



Health Center VP honored for chemical engineering achievements

BY KRISTINA GOODNOUGH

Dr. Cato T. Laurencin, vice president for health affairs at the UConn Health Center and dean of the medical school, has been named among “100 Chemical Engineers of the Modern Era” by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

The recognition from the world’s leading organization for chemical engineering professionals acknowledges Laurencin’s work in tissue engineering to develop materials to promote bone repair and wound healing. Specifically, AIChE recognized Laurencin for development of a novel polymer-synthesized, ceramic composite-based system for bone repair and in vitro evaluation.

“This is a wonderful honor, made possible by the collective work of the colleagues on my research team,” says Laurencin, who received the recognition as part of the organization’s centennial celebration. The recognition is designed to highlight individuals who have contributed to the profession during the “Modern Era,” the years following World War II. The awards will be presented at the AIChE’s annual meeting in Philadelphia next month.

An orthopedic surgeon as well as a chemical engineer, Laurencin has focused much of his research on the development of materials to assist in treating orthopedic trauma and performing reconstructive surgeries and arthroplasties.

“The synthetic materials are biodegradable polymers or plastics made from specific compounds that are absorbed into the body as part of the healing process,” he says. “Besides aiding in tissue repair and regeneration, these new materials don’t need to be removed like traditional materials.”

Mun Choi, dean of the School of Engineering, says, “Through the AIChE recognition, Dr. Laurencin has taken his rightful position alongside leading figures in the field.” Laurencin also has an appointment in the engineering school as a professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering.

“Dr. Laurencin has helped to expand the boundaries of chemical engineering and its influence on emerging technologies through his research and training activities in regen-

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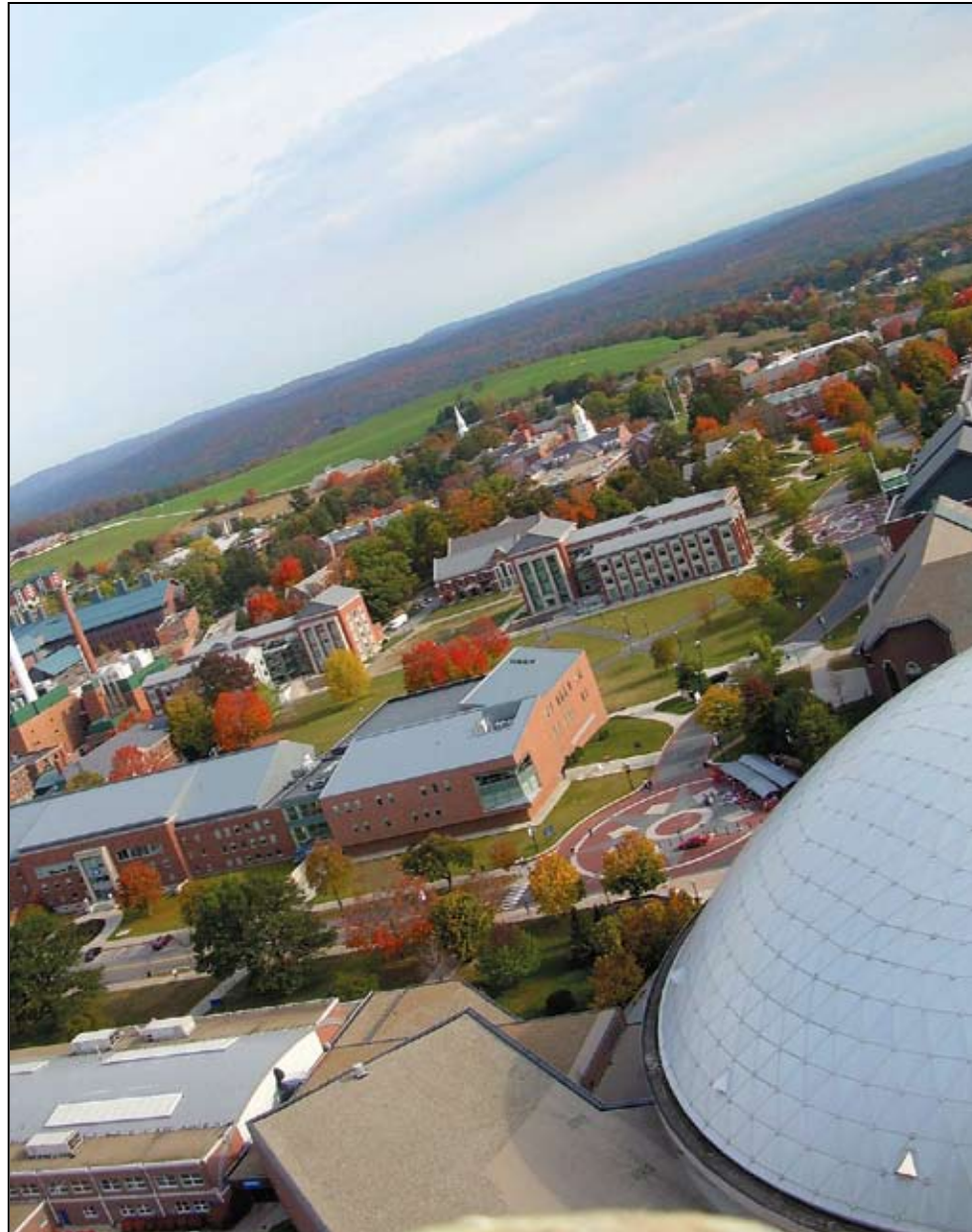


PHOTO BY JAMES KNOX

A view of the Storrs campus from behind Gampel Pavilion, taken from the air using a radio-controlled model plane mounted with a small camera.

Emergency management grant awarded to UConn

BY MARY LOU SULLIVAN

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded a \$500,000 Emergency Management for Higher Education grant to the University of Connecticut’s Center for Continuing Studies to fund a state-of-the-art behavior threat assessment model.

“In the wake of the Virginia Tech tragedy, it becomes increasingly important for higher education institutions to shift their focus from a strategy based purely on response to one based much more strongly on prevention,” says Neal Olderman, UConn’s principal investigator for the grant. “The overarching goal of this project is to enhance the University’s commitment to a safe learning and working environment that collaborates with off-campus partners in advancing a supportive community that is free of threats and violence.”

The threat assessment model will be incorporated into UConn’s existing emergency management plans, and will involve students, faculty, staff and surrounding community members. The program will also include a computerized crisis leadership simulation, as well as classroom discussions and exercises for senior officials.

Specialized training in behavior threat assessment and crisis leadership will be pro-

see Emergency management grant page 7

Students enjoy science-based opera at the Met

BY CAROL DAVIDGE

The time: July 1945. The place: The Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. The action: Scientists prepare to test the first nuclear weapon.

And it’s an opera.

Dr. Atomic, by the contemporary post-minimalist American composer John Adams and librettist Peter Sellars, had its debut at New York’s Metropolitan Opera recently. Thanks to a special partnership between the School of Fine Arts and the Met, science and arts students from the UConn were able to attend the final dress rehearsal on Oct. 9. The trip was one of the activities in the Year of Science.

The UConn science students reacted enthusiastically, saying they wanted to participate because it afforded them a different

experience from their daily studies. Most had never been to an opera.

