



## Psychology professor elected AAAS fellow

BY MICHAEL KIRK

UConn psychology professor David A. Kenny has been elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a highly coveted spot in one of the nation's oldest and most prestigious honor societies.

According to the Academy, Kenny is one of 212 new scholars, scientists, artists, civic, corporate, and philanthropic leaders from 20 states and 15 countries to be elected this year.

"I could have never achieved this honor without the many excellent colleagues and students here at the University of Connecticut," said Kenny, who joined UConn in 1978 after serving as an assistant professor at Harvard for six years.

He is the author of six books and has written extensively in the areas of mediational analysis, interpersonal perception, and the analysis of social interaction data. His work is highly quoted, with one paper garnering roughly 10,000 citations. He has lectured and conducted workshops throughout the world, including in Hong Kong, Rome, Geneva, and Amsterdam.

Kenny received his A.B. from the University of California at Davis and his Ph.D. from Northwestern University in 1972.

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PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Kenneth Fuchs, a professor of music, center, with Edward Cumming, left, music director of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, and Richard Todd, principal horn of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, during a rehearsal for the world premiere of Fuchs' orchestral piece *Canticle to the Sun*, at the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts in Hartford in April. The composition is on his new compact disc, released earlier this year.



FILE PHOTO BY MELISSA ARBO

David A. Kenny

## Speaker explores changing concepts of human rights

BY GREGORY HLADKY

An 18th-century Connecticut slave who managed to buy his freedom and that of his family is at the center of a new effort by Anne Hiskes to look at the changing concepts of human identity.

Hiskes, an associate professor of philosophy, said this week that the trigger for her project was a legal dispute over whether the remains of Venture Smith should be exhumed for DNA testing at the request of his descendants.

Smith's remarkable life story was originally told in an autobiography published in 1798, one of America's first slave narratives.

During a luncheon discussion April 29 at UConn's Humanities Institute, Hiskes said the question of "who speaks for Venture Smith" led her to an investigation of how

different societies and different eras have attempted to define humanity and the meaning of human rights.

The role life sciences and genetics can play in the creation of a modern, more inclusive approach to human rights is a central theme of her project, she said.

"I'll argue that science has an important role [in that debate]," she said, adding a caveat that science has often been misused in the past to provide a basis for discriminatory or racist social and political policies.

Hiskes is director of the Program on Science and Human Rights and director of research ethics and education for stem cell research at UConn. She said she is now "in the very early stages" of a 12 to 18-month project to use Venture Smith's story as an entry point for an examination of changing

definitions of human rights.

Historians believe Smith, whose original name was Broteer Furro, was born in or near modern-day Ghana about 1729. He was kidnapped and sold into slavery before the age of 10, and was bought by a family on Fisher's Island off the Connecticut coast in 1738.

After 27 years as a slave, the renamed Venture Smith managed to save enough money to purchase his freedom and eventually the freedom of his wife Meg and their three children. He bought 10 acres of land on Haddam Neck along the Connecticut River in 1775 and worked the farm until his death in 1805.

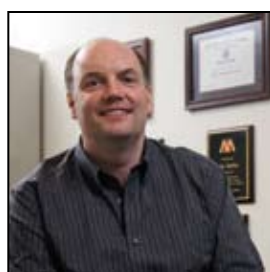
In 2006, Smith's descendants were granted the right to have his and his wife's bodies ex-

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PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

A record number of teams participated this year in oozeball, sponsored by the Alumni Association. The event took place on the lawn between the CLAS Building and Beach Hall on April 26. From left, Christine Sullivan, Chad Jens, Eileen Mars, Alex Dellin, Dan Ratner, and Kailey Lyford, all freshmen.

## Research Foundation announces spring 2008 'Faculty Large Grants'

The Research Foundation's spring 2008 Faculty Large Grants were announced recently.

The goal of these awards is to help faculty move into a better position to apply for and receive extramural funding for their research and scholarly activities.

For the Faculty Large Grant competition, the Research Advisory Council received 61 proposals totaling more than \$1.2 million and made 34 awards totaling more than \$575,000.

The proposals were peer reviewed by members of a standing review panel.

Award recipients are:

**Daniel Adler**, Anthropology, *UConn's Archaeological Field School in Armenian Prehistory: The Razdan Gorge Palaeolithic Project, Armenia*, \$23,523

**Maya Beasley**, Sociology, *Investigating the Role of Counterterrorism and Repression on Terrorist and Non-Violent Activities in the Middle East*, \$3,010

**David Benson**, Molecular & Cell Biology, *Comparative Shotgun Proteomics of Free-Living Versus Plant Symbiotic Nitrogen-fixing Bacteria*, \$24,000

**Edna Brown**, Human Development and Family Studies, *The Divorce Experience in the Context of Race and Gender*, \$3,010

**Richard Christenson**, Civil & Environmental Engineering, *Distributed Real-Time Hybrid Simulation*, \$23,500

**Christophe Dupraz**, Marine Sciences, *Biosphere-Lithosphere Interface: the Role of EPS in the Precipitation of Carbonate Minerals in Biofilms*, \$21,289

**Pamela Erickson**, Anthropology, *Social Context of Sexual Behavior among Emergent Adults: A Pilot Study of Caucasians*, \$26,000

**Till Daniel Frank**, Psychology, *Delay Oscillators of Behavioral Dynamics and Dynamical Diseases*, \$21,593

**Paulo Goes**, Operations & Information Management, *A Study*

*of Late Bidding Behavior in Online Auctions*, \$10,100

**David Goldhamer**, Molecular & Cell Biology, *The Cellular Basis of Heterotopic Ossification*, \$16,300

**Amy Ruth Howell**, Chemistry, *Investigation of a Platinum-Catalyzed Expansion of Oxaspirohexanes to Tetrahydrofurane*, \$20,143

**Randall Hoyt**, Art & Art History, *The Origins and Influence of Graphic Design Pedagogy in the United States during the Mid-to Late 20th Century*, \$10,000

**John Ivan**, Civil & Environmental Engineering, *Investigation of Vehicle Interaction Severity as a Surrogate for Highway Crash Severity*, \$2,500

**Blair Johnson**, Psychology, *Meta-analysis of Psychosocial Interventions to Increase Physical Activity in Cancer Survivors*, \$22,269

**Cynthia S. Jones**, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, *Variation in Structural and Functional Traits Across Diverse Plant Growth Forms*, \$15,225

**Shiva Kotha**, Mechanical Engineering, *Non-invasive Stimulation of Bone Resorption*, \$23,500

**Kathryn Libal**, Human Development and Family Studies, *Analyzing Non-Governmental Politics, U.S. Refugee Policy, and Iraqi Refugees*, \$12,460

**Earl Macdonald**, Music, *The Composition and Recording of Original Works for Jazz Orchestra*, \$20,000

**Mary McGrane**, Nutritional Sciences, *Protective Effects of a Functional Food Compound: Maintaining Osteoblast Lineage Development and Bone Health*, \$23,831

