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Chemists announce nanotech breakthrough

BY COLIN POITRAS

Imagine you are looking through a very high-powered microscope at the smallest tube in the world – a single-walled carbon nanotube so tiny that a million can fit on the head of a pin.

Imagine too that the exterior of the tube is covered in small irregular bumps caused by oxygen molecules that cling to the outside like barnacles on a pier. Now imagine trying to slide something – a slightly larger tube perhaps – over the bumpy tube to smooth out the surface.

In this molecular, microscopic world, it isn't easy; a near impossibility, in fact, that has proven a barrier to scientists for years.

But now, chemistry professor Fotios Papadimitrakopoulos and a team of researchers in the Nanomaterials Optoelectronics Laboratory at the Institute of Materials Science have found a way to smooth the surface of nanotubes, in what Papadimitrakopoulos describes as a major nanotechnology breakthrough that could have significant applications in medical imaging and other areas.

By developing a process in which a chemical 'sleeve' tightly wraps itself around the nanotube, Papadimitrakopoulos managed to not only create a smooth new surface on the nanotube but also to 'clean' its underlying exterior of defects in a way that has never been accomplished before.

Carbon nanotubes have traditionally been very poor emitters of light because of their bumpy exterior defects and have therefore been limited in some of their technological and medical applications. As a result of the newly discovered wrapping process, Papadimitrakopoulos managed to increase the luminescence efficiency – the light emitting capability – of the nanotube 40-fold. That increased luminescence, he says, opens the way for broad new advancements in science.

"The nanotube is the smallest tube on earth and we have found a sleeve to put over it," says Papadimitrakopoulos, whose discovery is featured in the March 6 issue of *Science* magazine. (http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/short/323/5919/1319) "This is the first time that a nanotube was found to emit with as much as 20 percent luminescence efficiency."

see Carbon nanotubes *page 4*

PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMEYER

Fotios Papadimitrakopoulos, professor of chemistry, with a diagram illustrating part of his research on carbon nanotubes.

Medical student organization receives national award

BY CAROLYN PENNINGTON

The UConn chapter of the American Medical Student Association (AMSA), the nation's largest independent medical student organization, has been awarded the prestigious 2009 Paul R. Wright Award for Excellence in Medical Education.

It's the first time UConn medical students have received this award, which was presented at the AMSA's annual convention in Arlington, Va., earlier this month.

The Paul R. Wright Award recognizes a medical school, chosen by the nation's medical students, whose exemplary achievements in medical education foster the development of socially responsive physicians. The area of concentration changes each year to highlight a different dimension of medical education. The 2009 award focuses on local advocacy and activism.

The UConn medical students were honored for their initiative toward achieving high quality, affordable health care for all. In October, they presented an event that raised awareness in the community and provided important leadership training for local medical students. The event gathered a cross-section of the Hartford community, including health care providers, students from a wide range of disciplines including the health professions, state legislators, city officials, teachers, community leaders, and individuals from the creative arts community.

see Medical students *page 6*

E-mail upgrade for faculty, staff

BY ELIZABETH OMARA-OTUNNU

Faculty and staff University e-mail is undergoing an upgrade that will increase mailbox size, provide added security to e-mails that are sent, and offer greater flexibility in managing out-of-office and mobile device functions.

HuskyMail, the student e-mail service, will not be affected.

Beginning March 30 and throughout the month of April, the service will move from Exchange 2003 to Exchange 2007. The transition will be implemented remotely by University Information Technology Services (UITS) for Windows users; Mac users will need to have some settings adjusted. Users will be notified of the change department by department.

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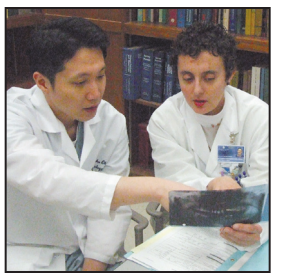

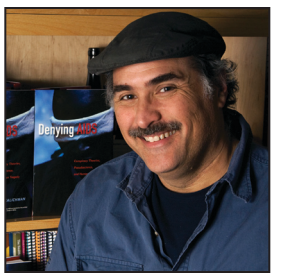

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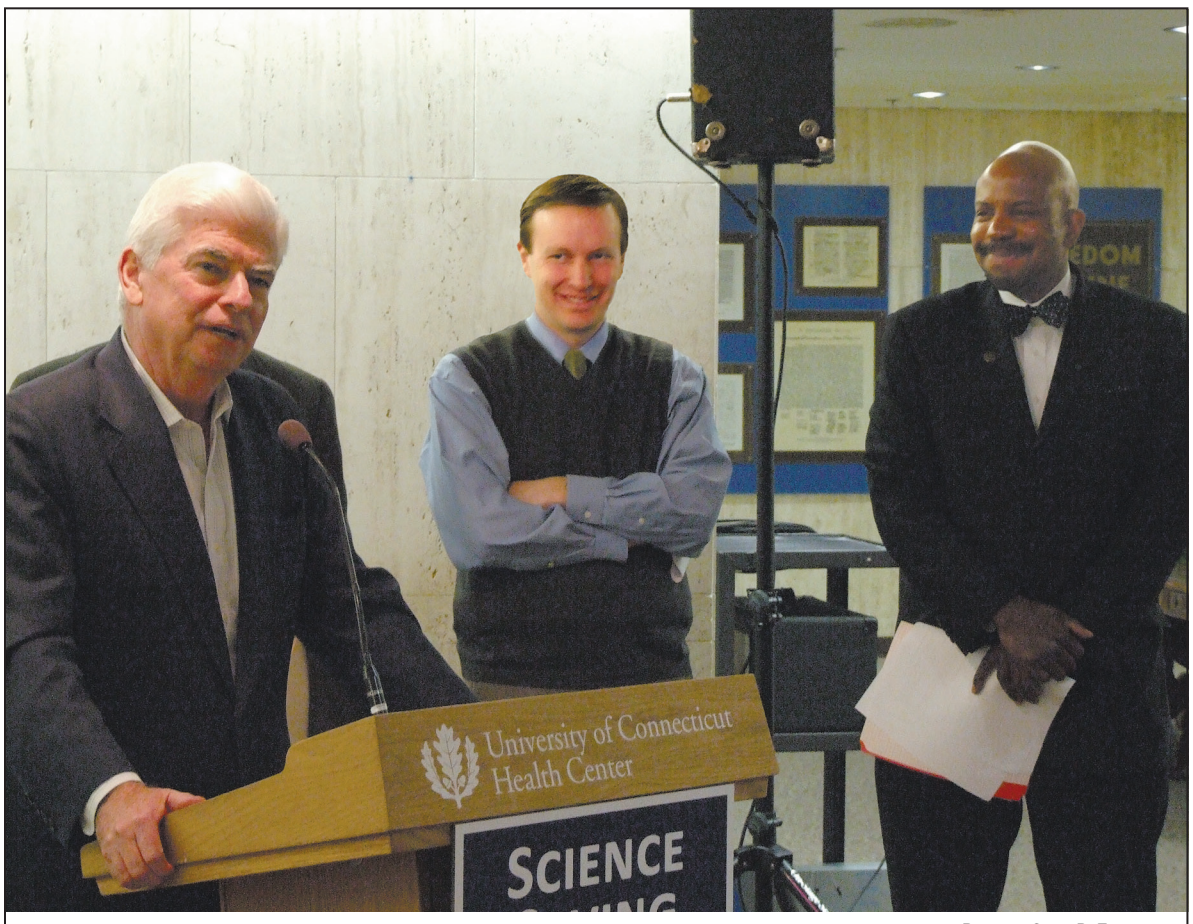

Photo by Chris DeFrancesco

U.S. Sen. Christopher Dodd, left, with U.S. Rep. Chris Murphy, center, and Dr. Cato T. Laurencin, vice president for health affairs, during a news conference at the Health Center on stem cell research on March 14.

