City of Hartford	\$16,695	03/07-02/08
Ryan White 1				
Medicine	Trape-Cardoso, M.	Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital	\$45,429	09/06-08/08
Northeast Community Collaborations for Farm Worker Health and Safety				

State Grants

Craniofacial Sciences	Douglass, J.	Conn. Dept. of Public Health	\$35,535	11/07-08/10
Home by One Program				
Community Medicine & Health	Ungemack, J.	Conn. Dept. of Public Health	\$170,934	08/07-07/08
Conn. State Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment Evaluation Project				

Steam outage planned in May

A complete steam shutdown at the Storrs campus to enable repairs and maintenance to the system is scheduled to take place from Sunday, May 11, at 11:45 p.m., through Friday, May 16. It is expected to take a couple of days to restore the system to full capacity. In some cases there will be no hot water available for heat, showers, dishwashing, or lab needs. If you have questions or special requirements, please call Mike Pacholski at 860-486-0041, or Work Order Control at 860-486-3113 to discuss alternate arrangements.

CALENDAR

Monday, April 21, to Monday, April 28

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, April 28, through Monday, May 5. Those items must be in the database by 4 p.m. on Monday, April 21. 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).

Libraries

Homer Babbidge Library. Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-2 a.m.; Friday, 8 a.m.-10 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-2 a.m. **Dodd Center.** Reading Room hours: Monday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, noon-4 p.m.; Sunday, closed. Research Center hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; closed weekends. **Pharmacy Library.** Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-10 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1-9 p.m. **Health Center Library.** Hours: Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m.-11 p.m.; Friday, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-10 p.m. **Law Library.** Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-11 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1-9 p.m. **Avery Point Campus Library.** Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed weekends. **Greater Hartford Campus Library.** Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, closed. **Stamford Campus Library.** Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, closed. **Torrington Campus Library.** Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; Friday-Sunday, closed. **Waterbury Campus Library.** Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Sunday, closed.

University ITS

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

Meetings

Monday, 4/28 – University Senate. 4 p.m., Room 7, Bishop Center.

Ph.D. Defenses

Monday, 4/21 – Biomedical Science. *Musashi Regulates Alternative Splicing*, by Joowon Lee (adv.: Gravely). 10 a.m., LMo34, Main Building, Health Center. **Tuesday, 4/22 – Educational Leadership.** *The School-to-Work Opportunities Act and its Effect on Student Performance in Connecticut Public Schools*, by Patricia Lawler (adv.: Iwanicki). 10 a.m., Room 406 Gentry Building. **Tuesday, 4/22 – Educational Leadership.** *Gubernatorial Decision-Making: A Case Study of Gubernatorial Influence on the Contemporary Development of Connecticut Public Higher Education from 1980-2001*, by Richard Bachoo (adv.: Cobb). 10 a.m., Room 246, Gentry Building. **Wednesday, 4/23 – Kinesiology.** *The Effects of an Acute Resistance Exercise Bout on the Circulating Concentrations of Growth Hormone and Insulin-like Growth Factor-I in Different Molecular Weight Plasma Fractions in Well-Trained Men and Women*, by Disa Hatfield (adv.: Kraemer). 9:45 a.m., Class of 1947 Room, Babbidge Library. **Wednesday, 4/23 – Psychology.** *The Effects of Antecedent Physical Activity on the Academic Engagement*

