

UConn

MAGAZINE

JAN 2016

GOING, GOING, GONE.

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TO BE TRUSTED?

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are just the tip of the iceberg. p.16

SNAP!

UConn Nation's Class of 2019

The University's first official class photo took three months to plan, but 3,000 new freshmen obediently filed into a 90-by-35-yard formation on the Great Lawn in just under an hour. "Try that when they're seniors," a volunteer quipped. Find out more about the Class of 2019, the University's most accomplished and diverse to date, on page 14. Watch a drone video of the shoot at s.uconn.edu/freshmen2019.



JONATHAN
STOPPED BY!



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WEB EXCLUSIVES

magazine.uconn.edu

VERY SUPERSTITIOUS

Draw back the curtain to observe Huskies indulging in no-longer-secret game-day rituals at s.uconn.edu/superstition.

HOT OR TRUSTWORTHY

Play a game to reveal the identities behind the dating-app-style photos on page 34 at s.uconn.edu/hotortrustworthy.

GOING, GOING, GONE.

Watch Go-Pro footage from a not-so-glacial Alaska at s.uconn.edu/goinggoinggone.

WHAT'S YOUR SIGN?

Ponder your own potential star power while matching celebrities and their astrological signs at s.uconn.edu/starpower.

SUE BIRD CONFIDENTIAL

The NCAA, WNBA, and Team USA basketball star shares her highest/lowest/weirdest UConn experiences — and much more — at s.uconn.edu/suebird.

TOM'S TRIVIA

Find out how your UConn knowledge stacked up against Tom's at s.uconn.edu/trivia.

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FROM THE EDITOR

“Expose yourself to noble people.”

That is one of the best pieces of advice I was given in my previous life as an editor of parenting magazines. It came from Mary Catherine Bateson, noted writer and cultural anthropologist who also happens to be the daughter of Margaret Mead. Bateson was discussing the best things one can do to raise your children well.

Her counsel came to mind recently as I sat in the office of UConn History Professor Alexis Dudden, waiting for her to finish explaining to a campus policeman the details of the most recent menacing threat she'd received as a consequence of her passionate defense of human rights, in this case on behalf of an accurate historical record concerning brutal treatment of Japanese “comfort women” in World War II. Dudden writes in these pages about women in modern Japan struggling to maintain the country's constitutional pledge of peace (page 36).

Bateson's advice came to mind again in Jorgensen auditorium when, after watching Bill Clinton receive the Thomas J. Dodd Prize in International Justice and Human Rights (page 5), a co-winner of the prize, Molly Melching, took the stage. Melching received the award on behalf of Tostan, the organization she founded that has, in many African villages, managed to end the centuries-old practices of female genital cutting and child marriage. Melching went to Senegal as an exchange student in the 1970s and, observing human rights abuses, couldn't bring herself to leave. I had goosebumps listening to her talk about how she made a difference by first spending years just being with these Senegalese women, hearing them talk about what they needed, and then how she has spent decades helping them get it.

And I found myself thinking about Bateson's guidance a third time in as many weeks when, after interviewing basketball champion Sue Bird, I found myself telling my husband: She's the kind of person you want your kids to know. (Find out what she had to say on page 48 and online at s.uconn.edu/suebird.)

“Possessing, characterized by, or arising from superiority of mind or character or of ideals or morals,” reads a Merriam-Webster definition of “noble.”

I think my daughter and I got lucky landing at UConn; clearly, it will not be difficult to surround ourselves with nobility. I'm looking forward to sharing stories of noble people with her, and with you on these pages. The good news is, with this issue, there will be more pages of *UConn Magazine* on which to do just that. The magazine has almost doubled in size and will now show up in your mailboxes in January, May, and September. Please visit magazine.uconn.edu to let us know what you think of this re-designed magazine and also, please, share your own stories of nobility in our midst.

Our kids — all of us — need those stories more than ever.

Lisa Stiepok



Molly Melching at Jorgensen accepting the Thomas J. Dodd Prize in International Justice and Human Rights on behalf of her organization Tostan.

ON CAMPUS

BILL CLINTON AND THE DODD CENTER CELEBRATE 20 YEARS

“You all have the power to be soldiers for human rights. I urge you to use that power,” former President Bill Clinton told the audience at a packed Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts after receiving the Thomas J. Dodd Prize in International Justice and Human Rights. Clinton’s return to UConn on Oct. 15, came 20 years to the day after his visit for the inauguration of the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, which is named for the late U.S. senator from Connecticut.

Clinton was a co-winner along with Tostan, a vital human rights organization that has brought significant, sustainable change to Africa, notably by putting an end to the centuries-old practices of female genital cutting and forced child marriage. Tostan founder Molly Melching was there to accept the second Thomas J. Dodd prize.

During the University-wide celebration, the focus frequently returned to the power of all individuals to effect change.

“Sometimes the empowerment of people to help themselves is the most important thing you can do,” said Clinton. Acknowledging that it is a troubling time in the world because “there are so many blatant examples of abuses of human rights,” he urged audience members to “not be

paralyzed by the fact that we cannot stop every bad thing or solve every problem.”

Both award recipients cited examples of individuals who make a difference — from women in small African villages whose voices have united behind efforts to abandon the practice of female genital cutting to students who donate to human rights organizations with the stroke of a computer key.

“You may not want to do what Molly [Melching] did,” said Clinton, “but you can support people who do.”

Tostan

In 1971, Melching visited Senegal intending to remain for a few months, yet stayed more than 40 years. She started Tostan to empower African communities to bring about sustainable development

and positive social transformation based on respect for human rights.

Melching explained that Tostan’s innovative approach, called the Community Empowerment Program, is rooted in the belief that every human being has a fundamental right to human dignity.

The program was shaped by a set of shared beliefs about human rights, including that everyone has the right to be free from discrimination, the right to be free from violence, the right to pursue an education and work, and the right not to be exploited, said Melching.

Tostan has been recognized in the past, notably by Hillary Clinton when she was First Lady, said Melching, before citing the words of another former First Lady,

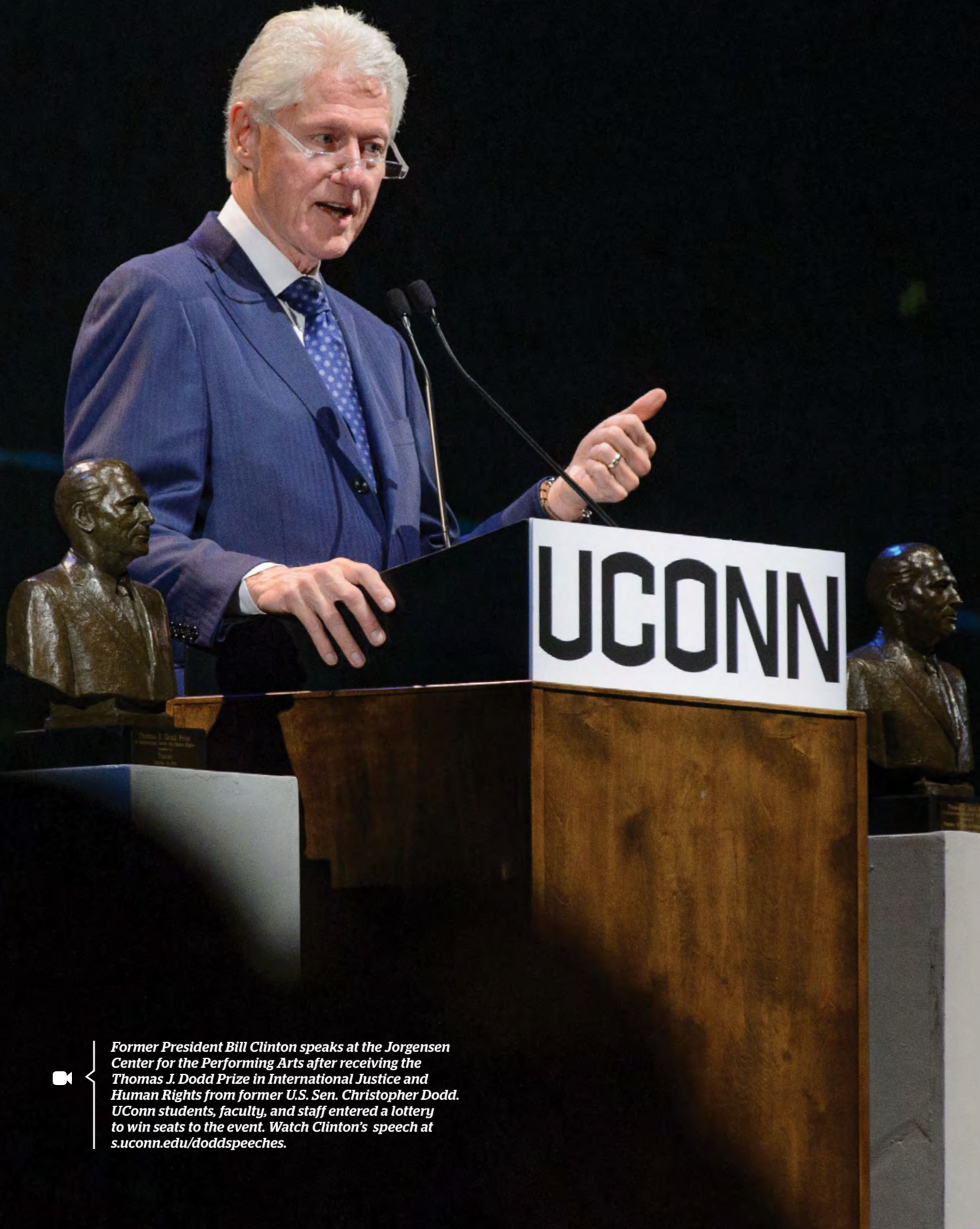
Eleanor Roosevelt: “Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home, so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world.’ I dedicate this award to all those who work for human rights in small places around the world,” Melching continued.

The Clinton Foundation

Clinton was recognized for the efforts of the foundation he established after leaving office. The Bill, Hillary, and Chelsea Clinton Foundation works to improve global health and wellness, increase opportunity for girls and women, reduce childhood obesity, create economic opportunity and growth, and help communities address the effects of climate change.

University Provost Mun Choi ended the ceremony with the same call to action emphasized throughout the night.

“President Clinton, I thank you for your service to the nation and the greater humanity,” said Choi, before turning to the audience to say, “Go forth and make an impact.” —KRISTEN COLE



Former President Bill Clinton speaks at the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts after receiving the Thomas J. Dodd Prize in International Justice and Human Rights from former U.S. Sen. Christopher Dodd. UConn students, faculty, and staff entered a lottery to win seats to the event. Watch Clinton’s speech at s.uconn.edu/doddspeeches.

THE WHOLE TRUTH

CANDY COMPANIES PROMISED NOT TO ADVERTISE TO KIDS – NOW THEY ARE DOING IT EVEN MORE

It’s been four years since candy makers in this country made voluntary pledges not to advertise to children age 11 and under. Today, those children are viewing substantially *more* TV ads for candy, according to a new study by the world-renowned Rudd Center for Food Policy & Obesity at UConn.

Find out more about the ongoing study at s.uconn.edu/candyads

From 2008 to 2011, children’s exposure to candy ads on U.S. television increased 74 percent, rising to an average of 485 ads viewed per child in 2011, compared to an average of 279 ads viewed per child in 2008, according to the study. Most of the ads accounting for the increase were from the very companies that agreed in 2007 to participate in the self-regulatory Children’s Food and Beverage Advertising Initiative.



Peter Morenus

FIELD NOTES

WHEN IS THE MEDIA GOING TOO FAR?

A journalism professor's blog compares how students from UConn and across Europe view a number of ethical dilemmas.

This past spring, Associate Professor of Journalism *Gail B. MacDonald '81 (CLAS)* spent a month as a Fulbright Specialist teaching journalism ethics at Masaryk University in Brno, which she describes as "the Czech Republic's funky, lively second city." Here's her report from the field.

Since I also regularly teach journalism ethics classes at UConn, I asked both my Connecticut and my European students — who hailed from the Czech Republic, Romania, Ukraine, France, and Germany — to share their thoughts about ethical dilemmas facing the media via a discussion blog.

Acceptable behavior on-and off-duty

The greatest number of comments came on a post asking whether it is right for news outlets to extend codes of ethical conduct to reporters' actions on their personal time. Case in point: an ESPN reporter who was suspended after she was filmed hurling insulting remarks at a clerk at a car-towing business.

There were 23 students who commented and, on both sides of the Atlantic, students concluded that the journalist's punishment was deserved.

The Euro students were the first to offer some specific details, such as noticing that the video appeared to have breaks in it that could indicate it was doctored, and also saying that if such a hissy fit were thrown by an elected official, any journalist would jump all over it:

"When you become a TV news reporter, you automatically become a public person as well. Therefore, you have to embrace good manners and avoid any disgraceful behavior in public. If this woman was a mayor or a politician, her behavior would become a huge scandal immediately," wrote a student from the Czech Republic.

Publicizing villains

On a post about the controversial *Rolling Stone* cover of the Boston Marathon bombing suspect, the question posed was whether students would have published the same photo and whether their personal biases played into the decision.



"[American] journalists ... want to take benefit of the audience's vicious curiosity."

Almost all American students who commented said they thought the photo insulted the bombing victims and would not have published the photo for this reason, while the Euro students said they thought the photo had value and they would have published it.

Many American students acknowledged their personal biases impacting their decisions here, but claimed that didn't sway their opinions.

Satisfying public curiosity

A third post asked students whether the German or U.S. press acted more ethically in the aftermath of the Germanwings

air crash. U.S. journalists swarmed the co-pilot's hometown and published details from his Facebook page, while some German reporters never even published the co-pilot's name.

The first interesting thing here is that only the Euro students commented and most thought the most ethical practices did not lie at either extreme, but that what was published needed to be verified and should have pertinence to the overriding goal of the news coverage:

"It is understandable that they wanted to protect their man. But, in the end, if he did kill those people on purpose, then there is no excuse for the press to hide this," posted a student from Romania.

"The journalist's work is to deliver the truth, but here the articles are overburdened by the [American] journalists who want to take benefit of the audience's vicious curiosity," wrote a French student.

The price of celebrity

Students also pondered appropriate ethical boundaries for journalists probing the private lives of children of celebrities and politicians, agreeing that the press too often is overly intrusive:

"The media goes too far when it comes to covering stories about a celebrity's family member. After all, they did not ask to be famous," wrote one UConn student.

"If you work for serious media, your ethical compass should scream, 'no way, this is too much.' Is [it] really important information that [the] daughter of someone famous is pregnant? Is it a thing [t]hat everybody needs to know? NO, it is not," wrote a Czech student. —GAIL B. MACDONALD '81 (CLAS)

Find more responses and pictures of MacDonald's trip at s.uconn.edu/Brno

UConn Talks

"Where are the women in late night television? The question is paraded out every few years as regularly as frosted lipstick or the peplum."

Gina Barreca, professor of English.

The Conversation September 29, 2015

"IF YOU GET HERE AGAIN, WE MIGHT HAVE TO NAME THE WHITE HOUSE BASKETBALL COURT AFTER YOU."

President Obama to the UConn women's basketball team on their third White House visit in three years, which followed their third straight national championship.

"SEE YOU NEXT YEAR."

GENO AURIEMMA TO PRESIDENT OBAMA, ON LEAVING THE WHITE HOUSE.

"I was in a graduate ecology class when I first heard about the scientific tradition of eating the organism you study. Other students were swapping stories of friends who had chomped down on grubs and beetles, or illicitly slurped a tadpole. It was hilarious, disgusting and revealing. I was finally learning what it meant to be a biologist."

Jessie Rack, doctoral candidate studying ecology, evolutionary biology, and salamanders.

National Public Radio August 12, 2015

THE HILL SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

"WE ... HAVE SAVED TWENTY TO TWENTY-FIVE LIVES IN THOSE [14] STATES IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS."

DOUGLAS CASA, C.O.O., UCONN'S KOREY STRINGER INSTITUTE, ON ITS GUIDELINES TO PREVENT HEAT STROKE.

The Bleacher Report August 3, 2015

"THE FREEDOM TO OFFEND THE POWERFUL IS NOT EQUIVALENT TO THE FREEDOM TO BULLY THE RELATIVELY DISEMPOWERED. THE ENLIGHTENMENT PRINCIPLES THAT UNDERGIRD FREE SPEECH ALSO PRESCRIBED THAT THE NATURAL LIMITS OF ONE'S LIBERTY LIE AT THE PRECISE POINT AT WHICH IT BEGINS TO IMPOSE UPON THE LIBERTY OF ANOTHER."

Jelani Cobb, associate professor of history and director of the Institute for African American Studies.

The New Yorker November 10, 2015

OFF CAMPUS

SIPS OF SCIENCE

UConn microbiologist Kenneth Noll expounds on the topic "Science Fiction Meets Reality" during a UConn Science Salon at NIXS bar in Hartford. Noll discussed the classic story "The Blue Germ," in which researchers deliberately infect the population of an English city with bacteria that confer immortality, while political science professor Stephen Dyson listens. The salons launched in 2015; visit s.uconn.edu/salon. —KIM KRIEGER



Peter Morenus

An October 2015 Gallup poll found that 60% of Americans ranked their trust in mass media as ranging from "not very much" to "none at all."