Faculty, staff invited to take part in Relay for Life

by Colin Poitras

The UConn chapter of Colleges Against Cancer is inviting faculty, staff, and graduate students, as well as undergraduates, to take part in this year's Relay for Life.

The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life is an overnight community celebration where individuals and teams camp out, barbecue, dance, and take turns walking around a track relay-style to raise funds while celebrating the lives of those who have had cancer, remembering those lost, and fighting back against the disease. At nightfall, participants light luminaria around the track in recognition of loved ones lost to the disease.

This year's relay starts at 5 p.m. on Friday, April 17 in the Student Union quadrangle and ends at noon on Saturday, April 18. The survivors' ceremony begins at 7 p.m. on Friday.

There is still time for teams and individuals to register for the relay. The fee is $10 for individuals and includes a T-shirt. Cancer survivors participate for free. More information can be found at Relayforlife.org/uconn

"Cancer affects everyone, and Relay for Life is an event where the entire campus can come together for one night to fight back against this disease so that one day, no one will have to hear the words 'You have cancer'," says Kathleen Solernou, a junior and one of the event's organizers, who lost her grandfather to lung cancer when she was seven years old. "Despite its size, UConn has a very close-knit campus and a big heart. Relay is our opportunity to show Connecticut and the rest of the nation just how great we can be."

Last year, more than 800 people participated in the University's annual Relay for Life campaign to raise money for cancer research.

One of those taking part in this year's relay will be Keith Bellizzi, an assistant professor of human development and family studies, who was diagnosed with Stage 3 testicular and kidney cancer just shy of his 25th birthday. After multiple surgeries, aggressive chemotherapy, and the removal of one kidney, Bellizzi survived, quit his business consulting job and devoted his career to cancer research. An avid bicyclist who has toured cross-country with Lance Armstrong to raise cancer awareness, Bellizzi lives near Storrs with his wife and three daughters.

"If we are to prevent and control the many diseases we call cancer, we need to employ a multi-faceted approach, including high quality research, policy changes, a vocal advocacy community, and empowering the general public," Bellizzi says. "The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life not only raises needed money for biomedical and behavioral research, but the event brings cancer awareness to the community."

Freshman Kelly Foy will also be a participant. Foy was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) when she was seven. After two and a half years of chemotherapy, hospital stays, injections, and blood draws, she was declared in remission in October 1999. The cancer returned a few years later. Only a bone marrow transplant provided by her five-year-old sister allowed her to finally leave the hospital on Thanksgiving Day. Foy says she will never forget the image of her sister lying in a hospital bed with needles stuck in her back before the transplant. She regards her sister as her hero, and hopes to pursue a career as a child life specialist helping children and families in challenging circumstances.

U.S. civil rights historian to deliver Sackler Human Rights Lecture March 31

U.S. civil rights historian Adam Fairclough will deliver the Raymond and Beverly Sackler Distinguished Lecture in Human Rights on Tuesday, March 31, at 4 p.m. in the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center. His talk is titled, "The Last Best Hope of Earth? American Democracy and the Right to Vote in Historical Perspective."

Fairclough, who holds the Raymond and Beverly Sackler Chair in the History and Culture of the United States at Leiden University in the Netherlands, was one of the first historians to study the American civil rights movement and is recognized as one of the leading scholars in this field.

His first book, *To Redeem the Soul of America: The Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Martin Luther King, Jr.* (1987) won an Outstanding Book Award from the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Human Rights. *Race and Democracy: The Civil Rights Struggle in Louisiana, 1915-1972* (1995) also won an Outstanding Book Award from the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Human Rights, and received the 1995 Louisiana Literary Award, the 1995 L. Kemper Williams Prize for the best book on Louisiana history, and the 1995 Lillian Smith Book Award of the Southern Regional Council. His most recent book, *A Class of Their Own: Black Teachers in the Segregated South* won the 2008 Outstanding Book Award of the History of Education Society.

In addition to these research monographs, Fairclough has published *Martin Luther King, Jr.* (1995), a short biography of the civil rights leader; *Teaching Equality: Black Schools in the Age of Jim Crow* (2001); and *Better Day Coming: Blacks and Equality, 1890-2000* (2001). He also edited *The Star Creek Papers: Washington Parish and the Lynching of Jerome Wilson*, by Horace Mann Bond and Julia W. Bond.

He has received fellowships from the National Humanities Center, the Carter G. Woodson Center of the University of Virginia, and the American Council of Learned Societies. He is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, and a member of the Southern Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, the American Historical Association, and the History of Education Society. He is currently chair of the Netherlands American Studies Association.

Born in England, Fairclough holds a B.A. in modern history from Oxford University, and a Ph.D. from Keele University. He taught at the University of Wales, Lampeter, and has held a Chair in Modern History at Leeds University and a Chair in American Studies at the University of East Anglia. In 2005, he was appointed to the Sackler Chair in American History at Leiden University.

Ethicist to speak about human embryos

Professor Paul Lauritzen of John Carroll University will give a presentation titled "Reflections on the Morality of 'Adopting' Frozen Embryos" on Wednesday March 25, at the St. Thomas Aquinas Center, 46 North Eagleville Road, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The event, part of this year's Loyola Colloquium series, is hosted by the Aquinas Center, the Roman Catholic Campus Ministry at UConn, and St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel. It is free and open to the public.

Lauritzen graduated with a B.A. in political science and religious studies from the University of Virginia, where he also earned a master's degree in religious studies. He earned his Ph.D. at Brown University. Since 1985, he has been on the faculty of John Carroll University in University Heights, Ohio. He has served as director of the Program in Applied Ethics at John Carroll since 1997, and was chair of the Department of Religious Studies for four years. He also has been a visiting faculty member at St. John's University in New York.

Lauritzen is the author of four books, including *Pursuing Parenthood: Ethical Issues in Assisted Reproduction* (1993) and *Cloning and the Future of Human Embryonic Research* (2001). He also has authored more than 30 research articles and book chapters, and more than 30 professional reviews of the work of other scholars. A member of many prominent professional societies, he serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of Religious Ethics,* and has a collection of interviews archived as podcasts on the *Commonweal Magazine* web site.

For more information, call 860-429-6436.

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Academic Achievement Center helps students hone study skills

BY SHERRY FISHER

Students who want to improve their academic skills and strategies have a new place to go for help: the Academic Achievement Center.

The Center, part of the Office for First Year Programs and Learning Communities, is located in the CUE Building, Room 130. Hours are Monday through Thursday, from 5 to 9 p.m. Students may come on a walk-in basis, and are coached individually or in small groups.

The Center is staffed by undergraduate coaches, who take a course that teaches them how to mentor other students in basic skills and strategies. The training course is taught by Kevin Sullivan, director of academic support.

Sullivan says the Academic Achievement Center was created to help all students, not just those who are struggling or may be on probation. It also, for example, serves students who need to perform at the highest levels to be eligible for competitive scholarships, majors, or postgraduate opportunities.

"There are many bright students at the University who want to enhance their performance," Sullivan says. "Many don't do well on tests, some have time management issues, and others have problems managing stress. Our goal is to help them develop the knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors so they can achieve at the highest levels."

The Academic Achievement Center operates on a combination of existing resources, and builds on the First Year Programs, UConn Connects, and campus peer education programs, including the First Year Experience mentor initiative.

Sullivan, who has counseled students at UConn for some 20 years, says undergraduates or graduate students who are new at the University often get a shock after the first round of exams. Objective tests, which measure both a person's understanding and memory for details, are particularly problematic.

"They might not do well on a multiple choice test, even though they believe they've studied appropriately," says Sullivan. "When they get a bad grade, they'll often think they are not suited for college work and become discouraged. That's where the Center for Academic Achievement steps in."

Faculty, advisors, and peers have been referring students to the Center since it opened earlier this semester.

Sullivan says the typical students he sees say they went to every class and studied the material. "But when you sit them down and ask them how they studied and how they prepared, you can understand why they didn't do well."

It's not that they haven't worked hard, he says: They haven't worked "smart."

