Pathobiologist to share expertise with policymakers

By David Baum

Steven Geary, a professor of pathobiology who specializes in infectious diseases of animals, is one of eight tenured professors nationwide selected to be 2008-09 Jefferson Science Fellows at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C.

He will be the first microbiologist/vaccinologist to serve as a Jefferson Fellow.

The fellowship program brings specialized scientific knowledge to the formulation and implementation of U.S. foreign policy.

Beginning in August, Geary will spend a year working full-time in either the State Department or the U.S. Agency for International Development, providing up-to-date expertise on issues that impact U.S. foreign policy decisions.

"I see this as an excellent opportunity to learn first hand how science and technology are used in our relationship with other nations," says Geary, director of UConn's Center of Excellence for Vaccine Research.

"and the process whereby policy at the State Department is developed."

Geary hopes to bring his expertise in microbial diseases that can devastate the

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Three nursing faculty receive profession’s highest honor

By Colin Poitras

Three University of Connecticut nursing professors have been elected to the American Academy of Nursing, the highest honor for nurses in the country.

School of Nursing Associate Dean Regina Cusson was recognized for her outstanding accomplishments in the field of neonatal care. Professors Geraldine Pearson and Deborah Shelton were honored for their exceptional work in the fields of adolescent psychiatric nursing and correctional health care respectively.

The American Academy of Nursing is the most prestigious professional organization for nurses in the United States. It recognizes top nursing leaders in the fields of education, management, research, and clinical practice. Of the approximately 3 million registered nurses in the country, only about 1,500 have been elected to the Academy.

"It is recognition of extraordinary nursing careers and contributions at the highest level of the profession," says Anne Bavier, Dean of UConn's School of Nursing.

"These UConn nurse scientists set the gold standards for patient care in their respective areas."

The three new fellows will be inducted into the Academy during a special ceremony in Scottsdale, Ariz. this fall.

Cusson is a professor and associate dean for academic affairs and advanced practice in the School of Nursing. She is a certified neonatal nurse practitioner and coordinator of the school's Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Program. Her federally-funded research studies have helped define practice stan-

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Spike Lee to base new movie on physics professor’s book

By Cindy Weiss

Physics professor Ronald Mallett's boyhood dream of building a working time machine may enter warp speed, now that he's signed a film deal with director Spike Lee.

Lee's production company, Forty Acres & A Mule Filmworks, has acquired the film rights to Mallett's latest book, Time Traveler – a Scientist's Personal Mission to Make Time Travel a Reality.

The deal resulted from a two-hour conversation between Mallett and Lee at the Student Union before Lee's March 29 keynote talk at the Harlem Renaissance conference organized by the Institute of African American Studies.

Lee, who teaches a film course at New York University, learned about the book from a student in his class. He asked to meet with Mallett when he came to UConn to speak.

Lee left for Italy the day after his UConn speech to finish filming his latest project, Miracle at St. Anna, based on James McBride's novel about members of the U.S. Army's all-black Buffalo Soldiers in the 92nd Division during World War II. He took a copy of Mallett's book with him.

"When he came back," says Mallett, "he decided he wanted to make a movie – it was literally that fast."

Lee called Mallett on April 9 and – Hollywood-style – told him "my people are going to contact your people" about a contract.

The time schedule for the film and its filming location have not been announced.

Mallett's book, which he calls a scien-

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Producing honey

3 Lifetime achievement

5 Nanotech breakthrough

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see Jefferson Science Fellow page 2
All have jobs to do and they never stop, morning to night. The idea of adding bees to UConn’s collection of productive farm animals came from Anthony, who attended a Cooperative Education class on bees. Following the course, he talked to Gronus, who keeps several hives at her home in Ashford. Their discussions led to a successful proposal to UConn administrators.

That should be good news to UConn students, who sop up nearly 1,000 pounds of honey into their tea and onto their toast every year. Chefs in the University’s nine dining halls use another 2,800 pounds of honey each year in marinades and sauces, and the UConn bakery also runs through honey rapidly. Currently, the department buys some of its honey for Whitney Dining Hall from a local beekeeper, in keeping with a pledge to buy as much food as possible locally. The bulk of the honey is purchased from Sysco, one of the department’s primary vendors. The locally purchased honey costs roughly $5 to $6 per pound.

That cost — about $10,000 to $15,000 annually — will decrease significantly, once the new hives are buzzing to capacity, says Anthony. The entire setup, including the hives, bees, queen bees, and equipment for handling the bees, cost only about $4,000, he says. And the labor involved, after the hives are built and the operation is set up, is minimal. It’s money well spent.

