



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Members of UConn's a cappella group A Completely Different Note perform during 'Jingle Jam' in the Student Union Theatre on Dec. 3.

Community offers cost-saving suggestions

BY ELIZABETH OMARA-OTUNNU

Recycling wood chips as mulch, implementing a standard temperature in offices and classrooms, and levying a budget crisis surcharge were among the suggestions offered during a town meeting on potential cost savings, efficiencies, and revenue enhancements.

The event, organized by the CORE (Costs, Operations, & Revenue Efficiencies) Task Force, took place at the Dodd Center Dec. 3.

Two additional town meetings are scheduled for Dec. 10, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at the Greater Hartford Campus Library Building, and Dec. 11, 4-6 p.m., in Room 7 of the Bishop Center at Storrs.

The task force has also established a web site – <http://core.uconn.edu> – with information about President Hogan's charge to the group, the principles that will guide the group's decision-making, and a way for individuals to submit suggestions electronically. Those making suggestions may choose whether or not to identify themselves.

"We are open to any and all suggestions, long-term and short-term, big and small in scope," said Provost Peter J. Nicholls, who is a co-chair of the task force, together with Chief Financial Officer Richard Gray and Chief Operating Officer Barry M. Feldman.

see Town meeting page 5

Economics major awarded prestigious Marshall Scholarship

BY CINDY WEISS

A senior economics major in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is one of 40 new Marshall Scholars named on Dec. 1 by the British government.

Michelle Prairie, a Presidential Scholar from Vernon, with a perfect 4.0 grade average, will spend the next two years in the United Kingdom studying for two master's degrees in development economics.

She is the only student at a public institution in New England chosen for a Marshall this year. The other New England winners were four students from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, three from Harvard, two from Boston College, and one each from Princeton, Middlebury, and Yale.

Prairie will study for one year each either at the University of Nottingham and the

London School of Economics and Political Science, or at the University of Warwick and the School of Advanced Study at the University of London.

She plans to become a professor of development economics, focusing her research on income inequality, particularly in Latin America, and on the effects of trade, aid, and government policies on the distribution of wealth. Eventually she hopes to be a policy analyst for the United Nations, the World Bank, or the U.S. government.

She is UConn's second student to win a prestigious Marshall scholarship, named for America's first five-star Army general, George C. Marshall. In 1947, as President Harry Truman's secretary of state, he

see Marshall Scholar page 6

Winter graduation ceremony set for Dec. 14 at Gampel

BY RICHARD VEILLEUX

Denis M. McCarthy, retired chairman, CEO, and president of Fidelity Management Trust Co., a subsidiary of Fidelity Investments, will deliver the keynote address during Commencement on Dec. 14.

More than 800 students are expected to graduate during the University's sixth annual mid-term Commencement Exercises, which begin at 2 p.m. in Gampel Pavilion.

McCarthy, who earned a bachelor's degree in finance at UConn in 1964, and a master's degree in economics in 1965, is co-chair of UConn's current capital campaign and a member of the UConn Foundation Board of Directors. He chaired the board from 2000 to 2004. He will receive an honorary doctor of humane letters degree during the December ceremony.

"I'm forever grateful for what a UConn education has meant in my life," says McCarthy. "In my younger days, UConn was there for me and gave me a great start on life."

More than 6,000 people are expected to attend the mid-year ceremony. The decision to add a December graduation in 2003 to complement the traditional May commencement was made against a backdrop of the increasing number of students graduating, which strained the ability of Gampel Pavilion – even with two undergraduate ceremonies – to hold them. It also recognized that more students, due to work pressures, internships, study abroad programs, or for academic reasons, were completing their studies at the end of the fall semester.

Since then, an increasing number of stu-

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3 Archaeological find



4 New books



4 Scientific diving

Collaborative research teams funded

BY ELIZABETH OMARA-OTUNNU

New grants intended to promote collaboration between researchers at Storrs and the Health Center have recently been awarded to 11 research teams.

The year-long grants – known as UCHC/Storrs and Regional Campus Incentive Grants, or UCIG – are approximately \$50,000 each. They were jointly funded from the research budgets at Storrs and the Health Center, using money derived from indirect costs on extramural grants.

Applications for UCIG funding were peer reviewed by a committee comprising four researchers from Storrs and four from the Health Center. The group was co-chaired by Suman Singha, interim vice president for research and graduate education at Storrs, and Marc Lalande, associate dean for research, planning, and coordination at the Health Center.

The committee received 45 proposals and made 11 awards. Criteria for evaluating the proposals included the potential to attract extramural funding after the current funding expires, the interdisciplinary nature of the project, and the project's capacity to support the University's application for a Clinical and Translational Science Award – a National Institutes of Health program intended to speed up the translation of scientific research into practical applications in the medical field.

Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology Debra Kendall, a member of the review committee, says she was pleased with the response to the request for proposals: "There were many meritorious applications. Some of the ideas may not pan out in the end, but you never know until you try. This grant has given the opportunity to initiate collaborations and test new research directions."

She adds that many exciting advances in research come at the interface of different fields.

She says it is key that the grants are large enough to enable the research teams to gather sufficient evidence to make sure their projects are feasible and bring them to the point where external funding can be applied for.

Kendall notes that the grant competition comes at a significant

time for UConn.

"It's important that, even in very challenging budget times for us all, the University devoted funds to this new research initiative," she says. "We cannot be without support in our research – no matter what the time – not at a Research I university. We may have to be more efficient, make more choices, prioritize, but it's critical that funds have been devoted to the research endeavor."

The award-winning proposals are:

A High Throughput Screen to Identify Novel Anti-Cancer Agents

Dennis Wright, Pharmaceutical Sciences, School of Pharmacy (PI)
Jennifer Tirnauer, Center for Molecular Medicine, Health Center (Co-PI)

The Mechanism of Phenotypic Drift in hES Cells

Rachel O'Neill, Molecular & Cell Biology (PI)
Brenton Graveley, Genetics & Developmental Biology, Health Center (Co-PI)

Theodore Rasmussen, Animal Science, College of Agriculture & Natural Resources (Co-PI)
Yufeng Wu, Computer Science & Engineering, School of Engineering (Co-PI)

Ion Mandoiu, Computer Science & Engineering, School of Engineering (Co-PI)

Genes and Environment: Copper and Ascorbate in Frail Elderly Men

Elizabeth Eipper, Molecular, Microbial, & Structural Biology, Health Center (PI)
Jonathan Covault, Psychiatry, Health Center (Co-PI)
Anne Kenny, Medicine, Health Center (Co-PI)
Jane Kerstetter, Allied Health Sciences, College of Agriculture & Natural Resources (Co-PI)
Richard Mains, Neuroscience, Health Center (Co-PI)

Osteoblasts: Immune Responses in Pediatric Inflammatory Bowel Disease

Francisco Sylvester, Pediatric Gastroenterology, Health Center (PI)
Juan Salazar, Pediatrics, Infectious Disease, Health Center (Co-PI)

Phase Transformations to Control Morphology and Cell Behavior in Polymer Scaffolds for Tissue Engineering

Jon Goldberg, Reconstructive Sciences, Health Center (PI)

Robert Weiss, Chemical, Materials & Biomolecular Engineering, School of Engineering (Co-PI)

The Effect of Psychotropic Medication Dosing on Symptom Control for Inmates Diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder

Deborah Shelton, Nursing Instruction & Research, School of Nursing (PI)
Megan Ehret, Pharmacy Practice, School of Pharmacy (Co-PI)

A Behavioral Intervention for Reducing Obesity

Nancy Petry, Medicine, Health Center (PI)
Rafael Perez-Escamilla, Nutritional Sciences, College of Agriculture & Natural Resources (Co-PI)
Linda Pescatello, Kinesiology, Neag School of Education (Co-PI)
William White, Cardiology Center, Health Center (Co-PI)

Stem Cell Database

Craig Nelson, Molecular & Cell Biology, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (PI)
Martin Schiller, Molecular, Microbial & Structural Biology, Health Center (Co-PI)
Michael Gryk, Molecular, Microbial & Structural Biology, Health Center (Co-PI)

