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Uphold goals, says Hogan in State of University address

BY ELIZABETH OMARA-OTUNNU

President Michael Hogan has reaffirmed the University's commitment to its strategic goals despite the difficult economic climate.

Speaking to an audience of faculty, staff, and students during his first State of the University address on April 20, Hogan said, "Our first priority is to preserve the exceptional standard of education we've all worked so hard to achieve."

He said the Academic Plan will guide the difficult decisions that must be made, and predicted that by adhering to the vision outlined in the plan, the University will emerge from the current financial constraints stronger.

Hogan said the University has been particularly hard hit by the state budget cuts because, by comparison with many other public universities "where tuition long ago surpassed state appropriations as the major source of revenue," UConn receives a relatively high percentage – 34 percent – of its funding from the state.

"The generosity of the state in funding over one-third of our operation means that we feel any cut in our appropriation more deeply than most," he said.

Thanks to the cost-saving recommendations of the CORE task force and to careful planning at the time of the 3 percent rescission in the fall, Hogan said, the University has been able to cope with the recent rescission of an additional 2 percent of the current state budget.

Although some have hoped the federal stimulus package might help the University, the package is essentially a "two-year bridging program," he said. "It's not a permanent solution for state budget cuts that are basically permanent." The stimulus funds may buy some time, but they won't eliminate the need to make some difficult choices, he added.

He noted that other sources of revenue, such as private fund-raising and auxiliary services, have limited potential to offset cuts in state funding; research funding is growing

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PHOTO BY PETER MORENUS

President Michael Hogan drives a fuel cell-powered go-kart built by the Connecticut Global Fuel Cell Center during a celebration of Earth Day on April 22.

Three faculty named Distinguished Professors

BY COLIN POITRAS & CINDY WEISS

Two faculty members in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and one in the School of Pharmacy have been named Board of Trustees Distinguished Professors.

Those receiving the honor in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences were: Diane Lillo-Martin, a professor of linguistics and former department head; and Gregory Anderson, a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology who stepped down last year as vice provost for research and graduate education and dean of the Graduate School.

Anderson is currently serving a one-year appointment as graduate dean in residence at the Council of Graduate Schools and the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C.

In the School of Pharmacy, Diane Burgess, a national expert in drug delivery systems and a professor of pharmaceutics, is now a distinguished professor.

The board announced the honors April 21 in recognition of the professors' "exceptional distinction in scholarship, teaching, and service while at UConn."

Lillo-Martin studies how children acquire their native language. Her latest research focuses on young children who are learning both spoken and sign language, so-called "bimodal bilinguals."

Some children have two deaf parents who sign, and those youngsters do not have difficulty acquiring spoken as well as sign language, she says.

"They are amazing in their ability to go back and forth with languages – they learn so much, so fast," says Lillo-Martin, who came to UConn in 1986 and serves as editor-in-chief of the journal *Language Acquisition*.

By using American Sign Language with signers and spoken language with speakers, the children learn to appropriately alternate between the two. Children and adults who know both languages also sometimes use them simultaneously; this is known as "code blending."

Lillo-Martin also has a new project studying language acquisition by deaf children with a cochlear implant, a surgically implanted electronic device that provides a sense of sound to those who are deaf or profoundly hard of hearing.

Sign language can actually help children learn spoken language, she theorizes; deaf

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Inside

Photo by Peter Morenus

Kathy Sanner, left, UCPEA's first vice president for collective bargaining, and UCPEA President Kevin Fahey discuss concessions to the state and University during a meeting held in the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. Nearly 800 UCPEA members attended the meeting. Another 100 members at the regional campuses discussed the concessions via interactive video.

Humanities fellows named

The Humanities Institute has announced its fellowship awards for 2009-2010. The recipients are:

Residential Fellowship Award:
Naeem Murr (Creative Writing – Fiction)
A novel – Welcome to the Hotel of Strangers.

UConn Faculty Fellows:
Clare Eby (English)
Until Choice Do Us Part: The Theory and Practice of Marriage in the Progressive Era.
Glen MacLeod (English)
Authenticity in American Art and Literature: From Casts and Copies to the Age of Mechanical Reproduction.
Janet Pritchard (Art & Art History)
Views from Wonderland, an artists' book.
Glenn Stanley (Music)
Fidelio and the Modern German Identity: Criticism and Performance of a National Cultural Icon.
Jennifer Terni (Modern & Classical Languages)
Elements of Mass Society: Paris 1830-1848.

Graduate Dissertation Fellowships:
Jennifer Lynn Holley (English)
The Child Elegy.
Sherry Zane (History)
The Politics of Sex, Scandals and Progressive Reform in Newport, Rhode Island, 1917-1921.

UConn police department earns re-accreditation

by Karen A. Grava

The University's Police Department has been re-accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies Inc. (CALEA).

The reaccreditation, effective for the maximum period of three years, was granted after the department demonstrated during a site assessment that it meets the "requirements of the highly regarded and broadly recognized body of law enforcement standards," according to Louis Dekmar, chair, and Sylvester Daughtry Jr. executive director of CALEA.

In a report that followed a rigorous self-assessment, public comments, and a site visit from a team of enforcement professionals from across the country, the commission said its decision to re-accredit the department was unanimous.

"The assessors believe the UConn Police Department is an excellent law enforcement agency that is well-equipped and well-trained to perform its function of protecting the safety of the students and faculty at the University of Connecticut," the report said.

The assessors "were struck by the professionalism and responsiveness of the agency's personnel," the report continued. "The agency also has first-class equipment and facilities that are meticulously maintained. The UConn Police Department has an excellent relationship with surrounding law enforcement agencies, and exhibits its commitment to re-accreditation by working closely with the other members of the local accreditation coalition."

Robert S. Hudd, associate vice president for public and environmental safety and chief of police, notes that the UConn Police Department has been accredited since 2000. This is the third reaccreditation attained by the department since then. Only 15 other police departments in the State of Connecticut, and less than 30 percent nationally, have achieved accreditation through CALEA, a voluntary process.

Adds Hudd, "We are gratified that our commitment to the highest standards was evident to the assessors."

Founder of Natural History Museum dies

Carl Rettenmeyer, professor emeritus of ecology and evolutionary biology died April 9. He was 78.

Rettenmeyer, who lived in Storrs, joined the UConn faculty in 1971 and retired in 1996. Internationally recognized for his research on New World army ants, he also produced a DVD on the subject.

Rettenmeyer was founding director of the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History. During his years at UConn, he taught courses in biology, social insects, and photography for biologists.

Gregory Anderson, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, says Rettenmeyer was always "bigger than life. He knew more, he worked harder, he did more, he cared more than almost everyone – often everyone combined."

Anderson says that it was Rettenmeyer's energy and that of his wife, Marian, that 'made' the Museum of Natural History. The museum opened in 1985.

