



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Middle school students compete at chess during the Connecticut Scholastic and Open State Championships, sponsored by the School of Engineering with the Connecticut State Chess Association and the UConn Chess Club.

Additional 2 percent of current state appropriation rescinded

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

Gov. M. Jodi Rell has rescinded another 2 percent from the University's current state appropriation, bringing this year's total rescission to 5 percent, the maximum the governor is permitted by law.

The newest cut amounts to about a \$6 million reduction in state support for the University, and is in addition to the rescission the governor imposed earlier this year, which reduced state support by \$12.1 million.

The 2 percent rescission is calculated based on the state appropriation for the year. Coming at the beginning of the fourth quarter of the fiscal year, it amounts to an 8 percent reduction in the last quarter allotment.

The additional rescission comes after the Board of Trustees set tuition for next fall. The board approved a 6 percent tuition increase rather than the 8.6 percent alternative.

"It will be challenging for the University to adjust to this reduction in state support because it comes so late in the fiscal and academic year, after much of the budget

see Further rescission page 2

Three science students win Goldwater Scholarships

BY CINDY WEISS

Three students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences have won prestigious Goldwater Scholarships to further their studies toward doctorates in the sciences.

Michael Abramczyk, a double major in physics and philosophy; Kevin Burgio, an ecology and evolutionary biology major; and Alexander Meeske, a molecular and cell biology major, are among 278 students nationwide who won 2009 Goldwater awards.

A fourth CLAS student, Rory Coleman, a molecular and cell biology major, won honorable mention.

The four students were UConn's four permitted entries in the national competition.

"I knew we had a strong applicant pool, and I'm thrilled they were recognized," says Jill Deans, director of the Office of National

Scholarships at UConn, who shepherded the applications.

The Goldwater awards were established by Congress in 1986 in honor of former Senator Barry Goldwater to encourage outstanding students to pursue careers in mathematics, the natural sciences, and engineering.

The one- and two-year scholarships of up to \$7,500 per year are considered the premier undergraduate award in these fields. Winners often go on to win Rhodes Scholarships and Marshall Awards.

This year, other schools with three Goldwater winners include California Institute of Technology, the University of Florida, Oberlin College, Northwestern University,

see Goldwater Scholars page 5

University adopting new policy on graduate student tuition

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

The University will implement a policy of charging 60 percent of allowable in-state tuition for graduate students to grants that support the stipends for students assigned to them.

The policy will be effective with new grant proposals and renewals submitted after July 1, Provost Peter J. Nicholls announced recently.

Budgeting partial tuition on all grants that permit such charges is expected to result in revenue of up to \$2.5 million, which will be used to support research programming, Nicholls says.

The policy will be reviewed in summer 2012.

"I have engaged in discussion with mem-

bers of the Senate Executive Committee as to the amount of a tuition charge and the method of its calculation," says Nicholls. "We have had a good exchange and recognition of each other's point of view that has enabled me to shape a reasonable policy."

Nicholls says the policy brings the University into conformity with the practice at most other major research institutions and is necessary in light of state budget cuts.

"Taking into account the very serious fiscal challenges that the University faces in the immediate future, I have decided we must implement a policy of recouping a portion of tuition from grants," he says.

Nicholls will work with the University Senate's Executive Committee on the

see Graduate tuition page 7



3 Humanities Day



4 Visiting surgeon



5 CAREER award

Inside



PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

Members of the Women's Rowing Team push off from the dock at the boathouse on Coventry Lake in their new racing shell, named in honor of retired psychology professor Sam Witryol.

New rowing shell named for psychology professor

The UConn women's rowing team has honored Professor Sam Witryol by naming their new Pock racing shell after him.

The shell, now named *Witryol's Wake, Professor Sam*, is being rowed by the varsity eight this spring. Witryol participated in a ceremony naming the new boat at halftime of a men's basketball game in December, in front of the rowing team and a crowd of nearly 10,000 people.

"Sam has been a supporter and friend to UConn rowing for many years," says rowing head coach Jennifer Sanford-Wendry. "It's a nice connection to be able to name a boat after a UConn professor to show the important tie between academics and athletics. And the ceremony during halftime of a basketball game gave our program and student-athletes some nice recognition. Most people couldn't help but stop and watch, as the 60-foot shell was brought out onto the court by the team."

Witryol has been a fixture on

the UConn campus since he arrived in Storrs in 1949. He was born and raised in Syracuse, N.Y., and earned his undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degrees from Syracuse University.

He came to UConn to teach psychology in the graduate program, and became an undergraduate professor in 1959.

Witryol started the child psychology program at UConn, which has developed into one of the country's finest in that discipline. He is considered an expert in the development of curiosity in children.

He retired as a full-time professor in 1992, but still teaches one course each semester. He is now in his 60th consecutive year of teaching at UConn.

He took a keen interest in UConn women's athletics from their inception, and has developed a strong camaraderie with the women's coaches and their student-athletes.

Further rescission *continued from page 1*

has already been encumbered," says University President Michael Hogan.

"UConn is not like other executive branch entities, which are primarily administrative agencies," Hogan says. "Rather, UConn operates in a competitive environment where our constituencies, including students and faculty, have a choice whether or not to come to UConn. Our services must be provided seven days a week on a 24 hour-a-day basis."

In addition, the University continues to experience record enrollments and now has 29,400 students, 12,000 of whom reside on campus.

"In the state's current economic environment, even more Connecticut families are depending on a UConn education," Hogan says.

While the governor is within her authority to effectuate the additional rescission, the reality on the University's campuses is that the number of students being provided services will not diminish nor will students' expectations diminish with respect to the range, quality, and duration of those services, he adds.

"UConn students and their families have already paid tuition and fees, in return for which they have a legitimate expectation that their educational and related services will continue throughout the academic year. These services

include instruction, academic support, residential and dining, health care, security, and programming," he says.

UConn also is responsible for managing what amounts to a moderate-sized municipality in Storrs. This entails operating police and fire departments, water and waste systems, and utilities. None of these responsibilities can be eliminated, or even reduced.

Many steps have already been taken in response to the earlier rescission, including \$7 million in reductions and revenue enhancements that will be implemented in the next fiscal year, which begins in July. Among the savings identified by the president's Cost, Savings and Revenue Enhancement (CORE) Task Force are those from energy, facilities operations, purchasing, printing, staffing, and voluntary leave reductions.

The University already has cut hours at the Homer Babbidge Library and drastically reduced hours of operation at the Dodd Center and the Benton and Natural History Museums.

In response to the governor's 2 percent rescission and recommendations for state support in the next fiscal year, the University is considering reducing the size of the incoming freshman class, curtailing student recreational opportunities, and reducing the number of dining halls open dur-

ing weekends.

CORE is also preparing to present a report on additional savings in June.