Computational Modeling of Mucosal Injury Reviewer to Cancer Therapy

Rajesh Lalla, Oral Health & Diagnostic Sciences, Health Center (PI)
Ranjan Srivastava, Chemical, Materials & Biomolecular Engineering, School of Engineering (Co-PI)
Leslie Loew, Cell Biology, Health Center (Co-PI)
Douglas Peterson, Oral Health & Diagnostic Sciences, Health Center (Co-PI)

Black Raspberry Components as Anti-Inflammatory Agents for Inflammatory Bowel Disease

Charles Giardina, Molecular & Cell Biology, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (PI)

Daniel Rosenberg, Molecular Medicine, Health Center (Co-PI)

Novel Photoacoustic/Ultrasound Imaging System for Non-invasive Ovarian Cancer Detection and Characterization

Qing Zhu, Electrical & Computer Engineering, School of Engineering (PI)
Molly Brewer, Cancer Center, Health Center (Co-PI)

vestments, one of the world's leading providers of financial services, in 1989 as senior vice president and chief financial officer. In 1995, he was appointed chairman, president, and chief executive officer of its subsidiary, Fidelity Management Trust Co. Since retiring in 1998, he has remained on the firm's board of directors. He also serves on the board of Pyramis Global Advisors Trust Co.

McCarthy joined Fidelity In-



PHOTO BY GAIL MERRILL

A Victorian-style gingerbread house, created by staff of Dining Services, on display in South Dining Hall.

Public invited to comment on UConn Police Department

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

A team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) will arrive Dec. 13 to examine the UConn Police Department's policies and procedures, management, operations and support services.

As part of the on-site assessment for re-accreditation, UConn employees and members of the community are invited to offer comments during a public information session at 7 p.m. on Dec. 15, in the South Campus Ballroom.

Individuals unable to attend the public information session may provide comments by telephone on Dec. 15, between 1 and 5 p.m. by calling 860-486-5183 or 860-486-5197. Telephone comments will also be received by assessment team members.

Verification by the assessment team that the police department has met the commission's state-of-the-art standards is part of a voluntary process to gain international accreditation – a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence, says Chief Robert S. Hudd.

The department received initial

accreditation in 2000, and was re-accredited in 2003 and 2006.

Telephone comments as well as appearances at the public information session are limited to 10 minutes and must address the agency's ability to comply with the CALEA standards. A copy of the standards is available upon request at the police department.

Those who wish to offer written comments about the department's ability to meet the CALEA standards for re-accreditation are asked to write to the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies Inc. (CALEA), 10302 Eaton Place, Suite 100, Fairfax, VA 22030-2215, or call CALEA at 1-800-368-3757, and ask for Maya Mitchell.

The assessment team comprises law enforcement practitioners from throughout the United States. The assessors review written materials, interview employees, and observe operations. Upon completion of the assessors' review, a written report is submitted to the CALEA commission.

The CALEA commissioners will review the assessor's report and determine whether the agency is to be awarded re-accreditation status.

December Commencement *continued from page 1*

dents have taken advantage of the extra event. This year, 823 students are eligible to graduate during the Dec. 14 ceremony, more than half of whom will earn their degrees from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

McCarthy, who has a long history of philanthropy, served on the Foundation's Board of Directors from 1997 to 2007. He rejoined the board in 2008. He and his wife, Linda, are members of the 1881

Circle of the Founders Society, which honors donors whose cumulative gifts and pledges total between \$1,000,000 and \$4,999,999.

McCarthy was inducted into the School of Business Hall of Fame in 1996 and, in 2005, received the University Service Award from the UConn Alumni Association, given for exceptional contributions that strengthen and support the University's values and mission.

McCarthy joined Fidelity In-

Publication notice

This is the last issue of the *Advance* for the fall semester. We will resume publishing on Tuesday, Jan. 20. Happy holidays!

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
Advance

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Ancient grave unearthed in Israel

BY MICHAEL KIRK

A 12,000 year-old grave unearthed in the Middle East contains the remains of a woman who provides some of the world's earliest evidence of a religious practitioner, according to a recently published study by researchers from Israel and the University of Connecticut.

The woman was one of the Natufians, the first people to routinely bury their dead. She is one of 28 people buried in an ancient cave site in Israel, but her grave is distinct from the others: she is surrounded by 50 complete tortoise shells and select parts of a wild boar, an eagle, a cow, a leopard, and two martens – as well as a complete human foot that is not her own.

A site set apart

According to the researchers, the interment rituals and the method used to construct and seal the grave suggest that it is the burial site of a shaman – one of the very earliest on archaeological record and the oldest ever found in that region.

“What sets her grave site apart from others is the multitude of animal parts placed near and around her,” says UConn archaeologist Natalie Munro, one of the authors of the paper. “This provides strong evidence that she held a unique position in her society and is very likely an early shaman.” Munro is an associate professor of anthro-

pology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The cave, called Hilazon Tachtit, is located near the Sea of Galilee. The woman's burial is unlike any other from the Natufian or preceding periods. The site is located about six miles from the nearest known settlement.

It is estimated that the woman was just under five feet tall, walked with a pronounced limp or dragged her foot, and was about 45 years old when she died around

12,000 years ago – an advanced age for the time. Her body is buried in its own separate grave within a stone structure.

Carbon dating of the site established the period when the woman lived.

The results of the research were published in the most recent edition of the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Leore Grosman and Anna Belfer-Cohen of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem are co-authors of

the paper, along with Munro. The grave was discovered in 2005 and the researchers conducted their work there from 2005 to 2008.

Special care

The researchers say it would have taken a great effort to travel to the grave site with the body and assemble all the animals needed – particularly the tortoises, who would have had to be caught individually before being buried with the body.

Special care was taken to prepare the gravesite, with mud collected and plastered on the walls. Small limestone slabs were

pressed into it and also lined the floor, creating a foundation. At the time of burial, 10 large stones were placed directly on the head, pelvis, and arms of the body. The woman's spinal column, pelvis, and right femur were placed against the curved southern wall of the oval-shaped grave, with the legs spread apart and folded inward at the knee.

“That's a lot of effort for one woman,” says Munro. “This was no run-of-the-mill burial. It points to her respected place among her people.”

Sedentary lifestyle

The Natufians lived in what is now Israel, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. They were the first society to adopt a more sedentary lifestyle with greater reliance on agriculture – representing a major change in the way people lived.

The authors write: “The unique grave at Hilazon Tachtit cave provides us with rare concrete evidence for those processes in their initial stages, at the termination of the Paleolithic on the eve of the Neolithic revolution.”

Notes Munro: “Ritual behavior coincides with the beginning of agriculture, which made groups less nomadic. These were people who were part of a more permanent community and had a good deal of contact with one another on a day-to-day basis, so it makes sense that ritualized religious behaviors also began to develop around this time.”

The full paper is available at <http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2008/10/31/0806030105>.



PHOTO BY GIDEON HARTMAN

Natalie Munro, associate professor of anthropology, photographing a grave thought to be that of a shaman at the archaeological site of Hilazon Tachtit Cave in northern Israel.

Health Center a key player in statewide colonoscopy pilot

BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

The UConn Health Center is a leading partner in a state pilot program that by next fall will have provided colorectal cancer screenings for up to 600 uninsured or underinsured Connecticut residents.

The Connecticut Colorectal Cancer Screening Demonstration

Project, funded by a state grant, is screening its first patients this month.

Prevention tool

“The colonoscopy is a major prevention tool, but not everyone has access,” says Dr. Joseph C. Anderson, clinical director of the Health Center's Colon Cancer Prevention Program. “The

more people we can screen, the more people we can help. Polyps in the colon will become cancerous whether you have insurance or not. People who can't afford a colonoscopy also can't afford not to get screened.”

Anderson is medical director of the Connecticut project and is among the physicians providing

colonoscopies. He previously played a lead role in similar programs on Long Island and in South Carolina.

