



## University plans for budget rescission

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

The University has been notified by the state Office of Policy and Management that 3 percent of the state appropriation for the Storrs-based budget is being rescinded.

The University's state support will be reduced by \$6.7 million, with an additional reduction of \$2.7 million in related fringe benefits. This totals \$9.4 million, or approximately 3 percent of the state appropriation.

It is not yet clear whether support for collective bargaining increases (which comes from the state's Reserve for Salary Adjustment account) will also be reduced, says Lorraine Aronson, vice president and chief financial officer.

The rescission was imposed throughout the executive branch of state government because state revenues are not meeting expectations and, as a result, the state is projecting a \$150 million deficit for the fiscal year that has just begun. In order to close that gap, Gov. M. Jodi Rell exercised her statutory authority to impose budget rescissions of up to 5 percent of state agency budgets.

"While this news is not welcome, neither is it unexpected," says University President Michael J. Hogan. "The state budget is in deficit and we, like other public institutions,

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PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Janine Caira, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, in her lab at the Torrey Life Sciences Building.

## UConn 2000 sequencing to change

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

The Board of Trustees recently approved changes in the sequencing of projects within the UConn 2000 program.

These measures will accommodate changing research priorities; bring the building program in line with the academic plan; and allow more time for planning large projects such as the Torrey Life Sciences Building.

The UConn 2000 legislation gives the University authority to sequence projects and determine project scope and budgets. Named projects, those enumerated in the legislation, can only be added or deleted

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## Biologist receives NSF grant to oversee worldwide tapeworm biodiversity project

BY CINDY WEISS

Janine Caira, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, has won a rare \$3 million National Science Foundation Planetary Biodiversity Inventory grant to oversee a worldwide network of specialists to study the biodiversity of tapeworms, her research specialty.

The grant will be shared with the University of Kansas, where Caira's former Ph.D. student Kirsten Jensen is now an assistant professor of biology. Co-principal investigators with Caira are Timothy Littlewood, a zoologist with the Natural History Museum in London, and Jean Mariaux, a zoologist with the Museum of Natural History of Geneva, Switzerland.

In all, 34 researchers from 20 countries

around the world – from Vietnam to Ethiopia to Argentina – will be involved in the massive five-year project to learn as much as possible about the world's diversity of tapeworms.

Caira, who is known for her sense of humor, titled her grant proposal, "A Survey of the Tapeworms from the Vertebrate Bowels of the Earth."

Tapeworms inhabit the bowels of all classes of vertebrates, but not much is known about them, she says. A few are of medical or veterinary interest as parasites, and the researchers expect to learn more about them.

She expects the search to find as many as 1,700 new species, a nearly 40 percent increase over the roughly 5,000 species now known, and under the grant will describe

1,000 of them.

"If we can accomplish what we propose to do, the tapeworms are going to be one of the most well known groups," she says.

The project will revise the way that tapeworms are classified, using molecular methods as well as more traditional methods that use morphology and anatomy to identify species.

For this project, UConn will be the home of a tapeworm database, designed by Jensen and housed on a server at UITS. All the researchers worldwide will have access to and work from the same database, using the same criteria.

The first phase will be to collect hosts of tapeworms. Sharks, one of Caira's research

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PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

President Michael J. Hogan visits with gifted education specialists from Georgia during Confratute. More than 1,000 educators from around the world attended the summer conference, which is sponsored by the Neag Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development and organized by Professors Joseph Renzulli and Sally Reis.

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must do our best to manage the realities of the day.”

Hogan says the University will accommodate the rescission by reducing the permanent budget by 3.5 percent. Only energy, financial aid, and collective bargaining funds will be exempt from the cuts.

Schools, colleges, and academic and non-academic departments were asked to submit reduction plans by July 9. Those plans will be reviewed in the next few weeks, before permanent reductions are made.

“We have asked every unit to plan for a 3.5 percent reduction,” says Aronson. “This will enable us to meet the 3 percent target, because ultimately some areas will be unable to achieve the necessary savings.

Substantial savings on energy costs have already been achieved through conservation and construction of the University’s

co-generation plant. In addition, UConn has negotiated a favorable gas contract, and also reduced costs by participating in a new state electricity contract, Aronson says. She notes that work completed under UConn 2000 has resulted in substantial energy savings, through both energy-conscious renovation projects and infrastructure repairs and upgrades.

Savings have also been achieved by limiting out-of-state travel, and by carefully reviewing vacant positions before they are filled. Vacancies that affect health, safety, or academic courses are the highest priority for refill; other vacancies are being carefully reviewed, Aronson says.

“Our main goal is to ensure that students have access to courses, that we provide the high quality experience that we have promised and students expect, and that safety is ensured,” she says.

Even though the budget

poses challenges, the University has deployed resources toward strategic priorities, including the hiring of 30 new faculty who will begin work this fall. The Academic Plan, which will be completed by September, sets programmatic priorities.

The Health Center is exempt from the state rescission.

“We have had to ask the state for deficit assistance and the extremely constrained financial environment remains the overarching reality at the Health Center,” Aronson says. “The structural problems at the hospital will persist until a comprehensive solution is found.”

Approximately \$78 million in operational efficiencies have been achieved since 1999. Health Center officials are working with Price-waterhouseCoopers on further expense reductions and revenue enhancements, but are still projecting a deficit by the end of the fiscal year.

## Tapeworm biodiversity *continued from page 1*

interests, birds, and mammals are productive tapeworm hosts. In the second phase, Littlewood, of the London Natural History Museum, one of the world’s experts on molecular methods of studying flatworms, will sequence the DNA of 1,000 tapeworm species and revise the classification of tapeworms, based on his results.

Once a year, all those closely involved in the project will meet face to face. The first project meeting took place in Slovakia last month. At other times, [www.tapeworms.org](http://www.tapeworms.org), the common web site and host of the database, will connect them.

UConn was awarded \$2.6 million, with the remaining \$400,000 going to the University of Kansas. Subcontractors include the University of North Dakota, the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, and the Czech Academy of Sciences.

“This is a very impressive tribute

to one of our most active and long-term, well-supported, and internationally known research programs,” says Gregory J. Anderson, vice provost for research and graduate education.

