



UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Advance

Volume 27, No. 16
January 20, 2009

www.advance.uconn.edu

Eminent Faculty team assembled

BY MICHAEL KIRK

University President Michael Hogan and Senate President Donald Williams announced last month that the UConn now has six top alternative energy researchers associated with the state's Eminent Faculty Program, including the new director of UConn's Global Fuel Cell Center.

The Eminent Faculty Program became law in 2006, and \$4 million in state funding has been provided to create this public-private partnership, enabling UConn to hire national experts in alternative energy technology. The program was designed to attract researchers skilled in commercialization and technology transfer to UConn to promote economic development and enhance training of energy workers and entrepreneurs in the state. In addition to new faculty members and their research teams, the program also allows UConn to purchase equipment for their laboratories.

As part of the partnership, three major Connecticut energy companies – UTC Power of South Windsor, the Northeast Utilities Foundation, and FuelCell Energy of Danbury – contributed a combined \$2 million as an industry match.

Sustainable energy

"The Eminent Faculty Program has given Connecticut the opportunity to provide national leadership in the development of sustainable and environmentally-sound energy alternatives," said Hogan. "This new research team in sustainable energy will build upon the strength of UConn's Global Fuel Cell Center and bolster Connecticut's emerging alternative energy industry. We owe a great deal of thanks to our elected representatives as well as our generous corporate partners."

Williams added, "Connecticut has a proud history of innovation that has helped revolutionize our national and regional economies and improve the quality of life for its citizens: we are the birthplace of the cotton gin, the submarine, and even rubber tires. Now it's our turn again. The Eminent Faculty Program is planting the seeds of innovation that can help us achieve energy independence. Not only that, it will help Connecticut find its niche in the 'green economy,' enabling us to grow jobs and create wealth."

The six faculty members, who hold

see Eminent Faculty page 3



PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

State Senate President Donald Williams, second from right, speaks during a press conference about the Eminent Faculty Program. From left are Mun Choi, dean of engineering, and Professors Prabhakar Singh, Tianfeng Lu, William Mustain, George Rossetti Jr., and Hanchen Huang.

Engineering professor earns presidential award for underwater communications research

BY COLIN POITRAS

Shengli Zhou, director of the University's Wireless Communication Research Laboratory, has received a prestigious presidential award for his work on improving the efficiency of underwater acoustic communications.

Zhou was one of 67 researchers nationwide to receive the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers during a Dec. 19 ceremony in Washington D.C. The award is the nation's highest honor for professionals at the outset of their independent scientific research careers.

An assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, Zhou is believed to be the first UConn faculty member to receive such a distinction.

"The PECASE is the most prestigious award available to a young faculty member," says Mun Y. Choi, dean of the School of Engineering. "This award underscores the high quality of the faculty members in the School of Engineering, and attests to the long-term importance of the work Prof. Zhou is

conducting with Prof. Jun-Hong Cui in the area of remote underwater sensing. All of UConn can take pride in this honor."

The awards are presented by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. Nine federal departments and agencies annually submit nominations on behalf of scientists and engineers whose work shows exceptional promise for leadership at the frontiers of scientific knowledge. Zhou was among 15 scholars nominated by officials at the U.S. Department of Defense.

Innovative algorithms

As part of the award, Zhou will receive a \$1 million federal grant over the next five years to expand his research in underwater acoustic communications, which involves novel transmitter design and advanced receiver processing, as well as development of a prototype of an underwater modem.

Communicating and transferring data under water present unique obstacles in naval operations, scientific exploration, and commercial industry. Radio communications, which work so effectively on land, do

not work as well under water so they must be replaced by acoustic communications. Due to the challenging characteristics of underwater channels, current acoustic communication technologies are extremely slow.

Zhou has conducted extensive research on broadband wireless communications over radio channels in the past, but has focused on underwater acoustic communications during the past four years. He is currently working on the creation of innovative algorithms to address the special challenges encountered in underwater acoustic communications.

Zhou says the fact that the presidential award honors advances in both science and engineering reflects the widespread applications associated with his research.

"With this technology, if you have the right links available, you can facilitate all different kinds of operations," he says.

Some examples of the practical applications of Zhou's research include improved

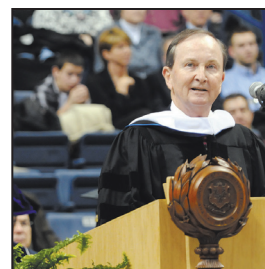
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Inside

Med students engage in debate on national health care policy

BY CHRIS DeFRANCESCO
Recent discussions at the UConn School of Medicine may influence decisions about national health care policy.