The Department of Public Health awarded a grant of more than \$950,000, enabling eight community health centers around the state to refer eligible patients – adults ages 50 through 64 – to participating endoscopists, depending on their location.

The program is also providing appropriate follow-up referrals.

“The goal is to promote, improve, and optimize the appropriate use of high quality colorectal cancer screening and follow-up services, and eliminate or decrease racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities in access to these screenings,” says Jennifer Granger, chief operating officer of the Community Health Center Association of Connecticut.

Charles Huntington, an assistant professor of community medicine and associate dean for continuing and community education at the UConn School of Medicine, has overseen the training of the community health center practitioners and staff members.

Judy Conway, an advanced practice registered nurse, and medical assistant Kim Kingsland, both of the Colon Cancer Prevention Program, are coordinators for the screening program.

State funding for the grant was

available through the Connecticut Cancer Partnership, a coalition working toward reducing the burden of cancer and improving the quality of life of those with cancer.

Promoting public health

“When you break down barriers to preventative medicine, the result is a healthier public,” says Public Health Commissioner Dr. J. Robert Galvin, adding that the initiative “will surely result in saved lives.”

The Health Center will receive approximately \$350,000 for the program, to cover the costs of quality oversight, training and education, data collection and analysis, Anderson's medical directorship, and reimbursement for up to 200 colonoscopies.

“Dr. Anderson has led the effort to bring this crucial program to Connecticut,” says Dr. Carolyn Runowicz, director of the Carole and Ray Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center. “He is a top expert in colon cancer prevention, and prevention is what this is all about. We could almost eradicate colon cancer if only more people were screened.”

The community health center partners are located in Hartford, Waterbury, two in New Haven, Bridgeport, Stamford, Willimantic, and Torrington. The other participating endoscopists are in New Haven, Bridgeport, Stamford, Willimantic, and Torrington.



PHOTO BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

From left, Charles Huntington, Kim Kingsland, Dr. Joseph Anderson, and Judy Conway, discuss the pilot program that will provide colon cancer screening to uninsured and underinsured Connecticut residents.

Psychiatry professor an expert on post-traumatic stress disorder

BY CAROLYN PENNINGTON

Julian Ford has been highly prolific over the past year. The associate professor of psychiatry has four new books bearing his name – all of them dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder in adults or children.

PTSD affects more people than you may think, says Ford. It's not just the soldiers coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan or those who experience horrific tragedies like 9/11. Children who grow up in dangerous or impoverished environments can experience chronic trauma, such as prolonged abuse or family violence.

"These children have to be little soldiers," he says. "Even when parents and the community do the best they can, they still live in what amounts to war zones."

Survival mode

Ford's co-edited book *Treating Traumatized Children: Risk, Resilience and Recovery* (Routledge) looks at children internationally and how they've adapted to trauma. "Sometimes they can flourish and prosper in spite of traumatic circumstances," he says. "In those cases, you don't want to interfere, but support them in their positive ways of coping."

Why do some people handle traumatic events better than others? In his book *Posttraumatic Stress Disorder: Science and Practice* (Elsevier), Ford cites socioeco-

nomics resources, community and societal support, and also genetics. Some people are more prone to anxiety and distress. But no matter how smart, wealthy, or strong you are, anyone can be thrown into a biological survival state if the situation is horrific enough.

"Your body automatically shifts into a self-protective survival mode," says Ford. The first stage is a freeze reaction, you're assessing the danger and scoping out your options. The second stage is flight. If you can't flee, then you fight, which is the third stage. If the danger persists, your body goes to the fourth stage which is actually a kind of paralysis, your body basically shuts down.

An example is a prolonged sexual assault, when the victim stops fighting back even though his or her brain wants to continue fighting. The body is doing this for two reasons – conserving biological resources so the victim doesn't die, and potentially fooling the predator into thinking they've subdued their opponent and move on.

Understanding trauma

Someone who experiences only the earlier stages of trauma will be less likely to have a long-term disorder, Ford says. The more serious problems are related to more prolonged and severe stressors. Other factors, such as socioeconomic, intelligence, and anxiety proneness, may also play a role but they

are secondary to how much, how badly, and how long the victim was exposed to the trauma.

In order to better treat PTSD, you need to understand it. Ford says his co-edited book *The Encyclopedia of Psychological Trauma* (Wiley) has "everything you wanted to know about psychological trauma but were afraid to ask." The book is geared to health care professionals and educators, but is written in a way that students and lay persons can understand and may find useful if they suspect someone they know is suffering from PTSD.

Some people will experience delayed PTSD, notes Ford. This often happens in life transitions, when the person experiences another small or large stressful situation that disrupts relationships or throws a person's emotions out of balance. Treatment helps the person to "understand that this is an aftershock and not the earthquake all over again," says Ford.

Managing emotions

Ford says the key to recovery from PTSD is not "getting over" the memories, but understanding how they affect you now and what you can do to manage your emotions, when new stressors turn on your brain's survival alarm.

"That's exactly what we teach in the therapy I've developed in my work at UConn," he says, "which is called 'Trauma Affect Regulation:



PHOTO BY CAROLYN PENNINGTON

Julian Ford, associate professor of psychiatry, in his office at the Health Center.

'Guide for Education and Therapy' and is copyrighted by UConn."

Ford deals with the most severe cases in his co-edited book *Treating Complex Traumatic Stress Disorders: An Evidence-Based Guide*, which includes people who experienced psychological trauma as a child – family abuse, neglect, years of violence, or separation from parents due to substance abuse, incarceration, or hospitalization. In those instances, kids grow up learning how to make adaptations they don't even realize. Adaptations include being depressed, angry, abusing drugs and alcohol, or engaging in risky behaviors such as cutting oneself.

"To treat those conditions," Ford

says, "you need to help people manage their bodies and emotions, as well as helping them to deal with anxiety."

In the therapy approach Ford developed, the therapist teaches emotion regulation skills such as the "SOS," which stands for slow down, orient, and self-check.

"It's like providing them with a mirror so they can see how their body reacts," he says. "Trauma forces us to focus externally, but life needs both looking out and looking in. It may take a while, but therapy restores that balance. It's something that is possible, even after the worst kinds of trauma."

Safety comes first, says UConn's director of scientific diving

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

His job has a simple bottom line. Or rather, line to the bottom. Everyone who goes down must come up.

But for Jeffrey Godfrey, director of scientific diving for UConn's marine sciences programs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, getting to the bottom and back up again requires planning, planning, and more planning. Training and more training. Testing and re-testing of equipment. And even calling the dive off when things don't look exactly right.

Ensuring safety

Godfrey says safety is the first order of business on any of the 400 to 500 scientific dives undertaken each year by UConn faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates.

The dives take place in locations around the world, including Japan, Antarctica, Australia, the Caribbean, the Gulf of California, and even Long Island Sound: "Anywhere there's water," Godfrey says.

Hazards to divers include running out of air, diving too deeply or too long for the equipment, wildlife, and especially boats, which may not heed the red and white flag that warns of divers below.

The problems vary with the location of the diving. Training dives, which take place right off



PHOTO SUPPLIED BY JEFFREY GODFREY

Diving safety officer Jeffrey Godfrey prepares an underwater camera for a dive.

Avery Point, face hazards from murky water, boats, and potentially also airplanes from nearby Groton-New London Airport.

"It's easy to get separated in the water in Long Island Sound," Godfrey says. "It's not like diving in the Caribbean, where there's 100 feet of visibility."

Scientific divers must be certified, and the regulations are more stringent than those for recreational divers. Certification requires 100 hours of training, one open water snorkel dive, and four deep water dives to ensure safety.

Godfrey joined UConn nine years ago from the Utah State Uni-

versity Fish and Wildlife Cooperative Research Unit, where he was a research diver. He is current president of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences, which sets the standards for university diving programs. He teaches two courses in scientific diving, which are open to both graduate students and undergraduates, and often accompanies UConn faculty on dives.