Courtesy of Mo Pleasure

CHECKING IN WITH...

MO PLEASURE '86, ON TOUR WITH BETTE MIDLER

The versatile artist, known in the business as a musician's musician, says being on the road with *The Divine Miss M.* was every bit as unpredictable — and stellar — as one might expect.

Multi-instrumentalist and producer Morris Pleasure '86 (SFA) got an early start to his professional career after chatting with a member of the Ray Charles Orchestra when the legendary High Priest of Soul performed at UConn. A year later, he hit the road as a member of the Orchestra.

Over the past three decades, Pleasure has established himself as an in-demand performer working with prominent acts, such as Earth, Wind & Fire; Michael Jackson; George Duke; Chaka Khan; Mary J. Blige; Natalie Cole; Christina Aguilera; and Frankie Beverly, among others.

Last summer he served as the music director for Bette Midler's "Divine Intervention" world tour. After a tour stop at Mohegan Sun in Connecticut, he played a gig with other tour musicians at Infinity Hall in Hartford, where he spoke with *UConn Magazine*.

To hear Mo play, go to s.uconn.edu/mopleasure

What's it like touring with Bette Midler?

Her gig is so eclectic, we do a lot of different kinds of music. Everybody in the band is capable of playing anything from jazz and classical to country, even cartoon music and sound effects. To do it on this level, packing 15,000-seat arenas with one of the biggest stars of our time, it's been incredible.

Her show has a lot of theatricality because of her acting. Were there any unexpected moments?

We have a section where she gets dressed up and re-enacts the witch character she played in the Disney film "Hocus Pocus." She puts spells on people in the middle of the act. Once, her witch teeth fell out and she immediately turned it into a schtick.

Your skill and experience allow you to play with anyone. How much of that comes from your time at UConn and how much from life on the road?

It's definitely a hybrid. UConn had great teachers when I was there like [pianist, composer-arranger] Ellen Rowe and [pianist] Neal Larrabee. I was playing jazz gigs at the Bushnell in Hartford with Ellen. I played in rock bands when I was in college, in the clubs. Then I went into real-world touring. Of course, everything I learned, all the mistakes I made have brought me to this place. Thirty years now. It's been amazing.

You've played a wide variety of music over the years, from classical to jazz and R&B. What kind is at your core?

Music that stirs my soul, James Barber to James Brown. Pop music today feels a little redundant to me, but every now and then there might be a chord or the way a groove is put together that moves me. In general, I'm about what music feels like. I think that's why I get hired; because I can make it feel good.

You and the Midler tour band decided to use a night off to drive from New York City to Hartford to do a show at Infinity Hall. Why?

Because all of us in the band are artists and need to express ourselves. We do a show that's got a format. We're doing sound checks, we're always playing. We just thought about it, and said, 'Let's find a place to play that lets us express these other ideas we have.'

You have your own music business called WaterSign Media. What kind of things do you do?

We've got artists and music. We've also got apps for teaching. I do a lot of master classes, a lot of teaching in the U.K.



What type of artists are you working with?

It's all over the place but generally soul, funk with a twist. It's been some time, but that music is coming back again. For a while it was pushed out by the electronic thing. I work with a lot of Amy Winehouse's band members. She really did set it up — girls playing guitar. A lot of the artists I work with are female guitarists. The young people really have it together. They are thinking about every aspect of their career — video, audio, their look.



Peter Morenus (2)

Food For Thought is one of two trucks tooling around campus. Its specialty is healthy but intensely flavorful tacos, including the Thai Chicken (pictured). And the other truck? It serves ice cream from the Dairy Bar, of course!

Place first ten ingredients (through the oil) in a blender or food processor and blend on high until smooth. Add salt and Sriracha to taste. Blend in water and you have a Thai Peanut Dressing. Place Kale Vegetable Blend in a bowl with the Thai Peanut Dressing, mix together, and chill for about 30 minutes.

To make the Pickled Red Onions:

- ½ lb. red onion, sliced paper thin
- ¾ cup apple cider vinegar
- 10 oz. granulated sugar
- 2 Tbls. fresh ginger, sliced thin
- ½ tsp. kosher salt
- 1 tsp. celery seeds
- 1 tsp. mustard seeds

Place the thinly sliced onion in a small, heat-proof container with a lid. Place the remaining ingredients in a small saucepan over high heat and bring to a rolling boil. Remove from heat and pour over the onions, so they are covered. Cover and refrigerate for a minimum of 24 hours.

To assemble:

- 12 (6-inch) flour or corn tortillas
- 1.5 lbs. Thai Peanut Slaw
- 6 oz. Pickled Red Onions
- 3 oz. fresh whole cilantro
- 12 tsp. scallions

Quickly sauté shredded chicken with a little salt and pepper until warm. Meanwhile, warm the tortilla shells on a very hot grill or flat top or in the oven. Place 2 ounces of pulled chicken meat into each tortilla, top with 1 ounce or more of slaw, followed by a large pinch of pickled onions. Finish each taco off with chopped fresh cilantro (stems and all) and scallions.

TASTE OF STORRS

THAI CHICKEN TACO | Makes 12 tacos

For those of you who cannot get to Storrs for a food truck fix, our friends at Dining Services were kind enough to create and share a make-at-home version of their Thai Chicken Taco, a crowd favorite. Note that the pickled onions need to marinate for a full day.

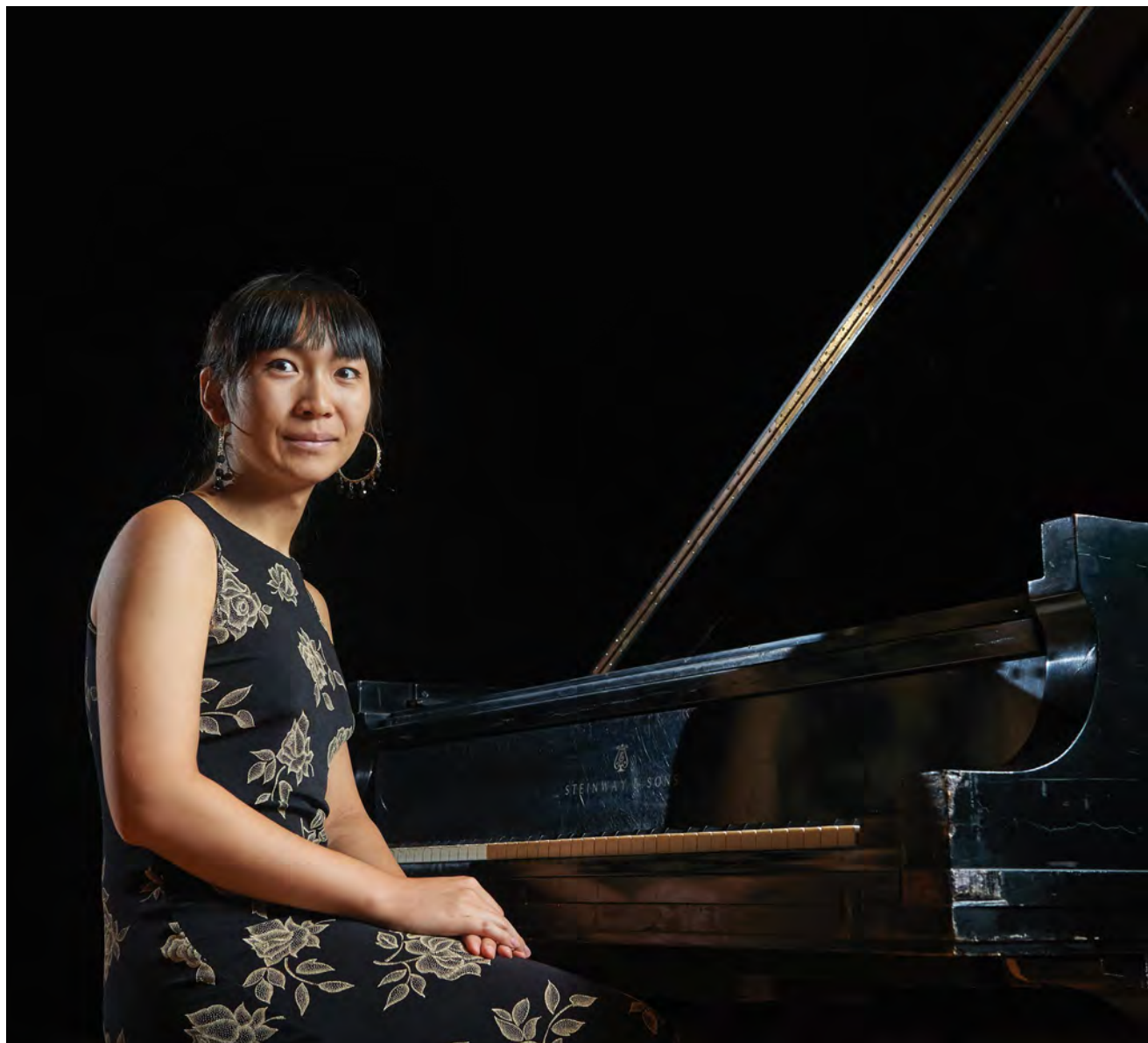
To make the Chicken Filling:

- 2 lbs. chicken thigh meat, bone-in
- 2 tsp. kosher salt
- 1 tsp. ground black pepper

Fill a medium saucepan halfway with water and bring to a rolling boil. Reduce heat to a slow simmer, add chicken, and cook to an internal temperature of 165 degrees. (Do not let the water come back to a rolling boil.) Strain and let cool. Once cool, pull the chicken from the bones into shreds and discard the bones. Refrigerate until needed. Or simply shred meat from a store-bought rotisserie chicken!

To make the Thai Peanut Slaw:

- ½ cup peanut butter
- 1 lime, juiced and zested
- 2 ½ tsp. sesame oil
- 1 Tbls. seasoned rice wine vinegar
- 2 Tbls. soy sauce
- 3 Tbls. honey
- 2 cloves garlic, roughly chopped
- 1 Tbls. ginger, minced
- ½ cup cilantro, roughly chopped
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- ¾ tsp. kosher salt
- 2-3 tsp. Sriracha chili sauce
- 4 Tbls. water
- 1 lb. Kale Vegetable Blend (found at most supermarkets)



Peter Morenus

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

CALLIOPE WONG '16

A woman of many talents, Wong told us about recording an album, crusading for transgender equality, and deciding to graduate a full year early — with honors.

If the name Calliope Wong is familiar to you, it's most likely because, since not being accepted to Smith College in 2013, Wong '16 (CLAS) has been making headlines fighting for the rights of gender-transitioning women to gain acceptance to women's colleges. A number of colleges have changed their policies in the past few years, including this fall, Smith. When that happened *The New York Times* ran an editorial asking Smith to make Wong an honorary member of their Class of 2017 saying, "Smith didn't give Ms. Wong an education. But the student's courage and tenacity taught her dream school a great deal."

While that bravery and activism is what she's most known for, since enrolling at UConn in 2013, Wong's been tackling a number of arenas. She's an English major pre-

Renaissance Woman Calliope Wong posed for us at the piano in von der Mehden Recital Hall.

To listen to the album Calliope recorded courtesy of an IDEA grant, go to s.uconn.edu/calliope

med student in the Honors program who won a coveted IDEA grant to record an album of piano music. We asked Wong about each of these facets of Calliope.

So, has Smith made you an honorary member of the 2017 class?

No, they've not responded in any way.

How did it make you feel to have *The New York Times* advocate for that in a piece by its Editorial Board?

It was affirming and definitely a nice feeling. Having *The New York Times* write about you is good for your cause.

We know why not Smith, but why UConn?

There are a lot of resources at UConn that I couldn't find at other schools. Other schools wouldn't allow me to be a pre-med English major, putting the hard sciences and humanities together. I get to do that here. In the morning I might be synthesizing aspirin in my Organic Chem lab and in the afternoon I'll be dissecting lines from *Beowulf*.

Why pre-med?

I'd like to be an endocrinologist, a doctor who works with people with hormonal disorders. This includes transgender people, so I'd be able to help my own community as well. That's one of the main reasons I've decided on this path: I want to be useful to the trans kids who'll come in the generations after me, as a way of giving back to the community that raised me. I'm training to be a doctor to fill a need, to figure out, 'How do we help people survive?' I want to be a culturally competent doctor who can do just that.

And why English?

I had a high school English teacher who encouraged me to write. I was good at hiding behind words and she saw through the vocabulary and competent writing and challenged me to write honestly. After that, my writing helped me explain who I am to myself.

Calliope is the Muse of Poetry. I picked my own name from the main character in Jeffrey Eugenides' *Middlesex*. Gender identity and life in general weren't simple for that character, and the story made a big impact on me in high school. The short version is, I picked English because I want to become someone useful, but I also want to become someone genuine.

You've gotten a lot of media attention for someone your age. What has been the most daunting media experience?

While I was still in high school, MSNBC rolled up into my driveway after school one day. **Unannounced?** Yes! And I had a bio test the next day.

Has the Caitlyn Jenner media jambo-ree affected your day-to-day life?

If you mean her presence in reality TV, it really hasn't. She doesn't define the typical trans narrative, and she honestly doesn't have much in common with me. I'm very glad she's given a voice to the community, but I hope that she realizes there have been a lot of voices in this community belonging to people who have been around the block for a lot longer. It's sort of a risky thing to put a young person in a spotlight — and that's sort of what she is, in trans years. Awareness of trans people itself doesn't change things.

"I am many other things besides trans."

What do you mean?

There are so many socioeconomic issues that trans people face. Lack of medical access and insurance coverage, lack of employment protections, and so many other issues. Okay, sure, we have marriage equality, but look at the rate of trans youth expelled from homes and in poverty. Forget the "trans" label for a minute — do you want this for your children? We really must make our politics about human beings and their survival.

You work so hard and do so much. Do you ever stop and tell yourself, 'Good job, Calliope?'

Things have changed. This is good, this is what we've been working for. Of course I sleep in sometimes like everyone else. But I do try to remind myself, 'Now let's keep moving.'

Speaking of pats on the back, congratulations on being one of the 26 recipients of the UConn 2014 IDEA grants. Tell us about your project.

Well, it's important to get some background. I studied classical piano until my freshman year of high school. Then, from freshman to sophomore year, life got

complicated; I came out to my parents that year. I stopped piano lessons. It turned out that not having piano was a quiet and lonely feeling, so I listened to a lot of instrumental music and started teaching myself to improvise and compose by listening to movie soundtracks. In some ways it's like learning to speak, you learn different phrases to say the same thing by listening to others.

I applied for the grant so I could create something for others to enjoy and find a way to give back to the transgender community. I used it to make an album of instrumental music titled "Hyaline Songs," that, with a booklet of liner notes, tells my story of growing up as a Chinese American trans woman. Fifty percent of the proceeds will go to two nonprofits that work with trans people. [Learn more at s.uconn.edu/calliope.]

What's one thing you want non trans — or cisgender — people to know and appreciate about trans people?

I am many other things besides trans. I also happen to be Chinese American, an activist, a gamer, a writer, a sci-fi geek, among other things. I'm only 20; I have a lot of room to grow. As people grow they accumulate more and more parts of their personalities and it's our job to integrate these parts, and to give other people the chance to integrate, too. I guess what I'm trying to say is that we have a lot to learn from one another.

What are you fighting for right now?

Education is one priority. I'm part of TSER (Trans Student Educational Resources), which was started by trans activist Eli Erlick of California. There are a lot of issues in educational inequality — students being discriminated against or not feeling safe. That's not okay. People need to be going to school in safe environments, yet there are a lot of students who can't feel comfortable just going to the bathroom.

But I'm only one person. I'm in my third and last year in college. At the end of a day, I've only had 24 hours like everyone else.

A note to leave us on?

You're going to get a lot more than one story from a person if you stick around. We are all much more capable of connecting than we imagine. — LISA STIEPOCK

GOING UP

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill



SOME OF THE MANY PROJECTS MAKING UCONN BIGGER AND BETTER:

TECHNOLOGY PARK

UConn broke ground this fall for the Technology Park's inaugural structure, a 113,000-square-foot, multilevel facility known as the Innovation Partnership Building or IPB (rendered above). On the North Campus, it should be ready for occupancy in 2017.

DOWNTOWN HARTFORD CAMPUS

The former Hartford Times building is the centerpiece of a campus with courtyards, an interior atrium, and ground-floor shops. By fall 2017, it could be home to 2,300 students and 250 faculty.

NEXTGEN RESIDENCE HALL

This living and learning facility will house hundreds of Storrs STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Scholars. Construction began in November 2014 and completion is targeted for fall 2016.

ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE BUILDING

A new high-performance building and laboratory in Storrs will host interdisciplinary research in fields, such as bio-nano engineering and cyber-physical systems engineering. Construction began in June 2015 and should be done summer 2017.

AND JUST OPENED...

- ...the **UConn Health Outpatient Pavilion** and the **Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine** in Farmington.
- ...the **Werth Family UConn Basketball Champions Center** in Storrs (tour the center at s.uconn.edu/championstour).

