



Panelists analyze presidential election

BY ELIZABETH OMARA-OTUNNU

Momentous, memorable, innovative. Those were among the reactions by UConn experts to last week's presidential election.

The day after the election of the first African American to the country's highest office, a faculty panel discussed the election, the campaigns that led up to it, and what the future might hold for the two major parties.

The Nov. 5 panel, consisting of Stephen Dyson, Jeffrey Ladewig, and Shayla Nunnally, all assistant professors of political science in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Ronald Schurin, associate professor-in-residence in political science, was moderated by assistant professor Jeremy Pressman.

Ladewig said the 2008 campaigns incorporated a number of innovations, especially the use of the Internet to encourage people to vote and to raise funds. Although both campaigns deployed the available technologies, he said the campaign of Sen. Barack Obama gained the greater benefit.

Ladewig said past U.S. Presidents have also put new technologies to good use: William McKinley used the printing press in new ways, and Franklin D. Roosevelt used regular radio broadcasts to secure an advantage.

Schurin said Obama won a solid victory – “exceptionally so in recent memory” – but set in a long-term historical context, the six-point margin was not that large.

Although there were many young and first-time voters, he said, their numbers were at least partly offset by those who did not vote.

Schurin also said that although Obama promised to bring people together, divisions persist. He said that in the red/blue (Republican/Democratic) division of states, Obama carried the blue states and many in the middle, and even won some of the red states, but there is still a marked divide between red and blue.

Reflecting on the significance of race in the 2008 election, Nunnally described the election as ‘momentous,’ ‘monumental,’ and ‘memorable.’

Noting that only in 1965 did African Americans acquire the full privileges of the franchise, she called for reflection on “what it means to see an African American taking an office that has not been accessible to African Americans, and what it meant to

see Presidential election panel page 8



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Tibetan Buddhist monks from Namgyal Monastery Institute of Buddhist Studies in Ithaca, N.Y., create a sand mandala in the William Benton Museum. After its completion Nov. 9, the mandala will remain on display until Dec. 7.

New director named for Global Fuel Cell Center

BY NAN COOPER

Prabhakar Singh, a researcher with the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, Wash., has been named director of the University's Connecticut Global Fuel Cell Center, following an international search.

Singh, who will begin at UConn on Jan. 1, currently directs advanced solid oxide fuel cell development activities at the laboratory. He also works with government and industrial clients on fuel cell product development.

“We are delighted to welcome Singh, a world class researcher and visionary in the field of fuel cell science, who will help to transform the Connecticut Global Fuel Cell Center into an international leader in the design, development, and commercialization of fuel cells,” says Mun Choi, dean of the School of Engineering, who announced

the appointment.

As director, Singh will oversee operations and guide the Center's research and educational activities. He will be responsible for attracting resources and developing collaborative partnerships among the Center, government, and industry. He will also lead a team developing fuel cell technology and applications.

Singh is widely recognized for his technical expertise involving the accelerated corrosion of metals and alloys under bi-polar exposure conditions, as happens in advanced fuel cell electrochemical power generation systems.

Before joining the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Singh held several technical and management positions at Ford Motor Co., Westinghouse Electric Corp., and FuelCell Energy. While at Ford's Visteon Corp. arm, he managed proton

exchange membrane fuel cell research and development.

At Westinghouse Electric, he developed cell and stack component materials for solid oxide fuel cells, large-scale manufacturing processes, hydrocarbon processing, and ‘on anode’ reforming. At FuelCell Energy, he led the development work on corrosion tolerant materials, creep tolerant electrodes, and process scale up.

Singh earned his Ph.D. in metallurgy at the University of Sheffield, England, and an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh. He holds more than 50 U.S. patents and trade secrets, and he has authored or co-authored more than 100 technical reports and papers, as well as three book chapters. He is a Fellow of ASM International, the American Ceramic Society, and the National Association

see Fuel Cell Center director page 2

Inside



3 ROTC program



4 Future teachers



6 Pequot battlefields



PHOTO BY MICHAEL FIEDLER

Geno Auriemma, head coach of the UConn Women's Basketball team, signs autographs for participants in the sports health program for young female athletes at the Health Center.

Injury prevention advice offered to female athletes during health program

BY CHRIS DEFRADESCO

Girls who attended a female sports health program at the Health Center Nov. 2 left with plenty to think about.

The more than 100 adolescent athletes and their parents learned from Health Center faculty about a syndrome known as "the female athlete triad," what they can do today to avoid osteoporosis as adults, and how to reduce their risk of tearing a major knee ligament.

The female athlete triad refers to three interrelated health problems – low energy availability, menstrual disorders, and weak bones – that often are triggered by disordered eating.

Importance of play

UConn women's basketball coach Geno Auriemma told the audience that there is no substitute for "being a kid and doing kid stuff."

He said when it comes to physical activity, girls start to fall behind boys in middle school.

"When boys are in eighth grade, they do dumb stuff, they wrestle, they beat each other up, they play football, their bodies are constantly in motion, and they're constantly training themselves without actual professional or parental or coaching training," he said. "I think girls for the most part miss out on that. And all of a sudden they get to be in high school and their coach wants to put them through a rigorous program, and they're not quite prepared for it."

Auriemma said middle-school girls should force themselves to go out and play, and that both girls and boys should try different sports throughout the year.

His comments were part of a workshop on bone health and injury prevention presented by the Health Center's New England

Musculoskeletal Institute and its Celebrate Health program. The event was designed to raise awareness of the potential health challenges specific to young female athletes.

Need for calcium

UConn School of Medicine faculty member Susan Gebo, a registered dietitian, said the female athlete triad starts with poor eating habits that are common in athletes, including skipping meals, avoiding certain food groups, strict dieting, and binging.

"As a result of disordered eating, girls are likely to lose their menstrual period," Gebo said, noting that the resulting lack of estrogen production leads to bone loss.

Bone loss later in life was the focus of Dr. Pam Taxel's presentation. Citing research showing that close to 90 percent of females ages 12 to 19 don't get the recommended daily calcium intake, Taxel, an osteoporosis expert, said it is important for this age group to take sufficient calcium to reach peak bone mass, which can protect against osteoporosis in adulthood.

Taxel recommends a daily intake of 1,300 milligrams of calcium, or four servings of calcium-rich foods, and 400 international units of vitamin D, which helps the body absorb calcium.

She said girls who limit their daily caloric intake can't expect to get enough calcium and vitamin D.

"Often people tell me they think they need 1,200 calories a day to maintain their weight, but a young female athlete most of the time needs about double that," Gebo said.

"The truth is, in order to perform, you really need a large amount of calories," Gebo added, "and a female athlete does a dis-

service to herself and her team if she's not feeding herself well."

Injury prevention

The young athletes also were told that because the strength of their hamstrings doesn't keep pace with the strength of the quadriceps, they are up to eight times more likely to suffer an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) tear than their male counterparts.

But Dr. Tom Trojjan, a sports medicine specialist, also offered hope. He said the risk of this major knee injury can be greatly reduced in female athletes who relearn their technique for landing from a jump.

"We identify poor body position, where the hips and knees are straight, landing on flat feet, and we teach good body position," said Trojjan, one of UConn's team physicians. "Hips and knees are bent, land on the balls of the feet, and that reduces the risk of ACL injury."

Trojjan said the best time to introduce ACL prevention training is in the eighth or ninth grade, when the connection between the brain and the muscles used for landing are still developing. But the concept "must be well-received by coaches and players to be successful."

He said the training also has performance-enhancing benefits, including improved vertical jump, hamstring strength, sprint speed, power endurance, and running economy.