Although practice dives are often in only seven feet of water, many go deeper.

One of Godfrey's dives involved going down 240 feet to help revise the site map of the U.S.S. *Monitor*. The wreck of this armored turret gunboat, which sank in a storm in 1862 off Cape Hatteras in North Carolina, is now a marine sanctuary.

During another of his dives off the East Coast, a siphonophore – the world's longest animal – swam by. Closely related to a jellyfish, the one he saw was 70 or 80 feet long, he says.

A dive off Deception Island in the Antarctic revealed piles of whale bones sitting on the bottom, left over from the days of a whaling station there.

Survival instinct

Was he ever afraid? Not exactly, he says, "but there are times when your survival gene kicks in." For example, once at Montauk Point, Long Island, where records show the largest great white shark was

caught, he watched the stripers and blues running as hard as they could instead of following their normal pattern of circling and pausing.

"I just put my head down and kept working," Godfrey says. "I wondered what was on the other end of the school, but figured it was something I didn't need to see."

Peter Auster, associate professor of marine sciences, says he occasionally sees and interacts with dolphins, large sea turtles, sea lions, and whales underwater.

"We're down there studying the marine life," he says, "and they are sometimes studying us."

Auster says he brings Godfrey along on expeditions that are technically challenging.

"His job is to make sure that the same number of people who go underwater come back," he says. "But he's a scientist as well, and aids in the success of our work."

Godfrey notes that planning is critically important.

"We've never had an incident," he says. "It's a hazardous environment, so we go out of the way to do training and dive planning.

Our goal is to be very safe as well as efficient. And if something's not right – the water is rough or something isn't going according to plan – we call the dive off and come back another day."

Cell biologists to study gene transfer and evolutionary descent

BY CINDY WEISS

Johann Peter Gogarten, professor of molecular and cell biology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, will begin work in January on a new five-year project to unearth the “roots” of the Darwin-inspired Tree of Life. The project is funded by a \$2.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation.

The research is the first in the select NSF “Assembling the Tree of Life” grant program to examine how microbes fit into the pattern of evolutionary descent.

Gogarten, who has studied the early evolution of life for more than 20 years, says that most of the project will involve computational biology – his specialty. His research team will systematically search for clues, ancient and modern, of microbes transferring genes horizontally, events that complicate the picture of evolutionary heredity, which is usually depicted as the tree of life.

He and his collaborators will build a databank of gene transfer events to reveal the impact of horizontal gene transfer on evolutionary descent.

Challenging a concept

While prokaryotes, the bacteria and archaea, are at the root, or beginnings, of the evolution of life on earth, the process of their evolution may not fit the Darwinian idea of a “tree” of life, Gogarten’s research has shown.

In the “tree” metaphor, species branch off from a common trunk, limbs may reach dead ends, and new branches develop, giving rise

to new lineages.

In announcing the Tree of Life grant program in 2002, NSF referred to Charles Darwin’s concept that all life, from the smallest microbe to the largest vertebrate, is connected through genetic relatedness.

“This ‘Tree of Life’ summarizes all we know about biological diversity and underpins much of modern biology, yet many of its branches remain poorly known and unresolved,” the agency pointed out.

But evidence is mounting that microbes frequently transfer genes horizontally, causing much more rapid changes in genomes than the vertical, or familiar parent-to-offspring, transfer of genes would allow. This method of development challenges the concept of shared ancestry that the tree of life depicts.

Horizontal Gene Transfer (HGT) presents a complicated picture, with microbes transferring genes among themselves, trading traits within a generation, across species, and even between domains of life.

It may mean that the “tree” of life is more like a network or a web, as Gogarten describes it. Even Darwin wrote in his notes that the “tree” of life might not be the most descriptive metaphor, he points out.

In the past 30 to 40 years, the implications of HGT have caused many biologists to take another look at the way evolution works.

Gogarten became interested in the topic in the late 1980s when

he was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of California at Santa Cruz. An unintended consequence of his research got him interested in looking at the early evolution of life.

He noticed in studying genetic sequences that types of microbes thought to be distinct appeared to have swapped genes with each other.

“Genomes change much more rapidly than anyone assumed before,” says Gogarten. “The sheer amount of gene swapping that goes on in the microbial world caught us by surprise.”

Building a database

One problem with the notion of HGT is that it is sometimes hard to distinguish whether a trait is the result of horizontal or vertical gene transfer. In building a database of HGT for the NSF project, Gogarten will use sophisticated analytical techniques and complex computational programs to analyze more factors and offer a more definitive clearinghouse of information that other scientists can build on.

It will enable scientists to recognize patterns in horizontal gene

transfer and expand the picture of how evolution occurs.

The ultimate goal, Gogarten wrote in his NSF proposal, is to address the question, “Can the large-scale structure of the tree/web of life be discerned?”

Eleven researchers will be involved in the work overall, including two other co-principal investigators at UConn and co-principal investigators and researchers at the University of Georgia and East Carolina University. Postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, and undergraduate students also will work on the project.

Kenneth Noll, professor of molecular and cell biology in CLAS and a co-principal investigator, will study the Thermotogales, bacteria that thrive in extreme heat and are considered prime examples of horizontal gene transfer. As many as a quarter of their genes seem to have come from archaea, organisms that were first defined as a separate domain of life from bacteria in 1977.

Noll will analyze data to see the impact of HGT on archaea and to find out how Thermotogales use archaeal genes.

R. Thane Papke, assistant professor of molecular and cell biology, another co-PI, will study the Haloarchaea, a group of archaea that grow in high-salt environments. He is interested in rates of HGT, who the exchange partners are, and what role HGT plays in the generation and maintenance of prokaryotic diversity within and between closely related species and higher taxonomic ranks.

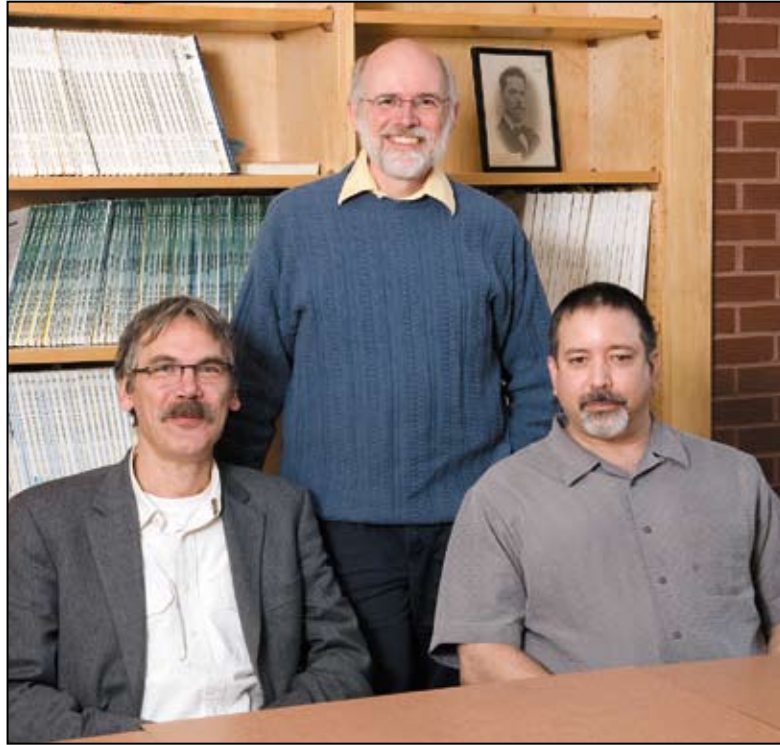


PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

From left, Johann Peter Gogarten, principal investigator, and co-principal investigators Kenneth Noll and R. Thane Papke, all faculty members in the molecular and cell biology department.

Town meeting *continued from page 1*

Nicholls said the committee has already received over 200 suggestions, including more than 150 from UCPEA members submitted through the union, and is working to process and prioritize them.

“The more specific you can be, the better,” said Jim Mindek, computer business operations manager, who is managing the web site.