One of the first things a coach wants to see is a student's notes. "There's usually a real problem here," Sullivan says. "Students may have downloaded a PowerPoint presentation from a course and think that's enough information. It's not."

Students need to take better notes during classes, he says. "Even if a professor puts up verbatim notes, and a student listens in class, if he or she isn't really actively engaged in the learning process, they're not going to understand the material. They're not writing down things that strike them as important."

Coaches tell students they need to understand what's required of them. "They need to know what their job is when they go to class, what their job is when they go over their notes, and what their job is when they read a chapter in a journal, says Sullivan. "We're teaching them the trade."

He adds, "We're trying to get them to be more conscious and intentional about how they study."

In addition to understanding the information they're studying, reviewing it multiple times in a focused manner is important. Studying with a classmate and creating questions and answers about the subject matter is also helpful in understanding and remembering the material, Sullivan says.

If additional help is needed, a student will be referred to the appropriate academic department, the Q-Center, the Writing Center, or other campus resources.

Sarah Melchior, a junior majoring in English and philosophy, supervises the student coaches and also works one-on-one with students who come to the Center. She has been an FYE mentor, a UConn Connects facilitator, and a peer leadership instructor.

She decided to work with the Center because, she says, peer education works. "I've enjoyed being a resource for other students," she adds. "I've been able to succeed here, and I want to share that with other students."

PHOTO BY JESSICA TOMMASELLI

Andrea Tovar, a senior majoring in psychology and Spanish, discusses test-taking skills with Erick Desingco, a freshman pre-pharmacy major, in the new Academic Achievement Center in the CUE Building.

PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMEYER

Peter McQueeney, energy management supervisor, with a diagram showing climate systems in Gampel Pavilion.

Computer program adjusts heating, cooling, and water

BY RICHARD VEILLEUX

When a diagram of Gampel Pavilion popped up on Peter McQueeney's computer screen indicating that the temperature was more than 90 degrees in the building's dome, he wasn't surprised. "It's probably because there was an event there last night," he said.

But he was able to do something about it without even leaving his desk.

McQueeney, UConn's energy management supervisor, guided his cursor to a box on the lower left of his computer screen, typed in the number 68, and clicked "accept." Within a few hours, he said, Gampel would cool down.

McQueeney, who works in Facilities Operations, is in charge of the Andover Controls Building Automation System, a computer program interfaced with building mechanical systems. The system enables him to monitor and adjust a building's heating and cooling systems, air intake, air quality, and more, all from the computer in his office.

The system has a server and a dozen workstations in constant communication with network controllers connected to "device controllers." These controllers, installed in more than 100 buildings on the Storrs campus, receive information from more than 20,000 points and send control signals to over 13,000. The Andover system also manages systems at the Stamford Campus, either locally or from the Storrs campus.

Thomas Callahan, UConn's associate vice president for operations and administration, says the system, which is being continuously upgraded, now covers a majority of the University's square footage.

The system also allows McQueeney and others in his department to monitor the University's water supply system, managing the amount of water heading into UConn's storage tanks via the Willimantic and Fenton wellfield pumps, and monitoring the levels of chemicals in the water.

"[The automated system] helps us understand where the energy is going, and that helps us improve the electrical, steam, and chilled water systems."

Thomas Callahan
Associate vice president for operations and administration

"The system increases our ability to manage and control the water – the gallons per minute we pump and how long we pump each day," McQueeney says. "It's a major upgrade over how we handled water use in the past."

The system also saves the University money, says Callahan, although it's hard to quantify.

"More importantly it helps us understand where the energy is going," he adds, "and that helps us improve the electrical, steam, and chilled water systems."

The control system provides a fail-safe, with defaults built in for maximum and minimum temperatures. Building managers can get the temperature in their building adjusted by making a quick call to facilities operations. If the adjustment doesn't work, they know there's something wrong with the system and facilities can dispatch a repair crew.

"It shows alarms where something isn't working," says Ron Gaudet, energy services manager in facilities operations. "That allows us to focus the management team where it's needed. The system has been a great help."

Exploring the link between gum infections and kidney disease

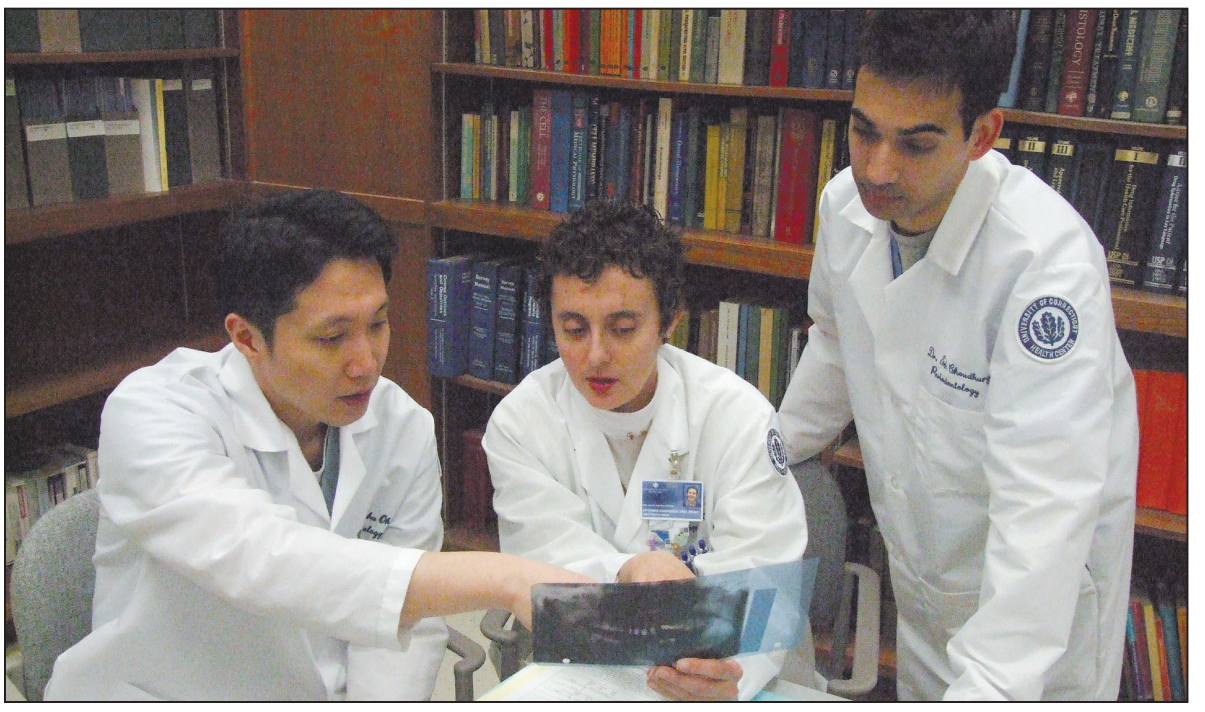

Photo by Carolyn Pennington

Research team from left, Drs. Dongha Oh, Effie Ioannidou, and Eric Choudhury.

by Kristina Goodnough

For patients undergoing kidney dialysis, gum disease is more than an inconvenience. It may cause not only local, oral inflammatory responses but also systemic inflammatory responses that could put patients at higher risk for complications such as heart problems, according to research by Dr. Effie Ioannidou, assistant professor of periodontology at the UConn School of Dental Medicine.

Ioannidou is part of a team of researchers led by Dr. Anna Dongari-Bagtzoglou, associate professor and head of the division of peridontology, who were the first to report on the relationship between gum disease and systemic inflammation that could affect the risk of organ rejection in kidney and heart transplant recipients.

"Researchers have identified inflammation as a potential risk for organ transplant rejection," says Ioannidou.

Dongari-Bagtzoglou's research team found that interleukin-6, a pro-inflammatory cytokine that is secreted in response to infections, was present in elevated amounts in transplant patients with severe chronic gum disease compared to patients with no gum disease.

"It suggests that periodontal infections may increase systemic inflammation in these patients, which may place them at a greater risk for transplant rejection," the researchers concluded in a study published in the *Journal of Periodontology* in 2006.

