



Deckers urges community to give to student fund

BY JOHN SPONAUER

Dr. Peter J. Deckers steps down this month from his positions as executive vice president for health affairs at the UConn Health Center and dean of the School of Medicine.

During his more than 20 years in Farmington, all in top leadership positions, Deckers has enabled the Health Center to become a leader in innovative and responsive undergraduate and graduate medical education; introduced and expanded regional clinical services, including cancer, cardiology, and musculoskeletal care and research; and cemented the institution's dedication to its core missions of biomedical education, basic science research, health care delivery, and public service.

In response to many requests to create a fund in his honor, Deckers and his wife Barbara have requested that donors contribute to the academic enhancement fund the couple established in 2000, the Peter J. and Barbara A. Deckers Student Academic Enhancement Endowment Fund.

Deckers is deeply committed to making medical education affordable and accessible to students who have the aptitude and desire, but not the full financial means, to thrive in medical school. After more than 40 years of experience teaching and working with students, he sees a sharp contrast between his own education and what most students experience today, even at public universities such as UConn.

"When I went to medical school," he says, "I could earn through summer employment what my tuition and fees would be for the next two semesters. Today, no student can manage financially to get through medical school like that, especially if they're doing it on their own."

The Deckers Fund also supports student research projects during any of the four years of medical school.

"Becoming involved in research turns students on to the potential and promise of academic medicine, and combines top-flight clinical care with a continuous interest in discovery," says Deckers. "It allows them to basically do what I've done throughout my career - integrate education, research, and clinical care into one professional path. The

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PHOTO BY MICHAEL FIEDLER

Dr. Peter Deckers, left, executive vice president for health affairs, with Dr. Scott Wetstone, director of health affairs policy planning, during the Health Center Commencement ceremony May 18. Deckers retires this month after more than 20 years at the Health Center.

Nutritional scientist to chair Senate Executive Committee

BY ELIZABETH OMARA-OTUNNU

Nutritional sciences professor Hedley Freake has been elected chair of the Senate Executive Committee for 2008-09.

The 10-member committee includes nine faculty and staff representatives who are elected by the University Senate and serve for three-year terms. One of these is elected each year to be chair. The Committee also includes a student representative.

The University Senate comprises 91 members, including faculty, staff, and student representatives.

The Senate Executive Committee coordinates the business of the Senate, setting its agenda and assigning tasks to subcommittees.

"Most business takes place not on the

Senate floor but happens within the committees," says Freake.

The Senate Executive Committee also acts as an interface between the University and the administration, meeting monthly with the President and the Provost, as well as with senior administrators as a group.

Freake anticipates a busy year ahead, particularly in light of the budget pressures now facing the University. Discussions are also underway regarding the inclusion of representatives of the medical and dental schools in the Senate.

Freake was first elected to the Senate in 1998 and has served several three-year terms. He has been a member of the Senate Executive Committee since 2006, and was

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Prototype program helps bridge gap between lab, marketplace

BY DAVID BAUMAN

Scientists at the UConn Health Center are using polymers to produce a new generation of orthodontic appliances that are making their way out of the lab and into the marketplace. In Storrs, a protein is being used to create an artificial retina, and new compounds are being developed to combat the effects of Alzheimer's disease.

Entrepreneurially-minded faculty with good ideas have been able to secure funding from a program created by the University's Center for Science and Technology Commercialization and the state Department of Economic and Community Development.

The program, called the Connecticut Prototype Fund, makes funds available to turn what has been discovered in the lab into a commercial version, or prototype, of the invention or technology, enabling faculty to demonstrate the commercial potential of their inventions.

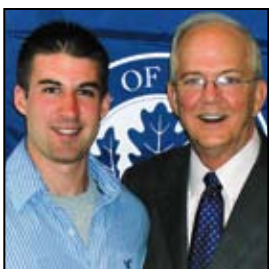
The fund, which focuses primarily on bioscience, has generated significant new patented technologies and has created a strong pipeline of promising opportunities. The goal is for these technologies to become a new source of revenue for university research and companies in the state.

Jeff Volek, an associate professor of kinesiology, in collaboration with Genomas, a biomedical company involved with DNA-guided medicine and personalized health based at Hartford Hospital, used a \$75,000 Prototype Fund grant to refine and validate diagnostic tests that will predict a person's ability to lose weight or improve his or her metabolic profile in response to a specific dietary intervention. The tests are based on a proprietary analysis of several DNA and physiological markers, the results of which can be used by physicians to generate personalized diets for the prevention and treatment of obesity, diabetes, and other metabolic disorders.

Ben Bahr and Dennis Wright, associate professors of pharmaceutical sciences, with the assistance of the UConn R&D Corp., have formed a company called Synaptic Dynamics Inc. Using \$75,000 from

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Online events calendar upgraded

BY SHERRY FISHER

A new and improved online events calendar for the University is now available.

The latest calendar program offers users the options of creating calendars on their web pages and managing the posting of activities, says Meg Malmborg, manager of the Lodewick Visitors Center and one of the online calendar's editors.

"UConn departments and student clubs and organizations can create their own calendars that might include meeting dates and other items specific to their group," she says.

"If for example the physics department wants to post their monthly meetings, they can do so on their own calendar. The posting would be immediate. If they wanted to announce a physics colloquium, this can be submitted for both the physics department's own

calendar and for UConn's main events calendar."

The calendar project was a joint effort between UITS and University Communications.

Other features of the new calendar include:

- RSS feeds for posted events;
- insertion of calendars into web homepages;
- creation of a mini-calendar within a web site; and
- featured events with color photos to promote events on the site's home page.

UConn's online calendar, first launched in 2004, remains a one-stop events resource, Malmborg says.

After filling out an online form, users submit events directly into their own department or organization's calendar and into UConn's main events calendar. Events must be either held at a UConn location or be a University-sponsored

activity.

Users may also subscribe to specific calendars of interest, and will automatically receive e-mail notification when an event is added to that calendar. Events may be entered up to three years in advance.

Information sessions on using the calendar will take place today, June 2, and June 10 at 1 p.m. at the Lodewick Visitors Center. E-mail Margaret.Malmborg@uconn.edu or call 860-486-6635 to attend one the sessions. Additional sessions will be scheduled for the fall semester.

The *Advance* will continue to publish a calendar section each week. Event organizers need only submit their events to the online calendar, however, and items for the *Advance* calendar will be downloaded from the database.

Former administrator dies at 75

BY SHERRY FISHER

Thomas Giolas, a former administrator at the University, died May 18. He was 75.

Giolas, who lived in Mansfield, joined the UConn faculty in the communication sciences department in 1968. His main research and teaching interest was in the rehabilitation of people with hearing impairments.

He became department head of communication sciences in 1975, and served in that capacity until 1984, when he was appointed director of the Research Foundation. He retired in 1997 as Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate School.

James Henkel, associate vice provost for research and graduate education, says Giolas was his mentor.

"Tom has been my role model and mentor with respect to the administrative aspects of my career," Henkel says. "I count my

10 years of interaction with him as among some of the best and most enjoyable of my professional life. I learned so much, not only about the technical aspects of academic leadership, but more importantly about the human aspects. I hope I can honor his memory by passing this knowledge and insight on to others in the future."

