

UConn

| Summer 2012



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UConn | Summer 2012 | Volume 13, Number 2

ON THE COVER: Associate Professor of history Mark Overmyer-Velázquez and his daughter explore Torres del Paine National Park in Chile. He served as a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at Chile's Pontificia Universidad Católica in the spring of 2011.

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Expanding Horizons

BY STEPHANIE REITZ | Over the decades, scores of University of Connecticut educators have followed their academic curiosity to every corner of the globe through the renowned Fulbright Scholar Program.



Making Their Way in the World

BY MARY HOWARD | Through expansive Study Abroad opportunities, international exchange programs, and membership in an elite network of some of the world's top research universities, students are taking advantage of UConn's growing focus on preparing its graduates to succeed in an increasingly global and diverse society.



Making Powerful Connections

BY COLIN POITRAS '85 (CLAS) | Zhongxue Gan '92 MS, '95 Ph.D., chief scientist for one of China's largest renewable energy companies, along with numerous UConn engineering alums and former postdoctoral students, is among those leading a multinational company in its global clean energy efforts.



Exploring Human Rights From The Hague

BY KATHERINE BRADBURY '11 (CLAS) | A UConn alum interning at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague has the opportunity to witness international justice unfold.

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Insight Into Earthquakes

Associate Professor and geologist Timothy Byrne stands on the wing of the research vessel *Chikyu* off the coast of Japan. Byrne served as co-chief scientist on a six-week drilling expedition that is a part of a multiyear, multi-expedition project to drill beneath the seafloor and retrieve sediment core samples. The research will help scientists understand more about the active fault zone south of Japan and when and where future earthquakes might occur.

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From the EDITOR

Adventures in Editing

UCONN Magazine is taking a journey into a bit of uncharted territory – in more ways than one.

Within the pages of this special international edition, you will find stories of alumni, students, and faculty – merely a handful of the many – who have recently taken their UConn experience and expertise abroad. Whether to seek adventure,

pursue research, lead a business endeavor, learn new languages and cultures, or provide a better life for others, members of the UConn community have been busy making their mark in virtually every corner of the globe.

But that's not the only journey I'm talking about here.

For one, this summer issue also happens to represent my own maiden voyage as editor, after contributing to the magazine as associate editor for the past three years. I humbly venture into this new role having had no better teacher and mentor than Ken Best. He has expertly served at the helm of *UConn Magazine* for the past decade – and you can now follow his fine writing on the University's online news site, *UConn Today*.

Although I may be new to serving as editor, I'm certainly no stranger to UConn. A graduate of the College



of Liberal Arts and Sciences, a member of the Alumni Association, and part of the University staff for the past five years, I even got married on the Storrs campus – to a fellow Husky, of course. The sense of pride that I have long had in my alma mater is what I hope will become evident in future issues of this magazine.

At the same time, the magazine itself is poised to take off in a new direction over the coming months. Every few years, we make it a point to revisit the look and feel of this publication, to update and improve upon it in any way that we can. So following a temporary hiatus this fall, our aim is to unveil a magazine relaunch that will include a fresh design and restructured content, come the 2013 spring semester.

They say that it is the journey that matters, not the destination. But in this case, I don't quite agree. As we navigate our way through a magazine makeover, I want to be sure we land in the right place – and where would I be without inviting my fellow UConn alums along for the ride?

Yes, you: Our alumni undoubtedly have strong opinions and creative ideas about how far this University has come and how we can bring to life all that is fabulous about UConn right here in this magazine. Please share your thoughts with me via email, at uconnmagazine@uconn.edu. I'm looking forward to the adventure.

—Stefanie Dion Jones '00 (CLAS)

Opening Shot



Inspired by India

“Stand Outside Yourself” (2010), an oil painting by Kathryn Myers, a professor of painting in the School of Fine Arts. Much of Myers’ work in recent years has been informed by her immersion in the art and culture of India. Her more than a dozen trips there since 1999 included Fulbright Fellowships in 2002 and 2011. Myers has exhibited her work in venues across the United States, Europe, and Asia.

University Embarking on a Major Faculty Expansion

Thinking back to your time at UConn, you undoubtedly remember those professors who truly had an impact on you. Maybe they were particularly brilliant scholars or compelling teachers; maybe they challenged you or opened new intellectual doors. Perhaps they demanded more from you academically than you knew you were capable of doing. We all remember those special faculty members who played major roles in helping to shape our thinking and added so much to our college experience – they are part of what made our education so rewarding.

Their impact is not confined to teaching alone; the extraordinary research produced by our faculty touches virtually every aspect of people's lives. It allows us to address personal and societal maladies, uncover the past, expand our knowledge, enhance our workforce, and better inform the practices of both the public and private sectors.

So it should come as no surprise that in addition to state-of-the-art facilities and

great students, it is the quality of a university's faculty that determines its standing and value across the landscape of higher education. More simply: You can't have a great university without great professors.

Knowing that, UConn has recently embarked on one of the most ambitious faculty expansions in all of higher education. When it is complete, we will have added 290 new tenure-track faculty over the next four years – in addition to regular hiring to fill vacancies.

This will transform our University by generating more research that has national and international impact, increase our research productivity, build great graduate programs, and provide excellent teaching and service to our undergraduate students – all while expanding course offerings. This is because it is so critical that students are able to take the classes they need

The University is aiming to hire nearly 300 new tenure-track faculty over the next four years.

– when they need to take them – in order to graduate in four years.

Attending school as an undergraduate for even one additional semester beyond four years means added costs for students and their families. More professors mean more courses and course sections to help our students graduate on time and keep costs down.

The hiring of these new faculty members will be undertaken with several key guidelines in mind. They must:

- Target specific areas of impact;
- Increase an existing strength or generate new strength in a particular area;
- Capitalize on opportunities to attract accomplished groups of faculty to UConn;
- Complement major UConn initiatives, such as Bioscience Connecticut and the Technology Park; and
- Meet critical teaching needs.

This hiring will affect virtually every discipline across the board, including those fields that will be so vital to the future, especially genomics, K-12 education, insurance risk, health insurance, finance, and retirement security, among many others.

Faculty hiring has slowed elsewhere – or even reversed course – in light of tight budgets and tough economics. That is one of the reasons that now is the time for UConn to undertake this extraordinary effort: It will not only reshape academics on our campus, but also will set us apart from so many others schools as forward-thinking and innovative. It's not that UConn's budget isn't tight as well; it's that we want to be strategic in marshaling our resources so we can ensure that our University continues to grow, thrive, and succeed – and be the kind of university we want to be in the future.

All the best,



Susan Herbst
President





With funding from USAID, UConn faculty and staff are training students and professionals across Ethiopia in water resources management.

Building Water Management Expertise in Ethiopia

In 2010, a group of UConn researchers was among just 11 research teams selected from across the United States to receive funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the Africa-U.S. Higher Education Initiative. The focus of the UConn project is to develop education, research, and outreach programs in Ethiopia that address development challenges related to water resources.

In just two short years, this multidisciplinary team of UConn faculty and staff – from the School of Engineering, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and College of Agriculture and Natural Resources – has worked across continents to educate students and professionals in Ethiopia in managing and solving the water distribution issues afflicting the East African nation.

Although Ethiopia possesses abundant water resources, including the Nile River, much of its population lacks access to water for drinking, irrigation, and hydropower – largely because of the country's shortage of workforce expertise in water resources management. The UConn-led project has focused on partnering with Ethiopian universities to address the country's shortage of professionals in this area, on which the future growth and transformation of the country depends.

At the core of the project is the Ethiopian Institute of Water Resources, which began this year at Ethiopia's Addis Ababa University (AAU) and is the country's first research institute focused on water.

In partnership with four other universities in Ethiopia, AAU and the UConn-led team have established a water resources engineering and management program and recruited 40 graduate students, including 18 doctoral candidates. Once the current program's Ph.D. candidates complete their degrees, Ethiopia will have effectively doubled the number of water resources management experts who hold doctoral degrees.

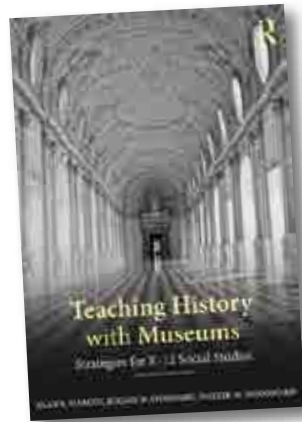
A second graduate program in water and health is slated for launch later this year at AAU, with plans for three additional programs at the other partnering Ethiopian universities.

Through the project, more than 150 Ethiopian water management professionals have also received short-term training in various aspects of water resources engineering and management. In addition, UConn's researchers piloted an outreach program last summer in which 46 undergraduate students were engaged in more than a dozen water-related community projects across Ethiopia, working together with faculty, governmental organizations, and the private sector to devise solutions to water-related issues.

Neag and History Professors Collaborate on Book

Museums provide students with opportunities and resources not available in the classroom. Through the physical participation of seeing, feeling, touching, and overall experiencing the past, field trips to museums and their corresponding lesson plans are crucial for successful learning in youth.

Alan Marcus, associate professor of curriculum and instruction in the Neag School of Education, and Walter Woodward '01 Ph.D., Connecticut state historian and associate professor of history in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, believe museums promote a sophisticated understanding of social studies and facilitate the development of critical-thinking habits and literacy skills.



The authors hope their text will encourage teachers to design more effective museum visits by fueling collaboration between teachers and museum educators.

“The museum education experience is very different from teaching history in a classroom,” says

Woodward. “Helping teachers and museum educators understand the differences between the two, so they can collaborate to give students a richer and more meaningful understanding of how history affects their lives, seemed awfully important.”

By bridging this gap and providing both groups of educators with the proper skills, Marcus and Woodward believe students will become more analytical consumers and improved citizens in a democracy.

The authors believe museums promote a sophisticated understanding of social studies and facilitate the development of critical-thinking habits and literacy skills.

Marcus, Woodward, and co-author Jeremy D. Stoddard, a Spears Distinguished Associate Professor of Education at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va., integrated their history orientations and education perspectives in the new book *Teaching History with Museums* (Routledge, 2011).



Dental Care for Chilean Children

Jenn Merry '12 DMD, above, and other UConn School of Dental Medicine students volunteered their services last year as part of a community outreach program at a local school in Currarehue, Chile. Children from across the community traveled as long as three hours for free fillings, extractions, sealants, fluoride treatment, and oral health supplies from the dental medicine students.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Nicholas D. Kristof speaks at the first annual UConn Reads Author Event at the Student Union this past April.



Author Lecture a Highlight of the UConn Reads Program

The first annual UConn Reads program concluded this spring with *New York Times* columnist Nicholas D. Kristof, co-author of the nonfiction best-seller *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*, giving a lecture in April on the Storrs campus.

Half the Sky, an account centering on the oppression of women and girls in the developing world, was named last year as the inaugural book selection for UConn Reads, culminating in campus-wide book discussions and the lecture by the Pulitzer Prize-winning Kristof.

"This project is not only a celebration of who we are as an institution, but also a provocation, meant to develop the constructive 'culture of argument' so sorely missing in America today," said President Susan Herbst in announcing the program last year. "We in higher education must lead the nation to a more intelligent, productive, and interesting public conversation – from economics and politics to ethics and social life."

UConn Reads, launched in 2011 by Herbst, invites all alumni, faculty, staff, students, and community members to participate in a common reading program – centered on a book selected by a University-wide committee – and to take part in events and online discussions throughout the year.

Nominations for the next UConn Reads selection can be made online at uconnreads.uconn.edu. The deadline is Sept. 10, 2012.



Two New Deans Named to University Leadership

This August, the University welcomes two new deans – John A. Elliott to the School of Business and Brid Grant to the School of Fine Arts.

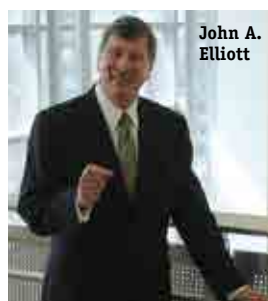
Elliott has been vice president and dean of the City University of New York Zicklin School of Business at Baruch College since 2002, where he also held the Irwin and Arlene Ettinger Chair in Accountancy. Baruch is home to the largest business school in the U.S., with 80 percent of its 18,300 students majoring in business.

Elliott previously served as a professor of accounting at Cornell University's Johnson School of Business, later serving as associate dean of the school. He has been a visiting professor at the University of Chicago and, before earning his doctorate, held faculty appointments at Central Washington State College, Saint Lawrence University, and the University of Maryland.

He earned his BS in economics from the University of Maryland, an MBA from Maryland, and his Ph.D. in accounting from Cornell University.

Grant, named the next dean of the School of Fine Arts, is a pianist by training with a long career in higher education in Ireland. She was most recently dean and director of the Dublin Institute of Technology College of Arts and Tourism. She served as the dean and director of the school's Faculty of Applied Arts from 2007 to 2010, and previously headed its Conservatory of Music and Drama, where she began as a senior lecturer in piano and academic studies.

Grant, who comes from a long line of musicians dating to the 18th century, received a diploma in music from Trinity College in London, a diploma in music teaching and a bachelor's degree in music from University College-Dublin, and a master of philosophy in music from the Dublin Institute of Technology.



John A. Elliott



Brid Grant



Tour de Force

Gabriel "Morty" Ortega Jr. '04 (SFA) is a freelance photographer, journalist, and multimedia producer currently based in Denton, Texas. Specializing in news, humanitarian, and travel photography, Ortega has worked in such international locations as South Africa, Mexico, and his native Chile, including photographing the dramatic rescue of 33 trapped Chilean miners in 2010.



Work by Health Center's Laurencin Among 'Scientific Discoveries That Changed the World'

A research breakthrough made by Cato T. Laurencin, director of the Institute for Regenerative Engineering at the UConn Health Center, that may someday revolutionize recoveries for patients with tears of the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) is among the "100 scientific discoveries that changed the world," according to *National Geographic*.

ACL injuries are one of the most common knee injuries; Laurencin's research includes work on a new approach to ACL regeneration. His technique incorporates the use of a biocompatible and degradable synthetic scaffold that would be surgically implanted to create ligament tissue and



stabilize the knee to facilitate unprecedented regeneration of ligament tissue.

"The burgeoning field of regenerative medicine seeks nothing less than to provide patients with replacement body parts," the article states. It highlights that studies by Laurencin and his team have shown "the promotion of new blood vessel and collagen growth within 12 weeks."

Laurencin was nominated by the National Medical Association earlier this year to a list of prominent African-Americans "poised to make a big difference in the United States and the world." His selection on this national roster, posted on msnbc.com, places him alongside leading professionals in technology, the arts, and politics.

UConn Sees Strong Growth in Enrollment and Retention of Latino Students

Over the past several years, UConn has experienced strong growth in the enrollment, retention, and graduation of Latino students. Students, administrators, and others credit that trend to outreach programs that attract high-school applicants, and on-campus social and academic offerings that help those new Huskies thrive.

Latino students represent about 6 percent of undergraduates at the Storrs campus. In 1986, they comprised about 2 percent.

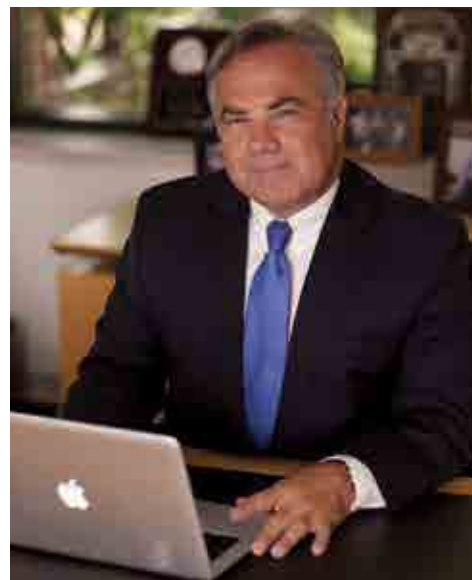
They are also staying and graduating in larger numbers than ever before. Four of every five Latino students who enrolled or transferred as freshmen were still students in their junior year as of fall 2011, and about 75 percent graduated in five years or less.

This represents an increase from 2006, when three-quarters of Latino students

who had entered as freshmen were still enrolled as juniors – but only 55 percent stayed on to earn their diploma within five years or less.

