



UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

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Gretchen Pfisterer, a first-year exploratory major, reads outside the William Benton Museum of Art.

PHOTO BY JESSICA TOMMASELLI

Task force suggests cost-saving initiatives up to \$7 million

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

UConn's Cost, Savings and Revenue Enhancement (CORE) Task Force has recommended initiatives that could save between \$5 million and \$7 million by the end of Fiscal Year 2010.

In a preliminary report to University President Michael Hogan, the task force recommends that UConn save money and generate new revenues by increasing energy conservation, selling energy credits, streamlining workflow, reducing print materials, offering an expanded summer session, reviewing how graduate assistants are appointed and how their assignments are determined, implementing a voluntary schedule reduction program, and more effectively allocating funds from the Research Foundation.

"The report reflects hours of careful work and consideration of more than 500 suggestions made by members of the UConn community," said Hogan. "I am pleased that the task force has been able to identify significant savings and revenue enhancements without sacrificing student services."

The report is available on the President's web site at: <http://president.uconn.edu/pdf/COREReport1.pdf>

The task force, formed by Hogan in November, has been meeting weekly. Its members include faculty, staff, and administrators. It is co-chaired by Richard Gray, vice president and chief financial officer; Barry Feldman, vice president and chief operating officer; and Peter Nicholls, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs.

To ensure input from faculty, staff, and students, the task force hosted a series of town hall meetings at Storrs and West Hartford, and accepted e-mailed suggestions.

Hogan asked the task force to identify savings of between 3 percent and 5 percent of the University's state appropriation, and revenue enhancements, excluding tuition and fees and state appropriations, of between 2 percent and 3 percent.

"I'm very impressed by the thoughtful ideas that were brought forward to CORE," said Nicholls. "Many of these are suggestions that are sensitive to student needs and

Committee makes recommendations for accomplishing quieter, safer spring weekend

BY RICHARD VEILLEUX

The Board of Trustees last week received a series of recommendations they hope will accelerate the positive momentum established in recent years and lead to a more subdued Spring Weekend.

The recommendations were offered by the Board's Student Life Committee, chaired by Trustee Louise Bailey. They include reducing or eliminating the presence of non-UConn students from campus during the weekend; scheduling exams or projects for that Friday's classes; making landlords and students responsible for any costs their actions – or inaction – cause; and curtailing any attempts by off-campus residents to expand the event from its traditional three days.

The committee recommends beginning the process of eliminating, in partnership

with local property owners, one of the three traditional but unsanctioned parties – the Thursday night kick-off at Carriage House Apartments about one mile from campus.

Public input

The committee was appointed by Dr. John Rowe, chairman of the Board of Trustees, last June. Since then, the committee has heard from dozens of individuals, including students, town and University officials, faculty and staff, Mansfield residents, and public safety officials. They also conducted an extensive survey, to which nearly 5,400 people responded.

Since 1998, when the weekend reached its nadir, a combination of increased non-alcoholic activities and enforcement has led to fewer arrests, smaller crowds, and less rowdy behavior. Since 2004, 55 initiatives

have been launched in an attempt to scale back the unsanctioned activities; 22 of those initiatives have remained in place since 2005.

"One of the consistent themes emerging from the review is the sense of pride and accomplishment people from the student body to the Town of Mansfield feel regarding efforts they have already taken to ameliorate concerns," the report states. "There is also a common feeling that more can and needs to be done. Efforts in prevention, education, enforcement, and management are reflected in the recommendations. We propose that the constituencies who shared their concern unite in a focused effort to act on these recommendations."

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PHOTO BY JESSICA TOMMASELLI

Derek Marotta, left, a sophomore majoring in animal science, and Nicole Prince, a first-year art history major, make valentines at the William Benton Museum of Art.

Former professor of home economics Louise Teich Johnson dies at 95

Former professor and administrator Louise Teich Johnson died Feb. 2. She was 95.

Johnson, who lived in Storrs, graduated from the University of Connecticut with a bachelor's degree in 1936 and a master's degree in the early 1950's. She was at the University for more than 25 years, where she taught courses in clothing and fashion and textiles. She was also an administrator in the School of Home Economics, which became the School of Family Studies.

Over the years Johnson received many honors for her significant contributions to the University.

She was given a Special Recognition Award from the School of Family Studies, and the School's Alumni Society honored her with its Distinguished Service Award. She also received the University Service Award from the Alumni Association.

In 1990, UConn recognized her lifetime of contributions by awarding her its highest honor, the

University Medal, jointly with her husband, the late Reuben B. Johnson '36, a former dean and alumni director at the University.

Johnson's father, Frederic C. Teich, was the architect of more than 20 buildings on the UConn campus, including the Wilbur Cross Building, the Ratchliffe Hicks School of Agriculture complex, the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts, the original Student Union building, and the Greer Field House. He also designed the house in which his daughter lived for more than 50 years.

Irene Brown, associate professor emerita of human development and family studies, says Johnson "lived and breathed the University. She was instrumental in starting the Family Studies Alumni Society. I remember wonderful meetings in her living room. She was welcoming and inspiring."

Brown adds that Johnson enjoyed attending the annual scholarship event in memory of her father: "She always wanted

students to be recognized for their creative interests."

Johnson was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta, the American Association of University Women, the Women's Club of Storrs, the Storrs Congregational Church, the Botsford Family Association, and the Parish Piecers, a quilting group.

She was predeceased by her husband, to whom she was married for more than 50 years, and a daughter. She is survived by her son, Reuben, four grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

A service for the remembrance and celebration of her life will be held on Feb. 21 at 2 p.m. at the Storrs Congregational Church. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in her memory to The Frederic C. Teich Award, payable to the UConn Foundation Inc., with The Frederic C. Teich Award (30112) in the memo line, and sent to the UConn Foundation, 2390 Alumni Drive, Unit 3206, Storrs, CT 06269-3206.

CORE task force *continued from page 1*

interests, while also generating new revenues."

The report is preliminary, and the task force will continue to meet and analyze other suggestions, some of which may take more than a year to put into place.

"We will be required to manage through a difficult economic period," said Nicholls, "and we must seek every avenue possible to save costs and generate new revenues."

UConn has already implemented significant cost reductions as a result of a 3 percent rescission to the University's state appropriation for fiscal year 2009.

The report urges that the discretion of unit managers and department heads to implement savings

should be maintained where possible, and notes that it is critical to preserve student access to outstanding academic programs, continue the University's commitment to financial aid, and, where possible, preserve jobs.

"We recognize that difficult decisions must be made, but they should be made with care and compassion," Nicholls said. "In addition, we must consider the long-term effects of any cuts on the University and its mission."

The University implemented an across-the-board 3.5 percent assessment in the fall – including a rescission of 3 percent and a 0.5 percent reallocation – and achieved substantial savings by

placing strict limits on out-of-state travel and implementing a freeze on hiring, except for the most critical positions.

The governor's proposed budget for Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011 calls for further cuts, including a more than 9 percent reduction in the level of state support needed to maintain currently provided services in the next fiscal year.

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

Joseph Zygmunt, emeritus professor of sociology, dies

BY SHERRY FISHER

Joseph Zygmunt, professor emeritus of sociology, died Dec. 22 in Evansville, Ind. He was 87.

Zygmunt joined the UConn faculty in 1961 and retired in 1989.

He earned a bachelor's degree in 1942 from the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Kappa Delta, and Psi Chi honorary societies. After serving in the U.S. Army during World War II, he went on to earn master's and doctoral degrees in sociology at the University of Chicago. He also was a lecturer at the University of Chicago and at the Indiana University Extension Division.

Arnold Dashefsky, professor of sociology and director of the Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life, says, "As a new member of the faculty in sociology in the 1970s teaching a required course on society and the individual, I frequently turned to Joe Zygmunt for advice. He taught the same course. He was a very thoughtful and supportive colleague, and I missed his wise counsel when he retired."

Susan Eisenhandler an assistant professor of sociology, was a student in one of Zygmunt's courses, Society and the Individual.

