UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
Advance

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Photo by Frank Dahlmeyer

UConn students Dymitri Dutkanicz, left, a U.S. Army veteran, and Dimitry Nussberg, a Marine Corps veteran, salute in front of the new memorial during the Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 10.

Cost savings task force established by President

by Richard Veilleux & Elizabeth Omara-Otunnu

In response to the economic recession, University President Michael J. Hogan has announced a broad-based effort to identify cost savings, efficiencies, and revenue enhancements. The initiative will be led by a new group, the Costs, Operations, & Revenue Efficiencies (CORE) Task Force, that will examine a wide range of University operations with the goal of protecting core academic programs and strategic priorities.

The task force, comprising faculty, staff, and administrators, will be co-chaired by Executive Vice President and Provost Peter Nicholls, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Richard Gray, and Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Barry Feldman.

The charge to the task force is posted on the president's web site (http://www.president.uconn.edu/pdf/SenatePresReport111008.pdf).

Among the areas the group will examine are budgeting, utilities, productivity, administrative procedures, procurement, and information technology systems. The task force's initial report is due in spring 2009.

In a written statement to the University Senate (http://www.president.uconn.edu/pdf/CORE_TaskForce_Charge.pdf), Hogan noted that most of the University's resources are "tied up in faculty, staff, and services that are essential to our academic mission." In light of that, he said, rescissions are painful and must be made "with an eye to minimizing the adverse impact on the education we provide, the research we conduct, and the revenues we generate.

"We must make every effort to impose efficiencies, contain costs, and seek every additional dollar of revenue possible in order to help us meet our obligation to the state and to our students," he said.

At the same time, Hogan pledged to continue to vigorously present the University's case to the General Assembly, the Office of Policy and Management, and others in state government in an effort to avoid rescissions beyond those already experienced.

On Nov. 12, Gov. M. Jodi Rell announced new state deficit estimates for fiscal years 2010 and 2011 of $2.6 billion and $3.3 billion respectively.

Hogan has asked the task force to iden-

see Cost savings task force page 2

Beta blockers reduce risk of heart attack, increase stroke risk, large-scale study confirms

by Colin Poitras

In one of the most stringent studies to date of the popular blood pressure-lowering drugs known as beta blockers, researchers at the UConn/Hartford Hospital Evidence-based Practice Center have confirmed that these drugs reduce the chances of a heart attack following non-cardiac surgery but increase the risk of having a stroke.

The findings were presented at the American Heart Association's 2008 Scientific Sessions research conference in New Orleans Nov. 10 and were featured in a special "Best of Scientific Sessions" webcast highlighting the latest advancements in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of cardiovascular disease and stroke.

Ripple Talati, an adjunct assistant professor of pharmacy and a cardiovascular pharmacology and outcomes fellow, authored the study. She was joined by adjunct assistant professor and cardiac pharmacology fellow Kurt Reinhart; the practice center's director and pharmacy professor C. Michael White, and assistant professor of pharmacy practice Craig Coleman, who also serves as the center's methods chief. Drs. Art Sedrakyan, task order officer for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and Jeffrey Kluger, the center's associate director, also served as co-authors of the report.

The findings were based on a stringent analysis of six clinical trials involving more than 10,000 patients worldwide who participated in random, double-blind trials and who had never taken a beta blocker before.

The study found that beta blockers reduced the odds of a patient having a heart attack by 26 percent but nearly doubled the chances of a patient having a stroke.

People deemed at high risk of stroke before major surgery showed little additional risk from taking beta blockers, while patients considered at low risk of stroke significantly increased their risk, the study said. The study also showed beta blockers significantly increased some patients' likelihood of having problems with low blood pressure or low heart rate following surgery.

While the researchers caution that more studies are needed to evaluate the underlying cause of the findings, they urge

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Photo by Frank Dahlmeyer

Author and alumnus Wally Lamb launches a national book tour for his new novel, *The Hour I First Believed,* at the UConn Co-op on Nov. 11.

Former director of Jorgensen dies

by Sherry Fisher

Arppie Charkoudian, former director of Jorgensen Auditorium, died Oct. 30. She was 82.

She lived in Storrs for many years, and recently had moved to Springfield, Mass.

Charkoudian came to Storrs in 1958 as an assistant to the first director of Jorgensen Auditorium, as the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts was then known. She spent the next four decades there, serving as house manager, business manager, associate director, and executive director. She retired in 1998.

"Arppie was a true advocate for the cultural arts, particularly classical music," says Rodney Rock, director of Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. "Chamber music was her first love. During her tenure, the numbers climbed in that series."

Rock adds, "Jorgensen has a wonderful history and reputation and Arppie worked hard to continue that reputation."

Emanuel Wexler, emeritus professor of economics, says, "Music was her life. She was very attached to Jorgensen Auditorium and did a wonderful job."

Wexler adds, "She was one of the friendliest and warmest persons I've ever met. She was giving, generous, and outgoing."

Charkoudian was an active member of St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church, the Armenian Relief Society, and the Armenian National Committee.

She is survived by two sisters, a brother, three nieces and a nephew.

Memorial contributions in her memory may be made to St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church or to the Armenian Relief Fund, 135 Goodwin Street, Indian Orchard, MA 01151.

Entomology expert James Slater dies

by Sherry Fisher

James Slater, professor emeritus of ecology and evolutionary biology, died Nov. 2. He was 88.

Slater, who lived in Rockford, Ill., joined the UConn faculty in 1953 and retired in 1988. An expert in entomology, Slater was a world authority on heteropteran insects. Heteroptera are also known as 'true bugs' or, more precisely, 'typical bugs.' During his tenure at UConn, he served as department head in several areas of biological sciences. He collected insects in Africa, Australia, Central America, and the West Indies.

Slater earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Illinois, and a Ph.D. from Iowa State University.

Jane O'Donnell, manager of scientific collections and a former graduate student of Slater's, praised his teaching. "He was a very good teacher and role model in terms of how science should be conducted," she says. "He was well respected and world renowned in his specialty."

Carl Schaefer, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, says Slater had "very high scholarly standards," and "enjoyed good conversation."

Slater also applied his keen scientific eye to the study of gravestones and milk glass.

He served as president of the Society of Systematic Zoology, the Connecticut Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi, the National Milk Glass Collectors Society, and the Connecticut Entomological Society, and vice president of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Association for Gravestone Studies.

He was a member of many worldwide entomological societies and served as Connecticut state ornithologist. He was the author of *A Catalogue of the Lygaeidae of the World* published in 1964, as well as books on milk glass and colonial gravestones.

He is survived by his wife Elizabeth, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Arc of Winnebago, Boone, and Ogle Counties, http://www.arcwbo.org/

Panel to discuss energy drinks

You see the ads for them everywhere. Red Bull, Monster, Radioactive, and even SoBE Green Tea are popular energy drinks consumed by teens and adults who want an extra jolt to stay alert. Some people are using them as a mixer with their favorite alcohol. The trendy "pick-me-ups" have become a billion-dollar business and are aggressively marketed to people between the ages of 13 and 35.

Find out what you're putting in your body from UConn experts in nutrition, exercise physiology, and hydration, at a panel titled "Energy Drinks: Harm or Hype?" The event will take place on Wednesday, Nov 19, at 7 p.m. in Konover Auditorium, Thomas J. Dodd Research Center.

Presentations will include, "A Nutritional Perspective," by Nancy Rodriguez, professor of nutritional sciences; "Carbohydrates: The Real Energy in Energy Drinks," by Jeff Volek, associate professor of kinesiology; "Caffeine: The Primary Stimulant," by Lawrence Armstrong, professor of kinesiology; and "Your Health and Energy Drinks: Can They Coexist?" by Dr. Jeffrey Anderson, a physician with Student Health Services. The talks will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

The event, which is sponsored by the Department of Kinesiology in the Neag School of Education, is free and open to the public.

For more information, call 860-486-2647.

Cost savings task force *continued from page 1*

tify ways to achieve cost savings equivalent to between 3 percent and 5 percent of the University's state appropriation, and revenue enhancements, excluding tuition and fees and state appropriations, of between 2 percent and 3 percent.

While emphasizing the seriousness of the budget situation, Hogan also expressed the hope that the University will emerge stronger. He said the task force "will help us imagine new ways of thinking about our day-to-day activities, programs, and operations."