**Tyson Miller**, Chemistry, *Assessment of Stereochemistry Through a Formal Interview*, \$24,688

**Robert F Miller**, Music, *The Wooden Sword: An Opera Workshop*, \$8,064

**Akiko Nishiyama**, Physiology & Neurobiology, *In Vivo Fate Analysis of NG2 Glia Using New*

*Transgenic Mouse Lines*, \$22,294

**Spencer Nyholm**, Molecular & Cell Biology, *Regulation of Mucus Secretions in a Squid/Vibrio Symbiosis*, \$21,000

**Crystal Park**, Psychology, *Health Behavior Change in Breast Cancer Survivors: Project to Collect Pilot Data*, \$17,698

**Heather Read**, Psychology, *Functional Organization of Developmentally Altered Cortex*, \$24,000

**Mark Rudnicki**, Natural Resources Management & Engineering, *Interaction Between Large Coherent Eddies and Tree Sway Motion: Full-Scale Measurement*, \$12,704

**Eric Schultz**, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, *Copulation Kinematics in Poecilia, a Genus of Livebearing Fish*, \$13,304

**Erling Smith**, Civil & Environmental Engineering, *Research on Progressive Collapse and Transportation Security*, \$3,500

**Joan Smyth**, Pathobiology & Veterinary Sciences, *Pathogenesis of Necrotic Enteritis: Investigation of Clostridium perfringens Adhesion to Epithelium and Extracellular Matrix Proteins*, \$16,500

**Wei Sun**, Mechanical Engineering, *Biomechanical Modeling of Percutaneous Transvenous Mitral Annuloplasty*, \$29,805

**Mohammad Tehranipoor**, Electrical & Computer Engineering, *Silicon Design Authentication and Malicious Alteration Detection in Integrated Circuits Using Delay Analysis*, \$23,371

**Nathaniel Trumbull**, Geography, *Urban Waterfront Renewal, Participatory Planning, and Lessons to be Learned in New London and New Bedford: A Comparative Analysis*, \$6,126

**Charles Venator**, Political Science, *Constitutional Exceptions: From Territories to Congressional Apportionment, A Historical Appraisal*, \$9,250

**Randall Walikonis**, Physiology & Neurobiology, *Regulation of Excitatory Synapses of c-Met*, \$21,689

## Mental health conference

A conference on Eliminating Mental Health and Addiction Disparities in Connecticut and Beyond will take place in Rome Ballroom on Tuesday, May 20, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The event, which is intended for researchers, physicians, public health practitioners, social workers, community agencies, and students, is organized by the Connecticut Center for Eliminating Health Disparities among Latinos.

Felipe Gonzalez Castro of Arizona State University will deliver a keynote address on "Acculturation, Drug Abuse, and Mental Disorder in Latino Populations: Current Knowledge, Knowledge Gaps, and Future Directions."

Thomas Kirk Jr., Commissioner

of the state Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, will give a keynote address titled, "Culture? Healthcare Disparities? So what?"

Other topics to be discussed include epidemiology and determinants of mental health and addiction; DNA-guided medicine, mental illness, and advancing personalized healthcare among the Hispanic population; gender disparities in mental health and addiction; and building culturally competent programs.

Registration is free, and lunch will be provided. To register, visit the Conference section of the Center's web site at [www.cehdl.uconn.edu](http://www.cehdl.uconn.edu).

### AAAS fellow *continued from page 1*

In a news release, the Academy notes that other new fellows include Nobel laureates and recipients of Pulitzer and Pritzker prizes, Academy and Grammy awards, and Kennedy Center Honors. Among them are former White House chief of staff James A. Baker III; Linda Buck, a 2004 Nobel laureate who developed a molecular understanding of the sense of smell; and filmmakers Joel and Ethan Coen.

"The Academy honors excel-

lence by electing to membership remarkable men and women who have made preeminent contributions to their fields, and to the world," said Academy President Emilio Bizzi. "We are pleased to welcome into the Academy these new members to help advance our founders' goal of cherishing knowledge and shaping the future."

An induction ceremony will take place in Cambridge, Mass. on Oct. 11.

## Steam outage begins May 11

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.

### Publication notice

This is the last weekly issue of the *Advance* for the 2007-08 academic year. The next issue will be published on May 19.

During the summer, the paper is published on a reduced schedule,

with biweekly issues in May and monthly issues in June and July. We resume weekly publication in August, at the start of the new academic year.

## UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT Advance

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# Health Center Auxiliary steps in to help families of preemies

BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

Ever since he came into the world as a 1-pound, 6-ounce infant – nearly three months premature – Ethan Joseph Nash has been in the Health Center's Newborn Intensive Care Nurseries.

But his prognosis is very good, and it's possible that by the end of May, his parents will be able to take him home to Prairieville, La., some 1,500 miles away.

Toya Nash ended up at the Health Center because she was in Connecticut on business when her waters broke March 6. Her husband Joe got to her bedside that night. Eleven days later, Ethan was born via emergency cesarean section.

Connecticut has become the Nashes' temporary home, and all the while they've been out of work. They have no relatives in the area, so the only way the family could stay together for any length of time would be for the new parents to stay in a hotel.

Joe Nash says he was faced with the options of finding a hotel, handing over a credit card, and hoping that by the time the credit card was maxed out, the baby would be ready to go home, or draining the family's savings, or going home and leaving his wife and baby behind.

Toya Nash's employer agreed to put the couple up at the Homewood Suites on Farm Glen Boulevard, about a half-mile from the Health Center, until March 31. After that, she and her husband had to fend for themselves.

Because of their exceptional circumstances, however, the Nashes were able to get assistance from



PHOTO BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

Toya and Joe Nash of Prairieville, La., with their son, Ethan Joseph, who was born prematurely. At left is Irene Engel, left, facilitator of the Health Center Auxiliary, which is starting a new program to help families with accommodations while their child is in the Newborn Intensive Care Nurseries.

the Lavey Family Fund, available to families in the Newborn Intensive Care Nurseries (formerly known as the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit or NICU) to help with their expenses. And by mid-April, the Nashes were back at Homewood Suites.

"Not having to go back home is important, because my son is here," Joe Nash says. "This is my first child. You want to be there with your baby. You want to be directly involved in his treatment, his diagnosis, his condition, his daily updates, you want to be able to see him ... It's so nice being able

to say, 'I can be here, I can support my wife,' and vice versa, she can support me."

The Nashes are an exceptional case. The Lavey Family Fund is unable to accommodate all parents in need of an extended hotel stay while their baby is in the Newborn Intensive Care Nurseries.

But soon, more families in this type of situation will have similar options.

The UConn Health Center Auxiliary has reached an agreement with Homewood Suites that, starting July 1, the hotel will set aside a two-bedroom, two-bath-

room unit exclusively for families of preterm babies in the care of the Newborn Intensive Care Nurseries. The Auxiliary is paying \$47,000 a year for the accommodations, which will be provided to the families at no cost.

Homewood Suites also will provide daily breakfast, dinner Monday through Thursday, access to its pool and exercise room, wireless Internet, and free shuttle service to and from the Health Center.

The 750-square-foot suite can be shared by two families. Need will be determined by physicians, nurses, and social workers.

"This is probably the greatest gift the Auxiliary can give to the Newborn Intensive Care Nurseries," says Jeanne Lattanzio, coordinator of the March of Dimes Neonatal Family Support Program. "The fact that the parents can stay near to their babies and not have the financial burden is incredible. Having a place to stay close by enables them to be at the bedside, participating in their babies' care and learning about their needs."