“The flavor is so different (from store-bought honey). It’s stronger, more pure, when you harvest from your own hives,” says Gronus, who has kept several hives in her back yard for the past two years. “The flavor depends on what they eat, but it’s much better.”

Once the bees start dining on ragweed in the fall, the honey will also take on a medicinal role, helping immunize the community against allergies. Gronus and Anthony say that because they got a late start this season — the bees were placed in the hives May 31, about two months later than ideal — they don’t expect to harvest more than about 500 pounds of honey in the fall. Beginning next year, however, they expect the hives to produce some 2,000 pounds of honey each year. That total could be greater if they add more hives.
Polymer expert’s lifetime work garners international acclaim

BY GREGORY HEADY

Faculty members eager to combine classroom study with student experience in community service programs can translate their passion into promotions and tenure, according to experts on the field. But MaryBeth Lima, a professor of biological and agricultural engineering at Louisiana State University, warns that tenure-track faculty need to have a detailed game plan for doing so.

Lima offered her advice during a conference on service learning at the Greater Hartford Campus June 12-13. A recognized expert in service learning, Lima has gained national attention for having her students learn by doing through the design and construction of public school playgrounds in Britain.

She said her students learn very quickly that planning and building a playground to meet the different requirements of early childhood age kids, and children with disabilities is a remarkable engineering challenge.

Despite increasing acceptance of the service-learning concept around the nation, Lima said it isn’t easy for faculty at research universities such as LSU and UConn to fit their experience with student-community programs into tenure-track formulas.

She said the hard reality is that, for faculty on the tenure track, time and effort spent on service-learning programs must be split into traditionally recognized categories such as research, publications, and getting grants.

Advocates of service learning must try to win over those in the academic community who regard it as “touchy-feely stuff,” she added.

“Money can be another challenge,” Lima noted.

“I need $30,000 to $50,000 [in grant money or donations] for every playground I build,” she said.

Lima said what keeps her going is her belief that equal access to safe, fun playgrounds is critical to the physical and emotional development of young children.

“Make sure you do things you’re passionate about,” she said.

She suggested that faculty interested in developing service-learning courses should seek advice from other educators around the nation working toward similar goals.

Lima and other speakers said an effort to combine traditional classroom studies with student community service can provide significant major benefits for everyone involved, including students, teachers, the communities, and the universities.

According to the keynote speaker, Nevon C. Brown, dismis-

ive, old-line academic attitudes toward service learning programs are beginning to change.

“There’s been a real battle for a number of years on many campus-

es,” said Brown, who is president of the International Partnership for Service Learning and Leadership.

The IPSL is a worldwide associa-

tion of universities, colleges, and nongovernmental organizations created to advocate service-learning programs.

Brown said there has been “a whole movement in recent years to redefine what scholarly work is” and to examine the “overall role of the university in the larger community.”

Ruth Glasser, a lecturer in urban and community studies at UConn’s Waterbury campus, said spending 12 hours a semester helping at local agencies has given her students a far better understanding of urban poverty.

“It does push you beyond your comfort zone in ways that are very, very good,” Glasser said.

Service learning existed at UConn in various forms long before it was mandated by the educational establishment. These included community-based internships, class projects, and research efforts that involved local partners. One such program was Urban Semester, directed by Loui-

se Simmons, an associate professor of social work.

In 2004, a group of UConn faculty, administrators, staff, and students created a plan for a center for community and civic engagement. After a committee was formally convened at the University to provide additional support for service-learning programs, an Office of Service Learning was launched at the Greater Hartford Campus in October 2007.

Wendy Pfrenger, an adjunct professor of English at UConn’s Greater Hartford Campus, told the conference that the “messiness of service learning” inspires both students and their teachers.

This year, Pranger and her writing class became involved in an oral history project on Hartford and West Hartford. The students created multimedia presentations that brought them into close contact with members of the community.

She said the “clumsy nature of the project” contributed to its success because “students had to learn how to examine their own attitudes and the difficulty of writing for a nonacademic audience.”

GREGORY HEADY is assistant professor of extended learning at the University of Rhode Island and is the conference chair for the National Association of Service Learning Professionals. The association’s next conference will be held June 15-17 in Houston, Texas.
Mastering the skills of orthopaedic surgery in the laboratory

BY CAROLYN PENNINGTON

"Okay, it's time to let someone else drive now," says Dr. Joseph DiAngelis, a fifth-year resident in orthopaedics, as he watches a first-year resident grapple with an arthroscope deeply embedded in the foot of a cadaver.