It is also among the largest research grants to the University, he says, and a good example of a grant program in which matching contributions – from the Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Education, the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences – have made possible an otherwise huge and complex research undertaking.

The matching funds will cover expenses such as a multicultural graduate student assistantship and support for a minority undergraduate research participant.

Caira, who has worked on the tapeworm database for 10

years with separate NSF funding, will oversee a research team that includes three postdoctoral associates, two graduate students, and two undergraduates each year of the project at its various sites. One postdoc will work at the U.S. National Parasite Collection in Beltsville, Md. for a year.

In another feature of the project, participants in the Teachers for a New Era program at the Neag School of Education will be involved in writing prototypes for five children’s books about the different groups of tapeworms. Each book will have a “spokesworm,” as Caira calls it, such as Toni Trypanorhynch.

The NSF introduced Planetary Biodiversity Inventory grants in 2003. Until now, only nine grants have been awarded.

# Professor of English, Hans Turley, dies at 52

BY SHERRY FISHER

Hans Turley, an associate professor of English, died June 13. He was 52.

Turley, who lived in Willimantic, joined the UConn faculty in 1998. He was a specialist in Restoration and 18th-century adventure literature, with a focus on Daniel Defoe and the literary history of piracy. He also specialized in gay and lesbian studies.

Robert Tilton, chair of the English department, says Turley “was incredibly generous, a great scholar, and wonderful teacher. We’ll miss him terribly.”

Tilton also noted Turley’s devotion to volunteer work at the Covenant Soup Kitchen in Willimantic.

Greg Semenza, associate professor of English, says it is difficult to capture how much Turley meant to others. “Nothing – no words, no memories can adequately sum up Hans’ spirit, the sheer originality of his personality, or the depth of his passions,” Semenza says. What people will remember, he adds, “is every instance of kindness, and especially of amazing courage.”

Penelope Pelizzon, associate

professor of English, says she will miss Turley’s sense of humor. “Hans had an 18th-century wit,” she says. “He loved innuendo, double entendres, and saucy humor. He could spur a lagging meeting into a trot with one of his ironic asides. My best mornings in the English department were often kick-started by a bit of Hans’ good-natured gossip, delivered with his characteristic dry understatement.”

Turley will also be remembered for his ‘encyclopedic’ knowledge of film and popular culture, and his love of dogs.

Born in Parkersburg, W.Va., Turley earned his bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees in English from the University of Washington. He was an assistant professor of Restoration and 18th-century literature at Texas Tech University from 1996 to 1998.

Turley is survived by his long-time partner Steve Arnold.

Donations in memory of Turley may be sent to the Covenant Soup Kitchen, where he used to volunteer. The address is: Covenant Soup Kitchen, 220 Valley Street, Willimantic, CT 06226.

## UConn 2000 projects *continued from page 1*

with legislative approval, and each year the University must administer the program within the annual bond caps set in the legislation.

The revised sequencing includes delaying the start of the Life Sciences project until 2011 to allow for more comprehensive planning, says Lorraine Aronson, chief financial officer. The scope of that project is very large and requires maximum flexibility for planning.

Also, UConn is now planning for the replacement buildings for Monteith and Arjona, another very large project. Scheduling the two large projects one after the other rather than simultaneously will allow for better management.

Delaying the Life Sciences project will enable the University to undertake a number of smaller projects sooner than anticipated.

“Now some of the older, historic buildings such as Beach Hall, Fam-

ily Studies, and Manchester Hall, can be renovated at the same time that we upgrade them for code compliance,” Aronson says.

The revised plan, made with input from the Buildings and Grounds Committee, the president, and the provost, also permits allocation this year of \$3 million for planning the new student recreational center. The center will be funded primarily through fees and through a significant private fundraising campaign but, Aronson says the planning funds are important to determine the scope of the project, its location, and its cost.

Other changes include moving equipment funds from the capital to the operating budget, to maximize UConn 2000 funds for facility projects, and was accomplished by reallocating and restructuring the operating budget, Aronson says.

# UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT Advance

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# New director named for Office of Sponsored Programs

BY ELIZABETH OMARA-OTUNNU

Michael Crouch, an administrator with extensive experience in non-profit grants management, has been appointed executive director of the Office for Sponsored Programs and assistant vice provost for research. He joined the University June 26.

Crouch worked at the University of Pittsburgh for nearly 15 years in a similar role, and also at Northwestern University. He has also managed the grants portfolio for a hospital consortium, the MedStar Research Institute, and worked as an independent consultant to non-profit organizations.

Crouch replaces Carol Welt, who retired last year. He was selected after a national search, conducted by a committee chaired by Debra Kendall, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology.

Gregory Anderson, vice provost for research and graduate education and dean of the Graduate School, says, "The search committee and I were impressed by the depth and breadth of Dr. Crouch's experience and professional connections and his commitment to research. He is dedicated

to helping faculty manage their grants and assisting the University in most effectively meeting its compliance demands. He also has impressive national connections with professional agencies and federal organizations."

The Office for Sponsored Programs supports sponsored research activities at the Storrs-based programs. It is the central point of coordination for such projects, working with faculty and staff writing grants and with the University's finance and accounting offices. It is the University's authorized representative for grants, contracts, and other agreements from government agencies, private industry, and non-profit foundations.

UConn is currently seeking to enhance its research profile. The Academic Plan, which is now being finalized, includes the goals of developing a stronger extramural funding portfolio and expanding the infrastructure that supports research.

"I look forward to advancing the research interests of the University," Crouch says, "working on enhancements and refinements of service operations, and doing everything possible to promote the

flow of communication pertaining to those activities, as we initiate and continue dialogue with faculty, staff, senior administrators, and other interested stakeholders across campus.

"At the more strategic level," he adds, "I also look forward to having a voice in promoting the research mission, engaging in discussions about infrastructure, future directions, resources and re-sourcing, so we can address issues of capacity and capacity-building for research."

Crouch has been an active member of both the National Council of University Research Administrators and the Council on Government Relations.