In November, Barack Obama, then president-elect, asked his transition team to facilitate community-level health care discussions throughout the country and use the ensuing flow of ideas as a resource in shaping his administration's health plan.

The School of Medicine chapter of the American Medical Student Association organized such a discussion, inviting students, faculty, staff, patients, and the public to participate in one of the two sessions held at the Patterson Auditorium on Jan. 7.

The sessions were recorded and students are sending audio and video files to the presidential transition team, along with written summaries of the discussions and of responses to surveys they asked the participants to complete.

Second-year student Erica Hinz, one of the student organizers, said that, because of the state of health care, she had been advised an "unbelievable" number of times not to attend medical school. She said that she hopes to convey to the new administration that "what we want is a new American health care system that really puts patients first."

Dr. David Henderson, associate dean for student affairs, praised Hinz and the other student organizers for "trying to have some influence in shaping a system that is rational and equitable and actually meets the needs of the population."

Among those attending – and taking notes – was Dr. K.J. Lee, a



PHOTO BY CHRIS DeFRANCESCO

A discussion group at the Health Center exchanges ideas on national health care policy. From left, oncology fellow Nicolas Jabbour, medical student Chika Anekwe, librarian Alberta Richetelle, rheumatologist Dr. Santhanam Lakshminarayanan, psychiatrist Dr. Kathie Moffitt, and medical student Shan Shan Jiang.

New Haven physician who serves on the Obama Health Care Reform Advisory Committee.

"Our job is to go around the country and listen for great ideas, and help President-elect Obama craft a health care plan that is good for the people," said Lee, who has sat in on similar events in Connecticut, mining for recommendations to pass along to the new Health and Human Services Secretary.

Chief among the recommendations is a call for better use of health care dollars.

"We have plenty of money in health care, spending \$2.3 trillion," Lee said. "It's misspent, incentives are not aligned, and the stakeholders don't trust each other."

Lee invited the participants, and their friends and families, to send him information via e-mail about their experiences with the health care system.

Dr. Kathryn Doughty, a chief orthopedic resident at the Health Center, said, "The problem is not that we don't have the money to provide health care. The money is being used inefficiently. And part of that is, there needs to be some transparency about where the money's going."

Second-year student Teresa Doucet said, "In a culture where we provide and consume a lot of things in excess, our health care tests are no exception to that. The standard of care becomes governed by things like what's available and

what works right now, and is not offering patients those things that are more evidence-based."

Scott Selig of the Community Health Center Association of Connecticut said, "In the medical world, we get reimbursed for the tests that we do instead of getting some sort of administrative fee for seeing patients." To search for a solution, he said, would require getting the payers and the providers in the same room: "There needs to be some way where we get everyone talking to each other."

Added Dr. Santhanam Lakshminarayanan, a rheumatologist at the Health Center's New England Musculoskeletal Institute, "Health care is primarily a for-profit industry, and until that changes, reform

is meaningless and will probably never happen."

Economics were on the minds of many, particularly medical students with substantial student loans.

Second-year student Neena Qasba, another student organizer, said, "The issue of medical student debt needs to be addressed by the president-elect, especially if his administration hopes to provide universal coverage that is equitable for both providers and patients."

Other suggestions included improvements in patient advocacy and education.

First-year student Patty Davis said, "Often times, even when you're moderately educated, there are difficulties in communication between the doctor and patient, and patients get lost in the system, and it's even worse if you have poor literacy skills."

Dr. Ellen Eisenberg, chair of the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology at the UConn School of Dental Medicine, suggested that education about prevention should be started in the schools, even in preschool.

Primary care, reimbursement, tort reform, standardizing electronic medical records, and quality measures were among the other discussion topics. Between the afternoon and evening sessions, about 80 people attended.

Ronald Wallace from the Office of Research Safety was the lead faculty organizer.

For information about getting involved with similar health care events in the future, send an e-mail to: facesofhartford@gmail.com for upcoming event announcements.

UConn to administer direct loan program

BY KAREN A. GRAVA
UConn is changing its student loan program to offer students and parents a more stable, streamlined, and predictable borrowing experience.

The new program, called the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program, is backed not by individual banks but through loan funds coming directly from the U.S. Department of Education.