He adds, "Carl was a world-class naturalist, and one of the last great comprehensive naturalists in the world. He was a mentor and a role model for so many for so much."

Rettenmeyer completed his undergraduate work at Swarthmore College and earned his Ph.D. from the University of Kansas in 1962. He taught there from 1960 to 1971.

He was an officer in many professional societies. At UConn he served on the University Senate from 1989 to 1990, and was the executive officer of the Biological Sciences Group at UConn from 1983 to 1985. He authored and co-authored many scientific papers about social insects, and had his photographs published in many books and magazines.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Marian, his daughter Susan, his son Ron, and four grandchildren.

A memorial service will take place on May 30, at 11 a.m. at Storrs Congregational Church, at the corner of Route 195 and North Eagleville Road.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Carl Rettenmeyer to the American Cancer Society or another charity of choice.

Former head of animal science dies

William "Al" Allen Cowan, professor emeritus and former head of the animal science department in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, died April 4. He was 88.

Cowan, of Storrs, joined the UConn faculty in 1952 and retired in 1985. He worked with livestock production and breeding.

Cowan earned his bachelor's degree in animal husbandry from the University of Massachusetts in 1942. He joined the faculty there after serving in the U.S. Navy. He earned his master's degree in 1948 and his Ph.D. in 1952 from the University of Minnesota.

After retirement, he continued to work in an advisory capacity. He was the author or co-author of more than 164 publications and reports in scientific journals, popular journals and briefs.

Cameron Faustman, associate dean of academic programs in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, says Cowan was a "tremendous supporter of undergraduate education and Connecticut agriculture. He touched the lives of many, many students, and believed very much in the concept of experiential learning."

Faustman adds, "His dedication to his department, college, and university were remarkable and continued long after he retired. He will be missed."

Ian Hart, associate dean for research and advanced studies in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, says Cowan was "incredibly helpful" to him when he became head of the animal science department. "He was like a mentor and I enjoyed his company," says Hart.

Cowan was a member of the American Society of Animal Science and was awarded its most prestigious Honorary Fellow Award in 1984. He was appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture as director of the National Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board. He also served on the Connecticut Governor's Council for the Development of Agricultural Industry.

A strong supporter of the Working Lands Alliance for the protection of Connecticut's farmland, he was also director of the Connecticut Agricultural Education Foundation, which seeks and administers funds for the benefit of programs that promote Connecticut agriculture through education.

Cowan was predeceased by his wife Ila Fae Hutson Cowan. He is survived by his son Robert and his daughter Carol.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Cowan's memory to the William Allen Cowan Agriculture Education Fund, c/o New Alliance Bank, 596 Middle Turnpike, Storrs, CT 06268.

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Biomedical engineer studying heart's response to valve repair

BY NAN COOPER

Wei Sun, an assistant professor of biomedical engineering and mechanical engineering, was recently awarded an American Heart Association National Scientist Development grant of more than $300,000.

The grant will support his work to develop accurate biomechanical models that depict how human hearts respond to a heart valve repair procedure called percutaneous transvenous mitral annuloplasty (PTMA).

The research is an extension of ongoing work Sun has been conducting with Dr. Bruce Liang, a professor of cardiology at the UConn Health Center.

Through the American Heart Association project, the researchers expect to improve their understanding of the biomechanics involved in PTMA treatment, and to aid in the development of novel, minimally invasive valve repair devices.

Sun says approximately 300,000 heart valve surgeries are performed annually around the world – either whole valve replacement with an artificial heart valve or surgical valve repair. Both procedures require open-heart surgery with cardiopulmonary bypass, risky surgery that makes it desirable to develop less invasive, non-surgical techniques.

PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER LAROSA

Wei Sun, right, assistant professor of biomedical engineering and mechanical engineering, and graduate student Thuy Pham.

One type of heart disease is known as "mitral regurgitation," a condition in which the mitral valve, located between the left atrium and the left ventricle, fails to close completely, allowing blood to leak backward into the heart. Mitral regurgitation limits the body's ability to circulate blood efficiently.

PTMA, which involves minimally invasive insertion of a synthetic band or ring into the coronary sinus, was recently developed as an alternative to open heart surgery. A number of companies are developing experimental PTMA devices, and early clinical trials in humans were conducted in 2006 and 2007.

Sun says that dysfunctional performance and fatigue fracture were reported in the trials, possibly as a result of unknown biomechanical interactions between venous tissue, the mitral valve system, and the device.

Through a combination of experimental and computational studies, Sun hopes to better understand the mitral tissue-implant interaction. He and Liang will develop patient-specific computational models of the mitral valve using clinical cardiac images. These models will be used to simulate PTMA device deployment and function under various conditions and to evaluate PTMA device failures.

Medical school dean to receive honorary degree from Lincoln University

BY CAROLYN PENNINGTON

Dr. Cato Laurencin, vice president for health affairs at the UConn Health Center and dean of the School of Medicine, will receive an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Lincoln University of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and be the school's keynote speaker during its 150th commencement exercises on May 3.

Lincoln University, chartered in 1854, was the first institution in the world to offer higher education in the arts and sciences for young men of African descent. Since its inception, Lincoln has attracted an interracial and international enrollment.

The school's alumni include Langston Hughes, '29, world-acclaimed poet; Thurgood Marshall, '30, first African-American Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court; and Kwame Nkrumah, '39, first president of Ghana.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Mrs. Rosa Parks are among past recipients of honorary degrees from Lincoln University.

PHOTO BY LANNY NAGLER

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

"I am extremely honored to have been chosen to receive the Doctor of Science degree from Lincoln University," says Laurencin. "Lincoln is an outstanding university with a rich tradition of excellence."

Laurencin has achieved national prominence as an orthopaedic surgeon and chemical engineering expert.

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

Correction

An article in the April 20 *Advance* incorrectly stated that the United States dropped hydrogen bombs on Japan during World War II. The bombs were atomic.

Policy on rehiring retirees approved by Trustees

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

The Board of Trustees last week approved a policy regarding rehired retirees.

The policy permits rehiring retirees "on a limited basis when the operational requirements and financial benefits outweigh the use of regular, continuing employment categories."

Appointments will be reviewed every two years for operational necessity and cost effectiveness.

The policy allows the University to rehire retirees to meet a variety of needs at a cost savings to the University and the state, said President Michael J. Hogan.

Rehired retirees are limited to working 120 calendar days a year or teaching a load equivalent to 12 credits per year, according to the policy.

Re-employed retirees are appropriate for temporary use, the document notes, to:

• provide qualified staff on a temporary or project basis when part or full time positions are not operationally sufficient or financially beneficial;

• mitigate against a threat to the safety of patients or the public;

• prevent the loss of potential revenues generated on newly acquired grants or contracts;

• meet immediate and essential staffing needs required by accrediting agencies;

• secure the expertise of uniquely qualified researchers or staff in support of extramural funding or established grant projects when the individual's compensation is fully supported by external resources;

• mitigate against the loss of unique, specialized knowledge and skills where appropriately qualified replacement staff cannot be recruited; and

• cover contractually or legally mandated leaves of absence.