He noted that the task force will consult broadly with constituencies and stakeholders in the areas it examines, and, in an e-mail letter, he invited all members of the University community to make suggestions to the task force co-chairs regarding cost-savings, efficiencies, and revenue enhancements.

"We have some of the most innovative minds in the world right here at UConn," said Hogan. "By engaging members of the University community in this effort, I'm confident we can find new ways to approach our day-to-day work that will generate greater efficiencies, cost savings, and increased revenues."

Possible increases in student charges will be considered separately. Because of the current economic uncertainties, Hogan has decided to delay discussions with the community and the Board of Trustees regarding tuition and fees for the 2010 academic year.

He said that although it is likely tuition and other charges will increase, as they do every year to address increased costs, "we nonetheless want to minimize increasing charges to students or enacting lay-offs in order to manage the budget crisis ahead of us."

The task force will also undertake a review of budgeting and operations at comparable public research universities, as well as efficiency and cost savings strategies at those institutions, to identify "best practices."

UConn has already implemented significant cost reductions as a result of a 3 percent rescission to the University's state appropriation for fiscal year 2009. Substantial savings have been achieved by placing strict limits on out-of-state travel and implementing a hiring freeze, except for the most critical positions. In addition, energy costs have been reduced through conservation measures and efficiencies resulting from the recently constructed cogeneration plant.

Publication notice

The *Advance* will not be published on Nov. 24, owing to the Thanksgiving break. We will resume publishing on Dec. 1. Have a happy Thanksgiving!

Correction

In an article about the ROTC program in the Nov. 10 issue of the *Advance,* it was incorrectly stated that flyers about the program are included in orientation packets. Information about the program is available during orientation to interested students, however.

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
Advance

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Researcher exploring strategies for preventing colon cancer

BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

Daniel Rosenberg is trying to figure out why some early colon lesions are suppressed by non-steroidal anti-inflammatory therapy, while others seem to thrive under similar conditions.

His research has drawn the attention of the National Cancer Institute (NCI), which awarded Rosenberg a $1.8 million grant and identified his work as an "exemplar of NCI-funded translational research." The Institute invited him to speak about his research at its Translational Science Meeting in Washington, D.C., Nov. 7-9.

Rosenberg is a professor of medicine and genetics and developmental biology, an investigator in the Center for Molecular Medicine, and co-director of the Colon Cancer Prevention Program at the UConn Health Center.

Early colon lesions and adenomas – or benign tumors – eventually can become cancerous, but they can be identified and removed during a colonoscopy. Rosenberg's research is focusing on another strategy to prevent development of colon cancer: inhibiting the proliferation of precancerous lesions with what are known as chemoprevention agents.

"There are all kinds of chemoprevention agents of potential use that are out there," Rosenberg says. "Things like red wine and grapes, raspberries, black raspberries, blueberries, and strawberries have components in them that are antioxidants that may be chemopreventive. Green tea and garlic, all these are things that probably have active chemicals in them that are very effective at suppressing cancer, but are natural products and therefore generally nontoxic."

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, or NSAIDs, are another category of chemoprevention agents. In addition to commonly used aspirin, they include drugs such as celecoxib (sold under the trade name Celebrex), and sulindac (Clinoril).

Variable response

"Our grant is focused on the question of why some adenomas will respond to chemoprevention therapy and others won't," Rosenberg says.

This work is a continuation of a study published in the December 2007 issue of the journal *Proteomics*. Rosenberg, and Health Center colleagues Antoine Menoret, Anthony Vella, Glenn Belinsky, and Masako Nakanishi, analyzed biopsy specimens using proteomics, a high-tech process of studying protein structure and function. The specimens were taken from precancerous lesions in animal models that were administered sulindac intervention for two weeks.

"We were able to actually identify specific protein alterations that occurred in that adenoma before and then after drug treatment," Rosenberg says. "The only way you would see a difference is if you did a proteomic analysis to identify what we call post-translational modifications, which are changes that occur in a protein specifically. We can see this change occurring from sulindac."

The plan is to eventually move the research into the human trial stage at the Health Center, in collaboration with Drs. Joe Anderson, Petr Protiva, and Bruce Brenner.

"Hopefully we're going to have adenomas that respond to drug treatment, and adenomas that don't respond," Rosenberg says. "That's the key, to try to understand what makes them responsive or nonresponsive. Because if you're going to place a person on a chemoprevention trial, you want to have an idea that they're going to respond to it and not end up being worse off. It's the key to implementing 'personalized' medicine."

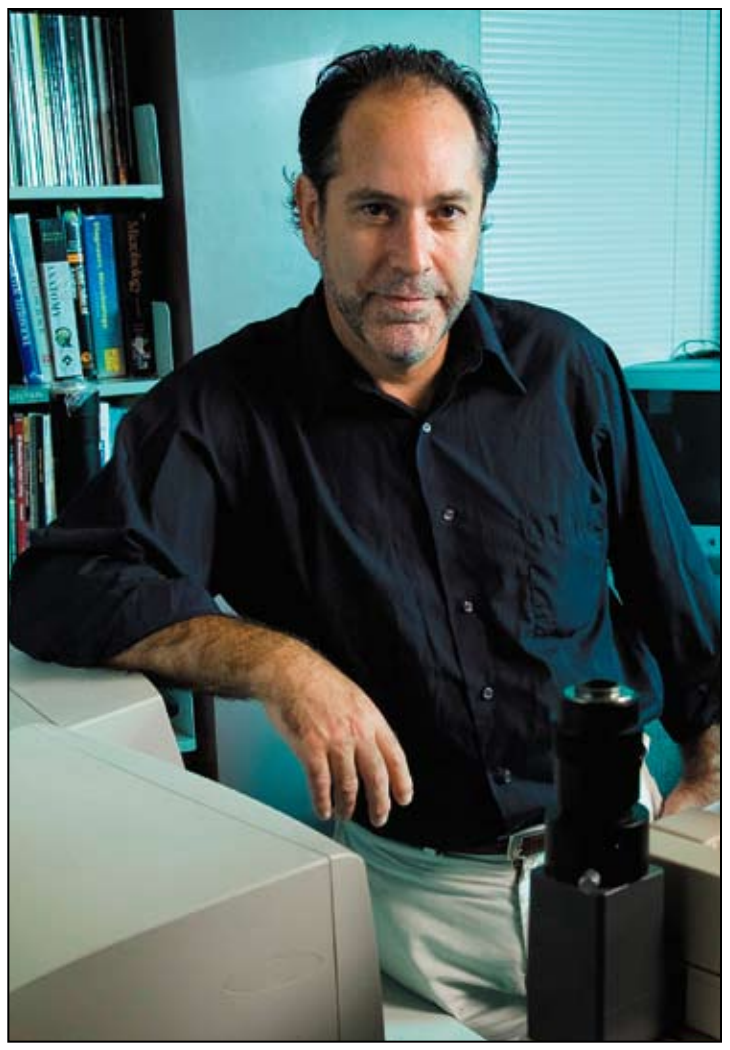


PHOTO BY AL FERREIRA

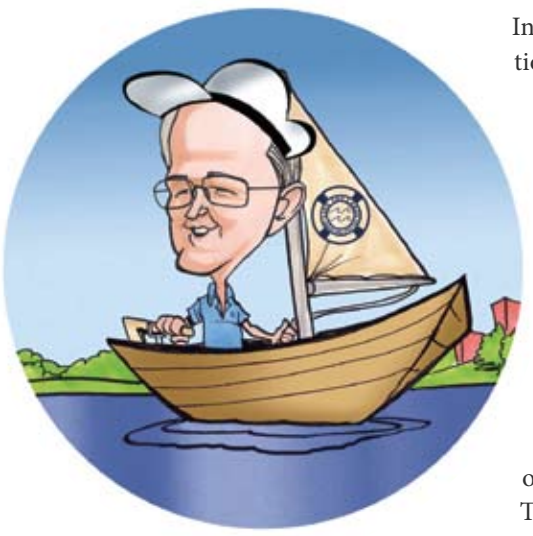
Dr. Daniel Rosenberg at the Health Center has a grant from the National Cancer Institute to study colon cancer prevention.

'Save the Lakes' campaign launched

Building on the success of a cleaning and pruning effort in August that restored much of the charm and beauty to Mirror and Swan lakes, officials have begun a fund-raising campaign to maintain and continue to repair the lakes.