The Direct Loan Program will be the source of funding for all Federal Stafford and Federal PLUS loans, starting with the 2009/2010 academic year. These are the loans available to students regardless of income level and typically are used by middle income people.

"The Direct Loan program provides a guaranteed source of funding for student loans," said Jean Main, director of financial aid. "Volatility in the credit markets and reductions in lender subsidies have caused many lenders to stop offering borrower benefits and other services to students and parents. The Direct Loan program

is not affected by changes in the economy and provides a more stable loan process."

Currently, UConn uses the Federal Family Education Loan program (FFEL), in which students and parents borrow from private banks and lenders.

The change means that current students who have federal loans will have to complete a new Master Promissory Note for the Direct Loan Program rather than just renewing their loans. Students receive notification of their federal loan eligibility and complete the Master Promissory Note in February or March.

There are several benefits in the Direct Loan Program, said Main, including:

A guaranteed source of funding for student loans.

The option of an income-contingent repayment plan or an income-based repayment plan when a student enters repayment. This means a student has the option of ensuring that the loan repayment amount will always be

affordable based on what the borrower's income will allow.

Students in the Direct Loan Program who enter into public service jobs can have any remaining balance on the loans forgiven after 10 years of repayment while in public service work. (While this option does not exist in the FFEL Program, students who borrowed in that program can consolidate their loans into the Direct Loan Program in order to take advantage of this forgiveness.)

The interest rate for the parent PLUS loan and for the graduate PLUS loan is 7.9 percent in the Direct Loan Program compared to 8.5 percent in the FFEL Program.

Should a student make payments late under the Direct Loan Program, the late fees charged are less than the late fees charged by lenders in the FFEL Program.

More information for parents and students can be found at <http://www.financialaid.uconn.edu/directFAQ2>.

Aqua Kids TV show to feature UConn experts

The popular Aqua Kids television show will feature UConn marine sciences professor Robert Whitlatch and Connecticut Sea Grant experts Nancy Balcom and Peg Van Patten in a show that will air nationwide this week.

In Connecticut, the show will air on Jan. 24 at 8:30 a.m. on WCTX (MyTV Channel 9, except in Fairfield County, 59 analog).

The episode was filmed in late September at the Avery Point campus.

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Advance

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

Biologist discusses new model for conservation of tropical forests

BY CINDY WEISS

Since more than 90 percent of the world's tropical forests are outside of reserves, parks, and protected areas, the survival of species of plants and animals that live in human-modified landscapes will require involving local communities in conservation strategies.

That message comes from Robin Chazdon, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, who gave an invited talk on the topic at a Smithsonian Institution symposium last week on "Prospects for Tropical Forest Biodiversity in a Human-Modified World."

Conservation strategies

Chazdon says a "whole new model" of conservation management offers some proactive approaches to help mitigate biodiversity loss in the tropics.

She calls for the development of biological corridors to connect remnants of old-growth forest to younger, secondary growth forests. The old-growth forests can act as "arks" to preserve species until the secondary growth forests are established as a new habitat.

"If we can protect, expand, and enhance forest cover in these altered landscapes, the prognosis

for conserving many forms of plant and animal life will improve in many regions," she said.

Chazdon has studied regrowth, or secondary growth tropical forests, since 1991, long before research on regrowth forests drew much interest.

Her recent research, supported by the National Science Foundation, shows that seedlings and saplings of tree species from original growth tropical forests in Costa Rica have found a suitable habitat in regrowth areas.

While other studies had shown that only 59 percent of the trees in the original forests were also found in regrowth areas, Chazdon and her collaborators took a broader look, including seedlings and saplings in the count as well as mature trees, and running statistical analyses to account for chance. She found that 90 percent of the original species were present in the secondary growth areas when the younger trees were counted too.

That demonstrates that regrowth areas are important for recovering tree diversity, a finding that supports new conservation strategies such as building biological corridors and buffer zones surrounding existing reserves.

The corridors would allow spe-

cies threatened by the loss of old growth areas to move to regrowth areas to survive.

In many areas of Costa Rica, Chazdon has found, regrowth forests are regenerating in former cattle pastures that were abandoned after international demand for beef declined.

The Smithsonian symposium was convened last week because satellite data and other research reveal that large tracts of previously logged or farmed areas are now regrowing. The symposium examined how and whether regrowth might mitigate the loss of biodiversity caused by massive deforestation and forest fragmentation over the past 50 years.