He has published articles on conflict of interest in a research university and academic research infrastructure, and serves as a member of the editorial review board of the *Research Management Review* and on the manuscript editors board for the *Journal of Research Administration*.

Crouch earned a bachelor's degree in biology at Kalamazoo College, an MBA at the University of Detroit, and an Ed.D. from the University of Pittsburgh.



PHOTO BY SEAN FLYNN

Michael Crouch, executive director of the Office for Sponsored Programs and assistant vice provost for research.

## Trustee committee to review Spring Weekend

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

The Board of Trustees has asked its Student Life Committee to undertake a complete review of Spring Weekend.

A focused effort by the University, led by Student Affairs and Public Safety, in cooperation with the Town of Mansfield and the State Police, has led to more orderly Spring Weekends, as the number and severity of public disruptions have declined.

Over the past several years, the University has initiated numerous actions to increase the number of sanctioned and non-alcohol-related events, including enhancing the Saturday night concerts, oozeball, Late Night at the Student Union, area carnivals, and other programs offered to UConn students.

"Spring Weekend has a negative impact on our institutional reputation," says John Saddleire, vice president for student affairs. "The board is looking for ways to address this continuing challenge, recognizing that there are no easy answers."

"We have initiated a number of programs to increase students' safety and raise awareness about underage and binge drinking. We have worked with package stores to limit keg sales, sales of bottles,

and sales to underage individuals, and we have worked with area high schools and other colleges to discourage outsiders from coming to campus."

Saddleire notes that UConn has focused its efforts on engaging UConn students in appropriate activities and discouraging non-student participation in events during Spring Weekend. "Over the years, the events taking place have attracted many people not related to the University and this continues to be a problem," he says. Most of the arrests each year are of non-students.

The Board's Student Life Committee has been asked to review Spring Weekend and consider the gamut of options, including continuing current efforts, suggesting program alternatives, or eliminating Spring Weekend as it is currently organized.

"We need to remember that the overwhelming majority of the problems involve non-UConn students," Saddleire says. "UConn students have been taking increasing responsibility for their actions and their weekend. However, problems continue to concern the board and the administration."

## Nobelist to give public talk in Storrs at international atomic physics conference

BY CINDY WEISS

More than 600 physicists from around the world, including five Nobel Prize winners, will converge on the Storrs campus July 27-Aug. 1 for the 21st International Conference on Atomic Physics, organized by the physics department in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Although registration is required to hear the 50 invited speakers (among them, William Stwalley, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Physics), a free public talk will be given by Nobel laureate Wolfgang Ketterle on Tuesday, July 29, at 8 p.m. in Jorgensen Auditorium.

Ketterle, the John D. MacArthur Professor of Physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been a popular speaker at UConn, giving the 2006 Katzenstein Distinguished Lecture in Physics and delivering the graduate commencement talk in 2007.

This time he will speak about "From the Hot Big Bang to the Coldest Temperatures Ever Achieved." The coldest temperatures are those at which he studies the properties of matter.

Ketterle shared the Nobel Prize in physics in 2001 with two physicists at the University of Colorado. The three were the first to achieve the Bose-Einstein condensation, a phenomenon predicted by Einstein and Indian physicist Satyendra Nath Bose in 1924, during the early days of quantum mechanics.

In 1995, Ketterle at MIT and physicists at the JILA laboratory at the University of Colorado obtained the first evidence for the Bose-Einstein condensation, working with ultracold dilute gases. One of the Nobelists from Colorado, Eric Cornell, also is an invited speaker at the conference.

Ketterle also is known for his work on the atom laser and for developing tools to manipulate and study Bose-Einstein condensates.

Ketterle's public talk is described as "a journey that takes us from the earth to the sun" and from temperatures of a trillion Kelvin down to the coldest temperatures ever achieved, a range far beyond the temperature swings of a weatherman's highs and lows.

The lowest temperatures ever achieved are a trillion times colder than room temperature.

Temperatures so cold that they are within a billionth of a degree of absolute zero have been achieved in the laboratory but have otherwise not been observed in nature, says Phillip Gould, professor of physics and one of the conference co-chairs.

Gould, Stwalley, and a group of other physicists at UConn work in this area of ultracold physics.

Applications for ultracold physics research could be the development of new technology for quantum computing and a better fundamental understanding of the properties of materials. Colder atoms would lead to more precise

measurements in atomic clocks and to more accurate GPS systems, says Gould.

Ultracold gases can also be used to create "designer" matter, or nano-structured matter that has the potential to be developed as engineered biomaterials and used in new diagnostics and therapies.

In addition to ultracold physics, the conference will cover the latest developments in atomic physics.

The biennial conference was last held in 2006 in Austria, and in Brazil before that. The next one will be held in Australia.

Support from the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the National Science Foundation, and the Army Research Office will help scientists from developing countries and graduate students attend the Storrs conference. Internal support for the conference was provided by the UConn Research Foundation, CLAS, and the physics department.

The co-chairs with Gould are professors of physics Winthrop Smith and Robin Côté.

For more information about the conference, go to <http://www.phys.uconn.edu/icap2008/>

The NIST web site "Visualization of Bose-Einstein Condensates" is at <http://math.nist.gov/mcsd/savg/vis/bec/index.html>



## Health Center clinic specializes in voice disorders



PHOTO BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

Speech pathologist Janet Rovalino and Dr. Denis Lafreniere of the Health Center's Voice and Speech Clinic, review a video image of a patient's vocal cords. The clinic offers state-of-the-art care to diagnose and treat voice problems.

BY MAUREEN MCGUIRE

Experts with the Health Center's Voice and Speech Clinic have helped high-profile professional singers, actors, and broadcasters, as well as teachers, lawyers, ministers, and others get their voices back after struggling with chronic hoarseness and other problems.

"There are different levels of voice use, but no matter who you are or what you do for a living, voice is important at every level. It's something we can easily take for granted until problems occur," says Dr. Denis Lafreniere, an otolaryngologist – ear, nose and throat expert – and head and neck surgeon, who has led the Voice and Speech Clinic since

its inception in 1993.