John Dempsey Hospital does have four family rooms for use by parents of infants in the Newborn Intensive Care Nurseries.

"But," says nursing manager Maureen Guzzi, "those often are used for grieving parents, whose babies are the sickest of the sick and may only have one night. For babies with a more favorable prognosis, who may be in our care for several weeks, we don't always have enough space for those parents."

Auxiliary facilitator Irene Engel says the new arrangement will address a real need. "I'm very happy about this, very proud we were able to pull this off," she says.

Penny boxes have started to appear throughout the Health Center campus. Engel says the change collected will go toward a plaque for the door and other ways to "make it our own, with things like baby pictures and little gifts and trinkets in the room for the families."

Additionally, the Auxiliary is seeking ideas for a name for the suite and has a suggestion box in the Connucopia Gift Shop. The winning name will be announced at the Auxiliary's annual meeting on June 24.

## Senior class gift to redesign main entrance to Student Union



PHOTO SUPPLIED BY THE UCONN FOUNDATION INC.

Kyle Bellemare, CLAS '08, chair of the senior class gift committee.

BY JENNIFER HUBER

Each year, students coming to the end of their four years at UConn work together to raise funds for a class gift that will mark their legacy. This year's seniors are no different.

The class of 2008 is raising money to redesign the main entrance to the Student Union – the hub of student activity on campus since it opened in the 1950s – and create an inviting central gathering space that will benefit future students, faculty, staff, and visitors. A plaque recognizing the donors will be placed on display in the new space,

named Senior Square.

The Student Union was recently renovated and expanded. After four years and \$80 million, the new "U" opened in August 2006. More than 300 student clubs and activities are coordinated or operated from the building, including leadership programs and UConn's six cultural centers.

"The physical benefit of our gift," says Kyle Bellemare, CLAS '08, chair of the senior class gift committee, "will be a beautiful entrance to a very central location on campus, the Student Union. It will be like a finishing touch to the building that has undergone so many renovations during the past few years."

The goal is to raise \$30,000. To date, seniors have committed more than \$28,500. The gift committee is asking each student to give \$20.08 in commemoration of their graduation year. Fundraising expectations are high, following successful campaigns in the past two years, when seniors raised \$31,000 and \$32,000, respectively.

"The senior class gift is an excellent way for seniors to give something back to the University that has provided us with so much over the past four years," says Belle-

mare. "We have all benefited from private gifts to the University in the past, whether it was for scholarships, building renovations, or technology advancements. This is a great opportunity for seniors to start giving back, ensuring future undergrads similar experiences."

The Senior Square is being designed by juniors in the landscape architecture program as a class project. The effort is led by Kristin Schwab and Mark Westa, both associate professors of landscape architecture in the plant science department in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

The current main entrance to the Student Union is neither functional nor attractive, and the sidewalks leading to it and plantings offer minimal visual interest, say Westa and Schwab. The new plaza will address these multifaceted problems.

"From a functional point of view, the entrance does not provide an exterior gathering or civic space that would be appropriate for a building that serves as the center for the UConn community," says Westa.

By adding new walkways, a variety of plantings, seating, walls, and terraces, the project will give

the main entrance the prominence it deserves, add a beautiful focal point in the heart of the campus, and create a comfortable outdoor space for gathering, says Schwab. The design will address many factors, including automotive and pedestrian traffic on Hillside Road, site grading, and sustainable development practices.

The students' goal is to create a cohesive design that not only fits in with the existing site but also ties together UConn's public venues along Hillside Road, including the Student Union, the Co-op, Gampel Pavilion, the UConn Foundation, Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts, and the parking garages.

Westa says the design project has been an excellent experiential learning tool for students in the landscape architecture program.

"Throughout the program, we have students work on a wide range of projects, from large community planning or urban design to small plazas, but often the spaces are hypothetical or, if they're real, they're too far away for students to visit," he says.

"This project works well with the curriculum because it is a real life project in a place that students can

easily visit."

The design plan is expected to be reviewed soon by the senior class gift committee and campus planners, with groundbreaking anticipated next year.

Bellemare, a double major in economics and political science in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, is enjoying participating in the design process and working with his classmates to give back to UConn.

"This experience has taught me a lot about team building and fund raising," he says. "It's extremely fulfilling to see seniors give back while benefiting the University at the same time."

Fund raising and community involvement are not new responsibilities for Bellemare, who will begin a sales position at Philip Morris after graduating this month. Through his job in the student call center at the UConn Foundation, he has helped bring in private donations for the University. Bellemare also engages in philanthropic and community service activities through the international business fraternity Delta Sigma Pi.

To make a gift to the Senior Square Fund, contact Leanne Proctor at 860.486.1565.

# Management professor studies dynamics of teamwork



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

John Mathieu, the Robert Cizik Chair in Manufacturing and Technology Management, in his office at the School of Business.

BY SCOTT BRINCKERHOFF

What do such diverse settings as a building on fire, a corporate office, a manufacturing floor, or an air traffic control tower have in common?

All are places where teamwork occurs. And they are places where new technology is periodically unveiled in the hope that it will improve results.

Professor John Mathieu, the Robert Cizik Chair in Manufacturing and Technology Management, has long studied team dynamics in such places, the impact of technology on various tasks, and how managers can improve outcomes.

His research has brought him into the worlds of firefighters,

nuclear power plants, pharmaceutical salespersons, aerospace engineers, and air traffic controllers, to name a few. Recently, he's been working with the military to build the most effective teams of American soldiers charged with turning security responsibilities over to their Iraqi counterparts.

"Teams are often incredibly dysfunctional," Mathieu says, even though managers in all sorts of situations readily depend on them. "Teams are not one-size-fits-all, and blending the right people together into an effective team isn't easy."

As teams have spread through the public and private sectors, they have become increasingly 'layered,' Mathieu says. Often, teams work

together in what he calls a 'multi-team system.'

Firefighting illustrates the concept. In a study written with Leslie DeChurch of the University of Central Florida, Mathieu describes firefighters operating in a burning building. To an applied behavioral scientist like Mathieu, such an apparently straightforward exercise in teamwork is highly complex.

The various firefighter teams are charged with such functions as search and rescue, fire suppression, on-site medical care, discovery of potentially explosive stored materials, and ventilation. The teams often consist of both volunteers and professional firefighters from more than one municipality.

Crowd control and media relations must be addressed. Someone has to be in charge of the entire operation, but that's often too much for one person, Mathieu says.

While the teams are united in their mission, the potential for unintended conflict is real, he adds. If the different teams are not carefully coordinated, they may jeopardize each other.

Mathieu describes how a fire-fighting multi-team system functions ideally:

"When the teams first arrive on the scene, the fire suppression and search and rescue teams' goals are linked *sequentially*. The fire suppression teams must get water on the fire before search and rescue operations can commence. Second, the nature of the goal hierarchy shifts as the task cycles unfold over time, and the teams become more *reciprocally* interdependent."

If team dynamics are this complicated at the site of a single building fire, what does that suggest about the difficulty teams face in a more complex situation?

Mathieu uses Hurricane Katrina to illustrate not only the massive challenge of coordinating all the players in the aftermath of such an event, but also to drive home another point: It's better to avoid getting into a bad situation than to expect a team to bail you out after the fact.