“It breathed new life into opera – it was something more modern,” said David Lindsay, a biomedical engineering student. “The story was intense, the orchestra played beautifully, the singing was excellent, the sets were spectacular, and I really liked the weather simulations, where the rain storms seemed so realistic.”

Singers portrayed physicist Robert Oppenheimer, who worked on the Manhattan Project, his wife Kitty Oppenheimer, Kitty’s maid Pasqualita, physicist Edward Teller, Army General Leslie Grove, and others. In the opera, various characters protest or defend the test. Some wonder whether a chain reaction will cause the atmosphere to ignite and destroy the entire earth. Others protest

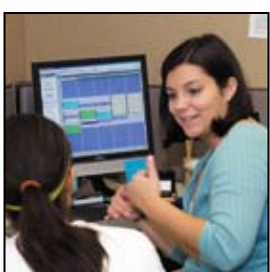
the killing of civilians in Japan. Yet others describe toxic radioactive fallout that could harm humans in Los Alamos.

As the bomb is being armed, thunder blasts, lightning flashes, and rain and wind blow wildly. Despite protests, General Grove orders that the test will go on. When the skies clear and the wind ceases, the scientists in *Dr. Atomic* put on black sunglasses and drop silently to their knees until the bright light of the bomb blast flashes across the stage, ending the opera.

Physics student Sarah Lamb said she was fascinated by how much modern technology was used to accomplish the visual and sound effects. “It was totally different from what you think of as opera,” she said.

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PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Students holding candles observe a moment of silence during a rally to promote awareness and prevention of sexual assault. The rally was held outside the Student Union on Oct. 15.

Heilig Memorial Concert to feature four internationally known pianists

BY CAROL DAVIDGE

The Twelfth Annual Charles and Alice Murray Heilig Memorial Concert, presented by the School of Fine Arts, brings to UConn a program by four internationally recognized pianists: Menahem Pressler, Frederic Chiu, Andrew Russo, and Neal Larrabee.

The concert, which inaugurates Jorgensen's new Steinway Model D Grand Piano, will take place on Sunday, Oct. 26 at 3 p.m. in Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. Admission is free.

The concert is a tribute to the life of Charles Heilig (1920-2007), who with his late wife Alice Murray Heilig and their daughter Cheryl, have been major benefactors to UConn and the School of Fine Arts.

"This very special musical event for the public is our way of ex-

pressing our appreciation of a man who believed in us, who opened doors to the musical world for our students, and who enriched the artistic program at UConn and in the state," says David Woods, dean of the School of Fine Arts.

Menahem Pressler, 84, an icon of classical music, founded and performed with the Beaux Arts Trio for more than 50 years, has recorded more than 80 albums. He received his fifth Grammy nomination in 2006. His honors include a Lifetime Achievement Award from *Gramophone* magazine (one of only five ever awarded); Germany's highest cultural honor, the Cross of Merit; and France's highest honor, the Commandeur in Arts and Letters. He holds the Dean Charles H. Webb Chair in Music at Indiana University.

Frederic Chiu is an award-

winning artist of the Romantic period. A non-traditional pianist, he is influenced by his Asian/American/European background and his exploration of artificial intelligence and human psychology. He has recorded more than 20 albums, including the works of Prokofiev. He is an artist-teacher at Indiana University.

Andrew Russo is a young, Grammy-nominated pianist. Classically trained, he specializes in contemporary piano, including electro-acoustic music and the hybrid world of live music and theater. He is artist-in-residence at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, N.Y.

Neal Larrabee is a member of the New England Trio and heads the Piano Division in UConn's School of Fine Arts. He is highly respected in Russia for his interpretation of works by Russian composers.

"In addition to creating a tribute to Charles Heilig, we wanted the audience to hear the full range of the new Steinway Grand," says Woods. "To hear four internationally ranked artists in one program rarely happens.

The generosity of the Heilig family toward the University includes, in addition to the Alice Murray-Heilig Annual Concert Fund, the Alice Murray-Heilig Piano Fund; the Alice Murray-Heilig Scholarship; the Alice Murray-Heilig Graduate Assistantship in Piano; the Murray-Heilig Scholarship Fund; and the Alice Murray-Heilig Chair in Music, the first endowed chair in the School of Fine Arts. The family also established the Murray-Heilig Chair in Surgery, the Murray-Heilig Chapel Endowment Fund, and the Murray-Heilig Chair in Molecular Medicine at the Health Center.

Charles Heilig was a member of the Foundation Board of Directors from 1987 to 1998.



FILE PHOTO BY TINA COVENSKY

Menahem Pressler meets with Charles Heilig in this 2007 photo. Pressler is one of four pianists performing at the Heilig Memorial Concert Oct. 26.

Conservation contest a success among students

BY RICHARD VEILLEUX

When Catherine Pomposi was handed the job of coordinating this year's EcoMadness contest, her goals were to get more students involved and increase the amount of water and energy conserved during the bi-annual three-week contest.

She succeeded in both.

The junior from Southington recruited 32 eco-captains, nearly one for every floor in each residence hall involved. She ran movies in the residence halls – *Planet Earth* – and in the Student Union Theatre – *Into the Wild*. Before showing *Into the Wild*, she explained to the audience that unless people become more environmentally aware, the pristine forests and lakes and mountains seen in the movie will be no more. She also made sure that the editors of the *Stall Street News* – a mini-paper posted in residence hall bathrooms – carried ads for EcoMadness.

The results? Every building in every complex that participated – Northwest, North, Towers, and Shippee – showed an improvement compared to last fall's contest. Sherman/Webster, a building in Towers, won the energy reduction contest, cutting their energy use by more than 28 percent for the period. Another building in Towers – Morgan/Trumbull/Sousa/Lafayette – won the water

conservation contest by reducing its water use by nearly 10 percent, more than 9 gallons a day, during the three weeks.

"Catherine did a great job," says Rich Miller, director of the Office of Environmental Policy, where Pomposi is a student intern. "It's a real challenge to put this together, recruit enough eco-captains, and motivate everybody to really work at conservation."

Pomposi says the event is held in late September for three reasons: to reach out to freshmen early in their careers – all the residence halls involved are predominantly freshman dorms; because the Fenton River typically has not regained its flow after summer's heat and dry spells; and because the demand for water and electricity on campus, with roughly 15,000 students moving in, typically spikes at that time.

"I think the results show that we have well educated and younger greenies coming in," she says. How much they learned she will know in a few weeks, she says, when she checks the sub-meters installed in the residence halls to see whether the energy and water use levels have remained low since the EcoMadness campaign ended.

Now, Pomposi, who is studying to be a climate scientist, is taking on another challenge – coordinating Earth Day activities on campus.

Flu shots offered Oct. 27-28

Faculty, staff, and students can receive flu shots on Monday, Oct. 27, and Tuesday, Oct. 28, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom. Appointments are not necessary.

The shots will be administered by nurses from Student Health Services.

There is a \$20 charge, payable in cash or by check. Students may also charge the cost to their University fee bill.

Please bring your UConn I.D.

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT Advance

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Merger creates 'one-stop-shopping' for students with disabilities

BY SHERRY FISHER

The Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) and the University Program for College Students with Learning Disabilities (UPLD) have merged to form one office serving all students with disabilities. The office is located on the second floor of the Wilbur Cross Building.

"We've always enjoyed a very collaborative relationship with the Neag School of Education's learning disability program, and now we're physically under one roof," says Donna Korb, director of CSD. The Center includes seven professional staff and six graduate assistants.