Lafreniere, who is also chief of the division of Ear, Nose and Throat services at the Health Center, started the Voice and Speech Clinic with Starr Cookman, a voice and speech pathologist and professional singer.

Because of its comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach, the clinic remains the only one of its kind in the region. Along with Lafreniere and Cookman, the team now includes Patricia Doyle and Janet Rovalino, who are also voice-trained speech pathologists.

Patients benefit from the expertise of two disciplines. The speech pathologists carefully analyze the functional realm of each patient's

voice and Lafreniere focuses on the contributing medical factors.

### Seeking Care

Signs and symptoms of voice disorders include hoarseness that lasts several weeks; persistent throat pain – when throat feels raw, achy or strained for several weeks; unusual changes in voice, such as the inability to hit certain high notes when singing; and sounding like you have a cold or cough when you don't.

Voice disorders, Lafreniere explains, fall into three categories: neurological, anatomic, and functional. Neurological disorders result from damage to the central or peripheral nervous system, such

as strokes or Parkinson's disease – it's estimated that 80 percent of patients with Parkinson's disease experience voice disorders. Anatomic problems are caused by physical problems, such as allergies, polyps (small growths) on the larynx, or the reflux of gastric juices. Functional disorders develop when people get into the habit of using the voice abnormally, for example, while suffering from a cold that causes laryngitis.

Diagnoses and individualized treatment plans are made after patients are evaluated by speech analysis computer software and/or videostroboscopy. These sophisticated technologies visualize, measure, and record vocal cord vibrations and movements. They can reveal a wide range of problems, such as nodules or polyps on the vocal cords.

The treatment plan may consist of speech therapy, surgery, or a combination of these approaches. A high percentage of vocal nodules can be resolved with speech therapy administered by a voice-trained speech pathologist, Lafreniere says. Surgical procedures, including minimally invasive options, are also very successful to restore normal function to vocal cords.

"The results can be dramatic. We've videotaped patients before and after surgery or treatment, and the improvements are astonishing," Lafreniere says. "Our goal is to get people back to what they were doing."

*Experts with the Voice and Speech Clinic offer the following advice for preserving one's voice:*

#### Drink plenty of fluids:

Vocal tissues are easily dehydrated. To prevent dehydration, drink plenty of liquids, especially water. Caffeine and alcohol dehydrate tissues, so increase your water intake if you drink them. Maintaining proper humidity in the home is also helpful.

#### Avoid airborne irritants:

Smoke is irritating to the throat and vocal tissues. It can cause hoarseness and other changes in the quality of the voice and can lead to tissue changes, including cancerous growths on the vocal cords that require medical or surgical treatment.

#### Avoid vocal abuse and misuse:

Yelling, screaming, speaking at too low a pitch, and speaking or singing too loudly or for too long can result in problems such as inflammation and swelling of the vocal cords.

**Treat reflux:** Esophageal reflux is the regurgitation of stomach juices into the esophagus and throat. Smoking, alcohol use, and caffeine intake contribute to reflux. Common symptoms include heartburn or persistent hoarseness. Reflux irritates the larynx and can lead to coughing, burning, excess mucus, and throat clearing. Over time, it can cause ulcers on the vocal cords.

**Take vocal naps:** Rest your voice for 15-minute intervals several times during the day, particularly if you use your voice often.

## Grad students to lead national symposium on 'green' chemistry

BY CINDY WEISS

Seven chemistry graduate students will direct an all-day symposium on "Transitioning into Green Chemistry" at the American Chemical Society national meeting in Philadelphia in August.

The students, all Ph.D. candidates, will present speakers and organize a research poster session and exhibition at the national meeting, which is expected to attract 14,000 top professionals from academia and the chemical industry.

The chemistry graduate student group, part of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, was chosen to lead the graduate student symposium when their proposal to explore green chemistry won a competition among universities around the country.

"We went through a lot of different topics," says Christine Cardillo, a member of the group. "This was something we felt passionate about."

Interest is growing in green chemistry, which finds "environmentally friendly" alternatives to procedures and materials used in chemical laboratories and industrial processes.

The students have prepared their program over the past year



PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Justin Fair discusses his research with Christine Cardillo in a lab in the Chemistry Building. Both are Ph.D. students.

and a half, visiting other American Chemical Society national meetings and learning the ropes from student groups that preceded them.

"This is a monumental effort," says Tyson Miller, an assistant professor of chemistry and chemical education, who advises them. "When graduate students are involved in this type of endeavor, they learn about networking,

fund raising, and programming at national meetings."

All are skills that they can later use on the job, whether they work in industrial or academic settings.

As the organizers of this year's national graduate student symposium, the UConn students got to select next year's team, from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and mentor them.

"It's given us good experience,

working as a committee and coming to decisions together," says Cardillo.

Their program will include speakers from industry and academia. Nicholas Leadbeater, an assistant professor of chemistry at UConn, will speak on his research into microwave heating as a new alternative for clean organic synthesis in chemistry labs and in biofuel production.

Other speakers include Berkeley "Buzz" Cue, creator of Pfizer's green chemistry initiative; Victor Atiemo-Obeng of The Dow Chemical Co., who will speak on the practice of sustainable chemistry; and Joan Brennecke of the Notre Dame Energy Center, who will speak about the use of green solvents in chemistry laboratories.

The chairperson of the student group is Justin Fair, a graduate teaching and research assistant at UConn who joined the Ph.D. program after serving in the U.S. Army. While in the army, he moved through the ranks to captain and was a nuclear medical science officer for the 34th Civil Support Team.

Other students in the group are Ashley Bartelson, Besnik Bajrami, Michelle Dean, Sadagopan Krishnan, Naimish Sardesai, and Cardillo.

To learn more about the program, visit the students' web site: [chemistry.uconn.edu/gsspc/index.html](http://chemistry.uconn.edu/gsspc/index.html)

To hear UConn faculty member Nicholas Leadbeater talk about his green chemistry research, go to [www.clas.uconn.edu/facultysnapshots/view.php?id=leadbeater](http://www.clas.uconn.edu/facultysnapshots/view.php?id=leadbeater)



## Parham receives grant to improve treatment of hearing loss in elderly

BY KRISTINA GOODNOUGH

Dr. Kourosh Parham, assistant professor of otolaryngology, has received the Jahnigen Scholar research award as part of the American Geriatrics Society's long-term project to increase geriatrics expertise in surgical and medical specialties.