"I was a serious student and more than accustomed to taking well-organized, prolific notes," she says. "In Joe's class, those abilities were put to the test. I filled several legal-sized yellow pads during the semester."

Eisenhandler says Zygmunt was "steeped in the social psychology of the Chicago School – the ideas of George Herbert Mead, John Dewey, Anselm Strauss, and others – such as Harry Stack Sullivan and W.I. Thomas – intellectuals who argued that it is in the continuous interaction between person and group that meaning, identity, and culture are created."

"Professor Zygmunt's lectures were exhaustive and detailed and built a solid foundation for my graduate study in sociology," she adds. "He taught the subject matter well and with integrity."

Zygmunt enjoyed gourmet cooking, gardening, and photography.

He was predeceased by his wife Margaret, a brother and two sisters. He is survived by his brother Walter, sister-in-law Loretta, and nieces and nephews. Contributions in his memory may be made to the Ronald McDonald House of the Ohio Valley, P.O. Box 5381, Evansville, IN 47716.

Nominations sought for awards recognizing women of color

The Women's Center is calling for assistance in recognizing and honoring women of color who have made a significant contribution to the University.

Candidates may be nominated for excellence based on qualities and achievements and as determined through their work with others. Nominations should include evidence based on but not limited to service and/or contributions to the University; academic or career achievements; community service; and commitment to enhancing quality of life and/or serving as a role model for women of color.

Candidates must have been employed at the University for at least 12 months. Students are not eligible for this award.

The nomination form is available at <http://www.womenscenter.uconn.edu/WOC2009.pdf>. The form should be printed and mailed to Kathy Fischer, Women's Center, U-3118, Storrs, CT 06269-3118.

The deadline for nominations is Feb. 20.

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT Advance Elizabeth Omara-Otunnu Editor

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Stem cell scientist, cloning pioneer Jerry Yang dies at 49

BY DAVID BAUMAN

Xiangzhong Yang, widely known as Jerry, a stem cell scientist, cloning pioneer, professor of animal science, and director of UConn's Center for Regenerative Biology, died on Feb. 5 after a long battle with cancer. He was 49.

Internationally recognized for his research in animal embryo transfer and embryo biotechnology, Yang was probably best known for cloning Amy, a Holstein calf born in UConn's Kellogg Dairy Center on June 10, 1999. Amy was the first cloned farm animal in the United States.

Yang's research in practical animal biotechnology also led to many other contributions. He showed, for example, that early concerns that clones would age prematurely were false, and the Food and Drug Administration relied heavily on Yang's work when it found that meat and dairy products from cloned farm animals were safe to eat and drink.

Yang never forgot his roots in rural China. He formed a non-profit company that ships embryos, created by in vitro fertilization of eggs taken from U.S. dairy cows with sperm taken from high potential U.S. bulls, to China. There they are brought to term in surrogate mother cows, in an effort to increase the milk production of Chinese dairy herds.

Yang was also devoted to improving collaboration between scientists in the U.S. and his native country, and he helped found the China Bridges program that sends American scientists to teach in China.

He was born and raised on a farm in the village of Dongcun, about 300 miles south of Beijing. He survived famine in 1959 and 1960. As a teenager, he was resigned to becoming a swine herdsman when the government reintroduced college entrance exams at the end of the Cultural Revolution. His scores made him among the 1 percent of applicants who were admitted into the prestigious Beijing Agricultural University in 1978.

Once there, he scored highly on a second test that won him the opportunity to pursue a college degree in the United States. He came to the U.S. in 1983 on a prestigious national fellowship and received his MS and Ph.D. degrees at Cornell University.

He excelled as an embryologist at Cornell and, following postdoctoral training in animal biotechnology, was offered a position as program director in Cornell's animal science department, with responsibility for developing an animal biotechnology program.

In June 1996, the year that Dolly the sheep was cloned in Scotland, Yang joined the faculty at UConn as associate professor of animal

science and head of the Biotechnology Center's Transgenic Animal Facility. Three years later, he announced the arrival of Amy.

By 2000, Yang had been promoted to the rank of full professor. A year later, he was appointed founding director of the University's new Center for Regenerative Biology with five new faculty, charged with investigating areas of basic science in the growing field of regenerative biology and medicine.

Yang laid the groundwork for an attempt to clone a human embryo, in the hope of creating embryonic stem cells that are an exact match of patients' cells. The vision is that stem cells derived from a patient's own cells would enable doctors to treat a host of diseases, ranging from cancer to Parkinson's disease and diabetes.

A strong advocate of stem cell research, Yang was appointed to the state Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee, established following passage of the Stem Cell Investment Act in 2005. The legislation made Connecticut the third state in the nation to provide public funding in support of embryonic and human adult stem cell research.

His efforts helped promote understanding of the use of stem cells as therapies in clinical settings and put UConn on the leading edge of stem cell science. His battle with cancer forced him to take medical leave in 2007.

"Jerry was an inspiration to us all, both personally and professionally," says Dr. David Goldhamer, associate professor of molecular and cell biology and interim director of the Center for Regenerative Biology. "I have never known anyone to fight so hard, while maintaining such optimism and hope for the future."

"This is a tremendous personal loss for all who knew him, and we can all learn from his sheer determination and love of life," Goldhamer adds. "The scientific community owes him an immense debt of gratitude for his pioneering work and passionate advocacy of stem cell research."

Yang is survived by his wife, Xiuchun (Cindy) Tian, an associate professor of animal science at UConn, their son Andrew, his parents Wukui and Fengrong, three brothers and a sister.

A public memorial service will be held on Friday, Feb. 20, at 10 a.m. in the Rome Commons Ballroom.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Yang for a purpose to be designated by his family. Please make checks payable to The UConn Foundation Inc., with "in honor of Dr. Jerry Yang" in the memo line, and send to the UConn Foundation, 2390 Alumni Drive U-3206, Storrs, CT 06269-3206.



PHOTO BY JESSICA TOMMASELLI

Author Sally Rogers sings from her book *Earthsong* at the UConn Co-op on Feb. 7, as part of Connecticut Loves to Read Day.

HIV/AIDS intervention program selected as one of top in nation

BY COLIN POITRAS

An HIV/AIDS prevention program developed by researchers at the Center for Health, Intervention and Prevention (CHIP) has been selected as one of the country's top HIV/AIDS interventions by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

"Options" was developed by a team led by Jeffrey Fisher, a professor of social psychology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and director of CHIP. The Options intervention focuses on "prevention with positives." It trains clinicians to talk with HIV-positive patients during routine medical appointments about reducing their risky sexual and drug use behavior, using behavior change theory and motivational interviewing techniques.

The clinicians work collaboratively with patients in assessing their risky behaviors and willingness to change. Together, clinician and patient then develop strategies for practicing safer behavior, and set future goals that are written out in a "prescription" for safer sex or drug use.

Interventions that work

Officials at the CDC selected Options as one of eight interventions being added this year to *The 2008 Compendium of Evidence-Based HIV Prevention Interventions*. The CDC publishes the compendium annually to highlight programs that have been scientifically proven to reduce HIV or STD-related risk behaviors or promote safer behaviors. The compendium is a source of information that informs state and local HIV prevention programs about what works for preventing HIV infections. It includes a total of 57 interventions.

"We're very pleased it was selected as one of a relatively small number of highly promising interventions," says Fisher. "Options is one of the very few interventions that exist to help people with HIV not to engage in practices that could spread the virus."

Fisher notes that, while much attention has been given over the years to preventing HIV/AIDS

in people who don't have it, there is increasing interest in focusing prevention efforts on individuals who are already infected.

"About one-third of the people with HIV practice risky behaviors," he says. "We have to work together with them to help them be safer. Having HIV and engaging in risky behavior is a way to spread the virus, yet we've been neglecting this population since the beginning of the epidemic."

Fisher says the Options model can be used to promote healthier behavior for other populations too, such as those with diabetes.

"Getting people to change is not easy. Getting people to maintain that change over time is even more difficult," he says. "One of the unique things about Options is that it recognizes that people with HIV may go in and out of risk. Sometimes they may be engaging in risky behavior, sometimes they may not, and how you intervene with them should be a function of what is happening in their lives at the time. The fact that Options is a collaboratively-designed intervention that can occur at each medical visit makes it very powerful and long-lasting."

