



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

A performance of Euripides' tragedy *The Bacchae* at von der Mehden Recital Hall Sept. 21. One of 17 shows in a U.S. tour, the production in Storrs featured a chorus played by UConn students and women from the community.

Academic Plan approved by Trustees

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

The Board of Trustees on Sept. 23 unanimously approved a new academic plan that is an ambitious road map for UConn's future, outlines where resources will be dedicated, and relies heavily on collaboration among departments and disciplines and between UConn and the public and private sector.

The plan, developed through broad consultation and analyses that have taken place over the past year, was presented to the trustees by Provost Peter J. Nicholls, who emphasized the plan's reliance on interdisciplinary research.

"It isn't a wish list – the plan is a set of strategic steps we can take to help us realize our potential as one of the nation's premier public research universities and as the state's flagship land grant university," says University President Michael J. Hogan. "These steps involve strategic reallocation of our existing resources and distribution of any new resources to areas of core strength and potential excellence, areas that also contribute to the state's economic and workforce development."

Nicholls said the plan and the process through which it was developed represent a systematic approach to plotting our strategies for taking UConn to the next level as one of the nation's premier public research institutions: "The goals and strategies will guide how we invest our resources, and the metrics included in the plan will allow us and the public to track our progress in achieving the goals articulated in the plan."

Every department in the University will have the ability to contribute to the plan, Nicholls added. "The goals are achievable, but we will have to work extremely hard to meet them."

Some of the goals set, to be reached by 2014, include:

- improve UConn's national ranking in *U.S. News & World Report* from number 26 to number 20 among public institutions;
- raise the SAT scores of admitted freshmen from 1200 this year to 1220;

Achievements of 40 UConn alumni celebrated

BY KENNETH BEST

Forty outstanding alumni, all under the age of 40, were recognized by the University during the weekend of Sept. 19-20.

The 40 alumni will be featured in the fall/winter edition of *UConn Magazine*, and were recognized during a halftime ceremony at the UConn-Baylor football game on Sept. 19. The magazine, scheduled for publication on Nov. 1, is sent to 195,000 alumni, as well as parents of students and friends of the University, for a total circulation of 200,000.

"The achievements of these remarkable UConn alumni demonstrate the ability of our students to make a real difference in their professions, their communities, our nation, and the world," says University President Michael J. Hogan.

"All of these talented young alumni have distinguished themselves in a wide range of disciplines within just a few years of earning

their degrees," Hogan says. "We are proud of the role the University of Connecticut has played in their exciting and successful careers. They set a great example for our next generation of UConn students."

The 40 Under 40 group returning to campus participated in a variety of activities, including interactions with student groups about their careers, experiences, and achievements. The 40 alumni represent graduates from each of UConn's 14 schools and colleges.

Several of the young alumni being recognized by UConn are familiar names to the public – such as U.S. Rep. Christopher Murphy (D-5th District) of Connecticut and basketball star Emeka Okafor of the Charlotte Bobcats – but many are known as prominent figures within their professional worlds of science, education, business, the arts, law, engineering, social services, medi-

cine, agriculture, health care, philanthropy, government, and athletics.

The 40 under 40 are:

Klaus Abels, 37 ('02 M.A., '03 Ph.D. in linguistics), London, England: lecturer and leading researcher in the Department of Phonetics and Linguistics at University College.

Jeanne Allgood, 38 ('92 B.A. in political science and journalism), West Hollywood, Calif.: executive, Wonderland Sound and Vision, whose credits include *We Are Marshall* and *Terminator Salvation*.

Jennifer Barnhart, 36 ('94 B.A. in acting), Brooklyn, N.Y.: actress and puppeteer featured on Broadway in *Avenue Q*.

Keith Bellizzi, 38 ('03 Ph.D. in human development and family studies), Berlin, Conn.: assistant professor of human

see Outstanding alumni page 4

see Academic Plan page 2

Inside



3 Primary Care Week



5 Relationship studies



8 Recruiting students

Speaker from India offers perspective on U.S. presidential campaign



PHOTO BY JESSICA TOMMASELLI

Ramesh Babu, a former professor of politics at the University of Bombay, speaks in the Class of '47 Room about the Indian perspective on this year's U.S. presidential election.

BY MICHAEL KIRK

The 2008 U.S. presidential election is generating enormous interest in India, according to Ramesh Babu, a former professor at the University of Bombay, one-time mayor of that city, and longtime researcher on American elections.

He spoke on Sept. 15 at Homer Babbidge Library as part of an ongoing lecture series organized by the India Studies Program.

Babu, who has written a book on the relevance of American elections to India, is in the U.S. for several months to closely follow

the 2008 presidential election. He recently attended the Republican National Convention in Minnesota.

Babu said the 2008 primaries and general election are receiving unprecedented press coverage in India. In part, he said, this is

because what the U.S. does and says has a tremendous effect on India, but it is also related to the groundbreaking nature of the race, with a black man and a woman competing for the Democratic nomination.

He told the audience early on that were he an American citizen, he would vote for Sen. Barack Obama.

Babu said he felt Indians would like to see an American president who has a "broad world view, rather than just an American view."

While not sparing his home country criticism, he discussed what he perceived as the flaws in U.S. political campaigns.

"There's too much oversimplification of elections in this country," he said, suggesting that campaigns and their coverage in the media often lack substance, focusing on personal narratives like family and personality instead of issues.

He observed that many Americans are against "big government," unless some aspect of it benefits them. The same, he said, seems to be true with so-called pork barrel spending – funds appropriated by Congress for specific projects in

states and congressional districts. While candidates often run against those that are needless and wildly expensive, many are important to members of Congress and the communities that receive them.

Babu also discussed the U.S. financial meltdown and commented that the vocabulary shifts according to context when it comes to government intervention. "Rescuing companies, that's alright, but to rescue a welfare recipient is socialism," he said.

In an odd paradox, Babu said, although Indians are generally opposed to many of President George W. Bush's policies, he is one of the most popular American presidents in India, owing to an impending nuclear deal between the U.S. and India that would lift the moratorium on nuclear trade between the two nations.

With regard to what election outcome would be best for India, Babu said that should not be a question Indians ask themselves.

"India should be ready to act like a global power," he said. "Then it does not matter who wins."

Academic Plan *continued from page 1*

- improve the retention rate for first-year students from 93 percent to 95 percent and the six-year graduation rate from 74 percent to 78 percent;
- increase the number of classes with less than 20 students from 44 percent to 47 percent;
- increase the size of the Honors Program from 290 students to 550;
- increase the number of graduate and professional programs ranked in the top 25 among public institutions from nine to 14;
- decrease the median time to earn a master's degree from three years to two years, and a Ph.D. degree from six years to 5.5 years;
- increase the number of doctoral degrees awarded per 100 faculty members from 19 to 23;
- recruit 145 new faculty members;
- grow external research expenditures per faculty member from \$90,000 to \$100,000;
- increase the number of books, articles in refereed journals, patent applications, and participation in juried shows and curated exhibits;
- increase the number of tenured and tenure-track faculty from underrepresented groups from 8 percent to 13 percent, and the number of international graduate and professional students from 17 percent to 22 percent;
- enhance the number of fine and performing arts events on and off campus from 1,000 to

1,200, increase consultancies to public and private sector organizations from 941 to 1,100, and increase outreach programs to schools and businesses from 449 to 550; and

- grow the market value of the endowment from \$316 million

"The plan is a set of strategic steps we can take to help us realize our potential as one of the nation's premier public research universities and as the state's flagship land grant university."