The policy notes that re-employed retirees may not be funded from the General Fund and should be paid a market rate for their services.

"Gov. Rell asked the Board of Trustees to establish and approve a policy that would provide central oversight and approval of the use of retirees, limit the number of years during which a retiree may be re-employed, and limit the number of days a retiree may work in a calendar year," said Hogan. "Rehired retirees are experienced and uniquely qualified individuals with proven abilities who help us meet immediate, temporary, and seasonal staffing needs. Our needs to retain particular expertise in the classroom or to tap into the knowledge and expertise of former employees who are able to bring external funding to UConn are also met by reemployed retirees."

New book examines diversity within South Asian religions

BY STEFANIE DION-JONES

Not all scholarly works originate from within the quiet confines of a professor's office. The idea for a new book co-authored by Bandana Purkayastha, associate professor of sociology and Asian American Studies, surfaced during a lively dinner party in the company of friends.

Among this group of female friends and colleagues, the conversation one evening turned to the portrayal of Hindu and Muslim women in mainstream media, which often generalize these women as oppressed victims of a "non-modern" culture.

Fundamentalist religious groups further distort such perceptions, projecting a narrow, skewed view of servile female devotees, who in reality practice and interpret their religious beliefs in very diverse ways seldom acknowledged in public discussion.

"We said, 'What about the rest of us? Don't we have something to say about these religions?'" Purkayastha says. "At the end of dinner, we decided to put a book together."

Living Our Religions: Hindu and Muslim South Asian American Women Narrate Their Experiences (Kumarian Press, 2009) is a collection of deeply personal accounts written by 14 women with roots in one of four South Asian countries – India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan. Each chapter is written from the perspective of a different author, who offers a unique insight into how she "lives" her religion, from early memories and experiences with religious customs to the way she has come to understand and celebrate her religious values today, living in the United States.

PHOTO BY JESSICA TOMMASELLI

Bandana Purkayastha, associate professor of sociology and Asian American studies.

"People interpret religion very differently," Purkayastha says. "The point of the book was to let people say in their own words how they live their religion, whatever that word means to them. And this was the only way of doing it – that is, let people talk, let people take ownership, let people's stories go where they need."

Authors include first- as well as second-generation South Asian Americans whose professions run the gamut from doctors, lawyers, and historians to college professors and students. Their narratives vary greatly, shaped by distinct voices and different nationalities, family histories, levels of education, even the regions in which they live, with authors residing across the United States, in the Northeast, Midwest, and West. Among the writers are several UConn faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

As much of the book reveals, the boundaries between religions are surprisingly blurry. In their introduction, Purkayastha and co-author Anjana Narayan, a UConn alum and assistant professor at California State Polytechnic Institute at Pomona, highlight the significant diversity inherent even within a single religion.

"Hinduism," they write, "does not look the same in different parts of India, Nepal, and Bangladesh; Islam does not appear the same in Pakistan, Bangladesh, and India."

Author Bidya Ranjeet, for instance, describes her childhood in Nepal, where her community embraced both Hindu and Buddhist traditions. Purkayastha, who grew up in India's Bengali region, points to examples of religion's "permeability" within her own life.

In practicing Hinduism, she follows a calendar for religious observances that is in fact based on the Muslim calendar. Meanwhile, her friends from other regions of India use a different religious calendar.

"It's another good example of this blending and blurring," Purkayastha says. A great deal of diversity exists within any given religion, she adds, but there are also variations across regions and local cultures.

In the United States, religion is often perceived as something celebrated almost exclusively in designated places, such as temples, mosques, or churches. Not all religious traditions require this, however. Some authors describe their adherence to certain rituals; others choose to pray at home rather than visit places of worship.

The writers also illustrate how stereotypes about their religions have spilled into other parts of their lives, particularly in the years since Sept. 11, and share insights into how they live their religions in ways that challenge common misperceptions about Hindu and Muslim women.

Ultimately, the book asks its readers to "look to the diversity of religions," Purkayastha says. "Try to listen to women who practice any religion – not the institutional spokesperson. Look beyond the simplicities and don't generalize from a handful of cases. These religions are too vast, too diverse and dynamic."

Distinguished professors *continued from page 1*

children can learn through sign language while they are being taught the spoken language.

Anderson's research on the origin and evolution of domesticated plants and in conservation biology and biodiversity has taken him around the world. He has field experience in Costa Rica and the Caribbean, Mexico, South America, Australia, Spain, and South Africa.

One of the areas Anderson studies – the reproductive biology of island plants – involves a serious conservation problem, he says, particularly on oceanic islands if only one seed is deposited. Effective conservation requires understanding all elements of biology, including conserving plant pollinators so that plants can survive past the current generation.

The conservation problem of islands is being extended to land spaces on continents, too, says Anderson, who came to UConn in1973 and was named a Distinguished Alumni Professor in 1997. As native forests and plants diminish – prairie plants in the Midwest, for example – the land is left with "continental islands" where the need for conserving plant and animal species is similar to that on oceanic islands.

Three species of small herbaceous shrubs from Latin America have been named after Anderson, honoring his work on the biology of plants in the potato/tomato/pepper family.

In Washington, Anderson has been working to promote international graduate experiences in research and education. Interest is rapidly growing in joint and dual degrees with international connections, he notes.

Anderson has been president of the Botanical Society of America and of the American Institute of Biological Sciences, which honored him with a Distinguished Service Award in 2002. At UConn, he served a term as chair of the Senate Executive Committee, and for more than 20 years was a member of the executive committee of the Graduate School's Graduate Faculty Council.

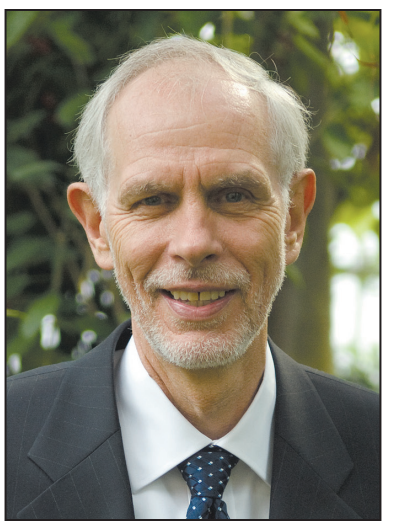

PHOTO BY DANIEL BUTTREY

Gregory Anderson

PHOTO BY DANIEL BUTTREY

Diane Lillo-Martin

In the School of Pharmacy, Diane Burgess is working with chemistry professor Fotios Papadimitrakopoulos and electrical and computer engineering professor Faquir Jain in developing miniaturized, implantable blood glucose sensors that could become indispensable for millions of people with diabetes.

