



Students enjoy the fall foliage while strolling through campus.

PHOTO BY GAYLOR PHOTOGRAPHY

Tropical species may be threatened by global warming

BY COLIN POITRAS

Contrary to conventional wisdom, tropical plant and animal species living in some of the warmest places on Earth may be threatened by global warming, according to UConn ecologist Robert Colwell and an international team. Their research is featured in the Oct. 10 issue of *Science* magazine.

As Earth's climate has warmed in recent decades, the geographical ranges of well-studied bird, butterfly, and plant species in the U.S. and Europe have moved northward, following the gradual northward shift of their familiar climates, says Colwell, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and the report's lead author.

Studies have also shown that some species in the U.S. and Europe have shifted to higher elevations, as temperature zones on mountains have moved upward.

Tropical climates have not been immune to global climate changes. They are now as warm as they have been at any time during at least the past two million years, Colwell says. Yet little research attention has been given to the impact of global warming on the geographical distribution of tropical plant and animal species.

Colwell's report in *Science* could change that.

The report points out that tropical climates have warmed more than 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit since 1975, and climate models predict an additional increase of nearly 6 degrees Fahrenheit over the next century in the tropical forests of Central and South America. This much warming would shift temperature zones uphill about 600 m (nearly 2,000 feet) in elevation. Tropical species, like those at higher latitudes, will likely be driven to higher elevations by these changes, following the climate zones to which they are now genetically adapted.

Because the tropical forests from Mexico to Brazil vary little in temperate regime, successful latitudinal range shifts are unlikely for tropical species.

"The conventional wisdom among some segments of the scientific community is that animal and plant species in the tropics – some

see Tropical species page 6

Investiture of business dean as endowed chair set for Oct. 17

The School of Business will host an investiture ceremony for Christopher Earley as the Auran J. Fox Chair in Business on Oct. 17. The event will take place at 2:30 p.m. in the David Ivry Seminar Classroom in the School of Business Building.

Earley, dean of the business school, is an internationally recognized leader in business education and research. Before joining UConn in January, Earley was the dean and Cycle & Carriage Professor at the National University of Singapore School of Business. He also previously held chairs at London Business School and Kelley School of Business at Indiana University, Bloomington, and professorships at top institutions around the world, including Sasin Graduate Institute of Business Administration of Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok,

Thailand; Hong Kong University of Science and Technology; and the Graduate School of Management at the University of California, Irvine.

The Auran J. Fox Chair in Business was established by Keith R. Fox '80.

Fox graduated *cum laude* with a bachelor's degree in marketing from the School of Business. He currently runs the Keith and Pam Fox Family Foundation. He was previously founder and chief executive officer of Brandsoft, a consulting and software company, and vice president of worldwide corporate marketing at Cisco Systems. In 2001, he was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame in honor of his professional and entrepreneurial success. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the UConn Foundation.

Austin Chair established

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

The Board of Trustees has voted to establish an endowed chair in economics in honor of former President Philip E. Austin.

The chair will be funded with an endowment set up in April 2007 by the UConn Foundation in Austin's honor. Austin was University president from 1996 to 2007.

The Foundation has \$1.4 million to support the chair, most contributed by prominent donors and leaders who worked closely with Austin during his 11-year tenure.

"Dr. Austin led the University through a dramatic transformation, a five-fold growth in endowment, an increased reputation for academic excellence, national athletic success, and many other points of pride," says President Michael J. Hogan. "This chair is to honor him for his many years of leadership and service, as well as to continue his legacy of excellence at UConn."

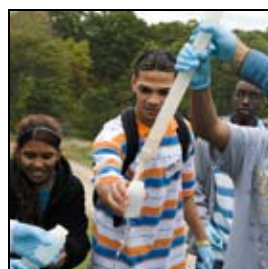
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PHOTO SUPPLIED BY THE UCONN FOUNDATION INC.

From left, Dr. Cato Laurencin, President Michael J. Hogan, and Bill Cosby at an Oct. 2 reception to welcome Laurencin as vice president for health affairs at the Health Center. The event, hosted by the UConn Foundation, featured a presentation by Cosby, who attended the same Philadelphia high school as Laurencin.

Oct. 20 events, poll, to focus on election

A day-long event focused on the presidential election and the major issues in the 2008 campaign will take place at UConn on Monday, Oct. 20. In addition to panel discussions on critical issues featuring faculty experts at both the Storrs and Stamford campuses, the University is also conducting a scientific public opinion poll of its undergraduates on their choice for president and the issues that are important to them as students.

All UConn undergrads have been invited to participate by visiting <http://UVote2008.uconn.edu> and entering their NetID and password. The survey takes under 10 minutes to complete and the answers are confidential.

"This poll will take the political temperature of UConn undergrads and give all of us a sense of what issues and concerns are on students' minds," says University President Michael J. Hogan.

A second, separate poll of residents in the Fairfield County-based 4th Congressional District on the competitive race between Chris Shays and Jim Himes will also be released on Oct. 20. In addition to questions on the election, the 4th District poll also covers the economic situation facing those living in Fairfield County and other issues.

The Storrs portion of the event will be held in the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center's Konover Auditorium from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The four Storrs panel discussions are on: foreign policy and the approaches favored by presidential candidates Obama and McCain; race, gender, and age in the 2008 race for president; fairness and bias in the media during the campaign; and polling, politics, and the electorate this year.

The Stamford portion of the event, where the two polls will also be released, will feature a panel on the economy and current financial crisis in the context of the election. The Stamford program will run from 1 to 3 p.m.

"This year's presidential election is historic in many ways and comes at a critical time for the nation," says Hogan. "The surveys and the event on Oct. 20 are designed to illuminate views and also to spark discussion, providing an additional outlet for the excitement on campus surrounding the campaign. It's important that our students – and all of us – be engaged in the electoral process."

For a full schedule of events on both campuses, visit: http://news.uconn.edu/2008/opinion_poll_2008.php. The panels will feature more than 20 different UConn faculty experts participating or moderating; journalists and media commentators such as *Journal Inquirer* managing editor Chris Powell, *Hartford Courant* columnists Kevin Rennie and Susan Campbell; former U.S. Rep. Rob Simmons; the president of the Stamford Chamber of Commerce; and students. Academic disciplines represented include: political science, sociology, history, law, journalism, women's studies, business, and economics.

The panels will include discussion among the participants as well as questions and comments from the audience.

The symposium is sponsored by the University, UConn College Democrats, UConn College Republicans, the Department of Political Science, the Women's Studies Program, the Undergraduate Student Government (USG), and WHUS Radio.

"The students on this campus have no idea how much they are able to influence policy," says Seamus Keating, external affairs chair for USG and co-chair of the UConn Votes Coalition, an umbrella organization of student groups working to register students and increase voter turnout.

"In 2006, we increased our turnout by 700 percent," Keating says. "We made ourselves heard, not only statewide but nationally, with Congressman Joe Courtney's election coming down to 83 votes. With the state in an economic crisis, UConn students need to let their voices be heard for higher education, because it's too easy for us to be overlooked if we don't turn out and vote."