University President
Michael J. Hogan

to \$505 million, and the alumni giving rate from 21 percent to 25 percent.

The plan also includes provisions for closing programs that do not sustain high levels of demand, address workforce needs, have potential for national and international prominence, produce outstanding graduate or professional students who can compete successfully for fellowships, tenure-track positions, and post-doctoral positions, provide visionary leadership, or have the

potential to generate extramural funding or contribute in concrete ways to the strategies outlined in the plan.

The plan, "Our World, Our People and Our Future" has six goals:

- Engage undergraduates in an intellectually challenging and diverse learning environment;
- Sustain and develop select graduate and professional programs of national and international distinction;
- Enhance UConn's contributions to the state, nation, and world;
- Ensure a diverse community that recognizes and celebrates individual differences;
- Collaborate with partners in the public and private sectors;
- Establish administrative, infrastructural, and budget systems designed to efficiently realize the goals of the plan.

The six goals and 23 strategies outlined in the plan will guide the University in investing its resources, Nicholls said. "The plan recognizes the challenging fiscal times and changing demographics that affect higher education, assumptions that have been incorporated into the plan through an environmental scan.

"To the extent the environment changes," he added, "we may need to make adjustments to the plan."

President forgoes bonus

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

President Michael J. Hogan's first year at the University was a resounding success, Dr. John W. Rowe, chairman of the Board of Trustees, said at a meeting Sept. 23.

He reported that the Board unanimously assessed Hogan's performance as "outstanding."

Hogan was evaluated informally over the past several months and formally last week against the goals set for him when he was hired last year. His outstanding performance is worthy of a "substantial" bonus – probably in the range of \$100,000, said Rowe.

But Hogan has asked the board to waive awarding the bonus and instead direct it back to the University budget in areas that will

help sustain and advance outstanding graduate and professional programs.

"This in no way diminishes President Hogan's outstanding performance," Rowe said. "It is in recognition of the difficult economic environment that currently exists in the state and at UConn that President Hogan asked us to waive the bonus."

Hogan said he has enjoyed his first year at UConn and has never worked with a board as professional and competent as UConn's Board of Trustees.

"I'm grateful that the board was willing to consider a bonus," he said, "but I'd like the funds instead to be directed to graduate education."

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT Advance

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The *Advance* is published weekly during the academic year, except during breaks. It is distributed free to faculty, staff, and students at the University of Connecticut. Published by University Communications, 34 North Eagleville Road, Storrs, CT 06269-3144. Phone: 860.486.3530. Periodical permit (ISSN 0746-3170, USPS 703-730) at Storrs, CT. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the *Advance* at the above address. Advance website: <http://www.advance.uconn.edu> E-mail: advance@uconn.edu

Health Center marks Primary Care Week with focus on prevention



PHOTO BY JANINE GELINEAU

Hee Seop Shin, a second-year medical student, takes a blood pressure reading at C-Town Supermarket in Hartford, part of a day dedicated to community service during National Primary Care Week.

BY CHRIS DEFRADESCO

Through health fairs, hands-on clinics, and seminars, nearly 100 UConn medical, dental, nursing, and pharmacy students got a taste of a career in primary care during the University's observance of National Primary Care Week, Sept. 20-27.

The week included a day dedicated to community service, when the students staffed 10 health fairs that ran concurrently in Hartford, Wethersfield, and Willimantic. Community clinicians and

Quinnipiac University physician assistant students joined them in offering free services such as blood pressure and blood glucose screenings as well as preventive health education materials.

"The Power of Prevention" was this year's Primary Care Week theme. Guest lecturers included Katherine Kranz Lewis, an assistant professor in nursing at the University of Hartford, who told the students the reimbursement structure undervalues preventive care.

"This distortion in payment for care devalues primary care and prevention, and compromises care for vulnerable populations," Lewis said. "There's a need to align incentives for primary care that match the potential cost savings. For example, reimbursement for prevention and a change in focus from illness to health can go a long way in achieving the tremendous benefits that primary care has to offer."

Dr. Bruce Gould, associate dean for primary care at the UConn

School of Medicine and director of the Connecticut Area Health Education Center at the Health Center, said preventive medicine is neglected when health coverage is inaccessible or health care is unaffordable.

"As the cost of health care skyrockets, the first thing to go is the basic prevention and care of minor problems that can prevent progression to more serious conditions," Gould said. "When people forego preventive care, not only do they suffer, but it also places an added burden on the health care system. Unfortunately, it seems as though as a society we've lost our sense that we have a responsibility to our neighbors."

A survey published in the Sept. 10 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* found only 2 percent of graduating medical students saying they plan to pursue general internal medicine. A similar survey in 1990 found 9 percent with plans to work in primary care internal medicine. Family medicine and general pediatrics fared only slightly better, with 5 percent and 12 percent of students planning to pursue those areas of primary care practice.

The study's authors suggest that factors keeping future doctors away from primary care include time demands and the more attractive salaries available to specialists. The average medical school graduate carried \$140,000 in student debt last year, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges.

In that context, one of the goals of National Primary Care Week is

to appeal to students' sense of the importance of community-responsive primary care by celebrating the contributions of primary care to the country's health.

"The students are encouraged to collaborate as members of future primary health care teams and work to reduce problems with healthcare access that underserved populations experience," Gould said.

Charles Huntington, associate dean for community and continuing education at the UConn School of Medicine and a former federal health policy lobbyist, said effective advocacy is an important part of the effort to improve the current state of health care.

"The range of advocacy tools offers health professionals the opportunity to choose their level of involvement in the legislative process," said Huntington, who spoke about health care advocacy at a lunchtime seminar during Primary Care Week. "The most effective methods all involve a degree of relationship-building with legislators and their staff members."

In remarks at UConn's Primary Care Week banquet, State Senate President Pro Tem Donald Williams Jr. (D-Brooklyn) told the students they are filling a critical need.

"Primary care is the backbone of our healthcare system," he said. "Without a primary care system that works, we cannot hope to improve our quality and reduce costs."

National Primary Care Week is observed by institutions throughout the country, with the dates varying by school.

New guide helps faculty, staff 'work green'

BY RICHARD VEILLEUX

Kill the screensaver, turn off your power strip before you go home, grab a bicycle to get around campus, and turn that air conditioning unit down or off. Those are just four of the dozens of ideas in a new guide to help UConn faculty and staff 'work green.'

University of Connecticut Sustainable Office Guidelines: A Guide to Working Green at the University of Connecticut, was produced during the summer by Alissa Becker, a student sustainability coordinator, and staff in the Office of Environmental Policy. The booklet of tips and ideas, complete with photos and charts, is available online (printing the 30 pages would violate at least one of the guidelines) at www.ecohusky.uconn.edu.

"A number of the tips are reminders about familiar things like recycling and reusable coffee mugs, but others, such as reducing a printer's default page margins or starting a departmental bike sharing program, take the concept of working green a step further," says Richard Miller, director of the Office of Environmental Policy. "Many UConn staff and faculty are concerned about the environment and have asked us what they can do to make a difference."

Noting that the University has more than 4,000 employees, Mill-

ers says, "If every one of us adopted just a few of these ideas, UConn could save thousands of gallons of water a day or thousands of kilowatt hours of energy a year, which translates into tons of greenhouse gas emissions avoided."