"This kind of advice can change your lives. Listen to what these experts have to say," advised surprise guest Shea Ralph, who played on the UConn women's basketball team from 1996 to 2001 and is now on Auriemma's coaching staff.

Boston Pops conductor to present Gray Memorial Lecture Nov. 13

The School of Fine Arts presents the Robert H. Gray Memorial Lecture featuring Keith Lockhart, conductor of the Boston Pops, on Thursday, Nov. 13, at 2 p.m. in von der Mehden Recital Hall. Admission is free and the public is invited.

Lockhart's talk will focus on his personal development as a leading conductor and his vision for the future of music.

"Keith Lockhart's charisma inspires young artists and holds a fascination particularly for our conducting students," says David G. Woods, dean of the School of Fine Arts.

Lockhart was appointed conductor of the widely popular orchestra the Boston Pops in 1995, following the legendary Arthur Fiedler and Academy Award-winning John Williams.

He has continued traditions such as the "Fourth of July Spectacular" and "Evening at the Pops" on PBS, while also breaking new ground for the orchestra. "Edgefest" brings alternative, jazz, and ethnic musicians to the Boston Pops; "POPSearch" showcases amateur singers (similar to "American

Idol"); and the "High School Sing-off" celebrates talented high school students in competition. Lockhart also took the Boston Pops to the 2002 Superbowl, the first time an orchestra had performed in that venue.

Lockhart has recorded 11 albums with the Boston Pops. In 2002, he received an Emmy nomination for the "Fourth of July Spectacular" and the ASCAP Deems Taylor Award for "Fiddlers Three" on PBS. In 2006, he received the Bob Hope Patriot Award honoring a person who encourages love of country and service to the United States.

Lockhart will also appear at UConn on Dec. 6 when he directs the Boston Pops' Winter Holiday Special at Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. For information, see www.jorgensen.edu.

The Robert Gray Memorial Fund, named for the former dean of the School of Fine Arts, who died in 1999, brings internationally known artists to Storrs to work with students and faculty and present a public lecture.

Fuel Cell Center director *continued from page 1*



PHOTO SUPPLIED BY THE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
Prabhakar Singh

of Corrosion Engineers, and serves as chairman of the ASM Energy Committee. He has received a number of honors and awards. He serves on the ASM Executive Committee and the editorial boards of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the American Ceramic Society.

The Connecticut Global Fuel Cell Center, established in 2001 with significant investment from Connecticut Innovations Inc. and Connecticut industries, is housed at Storrs. Its mission is to become the world's premier academic resource for advanced research, development, and technology transfer in fuel cell technologies.

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT Advance

Elizabeth Omara-Otunnu
Editor

Contributing Writers Sherry Fisher, Michael Kirk, Colin Poitras, Mark J. Roy, Richard Veilleux
Health Center Writers Chris DeFrancesco, Kristina Goodnough, Maureen McGuire, Carolyn Pennington
Designer Betsy J. Surprenant
Calendar Editor Tracy Maheu
Photo Editor Peter Morenus
Student Photographers Frank Dahlmeyer, Jessica Tommaselli
Manager, Media Communications Karen A. Grava, APR
Manager, Media Relations..... David Bauman
Proof Reader..... Sheila Foran

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

ROTC head expands program, encourages student leaders

BY RICHARD VEILLEUX

The Reserve Officers Training Corp (ROTC) hosted at UConn is booming.

“Our mission last year was to graduate 13 cadets,” says Lt. Col. Christine Harvey, head of the Department of Military Science in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. “We graduated 19. Now it’s 18, then it will be 20 next year, and 21 in 2011. We’ll surpass all the numbers.”

The department offers a range of courses that all ROTC cadets must take in order to graduate. The courses are also open to the general student population as electives.

When Harvey arrived at UConn in 2006, there were 36 students under “contract,” a term the Army uses to describe students who have signed paperwork committing them to four years of active duty after they graduate from college. At the start of this academic year, the number had increased to more than 70.

Most contracted students receive full scholarships for tuition and fees, paid by the federal government to the University. The total has doubled since Harvey arrived, to more than \$950,000 this year.

In addition, students from 10 other colleges in Connecticut attend ROTC programming at UConn, the only university in the state to offer it.



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Lt. Col. Christine Harvey, center, head of the military science department, leads a group of Army ROTC cadets on a morning run.

Harvey, who went through an ROTC program herself at the State University of New York at Cortland, has worked hard to get the program where it is. She also ran into a bit of luck: just as she was arriving, the Army lifted a cap on the number of scholarships programs could offer. That cap had hurt the efforts of her predecessor, Lt. Col. Paul Veilleux, to expand the program. But that wasn’t the only problem.

“When I got here in 2006, I was stunned by how many students

I met that didn’t know there was an ROTC presence here,” Harvey says.

She decided to address the problem from the academic side first.

“There was a disconnect in the curriculum,” she says, “especially between the sophomore and junior years. The students were not ready to progress to the leadership course. And the quality of the training had to be improved.”

The training is rigorous. Contracted students (73 of the 101

currently enrolled) must be in the training room by 6 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for workouts, to prepare for the five-week course at Ft. Lewis, Wash., they’ll attend during the summer after their junior year.

The course can make or break their careers. All cadets in the country – more than 4,400 attended last summer – are assessed during the activity, and their scores determine whether they are given active duty status. The course also determines which career path they will be assigned to. A better rating gives students a better chance of being assigned to one of their first three choices.

“Over the years, students who lived far away were allowed to work out on their own rather than trek up here at 6 a.m.,” Harvey says. “When two of our students failed the test in Washington, that ended. I brought the training standards higher and the kids stepped up, they rose to the challenge.”

Harvey has also made the program more interesting and more enjoyable, adding paintball guns to field maneuvers, giving leadership positions that had been the exclusive property of seniors to juniors, and letting the seniors design labs, teach, and mentor young cadets.

“We’re not doing the juniors any justice if we don’t let them have leadership roles,” she says. “And it’s working. Students are now talking

about it on campus.”

Harvey has also pursued some marketing strategies. Husky ROTC T-shirts have been added to the green camouflage uniforms usually seen on campus, and baseball caps are coming soon. She worked with admissions director Lee Melvin, and UConn’s online application form now includes a question asking whether the applicant would like information about ROTC. Flyers are also included in orientation packets. She and her top assistant, Master Sgt. Daniel Pinion, a senior military instructor, also plan to place ROTC brochures at various points around campus.

In addition, Harvey has partnered with the School of Nursing to try and inspire nursing students to join ROTC and become Army nurses – a critical need. The first nursing ROTC candidate was commissioned last May, another is scheduled to graduate in 2009, and four others are on track to graduate by 2011.

Harvey was scheduled to be rotated out of UConn in August 2010, but she petitioned for a fourth year so she could complete what she’s started in Storrs. Her wish was granted – one of only 21 petitions to be honored in the country. Now, her last year at UConn will also be her 25th year in the Army.

Then, Harvey says, she will have a new mission – retirement.

South African writer reflects on literature of reconciliation

BY SHERRY FISHER

Few books have been written by South African novelists that were inspired by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, according to playwright and author Zakes Mda. That, he says, may seem uncharacteristic, considering that writers often harvest their material from society.

Mda, the 2008 Marsha Lilien Gladstein Visiting Professor in Human Rights, made his remarks during the Gladstein Distinguished Lecture on Human Rights in Konover Auditorium on Oct. 29. The lectureship is administered by the Human Rights Institute.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was established to deal with the human rights violations that occurred between 1960 and 1994 during the apartheid era in South Africa.

The Commission sought to affirm the dignity of the victims of apartheid and make recommendations about their rehabilitation. It also granted amnesty to the perpetrators of those violations, provided that they confessed all they knew to the satisfaction of the commissioners. The process was intended to bring about reconciliation and promote the transition to democracy in South Africa.