In the past, direct student services was a shared responsibility: students with documented learning disabilities received services from both programs, and all other students with disabilities were served by the CSD.

"It's a real advantage to have a one-stop shop for students and service providers," says Manjushri Banerjee, associate director of the Center.

The merge also creates benefits for all constituents, including faculty and staff, now that services are consolidated in one location. Also



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Graduate assistant Laura Rowley, right, a student in the special education master's program, tutors a student at the Center for Students with Disabilities in Wilbur Cross Building.

the opportunities for collaboration on research are significantly enhanced with faculty and staff from both programs meeting regularly.

Korb says that students with disabilities are the largest grow-

ing minority population in higher education, noting that the Center works with more than 1,000 students at any given time. Of these, the largest number have chronic health conditions, such as asthma

and diabetes. Some students are undergoing chemotherapy; others are recovering from major illness or surgery.

"These kids are amazing in terms of trying to keep their lives

as normal as possible, but may have some limitations imposed on them because of their conditions," says Korb. "We can help out by providing accommodations that enable them to be in school."

Each student is looked at individually.

"Every student is different in terms of how we try and assist them in maximizing their chances for success," she says. "We don't guarantee success. We guarantee access, but we also try to give them the tools they need to become successful."

After chronic disabilities, the next largest group seeking help is students with psychiatric disabilities. "Many of our students have significant mental health issues," Korb says. "We work with them to find what types of accommodations are appropriate for them in order to fully participate in campus life and help them find other resources on campus."

"This campus is amazingly responsive in terms of working with students with disabilities," Korb says. "We're fortunate to have had such tremendous institutional support. Many students with disabilities tell us that being at UConn is the most independent they've been in their entire lives."

New sculpture in Babbidge Library to be dedicated Oct. 23

BY SUZANNE ZACK

University Libraries will celebrate the installation of the sculpture "Endangered Species" by internationally known sculptor, printmaker, and painter Werner Pfeiffer on Thursday, Oct. 23 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Pfeiffer's sculpture, titled "Endangered Species," uses books that have been sealed shut, then mutilated, and placed on shelving lined with pages from the

dictionary, making a compelling statement about the power of the written word and censorship. The work, which measures 7 feet by 24 feet, was created in the 1980s and exhibited throughout the U.S. and Europe. It is a gift of the artist.

A native of Stuttgart, Germany, Pfeiffer attended the Akademie der Bildenden Künste (State Academy of Fine Arts and Design) in Stuttgart, where he trained as a fine artist specializing in book art.

He emigrated to New York in 1961, where he worked for nearly a decade as a freelance designer and art director, earning many citations and awards for his work. He was appointed professor and director of the Adlib Press at the prestigious Pratt Institute in 1969, a position he held for 42 years.

Pfeiffer's books, collages, drawings, paintings, prints, and sculptures have been shown internationally in more than 100 group

exhibitions and in more than 60 solo shows in countries including Chile, Colombia, France, Germany, Israel, Sweden, Switzerland, and in the U.S. In addition to being in many private and corporate collections, he is represented in the U.S. in institutions including the Brooklyn Museum, the Guggenheim Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art. His work has also been shown at institutions including the Buchmuseum in Dresden, Klingspor Museum in Offenbach, the National Museum and Ostergotlands Museum in Sweden, and the Staatsgalerie in Stuttgart, where his work was also exhibited in a show together with that of his wife, Lise Poirier, a collagist. In addition to UConn's library, his work may also be seen at UConn's Law School, at the criminal court building in Waterbury, the offices of *The Hartford Courant*, and elsewhere.

Pfeiffer is scheduled to attend the dedication, as is University President Michael J. Hogan.

Pfeiffer's "Endangered Species" has been installed in the highly popular and often crowded Bookworms Café, a prime location on campus for socializing, studying, and eating. The café was expanded 625 square feet this past summer, thanks in part to a gift from the Class of 2006.

Renowned ecologist to give lecture

BY CINDY WEISS

Gene Likens, a distinguished ecologist who discovered acid rain more than 40 years ago, will speak about one of his latest research projects – the impact of road salt on an alpine lake in New Hampshire – on Thursday, Oct. 23, at 4 p.m. in Room 130 of the Biology/Physics Building.

The lecture is part of Likens' yearly two-week stay at UConn as a distinguished research professor (visiting) in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Likens will also meet for discussions with six groups of students during his stay.

For 43 years, Likens has studied the effects of road salt on Mirror Lake, near the base of the Hubbard Brook Valley in New Hampshire.

Likens is a distinguished senior scientist and founding director of the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, N.Y., a center of highly cited ecological research. His studies of Hubbard Brook have shown how land-use practices affect the functioning of the ecosystem. His work led to the discovery by his research team of acid rain caused by the combustion of fossil fuels.

A National Medal of Science winner, in 2003 Likens won the Blue Planet Prize for outstanding scientific research that helps to solve global environmental problems.



PHOTO BY DANIEL BUTTREY

Werner Pfeiffer assembles his installation 'Endangered Species' in the Bookworms Café in Homer Babbidge Library.

Study shows birth trauma can impact new mothers' ability to breastfeed

BY COLIN POITRAS

Up to a third of all new mothers report suffering through a traumatic child birth.

For some – believed to be up to 9 percent – the birth is such a traumatic event that they experience posttraumatic stress disorder, the same debilitating disorder that scars the lives of combat veterans and victims of rape and other violent crimes.

This frightening and debilitating disorder can cause women to abandon their aspirations for future children, damage their ability to bond with their babies, and leave them permanently psychologically scarred.

Cheryl Tatano Beck, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Nursing, is one of the country's leading experts on posttraumatic stress disorder and childbirth. She has spent the past 20 years studying postpartum depression mood and anxiety disorders.

In her latest findings, Beck has found that birth trauma can have an adverse impact on some women's ability to breastfeed.

Working closely with the Trauma and Birth Stress charitable trust in Auckland, New Zealand,

Beck evaluated the detailed responses of 52 mothers who participated in her research project. Her results showed that the impact of birth trauma can lead new mothers down two strikingly different paths with regard to breastfeeding.

For some, the trauma propels them into persevering in breastfeeding to prove their "success" as a mother and perhaps to make up to their infant for the difficult birth.

As one mother in Beck's study who had had an emergency Caesarean said, "Breastfeeding became my focus for overcoming the birth and proving to everyone else and mostly to myself that there was something that I could do right. It was part of my crusade, so to speak, to prove myself as a mother."

Yet for others, birth trauma sets in motion a chain of events – intrusive flashbacks, detachment from their child, and physical pain – that can curtail their attempts to breastfeed.

A first-time mother who had induced labor followed by a failed vacuum extraction and a Caesarean delivery wrote, "When I breastfed my baby, I felt like it was one

more invasion upon my body and I couldn't handle that after the labor I suffered. Whenever I put her to the breast, I wanted to scream and vomit at the same time. After a horrible eight weeks, I made the decision to stop breastfeeding."

Another first-time mother who endured a long, painful labor in which the epidural did not work and who ended up with a forceps delivery stated: "I had flashbacks to the birth every time I would feed him. When he was put on me in the hospital, he wasn't breathing and he was blue. I kept picturing this ... Breastfeeding was a similar position ... I would get really upset and cry when I fed him, which would cause my baby to cry."

