



UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Advance

Volume 27, No. 18
February 2, 2009

www.advance.uconn.edu

Creation of new human embryonic stem cell lines announced

BY DAVID BAUMAN

UConn researchers have created two new human embryonic stem cell lines and are making the lines available to academic researchers to study the therapeutic potential of the cells.

The two new lines signify a milestone in the state's pioneering stem cell program, which was approved by the Connecticut General Assembly and signed by Gov. Rell in 2005. The state committed \$100 million to fund stem cell research and training programs for 10 years.

The ability to provide human embryonic stem cell lines is essential for investigators to make discoveries that can be translated into new treatments and cures for diseases.

Passage of the Stem Cell Investment Act made Connecticut the third state in the nation to provide public funding for embryonic and human adult stem cell research. It established a competitive process for awarding state stem cell research grants and created the publicly appointed Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee, chaired by the Commissioner of Public Health.

State funds awarded in April 2007 were used to establish a \$2.5 million Human Embryonic Stem Cell Core laboratory led by Dr. Ren-He Xu at the UConn Health Center, where the two new stem cell lines – identified as CT1 and CT2 – were developed by postdoctoral fellow Ge Lin and coworkers in Xu's lab.

UConn joins an elite group of universities – including the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Harvard, and the University of California-San Francisco – that have created human embryonic stem cell lines.

“Three years ago, when we committed \$100 million over 10 years as part of our Stem Cell Investment Act, there were some who asked ‘Is it worth it?’” says Gov. M. Jodi Rell. “The world-class researchers and scientists in Connecticut are answering that question with a resounding ‘Absolutely!’ The news that UConn researchers created two new stem cell lines comes just 18 months after receiving funding.

“So we are getting great returns on that investment,” Rell adds, “and we know the possibilities for health care therapies from

see Stem cell lines page 6



PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

A winter view of students walking across the Student Union Mall near the Gentry Building.

Two liberal arts faculty receive NEH fellowships

BY CINDY WEISS

Two faculty members in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences have received National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) fellowships to undertake scholarly projects.

They are among 74 faculty from around the country to receive NEH fellowships or faculty research awards this year.

Richard Wilson, the Gladstein Distinguished Chair in Human Rights and director of the Human Rights Institute, will devote his fellowship to completing a book on three United Nations tribunals: the International Criminal Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda and the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

International criminal trials “represent one of the most significant human rights interventions in recent history,” Wilson wrote in his NEH proposal.

His research interests center on expert

witness testimony from historians and social scientists in international criminal trials.

Michael Lynch, professor of philosophy, will write a book defending an original theory of truth that is at odds with both traditional theories and what he calls the new orthodoxy.

Lynch is the author of several books on truth, including *True to Life* (2004), which a *New York Times* review described as “a passionate demonstration that truth matters.”

“An NEH fellowship is one of the most distinguished awards that a scholar in the humanities can receive,” says Jeremy Teitelbaum, dean of CLAS. “By winning this prestigious fellowship, Wilson and Lynch highlight the diversity and strength of CLAS's programs in the humanities.”

Richard Brown, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of History and director of the Humanities Institute in CLAS, says, “NEH fellowships are so competitive [only

1 in 25 applicants wins an award] because they provide time for research and writing that does not require uprooting one's family to travel to a research site.” Brown is a former NEH fellow himself.

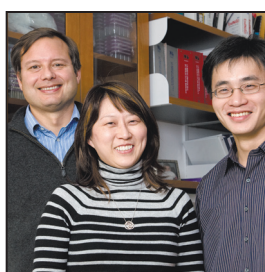
Wilson's interest in human rights conflicts had its origins in a trip he made to Guatemala to learn Spanish when he was 18 years old. He returned there in 1987 to do research for his Ph.D., at a time when Guatemala was coping with poverty, violent conflict, and refugees.

His research focus later shifted to South Africa, where he studied truth commissions and wrote a book, *The Politics of Truth and Reconciliation in South Africa*.

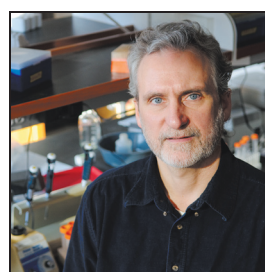
He then turned to studying international tribunals, the subject of the book he will complete with his NEH fellowship.

While existing research has focused on the judgments of tribunals, “greater insight

see NEH fellows page 5



3 Cover article



4 Alzheimer's research



8 Costume design

Inside



PHOTO BY SUZANNE ZACK

Artist Linda Foster prepares the installation *Hamlet: A Cast of Shadows* in Homer Babbidge Library. Words in many different languages will be projected onto the carpet below.

New art installation at Babbidge Library will celebrate words in many languages

BY SUZANNE ZACK

The Homer Babbidge Library, the University’s principal repository of printed and electronic information, is home to literally millions of words — words that have been used to give expression to countless thoughts and ideas. To celebrate the myriad forms that human language can take, Linda Foster, an artist from Goleta, Calif., is creating for the library a work of art that focuses on words, specifically those spoken by or written in the languages of UConn’s rich linguistic community.

Titled *Hamlet: A Cast of Shadows*, the project draws its inspiration from dialogue in Act II of William Shakespeare’s play:

Polonius: “What do you read, my lord?”

Hamlet: “Words, words, words.”

“Words,” translated into multiple languages and written in three-inch letters, will be cut from clear vinyl and affixed, upside down and reversed, to the interior of four west-facing windows on Level 3 of the library. Light from the afternoon sun will project the words as legible shadows on the carpet below. The seasonal rotation of the earth will cause the shadows to shift in shape and size, marking time and space.

Norman Stevens, the former director of University Libraries, has worked closely with the artist on the project. “Individual, distinctive marks of time and cultures, alphabets and characters represent our individuality,” he says, “while demonstrating an inclusive, common bond: our fundamental need to communicate.”

As part of the project, and to

celebrate diversity, the University Libraries will conduct an informal census of the languages written or spoken by members of the UConn community. To complete the survey, go to http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=08C8G2m9Cag_3d_3d. Participants will also be asked to contribute translations of “words” for possible use in the installation or in the dedication program.

Details of the census will be available on the web at www.lib.uconn.edu/. Foster’s art focuses on artists’ books, or works of art in the form of a book, which she has created for some 25 years. She did a similar installation at the University of California at Santa Barbara in 1997.

“I’m looking at this project as an artist’s book and thinking of the window as a transparent page, with the text on the page cast out into the room as shadows,” she says. “There’s a collective body of knowledge, ideas, and images that get cast onto our thinking, influencing how we think. Shakespeare has certainly cast a huge shadow on all the literature that has come after him.”

Foster will complete the design during the next several months. The dedication of the installation in April will include a talk by the artist, and recitations of the dialogue between Polonius and Hamlet in many languages.

“This project is an extraordinary way of recognizing and celebrating our individual differences through the common denominator of language,” says Brinley Franklin, vice provost for University Libraries. “The installation will enable users of the library to study and learn

in an environment that celebrates diversity and the power of words to transmit culture over centuries of time.”

The new installation complements other works of art that celebrate books, reading, and information, both inside and outside Babbidge Library. These include Dudley Giberson’s *Storrs Murini Window* on the B Level of the library, which represents the evolution of symbols from cave drawings to the alphabet; the massive *Stonebook Universe*, sculpted by Kubach/Wilmsen from Finnish granite, on the plaza between Babbidge Library and the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center; John Magnan’s carved wooden *Pencil Book*, housed in a display case at the internal entrance to Babbidge Library on the Plaza Level; Werner Pfeiffer’s Endangered Species sculpture, recently installed in Bookworms Café; and Ilun Averbuch’s *Dove Tower and Steps to the Bottom of a Pyramid*, with its allusion to the use of message-carrying pigeons, located on the quadrangle west of Babbidge Library.

Development and installation of *Hamlet: A Cast of Shadows* will cost approximately \$5,000. The library is seeking donors who wish to help support the project. Interested parties should contact Linda Perrone, director of external relations for the University Libraries, at linda.perrone@uconn.edu, or 860-486-0451.