The TRC was an innovative alternative to the approach epitomized by the Nuremberg Trials

and prosecutions of former Nazis after World War II, and has since been implemented in several other countries.

“One would have imagined that as a major event in South African life, the TRC would have generated a considerable amount of imaginative fiction from us – black writers,” said Mda, a South African who currently teaches at Ohio University.

Dearth of fiction

But for black people in South Africa there was nothing new in these revelations, he said.

“Throughout the years we all knew that these atrocities were happening because they were happening to us. The fiction that we produced during the days of apartheid was, in fact, about those human rights violations. The atrocities were a revelation only to our white compatriots, those who had bought into state propaganda that any talk of South African security forces – the very Afrikaners who had been grounded in Calvinistic Christian teachings – committing atrocities was nothing but Communist propaganda.”

Publishers have played a significant role in the dearth of fiction surrounding the TRC, Mda said, noting that it’s difficult for new writers to publish books that are set during the apartheid era.

“It has nothing to do with

political censorship,” he said. “It’s a commercial decision. Publishers wrongly believe that stories about apartheid don’t sell. People don’t want to read about the past.”

Dramatic representations

Theater, however, goes through different gate-keeping processes, he said.

“Theater is highly subsidized by the state or private grants and foundations, and therefore commercial considerations are rarely the ultimate determining factor as to whether a work will be produced.”

Mda said that unlike writers of fiction, playwrights have written about the TRC quite extensively.

“The stage thrives on what is dramatic and visually appealing,” he said. “What could be more visually impactful than the images that were captured on live television of perpetrators, former apartheid security police, assuming the role of actors and demonstrating how they carried out the vilest acts of torture and murder? Here was the true spectacle: The spectacle of confession; the spectacle of violence; the spectacle of victims and their relatives moaning softly as evidence is presented, and then bursting out into searing screams before they faint ...”

Mda noted the ‘carnavalesque atmosphere’ among spectators gathered outside the school audi-



PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Zakes Mda, the 2008 Gladstein Visiting Professor in Human Rights, speaks at Konover Auditorium.

toriums and church halls where the TRC held its hearings. Some sang freedom songs or hymns, others danced. “The TRC played well into black South African expressive culture,” he said, “where there is a strong interrelationship of performance and reality.”

Mda said in the play *Ubu and the Truth Commission*, the main question was how to resolve the conflicting interests of justice and punishment on the one hand, and forgiveness and reconciliation on the other.

The production contributed to the debate at a time “when many black South Africans were beginning to question in whose interests really was all this talk of forgiveness and reconciliation,” he said. “What irked the most

was that people who admitted to committing atrocities were granted amnesty and continued to derive benefits from those wrongs.”

In *Truth and Translation*, a recent play about the TRC, the focus is on the victims and their perpetrators.

“This one takes a different direction in that it focuses on the translators and interpreters who had to simultaneously repeat the words of both victim and perpetrator in all the country’s 11 official languages,” Mda said. “They had to tell both sides of the story using the first person pronoun ‘I.’ The play shows how their personal lives were affected just by speaking those words, taking ownership of each heinous story.”

Education professor works to attract students of color into teaching



PHOTO BY JASON IRIZARRY

Jason Irizarry, left, an assistant professor of curriculum and instruction, works with Shane Mathis as part of Project FUERTE. Mathis, formerly a student at the Metropolitan Learning Center in Bloomfield, is now a freshman at Howard University.

BY JOANNE NESTI

“Se hace camino al andar,” Jason Irizarry likes to say, quoting the Spanish poet Antonio Machado. “You make the path by walking it.”

That’s more than just an expression for the assistant professor of curriculum and instruction in the Neag School of Education. It has been a guiding force on his path from a housing project in New York City to a gifted and talented program in elementary school to college and then graduate school.

Overcoming obstacles

But the path has been anything but smooth.

“My father was absent for much of my childhood,” he says. “Still, I felt very blessed to have wonderful relatives, including an aunt who was the only college graduate in my entire family.”

Spending summers with her, Irizarry recalls that she wouldn’t allow him to go out to play until noon, so they could spend the morning on school work sheets and other drills.

“You have to make it,” she would tell him.

“So I worked really hard,” Irizarry says, “but also the sun, moon, and stars had to align in order for that to happen, and we can’t base educational policy on luck.”

Irizarry’s memories of his years at Cathedral Prep, a high school seminary in Elmhurst, New York, include a constant struggle to navigate the school and neighborhood context, which were often at odds. There were times when he

was disciplined for speaking non-standard English at school, while at other times, his language and diction were criticized by friends in the neighborhood for being “too white.”

“Traversing all these different circumstances can be a herculean task for urban students,” he says, “but schools can do more to help.”

Reaching out to students of color

The task is made harder by racism, which remains strong, Irizarry says, even in areas regarded as liberal: “We talk about civil rights struggles in the ‘Deep South. In my writing, I refer to this area as the ‘Deep North.’ I have constantly been reminded that I am different. Race has always mattered to me. Ethnicity has always mattered.”

It certainly matters now, as he works to attract more students of color into the teaching profession. A major focus of his current research is an initiative he calls Project FUERTE (Future Urban Educators Conducting Research to Transform Teacher Education).

Last year, it was based at the Metropolitan Learning Center, a magnet school in Bloomfield; this year it involves students from Windham High School.

“The FUERTE students and I ask questions that stem from personal experience,” he says, “search for answers, and develop research-based recommendations that we hope will improve the quality of teaching and learning in urban public schools.”

Irizarry’s team of high school researchers has found that urban students want school to be a challenging environment that is also caring, nurturing, and supportive. They also want a curriculum they

can relate to, just as he did in elementary school when, he says, his mother had to spank him to get him to read the Judy Blume book, *Freckle Juice*: “I said, ‘Who cares about freckles? I’m the furthest thing in the world from freckles.’”

It was his first exposure to works by Puerto Rican authors that really connected him to the content of school.

“It wasn’t until I started to engage with some of that literature,” he says, “that I started to recognize that I liked reading, I liked learning. It turned on a light for me.”

Boosting academic achievement

Irizarry now works to produce what he calls a “counter-narrative” for teachers who may believe that urban students don’t care about school. He also tries to engage urban students in thinking about teaching as a realistic, achievable goal.

“My hope is that they’ll get the skills they need to increase academic achievement,” he says, “but also that they’ll consider teaching as a platform for bringing about the social change that we speak of in class.”

His work has brought him many honors, among them a recent National Council of Teachers of English ‘Cultivating New Voices Among Scholars of Color’ Fellowship.

Irizarry is optimistic about the future of education.

“I’m hopeful that schools can be a place of liberation, where students can dream and develop the skills to achieve those dreams,” he says. “We can teach kids. We can have a more egalitarian society. I can imagine different futures for young people. They’re going to change the world.”

Administrator writes book on autism for higher ed personnel

BY KAREN SINGER

While watching her autistic son grow up, Jane Thierfeld Brown noticed similarities between his behavior and that of some children with other disabilities, including Asperger syndrome, a higher functioning form of autism.

Her observations, along with nearly three decades of research and work with autistic children, have resulted in a forthcoming book, *Students on the Autism Spectrum – A Guide for College Personnel*, from the Autism Asperger Publishing Co. Brown, director of student services at the UConn School of Law, is one of three co-authors.

Asperger syndrome is named for Hans Asperger, who first identified the condition in 1944, describing social interaction deficits similar to autism in a group of boys with better cognitive and communication skills.

Traditionally, many of these students have attended technical schools, says Brown, but the number going to college is now on the rise.