Feldman said the committee cannot acknowledge each individual suggestion, but he expressed thanks to all who submit their ideas. He also noted that the committee is not able to comment on work conditions, wages, or benefits – issues that would require ‘bilateral understanding’ with the appropriate unions.

Feldman said more than a dozen issues have been raised regarding energy conservation. Reducing the amount of printing and mailing and automating paper-based procedures are also common suggestions.

In response to a question as to whether the budget crisis had caused a “disconnect” with the Academic Plan, Nicholls said the plan “guides the future academic direction of the University. It is just as important, if not more important, to have plans in place in tougher times. Resource constraints may have an impact on the rate at which we achieve our goals, but priorities have been set and we need to be guided by those directions.”

The task force’s guiding principles, available on the web site, reaffirm the primacy of the Academic Plan and emphasize academic priorities. “In making cuts and reductions, all other activities of the University, as worthy as they might be, must be considered as ancillary to the academic functions,” the document states.

Thomas Bontly, an associate professor of philosophy, commented that it is important to find ways to achieve short-term savings without damaging the long-term future.

He also suggested levying a short-term budget crisis surcharge from students, similar to the fuel surcharge airlines sometimes impose, and using that to float bonds.

Another person suggested that those applying for research grants should ask not only for the equipment needed for the project, but also for money to maintain it.

Sue Nesbitt, director of the Center for Continuing Studies, said her center runs revenue-generating academic programs for the University, and anyone who wants to develop a new program should contact the center.

Brian Wells, general manager of the Nathan Hale Inn, said the on-campus hotel could offer additional rooms to students to ease pressure on the residence halls.

It was also suggested that the University enhance revenue by

maximizing the use of its campuses during the summer.

A Facilities employee suggested implementing a standard temperature in offices and classrooms, in both winter and summer.

Another recommended choosing smaller, more fuel-efficient models when new vehicles are purchased.

A member of the landscaping staff suggested recycling wood chips as mulch, and re-using items such as granite curbstones. Another suggested planting wildflower meadows to reduce the cost of lawn mowing.

The task force will provide initial recommendations to the President in January, and a full report later in the spring.

In addition to the three co-chairs, task force members include:

Amy Donahue, head of the public policy department; Gary English, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor and head of the dramatic arts department; Michael Kurland, director of Student Health Services; Mindek; Donna Munroe, associate vice president, Human Resources and Payroll Services; George Sabo, electrical supervisor, Facilities Operations; Winthrop Smith, professor of physics and chair, University Senate Budget Committee; Lisa Troyer, senior associate to the President and chief of staff; and Melanie Savino, administrative support.

Donna Fournier, professor emerita of physiology, dies

BY SHERRY FISHER

Donna Fournier, professor emerita of physiology, died Nov. 12. She was 72.

Fournier, who lived in Glastonbury, graduated from UConn in 1962 with a bachelor’s degree in zoology/biology.

She went on to study physiology at the University of Connecticut Health Center in Farmington, receiving her doctorate in 1969.

She taught at the Health Center in the School of Medicine as an instructor and then as assistant professor through 1973, when she joined the School of Pharmacy in Storrs as assistant professor of physiology. In 1995, she was appointed associate dean for academic affairs in the School of Pharmacy. She retired in 2002.

The period of her tenure as associate dean was one of intense academic activity, encompassing the planning and development of the new Doctor of Pharmacy degree program, the accreditation of the program, and the admission of the first degree candidates.

Andrea Hubbard, associate dean in the School of Pharmacy, says when Fournier joined the pharmacy school, there were few female faculty. “She paved the way

for others to join,” says Hubbard.

“As an associate dean,” Hubbard adds, “Donna demonstrated patience, compassion, and a real talent for multi-tasking.”

Michael Gerald, former dean of the School of Pharmacy, says Fournier played a major role in getting the Pharm.D. program successfully off the ground.

He says she was “a fine teacher with high standards, who was very committed to the academic process.”

She was enjoyed by her students, Hubbard says, and they voted her “Teacher of the Year” in the pharmacy school.

“The award meant a lot to her,” she adds, “because it was a recognition of the work and caring she put into the preparation and delivery of her courses.”

During her career at UConn, Fournier served on many academic and administrative committees and was a member of the University Senate. She also served briefly as interim director of the UConn Honors Program.

Fournier maintained a life-long commitment to running and cycling, and enjoyed gardening.

She is survived by her husband Joseph, a sister and two brothers.



PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Icicles cling to the Floriculture Greenhouse, while poinsettias flourish inside.

GRANTS

The following grants were received through the Office for Sponsored Programs (OSP) in September 2008. The list represents only new proposals awarded, and excludes continuations. The list is supplied to the *Advance* each month by OSP. Additional grants received in September were published in the Dec. 1 issue.

Russell, A.	Computer Science & Engineering	Nat'l Science Foundation	\$550,488	9/08-8/11
<i>CDI Type-I: Quantum Diffusion and Quantum Random Walks in Physical Systems</i>				
Shvartsman, A.	Computer Science & Engineering	Conn. Office of the Secretary of the State	\$380,478	7/08-7/09
<i>Certification and Acceptance Testing of Electronic Voting Equipment</i>				

Shvartsman, A.	Computer Science & Engineering	Conn. Office of the Secretary of the State	\$284,586	5/07-8/08
<i>Voting Technology Center</i>				
Simbayi, L.	Psychology	Nat'l Insts. of Health /Nat'l Inst. of Mental Health	\$152,000	7/08-6/10
<i>HIV Behavioral Disinhibition Risk Reduction for Recently Circumcised South African Men</i>				
Suib, S.	Chemistry	Rohm & Haas Co.	\$30,000	8/08-1/09
<i>Transesterification Catalysts for Biodiesel Production</i>				
Swaminathan, H.	Educational Psychology	Conn. Dept. of Education	\$151,716	7/08-6/09
<i>Migrant Education Program Evaluation</i>				
Tabor, W.	Psychology	Nat'l Inst. of Health/ Nat'l Inst. of Child Health & Human Development	\$96,691	1/09-12/11
<i>Self-Organized Sentence Processing and Reading Ability</i>				
Tang, J.	Mechanical Engineering	Dept. of Defense/ Air Force Office of Scientific Research/ Univ. of Michigan	\$82,691	6/08-5/10
<i>Highly Sensitive and Robust Damage Detection of Periodic Structures with Piezoelectric Networking</i>				
Tufts, J.	Communication Sciences	Dept. of Defense/Navy	\$49,594	7/08-5/09
<i>Enabling Technology for Prediction of Noise-Induced Hearing Loss Incidence and Economic Cost</i>				
Tzingounis, A.	Physiology & Neurobiology	PHS/Nat'l Insts. of Health	\$736,178	9/08-8/11
<i>Molecular Components of the Calcium Activated Slow After Hyperpolarization</i>				
Valiquette, E.	Extension	City of Danbury, Conn.	\$6,993	7/08-8/08
<i>Summer Youth Employment Program</i>				
Wang, G.	Civil & Environmental Engineering	Dept. of Commerce/ Nat'l Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin.	\$277,064	7/08-6/11
<i>Soil Moisture-Vegetation-Precipitation Feedback Over North America: The Search for Observational Evidence</i>				
Whitlatch, R.	Marine Sciences	Conn. Dept. of Environmental Protection	\$24,975	8/08-9/09
<i>Studies on the Benthic Biology of Mumford Cove, Groton, Conn: Assessing the Extent of Habitat Restoration</i>				
Whitney, M.	Marine Sciences	Nat'l Science Foundation	\$345,545	9/08-8/11
<i>Collaborative Research: Investigating Tidal Influences on Subtidal Estuary-Coast Exchange Using Observations and Numerical Simulations</i>				
Yelin, S.	Physics	Nat'l Science Foundation	\$225,000	9/08-8/09
<i>Molecular Arrays for Dipole-Based Quantum Information Processing</i>				

Marshall Scholar *continued from page 1*

proposed American economic assistance to post-war Europe.