"I'm not an expert on Hurricane Katrina," he says, "but there were clear failures on the management side long before the disaster occurred. Political leaders didn't

take steps that might have minimized the loss of life and property damage, which included not only physical measures but also hiring and training the right people to handle crisis situations."

The chemistry needed to transform a group of individuals into an effective team is complex, but it's not the only area Mathieu studies. He also researches how technology can be successfully used to improve teamwork.

One such study involved some 250 pharmaceutical salespeople who call on doctors. Armed with special laptop computers containing more than 90 screens of relevant data, the drug reps visited each doctor's office in their areas an average of 25 times a year.

The computers contained software that allowed researchers to see how often the reps were using particular screens, giving them a glimpse into how easily salespeople adapt to different selling situations.

The study found that putting technology at a salesperson's fingertips provided measurable benefits that included higher sales, greater customer satisfaction, and smarter salespeople.

The laptop selling tools helped both the salesperson and the customer, the study found. But among the sales force, there were still pockets of resistance to the program.

Such a response may fly in the face of common sense, but as Mathieu says, "If common sense is so pervasive, why do we still have 'Dilbert' cartoons?"

# Navy physiologist earns doctorate in educational psychology

BY KALA KACHMAR

Two pilots in the air suddenly become short of breath. Their heads pound, their vision begins to blur. They are becoming hypoxic – oxygen-deprived – as the cabin pressure drops. They must take prompt action if they're to survive.

Lt. Cmdr. Anthony Artino, a Navy aerospace physiologist, is responsible for training pilots in emergency situations like these. And that's why he's at UConn.

Artino, who will graduate this month with a Ph.D. in educational psychology, came to the University three years ago to learn how to better train his students.

Once every three years, the Navy chooses one aerospace physiologist from a group of about 100 to receive a full scholarship for a Ph.D. with pay. Artino was chosen. The only catch was he had to finish in three years.

"I chose the educational psychology program because I want to learn how best to train the people I work with," he says. "I'm responsible for teaching them how to survive in emergency situations."

Artino has a bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering, a master's in cardiopulmonary and high altitude physiology, and a master's in instructional systems.

"I already know the necessary 'science' part of my job," Artino

says. "I was interested in learning more about the teaching and learning aspects of what I do."

Artino's dissertation is about improving the effectiveness of online learning.

"I've been developing survey instruments to determine the beliefs, emotions, and behaviors of those who do well in online courses and those who do not," he says. "Online learning is a great tool if students are willing to get engaged."

He has also been examining how negative emotions affect performance, and how the difference between a course being optional and a course being required affects student performance.

During his time at UConn, Artino has had 11 peer-reviewed journal articles accepted for publication, with seven already published. He has also presented 16 different papers at various international, national, and regional conferences, including several papers for the American Education Research Association (AERA), one of the biggest and most prestigious research associations in the field.

"Tony is one of the most productive graduate students I've ever had," says Scott Brown, professor of educational psychology, his advisor.

This year, Artino won the



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Ph.D. candidate Anthony Artino, an aerospace physiologist with the U.S. Navy, will graduate this month from the educational psychology program.

Outstanding Doctoral Student Research Award from the Neag School of Education. He also won the Lorne H. Woollatt Distinguished Paper Award from the Northeastern Educational Research Association, and the Ellingson Distinguished Paper Award for a paper he published in *Aviation, Space, and Environmental Medicine*.

He worked as a research assistant for the Teachers for a New Era project, an initiative of the Carn-

egie Corp. of New York to improve the quality of teaching by bringing better teacher education programs to higher education institutions.

In addition to his other responsibilities, Artino was president of the Neag Graduate Student Association in 2007-08, and previously served as student representative to his program's faculty council.

"He brought back the voice of the students to the cognition and instruction program," Brown says.

Artino also co-taught an un-

dergraduate course in educational psychology, and was the instructor for a graduate course in learning theories last summer.

He has been assigned after graduation to the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md., as an assistant professor in the department of preventive medicine.

"My plan," he says, "is to keep my hand in the research world as I go along in my naval career."

# Start-up company benefits from incubator space on campus

BY DAVID BAUMAN

Because the cost of developing new medicines is so high, pharmaceutical companies have started outsourcing research and development to countries such as China and India. Yadagiri Pendri has a different idea: Do such work in a start-up company based at UConn.

"The pharmaceutical outsourcing industry is still very much in its infancy," says Pendri, founder and CEO of Escientia Life Sciences, the newest client in UConn's Technology Incubation Program. "The reason companies like Escientia can exist," he explains, "is because the cost of research of pharmaceutical companies doing research in-house is just too high."

He founded Escientia in October 2007, with a vision for the company to partner with biotechnology and biopharmaceutical companies in drug discovery, development, and manufacturing.

Faced with regulatory changes, complex patent laws, global clinical trials, and an urgent need to minimize the development time of new drugs and medicines, many major drug companies are turning to outsourcing, or shifting work to contractors. It's no longer viable for these companies to carry out in-house the various processes that extend from drug discovery all the way to drug manufacture and commercialization.

Pendri sees an opportunity

there. "Escientia will seek long-term collaborations with research-based drug makers," he says, "and provide cost-effective resources by leveraging its capabilities in discovery, process development, analytical chemistry, and project management."

For 20 years, Pendri led process teams developing drugs at Bristol-Myers Squibb's research labs in Princeton and New Brunswick, N.J. He relocated in 1999 to the pharmaceutical company's Wallingford site to establish a process research and development department.

In 2005, he co-founded Expicor Inc., a pharmaceutical research company based in New York and India that specialized in developing new chemical synthetic routes of targeted compounds and worked with more than 10 companies.

Pendri also led a team that was responsible for the development of the formulation and manufacturing of entecavir, a drug to treat Hepatitis B that was approved by the Food and Drug Administration in 2005. He holds a Ph.D. in synthetic organic chemistry from the National Chemical Laboratory in Pune, India; has published 35 articles in chemical and biological journals; and is co-inventor on 12 U.S. patents.

He said Escientia will help collaborators identify biologically active compounds and provide re-



PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Yadagiri Pendri heads a new start-up, one of the companies in the University's Technology Incubator Program.

search to move them into clinical trials. The company is also developing new proprietary medicines on its own to treat diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis. Such drugs tend to have small profit margins, and hence are not widely explored by big pharmaceutical companies.

"Our goal," he says, "is to develop chemical processes and technologies that are cost-effective, safe, environmentally friendly, and practical for manufacturing drugs of high quality."

Escientia, which has moved

into laboratory space at the Storrs campus, is the 16th company in the University's Technology Incubation Program (TIP), says Rita Zangari, the program's executive director. TIP allows new companies that have a technology linkage or synergistic relationship with the University to be located on campus and have access to the unique resources available in an academic setting that would otherwise be unattainable for a fledgling company, she says.

The presence of such companies is also beneficial to faculty and

students.

"A key reason Pendri's company was allowed TIP space," says Zangari, "is that his services and expertise could provide support to faculty interested in drug discovery, with the potential for valuable collaboration."

Pendri notes that with Escientia on campus, more chemistry students may become interested in drug discovery and development and understand the full range of research experience required to take a molecule from the laboratory to market.