The tiny wireless sensors are small enough to be injected under a person's skin through a needle. They can be used to relay important, real-time metabolic information such as blood glucose levels without the more invasive skin prick commonly used by diabetics today.

More importantly, Burgess says, the biosensors provide continuous readings of the blood glucose and, in doing so, can eventually be used to work in conjunction with an insulin delivery device to act as an artificial pancreas. This will allow tight control of diabetics' blood glucose levels and prevent the many debilitating side effects of the disease.

Burgess' research group recently developed a biocompatible coating for the sensors to prevent body tissue from rejecting them or limiting their effectiveness over time. While the coating has been shown to be effective for up to three months, Burgess' group is in the process of furthering the technology to extend the sensor's functional lifetime to six months. It is anticipated that the biosensors could be commercialized within just a few years.

PHOTO BY JOOHAN SONG

Diane Burgess

In addition to her sensor research, Burgess is studying ways that small molecule drugs, vaccines, and gene therapeutics can be safely and effectively delivered at the cellular level. She also is looking into the development of novel technologies for the controlled release of pharmaceuticals.

When not in the lab, Burgess spends part of her time as director of the School of Pharmacy's Study Abroad program. Seven students from the School of Pharmacy and six from other academic disciplines spent five weeks in Beijing, China last summer studying traditional Chinese medicine as part of the program.

Burgess is an active member of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS), an AAPS fellow, and former president of the association. She is currently president-elect of the Controlled Release Society, an international organization dedicated to the science of delivering bioactive substances.

Dean says 21st century agriculture a complex scientific field

BY DAVID BAUMAN

Just before Thanksgiving last year, Gregory Weidemann, the new dean of UConn's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, convened a gathering of all 130 members of the faculty. He described the get-together as a "great opportunity to welcome and meet with new members of the College family."

It is a telling gesture about how Weidemann has been winning his welcome at the College.

"You can't start to administer an organization until you get out and get a good feel for its culture," says Weidemann. "I need to become part of the family before I begin making changes."

During his first nine months on the job, Weidemann has devoted much of his time to meeting with the faculty, staff, students, alumni, lawmakers, and other stakeholders in Connecticut's agricultural sector. And he is getting rave reviews.

"He couldn't have started any better," says Ian Hart, the College's associate dean for research and advanced studies. Hart says the dean has traveled the state "six and a half days a week" to meet all the College's constituencies. "This is the industry we support and they support us. He has pretty much met with everybody."

Cameron Faustman, the College's associate dean for academic programs, says Weidemann is "doing just great," despite beginning his tenure just as declining budgets imposed "incredible fiscal challenges on the entire University."

Faustman says that a bi-weekly blog the dean uses to communicate is "a great way to let everyone know what's going on, how he operates, and that he's approachable."

Land-grant mission

A native of Wisconsin, Weidemann spent his academic career at two other land-grant universities before coming to UConn. He has a bachelor's degree in zoology and a Ph.D. in plant pathology from the University of Wisconsin.

As a faculty member in plant pathology at the University of Arkansas, Weidemann became a recognized international authority on plant pathogenic fungi. He also received several teaching awards. He headed the university's Agricultural Experiment Station for seven years, and in 2002 was appointed as dean of the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food, and Life Sciences.

Weidemann says the UConn College of Agriculture and Natural Resources continues to play a significant role in the University's land-grant mission: "We have a firm commitment to research, education, and outreach to benefit the citizens, communities, and economic well-being of Connecticut."

He notes that there is widespread and growing interest in buying locally grown food, eating healthfully, developing green lifestyles, and ensuring the security of the food system. "This enthusiasm provides us a unique opportunity to help transform the state's food sector," he says.

Identifying priorities

Weidemann says the College's priorities include efforts to broaden its programs in environmental sustainability, human nutrition and health, and families and communities – areas that are important to the future of the state.

This focus is reflected in the new strategic plan he helped draft, which includes the goals of expanding undergraduate opportunities for study abroad, recruiting top graduate students, and boosting research in animal health, human nutrition, regenerative and developmental biology, plant biotechnology, horticulture, and land use planning.

The College is also well positioned to play a leadership role in educating people about the complex path food takes from the farm to the fork, Weidemann says: "Your typical consumer doesn't have any recognition when buying something in the grocery store how much science has gone into the product they're purchasing."

Recent incidents of contaminants entering the U.S. food supply underscore how difficult it has become to guarantee food safety in today's vast worldwide network of food producers, processors, and distributors, he adds.

Students who specialize in 21st-century agriculture discover a complex, systemic, and scientific world that includes the study of soil microbes at a molecular level, how fertilizers affect soil, new drought- and disease-resistant seed varieties, diseases that affect crops and animals, the economics of food production, water management technologies, methods of food processing, and the well-being of urban, suburban, and rural communities, he says.

"We're dealing with perception," he continues. "Talk about agriculture and people think you are teaching them how to farm. What we're really doing is training students who become professionals dealing in specialized roles of the agri-food industry.

"The business side of our food delivery system – food processing, manufacturing, distribution, retail, and regulation – is a very long chain that has professionals involved every step of the way."

Agriculture research can quickly be turned into prosperity and new job creation, because it is conducted cooperatively with local communities, farmers, growers, and educators through a network of extension services, he says.

"It's all about applying science to solve problems," Weidemann adds. "There will always be agriculture in the state. It will look different, but we will continue to see agriculture evolve. And we want to be known in the state as a resource to help in that evolution."

PHOTO BY FRANK DAHLMEYER

Gregory Weidemann, the new dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Physician recalls early days of pediatric residency program

BY MAUREEN MCGUIRE

Since Dr. Jose Muniz and a handful of others completed the first pediatric residency program at the UConn School of Medicine in 1973, nearly 600 pediatricians have followed in his footsteps.

More than 100 are now general pediatricians in Connecticut, and many others, like Muniz, are subspecialists throughout the state and elsewhere.

Muniz has a thriving practice specializing in allergies and immunology in Frederick, Md. He recently visited the Hartford area with Dr. Robert Greenstein, who was director of the pediatric residency program during Muniz's training.

Together, they visited the Health Center's Farmington campus and the Connecticut Children's Medical Center, which has been the centerpiece of the pediatric residency program since it opened 13 years ago. Residents also now train at St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center and the Burgdorf/Bank of America Health Center.

When Muniz trained, however, neither the children's hospital nor the Health Center existed. Instead, he rotated through the former McCook Hospital in Hartford, Hartford Hospital and the former New Britain General Hospital.

Muniz, who attended medical school in Peru at a sister school to Johns Hopkins University, said the UConn School of Medicine was his first choice for his residency because of the reputation of the faculty, particularly Dr. Milton Markowitz, the first chairman of the Department of Pediatrics.