In an e-mail to faculty and staff last week, the president said, "The cuts will be very challenging for us to absorb, but I am confident in our ability to generate the needed savings or revenue. We've achieved considerable positive results through these efforts and through the innovative and collaborative efforts of department heads, deans, faculty, and staff. I want you to know that I'm very grateful for your efforts and the ideas you've shared with me and the CORE Task Force."

The University will also continue to limit out-of-state travel on state funds, will fill only essential positions, and will limit institutional spending.

"I think it's important to recognize that we will likely need to take further steps to curtail activities and programs that are less central to our core missions of teaching and research," Hogan said in the e-mail. "Each time we must contemplate such actions, it is with sadness and a sense of loss. Every activity adds value to our campus and to our students' experiences; and I know that many of our faculty and staff have worked hard to develop these programs over many years."

Golf tournament May 1 will benefit student fund

BY RICHARD VEILLEUX

The Division of Student Affairs is sponsoring a May Day charity golf tournament to bolster the Students First Fund, a program that offers monetary help to students facing a family or personal emergency.

The Students First Fund Golf Tournament, sponsored by Rockville Bank, will take place May 1 at the Willimantic Country Club. The event features a round of golf in a scramble format, a cart, and buffet lunch. A silent auction will also be held. The fee is \$125, with a portion going to the fund.

"More often than we would like, students find themselves in a challenging situation," says John Saddleire, vice president for student affairs. "Books or laptops are lost

during a flood, they're called away for a family emergency and can't afford the plane fare, a fire destroys their belongings. So many things can happen and, especially in these trying economic times, sometimes neither they nor their family can afford to replace what's lost.

"The Students First Fund is an initiative that makes a positive difference in the lives of students when it is most needed," he adds.

Scott Gallo, who works in the Department of Residential Life and has seen students in need, came up with the idea and is coordinating the tournament.

Players may register as a team or as individuals.

For more information, call Gallo at 860-486-5457 or go to www.dsa.uconn.edu/golf

Correction

Russell Schimmer is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The department name was incorrect in an article in the March 30 *Advance*.

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT Advance

Elizabeth Omara-Otunnu
Editor

Contributing Writers Sherry Fisher, Michael Kirk, Colin Poitras, Mark J. Roy, Richard Veilleux
Health Center Writers Chris DeFrancesco, Maureen McGuire, Carolyn Pennington
Designer Betsy J. Surprenant
Calendar Editor Tracy Maheu
Photo Editor Peter Morenus
Student Photographers Frank Dahlmeyer, Jessica Tommaselli
Manager, Media Communications Karen A. Grava, APR
Manager, Media Relations David Bauman
Proof Reader Sheila Foran

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

Scientists receive state funds to advance stem cell research

BY DAVID BAUMAN

Eleven UConn scientists have received state-funded grant awards totaling \$5.4 million from the Connecticut Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee (SCRAC) to advance embryonic and human adult stem cell research in Connecticut.

Nine of the state grants were awarded to scientists based at the UConn Health Center in Farmington. Two were awarded to researchers at the Storrs campus.

The grants were among a total of nearly \$9.8 million awarded to fund 24 research proposals in the third round of funding issued by the SCRAC, a committee in charge of developing the state's stem cell research grants-in-aid program.

"These grants are further testament to the ground-breaking work in stem cell research that's going on at UConn's Health Center and Storrs campuses," said University President Michael Hogan. "This further investment by the state in our stem cell programs reflects the leadership role that UConn researchers are playing in scientific discovery and state-of-the-art healthcare."

The funding program, approved by the legislature and Gov. Jodi M. Rell in 2005, set aside \$100 million for Connecticut-based embryonic and adult stem cell research through 2015. Stem cells

are the 'building blocks' for every type of cell in the body, capable of maturing into any tissue type, including pancreas, blood, bone, or neuronal cells. Research on stem cells promises to advance human health care by developing innovative cell transplantation therapies for diabetes, cancers, heart and blood diseases, Multiple Sclerosis, and Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases.

The SCRAC previously disbursed \$20 million in 2006 in the first round of competitive grants and \$9.8 million in 2008 in the second round. Including the latest round of grants, the state award program has so far awarded UConn scientists \$20.7 million, with Yale and Wesleyan receiving about \$17.5 million and \$1.4 million, respectively.

For this third round, the SCRAC received 77 requests, seeking more than \$30 million for research projects. UConn and its Health Center submitted 41 of the proposals; Yale University turned in 30, Wesleyan University, the University of Hartford, and Western Connecticut State University each submitted one proposal, as did two small biotech firms based in the state.

The applications were peer reviewed by a separate group of scientists and ranked for the state stem cell panel with respect to the

ethical and scientific merit.

The SCRAC awards four types of grants:

- Seed grants of \$100,000 a year for two years to support early phases of research that is not ready for larger-scale funding.

- Established Investigator grants of up to \$250,000 a year for three years for scientists with a track record of independent research and grant support.

- Group Project grants of up to \$2 million over four years to support coordinated research among several investigators working toward specific goals that are beyond the scope of a single laboratory.

- Core Facility awards intended to establish or maintain centers with the equipment and personnel necessary to operate a core lab that will be made accessible to the state stem cell research community.

In the third round of funding, the SCRAC awarded UConn investigators five seed grants, five established investigator grants, and one core facility grant.

Seed grant recipients are:

Yong Wang, Chemical, Materials, and Biomolecular Engineering, Storrs, "Hybrid Peptide/RNA Molecules for Safe and Efficient Gene Silencing in Human Embryonic Stem Cells," \$200,000.

Srdjan Antic, Neuroscience, Health Center, "Can Natural Neuromodulators Improve the

Generation of Nerve Cells from Human Embryonic Stem Cells?" \$200,000.

Stormy Chamberlain, Genetics & Developmental Biology, Health Center, "A Human Cell Culture Model of Angelman Syndrome for Drug Screening," \$200,000.

Ling-Ling Chen, Genetics & Developmental Biology, Health Center, "Novel Aspects of RNA Editing in Human Embryonic Stem Cells," \$200,000.

April Schumacher, Molecular, Microbial & Structural Biology, Health Center, "Evaluation of Homologous Recombination in Human Embryonic Stem Cells and Stimulation Using Viral Proteins," \$200,000.

Established Investigator grant recipients are:

Dashzeveg Bayarsaihan, Reconstructive Sciences, Health Center, "Williams Syndrome Associated TFII-I factor and Epigenetic Marking-out in Human Embryonic Stem Cells and Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells," \$500,000.

Linda Shapiro, Center for Vascular Biology, Health Center, "Mechanisms of Stem Cell Homing to the Injured Heart," \$500,000.

Zihai Li, Immunology, Health Center, "Therapeutic Differentiation of Regulatory T Cells from Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells for Immune Tolerance," \$500,000.