The first-year resident is learning to “drive” in the Bioskills Laboratory, on the upper floor of the Health Center’s New England Musculoskeletal Institute. This is where physicians specializing in orthopaedics can learn the rules of the road in their field without doing harm to a living patient. The “steering wheel” in this case is an arthroscope—a flexible fiberoptic scope, the size of a long drinking straw, fitted with a miniature camera, a light source, and precision tools. It has become a primary tool of the trade for an orthopaedist—used both for diagnostic procedures and for a wide range of surgical repairs.

Gaining skill, alleviating anxiety “The first day, we were unfamiliar with the equipment and weren’t really sure what to do," says Dr. Andrew Ritting, a first-year orthopaedic resident. “You don’t want to start your second year of residency and be on a scope service and never have seen or held a scope before. The more time we spend here in the bioskills lab, the more it helps alleviate some of the anxiety.” And Ritting will spend plenty of time here—approximately 250 hours during his five-year postgraduate residency program.

Learning to master the arthroscope is critical to the success of an orthopaedic surgeon and, unless you’ve whiz at video games, it’s much harder than you would think.

The lab is equipped with six operating stations and full-size plasma screen monitors capable of projecting both the procedures underway in the lab and actual surgical procedures in the operating room suites two floors below. “The lab is divided into stations, and we run it almost like an athletic practice,” says Dr. Augustus Mazzocca, an orthopaedic surgeon, an active team physician for the UConn athletic teams, and director of the bioskills lab.

At one station, for example, second-year residents are practicing with the scope on the shoulders of a cadaver. At another station, third-year residents are working on subarticular decompressions, the surgical treatment for shoulder bursitis. And at a third, the fifth-year residents are doing rotator cuff repair.

“Every year they continue building on their skills, so when they get into the Operating Room, they have a better understanding of the procedure and will be able to assist the surgeon more effectively,” says Mazzocca.

Dr. Kate Doughty, a fourth-year orthopaedic resident, says, “It’s daunting to be facing a living patient and being expected to use the scope. Practice in the lab gives us a level of comfort and confidence that we would not have otherwise.”

The Health Center’s bioskills lab is one of only a few nation-wide. Orthopaedic surgeon Dr. Robert Arciero compares it to the Orthopaedic Learning Center in Chicago, the premier cadaveric bioskills educational facility in the country. “Ours may be smaller, but it is exactly as well-equipped,” he says.

More than a training facility Dr. Jay Lieberman, chairman of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and head of the New England Musculoskeletal Institute, says the lab “provides an opportunity to develop new surgical procedures or refine older methods to make them better,” he says. These new techniques are tested in the state-of-the-art biomechanics laboratory, adjacent to the bioskills lab. It’s equipped with a variety of machines capable of testing the forces exerted by muscles and gravity on various joints, soft tissues, and the spine.

The Health Center’s sports medicine surgeons have developed new techniques that are tested in the biomechanics lab, then performed on cadavers, and subsequently used with patients.

Arciero and Mazzocca are internationally recognized for their innovative techniques to improve traditional shoulder surgery. The new methods developed here, now being used by surgeons around the world, offer patients greater comfort and range of motion and less chance of a second injury.

“We have a biomechanics lab that tests the procedure; we have a bioskills lab where we work out the imperfections and make sure we’re proficient at doing it, and then we have an outcomes department that looks at what we do and makes sure we’re as successful as we think we are,” says Mazzocca.

Lieberman says many patients benefit from the fact that the Health Center has these labs. “You can’t get the same experience using a computer or other type of simulation, even plastic models,” he says. “It’s important to practice the touch and feel of a real body.”

Adds Dr. James Boyle, a fifth-year resident, “These are technical, hands-on skills. You can’t read about it in a book, you just go into the operating room and do it. The opportunity to practice in the bioskills lab takes a bit of the learning curve out of the OR and puts the learning curve here in the lab.”

Neonatal specialist named State Direct Care Nurse of the Year

BY CHRIS DEFRAENCO

She’s the nurse you’d want taking care of your baby. That’s how co-workers describe Donna Buchanan, who has held the dual role of neonatal transport coordinator and neonatal nursing outreach coordinator at the UConn Health Center.

She also is the 2008 State Direct Care Nurse of the Year, as awarded by the Connecticut Department of Administrative Services.

The narrative of her nomination describes Buchanan as “the best in nursing and nurses.”