Beck concludes that intensive one-on-one support for traumatized mothers may be necessary to help them establish breastfeeding. Sensitivity and awareness by medical professionals of the traumatized mother's needs may also be helpful.

During the postpartum period, it is suggested that healthcare providers be attentive to the symptoms that may indicate a new mother is traumatized, such as being withdrawn, having a



PHOTO BY THOMAS HURLBUT

Cheryl Beck, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Nursing

dazed look, or suffering temporary amnesia.

Beck's latest research study: "Impact of Birth Trauma on Breastfeeding – A Tale of Two Pathways," which appears in the July/August

2008 issue of *Nursing Research*, was co-authored by Sue Watson, chairperson of the Trauma and Birth Stress charitable trust.

FYE seminars offer freshmen opportunity to pursue interests

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

This year's freshmen come from a wide range of different backgrounds, but one thing a majority have in common is participation in a First Year Experience course.

About 2,700 students are taking an FYE class this year, says David Ouimette, director of the program. More than 150 sections of FYE courses are being offered.

The program has grown significantly since its introduction in 1996, when 332 freshmen enrolled in the classes.

Today, many students take the basic course designed to acquaint students with UConn and with skills such as time management, problem solving, study skills, and the advising and career options available to them.

"The basic courses are intended to acquaint students with the University and help freshmen and transfer students adjust to the new expectations they face here," Ouimette says. "Our goal is to enhance their academic and interpersonal skills."

Other students sign up for seminar courses intended to provide them with an opportunity to investigate topics of professional interest to the instructor through guided research, reading, discussion, and writing.

"These courses help students learn independently and engage actively in the academic life of the University," says Ouimette.

Seminar courses range from cooking to digital photography,



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Laurel Rabschutz, left, assistant director of the Bachelor of General Studies program, conducts a First Year Experience class at the UConn Dairy Bar, part of a course on the relationship between humans and animals.

leadership, health, and the evolution of language.

One course keeps students on their feet, learning about how dance has changed through the centuries.

"Dance with Jane Austen," taught by Thomas Roby, associate professor of mathematics, focuses on English country dances that date from 1650 to the present day and the cultures in which they were popular.

"Dance has changed over time, along with the mores of society," Roby says. "In Jane Austen's time, dances were the only possible un-

chaperoned time for verbal contact with the opposite sex. So young people really liked dances where there was a lot of standing out and not moving."

Today, he says, people need exercise and dance reflects that, with dancers generally in constant motion.

Roby is director of the Quantitative Learning Center, which tutors students in mathematics, but he says he often attends summer camps that feature dances from places such as Transylvania, the Balkans, Norway, and Romania.

Laurel Rabschutz, assistant director of the Bachelor of General Studies program, has turned her love of animals and her background in human development into an FYE course on the bond between animals and people.

She has two Newfoundlands and volunteers with them as part of a pet therapy program, but she says the course is not dog-centric.

"We are looking at assistance animals, animal-assisted therapy, wildlife, and careers and hobbies involving animals," she says. Relationships people have with cats,

rats, horses, dogs, farm animals, and other animals are examined. Students are asked to read and discuss topics such as how animals are viewed in the media and in commercials; presidential pets; and what happens when the animal-human bond is broken and animal abuse results.

In another FYE course, Brian Boecher, associate director of the Early College Experience Program, is looking at the presidential election in a course called "Political Palm Reading."

The course is looking at who – by race, gender, religion, and other forms of identity – will be voting for each of the presidential candidates.

"I encourage students to develop an opinion and defend their opinion with facts," says Boecher, who is also a Ph.D. candidate in political science. "The course doesn't provide concrete answers, but looks at what it means to be American or 'anti-American,' and how different cultures view major issues."

He says many Americans support the death penalty, for example, while many Europeans view it as barbaric. Some people vote one way in a caucus where others can see how they are voting and another way when the ballot is secret.

"We will talk about what is happening in various parts of the world, as well as what is happening in the U.S.," Boecher says. "My goal is for students to decide for themselves what they feel is right or wrong."

Pharmacy professor holds students to high expectations

BY SHERRY FISHER

Robin Bogner wasn't planning a career in academics.

"I thought I'd climb the corporate ladder in the pharmaceutical industry," says Bogner, an associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences.

As an undergraduate, she had worked for four summers at Johnson & Johnson, and her heart was set on becoming an industrial leader. Once she got to graduate school at the University of Iowa, however, something happened.

"They made me a teaching assistant," she says, "and I was derailed. A student in a lab was struggling with a question and I explained to him how to answer it. When he said, 'Oh, I see,' I was hooked. There was no better feeling in the world. I went into pharmacy to help people, and I realized I could do that by teaching."

Bogner, who joined the UConn faculty in 1989, was named a 2008 University of Connecticut Teaching Fellow. She has taught many courses, including solution and solid dosage forms of drugs, compounding, and special topics in clinical rotations.

Each student brings his or her own talent, motivation, and experience to the classroom, says Bogner, who was also named 2007 School of Pharmacy Teacher of the Year. "That's a challenge, particularly in classes with 100 students, because you only have one voice to talk to them all. You can't engage students with a one-way conversation and expect learning to occur, so I use different strate-

gies to effect learning."

She does that by explaining each concept students need to learn in different ways. That includes discussion, schematics or graphs, and mathematics. "It works better," she says. Sometimes she illustrates points by using items from her "bag of tricks."

Bogner pulls out a large bag of three-inch, clear plastic horse capsules. "It would be hard to explain to students how large this really is," she says. "So I show them instead."

During one class, students test placebo tablets to experience how they dissolve in the mouth.

"As pharmacists, the students are going to have to dispense these newer dosage forms and they need to experience how fast the tablets actually dissolve."

Bogner says during long lectures in large classes to keep students engaged, she periodically asks them questions. She has each student's name on 3" x 5" cards. At the start of the class she shuffles the cards and asks a student to cut the deck. The person whose name is on the top of the deck must answer the question, and may consult with the students around him or her. "It becomes a team effort

and keeps the students awake and challenged," she says.

Bogner says it's important for her to "hold students to the highest expectations possible without causing undue stress. I believe real learning takes a bit of a struggle on the part of the student, and ends with great satisfaction."

Lauren Aleksunes, a former student, says Bogner's lecture style was "particularly effective in conveying pertinent information and assisting students in digesting the large amount of material in the field."

She says Bogner's commitment to her current and former students

is "outstanding and inspiring" to young scientists who plan to enter academic research as a career: "She is always available for consultation and advice regardless of all of her responsibilities."

Alison Smith, another former student, describes Bogner as "passionate" and "enthusiastic" with the highest expectations of her students: "She's the type of person who makes you want to succeed."

Former student Michael Lettmoden says, "Professor Bogner is a consummate teaching professional. Her teaching style sets her far apart from instructors or trainers; she strives to teach her students not what to think, but how to develop their own thinking style."

What does Bogner enjoy about teaching? It keeps her learning, which in turn, makes her a better teacher, she says: "Every time I teach something, I get a better understanding of it. That's important, because I owe my students the best explanation I can offer."

She says she hopes that when her students complete her courses, they are able to access what they've learned when working in the field.

"I've taught them what they need to know – they have the information, but I want them to be motivated to go back in their brains and access that knowledge when they need it and figure out how it addresses a particular problem," says Bogner. "They have to be willing to use the knowledge, take a risk, and try to find a solution."