Health behavior change

With its roots in HIV prevention, CHIP is an interdisciplinary research center dedicated to studying and promoting health behavior change in at-risk populations across multiple health domains. Since 1989, Fisher has received more than \$22 million in federally-funded research grants dedicated to the reduction of HIV/AIDS globally.

Options is the third HIV/AIDS intervention developed by CHIP researchers to be included in the CDC's compendium. Two HIV prevention interventions developed by another CHIP principal investigator, social psychology professor Seth Kalichman, were incorporated into the compendium several years ago.

Kalichman's Healthy Relationships is a small-group, skills-based behavioral intervention for men and women living with HIV. The intervention helps HIV-positive individuals develop skills for

handling HIV-related stresses and risky sexual situations and ultimately helps them develop strategies for maintaining fulfilling relationships while protecting themselves and their partners. More than 300 public health agencies around the country have been trained in implementing it.

Kalichman's other recognized intervention is a video-based, motivational skills-building, small-group intervention for heterosexual, sexually active African American men living in urban areas. It is designed to improve communication skills and help individuals eliminate or reduce risky sexual behaviors.

Research-based program

The Options intervention was developed, implemented, and evaluated by Fisher in the late 1990's in collaboration with his brother, Bill Fisher, a professor at the University of Western Ontario; Dr. Gerald Friedland, a professor and infectious disease doctor at Yale University; Deborah Cornman, a clinical psychologist and associate director of CHIP; and K. Rivet Amico, an assistant research professor in clinical psychology and CHIP affiliate.

In a study conducted between October 2000 and August 2003 involving 497 HIV-positive patients recruited from two Connecticut HIV clinics, researchers found risk behavior by HIV-positive patients decreased significantly among those participating in the Options program, while it increased for those not receiving the intervention.

With funding from the U.S. Health Resources and Service Administration, Options was expanded successfully to 15 healthcare facilities throughout the country. In the State of New York, all healthcare facilities that receive Ryan White funding must provide HIV prevention counseling to HIV-positive patients, and Options is the recommended intervention.

Options is also being implemented in eight HIV clinics in South Africa, and in military hospitals in Mozambique and Uganda.

CHIP media relations specialist Beth Krane contributed to this article.

More research needed to improve care for older adults with cancer

BY COLIN POITRAS

The nation's health care system will face significant challenges in the coming decades, as the number of individuals living with cancer rises dramatically along with the aging of the baby boomers, according to Keith Bellizzi, assistant professor of human development and family studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Understanding the special needs of older adults with cancer and how the disease and related treatment impacts their physical, emotional, and social health is an area that deserves immediate exploration, he says.

The issues surrounding cancer and aging are garnering international attention. Bellizzi recently served as guest editor for a special supplement of the journal *Cancer* that addressed the topic. The supplement, *Aging in the Context of Cancer Prevention and Control: Perspectives from Behavioral Medicine*, was released in December.

Evidence-based practice

In the supplement, Bellizzi, along with his colleague Thomas Blank, a professor of human development and family studies, and more than a dozen fellow researchers from across the country, say there is an urgent need for clear, evidence-based practice guidelines to assist physicians, oncologists, and others who provide short- and long-term care management to older adults with cancer.

Only with more immediate research will appropriate prevention efforts, screening, treatment approaches, post-treatment survivorship, and end of life care be put in place to serve this rapidly growing population, the supplement says.

The single greatest risk factor for cancer is age. More than 60 percent of all malignant cancer diagnoses in the U.S. occur in people age 65 or older. Currently, there are an estimated 6.5 million adults age 65 or older in the U.S. who have had cancer.

That number is expected to rise as the country's baby boomer population ages and the number of men and women age 65 and older – currently about 36.8 million – doubles by the year 2030.

Due to advances in medical science, cancer is no longer a uniformly fatal illness. Approximately 43 percent of older cancer survivors are expected to live for 10 years or more, and about 17 percent will survive for 20 years or more after their initial diagnosis, according to recent estimates.

Need for research

"The coalescence of three factors has the potential to create one of the biggest public health problems our country has faced in decades," says Bellizzi. "These are: the aging of the baby boomers, the age-sensitive nature of cancer, and the increased survival rates for those diagnosed with cancer."

He says there is growing

consensus that researchers and clinicians need to take a multidisciplinary approach, incorporating perspectives from geriatrics, oncology, behavioral medicine, and public health to ensure the best quality care.

Bellizzi cites two recent reports that warn of a looming shortage of adult oncologists and geriatricians due to expected retirements and a lack of new specialists to replace them.

"Two pressing questions that need to be addressed are: 1) Who and how will we care for the growing population of older individuals with cancer, many of whom will also have competing health conditions, and 2) what are the unique physical, mental, and social issues they face," Bellizzi says. "Regrettably, research has not kept pace with this growing population."

Critical issues

Obstacles to improving care exist at all points along the cancer care continuum, Bellizzi says. Some critical issues facing the country's growing population of older cancer survivors are:

- **Prevention** – There is a prevalent belief in the medical community and among the general public that since many older people suffer from chronic disease, the focus should be on illness management rather than prevention.
- **Screening** – In general, older adults are less likely to be screened for cancer and more likely to re-



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Keith Bellizzi, assistant professor of human development and family studies.

ceive incomplete diagnostic workups. Future research should focus on developing or updating screening guidelines for older adults, based on clinical trials that include older adults; decreasing barriers to screening when it is found to be beneficial; and leveraging aging organizations to enhance older adults' participation in screening trials.

- **Treatment** – Older adults are less likely to receive optimal doses of chemotherapy compared with younger patients, due to toxicities and perceived complications. Use of a Comprehensive Geriatric

Assessment is recommended, to determine which older cancer patients can benefit from treatment and which patients may benefit more from palliative care.

- **Survivorship** – Trying to disentangle the effects of cancer and its treatment from competing health conditions like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and osteoporosis on health outcomes is complex. Some studies suggest that older cancer survivors may do worse physically and psychologically than non-cancer comparison groups. More research is needed.

School of Law panel discusses causes of prison overcrowding

BY MICHAEL KIRK

In 1977, Connecticut had roughly 4,000 of its citizens incarcerated. Today, that number is about 19,000. And nationwide, more than 2.3 million people are in prison, more than in any other nation in the world, including Russia and China.

The explosion in the American prison population in the past 40 years and what can be done about it was the subject of a day-long symposium at the Law School, "The Road to Prison Reform: Treating the Causes and Conditions of our Overburdened System." The Feb. 6 event was sponsored by the Connecticut Public Interest law Journal.

Rapid growth

UConn law professor Leonard Orland opened the day, noting that while the nation's population grew by 6 percent since 2000, the rate of incarceration increased by 15 percent during the same period.

Incarceration is also expensive, he said: it costs governments about \$24,000 per prisoner per year – a heavy burden on state budgets.

Added to that, Orland said, within these statistics there is a "glaring, clear racial component," with the percentage of black and Hispanic prisoners many times larger than their percentage in the overall population.

The first panel, "Courthouse to Jailhouse: The Legal Causes of



PHOTO BY SPENCER A. SLOAN

Emily Carroll, LAW '09, editor-in-chief of the Connecticut Public Interest Law Journal, gives opening remarks at a symposium on prison reform.

Overcrowding," featured William Carbone, executive director of court support services for the state's judicial department, and law professors Steven Duke of Yale Law School and Brian Foley of Boston University.

The speakers said the increase in the prison population can be blamed on several factors: the dramatic increase in drug arrests beginning in the 1970s (20 percent of the prison population are there for drug offenses, including half of all

federal prisoners); the curtailment of parole; the enactment of "truth in sentencing" laws that mandate prisoners serve their full sentence; the elimination of good behavior programs that used to allow prisoners to earn an earlier release; and reduction in the amount of discretion judges have in sentencing, owing to the establishment of mandatory minimum sentences for certain crimes.

Foley said one problem is that a defendant's background, personal

situation, and the reasons why he or she committed a particular crime are not fully considered at the time of sentencing.