Theodore Rasmussen, Animal Science and Center for Regenerative Biology, Storrs, Prevention of Spontaneous Differentiation and Epigenetic Compromise of Human Embryonic Stem Cells and Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells," \$500,000.

Alexander Lichtler, Reconstructive Sciences, Health Center, "Reprogramming Fibroblasts into Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells Using mRNA Incorporated in Biodegradable Beads," \$500,000.

Core grant recipients are:
Ren-He Xu, Genetics & Developmental Biology, Health Center, "Continuing and Enhancing the UConn Stem Cell Core Laboratory," \$1.9 million.

"These grants will fuel the research of some of the most creative stem cell scientists in the world, allowing them to pursue significant new directions in stem cell research," said Dr. Marc Lalande, professor and chair of the Department of Genetics and Developmental Biology, associate dean for research planning and coordination at the Health Center, and director of the University's Stem Cell Institute.

"The state-funded core lab is playing a critical role in training stem cell scientists," he added, "and ensuring they are prepared to move basic research findings from the lab to the clinic."

Panel discusses how metaphors aid in understanding science

BY CINDY WEISS

Scientific metaphors are essential to helping non-scientists understand what the technically astute are talking about, but you have to be aware of where their limits are.

That was how Peter Galison, keynote speaker, characterized a panel discussion March 27, during the Day in the Humanities at UConn.

Humanities Day this year focused on "Imagining, Performing, Writing Science" as part of UConn's Year of Science celebration.

Galison, the Joseph Pellegrino University Professor at Harvard, a specialist in the history of science, along with the co-hosts of WNYC's popular Radio Lab program, Jad Abumrad and Robert Krulwich, joined UConn faculty in a panel discussion of how scientific metaphor clears or muddies the waters.

Krulwich, who is also a science correspondent for National Public Radio, earlier told the audience that his aim in interviewing scientists is to get them to explain things so that his cousin, who was glad to escape from her last science class, would understand.

On the Radio Lab show, he said, "We are very careful to take the scientists off their pedestal and



PHOTO BY JESSICA TOMMASSELLI

From left, Jad Abumrad and Robert Krulwich of Radio Lab, Helen Rozwadowski, associate professor of history, and Nancy Naples, professor of sociology, take part in a panel discussion during Humanities Day March 27.

treat them as very cool people – and to poke them."

Scientists themselves have developed telling metaphors about their subjects, some non-scientific panelists pointed out.

Carl Linnaeus, known as the father of taxonomy, sexualized plants, giving them male and female parts and "romanticizing" botany, even though most flowers are hermaphroditic, said Nancy Naples, professor of sociology and

women's studies, who studies the sociology of gender.

Helen Rozwadowski, associate professor of history and coordinator of maritime studies, said that the metaphor of a "frontier" of science became popular after historian Frederick Jackson Turner in 1893 established the significance of the frontier in American history.

Turner linked westward expansion to American independence, democracy, and progress. Once the

West was won, others made science the new frontier for America – ideal because it was endless.

Geneticist Rachel O'Neill, associate professor of molecular and cell biology, cited the array of metaphors used in her field: cracking the code, the genetic roadmap, the book of life, the obesity gene.

The image of cutting up words from a dictionary and blowing them around in the Houston Astrodome for scientists to catch

helps people understand the depth of the information that geneticists have to deal with and the size of the genome, she said.

"I use metaphors daily to relate technical work to society and to students," she said. The placenta becomes a battleground where male and female characteristics fight to dominate. The centromere of the chromosome becomes an elevator, a constant part of the infrastructure no matter what the style of the building.

"I'm describing something no one has ever seen," she said of genes and DNA. "I don't know any other way of doing that except metaphors."

The images that metaphors bring to mind can, in a sense, make scientists "the Picasso or Cezanne of your trade," particularly for concepts that are hard to imagine, said NPR's Krulwich.

"If you could be the author of the protein image that survived – that would be like coming up with Pluto or Goofy or Mickey Mouse."

Matthew Proser, emeritus professor of English, summed up the discussion: "This metaphorical life inter-relates the arts and the sciences. [It is] the rhetoric we're forced to use in order to make apprehensible a point."

Visiting dental surgeon from Nigeria works with Health Center faculty



PHOTO BY IZABELA RAK

Dr. Ozoemene Obuekwe, center, with Drs. Ellen Eisenberg and Easwar Natarajan

BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

Call it a “knowledge exchange” between the UConn Health Center’s oral pathologists and an oral and maxillofacial surgeon from Africa.

For the past four months, Dr. Ozoemene Obuekwe, dean of the University of Benin’s dental school in Benin City, Nigeria, was a visiting faculty member at the UConn

School of Dental Medicine.

“For someone to come from so far away to spend this kind of immersion time is a very rare thing, especially since Dr. Obuekwe is in a different specialty,” says Dr. Ellen Eisenberg, chair of the Section of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology.

Obuekwe says, “As an academic, one hopes that there will be a point in your career where you can step

out to see what others are doing, to share knowledge and to gain insights. Having had the chance to spend time with the oral pathologists, immersed in what they do on a daily basis, it is obvious that our respective specialty areas do go hand-in-hand.”

Most of Obuekwe’s time was spent with Eisenberg and Dr. Easwar Natarajan, an assistant pro-

fessor in the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology. Eisenberg says Dr. Obuekwe contacted her via e-mail more than a year ago, asking if he could take a sabbatical with her, after Eisenberg’s writing and role as section editor for pathology for the *Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery* caught his attention.

“I felt that shadowing Dr. Eisenberg and her associate, Dr. Easwar Natarajan, would be a valuable experience for me as an oral and maxillofacial surgeon, and that this interactive time would give me a fresh perspective about my own work,” Obuekwe says. “This has improved my understanding of the basis of oro-facial diseases and their diagnoses.”

A surgeon’s perspective

“Dr. Ozo,” as he became known at the Health Center, attended didactic sessions and clinical pathological conferences, and spent time in the dental clinics and at the microscope observing and assisting the pathologists in solving diagnostic problems.

“It’s good to get a surgeon’s perspective on the approach to treating various diseases and also their approach to obtaining diagnoses,” says Eisenberg.

Obuekwe also sat in on seminars with oral surgery residents, and spent time with them in their clinics and operating rooms, where, he says, he learned new techniques and contemporary

approaches to practice in the field of oral and maxillofacial surgery.

It was Obuekwe’s first visit to the United States.

“In Nigeria, the access to dental care could be better,” Obuekwe says. “This is partly due to fewer dentists per capita and limited health insurance. Part of what I intended to share with UConn is to bring another, very different perspective concerning the treatment of patients with oral-maxillofacial diseases.”