"The job's not done," says University President Michael Hogan on his blog. "We need to re-landscape the areas around the two lakes in ways that will help us maintain clean water and the beautiful view.

And we need to dredge Mirror Lake – an expensive proposition – in order to reach a more lasting solution."



T-shirts for the Save Our Lakes campaign bear a cartoon of President Hogan, in recognition of his support for the initiative.

In an effort to reach such a solu tion, the UConn Foundation has established a Save the Lakes Fund, and Hogan has launched the Save Our Lakes T-shirts, complete with a caricature of him sailing across what is, ostensibly, Mirror Lake. The back of the T-shirt displays a lifesaver, with the words Save Our Lakes across the top and the names of the lakes at the bottom.

The T-shirts are available at Central Exchange, the new convenience store in the Student Union, for $10, of which $3.50 goes to the fund.

Volunteers needed to help at Midnight Breakfast

Faculty, staff, and administrators are invited to take part in this semester's Midnight Breakfast, scheduled to take place in the Student Union on Dec. 7-8, from 10:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

During the breakfast, students can have food served to them by faculty and staff, listen to live entertainment in the Student Union Theatre or North Lobby, and relax with their peers before the start of the exam period.

Volunteers will meet at 9:30 p.m. in Student Union Room 303.

The event, which has become one of the largest community-building events on campus, regularly draws thousands of students and hundreds of volunteers.

To volunteer, call 860-486-3423 or send e-mail to Melissa.Arroyo@uconn.edu by Monday, Dec. 1.

Midnight Breakfast is sponsored by Student Activities, Dining Services, and Student Union staff.

Diversity committee established by Senate

BY ELIZABETH OMARA-OTUNNU

The University Senate has established a new committee to focus on diversity.

The committee, which will meet monthly and will report to the Senate annually in April, brings the total number of Senate standing committees to eight.

The committee will review University policies, practices, and conditions relevant to supporting and promoting diversity among students, faculty, and staff, according to an amendment to the Senate bylaws approved by the Senate during its meeting on Nov. 10.

Anne Hiskes, associate professor of philosophy in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and a member of the Senate Executive Committee, who proposed the new committee, says the idea grew out of a workshop on promoting inclusive leadership, sponsored by the Provost's Commission on the Status on Women.

"The issues are so important," she says, "but there has been no central place that brings together representatives of every aspect of the University to talk about diversity."

The Senate recognized diversity as a broad and open-ended concept, as identified by the University's Diversity Action Committee in 2002, and noted that diversity among student, faculty, and staff populations has been a long-standing goal of the University. In the most recent academic plan, diversity is identified as a specific goal.

The new committee will provide a way for people to bring diversity issues to the attention of the University community and be a venue for discussion of such issues by individuals from a cross-section of schools, colleges, and departments. It is intended to supplement, not change, the efforts of those people and programs currently responsible for promoting diversity.

The committee's membership will comprise a representative of each of the other Senate standing committees, together with two undergraduates and one graduate student.

Hiskes noted that diversity intersects with every other Senate committee, including curricula and courses, enrollment, faculty standards, growth and development, scholastic standards, student welfare, and University budget. Having each of these committees represented on the diversity committee will facilitate communication, she said, and discussion of diversity from multiple perspectives.

She said in addition to members of the Senate, members of the University community at large are invited to serve on the committee.

Business school transforming engineering students into entrepreneurs

Photo by Christopher LaRosa

Richard Dino, associate professor of management, addresses MBA and engineering students during a class on the entrepreneurial process.

by Nan Cooper

Marcian Hoff invented the microprocessor; Stephen Wozniak co-founded Apple Computer; Karlheinz Brandenburg co-developed the MP3 compression scheme.

All are engineers. Yet starting a new business is a risky path for an innovator.

In order to provide undergraduate engineering majors with business tools that will help them become successful entrepreneurs, this fall, the schools of Engineering and Business embarked on a new joint venture.

Ten seniors and 15 juniors majoring in engineering opted to augment their coursework with rigorous MBA-level entrepreneurship classes offered through the School of Business, and to apply their new business know-how to their senior design projects.

Blending different approaches

Richard Dino, an associate professor of management and executive director of the Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation at UConn, says that exposing the engineering students to core business principles and nurturing their awareness of the entrepreneurial approach will give them a distinct advantage with prospective employers.

The future MBAs, also, through their exposure to engineers, will better understand and appreciate the analytical framework that engineers employ in conceiving new ideas, solving technical challenges, and improving upon existing products.

The two MBA-level management courses, both taught by Dino, are Opportunity Generation, Assessment, & Promotion, and Venture Planning, Management, & Growth.

The first leads students through key facets of the entrepreneurial process and helps them create, identify, evaluate, and shape new business opportunities. The second involves a complex business simulation conducted in the context of a competitive high technology marketplace, and the development of a business plan undergirded by engineering technology.

In both classes, Dino introduces and emphasizes the concept of lateral thinking. His courses are designed to mirror the often intense business environment in which employees may be called upon to present and defend a plan with little or no advance notice. Engineering students must quickly assimilate business fundamentals, and also master the art of moving decision-makers to action.

Jonathan Riscica, a biomedical engineering senior, decided to participate in the program after completing a summer internship that excited him.

"It's been a great experience so far," he says, adding that "the business side of things is much broader in perspective, and less concrete than the more methodical, structured engineering approach."

In one assignment for the Opportunity Generation class, the team was given one week to conceive a business and generate actual funds to be donated to charity. Riscica's team hatched several schemes that yielded real cash for charity: they sold donated coffee and donuts in the Student Union and patriotic ribbons at a football game, and auctioned lunch with University President Michael Hogan to the highest bidder.

John Bennett, associate dean for academic affairs in the School of Engineering, oversees the engineering side of the program. During this first year, seniors planning an entrepreneurship senior design project are taking the two management courses simultaneously during the fall semester, along with their regular engineering courses; participating juniors will complete the two courses over two years.

Bennett says the entrepreneurship senior design project students will apply the know-how from their MBA courses to their senior design projects.

Team interactions

Carlton Forse, a senior majoring in mechanical engineering, says he decided to take the MBA courses after a summer internship at Alstom Power, during which he observed that most engineers were performing business-oriented tasks.

Forse is enthusiastic about the MBA coursework and team collaborations. He observes that the MBA students are more apt to arrive at decisions quickly, while engineers are trained to develop decisions after methodical analysis; the two contingents are beginning to adapt their approaches based on the team interactions. He and his teammates have already taken some initial steps on their UConn Health Center-sponsored senior design project, which involves design and development of a multi-terrain wheelchair featuring strictly mechanical operation.

Allison Ray and Philip McDonald, two second-year MBA candidates, say they were initially surprised to learn that undergraduate engineering students would be participating in their entrepreneurship course. McDonald notes that many MBA students are a decade older than their engineering teammates and separated by dissimilar academic training and a different academic culture.

The differences quickly dissolved, however, as the teams learned to meld their skills. Ray and McDonald say that as a result of their interactions with engineering teammates, they are learning to approach business problems from a more technical perspective, while the engineering students are gaining insight into business fundamentals such as nuances of balance sheets, profit and loss calculations, and marketing models.

Courses examine videogaming as artistic medium, cultural pursuit

by David Bauman

The fine line between gaming for fun and gaming to learn continues to blur, thanks in part to Roger Travis, who hopes to build on the use of videogames in his courses at UConn to bring about a new online community called The Video Games and Human Values Initiative.

During winter intersession, Travis, an associate professor of modern and classical languages in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, will offer Living Epic, a two-week online course, on a pilot basis through the College of Continuing Studies. He will follow up in spring 2009 with Gaming Homer, an undergraduate credit course for classics majors and other interested students that is a version of his course on Homer.

Both courses will take an innovative view of gaming and its effects on participants, and involve in-game class work in the form of in-game laboratories and in-game discussions. They will also involve contact with the people who are creating the games examined and analyzed in the courses.

"I have directed these courses at students who want to think about videogaming in a new way," says Travis. "We are going to examine video games as an artistic medium and argue that videogaming is a worthwhile cultural pursuit."

Travis is a pioneer in using the pizzazz of video games in his classes to help make complicated material – epic poems from antiquity – more understandable and entertaining. Capitalizing on students' appetite for electronic games, he compares the heroic hyperbole and values represented in such classical epics as the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* to that in games like *Halo* and *Grand Theft Auto,* to demonstrate that while videogaming is relatively new, the power to exert broad cultural influence is as old as Homer and Achilles.