UConn's first Marshall Scholar, Virginia DeJohn Anderson, CLAS '76, is now a professor of history at the University of Colorado. As an undergraduate at UConn she was advised by Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of History Richard Brown.

Passion for economics

Prairie, who was valedictorian of her senior class at Rockville High School, entered UConn four years ago hoping to study international business. In her second semester she took an economics course and "something just clicked," she recalls. She became an economics major, and has interned for the Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis and for Susan Randolph, an associate professor whose research focuses on development economics.

"That opportunity has accelerated me so much in economic understanding," Prairie says.

Randolph invited Prairie to assist her in research funded by the Human Rights Institute's economic rights project. She asked her to become familiar with a complex statistical analysis software package, the Statistical Package for Social Scientists. It can be intimidating, Randolph says, but Prairie "got the book from the library and got up and running very quickly."

Economics professor Richard Langlois, Prairie's adviser, says Prairie "is probably one of the very best students I've had in my quarter-century tenure as a faculty member."

President Michael J. Hogan, whose letter of endorsement capped Prairie's application to the Marshall committee, called her "thoughtful, astute, and very articulate."

"Few students get as excited about economic theory and analysis as Michelle," he wrote.

Prairie's interest in development economics was born on a trip to Brazil with her

church group when she was in high school.

She played soccer with 16-year-old Brazilians who had no shoes, she recalls. Riding on a bus from the airport through the outskirts of São Paulo, she was shocked by the stacked-up shanties on the mountainsides.

At UConn she found opportunities for study abroad in Sweden, where she observed the welfare state, and, through the campus Christian group, Reformed University Fellowship, in Peru, where she taught English as a volunteer and assisted a fledgling microfinance program.

"This is when I knew for certain that I

wanted to become a development economist," she wrote in her Marshall application. "I had found a way to serve the poor by using my passion for economic theory."

Preparing for success

She was reluctant at first to apply for a Marshall, questioning her chances among so many qualified applicants.

"In my mind, she had what it takes. She was a winner. She just needed to feel it," says Jill Deans, director of UConn's Office of National Scholarships. Deans arranged several mock interviews to prepare Prairie. Among the interviewers were history professor

Christopher Clark, chair of the campus Marshall Scholarship nominating committee, and Sandra Shumway, adjunct professor-in-residence of marine sciences, who was herself a Marshall Scholar.

During the actual interview with the Marshall committee in November, Prairie was asked, among other things, what she would do about General Motors if she were President Obama's economic adviser.

"When I walked out, I felt good," she says. Prairie's experiences at UConn include working for three years at the newsstand in Babbidge Library, where she read the *Economist* and national newspapers and exchanged ideas with faculty who dropped by.

She describes her study method as "studying in class – I raise my hand a lot."

She also interns at the Travelers Insurance Co., in the market research division. As a senior, Prairie won the Travelers Insurance Company Scholarship, the top undergraduate award in the economics department.

Her mother, Ellen Prairie, works in the One-Card Office at Wilbur Cross, and her father, Robert Prairie, is a 1981 UConn alumnus in mechanical engineering technology.

Deans already is scouting for candidates for next year's national scholarship opportunities.

"We have all these amazing students. They don't know how amazing they are," she says.

"UConn is out there and it's being recognized. To win a Marshall this year is confirmation that we've got these fantastic students. It's very affirming."

Prairie, meanwhile, has made BBC.com the start-up screen on her computer in preparation for her stay in the U.K.

"My whole four years at UConn, I could never have foreseen half of the things I'm doing now," she says. "I'm so appreciative that UConn has given me these opportunities."



PHOTO BY ANNIE PETERSON, CLAS '09

Michelle Prairie will spend two years studying development economics in the U.K. as a Marshall Scholar.

CALENDAR Monday, December 8, to Tuesday, January 20

Items for the weekly *Advance* Calendar are downloaded from the University's online Events Calendar. Please enter your Calendar items at: <http://events.uconn.edu/> Items must be in the database by 4 p.m. on Monday for inclusion in the issue published the following Monday. **Note:** This is the last issue of the *Advance* for the fall semester. The next Calendar will include events taking place Tuesday, Jan. 20 through Monday, Jan. 26. Those items must be in the database by Monday, Jan. 12. If you need special accommodations to participate in events, call 860-486-2943 (Storrs), or 860-679-3563 (Farmington), or 860-570-5130 (Law School).

Academics

Monday, 12/8 – Final exams begin.
Saturday, 12/13 – Final exams end.
Sunday, 12/14 – Undergraduate Commencement ceremony.
Tuesday, 12/16 – Deadline for submitting fall grades.
Monday, 12/29 – Intersession classes begin.
Tuesday, 12/30 – Last day to place an intersession course on pass/fail.
Friday, 1/9 – All grades and credits must appear on transcript for fall graduation.
Thursday, 1/15 – Last day to drop an intersession course.
Tuesday, 1/20 – Spring semester begins.

Libraries

Homer Babbidge Library. Mon.-Thurs., 7:30 a.m.-2 a.m.; Fri., 7:30 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m.-2 a.m. Exam hours: 12/8-12/13, open 24 hours. Recess hours: 12/14-12/24, Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., noon-5 p.m. 12/25-12/28, closed. 12/29-12/31, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. 1/1-1/4, closed. 1/5-1/16, Mon.-Thurs., 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., noon-5 p.m. 1/17-1/19, Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., noon-5 p.m.

Dodd Center. Mon., 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sat., noon-4 p.m.; closed Sun. Recess hours: 12/15-1/19, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; closed weekends. 12/25-1/2 & 1/19, closed.

Pharmacy Library. Mon.-Thurs., 8:30 a.m.-10 p.m.; Fri., 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., 1-9 p.m. Call 860-486-2218 for recess hours.

Music & Dramatic Arts Library. Mon.-Thurs., 9 a.m.-10 p.m.; Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m.; Sun., noon-10 p.m. 12/8-12/14, Mon.-Thurs., 9 a.m.-10 p.m.; Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat., noon-5 p.m.; Sun., closed. See web site for recess hours.

Health Center Library. Mon.-Thurs., 7 a.m.-11 p.m.; Fri., 7 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., noon-10 p.m. Recess hours: 12/20-1/1, Mon.-Fri., 7 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Sun., 2-6 p.m. 12/25 & 1/1, closed.

Law Library. Mon.-Thurs., 8 a.m.-11 p.m.; Fri., 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., 1-9 p.m. Exam hours: 12/8-12/18, Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-midnight; weekends, 9 a.m.-midnight. Recess hours: 12/19, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. 12/20-1/4, closed. 1/4-1/20, Mon.-Thurs., 8 a.m.-11 p.m.; Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun., 1-9 p.m.

Avery Point Campus Library. Mon.-Thurs., 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed weekends. Exam hours: 12/8-12/13, Mon.-Thurs., 8:30 a.m.-10 p.m.; Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed weekends. Recess hours: 12/14-1/19, Mon.-Thurs., 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed weekends. 12/25-1/2, closed.

Greater Hartford Campus Library. Mon.-Thurs., 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Fri. & Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Sun. Exam hours: 12/7-12/13, Mon.-Wed., 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Thurs., 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Fri.-Sun., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Recess hours: 12/14-12/23, Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed weekends. 12/24-1/4, closed. 1/5-1/16, Mon.-Thurs., 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fri. & Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Sun. 1/17-1/20, closed.



PHOTO SUPPLIED BY BENTON MUSEUM

"Palden Lhamo Tangka" from the exhibit *Bound by Tradition and Religion: Tibetan Tangkas*, on display at the Benton Museum through Dec. 19.

Stamford Campus Library. Mon.-Thurs., 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Fri., 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sat., 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; closed Sun. Recess hours: 12/15-1/19, Mon.-Thurs., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fri., 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; closed Sun. 12/20, 12/24-12/27, 12/31-1/1, 1/17, closed.

Torrington Campus Library. Mon.-Thurs., 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; closed Fri.-Sun. Recess hours: 12/15-1/19, Mon.-Thurs., 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Fri.-Sun., closed. 12/24-1/1, 1/19, closed.

