



Graduation ceremonies scheduled

Schools, colleges plan separate events

BY RICHARD VEILLEUX

UConn officials are putting the finishing touches on arrangements for Commencement weekend May 10-11, when 11 of the University's 14 schools and colleges will celebrate the graduation of students in the Class of 2008. The three other schools – law, medicine, and dental medicine – will celebrate their students' achievements May 18.

This year, nearly 7,000 students will receive associate's, bachelor's, master's, doctoral, juris doctor, dental, or medical degrees during the events, the first time the University has held separate ceremonies for all the schools and colleges. Additionally, at 3 p.m. on May 10, the Army and Air Force ROTC programs will hold commissioning ceremonies.

"Three schools – education, fine arts, and pharmacy – agreed to experiment with individual ceremonies last year, and all three thought it was a success," says Michael Darre, chair of the Commencement Committee and University Marshal. "So this year we extended the idea across the board. Our student population has outgrown the dual ceremonies we've held in Gampel Pavilion in the past, and holding individual ceremonies in different locations has been successful at a number of other universities. It's much more intimate, especially for the smaller schools."

Only the graduate ceremony, which will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 10 in Gampel Pavilion, will remain the same, although the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences' (CLAS) Commencement, which takes place at Gampel Pavilion at 4 p.m. May 11, will closely resemble those of previous years. CLAS is the largest of the University's schools and colleges.

Graduating students will hear from a wide range of speakers, including a legislator, an engineer, a pharmacist, an artist, a business executive, and a judge.

The master's and doctoral students will be addressed by Garry Wills, an author and historian who has written more than two dozen books. His works include *Lincoln at Gettysburg: The Words that Remade America* (1992), which won a Pulitzer Prize; and *Nixon Agonistes: The Crisis of the Self-Made Man* (1970). Wills will receive an honorary Doctor of Letters.

Joining Wills May 10 will be philanthropist Gary Gladstein, CLAS '66, who will



PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Lorelle Schaub, a junior, pours a tub of used sneakers into a dumpster for recycling during the EcoHusky Earth Day Spring Fling, held on Fairfield Way April 22.

receive an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. Gladstein, retired chief operating officer of Soros Fund Management, currently serves on the boards of several leading global companies and a number of high-profile hedge funds. He has been a member of the University of Connecticut Foundation Board of Directors since 1998.

With gifts made independently and through the Marsha Lilien Gladstein Foundation, Gladstein has supported human rights, Hillel, the UConn Health Center, and the School of Business at UConn.

Also during the ceremony, Charlotte Bunch, a women's and human rights activist, author, and organizer for 40 years, will receive an honorary Doctor of Laws. Bunch, the founder and executive director of the Center for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers University, was instrumental in the development of feminist studies as an academic discipline.

On Sunday, May 11, at 4 p.m., more than 2,400 students who have studied in the Col-

lege of Liberal Arts and Sciences will receive their bachelor's degree. The students will be addressed by UConn trustee Rebecca Lobo, who played on UConn's undefeated and national champion 1995 women's basketball team and is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of CLAS. Lobo also won a gold medal in the 1996 Olympics, and played for three Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) teams. She is currently a women's basketball analyst for CBS and ESPN.

Other ceremonies and speakers include:

- Saturday, May 10, at 9 a.m. in Rome Ballroom: **School of Pharmacy (D.Pharm.)**. About 100 Doctor of Pharmacy graduates will be addressed by Gerald Gianutsos, an associate professor of pharmacology at UConn, coordinator of the pharmacology/toxicology graduate program, and director of the pharmacy honors program. Gianutsos was named speaker by virtue of being voted Teacher of the Year by the graduating class.

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Enhancement of summer sessions recommended

BY RICHARD VEILLEUX

A faculty oversight committee that studied UConn's summer and intersession programs says the University should take advantage of several opportunities to enhance the programs, and offered a series of recommendations to do just that.

The sessions, the committee said, offer undergraduates a chance to improve their chances of graduating in four years and to enrich their learning by taking courses that may not be available or practical during the regular academic year.

The group said focusing on the special sessions gives UConn an opportunity to make the Storrs and regional campuses busier and more vibrant during periods that are traditionally quiet.

The committee also recommended some adjustments to the University calendar to accommodate intersession schedules.

"There are three primary findings," says Veronica Makowsky, vice provost for undergraduate education and regional campus administration, and chair of the oversight committee. "One, we have to use our resources wisely, maximize the efficient use of our campuses. Secondly, for some students, summer and intersession programs are an opportunity to catch up and finish in four years, but others would like to carry double majors or study abroad and still complete their degree in four years. A third issue is enrichment."

Provost Peter J. Nicholls believes the recommendations are feasible.

"Our students need robust summer and intersession programs in order to graduate in a timely manner, and to explore new or continuing interests through innovative and challenging courses," he says.

Nicholls also assigned three administrators – Steve Jarvi, assistant vice provost for student success; Registrar Jeffrey von Munkwitz-Smith; and Margaret Lamb, director of the Individualized Major Program – to implement the recommendations and report on progress each semester.

Nearly 3,500 students enrolled in Summer Session I last year, down from more than 3,900 in 2004 but a slight rebound from a low of less than 3,400 in 2006.

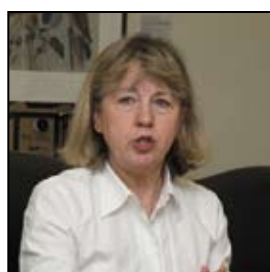
"The essential idea is to get more students engaged in summer school and intersession,"

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PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Fran Archambault, president of the Alumni Association, left, with State Rep. Denise Merrill, and University President Michael J. Hogan at an Alumni Association breakfast held at the State Capitol. The event brought together UConn student interns and alumni working at the Capitol and state legislators.

Journalism project reveals 'dead voters'

BY CINDY WEISS

Journalism students led by Marcel Dufresne, an associate professor of journalism who teaches investigative reporting, found that hundreds of dead people are counted as voting in Connecticut elections.

Their investigative story, written by Dufresne, ran on the front page of *The Hartford Courant* on April 20, spurring a press conference the next day at the state Capitol, as election officials began investigating the situation.

Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz called on the State Elections Enforcement Commission to find out whether local registrars of voters and town clerks had failed to properly remove deceased voters from voter rolls.

According to Dufresne and the students, New Haven led the state with 370 dead voters registered, and Hartford and Bridgeport had

nearly 300 each.

But the state's big cities weren't the only places the dead could vote: Groton had 92 dead people registered, Brooklyn had 110, and Windsor had 128.

More than 300 of the dead who were registered have been counted as voting in recent elections.

In some cases, people had never been recorded as voting in a town until after they died, the investigation showed.

Students who led the reporting were Greg Bordonaro, a senior; Melissa Bruen, a senior who is editor-in-chief of *The Daily Campus*; Shawn Beals, CLAS '07, who graduated with a journalism major in December and now works for the *Courant*; Katie Jordan, a junior; and James White, a senior.

Also reporting were students Nicole Bozzuto, Beth Wesalo, Ryan Murphy, Brock Wehry, Ryan O'Connor, and Paige Billings.

Dufresne marshaled and analyzed state data on more than 2 million eligible voters, starting last summer, comparing it with lists of dead people in public records in the state Department of Public Health and the Social Security Administration. Students fanned out to cities and towns around the state last fall to check the records and interview registrars.

"We never assumed that the data was correct," says Dufresne.

He attributes the dead voter registrations to benign errors, including clerical errors, rather than corruption. Town registrars of voters do not get official notification of deaths, and the state voter data are not always correct, he notes.