Nursing director Ellen Leone, who nominated her for the award, says, “Over the years that I’ve been at the Health Center, everyone to a person has said to me, ‘If it was my baby, I would want Donna Buchanan taking care of him or her’.”

As neonatal transport coordinator, Buchanan is responsible for the oversight of safety and performance of the neonatal transport system. In this role she also is a transport team leader, responding to calls from other hospitals in the region to stabilize and transport infants who require transfer to a newborn intensive care nursery.

As neonatal nursing outreach coordinator, she provides multidisciplinary training and education to health care providers throughout the state through training, regional conference development, and seminars focused on particular topics.

“She lives and breathes the operational success of the transport program,” says nursing manager Maureen Guzzi, Buchanan’s supervisor. “She works closely with community hospitals, the nurses, the physicians, and all other disciplines to assure best practice in stabilization of sick infants in the community until our team can get there. She really goes above and beyond when it comes to every detail around this program.”

Jeanne Lattanzio, the Health Center’s retired nursing director who now serves as coordinator of its March of Dimes Neonatal Family Support Program, says, “Donna’s responsible and capable attitude provides the parents with a feeling of trust and confidence in the transport team that will be caring for their baby. Her expert care and devotion to the young patients in her care have been demonstrated over the years through her willingness to go out on transport in any kind of weather conditions.”

A recent example occurred last December, when a winter storm prevented the neonatal transport team from responding to a call from Bristol Hospital. Buchanan enlisted the help of Health Center First Lt. Wendell Cote, who took her there in a four-wheel drive vehicle so she could stabilize a distressed infant until the rest of the team could arrive.

“It was just daily business, as far as I was concerned,” Buchanan says. “It was a bad snow storm, and nothing was plowed, but it’s New England, and we got through it”.

After about a week in the Health Center’s Newborn Intensive Care Nurseries, the baby went home with his family.

Says Buchanan, “The success of the transport system lies not with me but with the dedication of the entire team: attending neonatologists, neonatal fellows, medical practitioners, nurses, respiratory therapists, firefighters, and referring physicians. They are all vital to the team and I have never known them to waver in their commitment. I feel like I am accepting this award on their behalf.”

Buchanan has been with the Health Center since 1982, when she started as a neonatal nurse practitioner and clinical nurse specialist. A graduate of the University of Virginia School of Nursing, she started her career in neonatology in the U.S. Army.
Chemistry professor achieves nanotechnology breakthrough

by CAID WEISS

A chemistry professor in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and his graduate students have published new results in Nature Nanotechnology showing how they isolated a particular type of carbon nanotube from a sample and manipulated it in a way that could have broad applicability in drug and gene delivery, electronic devices, and nanotechnology research.

Fotos Papadimitrakopoulos and his graduate students found a way for a biological molecule, a form of vitamin B2, to wrap around a single-walled carbon nanotube—a tube so small that it has the highest curvature on earth. Wrapping a carbon nanotube was a difficult achievement and instrumental to their research, since it was a step that eventually enabled them to isolate a particular type of nanotube from a sample that contained 50 different kinds.

Papadimitrakopoulos has spent seven years investigating how to efficiently separate the various nanotubes in a sample into like types. Nanotubes that are alike can be interlocked to create a material that is extremely strong, even if each nanotube is as small as one micron. Homogenous nanotubes also have the same electrical and optical properties, and they form a material that is extremely pure.

The research opens the possibility of wrapping nanotubes with proteins or other molecules, which would be useful in a variety of applications. “We have learned how to manipulate this molecule,” says Papadimitrakopoulos. “The lead author of the Nature Nanotechnology paper is Sang-Young Ju, a polymer science Ph.D. candidate in his fifth year of study. Other authors are Jonathan Doll, a fourth-year polymer science Ph.D. student, and Ify Sharma, a second-year chemistry Ph.D. candidate.

Two undergraduates, William Kopcha, CLAS ’08, a chemistry major, and Christopher Badalucco, a junior majoring in physiology and neurobiology, also were involved in the research. The researchers worked with single-walled carbon nanotubes formed from graphene. If you drag a pencil across paper, Papadimitrakopoulos says, you leave thousands of graphene “seeds” behind, a deposit from the friction of the graphite pencil tip against the paper. At the molecular level, graphene seeds look like a honeyscomb. If you form these graphene sheets into a tube, they can become the basis of single-walled carbon nanotubes.

Getting another material to wrap around them was the next challenge. The researchers discovered that the vitamin B molecule stitches itself into a ribbon, using soft hydrogen bonds, and seamlessly wraps itself around the carbon nanotube. The ribbon, in a sense, acts as a detergent, dispersing the oil-loving nanotube in water. “Nobody has shown this before,” says Papadimitrakopoulos.