“Many people diagnosed with Asperger syndrome are attending college and finding a way to navigate higher education,” Brown says.

But they may encounter problems along the way, “despite their high intellectual abilities, high SATs, and high IQ scores,” she says.

Academically, such students often have in-depth knowledge and intense interest in a very narrow field but lack the ability to handle curriculum covering a wide spectrum of knowledge, she says.

Social settings present additional challenges.

“If you don’t understand the social world or non-verbal communication [common hurdles for students with Asperger’s syndrome] how do you navigate dining halls or dorms?” says Brown. “Some students do very well, but others need a lot of support, personally, academically, and professionally.”

More colleges and universities are providing that support, including UConn, which launched a program this semester based on

a pilot program Brown and her colleagues ran for two years at the University of Minnesota.

Students who enroll in the Strategic Education for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders program meet weekly with a graduate adviser who helps them improve their social and interpersonal skills, so they can better cope with campus life, make connections with other students and staff, and live autonomously.

“It’s very much a student-based program, where they work very closely with one of our grad students, learning social skills management, time management, personal hygiene and care, and health and safety,” says Christine Morello, assistant director of the Center for Students with Disabilities. “They also help students identify other areas on campus that may be a resource, like tutoring.”

Morello says there will also be a social component, which could be something as simple as ‘going on an outing’ to the Student Union to play video games, in order to get out of the residence hall.



Brown says her new book contains material to help disability service providers work with this population on campus, including coping strategies and specific interventions for common dilemmas.

“A lot of our students really have difficulty with things like shuttle bus schedules,” she says. They may need help figuring out which bus to take, for example, and can

become flummoxed if they see a different bus driver. “They live by routine, and sometimes go into panic mode and shut down,” she adds.

Brown says students with Asperger syndrome have done well to get as far as college.

“People who are succeeding in the system had a very good K-12 education and very supportive parents involved in their education,” she says. “They have sort of made it, to be able to get that far, and hopefully, will be able to get further. There are a lot of very successful people who show those types of tendencies.”

She hopes the book will not only help students with Asperger syndrome get through college but also create more opportunities for them.

Adds Brown, “We also have to find a way for our colleges and educational communities to be more accepting of people who just act very differently.”

Kinesiologist studies cholesterol-reducing drugs and muscle pain

BY BETH KRANE

Many studies have found statins to be the most effective medications for lowering cholesterol, but until now, very little research has examined a commonly reported side effect associated with the drugs: muscle pain and weakness.

A large-scale clinical trial underway at three sites, including UConn's Human Performance Laboratory, aims to pinpoint the prevalence of statin-induced muscle pain and weakness and to better understand how the most prescribed class of drugs in the world exerts its potentially harmful effects on muscles.

Multi-site trial

Linda Pescatello, a professor of kinesiology in the Neag School of Education and a principal investigator at UConn's Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention, is part of the team conducting the four-year study through a \$3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health and the National Heart, Blood, and Lung Institute.

"Anecdotal evidence suggests that anywhere from 1 percent to 25 percent of patients taking statins experience some level of muscle discomfort or pain," says Pescatello. "In some cases, muscle

side effects are severe enough that patients stop taking the medications. Considering the number of people currently taking statins, the potential impact of this research could be huge."

National guidelines setting treatment goals for people with high cholesterol and cardiovascular disease recently lowered target cholesterol levels, meaning that even more people are likely to be prescribed statins in the future, Pescatello adds.

Muscle symptoms associated with the drugs range from mild complaints such as pain, cramps, and weakness to muscle protein

breakdown, known as rhabdomyolysis, which is extremely rare but can lead to kidney failure and death.

Dr. Paul Thompson, director of cardiology at Hartford Hospital, is the grant's principal investigator. Pescatello is the site principal investigator for UConn. Michael White, a UConn professor of pharmacy practice who has a clinical appointment at Hartford Hospital, is a site principal investigator there, responsible for double-blinding the randomized trial. The University of Massachusetts is the third site participating in the study.

"According to most studies, statins produce a 30 percent reduction in cardiovascular disease," says Thompson. "That's phenomenal."

He notes that about 10 percent of patients taking statins report muscle pain, but it is harder to judge the number of people experiencing muscle weakness.

"In this study, we're measuring changes in exercise performance and actual damage to muscle," Thompson says. "Even if you don't have muscle pain, do statins diminish muscle strength and performance?"

Double-blind study

The research team is recruiting 440 participants (220 men and 220 women) over 20 years of age at the three study sites.

Because age may affect the incidence of statin-induced muscle disease or myopathy, the researchers will split equal numbers of male and female participants into three age groups: 20-39 year olds, 40-59 year olds, and those aged 60

and older.

All participants will have blood serum measured for baseline lipids or cholesterol levels, as well as for liver, kidney and thyroid function. They also will complete a baseline muscle symptom questionnaire and take part in an exercise performance test.

They will then be randomly assigned to a group taking a placebo or to a group taking 80 mg of a statin daily. Neither the participants nor the researchers will know who is in which group.

The research team will call participants twice a month to ascertain muscle symptoms, and will see them after three months for a safety assessment, including additional blood work.

After six months or at the onset of muscle symptoms suggesting myopathy, participants will undergo exercise testing identical to that conducted at the start of the study.

The research team also will collect blood and store DNA samples from participants for future research to identify and analyze genetic variants that may affect the degree to which patients taking statins experience muscle pain and weakness.

Pescatello hopes that ultimately, the study's findings may lead to the development of cholesterol-lowering drugs devoid of muscle symptoms.

Pescatello's research team is still recruiting study participants age 40 and older. Those interested in participating should contact kinesiology graduate student Matthew Kostek at 860-486-2812.



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Linda Pescatello, standing, professor of kinesiology, and Matthew Kostek, left, graduate assistant in kinesiology, working on their study in the lab.

Health Center encourages students to study overseas

BY KRISTINA GOODNOUGH

Medical student Neena Qasba spent most of last summer in Bolivia studying poor women's use of small loans for essential health services. Cheryl Bilinski, an MD/MPH student, spent the summer in Haiti working on a prevention and treatment program for pregnant women and newborns with syphilis.

The two students represent the growing number of Health Center students who study abroad during their graduate school careers. Both say the experience was an invaluable adjunct to their education, giving them an understanding of cultural issues in health care they might not see if they studied only in this country.

Qasba says she came to recognize that there are many cultural barriers to obtaining health care. She worked with women who had successfully used microfinance loans to build small businesses to support themselves and their families. Because of their success with the business loans, they were eligible for small loans for health care services, but they didn't use them very often.

"Barriers to obtaining care

seemed related more to cultural attitudes, such as the lack of trust in doctors and low health care literacy or general knowledge about health care procedures," says Qasba who is analyzing the data for a presentation during Medical/Dental Student Research Day in February.

Bilinski says her experience helped her understand the difficulty of implementing health care protocols in low-resource settings. A simple blood test can detect syphilis in newborns, but in a rural country where laboratories and supplies are scarce, a blood test is not such a simple procedure, she says.

Bilinski adds that her experiences in Haiti affirmed her interest in international health studies, and she hopes to return there to do additional public health research during her fourth year of medical school.

Judy Lewis, professor of community medicine and pediatrics and director of global health education, says the Health Center's program to support foreign study by students has an emphasis on encouraging students to study in "low-resource settings, where they can experience what life is like for

80 percent of the world, as well as gain a sense of how it feels to be 'the other.' This type of immersion helps improve communication and other clinical skills for effective patient care in all settings."

Lewis plans to expand students' access to global health studies with the help of a recent gift from Dr. Edward Hargus, '73, and his wife Maria. She also hopes to attract other donors to help support this work.