Since UConn President Michael J. Hogan signed the American College and University President's Climate Commitment in March, saving energy and reducing our carbon footprint have become more important. That's because, by signing the document, UConn committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2050. The University is currently calculating its 2007 emissions inventory, but estimates the Storrs campus emits about 120,000 tons of greenhouse gases annually.

Besides the online guide, Miller says his staff are available to visit individual departments to discuss the sustainable office guidelines, and are recruiting departmental eco-representatives to help schedule these meetings and promote environmentally responsible behaviors.

The program involves meeting with staff from the environmental policy office to fill out a 'sustainability scorecard' for the office and developing a simple action plan for improving the score. The sustainability coordinator would then work with the eco-representative

to co-host a breakfast or lunch meeting – catered with sustainable fare – for staff in the office to review the guidelines and the plan.

Environmental policy staff will later revisit the department to see whether the score has changed. Participating offices will be recognized on the Office of Environmental Policy web site.

The online site's main sections include tips on reducing, reusing, and recycling; energy use; meetings and events; purchasing; transportation; and water conservation. Each includes several subsections. One of the subsections under reducing paper use suggests working on drafts electronically, rather than printing the material, proof-reading, then printing it again. The section also suggests that employees set their default printer to double-sided, and set printer margins wider.

The section on energy use, which includes everything from coffee makers to computers, has a chart showing that using "sleep software" on computers (which is already installed on most UConn computers) can decrease the amount of carbon dioxide emissions per computer per year from 1,093 pounds to 199 pounds, and save approximately \$75 annually per computer.

Freshman class diverse, academically well prepared

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

The freshman class that arrived at the Storrs campus this fall was the most diverse and best prepared in UConn's 127-year history.

The class this year, for the first time, has average SAT scores of 1200 – eight points higher than the class that entered last fall, and up 88 points since 1997.

The class that arrived on campus comprised 3,604 students, a 13 percent increase over last fall. Each of the regional campuses also experienced enrollment growth.

UConn had planned to expand the freshman class at Storrs modestly this fall, since its push to graduate students in four years has been so successful it created space for more students, says M. Dolan Evanovich, vice president for enrollment planning, management, and institutional research.

UConn students typically graduate in 4.3 years, the fifth highest rate among publics in the country, behind only the Universities of Virginia, North Carolina, Michigan, and Illinois.

Although the number of applications was virtually the same as it was last year, the yield – the number of students who accepted UConn's offer of admission – grew. In addition, the "summer melt"

was lower than it has been in years, Evanovich says.

"The demand this year reflects continuing recognition on the part of students and their families that UConn is a terrific value and provides an excellent education at a reasonable cost," he says. "Admissions planning this year across the country has been especially difficult because we are in a deep recession, the loan crisis is affecting middle class students and their families, and students and their parents are trying to make difficult decisions. Clearly the economy changed student behavior."

The class includes 20 percent minorities at Storrs, and about 30 percent out-of-state students. It also includes 146 valedictorians and salutatorians enrolling at all campuses, and 337 enrolled in the Honors Program. More than 900 of the freshmen were in the top 10 percent of their high school class.

"Statistically, this class is the largest, most diverse, and academically best prepared class we have ever enrolled," Evanovich says.

The admissions program for next fall will be adjusted to accommodate the changes in student behavior, he says, and the University will be more conservative and selective in the admissions process.

Expert on risky behavior in kids recommends increase in driving age



PHOTO BY CAROLYN PENNINGTON

Dr. Yifrah Kaminer, co-director of research in the Division of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry at the Health Center, says that in teenagers, the area of the brain essential for critical thinking is not yet fully developed.

BY CAROLYN PENNINGTON

Dr. Yifrah Kaminer has spent years studying risky behavior in kids, and he's convinced 16 is too young to start driving.

"Auto accidents are the biggest killer of young people in the U.S.," says Kaminer, co-director of research in the Division of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry at the Health Center. "Even though Connecticut's new state laws requiring

curfews and more training for 16- and 17-year-old drivers are well meaning, they won't really be effective, because they don't consider the developmental roots of high-risk behaviors in young people."

The Insurance Institute of America shares the same concern. It recently launched a national push to raise the driving age to 17 or 18. The institute cites statistics from the National Highway Safety

Administration showing that the rate of crashes per mile driven for 16-year-old drivers is almost 10 times the rate for drivers ages 30 to 59.

New Jersey, the only state with a minimum driving age of 17, has reported a reduction of teenage driving fatalities. It has 4.4 deaths per 100,000 youth attributed to driving, compared with Connecticut at 20.7 deaths.

As young people reach puberty,

Kaminer says, they also experience a surge of more than 1,000 percent in hormone levels compared to the pre-puberty period. These hormones cause significant changes in adolescent behaviors, including increased impulsivity (the tendency to act out quickly as a response to internal or external stimuli, regardless of potential negative consequences), as well as increased aggression and poor judgment (such as the notion that 'nothing is going to happen to me' when weaving through traffic or driving too fast).

"... Connecticut's new state laws requiring curfews and more training for 16- and 17-year-old drivers ... won't really be effective, because they don't consider the developmental roots of high-risk behaviors in young people."

Dr. Yifrah Kaminer
Division of Child & Adolescent
Psychiatry, Health Center

Kaminer also says new neurobiological evidence shows that in teenagers, the pre-frontal cortex, the area of the brain essential for inhibitory behavior and critical thinking, is still not fully developed. The typical adolescent thrives on increased stimulation generated by the neurotransmitter

dopamine (the "fuel" for excitement).

Because of their relative deficiency of serotonin or "braking fluid," adolescents tend to respond to caution or danger signals too slowly and often too late.

"Putting an individual with this inherent biological handicap behind the wheel of a two-ton vehicle, with distractions ranging from peers who often drink or 'goof off' and are not restrained by safety belts, is irresponsible and potentially deadly," says Kaminer. "The proof lies in the fact that accidents involving cars driven by 16- to 19-year-olds account for the deaths of 13 teenagers every day."

Kaminer notes that the minimum age for renting a car is 25 years.

"Isn't it ironic that the industry reached that conclusion a long time ago, even before brain-imaging technology became so pervasive and persuasive?" he asks. "Why is the legal age for drinking alcohol 21 years, while the legal driving age is 16 and even lower in some states?"

Kaminer is reaching out to local state legislators in hopes of garnering support in the General Assembly. He has also been talking to community groups about the issue, and has speaking engagements planned at the University of Massachusetts and Yale.

When he speaks to parents, he points out the obvious safety benefits, as well as saving on hefty insurance rates, car payments, and fuel costs. He also suggests an aggressive awareness campaign to inform or empower parents to "just say no" to their car-loving teen.

Outstanding alumni *continued from page 1*

development and family studies, University of Connecticut, formerly with the National Cancer Institute's Office of Cancer Survivorship.

T. Scott Case, 38 ('92 B.S. in computer science and engineering), Wilton, Conn.: co-founder of Priceline.com and Rewards for Justice Fund, founder of Direct Help, and now is executive director of Malaria No More.

Swin Cash, 28 ('02 B.A. in communication sciences), Seattle: professional basketball player and founder of Swin Cash Enterprises and Cash for Kids.

Kevin Clarke, 31 ('04 M.D. in medicine), Dallas, Texas: AIDS physician, member of Baylor College of Medicine Pediatric AIDS Corps, and co-founder of Friends of Zambian Orphans.