The University's Office of Institutional Research reports that the growth in Latino student enrollment and graduation also extends to the regional campuses, a fact attributed both to UConn's outreach efforts and proximity to large Latino populations in Connecticut's cities. Latinos represent 13 percent of all students enrolled at the regional campuses, with the highest numbers being 17 percent in Stamford and 15 percent in Waterbury.

"More and more, we need to position ourselves to attract and serve Latino students," says Nathan Fuerst, UConn's director of undergraduate admissions. "They're seeing students from their communities come here and be successful and graduate, and that's really invaluable."



PHR Alum Among Top CEOs

Joseph Papa '78 (PHR), chairman, president, and CEO of Perrigo Company, the largest manufacturer of private label, over-the-counter pharmaceuticals in the United States, was named one of the world's top 30 CEOs for 2012 by *Barron's*. Papa was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree during the School of Pharmacy's doctoral ceremonies in May.



Helping Others Adapt to Climate Change

Climate change in Guatemala is making an already difficult existence even more so for people who struggle to make a living in rugged terrain thousands of feet above sea level. Rachael Shenyo, a master's degree candidate in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, plans to do something about it.

A former Peace Corps volunteer in Guatemala, Shenyo admired the resourcefulness of the indigenous people with whom she worked.

Now, under the guidance of her advisor, professor of agricultural economics Boris Bravo-Ureta, she has made several trips back to Guatemala to explore how residents view climate change and what adjustments they have made in their farming practices.

One change Shenyo noticed in looking at 40 years of climate data is a shift in wind direction. "Historically," she says,



Graduate student Rachael Shenyo is studying climate change's effects on Guatemalan farmers.

"we've documented that Guatemala was rarely hit by hurricane winds, maybe a couple of direct hits in 100 years, but in the last seven years [the country has] been battered by six major tropical systems.

"What's happening in this fragile, mountainous environment," she says, "is that the infrastructure is becoming completely overwhelmed. We're finding that not only is the climate changing, it's changing with the altitude. This means that crops are affected in different ways ... growing conditions are dramatically different from farm to farm, depending on the altitude where it is located."

In January, Shenyo returned to Guatemala to interview more than 100 families in villages at different altitudes.

"We're trying to find out how residents perceive what's happening to their environment and how they're being impacted," she says. "We want to reduce the vulnerability [to climate change] and increase the area's ability to respond."

Celebrating the Economic Benefits of Innovation

Taking research from the campus to the marketplace is becoming an ever-greater part of the University's mission. This spring, UConn highlighted its growing contribution to the larger economy during its inaugural Celebration of Innovation event, held in Hartford.

"Economic development is, at its base, about brainpower," President Susan Herbst said, noting some of the University's recent successes bearing that out: More than 366 patents in the past 20 years, more than \$4 million in revenue from licenses in the past four years, and a 79 percent success rate with companies involved in the Technology Incubation Program, compared to the national average of 65 percent.

Following two decades of stagnant employment numbers in Connecticut, the ramping-up of UConn's economic development initiatives comes in the nick of time, Gov. Dannel P. Malloy told the crowd.

Among the award recipients were State Senate President Pro Tempore Don Williams, lauded for his work in winning General Assembly approval for a \$170 million investment in UConn's Technology Park, and for Jackson Laboratory, the genetic research firm that this year signed a deal to bring a billion-dollar facility to the UConn Health Center campus in Farmington.



Gov. Dannel P. Malloy and President Susan Herbst

Farewell to Memorial Stadium

More than 150 former Husky football players were among the crowd of about 250 people who returned in May to say farewell to Memorial Stadium, UConn's home field for nearly 60 years. The stadium will make way for the new Basketball Development Center. Pictured from left: Former Huskies Pat Anglim '87 (BUS), Craig Primiani '86 (ED), Terry Antrum '88 (CLAS), Mike McNamara '86 (BUS), Marc Mofsowitz '87 (CLAS), Paul Gruchacz '87 (BUS), and Ed Micklovic '86 (BUS).



AROUND UCONN • EVENTS CALENDAR

JORGENSEN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

860-486-4226
jorgensen.uconn.edu

Sept. 15
MARY CHAPIN CARPENTER
Cabaret



Oct. 4
PUNCH BROTHERS
Bluegrass and folk

Oct. 12
ORPHEUS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
Connecticut premiere of "White Fire of the Stars: Songs of Eternity"
By Augusta Read Thomas

Oct. 13
PAT METHENY UNITY BAND
Jazz guitar

Oct. 14
THE VELVETEEN RABBIT
Family

Oct. 18
STAFF BENDA BILILI
World Music

Oct. 23
WARSAW PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

With Yulianna Avdeeva, piano

Nov. 1
PILOBOLUS
Contemporary dance



Nov. 4
THE STINKY CHEESE MAN AND OTHER FAIRLY STUPID TALES
Children

CONNECTICUT REPERTORY THEATRE
860-486-4226

Oct. 4 - 14
OH BEAUTIFUL
By Theresa Rebeck
Harriet S. Jorgensen Theatre

Oct. 25 - Nov. 4
INTIMATE APPAREL

By Lynne Nottage
Studio Theatre

BALLARD INSTITUTE & MUSEUM OF PUPPETRY
860-486-0339
bimp.uconn.edu

Oct. 13
UConn PUPPET SLAM
Studio Theater

Oct. 26 - 27
SYMPOSIUM ON CHINESE PUPPET PERFORMANCE
Ballard Institute

THE WILLIAM BENTON MUSEUM OF ART
860-486-4520
benton.uconn.edu

Sept. 4 - Oct. 14
THE 46TH ANNUAL ART DEPARTMENT FACULTY EXHIBITION
Cora Lynn Deibler, associate professor of illustration, featured faculty artist

Oct. 30 - Dec. 16
METROPOLIS.
Video installation on Israeli-Palestinian conflict
By Shimon Attie

UConn LIBRARIES
Storrs Campus

July 2 - Oct. 19
WORKERS AT PLAY:

BASEBALL LEAGUES, BASKETBALL COMPETITIONS, AND COMPANY PICNICS
Photography
Dodd Center Gallery

LINE DANCES: QUILTS BY CATHERINE WHALL SMITH, A 20-YEAR RETROSPECTIVE, 1991-2011
Dodd Center West Corridor and Babbidge Library, Gallery on the Plaza

NATURA MORTA: CABINET OF CURIOSITIES
Photographs by Daniel Mosher Long
Babbidge Library, Stevens Gallery

Oct. 6 - Nov. 4
WE FIGHT FOR ROSES TOO
Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame Exhibit
Babbidge Library, West Alcove on the Plaza

Oct. 29 - Feb. 22
KATIE'S BIG DAY: CHILDREN'S BOOKS BY KATIE DAVIS
Dodd Center Gallery

RECLAIMED TREES TRANSFORMED: FROM URBAN FOREST TO FURNITURE
Works by City-Bench

Babbidge Library, Stevens Gallery and Plaza

AVERY POINT CAMPUS ALEXEY VON SCHLIPPE GALLERY OF ART
860-405-9052
averypointarts.uconn.edu

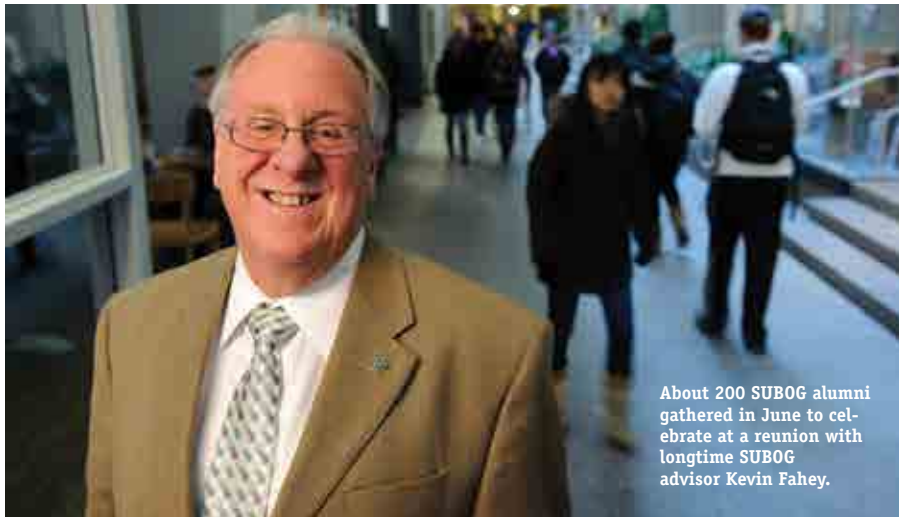
Sept. 15 - Oct. 26
LATIN VIEWS 6TH BIENNIAL EXHIBITION
Juried exhibition
Nov. 2 - Dec. 16



EARLY FALL EXHIBITION
Pamela Pike Gordinier, Geoffrey Detrani, Leonardo Severo, Jeffery Slomba

WATERBURY CAMPUS
203-236-9924
waterbury.uconn.edu/osher

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE
Sept. 14 - Nov. 2
Fall Session



About 200 SUBOG alumni gathered in June to celebrate at a reunion with longtime SUBOG advisor Kevin Fahey.

“Kevin is someone to be envied, not for all the accolades that have come his way over time but for the enthusiasm he brings to everything he does,” says John Saddleire, vice president for student affairs. “It is exceedingly rare for someone other than a member of the faculty to receive one of the University’s highest honors. ... Kevin has generously shared his passion and excitement for UConn with everyone he has touched, most importantly the students whom he has nurtured and guided for so many years. It is entirely appropriate that he has received this unique recognition by the University.” —*Kenneth Best*

Longtime Staff Member, SUBOG Advisor, and Donor Gives Back

As a University donor for the past 20 years, longtime associate director of student activities M. Kevin Fahey knew he wanted to do something extra special upon retiring from his 34-year career at UConn. He learned from the UConn Foundation that faculty and staff can provide an endowed scholarship for a \$10,000 pledge payable over a five-year period.

The scholarship he established will support a returning student who serves on the Student Union Board of Governors (SUBOG), for which Fahey served as advisor. When colleagues talked about a retirement gift, Fahey said he would rather have contributions to his endowment, adding, “That’s the best gift I could ever receive. I’ve had a great experience here. It has meant so much to me that I looked for the opportunity to give something back. I love the place. I bleed UConn blue.”

In addition to his work with SUBOG, Fahey, who retired July 1, also served as associate director of the Student Union and has had responsibilities for student organizations, leadership programs, Greek Life, Community Outreach, and the Rainbow Center.

His professional life has been recognized for his long involvement with the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA), which has included serving on its national board of directors. A dozen years ago, the organization’s New England Region, which he helped to found, honored him by establishing a graduate assistant award funded among other NACA scholarships by a golf tournament in his name. Fahey also spent 14 years as president of the University of Connecticut Professional Employee Association. In 2009, the UConn Alumni Association named him an Honorary Alumnus.

This past spring, the UConn Board of Trustees recognized his retirement by awarding him an honor reserved for faculty: He has been designated associate director of student activities emeritus.

“I was totally blown away when I heard about it,” he says. “I was speechless ... I think it probably takes into consideration the whole breadth of my involvement on campus – with my students, with UCPEA, and as a donor. I’m humbled by it.”

White Coat Gala Raises \$1M

The third annual White Coat Gala, held in Hartford in April, raised more than \$1 million in support of the Health Center. Honorees included Peter J. Deckers, professor of surgery and dean emeritus, UConn School of Medicine (below, with his wife, Barbara); Barbara E. Kream, professor of medicine and associate dean, UConn Graduate School; and

John W. Rowe, former chair of the UConn Board of Trustees.



Giving an Encore of Family Support

Opera was not a passion for Charles Eaton II '76 (CLAS), '79 MBA and his wife, Lisa '79 (NUR), until it became one for their son, Charles, a UConn senior who is studying classical voice in the School of Fine Arts.

"As our son became more passionate about his studies, he would inform us of the excellence of the faculty," Eaton says. "We decided we wanted to provide some support for opera productions well into the future."

The Eatons established an endowed fund for the opera program with a \$10,000 gift. It is not the first gift from the Eatons, whose three other children – Nathaniel '04 (CLAS), '05 (BUS, CLAS); Andrew '06 (CLAS), '09 MA; and Julie '11 (CLAS) – also attended UConn.

Earlier gifts to the University have included funding for the School of Business, the soccer program, and the Hamilton D. Eaton Award for Research Excellence in Nutritional Science in honor of Eaton's father, who served as a UConn professor.

To read more stories of giving at UConn, please visit ourmoment.uconn.edu

GIVING DIGEST

Connecticut Businessman Provides Scholarship

A man who started his own business and transformed it into an industry leader, Brian Simons '60 (BUS) likes the transformation that is turning UConn into a leader in public education. He has donated \$200,000 to establish an endowed scholarship in the School of Business. "I think UConn is doing a great job, expanding nicely, and turning out great graduates," says Simons, CEO of Shelton-based OEM Controls, Inc. Simons hopes that his scholarship will make it easier for a potential businessman or woman to get through UConn. "I had to hustle because I worked my way through college," says Simons. "It didn't hurt me any, but I like the idea of helping a student make ends meet."

School of Fine Arts Seeks All-Steinway Campus

Through private donations, the School of Fine Arts hopes to become an all-Steinway School, replacing 90 percent or more of

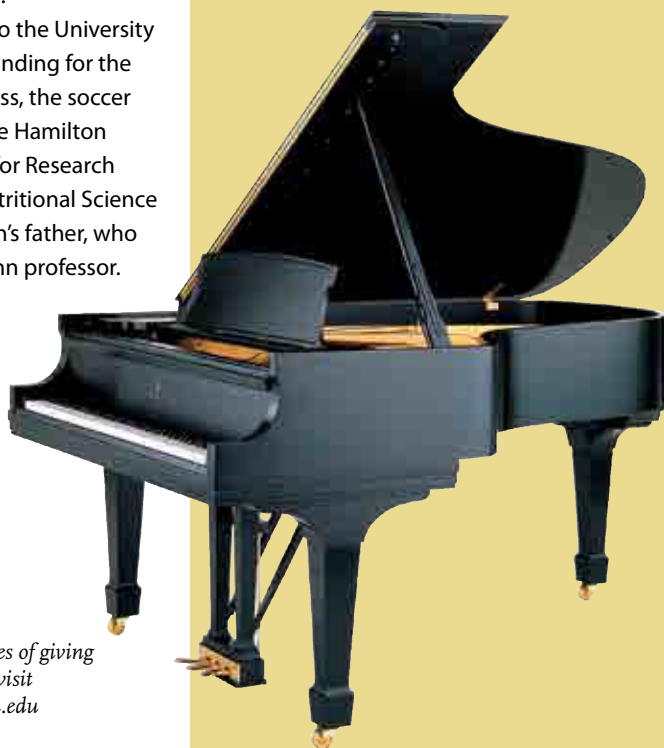
its assorted, aging pianos. "This is a way of saying that we embrace quality ... period," says former Dean David Woods, who stepped down in June after 12 years to return to the faculty. The School currently has two Steinways, thanks to private giving. The Jorgensen Co-Stars raised more than \$100,000 to purchase one for the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. The Portell Foundation helped raise \$100,000 toward the Steinway in the von der Mehden Recital Hall and also recently pledged \$100,000 to purchase another to honor Woods' tenure.

Prosthodontics Residency Program Receives Gift

The School of Dental Medicine's Prosthodontic Residency Program will have access to the latest technology for education, research, and care, thanks to a \$70,000 gift from the Cascade Foundation of Rockport, Maine. The gift will support the acquisition of several pieces of state-of-the-art equipment. "UConn has one of the [most]important schools of dental medicine in the United States," the Cascade Foundation said. "We believe that if UConn is to maintain and grow this status in the area of prosthodontics, it must have the most modern equipment in use, so that students leave the program with the knowledge they will be applying in the field on day one; they will be leaders right from graduation."

UConn Rugby Establishes First Club Sport Endowed Fund

When the UConn Rugby Football Club celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2011, its alumni board looked at the growth of the sport, the strength of the alumni base, and both the potential and need for a stronger future program at the University. What emerged was a vision for an endowed fund to support the club, a goal that members have now met and exceeded by raising more than \$26,000. It is the first club sport at UConn to establish such a fund.



Welcoming Worldly Competition

When Stephane Diop '13 (CLAS) went to the Student Union for the first time to have a meal, the soccer player from Dakar, Senegal, recalls having to ask his new teammates for help in ordering something to eat.