"Causes and motives are not reflected in laws," said Foley. "We're jailing many people who do not need jailing."

Foley said prisoners are not treated as human beings, sometimes being packed into small cells four at a time.

This, he said, combined with a lack of adequate support when a sentence concludes, makes reentering the world from prison very difficult.

When it comes to sentencing, Foley said, the nation needs to "rethink the idea of using prison promiscuously."

Duke, the Yale professor, drew a direct connection between the massive prison population and the "war on drugs," which began in the early 1970s when the prison population was a tiny fraction of today's.

He said "it is not the use of drugs that causes crime, it's the prohibition." The risks posed to drug dealers and users by aggressive law enforcement increases the cost of drugs, and the high cost leads addicts to go to great lengths to obtain drugs, including committing theft and property crimes, he said.

He took particular aim at laws relating to marijuana.

Duke said it is unheard of

to overdose on marijuana, and violence is not typically associated with its use. "It is mindless for us to put people in jail for using marijuana," he said.

When it comes to drug offenders, Duke pointed to several studies that show treatment is effective for many people in prison for drug-related crimes. There are no studies to the contrary, he added.

Reducing recidivism

Carbone, of the judicial department, agreed that treatment is an effective option that reduces rates of recidivism. And, he added, it is ultimately less expensive than incarceration.

Why, then, is there more emphasis on incarceration than on treatment for drug offenders? And why did government move to change laws and programs, leading to an explosion in the prison population?

Duke suggested public attitudes have something to do with it. He said he detected a change in the American mindset, beginning in the early 1980's, as the public demanded a tougher stand on crime and harsher sentences for offenders. This led state legislatures and Congress to enact tougher penalties and longer sentences, and reduce judicial discretion.

Other panels during the day examined social causes and implications, and prisoners' rights and system reform.

Biomaterials engineer receives state award for innovation

BY CHRIS DEFRADESCO

Liisa Kuhn's biomaterials engineering research could ultimately lead to tissue regeneration or a new cancer treatment, perhaps even a cure.

Her work may not be used in the clinic quite yet, but its promise impressed the Connecticut Technology Council enough to name her a 2009 Women of Innovation Award winner.

Kuhn, an assistant professor in the Center for Biomaterials and Regenerative Medicine at the UConn Health Center, was one of 10 winners among 52 finalists, all considered "innovators, role models, and leaders in the technology, science, and engineering fields" by the Connecticut Technology Council, the state's industry association for the technology sector.

Kuhn took top honors in the Academic Innovation and Leadership category.

"Dr. Liisa Kuhn brings innovation to the academic environment through the most effective of means, her own example," wrote Center for Biomaterials director Jonathan Goldberg in his nomination. "Dr. Kuhn is actively sought by students as a mentor and by faculty as a research collaborator. As evidenced by her numerous students and funded grants, she brings an innovative perspective on how materials engineering can address a wide range of clinical problems."

Kuhn worked in industry before joining the Health Center faculty,

and brings her industrial innovation experiences to the classroom.

Goldberg says, "Liisa's work is a prime example of how we bring real life problems and examples to the classroom, and translate research back to real life solutions."

Rebuilding bone

Kuhn, Goldberg, and other UConn scientists are studying how embryonic stem cells could rebuild bone, cartilage, muscle, and skin. Last fall, CPTV's *Positively Connecticut* program featured Kuhn's work toward getting stem cells to differentiate into bone, highlighting how it could avert a painful surgical step for dental implant patients who require bone grafting. It's something she predicts may be possible within 10 years.

Kuhn also is exploring the use of nanoparticles to deliver high doses of chemotherapy to cancer cells. The nanoparticles are made of calcium phosphate, the same substance that when prepared as stable layers of material stimulates stem cells to become bone cells.

"The innovation in the cancer field comes from using nanometer-sized particles of calcium phosphate," Kuhn says. "The nanoparticles will not support bone growth, in fact they promote bone destruction, and thus potentially the destruction of cancer. It's this sort of yin/yang relationship within biomaterials research that makes it fascinating."

Kuhn was also a Women of Innovation finalist in 2008 and 2006.

"The award has a unique place in my heart because it recognizes women in science and technology," she says, "and provides publicity enabling other women to hear about a positive role model. The idea of trying to mentor young women in science is part of the Connecticut Technology Council's goal, and that's part of what my being acknowledged in this manner

helps us do."

UConn had six finalists for this year's Women of Innovation Awards: Amy Howell, professor of chemistry, also in the Academic Innovation and Leadership category; Jun-Hong Cui, associate professor of computer science and engineering, and Susanne Yelin, associate professor of physics, were finalists for the Research Innovation and

Leadership Award; Donna Cyr, the Health Center's director of technology licensing, was a finalist for the Large Business Innovation and Leadership Award; and Emily Neumann, who graduated with a bachelor's in English and journalism last year, was in the Collegian Innovation and Leadership category.

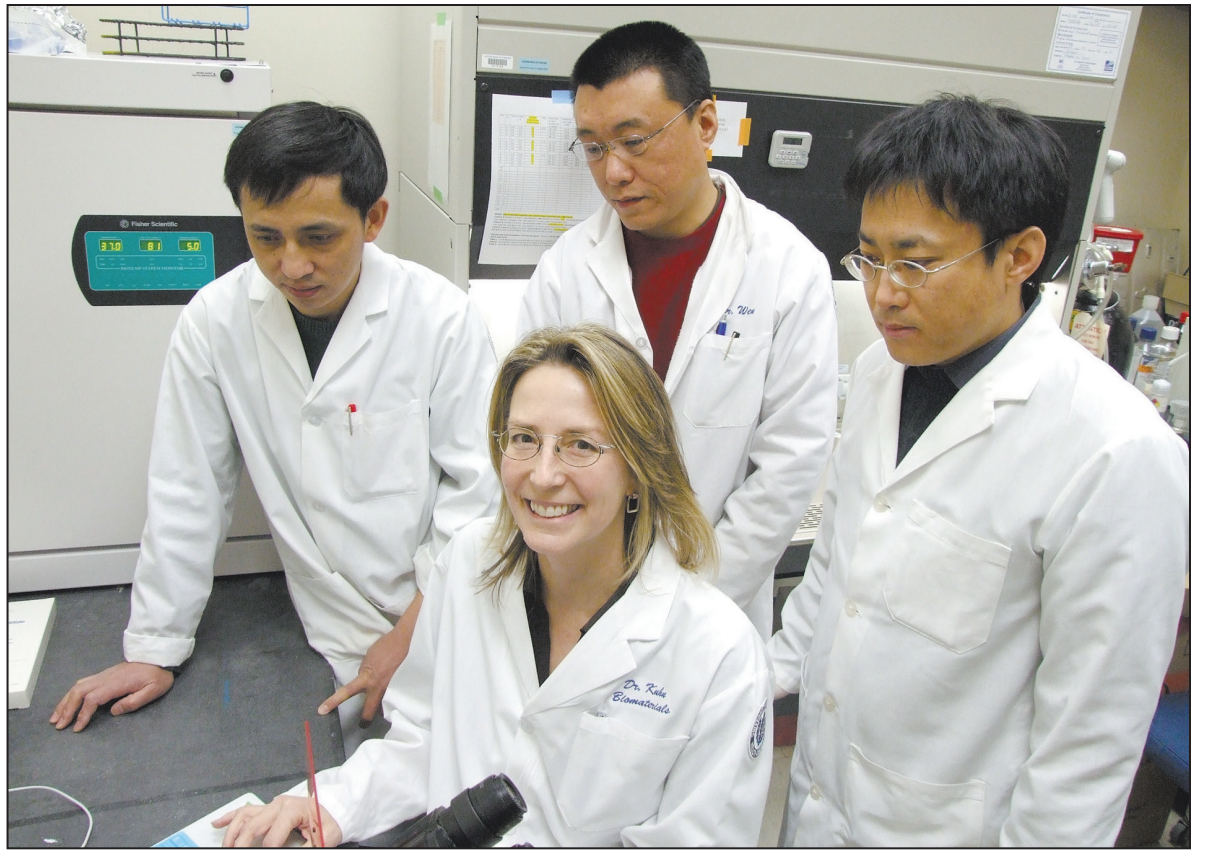


PHOTO BY CHRIS DEFRADESCO

Liisa Kuhn (seated) with, from left, postdoctoral fellows Guomin Ou, Bo Wen, and Yongxing Liu in a biomaterials lab at the UConn Health Center.