of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, by Heather Nicholson (adv.: Kehle). 10 a.m., Gentry Building. **Wednesday, 4/23 – Kinesiology.** *Effect of Resistance Exercise on Muscle Steroidogenesis*, by Jakob Vingren (adv.: Kraemer). 11:15 a.m., Class of 1947 Room, Babbidge Library. **Wednesday, 4/23 – Accounting.** *Auditor-Provided Tax Services and ‘Last-Chance’ Earnings Management: The Importance of Audit Committees*, by Ling Lei (adv.: Willenborg). 2 p.m., Room 321, Business Building. **Thursday, 4/24 – Natural Resources Management & Engineering.** *Effects of Lethal Management on Behaviors, Social Networks, and Movements of Overabundant White-Tailed Deer*, by Scott Williams (adv.: Ortega). 9 a.m., Room 200, Young Building. **Thursday, 4/24 – Nutritional Sciences.** *Independent and Additive Effects of Raisins or Walking on Biomarkers of Coronary Heart Disease in Men and Women Aged 50-70 Years*, by Michael Puglisi. 10:30 a.m., Room 208/209, Young Building. **Thursday, 4/24 – Anthropology.** *Young Women at Risk: Sexuality at a Time of Transition in Ukraine*, by Martha Bojko (adv.: Handwerker). 11 a.m., Room 425, Beach Hall. **Thursday, 4/24 – Civil & Environmental Engineering.** *Progressive Failure of Woven Polymer-Based Composites Under Dynamic Loading; Theory and Analytical Simulation*, by David Hufner (adv.: Accorsi). 1 p.m., Room 306, Castleman Building. **Friday, 4/25 – Plant Science.** *Assessing the Contribution of Horticultural Genotypes to Invasive Populations of Berberis thunbergii DC*, by Jessica Lubell (adv.: Mark Brand). 10 a.m., Room 109, Advanced Technology Laboratory. **Friday, 4/25 – Cell Biology.** *The Impact of Prostaglandin Suppression in Intestinal Tumorigenesis*, by Masako Nakanishi (adv.: Rosenberg). 2 p.m., Room EGo52, Academic Research Building. **Monday, 4/28 – Economics.** *Money, the Economy, and Monetary Policy*, by Kenneth Petersen (adv.: Zimmermann). 9 a.m., Seminar Room, Monteith Building. **Monday, 4/28 – Molecular Medicine.** *SQSTM1 and the Molecular Genetics of Paget’s Disease of Bone*, by Anand Merchant (adv.: Hansen). 12:30 p.m., Room EGo52, Academic Research Building, Health Center.

Lectures & Seminars

Monday, 4/21 – Stamford Faculty Colloquium. “The Effectiveness of Credit Default Insurance in Mitigating Mortgage Default Losses,” by Norman Moore. 12:30 p.m., GE Global Classroom, Stamford Campus. **Monday, 4/21 – India Studies Lecture.** “Gujarati Weddings and Textiles,” by Donald Johnson, University of Minnesota. 4 p.m., Class of 1947 Room, Babbidge Library. **Tuesday, 4/22 – Special Atomic, Molecular, & Optical Physics Seminar.** “Comprehensive Control of Atomic and Molecular Motion,” by Mark Raizen, University of Texas at Austin. 11 a.m., Room P121, Gant Science Complex. **Tuesday, 4/22 – Condensed Matter Physics Seminar.** “Negative Refraction Index Metamaterials,” by Adil-Gerai Kussow, University of Massachusetts. 2 p.m., Room P121, Gant Science Complex. **Tuesday, 4/22 – Stamford Faculty Colloquium.** “Virginia Woolf – The Lesbian Years: The Sexual Politics of Sapphic Modernism,” by Morgne Cramer. 5 p.m., Room 132, Stamford Campus. **Wednesday, 4/23 – Out-to-Lunch Lecture.** “The Fight for Gay Marriage in Connecticut,” by Gannon Long, Love Makes a Family. Noon, Room 403, Student Union. **Wednesday, 4/23 – Humanities Lecture.** “Interdisciplinary and Anxiety,” by Louis Menand, Harvard

University. 2 p.m., Class of 1947 Room, Babbidge Library. **Wednesday, 4/23 – Human Development & Family Studies Seminar.** “Drawing on the Legacy of Dr. Marie F. Peters: The Protective Nature of Racial Socialization for African American Youths’ Development and Adjustment,” by Velma McBride Murry, University of Georgia. 3:30 p.m., Room 106, School of Business. **Wednesday, 4/23 – ‘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, 4/23 – Stamford Faculty Colloquium.** “World War II and the Creation of the National Security State,” by Brian Waddell. 6 p.m., Room 132, Stamford Campus. **Wednesday, 4/23 – Health & Wellness Lecture.** “Plan Ahead to Assure Healthy Travel.” 6 p.m., Henry Low Learning Center, Main Building,



PHOTO SUPPLIED BY JORGENSEN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Christopher Hirsh as Mr. J.J. Peachum and Heddy Lahman as Polly Peachum, in the CRT/Jorgensen production of *The Threepenny Opera*, April 24-May 3.

