



UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

# Advance

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## Trustees approve tuition hike of 6 percent

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

The Board of Trustees voted last week to raise tuition by 6 percent to a total of \$7,632 per year for an in-state undergraduate student and \$23,232 for an out-of-state student.

The board also approved a 6.5 percent increase in the General University Fee, a 5.9 percent increase in other fees, a 6 percent increase in room fees, and a 7 percent increase in board fees.

The total cost for a resident in-state undergraduate student next fall will be \$19,788 for the year, up \$1,150 or 6.2 percent from \$18,638 this year. Out-of-state students who live on campus will pay a total of \$35,388.

Even with the increases, the tuition costs for the average student seeking financial aid will actually be less than in the current year or even the previous five years, University President Michael Hogan said, because the federal stimulus package will provide students from “middle class families” with a \$2,500 tuition tax credit. Most UConn families will qualify for the tax credit.

The package also provides additional funding for work study and for Pell grants, he said.

The 6 percent increase, which is compa-

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PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

The Voices of Freedom choir performs at the Student Union Ballroom during the African American Cultural Center's 40th Anniversary event on Feb. 27.

## Planned hospital partnership to hold economic benefits, study shows

An economic impact study issued by the Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis says the proposed partnership between the UConn Health Center and Hartford Hospital will result in a significant increase in new jobs, personal income, and tax revenue for the state.

The study found that the University Hospital, including construction of a replacement for the John Dempsey Hospital, and the regional education and research collaborative would have major benefits for the state including generating:

- 8,229 jobs by 2020, and 18,200 jobs by 2040;
- more than \$3 billion annually in new personal income by 2040 (nominal dollars);
- approaching \$2 billion in aggregate new

tax revenue for the state by 2035.

“These are compelling results,” says Fred Carstensen, professor of economics and director of the Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis. “They clearly demonstrate that this project would create a long-term economic engine for the state and the region. Collectively, the components of the proposed partnership would be a clear win for Connecticut in terms of jobs, income, tax revenue, and return on investment if the state moves forward quickly and aggressively.”

The full report and an executive summary are available at [http://news.uconn.edu/press\\_room/](http://news.uconn.edu/press_room/)

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## Alumnus discusses search for truth about U.S.-Iraq war

BY CINDY WEISS

When College of Liberal Arts and Sciences alumnus Charles Duelfer ('74 MA, history) was sent to Iraq in 2004 by President George W. Bush to find out why the administration had been wrong about Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, he was assured by his old friend George Tenet, CIA director, that they wanted “just the truth.”

But Duelfer responded, “How deep do you want to go?”

“There’s always another explanation,” he told faculty and students at the Storrs campus during a talk he gave as part of his national book tour.

Duelfer’s new book, *Hide and Seek: The*

*Search for Truth in Iraq*, examines how Iraq and the U.S. twice misled each other into war.

Both sides understood information only in light of hypotheses that fit their own assumptions, he said.

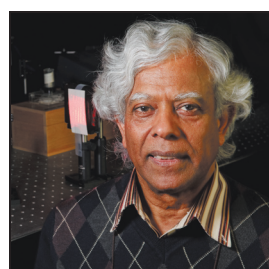
“We thought Saddam Hussein would be crazy not to have weapons of mass destruction,” he said. “Saddam missed the import of 9-11.”

He said that critical thinking might have raised the questions: “What are your assumptions? What are Saddam’s? Can you see something that you don’t have a

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PHOTO BY JESSICA TOMMASELLI

The UConn Symphonic Band, conducted by music professor David Mills, performs at von der Mehden Recital Hall on March 3.

# Psychologist to speak on virtual reality research

Albert “Skip” Rizzo, the inventor of Virtual Iraq, will deliver a talk about the future of virtual reality research and its clinical applications on Thursday, March 26 at 12:30 p.m.

His presentation, “Clinical Virtual Reality: A Brief Review of the Future,” is sponsored by UConn’s Center for Health, Intervention and Prevention (CHIP) and will be held in CHIP’s second floor video conference room (Ryan Refectory, Room 204).

A brief tour and demonstration of CHIP’s new Virtual Reality Lab, which ultimately will be available for use by UConn researchers from across the University, will immediately follow Rizzo’s talk.

Rizzo, a clinical psychologist and Hartford-area native, is the director of the University of

Southern California’s Institute of Creative Technologies, which has partnered with the gaming industry and Hollywood to harness the power of interactive, virtual environments for education, training, and healthcare. Rizzo is also a research professor in psychiatry at the University of Southern California.

Virtual Iraq, which borrows elements from the Xbox game Full Spectrum Warrior, is a form of exposure or immersion therapy that allows soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan who have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder to work through combat stress in a computer-simulated environment. The U.S. Department of Defense is now testing Virtual Iraq in six locations nationwide.

Rizzo began work on Virtual Iraq shortly after the U.S. invaded Iraq in 2003. Previously, he had been designing virtual reality systems to help diagnose attention deficit problems in children and memory problems in older adults. His other projects have included virtual reality games to assist with physical rehabilitation after stroke or traumatic brain injury. He is currently working with a team that is creating virtual patients with artificial intelligence that clinicians can use to practice the skills required for challenging circumstances, such as sexual assault.

Please RSVP for the talk to C. Stacey Leeds at 860-486-1062 or c.stacey.leeds@uconn.edu by Monday, March 23.

# Performances to highlight life of Marie Curie

Two performances of a drama about the struggles and triumphs of Marie Curie will take place at the University on March 25 and 26.

Curie is known for her discovery of radium and radioactivity, and for establishing the first successful radiation treatment of cancer through collaboration with the medical community. She opened the doors of science to women worldwide.

*Manya, A Living History of Madame Marie Curie*, is the story of Marie Curie from the political oppression of her childhood, to her scientific emergence and fame, the tragedy that forced her into single motherhood, and her further world prominence. It is presented by Susan Marie Frontczak.

The performances will take place at the Health Center’s Keller Auditorium on March 25, beginning at 5:30 p.m. and at the

Nafe Katter Theatre on the Storrs Campus on March 26, at 7:30 p.m. There is no charge for admission. However, a minimum suggested donation of \$5 per person is en-



Susan Marie Frontczak plays Marie Curie in the drama *Manya*.

couraged. Please register at [www.manya.clas.uconn.edu](http://www.manya.clas.uconn.edu) for tickets. Frontczak will also present a

public seminar, *Marie Curie, Her Life and Times*, on March 26 at 3 p.m. at Konover Auditorium in the Dodd Center. Registration is not required.

The event is hosted by the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) subcommittee of the Provost’s Commission on the Status of Women. It is funded by a variety of University sources, including the UConn Year of Science 2009 Committee.

The STEM subcommittee, chaired by Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor Debra Kendall, is developing a distinguished lecture series for, and by, women as one mechanism for bringing successful role models to the University. The group is also working on an NSF Advance grant application to support and enhance the recruitment and retention of women faculty in STEM disciplines at the University.

## Tuition increase *continued from page 1*

rable to tuition increases in prior years, represents a compromise between the trustees and Gov. M. Jodi Rell. Due to the uncertainty with the state budget, the governor initially opposed any tuition increase. At its February meeting, the board reviewed four tuition scenarios, ranging from no increase to a 13.67 percent increase.