"We can learn the same kinds of things about ourselves from playing adventure video games attentively as we can learn about the ancient Greeks and Romans from reading their epics carefully," says Travis.

Although video games have grown to great cultural prominence, there has been little analysis of the relationship between games, society, and culture. For many teachers and parents, video games are full of menace and are a symbol of teenage sloth. Yet at the same time, video games and the culture that surrounds them are becoming very big news.

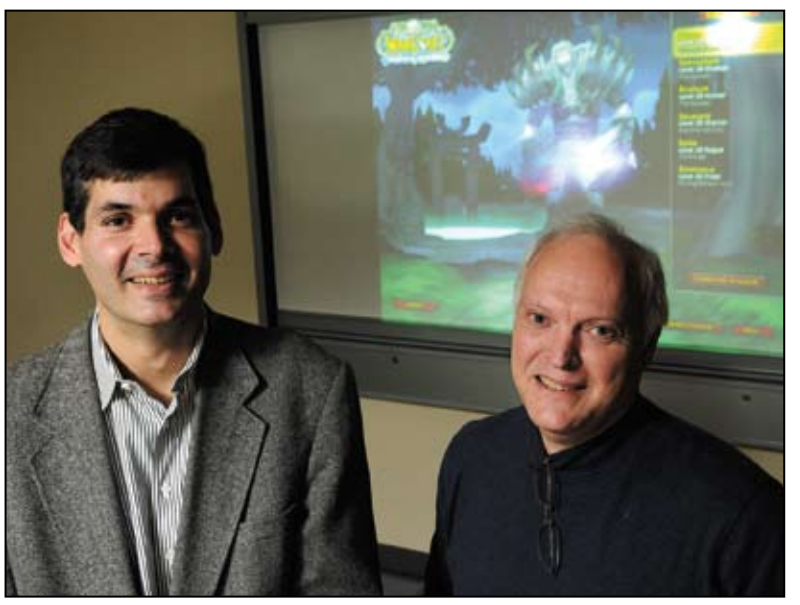


Photo by Peter Morenus

Roger Travis, left, associate professor of modern and classical languages, and Michael Young, associate professor of educational psychology.

More than 45 million American homes now have video game consoles, and U.S. sales of videogame hardware and software rose 57 percent this year, with sales of $1.7 billion. A recent study by the University of Michigan found that by age 21, the average youth has played 10,000 hours of video games.

"Our research suggests teachers and principals simply do not play, and therefore do not understand, multiplayer online games and thus have difficulty even imagining how they could help teach math, science, second languages, or the classics," says Michael Young, an associate professor of educational psychology in the Neag School of Education who is collaborating with Travis.

In his course on Serious Games in Education, Young's graduate students explore the possibilities of virtual worlds for supporting what Travis knows, that serious content and serious gaming can be fun and educational.

Travis and Young hope the Initiative will bring together scholars and students in the humanities, the social sciences, education, computer science, and business to consider "the place and extraordinary potential of video games in our culture," provide a (virtual) place for scholarly research into the relation of video games to values, and offer online courses taught by fellows from various different disciplines.

"We believe that video games' greatest innovations in education, business, the social sciences, the humanities, and most of all in games themselves will arise from a deeper understanding of games' connections among all these disciplines," says Travis. "When scholars and students alike understand these connections better, they will be better prepared to advance the state of gaming as it relates to their own fields."

Teaching fellow prepares students to work in special education

BY SHERRY FISHER

Set clear expectations, be organized, be flexible, and show enthusiasm. These are a few of Joseph Madaus's guidelines for successful teaching.

An associate professor of educational psychology in the Neag School of Education, Madaus prepares teachers who will work with students with disabilities in settings ranging from kindergarten to higher education.

He came to UConn in 1997 as associate director of the University Program for College Students with Learning Disabilities, and began teaching in 1998.

Clear expectations

Madaus, who was named a 2008 University of Connecticut Teaching Fellow, says it's important for professors to set very clear expectations and standards for students: "Teachers need to help students understand what these are, whether it's an assignment, an exam, or a presentation."

He says he tries to put his students in the shoes of someone with a disability.

"For example, I'll create situations where I'll intentionally interfere with my students' learning," he says. "I make the task hard for them. I might give them a reading passage that is distorted or misspelled, and they have to read it quickly and respond. Then we'll have a discussion: What does this mean? How did you feel? How could we have done this differently or better? I try to get them to understand what it's like to be a student who's struggling in a class."

Madaus uses PowerPoint presentations and short videos in his classes, and brings in guest speakers. Students with disabilities often speak to his classes on exceptionality.

To make discussions of special education law more effective, he has students read transcripts of cases and present them to a "judge" – their classmates.

PHOTO BY JESSICA TOMMASELLI

William Madaus, associate professor of educational psychology, teaching a class in the Gentry Building.

"It brings the situations to life," he says.

Learning from mentors

Madaus says he owes some of his success to former teachers. "I picked up tips from the professors I had that I thought were most effective," he says. He advises his students to do the same.

"I tell my students to watch their teachers," he says. "Take what they do well and use them, and identify what you didn't like or found ineffective. It worked for me."

Melissa Skiba, a former student, says Madaus "truly cares about his students and is dedicated to the quality of education they receive." She noted that he took "great time and effort in grading assignments. For every paper or project submitted, whether it was a two-page reflection or a 10-page psychoeducational report, Dr. Madaus included thorough and meaningful comments to ensure that his students understood exactly what they did correctly and what they could improve."

Katelyn Anderson, another former student, describes Madaus as an "exemplary instructor in the field of special education. He truly possesses a wealth of knowledge in the areas he teaches," she says.

Former student Kristen Luttati says, "Dr. Madaus has deeply impacted my experiences at the University of Connecticut and my experiences now as a teacher. His support and guidance continues to influence my growth as a special educator."

Madaus says it's important for students to feel that they're part of the community.

"We need to let students know that we're concerned about their growth and learning," he says, noting that he tries to learn the names of all his students and something about their interests outside the classroom.

He also makes a point of responding to e-mails in a timely manner. "These sorts of things help build the sense of community, he says, "and the students feel they're an important part of the class."

Regular feedback

Madaus also makes an effort to give students detailed and individual feedback about their progress.

For example, in an undergraduate assessment course, there's a large case study due at the end of the semester, he says. It's broken down into sections, with the first two sections due one week and the other the following week. Students bring in drafts to share with Madaus and their classmates, and he gives feedback at each stage.

Students in special education need excellent writing skills, Madaus says: "I try to impress upon them that writing is a professional skill. They need to be able to write well because they'll be presenting their results in a written report that will become an official document in the school. They need to be as clear and accurate as possible."

What does Madaus hope students will take from his courses? "I want them to see that students with disabilities have incredible potential."

Taking a scientific look at how Therapeutic Touch affects cells

BY CAROLYN PENNINGTON

A study by a Health Center researcher takes a scientific look at a therapy that is often considered unscientific – hands-on healing.

Gloria Gronowicz, professor of surgery, found that Therapeutic Touch performed by trained energy healers significantly stimulated the growth of bone, tendon, and skin cells in lab dishes. Her findings are published in the *Journal of Orthopaedic Research* and *The Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine.*

"Complementary medicine techniques have become increasingly popular for patients looking for alternative ways of healing or feeling better," says Gronowicz, "but the effectiveness of many of these techniques has not been thoroughly studied scientifically." Therapeutic Touch, a disciplined multi-step process by which a practitioner generates energy through his or her hands to promote healing, is one of those practices.

In vitro study

Clinically, Therapeutic Touch has been shown to be effective in relieving tension headaches, arthritis pain, and enhancing immune function. But while there are numerous clinical studies on the effects of Therapeutic Touch, there are few in vitro studies.

Gronowicz set out to determine whether the approach had any effect on bone cell growth, differentiation, and mineralization in vitro. She used controlled experiments that could be rigorously analyzed with statistics. The experiments were conducted on healthy bone cells and on bone cancer cells.

The study involved dividing the bone cell cultures into three groups. Each group received genuine or sham treatment twice a week for 10 minutes each.

One dish of cells was treated by a trained Therapeutic Touch healer. Therapeutic Touch does not involve touching, but is a five-step process that involves placing the hands two to 10 inches away from the surface of the subject.