Health Center. **Thursday, 4/24 – Comparative Pathology Seminar.** “What We Know About QXP and the Disease it Causes in the Hard Clam, *Mercenaria mercenaria*,” by Roxanna Smolowitz, New England Aquarium. 11 a.m., Room A001, Atwater Building. **Thursday, 4/24 – CHIP Brown Bag Lecture.** “Behavioral Medicine Meets Complementary, Alternative, and Integrative Medicine: Is There Common Ground?” by Margaret Chesney, National Institute of Health. 12:30 p.m., Room 204, Ryan Building. **Thursday, 4/24 – Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Seminar.** by Dan Rabosky. 4 p.m., Room 130, Biology/Physics Building. **Friday, 4/25 – Animal Science Seminar.** “AAALAC Accreditation,” by Cecile Baccanale. Noon, Room 209, White Building. **Friday, 4/25 – Consortium of Universities for Advancement of Hydrologic Science Cyber Seminar.**

“Hydro-NEXRAD: Community Resource for Use of Radar-Rainfall Data,” by Witold Krajewski, University of Iowa. 3 p.m., Room 306, Castleman Building. **Friday, 4/25 & Monday, 4/28 – Statistics/Civil & Environmental Engineering Colloquium.** “Uncertainty Quantification and Propagation in Engineering Problems,” by Mircea Grigoriu, Cornell University. 4 p.m., Room 344, CLAS Building.

Exhibits

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 Sunday, 5/11 – William Benton Museum of Art.** *The 2008 Master of Fine Arts Exhibition.* Also, through Sunday, 5/11, *Rome, Italy and Europe* and *Marcus Garvey: The Centennial Exhibition.* Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday, 1-4:30 p.m. Free admission. **Through Monday, 5/12 – Student Union Gallery.** *Art Department Show.* Hours: 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Room 310. Free admission. **Through Friday, 5/16 – Babbidge Library.** *Remnants, Glyphs and*

Performing Arts

Tuesday, 4/22 – Concert Band. Marvin McNeill, director. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Tickets: \$7, free with student ID. **Thursday, 4/24 & Friday, 4/25 – Student Production.** “Shakespeare ... As We Like It,” with renditions from some of Shakespeare's greatest tragic and comedic scenes. 4/24, 7 p.m.; 4/25, 6 p.m., Room A1, Stamford Campus. Free admission **Thursday, 4/24 – Dave Holland Sextet.** Jazz combo. 8 p.m., Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets, \$28-\$30. For tickets call 860-486-4226. **Thursday, 4/24 – Wind Ensembles.** Jeffrey Renshaw, conductor. Music by Michael Tippet and Barbara Kolb. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Tickets \$7, free with student ID. **Thursday, 4/24 through Saturday, 5/3 – The Threepenny Opera.** CRT/Jorgensen production of Bertolt Brecht's work, music by Kurt Weill. 8 p.m. and 2 p.m., Harriet Jorgensen Theatre. Tickets \$33, or \$15 with student ID. **Friday, 4/25 – International Concert.** Artists Judy Handler & Mark Levesque present an evening of international music blending many musical influences including Brazilian , Latin, swing, gypsy, European, and classical. 7:30 p.m., Auditorium, Library Building, Hartford Campus. Free admission. **Sunday, 4/27 – Sleeping Beauty.** Recommended for ages 5 and up. 1 p.m., Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets, \$13 regular; \$11 kids. For tickets call 860-486-4226. **Monday, 4/28 – Jazz Lab Band.** John Mastroianni, director. An evening of Duke Ellington classics. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Free admission.

Film

Monday, 4/21 – India Film Series. *Bhaji on the Beach.* 6:30 p.m., Room 106, Art Building. **Friday, 4/25 – International Film Series.** *Destiny* (Egypt). 3:30 p.m., Room 163, CLAS Building. **Monday, 4/28 – Mathematics Film.** *Wolfgang Doeblin: A Mathematician Rediscovered.* 3:30 p.m., Room IMS20, Gant Science Complex.

Sports

Tuesday, 4/22 – Softball vs. Massachusetts. 4 p.m., UConn Softball Field.