The polls are being conducted by UConn's Center for Survey Research and Analysis (CSRA), a non-partisan, non-profit survey research organization. As part of the survey, students are asked to name their choice for president, identify the issues of greatest concern to them, say where and how they will be voting, what campaign activity, if any, they've participated in, and where they get their news on the race for president.

"It's fair to say that younger voters may play a major role in selecting our next president, particularly if turnout is high in that age group," says Christine Kraus, associate director of CSRA. "We anticipate a positive response to the U Vote 2008 Survey, since the election has generated a lot of enthusiasm among college age voters."

UConn has more than 20,000 undergraduates at Storrs and the regional campuses. All are being invited to participate in the survey.

Children's literature expert to speak at Dodd Center

Leonard Marcus, a noted writer, historian, and critic in children's literature, will deliver a talk titled "Wonder in the Wake of War: the Fantasy Tradition in American Children's Literature," on Wednesday, Oct. 22.

The talk, which will be based in part on the fantasy literature-related aspects of his latest book, *Minders of Make-Believe*, will take place from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in Konover Auditorium, Thomas J. Dodd Research Center. A reception and book signing will follow.

Minders of Make-Believe: Idealists, Entrepreneurs, and the Shaping of American Children's Literature (2008) is an animated first-time history of the publishers, authors, librarians, booksellers, educators, and others whose passion for books transformed American childhood and American culture.

In his talk, Marcus also will reference his interviews with 13 modern masters of fantasy from another of his recent books, *The Wand in the Word*.

He explains: "So many of the fantasy writers I interviewed felt they were writing about the war they themselves had experienced,

or else that they wrote fantasy because of the impact of remembered wars on their view of life. And it seems to me that it was the experience of modern warfare, which so discredited the myth of science- and industry-driven progress, that helped to consolidate the readership for writers from Tolkien and Lewis to Madeleine L'Engle."

Marcus is the American children's book world's preeminent historian. His award-winning books include *Dear Genius: The Letters of Ursula Nordstrom*; *Margaret Wise Brown: Awakened by the Moon*; and *A Caldecott Celebration*. His recent children's books include *Oscar: The Big Adventure of a Little Sock Monkey*, co-authored and illustrated by his wife Amy Schwartz, and *Pass It Down: Five Picture-Book Families Make Their Mark*. He is *Parenting* magazine's regular book critic and a frequent contributor to the *New York Times Book Review* and *The Horn Book*.

Free and open to the public, the talk is sponsored by the Northeast Children's Literature Collection, the Dodd Center, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Sackler Lecture in Human Rights to focus on gender issues

Charlotte Bunch, Founder and Executive Director of the Center for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers University, will deliver the 15th Raymond & Beverly Sackler Distinguished Lecture in Human Rights on Monday, Oct. 20 at 4 p.m. in Konover Auditorium, Thomas J. Dodd Research Center. Her talk is titled, "Passionate Politics: The Intersection of Gender, Culture, and Human Rights."

Also a Board of Governors Distinguished Service Professor in Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers, Bunch previously was a Fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies, a founder of the publication *Women's Liberation*, and founder and editor of *Quest: A Feminist Quarterly*. She is the author of numerous essays and has

edited or co-edited nine anthologies including the Center's reports on the UN Beijing Plus 5 Review and the World Conference Against Racism. Her books include two classics: *Passionate Politics: Feminist Theory in Action* and *Demanding Accountability: The Global Campaign and Vienna Tribunal for Women's Human Rights*.

Bunch is a member of the Advisory Committee for the Human Rights Watch Women's Rights Division and on the boards of the Global Fund for Women and the International Council on Human Rights Policy. She has been a consultant to many UN bodies and recently served on the Advisory Committee for the Secretary General's Report to the General Assembly on Violence against Women.

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT Advance

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Event to celebrate landfill transformation UConn's green campus efforts recognized

BY RICHARD VEILLEUX

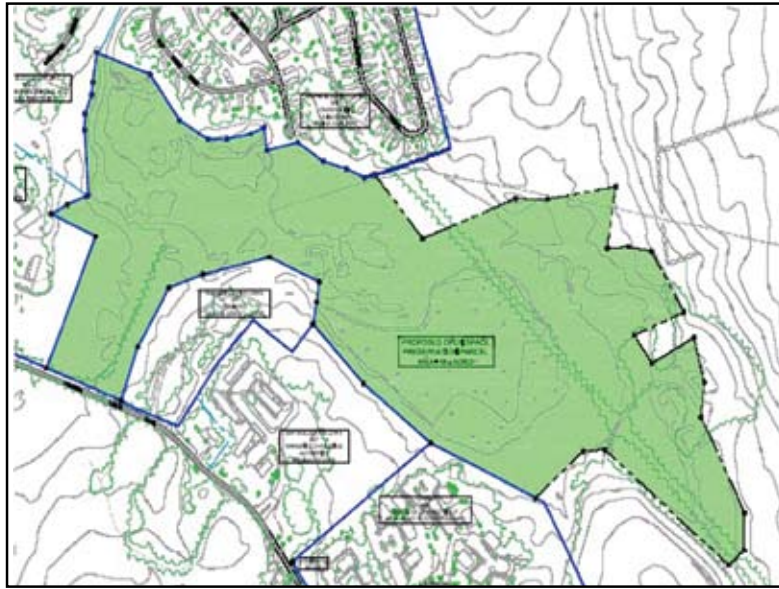
The transformation of a once toxic landfill into a serene environmental landscape complete with trails, boardwalks, and rookeries will be celebrated at a noontime event on Oct. 21.

"The work that's been done here is nothing short of remarkable," says UConn President Michael J. Hogan who, along with Regina McCarthy, commissioner of the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and Mansfield Mayor Elizabeth Paterson, will speak at the celebration of the site's transformation. "The DEP had legitimate concerns about the site and I'm glad we were able to work with them to meet environmental standards and, in fact, to surpass them. Not only was the site remediated, but trails were cut, wetlands restored, and educational signs posted.

"This will be a wonderful spot for students and faculty to conduct research, for community members to enjoy an afternoon stroll, and for nature to reclaim an area it once owned," Hogan adds.

The site, located between North Hillside and Hunting Lodge roads, was used as a landfill from 1966 to 1989. It was also used as a dump for toxic materials, including laboratory chemicals, solvents, pesticides, and herbicides, from 1966 to 1987. In 1998, the DEP stepped in and issued a consent order for the University to clean up and properly close the facility.

The DEP is pleased with the University's efforts. "The University of Connecticut has taken positive steps to address some long-standing environmental challenges by completing the proper cleanup of areas once used for the disposal of waste, refuse, and various chemicals," says Commissioner McCarthy. "UConn has not only turned these areas into useful space but has also created a new nature preserve that will be used as



A blueprint of the former landfill cleanup and preservation area.

an outdoor classroom and an area for the public to enjoy. This project is an example of how to turn problems associated with outdated past practices into learning opportunities for the next generation."