A second set of cells received a sham treatment – untrained students who were instructed to just hold their hands a few inches over the Petri dish.

The third dish of cells was left in its metal stand untreated. After each session, the dishes were returned to an incubator. Scientists who later examined the cells under the microscope did not know which group each dish had been in.

Faster growth

Gronowicz, who has a Ph.D. in cell biology and has spent much of her career studying the biology of bone cells, was surprised by the results.

"After the second week and four Therapeutic Touch treatments," she says, "we did find a significant increase in DNA synthesis and mineralization in the bone cells treated by trained healers, compared to the cells that had not been treated or had sham treatments."

Gronowicz tested the cells using several different biological markers for growth, and each test confirmed her findings. "The TT-treated cells grew faster than the other cells," she says. "In fact in one test, cells treated with TT grew at double the rate of untreated cells."

PHOTO BY CAROLYN PENNINGTON

Gloria Gronowicz, professor of surgery, works with bone cell samples in her lab at the Health Center.

In addition to seeing increased cell division under the microscope, Gronowicz observed that the bone cell cultures treated with Therapeutic Touch also absorbed more calcium, the essential mineral for growing strong bones.

The experiments on the bone cancer cells produced different results. Unlike the healthy cells, the bone cancer cells did not appear to be stimulated by the touch therapy. "Therapeutic touch appears to increase DNA synthesis, differentiation, and mineralization in normal bone cells, and decrease differentiation and mineralization in a bone cancer derived cell line," says Gronowicz. That is actually a good thing, she adds. Since cancer occurs when cells grow out of control, a treatment that stimulates growth could be detrimental to people with cancer.

Gronowicz says more studies are needed to figure out how and why Therapeutic Touch seems to stimulate normal cell growth; whether the findings can be applied to patient care; and whether the findings begin to explain why some people with strong social support systems appear to be healthier and recover from disease better than those who don't.

GRANTS

The following grants were received through the UConn Health Center's Office of Grants and Contracts in August 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.

Federal Grants

Principal Investigator	Department	Sponsor	Amount	Award Period
Brammer, A.	Medicine	Centers for Disease Control & Prevention	$314,500	08/06-07/09
Active Hearing Protectors & Audibility of Critical Communications				
Claffey, K.	Center for Vascular Biology	Nat'l. Cancer Inst.	$271,728	08/07-07/09
VEGF mRNA Expression Mechanisms in Hypoxia				
Das, D.	Surgery	Nat'l. Heart, Lung & Blood Inst.	$321,358	08/05-07/09
Phospholipid Signaling in Myocardial Ischemic Injury				
Delany, A.	Molecular Medicine	Nat'l. Inst. of Arthritis & Musculoskeletal & Skin Diseases	$319,433	08/98-07/09
Function and Regulation of Osteonectin in Bone				
Drissi, H.	Orthopedics	Nat'l. Inst. of Arthritis & Musculoskeletal & Skin Diseases	$242,042	03/08-07/09
Runx-Mediated Regulation of Endochondral Ossification				
Graveley, B.	Genetics & Developmental Biology	Nat'l. Inst. of General Medical Sciences	$283,709	08/06-07/09
The Mechanisms and Regulatory Networks of Alternative Splicing in Drosophila				
Hesselbrock, V.	Psychiatry	Nat'l. Inst. on Alcohol Abuse & Alcoholism	$25,234	02/08-11/08
Etiology and Treatment of Alcohol Dependence				
Hoch, J.	Molecular, Microbial & Structural Biology	Nat'l. Center for Research Resources	$275,048	08/05-07/09
Signal Processing Software for Biomolecular Nuclear Magnetic Resonance				
Hurley, M.	Medicine	Nat'l. Inst. on Aging	$303,400	08/08-05/09
Action of Anabolic Factors on Bone Formation in Mice				
Kalajzic, I.	Reconstructive Sciences	Nat'l. Inst. of Arthritis & Musculoskeletal & Skin Diseases	$72,520	08/07-07/09
Strategy to Assess the Function of Osteocyte Restricted Genes				
Kreutzer, D.	Surgery	Nat'l. Inst. of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases	$350,582	08/07-07/09
Inflammation and Glucose Sensor Function				
Loew, L.	Center for Cell Analysis	Nat'l. Center for Research Resources	$1,105,935	08/08-04/09
Nat'l. Resource for Cell Analysis and Modeling				
Loew, L.	Center for Cell Analysis	Nat'l. Center for Research Resources	$2,349,779	08/07-07/09
Polarity in Networks and Pathways				
Petry, N.	Psychiatry	Nat'l. Inst. of Mental Health	$338,611	09/04-07/09
Cognitive-Behavioral Treatments/Pathological Gambling				
Petry, N.	Psychiatry	Nat'l. Inst. on Drug Abuse	$260,185	09/04-07/09
Group-Based Contingency Management/Outpatient Treatment				
Rosenberg, D.	Molecular Medicine	Nat'l. Cancer Inst.	$311,403	09/06-07/09
Altered Arachidonic Acid Balance and Colon Cancer				
Rosenberg, D.	Molecular Medicine	Nat'l. Cancer Inst.	$354,513	08/08-05/09
Using Mouse Endoscopy for Evaluating Colon Cancer				
Sarfarazi, M.	Surgery	Nat'l. Eye Inst.	$520,970	08/06-07/09
Molecular Genetics of Primary Congenital Glaucoma				
Shapiro, L.	Center for Vascular Biology	U.S. Army	$370,000	06/08-06/09
Prostate Specific Membrane Antigen Regulation of Prostate Tumor Growth & Signal Transduction				
Wang, Z.	Neuroscience	Nat'l. Science Foundation–Behavioral & Natural Sciences	$195,979	08/06-07/09
Electrical Coupling of Body-Wall Muscle Cells of C. Elegans				
Wolfson, L.	Neurology	Nat'l. Inst. on Aging	$477,688	09/04-07/09
Brain Changes and Risk Factors Causing Impaired Mobility				

Private Grants

Albertsen, P.	Surgery	Cancer Therapy & Research Center Research Foundation	$2,300	09/01-05/13
Selenium & Vitamin E Chemoprevention Trial DHHS 80003				
Epstein, P.	Cell Biology	Lea's Foundation for Leukemia Research Inc.	$34,500	08/06-06/09
Phosphodiesterase as a Target for Leukemia Treatment				
Fifield, J.	Ethel Donaghue TRIPP Center	Aetna Foundation	$18,500	07/08-07/09
Sistertalk Hartford Resource Center				
Ford, J.	Psychiatry	Medical Univ. of South Carolina	$297,259	09/06-05/09
Vocational Outcomes for Youth with Substance Abuse Problems & High HIV Risk				
Fortinsky, R.	Center on Aging	Case Western Reserve Univ.	$34,040	05/07-02/09
Effect of Home Care Agency Providers and Visits on Heart Failure Patients				
Kranzler, H.	Psychiatry	Yale Univ.	$219,231	07/08-/6/09
Genetics of Opioid Dependence				