Ioannidou noticed that the transplant recipients who had been on dialysis before the kidney transplant seemed to have more gum disease than transplant recipients who had never had dialysis.

With a grant from the General Clinical Research Center, Ioannidou began a pilot study to investigate the issue more closely. Since then, Ioannidou has received several awards to support her research on the association between chronic periodontitis and chronic kidney disease.

Most recently Ioannidou received the Bud and Linda Tarrson Fellowship from the American Academy of Periodontology Foundation. The award is a $36,000, three-year fellowship to encourage periodontal clinicians to pursue an academic career.

With the latest grant, Ioannidou hopes to look at a treatment for periodontal disease and see whether it improves the health of those with chronic kidney disease.

"After we provide the treatment, we'll examine study participants for markers for inflammation and nutrition to see if their health or well being improves," she says. The multidisciplinary research project brings together periodontology, nephrology, and behavioral sciences.

Ioannidou teaches and mentors both pre- and post-doctoral students: Drs. Eric Choudhury and Dongha Oh, residents in periodontics, are working on the project as part of their Master's of Dental Science training, and Hisham Rifaey, a fourth-year dental student, is working with Ioannidou on a systematic review and meta-analysis of the prevalence of periodontal disease in chronic kidney disease patients.

Chronic kidney disease is a growing health problem in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control, affecting nearly 17 percent of adults over the age of 20.

Carbon nanotubes *continued from page 1*

The more luminescent the nanotube, the brighter it appears under infrared irradiation or by electrical excitation (such as that provided by a light-emitting diode or LED). Carbon nanotube emissions are not only extremely sharp, but they also appear in a spectral region where minimal absorption or scattering by soft tissue takes place, making them ideal for medical imaging, Papadimitrakopoulos says.

Increasing the luminescence efficiency of carbon nanotubes may someday make it possible for doctors to inject patients with microscopic nanotubes to detect tumors, arterial blockages, and other internal problems. Rather than relying on potentially harmful X-rays or the use of radioactive dyes, physicians could simply scan patients with an infrared light that would capture the luminescence of the nanotubes in problem areas in very sharp resolution.

Carbon nanotubes also have properties that make them ideally suited for near-infrared emitters, Papadimitrakopoulos says, making them appropriate for applications in homeland security as bio-reporting agents in the case of terrorist attacks and as nano-sized beacons.

Their luminescence also allows them to readily integrate with silicon-based technology. This provides an enormous repertoire for nanotube use in advanced fiber optics components, infrared light modulators, and biological sensors.

The key to the discovery was a flavin-based (Vitamin B2) helical wrapping that formed an especially tight and seamless barrier around the nanotube. Working closely with Papadimitrakopoulos in discovering the wrapping process were Sang-Yong Ju, a graduate student in the Polymer Program (now a researcher at Cornell University), and William Kopcha, a former undergraduate in chemistry in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences who is now a first-year graduate student here.

The Center for Science and Technology Commercialization (CSTC) is assisting Papadimitrakopoulos in obtaining a patent for the process.

In addition, Xiao-Ming Xu, a graduate student in the Department of Pharmaceutics under the supervision of Professor Diane Burgess, created a computerized animation of the wrapping process that has allowed Papadimitrakopoulos to receive international media attention for the discovery. The animation can be found at: http://www.ims.uconn.edu/~papadim/research.htm

This is the second major nanotube discovery at UConn by Papadimitrakopoulos in the past two years. Last year, Papadimitrakopoulos, Sang-Yong Ju, and other UConn researchers patented a way to isolate certain carbon nanotubes from others by using a similar method of wrapping a form of vitamin B2 around the nanotubes. It was out of that research that Papadimitrakopoulos and Sang-Yong Ju began wrapping nanotubes with helical assemblies and probing their luminescence properties.

Avery Point Campus to collect data for global environmental study

by Michael Kirk

UConn's Avery Point Campus will be one site in a global environmental study designed to collect pollution readings from points throughout the world for the Global Atmospheric Passive Sampling (GAPS) Network. The network and the study are backed by the United Nations and are being carried out by Environment Canada – the Canadian meteorological service.

A free-standing dome-shaped device called a passive air sampler was placed at Avery Point in February. It requires no electricity and minimal maintenance, so that in addition to developed areas such as Connecticut, it can be placed in remote locations that normally would be difficult to sample. The network will provide valuable pollution data for climate scientists.

Penny Vlahos, an assistant professor of marine sciences and chemistry at Avery Point, was instrumental in the campus being selected as one of the collection points.

"This technology will not only contribute to a global study on existing pollution levels around the world, but can also give us a great deal of information about the air quality right here in Connecticut and over Long Island Sound," she says.

The air sampler will be located at Avery Point for the next several years, and samples will be collected at three-month intervals

The GAPS network began in December 2004 and includes more than 60 sites on all seven continents.

Photo supplied by Penny Vlahos

Penny Vlahos, assistant professor of marine sciences and chemistry.

The device contains a compound that determines the level of contaminants, such as pesticides, in the air, with the goal of investigating concentrations of persistent organic pollutants in the atmosphere.

"Part of what this will do is fill in the gaps in information that existed previously because of the logistical difficulty in measuring pollutants in places with less infrastructure," says Vlahos.

The study will also measure emerging pollutants, such as new organic compounds that are introduced into global markets or their breakdown products that may also persist in the environment and accumulate in living organisms.

"This will enable us to have a fuller, more accurate picture of earth's pollution levels," says Vlahos, "and to take appropriate action in the management of persistent organic pollutants."

Social work researchers studying relief efforts for Iraqi refugees

BY SHERRY FISHER

Despite its small size and fragile economy, Jordan hosts about half a million forced migrants and refugees who have fled Iraq since the United States-led war began in 2003, according to the United Nations.

Researchers Kathryn Libal and Scott Harding, both assistant professors in the School of Social Work, say the media have focused on U.S. military casualties and other costs of the war in Iraq, and the success of the "surge" of U.S. troops in the past year, while the displacement crisis has been largely ignored.

"This humanitarian crisis – both inside and outside of Iraq – has long-term consequences for Iraq and neighboring countries," Harding says. "If you're concerned about stability and so-called security of the region, it's important to understand that Jordan and Syria can't absorb large numbers of people who don't have a means to provide for themselves. And if you have generations of young Iraqis who aren't in school learning a trade, that poses societal and potential security issues."

Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon have the largest numbers of Iraqi refugees.

Libal and Harding are studying refugee relief efforts provided by international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), UN agencies, and the U.S. government to help develop insights into the evolving nature of humanitarian support for these refugee populations.

Harding says little attention has been paid to the roles these organizations play in shaping and sustaining refugee services in Jordan.

PHOTO SUPPLIED BY KATHRYN LIBAL

Scott Harding, left, and Kathryn Libal in Amman, Jordan, where they are studying the Iraqi refugee population.

Since 2006, the two researchers have been conducting research to identify the ways in which services are being provided to Iraqi refugees in Jordan. They conducted interviews in the U.S. with NGOs and human rights groups, and then in Jordan, interviewing representatives of organizations working on humanitarian issues.

"We thought that some of the established humanitarian organizations would have a much more visible presence there," Libal says. "We thought they'd be providing a lot of services to a lot of refugees, but that wasn't the case. There were few refugee camps, because most of the people were urban refugees. A significant number were doctors and medical professionals, which will have a long-term effect on the health and well-being of people living in Iraq."

Iraqi refugees do not have legal refugee status in their host countries, Libal says: "Life is difficult for them. Most will not be granted permission to permanently resettle to the United States or other resettlement countries, and they can't work legally."

Harding says that under pressure from the NGOs and the U.S., during the past year, the Jordanian government has begun allowing Iraqi children to attend public school. But even though the children are now eligible, for a variety of reasons school attendance is uneven. "There's still a fear of being visible, again linked to the issue of not having legal status," he says.