Now, 10 years after the consent order was issued, the work is completed. The former landfill has been capped, and a new 500-space parking lot (C-Lot), accessible from North Hillside Road, sits atop the site. But the most remarkable aspect of the work sits just to the north of the area: the 64-acre Hillside Environmental Education Park (HEEP).

The park includes more than two miles of hiking trails, and more than 30 acres of wetlands. During the work, several contaminated wetlands were restored and several others created. A vernal pool was developed, which will support amphibians such as wood frogs and spotted salamanders. There is at least one Great Blue Heron nest remaining from a rookery that UConn officials hope will be re-established this year, and a Great Horned Owl has been spotted recently. Sections of boardwalk and two overlook decks allow for hiking and bird watching.

The park's trails connect with others to leverage the amount of open space now accessible to hikers, joggers, and nature lovers, says Richard Miller, director of the Office of Environmental Policy. One example is a trail that connects, across Hunting Lodge Road, with a trail through the town-owned Shelter Falls Park.

"This is a UConn tale of trash to treasure," says Miller, "We've remediated the damage caused by the former chemical pits on the site, communicated with townspeople throughout the process, and created a refuge that people will enjoy for years to come."

The layout was developed by Professor Kristin Schwab's senior landscape design students, who determined how to make the most of the hilly site and where to connect the trails, place signs to educate visitors, and maximize observation of ecosystems, plants, and wildlife.

"The University has done an excellent job," says Mansfield Mayor Betsy Paterson. "There were a few hurdles in the beginning, but University officials kept everybody informed every step of the way. I'm delighted with the end result."

BY RICHARD VEILLEUX

UConn is among the top 20 public universities in the nation in its efforts to create an environmentally sustainable campus, according to a 'report card' issued by the Sustainable Endowments Institute (SEI).

The University earned a B for work completed between July 2007 and September 2008.

UConn's environmental standing in SEI's 2008-2009 Green Campus Report Card improved by a full letter grade over last year's report. The improvement is attributed to policy decisions, creative thinking, and student involvement in campus sustainability initiatives.

UConn was one of only 20 public universities to receive a B or better.

"Our faculty, staff, and students have worked hard to be environmentally responsible, and we're committed to continuing to improve our standing."

Michael J. Hogan
University President

Its grades improved in 5 of 8 categories compared to last year's report, while holding steady in the other three categories, including an A in the Green Building category and a B in Transportation. The University also received an A in a new category introduced this year, Student Involvement. For its efforts, UConn earned SEI's classification of Campus Sustainability Leader.

"It's always welcome news when we're listed among the very best universities in the nation," says University President Michael J. Hogan. "Our faculty, staff, and students have worked hard to be environmentally responsible, and we're committed to continuing to improve our standing, increasing our efforts as we work to become carbon neutral by 2050."

The report card, which rates the 300 universities with the largest endowments, is in its third year. According to the SEI, the goal of the report is to provide easily accessible information so universities can learn from what others are doing, helping foster more effective sustainability policies. The report assesses 43 factors, from green building initiatives to recycling programs to endowment investment policies. They use an A to F grading system.

"Making a commitment to sustainability, ranging from local food sourcing to renewable energy investments, is no longer a priority of environmentalists

only," says Mark Orłowski, executive director of the Sustainable Endowments Institute. "Such innovations are capturing the attention of everyone, from college trustees to admissions applicants."

Since the report was issued, UConn has intensified its efforts to lessen its carbon footprint by forming several new workgroups which, as part of the president's Climate Action Task Force, will soon be exploring issues and developing action plans on the topics of energy, transportation, sustainable development, recycling, and environmental literacy. The University has also issued guidelines for working green on campus, opened a 64-acre environmental education park with nature trails adjacent to the former landfill, and removed trays from the dining halls in order to reduce food waste.

Discussions also have begun with the UConn Foundation to develop programs that will improve its grades. While the UConn Foundation received higher grades in the new report card in two of three categories compared to last year, it received a failing grade in shareholder engagement because most of the Foundation's endowment is invested in mutual funds, preventing managers from investing in renewable energy or other green funds. This is a problem experienced by many universities.

Overall, the Institute praised UConn for its green building policies, student involvement, administrative efforts (signing the American College & Universities Presidents Climate Commitment, and having an Office of Environmental Policy with senior level management and other staff leading these efforts), and a notable environmental ethic in Dining Services, which buys locally grown produce and dairy products and raises bees for honey production.

"It's a good report card, and encouraging to be categorized as a leader among our peer institutions," says Richard Miller, director of environmental policy. "UConn has made a strong commitment to environmental sustainability, reinforced especially by President Hogan and reflected in our new academic plan.

"This report card recognizes the significant strides we've made," Miller adds, "and hopefully will inspire us to strive for an even better rating next year – to be a laboratory for low-impact development and an example of responsible growth by conserving energy and water, reducing and recycling our waste, and protecting natural resources for future generations."

The report can be viewed at <http://www.greenreportcard.org/>



PHOTO BY JESSICA TOMMASELLI

Dorothy Taffet, vice president of the UConn Poultry Club, shows a Buff Cochon to a child during Cornucopia Fest on Oct. 5.

Health Center study finds common bacteria may trigger MS



PHOTO BY CAROLYN PENNINGTON

Dr. Frank Nichols, left, and Dr. Robert Clark in their lab at the Health Center.

BY CAROLYN PENNINGTON

Health Center researchers have found common bacteria that live in almost all of us may trigger multiple sclerosis, a disease in which the body's immune system attacks the brain and spinal column. The findings suggest that

someday autoimmune diseases such as MS, lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, and inflammatory bowel disease, might be treatable by altering the bacterial balance in the mouth, intestines, or vaginal tract.

Dr. Robert Clark, associate professor of immunology, and

Dr. Frank Nichols, professor of periodontology, have found that these benign bacteria produce lipid compounds that cause the immune system to over-react in a mouse model of human multiple sclerosis called experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE).

For the most part, these internal invaders have been overlooked as a possible culprit. Scientists have instead zeroed in on foreign invaders, disease-causing bacteria, or viruses, that might tip the ordinarily delicate immune system into over-reacting and attacking the body's own tissues in autoimmune disease, but the findings of these studies have been inconclusive.

"Our research is different," says Nichols. "We're focusing not on disease-causing bacteria invading the body from the outside but rather on the ubiquitous bacteria that maintain long-term residence in our human tissues."

Earlier studies by Nichols looked at bacteria that reside in the mouths of most adults. He determined that specific lipid compounds produced by these resident bacteria can be found in areas of blocked and inflamed arteries in humans, suggesting a link between the bacteria and the process of inflammation. These findings prompted the current research with Clark – trying to show a direct connection with an autoimmune disease such as MS.

Specifically, the researchers found that the lipid compound known as phosphoethanolamine dihydroceramide (PEDHC) stimulates receptors in dendritic cells, the vanguard of the immune system that initiates attacks against

hostile organisms.

"It now appears that dendritic cells may sometimes incorrectly interpret the presence of PEDHC as evidence of a disease-causing infection," says Nichols. "The dendritic cells then mistakenly mount an attack on surrounding tissues. Among the cells they summon are T-cells, which cause most of the damage to myelin sheaths surrounding nerves in MS."