Eisenberg says she learned from Obuekwe, too. “He understands what’s happening at the tissue level, what makes something look the way it does or behave the way it does. He’s also aware that there are certain conditions he doesn’t usually see or treat because he’s a surgeon, but we’ve seen them and have our own approach to their diagnosis and management.”

Obuekwe hopes that his stint as a visiting faculty member at the UConn Health Center represents the beginning of a long-term relationship between the dental schools at UConn and the University of Benin.

“The most important realization to take back is that truly, the world has become a global village,” Obuekwe says. “The era of being cocooned in your locality is over. There is much to learn from each other.”

Researcher seeks to improve health of underserved communities

BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

He’s made a career of becoming involved in poor, urban communities, securing grants to conduct public health research, and establishing community-run institutions and programs to benefit those communities after he leaves.

It goes back to the late 1960s, when anthropologist Stephen Schensul, then with the University of Illinois’ Westside Community Mental Health Program, started studying and participating in the development of Chicago’s Mexican-American community.

He joined the UConn Health Center faculty in 1976.

Today, as director of the Center for International Community Health Studies in the UConn School of Medicine’s Department of Community Medicine and Health Care, Schensul’s vision remains the same, but has an international reach.

For most of this decade, his focus has been on preventing the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases in urban India, most recently among married women in Mumbai. His work involves traveling there an average of three times a year, for two to four weeks at a time, through 2013.

“I’ve tried to work collaborative-

ly with people in the communities where I’ve worked, so that the research could be of benefit first to them, and then to the general discipline, and then to policy and program developers and the public health disciplines,” Schensul says. “Research results can then be used by the community to advocate for its needs and for institution-building in the communities.”

The research that Schensul initiated in the 1970s is the foundation on which two Hartford health institutions were built.

His work with Hartford’s Hispanic community and with the Charter Oak/Rice Heights Public Housing Tenants Association contributed to the establishment of the Hispanic Health Council in 1978 and the Charter Oak Health Center in 1979.

“Both of these institutions continue to be a vital force in the Hartford community and are nationally recognized as models of community-based institutions committed to improving the health of underserved communities,” says Martha Bojko, a research associate in the Department of Community Medicine and Health Care.

Schensul’s research began taking a global turn in 1981, when he helped establish the Center for

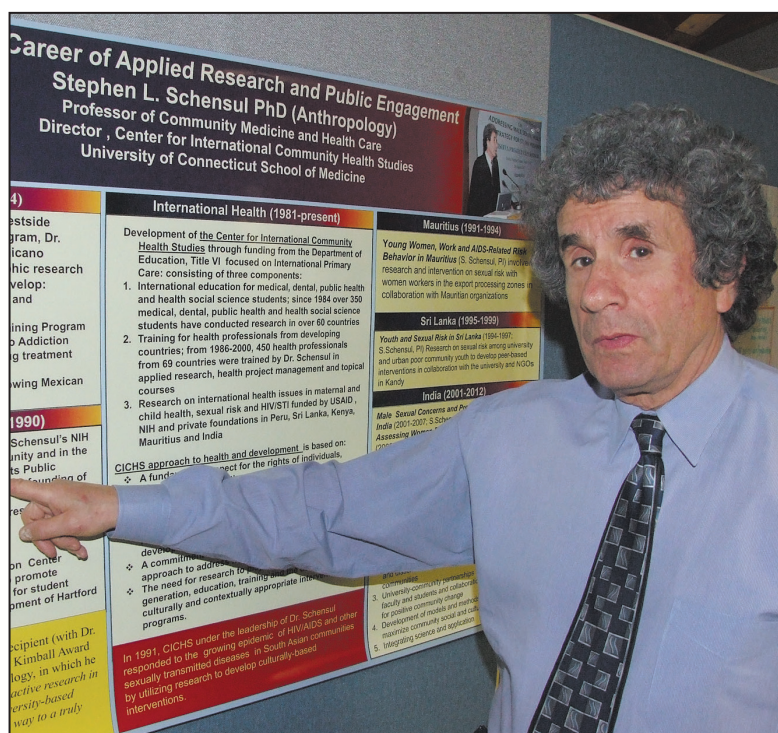


PHOTO BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

Stephen Schensul, director of the UConn School of Medicine’s Center for International Community Health Studies.

International Community Health Studies (CICHS), which has emphasized research and graduate education in international primary care and training for health professionals from developing countries. His continued his involvement in Hartford during the 1980s, expanding his focus on international health when he became director of

CICHS in 1986. In the late 1980s and 1990s, the Center’s research expanded to Sri Lanka, Kenya, and Mauritius, and its continuing education program attracted health professionals to UConn from 69 developing countries.

His work in India began in 2001 with a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to

study the prevention of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases among men in Mumbai.

“I just did a paper that showed our focus on disseminating findings directly into the community as our first priority and its impact on the development of new community action groups that could sustain the work,” Schensul says. “Sustainability is a major issue in health and development. Unless research and intervention connects with the culture and dynamics of a community, and people are drawn in and involved, it’s not going to continue to be sustained, and then when the project ends, that’s that.”

In December, UConn Provost Peter Nicholls presented Schensul with the Faculty Award for Excellence in Public Engagement.

In her nomination letter, Bojko wrote, “As an applied anthropologist, Dr. Schensul has been dedicated to working together with local communities in the research process and disseminating research results to community residents and policy makers. Much of his work has focused on the founding of innovative community-based institutions that give voice to the needs of underserved communities.”

Molecular and cell biologist wins career development award

BY CINDY WEISS

Victoria Robinson, an assistant professor of molecular and cell biology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, has won a \$936,000 early career development award from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

The CAREER award, as it is known, is the NSF's most prestigious award in support of the career development of promising teacher-scholars who integrate research and education.

The five-year award is for a research project on a bacterial protein known as BipA. Robinson's research group has uncovered a link between BipA and a "magic spot" molecule in bacteria that was discovered 30 years ago. Their hypothesis is that increasing the levels of this molecule influences BipA's activity, causing the bacteria to put its energy into surviving stressful conditions such as those encountered during infection.

With the grant, Robinson and her group will seek to determine exactly how BipA functions in the cell. This would increase under-

standing of the bacteria's ability to infect a host, and of bacterial infections such as those caused by *Salmonella* or *MSRA Staphylococcus*, which are highly resistant to current drug therapy.

Robinson came to UConn in 2004 from a Howard Hughes Medical Institute laboratory at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School at Rutgers, where she was a post-doctoral associate.

She earned her Ph.D. in biochemistry and structural biology from the University of Iowa, her master's degree in chemistry from Villanova University, and her bachelor's degree in biochemistry from Trinity College, Hartford.

She is part of UConn's structural biology partnership, which brings together Health Center and Storrs biologists for research and training. Her specialty is protein crystallography.