Fostering biodiversity

Among the strategies that can promote biodiversity are enrichment planting – planting seedlings or sowing seeds of native trees that are regenerating poorly on their own – and providing artificial roosts for animals in the new areas, Chazdon says.

Shade-grown coffee, a traditional method of cultivating coffee beans, allows the forest canopy to remain intact, preserving habitat for threatened species, she notes. Cacao (the cocoa plant) will also grow in shade under the tropical



PHOTO BY DANIEL BUTTREY

Robin Chazdon, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, at the biology greenhouse on the Storrs campus.

forest canopy.

In Brazil, where some areas "look like Iowa – not a tree in sight" due to the large-scale planting of soybeans and sugar cane, connecting forest fragments has enabled the highly endangered tamarin, a New World monkey, to increase its numbers to a point where the species is no longer endangered, she notes.

That effort was led by a Brazilian businessman with a background in biology, who financed the project

by selling carbon credits.

While protected areas can be "arks" of preservation, local communities need to be involved, too, Chazdon maintains.

Farmers and businesses can modify their practices so that both conservation goals and economic growth are served, she says.

"It doesn't have to be black and white," she adds. "In many places, the gray areas are our best hope for retaining tropical biodiversity."

Presidential award *continued from page 1*

naval submarine communication with land-based operations, networking of autonomous underwater vehicles for cooperative missions, coastline defense monitoring, and various scientific applications involving long-term aquatic monitoring or short-term aquatic exploration.

Zhou earned his Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota in 2002

and came to UConn in 2003. He was presented with an Office of Naval Research Young Investigator Program award in 2003, and last fall was selected as one of five recipients of the United Technologies Corporation Professorship in Engineering Innovation Award in the School of Engineering.

Together with Jun-Hong Cui, he serves as co-director of the

University's Underwater Sensor Network Lab. The lab serves as a nexus for an interdisciplinary team of 20 faculty from throughout the School of Engineering, as well as from the departments of ecology and evolutionary biology and marine sciences and the National Undersea Research Center.



PHOTO SUPPLIED BY THE WHITE HOUSE PHOTO OFFICE

Presidential award-winner Shengli Zhou, center, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, with William Rees Jr., left, deputy undersecretary of defense for laboratories and basic sciences, and John Marburger III, science advisor to the President and director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Eminent Faculty *continued from page 1*

appointments in the School of Engineering, bring with them a diverse array of expertise and experience. Among the institutions represented in their collective backgrounds are the Westinghouse Electric Corp., FuelCell Energy, the U.S. Department of Energy's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and the NASA Center for Advanced Microgravity Materials Processing.

The Connecticut Clean Energy Fund (CEF) also awarded a \$3.5 million challenge grant to the University that was applied toward laboratory development, the establishment of the endowment for the lead Eminent Faculty researcher, and startup funding for the sustainable energy team for job creation, new business development, and leading-edge research and development. The Fund was established by the state legislature in 2000 to develop strategies to support renewable energy sources and related enterprises.

Economic development

Mun Y. Choi, dean of the School of Engineering, said the CEF's strong support "demonstrated the state's commitment to partnering with higher education and the private sector to invest in cutting-edge educational and research programs aimed at strengthening and advancing Connecticut's technological leadership."

Lt.-Gov. Michael Fedele added, "Connecticut has taken significant steps to remain at the forefront

of the hydrogen and fuel cell industry. With UConn's Eminent Faculty Program, students will graduate as highly trained professionals in a cutting-edge industry. Gov. Rell's commitment to the program underscores the importance of this partnership with our flagship university. Currently 20 percent of the fuel cell industry's workforce is located here in Connecticut. This program will help grow the workforce and encourage economic development."

The initiative is also expected to help Connecticut meet the state's goal of reducing fossil fuel consumption by 20 percent and replacing it with clean or renewable energy sources by 2020.

The six faculty are:

Prabhakar Singh, director of the Connecticut Global Fuel Cell Center and UTC Chair Professor of Fuel Cell Technology in the Department of Chemical, Materials, & Biomolecular Engineering;

Hanchen Huang, School of Engineering Professor in Sustainable Energy; Huang will join the Department of Mechanical Engineering in August;

George Rossetti Jr., associate professor of chemical, materials, and biomolecular engineering;

Brian Willis, associate professor of chemical, materials, and biomolecular engineering;

William Mustain, assistant professor of chemical, materials, and biomolecular engineering;

Tianfeng Lu, assistant professor of mechanical engineering.