Seminar series promotes debate on foreign policy issues

BY SCOTT BRINCKERHOFF

Since 1985, the Department of History has been hosting seminars on foreign policy that frequently ignite passions and challenge assumptions about events both major and minor throughout modern history.

Whether the subject is the Cold War, World War II, Middle East disputes, or the U.S. occupation of Haiti early in the last century, the speakers have shown time and again that they are quite comfort-

able rocking conventional wisdom.

"We choose people whose work we have read, or whom we have heard speak on another occasion, and most of the choices have been terrific," says J. Garry Clifford, a professor of political science in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences who has been associated with the program since it began.

Some guests – such as Melvyn Leffler, the Edward Stettinius Professor of American History at the University of Virginia, who spoke

in November on the Cold War – are luminaries in the field; other scholars come to UConn earlier in their careers.

The seminars typically attract a crowd, including faculty from colleges in Pennsylvania, New York, and southern New England, as well as UConn President Michael Hogan, whose academic specialty is diplomatic history.

"The seminars encourage intellectual diversity," says Frank Costigliola, a professor of history in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences who coordinates the series. "The idea is to provide students and faculty with a perspective from outside the University. For example, our speaker last month was from Australia."

Barbara Keys of the University of Melbourne spoke in January on the successes and failures of the international campaign to abolish torture, 1967-1984, in a talk titled "Making Torture as Unthinkable as Slavery."

"In the past," adds Costigliola, "we've taken up such issues as the role of race in history, American involvement in the Philippines, and the war in Vietnam."

Stimulating debate

The speakers often present a perspective that is fresh and thought-provoking.

Clifford recalls a talk several years ago by Kristin Hoganson, then an assistant professor at

Harvard. She identified gender politics, rather than economics, as one of the prime motives for the United States' decision to go to war with Spain and the Philippines at the threshold of the 20th century.

"It was a fantastic talk," says Clifford. "She used feminist theories to look at American foreign relations from a new perspective. She examined the language of the time, and showed a political cartoon questioning President McKinley's 'backbone' and in effect, his virility."

The debate that follows the presentation may take a lively turn.

For example, in his presentation on the Cold War, Leffler argued that ideological inflexibility on both sides, memories of war, especially on the Soviet side, and a belief by each side that its political system was superior and would ultimately triumph, were key impediments to ending the Cold War. During the question and answer session, one participant challenged Leffler to comment on which side started the Cold War. A polite but heated debate ensued.

Mike Neagle, a Ph.D. student in history who has been attending the foreign policy seminar series for the past five years, says the lectures provide a good atmosphere for considering provocative issues.

"Professor Leffler's lecture was the 92nd in the series, and like the others I've attended, his comments

challenged some old assumptions and perceptions," Neagle says. "He addressed a key dimension of the Cold War discussion by bringing out what was going on in each country domestically and how that affected foreign policy."

Parallels with the present

Sometimes the discussion of past events invites comparison to current events.

When Leffler said one of the lessons of the Cold War is that "diplomacy matters, and negotiation helps produce an understanding of the adversary," a student asked what he thought of then President-elect Obama's position on negotiating with governments the Bush Administration had shunned.

"I believe absolutely that the new administration should be willing to talk to adversaries," Leffler responded.

Costigliola credits Tom Paterson, emeritus professor of history, with launching the series and helping the University to achieve its reputation for excellence in teaching diplomatic history.

In June 2012, UConn will host the annual meeting of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, a professional organization of which Costigliola is currently president. Leffler, Hogan, and Paterson are all past presidents. That event will be a national version of the UConn Foreign Policy Seminar.



PHOTO BY JESSICA TOMMASSELLI

Melvyn Leffler of the University of Virginia speaks about the Cold War during a recent foreign policy seminar held at Wood Hall.



POPULAR ICE CREAM EVENT

Left:
The first One
Ton Sundae
in February 1979.

ARCHIVAL PHOTO

Right:
This year's
SUBOG One Ton
Sundae outside
the Student
Union Feb. 6.

PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS



FALL 2008 ‘FACULTY LARGE GRANTS’

The Research Foundation’s fall 2008 Faculty Large Grants were announced recently. The goal of these awards is to help faculty move into a better position to apply for and receive extramural funding for their research and scholarly activities. For the Faculty Large Grant competition, the Research Advisory Council received 72 proposals totaling more than \$1.5 million and made 44 awards totaling more than \$683,000. The proposals were peer reviewed by members of a standing review panel.

The award recipients are:

- Douglas Adamson**, Chemistry, *Microfluidic Method for the Controlled Formation of Polymersomes*, \$24,287
- Nathan Adler**, Molecular & Cell Biology, *Fluorescence-Based Analysis of Membrane Protein Structure and Function: A Pilot Project for the Development of a Reconstituted Experimental System*, \$15,000
- Thomas Blank**, Human Development & Family Studies, *Cancer’s Impact on Survivors and Their Partners: Individual and Couple Analyses*, \$12,871
- Jonathan Bobaljik**, Linguistics, *Cross-Linguistic Grammar Survey Resource*, \$6,634
- Ross Buck**, Communication Sciences, *Spontaneous Emotional Expression and the fMRI: A New Version of the Communication of Affect Receiving Ability Test (Carat)*, \$11,709
- Chengyu Cao**, Mechanical Engineering, *Adaptive Control of Bio-Inspired Micro Aerial Vehicles*, \$25,760
- Robin Chazdon**, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, *Dynamics and Reassembly of Woody Seedling and Sapling Communities in Tropical Secondary Forests*, \$15,000
- Rosa Chinchilla**, Modern & Classical Languages, *Spanish Humanism and the European Context: The Case of Literary Patronage 1500-1560*, \$5,119
- Ock Chun**, Nutritional Sciences, *Development of an Algorithm to Establish Total Antioxidant Capacity Database of U.S. Population*, \$20,000
- James Cole**, Molecular & Cell Biology, *Structural Analysis of PKR by Small Angle Scattering*, \$20,000
- Edna Comer**, Social Work, *Efficacy of a Group Intervention on Coping in Persons Newly Diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis*, \$12,965
- Patricia Cramer**, English, *Archival Research in Cambridge and London for Book Project, Virginia Woolf: The Lesbian Years*, \$2,200
- Sylvain Deguise**, Pathobiology & Veterinary Sciences, *Identification of the Cell Surface Receptors Involved in the Immunotoxicity of Domoic Acid in Mice*, \$7,000
- James Dixon**, Psychology, *Self-Organization of Executive Function*, \$8,500
- Inge-Marie Eigsti**, Psychology, *A Gesture Towards Learning: Communicative Gestures and Mental Representation in Autism*, \$22,651
- Edward Eyler**, Physics, *Atomic Sledgehammer: A Chirped Bichromatic-Force Laser Decelerator for Atomic Helium*, \$17,640
- Maria-Luz Fernandez**, Nutritional Sciences, *Protective Effects of Lutein on Inflammation and Atherosclerosis*, \$15,000
- Amy Gorin**, Psychology, *Development of an Empirically Validated Screening Tool for Obesity Risk in Children*, \$18,637
- Kristen Govoni**, Animal Science, *Role of T-Box (Tbx) 2 in Regulating Osteoblast Function*, \$20,000