"I had to ask them what to get," he says. "Even though we have turkey at home, it was different from the way it is cooked at home. I had to remember in case I wanted to come back by myself."

After nearly four years in Storrs, Diop says his favorite foods now are wings and pizza. "Yeah, I'm a UConn student," he says, smiling.

Like all students arriving on campus, student-athletes must adjust to college academics and some homesickness, as well as a higher level of competition on the field of play. But for student-athletes such as Diop and most other international students who grow up in another culture, there is also the adjustment to living in the United States.

"When I saw universities in Germany, they were all in the city," says Anne Jeute '13 (CLAS), a 2011 NFHCA All-America Second Team and All-Big East First Team selection in field hockey

from Meerbusch, located just outside Dusseldorf in northwest Germany. "When I came here, it was just the campus. I was overwhelmed; it seemed pretty big to me, but it's not big anymore."

All-American field hockey goalkeeper Sarah Mansfield '13 (CLAS) from Cornwall, England, says that even though she has spoken English her entire life, communication can be a challenge.

"Obviously we speak English, but you call it British English," she says. "People wouldn't understand what I was saying. I say 'pavement'; you say 'sidewalk.' I say 'car park'; you say 'parking lot.' Every week, there're new things [my friends] realize I'm saying. I've become more alert to it now."

Her countrywoman and field hockey teammate Chloe Hunnab '15 (CLAS), a freshman from Chelmsford, England, says America's enthusiasm for college sports is a bit of a culture shock.

"University sport in England is not very big at all. The biggest thing is the Oxford and Cambridge boat race," she says. "Here, sport is huge, with scholarships and cheerleaders. The first football

More than 100 countries are represented in UConn's international student population. Among them are numerous student-athletes, including, from left to right, women's field hockey forward Anne Jeute '13 (CLAS), from Meerbusch, Germany; men's ice hockey forward Evan Carriere '13 (CLAS), from Ontario, Canada; Stephane Diop '13 (CLAS), men's soccer forward from Dakar, Senegal; swimmer Chinyere Pigot '15 (CLAS), who represented her native Suriname at the 2012 Olympics; Sarah Mansfield '13 (CLAS) from Cornwall, England, goalkeeper for women's field hockey; and men's soccer midfielder Juho Karppinen '14 (CLAS), from Kuopio, Finland.



game I went to [at Rentschler Field], I nearly cried I was so excited.”

Jeute was similarly surprised by the level of excitement around college sports. “I went to First Night for basketball,” she says. “The players only got introduced, and it was packed. I was very confused about this.”

Soccer player Juho Karppinen '14 (CLAS), a midfielder from Kuopio, Finland, one of the nation's largest cities, says that after a bumpy first semester, his English has improved steadily and he has adjusted to life in Storrs.

“I knew how to speak English but didn't speak it that much,” Karppinen says. “People are more open here. In Finland, we're more shy and reserved. You keep to yourself. Here, people come and talk with you. I'm really enjoying it.”

Though international student-athletes arrive as skilled and accomplished on the field as their American teammates, they may need to adjust to the world of Division I competition.

“It's a different kind of soccer culture,” Karppinen notes. “Here, you have more money; the facilities are different. Some professional teams in Finland don't have the things we have here. I was surprised how good the level [of facilities] is at the

University. I knew it was good, but I didn't know it was that good.”

Hunnable, the 2010 Big East Rookie of the Year, recalls her introduction to the strength and conditioning program for field hockey players last summer.

“I came here and had never done weights before. I was shocked,” she says. “That pre-season, I was sliding down the banisters instead of walking down the stairs. I just hurt so much. But it was definitely worth it.”

Growing up outside of a sports culture celebrated each night on ESPN, international student-athletes soon learn about All-American teams and Final Fours in their respective sports.

“I got an email from [Coach] Nancy Stevens about the All-American Team,” Mansfield says. “I didn't know what it was. It's a great honor, now I understand, but for me it means more for the team to be recognized than me personally.”

Adds Hunnable, who reached the 2010 Final Four in field hockey in her first season at UConn: “I didn't understand the Final Four thing, but when you get there and there are so many more people watching, it was like a buzz, very exciting. I definitely want to go again.”

—Kenneth Best



Reducing Sexual Risk in India

COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT TAKES INTERVENTION TO INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Well into his fourth decade on the UConn School of Medicine faculty, anthropologist Stephen Schensul has spent a career studying health status and health care in underserved areas both in the United States and internationally, including in Peru, Sri Lanka, and Mauritius.

For the past 10 years, the focal point of his research and intervention has been Mumbai, India.

Schensul, professor in the Department of Community Medicine and Health Care, is principal investigator of an Indo/U.S. project funded by the National Institutes of Mental Health, studying the prevention of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STI) among married women in Mumbai's low-income communities. These communities represent almost half the population in Indian cities; they must cope with limited and crowded housing, insufficient water, and poor sanitation.



Schensul's graduate student Dylan Graetz works with research assistant Vaishali Jadhav in India to test an adolescent girl for anemia.



Populations living in such conditions tend not to place sexual health among the chief concerns. The challenge is to link a particular project's objectives with community- and cultural-based concerns.

Schensul is part of a group overseeing a multifaceted approach to the research, which aims to help the people he's studying with clinical care, counseling, couples intervention, and community education for today, and knowledge and resources to sustain and improve health for tomorrow.

"I think that we've shown over these 10 years a significant drop in sexually transmitted infections and husbands' extramarital behavior, and demonstrated that we could engage primary care physicians – both allopathic (biomedical) and those in the indigenous Indian systems of medicines like ayurveda – to help deliver treatment and messages that reduce sexual risk and STIs," Schensul says.

The project is part of a larger program titled "Research and Intervention in Sexual Health Theory to Action," fittingly forming the acronym RISHTA, which in Hindi-Urdu means "relationship."

Relationships have been central to Schensul's projects, internationally and as a key intervention point to reduce sexual risk.

REDUCING STIGMA

Schensul's first grant in India goes back to 2001, when the focus was on married men and sexual risk. A year later came a supplement to that grant to study women's risk in marriage.

As the grant's principal investigator, Schensul and his Indian counterparts have established an office near the community with a team of about 20 on the ground, including physicians, counselors, outreach workers, and other staff who deal with coordination and data management.

That group is joined regularly by Schensul and others from the UConn Health Center, who most recently include Purnima Mehrotra, a postdoctoral fellow with a focus on health communications; Marie Brault, an anthropology doctoral student focusing on early marriage and sexual health; and Dylan Graetz, a third-year medical and master's in public health student working on anemia among adolescent girls.

Additionally, Indian senior investigators from the International Center for Research on Women, the Tata Institute for Social Sciences, and the Topiwala National Medical College and Population Council are involved in the projects.

Schensul, the head of UConn's Center for International Community Health Studies, says any success in this effort would not be possible without those collaborations, which help address the many obstacles in an undertaking of this magnitude.

For instance, the Topiwala National Medical College supports the physicians who staff the urban health center in Mumbai, where Schensul's project has established a women's health clinic. In addition to providing care, the clinic is an entry point for study participants.

"Most primary care centers in developing countries are maternal and child-health focused," says Schensul. "These services are primarily geared for expectant or new mothers, with limited attention to women's own gynecological and related health problems."

The women's health clinic, Schensul says, addresses these problems and provides auxiliary services to meet diverse needs. Women who consent to participate in alternative support services can receive individual counseling, group couples intervention, or a combination of both in addition to their medical care.

LASTING CHANGES

"The individual counseling at a primary care center has formed the basis for a model of how you could deliver mental health services," he says. "Mental health services in the developing world are very limited or nonexistent. So this idea of a counseling unit within a primary care center, which is where women would bring their problems anyway – they 'physicalize' their problems – has worked."

The project has also engaged community-based organizations, social services, and the Islamic religious sectors to disseminate messages focused on reproductive and sexual health and programs, which the organizations will maintain after the end of the project in 2013. The organizations can distribute messages on the importance of women's health, the need to decrease violence against women, as well as the importance of husband-wife communication and reducing sexual risk behavior.

"We've been able to show an impact on the much broader concept of sexual health that would include positive aspects of sexuality and prevention of disease," says Schensul. "And we've made a positive shift in community norms concerning gender equity, especially among men, who have shown less patriarchal norms in the course of the project." —Chris DeFrancesco

Genomic Research Sheds New Light on Extinct Tasmanian Tiger

The enigmatic Tasmanian tiger, also known as the thylacine, was hunted to extinction in the wild at the turn of the 20th century, and the last one died in a Tasmanian zoo in 1936.

Now scientists have sequenced a portion of the thylacine genome, showing that like its cousin, the Tasmanian devil, it had extremely low genetic variability. Having poor genetic health makes animals more susceptible to diseases, which can threaten the survival of the species.

The results suggest that both animals' genetic makeup was affected by their isolation from mainland Australia.

"We found that the thylacine had even less genetic diversity than the Tasmanian devil," says the study's senior author, Andrew Pask, associate professor of molecular and cell biology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. "If they were still around today, they'd be at severe risk, just like the devil."

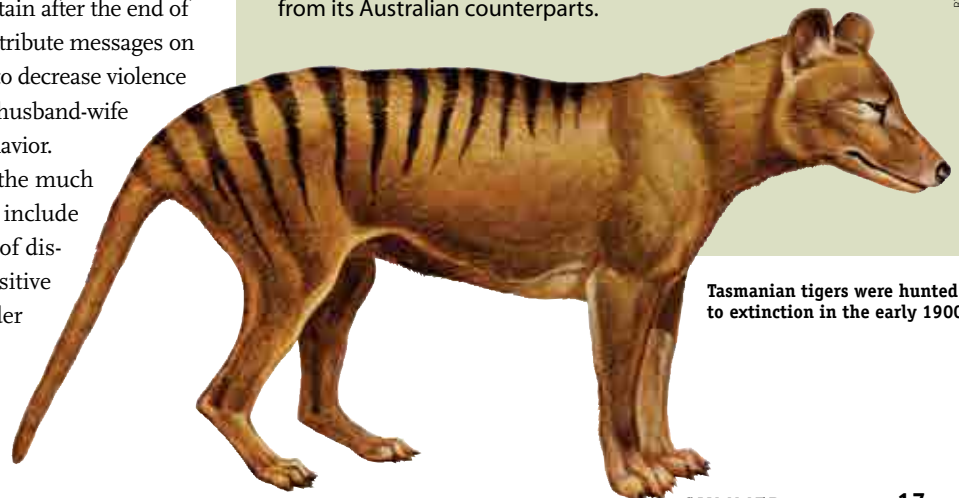
Pask and Brandon Menzies from the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research in Germany, along with co-authors from Australia, published the article this spring in the journal *PLoS ONE*.

The thylacine is fascinating to scientists because although it was a marsupial, explains Pask, it looked so much like a dog that even to this day, most archaeologists can't tell the two skeletons apart.

"This is the most striking example of convergent evolution that we have in mammals," says Pask. "It was completely unique, so its extinction was a massive loss."

The Tasmanian tiger stood as tall as a medium-sized dog and roamed across Australia and Tasmania, which at one time were connected by a land bridge. But after the bridge flooded about 10,000 years ago, the introduced dingo outcompeted the mainland tigers, which eventually vanished. A government-imposed bounty then drove the tigers to extinction in Tasmania.

Pask and his colleagues speculated that the tiger suffered low genetic diversity because it was geographically isolated from its Australian counterparts.



Tasmanian tigers were hunted to extinction in the early 1900s.

Improving the Detection of Land Mines

As many as 25,000 people are maimed or killed annually by land mines worldwide.

While land mines are inexpensive to produce – about \$3 to \$30 each – finding and clearing them is a slow process that can cost as much as \$1,000 per mine. Specially trained dogs are the gold standard, but they can be distracted by larger mine fields and eventually tire. Metal detectors are often too sensitive, causing lengthy and expensive delays for the removal of an object that may turn out to be merely a buried tin can.

Ying Wang '12 Ph.D. hopes to help. Working in conjunction with her advisor, associate professor Yu Lei in the School of Engineering, she has developed a prototype portable sensing system that can be used to detect hidden explosives such as land mines accurately, efficiently, and at little cost.

The key to the sensing system is an advanced chemically treated film that, when applied to the ground and viewed under ultraviolet light, can detect even the slightest traces of explosive chemical vapor. If there is no explosive, the film retains a bright fluorescent color. If a land mine or other explosive device is present, a dark circle identifying the threat forms within minutes.

One of the world's top private land mine clearing companies, located in South Sudan, is working with Lei and Wang in arranging a large-scale field test, the results of which could be of interest to the United Nations, which has worked to make war zones plagued by old land mines safer through its UN Mine Action Service.

It is estimated that about 110 million active land mines lurk underground in 64 countries across the globe, threatening lives and paralyzing communities by limiting the use of land for farming and roads for trade.



Exploring the Bike Path to Secondary Education

Getting mobile by riding a bicycle is encouraging and empowering young girls in India to stay in school with the hope of closing a learning gender gap.

Nishith Prakash, assistant professor of economics and human rights in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Karthik Muralidharan at the University of California, San Diego, are analyzing whether this incentive, which began in 2007, works. Their research is funded by the International Growth Centre, an institute directed by the London School of Economics and Oxford University.

In rural Bihar, India, the government has been looking to empower 14-year-old girls, many of whom drop out of school after the end of grade 8, often because of other duties, such as caring for siblings and the family household. As an incentive to encourage them to stay in school, the government has been giving them bicycles.

By giving bicycles to the girls, the government of Bihar is seeking to improve high-school enrollment rates, reduce a gender gap that leaves girls behind, and improve learning. The project aims to fulfill a United Nations Millennium Development Goal of improving women's access to secondary education.

Prakash and Muralidharan studied the difference in girls' enrollment levels before and after the policy change and looked at how girls' enrollment compared with boys' enrollment before and after the bike incentive. They also considered the difference in enrollment trends by gender in a neighboring state, where students did not receive bicycles.

They found that since the bicycle incentive began, girls in Bihar stayed in school longer. Their estimates suggest that the gender gap in enrollment and attainment has been bridged by 10 percent to 20 percent.

Alum Turns Backpacking Adventure Into Book

In the spring of 1999, Norm Schriever '95 (CLAS) decided that he needed to do something different. He had been working in marketing since graduating four years earlier from UConn with a degree in communication sciences. He had also taken several classes in sociology and was curious about other cultures.

"My mom always said if you had money, instead of spending it on material things, spend it on travel and experiences; you'll always be rich. That idea has served me well," says Schriever, who took that advice – and a backpack – as he traveled around the world, recounting his experiences in his book, *Pushups in the Prayer Room: Reflections from a Year Backpacking Around the World* (Authority Publishing, 2012), available at NormSchriever.com and Amazon.com.

Schriever writes about his journey over 70,000 miles through 20 countries and experiences that included staying in flea-infested motels, evading armed carjackers in Venezuela, watching a soccer game with 100,000 people in Brazil, and visiting the Great Wall, the Pyramids, and Machu Picchu.

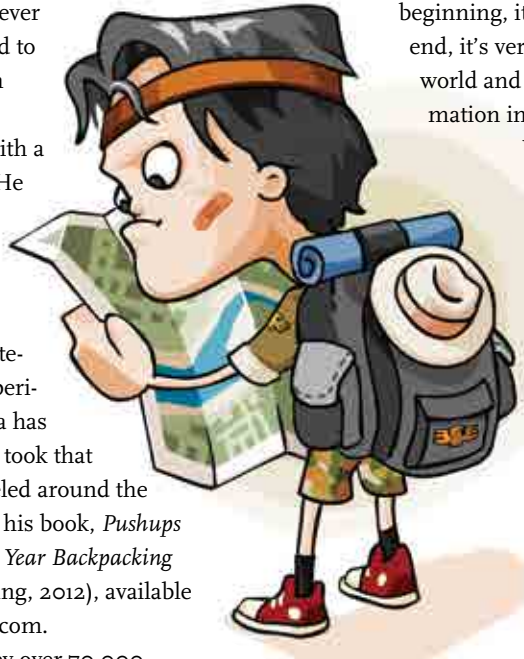
"It was unbelievably liberating," Schriever says of his yearlong adventure. "It was not vacation; it was traveling, and there's a big difference. ... Every single day, your eyes are wide open; your adrenaline is going. That freedom was exhilarating, but it came with a price. As I progressed, what I was looking for was a lot bigger; it was really the culture, the history of people, their stories that make up our world. That's what thrilled me toward the end."