Henkel adds, "He was always more concerned with others than he was about himself, and he had a way of making everyone he touched better for the experience. I will miss him terribly."

Harvey Gilbert, professor emeritus of communication sciences, says when he came to UConn as head of the department, Giolas was very helpful.

"Tom was always available to steer me through University politics and to discuss faculty and governance issues," Gilbert says. "When he retired and I stepped down as department head, we would meet at least once a semes-

ter to catch up on what we were doing and what was happening in the department. He was a good friend and colleague and I'll miss him."

Giolas grew up in Gary, Ind. and earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in speech pathology and audiology. He received his doctorate in audiology from the University of Pittsburgh in 1960.

During his retirement, Giolas volunteered at the Center for Hellenic Studies in Storrs, where he immersed himself in Greek culture and history, and spoke Greek, his first language.

Giolas is survived by his wife of 48 years, Marilyn, and three children.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Thomas G. Giolas Graduate Fellowship, c/o The University of Connecticut Foundation, 3290 Alumni Drive, Unit 3206, Storrs, CT 06269, or to St. Mark's Chapel, 42 North Eagleleville Rd., Storrs, CT 06268.

Emeritus history professor dies

BY SHERRY FISHER

A. William Høglund, professor emeritus of history, died May 1. He was 81.

A resident of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Høglund joined the University faculty in 1961 and retired in 1997. His was an expert on agricultural and immigration history.

Høglund "built and nurtured the graduate program in history in its first couple of decades to a level of national recognition," says Thomas Paterson, emeritus professor of history.

He was also an exemplary teacher with an impressive mastery of his field, Paterson says. "He was a very effective mentor of graduate students and young professors. He had great energy in the classroom and was a spirited lecturer."

Paterson says Høglund was a

"very kind, generous person," with an "eccentric sense of humor."

Edmund Wehrle, emeritus professor of history, describes Høglund as "selfless, tireless, and generous. He'll be remembered for his unremitting work with doctoral students. He was dedicated to them and directed their dissertations, many of which have become books."

Michael Donoghue, a former student, says Høglund was a "great teacher and influence on my life. His graduate seminar was a tour de force."

Now an assistant professor of history at Marquette University, Donoghue recalls Høglund saying, "My students are my family."

Høglund grew up in Spencer-Van Etten, a Finnish American community in upstate New York.

He received a bachelor's degree in history from Cornell University in 1949, and a master's degree and doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, in 1950 and 1957, respectively.

While working on his Ph.D., he was drafted and spent four years in the army. He taught at Muskingum College in New Concord, Ohio from 1957 to 1961.

Høglund curated the 1992 Library of Congress exhibition *Bearers of the Word: Finnish Immigrant Literature in America 1976-1992*, which highlighted the Finnish literary tradition in the U.S.

During spring 1998, he was the Government of Finland and David and Nancy Speer Visiting Professor of Finnish Studies at the University of Minnesota.

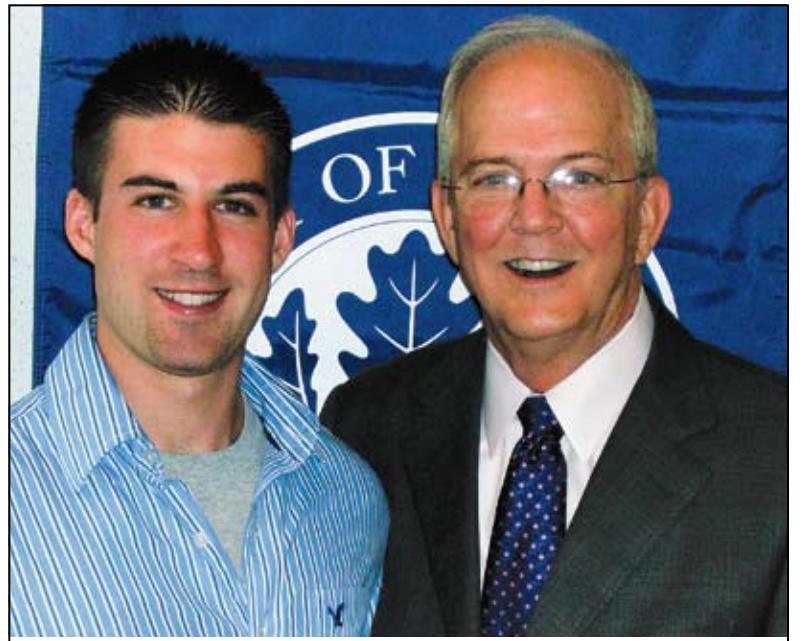


PHOTO BY DYLAN SEAMUS

Will the real Mike Hogan please stand up? When President Michael J. Hogan came to UConn last fall, he discovered that his name was already taken as an e-mail address. That's because three students shared his name. Since graduation, just one other Michael Hogan is left on campus, a sophomore majoring in finance. The two are pictured here at Gulley Hall.

Alumni activities set for June 6-7

The Alumni Association will host a weekend of events for alumni on Friday, June 6 and Saturday, June 7.

Alumni who graduated in 1943, 1948, 1953, and 1958 are being sought to join the festivities, as are alumni from special interest groups such as the Marching Band, cheerleaders, Student Leader Alumni, African-American Alumni, and various fraternity alumni.

"We encourage all alumni to attend Alumni Weekend, regardless of what year they graduated," says Kim Lachut '90, manager of alumni events. "If you haven't been back to campus for a while, this is your chance to see what's new and

to reconnect with fellow alumni."

The two-day schedule has seminars, tours, lunches, and dinners. Some highlights of the weekend include receptions at the individual schools and colleges, tours of campus, and a luncheon with President Michael J. Hogan.

Alumni who graduated in 1958 are invited to participate in a special 50th reunion presentation of the class gift on Friday evening. The gift will support the Class of 1958 Study Lounge in Babbidge Library, and the 50th Reunion Alumni Scholarship Fund.

For more information or to register for the weekend, go to the web site UConnAlumni.com.

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on the General Education Oversight Committee for six years, including three as chair.

He teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses in nutrition, and is an active researcher. A specialist in molecular nutrition, he is currently examining how cells regulate the exchange of zinc – a mineral crucial for the functioning of proteins inside a cell – with their surroundings.

In addition, he is principal investigator on a National Science Foundation collaborative grant with local community colleges to help minority and first-generation college students study the life sciences.

A native of Great Britain, Freake earned his bachelor's and Ph.D. degrees at the University of London.

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT Advance

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Health Center physician works with USA Hockey team

BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

For the second time in five years, USA Hockey chose Dr. Robert Arciero, one of UConn's sports medicine physicians, to be lead team physician for the International Ice Hockey Federation World Hockey Championship tournament held in May.

While that role may have kept Arciero, a nationally recognized

expert in knee and shoulder surgery, out of the operating room for nearly a month, it also kept him busy.

"We had two players who had significant knee injuries and had to be sent back to their home teams," he says. "Then I took care of a couple of concussions, and various contusions caused by either stick or puck hitting wrist

or shin or foot.

"The other thing is viruses and cold symptoms. Somebody would come in and say, 'Hey, Doc, my head is all stuffed up,' and I had a whole med bag, I could look in their ears, listen to them. So I did a little bit of 'real doctor' work too, because I'm their team doctor."