Robinson's current research group consists of a post-doctoral associate and three graduate students. She has also mentored 14 undergraduate research students, including a University Scholar.



PHOTO BY DANIEL BUTTREY

Victoria Robinson, assistant professor of molecular and cell biology.

Goldwater Scholars *continued from page 1*

the University of Colorado at Boulder, and the University of Rhode Island.

The field of potential candidates at UConn was extremely strong, says Deans. All four UConn nominees are students in the Honors Program and also University Scholars, UConn's highest academic distinction.

Abramczyk, who won an honorable mention in last year's Goldwater competition, is "doggedly persistent in asking questions about how the universe works," says Deans.

Abramczyk, 24, took some time off before entering UConn, but he came in knowing that he wanted to study physics and philosophy. He contacted his future physics advisor, associate professor Thomas Blum, before his freshman year to find out about doing undergraduate research.

"I'm particularly interested in the philosophy of science – how do we know the things that we say are true in science," he says. His University Scholar advisor in philosophy is associate professor Anne Hiskes, who is also director of research ethics and education for stem cell research at UConn.

"I enjoy learning things," says Abramczyk, who plans to pursue a Ph.D. His research in Blum's laboratory is in the area of particle physics, using supercomputers to understand the interactions of quarks and gluons, fundamental particles that compose the ordinary matter of the universe.

The research comes at an exciting time for particle physicists looking to make sense of new experiments, which may point to basic physical laws that go beyond the picture of nature that has dominated for decades, says Blum.

Burgio, whose research subject

is Monk Parakeets, had never taken an ornithology course until last spring, when he began working with his advisor in EEB, associate professor Margaret Rubega, the state ornithologist. Burgio, who will be 31 soon, redirected his career into biology research after serving in the Air Force for six years.

He had planned to become a dentist, drawing on his Air Force training in combat medicine and as a dental hygienist. He also worked as a dental assistant at a public health clinic in Willimantic.

A neurological condition that caused his hands to shake led to a change of plans. He had been a

casual birdwatcher, and one day, contemplating his changed future, saw an American Woodcock struggling in the snow outside his bedroom window.

"I had an epiphany," he says. He put together his love of the outdoors and his interest in birds and bore into his new studies.

His current project, which he expects to continue into his Ph.D. research, is to learn about the nest-building habits of Monk Parakeets. These South American natives were released by pet owners and are now building large nests on power poles in Connecticut and other northeastern states, causing

power disruptions and even fires.

Burgio has gained the cooperation of United Illuminating, which has been at the center of a controversial effort to get rid of the birds, getting access to examine the nests that are removed. He spends hours observing the birds and collecting data.

He also had a National Science Foundation REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates) fellowship last summer, when he began his research.

Meeske started his research in molecular and cell biology with associate professor Adam Zweifach in August 2007, and spent the

following summer in a research internship at Pfizer in Groton. His interest is in the cells of the immune system. He studies the signaling process that allows cells to release potent enzymes that have a role in eliminating infection.

He started out as a pre-med student, but decided he was more interested in science than in patient interaction.

"As a kid, I had all these books on dinosaurs and sea life," he says. His mother, a nurse, and his stepfather, a highway worker and Vietnamese immigrant, have supported and encouraged his excitement and inspired him to work hard.

He plans to pursue a doctorate in immunology.

Coleman, whose adviser is David Goldhamer, associate professor of molecular and cell biology, says he knew he wanted to do research even before entering UConn. In middle school he won the Connecticut State Science Fair.

A year and a half ago, he began working with postdoctoral associate Betty Lawton in Goldhamer's laboratory developing a protocol to differentiate human embryonic stem cells into muscle progenitor cells.

Goldhamer is associate director of the UConn Stem Cell Institute, interim director of the Center for Regenerative Biology, and a researcher on one of the Connecticut State Stem Cell Initiative grants.

Coleman says he wants the research he's doing to have clinical applications for human beings. This week he also learned that he won a Lt. Paul L. Drotch, USMC, Class of 1957 Memorial Scholarship in Biological Sciences, an award established in CLAS by UConn Trustee Peter Drotch in memory of his brother.



PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMAYER

Seated, Michael Abramczyk, left and Kevin Burgio. Standing, Alex Meeske, left, and Rory Coleman.



Jason Irizarry, second from right, an assistant professor of curriculum and instruction, listens as students from Windham High School discuss Project Fuerte, a research initiative in which the students learn about structural inequalities in education. The students gave a presentation in the Student Union Theatre on March 26.

PHOTO BY JESSICA TOMMASELLI

GRANTS

The following grants were received through the Office for Sponsored Programs (OSP) in January 2009. 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
Auster, P.	National Undersea Research Center	Skidaway Institution of Oceanography	\$133,236	10/08-12/09
<i>Seafloor Habitat Recovery Monitoring Program at Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary 2008-2009</i>				
Auster, P.	National Undersea Research Center	Dept. of Commerce/ Nat'l. Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin./ Univ. of Louisiana	\$45,345	8/08-7/10
<i>Deep-Water Connections: Probing the Southern Limits of Distribution of North Atlantic Deep Sea Coral Communities</i>				
Bahr, B.	Pharmaceutical Sciences	Connecticut Innovations Inc.	\$449,832	1/09-1/13
<i>Synaptic Replenishment Through Embryonic Stem Cell-Derived Neurons in a Transgenic Mouse Model of Alzheimer's Disease</i>				
Bar-Shalom, Y.	Electrical & Computer Engineering	Dept. of Defense/ Missile Defense Agency/Tech. Service Corp.	\$265,000	10/08-9/10
<i>Advanced Sensor Data Fusion</i>				
Cao, C.	Mechanical Engineering	Alstom Power Corp.	\$18,406	6/08-5/10
<i>Application of Adaptive and Model Based Controls in New Generation Power Plants</i>				
Coleman, C.	Pharmacy Practice	Pfizer Inc./ Hartford Hospital	\$12,377	5/08-8/08
<i>A Healthcare Decision Maker's Guide to Reviewing and Using Meta-Analyses: A White Paper of the HOPE Collaborative Group</i>				
Covell, N.	Social Work Instr. & Research	Nat'l Inst. of Health/ Nat'l Inst of Mental Health/ Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene Inc.	\$53,309	10/08-6/09
<i>Effectiveness of Switching Antipsychotic Medications</i>				
Dam Guerrero, H.	Marine Sciences	Conn Dept. of Environmental Protection	\$125,000	1/09-12/09
<i>Long Island Sound Mesozooplankton and Microzooplankton Identification and Analyses 2008-2009</i>				
De Guise, S.	Sea Grant College Program	Environmental Protection Agency/Conn. Dept. of Environmental Protection/Long Island Sound	\$50,000	12/08-9/09
<i>Long Island Sound Study Estuary Program, Public Participation & Outreach</i>				
Frisman, L.	Social Work Instr. & Research	Nat'l. Inst. of Health/ Center for Mental Health Services/ Conn. Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services	\$15,470	1/09-8/09
<i>Co-occurring State Incentive Grant Family Training</i>				
Les, D.	Ecology & Evolutionary Biology	Commonwealth Scientific & Ind. Research Org. - Australia	\$30,000	7/07-3/09
<i>Biological Control and Ecology of Cabomba</i>				
Lin, S.	Marine Sciences	Environmental Protection Agency/ Conn. Dept. of Environmental Protection	\$60,000	11/08-12/09
<i>Long Island Sound Phytoplankton Identification</i>				
Luh, P.	Electrical & Computer Engineering	Southern California Edison	\$68,815	1/09-12/09
<i>Simultaneous Optimal Auction and Unit Commitment for Deregulated Electricity Markets, Phase VI</i>				
Luh, P.	Electrical & Computer Engineering	Alstom Power Corp.	\$42,376	1/09-6/09
<i>Power Plant Boiler Modeling and Optimization, Phase VIII</i>				
Parnas, R.	Chemical, Materials & Biomolecular Engineering	Conn. Dept. of Economic & Community Development/ Conn. Center for Advanced Tech. Inc.	\$598,244	12/08-11/09
<i>Catalyzing the Development of a Biofuels Industry in Connecticut with an Integrated Testing Program</i>				