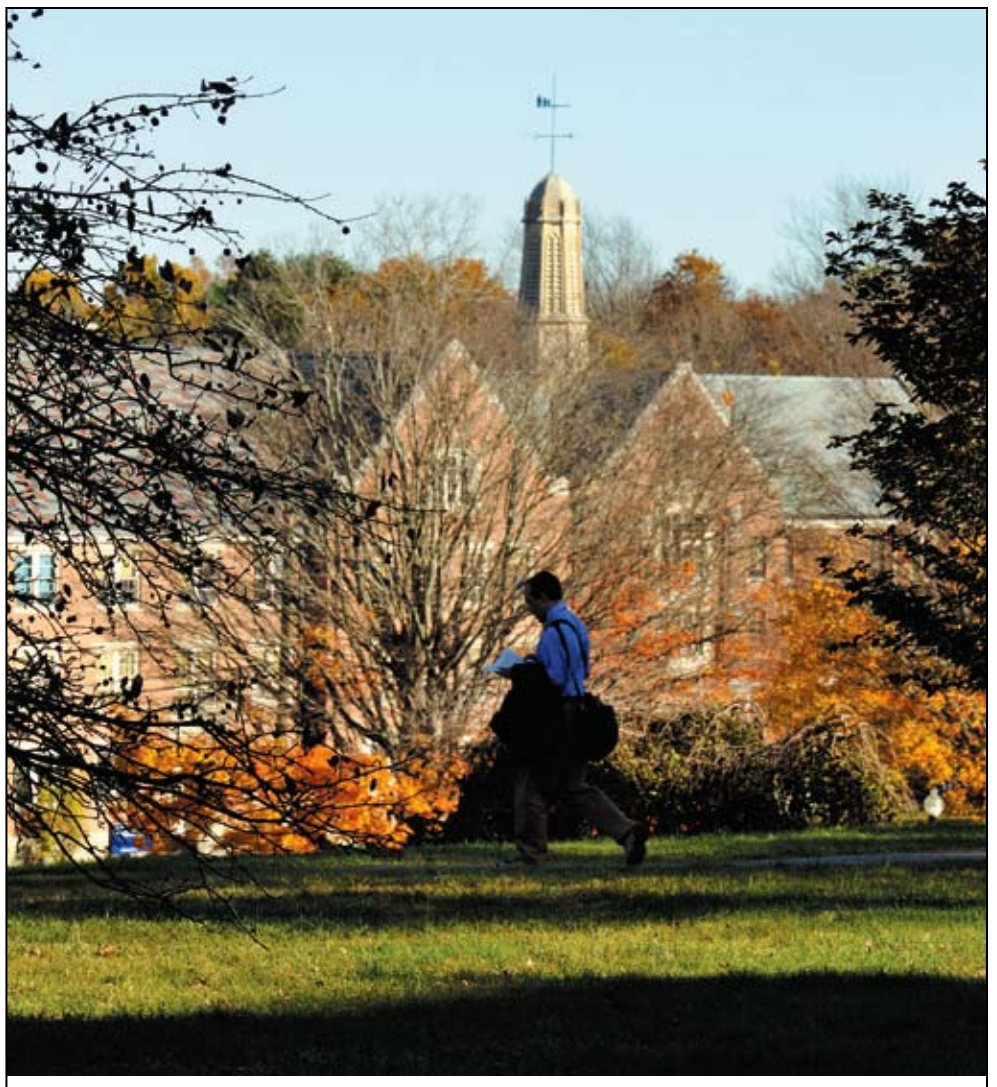


Photo by Peter Morenus

A fall afternoon view looking across the lawn to Whitney Hall.

Li, Z.	Neurology	American Heart Association	$48,750	01/05-12/08
Role of Chemoattractants in Atherosclerosis				
Rowe, D.	Reconstructive Sciences	Doctor's Research Group	$75,000	07/08-07/09
Kryptonite and Stem Cells for Bone Repair				
Spink, L.	Reconstructive Sciences	American Academy of Fixed Prosthodontics	$3,600	06/08-05/09
Comparison of Absolute Translucency and Relative Translucency				
Taylor, J.	Surgery	American Cancer Society	$145,800	07/08-06/09
Inflammatory Cytokines and Bladder Cancer				
Warren, N.	Medicine	SUNY Downstate Medical Center	$19,831	06/07-08/08
Pilot Testing Direct Postural Measurement Instrumentation in a Nursery				

State Grants

Ardolino, A.	Academic Affairs	UConn-Storrs	$2,250	09/08-09/08
Projections: The Face of Hartford				
Ungemack, J.	Community Medicine & Health	CT Department of Children & Families	$20,000	08/07-10/08
CT State Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment Evaluation Project				

Beta blocker study *continued from page 1*

physicians and patients to use caution when considering using beta blockers.

"If our study estimates are accurate, then one patient in 200 will have a stroke from the use of beta blockers in order to prevent one patient in 72 from having a heart attack," Talati says. "As such, future research is a necessity, and doctors and patients should be cautious."

The use of beta blockers after non-cardiac surgery has been the subject of much debate. Such surgery often puts stress on the heart, increasing its demand for oxygen. Beta blockers help minimize the effects of the stress hormone catecholamine, thereby lowering blood pressure and heart rate and reducing strain on the heart.

While other studies have shown that beta blockers have the potential to both reduce the chance of heart attack and increase the risk of death or stroke, the UConn analysis was more stringent than most and included study data that only recently became available.

The researchers found that 4.1 percent of patients taking beta blockers died after surgery, compared to 3.5 percent of patients given a placebo. Of those suffering a heart attack, the researchers found that 4 percent of people on beta blockers experienced a heart attack, compared to 5.4 percent of people who were given a placebo.

In evaluating the risk of stroke, the researchers found that 1 percent of patients who received a beta blocker experienced a stroke, compared to 0.5 percent of patients who received a placebo, indicating a two-fold increase in the odds of developing a stroke when a patient was taking beta blockers.

Robert McCarthy, dean of the School of Pharmacy, says the study highlights the importance of the University's new evidence-based practice center, which was established last year through a five-year, up to $5 million contract with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. It is one of only 14 such centers in North America and the first awarded to a college of pharmacy.

The UConn/Hartford Hospital center focuses on pharmacy practice and evaluates different drug therapies, especially those that are common, expensive, and/or significant to Medicare and Medicaid patients.

CALENDAR Monday, November 17, to Monday, December 1

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, Dec. 1 through Monday, Dec. 8. Because of the Thanksgiving break, those items must be in the database by 4 p.m. on Monday, Nov 17.
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
Sunday, 11/23 – Thanksgiving recess begins.
Saturday, 11/29 – Thanksgiving recess ends.

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. Recess hours, 11/21-11/28: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, noon-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m.-2 a.m.; closed on Thanksgiving day, 11/27.
Dodd Center. Monday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, noon-4 p.m.; closed Sunday. Recess hours, 11/22-11/29: Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; closed, 11/22-11/23 & 11/27-11/29.
Pharmacy Library. Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-10 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1-9 p.m. Recess hours, 11/22-11/30: Monday & Tuesday, 9 a.m.-noon & 12:30-4:30 p.m.; Wednesday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; closed, 11/22-11/23 & 11/27-11/30.
Music & Dramatic Arts Library. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-10 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 1-4 p.m.; Sunday, noon-10 p.m. Recess hours, 11/22-11/29: Monday & Tuesday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed, 11/22-11-23 & 11/26-11/29.
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. Recess hours, 11/26-11/28: Wednesday & Friday, 7 a.m.-4 p.m.; closed Thanksgiving Day.
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. Recess hours, 11/26-11/28: Wednesday & Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Thanksgiving Day.
Avery Point Campus Library. Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed weekends. Closed 11/27-11/30.
Greater Hartford Campus Library. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday & Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Sunday. Recess hours, 11/24-11/30: Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed, 11/27-11/30.
Stamford Campus Library. Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; closed Sunday. Recess hours, 11/24-11/30: Monday-Wednesday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed, 11/27-11/30.
Torrington Campus Library. Monday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; closed Friday-Sunday. Recess hours, 11/24-11/30: closed.
Waterbury Campus Library. Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; closed weekends. Recess hours, 11/24-11/30: Monday & Tuesday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; closed, 11/26-11/30.

University ITS
Help Desk: Call 860-486-4357, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Thanksgiving Day.

Ph.D. Defenses
Monday, 11/17 – Agricultural & Resource Economics. *Three Essays on Demand Estimation and Advertising Competition,* by Sylvie Tchumtchoua (adv.: Ronald Cotterill). 9:30 a.m., Room 207/208, W.B. Young 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 – Computer Science & Engineering. *Fast and Cost-Effective Algorithms for Selected Problems in Computational Biology and Data Mining,* by Dragos Trinca (adv.: Rajasekaran). 2 p.m., Room 336, Information Technologies Engineering 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.