Contributions are tax-deductible and should be made payable to the Homer Babbidge Library Unrestricted Fund through the University of Connecticut Foundation.

Winners of this year’s outreach awards announced

The winners of this year’s Awards for Excellence in Outreach and Public Engagement were announced by Provost Peter J. Nicholls during a reception on Dec. 2 at the Wilbur Cross South Reading Room. The ceremony was preceded by a poster display featuring the accomplishments of the finalists in each of the five categories.

The winners are:

Faculty Award: Stephen Schensul, Community Medicine and Health Care, School of Medicine.

Schensul, director of the Center for International Community Health Studies at the School of Medicine, has developed transdisciplinary programs related to the health needs of the public, developed well recognized models for community research and its translation into social change programs, and built an international reputation in applied research, ethnographic methodology, and HIV/STD prevention. His public engagement spans both local and international levels, from Hartford to Mumbai.

Staff Award: Richard Schwab, Neag School of Education.

During his 11 years as dean of the Neag School of Education, Schwab has built productive partnerships with a range of educators, donors, and policy makers. He has championed innovative efforts such as Teachers for a new Era and CommPACT schools initiative that will establish a solid foundation for closing the achievement gap in American society, and has demonstrated sustained leadership in working with national and state government agencies, professional organizations, local educational agencies, and the general public to advance the cause of equity and quality in public education.

Program Award: Healthy Environments for Children Initiative/ Environmental Health Program, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Department of Extension, West Hartford

The Healthy Environments for

Children initiative, led by extension specialists Mary Margaret Gaudio and Joan Bothell, provides statewide, regional, and national leadership in the areas of lead poisoning, radon, and asthma education as related to children’s health. The team has focused on educating parents and guardians, childcare providers, partner organizations, and others on reducing the risks of lead, asthma, and radon through innovative children’s books, manuals, curricula, and videos.

Graduate Student Award: Andrew Bzowycyk and Jennifer Scholle, School of Pharmacy.

Bzowycyk and Scholle are students in the School of Pharmacy’s Pharm.D. program, and are currently on clinical rotation. In addition to their service to organizations within the School of Pharmacy, they developed a presentation on promoting health literacy, which they presented to practicing pharmacists at several retail chain pharmacies in Connecticut, and to pharmacy, nursing, and medical students during National Primary Care Week.

Undergraduate Student Award: Shahista Ramanand, Allied Health Sciences, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Ramanand is an undergraduate student who is majoring in allied health sciences in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. In 2006, she founded a campus fund-raising and awareness initiative regarding HIV/AIDS, then returned to her native South Africa as a shelter volunteer. She is a Women’s Center advisory board member and a UNESCO student ambassador for human rights, and has regularly presented at conferences on outreach and human rights issues.

Each award-winner receives a \$1,000 allocation to financial aid or a department account. These funds may then be used to further develop and enhance outreach and public engagement efforts at the University.

Correction

A photo on page 8 of the Jan. 26 *Advance* shows turfgrass student Kyle Carney mowing a lawn. He was incorrectly identified in the photo caption. The photo was also supplied by Kyle Carney.

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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

Developmental brain disorder can be reversed, say researchers

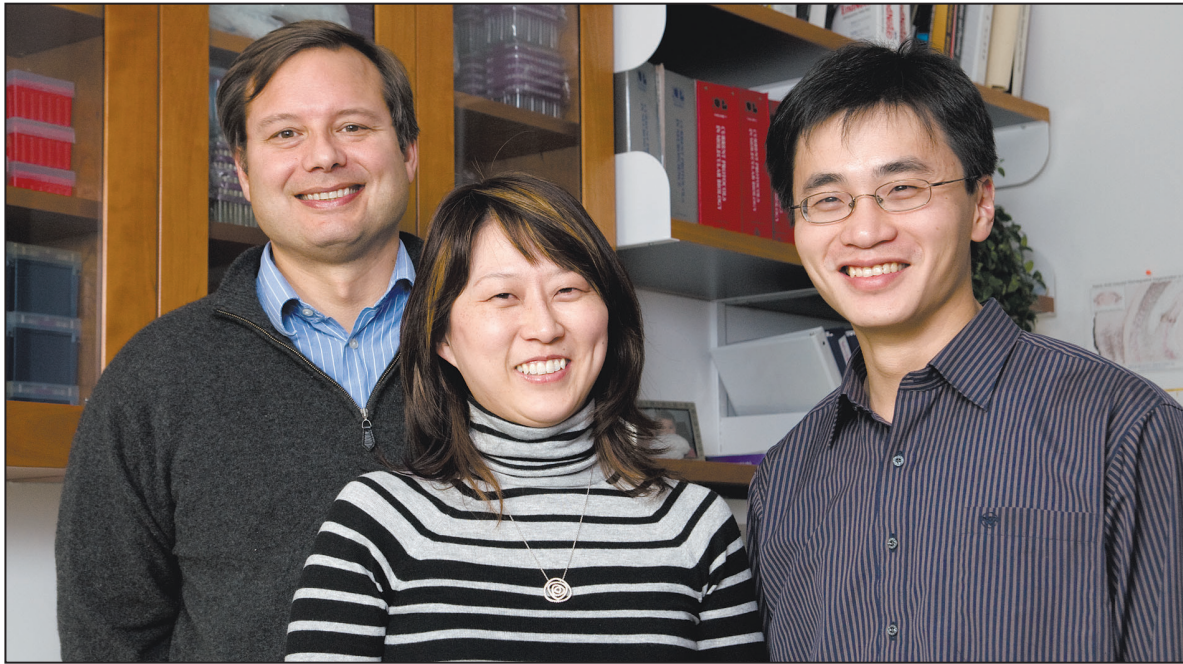


PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Joseph LoTurco, left, professor of physiology and neurobiology, with graduate students Yoon Jeung Chang, center, and Yu Wang.

BY ELIZABETH OMARA-OTUNNU

Research by a UConn neurobiologist has demonstrated that a developmental brain disorder that causes a predisposition to seizures can be reversed.

The research, by a team led by Joseph LoTurco, a professor of physiology and neurobiology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, was the cover article in the January issue of the biomedical

research journal *Nature Medicine*.

"We showed that adding back a normal gene in a brain that has already developed the wrong way can reverse a previously formed developmental malformation," LoTurco says.

The cerebral cortex is a structure within the brain that plays a key role in memory, attention, perception, thought, and language. Its layered structure is formed dur-

ing development by the migration of neurons.

The researchers focused on a malformation that happens early in fetal development that is a known risk factor for epilepsy. The malformation is linked to mutations in a certain gene known as Dcx or doublecortin. LoTurco says patients who have a mutation in this gene often have a secondary cortex, a new grouping of cells underneath

the normal cortex, and 90 percent of them have a seizure disorder.

In previous research, published in *Nature Neuroscience* in 2003 and in *Cerebral Cortex* in 2006, LoTurco's team showed that by manipulating the Dcx gene in utero, the malformation can be prevented from occurring.

The latest findings show that a malformation that has already formed can be reversed and shrunk after birth by re-expression of the Dcx gene within the malformation.

The researchers also found that the predisposition to seizures in treated rats was no greater than in those without the malformation; whereas those with the malformation that were left untreated continued to experience seizures.

"The research takes advantage of developmental plasticity in the nervous system," LoTurco says.

He says the findings may ultimately make it possible for humans with this developmental disorder to be treated through gene therapy or pharmaceutical therapy, though that goes beyond the scope of his lab.

"We're basic scientists," he says. "This research is proof of concept. Our question was, 'Does the brain have the capacity to recover from what had been considered

a permanent malformation?' We showed that it does."

He notes that most of the previous research related to developmental malformations in the brain has focused on trying to understand how genetic defects or environmental insults cause the disruption in development.

"It's rarely been asked, 'What's the point of no return?'" he says.

LoTurco says there is a lot more research to be done in this area. His group is currently investigating the reversibility of other forms of structural malformations in the brain. Another avenue to explore is whether the point of reversibility can be extended into later stages of brain development.

"We don't know the limits of when structural plasticities can be induced," he says. "We're interested in categorizing types of developmental malformations, and in determining when they can be reversed and whether we can extend this point to later periods in development."