Parham, who has a longstanding interest in age-related hearing loss, will study the ability of steroids to protect the ears of elderly people from hearing loss related to the use of certain chemotherapy drugs for the treatment of cancer. Cancer treatment is common among the over-65's, who make up more than 60 percent of newly diagnosed cases of cancer, according to data from the National Cancer Institute.

"It's widely known among physicians that certain drugs used for treating cancer can cause loss of hearing and ringing in the ears as side effects," says Parham.

"Generally, a patient dealing

with cancer is concerned about survival and is willing to accept these side effects as part of treatment," he adds. "Others who cannot tolerate the side effects may be switched to an alternate, possibly less effective chemotherapy drug. My goal is to overcome some of those side effects."

Parham will study whether steroids injected into the inner ear provide protection against hearing loss from cisplatin, a common chemotherapy drug.

"We hypothesize that aging and cisplatin-induced hearing loss interact to produce greater hearing loss than would be expected from either factor alone, and that the aged ear can be protected against cisplatin-induced hearing loss by administering steroids directly into the ear and suppressing inflammatory pathways," he says.

Steroids are used already in treatment for sudden hearing loss and for cancer.

Parham was a basic scientist

in the Health Center's surgical research center in the early 90's before going to medical school. Besides graduating from the UConn School of Medicine, where he also completed his residency in otolaryngology and head and neck surgery, Parham received a Ph.D. in experimental psychology and neuroscience from Northern Illinois University.

"I have been away from research for about nine years," he says. "This grant allows me to get back to it."

The award, funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation and Atlantic Philanthropies, provides a two-year grant of \$250,000 (including an institutional match) to help young faculty begin and ultimately sustain a career in research and education in the geriatrics aspects of their discipline.

Besides financial support, the award requires faculty support for recipients. Parham will be mentored in his research project by



PHOTO BY AL FERREIRA

Dr. Kourosh Parham, assistant professor of otolaryngology.

Dr. George Kuchel, professor of medicine and director of the Center on Aging; Dr. Gerald Leonard, professor of surgery/otolaryngology; and D. Kent Morest, professor of neuroscience.

Before the American Geriatrics Society launched its Geriatrics for Specialists Project in 1994, most efforts to increase the supply of physicians

with expertise in the care of older adults focused on family practice, internal medicine, neurology, and psychiatry. The project is designed to help improve the amount and quality of geriatric education received by surgeons and specialists, and to promote geriatric training and research within the disciplines. A maximum of 10 proposals a year are selected for funding.

## Economist discusses obstacles to delivering aid in Africa

BY CINDY WEISS

Mwangi Samson Kimenyi studies the African economy and the institutional factors that seem to thwart development on a continent renowned for its rich natural resources.

On July 2, he delivered the keynote address to a meeting of economists in the African Division of the World Bank in Washington, D.C., focusing on how to improve service delivery in fragile states that are characterized by low accountability. Low accountability hinders economic development in many African countries, he believes.

Kimenyi, associate professor of economics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, coordinates a long-term study on institutions and service delivery in Africa on behalf of the Nairobi-based African Economic Research Consortium.

He also has served on the Public Universities Commission in his native Kenya, and is founding executive director of the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis.

Many sub-Saharan African countries do not have the financial resources to pay their teachers and doctors or to build the infrastructure that would provide education, health, and sanitary services needed for an efficient economy, he notes.

They also lack qualified personnel to lead the effort, and their governments do not have the institutional capacity to deliver public services.

Some are also ethnically fragmented, which affects both their politics and their public service delivery, he says.



PHOTO BY SEAN FLYNN

Mwangi Samson Kimenyi, associate professor of economics, at the Homer Babbidge Library.

But lack of accountability among policy makers, service providers, and consumers is the most glaring problem, he has found.

Accountability relationships that link these three groups "have totally broken down in some cases. In other cases, they are very weak."

"If you go to a clinic and wait three hours and the doctor does not show up, you should be able to report it and someone should do something about it."

Absenteeism among professionals who are paid to provide services to the population shows up when researchers conduct random checks and censuses at clinics.

A large share of resources allocated by central budget authorities do not reach the frontline providers, he says. Instead, service delivery is characterized by what he calls "widespread leakages of

resources."

Highly centralized political structures in which governments control resources and treat ethnic groups differently are another problem. The exclusion of some groups is a particularly serious problem in Africa, Kimenyi has found.

Democracy is not fully entrenched, and electoral processes tend to be compromised, he says.

In Kenya, even though the economy is now growing, unresolved ethnic issues stand in the way of development. The benefits of growth have not trickled down to the poor. Groups that feel marginalized have serious grievances, Kimenyi says.

Universities in Kenya have also suffered from a brain drain, with their graduates leaving to work in more prosperous areas.

His message to organizations such as the World Bank is that while it is important to strengthen the capacity of weak governments, it is crucial to look for alternate approaches, such as using management contacts or working with the private sector. Where accountability relationships have totally broken down, non-governmental organizations or even community groups could be more effective in delivering services, he maintains.

"You need to continue engaging in improving service delivery," he says, especially with weak African states, because they face a high risk of reverting to civil conflict. He argues that as citizens receive better services, eventually a tipping point is reached when health care and education improves enough that the risk of reversion recedes.

Voters then become more

active, and governments become more accountable, he says.

Some African countries have made major strides, Kimenyi says. Uganda has made progress in the post-Idi Amin era, although it is not fully stabilized yet. Botswana is very strong, he says, providing services to the poor and instituting progressive policies.

Still, most of the weakest countries in the Failed States and Fragility indexes are African, he points out. These states are not on a trajectory to meet targets for reducing hunger and poverty and infant mortality rates, despite their having agreed to do so by 2015 in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. The primary reason is poor service delivery, he says.

Kimenyi has written for a United Nations program a prescription for reform policies for Africa that he believes would deliver better services to those who most need them and would achieve balanced growth.