By introducing a second detergent, they managed to destabilize the ribbon, breaking its hydrogen bonds and leaving the second detergent in its place. Varying the concentration of the second detergent allowed them to separate nanotubes that had a given chirality, or pitch. Identifying carbon nanotubes of like chirality, or pitch, has important implications. If the chirality is the same, the nanotubes have the potential to interlock themselves in a hexagonal pattern and create an extremely strong material, even if the nanotubes are not very long.

Papadimitrakopoulos says that this is an important step toward minimizing the potential negative health impact of carbon nanotubes, which recently were associated with asbestos-like contamination in the lung linings of laboratory animals. In that recent study, it was shown that carbon nanotubes larger than 20 microns behaved like asbestos, while those smaller than 20 microns could be cleared out of the lungs, much like pollen.

The carbon nanotubes that his research group works on are far smaller, at approximately one-micron in length.

Carbon nanotubes received widespread attention in 1991, but it is only in the past 10 years or so that research on their applications has heated up. Nanotubes are small, strong, and special because of their potential for use in drug delivery and electronics applications.

Some have described carbon nanotubes as the reining celebrities of the advanced materials world. Papadimitrakopoulos describes them as the “Cinderella molecules of nanotechnology. Hydrocarbons can be burned and still be used to make strong materials, he notes. Carbon is inexpensive, and carbon and carbon nanotubes can transform products, making stronger tennis rackets or bullet-proof vests, for example.

The Air Force, which funds his research, is interested in advanced materials that are light, strong, and can withstand high temperatures, he says. In the future, he predicts, planes will be made from carbon nano-fibers.

Papadimitrakopoulos is a chemistry professor in CLAS, but his work is interdisciplinary, involving physics as well. He also serves as the associate director of the Institute of Materials Science and is a member of the Polymer Program. Papadimitrakopoulos says his research could not have progressed without the use of a high resolution transmission electron microscope, which allowed his research group to confirm and verify visually that the B molecule was wrapping around the carbon nanotube.

To hear Papadimitrakopoulos describe the research, go to www.cla.unl.edu/faculty snapshots/ video.php?id=papadimitrakopoulos

To read the Nature Nanotechnology paper online, go to: www.nature.com/nano/journal/v3/n6/ full/nnano.2008.146.html

Oil-absorbing material based on UConn research

by CAID WEISS

Nature Nanotechnology published two reports on May 30 by scientists in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

In addition to the paper by the research group of chemistry professor Fotos Papadimitrakopoulos, the second included the work of scientists that have created a membrane so thin that can absorb up to 20 times its weight in oil.

The research, led by an MIT scientist, included the work of collaborator and co-author Steven L. Suib, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, and his graduate students found a way to make a form of vitamin B2, which the editors dubbed the material “protean” because it can be used many times and has applications in many ways.

Chandra Roychoudhuri, research assistant, who is majoring in physiology and neurobiology, and his graduate students found a way to make a form of vitamin B2, which the editors dubbed the material “protean” because it can be used many times and has applications in many ways.

The membrane was the subject of an earlier report in Nature, whose editors dubbed the material “protean” because it can be used many ways. Subs says it can be folded, cut, or written on. It has potential applications to stop bleeding and to clean metals out of fuels, and is a conductor.

UConn’s Center for Science and Technology Commercialization filed an application for a patent on this material, titled “Manga-fibers.” The technology is for licensing.

In the latest report, the material was modified to create a superhydrophobic—water-repelling—characteristic to greatly enhance its ability to absorb oil from water. Its properties would enable it to absorb industrial discharges from sea water, the report notes.

“Given the global scale of severe water pollution arising from oil spills and industrial organic pollut- ants,” the authors wrote, “this study may prove particularly useful in the design of recyclable absorbents with significant environmental impact.” The report is at: nature.com/nano/journal/v3/n6/ abs/nnano.2008.136.html

Spike Lee movie continued from page 1

tific memoir, was co-written with Bruce Henderson, the author of more than 20 nonfiction books. It tells how a childhood trauma—the death of his father when Mallett was 10 years old—inspired his quest to build a time machine so he could return to an earlier time and save his father’s life.

Lee, who will co-write the script for the film and direct it, says he is “elated to have acquired the rights to a fantastic story on many levels, but also a father-and-son saga of loss and love.”