- Joerg Graf**, Molecular & Cell Biology, *Establishment of High-Throughput DNA Sequencing for Genomic, Metagenomic, and Transcriptome Studies*, \$13,000
- Jason Irizarry**, Curriculum & Instruction, *Project Fuerte (Future Urban Educators Conducting Research to Transform Teacher Education)*, \$16,781
- Menka Jain**, Institute of Materials Science, Engineering, *Magnetoelectric Nanocomposite Films*, \$19,624
- Kristin Kelly**, Political Science, *Privacy of Electronic Medical Records: Dimensions of Patient Concern*, \$11,066
- David Knecht**, Molecular & Cell Biology, *The Interaction of Actin Binding Proteins with Actin Filament Networks*, \$20,000
- Challa Kumar**, Chemistry, *Dynamic Light Scattering – Use in Bio-Nano-Materials Research*, \$14,000
- Yi Li**, Plant Science, *Acquisition of a Flow Cytometer for Plant Science Research*, \$15,000
- Nicholas Lownes**, Civil & Environmental Engineering, *Driver Response to Adverse Weather: Impacts on Time Headway*, \$17,851
- George Lykotrafitis**, Mechanical Engineering, *Coherent Gradient Sensing Microscopy (Micro-cgs): A Non-Invasive High-Speed Microinterferometric Technique for Quantitative Imaging of Cells and Their Dynamics*, \$38,214
- James Magnuson**, Psychology, *Evaluating Effects of Neuro Feedback on Cognitive Processing*, \$12,647
- Philip Mannheim**, Physics, *Conformal Gravity Challenges String Theory*, \$13,666
- Barbara Mellone**, Molecular & Cell Biology, *Identification and Characterization of Protein Complexes Associated with the Novel Essential Centromere Component, Cal1*, \$20,000
- Jeffrey Osleeb**, Geography, *A Preliminary Study of Community Correlates and Evaluation of Health System Efficiencies in the UConn Health Center Catchment Area*, \$10,329
- Robertson Papke**, Molecular & Cell Biology/General, *The Impact of Gene Flow on Prokaryotic Lineages*, \$20,000
- Janet Pritchard**, Art & Art History, *Views From Wonderland, A Creative Research Project*, \$10,626
- James Renfro**, Physiology & Neurobiology, *Phosphate Transport by Mammalian Choroid Plexus*, \$15,000
- Nancy Rodriguez**, Nutritional Sciences, *The Ubiquitin-Proteosome Pathway in Skeletal Muscle of Healthy, Active Adults: Effects of Energy Balance, Exercise, Leucine Intake, and Leucine Infusion*, \$12,000
- James Rusling**, Chemistry, *Bioelectronic Peptide Arrays for Anti-Peanut IgE Biomarkers of Allergic Response*, \$16,349
- Glenn Stanley**, Music, *The College Music Society 1957-2007: A Half Century of Service to Music in the Academy*, \$3,600
- Paulo Verardi**, Pathobiology, *A Novel Functional Genomics Platform for Vaccine and Therapeutic Discovery*, \$20,000
- Maxim Volgushev**, Psychology, *Action Potential Generation and Encoding in the Neocortex*, \$15,000
- Barrett Wells**, Physics, *Measuring Oxygen in Oxide Films*, \$16,166
- Chuanrong Zhang**, Geography, *Super-Resolution Land Cover Mapping with a Markov Chain Geostatistics Approach*, \$16,336
- Adam Zofka**, Civil & Environmental Engineering, *Environmental Effects on Physiochemical Properties of Bituminous Materials*, \$18,071
- Adam Zweifach**, Molecular & Cell Biology, *Phosphoflow and Bayesian Network Analysis of CTL Activation*, \$17,000

Spring weekend continued from page 1
Strict guidelines

Several key recommendations are intended to keep non-students away from campus during the weekend, establishing strict guidelines for guests, and holding UConn students responsible for guests who violate rules. They also recommend that landlords be held responsible for expenses and the behavior of their residents, to the extent the law allows. Additionally, to make the town less attractive to visitors, the committee recommended temporarily closing access points to campus, including roads; establishing road check points; and establishing policies regarding underage visitors, including not admitting

high school students to campus to attend events associated with spring weekend. “Any effort to immediately end spring weekend would result in dire consequences, which would likely exceed the capacity of the University and town communities (including public safety officials) to effectively respond,” the report says. But, it concludes, “the recommendations of this report build upon [efforts already in place] and continue to move spring weekend toward the goal established by the initial charge [to this committee], to establish spring weekend as a safe, community celebration of achievement.”

Nominations sought for environmental leadership awards

Nominations are being sought for the Environmental Leadership Awards. These awards recognize students, faculty, and staff for contributions to environmental awareness and promotion of progress in the University’s ‘green’ efforts. Nominations may be submitted by faculty, staff, and students throughout the University. A winner will be selected in each of the following categories: undergraduate,

graduate student, faculty or administrator, staff, UConn-affiliated groups, alumni, and external individual or group that has made significant contributions to a major initiative for the University. Guidelines and nomination forms are available on the web at <http://www.ecohusky.uconn.edu/leadershipaward.html> The nomination deadline is March 1.

CALENDAR

Tuesday, February 17, to Monday, February 23

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 23 through Monday, March 2. Those items must be in the database by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 17. If you need special accommodations to participate in events, call 860-486-2943 (Storrs), or 860-679-3563 (Farmington), or 860-570-5130 (Law School).

Academics

Tuesday, 2/17 – Dean's signature required to add courses.

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

Thursday, 2/19 – Physiology & Neurobiology. *Molecular and Cellular Regulation of Neurogenic Cell Division: A Link Between Apical Cytokineses and Adherens Junction Complex*, by YoonJeung Chang (adv.: LoTurco). 2 p.m., Room 150, United Technologies Engineering Building. **Friday, 2/20 – Biomedical Sciences.** *Role of Cytosolic hsp90 (hsp90aa1/ab1) in Antigen Presentation by MHC I Molecules*, by Manish Garg (adv.:

Srivastava). 2 p.m., Low Learning Center, Health Center.

Meetings

Tuesday, 2/17 – Parking Advisory Committee Meeting. 2 p.m., Room 321, School of Business.

Lectures & Seminars

Tuesday, 2/17 – Stamford Faculty Colloquium. "The Role of Respective Kings in Cambodia's Genocide and Today's Chaos in Thailand," by Benny Widyono. Noon, GE Global Classroom, Stamford. **Wednesday, 2/18 – Rainbow Center Presentation.** "Plague of Pariahs: AIDS, Queer Identity, and the Rhetoric of Transgression," by Thomas Long. Noon, Room 403, Student Union.

Landscapes at Several Spatial and Temporal Scales," by Maria Uriarte, Columbia University. 4 p.m., Room 130, Biology/Physics Building. **Thursday, 2/19 – History Lecture.** "Women, Youths, and Men: Reflections on Age and Gender in Early Modern Japan," by Gregory Pflugfelder, Columbia University. 4:30 p.m., Konover Auditorium, Dodd Center. **Friday, 2/20 – Assessment Colloquium.** "Initial Concepts of the College Readiness Indicator System: Some Preliminary Results and a Vision for the Future of Aggregate Reporting," by Thanus Patelis, the College Board. 11:30 a.m. Register at <http://www.education.uconn.edu/assessment/registration.cfm>. Participants will be notified of the location in a confirmation e-mail. **Friday, 2/20 – Gallivan Conference.**