Upon returning to the U.S., Schriever thought about writing a book but instead went back to work to pay off his travel expenses. Yet he knew that turning his travel journals into a book would not happen if he wrote part time.

"You have to give it your soul, your passion," he says. "It started by writing down some of the stories, writing a paragraph after a picture, and sharing it with friends. It became a blog [normschriever.com], and the feedback was wonderful."

So last year, Schriever took another leap. He sold all of his possessions and moved to Costa Rica, with nothing but a laptop and surfboard, to follow his dream of writing the book.

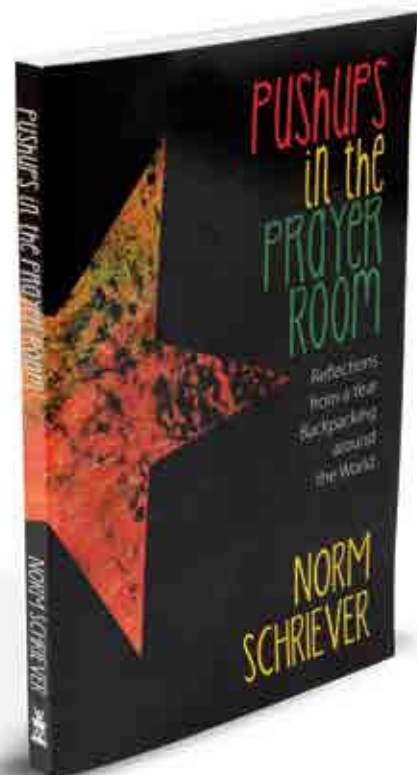
Waiting roughly a decade to write about his journey has provided Schriever with some perspective: "The tone of the book changes so much from the beginning towards the end. In the



beginning, it's funny and about partying, but toward the end, it's very introspective. It's a literal journey around the world and a metaphorical journey – sort of my transformation into my own place in the world as I go."

While backpacking around the world, Schriever says he welcomed the exhilaration of not knowing what each day would bring. "You feel like a soldier or a pilgrim because of the thrill of the new experiences every day," he says. "You wake up, throw on a backpack with a camera, water, and a notebook, and you have absolutely no idea what you're going to face each day."

Currently on a U.S. book tour, Schriever plans on moving back to Central America to write his next book, *Get Happy*, about his life as an expatriate. —Kenneth Best





Below, Brian Yu '13 (BUS) visits an orphanage in Honduras during a trip with Global Medical Brigades, which aims to provide sustainable health care in underserved rural communities.



From Shanghai to Storrs

If aspiring financial planner Brian Yu '13 (BUS) was quizzed to evaluate risk tolerance – a first step that clients take when working with a money manager – he would be in the risk-taking zone.

“Last year, I emceed for UConn’s annual Asian Nite Talent Show,” Yu says. “It was incredibly exhilarating presenting acts before a crowded audience, learning how to ‘work the crowd’ and improvise when something went wrong.”

A Dean’s List student, Yu left his native Shanghai as a freshman to attend UConn because of the School of Business’ reputation for excellence.

“I have always been an independent person, and I wanted to submerge myself

in an environment I was not familiar with,” Yu says, adding that he doesn’t have to deal with homesickness because he doesn’t experience it. “I thrive on doing what I love in college. Slowly, over time, UConn has become my home.”

Yu says that compared to the international high school he attended in China, UConn offers greater freedom in selecting courses he is interested in taking. “I like the versatility and flexibility of the curriculum; taking classes outside my major hasn’t held me back from graduating on time,” he adds.

“I found my classes very enlightening,” says Yu, who began experimenting with UConn’s management classes. “In a class about the principles of entrepreneurialism, I consulted with a real-world venture startup company. In a class about professional selling, I got hands-on experience selling software to real companies. William Ryan instructs my sales leadership class

and directs UConn’s Sales Leadership Program; he brought company spokespeople/recruiters to class to describe careers in sales and give us networking opportunities.”

Yu serves on UConn’s Business Leadership Council, which oversees all the University’s business clubs, fraternities, and societies. He is also vice president of finance for the Student Entrepreneurial Organization, which provided him with the opportunity to ring the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange and meet with super-grocer Stew Leonard Jr.

During his sophomore year, Yu met

people who profoundly influenced his life. He lived in UConn's Global House Learning Community, where students interested in global issues live together in a residence hall. "It was an amazing experience," Yu says. "I still keep in touch with many of the exchange students from Singapore, Ireland, and Australia."

Also that year, Yu went to Central

America with UConn's Global Medical Brigades, where he and other students raised money to help pay for medicine and flew to Honduras to set up a triage for a village of over 1,000 people.

"Although I am not pre-med," Yu says, "it was a great experience, since it opened my eyes to poverty-stricken places in the world. It drives me to do what I want to do,

to help people achieve their financial goals so they can do what they want in their future.

"My experience in college has by far been the most meaningful and fulfilling chapter of my life, professionally, socially, and academically," Yu says. "My time at UConn has molded me to become a better person." —*Lauren Lalancette*

Bringing Together the Best of Both Worlds

Engineers leave nothing to chance. Yet when Kimberly Sayre '15 (CLAS, ENG) was accepted to UConn and took her tour of the Storrs campus, a chance encounter affirmed her choice in schools – and allowed her to pursue her dream.

The daughter of an electrical engineer, Sayre always was interested in computers, fascinated by the inner workings of the machines. In high school, she took the AP computer programming exam and scored well. "It showed me what I wanted to do," says Sayre. "At a fairly early age, I knew I wanted to go into computers."

The New Jersey native also studied German in high school and spent a summer in Baden-Württemberg. Sayre thought that when she headed off to college, she might lose her connection to the German language.

"I enjoyed it so much, but computing was my passion, and I wasn't about to leave that behind," she says.

While taking her tour of the UConn campus, Sayre discovered she would not have to worry about leaving her other passion behind when she saw a banner emblazoned with the German flag and the word "Eurotech." She asked her student tour guide what the flag meant.

The guide explained that Eurotech is a five-year international engineering program whose participants earn a dual degree, a BS in engineering and a BA in German studies. Add in a semester or two in Germany – one to study

abroad, another for an optional engineering internship – and Eurotech prepares students for the global marketplace, enhancing their foreign language skills as well as their knowledge of German culture and history.

As a Eurotech student, Sayre can choose to study abroad at any of the universities in Germany. This fall, she will attend the University of Freiburg as part of the Baden-Württemberg Exchange Program.

"It just spoke out to me that I belonged here at UConn," says Sayre. "I absolutely love it."

Sayre also loves being part of the Eurotech Learning Community in Storrs, where she has lived with fellow engineering and German students.

"You have a family," explains Sayre. "You have people who have similar interests, who take similar classes. It's just a really nice experience."

Another nice experience happened courtesy of the School of Engineering, which sponsored a 10-day trip to Germany last summer. Sayre and her fellow students toured numerous universities, visited engineering companies, and did some sightseeing.

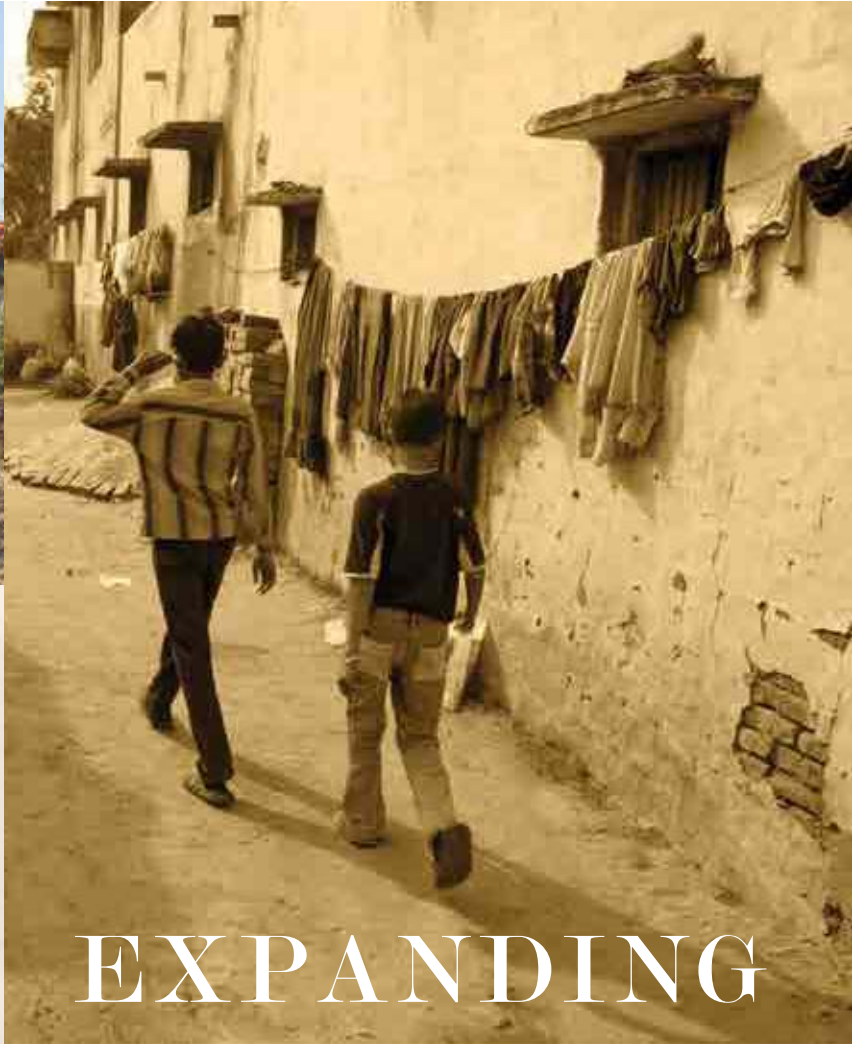
"I got to see the universities and better understand what I was about to get myself into," says Sayre.

Following her time abroad, Sayre has options. A master's degree will come before or after working in the field. But ultimately she knows what she wants.

"I want to incorporate my German studies into computer engineering," says Sayre. "So if that's going to Germany and working for a while or working for a German subsidiary here in America, that's what I want to do."

—*Craig Burdick '06 (CLAS), '01 (ENG)*





*UConn Faculty Travel, Teach,
and Conduct Research as
Fulbright Scholars*

By Stephanie Reitz

EXPANDING

Released from teaching schedules and deadline pressures, scores of University of Connecticut educators have followed their academic curiosity to every corner of the globe over the decades under the renowned Fulbright Scholar Program.

The program, which also sends UConn students on international study fellowships and has brought dozens of overseas researchers to Storrs, has been a key part of UConn's engagement in global research, the world economy, and cross-cultural relationships.

More than 170 UConn professors have received Fulbright awards since the government-sponsored program was established in 1946, including six who studied in 2011-12 in Europe and Asia, with others heading to spots around the world this fall.

Research and lecture topics have ranged from the geology of earthquake-prone areas in Taiwan to public health practices in Belgium, student journalism in Romania, and theatrical lighting design in Russia.

Faculty say they share a sense of gratitude for the opportunity to live and work in the midst of the regions on which they have

focused years of scholarship and bring those lessons back to UConn, passing them along to students and peers.

"It's such a rare gift to students and scholars, to artists and writers and researchers, to be able to pursue the topics that really fascinate you. The Fulbright is a very freeing, liberating grant in that way," says Alexis Dudden, a history professor in UConn's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) and a 2009-10 Fulbright scholar in Niigata, Japan.

GLOBAL OUTLOOK

The Fulbright program started in 1946 to promote understanding between U.S. citizens and people in other countries in the name of peace, education, and mutual prosperity. The program now operates in 155 countries with fellowships that range from two weeks to 12 months, generally accompanied by funding to cover travel and living expenses for the Fulbrighter and his or her dependents.

In the 2009-10 academic year, UConn's tally of six Fulbright Scholar award winners placed it in the top 10 among U.S. research

institutions in terms of the number of faculty selected.

Narasimhan Srinivasan, an associate professor of marketing in the School of Business, says one major benefit of the Fulbright program is that it allows scholars to discover the many things they have in common with people in other nations.

“When you have a global outlook and begin to see those commonalities in people, it becomes much easier to communicate and work together,” Srinivasan says.

Srinivasan visited Canada as a Fulbright Kahanoff Fellow in 2000. He also built professional relationships with counterparts abroad as a Fulbright Senior Specialist in Peru in 2008 and 2011.

“As we continue to globalize, our economic self-interest will depend more and more on what the rest of the world does,” he says. “We cannot afford to be isolationist ... just as the rest of the world has an economic interest in what is going on in America.”

Like other Fulbrighters, Srinivasan takes his lessons back to the classroom and into his research. He is also an unofficial ambassador to international Fulbrighters who come to UConn, inviting them to serve as guest lecturers in his classes.

Fulbright links can last for decades. Steven Wisensale, a specialist in family and aging policy in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies in CLAS, still hears from people he met during a 2003 fellowship in Germany and 2006 fellowship in the Czech Republic.

“The benefits certainly went beyond the fellowship trips themselves. I was able to incorporate both of my experiences into my teaching back here at UConn,” says Wisensale.

Opposite page: Associate Professor Manisha Desai spent 2010-11 in the western Indian state of Gujarat. Below: Professor Alexis Dudden served as a 2009-10 Fulbright scholar in Niigata, Japan.

“It’s such a rare gift to students and scholars, to artists and writers and researchers, to be able to pursue the topics that really fascinate you. The Fulbright is a very freeing, liberating grant in that way.”

H O R I Z O N S





"The Fulbright commission encourages 'getting to know' the country and ... traveling beyond the immediate geographic area of one's research," says Associate Professor Mark Overmyer-Velázquez, pictured below with his family, who joined him last year in Chile, where he served as a Fulbright Visiting Scholar.



The Fulbright program started in 1946 to promote understanding between U.S. citizens and people in other countries in the name of peace, education, and mutual prosperity. The program now operates in 155 countries with fellowships that range from two weeks to 12 months.

BEYOND BOOKS

The family-friendly aspect of the Fulbright awards has been another special feature for researchers, giving them a chance to introduce their children to new cultures and worldviews.

Dudden was able to take her then-4-year-old son, Julian, as what she jokingly calls her "junior research partner" during her 2009-10 fellowship in Japan. They returned on vacation a year later to visit friends and her former colleagues, when the massive earthquake hit the country on March 11, 2011, triggering a deadly tsunami that killed nearly 16,000. Though they were out of the danger zone, that experience and others that Dudden has had on return trips since her Fulbright year have provided immeasurable insights she's been able to pass along to her students and incorporate in her research.

Those deeply personal experiences stay with UConn's Fulbrighters just as vividly as their time in other universities' classrooms or research libraries.

Manisha Desai, an associate professor of women's studies and sociology in CLAS, spent 2010-11 in the western Indian state of Gujarat, studying rural social movements.

For Desai, a native of India and former director of UConn's women's studies program, her Fulbright trip gave her the chance to follow the lives and burgeoning activism of rural farmers and residents.

That meant spending up to 12 hours at a stretch on jostling, crowded trains to reach remote corners of the province or bouncing along with strangers in minivans that operated as de facto taxis.

Book research also never could have taken the place of one special experience that Desai recalls: walking about 45 miles through the countryside with rural farmers on their 200-mile march to Gujarat's state capital to protest a plan that would damage the reservoirs on which their livelihoods depend.

Now, when Desai tells her classes about activism in rural India, she can clearly envision and describe those long miles and weighty conversations with the activist farmers, who eventually won a court victory to save the reservoirs and surrounding land from being transformed into a cement factory site.

Desai currently is putting the finishing touches on a new book using her research and, this fall, will pass along many of her Fulbright experiences to students in her Sociology of Development class.

"When people think of India, they may hear about it as a fast-growing part of the global economy with its new middle class, or they may hear of the 300 million who are really poor," she says.

"You hear this kind of contrast, but what you don't hear is that of the 300 million people, there are some who are organized and who are challenging the new model of development and, in many cases, achieving victories," she says. "That's what I was given the opportunity to learn about and witness." 🌿



MAKING THEIR WAY IN THE





WORLD



WALK THROUGH THE HALLS OF Global House, one of 16 Learning Communities on the Storrs campus, and you are likely to hear a harmonious blend of languages – Swedish, Korean, and French, to name a few. Opened in 2007, Global House houses undergraduates who are interested in international issues, Study Abroad, and foreign languages.