PHOTO BY JESSICA TOMMASELLI

Professor Robin Bogner, left, Teaching Fellow, speaks with Anisa Naka, a fifth-year pharmacy student.

100 Chemical Engineers *continued from page 1*

erative medicine and advanced polymer synthesis," Choi adds. "We are very fortunate to have someone of his stature and reputation as a colleague at UConn."

Earlier this year, Laurencin was recognized by *Scientific American* for his work developing a bioengineered matrix to regenerate an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL).

"The fiber matrix design mimics that of the ACL, which allows the patient's own cells to regenerate the ligament," says Laurencin. "Our

hope is to ultimately create a ligament that will allow a patient to restart major physical activity sooner. Any solution that can speed up the healing and long-term function is hugely important to patients."

Laurencin joined the University in August. He holds the Van Dusen Endowed Chair in Academic Medicine and is a professor in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery. He is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.



PHOTO BY LANNY NAGLER

Dr. Cato Laurencin, vice president for health affairs and dean of the medical school.

Event highlights access to health care

BY CAROLYN PENNINGTON

Good health should not be a privilege; it should be a right. That was one of the assertions made on Oct. 3 at a forum on the problems of accessing health care in Hartford, which attracted more than 150 community members, health care providers, professors, students, and politicians.

The event, held at Hartford's Real Art Ways, was organized by UConn medical students Erica Hinz, Teresa Doucet, Shan Shan Jiang, and Shubha Venkatesh.

"We reached our goal of bringing together a very diverse and enthusiastic group of people to raise awareness about this issue," says Hinz.

Speakers included Dr. Laurel Baldwin-Ragaven, Hartford family physician and human rights scholar at Trinity College; small business owner Kevin Galvin, Connecticut Commercial Maintenance; and Carlos Rivera, Hartford's director of health and human services.

"This is a critical issue that needs all of our attention," said Rivera. "Good health should not be a privilege; it's a right. It is incumbent on us to fight for those who do not have health insurance and are being denied the right to health care."

The U.S. is the world's only advanced nation that fails to provide health coverage to all its residents, Rivera maintained. In 2005, Connecticut spent approximately \$15 billion on health care, including \$572 million on the direct health costs of uninsured residents.

Doucet, one of the students, said, "The oft-quoted statistic that 47 million Americans lack health insurance is nowhere more apparent than in Hartford. Approximately 20 to 30 percent of residents of the so-called insurance capital of the world are uninsured, and twice as many are underinsured."

The uninsured receive less preventive care, less appropriate care for chronic illnesses, and fewer hospital services when admitted; they are also more likely to die prematurely, she added.

The medical students' desire to raise awareness about health care disparities meshes with the Health Center's Strategic Plan for Diversity.

"As an institution, our goal is to make sure the best business practices of building, valuing, and managing a diverse workforce and student body are fully implemented, operationally successful, and continually improved," said Carolyn Lyle, executive director of the Office of Diversity and Equity at the Health Center.

Lyle cited a recent study by the Connecticut Health Foundation's Policy Panel on Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities which found that lack of diversity in the health care workforce has a substantial negative impact on the quality of care for racial and ethnic communities.

Recommendations included enhancing Hartford's health and wellness infrastructure, improving access to affordable prescription medications, and making primary health care more accessible by expanding the hours of operation at Hartford's health centers.

The students plan to turn the artwork and multimedia presentations from the event into a mobile exhibit to be displayed at libraries, community centers, hospitals, and Hartford's City Hall.

"We hope to build on this over the next year and start engaging the community on issues that are sometimes thought of as discrete problems, but which are connected to what is happening with our health care system," says Venkatesh. "For example, are there parks? Is there a safe way to cross the street? Are your children safe in the neighborhood? These are all questions that directly tie into the health of our communities."



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH OMARA-OTUNNU

Participants in the Husky Run set out from Gampel Pavilion. The annual 5K run is an opportunity for students and members of the University community to join players from the Men's Basketball Team in a race just before the season begins. The event took place Oct. 15.

GRANTS

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

Principal Investigator	Department	Sponsor	Amount	Award Period
Federal Grants				
Adler, A.	Immunology	National Cancer Institute	\$281,848	09/04-06/09
<i>A Transgenic Model for Prostate Tumorimmunity</i>				
Bansal, R.	Neuroscience	National Institute of Neurological Disorders & Stroke	\$323,750	07/08-06/09
<i>FGF Receptors in Myelin Function and Disease</i>				
Bauer, L.	Psychiatry	National Institute on Drug Abuse	\$323,646	07/05-06/09
<i>Genetic Versus Phenotypic Markers of Relapse Risk</i>				
Carson, J.	Molecular, Microbial & Structural Biology	National Institute of Neurological Disorders & Stroke	\$296,000	07/08-06/09
<i>RNA Trafficking in Neural Cells</i>				
Covault, J.	Psychiatry	National Institute on Alcohol Abuse & Alcoholism	\$410,170	07/06-06/09
<i>Pharmacogenetics of Alcohol Treatment Implications</i>				
Dongari, A.	Oral Health & Diagnostic Sciences	National Institute of Dental & Craniofacial Research	\$401,595	07/08-06/09
<i>Oral Epithelial Cells, Candida and PMN Activation</i>				
Frank, M.	Oral Health & Diagnostic Sciences	National Institute on Deafness & Other Communication Disorders	\$437,471	07/06-06/09
<i>Peripheral Gustatory Processing</i>				
Freilich, M.	Reconstructive Sciences	National Institute of Dental & Craniofacial Research	\$599,520	09/06-06/09
<i>Osteoporosis & Bone Augmentation/Implant Outcomes: An Observational Study</i>				
Hewett, S.	Neuroscience	National Institute of Neurological Disorders & Stroke	\$45,680	07/06-04/09
<i>IL1 and Hypoxic-Ischemic Insults</i>				
Kranzler, H.	Psychiatry	National Institute on Drug Abuse	\$2,023	06/06-03/09
<i>Genetics of Cocaine Dependence</i>				
LeFrancois, L.	Immunology	National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases	\$316,631	09/04-06/09
<i>Tolerance and Autoimmunity in the Intestinal Epithelium</i>				
Loftus, W.	Neuroscience	National Institute on Deafness & Other Communication Disorders	\$74,000	07/07-06/09
<i>Pathways for ITD and AM Processing</i>				
Morest, D.	Neuroscience	National Institute on Deafness & Other Communication Disorders	\$301,411	07/06-06/09
<i>Anatomy of the Auditory System</i>				
Petry, N.	Psychiatry	National Institute on Drug Abuse	\$538,098	06/07-05/09
<i>Brief Therapies for Problem Gambling Substance Abusers</i>				
Pilbeam, C.	Medicine	National Institute of Arthritis & Musculoskeletal & Skin Diseases	\$309,835	07/06-06/09
<i>Mechanical Loading of Bone and Prostaglandins</i>				