Team USA's 2008 roster consisted entirely of professional

players. Some of the standouts were Brandon Dubinsky of the New York Rangers, Phil Kessel and Mark Stuart of the Boston Bruins, Patrick Kane of the Chicago Blackhawks (a favorite to win the National Hockey League's top rookie award), and Jason Pominville, team captain of the Buffalo Sabres. The 2008 tournament took place May 2-18 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Quebec City, Quebec.

A typical day for Arciero started with a meeting with the team trainers, whose job it is to make sure the players are ready for the next game. For the most part, the schedule alternated between practice days and game days. On game day, Arciero showed up at least two hours early, because, he says, the players' pre-game routines are quite involved.

"A lot of them ride the bike, do some weight lifting, they do plyometrics, they play a little soccer, and it's a ritual that they go through before every game," he says. "Then they go in, they make sure their sticks are the way they want them, they make sure their blades are the way they want – there are two skate-sharpening guys. When they get ready to take the ice, they're as perfect as they can be, in every sense of the word. It's not, 'show up, throw the stuff on and go skate.' There's a lot of preparation."

One thing the team couldn't have prepared for was a disputed goal in Game 5. A replay showed that a puck which had slipped in through the side of the net was

allowed to stand as a goal for Finland. The Americans ended up losing 3-2, their second defeat of the tournament. The International Ice Hockey Federation issued a formal apology to Team USA and fired the referee who made the call.

"But that's it," Arciero says. "We lost, you can't change that."

Team USA won its next game, against Norway, then lost a rematch with Finland in the quarterfinals to finish fifth. Russia defeated Canada to take the gold medal.

Still, Arciero says, working with the team was a positive experience.

"The reward I get is professional gratification," he says. "I've been chosen on the basis of a career devoted to sports medicine by a governing institution. The USA Hockey medical staff has trusted these world-class athletes to me for three weeks to be their doctor. What I love is that they're as professional in their approach to the games and the coaches as I am to my profession."

"I think the unique thing about hockey players," Arciero says, "is that they're used to a lot of pain, and there's a sort of unwritten rule or unspoken culture that you don't come out of games unless you're really broken. I enjoy taking care of them."

"They're appreciative, they treat you like a person, they don't have a chip on their shoulder, and they don't have any poses," he adds. "It's pretty cool."



PHOTO BY TOM MULLIGAN

UConn's Dr. Robert Arciero, center, with Team USA assistant coach Mike Sullivan, left, and goaltender Robert Esche during a practice in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in May. USA Hockey selected Arciero as its team physician for the 2008 International Ice Hockey Federation World Hockey Championship tournament.

Biochemistry student defers Ph.D. to serve in U.S. Air Force

BY CURRAN KENNEDY, CLAS '08

Biochemistry graduate student Jie Hou wants to give back to the country his family immigrated to, so he will defer his Ph.D. to serve four years in the U.S. Air Force.

As the son of Chinese immigrants newly acclimated to America, Hou knows the importance of a college degree and the value of giving back to the community.

Hou, who graduated as a University Scholar with a B.S. in cell biology in 2007, is currently pursuing a master's-Ph.D. in biochemistry with adviser Carolyn Teschke, associate professor of molecular and cell biology. Hou enlisted in the ROTC as an undergraduate.

"When I first got to UConn, I was only taking biology classes, but I didn't know what I'd be doing after college," he says. "I thought the Air Force had a lot to offer, and I think that because we've been so lucky to have the opportunity to come over here, I should take the opportunity to give back."

The 'we' Hou refers to are his parents and brother, who brought him to West Hartford in 1999 from Qing Yuan, an impoverished village that had a strong sense

of community but offered little chance of upward mobilization.

"I grew up in a poor village where everyone worked hard every day," Hou says. "In such a small community, you can learn a lot from other people, and the people of my village were good people. Back in the day, when communism was prominent and everyone worked hard but only got a share of what they gave, my parents taught me you have to be honest and work for the sake of being a worker, and not for bank returns."

Hou has now added to the lessons of his parents the three basic core values learned in the Air Force: integrity, service before self, and excellence.

"I understand a lot of people don't want to join the military now, but I don't mind if they deploy me to the front lines; I have no complaint," he says. "The three core values taught me that I cannot be selfish, and I like the military. It's a great way of giving back."

Hou's uncle, who has lived in Hartford since 1979, filed a petition with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, which brought Hou's family to West Hartford. Al-

though it took 10 years on a waiting list to get approval to come to the United States, Hou has made the most of his short time here.

As part of his Ph.D. program, Hou has been conducting research that focuses on two secretion proteins that come from the pathogen that causes tuberculosis.

"This is interesting because, if you get rid of one of the proteins, the bacteria die," Hou explains, "and if you get rid of the other, that makes it less effective in causing the disease. If someone can come up with a drug that can target these two proteins, we can have a more effective way of fighting TB, a disease that's widespread in developing countries."

Hou's agreement with the Air Force is now signed. He will put his research on hold and leave at the end of September for training first in Alabama, then in Texas, before receiving his first assignment.

"I plan on coming back to UConn to finish my Ph.D. program," he says, "but things may change, so you never know."



PHOTO BY DANIEL BUTTREY

Graduate student Jie Hou, an immigrant from China, is putting his degree on hold to serve in the Air Force.

New summer course integrates science and journalism

BY RICHARD VEILLEUX

Madelyn Ward wants to do for environmental journalism what Indiana Jones did for archeology – shine a light on the land, the oceans, the air and all of earth's inhabitants, whether they're fluffy, slimy, or icky.

"I want people to know about their world," says the soon-to-be UConn junior. "It's such a beautiful place. I want to help people gain an appreciation of nature."

This summer Ward and seven other students, including four journalism majors, signed up for a new course, Environmental Journalism: Discovering the Last Green Valley, which brings students into daily contact with scientists, farmers, environmental protection officials, and guides to gain a new appreciation for the earth. The course is taught by Robert Wyss, an associate professor of journalism and author of the textbook *Covering the Environment*.

Before joining the University, Wyss covered the environment for more than 30 years, primarily at *The Providence Journal*. He says offering the course has long been a goal of his.

"There are a number of environmental journalism programs out there where you do one year in the sciences, then a graduate year in journalism," he says.

Many journalists don't have a strong background in the sciences, Wyss adds. "I've tried hard to make this a multidisciplinary survey course more than just a writing course. They're learning about science, not just journalism."

He adds that this is the perfect time of year to launch the course.

"It works best as a summer course, because I think the way to do it is to get out of the classroom and into the environment," he says.

During a recent class, he took the group to UConn's Depot Campus, where Margaret Rubega, a professor of ecology and environmental biology, discussed

her research on chimney swifts, a remarkable, tiny bird that is disappearing from North America. The class also has journeyed to the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor in Putnam; walked the banks of the Willimantic River; hiked several trails; toured farms in Lebanon and Ashford; and visited state Department of Environmental Protection offices in Hartford.

"We're going to focus on the ecosystem in Eastern Connecticut – the Last Green Valley," Wyss says. "Looking forward, I'd like to take students to other environmentally sensitive areas. Maybe the Connecticut River, Long Island Sound or, if we could get really adventurous, the Amazon, Yellowstone, or Yosemite."