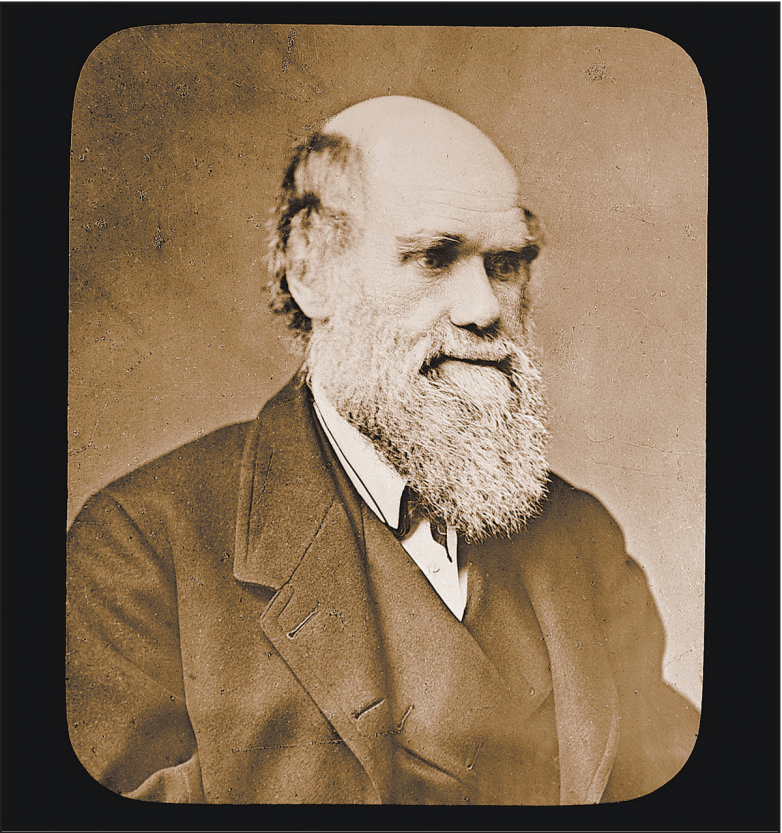


PHOTO SUPPLIED BY THE THOMAS J. DODD RESEARCH CENTER

Charles Darwin, from a 19th-century glass lantern slide, part of the exhibit, *Charles Darwin (1809-1882): The Legacy of a Naturalist*, on display at the Dodd Center.

Wednesday, 2/18 – Statistics Colloquium. "Assay Calibration Method Selection and Risk Estimation; Measurement of Cytokine Levels by Chemiluminescence for a Study of Miscarriage," by Brian Whitcomb, University of Massachusetts. 4 p.m., Room 344, CLAS Building. **Wednesday, 2/18 – Litchfield County Writers Project Discussion.** "Death of a Salesman," with Brenda Murphy and Davyne Verstandig. 6:30 p.m., Hogan Lecture Hall, Torrington Campus. **Thursday, 2/19 – Comparative Pathology Seminar.** "Folate Cancer Risk and the Greek God Proteus: A Tale of Two Chameleons," by Dr. Joel Mason, Tufts University. 11 a.m., Room A001, Atwater Laboratory. **Thursday, 2/19 – CHIP Lecture.** "Weight Stigma in Health Care: Implications for Patients, Providers, and Public Health," by Rebecca Puhl, Yale University. 12:30 p.m., Room 204, Ryan Refectory. **Thursday, 2/19 – Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Seminar.** "Human Effects on Forested

"Can Rail Save Connecticut Cities?" Call 860-570-5241 to register. Noon, William F. Starr Hall, Law School, Hartford. **Friday, 2/20 – Marine Sciences Seminar.** "Marine Boundary Layer Studies," by Greg Gerbi, Rutgers University. 3 p.m., Room 103, Marine Sciences Building, Avery Point Campus. **Friday, 2/20 – Year of Science Seminar.** "Absolute Zero and the Conquest of Cold and Terrors and Marvels: How Science and Technology Changed the Character and Outcome of World War II," with Tom Shachtman, author, and Davyne Verstandig. 6:30 p.m., Hogan Lecture Hall, Torrington Campus. **Sunday, 2/22 – Natural History of Food Lecture.** "Why is There a Bag in My Turkey? Meat 101," by Cameron Faustman. Adults and children ages 8 and above, children must be accompanied by an adult. 3 p.m., Room 130, Biology/Physics Building. **Monday, 2/23 – Economy Lecture.** "Our Economy: What Happened? What Now?" with David Wyss and Ralph Norton of Fixed Income

Strategies. 2 p.m., Graduate Business Learning Center, Constitution Plaza, Hartford. **Monday, 2/23 – Stamford Faculty Colloquium.** "Memory and Personality," by Jerome Schulster. Noon, GE Global Classroom, Stamford Campus.

Exhibits

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*, 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. Gallery talk Wednesday, 2/18, on the *Yuyanapaq exhibition*, 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.

Through Friday, 3/6 – Dodd Center. *Charles Darwin, 1809-1882, the Legacy of a Naturalist.* For hours, see Libraries section.

Through Friday, 4/10 – Jorgensen Gallery. *Beyond a Boundary*, works by Michael Gellatly, Adam Niklewica, and Kevin Van Aelst. Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

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

Tuesday, 2/17 – Orion String Quartet. With guest artists Theodore Arm, violin and Kangho Lee, cello. Tickets \$28, \$30. 7:30 p.m., Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. Concert talk at 6:45 p.m. **Thursday, 2/19 – Darwin Day Performance.** Play by Guild players of *Sandwalk*. Noon and 7 p.m., GenRe Auditorium, Stamford Campus. **Thursday, 2/19 – Recitals Plus.** Performance by advanced music majors from the School of Fine Arts. 12:15 p.m., Benton Museum of Art.

Saturday, 2/21 – Mariza. Performance of Portuguese fado music. Tickets \$28, \$30. 8 p.m., Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. **Sunday, 2/22 – Year of Science Performance.** "Toying with Science," by Garry Krinsky. Tickets \$11, \$13. 1 and 3 p.m., Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. **Sunday, 2/22 – Student Recital.** Nathan Rodriguez, baritone, and Rachel Postovoit, mezzo soprano. 3 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Free admission. **Monday, 2/23 – Jazz Showcase.** Kenny Davis, Earl MacDonald, John Mastroianni, and Bill Reynolds, ensemble directors. Admission fee \$7, students and children free. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall.

Film

Tuesday, 2/17 – Film Screening and Discussion. *Kick Like a Girl. Lead Like a Woman*, followed by discussion led by Jenny Mackenzie, documentary filmmaker. 7 p.m., Student Union Theatre. Free admission. **Saturday, 2/21 and Sunday, 2/22 – Art Films.** YouTube Film Festival about the Dominican Republic. 2 p.m., William Benton Museum of Art.

Athletics

Friday, 2/20 – Men's Ice Hockey vs. Canisius. 7:05 p.m., Freitas Ice Forum. **Saturday, 2/21** – Women's Lacrosse vs. Vermont. 1 p.m. **Saturday, 2/21** – Women's Ice Hockey vs. New Hampshire. 1 p.m., Freitas Ice Forum. **Saturday, 2/21** – Men's Basketball vs. South Florida. 2 p.m., XL Center, Hartford. **Saturday, 2/21** – Men's Ice Hockey vs. Canisius. 7:05 p.m., Freitas Ice Forum. **Sunday, 2/22** – Women's Basketball vs. Notre Dame. 2 p.m., XL Center, Hartford.

Potpourri

Tuesday, 2/17 – UCPEA Workshop. "Something's Happening," workshop on promoting a civil work environment. 9 a.m., Rome Commons Ballroom. For more information call Cara Workman, 860-486-4077 or 860-487-0850. **Tuesday, 2/17 – Author Event.** *Making Freedom: The Extraordinary Life of Venture Smith*, with Chandler Saint. 4 p.m., UConn Co-op. **Tuesday, 2/17 – Author Event.** *Dating Jesus, A Story of Fundamentalism, Feminism, and the American Girl*, with Susan Campbell, *Hartford Courant* reporter and columnist. 6:30 p.m., UConn Co-op. **Thursday, 2/19 – Author Event.** *Day of Remembrance*, by Robert Hayashi, Amherst College. 4 p.m., Student Union Ballroom. **Friday, 2/20 – Author Event.** Poetry reading by Lytton Smith. Noon, UConn Co-op. **Sunday, 2/22 – Author Event.** President's Day Tea with Barbara McClintock, author. Admission fee \$5. 3 p.m., UConn Co-op.

Report highlights UConn’s contributions to future workforce

Over a period of several weeks, the *Advance* is presenting sections of a report produced by University Communications, based on a study by Stanley McMillen, chief economist at the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development. The *UConnomy* report outlines the many ways UConn contributes to the state’s economic well being.

For the complete report and fast facts: www.uconn.edu/uconnomy/

Part of the report discusses how UConn equips its graduates with the knowledge they need to become among the state’s most highly skilled workers and entrepreneurs, meeting the needs of state citizens and helping attract industries that offer greater economic opportunity. This workforce ensures that Connecticut thrives in today’s increasingly competitive market.