"We're focusing on the ubiquitous bacteria that maintain long-term residence in our human tissues."

Dr. Frank Nichols
Professor of periodontology

Clark and Nichols are also evaluating human tissue, looking for direct evidence that the lipid compounds produced by the resident bacteria play a role in MS.

"The significance of these studies," says Clark, "lies in their potential not only to identify a new mechanism for how autoimmune diseases are initiated and/or exacerbated but also to help develop new therapeutic interventions for autoimmune diseases."

Video editing technology now available to students at Library

BY SHERRY FISHER

Two new multimedia studios equipped with the technology for editing videos are now open to students. The studios are located in the Learning Commons on level 1 of Homer Babbidge Library.

The studios include a DVD recorder/VCR combo, a photo scanner, and a powerful computer that offers both Windows and Macintosh software. There are two monitors for viewing and editing, and a production monitor that adjusts color. The multimedia studios were a gift from the Class of 2007.

"Everything in the Learning Commons is designed so that students can get their academic assignments done," says Steven Park, manager of the Learning Resource Center. "We offer help in math, writing, and computers, and found that instructors wanted to be able to give video assignments as well."

Park notes that faculty and staff have the same equipment and instruction available to them at the Instructional Resource Center.

He says the multimedia studios, which are for academic use only, provide students with high-end technology that they couldn't afford on their own.

"There was definitely a need for video editing equipment," he says.

Some of the initial requests came from foreign language professors. "For example, a foreign language professor may want students to make a television commercial about shampoo in French," says Park. "Another professor

might ask students to create a short skit in German."

In the area of foreign languages, the spoken word is just as important as the written, he notes.

The ability to edit video makes it so that students aren't pressured to videotape something perfectly on the first take, Park says: "They won't be forced to videotape something over and over again until it's just right."

The studios are open to undergraduates and graduate students in every academic area. Students may want to use the equipment to jazz up a video presentation they're creating by adding text, a special introduction, or transitions. "This is the YouTube generation, and they want to be able to edit video," says Park. "They can't do this type of work on their laptops. They still need this extra, expensive equipment."

He predicts there will be more and more academic contexts where video assignments will be given. "Instead of writing a 10-page paper, students might be asked to create a 10-minute video," he says. "This is a very visual generation, who never knew a world without the Internet. They grew up in a world where visual images are more powerful for them than the word on paper."

Park, who teaches history at the Avery Point Campus, adds, "It's not that the term paper is going away. Students still need to be able to write well and have high levels of reading comprehension, so



PHOTO BY JESSICA TOMMASSELLI

Nick Sieckowski, seated, a sophomore, and Greg Santone, a junior, use one of the new multimedia studios in the Homer Babbidge Library.

videos aren't a substitute for that. It's in addition to it. It's literacy, a visual literacy."

Students who wish to use the studios are given a short interview about the purpose of their project, the expected outcome and what equipment they will require. They will be asked questions such as, "Are you trying to make a DVD? Are you ultimately going to upload it to YouTube to share or to HuskyCT? Where are you

headed? What equipment will you require?"

Many students have approached the multimedia studios hoping to make copies of commercial DVDs they've rented or bought. That's part of the reason they're interviewed, says Park, who takes the opportunity to educate them about intellectual property issues.

He says these interviews give him a sense of what students need, and help him plan for the future.

The interviews are conducted by Student Educational Technology Assistants (SETA), who also help students with their projects. The SETAs receive intensive training in the software.

For reservations to use the multimedia studios, call 860-486-1187. Walk-ins are accepted, but reservations are preferred. Appointments are for a minimum of two hours.

Researcher finds gender differences in smokers' colon cancer risk

BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

The effects of tobacco exposure on colon cancer risk are more immediate in women than in men, according to research by Dr. Joseph C. Anderson.

Anderson, a gastroenterologist in the Colon Cancer Prevention Program at the Health Center's Carole and Ray Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center, presented his findings at the American College of Gastroenterology's annual scientific meeting on Oct. 6 in Orlando. He collaborated with former colleague Dr. Zvi Alpern at Stony Brook University in Stony Brook, N.Y.

While Anderson and Alpern's study associates smoking with a nearly two-fold increase in the risk of developing significant colorectal neoplasia – the formation of tumors in the colon – in both genders, it also finds that it takes less tobacco exposure for women to reach that risk category.

"This sounds yet another warning about the damaging effects of tobacco use, especially for women," says Anderson.

The researchers collected data from more than 2,700 patients



PHOTO BY JANINE GELINEAU

Dr. Joseph Anderson

from 1999 to 2006, measuring tobacco use in "pack-years," the number of packs of cigarettes smoked daily times the number of years spent as a smoker.

Their analysis, controlling for factors such as age, body mass index, and family history, showed that women who smoked up to 30 pack-years had an 82 percent greater risk for significant colorectal neoplasia than nonsmoking women. Men who smoked up to 30 pack-years saw a 21 percent greater risk than nonsmoking men.

"The men do 'catch up,' but not until they've smoked more than 30 pack-years," Anderson says. "Once you get to more than 30 pack-years, male and female smokers both are nearly twice as likely as their nonsmoking counterparts to develop colon cancer. What's even more alarming about our evidence is, it tells us that women who smoke will reach that danger zone much faster than male smokers will."

Anderson says studies like this give physicians another reason to talk to their patients about the importance of quitting smoking.

The Anderson-Alpern paper made the president's plenary as one of the top six abstracts presented at this year's ACG scientific meeting. At last year's conference, Anderson presented data from his clinical research showing obesity and smoking to be greater risk factors for colon cancer in women than family history.

For more information about the Ray and Carole Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center, go to: <http://cancer.uhc.edu/>

Summit calls for more online access to library materials

Provost Peter J. Nicholls was one of three leaders of major universities calling for more library materials to be distributed online without prohibitive charges, during a summit held on Sept. 24 and 25 at the Boston Public Library.

Nicholls, together with Mark Huddleston, president of the University of New Hampshire, and Jack Wilson, president of the University of Massachusetts, called for new approaches to the digitization of library collections to allow access for all.

They voiced concerns about restrictions on the use of public domain works that are being scanned by commercial interests from library collections at other institutions, and challenged fellow university and library administrators, educators, and public interest advocates to join with the non-profit world, the government, and business partners to ensure that the fruits of human knowledge and human culture are freely available to people everywhere.

The meeting was organized by the Boston Library Consortium (BLC), in cooperation with the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

The summit included presentation of a white paper, "Free Our Libraries! Why We Need a New Approach to Putting Library Col-

lections Online," that was commissioned by BLC. The paper – available at www.blc.org – challenges libraries to devise new funding strategies, coordinate their actions, and adopt forward-looking principles to guide their digitization.

The BLC, the first large-scale library consortium to self-fund digitization of its members' collections, also announced that it has pledged an additional million dollars to the project, bringing the total BLC funding to \$2 million since it began in 2007.