Lewis says study and research in

other countries help students think more about what they need to know about a person in order to take care of them, says Lewis.

"We are a nation of immigrants," she says. "Physicians need to understand the culture and background of their patients to provide appropriate health care. They have to know what language their patients are speaking and what their lives are like. They can't find out if they don't ask, and we believe global health studies can help

them better understand the kinds of questions to ask."

The medical school curriculum includes a first-year elective seminar, Community Health Research Methods, that prepares students for the development of international health research proposals. As part of the elective, students conduct research for two months during the summer and then are guided in data analysis by faculty advisors.

Opportunities for clinical work abroad have been available to fourth-year students since 1984, when two medical students went to Lima, Peru, to work in a clinic serving shantytown communities with Stephen Schensul, professor of community medicine and health care, who has developed global health studies with Lewis.

Since 1984, more than 18 faculty members have established relationships with institutions in other countries where students can work; and informal program relationships support students in many more countries. More than 300 students have taken part in global health studies, traveling to Puerto Rico and 67 other countries.



PHOTO BY CHERYL BILINSKI

Cheryl Bilinski, an MD/MPH student, examines a patient at a clinic for pregnant women in Haiti, where she spent the summer.

PATENTS & LICENSES

The following lists of patents received and licenses and options granted were supplied to the *Advance* by the Center for Science and Technology Commercialization.

U.S. patents granted to the University from January through June 2008

Inventor(s)	Title	Patent#	Date Issued
Sotzing, G.	<i>Method of Crosslinking Intrinsically Conductive Polymers or Intrinsically Conductive Polymer Precursors and the Articles Obtained Therefrom</i>	7,321,012	Jan. 22
Makriyannis, A., Deng, H.	<i>Cannabimimetic Ligands</i>	7,329,651	Feb. 12
Sotzing, G., Waller, F., Robeson, L.	<i>Polymers Comprising Thieno [3,4-B] Thiophene and Methods of Making and Using the Same</i>	7,332,223	Feb. 19
Taylor, G., Cai, J.	<i>Optoelectronic Circuit Employing a Heterojunction Thyristor Device to Convert a Digital Optical Signal to a Digital Electrical Signal</i>	7,332,752	Feb. 19
Taylor, G., Dehmubed, R.	<i>Multifunctional Optoelectronic Thyristor and Integrated Circuit and Optical Transceiver Employing Same</i>	7,333,731	Feb. 19
Taylor, G., Dehmubed, R., Upp, D.	<i>Optoelectronic Clock Generator Producing High Frequency Optoelectronic Pulse Trains with Variable Frequency and Variable Duty Cycle and Low Jitter</i>	7,333,733	Feb. 19
Makriyannis, A., Khanolkar, A.	<i>Bicyclic Cannabinoid Agonists for the Cannabinoid Receptor</i>	7,335,688	Feb. 26
Howell, A., Taboada, R., Richardson, S.	<i>Substituted Oxetanes, Method of Making, and Method of Use Thereof</i>	7,351,827	April 1
Sthambaram, S., Son, Y.-C., Suib, S.	<i>Method of Making Imines</i>	7,355,075	April 8
Jain, F., Papadimi- trakopoulos, F.	<i>Site-Specific Nanoparticle Self-Assembly</i>	7,368,370	May 6
Mather, P., Liu, C., Campo, C.	<i>Blends of Amorphous and Semicrystalline Polymers Having Shape Memory Properties</i>	7,371,799	May 13
Erkey, C., Hara, H.	<i>Aerogel and Metallic Compositions</i>	7,378,450	May 27
Taylor, G.	<i>Modulation Doped Thyristor and Complementary Transistor Combination for a Monolithic Optoelectronic Integrated Circuit</i>	7,385,230	June 10



PHOTO BY JESSICA TOMMASELLI

Tamra Van Hausen, a student, plays the French horn at von der Mehden Recital Hall Nov. 2.

Licenses and options granted by the University from January through June 2008

Inventor(s)	Technology	Company
Meyer, T.	<i>Algorithm for Shape of Earth Calculations</i>	Wolfram Research
Suib, S.	<i>Molecular Weight-Based Chemical Synthesis Method</i>	ABB Lummus
Lefrancois, L.	<i>Interleukin 15/Interleukin 15-Receptor as Adjuvant</i>	Marine Polymers Technology
Campagnola, P.	<i>Dual Photon Nanofabrication</i>	3M
Wei, M.	<i>Calcium Phosphate/Polymer Composite</i>	Teleflex
Parnas, R.	<i>Biodiesel Continuous Flow Method</i>	DBS Energy

Researchers seek to identify Pequot War battlefield sites

BY SHERRY FISHER

The Pequot War, a conflict between English settlers and the Pequot tribe, is the focus of a new comprehensive study by a team of UConn researchers.

Kevin McBride, associate professor of anthropology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS), says the war, which took place from 1636 to 1638 in southern New England, remains one of the most misinterpreted and least understood events in the history of early America.

McBride is working on the project with Connecticut State Historian Walter Woodward, assistant professor of history in CLAS, State Archaeologist Nick Bellantoni, and the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center. Funded by the National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program, the project aims to identify and preserve battlefields and historical sites associated with the Pequot War.

"The English wanted to eliminate the powerful Pequot," says McBride. "It was the first time a policy of cultural genocide was perpetuated upon a native people in North America. The English justified what they did through a variety of means, including vilifying the Pequot and making them evil." But although the English tried to wipe out the Pequot tribe, two communities survived and are known today as the Mashantucket Pequot and the Eastern Pawcatuck Pequot tribes.

"The war was far more than the single attack by the English and their Mohegan and Narragansett allies on the tribe's forti-

fied village at Mystic in 1637," McBride says. Lasting for more than two years, there were several major battles and skirmishes that extended over what is now southwestern Rhode Island, coastal Connecticut, the Connecticut River Valley, northeastern Connecticut, and parts of eastern New York.

The war changed the political and social landscape of southern New England, he says: "The massacre at Mystic Fort, as was the English intent, demonstrated to all native people in southern New England and

elsewhere, the English ability and will to wage total war against real and imagined enemies."

The early phases of the research include identifying and analyzing narratives, accounts, and descriptions of the war, a review of scholarly and antiquarian works, an analysis of military strategies, and an analysis of artifacts.

About a dozen prospective battlefield sites have already been identified. The researchers will also search for physical evidence

through archaeological investigations.

McBride says that documents from commanders in the war have provided information about battlefield locations. "It's taken a lot of analysis to figure out where these battlefields are," he says.

The researchers are now in the process of notifying and talking to land owners to get permission to conduct archaeological investigations on their property.

The Pequot War was taught in American history books throughout the 19th century, but is not often studied outside academic circles, McBride says. He notes that the conflict provides a rich source of information about a particular time in history.

"We don't know that much about the early colonial history of the region of southern New England," he says, "and the war is an incredible window into that."

He adds, "We took the opportunity through this grant to explore many aspects of the Pequot War. We initially looked at this as a one-year grant process and now we're looking at probably four to five years. It's a pretty extensive piece of work."

The war lives on in the memories of the descendants of the colonists and native peoples of southern New England, McBride says: Each year members of the Pequot Tribe gather on the anniversary of the Mystic Massacre for a "First Light" ceremony to commemorate and honor the more than 500 Pequot men, women, and children who were massacred at the Mystic Fort on June 11, 1637.