IN DEVELOPMENT

PROFESSOR VOWS TO REGENERATE HUMAN LIMBS BY 2030

On Veteran's Day the University of Connecticut announced the launch of its new grand research challenge: regeneration of a human knee within 7 years, and an entire limb within 15 years. This major international research undertaking is called The HEAL Project, which stands for Hartford Engineering a Limb. It is the brainchild of UConn Health's Cato T. Laurencin, a leading surgeon-scientist in orthopaedic surgery, engineering, and the new field of regenerative engineering, whose laboratory research successes include the growth of bone and knee ligaments. "This research initiative will be a game-changer for regenerative therapies," says Laurencin.



Find more at s.uconn.edu/limbs



Michael Fiedler

MAKING GOOD

MUSIC ON A MISSION

The New Orleans-style Funky Dawgz Brass Band is made up of alums and current students who say they are on a mission to "rejuvenate music." The group teaches master classes and makes music at inner-city elementary, middle, and high schools throughout Connecticut. On occasion, they also can be found rocking Storrs Center (above). Listen in at s.uconn.edu/dawgz.



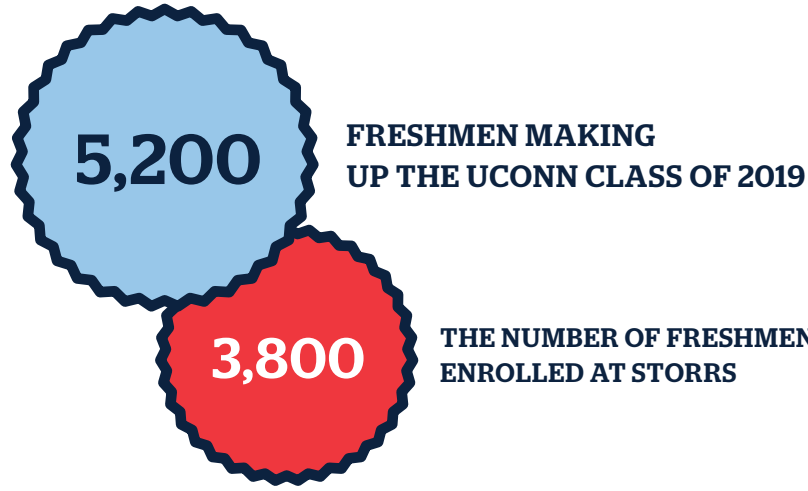
COLLECTIONS

Inside the Biology/Physics Building in Storrs lies a Biodiversity Research Collections Room where nearly a million specimens are preserved, from polar bear skins to specks of bugs that make a flea look mighty. All are lovingly overseen by Scientific Collections Manager Jane O'Donnell '76 (CLAS), '79 MS, '86 Ph.D, who shared with us these iridescent beetles. Pinpointed labels tell the story of each researcher who has attempted a bug identification, along with the date and place the specimen was collected. Watch illustrator Virge Kask '79 (CLAS), '84 MA, making art from bugs like these at s.uconn.edu/beetles.

Bottom Left and Right: Peter Morenus

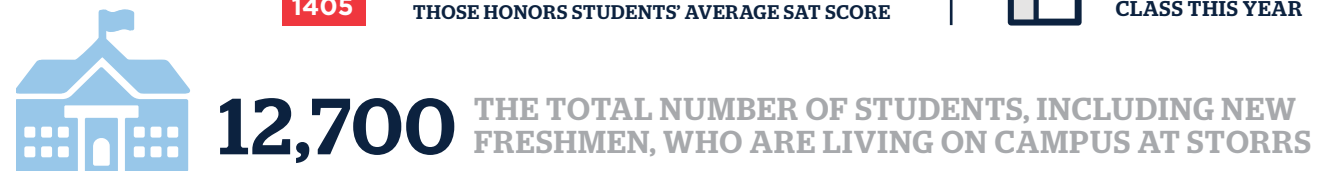
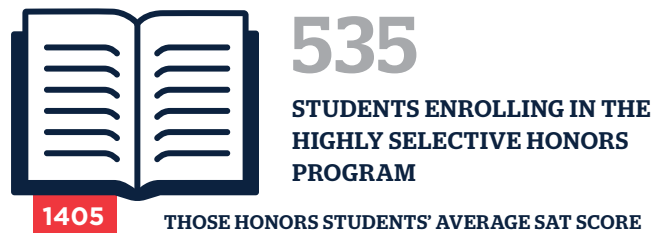
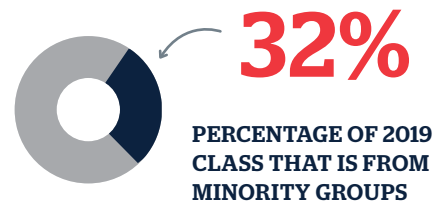
BY THE NUMBERS

CLASS OF 2019



35,000

THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO APPLIED TO THE STORRS CAMPUS, A NEW RECORD HIGH



TRADITIONS

ENGINEERING CENTENNIAL

In 1916 UConn (then called Connecticut Agricultural College) enrolled 20 students in mechanical engineering. Today, 3,363 undergrads are enrolled in twelve engineering majors and “we are partnering with industry and placing graduates with the makers of America’s best fighter jets, submarines, computer defense technology, and biomedical devices. As a result, engineering is being reborn in Connecticut,” says Dean Kazem Kazerounian.



University of Connecticut Archives, 1940-1949.



DEBUNKED

THE STARS MAY IN FACT DICTATE YOUR POTENTIAL STAR POWER

In academia, professors study one another’s research and often do their own research to disprove, or debunk, that prior research. Sometimes they will even debunk the debunkers, which is what Communication Professo Mark Hamilton recently did. He confirmed prior research stating that the astrological signs we are born under may in fact hint at the futures we will lead. Here’s how the proving/disproving/re-proving, or in playground terms the is/is not/is too, transpired.

Is:

A 2013 paper in the *Journal of Social Sciences* linked one’s birth month with the likelihood of becoming a celebrity. This in itself was not surprising, as psychologists have long known that certain personality traits tend to be associated with certain birth months. For example, people born in January and February often are more creative, and have a higher chance of being diagnosed with schizophrenia, than people born at any other time of year. And people born in odd-numbered months tend to be more extroverted than those born in even-numbered months.

What was unusual about the *Journal* paper, though, was that one of the authors was an astrophysicist, and the paper’s introduction included an explanation of the physics behind the astrological calendar. The authors argued that although astrological or zodiac signs are merely an accident of the sun’s location in the cosmos, analysis shows that certain signs do have a curious correlation with fame.

Is Not:

The next year, a psychologist published a paper in *Comprehensive Psychology* purporting to debunk the first paper’s astrological findings. The author claimed that relative age among all the children

in the same school grade could explain the zodiac effect, with children who were born earlier in the year, and who were comparatively more mature, having more positive experiences overall.

Is Too:

UConn’s Hamilton, a social scientist in the Department of Communication, was unconvinced. He had reviewed the original paper for the *Journal of Social Sciences*, and considered the data and analysis to be sound. So he set out to debunk the debunking, examine some of the traditional astrological explanations, and see if they could be aligned with known psychological findings.

Traditional Western astrology uses elements (water, earth, air, and fire), sign duality (bright/dark), and sign qualities (cardinal, mutable, and fixed) to describe and categorize seasonal effects on personality. It considers late December through early March as a “wet” time of year, and connects wetness with creativity, for example.

Hamilton looked at the same data from the original paper, a set of 300 celebrities from the fields of politics, science, public service, literature, the arts, and sports. He found that celebrities’ birth dates tended to cluster at certain times of the year. Wet signs were associated with a larger number of celebrities, as were signs classified as bright or fixed.

“Psychologists want to dismiss these astrological correlations,” says Hamilton, “but there are seasonality effects that we have yet to explain.” Hamilton is not arguing that heavenly bodies are the true source of these effects; rather that astrological aspects are just useful tools that help people remember the timing and patterns of nature.

Hamilton found that relative age of children in a school cohort did have some effect on one’s propensity to become a celebrity. Children who spend their school years slightly older than the

average among their peers are somewhat more likely to become famous, perhaps because they have more early success and so have better self-esteem into adulthood. But Hamilton found that the relative age effect was dwarfed by the effect of being born under a wet astrological sign such as Aquarius or Pisces. Being born under a fixed sign, such as Aquarius, Taurus, Leo, or Scorpio, also increased a person’s chances of finding fame.

Hamilton is working on an analysis of 85,000 celebrities dating from 3000 B.C. to the present. He says the seasonality effect appears to hold true even in this large data set that stretches across millennia and cultures. — KIM KRIEGER

Match the celebrity to the astrological sign at s.uconn.edu/starpower.

IN GOOD HEALTH

PREFER EGGS TO OATMEAL? GO FOR IT!

What if eating an egg for breakfast is just as good as a bowl of oatmeal for people with diabetes? Maybe even better? Maria-Luz Fernandez, a professor of nutritional sciences in the College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources, says that this may be the case.

Most diabetics learn that eating eggs, because of their cholesterol content, is bad for their diet. But Fernandez and her colleagues found evidence that an egg a day may not only be an acceptable part of a diabetic’s diet, it may prove to offer unexpected protection against the underlying inflammatory process that often leads to heart disease. Because eggs are filled with high-quality protein and other valuable nutrients, are readily available in most of the world, are easy to prepare, and taste good to most palates, Fernandez says she will continue her testing.

Learn more at s.uconn.edu/oatmeal.



GOING, GOING, GONE

By Sheila Foran '83 (BGS), '96 Ph.D.
Photo Illustrations by
Christa Tubach

Around the globe, on every continent, UConn professors
are working to prevent species extinction in the face of
escalating climate change.

For every degree that global temperatures rise, more species will become extinct, says Mark Urban, a UConn professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. If current climate policies are not modified, warns Urban, rising global temperatures will threaten up to one in six species.

Overall, his study, which was originally published in the journal *Science*, predicts a nearly 3 percent species extinction rate based on current conditions. If the Earth warms another 5.4°F, the extinction risk rises to 8.5 percent. And if climate change continues on that trajectory, the world will experience a 7.74°F rise in temperature by the year 2100 — resulting in a 16 percent extinction rate.

To make matters worse, the species we know are threatened by climate change, polar and grizzly bears for instance, may be just the tip of the iceberg. Urban found that the risk of species loss is most acute for those continents that have unique climate ranges, with native species that can survive only in a limited range. Yet those regions are the ones researchers have studied the least. Nearly 60 percent of studies about the effects of climate change have centered on North America and Europe. But South America, Australia, and New Zealand are at greatest risk for species loss, says Urban. Urban is one of dozens of UConn researchers at work around the globe studying the effect of climate change on species of all shapes and sizes. Read on for six reports from the field (and stream and ocean and mountain...).



The snow-less scene that greeted researchers in Alaska last spring.



A FISH TALE

PROFESSOR: Mark Urban & Ph.D candidate Heidi Golden

SUBJECT: Arctic grayling

PLACE: Alaska

When Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Ph.D student Heidi

Golden arrived in Fairbanks, Alaska, last May, one of her missions was to deliver fish-monitoring gear to locations along the rivers and headwaters of three watersheds in the Brooks Mountain Range on Alaska's North Slope.

However, when she walked off the plane she was greeted by 60-degree temperatures and a rapidly disappearing snowpack. This unseemly weather had resulted in a ban on the use of snow machines and other off-road vehicles on the exact overland routes she needed to travel to get critical supplies to the research sites.

But field biologists are nothing if not resourceful, and she and Cameron

Mackenzie, a colleague from the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass., were able to wrangle a one-day travel exception from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources. This allowed them to make their trek to their base camp with a mountain of fish traps, antennas, tagging equipment, and supplies, not to mention all the camping gear and food needed for an extended stay in the headwaters.

Golden and Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Professor Mark Urban have travelled to Alaska the past two summers to study the Arctic grayling, a fish that is considered a keystone species in the far northern streams it inhabits. Their goal has been to evaluate the relationship between climate change and the movement, plasticity (the ability of an organism to change in response to the environment), and adaptability of the grayling.

“This was the warmest May on record on the North Slope, going back to when records were first kept in 1925.”

This is part of Urban's larger quest to determine how evolutionary and community dynamics shape species distributions and how habitat fragmentation, reflected by changes in an organism's preferred environment, can cause changes in them that might make them more or less susceptible to extinction.

“The climate in the Arctic is changing more rapidly than virtually anywhere else in the world. If we can study these changes and learn from them, we may be able to better understand what is happening elsewhere,” says Urban.

In order to understand the population dynamics of the graylings, the fish are caught in nets and fitted with passive integrative transponder (PIT) tags. Their movements are then tracked using antennas strategically placed along the rivers they populate.

But this year was somewhat problematic. “We thought we'd arrived early enough in the season so that overland travel wouldn't be an issue, but this was the warmest May on record on the North Slope, going back to when records were first kept in 1925,” says Golden. “The ground was thawing and Alaskans were experiencing what they believe is T-shirt weather, but this isn't what springtime in the fiftieth state used to mean!”

In addition to the transportation difficulties caused by the snowmelt, there were fewer adult fish for the research team to catch. While there were a lot of juveniles and fish that looked like they might become capable of spawning, not many were actually doing so. The true indication that something was different, Golden explains, was how early the young of the year (YOY) came out from under the gravel in the streambeds. “They were about three weeks earlier than average, and that's really, really early.”

And, she says, “With weather this warm, there are repercussions for both the YOY and the adults. A warm year is good for the young because it helps them grow rapidly, but the effect is just the opposite for the adults. They are territorial by nature and don't like to be crowded, so they are under considerable stress. There's also a heightened risk of predation, as they get eaten by gulls and other birds and animals that find them vulnerable when they became stranded in shallow pools.”

According to Urban, the Arctic grayling is not in danger of extinction because of their circumpolar distribution, even with the lower numbers counted by the research team this summer.

He points out, however, that Golden has discovered that the fish do have microscale genetic variations, and that this leads to questions that will be answered only by further research.

“We don't know yet whether this genetic variation is related to specific traits or whether there are just genes differentiating randomly on a really localized scale,” he says. “But if we do find genetic differences that are related to different traits, it may be that there are fish that are becoming adapted to being lake fish and others that are adapting to being stream fish; ones that are voyagers that go far downstream, while others stay localized.”

“Since fragmentation of a species can lead to loss of resilience in the population as a whole, this is something that we will continue to study into the future as we make repeated trips back to the Arctic.”

Check out GoPro video from Urban and Golden in Alaska at s.uconn.edu/goinggoinggone.



WHO NEEDS HAWAII?

PROFESSOR: Peter Auster

SUBJECT: Coral and sponges

PLACE: Gulf of Maine

Brilliantly colored gardens of red tree coral, fan coral, and multiple species of sponge grow underwater ridges and along the walls of box canyons deep in the cold waters of the Gulf of Maine off the northeast coast of the United States.

The question is, “Who knew?”

There are stories dating back to the 1800s of fishermen in the Gulf recovering pieces of coral that had snagged on their gear, but until recently there were only educated guesses as to the actual extent of the coral, and where it might be located.

Peter Auster and his colleagues from the University of Maine and the National Marine Fisheries Service spent part of the past three summers aboard UConn's Research Vessel *RV Connecticut* searching for these deep sea coral communities. Using remotely controlled underwater vehicles and sophisticated data telemetry and video technologies, they literally ‘walked’ their cameras along the ocean floor in search of their elusive quarry.

Auster is Research Professor Emeritus of Marine Sciences at UConn's Avery Point Campus, Science Director of the Northeast Underwater Research Technology & Education Center (NURTEC), and a Senior Research Scientist at Mystic Aquarium. He explains that marine scientists believe that the deep sea corals that remain today are vestiges of communities that were much more widely distributed in the past. They are particularly susceptible to things like climate change.

“Deep sea coral communities are sensitive to environmental changes and vulnerable to human activities, such as commercial

fishing and oil and gas exploration,” says Auster. “Federal legislation acknowledges these problems and the need for conservation. In fact, the United Nations General Assembly has passed several resolutions that are focused on this deep sea coral and other ecologically fragile communities because of their vulnerability to outside forces. That’s why we set out to find what might be hidden in the Gulf of Maine.”

The Gulf stretches from the western tip of Nova Scotia all the way to Cape Cod, Mass., and spans 36,000 square miles. It is home to more than 2,200 species of marine life and birds, and encompasses Georges Bank, an immense shoal that for generations was one of the world’s richest commercial fishing grounds.

Auster’s scientific team has identified five distinct high-density patches of coral widely spaced across the Gulf and boasting formations that extend anywhere from about 25 to 40 feet high at depths of more than 600 feet. They are not only surprising in their size, according to Auster, but are unbelievably complex and beautiful.

“It’s amazing we have been able to make these types of discoveries in one of the most well studied parts of the global ocean, and after a bit more than half a century of people diving with submersibles in this region. I’ve been doing this kind of work for over 30 years and I was stunned when we first found these canyon walls covered in coral.”

For more about the coral, including stunning photographs, go to s.uconn.edu/goinggoinggone.



A research station in Greenland.