The two student trustees on the board, Ross Gionfriddo and Richard Colon Jr., voted against the tuition hike. Both said they felt that 6 percent was too low, in light of the \$34 million budget deficit the University is facing in Fiscal Year 2010. They felt that settling on an average tuition increase in the face of the deficit might lead to cuts in student services and loss of many student jobs.

Meredith Zaritheny, president of the Undergraduate Student Government, and Hedley Freake, professor of nutritional sciences and chairman of the University Senate Executive Committee, spoke in support of an increase of 8.67 percent. Both said the higher increase would protect services while maintaining affordability.

“Over the past year, many departments have been squeezed to the limit,” Freake said. “We feel the 8.67 percent option achieves the correct balance in maintaining quality and affordability.”

Freake said the Senate was unable to discuss the issue because its March meeting was cancelled due to a snow storm. But the Senate Executive Committee was unanimous in its support. Zaritheny noted that students polled by the USG overwhelmingly supported the 8.67 percent increase.

Student Amanda Stauble said she felt that many students were worried about any increase above 6 percent.

Hogan said the 6 percent increase leaves a budget gap of at least \$11.4 million and could generate 150 to 170 layoffs. That could be mitigated by union give-backs,

however, he said.

The president said demand for enrollment remains high, with applications up nearly five percent; that the University remains very competitive nationally, with the fifth-lowest tuition among regional public flagship universities; and that lower tuition hikes will mean larger classes and a deterioration from the student-faculty ratio of 17 to 1.

Other flagships plan much higher increases for the fall, he said, including the University of Massachusetts at 15 percent, the University of Rhode Island at 10 percent, and the State University of New York between 11 percent and 14 percent.

“The only exception appears to be Maryland,” he said, “where the university and the state are working on an agreement that posits a tuition freeze in exchange for a full current services budget, without rescission.”

Hogan said that even with the tuition increase, he is looking for additional ways to trim the budget: “The budget situation remains the focus of our attention every day, and we’ve moved aggressively and quickly to contain costs, identify efficiencies, and put into place plans to generate more revenues.”

He noted that this year, \$12 million was cut from the budget. Next year, \$7 million in cuts recommended by the Costs, Operating and Revenue Efficiencies (CORE) Task Force will be implemented.

Another report from CORE is expected in June.

“It hasn’t been easy,” he said, “but through a spirit of collaboration and support, we have managed to generate or identify this \$19 million in just a few months without undermining program quality, student access, or incurring substantial layoffs.”

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Advance

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# Board chairman to step down

Dr. John W. Rowe, chairman of the Board of Trustees for the past six years, announced on March 10 that he will step down in June.

Rowe also served on the John Dempsey Hospital Board of Directors for two years before being appointed to the Board of Trustees.

Most UConn board chairs have served six years.

He is the former chairman and chief executive officer of Aetna, one of the nation's leading health care organizations.

Rowe, a professor of health policy and management at Columbia University, is one of the nation's top researchers in gerontology and public health.

Rowe is the author of more than 200 scientific publications, including work on geriatric medicine and the physiology of the aging process. He is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and previously served as a member of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission.

"Jack Rowe persuaded me to come to UConn and I'm very very glad that he did," says President Michael Hogan. "He's been a generous donor of his time, his expertise, and his own resources.

UConn will miss his leadership and his vision, but thanks to his efforts, the University is strong and positioned to grow stronger."

Before joining Aetna, he served as president and chief executive officer of Mount Sinai-New York University Medical Center and Health System in New York City.

Rowe, known for running a punctual meeting, tried to move the meeting along after his announcement. But Trustee Denis Nayden stopped him and noted that the University is grateful for his leadership. Nayden's comments were met with a standing ovation from members of the board, administrators, and guests.

Rowe has presided over the University during a period of growth in enrollment and transformation of the campuses as part of the UConn 2000 program. He said he was pleased with the improvement in the quality of the student body, the way the Board of Trustees handled challenges related to the construction program, and the increase in the University's national stature during his tenure.

The governor, who is also president of the Board of Trustees, appoints the board chairman.

# Giuliani offers law school audience insider's view of justice department

BY MICHAEL KIRK  
Former New York City Mayor and one-time Republican presidential candidate Rudolph Giuliani joined two fellow justice department alumni for an event, "40 Years Inside the Department of Justice," at the UConn Law School on March 5.

The event began with a brief talk by Giuliani, followed by a panel discussion featuring former U.S. Attorney for Connecticut and Associate Attorney General Kevin O'Connor '92; former justice department official Marc Mukasey; and Evan Flaschen '82, who served as the panel's moderator. All now work for Giuliani's law firm, Bracewell & Giuliani.

Prior to seeking elected office, Giuliani served as U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, as well as Associate Attorney General and Assistant Deputy Attorney General under Presidents Reagan and Ford.

Giuliani noted that he had worked under or with every Attorney General since President Nixon.

Summing up the work of the department, Giuliani said, "Twenty percent [of Department of Justice responsibility] is investigating and prosecuting crime. The other 80 percent is being the law firm for the U.S. government."

He described the Attorney General's job as "the most complex" cabinet position. He said in recent decades presidents have preferred to break up their cabinet meetings – which usually entail more than a dozen heads of federal departments – into meetings of smaller subgroups. The one cabinet position that was included in every sub group was the Department of Justice, he said, because every other cabinet department needs legal advice.

The utility of the position, added Giuliani, rests on the Attorney General being able to give independent legal advice and be "the one who is able to say 'no' to the President."

All the speakers described their time in the justice department with pride.

Mukasey – whose father, Michael Mukasey, served as former President George W. Bush's final Attorney General – said that being able to walk into a courtroom and tell the jury he represented the



PHOTO BY SPENCER A. SLOAN

Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani speaks at the Law School on March 5, as part of a panel discussion about the Department of Justice.

# Spring campaign to promote safe drinking practices

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

Remember Last Night, a campaign originated by UConn students to reduce college students' episodic heavy-drinking behavior, will begin this spring with a contest to develop videos and slogans for the campaign.

The campaign, funded with a two year, \$273,923 grant from the U.S. Department of Education, seeks to moderate the drinking behavior of UConn students and devotes special attention to alcohol-use safety.

Last year's campaign evaluation showed that 11.3 percent of students reported a decrease of alcohol use during Spring Weekend, owing to their awareness of the campaign, says Carolyn Lin, professor and head of the communications program in the Department of Communication Sciences of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

This year, the campaign will include a campus-wide contest inviting students to submit campaign slogan ideas and YouTube-style videos (for details, see [www.rememberlastnight.uconn.edu](http://www.rememberlastnight.uconn.edu)).

The Remember Last Night campaign is designed to prompt students to think about how and what they remember about their behavior last night (or at the last social event they attended), Lin says. "We are asking students to recognize and evaluate their own behavior. Our message challenges and empowers them to aim for coming home safe and creating good memories of their

college years."

The campaign web site contains a number of campaign posters and public service announcements, in addition to a blog, a Facebook page, resources on safe drinking tips, party smart skills, student support services, and other information such as how to judge the alcohol content of a drink, assess one's blood alcohol level, measure one's alcohol tolerance, detect the signs of alcohol poisoning, and assist someone who might have alcohol poisoning.