## Medical/dental program boosts high schoolers' interest in field

BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

Dozens of potential medical and dental students have already heard their first lectures at the UConn Health Center, even though they wouldn't matriculate for four more years at the earliest.

Sixty-nine students from 16 Connecticut schools took part in this year's High School Mini Medical/Dental School, a program of the Health Center's Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs.

"The goal is to inform and excite students about cutting-edge basic science research that is being conducted by some of the outstanding professors at the Health Center," says Dr. Marja Hurley, associate dean of the medical school and program director. "These students also heard lectures from outstanding physicians and dentists who provide care to patients."

Over the course of nine weeks, 16 faculty members gave presentations. The students were presented with diplomas April 24.

"I like how the doctors talk about where they come from and the goals they set to become a doctor, and they try to motivate you to do what you have to do in order to reach where they are, or even higher," says Deezana Minnifield, a sophomore at Hartford's Weaver

High School, who sees herself as a future gynecologist. "I got a lot out of it. It just makes me want to become a doctor even more."

Weaver sophomore Samarlie Stewart says the program inspired her to consider becoming either a surgeon or a dentist. "It exposed us to different illnesses and areas of medicine," she says, "and gave us an idea of what we want to become."

Dr. Biree Andemariam, who

lectured on sickle cell disease, says she's living proof of the impact this type of program can have.

"It was through a similar experience when I was in high school that I decided I wanted to be a doctor," Andemariam says. "Up until then, I thought I would be an engineer."

Some students, like Glastonbury High School senior Lauren Hutchinson, already knew they wanted to get into medicine. She

says she particularly enjoyed the presentations on neurology, oncology, and dentistry. Next year, Hutchinson will start the pre-medical program at Simmons College in Boston.

Caitlyn Gaetani, a senior at Kennedy High School in Waterbury, says she has always wanted to work in medicine. "I'm just not sure what field in medicine yet, so this is helping me," she says.

Both students and faculty left

impressions on each other.

"The students are bright, curious, ask questions, and stay alert throughout the lectures that come after a long week of classes," says Dr. David Papermaster, whose presentation was titled "What Do Green-eyed Frogs Tell Us About Blindness?" "After the lectures, they come forward to ask more questions, or get an e-mail address to send in additional questions," he says. "What more can a teacher ask?"

Dr. Peter Schulman, who lectured on cardiology, says, "I really enjoy the enthusiasm of the high school students. Their questions are often right on target and force us to rethink how we explain complex topics to students."

Hurley says some of the students who attended the first program 12 years ago have completed medical school and are now in residency programs.

Dr. David Rowe, who discussed stem cell research, says "The Mini Medical/Dental School program should be a paradigm for how the University can have a larger impact on the secondary school population to draw a larger number of Connecticut students to our university, select a career in the sciences, and eventually practice that career within the state."



PHOTO BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

Dr. Edward Thibodeau, associate dean of the School of Dental Medicine, gives a presentation on oral health and disease to high school students in the Mini Medical/Dental School.

## GRANTS

The following grants were received through the Office for Sponsored Programs (OSP) in March 2008. The list represents only new proposals awarded, and excludes continuations. The list is supplied to the *Advance* by OSP. Additional grants received in March will be published in a future issue.

Prin. Investigator	Department	Sponsor	Amount	Award Period
Alphabetical, by Principal Investigator				
Aindow, M.	Institute of Materials Science	United Technologies-Pratt & Whitney	\$30,000	9/07-4/08
<i>TEM Characterization of SAM Al (J. Garofano)</i>				
Andrew, S.	Animal Science	Walker (George) Milk Research Fund	\$20,250	3/08-12/08
<i>Use of Ultrasound Technology to Reduce Intramammary Infections in Heifers During the Pre-partum Period</i>				
Bahr, B.	Pharmaceutical Sciences	Nat'l. Insts. of Health /Nat'l. Inst. on Drug Abuse/MAKScientific, LLC	\$43,282	9/07-7/08
<i>New Drugs to Enhance Endocannabinoid Responses for Treating Excitotoxicity, Small Business Innovation Research Phase I</i>				
Boelsterli, U.	Pharmaceutical Sciences	Helsinn Healthcare SA	\$7,600	11/07-8/09
<i>Mechanisms of Nimesulide Hepatotoxicity: Possible Role of Reactive Metabolites</i>				
Boggs, S.	Institute of Materials Science	Dept. of Defense/Air Force/Universal Technology Corp.	\$95,701	2/08-4/10
<i>Processing and Surface Analysis of Interfaces in Hybrid Composites</i>				
Bruening, J.	Kinesiology	City of Hartford, Conn.	\$18,000	7/07-8/09
<i>Husky Sport / Husky Nutrition: A Partnership for Promoting Healthy Lifestyles</i>				
Bucklin, A.	Marine Sciences	University of Rhode Island	\$4,932	3/08-4/08
<i>Charter of Research Vessel Connecticut by University of Rhode Island to Recover Tripod</i>				
Bucklin, A.	Marine Sciences	University of Rhode Island	\$427	2/08-3/08
<i>Provide Dive Services to the University of Rhode Island</i>				
Chrysochoou, M.	Civil & Environmental Engineering	Schnabel Engineering North LLC	\$6,000	3/08-4/08
<i>Analysis of Al-Rich Powders</i>				
Chrysochoou, M.	Civil & Environmental Engineering	National Chromium Co. Inc.	\$7,500	2/08-5/08
<i>Treatability Study of Cr-Contaminated Soil in National Chromium Facility</i>				
Civco, D.	Natural Resources Mgmt. & Engineering	Environmental Protection Agency	\$15,442	2/08-12/09
<i>Fifth International Workshop on the Analysis of Multi-Temporal Remote Sensing Imagery</i>				
Colbert, R.	Educational Psychology	Futures Inc.	\$13,000	8/07-5/08
<i>Counseling Internship - J. Hardwick</i>				
Colbert, R.	Educational Psychology	Futures Inc.	\$13,000	8/07-5/08
<i>Counseling Psychology Internship - A. Morris</i>				
Colbert, R.	Educational Psychology	Futures Inc.	\$13,000	8/07-5/08
<i>Counseling Psychology Internship - E. Frenette</i>				
Colbert, R.	Educational Psychology	Futures Inc.	\$13,000	8/07-5/08
<i>Counseling Psychology Internship - E. Hayden</i>				
Colbert, R.	Educational Psychology	Futures Inc.	\$27,356	8/07-5/08
<i>Counseling Internship - D. Thomsen</i>				
Ellis, D.	Plant Science	U.S. Dept. of Agriculture /Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service	\$9,350	1/08-12/08
<i>Biocontrol Work Plan for Calendar Year 2008</i>				
Ellis, D.	Plant Science	U.S. Dept. of Agriculture /Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service	\$5,500	1/08-12/08
<i>Noxious Weeds Work Plan for Calendar Year 2008</i>				

Human rights *continued from page 1*

homed, in an effort to discover more about their legendary ancestor and his origins. Hiskes said Smith's descendants were "turning to science to supplement their sense of identity."

The project was carried out despite a legal protest that the exhumation would be disrespectful to Smith and his legacy.

Hiskes said the researchers found to their dismay that Connecticut's acid soil had left them little to work with and thwarted the effort to trace Smith's DNA.