"What was once seemingly impossible is now attainable, given today's technologies," said Brinley Franklin, UConn's vice provost of University Libraries and president of the BLC. "The 20 BLC members, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the Internet Archive, the Boston Public Library, and the Open Content Alliance have blazed a trail for other libraries, museums, and cultural institutions to follow, as we work collectively and collaboratively to make the world's knowledge accessible to everyone, unrestricted by choice of technology, geographic location, or socio-economic status."

The BLC is an association of 20 academic and research libraries located in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island.

Students learn leadership lessons from life of Antarctic explorer

BY LIA ALBINI, CLAS '10

UConn student leaders took a page from history on Oct. 3 when they met with Margot Morrell, author of *Shackleton's Way: Leadership Lessons from the Great Antarctic Explorer*.

Morrell met with current UConn student leaders to reflect on lessons from Sir Ernest Shackleton's story of survival and extraordinary leadership in the face of adversity.

The day before, she delivered the 2008 Martel Lecture about Shackleton, the British explorer who was stranded in Antarctica in 1914 when his ship was frozen in.

Shackleton led his entire crew of 27 to safety, despite numerous pitfalls and harsh conditions. The group had no communication with the outside world for two years.

"I wrote the book because I was just so interested in and inspired by Shackleton's story," Morrell told the student leaders. "It can be seen as a metaphor for adversity and any situation where true leadership is key. Everyone has an Antarctic. If these men can survive, against all the odds and in such dire conditions, then what could there possibly be that we cannot accomplish?"

The biennial Martel Lecture in Leadership and Public Opinion, established in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences by communications adviser Myles Martel, CLAS '65, provides an opportunity for students, faculty, and community leaders to better understand the relationship between commu-

nication and leadership.

This year, freshmen in First Year Experience classes and upperclassmen in the Leadership Legacy program read Morrell's book, attended the lecture, and met with her afterward in discussion roundtables.

The students were especially interested in Shackleton's use of optimism to keep his crew together, even in the most hopeless of situations.

"Shackleton really worked to train his mind and remain optimistic," Morrell said. "He was insistent on maintaining a positive

attitude because it truly was the margin between living or dying. It wasn't always an easy task, but it was a 'muscular optimism' that he constantly reinforced. Once he set that tone, his men followed."

Linda Drozdowicz, CLAS '10, said, "The mind-body connection is something I think we don't always give enough weight to. The things these men accomplished and the conditions they endured were really remarkable. It is so important to have a happy and healthy team. By keeping the mind in a sound place and taking care of that part, you ultimately create

a more productive and sound group." Drozdowicz is a molecular and cell biology major and Leadership Legacy student.

Students were curious about how Shackleton's lessons manifested themselves in Morrell's own life. She told them how her knowledge about Shackleton guided her own experiences with cancer.

"I woke up alone in a recovery room after what was supposed to be a routine surgery and I realized that I had cancer," she said. "And let me tell you, the first thing you do is cry. But after that, as I lay there, I began to think about Shackleton and how

he must have felt on South Georgia Island looking up at a mountain range and knowing that he and his men had to keep going and cross those mountains and go back for the others.

"Shackleton said that 'optimism is true moral courage,' and that is something that has really rung true in my life," she added.

The optimism that characterized Shackleton's leadership style resonated with the students.

"I was really interested in the positivity aspect presented by Shackleton's leadership," said Juan Carmona, CANR '10, a Leadership Legacy student and community assistant for the Leadership Learning Community in the Northwest residence complex. "Often you are told that to be in a leadership position you need to establish yourself as this kind of separate authority figure, and it was interesting to see how you can do that in a positive way while still demonstrating that you are in control."

Richard Wolak, who teaches an FYE course on the book *Shackleton's Way*, said, "This was a great opportunity to spur more dialogue and discussion for our class." Wolak has himself made many research trips to the Antarctic.

"First-year students are sometimes reticent to express themselves, but an experience like this really lends itself to a greater interest and perspective on the topic," he said. "It sparks an interest and brings the material to life."



PHOTO BY ANNIE PETERSON CLAS '09

Margot Morrell, Shackleton's biographer, speaks with Leadership Legacy and FYE students.

Planting native species promotes biodiversity, says speaker

BY ELIZABETH OMARA-OTUNNU

Incorporating native plants into landscape design can play an important role in promoting biodiversity, according to ecologist Doug Tallamy.

"We need to change our landscaping paradigms," said Tallamy, a professor of entomology and wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware. "Animal diversity needs native plants."

Tallamy was the keynote speaker at a day-long symposium on invasive plants held at Rome Ballroom Oct. 1. The event was organized by the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group, a coalition of concerned individuals, organizations, and agencies. The group is co-chaired by UConn's Donna Ellis of the Department of Plant Science and Les Mehrhoff of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

Tallamy said that despite extensive degradation of the environment by humans, individuals can have a positive impact on biodiversity in their own backyards by planting native species.

Biodiversity is needed for a healthy ecosystem, he said, and animal diversity comes from plants.

Tallamy said the destruction of nature by human beings "has happened so many times in so many places, we're losing the species we share the planet with. ... We don't make the mental connection between how important other living things are and our own well being."

Plants – because they produce food for other species and their structures offer a place for other species to live – determine the

number of species that can live in a space indefinitely without degrading resources. This is known as carrying capacity.

Not all ecosystems have the same carrying capacity, he said. A deciduous forest, for example, has a higher carrying capacity than a lawn.

The carrying capacity of the United States has been depleted, he said. Suburbs and cities make up 54 percent of the country, and these support very little biodiversity.

"The carrying capacity of suburbia is extraordinarily low," said Tallamy, "because it was not designed for biodiversity, it was designed for convenience."

Not all plants support wildlife equally, he said. Plants that evolved elsewhere don't support wildlife as well as native plants.

"In a typical suburban landscape, none of the plants are native," he said.

Tallamy described an experiment he carried out in his own backyard, comparing the biomass of caterpillars on native plants and on alien species. He found 35 percent more on native than on alien species. "That's 35 times more bird food," he said.

On average, an alien plant supported only four species, compared with 71 species on a native plant.

Tallamy said 90 percent of insect herbivores are specialists on one or a few plants, having evolved a resistance to the plant's defensive mechanisms.

"That's only a problem if you take away the host plants," he said.

When faced with non-native



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Doug Tallamy, a professor of entomology and wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware, delivers the keynote presentation at a symposium on invasive plants on Oct. 1.

plants, on the other hand, insects may not even recognize them as potential food. In the absence of insect pests, many alien plants thrive, some to the point of becoming invasive.

It is not only insects that are affected. Other insects, spiders, amphibians, rodents, and birds – even some mammals, such as bears – all eat insects. If the insects are not there, said Tallamy, the organisms that depend on them will not be there either.

But all native plants are not created equal in their ability to support biodiversity either.

Oaks are at the top of the list: they support 534 species of moths and butterflies in the mid-Atlantic

states, said Tallamy. By comparison, a tulip tree, another native species, supports 21 species.

"The plants you choose for your landscape are important," he said. "Make it native, and make it one of the more productive species."