The theme of this year's contest is How Do You Remember Last Night? "It invites students to contribute their own slogan ideas and video stories to help promote a healthy social norm that aims at safe drinking practices and a safe campus environment for their college experience at UConn," says Lin, the campaign project director.

Lin is also the principal investigator of the larger research project associated with the campaign – Reducing College Student High-Risk Drinking Behavior via a Comprehensive Prevention Program, Norms Campaign, and Community Partnership Strategy.

Lin has shared the project results with other colleges, and recently presented a paper about the results at the 2008 National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing, and Media (sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and the International Communication Association.

United States of America made the hair on the back of his neck stand up.

"It's a job you don't take for the money," he said, "but it pays off in spades" in terms of the experience gained.

Marc Mukasey left the department before his father was nominated for the post of Attorney General.

The department has had its share of problems. O'Connor served as chief of staff to former Bush Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez, who presided over a department that famously saw politics creep into the hiring and firing process for personnel. The scandal occurred before O'Connor worked in Gonzalez's office.

O'Connor said the department is inherently political, with roughly 300 political appointees. This was underscored in January, with the change of administration, when these appointees – himself included – lost their jobs.

"So there's [always] an element of politics," he said. Still, he said, the personnel problem was a serious one.

The justice department "screwed-up, frankly," O'Connor said.

He said that even though it was only a handful of people who blurred the line between federal duty and partisan politics, that didn't matter, because it "opened the door to questioning" the pro-

cess and the motives of the entire department.

Part of the issue, he said, was that those who were responsible for the politicization had no experience in the department and had never been federal prosecutors.

"It was a huge problem," he said.

Another contentious topic was "water-boarding," a practice that simulates drowning and which many believe is a form of torture.

Giuliani said the definition of the term and the purposes for which it is being used are important.

He shared a question that was asked of him during a Republican presidential debate: If you were the President and a terrorist attack took place in a U.S. city and the authorities had in custody the person or persons responsible and it was known that three other attacks would take place, what would you do?

Giuliani said if he were in that position, he would tell the FBI or CIA to "do whatever is necessary" to get the information out of the suspect and "worry about consequences later."

In a separate, later discussion on ethics, Giuliani recounted some advice from a judge for whom he clerked early in his career: When trying to decide whether or not doing something is ethical, err on the side of caution.

"If you have to think about it too much," he recalled the judge saying, "don't do it."

# Visiting scholar to give physics lectures

The Norman Hascoe Distinguished Lecture in Physics on March 23 will be given by Professor Manuel de Llano of the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, who will be spending his sabbatical at UConn through February 2010.

de Llano is known for his work in theoretical many-body physics. His interests include nuclear,

condensed matter, cluster, and nano-physics.

The title of his Hascoe lecture, the first of five lectures he will deliver in the coming weeks, is "Generalized Bose-Einstein Condensation and Superflow."

The lecture will take place at 4 p.m. in the Gant Science Complex, Room P38, with refreshments at 5 p.m.

He will also lecture on March 24 at 4 p.m. in the Gant Science Complex, Room P121, on "Superconductors and Neutral-Fermion Superfluids: An Introduction."

That lecture, and special lectures in P121 at 4 p.m. on March 31, April 7, 14, and 21, are supported by a Visiting Scholar grant from the UConn Research Foundation.



# Study examines impact of exercise on older women who smoke



PHOTO BY LANNY NAGLER

Dr. Cheryl Oncken, right, associate professor of medicine, speaks with Mary Carroll Root, an instructor with Powerful Aging, an exercise program developed at the Health Center.

BY KRISTINA GOODNOUGH

Dr. Cheryl Oncken, associate professor of medicine, has received a five-year, \$4 million federal grant to study whether exercise can help older women quit smoking and improve their overall health.

“Our goal is to study whether an exercise program can help postmenopausal women quit smoking and abstain from cigarettes,” says Oncken, a nationally recognized expert on smoking cessation, who received the grant from the

National Institute on Drug Abuse. “Most smoking research focuses on healthy women. Our study is looking at post-menopausal women who have a greater risk of lower bone density, depression, and weight gain, and other health

problems than younger women,” says Oncken.

About 30 percent of female smokers are postmenopausal, and the proportion is expected to grow as the population ages. Smokers generally know about the harmful effects of smoking and want to stop, but most people have a hard time quitting.

“It takes an average of three to five attempts to finally kick the habit,” says Oncken, who has studied the use of various medications and behavioral therapies designed to help people abstain from smoking. “Our aim is to find the most effective treatment or combination of treatments to help people achieve their goal.”

The study, which is being conducted in collaboration with the University of Minnesota, will recruit about 300 postmenopausal women. All the women will receive smoking cessation treatment consisting of behavioral counseling and the medication varenicline; they will then be randomly assigned to either a supervised exercise program or a supervised relaxation control program.

“We hypothesize that women in the exercise program will have greater abstinence rates at the end of treatment and at the end of a year than women in the relaxation

program,” Oncken says.

The researchers also hypothesize that the ameliorative effects of exercise on smoking cessation and depression will improve abstinence rates among women with a history of depression equal to those with no history of depression, and that exercise will improve smoking cessation by reducing nicotine craving and negative affect and by increasing self-efficacy or confidence.

The researchers will use the exercise program called Powerful Aging, developed by the Health Center’s Center on Aging. The program grew out of more than a decade of research on the beneficial effects of exercise in improving gait and balance in older adults. It is specifically designed for people who are 50 years of age and older, and uses simple repetitive movements that foster strength, flexibility, and stamina.

“It seems that research grants today are moving toward supporting programs that can be used in the community,” says Oncken. “Our research study is looking at the benefits of an exercise program that is already out in the community and has already demonstrated beneficial results for its participants.”

# Buddhist story illuminates physicist’s new book on light

BY SCOTT BRINCKERHOFF

Buddha’s story about how blind people visualize what they can’t see pops up unexpectedly in physics professor Chandrasekhar Roychoudhuri’s new book, most of which is devoted to what he describes as “hard core optics.”

While much of *The Nature of Light – What is a Photon?* with its discussion of quantum physics and complex mathematical formulae, is intended for advanced scientists, several sections “are for anyone who enjoys thinking,” Roychoudhuri says.

To illustrate one of his central points, that no single person can understand all the complexities of nature, he draws on the familiar story of six blind men attempting to “know” an elephant by touching it.

In the story, the men, blind from birth, each touch different parts of the elephant and reach conclusions based solely on their experience in touching the tail, trunk, or legs. Later, each man avers that his view of the elephant is the only true one. After debate, they pool their knowledge and develop a remarkably close description of the animal.

The ancient story’s lesson holds true today, Roychoudhuri says. “We fool ourselves by assuming that our cerebral interpretation

of sensorial inputs, including our eyes, is the objective reality of this world.”

In an interview, Roychoudhuri tied together physics, photons, and the relationship between the human quest for knowledge and the natural world.

Physics, he said, deals with the meaning and purpose of the universe. Its “language” is usually expressed in logical mathematical equations. Photons are units of light. They figure prominently in Roychoudhuri’s world view because the human brain is vision-oriented, and light is a requirement for vision.

Roychoudhuri parts company with many other physicists in his view that a “cosmic logic” must figure into our efforts to understand the world around us. He laments that various branches of physics each embrace their own “truths,” rather than blending the wisdom of each specialty in a holistic way.