Students also receive extensive reading assignments, both from Wyss's book and a wide range of environmental stories from newspapers and magazines, including *The Boston Globe*, *The New York Times*, *Mother Jones*, *Smithsonian* magazine, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

The students also must plan a presentation, to be delivered at the site of their choice, focusing on an aspect of Eastern Connecticut's ecosystem. For the final exam, they must write an essay based on information learned during one of the field trips.

The students' initial field trip, to the Depot Campus, could provide an intriguing essay. At the site, Rubega has constructed five eight-foot high "chimneys" of large culvert pipes placed on cinder blocks. The faux chimneys have been outfitted with cameras, and the insides scored to give any chimney swifts visiting them a foothold. If chimney swifts are going to be attracted to them, Rubega said, it should happen just in time for the student presentations.

Rubega, whose research is funded by the DEP, developed the chimneys because scientists have



PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Art Talmage, owner of Cranberry Hill Farm in Ashford, leads students taking an environmental journalism class on a tour of the farm. At right is Professor Robert Wyss, who developed the course.

found circumstantial evidence that chimney swifts are dying. There are far fewer chimneys in the country now than there were 40 years ago, she says. The chimneys that do exist today are often covered to keep animals out, and are much narrower than in the mid-1900s – too small for the birds. Metal inner walls are not conducive to chimney swifts, who grab the walls with their claws and tails.

The students listened intently as Rubega spoke, while a dozen or so chimney swifts raced through the sky overhead foraging for insects, their primary food source. She said the birds are faster and their movements quicker than bats, which are also insect lovers. "They are the most acrobatic birds in the world," she added.

Later, back in the classroom, Rubega discussed the tension that can exist between scientists and reporters.

"Scientists are busy," Rubega, a scientist, explained. "They'll try to avoid you. They're incomprehensible, and once you prove you don't

understand them, they don't trust you. They're afraid of you. You're taking something they've worked on for 10 years and you're going to talk to them for five minutes and write about it accurately?"

"We [scientists] don't have to talk to reporters to keep our jobs," she continued, "and we have the news. But on the other hand, we have to work with journalists to get the word out and without our help, journalists will get it wrong."

Rubega suggested to the students there are three things they must do to help educate the public about scientific discoveries. "First, you have to get a good grounding in science now, while you're still in college. Second, you have to cultivate and value your relationships with scientists. Find out who are the good communicators, and keep going back to them. And, third, you have to take your responsibility to get it right seriously, almost religiously," she said.

David Funkhouser, an environmental reporter at the *Hartford Courant* who spoke during the first

class meeting, agreed with Rubega – and also with Wyss's concept for the course.

"I think it's a good thing any time students can get both the benefit of received wisdom from people who have been working in the field, and go out and do their own hands-on work," he says. "There are many skills involved in journalism, and from my experience, most are best learned on the job. But those lessons in the field are much enhanced by having a chance to sit down and discuss experiences and problems with classmates and teachers."

Especially if they are small classes, something that attracted Madelyn Ward.

"I love the class. It's one of the best courses I've taken so far," says Ward, who is working to create an individualized major in 'green' journalism. "It's small, intimate, which is wonderful, and by going out into the field almost every day, it helps you know if it's something you really want to do."

Foreign relations historian wins achievement award

BY SHERRY FISHER

Thomas Paterson, professor emeritus of history, is the recipient of a lifetime achievement award.

He is the 2008 winner of the Norman and Laura Graebner Award from the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, the premier professional association for diplomatic history. The award will be given at the annual meeting of the society at Ohio State University on June 28.

The prize recognizes a senior historian of United States foreign relations who has significantly contributed to the development of the field through scholarship, teaching and/or service, during his or her career.

President Michael J. Hogan,

also a historian, praised Paterson for his work.

"Over a long and distinguished career, Tom has been a prolific author of many books and articles, including a book we edited together," Hogan says. "He was an extremely popular undergraduate teacher, and the mentor of many successful graduate students, including one who now holds the professorship I used to hold at Ohio State. He has also been a leader in our professional association, which is now honoring him with its Distinguished Service Award."

Paterson joined the UConn faculty in 1967 and retired in 1997. During that time he worked with more than 30 doctoral students

who have become teacher-scholars and public servants.

Since earning a doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley in 1968, he has authored or edited 15 books, including *Contesting Castro* (Oxford University Press, 1994); *On Every Front* (W.W. Norton, 1992); *Meeting the Communist Threat* (Oxford University Press, 1988); and *Soviet-American Confrontation* (Johns Hopkins Press, 1973).

He has written or edited several textbooks, some in foreign language editions, including *American Foreign Relations: A History* (Houghton Mifflin, 2005). He has also edited *Kennedy's Quest for Victory* (Oxford University Press, 1989), and co-edited with Hogan

two editions of *Explaining the History of American Foreign Relations: A History* (Cambridge University Press, 1991 and 2004.)

In 1999, Scholarly Resources published a 22-roll microfilm edition of *The Paterson Collection*, documents on U.S.-Cuban relations.

Paterson has received many teaching and research awards, including a Guggenheim Fellowship. He has also been on the editorial boards of the *Journal of American History* and *Diplomatic History* and was president of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations.

He lives in Ashland, Ore., where he is informally associated with Southern Oregon University.

Deckers Fund

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higher the level of intellectual curiosity you can create in a medical system, the better the care will be."

Since it was established, the Deckers Fund has also provided other benefits to medical students, from advanced technology in the classroom to the opportunity for students to showcase their research on a national level.

Deckers says that during his career as academic, clinician, and administrator, he has witnessed a sea change both in the practical world and the theoretical possibilities of medicine. He predicts that prevention, electronic education and learning, and technology will feature prominently in the future.

For information about the Deckers Fund, contact Wendy Lux at 860.679.6032 or wlux@foundation.uconn.edu

Speaker highlights disparities in mental health, addiction services

BY SHERRY FISHER

Data show “consistently and repeatedly” that Latinos, African Americans, and other minorities do not receive the health care treatment they deserve for mental health and addiction problems, according to Thomas Kirk, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

“Too often, people of color with mental health or drug addiction problems are treated as if they have acute care disorders,” said Kirk, one of the keynote speakers at a May 20 conference, “Eliminating Mental Health and Addiction Disparities in Connecticut and Beyond,” held in the Rome Ballroom.

Mental health and drug addiction problems are not acute care disorders, Kirk said. “They’re continuing care disorders. Even when a person is in remission, so to speak, they still need health care strategies to sustain their stability and recovery.”

The goal of the conference, sponsored by the Connecticut Center for Eliminating Health

Disparities among Latinos, was to spark new ideas and collaborative work in understanding and addressing healthcare inequities in the areas of mental health and addiction. Conference participants included researchers, public health practitioners, social workers, community agencies, and students. Rafael Perez-Escamilla, a UConn professor of nutritional sciences, is the director of the Center.

Kirk said the data “clearly show consistently and repeatedly that health care disparities exist in Latino, African American, and Native American communities.”

He said these groups are both misdiagnosed and overdiagnosed. Many times, he maintained, the diagnostic data for mental health and addiction problems among Latinos and African Americans say “diagnosis deferred” or “unknown.”