In addition to LoTurco, the paper's co-authors include two of his former postdoctoral fellows, Jean-Bernard Manent (the lead author) and Murugan Paramasivam, and two UConn graduate students, Yu Wang and Yoon Jeung Chang.

Online education expert calls for new approach to teaching

BY ELIZABETH OMARA-OTUNNU

Today's students are part of a shift from the literary tradition to the virtual tradition and need different skills from those required by previous generations, according to an expert in academic technology.

Fedro Zazueta, director of academic technology and online education at the University of Florida, says that to be effective in preparing students as 21st century professionals, faculty must teach differently.

"The goal of education is the same: to produce competent individuals who can go out into society and solve the problems of society," he says, "but because of technology – such as the iPod in the ear 24 hours a day – students are different. Delivery platforms are different, learning skills are different, pedagogy is different."

Zazueta was speaking to a group of faculty and staff during a meeting Jan. 26 that was organized by a newly formed task force on online education at UConn.

Doug Cooper, a professor of chemical, materials, and biomolecular engineering and task force co-chair, said the goals of the task force are to understand online education, develop a mission for the University in this area, create a framework, and work with the administration to make it happen.

Online education is fundamental to the Academic Plan, Cooper said. It can help the University achieve its goal of being among the nation's top 20 public universities;

help attract high school students; offer community college students a chance to show they are capable of doing well in UConn courses; ease the bottlenecks some undergraduates are experiencing in fulfilling general education requirements; and enable professionals to study for a degree while maintaining their jobs.

The task force, co-chaired by Cooper and Desmond McCaffrey, director of instructional design and development, includes a representative of each school and college, including the Graduate School and the Health Center, and the regional campuses. It is scheduled to report to the Provost by April 15.

At the University of Florida, Zazueta said, not only is enrollment in online courses growing very rapidly, essentially doubling every couple of years, but the rate of growth is even faster among on-campus students than it is for those participating in distance education.

He said most college students today belong to the "Net Generation" – those born after 1982. "They were born into technology. ... They can't conceive of a world without it. ... They are collaborative, multi-tasking, non-linear thinkers."

Faculty members, on the other hand, belong to earlier generations. "Most of us are immigrants to technology," he said.

"The way I learned was with a textbook," said Zazueta, an engineering professor. "I would go

sequentially through the material. Today, students create a structure that shifts as they learn more about the subject. Then they fill in the details."

Zazueta said new information technology calls for a new teaching paradigm: "The tools and technologies used to teach face to face no longer work."

To create learning environments that are effective for today's students, faculty must focus on pedagogy, he said. "We have to go out to our peers in education and learn from them about best practices."

He recommended that faculty work with instructional designers – education professionals competent in technology – to develop and improve the courses they teach.

Zazueta said the University of Florida currently has 16 instructional designers and he has requested more. The university has also dedicated a position to exploring new technologies as they become available.

Zazueta said in order to change the approach to teaching at the University of Florida, a goal was set of providing 20 exemplary online courses by this spring. A total of \$600,000 was set aside for the development of these courses, and faculty were invited to submit proposals.

He said the goal is to identify a community of leaders among the faculty who can be successful and "carry the message" to other faculty.

The faculty members whose



PHOTO BY MOHAMED FAIZAL

Fedro Zazueta, director of academic technology at the University of Florida, speaks to a group of faculty and staff about online education.

proposals were selected spent two days at a summer institute, where they received training on the process they would follow to develop the online courses, including the basics of pedagogy. This cut the time for course development by half, he said.

Zazueta said research on online education has shown there is no significant difference in the quality of instruction, adding that when the courses are developed specifically for delivery online through

the instructional design process, the quality improves.

"I believe when faculty engage in instructional design," he said, "the quality of learning takes a huge leap."

The new courses will be assessed for their effectiveness.

University of Florida students are voting with their feet, Zazueta said. Whenever a course is offered both online and face to face, he said, the online section fills within the first 24 hours.

Pharmacy graduate recognized for Alzheimer’s research

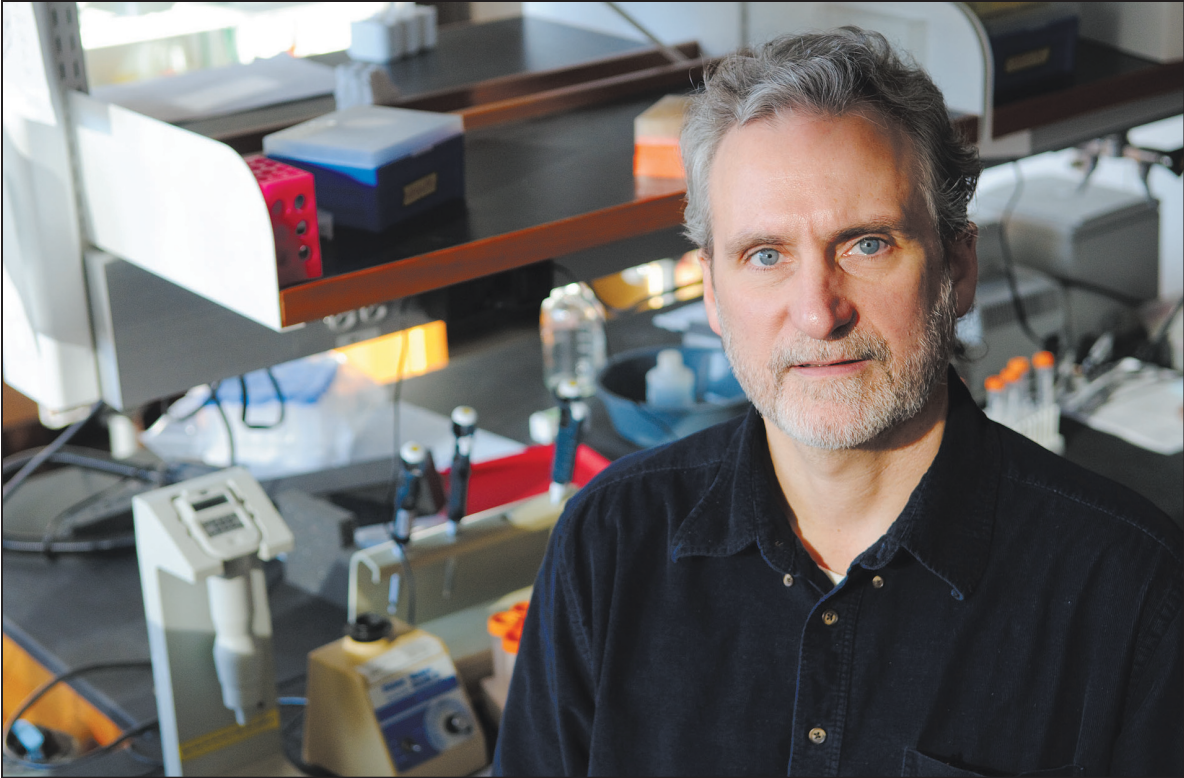


PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

David Butler, a recent Ph.D. graduate, at his lab in the Pharmacy/Biology Building.

BY COLIN POITRAS

David Butler, a recent graduate of the School of Pharmacy’s neurosciences doctoral program in pharmacology and toxicology, is one of five researchers in the country to be recognized as an outstanding young investigator by the Alzheimer’s Drug Discovery Foundation.

The Foundation is the only public charity solely dedicated to accelerating the discovery and development of drugs to prevent, treat, and cure Alzheimer’s disease. The young investigator award recognizes the achievements of talented young researchers and seeks to encourage the career development of the next generation of research scientists. Butler receives his award at a Washington, D.C. conference on Feb. 2.

While the award is a substantial achievement for any young researcher, in Butler’s case it is particularly significant. Butler, 49, conducted all of his laboratory tests and wrote all of his research reports using only one hand.

A cranial aneurysm and stroke 12 years ago left him without the functional use of his left hand, arm, and leg. But rather than be overwhelmed by his disability, he worked through it.

Building a career path

Once an industrial mechanic, Butler turned his talents and determination to academic study and research.