According to Hiskes, the debate over who should speak for Venture Smith and what role science may have in researching who he was can serve as a starting point for a wide-ranging discussion of how the definition of humanity has evolved.

In her talk, Hiskes argued that the 18th-century Enlightenment concept of human rights failed to include women and children as part of the social contract. She added that many Western thinkers in that era did not consider Africans to be rational human be-

ings and excluded them from the concept of human rights.

She said that attitude was at least partially responsible for a situation in which Thomas Jefferson could pen stirring sentiments about the equality of all men while continuing to own slaves. In his autobiography, said Hiskes, Smith was "speaking for all those whose humanity had been denied."

But the definition of human rights, partially through the efforts of modern science, is changing to include women, children, the disabled, and minorities, Hiskes said.

"All humans share the same genome," she said.

Hiskes also pointed to differing, non-Western concepts being offered by some African nations and thinkers, such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa. Tutu has expressed the idea that "a person is a person through other persons," rather than being defined as an isolated individual with specific individual rights and obligations.

Faustman, C.	Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture	Conn. Dept. of Higher Education	\$100,000	9/07-6/08
<i>Personal Services Agreement with Iowa State University for Veterinary College Contract Positions for Qualified Connecticut Residents</i>				
Fitzgerald, W.	Marine Sciences	National Science Foundation	\$232,579	5/08-4/11
<i>Collaborative Research: Mercury Biogeochemistry on the Continental Shelf and Slope</i>				
Frisman, L.	School of Social Work, Instruction & Research	Nat'l. Insts. of Health/ Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Adm./ Conn. Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services	\$22,400	2/08-6/08
<i>Aged-Out Youths in the Adult System II</i>				
Frisman, L.	School of Social Work, Office of Dean	Conn. Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services	\$225,211	6/07-5/10
<i>Evaluation of Advanced Supervision and Intervention Support (ASIST) Program</i>				
Gao, P.	Institute of Materials Science	United Technologies Research Center	\$19,395	3/08-8/08
<i>Synthesis of ZnO Nanostructures as Field Emitters</i>				
Grillo, M.	Dept. of Extension	New Haven Board of Education	\$22,500	1/08-6/08
<i>The 4-H Horticultural Program</i>				
Johnson, B.	Psychology	National Science Foundation	\$7,993	3/08-2/09
<i>Doctoral Dissertation Award in S&amp;S: Daily Diary Study of Hispanic Culture, Identity, and Health (M. Boynton)</i>				
Kalichman, S.	Psychology-Center for Health, Intervention & Prevention	Nat'l. Insts. of Health /Nat'l. Inst. of Mental Health	\$2,729,710	2/08-1/13
<i>HIV Treatment Adherence Intervention for People with Poor Literacy Skills</i>				
Kehle, T.	Educational Psychology	Winchester Public Schools, Winsted	\$12,333	8/07-5/08
<i>School Psychology Internship - S. Reddy</i>				
Kehle, T.	Educational Psychology	Futures Inc.	\$12,497	8/07-5/08
<i>School Psychology Internship - C. Breton</i>				
Kehle, T.	Educational Psychology	Willington Public Schools, Willington	\$29,238	8/07-5/08
<i>School Psychology Internship - S. Loftus</i>				
Kehle, T.	Educational Psychology	Marblehead Public Schools	\$23,636	8/07-5/08
<i>School Psychology Internship - P. Tentindo</i>				
Kendall, D.	Molecular & Cell Biology	Nat'l. Insts. of Health/ Nat'l. Inst. of General Medical Sciences	\$1,456,232	3/08-2/12
<i>Redesign of Structural Regions of Alkaline Phosphatase</i>				
Kraemer, W.	Kinesiology	Dept. of Defense/Army /Inst. of Environmental Medicine	\$162,600	12/07-11/08
<i>Maximizing the Osteogenic Properties of Plyometric Exercise to Induce Optimal Structural Adaptations in Bone and Muscle: Effects on Endocrine and Cellular Controls</i>				
Kraus, C.	Center for Survey Research & Analysis	Conn. Dept. of Public Health	\$21,000	1/08-6/08
<i>Sickle Cell Project</i>				
Kraus, C.	Center for Survey Research & Analysis	Conn. Children's Medical Center	\$4,400	2/08-7/08
<i>Physicians Survey</i>				
Loturco, J.	Physiology & Neurobiology	Nat'l. Insts. of Health/ Nat'l. Inst. of Child Health & Human Development	\$1,622,615	3/08-1/13
<i>Dyslexia Susceptibility Genes and Mechanisms of Neuronal Development</i>				
Luh, P.	Electrical & Computer Engineering	Alstom Power Corp.	\$41,754	8/08-1/09
<i>Power Plant Boiler Modeling and Optimization, Phase VII</i>				



PHOTO BY JESSICA TOMMASELLI

Anne Hiskes, professor of philosophy, right, discusses how changing definitions of humanity have shaped the concept of human rights. Also shown is Ruth Millikan, professor emerita of philosophy.

## CALENDAR

Monday, May 5 to Monday, May 19

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 19, through Monday, June 2. Those items must be in the database by 4 p.m. on Monday, May 5. 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, 5/5** – Final examinations begin.

**Saturday, 5/10** – Final examinations end.

**Saturday, 5/10** – Graduate School Commencement.

**Saturday, 5/10 and Sunday, 5/11** – Undergraduate Commencement ceremonies. For a complete list of events go to: [commencement.uconn.edu](http://commencement.uconn.edu)

**Tuesday, 5/13** – Deadline for submitting spring semester grades via Student Administration System.

**Sunday, 5/18** – Law School Commencement.

**Sunday, 5/18** – Health Center Commencement.

## Libraries

**Homer Babbidge Library.** Hours: 5/5-5/10, open 24 hrs.; 5/10, closes 6 p.m. Starting 5/11, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, noon-5 p.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.** 5/5-5/9, 8 a.m.-midnight. 5/10-5/11, 9 a.m.-11 p.m. 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: 5/5-5/10, Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-10 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed weekends. Starting 5/11, Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed weekends.

**Greater Hartford Campus Library.** Hours: 5/5-5/10, Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday & Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Starting 5/12, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., closed weekends.

**Stamford Campus Library.** Hours: 5/5-5/10, Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-10 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, closed. Starting 5/12, Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, closed.

**Torrington Campus Library.** Hours: 5/5-5/10, Monday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; Friday-Sunday, closed. Starting 5/12, Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-3 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. Starting 5/12, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; closed weekends.

## University ITS

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

## Meetings

**Thursday, 5/15 – Parking Advisory Committee.** 10 a.m., Room 321, School of Business.

**Thursday, 5/15 – Capital Projects Planning Advisory Committee.** 3 p.m., Room 7, Bishop Center.

## Ph.D. Defenses

**Monday, 5/5 – Materials Science and 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 – Marketing.** *Essays on Cross-Buying in a Non-Contractual Setting: Why, What, When, and How Much*, by Morris George (adv.: Kumar). 10:30 a.m., Room 321, School of Business.

**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.:

as *Mucosal Adjuvants*, by SreeRupa Challa (adv.: Silbart). 9 a.m., Room 329, Agricultural Biotechnology Laboratory Building.