The organizations the two have interviewed say that Jordan and Syria are ill-equipped to handle large populations for a long period of time, says Harding.

Adds Libal, "They're both developing countries. They have their own vulnerable populations, so to absorb another large population makes it even more challenging."

While continuing to examine how NGOs are working to meet the needs of Iraqis on the ground in Jordan and Syria, the researchers are also interested in the work done by these groups in Washington. They've been interviewing resettlement agencies in the U.S. to understand how they're working to help Iraqis settle here.

"We're interested in the struggles they face in this country, and what resources are available to them through agencies and state policies," Libal says.

Harding notes that the NGOs had some success in getting the Bush administration to support the refugee cause: the U.S. set a formal target to admit about 15,000 Iraqis per year over the next five years.

But globally, Iraqi refugees are stymied, he says. "Even though more are registering with the UN to be resettled, there are few who are actually resettled."

Libal says the organizations interviewed say that resettlement will never be a viable option for most Iraqis: "They don't see the world community being willing to take huge numbers of refugees."

Many of the NGOs have said the U.S. President has a key role to play in asserting the importance of addressing refugee and displacement needs, she says: "They've said if the president doesn't take a leadership role, it's very difficult to get other countries to participate in the endeavor."

Harding adds that while there is a debate in social science literature about the role of humanitarian groups, their own research shows that these groups play a vital role: "Because of the pressure and political advocacy of these groups, U.S. policy has changed significantly and the United Nations has done more. Advocacy does work, even on a global level."

Political theorist calls for recognition of environmental human rights

BY SHERRY FISHER

Clean air, water, and soil should be viewed as environmental human rights of present and future generations, according to political science professor Richard Hiskes.

Hiskes, a political theorist, makes this argument in a new book, *The Human Right to a Green Future: Environmental Rights and Intergenerational Justice* (Cambridge University Press).

The book offers a new set of concepts and a new language that melds politics and environmental protection together in an effort to preserve a legacy of clean air, water, and soil.

Hiskes says it presents a new theoretical foundation for human rights as the product of human relationships, and offers an argument for what philosophers call "justice across generations."

"Justice across generations has always been called a logical impossibility," he says, "because justice is about reciprocity, and how can you have reciprocity with people who don't exist?

"It's an involved argument, but I say that environmental human rights, by their nature, are forward looking; they involve protecting the future," Hiskes says. "And if human rights are about relationships, and we view those rights as the rights of people we care about, then we should protect the environmental rights of our own future generations."

Hiskes says countries around the world should amend their constitutions to add an environmental human right that would have legal standing in court.

"I argue for the incorporation into the U.S. Constitution and all other constitutions around the world a new right, an environmental human right, which would cover future generations," he says. "It makes sense to do this, because constitutions are cultural and political artifacts that are multigenerational."

But, he says, that idea is controversial, because human rights are supposed to be universal, not national.

"I'm saying it's difficult for people to care about the human rights of anybody who is not close to them, whether it's in another country or somewhere else in time," Hiskes says. "It's hard to care about the environmental human rights of people who aren't alive yet, who are going to be living on the other side of the globe. But we need to find a new avenue for caring that allows us to think about such a global issue as the health of the environment in a close-to-home kind of way."

Environmental human rights, and all human rights, depend on countries around the world reaching consensus about what human rights mean, Hiskes says.

"At the moment, that's not happening," he says. "Cultures are very diverse, but what every culture has, that it shares with every other culture, is a vivid sense of its own future generations. If you could build, in every society, a sentiment to protect the environmental rights of its own future generations, not only would that go a long way to protect the global environment, but it would be a foundation on which to build a global consensus on human rights."

According to Hiskes, who is editor of the *Journal of Human Rights* and associate director of the Human Rights Institute, environmentalism, for the most part, has failed.

"Thousands of species are disappearing annually, the air isn't getting better globally, and being good stewards or moral people isn't enough," he says. "We need a language, a set of concepts that are going to stand up in court."

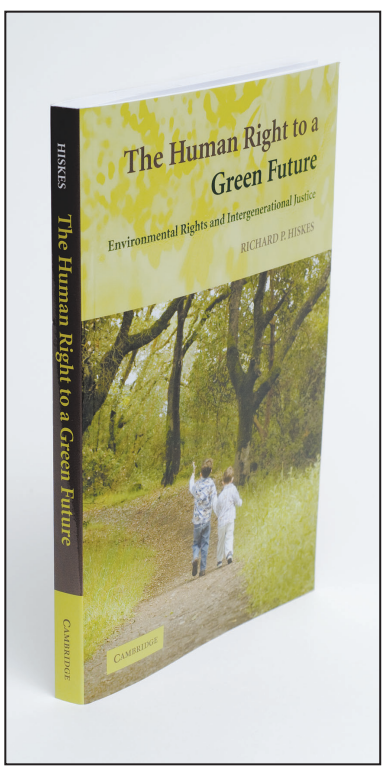

PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

The Human Right to a Green Future, a new book by Richard Hiskes.

Tibetan monks around a sand mandala they created at the UConn Health Center.

Photo supplied by UConn Health Center

GRANTS

The following grants were received through the UConn Health Center's Office of Grants and Contracts in December 2008. The list represents new awards as well as continuations. The list of grants is supplied to the *Advance* by the Office of Grants and Contracts.

Federal Grants

Principal	Department	Sponsor	Amount	Award Period
Babor, T.	Community Medicine & Health	National Institute on Alcohol Abuse & Alcoholism	$261,910	01/06-10/09
Delphi Evaluation of Alcohol Advertising Codes				
Das, D.	Surgery	National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute	$333,000	12/08-11/09
Transgenic Knockout Animals in Myocardial Preservation				
LeFrancois, L.	Immunology	National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases	$370,000	12/08-11/09
T Cell Response to Listeria Monocytogenes Infection				
McCullough, L.	Neuroscience	National Institute of Neurological Disorders & Stroke	$291,375	12/07-11/09
Gender Differences in Ischemic Cell Death				
Morse, T.	Medicine	Centers for Disease Control & Prevention	$221,105	09/08-08/09
Characteristics of Effective Job Health and Safety Committees				
Rodionov, V.	Cell Biology	National Institute of General Medical Sciences	$253,080	12/06-11/09
Regulation of Intracellular Transport				
Setlow, P.	Molecular, Microbial & Structural Biology	U.S. Army	$88,490	09/06-11/08
Mechanisms of the Killing & Development of Spores of Bacillus Species				

Private Grants

Abu-Hasaballah, K.	Psychiatry	Yale Univ.	$2,448	09/05-08/09
The Temporal Relationship of Partner Violence & Drug Abuse				
Andemarian, B.	Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center	Hospital for Special Care	$14,960	10/07-06/08
CT Sickle Cell Consortium Lifespan Approach for Education, Care and Support				
Blinov, M.	Center for Cell Analysis	Univ. of New Mexico	$26,000	06/08-05/09
Computational Tools for Rule-Based Modeling of Biochemical Systems				
Bona, R.	Medicine	Brigham & Women's Hospital	$11,086	08/08-08/09
Cooperative Agreement on Behalf of Boston Hemophilia Center				
Borda, A.	Immunology	Cancer Research Institute	$50,000	11/08-11/09
Towards a Transcriptome-Based Personalized Immunotherapy of Cancers				
Brenner, B.	Surgery	National Surgical Adjuvant Breast & Bowel Project	$50	06/95-05/09
NSABP Breast Cancer Prevention Trial DHHS P5400-5425				
Brenner, B.	Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center	National Surgical Adjuvant Breast & Bowel Project	$6,900	02/97-01/09
NSABP Breast and Bowel Cancer Treatment DHHS BCO107-185				
Epstein, P.	Cell Biology	Smart Family Foundation	$50,000	01/09-12/09
Inhibition of Breast Cancer Metastasis by Activation of CAMP Signaling				
Ferrer, F.	Pediatrics	CT Children's Medical Center	$68,187	09/05-06/09
Sphingolipid Signaling in Wilm's Tumors				
Ferrer, F.	Pediatrics	CT Children's Medical Center	$98,200	10/06-10/09
Solid Tumor Research – Seraph 2006				
Fifield, J.	Ethel Donaghue TRIPP Center	CT Health Foundation	$178,414	07/07-06/09
Strategic Planning for Health Information Technology in Community Health Organizations				
Fong, G.	Center for Vascular Biology	American Heart Association	$66,000	07/06-06/09
Role of HIF-Specific Prolyl Hydroxylase PHD2 in Heart Development				
Guha, A.	Ethel Donaghue TRIPP Center	Mercer Univ.	$119,316	07/08-05/09
The Church Based Diabetes Prevention and Translation Study-2 (CBDPT-2)				
Laurencin, C.	Orthopaedics	Stevens Institute of Technology	$41,106	08/08-07/09
Novel Structured Nanofibrous Scaffolds for Bone Health				
Lorenzo, J.	Medicine	Yale Univ.	$23,327	01/08-08/09
Control of Osteogenesis and Adipogenesis by EBF				
Olmstead, T.	Pat & Jim Calhoun Cardiology Center	Yale Univ.	$8,335	07/08-05/09
Effectiveness of Motivational Interviewing Supervision in Community Programs				