“The same laws of the universe apply in all fields, and we can refine our theories most efficiently by reaching out to each other as Buddha’s blind men did,” he says.

One of Roychoudhuri’s central themes is that there is often a contradiction between the natural world and the one that man observes – or at least thinks he observes.

He offers a rainbow as an example. A physicist talking about a rainbow will speak of refraction, reflection, and the dispersion of electromagnetic waves by water droplets in clouds. “But the real rainbow never exists physically,” Roychoudhuri says. “Photons are not colored; water droplets are not colored; but we see vivid colors. And no rainbow will be observable if we enter the cloud.”

To better understand the rainbow, one needs to ponder human genetics, Roychoudhuri argues. Unlike other animals, humans over time developed massive frontal lobes that could do much more than merely help ensure survival. The long list of capabilities in all our genes includes being able to “see” colors in a rainbow, appreciate the rainbow on many levels, and even invert its image from the upside-down position in which it is displayed on our retinas.

The human genome is at once a blessing and a curse, Roychoudhuri suggests. The genome has benefited from millennia of evolution, advancing humanity in manifold ways. But the logic and instincts that humans have learned to trust throughout their history can be misleading, at least from a physicist’s perspective. For example, evolution lets species with eyes “see” colors that to a physicist



PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Physics professr Chandra Roychoudhuri in his lab at the Depot Campus.

are actually different frequencies.

To illustrate how the same physical laws apply to the biosphere and to social organizations, Roychoudhuri cites today’s economic crisis. He said it is an especially vexing problem to resolve because world economies are based on a shaky foundation – the notion that growth must be perpetual. In nature, he says, the biosphere is based not on consumption, but on recycling and reuse.

Roychoudhuri’s model for physics calls for discovering and visualizing the invisible interactions occurring in nature. Better

understanding of actual processes might help man avert potential crises such as cataclysmic climate change, he adds.

“Right now, our organized bodies of knowledge are necessarily incomplete, as they have been constructed based on incomplete knowledge of the universe,” he adds. “All new knowledge is created and built on existing and past knowledge. If we consider the past working rules as ‘frozen’ and ‘religiously’ correct, we will not be able to get closer to cosmic laws.”



# Bioengineering honors awarded to medical dean, orthopaedist

BY CHRIS DeFRANCESCO

Two Health Center leaders have been recognized by the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering.

Dr. Cato T. Laurencin, the Health Center's vice president for health affairs and dean of the UConn School of Medicine, received the AIMBE's highest honor, the Pierre Galletti Award; and Dr. Jay R. Lieberman, director of the New England Musculoskeletal Institute, was inducted into the AIMBE College of Fellows.

The Galletti Award recognizes contributions to public awareness of medical and biological engineering and to promoting the national interest in science, engineering, and education. The AIMBE cites Laurencin's "seminal contribution to tissue engineering and international leadership in biomedical engineering."

## National prominence

Laurencin has achieved national prominence as a bioengineering expert and orthopaedic surgeon. He holds the Health



PHOTO BY JANINE GELINEAU

Dr. Jay Lieberman, director of the Health Center's New England Musculoskeletal Institute.

Center's Van Dusen Endowed Chair in Academic Medicine and is a professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. He also holds an appointment in the School of Engineering as a professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering.

Laurencin says the award is a



PHOTO BY LANNY NAGLER

Dr. Cato T. Laurencin, vice president for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine.

tribute to those instrumental in his success in the field: his Ph.D. adviser and lifelong mentor Dr. Robert Langer, his students, and his family.

Laurencin was recognized last year by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers as among "100 Chemical Engineers of the

Modern Era."

Lieberman, professor and chairman of the Health Center's Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, was nominated for "significant and sustained contributions to understanding the biology of arthroplasty implants, and for innovative strategies for bone regeneration using gene therapy and materials science."

## Top 2 percent

The honor puts Lieberman in the top 2 percent of medical and biological engineers, including distinguished professors, researchers, and heads of engineering and medical schools at major universities, as well as entrepreneurs, directors of research and development, and corporate leaders.

"Dr. Lieberman has been and continues to be a major contributor to the advancement of the science of biomedical engineering," says Laurencin, himself an AIMBE fellow. "The work being done in his lab, as well as the translational research taking

place at the New England Musculoskeletal Institute under his leadership, is of unquestionable benefit to the patients of today and tomorrow."

The AIMBE aims to establish a clear identity for medical and biological engineering by promoting awareness of the field and its contributions, promoting the national interest in science, working with government and professional groups, brokering intersociety relations and cooperation within the field, and recognizing achievements and contributions to medical and biological engineering.

The College of Fellows is one of four sections of the AIMBE and includes about 1,000 members, mostly from the United States. UConn faculty previously inducted as Fellows include John Enderle and Bahram Javidi from the School of Engineering and Michael J. Pikal from the School of Pharmacy.

# Former engineering dean honored for research contributions

BY NAN COOPER

Harold Brody, Distinguished Professor of Materials Science & Engineering, was recently honored by the Minerals, Metals & Materials Society for outstanding contributions in the field of solidification science.

He received the 2009 Bruce Chalmers Award during the society's annual meeting in San Francisco in February.

## Research on alloys

Solidification science is the study of the processes by which materials change from a liquid to a solid state. Many everyday objects – from high-end cookware to bicycle frames – as well as sculpture, turbine blades, and automotive components, are produced using a solidification process in the manufacturing sequence.

Brody's research has focused on the solidification of alloys. To make an alloy, metallurgists may heat two or more elements to a liquid phase, mix them together at a proportion that provides a uniform solution, and transfer the molten alloy to a mold, where it solidifies in a manner that produces desired properties in the cast product.

"Think of tea," says Brody. "Hot tea accepts more sugar than iced tea, with the sugar remaining bound in solution, to a critical

tipping point: the solubility limit. When sweetened hot tea is cooled, sugar crystals can begin to form as precipitates. The solid crystals are richer in sugar than the sweetened liquid tea. When we blend metals in an alloy, the alloying elements, in general, are more soluble in the liquid than the solid phase."

Brody notes that "solidification takes place over a range of temperatures, and the composition of the solid differs from the composition of the liquid from which it forms.

## Branched structures

Typically, to efficiently redistribute alloying elements between the liquid and solid phases, the solidifying crystalline solid develops tree-like, highly branched structures called dendrites." The distinctive "jack frost" that forms on windows in winter is a familiar example of dendritic crystal formation.

Brody says the Chalmers Award is a very personal honor.

Chalmers (1907-1990), a renowned professor of applied physics at Harvard University, is regarded as the father of solidification science. As a graduate student at MIT, Brody belonged to a research group overseen by Professor Merton Flemings, who collaborated with Chalmers. Flemings and Chalmers regularly

brought their research groups together for seminars. Brody says he was impressed by Chalmers' skill in translating complex research into simple terms.

"He was a model for what a great professor should be," he says. "I'm probably one of the last people to receive the award who was influenced directly by Dr. Chalmers."

Brody says one of Chalmers' principal contributions was in understanding how to solidify alloys to achieve a smooth, unbranched interface between the solid and the liquid that yields a nearly defect-free structure, providing superior properties in semiconducting and magnetic materials.