"I knew it was a new program so a small group of us would have access to an outstanding faculty," Muniz said. At that time, the faculty for the pediatric residency program included Drs. Markowitz, Greenstein, Robert Kramer, Pat Hurlbrink, and Martha Lepow. Today, more than 120 full- and part-time faculty members support the residency program.

"There is a real life rhythm to the program," says Dr. Edwin Zalneraitis, who currently serves as the pediatric residency director. He notes that the residency program currently includes 17 physicians per year, and the number will increase to 20 next year as they introduce a new advocacy training track. In contrast to the early years, when the program was predominantly male, the vast majority of pediatric residents today are women.

"This reflects a national trend," Zalneraitis says. "It is considered a more family-friendly field."

But some things haven't changed. The program still offers a rigorous training for pediatricians to respond to the needs of patients and families – lessons that remain with Muniz today.

PHOTO BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

Dr. Robert Greenstein, left, and Dr. Jose Muniz. Greenstein was director of the pediatric residency training program during Muniz's training.

He says he vividly remembers an occasion during his residency when he was at the end of a grueling three-day stretch in the hospital. Toward the end of the third day, he admitted a child with meningitis. When he finally came home later that day, he was no sooner in the door than the phone started ringing.

"It was Dr. Greenstein calling to tell me I had not completed the medical history for the last patient I had admitted," Muniz recalls. "I told him I couldn't do it at the time because the child's mother wasn't available. Dr. Greenstein told me she was there now and he expected to see me soon. So, of course, I went back to work.

"Dr. Greenstein did not let us do anything that was incomplete," he adds. "He taught us a lot about the work ethic."

On April 29, Connecticut will celebrate "Dr. Robert Greenstein Day" with a reception at the state capitol to honor his career at UConn. This summer, he will step down as director of the Division of Human Genetics, although he will continue to see patients.

Promotion, tenure recommendations approved

The Board of Trustees approved the following promotion and tenure recommendations at its meeting on April 21.

Promoted to Professor
Emmanouil Anagnostou
Civil & Environmental Engineering, School of Engineering

Susanne von Bodman
Plant Science, College of Agriculture & Natural Resources

James Edson
Marine Sciences, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Gayanath Fernando
Physics, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Devendra Kalonia
Pharmaceutical Sciences, School of Pharmacy

Senjie Lin
Marine Sciences, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Akiko Nishiyama
Physiology & Neurobiology, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Cheryl Parks
School of Social Work

Gregory Sotzing
Chemistry, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Evan Ward
Marine Sciences, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Barrett Wells
Physics, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Promoted to Professor and Granted Tenure
Alexandra Lahav
School of Law

Susan Schmeiser
School of Law

Appointed as Professor and Granted Tenure
Hanchen Huang
Sustainable Energy and Mechanical Engineering, School of Engineering

Granted Tenure as Professor
Timothy Hunter
Dramatic Arts, School of Fine Arts

Promoted to Associate Professor and Granted Tenure
Hsu-Chih (Simon) Cheng
Sociology, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Felix Coe
Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Craig Coleman
Pharmacy Practice, School of Pharmacy

Keith Conrad
Mathematics, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Kirstie Cope-Farrar
Communication Sciences, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Kelly Dennis
Art & Art History, School of Fine Arts

Aggelos Kiayias
Computer Science & Engineering, School of Engineering

Jeffrey Ladewig
Political Science, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Alan Marcus
Curriculum & Instruction, Neag School of Education

Xenia Matschke
Economics, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Michael Morrell
Political Science, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Photo by Peter Morenus

A crowd estimated at 25,000 turned out for the April 19 victory parade in Hartford celebrating the Women's Basketball Team's NCAA National Championship.

Jeremy Pressman
Political Science, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Ramamurthy Ramprasad
Chemical, Materials, & Biomolecular Engineering, School of Engineering
Susanne Wurmbrand
Linguistics, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Xiadong Yan
Mathematics, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Zhongju (John) Zhang
Operations & Information Management, School of Business

Shengli Zhou
Electrical & Computer Engineering, School of Engineering

Promoted to Associate Clinical Professor
Khanh V. Dang
Pharmacy Practice, School of Pharmacy

Granted Tenure as Associate Professor
Hart Blanton
Psychology, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Heather Bortfeld
Psychology, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Rachel Perusse
Educational Psychology, Neag School of Education

Stephen Walsh
School of Nursing (tenure transferred from UConn Health Center)

Other Promotions
Phara Bayonne
Librarian III, University Libraries

Elizabeth Rumery
Librarian II, University Libraries

Michael Young
Librarian III, University Libraries

This list was supplied to the Advance by the Office of the Provost.

State of the University *continued from page 1*

increasingly competitive; and the 6 percent tuition increase still leaves a funding gap of $15 million for next year.

With spending reductions and a potential wage freeze, Hogan said, the University should be able to manage the gap next year; but the following year may be "very challenging," with another budget gap of between $10 million and $15 million.

He said the University will need to be strategic in managing the deficit, and the Academic Plan will guide decision-making.

"Our goals for undergraduate, graduate, and professional education, for research, scholarship, and creative activity, for diversity and public engagement are still our goals," he said. "We shape the future of UConn not through financial hardship, but through a defining vision. Our fiscal constraints can help, not hurt, our efforts to sharpen that vision, if we sculpt the identity of UConn with an eye to sustaining and advancing our mission."

As an example of turning setback into opportunity, the President spoke of undergraduate Kevin Burgio, who turned to the study of birds after having to give up his ambition to become a dentist when he was diagnosed with a neurological condition that made his hands shake. He recently won a Goldwater Scholarship to pursue his studies.

"I think Kevin epitomizes the UConn identity," Hogan said: "Rising to a new challenge by being open to new possibilities and acting on passion and intellect."

Hogan said the University is putting into place new organizational structures and policies to achieve its goals, and is reviewing current programs and practices. Although these steps have been a source of anxiety, "sometimes being the target of attention is a good sign," he said.

"Achieving ambitious goals, like growing our research enterprise and developing top-ranked graduate programs, requires better ways of operating and aligning our resources, however limited, with our priorities," he said. "We must continue to examine programs, majors, and centers to ask if some are more than we can afford, just as we must examine how we operate and ask if there are better ways of doing business."

Hogan pledged to continue to consult with the University community regarding the choices that must be made.

"These questions won't be asked and answered behind closed doors," he said.

He noted that there are many more committees in place today than a year ago, committees comprised of faculty and staff, who are wrestling with difficult issues and making concrete suggestions.

"Although we may not always agree, I appreciate their consultation with me and with you," he said, adding that there will probably be more review committees and more people asked to serve on them, because "through that consultation, we find the best answers.

"I know that all of my decisions will be unpopular with somebody or group, but a university without debate is itself a contradiction," he told the audience, "and I look forward to many lively conversations with you about your vision for our University."