“That reflects lack of attention and lack of quality in terms of identifying the condition that is required for treatment,” he said.

Kirk talked about a study conducted by John Kotter of the

Harvard Business School that examined leadership strategies for successful transformation in health care organizations and other groups.

Communicating a strong sense of urgency was what moved people to change, Kirk said. Such a sense of urgency is “more important than vision,” he added. “It’s more important than funding.”

As Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Kirk is a member of Gov. M. Jodi Rell’s cabinet, and is responsible for a \$600 million behavioral health-care budget that supports hospital and community-based care and prevention, treatment, and recovery support services delivered by private nonprofit service agencies.

Kirk believes substance abuse and mental illness are treatable health care issues, and that recovery should be hoped for and expected.

Anyone who goes through a health care system should expect that he will get better, he said, but that has often not been the case with minorities with psychiatric

problems.

“Too often, with mental health and addictions, that has not been the message we’ve given,” he said. “We talk about people with persistent, prolonged mental illness. We talk about people with substance

“[The data] clearly show consistently and repeatedly that health care disparities exist in Latino, African American, and Native American communities.”

*Thomas Kirk, Commissioner,
Connecticut Department of
Mental Health & Addiction Services*

abuse disorders and chronic relapsing diseases. The emphasis has to be on recovery.

“Chances are that 80 percent of the people in this room have some type of chronic health care disorder,” he added. “You take medication, you watch your diet, you do

exercise, you go on with the rest of your life. It should not be any different for persons with substance abuse or mental health disorders. Continuing care needs to be part of the strategies.”

Connecticut’s hospital emergency rooms – like many across the country – are experiencing extraordinary demands, Kirk said.

“Who repeatedly shows up in emergency departments?” he asked. “People of color, and those of Latino and Hispanic origins. Often the emergency room has become their primary care setting. We need to do something about it.”

Eliminating health disparities involves simultaneous initiatives, he said, including developing academic and community partners. “Community resources are an essential component of recovery,” he said.

Kirk urged the audience to communicate the sense of urgency.

“The sense of urgency screams for attention,” he said. “It is time for the people of Connecticut to act. Be a leader. People’s lives depend on you every day.”

Prototype projects *continued from page 1*

the Prototype Fund, they have created a family of new proprietary compounds that are being patented by UConn. The compounds have the potential to prevent the accumulation of plaque on the neural synapse that leads to age-related neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer’s.

Another UConn R&D company, New Ortho Polymers Inc., used \$36,900 in funds to successfully conduct preliminary testing to assure the suitability and strength of materials for development of more aesthetically pleasing brackets and arch wires used in orthodontics. Together with the work of the Health Center’s Jon Goldberg, professor and director of the Center for Biomaterials in the Department of Reconstructive Services, and emeritus professor Charles Burstone, a team with prior commercial success in the orthodontics market, the prototype funds supported the firm’s ability to win a Phase I STTR grant, and a seed investment of \$250,000 from Connecticut Innovations, the quasi-state agency that funds emerging technology companies.

Robert Birge, who holds the Harold S. Schwenk Sr. Distinguished Chair in Chemistry, has recently been granted \$67,000 to use the protein bacteriorhodopsin to make an artificial retina, by exploiting the special ability of this protein to convert light into an electrical impulse. The funds will be used to test the electrical impulses coming from the artificial retina, in collaboration with scientists from the Boston Retinal Implant Group.

Such prototypes typically re-



FILE PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Chemistry professor Robert Birge, in the lab with a graduate student. Birge has a grant to develop an artificial retina.

quire a relatively small investment and are more likely to stimulate the interest of early stage venture capitalists. Because most of the research coming out of the lab is at a very early stage, even a rudimentary prototype can prove the concept and remove some of the inherent financial risk needed to attract additional capital from skittish investors.

After the venture capital bubble burst in 2000 and 2001, investors shifted to investing in later-stage companies, particularly those with products closer to market, and thus, less risky. That trend persists. The 2007 PriceWaterhouseCoopers Money Tree Year End Report said early and seed stage investment totaled \$6.4 billion while latter-stage and expansion deals

totaled \$23 billion.

State officials contend that using state aid to help push more research and expertise from the lab into the marketplace will give Connecticut a foothold in the new economy.

“University-based innovation has been the key to many states’ economic prosperity,” noted Gov. M. Jodi Rell, when she announced the Connecticut Prototype Fund in 2005. “This is certainly true with the University of Connecticut. Through small investments in the very early stage of technology development, the state can leverage its strong research university, UConn, for future economic growth and potential job creation.”

As the state’s only public research university, UConn receives

nearly \$200 million in research grants annually. Most of that funding is from the federal government for basic science research. Such federal grants cannot be used to take that science into applied research or to develop a prototype and proof-of-principle of the technology.

“By filling this gap in the funding lifecycle for new businesses,” says Joan McDonald, state Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, “we will see economic growth in Connecticut, including new high-tech, high-paying jobs.”

University President Michael J. Hogan says, “The state of Connecticut recognizes that investment in research can have economic development potential. UConn can

and should be a major economic contributor to the state. It all starts in the lab, with the research.”

In order to be eligible for funding, applicants must show that the project can attract additional investment capital to commercialize the technology if the prototype proves successful.

UConn, while relatively new to tech transfer, has had its share of successes in recent years.

Researchers in the Neag School of Education have created a series of tests and teaching materials to identify a student’s primary learning style, and are marketing the new assessment tools. Renzulli Learning, named for Professor Joe Renzulli, Neag Chair of Gifted Education and Talent Development, has 80 jobs, \$3.2 million invested, and \$3 million in sales.

Health Center research to develop environmentally friendly insecticides from spider venom has attracted the support of Chemtura Corp., a global manufacturer and marketer of specialty chemicals based in Middlebury, Conn. Venomix Inc., the startup formed to exploit this technology, has also received a \$5.6 million Series A investment.

OPEL Inc. of Shelton, Conn., a UConn spinoff based on the work of Geoff Taylor, a professor of electrical and computer engineering specializing in photonics, this past year became a public company listed on the Canadian Venture Exchange. OPEL Inc. has developed and proven a new semiconductor process based on a new system and has licensed all Taylor’s current patents.

Connecticut Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers gives the address during the Law School Commencement ceremony May 18. Seated at right is Dean Jeremy Paul.