Puddington, L.	Immunology	National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases	\$222,000	06/08-06/09
<i>Maternal Transfer of Protection from Allergic Gastrointestinal Disease</i>				
Rowe, D.	Reconstructive Sciences	National Institute of Arthritis & Musculoskeletal & Skin Diseases	\$482,801	09/06-06/09
<i>Assessing Lineage Decisions of Musculoskeletal Progenitor Cells with Aging</i>				
Shapiro, L.	Center for Vascular Biology	U.S. Army	\$185,000	06/08-06/09
<i>Prostate Specific Membrane Antigen Regulation of Prostate Tumor Growth Angiogenesis & Integrin Signal Transduction</i>				
Vella, A.	Immunology	National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases	\$337,185	07/04-06/09
<i>Proinflammatory Cytokines Block T Cell Death in Vivo</i>				
Wadhwa, S.	Craniofacial Sciences	National Institute of Dental & Craniofacial Research	\$135,000	07/06-06/09
<i>Accelerated Osteoarthritis in the TMJ of Biglycan/Fibromodulin DKO Mice</i>				
Wagner, J.	Oral Health & Diagnostic Sciences	National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases	\$181,300	07/07-06/09
<i>Behavioral and Physiological Responses to Race Related Stress in Diabetic Women</i>				
Xue-Jun, L.	Neuroscience	National Institute of Neurological Disorders & Stroke	\$4,960	12/07-02/09
<i>Generation of Cortical Motoneurons from Embryonic Stem Cells</i>				

Private Grants

Agar, J.	Reconstructive Sciences	American Academy of Fixed Prosthodontics	\$2,100	06/08-05/09
<i>Comparison of Models iTero vs. Standard</i>				
Albertsen, P.	Surgery	Cancer Therapy & Research Center Research Foundation	\$60	09/01-05/13
<i>Selenium and Vitamin E Chemoprevention Trial DHHS 80003</i>				
Brenner, B.	Neag Comprehensive	Invatec LLC Cancer Center	\$4,700	02/97-01/09
<i>National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project Breast and Bowel Cancer Treatment DHHS BC0107-185</i>				
Bruder, M.	Child & Family Studies Program	Children's Trust Fund Council	\$1,000	01/08-07/08
<i>Families as Partners</i>				
Finck, C.	Pediatrics	Conn. Children's Medical Center	\$57,023	07/07-06/09
<i>Finck Research Support</i>				
*Hoch, J.	Molecular, Microbial & Structural Biology	Harvard University	\$231,959	05/07-04/09
<i>Nuclear Magnetic Resonance & Computational Studies of Biomolecules</i>				
*Kream, B.	Medicine	The Jackson Laboratory	\$127,893	09/07-05/09
<i>A Chromosome 10 QTL Associated with IGF-1 and Bone Mass</i>				
Li, Y.	Genetics & Developmental Biology	March of Dimes	\$82,366	06/07-05/09
<i>Role of FGF8 Signaling Prior to and During Gastrulation</i>				
Lieberman, J.	Musculoskeletal Signature Program	Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation	\$93,417	07/07-07/09
<i>Regional Gene Therapy</i>				
Mazzocca, A.	Orthopedics	The Donaghue Foundation	\$85,106	07/08-06/09
<i>Prospective Random Study Following Rotator Cuff Repair</i>				
*Morgen, E.	Library	Univ. of Massachusetts	\$102,000	09/06-04/09
<i>Electronic Fund Transfer System - Development of a National Initiative</i>				
Nichols, F.	Oral Health & Diagnostic Sciences	American Association for Endodontists Foundation	\$12,600	07/08-06/09
<i>Tissue Destructive Biological Activity of Complex Lipids Synthesized by Porphyromonas endodontalis</i>				
Oo, M.	Center for Vascular Biology	American Heart Association	\$45,000	07/08-06/09
<i>Mechanisms of S1P Receptor Degradation and Vascular Instability</i>				
Orenstein, S.	Surgery	Ludwig J.Pyrtek Fund of Hartford Hospital	\$20,055	07/08-06/09
<i>Role of Mast Histopathologic Tissue Changes at Site of Prosthetic Meshes</i>				
Pappagallo, M.	Pediatrics	Ovations Pharmaceuticals	\$1,800	05/08-05/09
<i>Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Fellow Conferences</i>				
*Petry, N.	Psychiatry	Yale University	\$140,966	07/07-06/08
<i>Psychotherapy Development Research Center</i>				
*Wolgemuth, C.	Cell Biology	Johns Hopkins Univ.	\$34,351	05/05-04/09
<i>Bacterial Division and the Dynamics of the Z-Ring</i>				
*Denotes federal funds awarded to other institutions and "passed through" to the UConn Health Center.				
State Grants				
Hawke, J.	Psychiatry	Conn. Department of Children & Families	\$129,997	07/08-06/09
<i>Quality Assurance Plan for the Emily J. Settlement Agreement</i>				
Kuchel, G.	Center on Aging	Conn. Office of Policy & Management	\$110,000	07/09-06/09
<i>Connecticut Partnership for Long-Term Care</i>				

CALENDAR Monday, October 20, to Monday, October 27

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. 27 through Monday, Nov. 3. Those items must be in the database by 4 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 20.

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

Monday, 10/27 – Registration for the Spring 2009 semester via Student Administration System begins.

Monday, 10/27 – Last day to drop a course.

Monday, 10/27 – Registration for intersession 2008-09 via Student Administration System begins.

Monday, 10/27 – Last day to convert courses on pass/fail option to letter grade.

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. Note: Monday, 10/20, 10 a.m.-4 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.

University ITS

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

Ph.D. Defenses

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.

Wednesday, 10/22 – **Polymer Program.** *Non-Destructive FTIR Photoacoustic Spectroscopy (PAS) Studies on Carbon Fiber Reinforced Polyimides and Water Diffusion in Epoxies*, by Ravikumar Vijayaraghavan (adv.: Scola). 2:30 p.m., Room IMS 159, Gant Science Complex.

Wednesday, 10/22 – **Physics.** *Magnetism of Perovskite Oxides: The Effect of Strain and Phase Separation*, by Changkun Xie (adv.: Wells). 3:30 p.m., Room P 121, Gant Science Complex.

Lectures & Seminars

Monday, 10/20 – **Raymond & Beverly Sackler Lecture in Human Rights.** "Passionate Politics: The Intersection of Gender, Culture, and Human Rights," by Charlotte Bunch, Rutgers University. 4 p.m., Konover Auditorium, Dodd Center.

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.

Tuesday, 10/21 – **Presidential Election Symposium.** Four panel discussions and the release of two public opinion polls. 9 a.m., Konover Auditorium, Dodd Center.

Tuesday, 10/21 – **Environmental Engineering Seminar.** "Small Watershed Research on Mercury Cycling: An Old Approach to a New Problem," by Jamie Shanley, U.S. Geological Survey. Noon, Room 212,

Castleman Building.

Tuesday, 10/21 – **"Hot Issue" Forum.** Presidential Election 2008 Forum, with Nick Easton & Brian Waddell. 12:30 p.m., Room 211, Undergraduate Building, Greater Hartford Campus.

Hydrologic Footprint and a Methodology for a National Water Census," by Richard Vogel, Tufts University. Noon, Room 212, Castleman Building.

Friday, 10/24 – **Marine Sciences Seminar.** "Periwinkle Growth



PHOTO FROM THE ALEXEY VON SCHLIPPE GALLERY WEB SITE

Art work by Pedro Wilson del Carpio, part of the *Latin Network for the Visual Arts* exhibit at the Alexey von Schlippe Gallery. See Exhibits.