Much of Brody's work, by contrast, has focused on fostering and manipulating dendritic solidification to attain premium properties in structural materials.

## Automotive industry

His recent work relates to the casting and thermal treatment of engine blocks for the automotive industry. With support from an automotive consortium led by General Motors and the Department of Energy, Brody and his colleagues are developing computer-aided routines that simulate the evolution of dendritic structures. The results will be applied in the design and manufacture of high-



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Harold Brody, Distinguished Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, works with liquid aluminum in his lab.

quality components. To achieve this goal, he says, he and his team must discover and understand the behavior of complex commercial alloys and develop a practical database of the thermodynamic and kinetic properties of different materials.

Brody was dean of engineering from 1991 to 1997. He joined UConn from the University of Pittsburgh, where he was a faculty member and administrator for 25 years.





PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Jon Miller, a junior, plays pool at a tournament in the Towers Residence Complex on March 1. Proceeds from the event will benefit the charity Autism Speaks.

## GRANTS

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

Principal Investigator	Department	Sponsor	Amount	Award Period
Federal Grants				
Anwar, A.	Electrical & Computer Engineering	Dept. of Defense/Navy/ Naval Undersea Warfare Center	\$55,000	12/08-12/09
<i>Develop Laser Improvements</i>				
Auster, P.	Nat'l. Undersea Research Center	Packard (David & Lucile) Foundation	\$75,898	1/09-12/09
<i>Predicting Spatial Concordance of Sensitive Habitats and Fisheries Operations</i>				
Behuniak, P.	Educational Psychology	Conn. Dept. of Education	\$750,000	10/08-9/11
<i>Educational Psychology Measurement Program</i>				
Best, S.	Political Science	Univ. of Minnesota	\$40,000	9/08-12/08
<i>Sullivan Voter Survey</i>				
Bogner, R.	Pharmaceutical Sciences	Nat'l. Insts. of Health/ Food & Drug Admin./Nat'l. Inst. of Pharmaceutical Technology & Education	\$9,294	9/08-9/09
<i>Development of Quality by Design Guidance Elements on Design Space Specifications Across Scale with Stability Considerations</i>				
Bucklin, A.	Marine Sciences	Dept. of Interior/US Geological Survey	\$85,000	1/09-1/09
<i>Charter of Research Vessel Connecticut for Cape Hatteras Mooring Deployment</i>				
Bucklin, A.	Marine Sciences	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution	\$17,400	12/08-12/08
<i>Charter of Research Vessel Connecticut by Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution for Neptune Project</i>				
Bullock, K.	School of Social Work Instr. & Research	Nat'l. Insts. of Health/ Yale Univ.	\$140,618	7/08-6/09
<i>Treatment Goals at the End of Life: The Role of Race in Advanced Care Planning Decisions</i>				
Cetegen, B.	Mechanical Engineering	United Technologies- Pratt & Whitney	\$70,000	12/08-12/09
<i>Dynamics of Bluff-Body Stabilized Premixed and Partially-Premixed Flames Near Blowoff</i>				
Coelho, C.	Communication Sciences	Nat'l. Insts. of Health/ Nat'l. Inst. on Deafness & Other Communication Disorders	\$11,500	9/08-9/09
<i>Neuroimaging of Discourse Processing</i>				
Couch, K.	Economics	Dept. of Labor/ Employment & Training Admin./Conn. Dept. of Labor	\$232,400	1/09-12/09
<i>Job Displacement in Connecticut</i>				
Donahue, A.	Public Policy	Dept. of Homeland Security/CTC Inc. Public Safety Technology Ctr.	\$71,136	11/08-12/08
<i>Survey Research Project Design to Determine First Responder Technology Gaps</i>				
Fernando, G.	Physics	Resonant Exploration & Production Inc.	\$50,438	1/09-6/10
<i>Quantum Chemistry Studies of Methane Hydrates</i>				
Frank, H.	Chemistry	Nat'l. Aeronautics & Space Admin/Marine Biological Lab	\$129,302	7/08-7/11
<i>Leaping to Land – Physiology and Phylogenetics of Desert Green Algae</i>				
Gray, P.	Extension	Windham Public Schools, Windham, Conn.	\$62,948	7/08-6/09
<i>4-H LIFT Afterschool Program</i>				

Kalonia, D.	Pharmaceutical Sciences	Genentech Inc.	\$93,330	12/08-12/09
<i>A Mechanistic Investigation of Protein-Polyol Interactions</i>				
Kraus, C.	Center for Survey Research & Analysis	Campaign Finance Institute	\$15,700	11/08-1/09
<i>Connecticut Candidates Survey</i>				
Kraus, C.	Center for Survey Research & Analysis	Conn. Dept of Public Health	\$10,000	10/08-2/09
<i>Department of Public Health Nurse Survey</i>				
Kraus, C.	Center for Survey Research & Analysis	Lang/Durham Advertising	\$17,000	11/08-1/09
<i>Nutmeg State Federal Credit Union Survey</i>				
Kraus, C.	Center for Survey Research & Analysis	Conn. Dept of Labor	\$30,240	8/08-9/09
<i>Connecticut Workforce Investment: A Connecticut Survey 2008-2009</i>				
Lowe, C.	Psychology	Haskins Laboratories	\$20,761	8/08-8/09
<i>Release-Time Funding for Carol Fowler Ph.D.</i>				
Luh, P.	Electrical & Computer Engineering	ISO New England Inc.	\$142,142	11/08-12/09
<i>Very Short Term Prediction of Electric Power System 30 Minute Operating Reserve</i>				
Mahoney, J.	Connecticut Transportation Institute	Dept. of Transportation/ Federal Hwy Admin./Conn. Dept. of Transportation	\$160,796	7/08-6/09
<i>Establishment of a Connecticut Advanced Pavement Laboratory FY 09</i>				
Mangle, H.	Extension	U.S. Dept. of Agriculture/ Cornell Univ.	\$8,800	9/08-9/09
<i>Children, Youth, &amp; Families at Risk Conference Coordination Program</i>				
Pattipati, K.	Electrical & Computer Engineering	General Motors Corp.	\$70,000	12/08-12/09
<i>Event-Driven Data Mining Techniques for Test Fleet Fault Diagnosis</i>				
Pikal, M.	Pharmaceutical Sciences	Nat'l. Insts. of Health/ Food & Drug Admin./Nat'l. Inst. of Pharmaceutical Technology & Education	\$14,400	9/08-9/09
<i>Study on the Development of Quality by Design</i>				

Rolshausen, P.	Plant Science	U.S. Dept of Agriculture/ Conn. Agricultural Experiment Station	\$37,215	8/08-7/11
<i>Using Inoculum Potential and a Disease and Weather Monitoring Network for Disease Forecasting in Vineyard Integrated Pest Management for Southern New England</i>				
Sun, W.	Mechanical Engineering	American Heart Association	\$308,000	1/09-12/12
<i>Development of Biomechanical Models for Analyzing Percutaneous Transvenous Mitral Annuloplasty</i>				
Suib, S.	Chemistry	United Technologies- Pratt & Whitney	\$30,000	10/08-12/08
<i>Investigations in Chemical Vapor Dispositions (CVD) Coating of Non-Woven Fiber Preforms (Task 51)</i>				
Walsh, S.	Nursing Instruction & Research	Nat'l. Insts. of Health/ Nat'l. Inst. on Aging/UConn Health Center	\$12,792	11/08-3/09
<i>Pathogenesis of Detrusor Underactivity and Urinary Retention in the Elderly</i>				
Wang, S.	Communication Sciences	Conn. Office of Policy & Management	\$10,000	1/09-12/09
<i>Residents' Opinions About the Expressway, "Super 7"</i>				
Wilhite, B.	Chemical, Materials & Biomolecular Engineering	American Chemical Society/Petroleum Research Fund	\$100,000	1/09-8/11
<i>Electroceraimic Materials for High-Purity Hydrogen Extraction from Liquid Hydrocarbon Fuels: Fundamental Investigations of Coupled Electrochemical and Catalytic Phenomena</i>				