A list of native species suitable for planting is available on Tallamy's web site: <http://copland.udel.edu/~dtallamy/host/index.html>

He said the local environment responds quickly. In a recent study comparing six properties near Pennsylvania that had been specially landscaped for native species with conventionally landscaped but otherwise similar properties, he found a significant difference

in both the absolute number and the number of different species of caterpillars and birds on the native plants. The properties with native plants had all been landscaped within the previous three years.

Noting that many gardeners buy non-native plants precisely because they're sold as pest-free, he said property owners should not worry that planting native species will result in an infestation of insects. Instead, the availability of more insects will attract more species that feed on those insects.

Planting natives is a grassroots approach to conservation, he said, adding, "The way we garden today is going to determine what life looks like tomorrow."



PHOTO SUPPLIED BY ROBERT COLWELL

Robert Colwell, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

Tropical species *continued from page 1*

of the warmest areas on Earth – will not be significantly impacted if temperatures in their habitats increase under the effects of global warming," Colwell says. "There is growing evidence, however, that many species in the lowland rainforest and tropical mountain regions are indeed likely to be impacted. Significant biotic attrition could occur if these species are unable to adapt rapidly to warmer temperatures – unlikely for species such as long-lived tropical trees – or fail to shift their distributions up cooler mountain slopes."

Working their way up the forested flank of a Costa Rican volcano rising nearly 3,000 m (10,000 ft) above the coastal plain, Colwell and his colleagues collected data on the altitudinal ranges of nearly 2,000 species of plants and insects. They report that about half these species have such narrow altitudinal ranges that a 600 m uphill shift would move these species into territory completely new to them, beyond the upper limits of their current ranges on the mountainside. But many may be unable to shift, because most mountainside forests in the tropics have been severely fragmented by human land use.

"The impact of human land use

in the rainforest and on mountain slopes in most parts of Costa Rica cannot be overstated," Colwell says. "For example, an orchid species that grows only on the limbs of old-growth forest trees and is pollinated by deep-forest bees faces a particularly difficult struggle if the forest corridor to higher elevations has been fragmented by clearing for agriculture."

Meanwhile, tropical lowland rainforests face a challenge that has no parallel at higher latitudes, he says: If the current occupants of the lowlands shift uphill, tracking their accustomed climate, there are few replacements waiting in the wings, currently living in even warmer places.

"We are concerned about the overall biodiversity and ecosystem function of lowland rainforest habitats if key species are driven uphill by warmer temperatures," Colwell says.

According to Colwell and his colleagues, the threat of lowland attrition from warming climates faces about half the species they studied in Costa Rica. Some scientists argue that lowland species may still retain the tolerance to higher temperatures that they developed millions of years ago when

the world was much warmer, but Colwell and his colleagues question this assumption, pointing to recent data showing that lowland trees are growing more slowly in hotter years.

Only further research can estimate the risk, Colwell says, but the *Science* report indicates that the impact of global climate change on some tropical rainforest and mountain species could be significant.

The report featured in this week's *Science* magazine is based on some of the data amassed during 15 years of research by Colwell and his colleagues, funded by the National Science Foundation. Others involved in the study include Gunnar Brehm of the Friedrich-Schiller-Universität in Jena, Germany; Catherine Cardelus of Colgate University in Hamilton, N.Y.; Alex Gilman of the University of California in Los Angeles, Calif.; and John Longino of Evergreen State College in Olympia, Wash. Cardelus earned her Ph.D. at UConn.

The complete article is available at <http://www.sciencemag.org/> to members of the UConn community who have a subscription to *Science* or are within the uconn.edu domain.

CALENDAR Tuesday, October 14, to Monday, October 20

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. 20 through Monday, Oct. 27. Those items must be in the database by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 14. If you need special accommodations to participate in events, call 860-486-2943 (Storrs), or 860-679-3563 (Farmington), or 860-570-5130 (Law School).

Libraries

Homer Babbidge Library. Mon.-Thurs., 7:30 a.m.-2 a.m.; Fri., 7:30 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m.-2 a.m.
Dodd Center. Mon., 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sat., noon-4 p.m.; closed Sun. Note: Mon., 10/20, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Pharmacy Library. Mon.-Thurs., 8:30 a.m.-10 p.m.; Fri., 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., 1-9 p.m.
Music & Dramatic Arts Library. Mon.-Thurs., 9 a.m.-10 p.m.; Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m.; Sun., noon-10 p.m.
Health Center Library. Mon.-Thurs., 7 a.m.-11 p.m.; Fri., 7 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., noon-10 p.m.
Law Library. Mon.-Thurs., 8 a.m.-11 p.m.; Fri., 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., 1-9 p.m.

Ph.D. Defenses

Tuesday, 10/14 – Chemistry. *Synthesis of Psico-Nucleoside Analogs of Oxetanocin A & Synthesis of A-Glycosphingolipids for In Vivo Studies and Purity Determination*, by Nathan Hnatiuk (adv: Howell). 1:30 p.m., Room A304, Chemistry Building.
Thursday, 10/16 – Nutritional Sciences. *Skeletal Muscle Protein Utilization and Intracellular Signaling Events in Physically Active Adults: The Impact of an Acute Energy Deficit and Dietary Leucine*, by Stefan Pasiakos (adv: Rodriguez). 9:30 a.m., Room 142, Gentry Building.
Friday, 10/17 – Political Science. *South Africa's Neoliberal Turn: The Localisation, Adaption, and Evolution of International Ides*, by Derick Becker (adv: Sterling-Folker). 10 a.m., Room 331e, CUE Building.
Monday, 10/20 – Chemistry. *Design, Synthesis, and Characterization of Materials for Controlled Line Deposition, Environmental Remediation, and Doping of Porous Manganese Oxide Material*, by Craig Calvert (adv: Suib). 11 a.m., Room A304, Chemistry Building.

Meetings

Wednesday, 10/15 – Capital Projects Planning Advisory Committee. 3 p.m., Room 7, Bishop Center.
Wednesday, 10/15 – Student Life Committee. Hearings to solicit ideas on spring weekend. 4 p.m., Room 410, Student Union.

Lectures & Seminars

Tuesday, 10/14 – 'Last Lecture' Series. "Bioshock in Plato's Cave: How Videogames Can Lead Us into the Light," by Roger Travis. 7 p.m., Buckley Lounge.
Wednesday, 10/15 – Rainbow Center Lecture. "Outsiders/Insiders: Mainstreaming LGBT Rights," by Vicki Eaklor, Alfred University. Noon-1:30 p.m., Room 403, Student Union.
Wednesday, 10/15 – Statistics Colloquium. "Statistical Challenges in the Analysis of High-Throughput Genomic Data," by Mayetri Gupta, Boston University. 4 p.m., Room 344, CLAS Building.
Wednesday, 10/15 – Celebrate Women. "Stroke: The Role of Carotid Artery Disease," by Patricia Bozeman. 6 p.m., Henry Low Learning Center, Health Center.