Lectures & Seminars
Monday, 11/17 – Middle East Studies Colloquium. "Territorial Expansion and Postcolonial Times: The Israeli Settlement Project in Comparative Perspective," by Ehud Eiran, Harvard University. Noon, Room 119, Monteith Building.
Wednesday, 11/19 – Rainbow Center Lecture. "Blurry Sexual/Gender Lines in Pre-Euro Contact Hawaii," by Matthew Link, former editorial director of *The Out Traveler* magazine. Noon, Room 403, Student Union.
Wednesday, 11/19 – 'Last Lecture' Series. Olivier Morand, 3 p.m., Buckley Lounge.
Thursday, 11/20 – Comparative Pathology Seminar. "Newcastle Disease Virus: Evolution of New Genotypes and Challenges in Diagnostics," by Claudio Afonso, USDA. 11 a.m., Room A001, Atwater Laboratories.
Thursday, 11/20 – Stamford Faculty Colloquium. "Open Access, Scholarly Publications, and the Future of Learned Societies," by Gerald Engel. Noon, GE Global Classroom, Stamford Campus.
Thursday, 11/20 – Condensed Matter Physics Seminar. "Plasma Interactions with Low Dielectric Constant Materials: Impact on CMOS Technology," by Nicholas Fuller, IBM Research Division. 2 p.m., Room P121, Gant Science Complex.
Thursday, 11/20 – Edwin Teale Lecture. "Water: A continuous fluid in a fragmented policy framework," by Don Scavia, University of Michigan. 4 p.m., Konover Auditorium, Dodd Center.
Thursday, 11/20 –History Lecture. "Autos and Progress: The Brazilian Search for Modernity," by Joel Wolfe, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. 4 p.m., Wood Hall Basement.
Thursday, 11/20 – Materials Science Lecture. "Polymer Blends: Science and Technology," by William MacKnight, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. 4 p.m., Room IMS 20, Gant Science Complex.
Friday, 11/21 – Polymer Science Seminar. "Morphological Dependence of Conjugated Polymer Photophysics," by Lewis Rothberg, University of Rochester. Room IMS 20, Gant Science Complex.
Friday, 11/21 – 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.
Monday, 12/1 – Celebrate Women. "Minimally Invasive Procedures for Gynecologic Cancers," by Molly Brewer. Noon, Low Learning Center, Health Center. Call 860-486-8899 to register. The program can be viewed live at www.celebrate.uchc.edu/webcast

Exhibits
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 University Libraries staff, Gallery on the Plaza; *Portraits of Nature,* photographs by Carolanne Markowitz, Stevens Gallery.

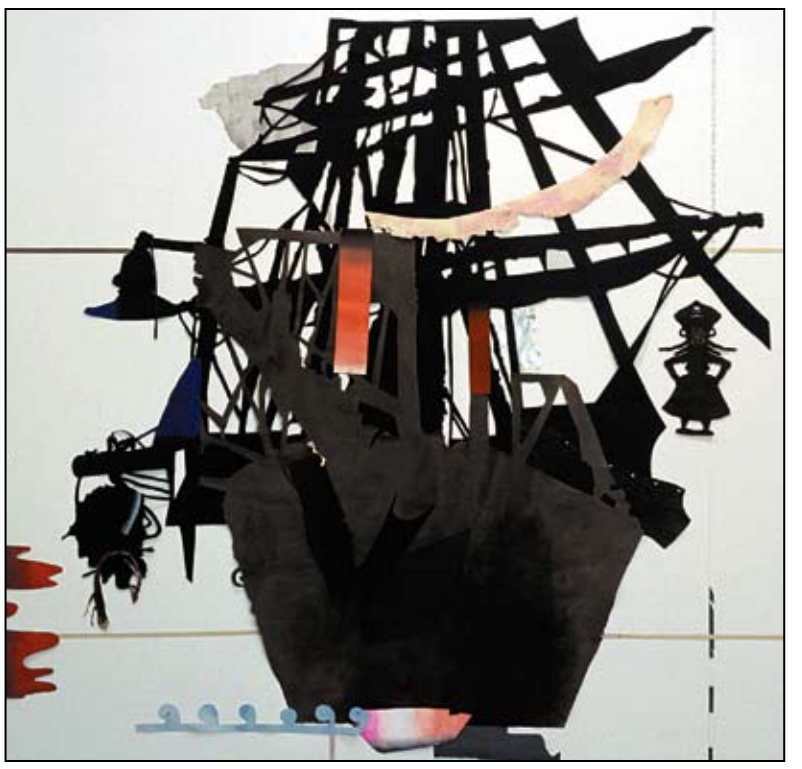


Photo supplied by Contemporary Art Galleries

"The Exquisite Pirate", a work by Sally Smart, part of the exhibit *Maritime: Ships, Pirates, and Disasters* on display at the Contemporary Art Galleries through Dec. 5.

For hours, see Libraries section.
Through Friday, 12/19 – Dodd Center. *From the Margins to the Mainstream: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Culture & History, 1968-2008.* For hours, see Libraries section.
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,* exhibition of fabric art pieces from 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 Schlippe Gallery. Works by Katherine Axilrod, Robert Hauschild, Susan Madacsi, and William Shockley. Wednesday-Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Members and students free, all others $3 donation. Avery Point Campus.
Ongoing – State Museum of Natural History & Connecticut Archaeology Center. *Human's Nature: Looking Closer at the Relationships between People and the Environment.* Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday & Monday, closed. Free admission, donations welcome.

Performing Arts
Tuesday, 11/18 – Percussion Ensemble. Jeffrey Renshaw, conductor. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Free admission.
Tuesday, 11/18 – Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra. With Valentina Lisitsa, piano. Tickets $33, $37, $40. 8 p.m., Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. For tickets call 860-486-4226.
Wednesday, 11/19 through Sunday, 11/23 – Epic Play. *The Skin of Our Teeth,* by Thornton Wilder. Tickets $11, $29. Harriet S. Jorgensen Theatre. For more information and performance times go to www.crt.uconn.edu or call 860-486-4799.
Thursday, 11/20 – Wind Ensemble. Jeffrey Renshaw, conductor. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Admission fee: $7 for adults, free for students and children.
Sunday, 11/30 – Student Recital. By Melinda Fields. 8:30 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Free admission.

Films
Tuesday, 11/18 – India Film Series. *Chameli.* 6:30 p.m., Room 106, Art & Art History Building.
Wednesday, 11/19 – Human Rights Film Series. *The Price of Sugar.* 4 p.m., Konover Auditorium, Dodd Center.
Thursday, 11/20 – Women's Center Film. *Motherhood Manifesto,* narrated by actress Mary Steenburgen. 6 p.m., Room 421, Student Union.
Saturday, 11/22 & Sunday, 11/23 – Tibet Film Series. *Vajra Sky Over Tibet.* 2 p.m., William Benton Museum of Art.

Athletics
Monday, 11/17 – Men's Basketball vs. Hartford. 7 p.m., XL Center, Hartford.
Thursday, 11/20 – Women's Basketball vs. San Diego State. 7 p.m., XL Center, Hartford.
Thursday, 11/20 – Women's Ice Hockey vs. Boston College. 7 p.m., Freitas Ice Forum.
Friday, 11/21 – Men's Ice Hockey vs. RIT. 7:05 p.m., Freitas Ice Forum.
Friday, 11/21 – Men's Basketball, vs. La Salle. 6 p.m., Gampel Pavilion.
Saturday, 11/22 – Women's Basketball vs. Rhode Island. 1 p.m., XL Center, Hartford.
Saturday, 11/22 – Men's Ice Hockey vs. RIT. 7:05 p.m., Freitas Ice Forum.
Tuesday, 11/25 – Women's Ice Hockey vs. Brown. 7 p.m., Freitas Ice Forum.
Friday, 11/28 – Women's Ice Hockey vs. Wayne State. 4 p.m., Freitas Ice Forum.
Saturday, 11/29 – Men's Basketball vs. Bryant. 1 p.m., XL Center, Hartford.
Sunday, 11/30 – Women's Basketball vs. Oklahoma. 8:15 p.m., XL Center, Hartford.
Monday, 12/1 – Men's Basketball vs. Delaware State. 7:30 p.m., Gampel Pavilion.