“These [Arctic] whales may be among the most

“Most of my work involves looking at the top of the food web at things like polar bears and other marine mammals. They tend to have high levels of PCBs, DDT, and other toxins in their systems. Even though these contaminants, called organochlorines, haven’t been used in the Arctic to any extent, they are able to make their way long distances through atmospheric and aquatic pathways. Eventually, they get into Arctic food systems. Tissue samples taken from polar bears across their circumpolar range clearly showed elevated levels of these contaminants and that is definitely cause for concern,” says McKinney.

The Beaufort Sea polar bears McKinney studies have traditionally dined on ringed seals found on the ice. However, there has been noticeable erosion of the sea ice in that region and an increasing number of bears are eating whales that have been hunted by indigenous peoples and whose carcasses remain on shore.

“Lately,” says McKinney, “we have been finding a strong relationship between sea ice change and how much of this on-shore food they eat. We think these dietary changes may be important mechanisms that relate to the health of the bears.”

Another species of particular interest to McKinney is the orca or killer whale. This is a species that doesn’t traditionally inhabit Arctic waters, although there is anecdotal evidence that there are more of them spending time in the far north than ever before, and that they are staying for longer periods of time.

McKinney says that, based on evidence from biopsies of their blubber, these whales may be among the most contaminated marine mammals in the world. The orcas that McKinney has her eyes on now are those that are showing up off the coast of Greenland. “The killer whales of the North Atlantic have not been studied as much as those on the west coast, but in the past few years more and more of them have been sighted off Greenland,” she says.

These giant predators may be primarily fish eaters, but recent evidence suggests that at least some of the whales are consuming seals and other whales. “Killer whales are thought to be very

contaminated marine mammals in the world.”

specialized eaters, but these findings raise the issue of whether, under rapidly changing conditions, such as ocean warming, they might actually be much more opportunistic,” says McKinney. “They are voracious eaters and it doesn’t take many of them to consume a large number of a smaller species, such as seals and other whales. This leads us to wonder if the killer whales everywhere in Arctic waters are beginning to feed on marine mammals and what the potential impact on those populations may be.”

Every puzzle has large and small pieces and, on the smaller end of the size scale, are the prey fish that have traditionally formed a large part of the diets of seals, whales, larger fish, and sea birds. “Changes in prey fish populations have been observed in regions like the Hudson Bay over the past thirty years,” says McKinney. “Arctic prey fish have largely been replaced by sub-arctic species and this has led to diet changes in sea birds and marine mammals. We’re looking at the contaminant differences among various types of fish and what that might mean in terms of food quality.”

So the puzzle continues to evolve. All along the food chain, species are exposed to what has been consumed before. And, although McKinney’s research doesn’t extend to the individual at the very top of that chain, there are others who are exploring the diets of the indigenous peoples who inhabit the far north and who hunt and fish for their food.

McKinney says it is her hope that some of her research can be used to support international agreements regarding the use of chemicals worldwide. “If contaminants can reach the Arctic, it means they are present throughout the global food web. It’s really important to me that there is awareness of how human activities in one location can potentially affect other species, even in remote regions of the planet. Saying that we need to be stewards of the Earth isn’t just an idle thought. It’s something we really have to take seriously.”

For more on McKinney and her work, go to s.uconn.edu/goinggoinggone.



David Mejias

IN GOOD SHAPE

PROFESSOR: Morgan Tingley

SUBJECT: Mountain species

PLACE: Global

Close your eyes and imagine a mountain. What does it look like? What shape is it?

Most likely you imagined something pyramid shaped: broad on the bottom, pointy on top, and tapering in between. If that’s what you envisioned, you’re not alone. Scientists have been describing mountains this way for decades, especially in the context of climate change and its effect on living things.

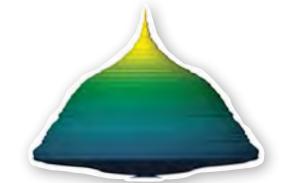
But a study co-authored by Assistant Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Morgan Tingley and published in the journal *Nature Climate Change*, shows that when you look at entire mountain ranges, such as the Rockies or the Himalayas, their shapes are more accurately portrayed as diamonds, hourglasses, or even upside-down pyramids.

This mind-twisting reality, say the authors, could be a boon for some species but more serious peril for others, as the Earth’s climate continues to change.

Conventional mountain wisdom goes like this: As you climb up in elevation, temperature decreases. As the Earth warms, species adapted to their current climate must move higher and higher in elevation to stay in those best-adapted conditions. Climate change acts like an escalator, taking species further and further up. At the top of a mountain, then, species would get crowded, and be, in effect, pushed off the escalator into extinction.



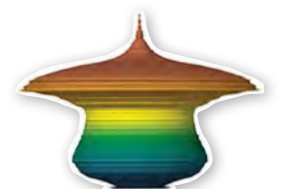
DIAMOND—
ROCKY MOUNTAINS



PYRAMID—
ALPS & GREAT DIVIDING RANGE



INVERSE PYRAMID—
KUNLUN MOUNTAINS



HOURLASS—
HIMALAYAS



PUZZLING

PROFESSOR: Melissa McKinney

SUBJECT: Polar bears, ringed seals, orcas, and their prey

PLACE: Greenland

Melissa McKinney is assembling a giant jigsaw puzzle. But instead of using pieces of colored cardboard, she gets to use whales, polar bears, seals, and fish. On top of that, she doesn’t have an already completed picture to tell her what the end result will look like, although she has her suspicions.

McKinney is an assistant professor in the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment and she also holds a joint appointment in UConn’s Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering. Her background in ecotoxicology involves the study of how toxic chemicals affect biological organisms. This expertise has led her to an exploration of how global climate changes may be playing a role in how various species that call the northern latitudes home are affected by synthetic, or manmade, organic compounds.



A Himalayan monal and a Himalayan mountain range.

Not necessarily, according to Tingley and co-author Paul Elsen, an ecologist who studies the birds of the Himalayas. Traversing mountains in the Himalayan range, Elsen had observed that natural features like steep slopes, plateaus, and deep ravines can increase or decrease a mountain's habitable area.

"In the Himalayas, you can hike up a really steep slope to a high elevation, at about 15,000 feet, and reach vast expanses of habitat," says Tingley. Using the most comprehensive public data set available on mountain ranges, Tingley and Elsen analyzed the surface area across elevations for 182 distinct mountain ranges on all six inhabited continents.

What they found has turned their idea of mountains literally inside-out: More than two-thirds of all the mountain ranges did not conform to a pyramid shape. Instead, 39 percent had a majority of their area at mid-elevation (a diamond shape), 23 percent had dips in available area at mid-elevation (an hourglass), and 6 percent had most of their area at high elevations (an inverted pyramid).

Tingley says these findings throw a big wrench into theories that depend on an assumed escalator effect. The Rocky Mountains, for example, are a diamond-shaped range, so animals and plants living in the foothills may actually see an increase in available space as they move up these mountains.

Similarly, species that live at mid-elevation in hourglass-shaped ranges also might find more space at higher elevations. The Himalayan monal, a rooster-sized, rainbow-colored, mysterious pheasant — famous as the inspiration for the character Kevin in the Disney/Pixar movie "Up" — currently lives in the middle of the hourglass-shaped Himalayas. A species like this could benefit from shifting up, says Tingley.

But for other species, such as animals in the foothills of the Himalayas, there may be far less space to move to at the middle of the mountain than there is higher up, says Tingley. He calls these areas "bottlenecks."

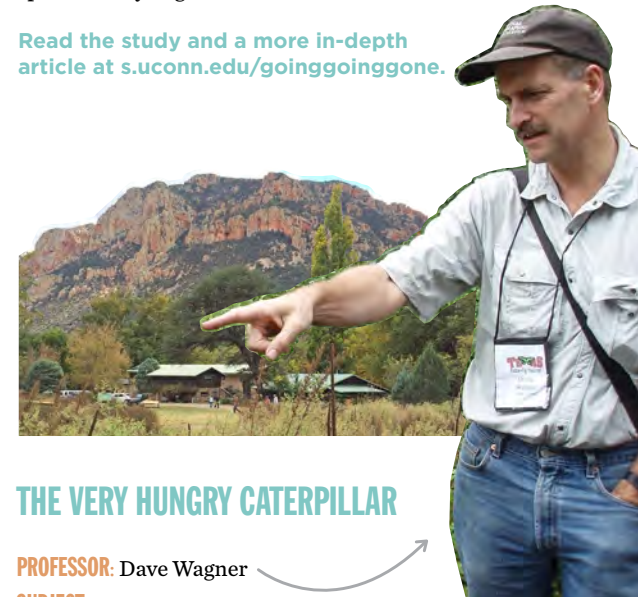
"Some species that are at low elevation on hourglass mountain ranges could go through a mid-elevation bottleneck where there's not as much space," he says. "If you can make it through the bottleneck, that's great, but if you're a species that's narrowly restricted in its elevation range, you could go extinct before you expand into that higher-elevation space."

And in the case of inverted pyramid ranges, where most of the area is toward the top, there would be more area for animals and plants as they move upward — until the very top, of course, where all mountains end.

Tingley says he hopes conservationists will take mountain topography into account when creating species conservation plans. "When it comes to conserving species on mountains, we

have to be asking: What is the species? Where is it? What is the topography? And, importantly, where is that species likely to go?" — CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

Read the study and a more in-depth article at s.uconn.edu/goinggoinggone.



THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR

PROFESSOR: Dave Wagner

SUBJECT: Caterpillars

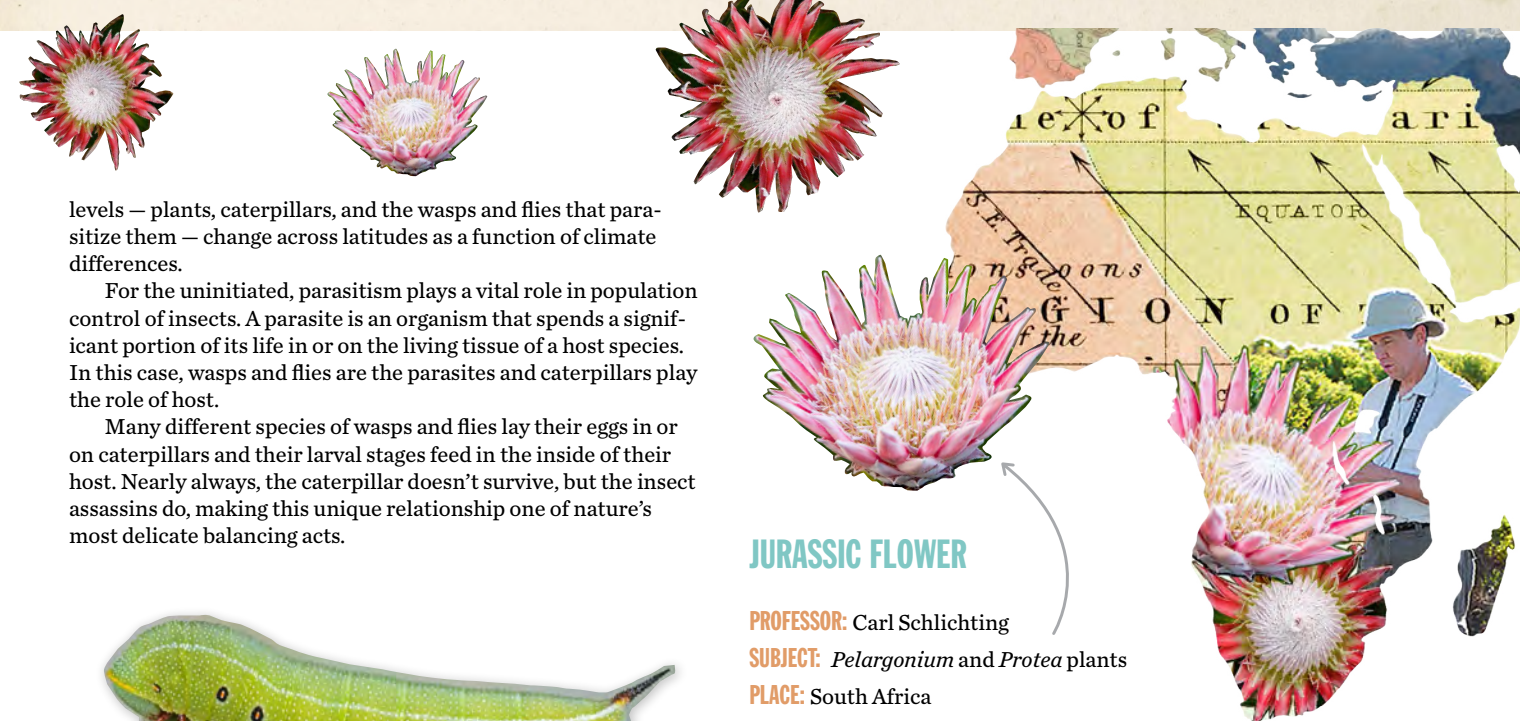
PLACE: American Southwest

By far, the caterpillar must be considered one of nature's most intriguing, colorful, and bizarre manifestations of life on earth.

Caterpillars are the larval stage of *Lepidoptera*, the order of insects that includes moths and butterflies, and they hold particular fascination for David Wagner, a professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. In part, this is because of the role that caterpillars and their enemies play as bellwethers for climate change across continents and in dramatically different environments.

"My research on caterpillars and their association with plants and with their natural enemies involves collaborating with colleagues from more than a dozen institutions in regions extending from New England to the rain forests of South America to the deserts of the American Southwest, and back to Storrs," says Wagner.

He and his fellow entomologists are particularly interested in documenting how the interrelationships across three tropic



JURASSIC FLOWER

PROFESSOR: Carl Schlichting

SUBJECT: *Pelargonium* and *Protea* plants

PLACE: South Africa

"Humans may be changing the climate faster than at any other time in the past," says Carl Schlichting, professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and lead investigator on a study of how plant communities in South Africa are adapting to climate change.

Schlichting's group's research is taking place in the Greater Cape Floristic Region of South Africa, which is home to two worldwide biodiversity hotspots: the shrub-filled fynbos and the desert karoo biomes. These biomes are among the most biologically diverse regions on Earth, says Schlichting, containing as much plant diversity as the Amazon rainforest in South America.

Two groups of flowering shrubs native to this area have been undergoing rapid diversification for the past 15 million years or so: *Pelargonium*, which includes garden-variety geraniums, and *Protea*, which includes the national flower of South Africa. The habitats in which these plants occur have historically experienced significant and rapid warming and drying events, yet these plants have survived and even diversified.

To understand the key to these plants' success, Schlichting and his colleagues have been measuring many of the shrubs' physical features, such as leaf characteristics and rates of photosynthesis. They have discovered evidence of local adaptation to different climates for a widespread *Protea* species and, within the genus *Pelargonium*, have found differences in adaptation to water availability.

The scientists will combine this genetic information with the plants' physical traits to find genes that are likely to be responsible for different traits, which Schlichting says is key to estimating how fast evolution has occurred.

"We want to reconstruct what these leaves looked like in the past," he says. "What did they look like fifteen million years ago?"

By connecting historical climate changes to these models of past plant characteristics, the scientists can determine what effect previous climate change has had on plant species diversification. They can then use this information to predict what the plants will look like under different climate scenarios in the future.

For example, if past warming events led to smaller leaves in a particular group of plants, the leaves may continue to get smaller as the planet warms in the future. However, smaller leaves may limit the ability of the species to collect the sun's energy, and may lead to its eventual extinction. — CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

To learn the latest on the team's work, go to s.uconn.edu/goinggoinggone. ☺

levels — plants, caterpillars, and the wasps and flies that parasitize them — change across latitudes as a function of climate differences.

For the uninitiated, parasitism plays a vital role in population control of insects. A parasite is an organism that spends a significant portion of its life in or on the living tissue of a host species. In this case, wasps and flies are the parasites and caterpillars play the role of host.

Many different species of wasps and flies lay their eggs in or on caterpillars and their larval stages feed in the inside of their host. Nearly always, the caterpillar doesn't survive, but the insect assassins do, making this unique relationship one of nature's most delicate balancing acts.



Wagner describes what he has observed this way. "We have found that as climate becomes more dynamic and less predictable, as in the arid lands of the American Southwest, parasitism rates by natural enemies declines. Lower parasitism translates to more caterpillars and that leads to more defoliation and greater loss of fruits, vegetables, flowers, and other vegetation.

"As we destabilize the climate and heat up the atmosphere, it becomes harder for natural enemies to control the numbers of caterpillars. This, in turn, makes it harder to avoid defoliating plants that may play important environmental and economic roles."

More herbivory — the eating of plant matter — can mean significantly lower crop yields and loss of income for farmers and ranchers. The data Wagner and his colleagues are collecting across continents will allow them to model the potential impacts of changing climates, both as a function of increasing mean temperatures and greater climate fluctuations.

In addition to his teaching and research for UConn, Wagner takes part in what he calls 'science boot camps' with Earthwatch, a non-profit organization that supports scientific research while engaging citizen scientists in actual field work.

The research teams are composed of both business executives and scientists working together on equal footing. Wagner explains that what he finds especially gratifying about this experience is that a few attendees who've been sent by their corporations to learn something about the climate and sustainability may show up being skeptical about whether climate change is real or not, and others wonder why they should care.

"But after they listen to our lectures and become full participants in the science," he says, "they discover how complex and delicate our ecosystems are, and how important it is for corporations to take part in efforts to control climate and promote biodiversity.