After his father’s death, Mallett’s family moved from the Bronx to Pennsylvania. As an undergradu- ate and graduate student at Penn- sylvania State University, Mallett studied physics, receiving a Ph.D. in 1973. He joined the physics fac- ulty in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at UConn in 1975, after working for United Technol- ogies as a research scientist.

A theoretical physicist, he has published several papers on black holes and cosmology. Mallett’s breakthrough in his time travel research was published in the professional journal Physics Letters A in 2000.

He has collaborated with Chandra Roychoudhuri, research professor of physics and laser spe- cialist, to build a representational model of a time machine, based on Einstein’s general theory of relativity and Mallett’s theory.

They are seeking $250,000 in funding to build an experimental device to test Mallett’s theory, and have received support from private donors through a Univer- sity of Connecticut Foundation account, “Space Time Twisting by Light Project.”

Mallett’s memoir has been translated into several languages, including Chinese and Korean, since it was published in 2006. He has done 35 book signings around the country and gets mail daily from readers around the world. His book has been featured on television shows in Britain and the U.S., and on the History Channel, Science Channel, Learning Channel, and National Public Radio’s This American Life.

To see a UCTV interview with Mallett, go to www.youtube.com/ watch?v=cjxo-pvSmdA

To hear Mallett talk about his work, go to www.cla.uconn. edu/facultysnapshots/view.php?id=mallett

Steven Suib, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Chemistry.

Photos by Daniel Buttery
The following grants were received through the Office for Sponsored Programs (OSP) in April 2008. The list represents only new proposals awarded, and excludes continuations. The list is supplied to the Investigator Department Sponsor Amount Award Period

### PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

**Prin. Investigator**  | **Department**  | **Sponsor**  | **Amount**  | **Award Period**  
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---  
Payne, D.  | **Education**  | Sea Grant College Program  | CT Sea Grant College Omnibus 2008-2010  | $125,900  | 2/08-10  
Van Patten, M.  | **Communications**  | Sea Grant College Program  | CT Sea Grant College Omnibus 2008-2010  | $340,610  | 2/08-10  
Vokoun, J.  | **Research**  | Natural Resources Management & Engineering  | CT Sea Grant College Omnibus 2008-2010  | $73,222  | 2/08-10  
Whittatch, R.  | **Research**  | Marine Sciences  | CT Sea Grant College Omnibus 2008-2010  | $159,230  | 2/08-10  
Demurjian, S.  | **Computer Science & Engineering**  | Nat’l Institutes of Health / Health & Human Services Admin. / University of Conn. Health Center  | $5,200  | 3/08-6/08  
**PDA Applications for Medical Education**  
Eich, M.  | **Civil & Environmental Engineering**  | Dept. of Transportation  | $895,766  | 7/07-6/11  
Doyle, M.  | **Curriculum & Instruction**  | Conn. Dep. of Higher Education  | $500,000  | 4/08-5/09  
**Language & Literacy Proficiency of Early Childhood Educators**  
Ellis, D.  | **Plant Science**  | Conn. Agricultural Experiment Station  | $14,847  | 1/08-12  
**Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Work Plan for Calendar Year 2008**  
Ferris, A.  | **Nutritional Sciences**  | U.S. Dep. of Agriculture  | $5,664,206  | 10/07-9/08  
**Food Stamp Nutrition Education**  
Frisman, L.  | **School of Social Work**  | Nat’l Insts. of Health  | $20,000  | 1/08-6/08  
**Dissemination of EBPs in Addiction Treatment**  
Guillard, K.  | **Plant Science**  | EPA / Environmental Protection Agency / Conn. Dep. of Environmental Protection  | $50,000  | 12/08-12/09  
**Nitrogen Fertilizer Reductions on Coastal Lawns Through Training and Education**  
Joo, K.  | **Physics**  | Dept. of Energy  | $22,049  | 1/08-10  
**Deeply Virtual Compton Scattering (DVSCL) with Polarized Target**  
Keelke, T.  | **School Psychology Internship**  | Montessori School of Greater Hartford  | $5,200  | 3/08-6/08  
Kraus, C.  | **Center for Survey Research & Analysis**  | Conn. Dep. of Higher Education / Conn. Center for Advanced Technology Inc.  | $21,500  | 3/08-6/08  
**Parent and Community Survey**  
Kraus, C.  | **Research & Analysis**  | Connecticut Bar Association Inc.  | $27,000  | 3/08-6/08  
Kraus, C.  | **Center for Survey Research & Analysis**  | Lebanon Public Schools, Conn. Dep. of Higher Education / Conn. Center for Advanced Technology Inc.  | $5,200  | 3/08-6/08  
**Low Income Civil Legal Needs Survey**  
Kraus, C.  | **Faculty Development**  | U.S. Dep. of Agriculture / Food & Nutrition Service / Conn. Dep. of Health & Human Services / Conn. Center for Advanced Technology Inc.  | $212,148  | 4/08-9/08  
**Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
Legrand, A.  | **Plant Science**  | U.S. Dep. of Agriculture  | $136,777  | 6/07-5/08  
**Contribution Agreement: IPM Technical Assistance for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program**  
Madaus, J.  | **Center on Post Secondary Education & Disability**  | U.S. Dep. of Education  | $79,315  | 3/08-12/08  
**Post-Secondary Education & Disability**  
Mahoney, J.  | **Connecticut Transportation Institute**  | Conn. Dep. of Transportation  | $30,174  | 7/07-6/08  
**Longitudinal Joint Study – Phase 2**  
Marcus, H.  | **Institute of Materials Science**  | Dept. of Defense / Air Force Office of Scientific Research / Conn. Center for Advanced Technology Inc.  | $15,786  | 6/07-5/08  
**Support for the Application of Lasers to Materials Processing**  
O’Neill, M.  | **Molecular & Cell Biology**  | U.S. Agency for International Development / University of California at Davis  | $20,000  | 3/08-9/08  
**Population Genetic Structure and Biodiversity of Nigerian Goats**  
Payne, D.  | **Communication**  | Dept. of Commerce / Air Force Office of Scientific Research / Conn. Center for Advanced Technology Inc.  | $25,875  | 11/07-6/08  
**Ocean Exploration Professional Development Institute Evaluation**  
Polifroni, E.  | **Nursing Instruction & Research**  | Conn. Dep. of Higher Education / Conn. Center for Advanced Technology Inc.  | $2,881  | 12/08-12/09  
**Health and Education Initiatives – MbEIN Stamford**  
Pristoe, M.  | **Extension**  | Conn. Dep. of Environmental Protection  | $753,442  | 3/08-4/09  
**Development of Conn. Environmental Conditions Online (CT-ECO)**