Stacey Violante Cote, 36 ('00 M.S.W. in social work, '01 J.D. in law), Collinsville, Conn.: staff attorney at the Center for Children's Advocacy Inc., and project director for the Center's Teen Legal Advocacy Clinic in Hartford.

Margaret Drozdowski, 35 ('98 D.M.D. in dental medicine), Farmington, Conn.: dental director, Community Health Center Inc. of

New Britain.

Bryan Dumont, 35 ('97 B.A. in political science), Alexandria, Va.: senior vice president, APCO Insight, an opinion research and strategic communications services firm, Washington, D.C.

Stefanie (Pratola) Ferreri, 34 ('97 B.S. in pharmacy), Durham, N.C.: clinical assistant professor of pharmacy practice and experiential education and director of the community pharmacy residency program, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Lani Fortier, 26 ('04 B.S. in exercise science) Rye, N.H.: co-founder of Charity Global, which works to bring clean drinking water to people in developing nations.

Chunlei Guo, 37 ('99 Ph.D. in physics), Rochester, N.Y.: associate professor of optics and pioneering researcher in black metals, University of Rochester.

Christopher Hattayer, 28 ('02 B.A. in political science and international relations), Washington, D.C.: foreign service officer, U.S. Department of State, Kyrgyz Republic, Central Asia.

Tabitha Hitchcock, 37 ('93 B.S. in civil engineering), Mystic,

Conn.: principal process engineer for General Dynamics Electric Boat, submarine contractor for U.S. Department of Defense.

Kristin Hoffman, 38 ('98 J.D. in law), Marlborough, Conn.: attorney with a practice in federal immigration law, member of the Board of Governors, and Connecticut chapter chair of the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

M. Scott Holcomb, 35 ('94 B.A. in political science), Atlanta, Ga.: general counsel, J.P. Turner & Co. LLC and former chief of international and operations law, U.S. Army Judge Advocate General Corps in Kuwait.

James Hormuzdiar, 38 ('94 B.S. in electrical engineering and mathematics), Hayward, Calif.: co-founder of Robot Genius, security software company in Oakland, Calif.

Rebecca Lobo Rushin, 34 ('95 B.A. in political science), Granby, Conn.: broadcaster for ESPN, author, and active in a variety of philanthropic organizations. Member of the UConn Board of Trustees.

Brett McGurk, 35 ('96 B.A. in political science), Washington, D.C.: director for Iraq at the

National Security Council in the White House and former clerk to William Rehnquist, Chief Justice of the United States.

Mikki Meadows-Oliver, 36 ('06 Ph.D. in nursing), Hamden, Conn.: assistant professor at the Yale School of Nursing and clinical director for the pediatric lead poisoning and asthma outreach programs at Yale-New Haven Hospital.

Kevin Molloy, 37 ('93 B.S. in resources economics and '98 M.S.

in agricultural economics), New York, N.Y.: senior vice president of distribution finance at AXA Equitable Life Insurance Co., a leading financial protection company.

Irina (Tsikhelashvili) Moore, 36 ('04 M.B.A. in business), New Haven, Conn.: vice president of risk management for GE Money, the consumer and small financial services unit for General Electric.

Christopher Murphy, 35 ('02 J.D. in law), Cheshire, Conn.:

see Outstanding alumni page 5



PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Christopher Hattayer '02, speaks with students at the Student Union. Hattayer is a foreign service officer in the Kyrgyz Republic in Central Asia.

Communications professor studies dark side of relationships

BY SHERRY FISHER

Melissa Tafoya has always been drawn to the dark side of human behavior.

"I study the real-life stuff – infidelity, jealousy, aggression, and conflict," says Tafoya, an assistant professor of communication sciences.

Tafoya, who joined the UConn faculty in 2007, earned her bachelor's and Ph.D. degrees in communication from Arizona State University's Hugh Downs School of Human Communication. She has a long-standing interest in behavioral research.

"Interpersonal communication is an interdisciplinary science, and since I was interested in psychology, sociology, and family studies, communication was a good fit for me," she says. "The field is broad and diverse."

Tafoya, who describes her research interests as eclectic, is working on several different studies.

In one project, she is examining the variations in siblings' experiences and interactions across different relationship types, including half, full, and step-siblings, in nuclear, divorced, and remarried families.

"Siblings are your longest lasting relationship," Tafoya says. "You're stuck with your 'full' siblings. They're your siblings no matter what. But with step-siblings there is more of a choice in terms of the kind of relationship you can have with them."

She also conducts research on the experiences of jealousy, envy, and rivalry in families, friend-

ships, and romantic relationships. Her most recent study examined infidelity in romantic relationships. She conducted a study with a researcher from San Diego State University on what is called 'communicative infidelity.' The term was coined to describe an infidelity committed to 'send a message' to a partner.

"The person is unfaithful intentionally," says Tafoya. "The infidelity is a strategic and manipulative act. For example, a partner may be unfaithful because he or she is unhappy and wants to let the partner know."

Tafoya is also interested in the physiological effects of communi-

cation. In one study, she examined how people's stress levels were reduced by expressing affection through writing a letter.

The participants' cortisol levels, heart rates, blood pressure, and blood glucose levels were measured. "We found that participants' stress levels were significantly reduced when they wrote a letter of affection to somebody they cared about," she says.

Tafoya says much of her research is in areas that are understudied.

"I'm interested in the things that we just don't know too much about," she says, "or where there are large gaps."

Tafoya says teaching is one of her passions. This semester, she is teaching undergraduate courses on conflict management and negotiation, and interpersonal communication. She also teaches graduate courses on interpersonal communication theory and family communication.

The interpersonal communication course includes an examination of identity, attraction, and love, as well as jealousy and infidelity. In that course, she tells stories about her own life, and has the students write about concepts and theories, then apply them to their own experiences.

"I've had students tell me they

left abusive relationships after taking my interpersonal communication course," she says, "and others who've said it changed their lives. Everything I teach is applicable. The students take what they've learned in class and really think about it and talk about it."

For one of the assignments in that class, students have to find an article about relationships published in a magazine like *Cosmopolitan* or *Maxim*. They then compare and contrast the advice given in the magazine article to scholarly journal articles.

"The students learn that the majority of articles in these magazines are oversimplified, and much of the time there are no similarities between the articles and the scholarly research," Tafoya says. "For example, in magazines like *Cosmo*, there are articles about what a man finds attractive in a woman. They're very sexist, and promote stereotypical gender roles. That's just not what the research is showing."

The focus of her conflict management and negotiation class is on positive aspects of conflict. "When most people think about conflict, they think about hostility and negativity," she says, "but we don't spend too much time on that."

Instead, she teaches students ways to manage conflict constructively – in their own relationships, in organizations, and in intercultural interactions. "We talk about the negative stuff too," she says, "but I want them to leave the class being able to manage conflict situations in an effective and appropriate manner."



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Melissa Tafoya, assistant professor of communication sciences, in her office.

Outstanding alumni *continued from page 4*

member of the U.S. House of Representatives for the 5th Congressional district in Connecticut.

Ilia O'Hearn, '93 (B.A. in business, '04 J.D. in law), Manchester, Conn.: associate in the financial restructuring group at Bracewell & Giuliani, an international law firm, and president of the Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association.

Emeka Okafor, '25 ('04 B.S. in finance), Charlotte, N.C.:

professional basketball player and spokesman for One Million African Lives, which raises funds to help screen blood transfusions for AIDS in Africa.