The full text and audio recording of the President's speech are available on his web site: http://president.uconn.edu/

CALENDAR Monday, April 27, to Monday, May 4

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, May 4 through Thursday, May 21. Those items must be in the database by 4 p.m. on Monday, May 11.
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
Friday, 5/1 – Last day of classes.
Monday, 5/4 – Final examinations begin.

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.-10 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-2 a.m. Exam hours: 5/1-5/9, open 24 hours.
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. Exam hours, 5/1-5/9: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-midnight; weekends, 9 a.m.-midnight.
Avery Point Campus Library. Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed weekends. Exam hours, 5/4-5/10, Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
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. Exam hours, 5/4-5/10: Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

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

Ph.D. Defenses
Monday, 4/27 – Educational Psychology. *The Relationship of Career Decision Self-Efficacy and Perceived Barriers to Academic Preparedness for Community College Students of African Descent*, by Joshua Twomey (adv.: Colbert). 10 a.m., Room 246, Gentry Building.
Monday, 4/27 – Mathematics. *Computability Theory, Reverse Mathematics, and Ordered Fields,* by Oscar Levin (adv.: Solomon). 1 p.m., Room M118, Gant Science Complex.
Monday, 4/27 – Soil Science. *Production of Two Lipopeptide Antibiotics by Bacillus Subtilis in the Rhizosphere,* by Karen Kinsella (adv.: Schulthess). 2 p.m., Room 207-208, Young Building.
Monday, 4/27 – Philosophy. *Moral Personhood in Confucius and Aristotle*, by Alexus McLeod (adv.: Kupperman). 4:15 p.m., Room 227, Manchester Hall.
Tuesday, 4/28 – History. *Losing Ground: Land Loss Among the Mashantucket Pequot and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribes in the Nineteenth Century,* by Elliotte Draegor (adv.: Shoemaker). 10 a.m., Room 228, Wood Hall.
Tuesday, 4/28 – Educational Psychology. *Pathways in STEM: Factors Affecting the Retention and Attrition of Talented Men and Women from the STEM Pipeline,* by Nancy Heilbronner (adv.: Reis). 10:30 a.m., Room 12, Tasker Building.
Tuesday, 4/28 – Economics. *Three Essays on the Economics of Professional Baseball,* by Brian Volz (adv.: Miceli). 1 p.m., Room 339, Monteith Building.
Tuesday, 4/28 – Educational Psychology. *Prenatal Exposure to Cocaine and Middle Childhood Outcomes,* by Kevin Fontaine (adv.: Kehle). 2:30 p.m., Room 142, Gentry Building.
Wednesday, 4/29 – Educational Leadership. *The Experiences of Successful Female First-Generation Adult Learners in a Four-Year Undergraduate Environment,* by Sally Neal (adv.: Bell). 10 a.m., Room 246, Gentry Building.
Wednesday, 4/29 – Clinical Psychology. *Early Treatments Associated with Optimal Outcome in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders,* by Leandra Berry (adv.: Fein). 10 a.m., Room 162, Bousfield Building.
Wednesday, 4/29 – Clinical Psychology. *Regional Specificity of Leukoaraiosis as a Predictor of Reduced Executive Monitoring Abilities in the Healthy Elderly,* by Jesse Chasman (adv.: Fein). 2:30 p.m., Room 160, Bousfield Building.
Thursday, 4/30 – Kinesiology. *Gender Differences in Endocrine-Immune Interactions in Response to Acute Resistance Exercise,* by Maren Fragala (adv.: Kraemer). 9 a.m., Room 142, Gentry Building.
Thursday, 4/30 – Educational Leadership. *The Experience of Nontraditional Students Enrolled in a Transitions Course in an Undergraduate Degree Program*, by Patricia Harkins (adv.: Bell). 11 a.m., Room 246, Gentry Building.
Thursday, 4/30 – Anthropology. *Understanding Childhood Malnutrition in a Maya Village in Guatemala: A Syndemic Perspective,* by Elaine Bennett (adv.: Erickson). 1 p.m., Room 404, Beach Hall.
Thursday, 4/30 – Music. *Carmen Sylva and Her Contribution to Turn-of-the-Century Music as Poet, Translator and Patron,* by Rosalind Craft (adv.: McClain). 5:15 p.m., Room 103, Music Building.
Friday, 5/1 – Economics. *Essays on the Analysis and Implications of Two-Sided Matching Markets,* by James Boudreau (adv.: Knoblauch). 10 a.m., Room 339, Monteith Building.
Friday, 5/1 – Psychology. *From Shattered Assumptions to Weakened Worldviews: Evidence of Anxiety Buffer Disruption in Individuals with Trauma Symptoms,* by Donald Edmondson (adv.: Park). 3 p.m., Room 160, Bousfield Building.
Friday, 5/1 – Chemistry. *Preparation of Carbocycles via Cycloisomerization of Unsaturated Organolithiums: Part A. Lithium-Halogen Exchange-Initiated Transformations Part B. Optimization of Chromatographic Separations,* by Justin Fair (adv.: Bailey). 3 p.m., Room A304, Chemistry Building.
Monday, 5/4 – Communication Sciences. *Binaural Middle Latency Response in Noise (BMIN): The Influence of Age Related Changes in (Central) Auditory Processing*, by Jeffrey Weihing (adv.: Musiek). 10 a.m., Class of '47 Room, Babbidge Library.
Monday, 5/4 – Nursing. *Exemplary Presence in Emergency Nursing: A Focused Ethnography,* by Kathleen Walsh (adv.: Jacobs). 9 a.m., Room 303, Storrs Hall.
Monday, 5/4 – Music. *A Comparison of Schumann's Fourth Symphony with its Reorchestration by Mahler,* by Howard Hsu (adv.: Frogley). 1 p.m., Room 107, Music Building.
Monday, 5/4 – Mathematics. *Separating the Degree Spectra of Structures,* by Tyler Markkanen (adv.: Solomon). 2:30 p.m., Room M215, Gant Science Complex.

Meetings
Monday, 5/4 – University Senate. 4 p.m., Room 7, Bishop Center.