Besides his new doctoral degree, Butler holds a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Salisbury University in Maryland and a master’s degree in neuroscience

from the University of Hartford.

It has been quite a career path for the New Jersey native, who once was told his most probable occupation after his stroke would be as a shipping clerk.

“The key is not to focus on what you lost, but to build on what’s left,” Butler says. “I want people to realize there are support systems out there, and if you have any desire to improve your existing condition, there are resources available.”

Butler credits his faculty advisor, Ben Bahr, an associate professor of pharmacology and neurotoxicology, with giving him a chance to prove himself.

Butler said it was not so much what Bahr did – although his help and guidance was clearly invaluable in the research – but what

Bahr didn’t do that impressed him most.

“When he first met me, he saw I was disabled but didn’t hesitate for a minute,” Butler recalls. “He was amazing in that response. His confidence and courage really impressed me a lot and allowed me to challenge myself.”

Bahr recalls his first impression of Butler. “It was his enthusiasm,” he says. “I always look for a challenge. If he was looking for a challenge too, well, then I was all for it. But I told him, ‘We need to find a way for this to work.’”

With the help of Donna Korbel and her staff at the Center for Students with Disabilities, Butler and Bahr developed a plan that allowed undergraduate students to assist Butler with some of the more intricate testing procedures, while he closely supervised and monitored their every move.

Prototype drug

Bahr and Butler, along with other researchers including Dennis Wright, an associate professor of medicinal chemistry, have spent the past three years developing a prototype drug they believe has the potential to improve the minds of Alzheimer’s patients whose thought processes often get lost in a tangled mass of excess protein deposits in the brain.

While other researchers have tried to develop drugs that reduce the production of the protein deposits at the core of Alzheimer’s disease, Bahr took a different route. He developed a drug that makes lysosomes in brain cells more potent. This causes them to act as aggressive garbage disposals of sorts inside nerve cells, flushing out the clogged masses of protein deposits that cloud the minds of

people with Alzheimer’s disease.

The drug’s potential had already been demonstrated in cells in the lab, but Butler helped Bahr confirm its benefits in laboratory tests on mice. Mice raised with genetic Alzheimer’s defects were able to find food hidden in a maze after being injected with Bahr’s drug, whereas similar mice not exposed to the drug often lost their way. The research results are currently under peer review.

“We changed experimental parameters at least 15 different times and Dave never lost confidence that something was going on here,” says Bahr. “Some people see strange data and if it happens twice, they never do it again. But Dave kept at it.”

Robert McCarthy, dean of the School of Pharmacy, says Butler has been an inspiration. “The partnership between him and Ben represents the best we have here at UConn in terms of cutting-edge research and dedicated, hard-working individuals.”

Butler completed a doctoral thesis based on his Alzheimer’s research last fall and officially graduated in December. He will participate in commencement exercises in May. He has applied for a grant that would allow him to continue his research at UConn in the coming year.

“My interest is in fixing things,” Butler says. “I’m still a mechanic at heart. If there is a problem, I have to try and fix it. With Alzheimer’s, I knew the end point of the research was to make it better for someone with a horrible disease. Not only does Alzheimer’s affect individuals, it can last for 20 years and it destroys loved ones too.”

Health Center urologist receives grant to study bladder cancer

BY CHRIS DEFRADESCO

A urologist at the Health Center has landed a five-year, \$729,000 grant from the American Cancer Society to study the role of inflammatory molecules on the development and progression of bladder cancer.

Urology researcher Dr. John A. Taylor III, an assistant professor of surgery at the UConn School of Medicine, says he is particularly pleased to receive the grant at a time when funding for cancer research is harder to come by, especially for those studying bladder cancer.

“Bladder cancer is one of the most underfunded areas of urology,” he says.

Taylor says there are currently “no markers or means to determine which patients with bladder cancer will have progression, which patients would benefit from

early aggressive treatment, or even which patients will respond favorably to treatment.

“Our early data are quite promising,” he adds, “and could lead to novel ways to manage this disease, if not stop its progression. The grant from the American Cancer Society will allow uninterrupted continuation of this important work.”

Taylor is one of the region’s few bladder cancer specialists. He says the goal of his study is to improve the prevention and treatment of the disease.

The grant is officially known as “The American Cancer Society New England Division Mentored Research Scholar Grant in Applied and Clinical Research – Beatrice Cueno.” It is one of 27 research projects the American Cancer Society is funding in Connecticut.

“With the current serious chal-

lenges to cancer research funding, it’s more important than ever that the American Cancer Society continue to support the work of new investigators,” says American Cancer Society Connecticut vice president of health initiatives Sarah Shafir. “Virtually every major development in cancer research in the last half century can point to a Society-funded researcher who played a key role along the way, with most of those investigators getting Society support early in their careers when funding is particularly difficult to get.”

Taylor, who chairs the cancer committee at the Carole and Ray Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center, is no stranger to grant support from prestigious sources. In 2005 he was one of 10 specialists in the country to receive a Dennis W. Jahnigen Scholars Award from the American Geriatrics Society. The



PHOTO BY JANINE GELINEAU

Dr. John Taylor

two-year, \$200,000 grant helped fund his work on age-related changes in the bladder.

He has also been the recipient

of HERA Foundation funds; an American Urological Association Post-Residency Research Award; an American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant; and a New Investigator Award from the American Geriatrics Society for his work on bladder cancer.

Before joining the Health Center in 2003, Taylor was an investigator in the Department of Defense’s Center for Prostate Disease Research, while serving at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. He earned his medical degree from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City and completed his residency at Columbia University’s-Presbyterian Hospital.

For more information about cancer programs at the Health Center, go to <http://cancer.uchc.edu/>

Health Center’s online program helps patients help themselves

BY CAROLYN PENNINGTON

A new online tool designed to help patients maximize the quality of their health care is being offered through the Health Center. Believed to be the first of its kind, HealthEcademy is a convenient, free program that can be accessed through the Internet by clicking on <http://healthacademy.uchc.edu/> any time of day or night.

HealthEcademy features several video presentations by School of Medicine faculty and other Health Center experts, who provide practical information on a number of health-related topics to enable individuals to become better, more successful patients and patient advocates.

“The task of navigating today’s complex health care system is becoming more challenging and frustrating for patients everywhere,” says Dr. Cato T. Laurencin, vice president for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine. “Patients continuously seek practical information to help them achieve better outcomes. The demand for such information continues to grow, yet people often don’t know where to turn to receive information that is

current and credible. As leaders in academic medicine, we’ve established the nation’s first HealthEcademy to address this growing public health need.”

HealthEcademy participants will be able to identify their rights and responsibilities as a patient or patient advocate, employ strategies to optimize doctors’ office visits and hospitalizations, and find and use reliable sources of health information to increase their understanding of medical conditions and treatment options.

Course topics include:

- “Questions You Were Never Asked ... But Should Have Been” – how to optimize doctors’ office visits and make efficient use of time spent with health care providers.
- “A Roadmap to Reliable Health Information” – how to find reliable and accurate sources of health information and evaluate web sites.
- “Understanding the Results of Diagnostic or Screening Tests” – how to interpret diagnostic and screening test findings and understand the strengths and weaknesses of the diagnostic process.
- “Legal and Ethical Issues at the End of Life” – practical information about treatment decisions at the end of life that are consistent with the patient’s goals and values.

- “Understanding HIPAA Privacy” – an outline of the many facets of privacy protection to which patients are entitled under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

These video presentations total more than three and a half hours of instruction.

“We believe HealthEcademy can significantly help people become wise and savvy health care consumers by providing the tools they need to negotiate today’s health care environment with confidence,” says Dr. Scott Wetstone of the Department of Community Medicine and Health Care. “Knowledge and information are the foundation for maximizing patient care and being your own best advocate, and direct instruction from professionals is the best way to build that foundation.”

Program manager Wendy Soneson says, “This educational program, which we believe is the first of its kind in the nation, is for everyone. I think we’re offering something of real value to people.”

Soneson notes that users can watch all the presentations or pick and choose the topics that most interest them.

“As an academic institution,” she adds, “our mission is to educate, and we think we’ve done that.”