## Economic impact *continued from page 1*

The study analyzed four components of the proposed partnership: the benefits of replacing the outdated 224-bed John Dempsey Hospital, the second smallest academic hospital in the nation, with a new 250-bed hospital in Farmington and the expansion of the Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine; a new research and educational collaboration between UConn and five regional hospitals; a partnership between Hartford Hospital and the Health Center resulting in a 1,100-bed University Hospital with campuses at the UConn Health Center in Farmington and at Hartford Hospital; and expanded clinical trials that would result from the partnership.

The report was discussed last week during a hearing of the General Assembly’s Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement about House Bill 6335: An Act Concerning the University of Connecticut Health Center Facilities Plan (the replacement hospital and proposed partnership with Hartford Hospital).

The study quantifies anticipated benefits of the proposed partnership not just to UConn or the region but also to the entire state, says University President Michael Hogan. “We must look beyond the current financial challenges so that our

state is competitively positioned when the recession ends.”

Hogan says this is the right proposal for Connecticut.

“The findings more than validate UConn’s position that the proposal is not only the right choice for improving the quality of healthcare in the state but also the right choice for our ailing state economy,” he says. “The partnership and the new hospital are the right long-term actions to ensure quality health care for Connecticut citizens and position our state for a strong economic recovery after the recession.”

The full analysis is based on the Connecticut REMI model, a dynamic, multi-sector, regional model developed and maintained for the Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis by Regional Economic Models Inc. of Amherst, Mass. The model provides detail on Connecticut’s eight counties and is used to project economic benefits.

Built from the U.S. Department of Commerce’s national input-output matrix, it is nationally recognized for projecting economic impacts and is the basis on which the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development evaluates projects.



## CALENDAR

Monday, March 16, to Monday, March 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, March 23 through Monday, March 30. Those items must be in the database by 4 p.m. on Monday, March 16. 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, 3/23** – Fall 2009 registration begins.

### 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.** Reading Room hours: Monday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, noon-4 p.m.; closed Sunday. Research Center hours: Monday, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Tuesday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday, noon-4p.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, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; closed Sunday. **Torrington Campus Library.** Monday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; closed Friday-Sunday. **Waterbury Campus Library.** Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; closed weekends.

### University ITS

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

### Ph.D. Defenses

**Wednesday, 3/18 – Chemistry.** *Novel Reactions of Oxoammonium Salts with Alkenes and Ethers*, by Priya Pradip Pradhan (adv.: Bailey). 1 p.m., Room A304, Chemistry Building. **Friday, 3/20 – Philosophy.** *Teleosemantics and Color*, by Franklin Scott (adv.: Clark). 4 p.m., Room 227, Manchester Hall.

### Lectures & Seminars

**Monday, 3/16 – Hascoe Distinguished Physics Lecture.** "Intersubband Quantum-Box Semiconductor Lasers," by Dan Botez, University of Wisconsin-Madison. 4 p.m., Room P38, Gant Science Complex. **Monday, 3/16 – Darwin Bicentennial Colloquium.** Discussion by Marc Hauser, Harvard University. 4 p.m., Konover Auditorium. **Monday, 3/16 – Panel Discussion.** "A 100 Day Retrospective on Marriage Equality in Connecticut." 6:30 p.m., Hogan Lecture Hall, Eads Classroom, Torrington Campus.

**Tuesday, 3/17 – Stamford Faculty Colloquium.** "The Sources of Oman's Foreign Policy in the 21st Century," by Jeffrey Lefebvre. Noon, GE Global Classroom, Stamford Campus. **Tuesday, 3/17 – Lifelong Learning Lecture.** "What Makes Humans Unique?" by Steve Trumbo. 1 p.m., Room 333, Waterbury Campus. To register call 203-236-9924. **Wednesday, 3/18 – Panel Discussion.** "Living our Religions: Hindu and Muslim South Asian-American Women Narrate Their Experiences." Noon, Room 421, Student Union. **Wednesday, 3/18 – Rainbow Center Lecture.** "Strategies for Minimizing HIV Related Risks and Their Implications for HIV Transmission Among Men Who Have Sex With Men," by Lisa Eaton. Noon, Room 403, Student Union. **Wednesday, 3/18 – Writing Center Workshop.** "Understanding Chinese Student Writers." Noon, Room 318,

Bureau of Educator Preparation, Certification, Support, and Assessment. 11:30 a.m., register at <http://www.education.uconn.edu/assessment/colloquia.cfm>. Participants will be notified of the location in a confirmation e-mail. **Friday, 3/20 – Sackler Art & Archaeology Lecture.** "Symposium: Empire in South America," with Joann Pillsbury, Thomas Cummins, Harvard University, Richard Burger, Yale University. 2 p.m., Konover Auditorium, Dodd Center. **Friday, 3/20 – Marine Sciences Seminar.** "Fundulus Toxin Adaptation," by Diane Nacci, U.S. EPA Narragansett Lab. 3 p.m., Room 103, Marine Sciences Building. **Friday, 3/20 – Statistics Colloquium.** "One Shot Schemes for Decentralized Quickest Change Detection," by Olympia Hadjiliadis, City University of New York. 4 p.m., Room 344, CLAS Building.