Lectures & Seminars
Monday, 4/27 – Norman Hascoe Distinguished Lecture in Physics. "Quantum Computing – How Far Have We Come, and Where Will We End?" by Klaus Molmer, Aarhus Universitaet. 4 p.m., Room P38, Gant Science Complex.
Tuesday, 4/28 – Physics Lecture. "Quantum Measurements: From a Philosophical Dilemma to a Technological Resource," by Klaus Molmer, Aarhus Universitaet. 2 p.m., Room P121, Gant Science Complex.
Wednesday, 4/29 – Rainbow Center Lecture. "Gay Parenthood and the Revolution of the Modern Family: An Examination of the Unique Barriers Confronting Gay Adoptive Parents," by Nicholas Arntsen. Noon, Room 403, Student Union.
Wednesday, 4/29 – Statistics Colloquium. "Modeling Functional Brain Connectivity," by Hernando Ombao, Brown University. 4 p.m., Room 344, CLAS Building.
Wednesday, 4/29 - Litchfield County Writers Project Discussion. Discussion of Mark Van Doren and Carl Van Doren, Pulitzer Prize winners, with Charles Van Doren and Davyne Verstandig. 6:30 p.m., Hogan Lecture Hall, Torrington Campus.
Thursday, 4/30 – Comparative Pathology Lecture. "Strategies for Enhancing the Safety and Efficacy of Recombinant Vaccines," by Tilahun Yilma, University of California. 11 a.m., Room A001, Atwater Lab.
Thursday, 4/30 – CHIP Lecture. "Dietary Carbohydrate Restriction Uniquely Targets the Features of Metabolic Syndrome," by Jeff Volek. 12:30 p.m., Room 204, Ryan Refectory.
Friday, 5/1 – Assessment Colloquium. "Spotlight on Assessment: 'Big Rocks' of Effective Instruction: How to Think Like a Great Teacher," by Samantha Kennedy, Achievement First. 11:30 a.m., register at www.education.uconn.edu/assessment/colloquia.cfm.
Friday, 5/1 – Environmental Engineering Seminar. "From Source to Sea: Watershed Management and the Long Island Sound," by Mark Tedesco, EPA Long Island Sound Office. Noon, Room 212, Castleman Building.
Friday, 5/1 – Marine Science Lecture. "Fish CO2 Physiology," by Pat Walsh, University of Ottawa. 3 p.m., Room 103, Marine Sciences Building, Avery Point Campus.
Friday, 5/1 – Sigma Pi Sigma Colloquium. "Are We Alone?" by Jill Tarter, SETI Institute. 4 p.m., Room P38, Gant Science Complex.
Friday, 5/1 – Litchfield County Writers Project Discussion. With authors Ann Leary, Marie Bostwick, and Lauren Lip and Davyne Verstandig. 6:30 p.m., Hogan Lecture Hall, Torrington Campus.

Photo by Gerry Goodstein

Connecticut Repertory Theatre's production of *Hair,* running through May 2. See Performing Arts.

Exhibits
Through Friday, 5/1 – Student Union Art Gallery. UConn drawing class show. Monday-Friday, 11a.m.-7 p.m.
Through Sunday, 5/10 – Benton Museum. *Anatomically Correct: Medical Illustrations, 1543-2008*; and *Fleshed Out,* works by Will Foote, Harry Morley, Albert Sterner, and Kathe Kollwitz; *Apperceptions,* works by MFA candidates Michael Donovan, Bruce Myren, Jacob Saunders, Elizabeth Talbot, and Erin Wiersma; and *Luigi Lucioni's American Countryside,* etchings. Museum hours: Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 1-4:30 p.m.
Through Friday, 5/15 – Babbidge Library. *Portraits in Glass,* by Debbie Tarsitano, Gallery on the Plaza; *Connecticut Wilderness,* works by Randall Nelson, Stevens Gallery and West Alcove.
Through Friday, 5/15 – Dodd Center. *Indigenous Voices*, Aztec, Mayan, and Incan codices.
Through Sunday, 6/7 – Alexey von Schlippe Gallery. Works on paper by Alida Ferrari; mixed media/found object pieces by Peter Leibert; oils on canvas by Richard Nazzaro; and mixed media/installations/drawings by Connie Pfeiffer. Wednesday-Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Members and students free, others $3 donation. Avery Point Campus.
Through Wednesday, 7/29 – Health Center. *A Contemporary Exploration,* paintings by Shirley Mae Neu; and *Kindergarten Masterpieces,* by students from Norfeldt Elementary School. 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 Monday, 11/30 – Ballard Institute & Museum of Puppetry. *Toy Theaters of the World and Títeres y Máscaras*, puppet and mask traditions from the Americas and Europe. 6 Bourn Place, Depot Campus. Open Friday-Sunday, noon-5 p.m. Suggested donation $3 adults.

Performing Arts
Through Saturday, 5/2 – Musical. CRT presents *Hair,* directed by Gabe Barre. Harriet Jorgensen Theatre. Tickets $11-$29. For performance times and tickets, call 860-486-4226.
Monday, 4/27 – Jazz Lab Band. John Mastroianni, director. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Admission $7.
Tuesday, 4/28 – Symphonic Band. David Mills, conductor. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Admission $7.
Thursday, 4/30 – Symphony Orchestra. Jeffrey Renshaw, conductor, and Earl MacDonald, piano. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Admission $7, students and children free.
Friday, 5/1 and Saturday, 5/2 – Cabaret. *The Letterman.* 8 p.m., Jorgensen. Tickets $34, $38, $45. For information call 860-486-4226.
Friday, 5/1 – Chamber Music Ensembles. Kangho Lee and Theodore Arm, directors. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall.
Saturday, 5/2 – Community School of the Arts Studio Recital. Performance by students of Sarah Masterson. 1 p.m., Recital Hall, Vernon Building, Depot Campus.
Saturday, 5/2 – Student Recital. Rodrigo Queiroz, piano. 8 p.m., von der Mehden.
Sunday, 5/3 – Community School of the Arts Recitals. Suzuki students. 2:30 and 4 p.m., Vernon Building, Depot Campus.
Sunday, 5/3 – Community School of the Arts Recital. Castillo and Burns will perform a variety of musical selections. 6:30 p.m., Vernon Building, Depot Campus.
Sunday, 5/3 – Student Ensemble Concert. Saxophone Quartets. 8 p.m., von der Mehden.

Film
Thursday, 4/30 – Global Health and Human Rights Film. *The Price of Sugar.* 5:30, Massey Auditorium, Health Center, Farmington. Discussion led by Samuel Martinez.

Athletics
Tuesday, 4/28 – Softball vs. Bryant University. 4 p.m., Softball Field.
Saturday, 5/2 – Softball vs. Providence. Noon and 2 p.m., Softball Field.

Potpourri
Wednesday, 4/29 – Co-op Book Reading. *Joyful Reading,* by Sally Reis. 4 p.m., UConn Co-op.
Wednesday, 4/29 – University Libraries Book Sale. Opens to the University community (with ID) at 9 a.m. and to the public at 11 a.m., closes at 3 p.m., Library Plaza.

Class of '09 Graduating Students

Amelia Arnold

Photo by Frank Dahlmeyer

Amelia Arnold, Pharmacy

by Sherry Fisher

Amelia Arnold says working as a clerk in her home town pharmacy sparked her interest in the field.

"I worked in a local pharmacy part time on Saturdays and I really loved it," says Arnold, who is graduating with a Pharm.D. degree, earned in a six-year program. "I knew the customers and I enjoyed the relationships that I built."

She says her experience in UConn's pharmacy program has been rewarding.