PHOTO BY CAROLYN PENNINGTON

Dr. Scott Wetstone and Wendy Soneson discuss the new online health education program.

Interim hospital director

Dr. Mike Summerer, a hospital administrator from Massachusetts, has been appointed interim director of UConn’s John Dempsey Hospital. He began the job Jan. 20.

An experienced cardiologist, Summerer has more than 15 years of hospital system senior leadership experience.

He was most recently system vice president and chief medical officer at Hallmark Health System, a multi-hospital healthcare system in eastern Massachusetts. Previously, he was corporate senior vice president and chief medical officer at St. Vincent’s Health Services in Bridgeport.

A graduate of the UConn School of Medicine, Summerer also earned an undergraduate degree in physics from UConn. He is board certified in internal medicine and cardiovascular disease, and is a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology and the American College of Physician Executives.

Summerer takes over from Jim Thornton, who is retiring.

“The University continues to be involved in affiliation discussions with Hartford Hospital,” said Dr. Cato Laurencin, vice president for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine. “For that reason, we have decided to fill the hospital director position on an interim basis. The longer-term status of the position will be determined pending the outcome of the affiliation discussions.”

NEH fellows *continued from page 1*

can come through studying what prosecuting attorneys, investigators, judges, and legal officers actually do with historical evidence during a trial,” he wrote in his NEH proposal.

He is collaborating with a former investigator from the Yugoslavia tribunal to survey some 200 former investigators, trial attorneys, and legal officers on the use of historical and social science evidence in international tribunals.

Wilson came to UConn in 2003 from the New School for Social Research in New York, where he was a visiting professor of anthropology.

Lynch will devote his fellow-

morality are true for that reason.”

While the new orthodoxy of “deflationism” holds that truth has no nature, Lynch rejects it and will develop an original theory of truth, the culmination of a decade of work on the subject.

Among the books he has written or edited in the past 10 years are *Truth in Context*, *Truth and Realism*, and *The Nature of Truth: Classic and Contemporary Perspectives*.

He has been interviewed extensively by the media on his views of the truth. His books have been reviewed in the *Washington Post*, *Toronto Globe and Mail*, *Denver Post*, and other major newspapers.

Lynch came to UConn in 2004 from Connecticut College, where he chaired the philosophy department. He is an associate fellow of the Arché Research Centre for the Philosophy of Logic, Language, Metaphysics, and Epistemology at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland.

To hear a podcast recorded by Lynch in 2004 about his book, **True to Life**, go to <http://www.clas.uconn.edu/facultysnapshots/view.php> and click on his name.

To hear a podcast of Richard Wilson describing his research in human rights, go to <http://www.clas.uconn.edu/facultysnapshots/view.php?id=wilson>



PHOTO BY DANIEL BUTTREY

Richard Wilson, director of the Human Rights Institute.



PHOTO BY JESSICA TOMMASELLI

Michael Lynch, professor of philosophy.



PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

An *Angraecum sesquipedale*, or Comet Orchid, in bloom at the EEB Greenhouse. The orchid, which grows in Madagascar, was described by Darwin.

Year of Science events planned

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the shared birthday of Abraham Lincoln and Charles Darwin. It also marks the 150th anniversary of the publication of Darwin’s book, *On the Origin of Species*, and the 400th anniversary of both Johannes Kepler’s publication of the first two laws of planetary motion, and the first telescope made by Galileo.

In an effort to engage the public in science and improve public understanding about the nature and processes of science, the year was proclaimed the national Year of Science by the American Institute of Biological Sciences, the National Academy of Science, and more than 185 professional societies, colleges and universities, museums, and corporations.

UConn will celebrate the Year of Science with performances, exhibits, lectures and seminars.

“At a time when the challenges facing humanity are growing rapidly, and when meeting those challenges increasingly depends on scientific research, the need for public support and understanding of science has never been greater,” says Kent Holsinger, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology and former president of the American Institute of Biological Sciences.

A complete list of events for the year can be found at <http://clas.uconn.edu/yearof-science/> Special events at UConn focusing on Darwin and Lincoln include:

- Jan. 20-March 6, *Charles Darwin (1809-1882), The Legacy of a Naturalist*, an exhibit illustrating the life and career of Charles Darwin. Dodd Center Gallery.
- Tuesday, Feb. 10, “The Legacy of Charles Darwin.” Speakers Constance Clark, Worcester Polytechnic Institute; Michael Robinson, University of Hartford, Les Kaufman, Boston University, and Jennifer Tucker, Wesleyan University, will focus on the legacy of Darwin’s many contributions to science and society. 6:30 p.m., Branford House, first floor, Avery Point Campus.
- Tuesday, Feb. 10, David Contosta, writer and historian, will discuss his book *Rebel Giants: The Revolutionary Lives of Lincoln and Darwin*, as a prelude to the performance of *Darwin’s Meditation for the People of Lincoln* at Jorgensen. 4 p.m., Jorgensen Gallery.
- Thursday, Feb. 12, “President Lincoln’s Text Message: The Second Inaugural Address, March 4, 1865.” Forty days before he was murdered President Abraham Lincoln

delivered his second inaugural address, a speech widely recognized as the best ever given by a U.S. President and also a classic of American rhetoric. The Humanities Institute will sponsor a symposium in which this 700-word oration will be interpreted. Hartford poet Nicole Miller will read the address, and professors Harry Stout of Yale University and John Stauffer of Harvard University will lead a panel discussion by UConn professors Christopher Clark (history), Wayne Franklin (English and American Studies), Lawrence Goodheart (history), Shayla Nunnally (political science and the Institute for African American Studies), and Jeffrey Ogbar (history and the Institute for African American Studies). 3 p.m. Great Hall, Alumni Center.

• Thursday, Feb. 12, *Darwin’s Meditation for the People of Lincoln*. This multimedia presentation examines the literal and imagined relationship between Charles Darwin and Abraham Lincoln – who were born within hours of one another on the same day – and the people of the United States born after the end of the Civil War. Using video and text drawn from both Darwin and Lincoln, compiled and narrated by actor/playwright Daniel Beaty, Haitian-American artist Daniel Bernard Roumain produces an imagined conversation between historical giants. The work features a 20-piece chamber ensemble together with four soloists. 8 p.m., Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts (tickets \$28 and \$30). There will also be an open public rehearsal at 3:30 p.m. on Feb. 12 and a post-performance Q & A.

• Thursday, Feb. 19, Darwin Day at the Stamford Campus will feature performances about the life of Darwin by the Guild Players at noon and 7 p.m. in GenRe Auditorium.

• Wednesday, Feb. 25, Charles Darwin Bicentennial Colloquium Series. “Evolution and Faith: What is at Stake?” by John Haight, Georgetown University. 4 p.m., Dodd Center, Konover Auditorium.

• Fridays, March 20 and 27, April 3 and 17, “Lincoln: the Man and the Myth.” Four class sessions will discuss Lincoln and the issues of race relations, along with the many misconceptions about Lincoln and why historians consider him the greatest American president. The class will be taught by Steve McGrath, a lecturer in history at Central Connecticut State University. 8:15 a.m.-9:45 a.m., Room 207, Waterbury Campus.

GRANTS

The following grants were received through the UConn Health Center’s Office of Grants and Contracts in October 2008. The list represents new grants as well as continuations. Additional grants received in October were published in the Jan. 26 *Advance*.