Waterbury Campus Library. Mon.-Thurs., 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; closed weekends. Exam hours: 12/8-12/11, 8:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Recess hours: 12/15-12/31, Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; closed weekends. 1/5-1/16, Mon.-Thurs., 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; closed weekends. 12/24-12/28 & 1/1-1/4 closed.

Ph.D. Defenses

Monday, 12/8 – Educational Psychology. *How do 4th and 5th Grade Students Acquire the New Literacies of Online Reading Comprehension? Exploring the Contexts that Facilitate Learning*, by Jill Castek (adv.: Leu). 11 a.m., Room 142, Gentry Building.

Tuesday, 12/9 – Political Science. *Cycles of Reciprocity: Cooperation and Protracted Conflict in International Affairs*, by Anat Niv-Solomon (adv.: Boyer). 10 a.m., Room 119, Monteith Building.

Tuesday, 12/9 – Modern & Classical Languages. *Rewriting the Spanish Civil War as a Traumatic Episode: Nation, Gender, and Trauma in Juan Benet's Work*, by Jesus Salamanca (adv.: Gomes). 2 p.m., Room 211, Arjona Building.

Wednesday, 12/10 – Chemistry. *Sensitivity, Linearity, and Reliability Enhancement of Implantable Glucose Sensors*, by Santhisagar Vaddiraju (adv.: Papadimitrakopoulos). 11 a.m., Room IMS 20, Gant Science Complex.

Wednesday, 12/10 – Biomedical Science. *Functional and Biochemical Characterization of Sortases in *Corynebacterium diphtheriae**, by Anu Swaminathan (adv.: Ton-That). 4 p.m., Low Learning Center, Health Center.
Thursday, 12/11 – Civil & Environmental Engineering. *Progressive Damage and Delamination in Composite Plates*

Under Dynamic Loading: Analytical Modeling and Experimental Validation, by David Bamford (adv.: Accorsil). 11 a.m., Room 306, Castleman Building.

Thursday, 12/11 – Pharmaceutical Sciences. *Mechanism of Peroxisomal Targeting of Human Soluble Epoxide Hydrolase (hsEH) and Its Effect on hsEH Stability and Activity*, by Beibei Luo (adv.: Knecht). 1 p.m., Room 355, Pharmacy/Biology Building.

Thursday, 12/11 – Biomedical Science. *Functional and Biochemical Characterization of Pili in *Corynebacterium diphtheriae**, by Anjali Mandlik (adv.: Ton-That). 3 p.m., Low Learning Center, Health Center.

Friday, 12/12 – Communication Sciences. *Dissociating the Role of Auditory and Somatosensory Feedback in Speech Production: Sensorimotor Adaptation to Formant Shifts and Articulatory Perturbations*, by Yongqiang Feng (adv.: Max). 10:30 a.m., Class of '47 Room, Babbidge Library.

Friday, 12/12 – English. *Huck Finn's Brethren: Irish Characters in American Literature*, by Christopher Dowd (adv.: Burkel). 2 p.m., Room 217, CLAS Building.

Tuesday, 12/16 – Chemical, Materials, & Biomolecular Engineering. *Microstructure and Phase Stability of a Quaternary Nb-Mo-Cr-Al-Si Alloy*, by Yan-Ling Hu (adv.: Aindow). 10 a.m., Room IMS 20, Gant Science Complex.

Thursday, 12/18 – Medieval Studies. *A Local Community, a Community of "Locals": The Cistercians of Altenberg Abbey, 1133-1539*, by Erin Heidkamp (adv.: Olson). 10 a.m., Room 217, CLAS Building.

Tuesday, 12/23 – Comparative Literature & Cultural Studies. *Teaching White South African Literature in High School: The Legacy of Apartheid in the 21st Century*, by Anastasia Batzer (adv.: McNeece). 3 p.m., Room 221, Arjona Building.

Meetings

Monday, 12/8 – Health Center Board of Directors. 8:30 a.m.-noon, Room EG 013, Academic Research Building.

Monday, 12/8 – University Senate. 4-6 p.m., Room 7, Bishop Center.

Friday, 12/12 – Joint Audit & Compliance Committee. 10:30 a.m., Room 146, Bishop Center.

Wednesday, 12/17 – Parking Advisory Committee. 1:30 p.m., Room 146, Bishop Center.

Lectures & Seminars

Thursday, 12/11 – CHIP Lecture. "Pregnancy and HIV Prevention," by Trace Kershaw, Yale School of Public Health. 12:30 p.m., Room 204, Ryan Refectory.

Exhibits

Through Friday, 12/19 – Babbidge Library. *Offline*, art & craft by Libraries staff, Gallery on the Plaza; *Portraits of Nature*, photographs 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; Bound by Tradition and Religion: Tibetan Tangkas*, fabric art pieces from Peter Polomski & Richard Allen. Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., 1-4:30 p.m.

Through Sunday, 12/21 – 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, others \$3 donation. Avery Point Campus.

Through Wednesday, 1/7 – Health Center. Abstract paintings by Tory Cowles, and photographs by Melissa Post. Daily, 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Celeste LeWitt Gallery. Also, through Wednesday, 1/21, oil paintings by Faripour Forouhar. Daily, 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Main and Mezzanine Lobbies.

Through Sunday, 2/8 – The Ballard Institute & Museum of Puppetry. *Puppets through the Lens*, puppets in film, television, and the Internet. Depot Campus. Open by appointment: 860-486-0339.

Performing Arts

Saturday, 12/13 – Winter Concert. *Treblemakers*. 3 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Free.

Athletics

Sunday, 12/14 – Women's Ice Hockey vs. Harvard. 2 p.m., Ice Forum.

Monday, 12/15 – Men's Basketball vs. Stony Brook. 7 p.m., XL Center.

Friday, 12/26 – Men's Basketball vs. Fairfield. 7 p.m., XL Center.

Monday, 12/29 – Men's Basketball vs. Georgetown. 7 p.m., XL Center.

Monday, 12/29 – Men's Ice Hockey vs. Air Force. 7:15 p.m., Ice Forum.

Wednesday, 12/31 – Women's Basketball vs. Hartford. Noon, XL Center.

Saturday, 1/3 – Women's Basketball vs. Louisiana State. Noon, XL Center.

Saturday, 1/3 – Women's Ice Hockey vs. Vermont. 1 p.m., Ice Forum.

Saturday, 1/3 – Men's Basketball vs. Rutgers. 7 p.m., Gampel Pavilion.

Saturday, 1/3 – Men's Ice Hockey vs. Air Force. 7:15 p.m., Ice Forum.

Sunday, 1/4 – Women's Ice Hockey vs. Vermont. 1 p.m., Ice Forum.

Saturday, 1/10 – Women's Ice Hockey vs. BU. 7 p.m., Ice Forum.

Tuesday, 1/13 – Women's Basketball vs. DePaul. 7:30 p.m., Gampel Pavilion.

Wednesday, 1/14 – Men's Ice Hockey vs. Bentley. 7:05 p.m., Ice Forum.

Friday, 1/16 – Women's Ice Hockey vs. Mercyhurst. 7 p.m., Ice Forum.

Saturday, 1/17 – Women's Basketball vs. Syracuse. 2 p.m., XL Center.

Saturday, 1/17 – Women's Ice Hockey vs. Mercyhurst. 4 p.m., Ice Forum.

Sunday, 1/18 – Men's Basketball vs. Seton Hall. 2 p.m., XL Center.

Potpourri

Tuesday, 12/9 – Red Cross Blood Drive. In memory of Frank Labato. 1-5:45 p.m., Bishop Center.

Saturday, 12/13 – Museum of Natural History Workshop. Basket-making, with Sue Broneill and Cheri Collins. Noon-4 p.m. Adults and children 8 and up. \$20 member, \$15 non-member. Call 860-486-5690.