Eric Owles, '34 ('98 B.A. in journalism and political science), Brooklyn, N.Y.: chief multimedia producer for *NYTimes.com* and war correspondent covering Iraq for the blog, "Baghdad Bureau: Iraq from the Inside."

Jonathan Plucker, '38 ('91 B.S.

in chemistry, '92 M.A. in special education), Bloomington, Ind.: prolific researcher and professor of educational psychology and cognitive science at Indiana University.

Althea Marshall Richardson, '38 ('91 B.S. in human development and family studies), New Haven: president and CEO of Empower New Haven, a nonprofit that administers more than \$27 million in federally-funded development grants to low-income neighborhoods.

Craig Rodner, '34 ('00 M.D. in medicine), Simsbury, Conn.: assistant professor in the department of orthopaedic surgery in the New England Musculoskeletal Institute at the UConn Health Center, specializing in hand, wrist, and upper extremity problems.

Carlos Rodrigues, '34 ('95 B.S. in accounting), Naugatuck, Conn.: principal and chief financial officer of Pequot Capital Management and CFO of Pequot Ventures in Westport, Conn.

Richard Ruiz, '36 ('98 M.F.A. in acting), Astoria, N.Y.: actor who has performed at many of the nation's leading resident repertory companies, including The Long

Wharf Theater in New Haven, and the New York Public Theatre, and who has performed in leading roles with national touring theatrical productions.

Christine Sansevero, '36 ('95 B.S. in engineering), Roslindale, Mass.: senior enforcement officer in the Air Technical Unit of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Elizabeth Flynn Scott, '38 ('91 B.A. in psychology), Wynnewood, Pa.: co-founder of Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation, named in memory of her late daughter, which has raised more than \$18 million to support research and awareness for childhood cancer.

Matthew H. Small, '36 ('98 M.B.A., '99 J.D., combined business and law degrees), Washington, D.C.: chief legal officer and secretary, Blackboard Inc., provider of enterprise software and systems integration services to host online classes at universities and corporations.

Peter Tesei, '39 ('91 B.A. in political science), Greenwich, Conn.: First Selectman of Greenwich, after serving 18 years in the banking industry.

Anthony Uliano, '38 ('93 B.A. in finance), Richmond, Va.: co-founder, president and chief technology officer of AMC Technology, named one of the fastest growing private companies in the United States.

Fahd Vahidy, '34 ('95 B.S. in human development and family studies, '98 M.A. in educational psychology), Bridgeport, Conn.: executive director of Public Allies Connecticut, which prepares young adults for careers working for community and social change.

Marcela de Jesus Vergara-Jimenez, '39 ('98 Ph.D. in nutritional sciences), Culiacán Sinaloa, Mexico: professor of nutrition sciences and department head of nutritional sciences at the Autonomous University of Sinaloa, Mexico.

Alicia A. Young, '36 ('95 B.A. in communication sciences), New York, N.Y.: executive vice president and head of the consumer technology division for Ruder Finn Group, the second-largest independent public relations firm in the world.



PHOTO BY PETER MORENUIS

Fahd Vahidy '95 speaks with students at the Asian American Cultural Center. Vahidy is executive director of Public Allies of Connecticut.



Kerry Duffy, a sophomore majoring in civil engineering, studies near West Complex.

PHOTO BY JESSICA TOMMASELLI

GRANTS

The following grants were received through the Office for Sponsored Programs (OSP) in July 2008. The list represents only new proposals awarded, and excludes continuations. The list is supplied to the *Advance* each month by OSP.

Principal Investigator	Department	Sponsor	Amount	Award Period				
Arnold, C.	Extension	Conn. Office of Policy & Management	\$150,000	7/08-6/09	Czuba, C.	Extension	Conn. Dept. of Corrections	\$6,000 7/08-6/09
<i>Conn. Land Use Academy: Year Three</i>					<i>Memorandum of Understanding Between the Conn. Dept. of Corrections and the Univ. of Conn. Dept. of Extension System</i>			
Bartholomew, C.	Extension	U.S. Dept. of Agriculture	\$22,499	7/08-6/09	Dautrich, K.	Public Policy	Conn. Office of the Governor / Conn. Office of Policy & Management	\$223,406 6/08-8/10
<i>Conn. Women's Network for Risk Management, Education, and Outreach</i>					<i>Conn. Government Budget Review</i>			
Boggs, S.	Institute of Materials Science	LDIC GmbH	\$280,000	1/09-12/12	Deguisse, S.	Sea Grant College Program	Dept. of Commerce / Nat'l Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin. / Oceanic & Atmospheric Research	\$400,000 4/08-3/13
<i>Partial Discharge Detection and the Effect Thereof on Insulation Materials</i>					<i>Regional Ocean Research Planning to Support Ecosystem-Based Management for the New York Bight</i>			
Boucher, T.	Extension	Univ. of Vermont	\$9,902	4/08-12/09	Fan, T.	Mechanical Engineering	National Science Foundation	\$200,000 8/08-7/10
<i>Hastening Adoption of Zone-Tillage on Conn./New England Vegetable Farms</i>					<i>New Concepts in Fluidics and Cellular Mechanics for Controlled Microinjection</i>			
Bravo-Ureta, B.	Office of Multicultural & International Affairs	U.S. Agency for International Development / Univ. of Georgia	\$388,771	1/08-9/12	Frisman, L.	School of Social Work Instruction & Research	Conn. Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services	\$102,539 6/08-5/09
<i>Peanut Production and Livelihoods of Farm Households in Middle Africa (Kenya, Uganda, Ghana)</i>					<i>Evaluation of Trauma and Women's Services Initiatives</i>			
Brown, S.	Educational Psychology	U.S. Dept. of Education - Institute of Education Sciences	\$996,785	8/08-6/11	Gao, P.	Institute of Materials Science	American Chemical Society/Petroleum Research Fund	\$50,000 9/08-8/10
<i>Expanding the Science and Literacy Curricular Space: The Global Ed II Project</i>					<i>A Systematic Study on Vapor-Liquid-Solid Growth Process of Metal Oxide Nanodendrites</i>			
Bucklin, A.	Marine Sciences	WET Labs	\$29,000	7/08-7/08	Gaudio, M.	Center for Environmental Sciences & Engineering	Environmental Protection Agency/Nat'l. Center for Healthy Housing	\$3,000 9/07-8/08
<i>Research Vessel Connecticut Charter by WET Labs Inc.</i>					<i>Promoting Training and Outreach on Lead Poisoning Prevention in Underserved Rural Communities</i>			
Bucklin, A.	Marine Sciences	Univ. of Rhode Island	\$4,932	7/08-7/08	Geary, S.	Biotechnology/Bioservices Center	U.S. Dept. of Agriculture /Agricultural Research Service	\$529,453 6/08-5/09
<i>Research Vessel Connecticut Charter by Univ. of Rhode Island for Ullman Tripod Recovery</i>					<i>Advanced Vaccine Research</i>			
Bucklin, A.	Marine Sciences	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution	\$17,400	6/08-6/08	Guillard, K.	Plant Science	Agricultural Research Foundation	\$18,000 1/08-12/09
<i>Research Vessel Connecticut Charter by Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution for Kemp Buoy Deployment</i>					<i>Support of the Fescue-To-The-Rescue Program</i>			
Bucklin, A.	Marine Sciences	Dept. of Interior/ U.S Geological Survey	\$29,000	8/08-8/08	Jockusch, E.	Ecology & Evolutionary Biology	National Science Foundation	\$11,992 7/08-9/09
<i>Research Vessel Connecticut Charter by U.S. Geological Survey</i>					<i>Dissertation Research: Origin and Diversification of Pseudoscorpions on Granite Outcrops in Southwestern Australia</i>			
Bucklin, A.	Marine Sciences	Woods Hole Group Inc.	\$29,000	7/08-7/08	Karan, O.	Educational Psychology	Stafford Public Schools	\$14,386 8/08-6/09
<i>Research Vessel Connecticut Charter by Woods Hole Group Inc.</i>					<i>Counseling Psychology Internship - I-Hsuan Ho</i>			
Carstensen, F.	Conn. Center for Economic Analysis	Conn. Independent College & Univ. Institute for Research & Public Service	\$11,000	8/08-9/08	Karan, O.	Educational Psychology	New London Science & Technology Magnet High School	\$14,386 8/08-6/09
<i>Economic Impact of the Colleges and Universities of the Conn. Independent College and Univ. Institute for Research and Public Service</i>					<i>Counseling Psychology Internship - Michelle Mercado</i>			
Casa, D.	Kinesiology	The Rectory School	\$24,946	8/08-6/09	Karan, O.	Educational Psychology	Bloomfield Public Schools	\$28,771 8/08-6/09
<i>Athletic Training Services: A Partnership with the Rectory School</i>					<i>Counseling Psychology Internship - Ashley Morris</i>			
Casa, D.	Kinesiology	RHAM High School, Hebron	\$22,165	8/08-6/09	Kehle, T.	Educational Psychology	Tolland Public Schools	\$16,829 8/08-6/09
<i>Athletic Training Services: A Partnership with Regional District #8</i>					<i>School Psychology Internship - Teresa Lebel</i>			
Casa, D.	Kinesiology	Hartford Public Schools	\$16,221	8/08-6/09	Kehle, T.	Educational Psychology	Glastonbury Public Schools	\$33,657 8/08-6/09
<i>Athletic Training Services: A Partnership with Hartford Public Schools</i>					<i>School Psychology Internships - Catherine Foote and Erin Sullivan</i>			
Chang, K.	History	Yale Univ.	\$63,500	7/08-6/09	Krueger, W.	Center for Regenerative Biology	Conn. Dept. of Public Health	\$82,790 6/08-3/09
<i>Ethnicity, Race, and Migration Scholar at Yale Univ.</i>					<i>Cell Cycle and Nuclear Reprogramming by Somatic Cell Fusion</i>			
Chiu, W.	Mechanical Engineering	National Science Foundation	\$10,000	8/08-7/09	Lei, Y.	Chemical, Materials, & Biomolecular Engineering	National Science Foundation	\$160,058 9/08-8/10
<i>Advanced Thermal Processing Workshop</i>					<i>Rapid, Sensitive, and Sequential Detection of E. coli and Total Coliforms Using Engineered Conducting Membranes for Water Quality Control</i>			
Clausen, J.	Natural Resources Management & Engineering	Environmental Protection Agency/Conn. Dept. of Environmental Protection	\$50,000	7/08-4/10	Lemons, R.	Educational Leadership	Conn. Center for School Change	\$31,000 7/08-6/09
<i>Gant Plaza Green Roof Project</i>					<i>Leadership Development for Urban School Leaders</i>			
Cui, J.	Computer Science & Engineering	National Science Foundation	\$500,000	8/08-7/11	Les, D.	Ecology & Evolutionary Biology	Nat'l. Science Foundation/Western Conn. State Univ.	\$10,000 7/08-5/09
<i>MRI: Development of Instrumentation for an Autonomous Underwater Sensor Network System</i>					<i>RU: Surveys of Podostemaceae (riverweeds) in Latin America</i>			
					Leykehman, D.	Mathematics	National Science Foundation	\$106,836 7/08-6/11
					<i>Discontinuous Galerkin Methods for Optimal Control Problems Governed by Advection-Diffusion Equations</i>			