Global House – which houses 125 students from 10 countries – is just one example of the University's growing focus on preparing students to succeed in an increasingly global and diverse society. In living situations such as Global House, through contact with

Shaping UConn Students Into Global Citizens **By Mary Howard**

international students, on Study Abroad trips, and in classrooms, UConn students are becoming citizens of the world.

UConn graduates must be equipped to succeed in an increasingly diverse and global society, says Elizabeth Mahan, interim executive director of the Office of Global Programs. The University's mission as a public institution centers in part on shaping its graduates into engaged citizens.

Tiffany Touma '13 (CLAS), an English major from Redding, Conn., understands the importance of learning to live in a diverse society. A resident assistant in Global House, she is the daughter of immigrants – her mother is from France, and her father is from Lebanon.

"I've met people from cultures and countries I knew nothing about," Touma says. "There's a lot you can learn in the classroom, but it is so important to get to know people. It's helped me become more accepting."

AN EXPANDING NETWORK

But students need not live in Global House to meet peers from other countries. There are numerous opportunities for travel abroad, including UConn's exchange programs, through which the University has official agreements with other universities to exchange students on a regular basis. Exchange programs are an affordable way to study overseas because students pay UConn tuition for their experience abroad.

Such a partnership exists between the School of Fine Arts and the Moscow P.I. Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Russia. An agreement between the two institutions was signed at a ceremony in Moscow in 2006 by David Woods, who formerly served as dean of the School of Fine Arts. "I signed the agreement at the very desk that Tchaikovsky used," he says.

How UConn Is Expanding Its Campus

Since becoming a member of Universitas 21 (U21), one of the leading global networks of research-intensive universities, UConn has found in its fellow institutions new avenues for international partnership – from academics to community outreach.

“Think of it as expanding our own campus,” says Elizabeth Mahan, interim executive director of UConn’s Office of Global Programs.

As part of this prestigious network, she explains, UConn has essentially enhanced its existing curricula. Before U21, a UConn engineering student interested in aeronautical engineering would not have a class available to take. Today, that student could opt to take classes at Lund University in Sweden, a U21 institution offering coursework in the discipline.

UConn’s U21 membership has also opened up greater Study Abroad opportunities – and at affordable rates, with students paying UConn tuition for time spent overseas at the member institutions.

Participation in Study Abroad has also increased at UConn by about 15 percent over the past eight years. “We’ve grown tremendously,” says Mahan, noting that the growth of the program has outpaced the national average, which last year was at about 3 percent.

“The U21 network has opened a lot of doors for us,” she says. “Now the list of our exchange partners is on par with the so-called public ivies, giving our students access to some of the best universities in the world.”

At the same time, UConn is working to create new programming initiatives through the network, such as the U21 Social Entrepreneur Corps in Guatemala, in which undergraduates from U21 institutions will implement social entrepreneurship strategies in rural Guatemala in an effort to alleviate poverty.

Closer to home, the University plans to host the U21 annual Summer School in 2013 in Storrs – focusing the event on human rights.

Meanwhile, this past April, UConn invited doctoral candidates in business from across the U21 network to its Hartford campus for a research conference, allowing these graduate students, Mahan says, “to present their work on a global stage.”

“U21 is a good platform for collaboration and communication,” says Raluca Nahorniac, program specialist in the Office of Global Programs. “We get a lot from it in terms of exposure and access to resources, and we can also contribute a lot to it; even as a new member, UConn is very active.”

With possibilities of piloting joint Ph.D. programs with fellow U21 members, creating a faculty exchange system, and boosting UConn’s international student population, Mahan sees many opportunities for raising the profile of the University globally.

U21, she says, “allows us to focus and deepen relationships with a certain set of schools and leverage the opportunities afforded only when a group of universities come together.”



Students from U21 member institutions, including William Neill, left, of the University of New South Wales, and Natalya Martynova, right, of the University of Amsterdam, gathered in April at UConn’s Hartford campus for the inaugural U21 Doctoral Research Conference in Business.

Each year during spring break, several UConn students travel to Russia to study at the conservatory, while conservatory faculty regularly come to Storrs to perform and lecture.

Meanwhile, the University hosts close to 200 international exchange students each year – such as Pei Kang Wu from Taiwan’s National Chengchi University. An economics major, he quickly fit in on campus.

“I was surprised to see the school hosting clubs and events for students,” Wu says. “Schools in Taiwan never do that, so I always find fun things to do here.”

Many of the international exchange students who come to Storrs hail from institutions that belong to an elite network of research-intensive universities known as Universitas 21 (U21). In 2010,

UConn was elected to membership in the U21 network, which is made up of 24 universities in 16 countries.

The universities in the U21 network include the University of Virginia (the only other American member), University of Melbourne, and Shanghai Jiao Tong University in Shanghai. “In addition to providing students with cultural experiences they can’t have here in the U.S., these programs are expanding UConn’s curriculum,” says Mahan. “Students can take classes at other universities that we don’t offer here.”

U21 also makes faculty exchanges possible. For instance, Professor Simon Yarrow of the University of Birmingham in the U.K., who spent the 2011-12 academic year at the University, was UConn’s inaugural U21 Humanities Institute Fellow.

Being a part of U21 is not only increasing the University’s international visibility, but also providing students with a myriad of Study Abroad opportunities, says Mahan.



CULTURE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

The University has a robust Study Abroad program, with 20 percent of each graduating class engaging in some sort of international experience, says Mahan. “We have made good progress toward our institutional goal of having 30 percent of students study overseas,” she says.

What distinguishes UConn is the diversity of Study Abroad options it offers, says Mahan. Students may take advantage of more than 300 programs in 65 countries – among them the School of Pharmacy program held in Beijing, China. Each summer, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Pharmaceutics Diane Burgess and Associate Clinical Professor of Pharmacy Fei Wang take students to China to study traditional Chinese medicine (TCM).

“The purpose of the course, from a pharmacy perspective, is for students to learn a different culture within their major. However, the course is open to non-pharmacy science majors and is very attractive to pre-med, nursing, nutrition, physiotherapy, and horticulture students,” says Burgess, who developed the five-week program in 2008.

Classes are held at the Peking University School of Pharmaceutical Science, a sister school to UConn’s School of Pharmacy. In addition to classroom study on the history and theory of TCM, students visit pharmacy departments in hospitals and local pharmacies that practice TCM, collect medicinal plants in the field, and visit TCM manufacturers. They also engage in intensive study of Mandarin and visit cultural sites, such as the Forbidden City and the Great Wall.

For Andrew Straznitskas ’11 Pharm.D.,

the most enriching part of the trip was meeting Chinese students at Peking University. “It was eye-opening interacting with other students and learning about their culture,” he says, noting the experience has made him a better pharmacist. “I have a clearer understanding of alternative medicine and why someone would choose to pursue that route.”

Camille Kritzman ’13 (CLAS), a psychology and Latin American studies major with minors in human rights and French, is on her third Study Abroad program. “For me, [Study Abroad] has been an essential part of my college experience,” she says.

Kritzman spent a month in Toulouse, France, working on her French, and also interned with an economic development nonprofit in Guatemala. This year, she studied Spanish in Santiago at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, a U21 institution. Though each program has offered her something unique in terms of personal growth, Kritzman says she particularly enjoys the level of independence afforded in Chile.

“Here, I am virtually ‘on my own’ and have no other option than to speak Spanish all day,” she says. “I have had the opportunity to make many Chilean friends and truly feel immersed in the culture, language, and country.”



ACTING LOCALLY

There is also a social justice component to Study Abroad. One of UConn’s goals is to produce global citizens who “have the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for understanding the world’s problems and actively working toward their resolution,” says Mahan. “Students are interning for human rights organizations, using experience gleaned from business courses to help reduce poverty, and studying sustainable agriculture.”

Dan Couture ’12 (CLAS), an anthropology and psychology major, has gone on two Study Abroad trips with a focus on improving the world. “I wanted to be able to work in the local communities and give back to the countries I was learning so much from,” he says.

He joined Kritzman in Guatemala last summer, where they worked with the Social Entrepreneurs Corps to help develop a micro-consignment supported business. Through this program – jointly sponsored by the School of Business and the Honors Program – UConn students have helped provide fire-retardant stoves for poor families and reading glasses to weavers, who often must stop working as their vision fails in middle age. As their final project, students in the program analyze and invest in a local business they choose as a group.

At UConn, there are many outlets for students who want to increase their knowledge about other cultures and people, and these experiences, whether on UConn’s campuses or abroad, are life changing. “I cannot stress enough the value that these experiences have had on my life,” says Kritzman. 🌍

MAKING POWERFUL

ENGINEERING ALUMNI
LEAD MULTINATIONAL
CLEAN ENERGY EFFORTS



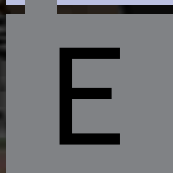
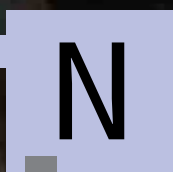
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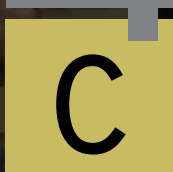
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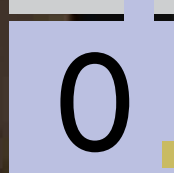
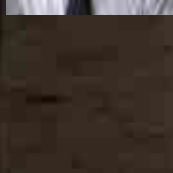
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It might be said that Zhongxue Gan's life as a scientist and researcher was preordained. After all, the very meaning of Zhongxue in Chinese is "loyal to learning and study."

It is a mission Gan '92 MS, '95 Ph.D. takes seriously and one that has propelled him from the farmlands of northern China's Hebei province into the laboratories of UConn's School of Engineering and, ultimately, to his current post as chief scientist for one of China's largest renewable energy companies.

Gan serves as vice chairman of the board and chief technology officer for the ENN Group, an international clean energy conglomerate with more than 100 subsidiaries in over 100 cities across China and overseas. With assets of \$7 billion and more than 27,000 employees, ENN continues to expand its operations globally, including an investment of \$4 billion to \$5 billion toward the development of a clean energy ecological center on 9,000 acres in Nevada's Mojave Desert.

The project includes construction of a 720-megawatt solar energy farm, a 1,000,000-square-foot solar panel manufacturing plant, and an industrial park. Once fully operational, the Mojave Green Center is expected to create 2,000 high-paying manufacturing jobs and provide reliable green energy to about 200,000 homes.

BY COLIN POITRAS '85 (CLAS)



Gan, an American citizen who launched his U.S. professional career building advanced robotic controls for the ABB Group in Windsor, Conn., says the expansion is part of ENN's commitment to promoting clean energy solutions and building stronger relationships between China and the United States.

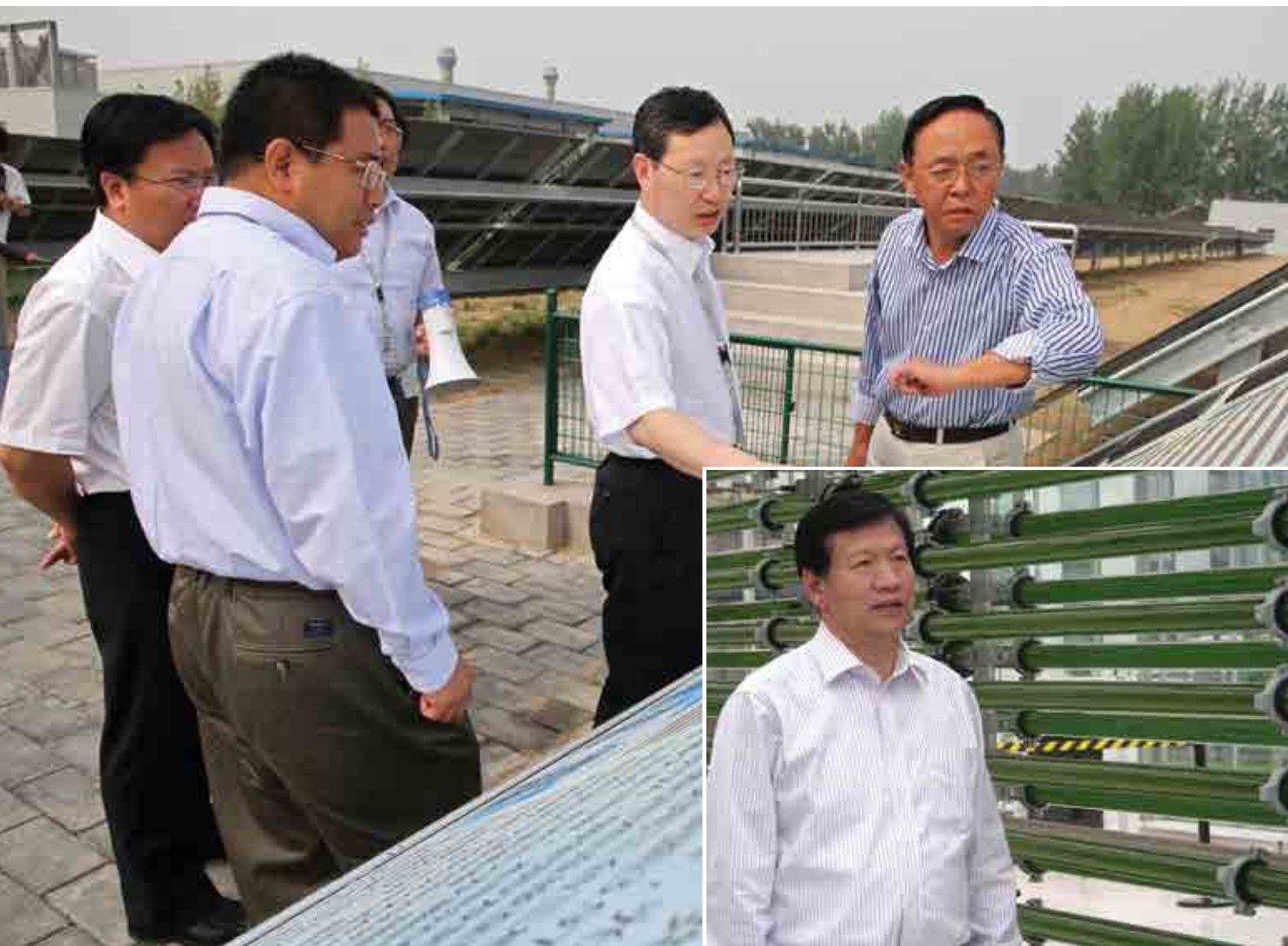
"In the past, we would manufacture solar panels in China and then just sell the products to the United States," says Gan, who was inducted into UConn's Academy of Distinguished Engineers in 2010. "This time, we decided to invest money in Nevada so we can build a manufacturing base, increase local employment, and build revenue for the area. We want to create an example to show how Chinese and American people can work together to resolve a situation. That was our driving force."

Gan moved back to China in 2004 to lead ENN's burgeoning research division. At the time, ENN was mainly a supplier of natural gas, delivering heating and cooking fuels to 5.6 million households and 18,000 industrial and commercial customers. Gan, who today holds 17 U.S. patents and has 40 more patent applications pending in China, led the company's expansion into renewable energy, and he brought along several of his UConn School of Engineering colleagues to help in the effort.

UConn EXPERTISE IN CHINA

Today, including Gan, more than a half dozen UConn engineering alums and former postdoctoral students are currently serving in different leadership positions at ENN, among them Yunquan Sun '96 MS, '04 Ph.D., president of ENN Group North America and vice president of ENN Solar Energy; Qing Tang '94 Ph.D., vice president of ENN Solar Energy; Weiping Wang '98 Ph.D., president of ENN Medical; Zhenqi Zhu '95 Ph.D., deputy general manager of ENN Intelligent Energy; former UConn postdoctoral student De-ling Zhou, COO of ENN Solar Energy; and former UConn postdoctoral student Xingbo Huang, director of new product development at ENN Solar.

ZHONGXUE GAN '92 MS, '95 PH.D. GIVES A TOUR OF ENN GROUP'S "ECOCITY," A PROJECT FOCUSED ON DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE CITIES.



Gan says each individual brings advanced knowledge gleaned at UConn, with specialties ranging from mechanical engineering to solar cell development to chemistry, materials science, and systemic analysis.

In recent years, ENN has emerged as a world leader in the manufacture of large, thin-film solar-energy photovoltaic panels. It has developed advanced microalgae technologies for the creation of biofuel, and its Sys-energy Efficiency platform – a brainchild of Gan and his research team, which uses smart energy technology to maximize energy production and distribution systems while reducing harmful emissions – has become one of ENN’s trademark technologies.