State Grants

Ungemack, J.	Community Medicine & Health	CT Department of Children & Families	$19,320	08/07-10/08
CT State Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment Evaluation Project				

E-mail upgrade *continued from page 1*

Logging on will remain the same, with the same Exchange username and password.

The transition is intended to be seamless. The new application will have a new look and feel, says Katherina Sorrentino, assistant director of UITS, but should not require a learning curve.

Some aspects of the move have been underway during the past few weeks. Those who log in to their e-mail or online calendar from the web may already have noticed that the login screen has changed. These users are also required to designate their computer as public (shared) or private (for individual use), as an additional security measure.

For more information, go to exchange.uconn.edu

Medical students *continued from page 1*

Medical students Erica Hinz, Teresa Doucet, Shan Shan Jiang, and Shubha Venkatesh spent a year planning the event.

"At times, it was very difficult to balance event planning with our school work," says Hinz. "However, we felt it was too important an issue at too critical of a time to give it up. Now this award from AMSA makes all the work even more rewarding."

More than 150 people attended the event, which took place at Real Art Ways in Hartford. Along with artwork and multimedia presentations, speakers included Dr. Laurel Baldwin-Ragaven, a family physician in Hartford and human rights scholar at Trinity College; small business owner Kevin Galvin of Connecticut Commercial Maintenance; and Carlos Rivera, Hartford's director of health and human services. They noted that the event called much-needed attention to a critical issue.

"The oft-quoted statistic that 47 million Americans lack health insurance is perhaps nowhere more apparent than in Hartford," says medical student Doucet. "Approximately 20 percent to 30 percent of residents of the so-called insurance capital of the world are uninsured, and twice as many are underinsured. As medical students, we're doing what we can to raise awareness and advocate for change."

Jiang says, "For us, the event was just the first step. The award reinforces our resolve to take this further. We're focusing on improving not only the health of the individual, but the health of the community in which the individual lives."

The award is named in honor of Paul Wright, executive director emeritus of AMSA. Along with the organization's student leadership, Wright helped AMSA become the nation's largest, independent association of physicians-in-training and a powerful force in advancing the healthcare industry.

CALENDAR Monday, March 23, to Monday, March 30

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 30 through Monday, April 6. Those items must be in the database by 4 p.m. on Monday, March 23.

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**.**
Saturday, 3/28 – Emergency closing class make-up day.
Monday, 3/30 – Last day to drop a course.
Monday, 3/30 – Last day to convert courses on pass/fail option to letter grade option.

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

Friday, 3/27 – Philosophy Department. *Fantasy, Fiction, Forecast,* by Brian Leahy (adv.: Troyer). 4 p.m., Room 227, Manchester Hall.

Lectures & Seminars

Monday, 3/23 – Hascoe Distinguished Physics Lecture. "Generalized Bose-Einstein Condensation and Superflow," by Manuel de Llano, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico. 4 p.m., Room P38, Gant Science Complex.
Tuesday, 3/24 – Stamford Faculty Colloquium. "Mathematical Logic, Postmodernism, and Common Sense," by Richard Watnick. Noon, GE Global Classroom, Stamford Campus.
Tuesday, 3/24 – Physics Lecture. "Superconductors and Neutral-Fermion Superfluids: An Introduction," by Manuel de Llano, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico. 4 p.m., Room P121, Gant Science Complex.
Wednesday, 3/25 – Law School Lecture. "Red Stars and Automatic Gun Emplacements: The European Court of Human Rights in the Post Cold War Era," by James Sweeney, Durham University. Noon, Room 162, Dodd Center.
Wednesday, 3/25 – Rainbow Center Lecture. "GLBTQ Issues in Sport: Locker Room as the Final Closet," by Dan Woog, author. Noon, Room 403, Student Union.
Wednesday, 3/25 – Advanced Ocean Technology Seminar. "The Search for Sensing Rate Cells," by Utkan Demirci, Harvard Medical School and Harvard-MIT Health Sciences and Technology. 3 p.m., Room 103, Marine Sciences Building, Avery Point Campus.
Wednesday, 3/25 – Darwin Bicentennial Seminar. "Karl Popper, Darwinism, and Totalitarianism: Evolutionary Theory and Political Ideology," by John Beatty, University of British Columbia. 4 p.m., Konover Auditorium.
Wednesday, 3/25 – Cognitive Science Colloquium. "Why the Nervous System Crosses," by Marcel Kinsbourne, New School for Social Research. 4 p.m., Room 160, Bousfield Building.
Wednesday, 3/25 – Statistics Colloquium. "On Confidence Interval Approaches for the Difference and the Ratio of Two Normal Means in Adaptive Group Sequential and Self-Designing Clinical Trials," by Guido Knapp, Technische Universitat Dortmund. 4 p.m., Room 344, CLAS Building.
Wednesday, 3/25 – Litchfield County Writers Project Discussion. "Death of a Salesman," with Brenda Murphy and Davyne Verstandig. 6:30 p.m., Hogan Lecture Hall, Torrington Campus.
Wednesday, 3/25 – Global Business Leadership Seminar. "The WTO and Human Rights," by Susan Aaronson, George Washington University. 7 p.m., Konover Auditorium.
Thursday, 3/26 – Comparative Pathology Seminar. "HHV-6; The Emerging Pathogen," by Dharm Ablashi, HHV-6 Foundation. 11 a.m., Room A001, Atwater Laboratories.
Thursday, 3/26 – Center for Health Intervention and Prevention Lecture. "Clinical Virtual Reality: A Brief Review of the Future," by Albert Rizzo, University of Southern California. 12:30 p.m., Room 204, Ryan Refectory.
Thursday, 3/26 – Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Lecture. "Modeling Trait-Based Community Assembly Through Entropy Maximization," by Bill Shipley, Université de Sherbrooke. 4 p.m., Room 130, Biology/Physics Building.
Thursday, 3/26 – Humanitarianism & Human Rights Lecture. Gary Bass, Princeton University, will speak about his book *Freedom's Battle: The Origins of Humanitarian Intervention.* 4:30 p.m., Basement, Wood Hall.
Friday, 3/27 – Day in the Humanities. *Imagining, Writing, Performing Science.* Full day of events, 8:15 a.m.-6:15 p.m. For more information, go to http://www.humanities.uconn.edu/ or call 860-486-9057.
Friday, 3/27 – Environmental Engineering Seminar. "Toxicity of Carbon Nonotubes to the Activated Sludge Process: Protective Ability of Extracellular Polymeric Substances," by Jackie Zhang, University of Massachusetts Lowell. Noon, Room 212, Castleman Building.
Friday, 3/27 – Marine Sciences Seminar. "Ocean Color Studies," by Tim Moore, University of New Hampshire. 3 p.m., Room 103, Marine Sciences Building, Avery Point Campus.
Friday, 3/27 – Physics Colloquium. "The Student-Centered Active Learning Environment for Undergraduate Programs Project," by Robert Beichner, North Carolina State University. 3 p.m., Room IMS20, Gant Science Complex.
Friday, 3/27 – Linguistics Colloquium. "Quantifier Lowering Reconsidered," by Howard Lasnik, University of Maryland. 4:30 p.m., Room 311, Arjona Building.