Potpourri

Monday, 4/21 – A Conversation with Thulani Mabaso. “Struggle and Forgiveness in the South African Anti-Apartheid Movement,” by Thulani Mabaso. 4 p.m., Public Lounge, Dodd Center. **Wednesday, 4/23 – Retirement Reception.** Reception in honor of Dean Ross MacKinnon's retirement. 4 p.m., Boardrooms A & B, Foundation Building. Open to all CLAS faculty and staff. **Wednesday, 4/23 – Book Discussion.** Aviva Chomsky will discuss her book *They Take Our Jobs! and 20 Other Myths about Immigration.* 6 p.m., Davis Courtroom, Starr Hall, School of Law. **Wednesday, 4/23 – Poetry Workshop.** Poets Lisa Starr, Bhuchung Sonam, Robin Magowan, and Juliet Mattila will discuss their work and creativity. 6:30 p.m., Hogan Lecture Hall, Eads Building, Torrington Campus. **Wednesday, 4/23 – Long River Poetry Workshop.** Poet Alice Fulton. 8 p.m., Konover Auditorium. **Thursday, 4/24 – Poetry Discussion.** Poet Honor Moore will discuss her career and creative inspiration with Davyne Verstandig. 6:30 p.m., Hogan Hall, Eads Building, Torrington Campus. **Saturday, 4/26 – Horse Auction & Tag Sale.** Animal Science Department's Spring Horse Auction. Preview at 10 a.m., auction at 1 p.m.; tack/equipment sale all day. Horsebarn Hill Arena. For more information call 860-486-1009.

Class of '08 Outstanding Students

Lola Odesina

BY SHERRY FISHER

It's not surprising that Lola Odesina would be drawn to pharmacy: She and her sister were diagnosed with a chronic blood disorder when they were children.

"I've been immersed in health care settings for as long as I can remember," says Odesina. "My sister and I have sickle cell anemia, my mother is a nurse, and we've always been around nurses, doctors, and drugs. It's something I find familiar and interesting."

Odesina is graduating with a Pharm.D. degree, earned in a six-year program.

She says the program was "a great learning experience. You're exposed to so much information about the field. The professors are passionate about the subject, want you to learn, are entertaining, and are there for you if you need help."

During their last year of study, pharmacy students are required to do nine one-month rotations in the field.

"The rotations gave me a taste of what it would be like to be a pharmacist in different settings," she says. "My first was in ambulatory care at St. Raphael's Hospital in New Haven. I did another in critical care at Yale, and one in hospice care at the Connecticut Hospice in Branford. I worked with doctors, nurses, and patients."

Odesina says she has enjoyed the "endless opportunities" offered to pharmacy students at UConn.

"Whatever area of pharmacy you're interested in, there's an organization you can join," she says. "It's great for networking and making new friends."



PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Lola Odesina, pharmacy

Odesina was a member of Pharmacy Student Government, the Pharmacy Leadership Society (Phi Lambda Sigma), and UConn's chapter of the American Pharmaceutical Association Academy of Student Pharmacists.

She says she enjoyed the job fairs, where pharmacists specializing in different areas come to the University. "They let you know about the opportunities in the field," she says. "Doors are constantly being opened for you."

Odesina, who has worked at a pharmacy in her hometown since May 2006, will be doing a one-year residency at St. Raphael's Hospital.

Philip Shaw

BY CINDY WEISS

Philip Shaw, who will receive his Ph.D. degree in economics in May, had an unusually strong outcome to his job search for an academic position.

Shaw had 18 interviews, 11 offers of trips to campuses, and six offers of tenure-track faculty positions at colleges ranging from Kenyon College – a small, private liberal arts college in Ohio – to Kansas State University, a public university with more than 23,000 students.

In the fall, he will begin teaching economics at Fairfield University, the offer he accepted in order to be close to his girlfriend and other friends in the Northeast.

Shaw said his thesis topic, educational corruption, was particularly interesting to potential employers.

He began working on it as an undergraduate economics major in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, graduating in 2004. As an undergraduate, he won a Summer Undergraduate Research Fund award. He went to the Ukraine, where he found that 56 percent of students bribed their way to acceptable scores on college entrance exams.

He developed an economic model to examine what this does to economic growth and to educational institutions.

Shaw's undergraduate and graduate adviser Christian Zimmermann, associate professor of economics, says that Shaw gathering his own data firsthand was rather unusual.

"He got a research grant, and he just did it. That's how he is," he says.