"They drink the Kool Aid," he says with a laugh, "and it's probably the most important thing I do because we reach a novel audience, often filled with skeptics, and we turn them into believers and advocates for a sustainable world."

For more on Wagner's studies and startling photos of the caterpillars he stalks, go to s.uconn.edu/goinggoinggone.

VERY SUPERSTITIOUS

Huskies reveal their favorite good-luck charms and game-day rituals

Written by
Julie (Stagis) Bartucca '10
(BUS, CLAS)

Photos by
Peter Morenus

We've all crossed our fingers as the ball leaves the point guard's hands, or as the kicker's cleat meets the pigskin. We've watched as baseball greats — and their fans — grow "playoff beards" and flip on their rally caps. Some of us have probably been unlucky enough to be in smelling range of a hockey goalie's lucky socks.

Whether it's to gain some control or out of simple superstition, athletes will do interesting things for a little extra luck, and UConn Huskies are no exception. Read on to learn about what some UConn student-athletes do to get their heads in the game.

■ Watch these athletes and their teammates get game-ready at s.uconn.edu/superstition.

Men's Ice Hockey

Goalie Rob Nichols '17 (BUS) has a few lucky things he does before he plays — taping his stick up, as most goalies do; eating a meal of steak and pasta the night before home games; drinking a coffee before taking the ice. But it's playing with a racquetball that sets his head straight.

"I bounce it around, dribble it, throw it off the wall," he says. "I'd feel pretty different if I didn't do that. It gets my mind in the right place. It helps me get comfortable."





“I’m sure they each have something they do, but one of the things about baseball superstitions is, you jinx the superstition if you reveal it.”

*Baseball Coach
Jim Penders '94 (CLAS), '98 MA*

Baseball

Third baseman **Willy Yahn '18 (ACES)** wears a long-sleeved undershirt to every game, regardless of temperature, because he has been doing it since he was 11 years old. He says it's his good-luck charm. “I haven't practiced or played a game without long sleeves in about nine years.”

Other than that, though, you'd be hard-pressed to get a Husky baseball player to admit to any talisman, says Coach Jim Penders. Baseball players are the kings and queens of ritual and superstition, which is underscored by the bit of baseball lore that claims revealing any superstition is sure to jinx it!

Field Hockey

Roisin Upton '16 (CLAS), a team captain from Limerick, Ireland, likes to wear something that reminds her of home every time she plays: an Ireland wristband. But she says her most important good-karma ritual is something Coach Nancy Stevens encouraged her to do. “At the start of each season, I write the initials of who I play for on my stick,” she says.

The initials of her mom, dad, and two brothers, who always cheered her on back home, are most important.

“It is important for me to have them on my stick,” says Upton, “to remember how lucky I am to have their support and to do my best to make them proud while I am here on this amazing adventure.”

Swimming & Diving

To get the crowd fired up at UConn home meets, the team has used the same tried-and-true routine for years: They enter single file to the sounds of Ozzy Osbourne's “Crazy Train,” and do a cheer at the middle of the pool. Then one of the swimmers, such as **Greg Baliko '16 (CLAS)** leads a “U-C-O-N-N, UConn! UConn! UConn!” shout-out from the 3-meter diving board. Insanity ensues.

Softball

This squad's infield and outfield groups have pre-game traditions they say are more for fun than superstition.

The infield players stack their gloves on the foul line before every game and, after the team huddle breaks up, the third baseman or shortstop tosses the gloves to each player as they take their positions. Meanwhile, the outfield players have a secret handshake that ends with them shouting a pump-up word or phrase, such as “Together!” or “Dog House!” Each new team adds its own twist.

“We do all of it to create a sense of unity and to add a little bit of extra fun to our warm-ups,” says **Heather Fyfe '16 (CLAS)**. “When you come off the field from warm-ups feeling loose, there is a pretty good chance you are going to take it into the game.” (Find a picture of Heather on page 2.)



Cross Country/Track

For these student-athletes, accessories are about more than looking good for a meet — these women believe the right studs could make or break their performance.

Megan Chapman '16 (CLAS), who throws the discus and hammer for outdoor track and the weight for indoor, must be ready from head to toe. She always wears mismatched Disney socks and braids her hair into a bun set to one side of her head for luck.

Odrine Belot '16 (CLAS), a conference champion jumper, claims she has to wear pink laces on the shoe of her dominant jump leg (the right one). She also says she “won’t feel comfortable” unless she eats Welch’s fruit snacks and fruit belts before she jumps — she believes they fend off her nervousness and keep her alert.

Alana Pearl '18 (CLAS), a distance runner, buys a new pair of socks each year and then wears them to every race. Nope, she doesn’t wash them — ever.

Women's Ice Hockey

Annie Belanger '18 (BUS) has a few good-luck habits — she only re-tapes her hockey stick if she loses, and has separate sticks for practice and play. But it’s her pre-game ritual that takes things to the extreme. She swears she follows this exact routine each and every game day:

🕒 **10 a.m.:** Wake up. Put on track suit. Get breakfast with the team.

After breakfast:
Sleep for 45 minutes.

Wake up.

🎧 Put headphones on; listen to pre-game playlist #1 while walking in circles dribbling a tennis ball.

“If anyone tries to talk to me at that point, I probably won’t even notice,” says Belanger. “I do that until I’m in a good mindset to play. It usually takes 40 to 50 minutes.”

👕 Get dressed.

🏠 Go to the rink.

👕 Change into warm-up clothes. Wear a hat, only when away from the net.

🎧 Head into an empty locker room and listen to pre-game playlist #2, while dribbling the tennis ball until 1:23.

🕒 **1:25 p.m.:** Team meeting. Team warm-up. Play soccer to de-stress and have fun.

👕 Get dressed in official gear. Everything goes on the left first — skate, knee pad — then the right. Before the helmet, put on the purple bathing cap. [That cap is the same one she’s worn for every game since she began playing at 9 years old.]

🏆 **Game time.**



THE FIRST DRAFT OF HISTORY

CHARLESTON'S
PULITZER-PRIZE-
WINNING JOURNALIST
GLENN SMITH '87
HAS HAD A FRONT
ROW SEAT TO TURMOIL
AND TRAGEDY, FROM
CHURCH SHOOTINGS
AND POLICE BRUTALITY
TO RECORD-SETTING
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.
BUT HE HAS USED
GOOD JOURNALISM
TO FORCE POLITICAL
CHANGE.

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

June heat radiated from the nighttime pavement as Glenn Smith '87 (CLAS) sprinted past the palmettos and live oaks swaying anxiously in the beam of Charleston, S. C., streetlights. His flip-flops smacked the soles of his feet, their harried slapping sound bouncing off the city's single-style houses and rapidly replacing the rhythm of acoustic guitars and beer-fortified singing that had so recently surrounded him.

Glenn's wife, Kitty, pulling clothes out of the dryer upstairs, heard his urgent words as he burst in — "Lock the doors and stay inside, the shooter's still out there." — and he was gone again, running, as always, toward the danger.

Around the block, people clogged the street before the tall white church, milling, wailing, falling over one another. Police passed, perched with M16s cocked on the hoods of slow-moving cruisers, combing the surrounding streets. A church member said he'd seen Reverend Pinckney rushed down the steps on a stretcher. The coroner emerged from an

arriving truck with four of her deputies.

Smith questioned, scribbled, tweeted, snapped cellphone photos, and finally hurried to his office by 11 p.m. By 1 a.m., the stories by him and his colleagues were written and the paper went to press only about an hour late; by 7 a.m., it was on Charleston doorsteps. The headline read: Church shooting kills 9 — Manhunt on for suspect after 'hate crime' shooting at Emanuel AME.

What began as an evening of music and microbrews with neighborhood friends capped a long year colored by violence for the special projects editor at South Carolina's largest newspaper, *The Post and Courier*. Smith's state had seen unparalleled domestic abuse, fatal police brutality, and now a mass racist killing.

Smith's determination to run toward scenes of heartbreak such as this is nothing new. What *is* new is the fact that he has recently been recognized for doing so, for pushing his state to enact reform, and in the process earning a Pulitzer Prize.



Grace Beahm/The Post and Courier

Glenn Smith '87 (CLAS) believes in the power of good community journalism to effect lasting change. It's what drives him toward scenes of violence — including the killings at the Emanuel AME church, which he helped cover for The Post and Courier in Charleston, South Carolina.



A TRUSTWORTHY BOY

As a boy in Wethersfield, Conn., Smith spent mornings at the kitchen table, sipping coffee and trading sections of the *Hartford Courant* with his father. Teenage Smith played classic rock in garage bands, frequented Hartford used-music stores, and drew makeshift graphic novels. He was considering a career in art until his father intervened.

"He said, 'Glenn, you should go into journalism. That's where the money is.'" Smith chuckles. "He didn't know a lot about journalism."

Smith declared a Journalism major as a freshman at UConn in 1983. The first article he wrote came back with a failing grade, with big marks off for style. But his second draft earned a B+.

Department Head Maureen Croteau saw potential when he began stopping by the Journalism office to say hello.

"He had this way of speaking and listening that made you think that you were the most important thing he'd done all day," she says. "You trusted him implicitly. That's a great gift for a journalist."

In his coursework Smith learned to play with words, to employ description, to look beyond the obvious. He grew interested in people, in culture, and remembers a *Hartford Courant* series on heroin-addicted prostitutes. Vivid scenes of women shooting up in front of the Capitol dome still linger in his memory.

"It was the greatest thing I had ever read," he says. "It exposed this incredibly human story that was right before your eyes, but you'd never seen."

Croteau guided him to an internship at the *New Britain Herald* that led to

"To look like that and be a cop reporter, it really takes something," said Smith's first boss at Charleston's The Post and Courier.

his first job as a crime reporter. Smith learned omnivorously about his beats: the Capitol, City Hall, education, police, and minority affairs, and eventually published a few feature stories.

He met Kitty at a Pogues cover band show, and they married in 1996 in a ceremony featuring raucous blues-rock and Cajun bands. Sick of New England winters, and feeling a sense of wanderlust, the couple moved two years later to Charleston, where *The Post and Courier* hired Smith as a crime reporter.

The first thing special projects reporter Doug Pardue noticed about Smith when he arrived at *The Post and Courier* was Smith's waist-length, braided ponytail. Pardue was impressed not by its fashion, but by its symbolism.

"To look like that, and to be a cop reporter, it really takes something," he says. He watched Smith staunchly take his liberal-looking ponytail with him on the daily crime beat in deeply conservative South Carolina with a measure of quiet curiosity and conviction, building a trustworthy reputation with police and other law enforcement officials.

Pardue would read Smith's stories and fine-tune them with a feature writer's eye. Despite an occasionally over-the-top "Dashiell Hammett quality," says Pardue, Smith had a knack for storytelling, writing "the way people speak." Before long, the paper realized Smith was wasted on crime reporting, says Pardue, and promoted him to investigative reporter.

A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

In September 2013, for the third year running, the Violence Policy Center of Washington, D.C. named South Carolina first in the nation for the rate of women killed by men. A domestic violence coalition held a conference call and invited all state news media.

Smith was the only reporter who called. "I wondered, has the state gotten so numb to this that it's no longer a story?" he recalls.

Now an editor for a team of reporters, Smith says he wanted "to tell this story in a way it hadn't been told before." His team spent eight months interviewing domestic abuse survivors, lawmakers, police, and social workers; building databases using police reports, court records and interviews; and plotting details of abusers and their histories on maps.

The investigation, published the following August, revealed that more than 300 women had died at the hands of abusive men in the previous decade, and while a person could serve up to five years for cruelty to a dog, first-offense domestic violence carried a maximum penalty of just 30 days in jail.

The multi-part series, titled "Til Death Do Us Part," revealed poorly trained police, inadequate punishment, little funding for support programs, and entrenched religious beliefs about marriage, all adding up to a "corrosive stew," according to Mitch Pugh, *The Post and Courier's* editor-in-chief. Dozens of bills had failed in committees in the preceding decade.

"On one side, you have someone being bludgeoned with an axe, and on the other, the legislature is declaring barbecue the state food," Smith says.

The attorney general pledged that 2014 would be the year for comprehensive domestic violence reform. The legislature cobbled together reform bills, each stalling periodically over controversial provisions, such as gun bans and tiered systems of punishment.

"We were at every remote subcommittee hearing meeting," says Smith. "We let them know we were watching, and were going to see this to the finish line."

Over the next six months, he and his colleagues wrote more than 60 follow-up stories, keeping a running tally of the number of people, reportedly 30 by April, who died at the hands of partners while lawmakers debated the details of reform.

Then, on April 4, an unarmed black

man was shot dead by a police officer, who claimed self-defense, in North Charleston. Three days later, an anonymous tipper handed Smith a video depicting Officer Michael Slager shooting Walter Scott in the back as he fled a routine traffic stop. The ensuing national outrage redoubled the already massive media presence camped outside North Charleston City Hall.

Smith and his colleagues didn't sleep much. Times like these, says Smith, are a major reason hometown newspapers exist.

"We're the local guys, so we needed to get it right," he says. "We're the only ones who can tell these stories with the right context, because we live here."

THE HIGHEST HONOR

Smith's team was immersed in a series that would reveal 235 South Carolina police-involved shootings in the previous six years when they paused for an afternoon.

The newsroom was filled with flat-screen TVs, and the chairman of their board and the company president joined the staff around the warren of desks. Nervously eyeing several bottles of champagne, they tuned in to the Pulitzer Prize's YouTube channel. "Til Death Do Us Part" was nominated in the Public Service category: the most prestigious Pulitzer and the only one that comes with a gold medal.

"I'd put it out of my mind," says Smith about the possibility that they might win a Pulitzer. "What hubris it was to think that we had a shot."

Three minutes into the streaming video, the room erupted.

"It's one thing to win a Pulitzer at a place where they win them all the time," says Croteau, alluding to *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. "This was a Pulitzer won by people at a good newspaper doing a good job because it's the right thing to do."

The next month at Columbia University, surrounded by marble and pillars, the Pulitzer committee called the series "riveting" and presented the gold medal to Smith, Pardue, Jennifer Berry Hawes, and Natalie Caula Hauff. Walking out of the luncheon, Mitch Pugh checked Twitter and learned that the General Assembly had finally passed a domestic violence reform bill. Signed into law by Governor Nikki Haley, the bill stripped abuse offenders of gun rights and

strengthened sentences for offenses.

"It was such a moment," Smith said of hearing that news some 20 minutes after being handed the nation's highest journalism award. "Absolutely gratifying."

THE COMMUNITY PAGES

Three weeks later, Smith was strumming those old classic rock tunes in a friend's living room when his phone buzzed. "Get to that church near your house," his co-worker said. "People are dead."

Throughout his career, Smith's focus has been simple: Get it right. Find the facts and tell accurate stories, and do it with sensitivity, humanism, context, and meaning.

In the week following the murder of nine black people at a church prayer circle, many national news organizations focused on the white gunman and his racist manifesto. But on Sunday, June 21, *The Post and Courier's* front page had only an image of nine palmetto leaves twisted into roses, with a poem individually memorializing the nine victims.

"These were our neighbors, these were our friends," says Smith. "They were so much more important than the shooter."

By some estimates, the trade of journalism has cut 20 percent of its work-

force in the past 15 years, and dozens of newspapers have shut their doors. Croteau comments, though, that the internet has opened up a renaissance in long-form, investigative work.

"Done right, done the way Mr. Smith has done it, it is a noble profession," she says.

Smith is grateful to have landed "a good gig" at a family-owned newspaper that values telling human stories. The amount of respect Smith commands in the community is "awesome," says Pardue.

"The kind of dogged, relentless, prying reporting that Glenn is known for has made a substantial difference, time and time again."

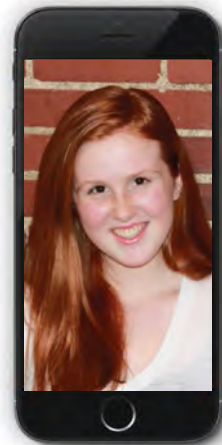
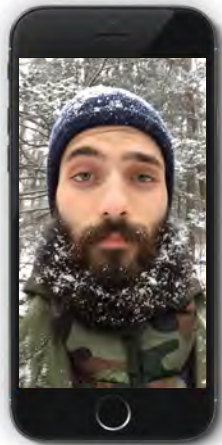
Post-Pulitzer, Smith's objective is to convince people that he and his team aren't a "one-trick pony." Their August 2015 series on the harmful consequences of school choice has evoked controversy in the state's Department of Education, and during the devastating fall flood, Smith interviewed locals navigating downtown on boats and paddleboards.

Pardue says that because Smith "can't shake being a cop reporter," he'll be running toward danger until old age stops him. He's probably right. According to Smith, "There are so many stories left to do." ☺



Smith, center, and his colleagues at the Courier moments after hearing about their Pulitzer win.

What's Glenn been up to lately? Find out where he was during the epic flooding in October (it involves falling into a manhole) at s.uconn.edu/glennsmith. You also will find a copy of the thank you letter Smith wrote to his UConn journalism professor upon hearing of his Pulitzer win, as well as links to the team's Pulitzer-winning series.



Photos courtesy of participants

HOT OR TRUSTWORTHY?