Pasaogullari, U.	Mechanical Engineering	Nissan Motor Co. Ltd.	\$65,178	2/09-1/10
<i>Transient Dynamics of Two-Phase Transport in Polymer Electrolyte Fuel Cells</i>				
Polifroni, E.	Nursing Instruction & Research	Conn. Office for Workforce Competitiveness	\$89,382	12/08-6/09
<i>SAT Preparation with Learning Communities</i>				
Rossetti, G.	Chemical, Materials & Biomolecular Engineering	Dept. of Defense/ Navy/Office of Naval Research	\$210,000	10/08-9/11
<i>Design and Modeling of High Power Density Acoustic Transducer Materials for Autonomous Undersea Vehicles</i>				
Rusling, J.	Chemistry	Nat'l. Inst. of Health/ Nat'l. Inst. of Environmental Health Sciences	\$1,676,778	2/09-11/13
<i>Electrocatalytic Studies of Toxic Pollutant Activation</i>				
Sotzing, G.	Chemistry	MC10 Inc.	\$24,572	1/09-6/09
<i>Electrochromic Device Prototype from Siloxane Precursors</i>				
Sugai, G.	Educational Psychology	U.S. Dept. of Education/ Office of Special Education & Rehabilitative Services/Univ. of Oregon	\$1,424,979	10/08-9/13
<i>National Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports</i>				
Suib, S.	Chemistry	Conn. Dept. of Economic & Community Development/ Conn. Center for Advanced Tech. Inc.	\$97,000	12/08-11/09
<i>Development of Novel Catalysts and Processes for Biofuel Diversification</i>				
Tufts, J.	Communication Sciences	Centers for Disease Control/Nat'l. Inst. for Occupational Safety & Health/Sensimetrics Corp.	\$21,528	1/09-7/09
<i>Motivational Tool for Hearing Conservation Based on Hearing Loss Simulation</i>				
Verma, R.	Plant Science	Nat'l. Science Foundation	\$570,712	4/09-3/10
<i>Cyclic Nucleotide Gated Ca Channels and Non-Self Perception in Plant Pathogen Defense Responses</i>				
Welch, M.	Extension	U.S. Dept. Agriculture/ Kansas State Univ.	\$90,000	11/08-9/09
<i>Operation: Military Kids Connecticut 2009</i>				
Wells, B.	Physics	Dept. of Energy	\$286,907	12/08-11/11
<i>Charge Inhomogeneity in Correlated Electron Systems</i>				

Roper Center awards announced

The winners of the 2009 Mitofsky Awards for Excellence in Public Opinion Research, given annually by the Roper Center, were announced recently by Mark Abrahamson, executive director of the Roper Center, and Suman Singha, vice president for research and dean of the Graduate School.

Named for the former chairman of the Roper Board, Warren J. Mitofsky, these awards provide graduate students with a stipend of \$1,200 to conduct research during the summer, using data in the Roper Center archives. Recipients are chosen based on the potential theoretical or methodological contribution of the proposed research to the applicant's field of study.

This year's award winners are:

Ioannis Kareklas and **Jeffrey Carlson**, Marketing, School of Business, "Propensity to Purchase Organic Foods," faculty sponsor Robin Coulter;

Sylvie Tchumtchoua, Agricultural Economics, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Statistics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, "Modeling Associations Between Multivariate Longitudinal Categorical Variables in Survey Data," faculty sponsor Dipak Dey;

Annie Wisnesky, Sociology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, "The Impact of Social Capital on Gender Differences in Health," faculty sponsor Michael Wallace.

CALENDAR

Monday, April 6, to Monday, April 13

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, April 13 through Monday, April 20. Those items must be in the database by 4 p.m. on Monday, April 6.

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).

Libraries

Homer Babbidge Library. Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-2 a.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m.-10 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-2 a.m.

Dodd Center. Reading Room hours: Monday-Friday, noon-4 p.m.; closed weekends. Research Center hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; closed weekends.

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

Tuesday, 4/7 – Nursing. *An Emancipatory Study with African-American Women at Predominantly White Nursing Schools*, by Katie Love (adv.: Jacobs). 2 p.m., Room 303, Storrs Hall.

Wednesday, 4/8 – Kinesiology. *Effect of Ambient Temperature on Caffeine Ergogenicity During Endurance Exercise*, by Matthew Ganio (adv.: Armstrong). 10:30 a.m., Room 142, Gentry Building.

Wednesday, 4/8 – Psychology. *Examination of the Impact of an Intervention in Positive Psychology on the Happiness and Life Satisfaction of Children*, by Kelly McCabe-Fitch (adv.: Bray). 2 p.m., Room 246, Gentry Building.

Thursday, 4/9 – Curriculum & Instruction. *Preservice Secondary Social Studies Teachers' Perceptions of Gender Equity*, by Margaret Monaghan (adv.: Marcus). 10 a.m., Room 142, Gentry Building.

Meetings

Monday, 4/6 – University Senate. 4 p.m., Room 7, Bishop Center.

Lectures & Seminars

Tuesday, 4/7 – Toxicology Colloquium. "Merging Epidemiology and Experimental Pathology: Airway Toxicity of Butter Flavoring Vapors," by Ann Hubbs, veterinary pathologist. 1 p.m., Room 338, Pharmacy/Biology Building.