Rather than have separate systems operating independently when producing, transmitting, storing, and recycling energy, Gan’s Sys-energy approach links all the processes together. Using state-of-the-art control systems, Sys-energy Efficiency ensures that minimal amounts of energy are wasted and energy resources are used to maximum efficiency.



ABOVE LEFT: DE-LING ZHOU, SECOND FROM RIGHT, A FORMER UCONN POSTDOCTORAL STUDENT AND COO OF ENN SOLAR, JOINS ENN SENIOR EXECUTIVES AT THE CEREMONY CELEBRATING THE CONNECTION OF ONE OF ITS SOLAR PLANTS TO THE GRID. ABOVE: GAN AND HIS ENN RESEARCH TEAM’S DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGIES THAT PROCESS ALGAE INTO CLEAN-BURNING BIODIESEL FUELS ARE GAINING INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION. OPPOSITE PAGE: QING TANG ’94 PH.D., THIRD FROM LEFT, VICE PRESIDENT OF ENN SOLAR ENERGY, WORKS WITH HIS R&D TEAM.

Some existing coal plants, Gan says, operate at only 20 percent of their potential efficiency. His goal is to make those systems more than 90 percent efficient while repurposing byproducts from the process and protecting the environment from harmful emissions.

The Sys-energy approach, Gan says, can be applied to small projects, such as maximizing the efficiency of a few solar panels on a person’s roof to keep energy bills down, or larger ones, such as rerouting and putting to use massive quantities of hydrogen and methanol byproducts created in the conversion process.

ENN's work on this front has drawn international attention. In 2009, U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu toured ENN's solar panel manufacturing facility and coal-based Zero Emissions Technology Pilot Plant. There, he observed how the company is using solar energy to grow massive quantities of algae, which gorge themselves on the carbon dioxide emitted from coal-fired power plants and factories. The algae are then processed into clean-burning biodiesel fuels. This integrated use of multiple energy resources and applications is one of the key components of ENN's holistic approach to renewable energy.

U.S. interest in ENN remains strong. Last year, ENN Chairman Wang Yusuo hosted a visit by U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to the company's headquarters in Langfang near Beijing, and he spoke at the National Clean Energy Summit in Nevada, where Vice President Joe Biden was in attendance.



“OUR PHILOSOPHY IS THAT WE CAN’T RELY ON ONE KIND OF POWER TO RESOLVE ALL OF OUR ENERGY PROBLEMS. WE CANNOT DEPEND ONLY ON SOLAR. WE CANNOT DEPEND ONLY ON WIND. WE CANNOT DEPEND ONLY ON RENEWABLE POWER.”

ADVANCING THE FUTURE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

As part of its continuing expansion into the United States, ENN Solar Energy has partnered with the National Energy Renewable Corp. to convert a New Jersey landfill into a 4.3-megawatt solar farm.

And in another development last year, U.S. Secretary of State Hilary Rodham Clinton presided over a signing ceremony at which the ENN Group joined forces with Duke Energy – one of the largest electric power holding companies in the U.S. – to form an “EcoPartnership” with the city of Charlotte, N.C. Together, the two companies plan to collaborate on the development of green cities in China and the U.S. through solar energy projects, smart grid technologies, and energy efficiency initiatives.

“Through the comprehensive utilization of wastelands, such as landfills, abandoned industrial sites, and deserts, we can develop and build substantial ground-mounted solar power plants that advance the future development of clean power,” ENN Solar Energy COO and UConn postdoc De-Ling Zhou says, referring to the New Jersey initiative and other projects.

ENN has ongoing research collaborations with UConn, MIT, Harvard, and Stanford. In UConn's School of Engineering, Peter Luh, SNET Professor of Communications and Information Technologies, is working with ENN Solar on the Mojave Green Center project. ENN also recently entered into a \$1.5 million agreement with the School of Engineering to sponsor two to five doctoral students a year over a five-year period. The students—called “energy innovators in training” – specialize in energy

technologies and are being co-advised by researchers from both UConn and ENN.

Professor Kazem Kazerounian, interim dean of the School of Engineering and one of Gan's former faculty advisors in mechanical engineering, says the School is interested in expanding its relations with ENN, possibly by providing education and training programs in sustainable energy, biotechnologies, or other areas.

The initial link between UConn and ENN originated, Gan says, with Mun Choi, School of Engineering dean and professor, recently named interim provost of the University. Choi traveled to Langfang in 2010 to participate in a signing ceremony honoring the UConn-ENN partnership. “He is a visionary man,” says Gan.

“Drs. Gan and Sun and Professor Kazerounian have established an excellent relationship that is now blossoming into sustainable energy projects ranging from smart infrastructures to energy storage systems,” says Choi. “It is very exciting for us to pursue sustainable energy projects with a world leader like ENN.”

“Our philosophy is that we can't rely on one kind of power to resolve all of our energy problems,” says Gan. “We cannot only depend on solar. We cannot only depend on wind. We cannot depend only on renewable power. At the same time, we don't believe you can eliminate fossil fuels. So our goal is to combine them, integrate the fossil, the solar, the renewable energy – the traditional and the new – create a total systemic solution for power generation, transmission, and application, and put controls inside it to manipulate it and make it better.”

It's a heavy charge, but one Gan the scientist, the man “loyal to study and learning,” embraces. 🌱

Never would I have imagined that my time at UConn would eventually afford me the opportunity to witness international justice unfold.

Yet during my senior year of college, UConn's Human Rights Institute (HRI) awarded me the Goldstone Fellowship, providing me with a chance to complete a six-month internship in The Hague. There, I would serve in the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), involved in such projects as reviewing exculpatory evidence for the trial of former Bosnian Serb military commander Ratko Mladic, who is accused of war crimes, including genocide, against non-Serbs.

The HRI has played a large role in shaping my career interests and endeavors. I majored in English literature and political science, and minored in human rights. One of the first courses I took was Professor Shareen Hertel's Comparative Perspectives on Human Rights, which fueled my curiosity about a subject area on which I have come to focus much of my time.

I then studied abroad through UConn's Honors Program in Cape Town, South Africa. While there, I added to my human rights lexicon through coursework as well as an internship at a local non-governmental organization. Working with Black Sash, which focuses on improving the socio-economic rights of the less fortunate, provided me with firsthand knowledge of the blatant human rights violations occurring within South Africa.

Studying abroad also gave me the chance to examine the United States through a different lens, allowing me to see that although the U.S. is well known for pointing out other countries' human rights abuses, this country still has a very long way to go in regard to upholding the ideals of human rights.

Shortly after graduation, I headed to The Hague in July 2011 as an intern for the political analysis wing of the prosecution team. I gained a plethora of new knowledge and a much more intricate understanding of the genocide and ethnic conflict that plagued – and continue to plague – the Balkans.

My most prominent project dealt with the exculpatory evidence review for the Mladic trial. I examined more than 5,000 documents in order to determine and disclose exculpatory evidence to the defense counsel. This required expansive background knowledge of the indictment, atrocities, criminals, and events in the former

Yugoslavia in the 1990s. Not only did this require me to be aware of this specific history, but the project also challenged me to analyze information from the defense's mindset. To decipher what the defense might deem helpful to its case, I had to keep a very open mind as to what constitutes exculpatory evidence and anticipate the various angles Mladic's defense team might use in court.

The exposure to a vast array of different types of documents – from searing witness statements and confidential U.S. State Department reports to crucial correspondence between Mladic and other regional leaders – provided me with an exclusive understanding of the conflict. Throughout my six months as an intern, I kept a blog about all that I was learning at livinginden Haag.blogspot.com.

Following the end of my ICTY internship, I traveled for three weeks to Rwanda, where I participated in Global Youth Connect's winter human rights delegation. There, I visited and spoke with Congolese people who live in a refugee camp, volunteered with a local child soldiers non-governmental organization, as well as participated in a home-stay with a Rwandan family. I also visited several genocide memorials and sites, allowing me to come face-to-face with the realities of a post-conflict society.

As a result of my ICTY internship, I received a short-term contract, which has subsequently been extended. During my seven months working at the ICTY, I have continued many of my internship duties and delved into other projects in order to provide background prosecutorial support for the trial. Some of these additional assignments include assisting with edits to the pre-trial brief, locating proof-of-death documents for victims, and being appointed head reviewer on another disclosure project for the Mladic case.

This May, the prosecution made its opening statements in the Mladic case. It was very exciting to see the case in which I have been involved for nearly a year finally coming to fruition. Although



Exploring Human Rights From



AL BORRELLI

the very first day of my internship – July 4, 2011 – was Mladic's initial appearance in court, even more exhilarating was that first day of international media coverage this past May, when the beginning of the Mladic case was the top news story across the globe.

The ICTY work has given me the opportunity to watch several different trials' court proceedings and the fortune of sitting directly in the courtroom for a day. These invaluable occasions have provided me with insights into international legal procedures I would be hard-pressed to find elsewhere. My experiences interning and subsequently working at the ICTY have reaffirmed my passion to continue focusing on conflict and genocidal studies at the graduate level.

My time at UConn is something I will forever be thankful for, as my human rights minor, Study Abroad semester, and HRI fellowship have each given me priceless experiences. The college experience is all about what one is willing to put into it, and I for one can say I got everything and more out of my four years in Storrs.

About 3,000 Bosnian Serb people gathered in May to protest the arrest of former Gen. Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb wartime military leader. Mladic is accused of war crimes, including genocide against non-Serbs.

I envy those students who are just beginning their careers at UConn, where a new human rights major has recently been approved and where pioneering undergraduates will graduate with this major as early as this month. Offering not only a minor in human rights but also a major will immensely benefit those who have interests similar to my own. Undergraduates at UConn will now have the opportunity to select from an even more robust selection of human rights coursework, taught by an ever-expanding and impressive array of recruited professors, at a university that is at the forefront of human rights education.

Katherine Bradbury '11 (CLAS) will enroll this fall at the London School of Economics in a master's program focused on conflict studies.

By Katherine Bradbury '11 (CLAS)

The Hague

Alum Gets Firsthand Look at International Justice



Preserving Marine Ecosystems and Local Ways of Life

Robert Pomeroy is as much at home in small fishing villages in Southeast Asia as he is in his office overlooking Long Island Sound on UConn's Avery Point campus.

Pomeroy, professor of agricultural and resource economics and Connecticut Sea Grant Program Fisheries Extension specialist in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, is one of the world's foremost authorities on marine resource economics and policy.

His work in developing countries takes him as far afield as Liberia and Belize and throughout Southeast Asia and the South Pacific. There, he works to help ensure that the aquatic ecosystems and fisheries on which the livelihoods of millions of local people depend are used and managed sustainably so that they can continue to provide for current and future generations.

"Getting long-term change requires an understanding of things that are important

to people, and to be a good development specialist, you really have to be multidisciplinary," he says.

Growing up on Cape Cod, Pomeroy spent time on his grandfather's lobster trawler and fished for fun with friends. But it was not until he was enrolled at Johnson State College in Vermont, majoring in environmental studies and biology, that he found his niche.

After completing a master's degree in agricultural economics at Clemson University and a Ph.D. in resource economics, marketing, and international agriculture at Cornell, Pomeroy spent part of his early career in the Philippines. At the International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management, now called the World Fish Center, a nonprofit research organization dedicated to reducing poverty and hunger by improving fisheries and aquaculture, he hit his stride, helping to raise

\$5 million to support the work of the Center.

Pomeroy came to UConn in 2002 to teach and take part in international extension work. Today, he is focused on a project titled "Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) in the Coral Triangle (CT)."

Home to approximately 363 million people, the CT encompasses almost 4 million square miles of ocean and coastal waters in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, including Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Timor-Leste, the Solomon Islands, and Papua, New Guinea.

The area is the global center for marine biological diversity. However, the economy of the region is now at risk from a wide range of factors, including overfishing, land-based sources of pollution, and climate change. To complicate matters, each country in the CT has exclusive rights to marine resources within its territory, and each has its own political and social dynamic.

That's where Pomeroy's multidisciplinary acumen comes into the picture. "A lot of the work I do involves working with people at the community level. What people crave is information. We help local fishermen organize; we empower them. We try to give them the tools to overcome the multiple issues that are threatening their way of life. Then, they take those tools and educate their peers."

He continues, "The reality is that the parts of the Pacific that encompass the Coral Triangle are in trouble. The World Fish Center estimates that the area has been fished down to between 5 and 20 percent of its unexploited levels. There are only about 15 to 20 percent of coral reefs still in excellent condition. Those are the realities."

"But," he says, "you have to keep trying. The EAFM approach is multidisciplinary, and we are making decisions with the future in mind. It's our hope that generations to come will benefit from the work we're doing on their behalf now."

—Sheila Foran '83 (BGS), '96 Ph.D.

NSF Grant Advancing Archaeological Research Abroad

Alexia Smith, assistant professor in the Old World Archaeology group in the anthropology department in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, won a rare prize in her field – a National Science Foundation CAREER award – that will support her archaeobotanical studies at six established archaeological sites in the Middle East.

Smith is using her five-year award of more than \$400,000 to conduct research in Syria, Turkey, and Armenia focused on archeobotany – the study of archaeological plant remains – and agricultural production from about 6000 to 550 B.C. at the six Middle Eastern sites. She is interested in how food production was related to the economy and social organization of these early civilizations and how environmental conditions affected it.

Recently, the Syrian sites have become inaccessible because of the unrest in that country, but Smith has plenty of samples already collected that are keeping her research group busy.

Samples are gathered at the sites and brought back to her lab in Storrs. From 20 liters of sediment, about a 1-foot by 1-foot cube of material – she can glean a lot of plant material and preserved seeds that tell a story.

“You don’t just analyze them in isolation. It’s very much linked to archaeology,” she says.

Among the things she will study are what plants were grown at the ancient sites and how they were cultivated. For example, if there were a lot of weeds at a site, it may show that irrigation was used. If plants grew tall, it may suggest how they were harvested.

Dung fuel remains may show where animals were sent out to pasture. If certain plants were concentrated in one area of a site, it may show patterns of social

inequality – certain classes of people had access to certain foods – or how a society arranged its activities. The ecological requirements of plants can tell something about what conditions were like at a site. Agricultural patterns can also show how people adapted to a climate shift.

At the Armenian site, Smith is collaborating with Tamara Bagoyan, an Armenian scholar from the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography in Yerevan who came to

Archaeobotanists are now in high demand at archaeological sites. Their work reveals how societies functioned as humans changed from being hunter-gatherers to farmers and as food production became the basis of economic and social power.

While CAREER awards, designed to advance the careers of young faculty members, are more common in fields such as chemistry or biology, to date there have been only two others given in archaeology



Assistant Professor Alexia Smith works at an excavation site in Syria called Tell Leilan.

Storrs this past winter to conduct research. The Armenian site gained attention two years ago when the world’s oldest known leather shoe was found there.

Archaeobotany is a fairly new field that began in the 1960s. Smith estimates there may be only five or six archaeobotanists from U.S. institutions working on Old World excavations in the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

The NSF award will help establish UConn as one of the few places in the U.S. where archaeobotanists train.

to any institution, according to the NSF.

Archaeobotany will play a pivotal role in gaining a greater understanding of the sites uncovered by archeologists and how the societies there functioned, Smith says.

“Understanding the agriculture is key to understanding the development of an entire site,” Smith says. “And, I would go so far as to say, an entire society.”

—Cindy Weiss



GLOBAL EDITION

Alumni News & Notes

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Send your updates and a photo to: Alumni News & Notes, University of Connecticut Alumni Association, 2384 Alumni Drive, Unit 3053 Storrs, CT 06269

1950s



Samuel T. McSeveney '53 MA, professor of history emeritus at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, received

the lifetime achievement award from the Brooklyn College Alumni Association in recognition of his distinguished career and outstanding achievements and contributions to the living history of his alma mater.



Peninnah Manchester Schram '56 (CLAS), professor at Yeshiva University's Stern College in New

York, N.Y., had the anthology *Mitzvah Stories: Seeds for Inspiration and Learning* published and edited in her honor by Rabbi Goldie Milgram, the founding director of Reclaiming Judaism Press.

Thomas E. Augustin '57 (CLAS) is the first person in the state of New Jersey to receive an Edwards SAPIEN percutaneous heart valve transplant, at Cooper University Hospital, in Camden, N.J.