To read the story, go to www.courant.com/news/politics/hc-deadvoters0420.ar-tapr20,0,7619723.story

Birds rare to state sighted on campus

BY ASHLEY SPORLEDER, CLAS '08

During the past couple of weeks, small groups of visitors have been seen walking along North Eagleville Road, binoculars in hand, their eyes focused on the trees.

They weren't tourists or prospective students.

Instead, they were bird watchers and they had one goal: to catch a glimpse of the rare Bohemian Waxwing that a graduate student had spotted perched among a group of more common Cedar Waxwings in a crab apple tree outside the CLAS building.

The sighting was only the third time in the past 15 years that a Bohemian Waxwing – the rarest of the species named for their red wing tips resembling drops of sealing wax – is known to have made the long journey from the northern forests of Canada to settle in Connecticut.

While groups of Cedar Waxwings, which have a distinct brownish-gray color and yellow underbellies, are common during winter and occasionally summer too, the Bohemian is not normally seen in New England.

Larger in size, and characterized by a deep gray hue, whiter wings, reddish under-tail, and a more waxy appearance, the Bohemian Waxwing's arrival provided a treat for birdwatchers from across the state, including the director of the Connecticut

Audubon Society, who traveled to Storrs to catch a glimpse.

"They truly are gorgeous birds," says Chris Elphick, an assistant professor of ecology and evolutionary biology who specializes in ornithology and conservation biology. "This was very rare."

Once all last year's fruit was gone from the trees outside CLAS, the Bohemian relocated to another crab apple tree outside the Goodyear building of the Northwest residence halls, where it was joined by a new flock of migrants. To date, as many as nine Bohemian Waxwings have been sighted throughout campus.

Elphick said it was most likely an inadequate food supply and insufficient breeding habitats that caused the birds to migrate so far south.



PHOTO BY MARK SZANTRY

A Bohemian Waxwing, *Bombycilla garrulus*.

Correction

Donations in memory of Frank Labato, former director of environmental health and safety, may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 1004, Meriden, CT 06450-1004. The

organization to which contributions should be made was incorrectly identified in the April 7 *Advance*.

Employees recognized for many years of service

Employees with more than 25 years of service to the University were recognized during a special breakfast at the Alumni Center on April 22. University President Michael J. Hogan addressed them and thanked them for their work.

Owing to space limitations, the names of only those who have reached the milestones of 30, 35, 40, or 45 years of service are printed here. The names of those who have reached the 25 year milestone are included on the *Advance* web site: www.advance.uconn.edu.

30 Years of Service

Roger Adams Jr.
John Alexopoulos
Joel Blatt
Ronald Blicher
Thomas Bruhn
Denise Champagne
Richard M. Clark
Augustine Dellavecchia
James Dinger
John Eaton
Sherry Fisher
Terri Goldich
Edward Gromak
John Hartley
James Henkel
Lynn Hinckley
James Holzworth

Kathy Ivey
Arlene Jacobsen
Ilze Krisst
Kathleen Labbe
Lauren LeBlanc
Peter Lisiewski
Arthur Lucas
Frank McIntosh
Karen B. Miller
Joanne Moore
Kathleen Moore
Tessie Naranjo
Vanessa Nelson
Jayne Pelletier
Elizabeth Salsedo
Evelyn Schmidt
Joseph Scott
Montgomery Shaw

Cheryl Shifrin
John Silander Jr.
Ruth Simons
Ralph Snyder
Terry Tondro
Gregory Walton
Richard Weingart
Kentwood Wells
Rita Zangari

35 Years of Service

Rande-Jeanne Clark
Arthur Cosmas
Lynn Cote
Irene Covey
Charlotte Doyle
Mark Fitzgibbons
Wanda Hicks

William Karosi
Robert Knowles
Ralph Mansell
Joseph Smey
Alan Stein
Ronald Taylor
John Veiga
Francis Williams

40 Years of Service

Patricia Babcock
David Maker
George Rawitscher
Michael Turvey

45 Years of Service

Joel Kupperman

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University recertified by NCAA

The University of Connecticut has been re-certified by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), affirmation that the institution operates its athletics program in conformity with the operating principles adopted by Division I membership.

Similar to the University's reaccreditation process for its academic operation, NCAA certification is conducted on a 10-year cycle. UConn last went through the process and was certified in 1998. Also similar to reaccreditation, the certification follows a comprehensive, year-long self-study of the athletics division's operations, a site visit by a peer review team, an NCAA certification committee's review of the self-study, and a report by the peer review team.

The self-study includes a review of governance and commitment to rules compliance; academic integrity; equity; and student-athlete well-being.

Ronald Schurin, an associate professor of political science and former executive assistant to then-President Austin who chaired the self-study committee, says the division – and the University – did well virtually across the board.

"We're blessed," says Schurin, "in that we've been successful on the field while operating a program that is integrated into the

mission of the University."

He says the site visit team and the NCAA itself praised the academic support provided through the Counseling Program for Intercollegiate Athletics (CPIA). "In fact, the NCAA asked if they could share with other schools the report on the CPIA's activities," he says.

He notes that the self-study team found the institution goes the extra mile in assuring that student-athletes receive appropriate educational support. "We're very mindful that the emphasis in the phrase 'student-athlete' is on the first word of that configuration," he says.

"We're also doing well with equity, where we've been a national leader in promoting access," Schurin adds.

Schurin says the self-study committee and several subcommittees, comprising about 60 volunteers, also found conformity to NCAA rules and regulations "in every important area."

The University has 650 student-athletes participating in 24 intercollegiate sports at the Division I level, the highest level of athletics in the collegiate ranks.

"I'm pleased to learn that the University has been certified by the NCAA following a full review of our athletics program, as part

of the NCAA's ongoing, mandatory, certification process," says University President Michael J. Hogan. "I'm very proud of our athletics administration and coaches, our student-athletes, and the many staff members who do so well representing UConn in intercollegiate athletic competition. The NCAA's certification is a testament to the quality of our program and the principles we seek to cultivate."

Jeffrey Hathaway, director of athletics, says the NCAA certification is a testimony to the commitment of our entire University. He notes that many athletics division staff members, other UConn staff and faculty members, campus administrators, and friends of the University participated in the recertification process.

"The operating principles the NCAA requires each member school to follow are a priority to our institution and all who are part of the UConn community," he says.

"I also wish to recognize our student-athletes and coaches who represent the University each and every day," Hathaway adds. "The passion and dedication of all those involved have allowed us to be successful academically, athletically, and in the development of outstanding leaders in our communities."

New graduate course on teaching offered

BY ASHLEY SPORLEDER, CLAS '08

The Institute for Teaching & Learning (ITL) and the Graduate School are offering a new Summer Institute in College Instruction that will run from May 12 through 23.

This Institute is the graded core course for the graduate certificate program in college instruction that is intended to boost the teaching skills of graduate students and teaching assistants and provide them with a significant teaching credential.

The course carries three credits and is intended primarily for graduate students who are in the early stages of their Ph.D. program and who intend to take other courses to complete the nine-credit certificate in college instruction.

The Institute will consist of 10 days of morning and afternoon classes, seminars, and workshops that will focus on such topics as syllabus creation, good pedagogical use of PowerPoint, and engagement in the classroom.

It is designed to enable graduate students to develop instructional material using the best practices in course design; integrate educational technology into courses; deliver effective

classroom instruction; create assessment and evaluation methodologies that match learning and instructional objectives; and document course and teaching achievements.

"Many graduate students plan for a career that involves teaching," says Keith Barker, director of the Institute for Teaching and Learning. "This Summer Institute, as part of the graduate certificate, will for the first time provide the opportunity for any graduate student to obtain a credential in teaching."