Tuesday, 4/7 – Leadership Lecture. "Principles, Politics and Leadership: The Risks and Rewards of Staying True and Speaking Honestly in Washington," by former U.S. Rep. Christopher Shays. 5 p.m., Konover Auditorium.

Tuesday, 4/7 – Coastal Perspectives Lecture. "The Oceans and Human Health," by Sandra Shumway and Evan Ward. 7 p.m., Room 103, Marine Sciences Building, Avery Point Campus.

Thursday, 4/9 – Ecology & Evolutionary Biology. "Scalable and Portable Phylogenetic Strategies in the Era of High Throughput Sequencing," by Casey Dunn, Brown University. 4 p.m., Room 130, Biology/Physics Building.

Friday, 4/10 – Environmental Engineering Seminar. "Mind the Gap: Integrated Design, Construction, Operations and Maintenance of Green Buildings," by Brendan Owens, U.S. Building Council. Noon, Room 212, Castleman Building.

Friday, 4/10 – Linguistics Colloquium. "Roots, States, Stative Passives," by David Embick, University of Pennsylvania. 4:30 p.m., Room 311, Arjona Building.

Exhibits

Through Friday, 4/10 – Jorgensen Gallery. *Beyond a Boundary*, exhibits

Morley, Albert Sterner, and Kathe Kollwitz; *Apperceptions*, works by Master of Fine Arts candidates Michael Donovan, Bruce Myren, Jacob Saunders, Elizabeth Talbot, and Erin Wiersma; *Luigi Lucioni's American Countryside*, etchings. Hours: Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 1-4:30 p.m. Closed 4/11-4/12. Open by appointment for classes and tours Monday-Wednesday.

Through Friday, 5/15 – Babbidge Library. *Portraits in Glass*, by Debbie Tarsitano, Gallery on the Plaza; *Connecticut Wilderness*, sculptures and 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.

Ongoing – State Museum of Natural History & Connecticut Archaeology



PHOTO SUPPLIED BY THE THOMAS J. DODD RESEARCH CENTER

"Ladies," a work by Sara Rhodin, part of her exhibit *Transitional Spaces in Post-Soviet Estonia* on display in the Dodd Center.

Wednesday, 4/8 – Rainbow Center Lecture. "Addressing Aging in the LGBT Community," by Karen Taylor, Advocacy & Training for Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders. Noon, Room 403, Student Union.

Wednesday, 4/8 – Stamford Faculty Colloquium. "New Tools for Data Driven Marketing," by Wynd Harris. Noon, GE Global Classroom, Stamford Campus.

Wednesday, 4/8 – Osher Lifelong Learning Lecture. "The Interaction of Ritalin and Alcohol," by Robin McGovern. 1 p.m., Room 333, Waterbury Campus.

Wednesday, 4/8 – Coffee Hour Lecture. "The Experience of Divorce in the Context of Race and Gender," by Edna Brown. 4 p.m., Wood Hall Basement.

Wednesday, 4/8 – Creative Sustenance Event. Poetry and prose by Davyne Verstandig, and discussion with Robert Croke, author and Robley Whitson, poet. 6:30 p.m., Hogan Lecture Hall, Torrington Campus. Suggested donation of \$5.

Thursday, 4/9 – Comparative Pathology Seminar. "Multiple Immunoassays for Emerging Viral Infection in Horses, Pigs, and Birds," by Susan Wong, State of New York Department of Health. 11 a.m., Room A001, Atwater Laboratories.

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 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, 5/6, *Small Towns, Car Shows, and Gardens on My Days Off*, by April Aldighieri. Daily, 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Main and Mezzanine Lobbies.

Through Sunday, 4/19 – Alexey von Schlippe Gallery. Paintings and other works by Judith Osbourne; mixed media works by Val Kropiwnicki; and 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 by various artists; *Fleshed Out*, paintings, prints, and photographs by Will Foote, Harry

Performing Arts

Tuesday, 4/7 – Jazz Combos. Kenny Davis, Earl Macdonald, and Bill Reynolds, ensemble directors. 8 p.m. von der Mehden Recital Hall. Admission \$7, students and children free.

Tuesday, 4/7 – Spring Recital. DanceWorks. 8 p.m., Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. Free admission.

Thursday, 4/9 – Student Recital. Noah Parker, percussion. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Free admission.

Friday, 4/10 – Student Recital. Conor Calabro, piano. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Free admission.

Saturday, 4/11 – Student Recital. Jinkyung Chung, cello. 3 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Free admission.

Saturday, 4/11 – Student Recital. Guan-Ting Liao, violin. 7 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Free admission.

Monday, 4/13 – Student Recital. Sarah Masterson, piano. 7 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Free admission.

Film

Wednesday, 4/8 – India Film Series. *Bhool Bhulaiya* 6:30 p.m., Room 107, Art & Art History Building.

Friday, 4/10 – Film Screening. *Handmade in America*, by Paul Lyzun, Willington. 7:30 p.m., Recital Hall & Gallery, Vernon Building, Depot Campus.

Athletics

Thursday, 4/9 – Men's Tennis vs. Boston University. 3 p.m., Tennis Courts.

Friday, 4/10 – Softball vs. Rutgers. 2:30 and 4:30 p.m., Softball Field.

Saturday, 4/11 – Men's Tennis vs. Villanova. Noon, Tennis Courts.

Saturday, 4/11 – Women's Tennis vs. Villanova. Noon, Tennis Courts.

Saturday, 4/11 – Women's Lacrosse vs. Rutgers. 1 p.m. Sherman Family Sports Complex.

Saturday, 4/11 – Softball vs. Notre Dame. 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., Softball Field.

Potpourri

Monday, 4/6 – UConn Co-op Author Event. *Theo-logy: How a Boy Wonder Led the Red Sox to the Promised Land*, by John Frascella, sports writer. 4 p.m., UConn Co-op.

Tuesday, 4/7 – Conversations on Great American Books. Discussion of Philip Roth's *American Pastoral*, led by Ross Miller. 7 p.m., Stamford Campus Auditorium. Admission: \$5 Alumni Association members/\$10 non-members.

Graduate tuition *continued from page 1*

formulation of a review/appeal process and on a transparent and fair process for the distribution of revenues received under this program.

He notes that an ad hoc committee established to consider the fiscal and other impacts of such a policy was concerned the University's generous stipend levels and benefits already make UConn somewhat expensive in terms of the cost of hiring graduate students, and worried that adding tuition to grant budgets would exacerbate the situation.

Based on that, he says, it was decided to include just a portion of the tuition and also to review the policy in three years.

Nicholls says he is grateful to members of the committee, particularly co-chairs Suman Singha, senior vice provost and vice president for research and dean of the Graduate School, and Eric Schultz, associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, for developing a very thorough report on the proposed tuition charges.