Bernard R. Berson '57 (ENG) is the author of *Career Successes in Engineering: A Guide for Students and New Professionals*, which helps young engineers make the transition from an academic environment to the professional world.



Richard Rittenband '58 JD, superior court judge of South Windsor, Conn., published his novel *A Capital Murder*.

1960s

Vincent M. Gagliardi '60 MA received the Charlene Hill Ricciardi Alumni Service Award at Southern Connecticut State University's 2011 Distinguished and Outstanding Alumni Luncheon in October 2011.

Richard Marinaccio '61 (ENG), former engineering manager at Westinghouse Electric in Baltimore, is the author of *Money Matters and Personal Finance*, which explains how to better understand the financial system, appraise financial assets and liabilities, and develop a strategy for saving money. He resides in Arizona with his family.



Philip Nohrr '64 (BUS), '67 JD, managing partner of the law firm GrayRobinson P.A. in Melbourne, Fla., is serving as chairman of the 18th Circuit Judicial

Nominating Commission for a one-year term.



Thomas Bowler '66 (ED), '81 6th Year, a sports and recreation injuries expert witness and certified playground safety inspector, is the author of "Inappropriate Buffer Zones May Lead to Litigation," an article published in the fall 2011 edition of *The Trial Lawyer* magazine.

Joel Wind '66 (CLAS), a volunteer at the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington, D.C., and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, serves on the board of directors of the Lillian and Albert Small Jewish Museum. He is retired and resides in Washington, D.C.



Jacqueline Dembar Greene '67 (ED) is author of *The Crystal Ball* mystery books, released in February by American Girl

Publishing, and a picture book, *Speak Up, Tommy!*, to be released in September by Kar-Ben Publishing. She is married to **Malcolm R. Greene '65 (CLAS)**, an optometrist. They reside in Wayland, Mass.

Les Sternberg '68 (CLAS), '70 MA, '73 Ph.D., special advisor to the provost of the University of South Carolina (USC) in Columbia, S.C., and previously dean of the College of Education at USC, was named Outstanding Professional by the Neag School of Education Alumni Society in March.

Perry A. Zirkel '68 MA, '72 Ph.D., '76 JD, professor of education at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa., received two awards at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, held in April. He was honored for research excellence as well as for his outstanding contributions toward increasing practitioner and lay understanding of education research.

1970s



Larry Cipolla '70 (CLAS), president and director of CCI Surveys International, received three Best Books Awards

for *Building Performance-Based 360-Degree Assessments: From Design to Delivery*.



Edward Nusbaum '70 (CLAS), a lawyer at Nusbaum & Parrino, P.C. in Westport, Conn., is included in *Best Lawyers in America 2012* for the 17th consecutive year.



Marie C. O'Brien '71 (CLAS), '81 MBA, president and chief executive officer of the Connecticut Development


Authority, is chair of the Bristol Hospital Board of Directors.

Abraham C. Reich '71 (CLAS), co-chair and partner at Fox Rothschild LLP and adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, received the American Jewish Committee's 2012 Judge Learned Hand Award.

Magdalena (Besse) Reyna '72 MA, '82 JD was featured on Connecticut Public Television's "All Things Connecticut" for her poetry.

Mark P. McGrath '73 (CLAS), '80 MA, an English as a second language teacher in Waterbury, Conn., created a website, markpmcgrath.com, to share the children's stories he writes.

Adrienne Robb-Fund '73 (ED) is superintendent of schools for Valley Stream Union Free School District Thirteen in Valley Stream, N.Y. She resides on Long Island with her husband, Jay Fund.



From the Field to the Court

Lynn R. Kotler, '83 (ED), '85 MA, a judge in the Manhattan Criminal Court since 2010 and a former Husky field hockey player, received the Red O'Neill Award from the UConn Club in April. The award is given annually to former UConn student-athletes who have gone from the fields and courts of play to distinguish themselves in their chosen careers.

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Philip Rubin '73 MA, '75

Ph.D. is principal assistant director for science at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and co-chair of the National Science and Technology Council Committee on Science in Washington, D.C. He previously served as CEO at Haskins Laboratories in New Haven, Conn.

Mary Duffy Zupkus '73 (SAH),

president and clinical director of Physical Therapy Associates of Concord, in Concord, Mass., was named Outstanding Physical Therapy Professional by the Neag School of Education Alumni Society in March.

Willie Hagan '73 Ph.D. is inter-

im president of California State University, Dominguez Hills.

John L. Kelly '74 JD, partner at Nixon Peabody LLP, received the Clara Fox Award for Outstanding Achievement at the New York Housing Conference and the National Housing Conference 38th Annual Awards Program, held in December. He has 35 years of experience representing for-profit and nonprofit developers, owners, and operators in affordable housing transactions.

Carol Garber '75 (ED), '83 MA, '96 Ph.D., associate professor of movement sciences and education at Teachers College, Columbia University in New York, N.Y., and vice president of the American College of Sports Medicine, received the Alumni Distinguished Research Award from the Neag School of Education Alumni Society in March.

Steven Kemper '75 (CLAS), '80 Ph.D. is the author of *A Labyrinth of Kingdoms: 10,000 Miles Through Islamic Africa*, released in June.

Eva M. Ogens '75 (CLAS), assistant professor of math and science methods in the teacher



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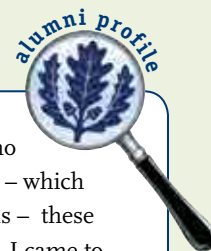


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Neag Alum Looks Beyond Classroom as Teacher in China

By Nicolas Banas '10 (ED, CLAS), '10 MA

During my final year at UConn, my passion for travel and foreign cultures led me to seek a teaching position abroad. With a 12-hour time difference, a history steeped in mystery and legend, and a written language based on thousands of characters, the People's Republic of China was about as far away as I could go.

Currently, I teach English and history at the international division of Shanghai High School, one of the most prestigious schools in the country. Although about 40 percent of the staff are foreign teachers like me, and courses based on an international curriculum are offered, it is still very much a Chinese school: There is a heavy emphasis on testing and teacher-centered instruction. The hard sciences are favored over subjects such as history. Change occurs slowly. Suggested improvements must be made subtly and indirectly before passing through a long bureaucratic process, a staple of Chinese society.

For someone passionate about social studies who graduated from UConn's Neag School of Education – which offers one of America's premier education programs – these cultural differences present some major challenges. I came to China with the “noble” intention of observing local culture and understanding it. This I have managed to do.

However, Chinese culture manifests itself in my workplace as mentioned above, and though I understand it, I struggle to work effectively in its context on a day-to-day basis. On more than one occasion, I have left meetings fuming over a pedagogical disagreement I had with a Chinese teacher.

These challenges aside, the work experience is immensely rewarding. One of my best lessons was an interview project in my ninth-grade honors history class. I offered students an extra credit assignment to interview relatives who had lived under Chairman Mao (1945-76). The heart-wrenching stories they came back with blew me away. Just as I respected my grandparents' generation for its hard work and struggles through the Great Depression and World War II, so do I now respect China's “Greatest Generation.” Not only did they live through the Japanese invasion, but they also then survived starvation and epic purges at the hands of their own government.

Experiences outside my job have also contributed to my developing an unabashed pride for China. From sparking a conversation with locals to ordering food at a restaurant, I feel I grow as a person and learn things constantly, just by going through my daily routine!

Lastly, if you have not had a chance to try it, real Chinese food is amazing. Most takeout restaurants in America are not representative of authentic Chinese cuisine, and the dust found in Lipton tea sachets is not tea. The variety of dishes and broad spectrum of flavors and colors are enough to satisfy even the most discriminating of foodies. My favorite dish is Shanghai's most famous dumpling, *xiaolongbao*, a juicy morsel of seasoned pork wrapped in a delicate piece of dough, steamed to perfection. The teas are so delicious you never need to mask their flavor with milk, lemon, or sugar. The leaves can be infused sometimes as many as a dozen times without losing flavor!

The People's Republic of China is larger than the continental U.S. and contains hundreds of ethnic groups, each of which has its own language and customs. The rich history and challenging work environment have inspired me to sign on for a third year.

Nicholas Banas '10 (ED, CLAS), '10 MA a native of Mystic, Conn., has been living in Shanghai, China, since the fall of 2010. He teaches AP world history, ancient civilizations, honors 20th-century history, and English as a Foreign Language to students in ninth through 12th grade. His website, nicholasbanas.com, includes a blog about life in China.

education department of Ramapo College of New Jersey, presented her manuscript "Family Science – From One Night to a Tradition" at New York University's Faculty Resource Network's National Symposium in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Her article will be published in the National Science Teachers Association peer-reviewed journal, *Science and Children*.

Colleen Palmer '75 (ED), '07 Ph.D. is superintendent of Weston, Conn., public schools.



Susan R. Cragin '76 (CLAS), '86 (CLAS) is co-author of *Demeer on Technical Analysis* with Walter Demeer, published

by McGraw-Hill in February. She resides in Concord, N.H.



Frank Mantlik '76 (CLAS) is tour leader at Sunrise Birding, LLC, a company that offers small group and private bird

watching tours and wildlife safaris worldwide. He previously worked for the U.S. Postal Service as a letter carrier for 35 years, where he received the Million Mile Award from the National Safety Council for more than 30 years of safe, accident-free driving.



Pamela (Fishman) Kahn '77 (BUS) is principal strategic advisor at Forsythe Advisors, a marketing and community engagement firm

in Arlington, Va. She acts as a liaison between developers and community stakeholders.

Christopher J. Kelleher '77 (BUS) is managing director and senior portfolio manager for Newfleet Asset Management after previously serving as senior managing director and senior portfolio manager at Goodwin Capital Advisers.

Jeffrey Brickman '78 (CLAS) is president of Mountains North Denver Operating Group at Centura Health, a health care

system serving five hospitals in the Lakewood, Colo., area. He previously served as senior vice president and CEO of St. Joseph's Medical Center at Provena Health.

Kevin Fauteux '79 MSW is author of the book *Defusing Angry People*, which discusses practical tools for handling bullying, threats, and violence, published by New Horizon Press in February 2011.

1980s

John Peters '80 (BUS) is president of ACCUWRITE Forms and Systems, a Hershey, Pa.-based company providing printed business products, which is celebrating its 25th year in business.



George Riggs '80 MBA is a partner in the assurance and advisory services practice at Fiondella Milone & LaSaracina

LLP, an accounting firm located in Glastonbury, Conn.

Russell St. John '80 (ENG), '85 MBA is board director at DeviceFidelity, based in Richardson, Texas, which provides contactless technologies for mobile phones.

Thomas P. Hebert '81 MA, '90 6th Year, '93 Ph.D., professor of educational psychology and instructional technology at the University of Georgia in Athens, Ga., was named Outstanding Alumni of the Year by the Neag School of Education Alumni Society in March.



Jerome Francis Lusa '81 (CLAS), a retired computer software writer for the state of Connecticut, is the author of *Anybody's Dog*, his 10th e-book, published by Smashwords in January.



Pamela Sardo '81 (PHR) is assistant scientific director of Abbott Laboratories. She works with laboratories and



Enchanted by East Africa

Stephanie Spencer '11 (CANR), center, sits with children from the local Maasai community in Tanzania, Africa. She spent three and a half months in Tanzania during her junior year, learning about the local culture, language, and cuisine; visiting national parks; staying with local families; and conducting wildlife research. This month, Spencer heads to the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine to pursue a career in wildlife and zoo animal medicine.

academic centers in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. She currently resides in Singapore.

Rachel F. Schiffman '81 MS, '88 Ph.D., professor and associate dean for research at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee College of Nursing, received the Lucie S. Kelly Mentor Award at the Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society's 41st Biennial Convention, held in Texas in October.

Avron Abraham '82 MA, '90 Ph.D., director of the Center for Academic Success and University Studies and associate professor in the department of health and exercise science at the University of Delaware in Newark, Del., was named Outstanding Kinesiology Professional by the Neag School of Education Alumni Society in March.



Joanne Cunard '83 Ph.D., professor of education at St. Joseph College in West Hartford, Conn., received

the 2011 International Reading Association's Celebrate Literacy Award for her significant literary contributions to the field of reading.

Mark Dripchak '83 (CANR) is natural resources management advisor at Concern Worldwide, an international humanitarian nonprofit organization located in Faizabad, Afghanistan.



Gary Gambardella '83 (ED) is district judge in Bucks County, Pa.

John M. Lasala '83 MD, professor of medicine at Washington University in St. Louis, received the American Heart Association's 2011 Hugh McCulloch Award for Outstanding Cardiologist in the Midwest. He serves as director of interventional cardiology and medical director of the university's cardiac catheterization laboratory.

ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

Beth Lindstrom '83 (CLAS) is vice president of business development and strategic accounts marketing at Ping4, a mobile phone application startup company in Nashua, N.H.



Benjamin S. Hsiao '84 MS, '87 Ph.D., professor and chairman of the department of chemistry at Stony Brook University in

Stony Brook, N.Y., is vice president for research, chief research officer, and senior academic administrator at the university. He also serves as chief advisor to the president.

Frank Marcucio '84 (BUS), a business teacher at Westhill High School in Stamford, Conn., also serves as the school's head football coach. He was previously the head coach for the Bassick High School football team in Bridgeport, Conn., and was UConn's basketball student manager from 1981 to 1984.



Rosalee Sinn '84 MS received the 2011 Dan West Fellow Award from the Heifer Foundation's Trustees Emeriti in

recognition of her lifelong dedication to helping the world's impoverished people. She began working for Heifer in 1965, became regional director in 1973, and directed the fundraising and education efforts in New England and New York. From 1982 to 1984, she supervised the building of the Heifer Livestock and Learning Center at Overlook Farm in Rutland, Mass. She is retired, lives with her husband in Massachusetts, and remains a Heifer volunteer.

Suzanne Bona-Hatem '85 (SFA), classical music broadcaster, host, and executive producer of WSHU's "Sunday Baroque," was featured as a guest soloist with the Guam symphony orchestra in March.



Steve Patten '85 (CLAS) is president of the 2012 Certified Commercial Investment Member's

Connecticut chapter.

Charles Gill '86 MBA is vice president, tax, of Keane, Inc., in Boston.

Peter A. LaPorta '86 (CLAS) is author of *Adventures in Autism*, his fourth book, published by AuthorHouse in 2011.

David M. Jurasek '86 MBA is vice president of finance at Crystal Rock LLC, Inc.

Brian J. Kelley '86 MBA is president and CEO of Tii Network Technologies, Inc., a design, manufacturing, and marketing company that provides products for the communications industry.



Aaron J. Spicker '86 (CLAS) is founding partner of HoverFly Studios, which builds custom-designed multi-rotor copters

and fits mounting systems to hold cameras. He previously worked 26 years as a diamond and fine jewelry salesman and entrepreneur.



Anne Foley '87 MSW, undersecretary for the Policy Development and Planning

Division of the Office of Policy and Management in Hartford, Conn., serves as the chair of the Child Poverty and Prevention Council, the Low Income Energy Advisory Board, and the Tobacco and Health Fund Board of Trustees.

John Y. Kim '87 MBA, executive vice president and chief investment officer of New York Life Investments, was selected to head a new business unit focusing on retirement income security products and solutions.

Elizabeth Bicio '88 (ED), '94 MSW is a fellow of Zero to Three, a national, nonprofit organization that informs, trains, and supports professionals, policymakers, and parents in their efforts to improve the lives of infants and toddlers.

Michael Moran '88 (ENG) is the Shindand, Afghanistan, base civil engineer.

John Selman '88 (CLAS), program director of the energy and environment group at LMI, a government consulting firm in McLean, Va., led experts from LMI in developing and producing the book *Climate Change: What You Can Do Now*, published by LMI in March.



Greg Gallant '89 MD, an orthopaedic surgeon at OrthopaediCare in Doylestown, Pa., is the 56th president of the Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, member of the Pennsylvania Medical Society, and former president of the Bucks County Medical Society.

1990s

Paul Valenti '90 (CLAS) is director of Pinellas County's Office of Human Rights in Pinellas, Fla.



Kimberly Blackburn '91 (SSW) is a family intervention specialist for the Youth Villages intensive in-home services program, located in West Springfield, Mass.

Stacey L. Fuller '91 (CLAS), partner at Gawthrop and Greenwood P.C. in West Chester, Pa., serves on the board of directors of the Chester County Chamber of Business and Industry in Pennsylvania.