The Institute has a capacity of 20 students. To apply, students must complete and submit an application form, along with a current resume and a one-page statement that addresses their career goals, specific teaching interests, why they wish to participate in the Institute, and how they anticipate the learning will contribute to their program's courses.

Candidates must also solicit one confidential letter of recommendation from a UConn faculty member.

Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 2.

For more information, go to web.uconn.edu/itl/SummerInstitute.html.

Neuroscience researcher working toward a cure for MS

BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

If finding a way to restore nerve cells' protective coating were the only challenge, multiple sclerosis would be a more manageable disease.

But researchers at the UConn Health Center say MS also takes its toll on axons, the nerve cell extensions that carry nerve impulses. The devastation hinders the ability of neurons to communicate with each other, resulting in debilitating neurodegenerative disease.

"The long-term disability of MS is caused by degeneration of axons that have lost their myelin sheath – their protective coating," says Rashmi Bansal, an associate professor of neuroscience. Bansal recently won a grant from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for her research focusing on a specific protein and its role in MS.

In MS patients and mouse models, this protein, called fibroblast growth factor, increases in areas of the nervous system where the myelin is missing.

"There's got to be an important connection of this observation with the disease scenario," Bansal says.

Signals from these growth factors regulate the biology of cells called oligodendrocytes, which produce myelin in the central

nervous system. Fibroblast growth factors bind and signal to oligodendrocytes through three different receptors, which are the docking sites for these growth factors. Bansal's previous research found this interaction varied depending on the receptor involved.

"Stimulation of one receptor versus the other led to different responses," Bansal says. "And interestingly, we found that in oligodendrocytes, while one response was positive, the other was a negative pathological one. So that raises the question of what the fibroblast growth factor is doing. Is it good or bad to have a lot of it in MS lesions?"

Bansal's grant, more than \$600,000 over three years, is for the next step. She and her research team, including postdoctoral fellow Miki Furusho, are working with mice that are missing the gene for one or more of the fibroblast growth factor receptors.

"We want to know, what's the outcome of getting rid of this gene? It would give us a handle on what each receptor is doing for normal myelination in the animal," Bansal says. "But what would be really interesting and important for MS research will be to know the function of these receptors in myelin disease and recovery."



PHOTO BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

Rashmi Bansal, associate professor of neuroscience at the Health Center, continues her research with a grant from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Bansal says initial studies with these mice have given indications of defects in oligodendrocyte development and myelination, "but how it's going to play out in the disease scenario, we don't know yet. In this grant we have proposed experiments that will allow us to address these questions."

In addition to her own research projects, Bansal is committed to carrying on the work of professor

of neuroscience Steven Pfeiffer, a colleague who died last year. During his 38 years at the Health Center, Pfeiffer developed an international reputation as a biomedical scientist working toward a cure for MS.

"He and I worked together on various aspects of MS research ever since I joined the University," Bansal says.

Bansal says MS research at

UConn is embracing modern scientific advances such as proteomic analysis, an approach aimed at discovering new proteins. Bansal and her team, including postdoctoral fellow Akahiro Ishii, will continue the pursuit of the proteins in human myelin, which was a major focus of Pfeiffer's research.

"Myelin composition is well known to have some major proteins," Bansal says. "This proteomic analysis allows us to determine the minor components – and minor doesn't mean unimportant: the smallest components could be the ones that are the most important. This study will provide us with several novel targets to go after and will form a valuable foundation for understanding the molecular mechanism of myelination and the pathogenesis of human myelin disease such as MS."

The MS Society also awarded Bansal two other grants since 1999, and she has won funding from the National Institutes of Health over that same period.

"Our goal – like many researchers – is that somehow in our lifetime we'll be able to see our research from the bench get into the clinics and help the people with multiple sclerosis," Bansal says. "That's the main ambition and dream for us."

Female faculty in math, science find support in group

BY CINDY WEISS

Its acronym may sound frivolous – WIMSE – but whimsy is not the word to describe the work of Women in Math, Science, and Engineering.

This ad hoc group of female faculty members focuses on issues such as hiring and retaining women in technical disciplines, achieving equity in resources and treatment, and “making sure these issues stay in the forefront of people’s attention,” says Amy Howell, professor of chemistry.

Howell and Maria Rubio, associate professor of physiology and neurobiology, have shepherded the group for the past five years or so, but its membership is not limited to women in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

A fluctuating group of up to 25 female faculty from CLAS, pharmacy, engineering, and agriculture get together on the Storrs campus two or three times a semester for a WIMSE lunch. WIMSE’s larger mailing list of 130 keeps the lines of communications open among women at the Storrs and regional campuses and the Health Center who are in the STEM disciplines – science, technology, engineering, and math.

“These are disciplines where women remain underrepresented,” notes Howell.

The dearth of women in the sciences is a national problem that is getting attention. The American Chemical Society’s magazine, *Chemical & Engineering News*, recently reported on the U.S. House of Representatives diversity caucus’s public meeting to map an agenda

for getting more women and minorities into the sciences.

One panelist at the meeting was quoted as saying that faculty diversity has not progressed very far, despite an increase in the number of Ph.D.s that academia produces.

WIMSE was formed in part to address the needs of women who are already at UConn, to lend support and keep women from feeling isolated in their disciplines.

The group grew out of a National Sciences Foundation grant proposal six years ago to find ways to improve the campus environment for women in STEM disciplines. UConn did not receive the grant, but CLAS dean Ross

MacKinnon provided support to get WIMSE started.

“I had never thought there could be a group like this,” says Rubio, who earned her Ph.D. and MD at the University of Alicante in Spain and worked at the National Institutes of Health and the Max Planck Institute of Experimental Medicine in Goettingen, Germany, before joining UConn.

When she arrived at the University, her department was located in an annex on the back side of Horsebarn Hill, far from other departments and other female scientists. It has since moved to the Pharmacy/Biology and Torrey Life Sciences buildings.

WIMSE provided “a way to meet more of the University,” she says.

In WIMSE, women can meet colleagues at all stages of their career and find support and research collaborators.

“We want to be a resource for people trying to navigate their way through tenure,” says Howell.

Last year, WIMSE sponsored an all-day career forum for female faculty, postdoctoral researchers, and graduate students in STEM disciplines. More than 80 attended.

It was clear there’s a need for training in successful career development and in how to negotiate, Howell says, as well as for interaction among people

with common interests.

Although the number of female graduate students in the sciences appears to be increasing, members of the group say, many of those seeking higher degrees plan to work in corporate labs or non-academic settings.

Howell says young women have a hard time seeing how they could juggle the demands of family life with the demands of getting tenure.

Rubio says she sees more female graduate students than male switch from a Ph.D. program to a master’s.

Through WIMSE, women in science bring these issues to the attention of University administrators.

“You get the sense people recognize that this cohort of 130 women is an important group,” says Howell, “and that there is still work to be done.”

One of the perennial issues that members of the group raise is the need for year-round child care close to campus. Infant care and day care during the summer – prime time for research – are especially important, they say.

Another important issue is the need for mentors for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars.

WIMSE will probably remain an ad hoc forum rather than a structured organization, says Howell, because its members are already so busy. Even so, its voice is being heard. President Hogan recently met with the women and asked them to identify their priorities.

The consensus, says Howell, is that the top priority is the recruitment of women in STEM disciplines.



PHOTO BY JESSICA TOMMASELLI

Arlene Albert, a molecular and cell biology professor, speaks during a WIMSE meeting in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences building. At right is Maria Gordina, associate professor of math.