Thursday, 10/16 – Comparative Pathology Seminar. "Epigenetic and Nuclear Programming: Stem Cell Research," by Theodore Rasmussen. 11 a.m., Room A001, Atwater Lab.
Thursday, 10/16 – CHIP Lecture. "How Can our Research Make a Difference? Issues in Translating an Evidence-Based HIV Prevention into Practice," by Susan Kegeles, University of California, San Francisco. 12:30 p.m., Room 204, Ryan Refectory.
Thursday, 10/16 – History Lecture. "Hidden History: Finding the Evidence of Connecticut's Contraceptive Past," by Jennifer Ball, Clarkson University. 1 p.m., Konover Auditorium.

Through Friday, 10/31 – Torrington Campus. *Empty Place at the Table*, display to raise awareness about domestic violence. Eads Building.
Through Sunday, 11/2 – Alexey von Schlippe Gallery. *Latin Views 2008*, works by 38 Latin artists. Wednesday-Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Avery Point Campus.
Through Friday, 11/7 – Babbidge Library. *The American President*, photos from the Associated Press archives, West Alcove. Also, Monday 10/20 through Friday, 12/19, *Offline*, art & craft by UConn Libraries staff, Gallery on the Plaza; *Portraits of Nature*, photographs by Carolanee

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.
Through Friday, 12/19 – Benton Museum. *Sera: The Way of the Tibetan Monk*. Gallery talk by Thomas Bruhn 10/15, 12:15-12:45 p.m. Also, *The Photographs of Sheila Rock*. Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., 1-4:30 p.m.

Performing Arts

Tuesday, 10/14 – Student Recital. Hye-Cun Ceon, piano. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Free.

von der Mehden. \$7, students free.
Saturday, 10/18 – Puppet Forum. *The Global Reach of Puppetry*, with Martin Robinson. 7:30 p.m., Ballard Institute, Depot Campus. Free admission. Forum preceded at 7 p.m. by guided tour of *Puppets Through the Lens* exhibit.
Sunday, 10/19 – Children's Theater. *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: Dallas Children's Theater*. Tickets: \$11, \$13. 1 & 3 p.m., Jorgensen. For tickets call 860-486-4226.
Sunday, 10/19 – Student Recital. Armonia Brass Trio, Samantha Glazier, trumpet; Kevin Lam, French horn; and Dan Wyman, trombone. 3 p.m. von der Mehden. Free.

Films

Tuesday, 10/14 – India Film Series. *Om Shanti Om*. 6:30 p.m., Room 106, Art Building.
Saturday, 10/18 & Sunday, 10/19 – Tibet Film Series. *The Life of Buddha*. 2 p.m., Benton Museum. Free.

Athletics

Wednesday, 10/15 – Field Hockey vs. Northeastern. 7 p.m., Sherman Family Sports Complex.
Wednesday, 10/15 – Men's Soccer vs. Dartmouth. 7 p.m., Morrone Stadium.
Wednesday, 10/15 – Women's Ice Hockey vs. New Hampshire. 7 p.m., Freitas Ice Forum.
Wednesday, 10/15 – Women's Volleyball vs. Sacred Heart. 7 p.m., Gampel Pavilion.
Friday, 10/17 – Women's Soccer vs. DePaul. 7 p.m., Morrone Stadium.
Sunday, 10/19 – Men's & Women's Swimming & Diving vs. Boston College. 1 p.m., Natatorium.
Sunday, 10/19 – Women's Soccer vs. Notre Dame. 1 p.m., Morrone Stadium.

Potpourri

Wednesday, 10/15 – Book Discussion. New books by political science faculty members Betty Hanson, Jeremy Pressman, and Jeffrey Dudas. 4 p.m., UConn Co-op.
Thursday, 10/16 – Author Event. *The Freedom Business*, with Marilyn Nelson, poet & Deborah Dancy, artist. 4 p.m., UConn Co-op.
Saturday, 10/18 – Museum of Natural History Field Workshop. "Mixtures & Murder." Adults and children 10 and up. Call 860-486-5690 for more information. 10 a.m.-noon, New London location.



PHOTO SUPPLIED BY JORGENSEN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters will be staged at Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts on Sunday, Oct. 19.

Thursday, 10/16 – Teale Lecture on Nature & the Environment. "Ecosystem Services Science and Policy – A New Old Idea Finally Comes of Age," by J.B. Ruhl, Florida State University College of Law. 4 p.m., Konover Auditorium.
Thursday, 10/16 – Nazrul Lecture. Rachel McDermott, Barnard College, explores the works of Kazi Nazrul Islam. 7 p.m., Konover Auditorium.
Friday, 10/17 – Polymer Science Seminar. "Instabilities of Polymers at Interfaces: Creasing of Hydrogel Surfaces and Spontaneous Generation of Amphiphilic Assemblies," by Ryan Hayward, UMass-Amherst. 11 a.m., Room IMS20, Gant Science Complex.
Friday, 10/17 – Environmental Engineering Seminar. "Two Connecticut Yankees in King Arthur's Court and Other Sabbatical Adventures," by Allison MacKay. Noon, Room 212, Castleman Building.
Friday, 10/17 – Marine Sciences Seminar. "Antarctic Copepod Life Cycle Studies," by Sigrid Schiel, Alfred Wegener Institute, Bremerhaven, Germany. 3 p.m., Room 103, Marine Sciences Building, Avery Point Campus.
Monday, 10/20 – Raymond & Beverly Sackler Lecture in Human Rights. "Passionate Politics: The Intersection of Gender, Culture & Human Rights," by Charlotte Bunch, Rutgers University. 4 p.m., Konover Auditorium.
Monday, 10/20 – Norman Hascoe Distinguished Physics Lecture. "Taming Molecular Beams," by Gerard Meijer, Fritz-Haber Institute der Max Planck Gesellschaft. 4 p.m., Room P38, Gant Science Complex.

Exhibits

Monday, 10/20 through Friday, 12/19 – Dodd Center. *From the Margins to the Mainstream: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Culture & History, 1968-2008.*

Markowitz, Stevens Gallery.
Through Friday, 11/14 – Jorgensen Gallery. *Regarding India*. Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Through Thursday, 11/20 – Health Center. Oil paintings by Linda Tenukas. Daily, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.,

Thursday, 10/16 – String Theory. Performance by Turtle Island String Quartet & The Assad Brothers. Admission: \$28, \$30. 7:30 p.m., Jorgensen. For tickets 860-486-4226.
Thursday, 10/16 – Wind Ensemble. Jeffrey Renshaw, conductor. 8 p.m.,

Conference on human rights, religion Oct. 21

A day-long conference on human rights and religion will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 21 in the Student Union Theatre. The conference, which is open to the public, is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with registration at 8:30 a.m. An evening address by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar on "Values, Spirituality, and Human Rights" will take place at 7 p.m. in the Student Union Theatre.

The event is sponsored by the UNESCO Chair and Institute of Comparative Human Rights.

The conference will explore three related issues: how interaction between religion and human rights in human history; why advocating freedom of worship has sometimes resulted in the restriction of cultural diversity; and what approaches may lead to dialogue among religions, as well as reinforcing interaction between religion and human rights.