Maintain a ‘can-do’ attitude, speaker tells winter graduates

BY SHERRY FISHER

Approach life with a positive attitude, protect your health, and be personally accountable. That’s the advice businessman and philanthropist Denis McCarthy gave to students at UConn’s winter commencement exercises in Gampel Pavilion on Dec. 14. About 800 students – including more

than half who earned their degrees from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences – were joined by friends and family members for the ceremony. Having a positive attitude in life helps build self-confidence, McCarthy told the crowd. “Certainly you have to be realistic depending on the subject or circumstance,

but having that ‘can do’ attitude will help you be enthusiastic and passionate about what you do professionally,” he said. “Those are two excellent leadership skills.” McCarthy is the retired chairman, CEO, and president of Fidelity Management Trust Co., a subsidiary of Fidelity Investments, one of the world’s leading providers of financial services. During the ceremony, he received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. McCarthy earned a bachelor’s degree in finance at UConn in 1964, and a master’s degree in economics in 1965. He is co-chair of UConn’s capital campaign and a member of the UConn Foundation board of directors, which he chaired from 2000-2004.

Priority on health McCarthy told the graduates not to ignore their health. “Without a solid health foundation, it is very hard to perform to your fullest,” he said. “You have great fitness facilities here at UConn, along with the availability of all manner of diet and nutritional information. But even if you did not take advantage of them while you were here, commit to yourself now that you will take charge of the future condition of your health.”

Practice personal accountability, McCarthy advised. “I refer to this as looking in the mirror. So many times in high school or college or in professional life, we tend to

blame someone else for a mediocre grade in a course, underachievement in a sport, or worse yet, a major professional failure. How many times have you heard someone say, ‘I only got a C because I had a lousy professor’ or ‘We lost because the coach didn’t put me in?’”

“Without a solid health foundation, it is very hard to perform to your fullest. ... Commit yourself now that you will take charge of the future condition of your health.”

*Denis McCarthy, '64
Retired chairman, Fidelity Management Trust Co.*

McCarthy said, “A certain percentage of your success is being in the right place at the right time – being in the right department, or the right company, or the institution where the promotions are made, or where the bonuses are paid that year. Some of that timing you cannot always influence. What you can influence is a lot like they say in football – focus on one play at a time. Do your job to the best of your ability day by day.”



PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Professor Sally Reis, left, a marshal, and Denis McCarthy, '64, retired chairman of Fidelity Management Trust Co., listen as President Hogan reads the honorary degree citation during the December commencement ceremony.

CALENDAR Tuesday, January 20, to Monday, January 26

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, Jan. 26 through Monday, Feb. 2. Those items must be in the database by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 20. If you need special accommodations to participate in events, call 860-486-2943 (Storrs), or 860-679-3563 (Farmington), or 860-570-5130 (Law School).

Academics

Tuesday, 1/20 – Spring semester begins.
Monday, 1/26 – Last day to file petitions for course credit by examination.

Libraries

Homer Babbidge Library. Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-2 a.m.; Friday, 7:30 a.m.-10 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-2 a.m.
Dodd Center. Monday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, noon-4 p.m.; closed Sunday.
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.
Music & Dramatic Arts Library. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-10 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, noon-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-10 p.m.
Health Center Library. Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m.-11 p.m.; Friday, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-10 p.m.
Law Library. Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-11 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1-9 p.m.
Avery Point Campus Library. Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed weekends.
Greater Hartford Campus Library. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday & Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Sunday.
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
Torrington Campus Library. Monday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; closed Friday-Sunday.
Waterbury Campus Library. Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; closed weekends.

University ITS

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

Ph.D. Defenses

Wednesday, 1/21 – History. *Periodical Publics: Magazines and Literary Networks in Post-Revolutionary America*, by Robb Haberman (adv.: Brown). 10 a.m., Room 228, Wood Hall.
Thursday, 1/22 – Nursing. *Achieving Semantic Equivalence Between the Chinese and English Versions of the Postpartum Depression Screening Scale*, by Elizabeth Lee (adv.: Neafsey). 1 p.m., Room 218, Storrs Hall.
Friday, 1/23 – Pharmaceuticals. *Impact of Stabilizer and Thermal History on the Storage Stability of Freeze-Dried Pharmaceuticals*, by Bingquan Wang (adv.: Pikal). 10:30 a.m., Dean’s Conference Room, Pharmacy/Biology Building.