Examples include:

- Students seeking advanced education in emerging areas of science or mathematics can do so through the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The Professional Science Master’s Degree Program offers degrees in financial mathematics, applied genomics, and microbial systems analysis, preparing students for careers in corporate, nonprofit, and governmental settings.
- The School of Engineering produces a pipeline of highly skilled professionals who enter the workforce or serve as professors, educating future engineers. More than 150 of the School’s Ph.D. graduates have gone on to teach at colleges and universities nationwide.

- UConn has trained about one-quarter of the state’s school superintendents and principals. Through educational administration programs offered by the Neag School of Education, students integrate academic coursework with intensive internship experiences in school leadership.

- UConn’s Law School hosts the only Insurance Law Center in the nation. The Center’s faculty serves as an international resource for the study of insurance law. Students can pursue a Master of Laws in this specialized legal field.

- According to the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, Connecticut will be short more than 11,000 registered nurses by 2010. UConn’s School of Nursing is addressing this shortage by recruiting students to nursing careers while also preparing students to serve as faculty.

- UConn’s schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine have graduated thousands of health professionals, many of whom go on to practice in Connecticut. The UConn Health Center continues to strengthen its ranks, recruiting MD’s and DMD’s who practice their specialty in Connecticut and also serve as faculty members.

- Families interested in adoption rely on the assistance of well-trained, knowledgeable professionals. UConn’s School of Social Work works with the Department of Children and Families and Southern Connecticut State University to offer a Post-Master’s Certificate in Clinical Issues in Adoption. This program establishes a group of professionals who can provide



PHOTO BY LANNY NAGLER

Tabitha Hitchcock, who graduated with a degree in civil engineering, works for Electric Boat in Groton.

post-adoption services with clinical expertise to families who adopt children through Connecticut’s public welfare system.

- UConn’s School of Engineering graduates are inspiring companies to innovate, producing new and improved products and contributing to the economic strength of the state and nation. Engineers at participating Connecticut firms obtain advanced, on-site training through the School’s Master of Engineering Program.

- Scientists are needed by industry, academia, and the government to manage issues involving toxic substances. With full-time faculty from six University departments, the Center for Biochemical Toxicology at the School of Pharmacy trains future toxicologists, who will contribute to the protection of

public and environmental health.

- Through UConn’s academic partnership with the Metropolitan Opera, the School of Fine Arts is providing students with valuable instruction in the dramatic arts and ultimately producing a new generation of professionals who will contribute to Connecticut’s vibrant arts and culture. Students have access to the famed opera house from behind the scenes, learning firsthand about opera production work.

- Connecticut employers are gaining an edge over their competition with the help of the School of Business. Finance, business law, and accounting courses offered to professionals through UConn’s Executive Education Programs provide the advanced training employees need to adapt quickly to

emerging business trends, advancing technology, and global expansion. The School of Business also is home to the UConn Executive MBA program in Hartford.

- Students in the Department of Marine Sciences at Avery Point can pursue a degree in coastal studies or oceanography. They’re involved in preserving the health of Long Island Sound, studying invasive species, and promoting a strong aquaculture critical to Connecticut’s coastal fishing industry. Designated the state’s Sea Grant College, UConn belongs to a nationwide network of university partners, supported in part by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, that are working to conserve coastal and marine resources.

Scientists study health implications of products using nanosilver

BY COLIN POITRAS & TIMOTHY STOBIEFSKI, CLAS ‘11

The growing commercial use of nano particles and nano-sized devices just billionths of a meter in length has raised concerns about the potential health and environmental implications of such products.

Recently, Christopher Perkins, laboratory director at the Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering, and Sylvain De

Guise, an associate professor of pathobiology in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, discovered that popular disinfectants using nanosilver particles could affect some people’s health.

Germicidal properties

Silver has strong germicidal properties, making it ideally suited for commercial products where germs are not desired. Nanosilver particles can be found in toothpastes, pet shampoos, cosmetics,

cutting boards, food containers, and baby bottles. They also are used in the lining of certain medical devices, room deodorizers, fabric softeners, bras, ATM buttons, and even on the handrails of buses.

The ability of nanosilver particles to fend off germs is widely known. But it is what happens when these particles break free and enter the body that concerned UConn researchers the most. Through recent laboratory testing, Perkins and De Guise discovered that the ingestion and inhalation of minute amounts of these silver particles can affect human cells, and may diminish the functioning of the immune system in some individuals.

Extremely small concentrations of nanosilver particles, around 10 nanometers in diameter, were shown to slow down the secretion of cytokines. Cytokines are a category of signaling molecules that are used extensively in cellular communication.

Such cytokine suppression, says Perkins, indicates “your immune system is not operating at peak capacity.” Larger silver particles exhibited almost no effect on cytokines, regardless of their concentrations.

“The major finding is that we are seeing effects at concentrations much lower than those usually studied in conventional toxicology,” says De Guise, the primary investigator for the project. “This dismisses the conventional wisdom in toxicology that ‘dilution is the solution.’”

Immune system response

Part of Perkins’ and De Guise’s research focused on the ability of immune system cells to consume foreign bodies for disposal after exposure to nanosilver. They compared the activity of cells that were exposed to nanosilver particles for three hours to cells that received no exposure.

The cells that had been exposed to nanosilver demonstrated a dramatically increased rate of consumption compared to those that had not been exposed. While this might appear to be good news, it is hard to tell, Perkins says

Immune system cells must be able to clear pathogens from the body. But if they become overly aggressive, they can waste energy and risk accidentally attacking healthy cells.

The researchers also measured the abilities of cells encountering nanosilver to release bursts of free radicals – chemically reactive

molecular fragments meant to damage or kill invading germs or sick cells that need disposal. Cells exposed to the smaller nanosilver particles showed increased bursts. That also could be cause for concern, Perkins says.

“You’ve got all of these free radicals that have to go somewhere,” Perkins says. “And they’re pretty nonspecific in what they target, which means they could kill healthy cells as well as bacteria or other pathogens.”

So far, the researchers’ findings have been limited to test tubes in the laboratory. They stress that the potential impact of nanosilver particles on human beings will only be understood through additional testing. In some cases, the disinfectant capabilities of nanosilver particles may outweigh the immune system risk in individuals who are very sick. But the immune system effects found in the lab, they say, are of enough concern to warrant further study.

“One of the next steps is to assess the concentrations of nanosilver in people’s tissues following natural exposure to consumer products,” says De Guise, “and to assess whether or not they approach those at which we demonstrated toxicity in tissue cultures.”

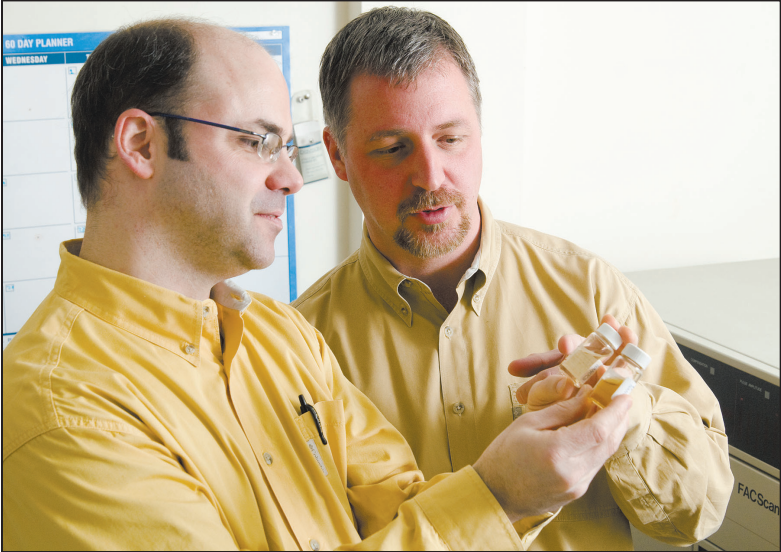


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Christopher Perkins, left, lab director at the Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering, and Sylvain Deguise, associate professor of pathobiology, examine vials of nanosilver particles.