CALENDAR Monday, September 29, to Monday, October 6

Items for the weekly *Advance* Calendar are downloaded from the University's online Events Calendar. Please enter your Calendar items at: <http://events.uconn.edu/> Items must be in the database by 4 p.m. on Monday for inclusion in the issue published the following Monday. **Note:** The next Calendar will include events taking place from Monday, Oct. 6 through Tuesday, Oct. 14. Those items must be in the database by 4 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 29. If you need special accommodations to participate in events, call 860-486-2943 (Storrs), or 860-679-3563 (Farmington), or 860-570-5130 (Law School).

Academics

Friday, 10/3 – Mid-semester progress reports due to students from faculty.

Libraries

Homer Babbidge Library. Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-2 a.m.; Friday, 7:30 a.m.-10 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-2 a.m.
Dodd Center. Monday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, noon-4 p.m.; closed Sunday.
Pharmacy Library. Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-10 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1-9 p.m.
Health Center Library. Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m.-11 p.m.; Friday, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-10 p.m.
Law Library. Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-11 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1-9 p.m.
Avery Point Campus Library. Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed weekends.
Greater Hartford Campus Library. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday & Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Sunday.
Stamford Campus Library. Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; closed Sunday.
Torrington Campus Library. Monday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; closed Friday-Sunday.
Waterbury Campus Library. Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; closed weekends.

University ITS

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

Lectures & Seminars

Monday, 9/29 – Federalist Society Speaker. "The Dirty Dozen: Twelve Supreme Court Cases that Radically Expanded Government and Eroded Freedom," by Bob Levy, Cato Institute. 12:30 p.m., Starr Hall, KKB Courtroom 108, Law School.
Tuesday, 9/30 – Humanities Institute Faculty Luncheon. *Christianity at Large: Framing Indigenous Identities and Modernities in Aboriginal Australia*, with Francoise Dussart & Carolyn Schwarz. 12:30 p.m., Room 301, CLAS Building. Call 860-486-9057 to reserve seating.
Wednesday, 10/1 – Invasive Plants Symposium. "Cherish Our Natural Heritage: Managing Invasives to Promote Native Diversity." Keynote address, "A Case for Native Plants," by Doug Tallamy, University of Delaware. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Rome Ballroom. Registration: \$55 non-students/\$25 students. For more information, call 860-486-6448.
Wednesday, 10/1 – Rainbow Center Lecture. "A Historical View of the Impact of the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Leadership on Higher Education and Beyond," with Julie