Commencement ceremonies *continued from page 1*

- Saturday, May 10, at 10:30 a.m. in Jorgensen: **School of Social Work.** Nearly 150 students will receive master’s degrees. They will be addressed by Gary Bailey, past president of the National Association of Social Work (NASW), and chair of the National Social Work Public Education Campaign. Bailey, who was named national and Massachusetts Social Worker of the Year in 1998, is an associate professor at the Simmons College Graduate School of Social Work.

- Saturday, May 10, at 5 p.m. in Jorgensen: **School of Fine Arts.** Joseph Volpe, the first person to advance from a technical position to general manager of the Metropolitan Opera, will address more than 130 bachelor’s degree candidates. Volpe is credited with managing the opera company’s re-entry into the commercial recording field and for expanding the Met’s international touring activities. He also spearheaded a project that promotes direct experience with music and opera for New York City elementary school children. Volpe now works for Theatre Projects Consultants.

- Saturday, May 10, at 5 p.m. in Rome Ballroom: **School of Pharmacy (undergraduate).** More than 100 students will be addressed by Samuel Kalmanow-

itz, an entrepreneur and UConn School of Pharmacy graduate who started his own community pharmacy, Kaye’s Pharmacy. In 1998, it was named the top independent pharmacy in the United States by the national publication *Drug Topics*. Kalmanowitz is a University Medal winner.

- Sunday, May 11, at 9 a.m. in Gampel Pavilion: **School of Business.** More than 600 business school graduates will be addressed by Denis J. Nayden, managing partner of Oak Hill Capital, a private equity firm, and a UConn trustee. Nayden, who earned his bachelor’s and MBA degrees from UConn, was chairman and chief executive officer of GE Capital before joining Oak Hill in 2003.

- Sunday, May 11, at 9 a.m. in Jorgensen: **Neag School of Education.** Rep. John B. Larson (D-1st District), will address nearly 200 graduates of the Neag School of Education. Larson, a former high school history teacher, served 12 years in the Connecticut State Senate, including eight as Senate President Pro Tempore. Since being elected to Congress, he has supported a number of key educational programs, including Head Start and the College Cost Reduction Act.

- Sunday, May 11, at 12:30 p.m.,

in Gampel Pavilion: **College of Agriculture & Natural Resources and Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture:** Roger Newton, a UConn graduate best known as co-discoverer of the cholesterol-reducing drug Lipitor, will address nearly 400 bachelor’s and associate’s degree candidates. Newton is former senior vice president of Pfizer Global Research and Development and chairman of the atherosclerosis drug discovery team at Warner-Lambert/Parke-Davis (now Pfizer). He is now managing director of Esperance BioVentures and an adjunct associate professor of pharmacology at the University of Michigan. Newton earned a master’s degree in nutritional biochemistry from UConn’s College of Agriculture and Natural Resources in 1974.

- Sunday, May 11, at 12:30 p.m., in Jorgensen: **School of Engineering.** More than 300 engineering undergraduates will receive their degrees. The speakers will be Kevin Bouley, president and CEO of Nerac Inc. of Tolland, a global technology and IP advisory research firm, and Paul Adams, vice president of engineering at Pratt & Whitney. Bouley, a 1980 graduate of UConn’s business school, joined Nerac in 1981 and acquired the company in 1999.

Since then, the company’s revenues have doubled, and it has been recognized as among the 50 fastest growing technology companies in Connecticut. Adams has more than 20 years of leadership in management and engineering, and global experience in the aircraft engine industry. In his current position, he has developed the technical globalization strategy for Pratt & Whitney. Bouley and Adams both serve on the advisory board of the School of Engineering.

- Sunday, May 11, at 2:30 p.m., in Rome Ballroom: **Center for Continuing Studies.** More than 350 students who have earned the Bachelor of General Studies degree will be addressed by Valerie Lewis, former Connecticut Commissioner of Higher Education. Lewis worked for many years in the Department of Higher Education, including more than seven years as commissioner. In 2003, she was elected national president of the State Higher Education Chief Executive Officers organization.

- Sunday, May 11, at 4 p.m. in Jorgensen: **School of Nursing.** Internationally renowned nurse theorist Peggy Chinn will address nearly 140 students earning degrees. Chinn is the founding editor of *Advances in Nursing Science*, regarded as the premier journal for

cutting-edge scholarship in nursing. A UConn professor emerita of nursing, Chinn has written books and articles on nursing theory, feminism and nursing, the art of nursing, and nursing education.

- Sunday, May 18, at 10:30 a.m. on the lawn of the law school in Hartford: **School of Law.** Connecticut Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers will address more than 220 students receiving either a juris doctor or master of laws degree. Rogers, who became Chief Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court in 2007, was previously a state Superior Court judge and also had a long career with Cummings & Lockwood, where she specialized in commercial and employment litigation.

- Sunday, May 18, at 1:30 p.m. at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford: **Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine.** Physician and author Dr. Pauline Chen will address nearly 125 future doctors and dentists. Dr. Chen, a transplant surgeon, specializes in end-of-life patient care. Her recent book, *Final Exam: A Surgeon’s Reflections on Mortality*, looks at death and dying from the perspective of a health care provider.

Online global component added to insurance law curriculum



PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Professor Peter Kochenburger, executive director of the Insurance Law Center, left, meets with Nasser Sserunjogi, an LL.M. student, in his office at the Law School.

BY SCOTT BRINCKERHOFF

International students have come to Hartford for many years to take courses from among those the UConn Insurance Law Center offers on how insurance works in the United States.

Beginning next year, there will be a new course offered online, that will include material taught by professors in China and Italy.

Distance learning has been evolving at the Insurance Law Center for years, but this is the first time UConn law students will be exposed to insurance as it functions in the European Union and China.

The UConn Insurance Law Center is unique in its focus, according to Peter Kochenburger, its executive director. That's not surprising, given that Connecticut employs by far the highest concentration of insurance workers in the nation.

Many of the Center's students who pursue a master's degree (LL.M.) in insurance law are employed in jobs related to the industry.

Kochenburger says the decision to add an international flavor to the curriculum makes sense: "The concept of insurance is universal, although implemented differently around the world. In the United

States, for example, each state regulates insurance as it sees fit, but in the European Union, there is significant uniformity across national borders."

He says the Center will always focus on U.S. law, but is likely to add more comparative courses, since insurance companies often do business around the world, and many students have – or will have – jobs that will require them to know something about international insurance.

Professors Pierpaolo Marano of Italy's University of Calabria and Richean Li of Beijing's University of International Business & Eco-

nomics will add a new twist to the Center's online learning portfolio. The comparative insurance law course they teach will be tapped into electronically by students at their own schools as well as at UConn, even though they will be separated from each other by thousands of miles.

Kochenburger will teach several sessions on insurance regulation in this country, to give the students – in Italy and China as well as at UConn – perspective.

"It's an experiment," Kochenburger says. "We think we're the first law school to offer online learning on this subject matter."

He says students have provided positive feedback on previously offered online courses.

The new online course will work like those already offered, such as one on liability insurance, in which students participate in extensive online discussions and writing mirroring that of lawyers in practice. There's a lot of reading, and often the subject matter stimulates lively debate. "The dialogue online," says Kochenburger, "is often richer than in a classroom."

Student Lauren Bayly says online postings are "more thought out than classroom banter, and can include links to interesting articles and related cases that help flesh out the issues."

Bayly and colleague Tracy Huang agree that online learning is both demanding and rewarding.