**Wednesday, 5/7 – Marketing.** *Technology Adoption and Performance in the Sales Force*, by Luke Weinstein (adv.: Srinivasan). 10 a.m., Room 302, School of Business.

**Wednesday, 5/7 – Genetics & Genomics.** *A Novel Forensic Approach to DNA Database Construction and Population Genetics Analysis*, by Craig O'Connor (adv.: Strausbaugh). 10:30 a.m., Room 209, Beach Hall.

**Wednesday, 5/7 – Developmental Psychology.** *The Effect of Adolescent Popularity on Alcohol Use and Depression in Emerging Adulthood*, by Dagmara Laszkowski (adv.: Cillessen). 1 p.m., Room 160, Bousfield Building.

**Wednesday, 5/7 – Spanish.** *Literatura liminal y movilizacion social: las transformaciones del campo cultural chileno durante el regimen militar*, by Leonardo Palacios (adv.: Gomes). 2 p.m., Room 221, Arjona Building.

**Thursday, 5/8 – Computer Science & Engineering.** *Discrepancy and Isotopy for Manifold Approximations*, by Lance Miller (adv.: Russell). 10 a.m., Room 336, ITE Building.

**Thursday, 5/8 – English.** *Post-Apartheid and Its Representation: The Interregnum as Motif in Selected South*

Room 311, Arjona Building. **Thursday, 5/8 – Industrial/Organizational Psychology.** *Impact of Organizational Justice Perceptions on Intent to Participate in Career-Related Development Activities*, by Norm Perreault (adv.: Barnes-Farrell). 3 p.m., Room 160, Bousfield Building.

**Friday, 5/9 – Educational Psychology.** *Last Stop: The Use of a Community-Based Program for Vulnerable, Talented Youth to Reduce the Risk of First-Time Involvement with the Juvenile Justice System*, by Carlita Baldwin (adv.: Renzulli & Karan). 10 a.m., Room 15, Tasker Building. **Friday, 5/9 – Ecology.** *Post-Copulatory Sexual Selection and the Evolution of Species-Specific Male and Female Genitalia in Scarab Beetles from the Phyllophaga fraterna Species Group*, by Maxi Polihronakis (adv.: Henry). 1 p.m., Room 130, Biology/Physics Building.

**Thursday, 5/15 – Kinesiology.** *Histological and Molecular Analysis of the Biceps Tendon Long Head Post-Tenotomy*, by Michael Joseph (adv.: Maresh). 9 a.m., Room 142, Gentry Building.

**Thursday, 5/15 – Spanish.** *Exile and Identity Formation in the Autobiographies of Twentieth Century Spanish Women Writers*, by Karla Zepeda (adv.: Herzberger) 2:15 p.m., Room 211, Arjona Building.

## Lectures &amp; Seminars

Mathematical Framework for Understanding the Biology of Cancer,” by James Michaelson, Harvard Medical School. 1 p.m., Room 131, Biology/Physics Building.

**Sunday, 5/18 – Museum of Natural History Lecture.** “Severe Weather in Southern New England,” by Glenn Field, NOAA and National Weather Service. 3 p.m., Room 130, Biology/Physics Building. Free admission.

## Exhibits

**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. Free admission.

**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 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 Palimpsests*, paintings by Pamela and Frank Bramble, Gallery on the Plaza and Stevens Gallery. For hours, see Libraries section.

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

**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.

## Potpourri

**Through Thursday 5/8 – The Human Cost of War.** A traveling memorial that honors and bears witness to the 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.

**Friday, 5/9 – Museum of Natural History Lecture.** “Look Up – Between the Winter and Summer Milky Way,” by Cynthia Peterson. Session concludes with a trip to the UConn Observatory. Bring binoculars. For adults and children ages 8 and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult. \$15, or \$10 for Museum members. Call 860-486-4460 to register.

**Saturday, 5/10 – Museum of Natural History Workshop.** “Spring Peeper Seekers,” field-based workshop with Jen O'Brien. 7 p.m. For adults and children ages 8 and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult. \$15 (\$10 for Museum members). Call 860-486-4460 to register.

**Saturday, 5/17 – Museum of Natural History Workshop.** “Outdoor Digital Photography,” field-based workshop with Janet Pritchard. 10 a.m.-noon. For adults and children ages 8 and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult. \$15 (\$10 for Museum members). Call 860-486-4460 to register.

**Saturday, 5/17 – Faculty Book Signing.** Emeritus professor Shelly Frome will sign copies of his book *Tinseltown Riff*, set in Hollywood. 2 p.m., Hickory Stick Bookshop, 2 Greenhill RD., Washington Depot, Conn.



PHOTO FROM THE BENTON MUSEUM WEB SITE

*Blue Board*, a work by Matt Jensen, part of the Master's of Fine Arts exhibition now on display at the Benton Museum.

Mina), 2 p.m., Room L7033, L Building, Health Center.

**Monday, 5/5 – Biomedical Science.** *Role of Mechanosensitive Channels in Growth and Differentiation of Bacillus subtilis*, by Paul Wahome (adv.: Setlow). 3 p.m., Room 2034, L Building, Health Center.

**Tuesday, 5/6 – Human Development & Family Studies.** *Retrospective Accounts of Having Been Bullied in School: A Narrative Analysis*, by Diane King-Shaw (adv.: Anderson). 10 a.m., Dean's Lounge, Family Studies Building.

**Tuesday, 5/6 – Clinical Psychology.** *Relationships Between Multiple Appraisals of Health Risk and Indices of Physical and Psychological Health*, by Robert Wachen (adv.: Allen). 11 a.m., Room 160, Bousfield Building.

**Wednesday, 5/7 – Animal Science.** *Mucosal Vaccination Against Foot & Mouth Disease Using Bacterial Toxins*

*African Novels*, by Ernest Cole (adv.: Coundouriotis). 10:30 a.m., Room 217, CLAS Building.

**Thursday, 5/8 – English.** *Michelle Cliff: History, Fiction, Agency, and Frontier Consciousness*, by Lois Coleman (adv.: Makowsky). 12:30 p.m., Room 217, CLAS Building.

**Thursday, 5/8 – Ecology & Evolutionary Biology.** *Declining Desmodium cuspidatum (Muhl. Ex Wild.) DC. Ex D. Loud.: Multiple Approaches to Solving a Unique Conservation Problem*, by Krissa Skogen (adv.: Holsinger). 1 p.m., Room 130, Biology/Physics Building.

**Thursday, 5/8 – Anthropology.** *The Free African American Cultural Landscape, Newport, RI, 1774-1826*, by Akeia Benard (adv.: McBride). 1 p.m., Room 404, Beach Hall.

**Thursday, 5/8 – Linguistics.** *Degrees and Amounts in Relative Clauses*, by Simona Herdan (adv.: Sharvit). 2 p.m.,

**Monday, 5/5 – Milton Sorokin Law Symposium.** “The First Amendment: How Free are We?” by author Anthony Lewis. 7 p.m., Auditorium, Greater Hartford Campus, Asylum Ave., West Hartford.

**Tuesday, 5/6 – Discovery Series & Wellness Lecture.** “A Winning Smile.” 7 p.m., Keller Auditorium, Main Building, Health Center.