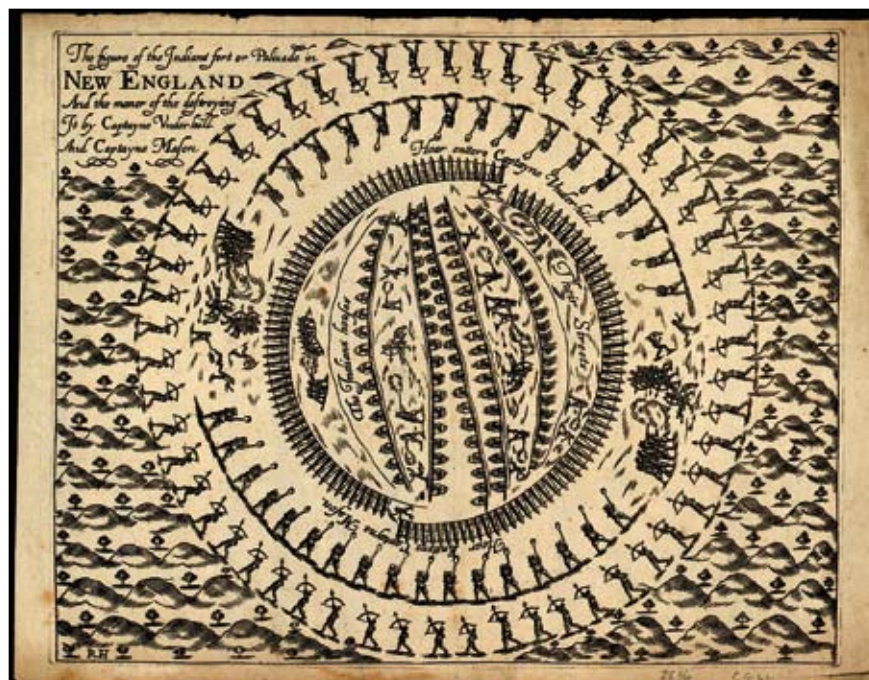


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT MUSEUM & RESEARCH CENTER

A woodcut of the Mystic Massacre in 1637, commissioned by John Underhill, the co-commander of the English forces.

CALENDAR Monday, November 10, to Monday, November 17

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, Nov. 17 through Monday, Dec. 1, as the *Advance* will not be published the week of Thanksgiving. Those items must be in the database by 4 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 10.

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. 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.

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.

Ph.D. Defenses

Monday, 11/10 - Polymer Science. *Synthesis and Properties of Poly (lactic acid) Ionomers*, by Andrew Ro (adv.: Weiss). 10 a.m., Room IMS 20, Gant Science Complex.

Tuesday, 11/12 - Economics. *Three Essays on the Consequences of Job Displacement*, by Nicholas Jolly (adv.: Couch). 9:30 a.m., Room 339, Monteith Building.

Thursday, 11/13 - Environmental Engineering. *A Discretized Moisture Content Method for Simulating the Infiltration and Redistribution of Water in Soil*, by Cary Talbot (adv.: Ogden). 11 a.m., Room 306, Castleman Building.

Monday, 11/17 - English. *Antebellum at Sea: United States Maritime Narratives and Constructions of Fantasy*, by Jason Berger (adv.: Phillips). 10 a.m., Stern Lounge, CLAS Building.

Monday, 11/17 - Social Work. *Electing the Right People: A Survey of Elected Social Workers and Candidates*, by Shannon Lane (adv.: Humphreys). 5:30 p.m., Room 220, School of Social Work Building, Greater Hartford Campus.

Meetings

Monday, 11/10 - University Senate. 4-6 p.m., Room 7, Bishop Center.

Tuesday, 11/11 - Parking Advisory Committee. 2 p.m., Room 321, School of Business.

Lectures & Seminars

Monday, 11/10 - Institute for African American Studies. "The Audacious Josephine Baker: Pleasure, Power, and Blackness," with Terri Francis, Yale University. 4 p.m., Class of '47 Room, Babbidge Library.

Monday, 11/10 - Gender & History Lecture. "The Strange History of America's First Sex Manual," by Mary Fissell, Johns Hopkins University. 4:30 p.m., Konover Auditorium.

Monday, 11/10 - Rainbow Center Panel. "Don't Ask, Don't Tell; The Real Story," panel of GLBT military veterans. 5 p.m., Room SU 403.

Tuesday, 11/11 - India Studies Lecture. "Globalization: India Present at the Creation," by Nayan Chanda, Yale University. 3:30 p.m., Class of '47 Room, Babbidge Library.

Wednesday, 11/12 - Judaic Studies Faculty Forum. "Children's Picture Books about the Holocaust from a Writer's Perspective," by Joan Sidney, writer-in-residence. Noon, Room 162, Dodd Center.

Wednesday, 11/12 - Rainbow Center Lecture. "Transgenderism, Medicine, Advocacy, and the Law," with Mary Burke. Noon, Room 403, Student Union.

Wednesday, 11/12 - Celebrate Women. "Feng Shui - Healing the Space Around You," Lin Hunting Congdon, consultant. 6 p.m., Low Learning Center, Health Center. Call 860-679-8899 to register.

Thursday, 11/13 - Comparative Pathology Seminar. "Surfaced Enhanced Raman Spectroscopy Biosensing," by Ralph Tripp, University of Georgia-Athens. 11 a.m., Room A001, Atwater Laboratory.

Thursday, 11/13 - Faculty Colloquium. "Contemporary Culture and the Increase in Depression: The Youth Cohort," by James Perrone. Noon, GE Global Classroom, Stamford Campus.

Thursday, 11/13 - CHIP Lecture Series. "Shape Up Rhode Island," with Rajiv Kumar and Brad Weinberg, Brown University. 12:30 p.m., Room 204, Ryan Refectory.

Thursday, 11/13 - Robert Gray Memorial Lecture. By Keith Lockhart, conductor of the Boston Pops. 2 p.m., von der Mehden.

Thursday, 11/13 - German Studies Lecture. Filmmaking in Times of Censorship, by Rainer Simon. 3 p.m., Room 339, Arjona.

Thursday, 11/13 - Litchfield County Writers Discussion. "Losing the Way," with Kristen Skedgell, author. 3:45 p.m., Hogan Lecture Hall, Torrington Campus.

Thursday, 11/13 - Robert G. Mead Jr. Lecture. Lecture by Jorge Bustamante, Notre Dame University. 4 p.m., Konover Auditorium.

Thursday, 11/13 - Indian Studies Lecture. "Waking From Dreams of India," with Neil Chowdry, Cazenovia College. 4 p.m., Room 101, Art & Art History Building.

Friday, 11/14 - Polymer Science Seminar. "Biodegradable Nanocomposites for Medical Applications," by Patrick Mather, Syracuse University. 11 a.m., Room IMS20, Gant Science Complex.

Friday, 11/14 - Environmental Engineering Seminar. "Understanding and Simulating Hydrologic Processes and System Response in Complex Watershed," by Charles Downer, U.S. Army. Noon, Room 212, Castleman Building.

Friday, 11/14 - Hydrologic Science Cyberseminar. Presented by Aris Georgakakos, Georgia Tech. 3 p.m., Room 306, Castleman Building.

Friday, 11/14 - Physics Colloquium. "Molecular Simulations of Lubrication and Damage in Self-Assembled Monolayers," by Michael Chandross, Sandia National Laboratories. 4 p.m., Room P38, Gant Science Complex.

Friday, 11/14 - Linguistics Colloquium. "Fearful Symmetry: 'Similar' and 'Similar Concepts'," by Lila Gleitman, UPenn. 4:30 p.m., Room 311, Arjona.

Friday, 11/14 - Foreign Policy Seminar. "Rethinking Cold War History: For the Soul of Mankind," by Melvyn Leffler, Univ. of Virginia. 5 p.m., Basement Lounge, Wood Hall.