Huang likes the flexibility of an online course, but says students still need to budget time to read other students' postings, add their own, and keep up with reading and writing assignments. Since the class includes students with real-world experience in insurance, Huang says, they can learn from

each other in a way that might not occur so readily in a traditional classroom.

One discussion involved the Avon Mountain multiple-vehicle accident in 2005 when four people were killed in one of Connecticut's worst accidents. The company that owned the truck that caused the accident had apparently canceled its insurance, meaning the truck was operating that day in violation of state law.

Behind the tragedy, liability questions abound and the students dove into them. Did the company actually cancel its insurance for the truck, as the insurer successfully maintained in court? What liability should attach to the state, since Route 44, where the accident occurred, had been the site of numerous accidents over the years? What state laws should be amended in the wake of the accident? Should the victims' families team up to pursue a civil suit?

Any notion that an online course might be easier than one taught in a classroom is dispelled with a visit to the class web site. The enormity of a subject such as "liability" is immediately evident: each case is riddled with opinions, appeals, facts in dispute, and questions of coverage.

"Online students must be diligent," Kochenburger says. "They have to keep up with the material every week, and if they have trouble understanding an issue, it's obvious to me right away. This gives me or other students an opportunity to quickly clarify the topic. I've had students tell me they taught themselves more in this course than they could have imagined.

"Self-teaching," he adds, "is an important component of online courses."

International award highlights respiratory therapist's achievements

BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

Mardi Hayden, a Health Center respiratory therapist, earned national recognition earlier this year, when she was named Cambridge Who's Who Professional of the Year in respiratory therapy.

Hayden last year became a member of the Cambridge Who's Who Registry, an index of executive, professional, and entrepreneur biographies in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Australia. Each year, just two male and two female members in each discipline are named Professional of the Year, based on their accomplishments, academic achievements, leadership, and service.

Respiratory therapists make sure patients get the oxygen they need when they have difficulties with breathing, whether the culprit is asthma, bronchitis, emphysema, pneumonia, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, sleep apnea, or a premature infant's underdeveloped lungs.

Central to Hayden's selection was her 24 years as a certified respiratory therapist and prenatal-

pediatric specialist at the Health Center. During that time she has cared for babies with a gestational age of 24 weeks (born 16 weeks premature), adults in their 90s, and patients of all ages in between. She also won an American Red Cross Heroes of Greater Hartford Award in 2001 as a member of a Neonatal Transport Team that made a three-hour drive during a nor'easter to care for a premature infant in respiratory distress.

"Mardi has the can-do attitude and goes beyond the extra step in giving the best patient care," says respiratory therapy supervisor Janet Schoenewolff.

Hayden works on the typically busy evening shift. She also has helped train other respiratory therapists over the course of her career.

The Health Center has 22 full-time respiratory therapists and 10 who work on a per diem basis.

"Our respiratory therapists are highly-skilled professionals who have to be able to care for a variety of patients, ranging from neonates to geriatrics," says Ellen Leone, director of nursing at the

Health Center. "They play a critical role on our Neonatal Transport Team and Rapid Response Team. We simply could not offer these services without them."

Respiratory therapists deal with all aspects of breathing issues, including life support, and as part of the Rapid Response Team at John Dempsey Hospital, are among the first to assess patients before they need intensive care. In addition, every Neonatal Transport Team has a respiratory therapist.

"Basically, we're the bones of the medical field," Hayden says. "We see the patients before the doctors do a lot of times. We're there on the front lines."

Respiratory therapists also counsel families of patients who require oxygen at home, including instructing them how to use and clean the equipment.

Respiratory therapists may start their day working with babies and end up responding to a call from the emergency room.

"It's changing every day from when I started – the medical equipment has grown by leaps and bounds," Hayden says. "We're able

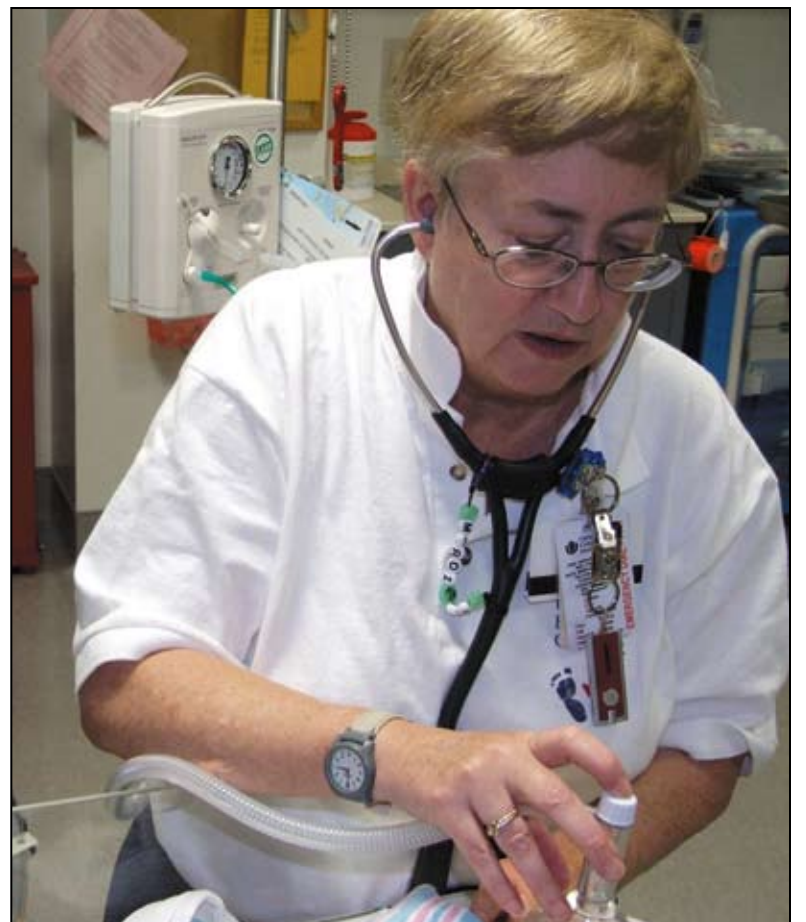


PHOTO BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

Respiratory therapist Mardi Hayden in a lab at the Health Center.

to maintain and preserve quality of breathing easier now. It changes from day to day, so I never come into work knowing that I'm doing the same thing every day."

It's that ever-changing dynamic of the field that appeals to Hayden. That, she says, and the sense of accomplishment when she sees a patient recover.



Sam Rich of Abington competes in a plowing contest co-hosted by the Eastern Connecticut Draft Horse Association and the College of Agriculture. The event took place April 19 behind W parking lot.

PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Promotion, tenure recommendations approved

The Board of Trustees approved the following promotion and tenure recommendations at its meeting on April 15.