By Kim Krieger

UConn Communication professors Amanda Denes and Rory McGloin made waves recently with a study that measured how users of dating sites perceive trustworthiness in the people whose photos they peruse. Before we tell you what they found, try evaluating, on looks alone, the subjects in the photos at left the way one might on a dating site — with a simple ♥ for “Yes, has date potential,” or ✕ for “No, does not have date potential.” Head to the web at s.uconn.edu/hotortrustworthy to find out more about those you chose to date and those you rejected.

According to research by UConn Communication professors Amanda Denes and Rory McGloin and student Olivia Kamisher, men judge very attractive women as less trustworthy than average women when they view them in photographs. But they’re still willing to date them.

The research was inspired by online dating apps, such as Tinder, in which you merely look at a photo and swipe “yes” or “no.” From this briefest of judgments, Tinder matches you up. It would seem that the more attractive you can make yourself look in a photo, the more dates you can potentially get. And this does seem to be the case for both men and women, according to Denes and McGloin. But for women posting pictures, it comes with a caveat.

“You don’t want to portray yourself as so attractive you can’t be real,” says Denes. In other words: If you really look like that, why do you need online dating?

On the other hand, men did not seem to suffer from this perception problem. Women who saw an enhanced male subject’s picture rated him more trustworthy and date-able than the same male subject in a natural-state or dressed-down picture. Denes and McGloin speculate that perhaps men have fewer options for self-enhancement than women.

The researchers used pictures of just two people in the study, one man and one woman. Each person had

two photos taken of them: one in a “natural” state, and the other “beautified” — dressed up and more well-groomed, with makeup and/or hair styling, for instance. Study participants saw just one photo, and had to rate the person on attractiveness, trustworthiness and dateability.

The researchers focused on 305 participants who identified as heterosexual and ranged in age from 17 to 36. Participants were randomly assigned to view one of the four profile pictures of the male and female in “natural” or “beautified” state.

Participants were then asked a series of questions to determine the profile subject’s physical attractiveness, similarity (to the participant), trustworthiness, and, ultimately, their date-ability.

In the future, the researchers hope to do a more nuanced study that looks at several in-between points to suss out how much smart clothing and better grooming really matter, and whether there’s a perfect point of enhancement.

Additionally, because this study was done with photographs, it’s not yet clear how far these results can be trusted off-line in the real world. ☹

To play an interactive Hot or Trustworthy game that reveals who those folks pictured at left are, go to s.uconn.edu/hotortrustworthy.

“Men judge very attractive women as less trustworthy than average women... But they’re still willing to date them.”



TAKING IT TO THE STREETS

WATCHING A HISTORIC, PEACEFUL PROTEST
MOVEMENT TAKE SHAPE IN JAPAN

BY ALEXIS DUDDEN, UCONN HISTORY PROFESSOR
AND FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR

This past summer I was lucky to be in Tokyo during a major moment in modern Japanese history. For the first time in more than 50 years, Japanese citizens poured onto the streets in regular protest, beginning in groups of several hundred last June and growing to demonstrations of more than 100,000 people by the end of September.

Protestors were seeking to preserve the law of their land, specifically the war-renouncing Article 9 of the country's constitution. In the wee hours of Sept. 19, the administration and its supporters had moved ahead to enact new security legislation known as "collective self-defense," despite opinion polls, demonstrations, and emergency

meetings of senior lawmakers that indicated a wide majority of Japanese citizens opposed the legislation. The moment is forever recorded in photographs on front pages around the world of a fist-fighting melee inside parliament and tens of thousands outside in the rain shouting, "No way! No war!"

It was important to me as a historian, if nothing else, to observe and mingle among the protestors on several occasions in order to better grasp the significance of what will be missed in books of the future that might simply state, "New security legislation was enacted in September 2015."

KEEPING THE PEACE

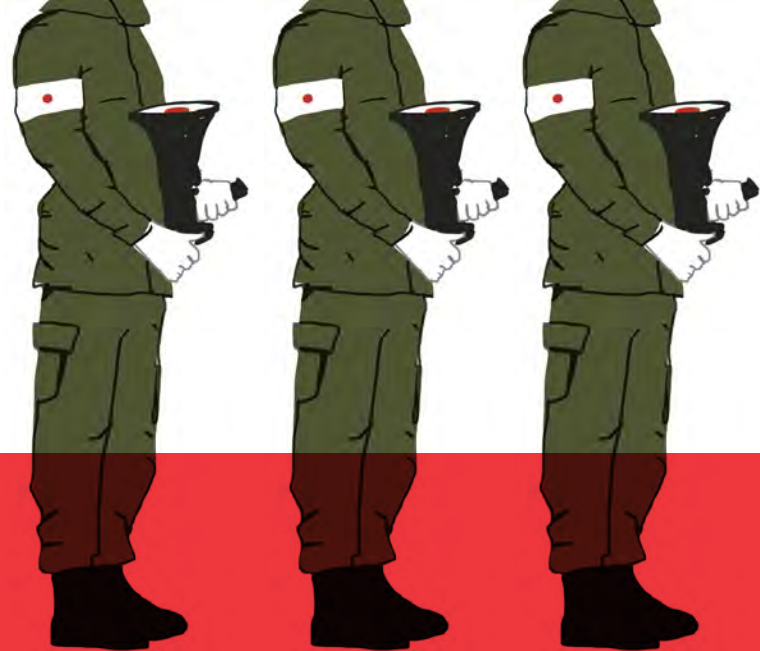
Since its devastating defeat in World War II, Japan's self-definition has rested powerfully on Article 9, which forfeits war as a sovereign right and for many equals national identity.

By early summer, a growing percent-

age of the Japanese population was realizing that their current government was poised to change all that. For a host of reasons — not in the least the way parliamentary voting works in Japan — opposition politicians failed and the ruling party was able to ram through special legislation that would forever redirect the nation's peaceful international posture.

The truly rich and diverse cross-section of people on the streets made clear a broad refusal to accept this new policy for Japan. Opinion poll after opinion poll revealed and continues to reveal that a majority of Japanese agrees with the protestors and, as of this typing in late fall, tens of thousands — even hundreds of thousands — continue to demonstrate, and remain committed to preserving a decidedly anti-war stance for Japan.

Different from many mass protest movements around the world, whose participants seek sweeping changes to the structure of their societies, the



“THE BAYONETS OF CENTURIES PAST BECAME MEGAPHONES, WITH RALLYING CRIES LIKE: TELL ME WHAT DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE! THIS IS WHAT DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE!”

ARTICLE 9

“Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes. To accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized.”

protesters in Japan continue to clamor to *maintain* the central law of their land: Article 9.

It is important to keep in mind that even with its war-renouncing clause, the Japanese constitution provides for the right of self-defense. In addition and almost since its inception, some of the country’s legislators with critical American backing have gradually transformed the nation’s forces into a world-class military.

In other words, what’s at stake is not whether Japan will have a military, but rather when, where, why, and how Japanese troops will fire their state-of-the-art weapons.

A LITTLE CONTEXT

Japan’s constitution went into effect in 1947 under the American occupation, which lasted from 1945 to 1952. It has never been amended, and for the first time in its nearly 70-year history a divergence has emerged publicly over the nature of its legitimacy.

In one camp is Japan’s current Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, and his supporters. Abe, who is the grandson of a man charged as a Class A war criminal, is himself well known as a hawk with a rather strong determination to use history as a weapon to define himself and Japan.

Less well known, however, is Abe’s belief that the Japanese constitution is a masochistic symbol of the country’s defeat by the Allies in World War II and,

as such, is something that undermines the “honor” of Japan.

Significantly, this point of view incorporates not only the constitution’s anti-war clause, but also its removal of the Japanese emperor from the center of political power, its separation of religion and state, its provisions for secular education, and the status of women — among other things.

On the other side of the debate is the majority of Japanese people who want to maintain Article 9, and who support the protestors’ central demand, even if they do not join them on the streets.

This standpoint concurs, moreover, with that of most constitutional law scholars in Japan, including my colleague, Keigo Komamura of Keio University. Professor Komamura argues that, sure, we Japanese know that the Americans imposed our constitution during the occupation, but that doesn’t make the constitution a “loser.” Like the women’s right to vote, which it includes, the constitution defines Japanese society today and thus is a “legitimate imposition,” very much including Article 9.

Remarkably, thousands of law scholars like Professor Komamura, together with faculty in political science, history, economics, and others such as box office movie stars and popular singers, regularly joined in with the protests throughout the day and night of Sept. 19, making clear to many Japanese that what’s at stake on the streets is neither radical nor extreme; rather it is the very meaning of “Japan.”

THIS IS WHAT DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE!

Provisions in the bills include the ability for the Japanese government to deploy troops abroad in combat settings to aid an ally such as the United States. For many, this amounts to nothing less than a palace revolution on the constitution itself.

Arguably, what touched off this far broader consciousness and what certainly surprised many Japanese was a live television appearance on June 4, 2015, by three prominent constitutional law scholars.

The three testified unanimously that the bills were unconstitutional, including the scholar who was specially chosen to represent the administration’s viewpoint. They maintained that the Abe administration’s notion of “collective self-defense” exceeds the constitutionally-permitted limits of safeguarding Japan. They argued that the bills also exceed the definition of peacekeeping efforts under United Nations command and humanitarian relief work, which a majority of Japanese also supports.

Although the professors would only temporarily halt the legislative process, their collective moment in the spotlight taught the nation that something was awry and provided a strong boost of legitimacy to the claims that the then-small numbers of protesters were making on the streets.

Within days, “Preserve the Constitution” became a rallying cry. Noticeably

the age of the demonstrators grew younger, and the actions spread throughout the country.

One group calling itself “SEALDs” (Students’ Emergency Action for Liberal Democracy) captured the nation’s attention through its refreshing hipster style and pacifist spin on French revolution language and images. The bayonets of centuries past became megaphones, with rallying cries like: Tell Me What Democracy Looks Like! This is What Democracy Looks Like!

WOMEN IN RED

One moment that will always stand out for me came on June 20. Together with a colleague who teaches in Chicago, I participated in a peace action called, “Women in Red.” With abundant police permission, roughly 15,000 Japanese women, girls, and a few men who had been invited along, stood out from the customary Tokyo chic of beige, black, and navy by wearing all sorts of bright red clothes and hats and held hands with strangers to encircle the Japanese parliament building (called “The Diet”).

Speakers spoke, chanters chanted and danced in a chorus to save what they see as Japan’s gift to humanity: Article 9. Later on, I learned from a friend that her 90-year-old mother wore red pajamas on her futon all day to mark the moment. In still immeasurable ways, the effect of this day would spark others to remember the privilege of living in an open society and of the need to work to preserve it. ©



Courtesy of Alexis Dudden

This photo is from the Women in Red protest. I am standing with Yokoyu Sonoko, one of Japan’s leading feminists. She is a sensation. For me, it was like standing next to Mick Jagger.

ALEXIS DUDDEN

History Professor and Fulbright Scholar Alexis Dudden writes and researches extensively about Japan and Northeast Asia. She spearheaded the “Open Letter in Support of Historians in Japan,” an attempt to receive an official apology on behalf of the “comfort women,” Japanese women and girls forced into sexual slavery by the Imperial Army during World War II. To date it has been signed by 350, mostly English-speaking, Japan scholars.



Roger Castonguay for UConn

Welcome to UConn Nation!

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Everywhere you go, everywhere you look, you can feel the enthusiasm for everything Husky. I am truly honored to be a member of UConn Nation at a time when there is so much to celebrate. From excellence in the classrooms, laboratories, and athletic venues to the amazing stories of our alumni, faculty, staff and students, there is no ceiling on where we are headed.

We are well aware that these successes would not be possible without a strong, supportive and engaged alumni community. We are indebted to all of you. As we look ahead, we have set a new goal: to improve how we connect and reconnect our alumni — all 241,000 — back to UConn.

Through the leadership of President Susan Herbst and the University Board of Trustees, we are exploring a new model of interacting with our friends and graduates. We want to connect with you, wrap you back into the UConn community, and we want to be strategic about how we communicate with you. Among the changes we hope will make a difference:

- The new alumni office is no longer a dues-charging membership organization. With the dissolution of the former Alumni Association — thanks to an overwhelming vote of confidence earlier this summer by our alumni — we are moving forward to involve you in your alma mater. We appreciate the 13,000 alumni who paid membership dues in the past; however, we feel without dues, the entire alumni community will find more reasons to stay linked to UConn Nation.
- An alumni services platform is in place to benefit UConn alumni, including enhanced networking programs for career and admissions assistance.
- With alumni relations activities now a part of the UConn Foundation, operations are more streamlined and cost effective. That means more coordinated and meaningful communications, including the updated *Alumni Insider* e-newsletter that enables alumni to register for nearby events, and this newly designed *UConn Magazine*, with plenty of information about the latest campus activities and news of your fellow Huskies.

All of this is possible because of our new structure. I welcome your feedback and look forward to working with you as, together, we strengthen and grow our **UConn Nation!**

M. Cotton Kelly

Mo Cotton Kelly, associate vice president of Alumni Relations, at Huskies Forever Weekend this past October.

CLASS NOTES



➔ **Fred W. Chesson '52 (CLAS)** has published two short story collections, *Winter Tales and Twilight Tales*, and is working on a Cold War novel and a historic study of Civil War communications. ➔ **Richard G. Fisher '55 (CLAS)** was appointed Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. He retired after serving 43 years in radiology and interventional radiology. ➔ **Bruce Thompson '55 (ENG)** and Patsy Thompson celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 18. They live in Wethersfield, Conn. ➔ **Lewis Turco '59 (CLAS)** published a new book, *The Hero Enkidu*, through Bordighera Press.



➔ **Stephen Ellerin '67 (CLAS)** has been named national director of Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Outreach of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. He taught in the Department of English at UConn Stamford. He founded and remains director of The Great American Publishing Society. ➔ **Don LaCasse '68 (SFA)** retired in May after 24 years at the School of Theatre and Dance at Illinois State University where he served as head of the MFA directing program and was co-founder of the Illinois Shakespeare Festival. He is a chair and professor emeritus at Ball State University. A stage director for nearly 50 years, his students have included John Malkovich, Gary Cole, Terry Kinney, Laurie Metcalf and numerous professional directors, including Gary Griffin and Janet Allen.



➔ **Miriam Erick '70 (CLAS)** has published an e-book, *Take Two Crackers and Call Me in the Morning! A Real-Life Guide to Surviving Morning Sickness*. She is a registered dietician at Brigham and Women's Hospital Boston. ➔ **Nancy Glazer '72 (CLAS), '74 (NEAG)**, was given the 2015 Educational Testing Service (ETS) Assessment Development and Design Award for her outstanding contributions in assessment development. Nancy lives in Highland Park, N.J. with her husband, **William Swift '72 (CLAS), '75 (NEAG)**. ➔ **Col. Raymond Willcocks '73 (ENG)**, USAF (Ret), has been elected to the Society of American Military Engineers' (SAME) National Board of Directors. He retired in 2012 and lives in Peachtree City, Ga. ➔ **Paul H. Glotzer '73 (BUS)** CPA, of Newington, an instructor-in-residence at UConn, will represent the CTCPA on its Advisory Council. ➔ **Robert T. Egan '74 (CLAS)** was named chair of the business litigation group of Archer & Greiner PC law firm. ➔ **William Kohlhepp '74 (CLAS)** of North Haven has been promoted to Dean of the School of Health Sciences at Quinnipiac University. ➔ **Frank P. Longobardi '77 (BUS)** was elected CEO of CohnReznick, one of the top accounting, tax, and advisory firms in the U.S. He is currently a member of the Executive Board and Regional Managing Partner - New England. Prior to that, Longobardi was responsible for all of J.H. Cohn's industry groups, bringing standardization to the marketing, leadership development, and continuing education efforts of each practice. Longobardi is a member of the UConn Foundation Board of Directors.



➔ **Patricia M. Poli '77 (BUS)**, CPA, of Newtown, an associate professor of accounting at Fairfield University will represent the CTCPA on the Advisory Council. ➔ **Patricia C. Bouffard '79 (NUR), MS** was given the Vera Keane Award for Outstanding Service to the Connecticut Nurses Association. ➔ **Robert J. Card '79 (ENG)** is the 2015 recipient of the Stephen D. Bechtel Pipeline Engineering Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers. Card is chief pipe engineer with Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam.