Tuesday, 10/21 – **Fusco Distinguished Lecture in History.** "The Task of the Historian," by Gabrielle Spiegel, Johns Hopkins University. 4 p.m., Konover Auditorium, Dodd Center.

Tuesday, 10/21 – **Comparative Human Rights Lecture.** "Values, Spirituality and Human Rights," by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, spiritual leader. 7 p.m., Student Union Theatre.

Wednesday, 10/22 – **Rainbow Center Lecture.** "Queers & (IN)Sanity: View from the Milledgeville Asylum," by Mab Segrest, Connecticut College. Noon, Room 403, Student Union.

Wednesday, 10/22 – **Brown Bag Seminar on Aging.** "Adjusting to Retirement: Have We Been Too Pessimistic All Along?," by Mo Wang, Portland State University. Noon, Room 112 (Dean's Lounge), Family Studies Building.

Wednesday, 10/22 – **Panel Discussion.** "Children of the Undocumented: Forgotten Casualties of Immigration Policy." Noon, Zachs Community Room, School of Social Work Graduate Building, Greater Hartford Campus.

Wednesday, 10/22 – **Molecular Medicine Seminar.** "Antibody and Non-Antibody Directed Iron Oxide Nanoparticle Cancer Treatment." Noon, Room EG052, Conference Room, Academic Research Building, Health Center.

Wednesday, 10/22 – **Stamford Faculty Colloquium Series.** "Recent Observations on a Changing Cuba by a Marine Scientist's Research in Aquaculture and Energy," by Charles Yarish. Noon, Multi-Purpose Room, Stamford Campus.

Wednesday, 10/22 – **Children's Literature Presentation.** "Wonder in the Wake of War: Fantasy Tradition in Children's Literature," by Leonard Marcus, children's author and book critic. 4 p.m., Konover Auditorium.

Thursday, 10/23 – **CHIP Lecture.** "What Made the Intervention Work? Mediation Analyses of Three Intervention Studies," by Ann Leary, Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention. 12:30 p.m., Room 204, Ryan Refectory.

Friday, 10/24 – **Environmental Engineering Seminar.** "Hydromorphology – The Human/

Factors," by Michael Judge, Manhattan College. 3 p.m., Room 103, Marine Sciences Building, Avery Point Campus.

Friday, 10/24 – **Katzenstein Distinguished Lecture in Physics.** "Spintronics: Fundamentals, Recent Developments, and Perspective," by Albert Fert, Centre Nationale de la Recherche Scientifique/Thales and Université Paris-Sud. 4 p.m., Room P 36, Gant Science Complex.

Friday, 10/24 – **Statistics Colloquium.** "Analyzing Recurrent Events Data in Presence of Terminal Events," by Rajeshwari Sundaram, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development. 4 p.m., Room 355, CLAS Building.

Sunday, 10/26 – **Sunday Talk at The Benton.** "Landscape and Belief: A View Camera in the Himalayas," by Kenneth Hanson, photographer. 3 p.m., William Benton Museum of Art.

Exhibits

Monday, 10/20 through Friday, 12/5 – **Contemporary Art Galleries.** *Maritime: Ships, Pirates & Disasters.* Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free admission.

Through Friday, 10/31 – **Torrington Campus.** *Empty Place at the Table*, display to raise awareness about domestic violence. Lobby, Eads 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. Members and students free, all others \$3 donation. Avery Point Campus.

Through Friday, 11/7 – **Babbidge Library.** *The American President*, photographs from the Archives of the Associated Press, West Alcové. 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 Markowitz, Stevens Gallery.

Through Friday, 11/14 – **Jorgensen Gallery.** *Regarding India*, including *Walking Dreams of India*, photographs & digital montage by Neil Chowdhury; *Junctures & Constellations*, by Hanuman Kambl

& Kathryn Myers; and works by students and alums from Goa College of Arts. Mon.-Fri., 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Through Thursday, 11/20 – **Health Center.** Oil paintings by Linda Tenukas. Daily, 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Main and Mezzanine Lobbies.

Also, through Weds., 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 – **Dodd Center.** *From the Margins to the Mainstream: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Culture & History, 1968-2008.*

Through Friday, 12/19 – **Benton Museum.** *Sera: The Way of the Tibetan Monk; The Photographs of Sheila Rock; Bound by Tradition and Religion: Tibetan Tangkas*, fabric art pieces by Peter Polomski & Richard Allen. Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., 1-4:30 p.m.

Performing Arts

Wednesday, 10/22 – **Puppet Forum.** *From UConn to Sesame Street*, with Pam Arciero, puppeteer. 7:30 p.m., Ballard Institute, Depot Campus. Free admission. Preceded at 7 p.m. by guided tour of *Puppets Through the Lens* exhibit.

Thursday, 10/23 through Sunday, 11/2 – *Spring Awakening.* CRT production of Frank Wedekind's 1891 play. For tickets, call 860-486-4226.

Friday, 10/24 – **Student Recital.** Tenor recital by Billy Janiszewski. 7p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall.

Sunday, 10/26 – **Menahem Pressler & Friends.** Charles & Alice Murray Heilig Memorial Concert. 3 p.m., Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. Free admission.

Films

Thursday, 10/23 – **Urban & Community Studies Film.** *God Grew Tired of Us.* 12:30 p.m., Multi-Purpose Room, Waterbury Campus.

Thursday, 10/23 – **Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies Film.**

The Safety Valve: Understanding Contemporary Salvadoran Society. 5 p.m., Class of '47 Room, Babbidge Library.

Thursday, 10/23 – **Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center Film.** *The Official Story/La Historia Oficial.* 7 p.m., PRLACC.

Sunday, 10/26 – **Tibet Film Series.** *Mystic Vision, Sacred Art.* 2 p.m., William Benton Museum of Art.

Monday, 10/27 – **Puppet Film.** *Dante's Inferno.* 7:30 p.m., Student Union. Free admission.

Athletics

Wednesday, 10/22 – Men's Soccer vs. Yale. 7 p.m., Morrone Stadium.

Friday, 10/24 – Women's Soccer vs. Syracuse. 7 p.m., Morrone Stadium.

Friday, 10/24 – Men's Ice Hockey vs. Army. 7:05 p.m., Freitas Ice Forum.

Saturday, 10/25 – Football vs. Cincinnati. Noon, Rentschler Field.

Saturday, 10/25 – Field Hockey vs. Rutgers. 1 p.m., Sherman Family Sports Complex.

Saturday, 10/25 – Men's Soccer vs. Notre Dame. 7 p.m., Morrone Stadium.

Saturday, 10/25 – Men's Ice Hockey vs. Army. 7:05 p.m., Freitas Ice Forum.

Sunday, 10/26 – Women's Soccer vs. St. John's. 1 p.m., Morrone Stadium.

Potpourri

Tuesday, 10/21 – **Connecticut Poetry Circuit.** Kurt Brown, author. 12:30-2 p.m., Multi-Purpose Room, Waterbury Campus.

Wednesday, 10/22 – **Literary Reading.** Reading by South African author Zakes Mda. 6:30 p.m., Co-op.

Wednesday, 10/22 – **Mansfield League of Women Voters Candidates' Night.** "Making Your Vote Count." 7:30 p.m., Council Chambers, Beck Building, Mansfield.

Saturday, 10/25 – **Saturday Afternoon at the Museum.** Explore the natural and cultural history of southern New England. For children entering grades 1-5, accompanied by an adult. Free admission. 1 p.m., Museum of Natural History.