Promoted to Professor

Amvrossios Bagtzoglou
Civil & Environmental Engineering,
School of Engineering

Jonathan Bobaljik
Linguistics,
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Melissa Bray
Educational Psychology,
Neag School of Education

Robin Cote
Physics,
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Antonio Garmendia
Pathobiology & Veterinary Science,
College of Agriculture & Natural Resources

Jean Givens
Art & Art History,
School of Fine Arts

John Harding
Finance, School of Business

Alex Kovner
Physics,
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Etan Markus
Psychology,
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Robert Pomeroy
Agricultural & Resource Economics,
College of Agriculture & Natural Resources

Nancy Rodriguez
Nutritional Sciences,
College of Agriculture & Natural Resources

Carolyn Teschke
Molecular & Cell Biology,
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Stephen Trumbo
Ecology & Evolutionary Biology,
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Glenn Warner
Natural Resources Management & Engineering,
College of Agriculture & Natural Resources

C. Michael White
Pharmacy Practice,
School of Pharmacy

Quing Zhu
Electrical & Computer Engineering,
School of Engineering

Promoted to Professor and Granted Tenure

Bethany Berger
School of Law

Olu Oguibe
Art & Art History,
School of Fine Arts

Granted Tenure as Professor

Craig Denegar
Physical Therapy,
Neag School of Education

Vasili Kharchenko
Physics,
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Promoted to Associate Professor and Granted Tenure

Thomas Blum
Physics,
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Jennifer Bruening
Kinesiology,
Neag School of Education

John Chandy
Electrical & Computer Engineering,
School of Engineering

Robert Colbert
Educational Psychology,
Neag School of Education

Joanne Conover
Physiology & Neurobiology,
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Jun-Hong Cui
Computer Science & Engineering,
School of Engineering

Dhammika Dharmapala
Economics, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Gabriel Fenteany
Chemistry,
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Wendy Glenn
Curriculum & Instruction,
Neag School of Education

Swapna Gokhale
Computer Science & Engineering,
School of Engineering

Joerg Graf
Molecular & Cell Biology,
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Jeffrey Kinsella-Shaw
Physical Therapy,
Neag School of Education

Gregory Kneidel
English,
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Kangho Lee
Music, School of Fine Arts

James Magnuson
Psychology,
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Ion Mandoiu
Computer Science & Engineering,
School of Engineering

Dorothy (Betsy) McCoach
Educational Psychology,
Neag School of Education

Monika McDermott
Political Science,
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Laurent Michel
Computer Science & Engineering,
School of Engineering

Kristine Nowak
Communication Sciences,
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Mark Overmyer-Velazquez
History,
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Theodore Rasmussen
Animal Science,
College of Agriculture & Natural Resources

Michael Renfro
Mechanical Engineering, School of Engineering

Zeki Simsek
Management,
School of Business

Jiong Tang
Mechanical Engineering,
School of Engineering

Kimberli Treadwell
Psychology,
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Guiling Wang
Civil & Environmental Engineering,
School of Engineering

Shih-Lun (Alex) Wang
Communication Sciences,
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Robert Wyss
Journalism,
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Susanne Yelin
Physics,
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Promoted to Associate Clinical Professor

Fei Wang
Pharmacy Practice,
School of Pharmacy

Granted Tenure as Associate Professor

Janet Fink
Kinesiology,
Neag School of Education

Promoted to Senior Extension Educator

Donna Ellis
Plant Science,
College of Agriculture & Natural Resources

Promoted to Professor-in-Residence

Timothy Dowding
Operations & Information Management, School of Business

Other Promotions

Jill Livingston
University Assistant Librarian,
University Libraries

This list was supplied to the Advance by the Office of the Provost.

Summer session

continued from page 1

Nicholls says. "We need to make more use of our campuses during these traditional down times, and students need certain courses to complete degree requirements and finish in four years. So we need to focus our efforts on such offerings."

Several of the recommendations have already been implemented, including advising students who take only 12 credits per semester – and their parents – that the relatively brief intersession or six-week summer courses offer them a chance to make up credits.

Additional recommendations include further aligning summer and intersession courses to students' wants and needs; offering flexible scheduling; and ensuring a variety of course offerings – especially courses that during the semester create "choke points" or required courses that are currently difficult to obtain.

Nicholls says that establishing a desirable menu of summer courses, with small classes and interesting subjects, will boost enrollment. That, in turn, could help finance other recommendations tied to making the summer experience more enjoyable, he says.

Those recommendations – increased transportation options, plentiful parking, student programming at all campuses that continues into the evening, increased recreational activities, and adding tables, benches, and outdoor coffee bars – would all require funding.

"Building the size of our summer and intersession programs will provide the needed revenue to enable many of the improvements we envisage for our undergraduate student experience," he says.

Recognizing challenges presented by the calendar – Summer Session I begins the day after undergraduate commencement; Summer Session II ends only a week before the start of fall semester – the task force also suggested experimenting with a five-week Summer Session II, which would allow professors and facilities personnel more time to prepare for the fall semester.

CALENDAR

Monday, April 28, to Monday, May 5

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, May 5, through Monday, May 19. Those items must be in the database by 4 p.m. on Monday, April 28.

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

Academics

Friday, 5/2 – Last day of spring semester classes

Friday, 5/5 – Final examinations begin.

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, 4/28 – Economics. *Money, the Economy, and Monetary Policy*, by Kenneth Petersen (adv.: Zimmermann). 9 a.m., Seminar Room, Monteith Building.

Monday, 4/28 – Biomedical Engineering. *Solutions for Clinical Problems of Near Infrared (NIR) Light Imaging Reconstruction with Ultrasound Localization*, by Chen Xu (adv.: Zhu). 10 a.m., Room 336, ITE Building.

Monday, 4/28 – Biomedical Engineering. *Joint Biomechanics During Progressive Resistance and Submaximal Functional Electrical Stimulation – Leg Cycle Ergometry in Spinal Cord Injured People*, by Stephenie Haapala (adv.: Faghri). 11:30 a.m., Room 150, United Technologies 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 EG052, Academic Research Building, Health Center.

Tuesday, 4/29 – Biochemistry. *NMR Studies of Structural Motifs in Protein*

Folding and Ligand Binding, by Christine Sallum (adv.: Alexandrescu). 9 a.m., Room 201, Biology/Physics Building.

Tuesday, 4/29 – Business Administration/Marketing. *An Integrated Framework for Managing Marketing Productivity when Selling Through Intermediary Firms*, by Denish Shah (adv.: Kumar). 9 a.m., Room 321, School of Business.

Tuesday, 4/29 – Educational Leadership. *Parent Involvement and Achievement in Mathematics: An Analysis of a Promising Practice*, by Salvatore Menzo (adv.: Sheckley). 10 a.m., Room 412, Gentry Building.

Tuesday, 4/29 – Curriculum & Instruction. *Please Mind the Culture Gap: A Pre-Service Teacher's Intercultural Development During*

3:30 p.m., Room P121, Gant Science Complex.

Thursday, 5/1 – Educational Psychology. *Self-Regulated Learning: Individual Factors and Environmental Influence*, by Angela Housand (adv.: Reis). 9 a.m., Room 246, Gentry Building.

Thursday, 5/1 – Agricultural & Resource Economics. *Carbonated Soft Drink Consumption: Implications for Obesity Policy*, by Kristen Fantuzzi (adv.: Lopez). 1 p.m., Room 207-208, Young Building.

Thursday, 5/1 – Educational Psychology. *Learning Online: Understanding Academic Success from a Self-Regulated Learning Perspective*, by Anthony Artino, Jr. (adv.: Brown). 1:30 p.m., Room 246, Gentry Building.



PHOTO FROM THE BENTON MUSEUM WEB SITE

A color screenprint by Jenn Dierdorf, part of the Master's of Fine Arts exhibition now on display at the Benton Museum. See Exhibits.

Study Abroad, by Helen Marx (adv.: Moss). 10 a.m., Room 234, Gentry Building.

Tuesday, 4/29 – Anthropology. *Buying into Culture: An Exploration of the Effects of Cultural Conformity on the Island of Mauritius*, by Kristin Kostick (adv.: D'Andrade). 11:30 a.m., Room 425, Beach Hall.

Tuesday, 4/29 – Chemistry. *Mutagenesis Studies of Single and Tandem DNA Damages by Site-Specific Approach*, by Joel Tolentino (adv.: Basu) 12:30 p.m., Room A304, Chemistry Building.