"Focus on improving the functioning of markets where poor people participate," he advises.

Other recommendations call for targeting low-skill, labor-intensive economic activities; reducing market segmentation so that markets for the poor are better integrated into the economy; and instituting policies that support the accumulation of tradable assets by the poor.

He also calls for institutional reforms that empower the poor through the progressive diffusion of power.

To read Kimenyi's recommendations, go to [http://pgpblog.worldbank.org/the\\_ten\\_commandments\\_of\\_pro\\_poor\\_growth](http://pgpblog.worldbank.org/the_ten_commandments_of_pro_poor_growth)





PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

A Variegated Fritillary butterfly, a specimen in the University's Biological Collections housed at the Biology/Physics Building. The species is native to Connecticut.

## GRANTS

The following grants were received through the Health Center's Office of Grants and Contracts in April 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
<b>Federal Grants</b>				
Immunology	Cauley, L.	National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases	\$362,970	4/07-3/09
<i>Antigen Presentation after Influenza Virus Infection</i>				
Surgery	Das, D.	National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute	\$350,827	4/05-3/09
<i>Myocardial Preservation During Ischemic Arrest</i>				
Neuroscience	Eipper, E.	National Institute on Drug Abuse	\$303,156	4/04-3/09
<i>GDP/GTP Exchange Factors: Nucleus Accumbens Plasticity</i>				
Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center	Heinen, C.	National Cancer Institute	\$241,696	4/08-3/09
<i>Mismatch Repair Functions Affected During Tumorigenesis</i>				
Center for Vascular Biology	Hla, T.	National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute	\$359,270	4/06-3/09
<i>Sphingolipid Modulators of Vascular Growth and Homeostasis</i>				
Molecular, Microbial & Structural Biology	King, S.	National Institute of General Medical Sciences	\$273,645	4/05-3/09
<i>Molecular Analysis of Flagellar Dynein Function</i>				
Clinical Research Center	Koeppe, B.	National Center for Research Resources	\$2,539,678	4/08-3/09
<i>GCRC – Program Direction and Administration</i>				
Dept. of Reconstructive Sciences	Kosher, R.	National Institute of Child Health & Human Development	\$754,856	4/08-3/09
<i>Genetic Code of Limb Development (Project 1)</i>				
Psychiatry	Kranzler, H.	National Institute on Alcohol Abuse & Alcoholism	\$95,177	4/08-3/09
<i>Novel Approaches to Alcoholism Pharmacotherapy and Risk</i>				
Psychiatry	Kranzler, H.	National Institute on Drug Abuse	\$779,114	6/06-3/09
<i>Genetics of Cocaine Dependence</i>				
Center on Aging	Kuchel, G.	National Institute on Aging	\$297,332	4/07-3/09
<i>Pathogenesis of Detrusor Underactivity and Urinary Retention in the Elderly</i>				
Neuroscience	Kuwada, S.	National Institute on Deafness & Other Communication Disorders	\$450,885	4/07-3/09
<i>Neural Mechanisms of Binaural Hearing</i>				
Immunology	Li, Z.	National Institute of Neurological Disorders & Stroke	\$362,970	4/07-3/09
<i>Roles and Mechanisms of GP96 in Chaperoning Innate Immunity</i>				
Medicine	Lorenzo, J.	National Institute of Arthritis, & Musculoskeletal & Skin Diseases	\$325,600	4/08-3/09
<i>Studies on the Regulation of Osteoclast Precursor Cells</i>				
Neurology	McCullough, L.	National Institute of Neurological Disorders & Stroke	\$323,343	3/06-2/09
<i>Energy Dysregulation: The Role of AMPK in Stroke</i>				
Medicine	Radolf, J.	National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases	\$528,612	4/07-3/09
<i>RPOS Regulation of Borrelia Burgdorferi Genes in Vivo</i>				
Medicine	Raisz, L.	National Institute of Arthritis & Musculoskeletal & Skin Diseases	\$306,527	4/04-3/09
<i>Factors Influencing Bone Metabolism</i>				
Dept. of Reconstructive Sciences	Reichenberger, E.	National Institute of Arthritis & Musculoskeletal & Skin Diseases	\$451,417	4/07-3/09
<i>Genetic Analysis of Keloid Formation</i>				
Genetics & Developmental Biology	Rogina, B.	National Institute on Aging	\$313,425	2/04-1/09
<i>Molecular Genetics of Caloric Restriction in Aging Flies</i>				
Molecular, Microbial & Structural Biology	Rothfield, L.	National Institute of General Medical Sciences	\$343,715	4/04-3/09
<i>Studies of E. Coli Min Proteins</i>				
Molecular, Microbial & Structural Biology	Ton-That, H.	National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases	\$58,526	12/05-11/08
<i>Pilus Assembly in Gram-Positive Bacteria</i>				
Molecular, Microbial & Structural Biology	Weller, S.	National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases	\$52,022	1/06-12/08
<i>Role of Viral and Cellular Recombination Proteins in HSV DNA Replication</i>				
<b>Private Grants</b>				
Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center	Andemariam, B.	Hospital for Special Care	\$36,629	10/07-6/08
<i>CT Sickle Cell Consortium: Lifespan Approach for Education, Care and Support</i>				
Community Medicine	Babor, T.	Johnson, Bassin, & Shaw Inc.	\$143,738	9/04-9/08
<i>SBIRT – Evaluation</i>				
Center for Cell Analysis	Carson, J.	National Multiple Sclerosis Society	\$44,000	5/08-4/09
<i>Single Molecule Imaging of Myelin Basic Protein Translation in Oligodendrocytes</i>				
Immunology	Clark, R.	National Multiple Sclerosis Society	\$218,519	4/08-3/09
<i>Novel Bacterial Lipids of Commensal Organisms Promote EAE</i>				
Pediatrics	Cloutier, M.	Brigham & Women's Hospital	\$120,581	8/06-6/08
<i>Genes, Home Allergens, and Asthma in Puerto Rican Children</i>				
Psychiatry	Connor, D.	Abbott Labs	\$17,000	3/08-3/09
<i>Professional Services Agreement</i>				
Surgery	Brenner, B.	Univ. of Pittsburgh	\$3,300	6/95-5/09
<i>NSABP Breast Cancer Prevention Trial DHHS P5400-5425</i>				
Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center	Brenner, B.	National Cancer Institute	\$4,850	2/97-5/08
<i>NSABP Breast and Bowel Cancer Treatment DHHS BC0107-185</i>				
Neurology	Li, Z.	American Heart Association	\$16,250	1/05-12/08
<i>Role of Chemoattractants in Atherosclerosis</i>				
Calhoun Cardiology Center	Liang, B.	UConn Foundation	\$73,993	2/03-1/09
<i>Jim and Pat Calhoun Cardiology Research Fund</i>				
Calhoun Cardiology Center	Liang, B.	UConn Foundation	\$10,000	9/07-8/08
<i>Cardiovascular Signature Program</i>				
Orthopedics	Lieberman, J.	UConn Foundation	\$11,718	5/06-6/08
<i>Chase Family Skeletal Biology Fund</i>				
Neuroscience	McCullough, L.	Northeast Cerebrovascular Consortium	\$4,500	1/08-10/08
<i>Perception of Stroke Risk and Health Care Follow-Up in At-Risk Women</i>				
Medicine	Palmisano, J.	UConn Foundation	\$74,384	1/00-6/10
<i>James E.C. Walker MD/Primary Care Endowment Fund</i>				
Surgery	Parham, K.	American Geriatrics Society	\$75,000	7/08-6/09
<i>Interaction Between Presbycusis and Cisplatin Ototoxicity: Protective Effects of Intratympanic Steroids</i>				
Center for Vascular Biology	Sanchez Garcia-Vao, T.	American Heart Association	\$65,000	1/06-12/09
<i>Regulation of Vascular Permeability and Angiogenesis by S1P2 Receptor</i>				
Cell Biology	Smilowitz, H.	Nanoprobe Inc.	\$150,833	9/06-9/08
<i>Nanoparticle Contrast Agents: MicroCT of Colon Cancer</i>				
Immunology	Stoklasek, T.	National Cancer Center	\$6,250	7/06-6/08
<i>Combined IL-15/IL15R Alpha Immunotherapy Maximizes IL-15 Activity and Tumor</i>				
Psychiatry	Tanev, K.	Univ. of Rochester	\$4,025	7/05-6/08
<i>Cooperative Huntington's Observational Research Trial</i>				
Oral Health & Diagnostic Sciences	Tanzer, J.	SUNY-Buffalo	\$156,982	4/04-12/08
<i>Amylase Binding Streptococci Plaque-Cary</i>				
<b>State Grants</b>				
Psychiatry	Huey, L.	Conn. Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Svcs.	\$577,354	3/08-3/1
<i>MOA for Dan Brockett o8MHA2019</i>				
Obstetrics & Gynecology	Palley, J.	Conn. Dept. of Public Health	\$60,000	9/07-6/08
<i>New Britain Fetal and Infant Mortality Review</i>				