Potpourri
Monday, 11/17 – Retirement Benefits Seminar. Presentation sponsored by the Department of Human Resources. 10 a.m., and 1 p.m., Room 103, Marine Sciences Building, Avery Point Campus.
Tuesday, 11/18 - Retirement Benefits Seminar. Presentation sponsored by the Department of Human Resources. 12:30 p.m. Rooms 113/116, Main Building, Waterbury Campus.
Tuesday, 11/18 – Rainbow Center Poet Night. With Staceyann Chin, artist & poet. 7 p.m., Student Union Theatre. Free admission.
Tuesday, 11/18 – Conversation on Great American Books. Reading of Sylvia Plath's *Arial*, followed by a discussion led by Penelope Pelizzon. 7 p.m., Alumni Center. Admission: $5 Alumni Association members/$10 non-members.
Wednesday, 11/19 – Passport Day. 10 a.m., 2 p.m., Room 7, Bishop Center. Go to mailservices.uconn.edu/files/passport_day_nov_08.pdf for more information.
Wednesday, 11/19 – Gallery Talk. Tracy Lawlor will discuss the *Sera: The Way of the Tibetan Monk* exhibition. 12:15-12:45 p.m., Benton Museum.
Wednesday, 11/19 – Retirement Benefits Seminar. Presentation sponsored by the Department of Human Resources. 1:30 p.m., Room 130, Eads Building, Torrington Campus.
Thursday, 11/20 – International Nite. Performers include Capoeira, Surya, Taiko, BAILE, the All Stars, and several a cappella groups. 5 p.m., Rome Ballroom. Suggested donation $3.
Thursday, 11/20 – Book Reading. Readings from Doug Anderson & Martin Espada, authors. 6 p.m., Gampel Student Center, Greater Hartford Campus. Audience members are invited to make a donation or bring a canned good for the AIDS Project Hartford/Connections Wellness Center.
Saturday, 11/22 –Natural History Trip. Bus Trip to American Museum of Natural History in New York City. All ages welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult. Bus departs 8 a.m. Registration/bus fee: $65 non-member, $55 member. Advance registration required. Call 860-486-4460.
Mondays – Al-Anon. Twelve-step meeting. Noon-12:50 p.m. For more information, call 860-486-9431.
Mondays – Muslim Student Association. 4:45-5:30 p.m. General meeting for Muslim Student Association, Islamic Center. For more information call 203-687-5464.
Mondays – Graduate Student Christian Fellowship. 5-6:30 p.m. Room 213, CUE Building. For more information call 860-368-9024.

Citizens academy offers inside look at UConn police department

Photo by Frank Dahlmeyer

Officer Michael Ludlow of the UConn Police discusses forensic sciences with participants in the Citizens Police Academy.

by Richard Veilleux

Doreen Brown learned a few things about being a police officer this semester, including how hard it is to tell the difference between a bad guy and a good guy when patrolling darkened streets.

Brown was one of 20 people who signed up this semester for the Citizens Police Academy, a program offered each fall by the UConn Police Department to faculty, staff, students, and members of the community.

One of the activities involved a firearms training simulator. "It was like a video game, except that it was real tense," says Brown, a Residential Life employee. "I was also surprised at how heavy a gun is. I really learned a lot."

The class met once a week for three hours over a 12-week period to learn about the department. Topics included hiring and training procedures, crime scene forensics, narcotics and alcohol violations, use of force issues, and active shooter situations.

This semester's program wraps up with a 'graduation' Nov. 19.

Gaining a new perspective

"Some people don't like police officers, and we've changed some opinions," says Capt. Craig Rich, who started the program five years ago. "The classes are a way for us to build relationships in a non-confrontational way. It makes us more approachable."

Participants enjoyed the course.

"I was interested [in the program] because I was curious and wanted to feel more connected to campus," says Stephanie Beron, who works in the dean's office at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. "I was surprised at the things that go on, the war stories the instructors talked about, and the level of expertise they have. It was never boring, that's for sure."

Beron got a new perspective on Halloween when she took up an offer to ride with an officer the night of Oct. 31. Joining a patrol officer for a night, from 10 p.m. until 3 a.m., is one of the experiences available to students in the class.

"The officer explained to me why he went where he did and when," says Beron, "how he would approach a group of people. I saw quite a range of activity."

Rich, who has been a UConn police officer for 18 years, got the idea for the academy during a training session at the FBI academy in Quantico, Va. He says UConn was the first university in the country to offer the program, although a number of municipal departments offer a similar program. Since it began, he says, other universities have called for advice on setting up their own program.

"The goal is to interact on a normal basis with the general public. We tell them the first day that we want them to get to know us, and we want to get to know them, what matters to them, what they want us to focus on," Rich says. "We also want them to get to know what we do. People watch cop shows on TV, but they're not sure what we do on a daily basis."

Most students who join the class are surprised when they discover what UConn police face from day to day, Rich says. "They're surprised at the number and type of incidents we investigate."

People join the program for a variety of reasons. Some are interested in becoming police officers and want an overview of what they'll face. Others just want to know what the police do.

The program also has become popular with the police officers who teach it. "The officers enjoy it," Rich says. "Every year more of them want to be involved."

Crisis response training

This year, more than 20 officers served as instructors, coming in on nights when the subject matter fit their expertise. Earlier this month, Rich and three other police officers led a class that focused on what police can and cannot do during a hypothetical shooting incident on campus. They also walked the class through a video about how to respond when a shooter is in or near a building occupied by students, faculty, and staff.

They pointed out that most shootings are over within minutes.

"Police for the most part can respond to any incident on campus within three minutes," says Rich.

The video, based at Central Washington University, teaches people to get out or hide out in case of emergency.

It also advises people to be aware of their surroundings, identifying possible exits and hiding places and objects that could be used as a weapon if necessary.

"Whatever you can grab and throw at the shooter, do it. It distracts him and gives people a chance to run or grab him," says Rich. "You have to be in a survival mindset."

Barry Schreier, director of mental health counseling in Student Health Services, says the course was really helpful. "Thank God we have people on campus who do this job."

Grad students help Guatemalan NGOs attract potential donors via the Web

by Cindy Weiss

Two master's degree candidates in economics are on a mission to make the world a better place, starting in Guatemala, where a multitude of non-profit organizations are seeking donors and resources to help develop their country.

Justin Podbielski, CLAS '07, and Maura Williams visited Guatemala last summer as volunteers. They were struck by inefficiencies in the development community, where individual non-profit organizations sometimes compete for the same resources or are unaware of the activities of other non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

At first, they saw this as an academic problem – this is what happens in the non-profit community when there are no profit incentives to govern your actions.

Then they realized that the reputation of an NGO functioned as an incentive. The more information potential donors have about an organization, and the more transparent the NGO is, the more likely donors are to support it.

"If you improve the information flow, you can use access to information as a way to improve the flow of donations," Podbielski theorized.

That's when the problem moved them to action. They found a solution in a familiar tool: the social networking web site Facebook.

Using Facebook as a model, and with the help of Conrad Akier, a computer programmer, they created a central web site to expose organizations in Guatemala to donors and volunteers in North America and Europe, where 90 percent of their support originates.

During the past six months, they have contacted 400 agencies in Guatemala and are working with them to fill out surveys (in English and Spanish) about their organizations and create profiles on the new web site. The site is known as Many Efforts, One Goal, or MEOG (www.manyefforts.com).

They've enlisted help from computer science and engineering and business students at UConn, who are using the project as an academic exercise in computer programming and business planning. They've also sought help from the Law School in registering MEOG as a tax-exempt organization.

Last week they held an information session on campus, seeking students to intern or work with MEOG as computer engineers, translators, marketers, grant writers, and recruiters. They hope to bring student interns to Guatemala next summer.

Although MEOG's work is now in Guatemala, the two hope to expand to the rest of Latin America. They recently spent a week in El Salvador, making initial contacts.

A 2007 graduate of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Podbielski majored in political science and economic development and had a minor in mathematics. Williams earned her undergraduate degree at Stonehill College in Massachusetts before coming to UConn for graduate school.

Both have been teaching assistants in economics at UConn and have finished their master's degree coursework. They plan to continue for Ph.D.s here, once they get their Latin American project in order.

Neither spoke much Spanish when they first visited Guatemala, but after several extended stays, they now speak fairly fluently.

As an incentive for NGOs to fill out surveys about their organization for the MEOG site, Podbielski and Williams are raising money to offer a $500 prize.

As part of their fund-raising efforts for MEOG and its partner charities in Guatemala, Podbielski is training for his first marathon. He is coached by Williams, who was a cross-country runner in college. Other MEOG supporters will run, too. The two have also made contact with funders who might support their work.

Photo by Daniel Buttrey

Justin Podbielski and Maura Williams, graduate students in economics.

They are marketing their site through blogs, Web-based social networks, and by word-of-mouth.

Their goals for the next quarter are to get 500 organizations registered and active on the MEOG site, complete their own non-profit registration, line up funding, and set up student worker task groups.

Eventually, they hope to use the MEOG site to highlight Latin American NGOs that are successful in helping their target audiences. They are also developing a system for donors to rate the efficiency of the groups they support.

"We want to be the face and voice of the small to medium-sized NGOs there," says Podbielski.

To see an NGO profile on MEOG, go to: http://www.manyefforts.com/www.manyefforts.com/NamasteGuatemaya.html