PHOTO BY SPENCER SLOAN

GRANTS

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

Department	Prin. Investigator	Sponsor	Amount	Award Period
Federal Grants				
Genetics & Developmental Biology	Gunzl, A.	National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases	\$55,992	1/04-12/08
<i>Multifunctional Class I Transcription in T. Brucei</i>				
Genetics & Developmental Biology	Lichtler, A.	National Institute of Arthritis & Musculoskeletal & Skin Diseases	\$275,078	4/04-2/09
<i>DLX Gene Regulation of Osteoblast Differentiation</i>				
Immunology	Wikel, S.	National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases	\$62,212	2/05-1/09
<i>Tick Polarized T-Cell Responses and Borrelia Infection</i>				
Neuroscience	Bansal, R.	National Institute of Neurological Disorders & Stroke	\$430,122	7/06-2/09
<i>Proteomic Mapping of Myelin and Its Membrane Subdomains</i>				
Molecular, Microbial & Structural Biology	Weller, S.	National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases	\$58,297	2/06-1/09
<i>HSV 1 Processing/Packaging Genes</i>				
Medicine	Mukherji, B.	National Cancer Institute	\$255,082	4/06-2/09
<i>Rescuing CTL from Activation Induced Death</i>				
Neuroscience	Zecevic, N.	National Institute of Neurological Disorders & Stroke	\$323,343	5/06-2/09
<i>Development of the Cerebral Cortex in Animals</i>				
Cell Biology	Rodionov, V.	National Institute of General Medical Sciences	\$56,240	12/06-11/08
<i>Regulation of Intracellular Transport</i>				
Center for Vascular Biology	Pachter, J.	National Institute of Neurological Disorders & Stroke	\$32,375	1/07-11/08
<i>Microvascular Endothelial Cell Heterogeneity in the Central Nervous System</i>				
Psychiatry	Hesselbrock, V.	National Institute on Alcohol Abuse & Alcoholism	\$1,799,998	2/08-11/08
<i>Alcohol Research Center – Core</i>				
Medicine	Trestman, R.	National Institute of Mental Health	\$458,822	2/08-1/09
<i>Mental Health Research Infrastructure Corrections</i>				
Molecular, Microbial & Structural Biology	Weller, S.	National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases	\$524,946	3/08-2/09
Center for Vascular Biology	Hla, T.	National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute	\$370,000	3/08-2/09
<i>Sphingosine 1-Phosphate Receptors in Vascular Homeostasis and Pathology</i>				

Private Grants

Medicine	Tannenbaum, S.	Tufts New England Medical Center	\$13,818	7/94-12/10
<i>ECOG Cooperative Outreach Program DHHS CA39088</i>				

Surgery	Kurtzman, S.	University of Pittsburgh	\$1,100	6/95-5/08
<i>NSABP Breast Cancer Prevention Trial DHHS P5400-5425</i>				
Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center	Kurtzman, S.	National Eye Institute	\$6,550	2/97-5/08
<i>NSABP Breast and Bowel Cancer Treatment DHHS BC0107-185</i>				
Genetics & Developmental Biology	Rosengren, S.	University of California at San Diego Medical Center	\$2,747	12/99-12/08
<i>Medications in Pregnancy Project</i>				
Genetics & Developmental Biology	Mayer, B.	UConn Foundation	\$2,114	3/01-12/08
<i>Sackler Foundation</i>				
Surgery	Albertsen, P.	CTRC Research Foundation	\$2,300	9/01-5/13
<i>Selenium & Vitamin E Chemoprevent. Trial DHHS 80003</i>				
Medicine	Oncken, C.	Donaghue Foundation	\$123,734	1/05-12/09
<i>Maternal Genetics, Cigarette Smoking and Infant Birth Weight</i>				
Oral Health & Diagnostic Sciences	Wagner, J.	Boys & Girls Village	\$100,000	1/06-12/08
<i>Relationships Among Type 2 Diabetes, History of Depression and Coronary etc.</i>				
Pediatrics	Ferrer, F.	Conn. Children's Medical Center	\$69,187	9/05-6/08
<i>Sphingolipid Signaling in Wilm's Tumors</i>				
Psychiatry	Briggs-Gowan, M.	Yale University	\$26,879	10/06-9/07
<i>Behavioral Health in Pediatrics</i>				
Neuroscience	Crocker, S.	Multiple Sclerosis	\$137,500	10/07-10/10
<i>Investigating the Role of TIMP-1 in CNS Demyelination and Repair</i>				
Genetics & Developmental Biology	Clark, S.	Scleroderma Foundation	\$75,000	1/08-1/09
<i>Impact of the Ablation of TGF-Beta Signaling and Sparc Protein on the Fibro</i>				
Surgery	Sarfarazi, M.	Glaucoma Foundation	\$40,000	1/08-12/08
<i>Genome-wide Association Study of Normal-Tension Primary Open Angle Glaucoma</i>				
Cell Biology	Epstein, P.	Conn. Breast Health Initiative Inc.	\$70,000	2/08-1/09
<i>Inhibition of Breast Cancer Metastasis by Activation of Camp Signaling</i>				
Psychiatric Clinic	Pearson, G.	Wiley Periodicals	\$23,000	7/08-12/08
<i>The Journal for Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nurses</i>				
Pediatrics	Pappagallo, M.	University of Colorado Health Sciences Center	\$1,560	9/02-8/06
<i>Inhaled Nitrous Oxide for Chronic Lung DHHS 2-5-80344</i>				
Psychiatry	Abu-Hasaballah, K.	Yale University	\$2,448	9/05-8/08
<i>The Temporal Relationship of Partner Violence & Drug Abuse</i>				
Oral Health & Diagnostic Sciences	Tanzer, J.	LAVAX	\$96,442	3/08-2/09
<i>A Probiotic Formula Protects Infants From Milk-Borne HIV Transmission</i>				

State Grants

Medicine	Storey, E.	Conn. Labor Department	\$96,612	7/04-6/08
<i>Department of Labor: Occupational Disease Clinics</i>				
Surgery	Kurtzman, S.	UConn-Storrs	\$52,434	9/02-2/08
<i>Near Infrared Diffused Light Imaging</i>				

CALENDAR

Monday, June 2, to Monday, June 23

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, June 23 through Monday, July 21. Those items must be in the database by 4 p.m. on Monday, July 14. 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

Tuesday, 6/3 – Deadline for submitting summer grades (May Session)

Thursday, 6/5 – Last day to register & drop without W (Summer Session 1)

Thursday, 6/5 – Last day to place courses on Pass/Fail (Summer Session 1)

Tuesday, 6/10 – Last day to register & drop without W (Intensive Session 1)

Thursday, 6/10 – Last day to place courses on Pass/Fail (Intensive Session 1)

Wednesday, 6/11 – Last day to register & drop without W (Summer Session 4)

Wednesday, 6/11 – Last day to place courses on Pass/Fail (Summer Session 4)

Friday, 6/20 – Last day to convert courses on Pass/Fail option to letter grade (Intensive Session 1)

Libraries

Homer Babbidge Library. Hours: Monday-Thursday 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday & 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. Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-noon, 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Health Center Library. Hours: June 29 through Aug. 17, Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m.-10 p.m.; Friday, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m.-6 p.m.

Law Library. Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-11 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1-9 p.m.

Avery Point Campus Library. Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, closed.

Greater Hartford Campus Library Hours: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday & Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Sunday.

Stamford Campus Library. Hours: Summer Session 1, June 2 through July 11, Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Fridays, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, 11a.m.-4p.m.; Intensive Session 1, June 9-June 27, Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Torrington Campus Library. Hours: Monday-Thursday, noon-6 p.m.; Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, closed.

Waterbury Campus Library. Hours: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, closed.

University ITS

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

Meetings

Thursday, 6/5 – Joint Audit & Compliance Committee Meeting, 10 a.m.-noon. Room 7, Bishop Center.