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**Alphabetical, by Principal Investigator**

**Accorsi, M.**  | **Civil & Environmental Engineering**  | Dept. of Defense / Army / Natick Soldier Center  | $58,301  | 4/08-12  
**Development of Advanced Technologies for Human-Centric Simulations**

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**Babb, I.**  | **Undersea Research Center**  | Dreyfus (Max and Victoria) Foundation  | $7,500  | 6/08-5/09  
**Building a Video Archive for Ocean Science Education – Year 2**

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**Boggs, S.**  | **Institute of Materials Science**  | UTIX Corp.  | $50,000  | 4/08-12  
**Issues Related to Silicone-Injected Cable**

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**Broaches, C.**  | **Chemistry**  | Nat’l Science Foundation  | $253,465  | 3/08-3/09  
**Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Site in Chemistry at the University of Connecticut**

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**Bucklin, A.**  | **Marine Sciences**  | SPT Offshore LLC  | $69,460  | 3/08-5/09  
**Charter of the Research Vessel Connecticut by SPT Offshore LLC**

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**Virtual Prototype of a Turbine Engine for a Wind Power Generator**

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**Civco, D.**  | **Natural Resources Management & Engineering**  | Conn. Dep. of Environmental Protection  | $85,992  | 4/08-12  
**Mapping of Key Habitats for Species of Greatest Conservation Need**

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**Crespi, J.**  | **Geoscience**  | Nat’l Science Foundation  | $205,033  | 3/08-2/11  
**Center for Integrative Geoscience**

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**De Guise, S.**  | **Geography**  | Conn. Dep. of Environmental Protection  | $3,930  | 8/07-12  
**Past-ice Control Structure Geomorphological Assessment of the Salmon River**

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**De Guise, S.**  | **Sea Grant College Program**  | Dept. of Commerce / National Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin.  | $137,500  | 12/07-12/08  
**Sea Grant College Program Omnibus 2008-2010, comprising 13 projects:**

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**Bacam, D.**  | **Sea Grant College Program**  | CT Sea Grant College Omnibus 2008-2010  | $68,764  | 3/08-10  
**Sea Grant College Program Omnibus 2008-2010**

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**De Guise, S.**  | **Sea Grant College Program**  | CT Sea Grant College Omnibus 2008-2010  | $337,354  | 3/08-10  
**Sea Grant College Program Omnibus 2008-2010**