That firsthand experience with data, and Shaw's extensive teaching experience as a

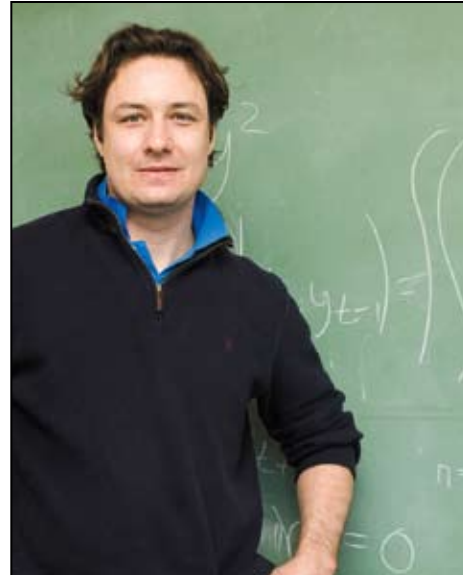


PHOTO BY JESSICA TOMMASELLI

Philip Shaw, economics

graduate student, helped him in the academic job market, Zimmermann says.

Shaw says he chose an academic career because he really enjoys teaching: "It's something I need in my life."

Several other Ph.D. students in economics graduating this spring have academic job offers, too: Nicholas Shunda received an offer from the University of Redlands in California, and Rasha Ahmed from Trinity College in Hartford.

The economics Ph.D. market is well organized, says Zimmermann, with centralized advertising through the American Economics Association and a national meeting where students and employers schedule interviews.

And, he adds, "Everybody is interested in the best students."

Nathaniel Bergan



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Nate Bergan, civil & environmental engineering

BY SHERRY FISHER

When Nathaniel "Nate" Bergan took his first engineering course at UConn, he was hooked.

"The class was about the basic mechanics of engineering," he says, "and it really made me say, 'wow!'"

Bergan will graduate in May with a bachelor's degree in civil and environmental engineering.

He says engineering is a good fit. "I've always had a strong interest in construction and buildings," he says. "My father is a land surveyor, so I've been around construction sites, bulldozers, and dirt all my life. What I find interesting is learning the mechanics of everything and applying all

the mathematics I've learned, and seeing how it works in design and construction."

Bergan got to put some of his school work into practice during Thanksgiving break last year, when he and two other UConn engineering students traveled to Nicaragua as part of the UConn chapter of Engineers Without Borders, a non-profit humanitarian organization that partners with people in developing communities to improve their quality of life.

The trip was to assess how to stabilize a key access road near Granada that is rendered impassable during the country's rainy season. He and his team came up with a project application outlining all the details; it was just sent to the Engineers Without Borders headquarters for assessment.

A member of Chi Epsilon, the civil engineering honor society, Bergan is also secretary of the UConn chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

This summer, he will work on a UConn environmental engineering research project in Ethiopia, where he will collect rainfall data and investigate possible dam sites on the Blue Nile River.

After graduation, Bergan will head to Columbia University to earn a master's degree in civil engineering.

"After that, I want to do structural design and be involved in projects that will affect a lot of people," he says. "Civil engineering affects the world. It's about what we use every day."

Nikita Lakdawala



PHOTO BY DANIEL BUTTREY

Nikita Lakdawala, molecular and cell biology

BY CURRAN KENNEDY, CLAS '08

Nikita Lakdawala, CLAS '08, has combined experience with academics through a double major in molecular and cell biology and an individualized major that she created, health care and social inequality.

A graduate of Watertown High School, at UConn she has studied abroad in London; volunteered to serve the homeless and hungry in Boston, New York, and Willimantic; and worked with the underprivileged in soup kitchens and farm fields.

"Even though it's such a large school, I've been able to get involved in community service programs," she says.

Lakdawala's community involvement

has given her a new perspective, she says: "It's not the same thing to read about something in a textbook as it is to see it firsthand."

That's why Lakdawala decided to organize her senior thesis around her volunteer work in Willimantic, where she has observed acute care and given health talks to the underprivileged.

"Barriers to health care access and discrepancies between the poor and rich are big issues that need to be tackled," she says.

Ambition to reform U.S. health care led Lakdawala to London for a semester, where she visited hospitals and interviewed doctors.

"I think medicine now involves both medical and social aspects and it's more important now than ever to understand how these work together," she says.

"Studying abroad allowed me to compare two different health care systems and see how they operate," she adds. "With med school on the horizon, this understanding is important for me."

Next fall, she will begin studying for a medical degree at the UConn School of Medicine in Farmington.

This week and for the next several weeks, the Advance is publishing short profiles of some of this year's graduating students. Those featured were selected from among those recommended by each school and college.