Tuesday, 4/29 – Business Administration/Marketing. *Essays on Product Returns: The Impact of Customer Product Return Behavior on Profitability*, by J. Andrew Peterson (adv.: Kumar). 1 p.m., Room 321, School of Business.

Wednesday, 4/30 – Curriculum & Instruction. *Successful Practices for Differentiated Instructional Reading Conferences: Case Studies of Schoolwide Enrichment Model-Reading Classrooms*, by Sheelah Sweeny (adv.: Reis & Hartman). 11 a.m., Conference Room, Tasker Building.

Wednesday, 4/30 – Clinical Psychology. *Childhood Trauma, Post-Traumatic Cognitions, and Adulthood Mental Health*, by Jaime Marra (adv.: Allen). 11:30 a.m., Room 160, Bousfield Building.

Wednesday, 4/30 – Physics. *Collisions of Highly-Charged Solar-Wind Ions with CO*, by Kenneth Miller (adv.: Kessel).

Friday, 5/2 – Computer Science & Engineering. *Scalable Algorithms for Analysis of Genomic Diversity Data*, by Bogdan Pasaniuc (adv.: Mandoiu). 8:30 a.m., Room 336, ITE Building.

Friday, 5/2 – Computer Science & Engineering. *MRI/fMRI Noise Reduction and Data Analysis*, by Lili He (adv.: Greenshields). 10:30 a.m., Room 360, ITE Building.

Friday, 5/2 – Computer Science & Engineering. *Information Mining Algorithms for Bioinformatics Problems*, by Vishal Thapar (adv.: Rajasekaran). 3:30 p.m., Room 336, ITE Building.

Monday, 5/5 – Materials Science & Engineering. *Physical, Mechanical, and Electrochemical Characterization of All-Perovskite Intermediate Temperature Solid Oxide Fuel Cells*, by Alidad Mohammadi (adv.: Sammes). 9 a.m., Conference Room, Connecticut Global Fuel Cell Center.

Monday, 5/5 – Biomedical Science. *Signaling Pathways that Regulate the Expression of Prx in Mandibular Mesenchyme and the roles of Prx in Mandibular Chondrogenesis*, by Aikaterini-Elisavet Doufexi (adv.: Mina). 2 p.m., Room L7033, L Building, Health Center.

Lectures & Seminars

Monday, 4/28 – Statistics Colloquium. “Uncertainty Quantification and Propagation in Engineering Problems,” by Mircea Grigoriu, Cornell University.

4 p.m., Room 344, CLAS Building. **Tuesday, 4/29 – Social Work Lecture.**

“Black Women, Sexual Trauma, and Binge Eating Disorder: A Preliminary Investigation.” 12:30 p.m., Room 208, School of Social Work.

Tuesday, 4/29 – Stamford Faculty Colloquium. “William Faulkner's Family Crucible,” by Gary Storhoff. 5 p.m., Multi-Purpose Room, Stamford Campus.

Wednesday, 4/30 – Out-to-Lunch Lecture. “Lesbians in the Borderlands,” by Katie Acosta. Noon, Room 403, Student Union.

Wednesday, 4/30 – Human Rights Lecture. “Unspeakable: The Hidden Truth Behind The World's Fastest Growing Crime,” by Raymond Bechard, Ahava Kids. 2:15 p.m., Hogan Lecture Hall, Eads Building, Torrington Campus.

Wednesday, 4/30 – ‘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.

Thursday, 5/1 – Comparative Pathology Seminar. “Pathogenesis of Lethal Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome-Like Disease in the Hamster: Virus-Specific Antibody, Friend or Foe?” by Charles Fulhorst, University of Texas.

Thursday, 5/1 – CHIP Brown Bag Lecture. “Frameworks for Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health: A Systematic Approach to Study Planning, Design, Conduct, and Reporting,” by Brian Mittman, VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System. 12:30 p.m., Room 204, Ryan Building.

Thursday, 5/1 – Condensed Matter Physics Seminar. “Local Structure Determination in Strain Engineered Thin-Film Electronic Materials by X-Ray Absorption Fine Structure and X-Ray Diffraction,” by Joseph Woicik, National Institute of Standards and Technology. 2 p.m., Room P121, Gant Science Complex.

Thursday, 5/1 – Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Seminar. TBA, by Reed Noss. 4 p.m., Room 130, Biology/Physics Building.

Exhibits

Through Monday, 5/12 – Student Union Gallery. *Art Department Show.* Hours: 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Room 310.

Through Sunday, 5/11 – The William Benton Museum of Art. *The 2008 Master of Fine Arts Exhibition;* also, *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. **Through Sunday, 5/11 – Jorgensen Gallery.** *Three Artists,* works by Judith McElhone, Jeffrey Benjamin, and Patricia Carrigan. Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

and prior to most events, Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. **Through Friday, 5/16 – Babbidge Library.** *Remnants, Glyphs and Palimpsests,* paintings by Pamela and Frank Bramble, Gallery on the Plaza and Stevens Gallery.

Through Friday, 5/16 – Dodd Center. *The Ethnic American Press,* Gallery; also, *His & Hers, New Yorker Cartoons,* by Michael Maslin & Liza Donnelly, West Corridor.

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

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.

Performing Arts

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.

Tuesday, 4/29 – Symphonic Band. David Mills, conductor. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Tickets \$7. Free with Student ID.

Thursday, 5/1 – Romantic Masterpieces. The University Symphony, Howard Hsu conductor; The Festival Chorus, Constance Defotis conductor, and Neal Larrabee, piano. Music by Robert Schumann and Beethoven. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Tickets \$7. Free with Student ID.

Friday, 5/2 – By and For Women. The Women's Chorus, Constance Defotis conductor. Music by Poulenc, Faure, Samuel Barber and Aaron Copland. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Tickets \$7. Free with student ID.

Friday, 5/2 through Saturday, 5/3 – Audra MacDonald. 4-time Tony Award-winner sings. 8 p.m., Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets \$34-\$45. For tickets call 860-486-4226.

Saturday, 5/3 – A Minor Spring Concert. UConn's first co-ed a cappella group. 7 p.m., Student Union Theatre. Free admission.

Saturday, 5/3 – Chamber Music Ensembles. Kangho Lee, director. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Free admission.

Film

Monday, 4/28 – Mathematics Film. “Wolfgang Doeblin: A Mathematician Rediscovered.” 3:30 p.m., Room IMS20, Gant Science Complex.

Thursday, 5/1 – Documentary. “Polis Is This: Charles Olson and the Persistence of Place.” 7:30 p.m., Konover Auditorium.

Sports

Tuesday, 4/29 – Baseball vs. Vermont. 3 p.m., J.O. Christian Field.

Wednesday, 4/30 – Baseball vs. Central Connecticut State University. 3 p.m., J.O. Christian Field.

Friday, 5/2 – Baseball vs. Notre Dame. 3 p.m., J.O. Christian Field.

Saturday, 5/3 – Baseball vs. Notre Dame. Noon, J.O. Christian Field.

Saturday, 5/3 – Softball vs. Louisville (Double Header). Noon, Softball Field. **Sunday, 5/4 – Softball vs. South Florida (Double Header).** 11 a.m., Softball Field.

Sunday, 5/4 – Baseball vs. Notre Dame. Noon, J.O. Christian Field.

Potpourri

Monday, 4/28 through Thursday, 5/8 – The Human Cost of War. A traveling memorial that honors American

soldiers and Iraqi civilians who have lost their lives in the Iraq War. 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Student Lounge, Eads Building, Torrington Campus.

Tuesday, 4/29 – Until Someone Wakes Up, A Play. The ‘Performance Education Team’ of Violence Against Women Prevention Program presents a play about gender, consent, and communication. 7 p.m., Rooms 330 & 331, Student Union.