# New summer institute immerses high school students in law

BY MICHAEL KIRK

From participating in a mock trial to touring the state capitol to visiting the New London neighborhood that spawned a now famous Supreme Court case, a group of Hartford high school students will spend part of their summer immersed in the law.

Students from the UConn School of Law have partnered with the Hartford law firm of Robinson & Cole LLP and Hartford public schools to hold a four-week summer law institute through August 7 for more than 20 students from the capital city.

Students involved in the program will be entering the newly formed Law and Government Academy at Hartford Public High School in the fall.

Conceived by members of UConn's Black Law Student Association, the program aims to encourage the pursuit of higher education and cultivate an interest in the law among participants. Under the guidance of Jennifer Mailly, an assistant clinical professor of law, 12 Robinson & Cole LLP Law and Government Community Teaching Fellows from the law school will work alongside teachers from Hartford. They will introduce students to the study of the law, provide exposure to the legal system, and promote interac-

tion with local practitioners.

"It is a core aspect of our mission to serve the people of our community and our state," says Jeremy Paul, dean of the Law School. "The structure of this program will enable our fellows to work directly with students in the classroom, teaching them about the law and illustrating for them the value of higher education. We're proud to work with the Hartford public schools and Robinson & Cole on this exciting new summer institute."

Jackie Scheib, a 1996 graduate of the law school who is now a partner at Robinson & Cole, says, "The program fits perfectly with several of our firm's key goals. Through the institute we are supporting increased diversity in the legal community and improvement in the lives of Hartford youths, which positively impacts Hartford. Plus, we have the opportunity to give back to UConn – a school where many of our staff and attorneys received their education."

Robinson & Cole employs about 50 UConn law graduates.

The Summer Law Institute offers mentoring relationships with high school students and will help prepare them for entrance into the new Law & Government Academy, a college preparatory school of 400 students, opening at Hartford Pub-