Elkins. Noon, Room 403, Student Union. Free. Bring your own lunch.
Wednesday, 10/1 – Norman Hascoe Lecture in Physics. "Manipulating Helium Atoms, from Optical Pumping to Bose-Einstein Condensation," by Claude Cohen-Tannoudji, Collège de France and Nobel Prize-winner. 4 p.m., Room P038, Gant Science Complex.
Wednesday, 10/1 – Statistics Colloquium. "A New Semiparametric Procedure for Matched Case-Control Studies with Missing Covariates," by Samiran Sinha, Texas A&M University. 4 p.m., Room 344, CLAS Building.
Wednesday, 10/1 – Asian American Heritage Speaker. Benny Widoyo, former UN official in Cambodia, discusses his book "Dancing in Shadows: Sihanouk, the Khmer Rouge, and the United Nations in Cambodia." 4:30 p.m., Student Union Theatre.
Thursday, 10/2 – Pathology Seminar. "Crime Scene Investigation," by Lawrence Kobilins, John Jay College of Criminal Justice. 11 a.m., Room A001, Atwater Laboratories.
Thursday, 10/2 – Charles Darwin Bicentennial Colloquium Series. By Daniel Dennett, author. 4 p.m., Konover Auditorium.
Thursday, 10/2 – Myles Martel Lecture in Leadership and Public Opinion. By Margot Morrell, author of *Shackleton's Way*. 4 p.m., Student Union Theatre.
Thursday, 10/2 – Khairallah Symposium. "Redox Status as a Central Mechanistic Integrator of Development and Multiple CNS Diseases," by Mark Noble, University of Rochester. 4 p.m., Room 131, Biology/Physics Building.
Friday, 10/3 – Environmental Engineering Seminar. "Winter Storms and Professional Development in Public Service," by Douglas Glowacki, Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. Noon, Room 212, Castleman Building.
Friday, 10/3 – The Pollack Distinguished Lecture. "Measuring Time with Ultracold Atoms: Achievements and Perspectives," by Claude Cohen-Tannoudji, Collège de France and Nobel Prize-winner. 4 p.m., Room P038, Gant Science Complex.
Friday, 10/3 – Litchfield Country Writers Project Discussion. "Cost," with Roxana Robinson, author, and Dayne Verstandig, 6:30 p.m., Hogan Lecture Hall, M. Adela Eads Building, Torrington Campus.

Exhibits

Wednesday, 10/1 through Friday, 10/31 – Torrington Campus. *Empty Place at the Table*, display to raise awareness about domestic violence. Lobby, Eads Building.
Wednesday, 10/1 through Friday, 11/14 – Jorgensen Gallery. *Regarding India*, including *Walking Dreams of India*, photographs & digital montage by Neil Chowdhury; *Junctures & Constellations*, by Hanuman Kampli & Kathryn Myers; and works by students and alumni from the Goa College of Arts. Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Through Sunday, 10/5 – Student Union Art Gallery. *Identity, Visions, Transformations; Imprints*, by Victor Pacheco & Marelá Zacarias. Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
Through Friday, 10/10 – Babbidge Library. *Migration Route, a Journey Through Art*, collage photographs by George Jacobi, Gallery on the Plaza; *4 in Prints* by Claudia Fieo, Margot Rocklen, Kim Tester, and Carmela Venti, Stevens Gallery; *A Reason to Remember, Roth, Germany, 1933-1942*, West Alcove. For hours, see Libraries section.
Through Friday, 10/10 – Dodd Center. *Celebrating the Sculptural*

Book: The Challenge of Structure. For hours, see Libraries section.
Through Friday, 10/10 – Contemporary Art Galleries. *Alumni Biennial (One)*. Hours: Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fine Arts Building.
Through Sunday, 11/2 – Alexey von Schlippe Gallery. *Latin Views 2008*, works by 38 Latin artists from 15 different countries. Wednesday-Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Free to members and students, all others \$3 donation. Branford House



PHOTO BY BOB COPLEY

John Windsor-Cunningham as Thomas Cromwell and Meghan O'Leary as Margaret More in Robert Bolt's play *A Man for All Seasons*, to be presented by Connecticut Repertory Theatre Oct. 2-12 in the Nafe Katter Theatre.

Mansion, Avery Point Campus.
Through Thursday, 11/20 – Health Center. Oil paintings by Linda Tenukas. Daily, 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Main and Mezzanine Lobbies. Also, through Wednesday, 1/7, abstract paintings by Tory Cowles, and photographs by Melissa Post. Daily, 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Celeste LeWitt Gallery.
Through Sunday, 11/30 – Ballard Institute & Museum of Puppetry. *Puppets through the Lens*. Depot Campus, Friday-Sunday, noon-5 p.m. Free admission, donations welcome.
Through Friday, 12/19 – Benton Museum. *Sera: The Way of the Tibetan Monk*; also, *The Photographs of Sheila Rock*. Also, through Sunday, 10/12, 43rd annual art department faculty exhibition. Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday, 1-4:30 p.m. On 10/1, Deborah Dancy will give a gallery talk on the art faculty exhibition, 12:15-12:45 p.m.
Ongoing – State Museum of Natural History & Connecticut Archaeology Center. *Human's Nature: Looking Closer at the Relationships between People and the Environment*. Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday & Monday, closed. Free admission, donations welcome.

Performing Arts

Thursday, 10/2 through Sunday, 10/12 – A Man for All Seasons. Connecticut Repertory Theatre production of Robert Bolt's play. Nafe Katter Theatre. For performance times and tickets, call the box office at 860-486-4226.
Monday, 9/29 – Jazz Showcase. Sampling of the music department's jazz groups. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Admission fee: \$7 for adults/free for students and children.

Films

Monday, 9/29 – Puppet Film. *Handmade Puppet Dreams, Volume II*, by Heather Henson. 7:30 p.m., Student Union. Free admission.
Tuesday, 9/30 – India Film Series. *Taare Zameen Par*. 6:30 p.m., Room 106, Art Building. Free admission.
Wednesday, 10/1 – Human Rights Film Series. *Children in No Man's Land*. 4 p.m., Konover Auditorium.
Thursday, 10/2 – Latin American Film. *Under the Same Moon/La Misma Luna*. 7 p.m., PRLACC.
Monday, 10/6 – Library Documentary. *Freedom@: Resistance and Repression in the Age of Intellectual*

Monday, 10/6 – Puppet Film. *Handmade Puppet Dreams, Volume III*, by Heather Henson. 7:30 p.m., Student Union. Free admission.

Athletics

Wednesday, 10/1 – Women's Tennis vs. Massachusetts. 2:30 p.m., Tennis Courts.
Wednesday, 10/1 – Field Hockey vs. Quinnipiac. 7 p.m., Sherman Family Sports Complex.
Friday, 10/3 – Men's Soccer vs. West Virginia. 8 p.m., Morrone Stadium.
Saturday, 10/4 – Field Hockey vs. Georgetown. Noon, Sherman Family Sports Complex.

Potpourri

Wednesday, 10/1 – Author Event. *Too Many Toys*, with David Shannon. 2 p.m., UConn Co-op
Wednesday, 10/1 – Literary Reading. Readings by Margaret Gibson & Lynn Bloom, authors. 4 p.m. UConn Co-op.
Thursday, 10/2 – Literary Reading. Reading by Clare Rossini, poet. Noon, Branford House, Avery Point Campus. Free admission, donations to benefit New London Community Meal Center welcome.
Thursday, 10/2 – Author Event. *150 Years of American Puppetry*, with John Bell. 6:30 p.m., UConn Co-op.
Friday, 10/3 through Sunday, 10/5 – Family Weekend. Entertainment, athletic events, cultural explosion, barbeque, student talent show, dinners, art shows, and more. See <http://familyweekend.uconn.edu/>
Saturday, 10/4 – Natural History Museum Workshop. *Electronic Communication Before the Digital Age*. Windsor location. Advance registration required, \$10 for Museum members, \$15 for others. Call 860-486-5690 for more information.
Sunday, 10/5 – Cornucopia Fest. College of Agriculture exhibits and demonstrations, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; alumni sale 11 a.m.; auction 1 p.m.; polo match 2 p.m. Route 195 & North Eagleville Road. Free admission. For more information go to www.cag.uconn.edu.
Sunday, 10/5 – Natural History Museum Presentation. *White Nose Fungus and Bats in Connecticut: An In-depth Look*, by Jenny Dickson, Wildlife Diversity Program. 3 p.m., Room 130, Biology/Physics Building. Free admission. Call 860-486-5690 for more information.