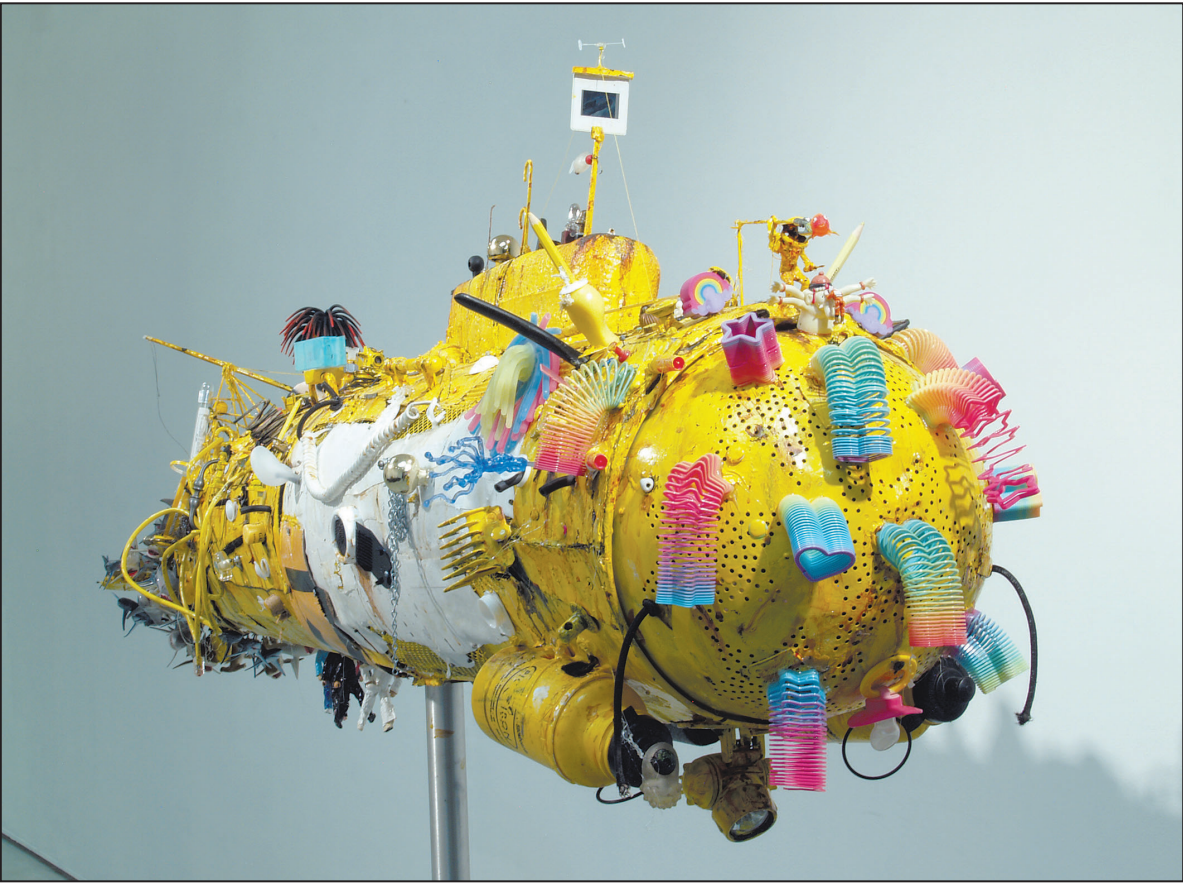


PHOTO SUPPLIED BY CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERIES

A sculpture by Peter Waite in the *Simultaneous Contrast* exhibit, on display at the Contemporary Art Galleries through April 10.

CUE Building. To register call 860-486-4387. **Wednesday, 3/18 – India Studies Faculty Book Colloquium.** "Gender and the Politics of Possibilities," by Manisha Desai. 2:30 p.m., Class of '47 Room, Babbidge Library. **Wednesday, 3/18 – Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center Lecture.** "Latinos and Mass Mediated Misrepresentation: Deleterious Impact, Constructive Potential," by Diana Rios and Keila Williams. 5 p.m., Room 438, Student Union. **Thursday, 3/19 – Comparative Pathology Seminar.** "Pathogenesis of Marek's Disease Virus Infection," by Dr. Schat, Cornell University. 11 a.m., Room A001, Atwater Laboratories. **Thursday, 3/19 – Rainforest Lecture.** "Rainforest Disturbance and the Proliferation of Plant Diseases," by Julieta Benitez Malvido, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Noon, Class of '47 Room, Babbidge Library. **Thursday, 3/19 – Polymer Program Seminar.** "Polymer Brushes as Responsive Materials for the Biology-Material Interface," by Christopher Ober, Cornell University. 11 a.m., Room IMS20, Gant Science Complex. **Friday, 3/20 – Assessment Colloquium.** "Assessment for Learning, As Opposed to Assessment of Learning," by Katie Moirs, CSDE,

a.m.-4:30 p.m., Fine Arts Building. Free admission. **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 Sunday, 4/19 – Alexey von Schlippe Gallery.** Paintings and media works by Judith Osbourne; mixed media work by Val Kropiwnicki; canvases and monotypes by Joyce Zavorskas. Wednesday-Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Members and students free, others \$3 donation. Avery Point Campus. **Ongoing – State Museum of Natural History & Connecticut Archaeology Center.** *Human's Nature: Looking Closer at the Relationships between People and the Environment.* Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday & Monday, closed. Free admission, donations welcome.

Arts. Tickets \$28, \$30. For tickets and information, call 860-486-4226. Concert talk 6:45 p.m. **Tuesday, 3/17 – Student Recital.** David Joly, saxophone. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Free admission. **Thursday, 3/19 – Student Ensemble.** Percussion Ensemble. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Free admission. **Thursday, 3/19 – Recitals Plus.** Performance by advanced music majors from the School of Fine Arts. 12:15 p.m., Benton Museum of Art. **Thursday, 3/19 – Cabaret.** Vanessa Kafka & Band. 8 p.m. Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. Admission \$10, \$5 (UConn students). For tickets and information, call 860-486-4226. **Friday, 3/20 and Saturday, 3/21 – Cabaret.** Kathy Mattea, mezzo-soprano, Grammy-winning singer. 8 p.m., Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets \$34, \$38, \$45. For tickets and information, call 860-486-4226. **Saturday, 3/21 – Student Recital.** Joshua Taylor, tenor, and Mandy Mulé, soprano. 3 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Free admission. **Saturday, 3/21 – Guest Alumni Recital.** Elise Quagliata, mezzo soprano. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Free admission.

### Film

**Wednesday, 3/18 – India Film.** *1947 Earth.* 6:30 p.m., Room 107, Art & Art History Building. **Thursday, 3/19 – Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center Film.** *Voces Inocentes/Innocent Voices.* 7 p.m., Room 438, Student Union. **Saturday, 3/21 and Sunday, 3/22 – Art Film.** *DNA: The Secret of Photo 51.* 2 p.m., Benton Museum.

### Athletics

**Wednesday, 3/18 – Women's Lacrosse vs. Harvard.** 4 p.m., Sherman Family Sports Complex. **Saturday, 3/21 – Men's and Women's Tennis vs. Georgetown.** 11 a.m., Tennis Courts. **Saturday, 3/21 – Women's Lacrosse vs. Brown.** 1 p.m., Sherman Family Sports Complex. **Sunday, 3/22 – Men's Tennis vs. St. John's.** Noon, Tennis Courts. **Monday, 3/23 – Women's Lacrosse vs. Holy Cross.** 4 p.m., Sherman Family Sports Complex.

### Potpourri

**Tuesday, 3/17 – Author Talk.** Aetna Celebration of Creative Nonfiction with Lauren Slater, award winning author. 7 p.m., Konover Auditorium, Dodd Center. **Thursday, 3/19 – Author Talk.** "Unsettled Visions," by Margo Machida. 4 p.m., UConn Co-op. **Friday, 3/20 – Lincoln Class.** "Lincoln: the Man and the Myth," by Steve McGrath. 8:15 a.m., Room 207, Waterbury Campus.

### Performing Arts

**Monday, 3/16 – Student Recital.** Emily Collins, clarinet. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Free admission. **Tuesday, 3/17 – Brass Quintet.** Center City Brass Quintet. 7:30 p.m., Jorgensen Center for the Performing

## Sign up for the Husky road race

This year's EcoHusky 5k Road Race will take place on Sunday, April 5.

The race begins at 11 a.m., with registration running from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.

Sign up to run, jog, or walk the course around Horsebarn Hill.