Exhibits

Monday, 3/23 through Friday, 4/3 – Student Union Gallery. *S.H.A.P.E.* Body image art exhibit. Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Opening reception Wednesday, 3/25, 7 p.m.
Thursday, 3/26 through Wednesday, 5/6 – Health Center. *Small Towns, Car Shows and Gardens on My Days off,* works by April Aldighieri. Daily, 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Main and Mezzanine Lobbies. Also, through Wednesday, 4/15, *Art as a Healing Process,* pastels by Rozanne Hauser, and *Moments in Time,* pastels by James Sheehy. Daily, 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Celeste LeWitt Gallery.

Photo supplied by UConn Health Center

A work by April Aldighieri from the *Small Towns, Car Shows and Gardens on My Days Off* exhibit, opening this week at the Health Center.

Through Friday, 4/10 – Jorgensen Gallery. *Beyond a Boundary,* exhibits by Michael Gellatly, Adam Niklewica, and Kevin Van Aelst. Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Through Friday, 4/10 – Contemporary Art Galleries. *Simultaneous Contrast,* works by Peter Waite. Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Fine Arts Building. Free admission.
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, all others $3 donation. Avery Point Campus.
Through Sunday, 5/10 – Benton Museum. *Anatomically Correct: Medical Illustrations, 1543-2008,* prints, drawings, computer graphics and animation from several artists. Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday, 1-4:30 p.m.
Through Friday, 5/15 – Babbidge Library. *Portraits in Glass*, by Debbie Tarsitano, Gallery on the Plaza; *Connecticut Wilderness,* sculptures & mixed media installations by Randall Nelson, Stevens Gallery and West Alcove. For hours see Libraries section.
Through Friday, 5/15 – Dodd Center. *Indigenous Voices,* Aztec, Mayan and Incan codices; Also through Monday,4/20, *Transitional Spaces in Post-Soviet Estonia,* photos by Sarah Rhodin, West Corridor. For hours see Libraries section. Gallery talk and lecture Monday, 3/24 by Sarah Rhodin, 4 p.m.
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

Wednesday, 3/25 and Thursday, 3/26 – History of Science Performance. *Manya: A Living History of Marie Curie.* 3/25, 5:30 p.m., Keller Auditorium, UConn Health Center; 3/26, 7:30 p.m., Nafe Katter Theatre.
Thursday, 3/26 – Ballet. *Cinderella: Russian National Ballet.* 7 p.m., Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets $25, $27, $30. For tickets and information, call 860-486-4226.
Thursday, 3/26 through Sunday, 4/5 – Puppet Arts Production. *Icarus,* directed by Stefano Brancato. Harriet Jorgensen Theatre. For performance times and tickets, call 860-486-4226. Tickets $11-$29.
Saturday, 3/28 – Opera Theater. Gary Durham, stage director, and Matthew Larsen, musical director. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Admission $7, students and children free.
Sunday, 3/29 – Chamber Music Festival Concert. Ani Kavafian,violinist and Daejin Kim, pianist, with Theodore Arm, violinist, and Kangho Lee, cellist. 3 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Admission $13, free with UConn ID or festival registration.
Sunday, 3/29 – Student Recital. Matt Swartz, piano. 7 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Free admission.

Film

Monday, 3/23 – Women's Center Film. *Beauty Mark,* with Diane Israel, executive producer. 7 p.m., Konover Auditorium.
Thursday, 3/26 – Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center Film & Discussion. *La Americana.* 5 p.m., Room 438, Student Union.
Thursday, 3/26 – Women's Center Film. *Tim Wise on White Privilege: Racism, White Denial and the Costs of Inequality.* 6 p.m., Room 421, Student Union.

Athletics

Monday, 3/23 – Women's Lacrosse vs. Holy Cross. 4 p.m., Sherman Family Sports Complex.
Tuesday, 3/24 – Men's Baseball vs. Holy Cross. 3 p.m., J.O. Christian Field.
Friday, 3/27 – Women's Tennis vs. Seton Hall. 2 p.m., Tennis Courts.
Friday, 3/27 – Men's Baseball vs. South Florida. 3 p.m., J.O. Christian Field.
Friday, 3/27 – Women's Lacrosse vs. Cincinnati. 4 p.m., Sherman Family Sports Complex.
Saturday, 3/28 – Women's Tennis vs. Cincinnati. 11 a.m., Tennis Courts.
Saturday, 3/28 – Softball vs. DePaul. Noon and 2 p.m., Softball Field.
Saturday, 3/28 – Men's Baseball vs. South Florida. 1 p.m., J.O. Christian Field.
Sunday, 3/29 – Women's Lacrosse vs. Louisville. Noon, Sherman Family Sports Complex.
Sunday, 3/29 – Softball vs. Syracuse. Noon & 2 p.m., Softball Field.
Monday, 3/30 – Men's Baseball vs. Massachusetts. 3 p.m., J.O. Christian Field.

Potpourri

Wednesday, 3/25 – Film Screening and Poetry Reading. Screening of *In Praise of the Earth,* followed by readings from *Mount Toby Poems,* by Wally Swist, author. 4 p.m. UConn Co-op Conference Room.
Thursday, 3/26 – Health Center Event. Health, Safety, and Environment Fair. 6:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Food Court, Onyiuke Dining Room, and Keller Auditorium Lobby, UConn Health Center.
Thursday, 3/26 – Multiphysics Modeling Workshop. "Learn-by-doing," 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Room 138, Information Technologies Engineering Building. To register, go to http://www.comsol.com/events/cmmw/6480/.
Thursday, 3/26 – Author Reading. *Writers Who Edit, Editors Who Write,* Meghan O'Rourke, poet, critic, and editor. 4 p.m., UConn Co-op.
Sunday, 3/29 – Museum of Natural History Workshop. "Life Without a Supermarket – Native American Foodways," by Mary Harper, Public Archaeology Survey Team Inc. 1 p.m. Adults and children age 6 and over; children must be accompanied by an adult. Admission fee: $25 Museum of Natural History members, $20 non-members. Call 860-486-4460 for more information.

Psychologist's book examines harmful effects of AIDS denialism

BY BETH KRANE

"HIV is not sexually transmitted." "HIV does not cause AIDS." "Anti-retroviral medications are poison."

These are the varied claims of a small, yet growing and dangerous, group of AIDS denialists Seth Kalichman exposes in a new, popular press book, *Denying AIDS: Conspiracy Theories, Pseudoscience, and Human Tragedy.*

"This book doesn't aim to refute the AIDS denialist movement. The science of HIV/AIDS is established fact," says Kalichman, a professor of social psychology at UConn. "This is a psychological autopsy of AIDS denialism, a rare look inside the movement's wacky and destructive world."

Denying AIDS is the first book to offer an American perspective on AIDS denialism and to examine its harmful influence on some of the countries hardest hit by the epidemic. In addition to "diving into the world of AIDS denialism" through books, magazines, and the Internet, Kalichman corresponded and conversed with proponents of AIDS denialism to gain insights into the movement.

AIDS denialism, he writes, is akin to global warming denialism, Holocaust denial, the 9/11 Truth Movement, and other forms of denialism, in that it uses "myths, misconceptions, and misinformation to distort and refute reality and create the appearance of legitimate scientific debate."

Most scientists are surprised to learn that AIDS denialists still exist, according to Kalichman. AIDS denialism, however, is a growing problem, and it is propped up by AIDS "pseudo science" circulating largely on the Internet through web sites, blogs, and even pseudo-scientific journals made to look like their legitimate, peer-reviewed counterparts.