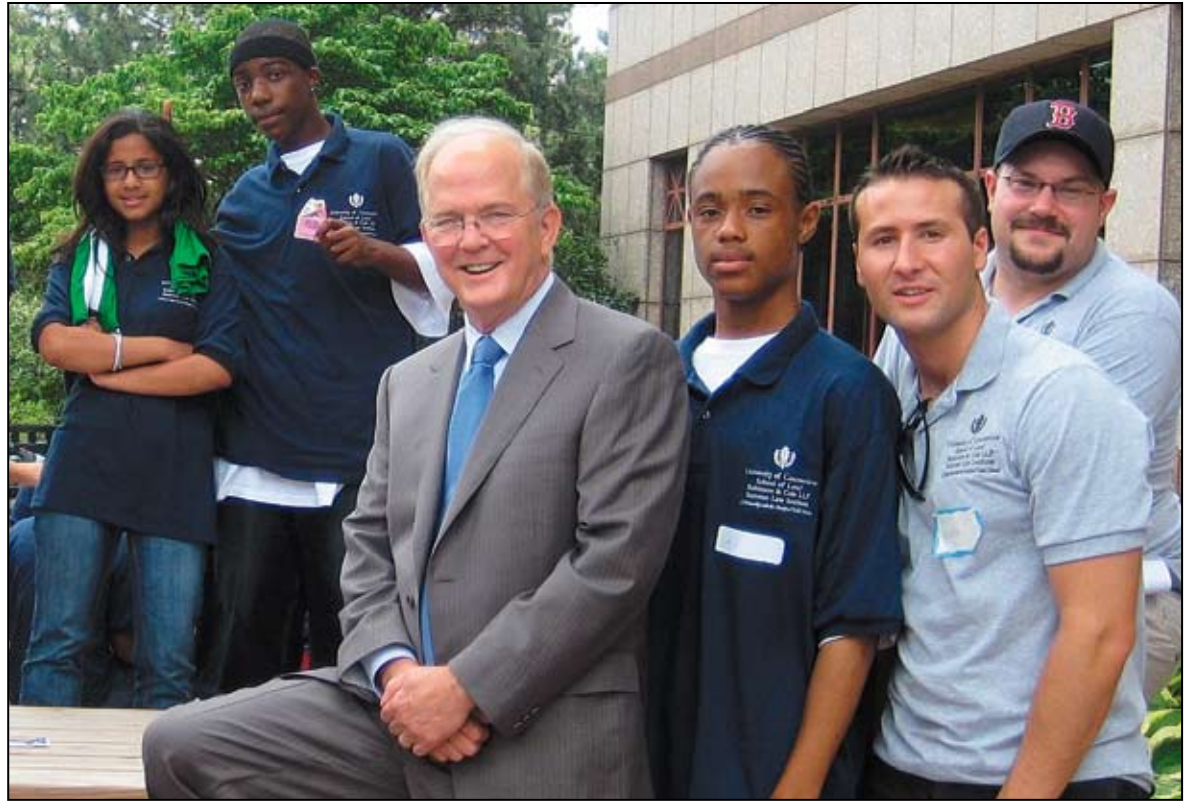


PHOTO BY NIDHI PARIKH

President Michael J. Hogan, center, meets with students (in dark blue shirts), participating in the Summer Law Institute outside the Legislative Office Building in Hartford. At right are law students Ken Kukish and Aaron Dubois.

lic High School this fall. During its first year, the academy also will form partnerships with local organizations that promote its mission, including the Hartford County Bar Association and Leadership Greater Hartford.

"This is a great opportunity to get and keep young adults excited about the law and show them

how knowing the law can be an empowering tool," says Adam Johnson, principal of the Academy. "This program truly acts as a bridge to bring our students into a profession from the ground up."

As part of the program, the students will watch a mock trial, tour the state capitol building and Supreme Court, learn about the

Constitution and civil rights, and hear guest speakers from the legal profession.

They will also visit the Fort Trumbull neighborhood in New London that was the flashpoint for the *Kelo v. New London* property rights case that was decided in 2005 by the U.S. Supreme Court.

# Kids learn about biodiversity in new summer science module

BY SHERRY FISHER

Armed with magnifying lenses, Petri dishes, insect vials, and field guides, the youngsters traipse into the UConn forest to examine the biodiversity of a rotting log.

"We want to see how many different species we can find," says Cheri Collins, one of the leaders of a new biodiversity module offered through the Kids are Scientists Too (K.A.S.T.) summer program.

On this day, the children learn

how the variety of species in the log, including invertebrates, fungi, and microbes, break down organic debris into nutrient-laden compost that enriches the soil.

"We discuss how the biodiversity in the log contributes to the health of the forest," Collins says.

The weeklong field program, Amazing Biodiversity, was sponsored by the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History, the Center for Conservation and

Biodiversity, and the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. The program is for children in grades five through 10. The K.A.S.T. program includes modules on archaeology, chemistry, engineering, and marine science.

Adding a module on biodiversity to the K.A.S.T. program made sense, says Collins, program and collection manager at the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and Connecticut Archae-

ology Center.

"It's a hot topic," she says. "Most people have heard of the concept of biodiversity – often in the context of faraway places like the rainforests of Costa Rica. But we wanted to bring the concept of biodiversity closer to home. It's not just about tropical snakes. It's about the vast number of species of living and nonliving things that make up ecosystems that exist right in the kids' backyards, and even on their own bodies."

Collins says one of the goals of the module is to help youngsters understand how the health of their environment promotes and maintains their personal health through biodiversity.

On another day, the group looked into the biodiversity within the ecology and evolutionary biology department's research collections. They learned how to preserve and record plant specimens and toured the collections, which include insects and invertebrates, parasites, fish, and birds.

Another morning's activity included investigating the variety of organisms found on their own bodies, with the help of a microscope.

"There are six tribes of beneficial bacteria on our inner elbows," says Chuck Smith, an assistant professor-in-residence of ecology and evolutionary biology. "Our bodies have a lot of biodiversity."

A magnified critter fills a screen in front of the room. "What do you think this is?" Smith asks the

youngsters. "They're crawling on me right now."

The children respond with a resounding, "Ewwwwwww."

It's an eyelash mite, and Smith explains how and why it lives on the body. After examining spiders and mosquitoes under the microscope, the children are eager to look at their own cheek cells.

Smith teaches them how to scrape cells from the inside of their cheek, and prepare slides for observation under the microscope.

Drops of stain are added carefully.

Everyone agrees that the stain makes the cells look like blue potato chips. Twelve-year-old Lexi studies her cheek cells under the microscope.

"The little green specks are mitochondria," Smith explains. "I don't see any black dots which are bacteria, so you must have brushed well this morning."

Ethan, 10, takes a look at Lexi's specimen. "That's amazing," he says.

Twelve-year-old Margo checks it out as well. "I see the nucleus," she says.

Later in the morning the group visit the Electron Microscopy Laboratory in the physiology and neurobiology department, where they see tapeworms and head lice magnified some 200,000 times by an electron microscope.

Margo says one of her favorite parts of the program was examining pickled amphibians. "They're disgustingly cool," she says.



PHOTO BY SEAN FLYNN

Chuck Smith, an assistant professor-in-residence of ecology and evolutionary biology, discusses a specimen with 10-year-old Ethan, during a new module on biodiversity, part of the Kids Are Scientists Too program.