Ph.D. Defenses

Thursday, 6/5 – **Geography.**

“Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Cardiovascular Disease in the United States and England: A Comparison of Data from National Health Surveillance Databases,” by Akihiko Michimi (adv.: Cromley). 10 a.m., Room 420, CLAS Building.

Friday, 6/6 – **Biomedical Science.**

“Presynaptic and Postsynaptic NMDA Receptors Mediate Distinct Effects of BDNF on Excitatory Synaptic Transmission,” by Joseph Madara (adv.: Levine). 2 p.m., Low Learning Center, Health Center.

Friday, 6/6 – **Chemistry.** “Carbohydrate Based Oxepines: Preparation and Utilization for the Synthesis of Septanose Glycoconjugates,” by Steve Castro (adv.: Peczuh). 2 p.m., Room A304, Chemistry Building.

Monday, 6/9 – **Ecology & Evolutionary Biology.** “Natural Forest Management Plans in Costa Rica: A Potential Framework for Assessing Tree Biodiversity,” by Pablo Arroyo-Mora (adv.: Chazdon). 4 p.m., Room 130, Biology/Physics Building.

Tuesday, 6/10 – **Chemistry.** “Spectral Tuning and Photoactivation of Retinal-

Binding Proteins,” by Tabitha Amora (adv.: Birge). 10 a.m., Room 304, Chemistry Building.

Monday, 6/16 – **Kinesiology.** “The Under-Representation of Black Females in NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Head Coaching Positions,” by John Borland (adv.: Bruening). 10 a.m., Class of '47 Room, Babbidge Library.

Monday, 6/16 – **Economics.** “Trade, Growth, and Institutional Change: British Imperialism Revisited,” by Arthur Schneider (adv.: Randolph). 11 a.m., Seminar Room, Monteith Building.

Exhibits

Tuesday, 6/3 through Sunday, 8/10 – **William Benton Museum of Art.** *Stoned or Impregnated: New York Lithography, ca. 1960*, works by artists affiliated with Collectors' Graphics. Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 1-4:30 p.m. Gallery talk by Tracy Lawlor, Wednesday, 6/4, 12:15 p.m.



PHOTO BY BARRY ROSENBERG

“Self-portrait” is among the collages by emeritus professor of social work Martin Bloom in the exhibit *Portrait of an Old Man as a Young Artist*, now on display at Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts.

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.

Through Wednesday, 7/9 – **Health Center.** *Landscapes and Seascapes*, photographs by Rick Popham. Main and Mezzanine Lobbies.

Through Sunday, 7/27 – **Alexey von Schlippe Gallery.** Works by Felix Bronner, Rita Dawley, Kim Gatesman and Denn Santoro, and Mary Louise Long. Hours: Wednesday through Sunday, noon-4 p.m., Avery Point Campus. Members and students free; non-members \$3. Opening reception featuring live music with the Count Steadwell and Bill Morrison Jazz Duo, Friday, 6/13, 6-8 p.m.

Through Friday, 8/15 – **Babbidge Library.** *In Plain Sight*, paintings by Janice Trecker, Stevens Gallery; also, *She Sells Sea Shells*, re-creations of sailors' Valentines by Lynda Susan Hennigan, Gallery on the Plaza. For hours, see Libraries section. **Through Friday, 8/15** – **Dodd Center.** *The Ethnic American Press*, Gallery. For hours, see Libraries section.

Through Friday, 8/15 – **Jorgensen Gallery.** *Portrait of an Old Man as a Young Artist*, collages by Martin Bloom, professor emeritus of social work. 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts.

Through Sunday, 11/30 – **Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry.** *Puppets Through the Lens*, an exhibition of puppets on film, television, and the Internet from across the United States, from the 1930s to the present. Hours: Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, noon-5 p.m., Depot Campus. Free admission, donations accepted.

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

Monday, 6/2 through Monday, 6/23 – **Al-Anon.** Twelve-step meeting. Noon-12:50 p.m. Contact Tom Szigethy for more information, 860-486-9431.

Monday, 6/2 through Monday, 7/21 and Wednesday, 6/4 through Wednesday, 7/23 – **Summer Skating Lessons.** Sessions offered on Monday or Wednesday nights, at 5 p.m. \$90 per skater for 8 lessons. For more information, call the Mark Edward Freitas Ice Forum at 860-486-1370 or send e-mail to mike.iacampo@uconn.edu. Walk-ins welcome on Monday or Wednesday at 4:20 p.m.

Friday, 6/6 – **Alumni Weekend.** All day, Storrs campus. Fee varies by event

Friday, 6/6 – **House & Garden Tour.** 10a.m.-1p.m., Phelps-Hatheway House & Garden, Suffield. Fee, \$15, \$10 for Museum of Natural History members.

Friday, 6/6 – **Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Alumni Reception & Rainbow Center Tour.** 3:30-5:30 p.m., Room 403, Student Union.

Tuesday, 6/10 – **Spirituality Study Group.** 10-11:30 a.m. Room N4002, Medical Arts and Research Building, Health Center. Admission fee: \$10 per class.

Tuesday, 6/10 – **Charles Lewis Beach Society Luncheon.** 11a.m.-1:30p.m. Ballroom, Student Union.

Saturday, 6/14 – **Three Centuries on a New England Farm.** 10 a.m.-noon. Blue Slope Farm, Franklin. Fee, \$15, \$10 for Museum of Natural History members.

Friday, 6/20 – **Fridays at the Museum.** 1-3p.m. Connecticut State Museum of Natural History, Storrs Campus. Free admission.

New scholarships aid global education

Undergraduate students at UConn will have the opportunity to gain essential experience and skills for nonprofit and social entrepreneurial careers with two new scholarships created for internships and study abroad.

The Ed Satell Non-Profit Internship Program and the Ed Satell International Social Entrepreneurship Fund were established with a gift of \$100,000, split evenly between the programs, by business school alumnus Edward Satell '57, to mark the 50th anniversary of his graduation from UConn.

Satell, founder, president, and chief executive officer of Progressive Business Publications in Malvern, Pa., says he wants to help students explore what they are passionate about and become conscientious global citizens.

“Each generation makes its own contribution, building on what was done by the previous generation,” he says.

“Students now have the opportunity to contribute in their own

way to make this world a better place. Social entrepreneurship has had an impact in many countries around the world. It allows people to have the dignity to earn money and be independent. It advances society and advances democracy.”

The internship program will support students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences who are working in unpaid positions with nonprofit organizations, such as museums or government agencies that address poverty.

“Nonprofits often do not have the resources to offer paid internships,” says Douglas Hamilton, professor of physics and associate dean of liberal arts and sciences. “The gift of these scholarships opens up new opportunities for students in this important part of our social economy.”

Recipients of the Ed Satell International Social Entrepreneurship Fund will be selected by UConn's Office of Study Abroad, offering aid to students working on social entrepreneurship projects related

to economic and social development in other countries.

“One of the most effective ways for students to help the poorer people of the world rise out of terrible poverty is through social entrepreneurship, including the development of micro-finance and micro-credit business opportunities,” says Ross Lewin, director of the Study Abroad program. “By participating in this program, our students will acquire an extremely valuable set of business skills, but also the intercultural knowledge, skills, and attitudes required to affect problems of global significance.”