Creating the illusion of credibility are a small group of professors with ties to well regarded universities, supportive articles in mainstream media outlets such as *Harper's Magazine,* and celebrity endorsements, such as from the popular rock band The Foo Fighters, Kalichman writes.

Nicoli Nattrass, a South African AIDS activist, researcher, and author, writes in the foreword to *Denying AIDS:* "There is a real risk that a new generation of Americans could be persuaded that HIV does not exist or is harmless, that safe sex is not important, and that they do not need to protect their children from this deadly virus. A resurgence of denialism in the United States would have far-reaching effects on the global AIDS pandemic, just as it already has in South Africa."

Two other recent studies also underscore the harmful influence of AIDS denialism:

A 2008 Harvard University study used mathematical modeling to determine that 365,000 South Africans died as a direct result of former South African president Thabo Mbeki's refusal to provide antiretroviral medications to treat HIV-positive patients and to prevent pregnant women from infecting their babies. Mbeki became an AIDS denialist after exposure to American denialists through the Internet.

A 2007 study by researchers at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that 40 percent of gay men surveyed in four major U.S. cities agreed with the statement "HIV does not cause AIDS," despite the fact that gay men are regarded as one of the best educated populations with regard to HIV and AIDS.

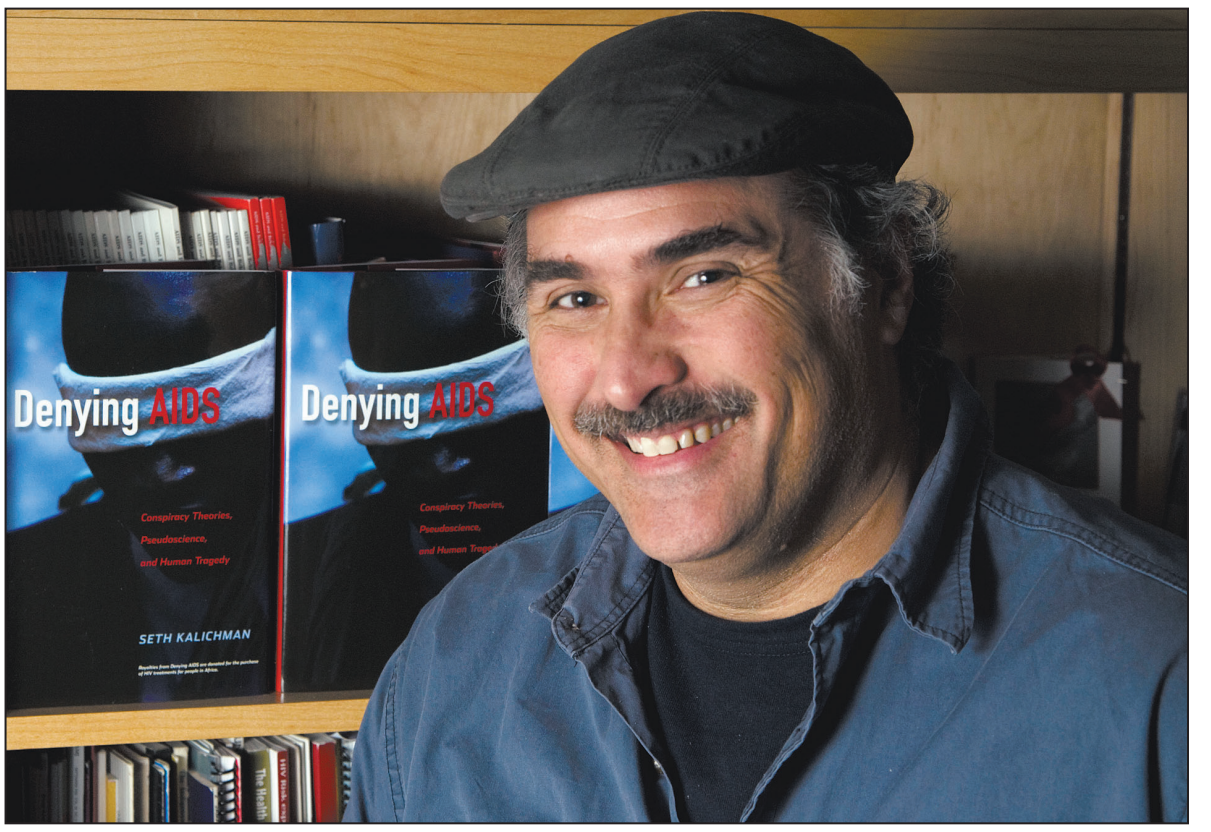

PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMEYER

Seth Kalichman, professor of social psychology, with copies of his new book, *Denying AIDS.*

Kalichman shines a light on the erroneous reasoning and unscientific approaches of AIDS denialists and explains how the denialists nevertheless gain ground. They are masters of rhetorical devices and focus on communicating with the general public. Scientists, by contrast, tend to communicate better with each other than with the general public.

Denying AIDS, a trade book published by Copernicus Books/Springer Science and written with a science journalist as a coach, seeks to reverse that trend.

In his final chapter, Kalichman offers tips for evaluating the claims of AIDS denialists, including: avoid falling into "single-study fallacies;" consider where information is published and how dated it is; don't give credibility to information simply because it sounds technical; and use common sense.

"Think about the gay men who never used drugs, who had been perfectly healthy and died of AIDS before there were antiretroviral medications …," he writes. "Think about Africa. Is there any rationality in saying that AIDS is caused by poverty, when some of the most impoverished countries in the world have no AIDS while southern Africa's richest country has among the largest AIDS problems? Blaming AIDS on drug abuse, HIV treatments, and poverty is an affront to every person living with the disease."

When he is not delving into the world of AIDS denialism, Kalichman, a principal investigator at UConn's Center for Health, Intervention and Prevention (CHIP) and director of the Southeast HIV/AIDS Research and Evaluation Project (SHARE), conducts HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment research in Atlanta and South Africa.

He is donating the proceeds from *Denying AIDS* to the Family Treatment Fund, administered by Massachusetts General Hospital, to purchase antiretroviral medications for people living with HIV/AIDS in Africa.

Stamford Campus gallery displaying works by faculty, students

PHOTO SUPPLIED BY GUIDO GARAYCOCHEA

"I Always Look for My Paradise," a painting by Guido Garaycochea, adjunct professor of art and art history, from the exhibit *Celebrating Talent in the Year of Science* at the Stamford Campus Art Gallery.

An exhibition of paintings, photographs, and drawings by regional campus students, staff and faculty in celebration of the Year of Science is on display at the Stamford Campus Art Gallery through April 8.

There will be a public reception on Saturday, April 4, 1 to 3 pm.

The exhibition features the paintings of Guido Garaycochea, a professor of art and art history at the Avery Point Campus.

"I work with icons that I have created mostly on my own, sometimes using gold as an expression of our external-internal struggle between our many different selves, our private and our own ambiguity," says Garaycochea. "In my work there is always a tension between different parts of the design. Trying to express the internal contradiction that is always life is why I mostly paint just mere insinuations of bodies in constant transformation. Bodies and organic forms that are, even after I finish my paintings, in a constant transformation like in our memories after things happen. Those organic forms are always looking for a reality inside another reality which is itself a contradiction."

Also included in the exhibit are algorithms by Sandra DeLozier Coleman, adjunct professor of mathematics at the Avery Point Campus, and botanicals by Diane Barcelo, adjunct professor of art and art history at Avery Point. Students from Chile, Germany, Ukraine, and the United States also contributed to this show.

The Stamford Campus Art Gallery supports the University's educational mission by stimulating active learning and dialogue about the arts and the creative process and aims to attract artists and members of the community to high caliber exhibitions and programs.

The Gallery is located on the Concourse level of the campus, at the intersection of Broad Street and Washington Boulevard. Free parking is available on the second floor of the UConn Stamford Campus Washington Boulevard garage.

For more information about the exhibition, go to www.stamford.uconn.edu and click on art gallery, or call 203-251-8541.