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**Polifroni, E.**  | **Bridgewater State University**  | Conn. Dep. of Higher Education / Conn. Center for Advanced Technology Inc.  | $2,881  | 12/08-12/09  
** 지원 for the Application of Lasers to Materials Processing**

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**Prindle, M.**  | **Extension**  | Conn. Dep. of Environmental Protection  | $753,442  | 3/08-4/09  
**Development of Conn. Environmental Conditions Online (CT-ECO)**
Courant Foundation to fund community college transfers

by Jennifer Huser

The Hartford Courant Foundation is revising an existing scholar- ship fund to help community college graduates complete bachelor’s degrees at UConn, the University of Connecticut Foundation has announced.

In its new form, the fund will provide scholarships to students who have completed an associate’s degree at one of the four community colleges in central Connecticut – Capital, Manchester, Tunxis or Middlesex – and have been accepted at UConn through the Guaranteed Admission Program or evening program.

The fund, which will support such scholarships for the next 10 years, is designed to enhance diversity at UConn. Scholarship recipients are expected to receive funding for up to three years. The new scholarship program is mod- eled after the Hartford Courant Foundation Scholars Program, which has awarded more than $73,000 in scholarships since it was established 22 years ago, and has helped more than 70 young adults from the Hartford area complete a bachelor’s degree at UConn. The new scholarships will boost UConn’s Guaranteed Admissions Program, which was announced in late 2007. This program offers a pathway for students who maintain a B average at Connecticut’s community colleges to earn guaranteed admission to UConn.

The University is dedicated to maintaining an academically com- petitive and diverse student body while enhancing access to higher education. The program supports a vital role in achieving these goals by helping recruit and retain top students, approximately 75 percent of whom receive some form of financial assistance. Scholarships not only fill a critical need for students from low-income house- holds, but also help attract high- achieving students from diverse backgrounds.

Cindy Weiss

A recent graduate of the Depart- ment of Public Policy’s Master of public administration program has won a prestigious national award, the $10,000 Daniel R. Goldberg scholarship from the Government Finance Officers Association.

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 Hispanics in the Community

On her most recent trip this spring, where the students worked in the Lower Ninth Ward, one of the hardest hit and least recon- structed areas, Rua was impressed by the determination of local

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Environmental impact of horse manure can be lessened, says professor

Jenifer Nadeau, associate professor of animal science, at UConn's Arthur L. Lorenzont Stables.

By ELIZABETH OMARA-OTANNU

Erminius professor's new novel set in Hollywood

Shelby Fierce has always been intrigued by Los Angeles. “It’s an unreal place,” he says. “You see aspirants who can’t find Hollywood. There’s Melrose and people walking up and down looking for Jay Leno. It’s a twilight zone.”

And it’s where Fioine, an erminius professor of dramatic arts, set his new trendy Rif, published by James A. Rock & Co.

“I think it would be interest- ing to go on this journey with Ben,” Fioine adds. “I was trying to see if there was truly a line between illusion and reality in Tinseltown. Moreover, if I really put him in danger, would there be a point when Ben would be pushed to the limit and discover what reality matters in this life?”

“Tinseltown Rif,” which has just been published, received advance praise from such notables as Acad- emy Award nominee and Edgar winner Donald Westlake.

A nonfiction book by Fioine on screenwriting and film will be published in the fall.

The author of the work includes novels Like Moon and Sunbeams and for Andy Horn, and a non-fiction book, The Actors Studio: A Histor.

Nursing faculty honored

Nurse's current research explores work- force issues for advanced practice neonatal nurse practitioners in the U.S. and Britain.

Published in the fall.

Pearson is also president of the 800-member International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses and a past president and vice-president of the School of Nursing Alumni & Friends Society Board of Directors.

Shelton is an associate professor in the School of Nursing and at the UConn Health Center's De- partment of Medicine, where she works in the Division of Public Health and Population Sciences.

As the new director for research and evaluation in the Health Cen-

ter's Correlated Corrective Health Care program, Shelton is work- ing with the programs executive director, Dr. Robert Trestman, on research designed to improve health care services in correc- tional institutions in Connecticut and nationally. Shelton has received more than $11 mil- lion in funding from the National Institute of Mental Health and the National Institute of Justice.

A long-time advocate for chil- dren's mental health, Shelton has focused much of her research on examining access to care for minority youth and young offenders.

She received a lifetime achieve- ment award from the Interna- tional Association of State and County Nurses in 2004 and was named "Nurse of the Year" in Washington, D.C. in 2003.

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