**Thursday, 5/8 – Sociology Symposium.** A symposium of research on urban topics by graduate students. Three sessions: 10-11:30 a.m.; 1-2:30 p.m.; 2:45-3:15 p.m., Lounge, Manchester Hall.

**Thursday, 5/8 – CHIP Brown Bag Lecture.** “Public Opinion Resources on Health Care Issues,” by Mark Abrahamson and Lois Timms-Ferrara. 12:30 p.m., Room 204, Ryan Building.

**Thursday, 5/8 – Molecular & Cell Biology Seminar.** “A New

# Class of '08 Outstanding Students

## Daniel Melchor



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Daniel Melchor, social work

BY SHERRY FISHER

Daniel Melchor grew up in one of the poorest neighborhoods in Mexico City.

"My dad passed away when I was four years old, and my mother raised six children by herself," he says. "It wasn't easy for us, but we were helped by a variety of government programs."

That's why Melchor, who is graduating this month with a master's degree in social work, decided to enter that field.

"I wanted to provide service to others in the same ways that my family was helped," he says. "Social work was the natural place for doing this."

His area of focus is administration.

Melchor, who holds a bachelor's degree from the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, took courses through the Staff Training and Education for the Profession (STEP) program for two years before

matriculating in the social work master's program. STEP offers credit courses and non-credit continuing professional education programs.

Before moving to the United States in 2003, he worked for the Mexican Association for Rural and Urban Transformation as program coordinator for a micro-credit program for people with low incomes.

He is currently a case manager for the Supportive Housing for Families Program at The Connection Inc., where he works with homeless people and families at risk of homelessness.

In addition to his full-time job, Melchor is completing a 15-hour a week internship at the School's Center for International Social Work Studies, and chairs the Latin American Student Organization.

He says his experience as the School of Social Work has been wonderful.

"The STEP program really helped me get started and learn about graduate school in the United States," he says. "I didn't speak English very well, so it was hard to communicate, but the teachers and students were supportive and encouraged me to participate. And when I became a full-time student, the professors were very helpful and allowed me to go at my own speed."

Melchor has served as chair of the Latin American Student Organization. "Latin Americans in the U.S. face many issues regarding immigration, poverty, language, income, and jobs," he says. "In the School of Social Work, there's a big population of Latin American students who are very active."

Melchor's future plans include pursuing a doctorate related to public policy or international development.

## Marshall Dougherty



PHOTO BY JESSICA TOMMASELLI

Marshall Dougherty, business

BY SHERRY FISHER

When Marshall Dougherty took his first course in the business school's operations and information management department, he was hooked.

"It really clicked for me," says Dougherty, an honors student who will graduate this month with a bachelor's degree in business. He majored in management information systems.

For his honors thesis, he designed a university information system from the student perspective. "I looked at HuskyMail and PeopleSoft and brainstormed ideas for how to streamline different processes like course selection," he says. "I also suggested ways to make user interfaces more intuitive."

Dougherty received this year's Outstanding Senior Award in the operations and

information management department, and was recently inducted into the School of Business 2008 Student Hall of Fame.

Dougherty, whose GPA is 3.86, says he found his professors "very approachable." In my department, the class sizes, in general, were very small. I got to know almost all my professors on a first-name basis. They were willing to take time out of their schedule to address whatever concerns I might have."

He adds, "Not everyone in my major came in with a lot of IT skills. The professors allowed you to learn the basics, but if you wanted to take something to the next level, they encouraged you to do that."

Dougherty has been actively involved in campus and community activities: He has been a community assistant in North Campus for three semesters, is a member of the Business Student Leadership Council and a member of the UConn Men's Project through the Women's Center, and is co-president and webmaster of the Information Management Association. He was also a campus "big buddy" with the Office of Community Outreach, and a health education department peer educator volunteer, and belonged to the Karate and Jujutsu clubs.

"I learned as much from the extracurriculars as from my classes," he says. "They were a vital part of my development. What makes UConn such a great place is the combination of great classroom instruction and abundant extracurricular opportunities."

After graduation, he plans to join Deloitte & Touche in Hartford as a consultant in the data quality & integrity department.

## Lynn O'Connor

BY SHERRY FISHER

Lynn O'Connor has loved being around babies for as long as she can remember.

As a student at UConn, she was able to do just that – at the Health Center's Newborn Intensive Care Nurseries (formerly known as the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit or NICU).

O'Connor, who will graduate this month with a bachelor's degree in nursing, helped develop an evaluation plan to assess a family support program at the Health Center. She will also graduate as an Honors Scholar.

O'Connor and two other nursing students worked on an evaluation plan to assess a part of the program that offers support to parents whose babies are born prematurely. The work was done in collaboration with the March of Dimes.

Preemies in the Health Center's NICN are there for months at a time, says O'Connor. While group support is offered to their parents, a new program offers parent-to-parent support, with volunteers who previously had premature babies in the NICN.

"The volunteers walk around the unit, and offer to talk to parents at their baby's bedside," O'Connor says.

Her team developed an evaluation to assess the effectiveness of the parent-to-parent support program. It included questions about whether the program helped ease anxiety, fears, and stress.

"We're still collecting data, O'Connor says, "but so far the program is working. I think it works because it's more personal



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Lynn O'Connor, nursing

than a group setting. Parents can be intimidated in a larger setting, and don't want to speak up. Also, they can be right at their baby's bedside talking to people who have experienced the same thing."

O'Connor says the nursing program has prepared her well for the profession.

"Nursing students get a lot of experience that prepares us for the real world," she says. "Being hands-on is the best way to learn."

O'Connor has already landed a job working at the Health Center's NICN as a registered nurse starting in July. She also hopes to return to UConn in the future to pursue a master's degree with a focus on neonatal nursing.

## Phillis Kwentoh

BY CURRAN KENNEDY, CLAS '08

Phillis Kwentoh, CLAS '08, is intent on making her mark on the world and she plans to do it through her photos.

Kwentoh, a journalism major with a double minor in human rights and African American studies, will graduate this month. She hopes to pursue a career in photojournalism after college.

Kwentoh came to UConn from North Haven High School.

In October 2007, Kwentoh's work was featured in a juried art exhibit in Brooklyn, New York. Celebrity photographer Kareem Black was the exhibit's curator.

Kwentoh says the exhibit was a perfect opportunity to display her talent.

"Showcasing my photography in New York City reassured me that I do have a talent that will take me far," she says.

Kwentoh also discovered confidence while on vacation with her family in Nigeria, her parents' native country. Her mother and grandmother participated in the ceremony of initiation into a women's organization known as Otu Odu (Ivory Society). Kwentoh captured the event on camera.

She is particularly proud of a particular photo that was taken on the second day of the ceremony. "It's a picture of a group of kids watching the ceremony take place," she says.

Kwentoh later titled this picture *Nwa Ifele*, which in the Igbo language spoken by her family means "shy child." It was



PHOTO BY DANIEL BUTTREY

Phillis Kwentoh, journalism

also the photo that Black chose for the exhibit.

"The ability to tell a story without saying a single word is what attracted me to photography," she says.

Now she hopes to take her interests a step further.

"I want to be a human rights advocate and use my photography to show people what's really going on in the world," Kwentoh adds. "I want to capture powerful moments. I want people to look at my photos and say, 'I understand what you're saying.'"

*Over a period of 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.*