Student registration is \$10, and non-student registration \$15 (\$20 after March 23rd). The fee covers all race costs and includes an official race day t-shirt. The event is co-hosted by the EcoHusky student group and the Office

of Environmental Policy.

All proceeds will benefit the EcoHusky group. This race is the primary fund raiser for the group. It allows the organization to promote environmental education and support a variety of outreach efforts on campus, including RecycleMania, Earth Day Spring Fling, Mt. Sneaker (a sneaker recycling demonstration), and Green Week.

To register for the road race, go to [www.ecohusky.uconn.edu/ecohusky5000.htm](http://www.ecohusky.uconn.edu/ecohusky5000.htm)



# English professor draws major writers to Torrington Campus

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

At four feet 10 inches tall, Davyne Verstandig can easily type on her computer while standing. But author Frank Delaney pictures her on a football field with the entire offense of the football team barreling towards her. “She just puts her hand out and stops them by force of will,” he says. “She has the kind of personality that could stop a lynching.”

And that, he says, is precisely why she has been able to nurture the Litchfield County Writers Project (LCWP) so successfully that major writers speak with students and readers at the Torrington Campus on a regular basis.

Delaney, who has written non-fiction and fiction, worked for the Irish state network RTE and the BBC, and wrote the documentary *The Celts*, met Verstandig at a poetry reading the LCWP hosted at the Torrington Campus. He has since spoken several times in the program.

### Reaching out

The Writers Project is well suited to Litchfield County, where there are “more professional writers per square inch than any other county in the United States,” says Delaney’s wife, Diane Meier, a novelist and owner of an advertising agency. “It takes an enormously courageous and audacious person to reach across the fence to say to William Styron ‘surely you want to be a part of this project,’ and Davyne does it.”

Verstandig sees Litchfield County as a 21st century Bloomsbury and herself as the life force making the connections, adds Meier.

The LCWP program consists of a 1,300-volume library with signed copies of works by Litchfield County authors – including the late Styron and the late Arthur Miller – and a display of photographs on loan from the Inga Morath Foundation. Morath was the wife of Miller and the mother of actress Rebecca Miller, also a part-time Litchfield County resident. The photographs focus on artists



PHOTO BY LINDA MILLER

Davyne Verstandig teaches poetry to first and second graders at Kent Center elementary school.

from Litchfield County.

LCWP also offers courses each semester on writing and a well-attended public lecture series. After the program received a gift of \$100,000 last year, it expanded to include gallery space, and has begun a new focus on the creative process and the visual arts.

“Davyne’s support of local writers and artists is unparalleled,” says Julia Bolus, a literary assistant working with Arthur Miller’s papers, who is also a published poet and a teacher.

Verstandig is not unlike the people she pursues as speakers for the program. She is a painter, published poet, playwright, and novelist, and has been a secondary school teacher and college professor.

In 1995, she was hired at the Torrington Campus as an adjunct professor of English and soon began working on the Writers Project, since it was clear that Litchfield County is characterized by a high number of writers, and

a project focusing on them would provide a way for the campus to distinguish itself.

Verstandig’s day includes an hour or more of reading – concentrating on Litchfield County authors, especially contemporary novels and memoirs – and time spent at Marty’s Café in Washington Depot, where many of the people she encounters are authors. One of them is Frank McCourt, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Angela’s Ashes* and *’Tis*, who has spoken several times for the LCWP and will be speaking again on April 15.

One of her jobs is to design a new writing course every semester. And always, she is writing. Several times a week, her day ends with dinner with local authors whom she invites to participate in the program.

### Connecting writers and readers

One of those writers is Roxana Robinson, who recalls that at one of her appearances at the

Torrington Campus, she was introduced to a fan of her writing who had, with Verstandig’s help, been flown in from out of town as a birthday present to meet the author.

“Davyne is very interested in the connection between writers and readers,” says Robinson, novelist, biographer, and essayist, who has twice been part of the LCWP lecture series and has been interviewed on stage by Verstandig.

“She is a wonderful interlocutor,” Robinson says. “I was struck by how much research she had done, and by how carefully she had read my work.”

### A varied career

Originally from Hamden, Conn., Verstandig was educated in the South, receiving her master’s degree from the University of Tennessee in the 1960s. Her time there includes many recollections indicative of the turmoil in the U.S. at the time. When she marched in a civil rights dem-

onstration in Knoxville, she was spit on by whites. And when she asked permission to take a class in the Modern African Novel being taught at a local black college, she was refused. No credit could be given, she was told, for courses at such an “inferior” institution.

She took the class anyway. When Robert Kennedy was assassinated, she knew she was done with the South.

Heading home from college with her mother, the two were in a car accident that killed her mother.

“Everything changed in that moment,” Verstandig says, and rather than heading to New York to seek a job in publishing, she returned to Hamden.

Someone suggested she might try teaching. Unaware that she needed a teaching license, she secured several jobs. She chose one in Shelton because the students were from blue-collar factory families, as different as possible from the students at her high school, Rosemary Hall, then located in Greenwich. She knew it would be a challenge.

She also taught at Central Connecticut State University and Albertus Magnus College, at Newburgh Air Force base, and Fort Totten in Queens, N.Y. And she directed and acted in plays at the Creative Arts Center – now Theaterworks – in New Milford, Sherman Playhouse, and Dramalights in Washington, Conn.

She eventually opened a book store in Washington Depot, and later in Warren, Conn.

It was her hairdresser, a UConn Bachelor of General Studies student, who recommended she teach at the Torrington Campus.

Today, Verstandig sits in her office there under one of her acrylic paintings – a three foot by five foot abstract that proclaims, “Obstacles are the vehicles by which we move forward.” She notes that at age 64, she has no plans to retire.

“Teaching is the best profession there is,” she says. “Every day, one can make a difference.”

## Searching for truth *continued from page 1*

word for?”

Duelfer, an intelligence officer and former deputy chairman of UNSCOM, the UN Special Commission on weapons inspection in Iraq after the first Gulf War, said his mission in 2004 was not to find weapons of mass destruction but to find the truth.

He also wanted to learn how Saddam Hussein – whom he had debriefed after he was captured – and his regime had operated.

“It was an opportunity to record things that would not exist again.” And that, he says, is where his background as a student of history was helpful.

The report of his Iraq Survey Group in the fall of 2004, often

called the Duelfer Report, was described by the *Washington Post*

“We thought Saddam Hussein would be crazy not to have weapons of mass destruction. Saddam missed the import of 9–11.”

Charles Duelfer, MA '74  
Head of the Iraq Survey Group

as contradicting nearly every pre-war assertion made by top Bush administration officials about Iraq.

The administration’s most costly

mistake was not that it was wrong about weapons of mass destruction, but that it elected not to take advantage of the CIA’s understanding and judgment about Iraq in its post-Saddam planning, Duelfer said.

CIA involvement was blocked, and decisions to fire Iraqi Army officers and treat Ba’ath party members as “the enemy” caused huge problems, he said.

Today, “we’re in a fairly decent place” in Iraq, he said. “But we could have been there four years ago. We paid a huge price.”

To hear a podcast with Duelfer, go to <http://clas.uconn.edu/alumni/notes/duelfer/duelfer.mp3>



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Charles Duelfer, head of the Iraq Survey Group, speaks in the Biology/Physics Building on March 5.