Library to show documentary film on free expression vs. copyright Oct. 6

The University Libraries will sponsor a showing of the documentary film *Freedom of Expression: Resistance and Repression in the Age of Intellectual Property* on Monday, Oct. 6, from 2 to 4 p.m. in Konover Auditorium.

In 1998, Kembrew McLeod, an associate professor of communication studies at the University of Iowa, trademarked the phrase "freedom of expression" – a startling comment on the way that intellectual property law restricts creativity and expression of ideas.

The documentary explores the battles being waged in courts, classrooms, museums, film studios, and

the Internet over control of cultural commons. Based on McLeod's award-winning book of the same title, *Freedom of Expression* charts the many successful attempts to push back the assault by overzealous copyright holders.

Jeremy Smith, a co-producer of the film, will speak. Currently, Smith is pursuing a master's degree in library and information science at Simmons College.

A reception will follow. The showing is sponsored by the Libraries' Copyright Team.

For additional information on the documentary, go to: <http://freedomofexpression.us/dvd.html>

Admissions counselor helps students make UConn their choice



PHOTO BY JESSICA TOMMASELLI

Jayson Hodge, admissions counselor, won an award for excellence in college admissions counseling.

BY SHERRY FISHER

Jayson Hodge is on the road again. This week he'll be in Seattle, Washington. After that he'll travel to Southeast Asia, followed by Cape Cod. There are also trips scheduled to Long Island and New Jersey, and, of course, visits around Connecticut.

This is a busy time of year for Hodge, a senior admissions counselor whose main job is to recruit high school students for admission to UConn. From mid-September through November, he visits four

to six high schools a day, where he speaks to prospective students, their parents, high school counselors, and school officials.

Hodge, who has been an admissions counselor for the last 10 years, works with high school students as early as their sophomore year, but most of the students are juniors and seniors.

He recruits in Connecticut, New Jersey, and from time to time in other states around the country. He traveled to Turkey earlier this year for 10 days, as part of the

admissions office's expanded effort to recruit internationally.

Hodge, a UConn alumnus and former Day of Pride Scholar, graduated from the University in 1998 with a double major in psychology and an individualized major in administrative, civil, and criminal law.

"I wasn't planning a career in college admissions," he says. "I wanted to work for the FBI." But one fateful day, during his senior year, his car broke down next to the Student Union.

"One of the admissions counselors, Larry Williams, saw me out there and we started talking," he says, "and before long, I was working here."

He has never regretted it.

"The nicest part about this job is working for UConn, which is a great place," he says. "I love to work with students and to get them interested in coming here. When I talk about the University it's easy because it's such a strong product."

His presentations at high schools, which usually run between 35 and 45 minutes, include information about the admissions process, student life, research opportunities, financial aid, the Honors Program, academic schools and colleges, and advising.

"After the talk, students come up and ask a lot of questions," he says. "That's where we get to a lot of the individual counseling. High school students know where they want to go, but they have no idea what it's going to take to get there. A student might say, 'I want to be pre-med and music,' or 'I want to major in animal science and journalism.' We try to address those issues."

"The job never becomes stale," he adds.

Hodge reads and coordinates applications to make sure that students meet the University's academic criteria for admissions.

There are five other officers in freshmen admissions. Each officer tries to read about 60 applications a day, he says.

Hodge says his job offers him the opportunity to help others: "It's an industry full of phenomenal people who are dedicated to making students' lives better by giving them educational opportunities."

"I especially enjoy getting a thank you letter from a student I've admitted, or seeing a student at an orientation session and knowing that they're happy and made the right choice," he says.

Hodge also trains recent UConn graduates to do recruiting, and has taught an FYE course on life skills for four years.

He recently received the William S. Neal Award for Excellence in College Admission Counseling. The award, from the New England Association for College Admission Counseling (NEACAC), is given to an individual in the field who has demonstrated a "true commitment to students, their institution, and career."

He also served as an assembly delegate to NEACAC, taught new admissions counselors at the organization's week-long summer institute, was planning committee co-chair of the group's annual meeting, and has served on several committees.

Staubach weaves experience, interests into job of selling books

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

Suzy Staubach has a few serious addictions. Writing. Pottery. Gardening. Reading. Cooking. Grandchildren.

All of them are intertwined into her career as head of the General Books Department at the UConn Co-op.

Staubach, honored Sept. 21 by the Connecticut Center for the Book with an award for lifetime achievement in service to the literary community, turned her passion for reading into a job selling books. She used her professional writing background to become a book author. She turned her interest in pottery into a business. She turned her love for gardening, cooking, and pottery into topics for her books. And her two granddaughters have renewed an already strong interest in children's literature.

"Suzy is very authoritative on a number of topics, and is widely known and respected," says Bill Simpson, manager of the UConn Co-op. "She really is a remarkable individual, who loves the power of the written word and the power that books have over people. She loves to see the connection between authors and readers, and has a deep passion for books."

Staubach is the founder of the Connecticut Children's Book Fair; a member of the board of Curb-

stone Press; past president of the Connecticut Center for the Book and the New England Booksellers Association; and has served two terms on the American Booksellers Foundation for Freedom of Expression.

"Suzy has worked hard to better the place of books in Connecticut – not simply bettering the lot of readers, but creating readers," says Sam Pickering, author and professor of English, who nominated Staubach for the award. "People drive past farms and see fields green and glistening with corn. What they don't see is the labor the farmer put into the crop. ... Suzy's biggest crop consists of readers, few of whom know how long she has worked to interest others in books."

Staubach says picking books to sell in the store is more of an art than a science. There are lots of catalogues and barrages of e-mails that come from publishers; advance reading copies; and trade shows where authors discuss their books and publishers provide galley.

"We try to pick what we think audiences want," she says.

Staubach, who began working at the Co-op as a cashier, moved into the book department once her bookaholic nature became apparent to the management. But one of the biggest misconceptions about her job is that she has time to read during work.

"I read at night and in the morning," she says. "In the winter, I like to read in front of the woodstove. In the summer, I read anywhere."

And what does she read? Science, history, novels, non-fiction, and lately, now she has grandchildren, a lot of children's books. Most of the time, she is reading more than one book.

In between reading and making pots and gardening at her home in Ashford, Staubach is a writer. Before her career at the Co-op, she wrote for magazines, including *Parents*, *Seventeen*, and the *Farmers' Almanac*. Since then she has written two books, *Clay* (2005), and *Connecticut, Driving through History* (2001). Now she is building a sunken garden in an old stone foundation on her property, and writing a book about that experience and about the history of sunken gardens.

In the 27 years she has worked at the Co-op, Staubach has watched bookselling become computerized. Today, book inventory is no longer recorded on index cards, and used books are not located by advertising – for \$1 a line – in a special monthly publication and awaiting a response.

Staubach says a recent trend that hasn't been widely publicized is that young people and college students are reading more than they did five years ago.

"There was a time when I thought things were going completely the wrong way," she says. "But now young people are reading. They're buying classics and novels, and reading much more than they did a few years ago."

She says the Internet is a wonderful tool, but it won't replace books. "Reading is a different experience. Narratives and story telling are part of being human."

We had it in mud huts. We have it in movies. You still have novels. When you read them, they are in your head and you are in the book. There isn't another way to connect with a writer and what the writer is thinking and imagining. So I don't think books will go away, and I hope they don't."

For a list of some of Staubach's favorite books, go to www.advance.uconn.edu.



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Suzy Staubach, manager of general books at the UConn Co-op.