Monday, 11/17 - Middle East Studies Lecture. "Territorial Expansion in Post Colonial Times: The Israeli Settlement Project in Comparative Perspective," by Ehud Eiran, Harvard. Noon, Room 119, Monteith.

Exhibits

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., Main and Mezzanine Lobbies. Also, through Wednesday, 1/7, abstract paintings by Tory Cowles, and photographs by Melissa Post. Daily, 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Celeste LeWitt Gallery.

Through Sunday, 11/30 - Ballard Institute & Museum of Puppetry. *Puppets through the Lens*. Depot Campus, Friday-Sunday, noon-5 p.m.

Free admission, donations welcome. **Through Friday, 12/5 - Contemporary Art Galleries.** *Maritime: Ships, Pirates & Disasters*. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free admission. **Through Friday, 12/19 - Babbidge Library.** *Offline*, art & craft by library staff, Gallery on the Plaza; *Portraits of Nature*, photos by Carolanne Markowitz, Stevens Gallery. **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; Tibetan Tangkas*, exhibition of fabric art pieces from



PHOTO FROM THE HEALTH CENTER AUXILIARY WEB SITE
A work by Tory Cowles, on display at the Celeste LeWitt Gallery at the Health Center.

Peter Polomski & Richard Allen. Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday, 1-4:30 p.m. **Through Sunday, 12/20 - Alexey von Schluppe Gallery.** Works by Katherine Axilrod, Robert Hauschild, Susan Madacsi, and William Shockley. Weds.-Sun., noon-4 p.m. Members and students free. Avery Point.

Performing Arts

Wednesday, 11/10 - Puppet Forum. *Fantastic Flexitoons*, with Craig Marin & Olga Felgemacher, puppeters. 7:30 p.m., Ballard Institute, Depot Campus. Free admission.

Thursday, 11/13 - Creative Sustenance. *My Nose and Me: A TragedyLite or TragiDelight in 33 Scenes*, by John Surowiecki. 7 p.m., Nafe Katter Theatre. Free admission.

Thursday, 11/13 - Symphonic Band. David Mills, conductor. 8 p.m., von der Mehden. \$7 for adults, free for students and children.

Friday, 11/14 - Brass & Woodwind Ensembles. Louis Hanzlik, director. 8 p.m., St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel. Free admission.

Saturday, 11/15 - Student Recital. Carlynn Savot. 6 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Free admission.

Saturday, 11/15 - Collegium Musicum. *L'Amour, la mort, et la vie: Love and War in French Music of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance*, Eric Rice, director. 8 p.m., St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel. Free.

Sunday, 11/16 - Opera Theatre. Gary Durham, stage director and Matthew Larsen, musical director. 3 p.m., von der Mehden. \$7 for adults, free for students and children.

Monday, 11/17 - Saxophone

Quartet. Greg Case, director. 3 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Free admission.

Films

Monday, 11/10 - Rainer Simon Film. *Jadup and Boel* followed by *The Airship*. 4 p.m., Videotheater 1, Babbidge Library. Free admission. **Thursday, 11/13 - Rainer Simon Film.** *Jadup and Boel*. Noon, Videotheater 2, Babbidge Library. Free admission. **Thursday, 11/13 - Latin American Film.** *Bordertown*. 7 p.m., Room 437, Student Union. Free admission. **Thursday, 11/13 - International Film.** *Atonement*. 9 p.m., Student Union Theatre. Admission fee: \$2 students, \$4 non-students. **Friday, 11/14 - Rainer Simon Film.** *The Airship*. Noon, Videotheater 1, Babbidge Library. Free admission. **Friday, 11/14 - International Film.** *Amelie*. 10 p.m., Student Union

\$2 students, \$4 non-students.

Athletics

Tuesday, 11/11 - Men's Ice Hockey vs. Yale. 7:05 p.m., Freitas Ice Forum. **Wednesday, 11/12 - Women's Basketball vs. Team SRP.** 7 p.m., XL Center.

Friday, 11/14 - Men's Basketball vs. Western Carolina. 7:30 p.m., Gampel Pavilion.

Sunday, 11/16 - Women's Basketball vs. Georgia Tech. 2 p.m., Gampel Pavilion.

Monday, 11/17 - Men's Basketball vs. Hartford. 7 p.m., XL Center.

Potpourri

Monday, 11/10 - Retirement Benefits Seminar. Presentation sponsored by Human Resources. 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., & 1:30 p.m., Konover Auditorium.

Monday, 11/10 - Veterans Memorial Dedication. 11 a.m., CLAS Quad, in front of Wilbur Cross Building.

Monday, 11/10 - Literary Reading. With Ravi Shankar, poet. 4:30 p.m., UConn Co-op.

Tuesday, 11/11 - Retirement Benefits Seminar. Presentation sponsored by the Department of Human Resources. Noon, Room 131, Stamford Campus.

Tuesday, 11/11 - Author Event. Launch for *The Hour I First Believed*, with Wally Lamb, author. 6 p.m., UConn Co-op. Benefit event.

Wednesday, 11/12 - Humanities Institute Workshop. Fellowship application workshop with Richard Brown and Charles Mahoney. 3:30 p.m., Room 301, CLAS Building. Call 860-486-9057 to register.

Thursday, 11/13 - Author Event. *Ross Miller on Philip Roth*. 4 p.m., UConn Co-op.

Saturday, 11/15 - World Fest. International fair and cultural dance festival. All day. SU Ballroom.

Saturday, 11/15 - Avery Point Open House. 9 a.m.-noon. Call 860-405-9026 or see www.averypoint.uconn.edu

Saturday, 11/15 - Law School Open House. 10 a.m.-noon. Starr Building, Law School.

Saturday, 11/15 - 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., State Museum of Natural History.

Sunday, 11/16 - Exploring the Dodd Research Center. Presented by Laura Katz Smith. Adults and children 10 and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult. 3 p.m., Reading Room, Dodd Center.

Monday, 11/17 - Retirement Benefits Seminar. Presentation sponsored by Human Resources. 10 a.m., and 1 p.m., Room 103, Marine Sciences Building, Avery Point..

Charitable campaign underway

The 2008 Connecticut State Employee Charitable Campaign is underway.

"With the economy the way it is today, and the way it's expected to perform for at least another year, we really have to step up and do what we can to help this year," says Stefanie Landsman, an alumni relations coordinator in the Division of Student Affairs who is this year's coordinator for the Storrs campus. "There are literally 1,000 ways to help, and a donation of just \$1 a paycheck can do so much."

Last year, faculty and staff in Storrs contributed more than \$160,000 to the CSECC, a record for Storrs. Employees at the Health Center last year contributed more than \$170,000.

"It's important that we give back to the community services in our towns and cities that support us, our jobs, and our mission as Connecticut's flagship public university," says President Michael Hogan. "At a time like this, when our communities are at risk and our service agencies are stretched to their limits, we all need to step up to help our neighbors who face very challenging circumstances. This act of giving brings us together in common purpose, for a public good. Even a small contribution makes a difference, and shows that you care."

Employees should receive their information packets this week, says Landsman. The campaign runs until Dec. 5.

Study shows 'ripple effect' of weight loss programs among couples

BY COLIN POITRAS

Behavioral psychologist Amy Gorin has good news for married couples trying to maintain a healthy weight.

Gorin is the lead author of a study published in the *International Journal of Obesity* that shows there is a definite "ripple effect" among spouses when one marital partner takes part in a behaviorally-based weight loss program.

While much has been published regarding the tendency of couples to gain weight together after marriage, Gorin's research looked at the potential positive side of cohabitation when it comes to weight loss.

Gorin's study, published in the journal's September issue, found that couples tend to lose weight together too – even if only one person actually goes on a structured diet.

Lifestyle changes

The study compared the body weights of 357 couples over the course of a year.