Sunday, 12/14 – Museum of Natural History Workshop. Cutting and cording: skills of the Stone Age, with Jim Dina, CCSU. 1 p.m. Adults and children 8 and up. \$20 member, \$15 non-member. Call 860-486-5690.

History professor emeritus John Greene dies at 91

BY SHERRY FISHER

John Greene, emeritus professor of history, died Nov. 12. He was 91.

Greene, who lived in Pacific Grove, Calif., joined the UConn faculty in 1967 and retired in 1987.

His research included the history of evolutionary ideas in Western thought, early American science, and the historical relations of science, religion, and world view.

He turned a longstanding dialogue with two renowned evolutionary biologists into a book, *Debating Darwin: Adventures of a Scholar* (1999). The book focuses on what sparked his interest in the history of evolution and evolutionary thought, and how he came to know 20th-century evolutionary biologists Ernst Mayr and Theodosius Dobzhansky.

His other books include *The Death of Adam: Evolution and Its Impact on Western Thought* (1959); *Science, Ideology and World View: Essays in the History of Evolutionary Ideas* (1981); and *American Science in the Age of Jefferson* (1984).

Richard Brown, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of History and director of the Humanities Institute, says Greene was widely recognized

as a leading American scholar of the history of science.

"He was very learned," says Brown, "and very much respected for his high standards and integrity. He was also a good citizen of the department and the University, and widely respected by the community."

Edmund Wehrle, professor emeritus of history, says Greene was "an incredible gentleman" who was generous with his hospitality.

Greene, who grew up in South Dakota, earned a doctorate in history from Harvard University. He served for three years in the U.S. Army during World War II.

He taught at the University of Chicago, the University of Wisconsin, Iowa State, the University of California at Berkeley, and the University of Kansas. He was a member of the Society of Fellows at Harvard University and served as secretary and president of the History of Science Society. He received the George Sarton Medal for a lifetime of scholarly achievement.

Greene is survived by two sons, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. His wife Ellen and daughter predeceased him.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the ACLU.

New interdisciplinary format for BGS degree program

BY RICHARD VEILLEUX

The Bachelor of General Studies program has entered a new era.

UConn's 30-year-old BGS program this semester implemented a new format that requires all students to create an interdisciplinary major, falling broadly under one of seven approved themes.

"The model we've used in the past was based on an individualized major that required students to have a 'focus,' while the new program is based on an interdisciplinary major and curricular 'themes,'" says Peter Diplock, director of the BGS program.

Diplock says the primary difference between focuses and themes is that themes offer students an opportunity to select from a broader array of existing UConn courses, while at the same time ensuring they come away with an interdisciplinary education by requiring them to select courses from multiple academic disciplines.

Breadth and depth

The move is consistent with a number of recent developments including an emphasis on interdisciplinary education in UConn's new academic plan and the increased value being placed by employers on interdisciplinary education.

"The new interdisciplinary major in the BGS program combines the best of both worlds," says Diplock. "Students realize curriculum breadth through an interdisciplinary design, while being able



PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Peter Diplock, director of the Bachelor of General Studies program, in his office at the Bishop Center.

to realize definition and depth through a tighter emphasis within a particular theme and through pursuit of various existing UConn minors."

Students admitted to the program prior to fall 2008 who have maintained continuous registration are still eligible to graduate with focuses reflected on their

transcripts. Students admitted this semester and beyond can select from a general interdisciplinary plan of study or seven curricular themes, which include Human Services, Social Science, Arts and Humanities, Society and Justice, Diversity and Multiculturalism, International, or Community and Public Engagement.

Non-traditional students

The program is the fourth largest degree program at UConn and enrolls about 1,000 students annually, primarily at UConn's regional campuses, most of whom are balancing school with work, and/or caring for children or a parent. Students range in age from 21 to 78.

"It's a journey of significance, of persistence," Diplock says. "One student received a degree last year 20 years after he started college. Some have been away from school for 10 years; some took courses at five or six schools; others are following a spouse or serving in the military. What binds them is a passion for a quality educational experience."

The new curriculum, he says, will enhance that experience.

"The themes we now have will offer additional options to our students," says Joel Blatt, an associate professor of history at the Stamford Campus, who has taught hundreds of BGS students during the past three decades. "This lets them obtain a good UConn education, gives them a little more

flexibility, and adds options for the students."

Veronica Makowsky, vice provost for undergraduate education and regional campus administration, agrees.

"Interdisciplinarity is now a hot topic in academia and is central to UConn's recently approved academic plan," she says. "Returning adult students are walking exemplars of interdisciplinarity because of their varied work experiences and educational backgrounds. The new interdisciplinary format for the BGS degree allows these returning adults to further widen their experiences, while organizing their studies according to a broad interdisciplinary theme."

"BGS is central to workforce development," she adds, "and the new BGS curriculum will help make experienced workers even stronger and more productive."

The average BGS student comes to UConn with a minimum of 60 earned credits or an associate's degree, and a GPA of nearly 3.0, says Diplock. But they bring much more to the table.

"They bring such rich context for other students in the classes," he says. "They can talk about the nuances of organizational life, the reality of ethics in the workplace, and the challenges and opportunities of diversity, and serve as role models for other students in relation to balancing competing life commitments."

Jewish/Christian interfaith marriages focus of sociologist's study

BY MICHAEL KIRK

Professor Arnold Dashefsky, head of the University's Judaic Studies program, and a team of researchers interviewed nearly 150 mixed Jewish/Christian couples throughout the nation for a study on interfaith marriage in the U.S.

Their focus was on what tends to draw interfaith couples to Judaism and what drives them away. The study explains how intermarriage runs against the established Jewish religious tradition, and explores the tension between that tradition and the way people are living now, with intermarriage having risen steadily since the 1970s, according to Dashefsky, a professor of sociology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

A key finding in the research was that interfaith couples – who often struggle for acceptance from family and the Jewish community – diverged from the typical interfaith couple in that they were actually more observant of many Jewish traditions than the overall Jewish population.

Participants in Dashefsky's study, interviewed between 2001 and 2005, exceeded respondents in the most recent National Jewish Population Survey (2000-2001) on a number of measures related to spirituality and religious observances, including lighting Hanuk-

kah and Shabbat candles, attending a Passover Seder, and visiting Israel. Respondents in this survey were also more likely than those in most surveys of the Jewish population to report that their children were being raised as Jews: 72 percent, compared to the national average of one-third.

"These findings," says Dashefsky, "point to the diversity of experiences among the intermarried, and the need for a diversity of responses to this phenomenon."

Respondents for the study were taken from four cities in different regions of the nation: the Northeast (Boston), the Midwest (Saint Louis), the West (San Francisco Bay Area), and the South (Atlanta). While not a statistical public opinion poll, the study provides important information on the relationship between intermarried couples, Judaism, and the Jewish community today, says Dashefsky.

Asked what pushes them away from Judaism, many interfaith respondents cited perceived rejection by rabbis, family members, and/or the Jewish community; negativism of rabbis in either refusing to perform an interfaith marriage or signaling disapproval; expectation for conversion of the Christian partners; and the questioning of the children's Jewish identity by extended family

members, rabbis, and others.

Those with more positive experiences cited the perceived warmth of the community; the availability of Jewish education classes; acceptance of intermarriage without conversion; and reduced tensions for interfaith couples with Jewish community acceptance.

The study also found that when contemplating marriage, half of all Jewish respondents were concerned about their parents' reaction to interfaith marriage and whether there might be a problem later about raising the children as Jews. Also, half of Jewish respondents reported that they had a Christmas tree, and about 75 percent said they exchanged Christmas presents.

Based on this study, Dashefsky says, in order to make these couples feel more welcome, "the Jewish community must turn away from the prior outlook of rejecting the partners of interfaith marriage to the contemporary view of embracing a gentler, more nurturing environment for them, in order to strengthen communal continuity and personal identity."

The study was presented last summer at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion in Boston. The theme of the conference this year was "Religion Crossing Boundaries."



PHOTO BY DANIEL BUTTREY

Arnold Dashefsky, professor of sociology and director of the Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life.