Emergency management grant

continued from page 1

vided to UConn staff, faculty, students, and local government and local health district officials during an 18-month period. An awareness training session, designed for UConn students, faculty, staff, and partners from the Town of Mansfield and the Eastern Highlands Health District, will explain the behavioral threat assessment model and how it will be integrated into UConn's existing emergency plan.

Once the assessment model is integrated, an executive briefing will be held for senior University personnel and partner agencies. The final phase will include exercises to reinforce learning, and evaluate and test that plan. Key University officials and representatives from local partners will receive National Incident Management System training throughout the period.

"This funding will allow UConn to enhance our existing emergency management and continuity of operations plans, which were developed and implemented in conjunction with the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and local emergency management

and public health agencies, first responders, and campus personnel," says Robert S. Hudd, associate vice president for public and environmental safety. "Planned exercises include a series of increasingly complex events ranging from seminars, to tabletop and functional exercises custom designed for UConn and its local partners. Scenarios will be based on potential incidents, including behavioral threats that could lead to injuries, as well as community health-related scenarios, such as a pandemic influenza."

Training will be designed and delivered by nationally recognized leaders in their respective fields. They include former Special Agents from the U.S. Secret Service's National Threat Assessment Center who collaborated with the U.S. Department of Education on the Safe Schools Initiative, and a former top administrator from the Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security who has extensive experience in emergency planning, developing university and agency partnerships, policy, and strategy research.

Graduate student partners with National Geographic on turtle study



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Tobias Landberg, a doctoral student in ecology and evolutionary biology.

BY CINDY WEISS

In an era of high-tech science, a biology graduate student is using an advanced instrument and decidedly low-tech adaptations to yield new data and excite youngsters about a creature that antedates technology, the turtle.

Tobias Landberg, a fourth-year Ph.D. candidate in ecology and evolutionary biology, is collecting data from turtles that swim and surface along Connecticut's waterways. He spent this past summer working with National Geographic on a project using the "Critttercam," a \$10,000 video camera that is attached to the back of snapping turtles to track their travels.

Although Landberg's doctoral

research focuses on a different species – salamanders – he wrote his master's thesis on turtles at the University of Massachusetts before coming to UConn to study for his Ph.D. When National Geographic was looking for a turtle expert to work on the project, they turned to UConn and Landberg was a natural choice.

Landberg has long been interested in how turtles breathe when moving. But the Critttercam can capture more – where they go, how long they stay, when and where they surface. And it does it all without human intervention, once the camera is attached.

"Sort of like old school naturalists," says Landberg, "we're observing individuals of the species to see

what they do."

The project was launched during the summer on the Connecticut River by National Geographic, with the help of Landberg, Riverfront Recapture, and 10 teenagers from Hartford public schools, who were recruited by the "Our Piece of the Pie" organization for summer career-building work.

The high school students got hands-on field experience in biology and the excitement of scientific discovery. For their first specimen, they trapped the Godzilla of snapping turtles, a 39-pound creature that was missing its lower jaw.

How does a snapping turtle reach that size when it's missing a mandible? Landberg and the students set to work to find out.

They attached the Critttercam with duct tape to a papier-mache-type rig that would hold the camera on the turtle's back for about two hours and then dissolve, sending the camera back to the surface for data collection.

"Nature provided the question, and we had the apparatus to answer it," Landberg says.

"Jawless," as they named the turtle, deployed around the bottom of Wethersfield Cove for two hours before being recaptured. The next day it took only 20 minutes for the paper rig to dissolve and the camera to bob up. The camera was sent to Washington, D.C., where National Geographic recovered the footage, which Landberg is still studying.

Meanwhile, another Critttercam was attached to a smaller, 24-pounder on Shenipsit Lake near Rockville, to provide another set of data.

Landberg says he became involved in the Critttercam project because of its outreach potential.

"This is probably my favorite part of the whole business – teaching people what science really is, solving problems," he says.

But it is also generating some very interesting data, he says.

"I'm really interested in what the future of this technology is going to allow us to do – outreach combined with long-term ecological data collection," he adds.



PHOTO BY TOBIAS LANDBERG

A hatchling snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*).

Landberg, who has been a Schwenk Mentoring Fellow in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and has mentored eight UConn undergraduates, is now supervising an independent study on the turtle data by another undergraduate.

Landberg dropped out of high school at the age of 17, and tried his hand at carpentry, painting, general contracting, and restoring old houses. He also traveled, and a trip to Costa Rica revived his early interest in biology. He earned his GED high school equivalency and later a master's degree at the University of Massachusetts before coming to UConn.

His hands-on construction skills have served him well. In earlier experiments in the lab, he created masks to learn more about how turtles breathe.

Turtles at rest can breathe by moving a shoulder girdle in and out of the shell and moving their limbs. But Landberg wanted to know how they breathe when they are in motion.

He attached the masks to the mouths of box turtles, using surgical adhesive that stuck to their tough skin without hurting them, then had them walk on a treadmill and measured their breathing.

He filmed their exercise routines and was surprised to learn that they took small breaths very rapidly and that their breathing had no relationship to what their feet were doing.

Landberg's Ph.D. research, funded by a National Science Foundation doctoral dissertation grant, is on the effects of the environment on salamander development. But he's still fascinated by turtles.

"The natural behavior of these animals in the wild is still a mystery," he says.

Students at the Met *continued from page 1*

Mitchell Underwood, also a physics major, had learned about the Manhattan Project in middle school and was curious how music could be incorporated into such a technical, scientific story. "It was an accurate portrayal of one of the most important events in our history," he said, "and the music and special effects were incredible."

Anastasia Gussen, a microbiology student, said she was impressed by the way something designed for destruction was used as the basis for an opera.

During the rehearsal, David Woods, dean of the School of Fine Arts, sat near the physics students. "When the equations came on the screen, they reacted to the scientific part of the opera, while the music students reacted to the music," he noted.

Woods initiated the joint program in 2002 with then-Metropolitan Opera director Joe Volpe. "We're the only university in the U.S. with this collaborative, and we work with the Met on a variety of opportunities for students," he said. During an intermission, *Dr.*

Atomic composer John Adams explained that he chooses "themes and symbols that constitute our American consciousness, and in some cases, our American unconsciousness." He said he chose to create a stage work about the atomic bomb test since it epitomizes how the "whole relationship between humans and the world changed after we had the power to destroy everything."

Because Robert Oppenheimer was not only an accomplished scientist, but read poetry and spoke five languages, Adams included poems from the Sanskrit text the Bhagavad-Gita, Tewa American Pueblo Indian culture, 17th century English preacher John Donne, and 20th-century American feminist activist Muriel Rukeyser.

Among the physics faculty attending the rehearsal was Winthrop Smith, professor of physics, who specializes in atomic, molecular, and optical physics.

Smith said it was an inspiring idea to bring science and arts students together for a day at the opera.



PHOTO BY CAROL DAVIDGE/SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS

Physics professors Winthrop Smith, left, and Cynthia Peterson, right, accompanied fine arts dean David Woods, second from right, and science and arts students to the final dress rehearsal of the Metropolitan Opera's *Dr. Atomic*. Science students shown are, from left, Mitchell Underwood, Sarah Lamb, Jason Hartley, and Anastasia Gussen.