Principal Investigator	Department	Sponsor	Amount	Award Period
Private Grants				
Bona, R.	Medicine	UMass	\$38,963	06/08-05/09
<i>Region Comprehensive Hemophilia Program</i>				
Brenner, B.	Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center	Invatec LLC	\$3,875	02/97-01/09
<i>NSABP Breast and Bowel Cancer Treatment DHHS BC0107-185</i>				
Brenner, B.	Surgery	Nat’l. Surgical Adjuvant Breast & Bowel Project	\$11,000	06/08-05/09
<i>NSABP Breast Cancer Prevention Trial</i>				
Briggs-Gowan, M.	Psychiatry	Yale Univ.	\$16,297	03/06-08/09
<i>Resilience in Children of HIV+ Mothers</i>				
Cloutier, M.	Pediatrics	Brigham & Women’s Hospital	\$9,051	08/06-08/08
<i>Genes, Home Allergens and Asthma in Puerto Rican Children</i>				
Liang, B.	The Pat & Jim Calhoun Cardiology Center	UConn Foundation	\$25,188	09/07-12/10
<i>Cardiovascular Signature Program</i>				
Litt, M.	Oral Health & Diagnostic Sciences	Yale Univ.	\$69,580	08/08-07/09
<i>Concurrent Alcohol/Smoking Treatment Effects on Alcohol Relapse Risk</i>				
Mallya, S.	Oral Health & Diagnostic Sciences	American Academy of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons	\$1,000	12/08-11/09
<i>Dose Distribution Profiles of Maxillofacial Cone Beam Computed Tomography</i>				
Nari, S.	Orthopedics	Virginia Technical Inst.	\$9,567	08/08-07/09
<i>Novel Composite Nanostructured Scaffold for Cartilage Regeneration</i>				
Setlow, P.	Molecular, Microbial & Structural Biology	East Carolina Univ.	\$17,489	11/08-07/09
<i>Inactivation of Spores of Bacillus Species by Wet Heat: Studies on Single Spores Using Laser Tweezers Taman Spectroscopy</i>				
Trape-Cardoso, M.	Medicine	Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital	\$43,759	09/06-08/09
<i>Northeast Community Collaborations for Farmworker Health and Safety</i>				
State Grants				
Ferris, Ann	Medicine	UConn-Storrs	\$4,320	10/07-06/08
<i>Building Cultural Competencies</i>				
Hansen, M.	Molecular Medicine	Conn. Dept. of Public Health	\$294,013	07/08-06/09
<i>Role of VPS4B in Development of Trastuzumab-Resistant Breast Cancer</i>				
Lai, L.	Immunology	Conn. Dept. of Public Health	\$301,188	07/08-02/10
<i>Anti-tumor Activity Induced by a Novel Hybrid Cytokine</i>				
Maye, P.	Reconstructive Sciences	UConn-Storrs	\$112,984	08/08-05/09
<i>Importance of Beta-Catenin Signaling in Osteocytes Associated with Anabolic Load</i>				
Wakefield, D.	Pediatrics	UConn-Storrs	\$7,673	10/08-09/09
<i>UConn Food Stamp Nutrition Education – Storrs</i>				
Yue, L.	The Pat & Jim Calhoun Cardiology Center	Conn. Dept. of Public Health	\$278,472	07/08-02/10
<i>MG2+-Permeable Channel Kinases ... in Heart Disease</i>				

Stem cell lines *continued from page 1*

this cutting-edge research are limitless.” The Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee has allocated nearly \$30 million in two rounds of funding that is supporting research labs at UConn and its Health Center, Yale, and Wesleyan. The grants have assisted in building core facilities, initiated new research projects, enabled the recruitment of new faculty, and stimulated collaborations among scientists at universities and biotech industries throughout the state.

“Connecticut has emerged as a national leader in stem cell research and it didn’t happen by accident,” says Senate President Donald Williams. “Three years ago we passed legislation that set the course for where we are now. The investment will continue to pay dividends, especially for Connecticut’s economy, and it is critical that we make its survival one of our highest priorities as we balance the budget.”

The UConn Stem Cell Core facility serves as a storage, distribution, and training center for human embryonic stem cells, and is developing new human embryonic stem cell lines and new stem cell technology for

researchers statewide. It provides stem cell lines to more than 30 labs at UConn, Yale, and Wesleyan; has trained more than 100 researchers and graduate students in stem cell culture; and provides technical support for research and training throughout the state.

University President Michael Hogan says the state’s funding program has drawn into the field a broad spectrum of scientists who traditionally have not conducted research with human embryonic stem cells, in part due to federal funding restrictions. Federal funding for research on human embryonic stem cells to date has been limited to lines created before Aug. 9, 2001. But the regulations do not restrict research on stem cell lines created using state or private funds.

“The State of Connecticut has been very smart in its grant-making strategy,” says Hogan. “The grants issued so far have allowed universities to lay the groundwork for preparing a generation of stem cell scientists.”

For more information on the UConn Stem Cell Core lab, go to <http://genetics.uhc.edu/stemcell/index.htm>

CALENDAR

Monday, February 2, to Monday, February 9

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, Feb. 9 through Tuesday, Feb. 17. Those items must be in the database by 4 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 2. 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, 2/2 – Courses dropped after this date will have a “W” for withdrawal recorded on the academic record.
Monday, 2/2 – Last day to add/drop courses without additional signatures.
Monday, 2/2 – Last day to place courses on pass/fail.
Monday, 2/2 – Add/drop via the Student Administration System closes.
Tuesday, 2/3 – Late Add/Drop begins in the Office of the Registrar.
Monday, 2/9 – Last day for students to make up incomplete or absence grades.

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

Friday, 2/6 – Educational Psychology. *Generalizability and Dependability of Behavioral Assessment Methods: A Comparison of Systematic Direct Observation and Direct Behavior Ratings*, by Amy Briesch (adv.: Chafouleas). 3 p.m., Room 140A, Gentry Building.

Meetings

Monday, 2/2 – University Senate. 4 p.m., Room 7, Bishop Center.

Lectures & Seminars

Monday, 2/2 – Stamford Faculty Colloquium. “All Shall Be Well: The Mystic Vision of Julian of Norwich,”

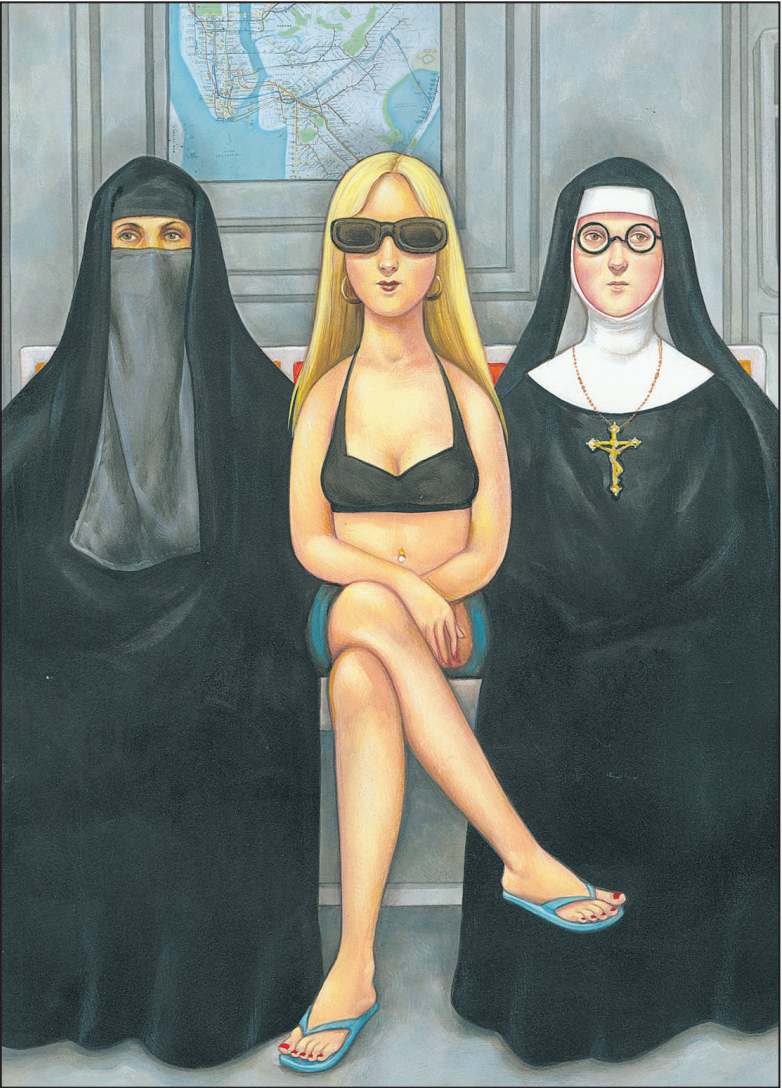


PHOTO SUPPLIED BY THE ALEXEY VON SCHLIPPE GALLERY

“Girls Will be Girls,” a work by Anita Kunz in the *The Veil: Visible and Invisible Spaces* exhibit at the Alexey von Schlippe Gallery at Avery Point.