Researchers specifically studied whether the spouses of overweight individuals with type 2 diabetes who were enrolled in an intensive weight loss program lost more weight and made more healthy changes in their lifestyle than the spouses of people with type 2 diabetes assigned to a control group.

Spouses of individuals enrolled in the more intense program lost an average of five pounds, even though they did not participate in the weight loss program themselves. In some cases, the ripple effect was even more pronounced.

In one case, a husband lost 35 pounds through the intense lifestyle intervention while his untreated wife lost 14 pounds. In another, a woman in the intense dieting program lost 19 pounds and her untreated husband lost 19 pounds also. In a third case, a woman lost 9 pounds while her untreated husband lost 6.

"To the best of our knowledge this study is the first to document that behavioral weight loss treatment delivered to one spouse has a clinically significant impact on the weight of the untreated spouse," says Gorin, an assistant professor of psychology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences who specializes in weight control strategies, motivational techniques, and social influences regarding weight loss.

Over the course of a year, the spouses of participants in the more intensive weight loss program lost, on average, nearly 3 percent of their body weight compared to losses of less than 0.25 percent by the spouses of those participants in the less intense program.

Gorin believes the ripple effect may be due to untreated spouses emulating their partners' healthier behavior by joining them in doing such things as counting calories, weighing themselves more often, and eating lower-fat foods.

"When we change our eating and exercise habits, it can spill over in a positive way to other people," Gorin says. "This is evidence that if you change your own behavior, you may motivate others around you and get them motivated as well."

Buying food online

Gorin is a principal investigator for several National Institutes of Health-funded research grants at the University's Center for Health, Intervention and Prevention (CHIP).

In a separate study released last fall, she found that some people trying to lose weight may also benefit from buying their groceries online and taking advantage of home delivery services such as Peapod.com.

The 2007 study, published in the *International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity*, showed that individuals on weight loss plans who purchased their groceries from the online service Peapod.com bought 28 percent fewer high-fat foods than those who purchased items at their local



PHOTO BY JESSICA TOMMASELLI

Amy Gorin, assistant professor of psychology.

supermarket.

"Making food choices online helps people avoid the temptations of high-fat impulse purchases in their local grocery store," says Gorin, the study's lead author.

"Many online grocery shopping sites also help consumers make healthier food choices by allowing them to sort their purchases by

calorie and fat content," she says.

Gorin recently received financial support from CHIP to create an obesity research interest group in Storrs, with the goal of fostering interdisciplinary research on the topic at Storrs campus and with researchers from the UConn Health Center in Farmington.

Students turn out to vote in record numbers

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

One of President Michael Hogan's First Year Experience students rushed into class late Nov. 4. He explained that he had been working the polls at the Mansfield Community Center, where students were waiting up to three hours in line to vote.

After class, Hogan went to the Community Center, where the line snaked out onto the sidewalk and students were starting to get cold as it grew dark.

Then he went to speak with Mansfield Mayor Betsy Paterson, who was also concerned about the long wait for voters. Eventually, another line was created, to keep people moving, at least during the last one and half hours until the polls closed at 8 p.m.

The precinct is dominated by UConn students, faculty, and staff, and this year, there was a 40 percent increase in voters there, according to Jeffrey Czerwiec, an organizer for the Connecticut Public Interest Research Group (ConnPIRG). "It was great to see the president out there talking with students who braved the long lines," he said. "He provided a little bit of encouragement."

The election captured the interest of students, Czerwiec said, and this year's voter registration drive netted 3,608 students, about 22 percent of the undergraduate population. "This is such an incredible accomplishment when compared

to previous years. In 2006, 1,642 students were registered, and in 2004, 2,200."

The voter registration drive was highly successful, with more than 5,200 voting in Mansfield Precinct One, compared with just over 3,700 in 2004.

Czerwiec credits the success of the program to ConnPIRG's ability to talk with students in "dorm storms." The residence hall visits were allowed under a new policy on canvassing adopted by Residential Life in response to queries from ConnPIRG and others. The policy allowed students to canvass other students, provided they registered with Residential Life three days in advance. This enabled students to talk one-on-one about voting, while also protecting the safety of the students in the residence halls.

About 1,800 of the students who voted this year used shuttles organized by UConn Votes that picked them up at five different spots on campus. Others made their own way to the polls.

Hartford Courant sports columnist Jeff Jacobs noted that UConn athletes were among the students excited about the election. One basketball player, Jonathan Mandelove, told Jacobs, "I want to tell my children one day that I was part of history. And I want them to tell their children. I felt proud today. I felt honored. We are the difference-makers. It's in our hands."

Presidential election panel *continued from page 1*

African Americans to be able to participate in the election."

She said the weak economy helped Obama appeal to voters across ethnic lines. "People were thinking more about economy than about race," she said.

Ladewig said public opinion has shifted as to which party can best handle the economy, thanks to a satisfactory performance under President Bill Clinton and a disastrous second term under President George W. Bush. He said Obama did not run against just Sen. John McCain, but also against Bush and Ronald Reagan. His platform represented a "repudiation of supply side economics," Ladewig said, adding that, if successful, it could affect the way the country views the economy overall.

Dyson pointed to leadership style as an important factor. During the campaign, he said, "Obama was revealed as a decision-maker who's deliberative, cool under pressure, and takes advice from a wide range of sources."

Characterizing the current President as 'trust-my-gut Bush,' Dyson added, "[Obama] is the 'anti-Bush' in terms of how he makes decisions." He said McCain also came across as an impulsive decision-maker.

One audience member asked whether the election outcome was the result of a bad campaign on McCain's part. Did Obama win? Or did McCain lose the election, he asked.

Ladewig noted that during the

primaries, McCain was seen as being in the best position to win of any Republican, and he was running against an African American.

In the early days of the campaign, McCain was quite successful, pursuing the traditional Republican route, but that changed with the economic downturn.

"Could McCain have run the perfect campaign and won?" asked Schurin. "When the stock market drops 40 percent in the weeks before an election and with two unpopular wars, it is very hard to see how he could have done that."

Dyson – a British citizen – said globally, there is a "massive amount of good will" toward Obama around the world, whereas "Bush has no constituency anywhere but the United States."

However, the structural situation remains: "America is the most powerful state in the world," he said, "and the most powerful state will inevitably provoke opposition."

He said the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan will pose a challenge for Obama. "He will not repudiate much of Bush's war on terror," Dyson said. "He will talk differently, but structurally he will do the same things."

Several panelists noted that the biggest constraint on the Democratic agenda will be lack of funds.

"Obama may not be able to do any of the things he promised, other than health care reform," predicted Schurin.

Noting that raising taxes is politically risky, Nunnally said

Obama's plan to tax the wealthiest 5 percent might work, because it would not affect the majority of the population, but agreed that major initiatives might require a broader tax increase.

Speculating about other issues that may face Obama as President, Ladewig suggested that education policy could be "an easy victory," because of the unpopularity of Bush's approach.

Obama will also be judged on how he handles the unanticipated.

In a reference to the Iran hostage crisis during Jimmy Carter's presidency, Schurin noted that during the 1978 presidential contest between Gerald Ford and Carter "no one once used the word Iran. We don't know what will come up ... If Obama handles surprise well, he will be a success."

Responding to a question about what the Republicans – who also lost seats in both the U.S. House and the Senate – should do to be viable in four years' time, Ladewig suggested the party should expand its base. He said limits placed on immigration during the Bush administration had hurt the party's standing among Latinos.

Schurin said a move to the right, might help, with the party tailoring a conservative message to its constituents.

Asked whether Republican vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin has a future on the national scene, Nunnally said she would need to adopt "a more serious approach."