Wednesday, 4/30 – Yiddish Tish Discussion Luncheon. An opportunity to practice Yiddish listening and/or speaking skills in an informal manner. Noon, Room 162, Dodd Center.

Wednesday, 4/30 – LGBT Faculty/Staff Group Gathering. 5:30 p.m., Abigail's Lounge, Nathan Hale Inn.

Wednesday, 4/30 – Author Frank McCourt. Discussion of the creative process, with Frank McCourt. 6:30 p.m., Hogan Lecture Hall, Eads Building, Torrington Campus.

Thursday, 5/1 – Latino Recognition Banquet. Banquet honoring graduating students and faculty, staff, and students who have made a contribution to the Latino community. 5 p.m., Rome Ballroom. RSVP to cindy.schaefer@uconn.edu.

Thursday, 5/1 – Long River Review Publication Party. Readings by student winners of the *Long River Review's* annual awards. 6 p.m., UConn Co-op.

Sunday, 5/4 – Pre-Vet Club Dog Wash. Noon-4 p.m., Kellogg Dairy Center. \$8, small dog; \$10, medium dog; \$12, large dog. Cash only, no checks.

Class of '08 Outstanding Students

May Babcock

BY SHERRY FISHER

Her first drawing class at UConn clinched May Babcock's decision to major in art.

"It was my first studio class, and I really loved it," says Babcock, who will graduate in May with a bachelor of fine arts degree in painting and printmaking. "The professor was exciting; the students were excited. We were all into it, and doing well."

So she put her plans aside to major in art history, opting instead to take that as a minor. "Right now, I'm taking 18th-century European art, and I'm really enjoying it," she says.

Babcock says that landscapes and figures are the subjects of her paintings and prints. "I work a lot from observation," she says. She is currently creating monotypes and lithographs.

Her studio classes are time-consuming, but that hasn't prevented her from earning a 3.9 grade point average, she says: "I try to do my best in each class I take."

She says the studio classes take a lot of extra energy, "but I love the end product."

Babcock has enjoyed, and been inspired by, students and professors in the art department's print shop. "Everybody there works really hard and makes great work," she says.

She notes that the art program offers opportunities to explore different areas in the field: "There is a lot of intermingling among the concentrations, like design, illustration, and photography. You don't have to stick



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

May Babcock, painting and printmaking

strictly to one. You also get to know other students and see each other's work."

Babcock says her professors were "very encouraging, but sometimes very hard on you. A month later, you realize that their criticism made you work even harder to do the best you can do."

Babcock, who plans to attend graduate school at Louisiana State University, says her focus in both painting and printmaking gave her an edge when applying to grad schools. "They saw me as well rounded," she says.

Her future plans include teaching at the college level and continuing to exhibit her work.

Michael Dessalines

BY SHERRY FISHER

Michael Dessalines says getting an education and helping others has always been his dream.

"And thanks to UConn, my dream came true," says Dessalines, who is graduating in May with a master's degree in nutritional sciences. Dessalines grew up in Haiti.

"At UConn, I've had the opportunity to work in a department that is doing cutting-edge research," he says. "I'm lucky to have Professor Rafael Perez-Escamilla as my major advisor and mentor. A student couldn't ask for anyone better to work with."

Dessalines' research focus is on vitamin A, found in sweet potatoes, which make up an important part of the daily diet of poor Haitian families. "Vitamin A deficiency is a real problem in Haiti," he says.

He hopes that the International Potato Center will introduce new varieties of sweet potatoes, developed in Peru, to Haiti. "These sweet potatoes, called orange fleshed, have much more vitamin A than the white fleshed sweet potatoes that are grown locally," Dessalines says. "If they were grown in Haiti, they could help enormously in alleviating vitamin A deficiency and also help farmers develop sustainable agriculture, where they won't have to worry about vitamin A supplements."

He is working through a project funded by the International Center for Tropical Agriculture.

Dessalines went to Haiti and conducted four studies assessing the importance of sweet potatoes in the diet and nutrition of



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Michael Dessalines, nutritional sciences

the community and the severity of food insecurity. The surveys included information on demographics and social and economic status.

"My partial report to the international potato center in Peru revealed that there is definitely a need for these orange fleshed sweet potatoes," he says. They will soon be grown and propagated there.

Dessalines says he values his experiences at UConn and would recommend the institution to others "in a heartbeat."

His future plans include pursuing a Ph.D. in public health and continuing to help alleviate food insecurity in his native country.

Zachary Penwell



PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Zachary Penwell, exercise science

BY SHERRY FISHER

Zachary "Zak" Penwell investigated more than 200 colleges until UConn "blew me out of the water," he says.

Penwell, who will graduate in May with a bachelor's degree in exercise science, had been searching for a program that would prepare him for a career as a strength and conditioning coach.

"UConn had it all," he says.

Penwell, who is married and has two children, came to UConn after serving more than six years in the Air Force, including deployments to Kuwait, Korea, Afghanistan, and Iraq. Before that, he studied for two years at Western Washington University.

"I knew that at some point I wanted to finish and get my degree," he says. "When I

started looking at schools, three criteria had to be met: I wanted to work with high caliber athletes, become involved in research, and work with professors who are well known in the field. Nowhere else came close to what I found here at UConn."

Penwell says he is learning from "the best in the field," specifically mentioning William Kramer, professor of kinesiology, and Gerard Martin, the head strength and conditioning coach in the Division of Athletics.

"The resources are incredible, on both the research side and the applied side," says Penwell, who has worked on research projects including one about resistance training and its effect on bone mineral density. He also currently works with the UConn strength and conditioning staff training the baseball team, and assists with men's and women's track and field, ice hockey, and swimming and diving.

"I've had great hands-on experience," he says.

Penwell has decided to pursue a master's degree in kinesiology at UConn, where he has a graduate assistantship. "I'll have a couple of teams that I'm directly responsible for," he says.

His future goal is to work overseas. "I'd like to get a job with a Third World country's Olympic team," he says. "My wife is a midwife, and we've both done medical missions overseas. We want to go someplace where there's a real need. I would have my job, and we would also set up a free maternity health care clinic."

Colleen Deasy



PHOTO BY DANIEL BUTTREY

Colleen Deasy, family studies and English

BY CURRAN KENNEDY, CLAS '08

The debate on how to improve education for the nation's poor has been going on for decades, but Colleen Deasy is forging ahead with a new campaign, determined to produce results.

Deasy, a human development and family studies and English double major in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, brought Jumpstart, a national organization that pairs college students with preschool children, to the University of Connecticut.

She organized 45 other student volunteers to work with pre-school youngsters from low-income families in Connecticut, helping to prepare the children for

elementary school.

"Preschoolers are at a really interesting age and there's a lot of potential to do something beneficial," Deasy says. "Studies have shown the importance of early intervention, so we work on language, literacy, problem solving, and social skills. We work with children whose families are living below the poverty line, because studies have shown that these children typically start school behind their more affluent peers in all of those areas."

After graduating in May, Deasy will continue her education at Boston College Law School, where she plans to get a JD and a joint master's degree in education.

"I've always liked children and what I'm doing is trying to instill my love of reading and writing in these young kids," she says. "I'd like to represent families with special needs and make changes to the school system so it's more family-friendly and serves children with special needs better."

Deasy says UConn's Office of Community Outreach has been very supportive: "Service is very important to me and I owe a lot of my personal and professional growth to Community Outreach. The staff there inspired me to bring Jumpstart to campus, and through that I've learned a lot of valuable skills that have taught me the value of service."