Satell's two charitable foundations, the Satell Family Trust and the Progressive Business Publications Charitable Trust Fund, actively support diverse philanthropic projects focusing on four areas, including medical research, disadvantaged children, community organizations, and education.

Gift to support food research

The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources is moving to become a national leader in the study and application of functional foods – those with health benefits beyond basic nutrition that may prevent and help treat disease.

A major financial commitment from the Esperance Family Foundation will help create and support a multidisciplinary center for functional food research and education at UConn.

Examples of functional foods include a variety of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and legumes rich in antioxidants and other bioactive compounds that may prevent or delay the onset of various diseases and chronic conditions.

Functional foods are now a nearly \$30-billion annual market in the United States.

“Americans are obsessed with their health,” says Ian Hart, associate dean for research and advanced studies in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. “If we can demonstrate to the public

the benefits of eating certain foods through proven science – and not as a fad diet – there is tremendous potential in terms of the growth of research at the University, the growth of agriculture in the state, and improvement of public health in general.”

The planned center could make UConn one of the few schools across the nation with such a focus.

Professor Sung Koo, head of the nutritional sciences department, says it is important to integrate research with existing medical practice and consumer education.

“We will focus on research, technology transfer, curriculum development, and consumer education,” he says. We need to disseminate information about functional foods to consumers so they can be educated about modifying their dietary habits and food choices, and through translational medicine, we can connect basic research on functional foods to patient care, and nutritional and diet therapies.”

Nayden Clinic helps emeritus professor recover from injury

BY JOANNE NESTI

Last year Sjeff van den Berg was told he would spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair. But thanks to the Neag School's Nayden Rehabilitation Clinic and his own steely resolve, the retired UConn communication sciences professor has been slowly, steadily proving that prognosis wrong.

The 61-year-old van den Berg was critically injured, and his wife, retired UConn professor Antonia Brancia, killed, in a car accident on Long Island in May 2007. They were on their way to attend the graduation of their son, Pieter, from Long Island University when their vehicle was rear-ended by another traveling at high speed in Old Brookville, N.Y. The driver of that car was arrested and charged with second-degree manslaughter and criminally negligent homicide.

For van den Berg, grief and emotional pain had to quickly give way to his recovery from the spinal cord injury he suffered in the crash, a process that began at North Shore Hospital on Long Island and continued at Burke Rehabilitation Clinic in White Plains, N.Y., where he spent six weeks in difficult, challenging physical therapy.

Van den Berg says he couldn't let the uphill battle defeat him: "That came to me the second night at Burke. It was very simple. I told myself I'm here to do a lot of work,

because whatever the alternative is to doing the work is simply not acceptable."

The work continued in Storrs at the Nayden Clinic, under the guidance of physical therapist Richard Bohannon, a professor in the Neag School of Education's physical therapy department.

"Sjef had a lot to build on," Bohannon says. "He was generally fit, he could move his legs, he had some strength in his lower limbs. We knew we could make progress." Making progress involved improving van den Berg's trunk strength and his ability to move on the parallel bars, as well as getting him to walk with a walker. He left the wheelchair behind last October, and from two visits a week to Nayden, van den Berg has now progressed to receiving home care with the help of a vast support network of friends and colleagues.

Now, he says, it's all about "counting the milestones." A recent one was being able to walk in his kitchen, without a walker.

"Those two steps I took were steps I couldn't have taken a few months ago, and I believe that two will become four and four will become sixteen, and on and on."

But how long is "on and on"? It's a question every physical therapy patient asks and van den Berg is no exception. There's no clear answer.

"Where you end up is a function of where you start out," Bohannon

says. "Sjef started off very well, he never complained, and he continued to show improvement. It also helps that he's an upbeat guy."

But there are moments of anger and sadness too, which van den Berg says are "just part of the package. You can't deny it, so you have to live it, embrace it really. The physical therapy work I do is my lifeline. Dr. Bohannon shows me what I need to do to get there."

While the Nayden Clinic is close

to home for van den Berg, he also says it was the best choice for his recovery: "Being an academic, I was attracted to the fact that there is an academic connection here."

Bohannon stresses what he calls "our highly qualified therapists and the strong commitment to evidence-based practice. It's an integration of clinical work, academic research, and teaching."

Through it all, van den Berg says the past year has been one of

discovery as well as recovery.

"I found out that I'm a lot tougher than I thought I was or could possibly be," he says. "I've had great help from my doctors and from the Nayden Clinic. But I also rose to the challenge, and while I don't know if I'll ever be back to where I was before the accident, I do know that I'll work hard to get as close as I can."



PHOTO BY JANICE PALMER

Richard Bohannon, left, professor of physical therapy, works with Sjeff van den Berg, emeritus professor of communication sciences, at the Nayden Clinic. Van den Berg was critically injured in a car accident last year.

Dramatic Arts seeks to bring back campus summer theater series

BY LESLIE LOVELESS & TINA HUEY

UConn's Nutmeg Summer Playhouse, founded in 1949, played to sellout crowds from Storrs and neighboring towns for many years.

In 2003, it had to close be-

cause of budget reductions. But now there is growing interest in bringing summer theater back to Storrs, as the University expands its academic offerings during the summer, hosts an increasing number of conferences, and the Storrs

commercial district comes closer to reality.

Cultural offerings are expected to help support a local retail sector during the summer months, and also provide enriching experiences for UConn dramatic arts students

and the community.

"Summer theater was a beloved institution in Storrs for decades," says David Woods, dean of the School of Fine Arts. "One of our priorities is to launch a comeback of the summer festival known as the Nutmeg Summer Series, to meet the community's demand for theatrical enrichment and acting students' need for performance opportunities during the summer."

The Summer Series will enhance the efforts and mission of the Connecticut Repertory Theatre (CRT), the primary training ground and performance outlet for the Department of Dramatic Arts. It is hoped the Summer Series will provide high-quality theater offerings, in repertory, using the combined talents of professional actors and advanced UConn drama students.

Emeritus professor Nafe Katter, who was involved with the summer theater program for most of its 40-plus year run, sees summer repertory at UConn as a valuable tool in training students for a career in theater.

"Students profit enormously from working with professional actors," says Katter. "Not only do they establish contacts in the professional world, but their individual techniques are lifted to the standards of working actors."

Gary English, head of the Department of Dramatic Arts, says

that in the five years since the festival was closed, many have forgotten how lively Storrs was in the summer when the Nutmeg series was at its peak.

"We had 15,000, sometimes 20,000 people coming to our shows every summer," says English.

The Nutmeg Summer Series, which will be held in June and July, will include musicals, plays, and small concerts. The plan for the first summer, in 2009, include two musicals to be performed at the Harriet Jorgensen Theatre and two Shakespeare plays in the Nafe Katter Theatre.

The revival of the summer series will be underwritten in part by the University and with income from ticket sales, but private support is also needed to bring back the caliber of productions enjoyed in the past.

If sufficient funds can be secured by early fall, English hopes to launch an even more ambitious schedule.

"We would really like to create more of a destination program," he says, "where people can see as many as three plays in a week."

For more information about supporting the Nutmeg Summer Series, contact Paul Goldberg, the School of Fine Arts Development Officer, at 646.385.4344.



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Time of Your Life, a production in the 1966 Nutmeg Summer Series.