Residential learning communities help foster student interests



PHOTO BY JESSICA TOMMASELLI

Miguel Colon, a program coordinator in Student Activities, leads a meeting of students in the Community Service living-learning community in Ellsworth residence hall.

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

Nursing. Honors. Community service. Women in math, science, and engineering. Fine arts. Leadership. German and engineering. The world, even.

More and more students at UConn are seeking residential learning communities that will pique their intellectual and social interests, whether it's engineering students interested in jazz, international students hoping to fit into American culture, or students passionate about issues of social justice.

"Some of our learning communities are residential and some are not," says David Ouimette, executive director of the Office of First Year Programs and Learning

Communities. "We are offering students opportunities to pursue their major and interdisciplinary interests inside and outside of the classroom. We want students to integrate their experience with support from other students, faculty, and staff who have the same interests and expertise."

Living-learning communities are a way to allow students to become more comfortable with taking risks, he says, so they will be willing to begin contributing to UConn and the broader community through service, internships, study abroad, and undergraduate research earlier in their college experience.

A concept popular at large research universities around the

country, living-learning communities help students succeed, says Lee Williams, dean of students and co-author of the book, *Learning Communities and Student Affairs: Partnering for Powerful Learning*.

"They are a proven approach to increase student retention and enhance learning," she says. "Research has shown that since they often incorporate course work from a variety of disciplines into the experience, they also enhance connections across campus between both faculty and students. The curricular innovations bring faculty and disciplines together as well as students."

UConn's living-learning communities will be expanded this fall to include EcoHouse and a Public

Health Public Service House, both located in West Campus, and Eurotech (German and engineering) in McMahon Hall. The University is also interested in opening additional living-learning communities over the next few years, including ones focused on areas suggested by students or faculty.

EcoHouse will be located in Hollister residence hall, and will be open to 120 students passionate about environmental issues, including 60 first year students. Students will work on environmental projects and will serve as stewards of environmental sustainability around campus.

The building, which will be renovated before students move in, will include space for meetings and classrooms.

Another new community, Public Health-Public Service, will also include both freshmen and upperclassmen. It will offer students outreach opportunities in Hartford and in other locations through existing service learning programs.

Students who join the Public Health-Public Service house will enroll in a two-credit course each semester that will be integrated with a weekly community service experience.

The Eurotech community will provide students interested in both engineering and German with a variety of cultural and educational experiences, including a film series, guest lecturers from industry, study trips to Germany, visits to various companies in the region, and contact with German exchange students on campus. The program also offers engineering courses taught in German.

Interdisciplinary residential learning communities already on campus include:

- Community Service in Ellsworth Hall, which emphasizes

volunteer work;

- Connecting with the Arts in Shippee Hall, which focuses on arts, including theatre, art, and music, and includes a group of engineering students interested in jazz;

- Global House in McMahon Hall for students interested in learning about global culture, politics, and arts, and/or studying or working abroad; and those who are in an academic program with an international focus or who are international students or have foreign-born parents;

- Leadership, Learning, and Life in Northwest, which allows students to explore their values and develop and practice leadership skills;

- Social Justice in a Global Community in Ellsworth Hall for students who want to celebrate intercultural perspectives of campus life, with a focus on topics such as human rights, equality, war, and the environment.

Major-based residential communities, such as:

- Fine Arts in Shippee Hall; Music in South Campus; Nursing in Rogers and South; (Pre-)Pharmacy in Towers; and Women in Math, Science, and Engineering in Hale Hall; and

- Honors in Buckley Hall, for students in the Honors Program.

At Global House, boundaries of culture and language disappear, says Morty Ortega, associate professor of natural resources management and engineering, who heads the program. "We spend a lot of time getting to know each other, and we end up accomplishing a lot of things."

The University also has non-residential learning communities in allied health, animal science, economics, engineering, exploring helping professions, pathobiology, and pre-teaching.

Political scientist's book examines evolution of modern Germany

BY KAREN SINGER

Despite a turbulent 20th-century history, Germany has evolved into a country much like its neighbors, according to a new book about the metamorphosis.

"We take this very definite stand that Germany has become a normal Western democracy ... and now has the same problems, benefits, and lifestyles as the rest of the European community," says Henry Krisch, professor emeritus of political science in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, who co-wrote the book, *Politics in Germany* (CQ Press, 2008). His co-author, M. Donald Hancock, is a political science professor at Vanderbilt University.

The co-authors have known each other since the 1950s, when both were graduate students at Columbia University, where Krisch earned a master's and Ph.D. and taught before joining the political science faculty at UConn in 1969.

Krisch and Hancock wrote the book to fill a void in those currently available on the subject.

"We thought we could add something to the accounts of

German politics found in other studies, particularly by putting Germany's current institutions and practices against the background of the existence of two German states for roughly a half century after World War II," Krisch says.

Their interests overlapped. West German politics is one of Hancock's specialties and Krisch is an expert on East Germany, including the two decades since its collapse.

The book examines "the effects of there having been an East Germany on election politics and cultural politics," Krisch says. It also shows how modern Germany has reacted against the historical legacy of Nazism.

"In some ways," he adds, "there are fewer and fewer people who feel a sense of personal responsibility, because they weren't alive during those years."

Krisch notes that the Nazi regime is still strong in the public consciousness, with a steady stream of factual and fictional accounts. The era has proved fruitful for filmmakers, among them increasingly a growing number of Germans. Recent movies include



Valkyrie with Tom Cruise, *The Reader*, starring Kate Winslet and nominated for five Oscars, and *The Baader Meinhof Complex*, a contender for this year's Academy Award for best foreign film. (In Krisch's book, Ulrike Meinhof, one of the co-leaders of a late-1960s terrorist group, is on a list of prominent women in modern German politics.)

The new book analyzes political parties, election outcomes, social

movements, socioeconomic politics, and pop culture in Germany, as well as the country's relationships with Europe and the world.

"One of the things that is interesting is the ways Germans are able now to engage in military action abroad, which would have been unthinkable 10 years ago," Krisch says. "So in that sense, it has become more normal."

He cites other signs of normality. "There's a conflict in Germany,

which you have in other European countries and in the U.S., between those who want to preserve a safety net without too much inflation or too much debt and those who would like to have a freer market," he says. "They have the same sort of issues about executive compensation and reining in markets that have gone unregulated, and the same sort of issues about integrating immigrant communities, the largest of which is Turkish. They're questioning what it means to be a German citizen."

Debate about such real and controversial issues is likely to intensify, as Germans gear up for a federal election in September 2009. Krisch plans to be there, as a member of a group of academic observers.

Since retiring in 1999, Krisch has remained in the Storrs area and retained close ties to UConn, where he is a member of the Gladstein Human Rights Committee. His current interests include the legal and human rights aspects of prohibiting Holocaust denial.