➔ **Alan Codkind '80 (BUS)** recently relocated his marketing consultancy to Mazatlan, Mexico, where he works on U.S. start-ups, spin-offs and turn-arounds. ➔ **Mark S. DeFrancesco '80 MD** is the 66th president of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), based in Washington, DC. DeFrancesco is managing partner at Westwood Women's Health, a division of Women's Health Connecticut, in Waterbury, Conn. ➔ **Colleen Delaney '80 (NUR), '98 MS, '03 Ph.D.**, associate professor at UConn School of Nursing, received the Virginia Henderson Award for Outstanding Contributions to Nursing Research from the Connecticut Nurses Association. ➔ **Steve Kemper '80 Ph.D** published his third book of nonfiction, *A Splendid Savage: the Restless Life of Frederick Russell Burnham* (W. W. Norton). ➔ **Susan J. Lacerte '80 (CAHNR)**, of New Rochelle, N.Y., was given the Ram's Horn Award by the Farmingdale State College in N.Y. on Sept. 27 for her leadership in horticulture. Lacerte, executive director of Queens Botanical Garden in Flushing, is noted for leading

the transformation of the garden into a model of cultural expression and sustainable design. ➔ **Edward Nusbaum '80 (CLAS)** and **Thomas Parrino '83 (CLAS)**, co-founders and principals of the Westport-based family law firm, Nusbaum & Parrino P.C., have been named to the 2015 list of Connecticut Super Lawyers. ➔ **Rick Mastracchio '82 (ENG)**, a NASA astronaut and veteran of four spaceflights, visited military troops at bases in Greenland, Guantanamo Bay, and Puerto Rico this fall. ➔ **Tom Laffey '83 (CLAS)** recently retired as a colonel from the U.S. Air Force, having completed a successful 30-year career. ➔ **James "Tim" Shearin '83 (CLAS), '86 JD**, recently received the Lifetime Achievement award from the *Connecticut Law Tribune*. ➔ **Emily Stauffer '83 Ph.D.**, a professor of English at Franklin College, received the Faculty Steering Committee Distinguished Service Award. Stauffer, who also received the award in 1997, retired at the end of the 2014-15 academic year after 32 years at Franklin. ➔ **Michael Paul '84 (BUS)** recently accepted a position at Timex Group in Middlebury, Conn., as corporate controller. ➔ **Richard Stoelzel '89 (SFA)** joined the faculty at the Schulich School of Music at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec, as chair of the brass area and tenured associate professor of trumpet. ➔ **David Schejbal '84 MA (CLAS) '91 Ph.D** is the 2015-2016 president of the University Professional and Continuing Education Association (UPCEA). Schejbal is the dean of Continuing Education, Outreach, and E-Learning at University of Wisconsin-Extension. ➔ **Harold Robinson '85 (CLAS), '89 MS, '90 Ph.D.**, a physicist at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) in Newport, R.I., is a winner of the 2014 Assistant Secretary of the Navy (ASN) Top Scientists and Engineers

of the Year Award for his groundbreaking work on the use of piezoelectric single crystals for innovative sonar transducers and transducer array applications. ➔ **Corliss J. Montesi '86 (BUS) CPA**, of Wallingford, vice president and corporate controller with Stanley Black & Decker in New Britain, was named Advisory Council Member of the CTCPA.



➔ **James M. Czapiga '90 (BUS)** has been appointed as president and chief executive officer of CATIC. ➔ The LaurelRock Company, owned and operated by **Burt DeMarche '90 (CAHNR)** has been awarded a 2015 Top Workplaces honor by Hearst Media Services. ➔ **Douglas Rozman '90 (CLAS)**, senior vice president and head of communication at HSBC Bank USA, N.A., has been appointed to the board of directors of Junior Achievement of New York. ➔ **Brian Koberlein '91 (CLAS), '92 MS, '94 Ph.D.**, a senior lecturer in the Rochester Institute of Technology School of Physics and Astronomy, was chosen by the National Science Foundation as one of nine ambassadors in the Astronomy in Chile Educator Ambassadors Program. ➔ **Debra Baer Fiske '92 (CAHNR)**, associate athletic director at the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford, has been named athletic director at Kingswood Oxford School. The starting point guard on the UConn women's basketball team from 1988 to 1992, Fiske has worked at St. Joseph's for 22 years. ➔ **Michael Sears '92 (ENG)**, a senior associate at Dewberry Engineers, was recently elected branch president of the American Society of Civil Engineers' North Jersey Branch. ➔ **Leslie A. Zoll '93 (BUS)**, CPA, of Newington, a director with BlumShapiro

in West Hartford, will represent the CTCPA on its Advisory Council. ➔ **Daniel Blanchard '93 (CLAS)**, a social studies teacher at New Britain High School in New Britain, Conn., is the author of the *Granddaddy's Secrets* teen leadership book series and was chosen as the subject of chapter 6 of January Jones' book *Priceless Personalities*. ➔ **Robert Norton '94 (CLAS)** is now a partner in Fox Rothschild's intellectual property practice group in the firm's New York office. ➔ **Renee Fournier '95 (CLAS)** joined Chelsea Groton Bank as assistant vice president/marketing manager. ➔ **Norm Schriever '95 (CLAS)** has published *South of Normal*, his second book. His first was *Pushups in the Prayer Room*. ➔ **Karen (Wilken) Braun '96 Ph.D.**, associate professor of accountancy and undergraduate accounting program director at Case Western University in Cleveland, Ohio, was given the 2015 Luther Distinguished

Service Award. ➔ **Michael Carlon '96 (CLAS)** has published his second novel, *Return to Casa Grande*. ➔ **Z. James Chen '96 Ph.D.** has been appointed a new independent director at China Finance Online Co., Limited. ➔ **Ronit Shemtov '97 Ph.D.** has been promoted to full professor of sociology at Northampton Community College. ➔ **Brian Schulz '97 (CLAS)** produced the movie *Brooklyn Castle*, which was recently released by FilmBuff pictures. ➔ **Robin Carr '98 MFA**, associate professor of voice and acting in the Department of Theatre at the University of Southern Mississippi, received the Mississippi Higher Education Award Day: Working Towards Academic Excellence Award and the College of Arts and Letters Teacher of the Year Award. ➔ **Mark Dynder '99 (BUS)**, a financial advisor with Ameriprise Financial in Milldale, Conn., has earned the designation Chartered Financial Consultant.



➔ **Katie Love '00 (NUR), '04 MS, '09 Ph.D.** received the Josephine A. Dolan Award for Outstanding Contributions to Nursing Education from The Connecticut Nurses Association. ➔ **Mary K. Wisenski '02 MS, CPA**, of Manchester, was named CTCPA Board of Directors member-at-large and advisory council chair. She is a senior manager with Fiondella, Milone & LaSaracina LLP in Glastonbury, Conn. ➔ **Johanna Rincon Fernandez '03 (CLAS)** accepted a position as assistant director of the Civil Liberties and Public Policy Program in Amherst, Mass. ➔ **Laura (Molnar) Catino '04 (NEAG) and Robert Catino '03 (CLAS)** are proud to announce the birth of a baby boy, Joseph Robert. He was born in November 2014. ➔ **Andrew Kaufteil '04 JD** recently joined Cooper, a

global user experience design and strategy consultancy, as its first director of engagement. ➔ **Mary Wallace '05 (CAHNR)**, a veterinarian at Torrington Animal Hospital in Torrington, Conn., was recently promoted to Chief of Staff. ➔ **Jennifer (Mitrano) Huntington '05 (PHR), '07 Pharm.D** and **Daniel Huntington '04 (CLAS)** are proud to announce the birth of a baby girl, Avery Grace, on April 6, 2015. Avery was welcomed home by her 2-year-old big sister, Ella Mae. ➔ **Michael G. Maksymiw Jr. '05 (MS)**, CPA, tax manager with Filomeno & Company, P.C. in West Hartford, is an Advisory Council Member of CTCPA. ➔ **Stephanie Bealing '06 MS** made the *Hartford Business Journal's* "40 Under Forty" 2015 list. Bealing founded Replacement Lens Express (RLE), a prescription eyeglass lens replacement company. ➔ **Mandy Dollar '06 (SFA)** was named Director of Marketing & Community Relations at the Women's Humane Society, which was the first animal shelter in the U.S., near Philadelphia. ➔ **John Albanese '06 (BUS)** accepted a position at Voya Financial located in Windsor, Conn., as vice president of corporate special investigations. ➔ **Jean Coffey '06 Ph.D.** was named director of Nursing Research and Innovation at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center as part of the Center for Nursing Excellence. She is a member of the UConn School of Nursing's Alumni Board and owner of Anam Cara Siberians, a husky kennel dedicated to recreational mushing, breed conformation, and rescue. ➔ **Niamh (Cunningham) Emerson '06 (CLAS) and Paul Emerson '08 (BUS)**, both of Branford, Conn., were married on Oct. 3, 2015, at St. Mary Church in Branford. **Charlie Emerson '06 (NEAG)** was the best man, **Orlaith Cunningham '08 (NUR)** was the maid of



SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

"My parents don't make enough to pay for my education, so there were worries that I would be working while studying, and that would be a huge distraction. Having scholarships didn't just take a financial weight off my shoulders, it also helped me decide where I was going to go to school."

Amy Hernandez, '16, Materials Science and Engineering major

honor, and a generous group of UConn alumni, including several from the men's and women's track and field teams, attended. ➔ **Grant Welker '06 (CLAS)** and Daniel Korschun authored *We Are Market Basket: The Story of the Unlikely Grassroots Movement that Saved a Beloved Company*, published by Amacom. ➔ **Mitchell Jackson '07 (BUS)** was appointed Chair Elect of Hartford Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs (HYPE). Jackson is an associate project manager at UnitedHealth Group and managing partner of Northeast Payments, LLC. ➔ **Rob Kreager '07 (CLAS)** was recently named the 2014 Rookie Sales Executive of the Year at CS STARS, a business unit of the Marsh & McLennan Companies. ➔ **Jacquelynn Garofano '09 MS, '12 Ph.D.** is on the *Hartford Business Journal's* "40 Under Forty" 2015 list. Garofano, a senior research scientist at United Technologies Research Center, solves technical challenges and develops new technologies for the aerospace and building industries. ➔ **Lauryn Wendus '09 (BUS)** recently published her first children's book, *Oliver Poons and the Bright Yellow Hat*, while recovering from Lyme disease. The book was inspired by her rescue cat, Oliver. ➔ **Alexandra (Cavanagh) Hartman '09 (CLAS), '15 MA, '16 MS and Robert Hartman '08 (CLAS)** are happy to



➔ **Mitchell R. Inero '10 (BUS)**, CPA, senior auditor with CohnReznick LLP in Hartford, will represent the CTCPA on the Advisory Council. ➔ **Lauren Kodiak '10 (CLAS) and Andrew Sottile '08 (CLAS)** were married on Aug. 15, 2015, in Ridgefield, Conn. ➔ **Mindyleigh Dols Vail '10 (BUS)**, CPA, was promoted to manager at the Hartford-area accounting firm, Nicola Yester. ➔ **Meredith Fichman '11, '13 MS** earned a degree from the American Museum of Natural History's Richard Gilder Graduate School Masters of Arts in Teaching Program. ➔ The Connecticut Nurses Association honored **Abby Baecker '12 (NUR)** and **Mallory Mangan '12 (NUR)** with its Excellence in the Workplace Award. ➔ **Yanyue Ning '12 (CLAS)** received a master of science in Data Science from New York University Courant

Institute of Mathematical Sciences. ➔ **Katherine M. McNair '12 MA, CPA**, a supervisor with O'Connor Davies, LLP in Wethersfield, Conn., is an Advisory Council member at the CTCPA. ➔ **Kristy Belton '14 Ph.D** was awarded an international prize for best dissertation on statelessness from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). ➔ **Justis Lopez '14 (CLAS) '15 MA** of Manchester, has been honored by the Alma Exley Scholarship Program, which promotes greater diversity in the teaching profession. He was a familiar figure at UConn sports events, performing as Jonathan the Husky. Lopez has worked in an inter-university initiative with the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education to broaden the demographic makeup of the teacher workforce.

SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH UCONN NATION!

Your classmates want to know about the milestones in your life. Send news about weddings, births, new jobs, new publications, and more to:

➔ alumni-news@uconnalumni.com
or via snail mail to
Alumni News & Notes
UConn Foundation
2384 Alumni Drive Unit 3053
Storrs, CT 06269

Submissions may be edited for clarity and/or length.



Richard Termine '78 MFA

NATIONAL PUPPETRY FESTIVAL COMES TO UCONN

Nearly 50 alumni and current students participated in the 2015 National Puppetry Festival, which was held in Storrs last August to kick off the 50th year of UConn's internationally renowned Puppet Arts Program. About 600 puppeteers from 12 nations on five continents and from 40 U.S. states attended the festival presented by the Puppeteers of America, which was highlighted by a whirlwind week of puppet-related activities including workshops, master classes and performances. The last time UConn hosted the festival was in 1970, when it was chaired by the legendary founder of the Puppet Arts Program, Frank W. Ballard. This year the festival director was **Bart P. Roccoberton Jr. '90 MFA**, center of the photo, who succeeded Ballard as program director.



SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

RYAN SHEA '17

Ah, London. What better place to learn about Shakespearean acting? UConn drama student **Ryan Shea '17 (SFA)** did just that, spending the fall semester at the Theatre Academy London learning to wield a sword in stage combat, among other things.

Shea was one of 10 juniors who made the trip, which was funded through a scholarship from Robert A. McDonald, a retired dramatic arts professor who taught at UConn for 34 years. The fund offsets the cost of studying abroad so that all juniors in the acting program can spend a semester in London.

Shea says his favorite London class was Intro to Physical Theatre and Comedy, which explored dynamics among actors and why certain actors are more watchable than others.

"Professor Mick Barnfather reminded me to always start with joy, which is something easily forgotten when digging deeper into actor training," says Shea, who hails from Westport, Conn.

Shea says he found Barbara Houseman's voice class both physically and conceptually transformative. Houseman, who has worked with Daniel Radcliffe and Jude Law, among others, taught him that actors can make a conscious choice to feel relaxed, to release tension, nervousness, and self-consciousness.

Professor of Shakespearean acting Ben Naylor helped counter "the notion students have of Shakespeare being impossible, difficult or hard to make sense of by inundating us with information about Shakespeare, his time period, his influences, and why he wrote what he wrote when he wrote it," says Shea.

Though retired, McDonald remains

involved in the program. He visits the students in London and then keeps tabs on their acting progress after they return to Storrs.

McDonald says he decided to become a major benefactor of the program in part because he wanted to expose students to the rigors of trying to make it as a professional actor living in a major city.

"Lots of our students come from small towns in eastern or western Connecticut or Massachusetts and they really have had no experience with a metropolitan city," says McDonald. "A lot of our students get worn out by trying to make it in New York. I wanted them to have an experience of living in a foreign country in a capital city.

"They, just about to a person, start crying when they tell me how life-changing this experience is," he says.

—GRACE MERRITT



KOSOVO CAMPUS?

Air National Guard alums stationed in Kosovo raised the Husky flag just before Veterans' Day. From left: Capt. Chris Barker, a graduate of Norwich University, who was a Senior Military Science Instructor at UConn from May 2012 to July 2014, and says he considers himself a "Husky at heart;" 1st Lt. Brian Cole '07 (CLAS); Maj. Stephan Nowakowski, '98 (CLAS); 1st Lt. Krista Yaglowski, '09 (BUS); Capt. Christopher Gibb '11 (BUS); Capt. Matthew Marcella '08 (CLAS); and Lt. Col. Jeffrey LaPierre '96 (CLAS).

IN MEMORIAM

Below is a list of deaths reported to us since the last issue of *UConn Magazine*. Fuller obituaries for many can be found at s.uconn.edu/obits. Please share news of alumni deaths and obituaries with *UConn Magazine* by sending an email to: alumni-news@uconnalumni.com or writing to Alumni News & Notes, UConn Foundation, 2384 Alumni Drive Unit 3053, Storrs, CT 06269.