"It's a great, small, close-knit pharmacy community," says Arnold. "You get to know every faculty member and they know you, but you also have all the advantages of a large public research university."

Arnold has been actively involved in pharmacy programs and events at UConn. "There are so many wonderful opportunities here," she says. "There's something going on all the time."

Arnold, who is graduating with a 3.8 GPA, has been president of the student chapter of the National Consulting Pharmacists Association, president of the student leadership society Phi Lambda Sigma, and treasurer of the pharmacy honor society Rho Chi. She has also been involved in the UConn chapter of the American Pharmacists Association and the Pharmacy Student Government.

She was also a community assistant on a pre-pharmacy floor learning community, where she was voted community assistant of the year. "I enjoyed mentoring and the opportunity to work with younger students," she says.

Arnold is pursuing a post-graduate residency in community pharmacy at Wilkes University in Pennsylvania. "That makes me unique compared to my peers, most of whom do residencies in hospitals," she says. "I love working with people and this residency offered me the opportunity to work directly with the public."

Her future plans include working in a community-based pharmacy, where pharmacists counsel patients about medications, administer immunizations, and provide clinics and other services.

"More and more today, especially as the baby boomers age, people are realizing that pharmacists have incredible skills that are often underused," Arnold says. "They can do so much more than just verifying prescriptions behind a counter. It could take days to see your doctor if you have a cold, but you can go to your pharmacist for information as well as medication. It's one of the most consistently trusted professions."

Aaron Lee

Photo by Daniel Buttrey

Aaron Lee, Liberal Arts and Sciences

by Eunice Omega, CLAS '10

Aaron Lee has always wanted to do two things: go to medical school and become an educator. Now he has the opportunity to do both. Lee has deferred his acceptance to the UConn School of Medicine, and will work for two years for Teach For America.

Lee, a biological sciences honors student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, is one of eight UConn students selected this year for the highly competitive Teach For America, a non-profit organization that seeks to bridge the gap in educational equality by recruiting outstanding college graduates to teach in rural or urban schools.

He heard of the organization in high school and immediately connected to its mission.

"I almost feel obligated to spend part of my life doing something meaningful for the community," Lee says. "I want to make sure that everybody gets the education that they are expected to get."

Lee, who graduated as valedictorian of Plainville High School, is concerned about the achievement gap between students who attend schools in high-income communities and those educated in low-income communities.

"It just seems unfair that I have opportunities that other students don't have because I went to better schools than they did," he says. "As an individual and as a citizen, I feel that it would be selfish not to at least try to improve educational equality."

As an undergraduate, Lee has been engaged in two years of research in physiology and neurobiology.

With the help of Professor Akiko Nishiyama, he conducted research on the relationship between growing axons and the relatively recently discovered NG2 cell in the brain. It is speculated that NG2 cells can repair axons that are damaged in certain pathological conditions such as multiple sclerosis.

Lee also worked for four years as the CLAS web master, building the College's web site and occasionally upgrading it. He also helped many CLAS departments and faculty design their sites.

After medical school, Lee hopes to combine science and teaching in a career in academic medicine.

"Teaching at a medical school, you get the best of both worlds," he says. "I'd get to teach, do research, and see patients."

He will begin teaching this summer. After five weeks of training, he will be placed in the Baltimore, Md. school system, teaching secondary school biology. He plans to enter medical school in 2011.

Sally Neal

by Sherry Fisher

Sally Neal will never forget the last statistics exam she took during her senior year in college.

"On one side of the paper I was doing statistics calculations," she says. "On the other side, I was timing my contractions. My daughter was born a week later."

Her daughter is now 13, and Neal is graduating from UConn with a Ph.D. in adult learning from the Department of Educational Leadership in the Neag School of Education.

Neal, a first-generation college student, took her first college course when she was 31.

"Like many first-generation students, when we graduated from high school we either got a job or got married," she says. She did both.

"I was working as an announcer at a radio station, had a two-year-old son, and had my mornings off," she says. "I decided to take some college classes and fell in love with education."

Neal has always worked full time while going to college. At UConn, she has been a secretary in the Dean of Students Office and a program assistant in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and she is now the academic advisor for transfer students in the College.

"I've always been interested in nontraditional students," says Neal, who has dedicated herself to their support.

She was the recipient of the 2008-2009 UConn Undergraduate Student Government Advisor of the Year Award.

Neal's dissertation topic is "Successful female first-generation adult learners in an undergraduate environment."

Photo by Frank Dahlmeyer

Sally Neal, Education

She says the women in her study said that they returned to college for their children: "They knew intuitively that if they took care of their own education, their kids would be inspired to do the same. I felt a great kinship with the women in my study."

Neal says she feels "very lucky" to have found the Neag School's program in adult learning.

"Everyone wants to see you succeed," she says, "and they give you the tools, the resources, and the encouragement to do it."

She adds, "I love what I do and I hope that it has some impact on women who think that a college education isn't accessible to them."

At the May 10 Commencement ceremony, Neal is serving as a marshall for College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Camille Patterson

by Sherry Fisher

Camille Patterson has made community service and leadership activities a big part of her UConn career.

A psychology and political science double major in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, she has been actively involved with programs through UConn's Community Outreach programs. She has volunteered with Food Share Inc. and has been a mentor with an after-school program for middle school students in Willimantic. Through the alternative breaks program, she built homes with Habitat for Humanity in Bridgeport.

"I found the community work very rewarding," Patterson says. "I liked having the opportunity to step outside the university atmosphere and help individuals who are less fortunate."

After taking a First Year Experience course in leadership, and learning about the Peer Leadership Program, Patterson applied to become an instructor. She was accepted during her junior year and taught the leadership course for a semester.

Patterson was a Student Union representative to the University's Policy Council, and has been a Student Union building manager for two years.

She says participating in the University's Leadership Legacy Experience was inspirational. "My experience there led to a great deal of personal development. Although we were all recognized as established leaders at the University, it was important that we didn't stop there. We were presented with opportunities to further develop our leadership skills."

Patterson spent her first six weeks on the Storrs campus attending a seven-credit summer program through Student Support Services. The program, part of UConn's Center for Academic Programs, helps low-income and first-generation students adjust to college life. "The staff at CAP are a great resource," she says.

Photo by Peter Morenus

Camille Patterson, Liberal Arts and Sciences

Patterson says UConn offers a perfect balance. "I feel that your college experience is 50 per cent academic and 50 per cent social. The University of Connecticut offers that. You're going to be challenged academically and you're going to blossom socially."

She adds, "So much is offered to you here, like clubs and different organizations. You can definitely graduate from here as a well-rounded person."

Patterson, who plans to go into entertainment law, has been accepted to several law schools.

Over a period of several weeks, the Advance is publishing short profiles of some of this year's graduating students.

Those featured were selected from among those recommended by each school and college.