Conference speakers include: Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, founder of the Art of Living Foundation

and the International Association for Human Values – the largest volunteer-run humanitarian non-profit organization in the world;

Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane, retired Archbishop of Cape Town, South Africa and president and founder of African Monitor;

Rusmir Mahmutcehajic, professor of applied physics at Sarajevo University, president and founder of the NGO International Forum "Bosnia," and former vice president of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

M.J. Akbar, journalist, author, editor, and public intellectual; Zahid Bukhari, director of the American Muslim Studies Program at the Prince Alwaleed Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, Georgetown University;

David Coppola, associate executive director of the Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding, Sacred Heart University;

Rosalind Hackett, professor of religious studies at the University of Tennessee, president of the International Association for the History of Religions, and founder of the Jazz for Justice Project;

Zahid Bukhari, director of the American Muslim Studies Program (AMSP) at the Prince Alwaleed Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, Georgetown University;

Madhu Kishwar, founder of Manushi Citizen's Rights Forum and *Manushi – A Journal About Women and Society*, and senior fellow at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies in New Delhi, India;

T. Jeremy Gunn, director of the ACLU's Program on Freedom of Religion and Belief and senior fellow for religion and human rights at the Center for the Study of Law and Religion, Emory University.

For more information, call 860-486-0647 or go to www.unescochair.uconn.edu

Event sparks high schoolers' interest in environmental issues

BY SHERRY FISHER

Gary Robbins hands out small plastic containers to a group of high school students gathered at a water well off Horsebarn Hill Road.

"Let's move back so we don't get wet," says Robbins, a professor of natural resources management and engineering, after he shows students how to retrieve water with a bailer. One of the students dips the plastic tube into the well with Robbins' guidance, while the other youngsters prepare to have their bottles filled by classmates.

These inner-city teens, who would probably never get to witness the workings of a water well, were participating in a workshop on groundwater. The event was part of Environmental Action Day, a high school student environmental education conference held on Oct. 3.

The some 130 teens who participated in the event are part of the Center for Academic Program's Upward Bound/ConnCap, GEARUP, and Educational Talent Search.

The goal of the conference was for students to gain a better understanding of the environment and learn about the protection and appropriate use of natural resources.

Students attended workshops throughout the day, where they learned about environmental and food safety concerns about genetically modified crops; the basics of hand-held GPS systems for map



PHOTO BY JESSICA TOMMASELLI

From left Juan Antonio Soto, Francheska Gonzalez, Rafael Rivas, Troy Alexander, and Luis Hernandez, all high school students, collect well water samples during Environmental Action Day Oct. 3.

data collection; the benefits of forest ecosystems; water quality and pollution prevention; and green chemistry. The afternoon ended with a service learning process and project development "call to action."

Workshops were led by UConn faculty and staff.

Karen Filchak of UConn's Cooperative Extension System told the students that they all have a role in protecting the environ-

ment: "People don't do things to harm the environment intentionally. They need to learn more about how what we do affects it."

She added, "We hope you will be energized to go back to your school and develop a plan that takes that next step and puts into practice some of the things that you've learned. You are the future, so it's really important to have you all begin to think in terms of not just today and tomorrow, but what

effect you're going to have on the world."

Cameron Faustman, associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, talked to the students about the College's programs and encouraged them to consider UConn for their education.

After the workshops, students started to put their awareness into practice. Working in teams, they brainstormed about the environ-

mental needs of their communities, discussing why it would be important to focus on a particular issue, on both a community and personal level. The topics they came up with included air pollution, water issues, smoking, litter, and graffiti. They will work on the projects at their high schools.

Troy Alexander from Wilbur Cross High School in New Haven said he enjoyed the hands-on activities.

Asontwa Bryant from James Hillhouse High School in New Haven enjoyed the event. "Come interested and you won't leave here without learning something," she said.

Maria Martinez, director of the Center for Academic Programs, said the event sparked students' interest in careers dealing with the environment. "Before the program, I asked the students how many were thinking about careers in the environment, and only a few raised their hands," she says. "At the end of the day, the same question was asked and many more hands went up."

The event was sponsored by the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Cooperative Extension System, the Connecticut Jr. Science and the Humanities Symposium, the Center for Academic Programs, the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History, and the Year of Science.

Avery Point students documenting artifacts from historical homestead

BY CINDY WEISS

Five students from the Avery Point campus are learning history direct from a primary source – a 1670 colonial house in Stonington that has been in the same family for more than 350 years.

The Stanton-Davis Homestead housed 12 generations of family members, who left behind diaries, furniture, clothing, quilts, and traces of their relationships with Native Americans and slaves.

Artifacts and furniture cram its rooms. The last inhabitant, John Whit Davis, left the center-chimney colonial two years ago to a non-profit group that plans to turn it into a museum. But the Stanton-Davis Homestead Museum Inc. faces the daunting task of documenting and removing roomfuls of historic objects before it can renovate the deteriorating house.

Nancy Steenburg, adjunct history faculty member and assistant director of the Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) program at Avery Point, learned of the project's needs from fellow Stonington Historical Association board member Fred Burdick, who is vice president and treasurer of the Stanton Davis Homestead Museum.

Steenburg arranged for students

at Avery Point to hold internships at the museum. Five students, representing a range of majors in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences – history, maritime studies, English, and American studies – and a BGS student have spent months learning firsthand about the past four centuries.

They are opening trunks, inventorying objects, and learning how to research and carefully document their finds, using Past Perfect, a software system used by museum curators. They work with photographs, letters, clothing, furniture, and the tools of everyday life.

"This is the guts of history," says Steenburg.

Dana Canastar, an American studies major, learned from papers he found in a trunk that in 1764 the Stantons lost the house, which was collateral on a mortgage, before it was sold to their relatives, the Davises. Previously, it had been thought that the Stantons leased it to the Davises, who later bought it. Canastar searched land records in Stonington and Hartford to confirm his find.

Jane Schoonover, the BGS student, found two handwritten books of poetry by Sarah Mariah

Davis in an old leather suitcase. Sarah started writing poetry and commentary when she was 14, in 1870, and continued until 1934, never publishing the pieces.

Some of it is heartbreaking, Schoonover says. Davis felt that she could have done so much more with her life if she had been educated and if she had not been the daughter and wife of farmers.

Jodi Parda, a senior majoring in maritime studies, plans to go to graduate school in museum studies as a result of working at the homestead, where she has spent hours documenting finds such as a dessert or baby spoon with the initials AD, possibly belonging to Abigail Davis.

Jay Murzyn, a senior majoring in English and history, found a collection of shells he thinks were gathered locally but are of a type no longer found in Stonington.

The task of sorting and researching the objects so captivated the interns that they volunteered to come back and continue the work after their internships ended.

For more information on the Stanton Davis Homestead, go to <http://www.stantondavishomestead.org/>



PHOTO BY DANIEL BUTTREY

Jay Murzyn, a senior majoring in English and history, with one of the shells in a collection he uncovered at the Stanton-Davis Homestead.