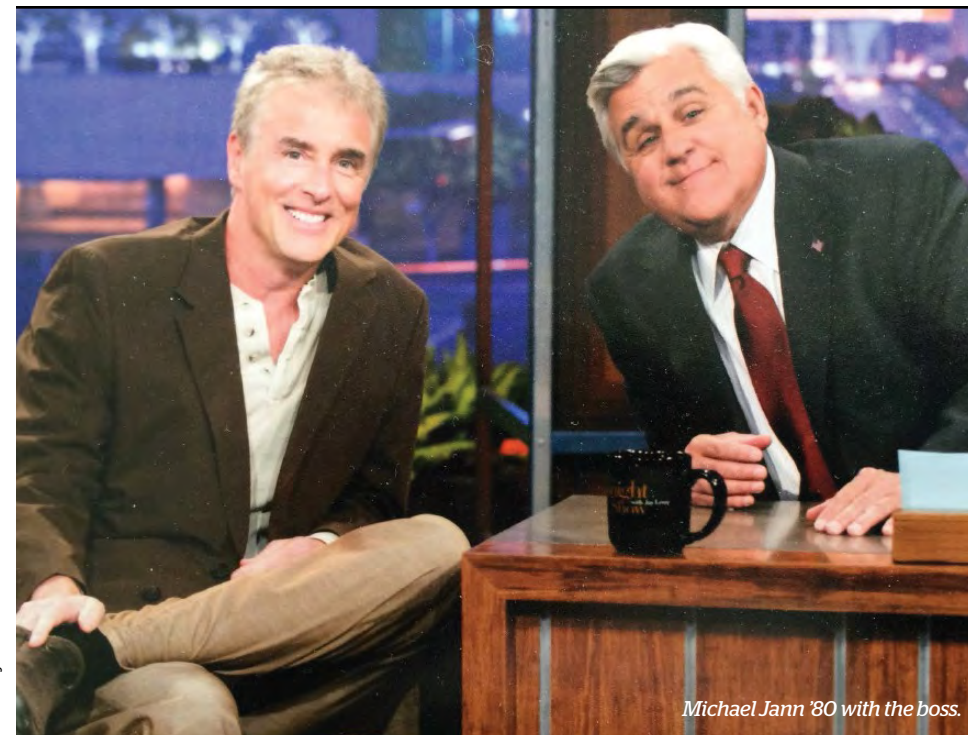
Faculty & Staff

- ▶ **Donald I. Tepas**
Jan. 9, 2015
- ▶ **Evarist Giné**
March 13, 2015
- ▶ **Catherine Havens '74 MA**
March 27, 2015
- ▶ **Philmore B. Wass**
April 6, 2015
- ▶ **Carl Schaefer '64 Ph.D**
April 29, 2015
- ▶ **Donald Crosby**
May 16, 2015
- ▶ **George F. Cole**
June 10, 2015
- ▶ **Richard Dempsey**
June 12, 2015
- ▶ **Gail A. Harkness**
July 19, 2015
- ▶ **Sam Witryol**
August 3, 2015
- ▶ **Janina (Czajkowski) Esselen**
October 2, 2015

Alumni

- ▶ **John F. Gajda '65 (ENG)**
March 18, 2015
- ▶ **Robert C. Ryan '58 MA**
April 15, 2015
- ▶ **Cynthia (Clarke) Tribelhorn '52 (NEAG)**
May 6, 2015
- ▶ **Reino Manninen '59 (BUS)**
June 15, 2015
- ▶ **Frank L. Rainaldi '60 (BUS)**
June 30, 2015
- ▶ **Lewis Rome, '54 (CLAS)**
July 1, 2015
- ▶ **Robert A. Fischer Jr. '51 (NEAG), '64 MA, '72 Ph.D**
Aug. 19, 2015
- ▶ **Abraham Krayn '63 (CLAS)**
Aug. 21, 2015

Left: Courtesy of Ryan Shea, Center: Courtesy of Krista Yaglowski



Courtesy of Michael Jann

Michael Jann '80 with the boss.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

COMEDY WRITER FOR LENO & FALLON STARTED AT UCONN

"I would say your wildest dreams *can* come true," says **Michael Jann '80 (CLAS)**, "because mine did."

Thirty-five years ago, when the Fairfield, Conn., native started penning a regular column in UConn's humor newspaper *The Forum*, Jann says he could not have imagined the foray would lead to a 22-year career as a monologue writer for "The Tonight Show."

The column was a Dear Abby spoof called Dear Uncle Bart, "in which I tried to come up with the worst advice I could think of," says Jann from his home in Westlake Village, Calif., outside of Los Angeles. "And that's what changed my life."

His first installment for the now-defunct publication began with a fictional student asking for his reaction after somebody stole her typewriter, a defective machine

that always typed the letter "T" in uppercase. Uncle Bart replied, "You've said iT all. IT's a sad world we live in when privaTe properTy isn'T respecTed."

Yet even his college path to humor and writing was a circuitous one. Jann entered UConn in the pre-veterinary program, but changed his major after getting a D in a required freshman year course. He says he wanted to create an individualized major in Natural Resources Conservation and English, but needed the administration's permission.

"I went up to them and said, 'I want to combine Wildlife Biology and English, because I might have a TV show like Marlin Perkins' Wild Kingdom,'" Jann recalls. "They said, 'That makes sense.' I said, 'It does?'"

After graduation he entered advertising think-

ing it would be a temporary gig that would allow him to pursue comedy writing in his free time. Ten years later, despite credits with *National Lampoon* and "Nick at Nite," he remained stuck in advertising. "I was fired in four different cities by four different agencies, because I was always distracted with trying to be a comedy writer."

Big Break

Then his lucky break arrived. Jay Leno began guest hosting for Johnny Carson on "The Tonight Show" and he solicited jokes from freelancers via fax. Jann's first successful submission came in August 1990, right after the first Gulf War started: "Did you hear about Saddam Hussein's new secret weapon? The stealth camel." After Leno's promotion to permanent host, Jann was hired as a full-time writer and moved to L.A.

"In the course of a day I'd write twenty-five or thirty jokes. In twenty-two years I wrote him literally a hundred thousand jokes and he told ten thousand of them on the air," Jann says. "And three of them were funny."

Brushes With Fame

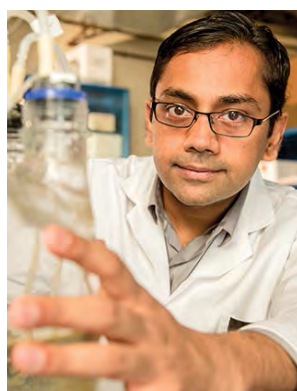
During his time with Leno, Jann saw most of the biggest names in the country: presidents, movie stars, athletes, musicians. "I can never go to a concert again, because I got to see everybody from a distance of ten feet," says Jann.

"I think the best guest we ever had was Jim Carrey, who in his prime was just the funniest guy in the world." And who would his UConn-era self have been most excited to see? "Cindy Crawford was on the show and she happened to be walking down the hallway straight toward me. She had been my 'It Girl.' She was wearing a red dress and high heels," says Jann. "It was like Godzilla was walking towards me. I think I fell down and passed out."

Following Leno's finale, Jann began contributing jokes to successor Jimmy Fallon. He was one of the writers named in the show's nomination for Outstanding Writing for a Variety Series at the 2014 Emmy Awards, though they lost to "The Colbert Report."

Jann, who still roots for Husky basketball, gives this advice to those wishing to emulate his path in the entertainment industry: "Never give up, never give up, never give up. I could have given up. I went into advertising thinking it would be temporary, like maybe it would take a year before SNL discovered what a genius I am. Ten years later and I'm still banging away. When it happened, it surprised a lot of people ... but not me." —JESSE RIFKIN '14 (CLAS)

KUDOS



IT'S GENIUS

An environmental engineer who earned his Ph.D at UConn has been named a 2015 MacArthur Fellow.

Kartik Chandran '99 Ph.D received the no-strings 'genius grant' for his work to transform wastewater not just into clean water, but also into useful resources, such as fertilizers, chemicals, and energy sources.

Traditional facilities for biologically treating wastewater use decades-old technology that requires vast amounts of energy and resources, releases harmful gases into the atmosphere, and leaves behind material that must be discarded.

The key insight of Chandran's research is that certain combinations of mixed microbial communities, similar to those that occur naturally, can be used to mitigate the harmful environmental impacts of wastewater and extract useful products.

"My years at UConn created the foundation for a lot of work that I do now," wrote Chandran, who is now at Columbia University, in an article for the School of Engineering's newsletter *Momentum* in 2012, "and the concepts, ideologies, and work ethic that I learned while at UConn permeate my activities even today."



Rizza playing for UConn during the late eighties.

WHAT'S NEW

TONY RIZZA '87 HELPS FUND A NEW SOCCER STADIUM

When **Tony Rizza '87 (BUS)** came to UConn and joined the men's soccer team, Morrone Stadium was a premiere location to play soccer. "It held eight thousand fans and, during the late seventies and eighties, we would, on average, fill that place," recalls Rizza.

It was the era of Coach Joseph Morrone who put UConn soccer in the national spotlight, winning the team's first NCAA championship in 1981 and transforming the program during his UConn career from 1969 to 1996, creating the legacy that has seen both men's and women's teams rank in the top 20 for the past 30 years. Today the stadium still draws crowds, but high-quality soccer programs with bigger and better facilities are springing up across the country. To stay competitive, Rizza believes it's time for an upgrade.

To make it happen, he has pledged \$8 million toward building a state-of-the-art soccer stadium on the Storrs campus in the footprint of the existing Morrone Stadium. His pledge is contingent upon the UConn Foundation raising \$5 million in matching funds.



A rendering of the proposed soccer stadium. For an interactive tour of the Werth Family UConn Basketball Champions Center, visit s.uconn.edu/championstour.

Plans for the Rizza Family Soccer Complex consist of a practice field and a four-sided stadium with a strength and training room, a film room, coaches' offices, locker rooms, a media room, a trophy room, a hospitality suite, and improved seating with the capacity to expand seating for tournaments.

"First and foremost, the field will be completely redone," says Rizza. "The current field is good and well maintained, but the drainage is poor. And the fan experience should be improved significantly, with better accessibility and improved concession areas and ticket kiosks."

"The stadium will be the best in all of college soccer," says Men's Head Coach Ray Reid. "It will help us with recruiting. It will be a professional stadium that will be able to get bigger crowds with better seating, and better sightlines. The whole stadium will improve the program ten-fold." Women's Head Coach Len Tsantiris agrees, adding that the new stadium would help preserve UConn's legacy as a soccer powerhouse.

The stadium would keep the name Joseph J. Morrone Stadium. As an all-state athlete at Newington High School, Rizza remembers dreaming of coming to UConn to play soccer under Coach Morrone. During his Husky career from 1983 to 1986, he went to three NCAA tournaments and was part of two Big East Conference teams. Now senior managing director of Columbus Circle Investors, a Stamford-based investment management firm, Rizza says his experience on the men's soccer team gave him life skills that have helped him in his career.

"Coach Morrone was a very significant figure in my life," says Rizza. "He demanded excellence. He required you to be prepared, to be disciplined, and to have a winning mentality. Those are things you take with you everywhere." —GRACE MERRITT

For more information or to make a donation to the soccer stadium, contact Mike Morrison at (860)486-9618 or mmorrison@foundation.uconn.edu.



Hartford Courant

IN MEMORIAM

➔ **Joseph J. Morrone**, the legendary UConn men's soccer coach who led UConn to the NCAA Men's Soccer National Championship in 1981, died Sept. 16, 2015 at age 79. Find a full obituary at s.uconn.edu/joemorrone.

BIG IDEA

HUNGRY FOR MORE

Mario Leite '98 (CLAS) never imagined he'd combine his undergraduate Molecular and Cell Biology degree with his MBA to become an award-winning ice cream maker. But that's exactly what the UConn grad did after he lost his banking job in August 2011.

Newfound leisure time reconnected Leite to a long-time passion for ice cream-making. He added fresh-brewed Earl Grey tea to a childhood recipe and everyone who tried it loved it. Leite kept making more and increasing the circle of family and friends who sampled it. And then he had his "aha moment."

"In October 2011, I saw an article in *Family Circle* about increasing trends in tea-infused foods and it all came together," he says.

Making the first pint of Tearrific Ice Cream, however, proved difficult. The originality of Leite's concept meant not many professionals in the industry knew how to infuse premium, all-natural ice cream with fresh-brewed tea.

Leite turned to the UConn Dairy Bar, where they helped him concoct a sweet cream base using natural dairy ingredients, sugar, and eggs.

At Tearrific's Bridgeport facility, Leite and his wife, **Souvannee Leite '98 (BUS)**, learned how to make cold-pressed ginger juice, blueberry puree, and fresh-brewed teas to add with spices to the sweet cream base manufactured at Buck's Ice Cream in Milford, Conn. The plant there is overseen by another alum, **Chris Buck '02 (BUS)**.

Just over a year after he was laid off, Mario and



Tearrific Ice Cream is created by husband and wife alums Mario and Souvannee Leite '98.



Paul Johnson Photography

Souvannee launched their brand into retail, placing the Earl Grey and vanilla flavor called London Mist, Chunky London Mist with chocolate flakes and pecans, and two more flavors into 20 independent specialty stores.

Three years later, Tearrific Ice Cream is in more than 200 stores, including Whole Foods. The brand has won national awards, is on the brink of entering the international market, and is about to add Matcha Green Tea to its list of flavors that includes both London Mists as well as Ginger Matcha, Masala Chai, Lavender's Blueberry, and Chamomile. But Leite says he is hungry for more.

"We want to be the global leader of tea-infused ice cream, and to have a space in most people's freezers." —ABBY MACE '16 (CLAS)

FOUR QUESTIONS FOR...

SUE BIRD '02

Before she turned 30, Sue Bird '02 (CLAS) had won two high school state championships (in New York), two NCAA titles (at UConn of course), two WNBA titles (with the Seattle Storm) and two Olympic gold medals (for Team USA coached by UConn women's basketball coach Geno Auriemma). At age 35, Bird is in her fifteenth season with the Storm and is expected to head to Rio in 2016 to lead Team USA on a quest for a sixth consecutive gold medal. She stays tight with her alma mater, too, having just been appointed to the UConn Foundation Board of Directors. She spoke with *UConn Magazine* from her home in Greenwich, Conn.

You've stood on a lot of podiums and been presented with a lot of medals and trophies. Which has made you feel the most emotional?

When you're at the Olympics and they start playing the anthem, it's such a tearjerker. You've seen it since you were a kid and now you're there, it's a defining moment.

But visibly crying, people seeing the emotion? I think it was my senior year, hugging Coach Auriemma after that last game. I was young. I'd been through a lot. I tore my ACL freshman year — and then to have everything finish the way it did, essentially perfect.

How does that '02 Huskies Geno compare to Team USA Geno?

UConn Geno is always gonna be UConn Geno. He's dealing with kids — I was one of those kids. He's trying to groom you, to set a foundation not just for those four years, but for life. So he's hard on you and he's nitpicky and sometimes it comes across as harsh but he's setting that foundation.

You feel much more equal when he's in his national team role. He treats us as adults because we are. He's as open to learning from us as we are to learning from him. We were just talking about that.

According to him, he sees that at our level there are a lot of tough teams, tough games. We're constantly playing against good players and we know you need to stay on an even keel — you can't get too high when it's going good or too low when it's going bad. He sees that and says he's more calm because of it. Of course I see him on the sidelines at UConn games and he's still very verbal!

You've recently become an ESPN commentator. In that role, if you could ask Geno one question he had to answer absolutely honestly what would it be?

I've been in this position and I'm not going to ask the one I did ask [which was the best UConn team] because he made fun of me. After the 2012 Olympics he came out and was adamant about not ever coaching the Olympic team again. I want to know what made him say that in the first place and what made him change his tune. I know what he says in the media but he has to answer this honestly, right?

Give us a highest/lowest/weirdest when it comes to Geno?

Highest: We played at St. John's my senior year. I'm from New York and my family really wanted to have the team over for dinner. Coach moved everything around to make it happen. **Lowest:** That would be like every other day. Laughs. Cause he was so hard on me. But, no, a low would be: I'm at practice at Gampel and you know how people are always walking through that concourse? Well some football player or something is walking through and I'm throwing a no-look pass and Coach is yelling at me: 'Whats the matter with you? What are you looking at? Are you looking at him?' Then he yells at this guy: 'You can't come through here anymore — Sue Bird can't stop looking at you.' Everybody was laughing, except me. I was embarrassed. **Weirdest:** Every time he tries to dance. — LISA STIEPOCK

For more of our interview with Sue Bird, go to s.uconn.edu/suebird.



A Planned Bequest

From former UConn President, Harry Hartley

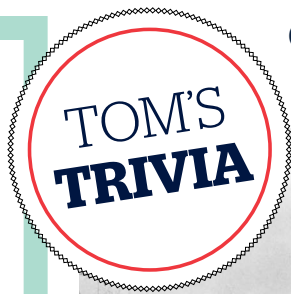
Investing in our future

Raised in a steel town near Pittsburgh, Harry Hartley was aware from a young age of how financial constraints could limit one's options. "I saw a great need for financial assistance way back then for students who couldn't afford to go to college." That's why Hartley, former UConn president and his wife, Dianne, are giving \$250,000 for need-based scholarships through a planned bequest.

"We're investing in people...and I think it has a great return."

— Harry Hartley

To learn more about giving scholarships through your estate, call 860.486.6135 or visit foundation.uconn.edu.



CHALLENGE YOURSELF TO TOM'S TRIVIA!

Go to s.uconn.edu/trivia to see if you know as much as our King of UConn Trivia and university spokesperson Tom Breen '00 (CLAS).

- 1.** When it snows at Storrs, no one works harder than the Facilities staff, which has to clear 25 miles of road, 63 miles of sidewalks, and 139 acres of parking lot. During the last winter, how much snow did they remove from campus?

A: 5,000 tons
B: 10,000 tons
C: 15,000 tons
D: 20,000 tons

- 2.** Many people believe the Husky was chosen as UConn's mascot because "UConn" sounds like the arctic "Yukon." The name was actually chosen in 1934, when the school was known as Connecticut State College, because students liked to joke that campus was as cold as the aforementioned Canadian territory. Prior to 1934, the school's athletic teams had several nicknames. Which of these was *not* one of them?

A: The Aggies
B: The Nathan Hales
C: The Orangemen
D: The Statesmen

- 3.** From 1948 to 1979, springtime at UConn meant the Campus Community Carnival. One of the most distinctive features of the carnival was the WHUS marathon, in which disc jockeys would play an irritating song until students called in to pledge money and have their requests played instead. What was the name of the annoying ditty that prompted so many thousands of dollars to go to charity?

A: The Gong-Gong Song
B: Tiptoe Through the Tulips
C: The UConn Husky Polka
D: The Chipmunk Song



- 4.** Hawley Armory, pictured from the archives circa 1946, currently serves as a fitness and wellness center. But when it opened for the first time on May 28, 1915, what activity was held there?

A: A basketball game B: Military training C: Commencement ceremonies D: A dance