by Frederick Roden. Noon, GE Global Classroom, Stamford Campus.
Monday, 2/2 – Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Seminar. “Stopover Biology of Migratory Birds: Meeting En Route Challenges,” by Frank Moore, University of Southern Mississippi. 4 p.m., Room 130, Biology/Physics Building.
Wednesday, 2/4 – Faculty Forum. “Philip Roth’s Complaint: Life After *Portnoy’s Complaint*,” by Ross Miller. Noon, Room 162, Dodd Center.
Wednesday, 2/4 – Benton Museum Gallery Talk. “Collection Connection: Mary Cassatt’s Woman and Child.” 12:15-12:45 p.m., Benton Museum.
Wednesday, 2/4 – Waterbury Campus Lecture. “The History of Privacy,” by Edward Freeman, attorney. 1 p.m., Room 333, Waterbury Campus.
Wednesday, 2/4 – Institute for African American Studies Lecture. “Seneca Village: The Destruction of a Black Community, and the Creation of Central Park,” by Leslie Alexander, Ohio State University. 4 p.m., Dodd Center.
Thursday, 2/5 – Research Highlights Lecture. “Research at the Evidence-Based Practice Center,” by C. Michael White. Noon, Class of ’47 Room, Babbidge Library.
Thursday, 2/5 – Stamford Campus Colloquium. “Neuropsychology: Clues to How Brain Enables Mind,” by Leslie Burton. Noon, GE Global Classroom, Stamford Campus.
Thursday, 2/5 – Edwin Way Teale Lecture. “Bridging the Science/Journalism Gap in a Time of Epochal Change,” by Bud Ward, editor. 4 p.m., Konover Auditorium, Dodd Center.
Thursday, 2/5 – Benton Museum of Art Lecture. “Dominican Music and Merengue,” by Carlos Decena, Rutgers University. 4 p.m., Benton Museum of Art. Reception to follow, with music by Tierra Mestiza.
Friday, 2/6 – Environmental Engineering Seminar. “Helium as a Tool for Understanding Long Time-Scale Groundwater Transport,” by Tim Torgersen. Noon, Room 212, Castleman Building.
Friday, 2/6 – Cognitive Science Colloquium. A workshop on

respondent. 4 p.m., Class of ’47 Room, Babbidge Library.
Monday, 2/9 – Panel Discussion. “A 100 Day Retrospective on Marriage Equality in Connecticut.” Panelists are Stephen Davis & Jeffrey Busch, plaintiffs; Anne Stanback of Love Makes a Family; and Bishop John Selders, United Church of Christ. 6:30 p.m., Hogan Lecture Hall, Eads Classroom, Torrington.

Exhibits

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.
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 Sunday, 2/22 – Alexey von Schlippe Gallery. *The Veil: Visible and Invisible Spaces*, 30 works 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 Friday, 3/6 – Benton Museum. *¡Merengue! Visual Rhythms/Ritmos Visuales*, works that span the 20th century; *Yuyanapaq: To Remember*, photos 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.
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.
Through Friday, 3/6 – Dodd Center. *Charles Darwin, 1809-1882, the Legacy of a Naturalist*. For hours, see Libraries section.
Through Wednesday, 4/15 – Health Center. *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. Also, through Wednesday, 3/25, *As Always Jean*, collage, assemblage, and handmade paper by Jean Roberts. Daily, 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Main and Mezzanine Lobbies
Through Friday, 4/17 – Contemporary Art Galleries. *The Super City*. Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Fine Arts Building. Free admission.
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

Saturday, 2/7 – Student Recital. Lisa Conant, alto saxophone. 3p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Free admission.
Saturday, 2/7 – Ballard Institute & Museum of Puppetry. Animation director and designer Jeff Sias. 7:30 p.m., Ballard Institute. Free admission.
Sunday, 2/8 – Student Recital. Jayme Kunze, mezzo soprano. 7 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Free admission.

Film

Saturday, 2/7 & Sunday, 2/8 – Art Film. *The Art of Romare Beardon*. 2 p.m., Benton Museum.

Athletics

Tuesday, 2/3 – Women’s Basketball vs. Rutgers. 8 p.m., XL Center, Hartford.
Friday, 2/6 – Women’s Ice Hockey vs. Boston University. 7 p.m., Freitas Ice Forum.
Saturday, 2/7 – Men’s Basketball vs. Michigan. 6 p.m., Gampel Pavilion.

Potpourri

Sunday, 2/8 – Museum of Natural History. “Seeds, Glorious Seeds! Examining Food Use in Antiquity,” by Alexia Smith. Adults and children ages 10 and above, children must be accompanied by an adult. 3 p.m., Room 130, Biology/Physics Building.

William Orr, former administrator, dies

BY SHERRY FISHER

William Orr, professor emeritus of chemistry and former administrator, died Jan. 16. He was 88.

Orr, who lived in Bloomfield, served for 13 years as associate provost and associate vice president for academic affairs during his 30-year career at the University. He retired in 1978.

Orr earned a bachelor’s degree from Princeton University in 1942 and a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of California at Berkeley in 1948. His postgraduate work was temporarily interrupted by his enlistment in the Navy, where as a lieutenant, he served as a radar officer on an aircraft carrier in the Pacific.

Winthrop Smith, professor of physics, says Orr made substantial contributions to the University. “He worked tirelessly to support competitive faculty salaries so we’d be more competitive in hiring,” Smith says. “A lot of his work was done quietly

behind the scenes.”

Smith adds, “He was a good citizen and an active member of the community.”

John Tanaka, emeritus professor of chemistry, says Orr was well liked: “He was one of the nicest guys you could meet, and always very helpful.”

Norman Stevens, former director of University Libraries, says as an administrator Orr was a strong supporter of the University Libraries.

“After he retired, he continued to be a strong personal supporter and an active member of the Friends of the University Libraries that had been formed as the first formal effort to increase private support for the libraries,” Stevens says. “He was always a true friend of the library who was deserving of the University Service Award, which recognizes ‘exceptional contributions that strengthen and support the school’s values and mission.’” Orr received the award in 1978.

Orr was dedicated to serving his community. His volunteer commitments included serving as treasurer of Northeastern Connecticut’s Opera New England, as a member of the Mansfield Board of Education, as a board member of the Seabury Foundation, as president of the Friends of the University of Connecticut Libraries, and as president of the University’s chapter of Sigma Xi, a scientific research society.

He is survived by his wife Nancy and her children. His first wife, Jean predeceased him in 1993, but he is survived by their daughter Alison and her husband; daughter Katherine and her husband; and son Christopher and his wife, and their two children.

Memorial contributions in his name may be made to the Seabury Charitable Foundation, 200 Seabury Drive, Bloomfield, CT 06002-2650.