Lectures & Seminars

Tuesday, 1/20 – Presidential Inauguration. Free TV screening of the ceremony, 10 a.m., Jorgensen Center and Dodd Center.
Tuesday, 1/20 – Presidential Inauguration Event. “A New Birth of Freedom,” commemorating the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln’s birth. 10 a.m., Women’s Center, Student Union.
Friday, 1/23 – Physics Colloquium. “Making Sense of Non-Hermitian Hamiltonians,” by Carl Bender, Washington University. 4 p.m., Room P38, Gant Science Complex.

Exhibits

Friday, 1/23 through Sunday, 2/22 – Alexey von Schlippe Gallery. *The Veil: Visible and Invisible Spaces*, 30 works of art in three categories: The Sacred Veil, The Sensuous Veil, and the Sociopolitical Veil. Wednesday-Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Members and students free, all others \$3 donation. Avery Point Campus.
Through Wednesday, 1/21 – Health Center. Oil paintings by Faripour Forouhar. Daily, 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Main and Mezzanine Lobbies. Also, through Wednesday, 4/15, *Art as a Healing Process*, pastels by Rozanne Hauser, and *Moments in Time*, pastels by James Sheehy. Daily, 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Celeste LeWitt Gallery.
Through mid-February – Jorgensen Gallery. *We’re Always Looking, But Not Always Seeing*, photographs by Robert Thiesfield. Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Through Friday, 3/6 – Benton Museum. *¡Merengue! Visual Rhythms/Ritmos Visuales*, paintings, works on paper, photographs,

sculpture, video, and popular graphics that span the 20th century; *Yuyanapaq: To Remember*, photographs from Peru; *Rhythms in Design*, exhibition highlighting music in the visual arts. Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday, 1-4:30 p.m. Wednesday, 1/21 – Gallery talk, *¡Merengue! Visual Rhythms*, 12:15-12:45 p.m.
Through Friday, 3/6 – Babbidge Library. *An Accidental Artist*, hooked rugs by Lida Skilton Ives, Gallery on the Plaza; *Familiar Terrain*, prints by Joan Jacobson-Zamore, Stevens Gallery. For hours see Libraries section. Sunday, 1/25, opening ceremony, 2-4:30 p.m., Stevens Gallery.
Through Friday, 3/6 – Dodd Center. *Charles*



PHOTO SUPPLIED BY BENTON MUSEUM

“Viva el Merengue” by José Morillo, part of the exhibit *¡Merengue! Visual Rhythms* at the Benton Museum through March 6.

Darwin, 1809-1882, The Legacy of a Naturalist. For hours, see Libraries section.
Through Sunday, 2/8 – The Ballard Institute & Museum of Puppetry. *Puppets through the Lens*, puppets in film, television, and the Internet, from the 1930s to the present.

6 Bourne Place, Depot Campus. Open weekdays and weekends by appointment. Contact Stefano Brancato, 860-486-0339. Suggested donation \$3 adults, \$2 children.
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

Friday, 1/23 – Ballard Institute & Museum of Puppetry. Visual artist and theater director Theodora Skipitares. 7:30 p.m., Ballard Institute, 6 Bourne Place, Depot Campus. Free admission.
Friday, 1/23 – Student Recital. Christina Castillo de La Gala, mezzo-soprano. 7 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Free admission.
Saturday, 1/24 – Cello Festival Recital. Guest artist, Amit Peled. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Admission fee: \$13, free with student ID or festival registration.
Sunday, 1/25 – Cello Festival. All day event. von der Mehden Recital Hall. Admission fee: \$20, includes admission to all festival activities as well as Saturday concert. For more information: www.csa.uconn.edu/cello.
Sunday, 1/25 – Cello Festival Concert. 7 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Admission fee: \$7, free with student ID.

Athletics

Wednesday, 1/21 – Men’s Basketball vs. Villanova. 7 p.m., XL Center, Hartford.
Friday, 1/23 – Women’s Ice Hockey vs. Northeastern. 7 p.m., Freitas Ice Forum.
Monday, 1/26 – Women’s Basketball vs. Louisville. 7:30 p.m., Gampel Pavilion.

Potpourri

Saturday, 1/24 – Museum of Natural History Event. “Early Human Populations in the New World: A Biased Perspective,” with James Adovasio, Mercyhurst Archaeological Institute. Admission fee: \$12 donation requested. 2 p.m., Smith Middle School, Glastonbury. Call 860-486-5690 for more information.
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.