UConnomy report highlights impact of research on state's citizens

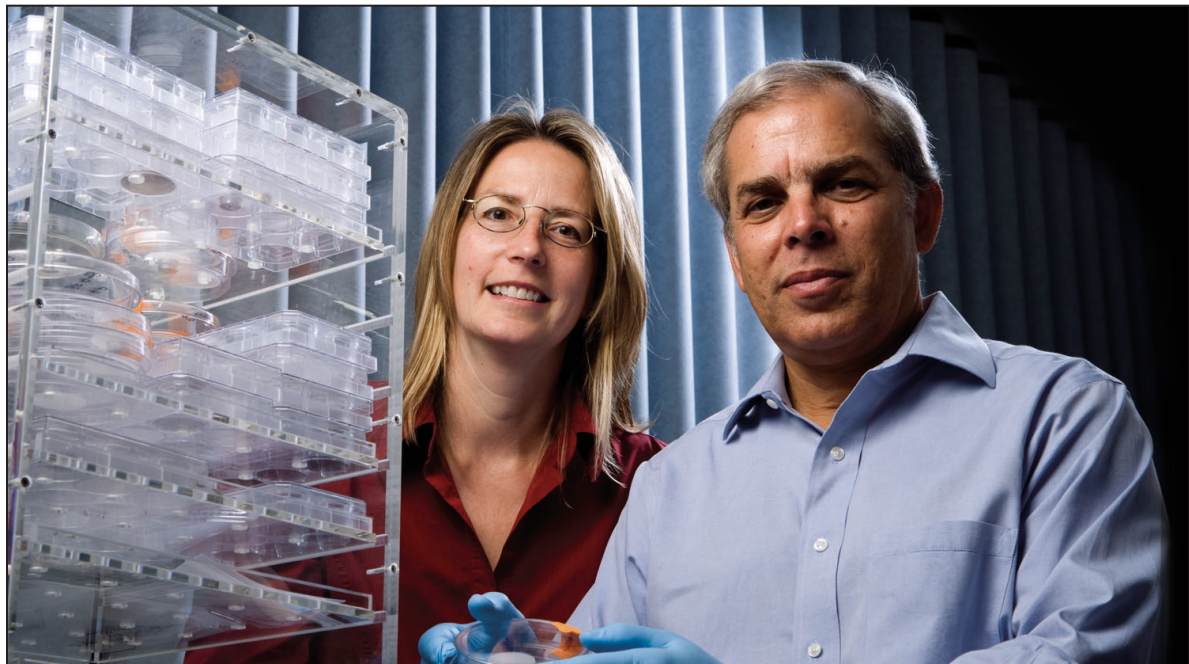


PHOTO BY LANNY NAGLER

Health Center researchers Liisa Kuhn and Jon Goldberg.

Starting in the Jan. 26 issue and continuing for several weeks, the *Advance* will present portions of a report produced by the Office of University Communications in conjunction with a study conducted by Stanley McMillen, chief economist at the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development. The report, UConnomy, outlines the many ways the University is vital

to the state's economic well being.

The full report and fast facts are available at www.uconn.edu/uconnomy.

Part of the report discusses research and innovation. It says faculty members from across the University, including the Health Center, are engaged in cutting-edge research projects aimed at transforming the lives of citizens – now and into the future: “Their

work brings about the knowledge and innovations that will ultimately foster business development, an enhanced quality of life, improved education, and stronger economic growth in Connecticut and beyond.”

Examples include:

- The University's Center for Applied Genetics and Technology focuses on improving the forensic DNA technology used by crime

labs across the nation. Headed by molecular and cell biology professor Linda Strausbaugh, the Center brings together the Connecticut State Police Forensic Sciences Lab's DNA Unit, UConn faculty, and corporate partners in researching new methods of DNA analysis.

- In 2008, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security selected UConn's School of Engineering as the research lead of a National Center of Excellence in Transportation Security. In addition to advancing Connecticut's security, the Center's activities foster security-oriented business developments and provide training for the state's transportation security workforce.

- The Connecticut State Data Center in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences analyzes U.S. Census reports and tracks population trends affecting Connecticut. Studies include analysis of school populations and of demographic shifts that may change the state's representation in Congress that help towns plan for the future.

- UConn stands at the forefront of stem cell research. Scientists on the Storrs campus and at the Health Center are learning what makes stem cells grow, how to affect their development and, ultimately, how to turn them into therapies to treat a host of diseases. The state-of-the-art Stem Cell Institute, to be completed this year, will soon house collaborative new stem cell research.

- Improving K-12 education in Connecticut schools remains a state priority. The University supports this effort through a range of research projects at the Neag School of Education, including the national reform initiative Teachers for a New Era, which prepares top quality future teachers.

- Scientists from across the University are immersed in the study of nanotechnology, an emerging discipline in which materials are examined and manipulated on a molecular scale. Faculty advances in this area hold great potential in diagnosing and treating disease, enhancing sustainable energy efforts, strengthening military defense capabilities, and building far more sophisticated electronics.

- As a participant in the National Institute for Pharmaceutical Technology & Education, the School of Pharmacy is working to bring new and safer medicines to market more quickly by collaborating with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and others in the pharmaceutical industry.

- In the School of Nursing, Professor Patricia Neafsey, for example, is testing a software program that teaches the elderly about their medications and the risk of potentially dangerous drug interactions. It is estimated that reducing adverse self-medication behaviors could save \$1 million or more a year in emergency health care costs.

Costume design professor helps students fashion their careers

BY SHERRY FISHER

One day, Laura Crow and her students are headed to a performance at the Metropolitan Opera. Another day, they're in Manhattan shopping for fabric.

“One of my missions is to make my students less afraid of New York City,” says Crow, a professor of dramatic arts specializing in costume design. “There's so much available there for them.”

No stranger to Manhattan, Crow, who joined the UConn faculty in 1994, has been designing costumes for Broadway, off Broadway, regional theater, film, and opera for more than 30 years.

She was resident costume designer for the Circle Repertory Theatre for 13 years. With some 300 productions under her belt, she is perhaps best known for her work with playwright Lanford Wilson and the poetic realism movement in American theater.

Crow works with graduate students, who design costumes for UConn's Connecticut Repertory Theatre.

Choosing fabric for a particular costume isn't easy, she says: “You need to choose the right fabric for the right costume, and that takes a great deal of education. You need to learn how to hold the fabric in your hand, see how it drapes, and feel what we call the *hand* of the fabric. That's only learned with experience.”

Crow enjoys designing for period plays. She recently worked on *The English Channel*, a new play by Robert Brustein about Shake-

spere and Marlowe during 1593, a plague year in London, when the theaters were closed.

“It was fun,” she says. “I liked the fact that I was doing Elizabethan clothing from a modern vantage point.”

Crow says proportion is key when designing a costume. “Proportion can make everyone look graceful,” she says. “If you're designing for an opera star who is more zaftig, you need to design so the proportion is more elegant. Many costume designers don't teach this to their students.”

Shoes are at the top of the list when building a costume, she says. “Sometimes it can take four weeks to find the right pair,” she says. “When we did *The Magic Flute* at the Bushnell Theatre, the women wore platform shoes with six to eight inch heels. They needed to rehearse in them most of the time. They performed on a raked stage [sloped upwards]. It was asking a lot.”

Crow likes to know who is cast before she designs, but that's not always possible. “In regional theater, often you have to design before you have any idea what the cast is going to be like,” she says. “When I present the designs to the company, I tell them it's my beginning conceptual idea, and we need to work together. I want them to feel at home in their costumes.”

Trained as a costume historian, dating paintings through historical dress, Crow has spent most of her life studying costume history. “You can date paintings through dress with more precision than through



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Laura Crow, professor of dramatic arts, with a costume from the University's historical collection.

carbon dating and other methods,” she says. “It was an interesting field, but I ended up working in dark, dank museum basements. I missed theater.”

Crow's awards include the Drama Desk, Obie, Villager, Maharam, and American Theatre Wing Awards.

She has also been selected five times to be among those representing American Theatre Design at the Prague Quadrennial, a prestigious international theatre design exhibition, and is one of two American designer representatives to the International Organization of Scenographers, Theatre Architects, and Technicians Scenography Commission,

where she is head of the costume working group.

Several of Crow's designs are on display in *Curtain Call: Celebrating a Century of Women Designing for Live Performance*, an exhibit at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center Plaza that runs through May 2. The project showcases the work of more than 100 women who designed sets, costumes, and lighting for theater from 1900 to 2000.

Crow teaches courses on comic exaggeration, tragedy and post modernism, film design, and costume history. She also teaches a millinery class, a class on dyeing and painting fabric, and a class in computers and web design. “A

visual artist needs to have an excellent web site,” she says.

Crow says the costume history class is both her nemesis and her passion. “The students consider it an extremely hard class,” she says, “partly because they don't have much history background. They have to learn all about world history at the same time they're trying to learn about social manners, customs and methods of dress.”

A book she is writing, *An Annotative History of Dress*, may help students in that area.

With a grant from the United States Institute for Theatre Technology, she is creating a database of visual images for costume historians that will debut in March.