John Toscano '91 (BUS) is partner at J.H. Cohn, LLP, an accounting and consulting firm. He oversees the firm's educational institution industry practice and is a member of the nonprofit industry practice.

Laura (Dameron) Wilson '91 (CLAS) and Chris Wilson announce the birth of a daughter, Avery Elizabeth, on Dec. 26, 2011. The family resides in Columbus, Ohio.

Douglass Bohl '92 (ENG) is associate professor in the department of mechanical and aeronautical engineering at Clarkson University in Potsdam, N.Y.

Peter F. Burns '92 (CLAS), '94 MA, professor of political science at Loyola University New Orleans, is author of *Shock the World: UConn Basketball in the Calhoun Era*, to be released in September 2012 by Northeastern University Press. He was named one



Developing UNICEF Leaders

Dawn Denvir '81 (CLAS) has spent the past 12 years traveling the world for the United Nations, first as chief of civilian training and development for peacekeeping operations and now as chief of the Organizational Learning and Development Section of the Division of Human Resources at the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). In June, Denvir traveled to Turin, Italy, to facilitate the U.N. Leaders program, which brings together U.N. executives from around the world.



Nursing Alum Providing Critical Health Care in Haiti

Delivering health care to the more than 100 isolated villages in Haiti's remote and mountainous Grand'Anse province is a constant challenge.

Yet there, amid the poverty, disease, and political strife, Bette Gebrian '77 (NUR), '93 Ph.D. has found her calling.

For almost 25 years, Gebrian has been using the nursing training and expertise she received at UConn to improve the region's health care system as director of public health for the Haitian Health Foundation (HHF), a Connecticut nonprofit with a base in Jérémie, the capital city of Grand'Anse.

Since 1982, the HHF has run a clinic and public health, education, and development efforts that have included reducing infant deaths due to pneumonia by 50 percent; constructing a new school and more than 2,600 homes to replace the thatch and mud shacks that many rely on for shelter; and distributing more than 4,500 goats to help support families with an average annual income in U.S. dollars of \$300 to \$500.

More than 200,000 people depend on the HHF clinic for health care. Gebrian's responsibilities there include delivering and monitoring vaccines to ward off polio, whooping cough,

and tetanus. She and her staff also make sure village children receive vitamins to prevent blindness and that families understand the importance of clean drinking water and oral rehydration treatment for diarrheal diseases.

"Managing public health care in the Third World requires you to use your skills and knowledge to try to save not one, but thousands, of lives," says Gebrian, who last year received the UConn Alumni Association's Humanitarian Award. "The impact of public health care is not something you see right away; it's a process that requires time."

HHF nurses like Gebrian also provide emergency services, often riding motorcycles to get to distant mountain villages and, when resources are short, using shower curtains as mats and

garbage bags as gloves while delivering babies out in the field.

"I've never looked at garbage bags the same again," says Gebrian. "But that's what nurses do really well. We figure out what's going on, and we find creative and practical ways to help."

The HHF balances its emergency relief efforts with teaching and training programs, from getting fathers more involved in child care to educating mothers about proper maternal and neonatal care.

"For the past 25 years, Bette Gebrian has been a positive force in rural Haiti, bringing health care, health education, and the gift of hope to thousands sentenced to a life of poverty," says Jeremiah Lowney, a Connecticut orthodontist and founder of the HHF.

When she's not in Jérémie, Gebrian serves as an associate clinical professor for the UConn School of Nursing and the Department of Community Medicine and Health Care in the UConn School of Medicine. She is also a nursing faculty member at The Johns Hopkins School of Nursing.

"We had the skills and the guts to go out and create something that didn't exist," Gebrian says of the HHF's public health efforts, Jérémie clinic, and other programs. "To those nursing students who are wondering how to apply their education in public health nursing, all I can say is: 'Take that first step and try. It is a decision you will not regret.'" —*Colin Poitras '85 (CLAS)*

For more information, visit haitianhealthfoundation.org.

of *The Princeton Review's The Best 300 Teachers* in 2012.

Marcia Gentry '92 6th Year, '96 Ph.D., professor of educational studies and executive director of the Gifted Education Resource

Institute at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind., received the Alumni Distinguished Research Award and the Outstanding Higher Education Professional Award from the Neag School of Education Alumni Society in March.

Darnell Moss '92 MBA is president and CEO of Dreams Group One, a company that buys, sells, and builds startup businesses in metropolitan communities. She previously worked at Everybody Wins! CT as a business and community developer.

William D. Sluben '92 (CLAS), '95 MBA is senior vice president of consumer engagement for Live Link Events, a marketing agency specializing in marketing solutions.



Sky High

This summer, Richard Caccavale '91 (CLAS), '95 MA and Lisa Houlihan '91 (CLAS) climbed with a local guide from East African Outdoor Adventures to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. They took the most difficult route to the top, camping in a crater at 18,780 feet the night before their summit. The couple resides in Denver.

he leads the faculty technology group with medical, dental, and graduate curriculums.

Christopher Fee '95 MA, professor of English at Gettysburg College in Gettysburg, Pa., is one of the country's best undergraduate professors, according to *The Princeton Review*. This prestigious ranking is given to 0.02 percent of undergraduate professors in the United States.

Matthew Macaluso '95 (CLAS) is founder and co-CEO of Human Intelligence, LLC, a historical research company located in Tolland, Conn., that provides historical and cultural information to businesses and the entertainment industry. He and his wife, **Erin (Capozzi) Macaluso '94 (BUS), '02 MBA** have two children.



Jen Palancia Shipp '95 (CLAS) is general counsel at Salisbury University in Salisbury, Md. She lives with her

husband and three children in Easton, Md.

Jennifer Croteau Zettergren '95 (CLAS), a principal of the law firm Dzialo, Pickett & Allen P.C. in Middletown, Conn., serves on the Connecticut Attorneys Title Insurance Company board of directors.

A.J. Edwards '93 (CLAS), '97 MBA is chief investment officer of Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. He holds the chartered financial analyst designation (CFA) and is a member of the CFA Institute and the New York Society of Security Analysts.



Courtney Burke '94 (CLAS) is commissioner of the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities in Albany, N.Y. She lives in Albany with her husband and two children.

Alessandro Ferrari '94 MBA is ambassador to Italy for the UConn Alumni Association.

Jeffrey Gaudiosi '94 (CLAS) is power procurement manager for the state of Connecticut. He previously worked as regulatory counsel and lobbyist for the manufacturing alliance of Connecticut for 15 years. He resides in Windsor, Conn., with his two children.

Mary P. Conway, '95 6th Year, '05 Ed.D., superintendent of schools in Vernon, Conn., was named

Outstanding School Superintendent by the Neag School of Education Alumni Society in March.

Sandra K. Davis '95 (CLAS) and **Scott R. Ragaglia '02 JD** announce the birth of a daughter, Olivia Davis-Ragaglia, on March 6, 2012. The family resides in Harwinton, Conn.

Teri M. (Jamaitis) Derksen '95 (BUS) and (John) Jay Derksen announce the birth of a son, Bryce Ortis, on Oct. 4, 2011. He joins an older brother, Luke, 3. The family resides in Manchester, Conn.



Scott M. Erardi '95 (CLAS), '97 MA is director of educational informatics and technology at the UConn Health Center in Farmington, Conn., where



Doug Maynard '93 (CLAS), associate professor of psychology at the State University of New York at New Paltz, N.Y., authored *Underemployment: Psychological, Economic, and Social Challenges*, released in June 2011 by Springer Publishers.

Tiffany L. Violette '93 (CLAS), '02 6th Year, assistant principal at South Windsor (Conn.) High School, was named the 2012 Connecticut Association of Schools High School Assistant Principal of the Year.



Kevin F. LaChapelle '96 (BUS) is partner at Weinstein and Anastasio, P.C., in Hamden, Conn. He lives in Beacon

Falls with his wife, Sarah, and their two sons.

Mark Bittar '97 (ENG) and Kristin Bittar announce the birth of a daughter, Laurel Lake, on Dec. 23, 2011. She joins an older sister, Noelle Rebecca.

Sunny Gupta '97 (ED), associate sports medicine physician at Rothman Institute Orthopedics in Philadelphia, works with the team physicians of the Philadelphia Eagles, Flyers, and Phillies sports teams.

Lilliam Casillas-Martínez '98 Ph.D., professor of biology at the University of Puerto Rico-Humacao, received the 2012 Carski Foundation Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award from the American Society for Microbiology Honors.

Claudia Norman '98 6th Year, co-principal of Lewin G. Joel Elementary School in Clinton, Conn., received the Outstanding School Administrator Award from the Neag School of Education Alumni Society in March.

Karl Seekamp '98 (ENG) is the detachment commander of the Afghan Air Force Herat Air Detachment in Afghanistan.



Nate Williams '98 (CLAS), senior director and head of product marketing at Converged Experiences Group for Motorola

Mobility, Inc., located in Sunnyvale, Calif., was named one of *Silicon Valley/San Jose Business Journal's* "40 Under 40" honorees.

Priscilla Cale '99 (CLAS), '06 MBA co-authored *Sink or Swim: How Lessons from the Titanic Can Save Your Family Business*, published by Praeger in September 2011.



Kartik Chandran '99 Ph.D., associate professor of earth and environmental engineering at Columbia

University School of Engineering and Applied Science in New York, N.Y., is developing a wastewater treatment process that reduces toxic emissions.

Richard Donovan Jr. '99 (CLAS) is assistant director of human resources at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Arlington, Va.

Caroline (Ferreira) Harrington '99 (CLAS) and Scott Harrington announce the birth of a daughter, Samantha Mary, on Dec. 6, 2011, in Brockton, Mass. She joins an older brother, Mason, 1.

Kimberly Ruiz '99 (ED), '00 MA, a fourth-grade teacher at Dorothy C. Goodwin Elementary School in Mansfield, Conn., received the Outstanding School Educator Award from the Neag School of Education Alumni Society in March.

2000s



Caroline Bass '00 (SFA) senior vice president and associate broker at Citi Habits in New York, N.Y., was named in *Forbes* magazine's "30 Under 30: Real Estate."

David J. Cavallaro '00 MS, biological health and safety specialist at UConn, is a registrant of the National Registry of Certified Microbiologists.

Stefanie Dion Jones '00 (CLAS) is traveling to the Entabeni Game Reserve in South Africa this summer to serve as an advisor to UConn undergraduate students taking part in an African field ecology course.

Jessica Haugland '00 (BUS) is advisor for the Afghan communications squadron.

Michael Kmec '00 (CANR), '08 MBA is serving as Northeast Region president of the National Association of College & University Food Services (NACUFS). He is general manager of board plan operations at Connecticut College in New London, Conn., and lives with his wife in Marlborough, Conn.

John W. Marchetti '00 MBA is chief strategy officer at Fabrinet USA, Inc., a provider of precision optical, electro-mechanical, and electronic manufacturing services to equipment manufacturers around the world.

Marisa Nadolny '99 (CLAS) serves as features editor at *The Day* in New London, Conn., where she also writes a blog.

Christopher C. Jarvis '01 MBA, president and CEO of Caprock Risk Management, joined the board of directors at True 2 Beauty, Inc., a leading distributor of health and beauty accessories for men and women.

2012 Alumni and Faculty Award Recognition

Friday, Oct. 12, Storrs Campus



Humanitarian Award
Yvon Alexandre '82 (BUS)
President, J.P. Alexandre, LLC



Alumni Association Service Award
John Driscoll '81 (CLAS)
Senior Vice President and Relationship Manager
Webster Private Bank



Honorary Alumni Award
Leslie Maddocks
Retired, Quality Craft Worker, Facilities Management;
Executive Board Trustee and Secretary/Treasurer,
Connecticut Employees Union Independent



Distinguished Alumni Award
Joette Katz '77 JD
Commissioner, Connecticut Department
of Children and Families



University Service Award
Timothy Holt '75 (CLAS)
Retired, Senior Vice President, Chief Investment
Officer, and Chief Enterprise Risk Officer, Aetna, Inc.



Faculty Excellence in Research and Creativity
(Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences)
Thomas Morawetz
Tapping Reeve Professor of Law and Ethics
School of Law



Faculty Excellence in Research and Creativity (Sciences)
Quing Zhu
Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering
School of Engineering



Faculty Excellence in Teaching, Undergraduate Level
Robert Gross
Draper Professor of Early American History
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



Faculty Excellence in Teaching, Graduate Level
Richard Pomp
Alva P. Loiselle Professor of Law, School of Law



Graduate of the Last Decade (G.O.L.D.) Award
Lauren Aleksunes '00 (PHR), '02 Pharm.D., '06 Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology
Rutgers University



Graduate of the Last Decade (G.O.L.D.) Award
Faisal Hossain '04 (ENG)
Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental
Engineering, Tennessee Tech University

Nominate outstanding alumni or faculty members for the 2013 Alumni and Faculty Awards.

For more information, visit UConnAlumni.com/awards.

ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

Alyssa (Gerlando) Bosley '02 (CLAS) and Brian Bosley were married on March 3, 2012, in Harrisonburg, Va. Alyssa works in the department of sport and recreation at James Madison University.



Jason Urso '02 (ENG), '09 MBA, mechanical engineer at Tighe and Bond, Inc. and member of the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers, serves as chairman for the Connecticut chapter society.



Colin Young '02 MS, '05 Ph.D., adjunct assistant professor of biology at Galen University in Belize, is CEO in

the Ministry of Energy, Science & Technology, and Public Utilities, serving a five-year term.

Margaret Ardito '03 (CLAS), '06 MA is a seventh- and eighth-grade Spanish teacher at Adams Middle School in Guilford, Conn.

Natalie Berg Keightley '03 (BUS) is the author of *Walmart: Key Insights and Practical Lessons from the World's Largest Retailer*, released in May by Kogan Page.

Zato Kadambaya '03 MA, head of the math department at Norwich Free Academy in Norwich, Conn., was honored by the local branch of the NAACP with the 2011 Excellence in Education Award in October.

Scott V. Nicol '03 6th Year, '09 Ph.D. is director of performance management for Hartford public schools.

Erin O'Reilly '03 (CLAS) is strategic industry consultant at Prudential Annuities.

Dawn Voyer '03 MA, a social studies teacher at Cypress Lake Middle school in Cypress Lake, Fla., was named teacher of the year by the Lee County School District.

Rachel Lenore '04 (CLAS) is vice president at Marina Maher Communications, a marketing and public relations firm in New York, N.Y.

Colleen McGinn '05 (CLAS), associate director of alumni relations at Fairfield University, is the recipient of the Student Alumni Association National Advising Award after previously serving as president and social chair at her local student chapter.



Shoshana (Shana) Cook Mueller '05 MPA, '06 JD, attorney at Bernstein Shur in Portland, Maine, received the Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent rating in the three areas of municipal law, public finance and zoning, and planning and land use, an award given to less than 5 percent of women lawyers.

John Albanese '06 (BUS), a lieutenant of the Connecticut State Police, serves as Commanding Officer for Troop C in Tolland, Conn. This is his 20th year with the Connecticut State Police.

Rhema Fuller '06 (BUS), '08 MA, '11 Ph.D., assistant professor of sport management at Alfred State College, presented a research paper titled "A Tipping Point?: The

HOMECOMING

2012

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, Oct. 7 - Saturday, Oct. 13

Sunday, Oct. 7

Alumni Family Day
Homecoming Parade
and Free Carnival
Storrs Campus

Thursday, Oct. 11

Annual Student Lip Sync
Storrs Campus

Friday, Oct. 12

Alumni Association
Awards Celebration
Storrs Campus

Saturday, Oct. 13

Homecoming Football Game
UConn vs. Temple University
Rentschler Field, East Hartford

UConn Alumni Association
Spirit Village and Tailgate BBQ
Rentschler Field, East Hartford



Members receive a free collectible pin at Spirit Village. Pick yours up at the UConn Alumni Association tent, while supplies last.

For more information and to register for the BBQ, visit UConnAlumni.com/Homecoming



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Impact of Stereotypes and Racial Discrimination on the Academic Outcomes of African American Male College Athletes" at the 2012 National Collegiate Athletic Association Convention in Indianapolis.

Emily (Riordan) Lucibello '06 (CLAS) is partner and founder of the law firm Lucibello and Proscino, LLP, located in Orange, Conn. The firm offers comprehensive legal representation, with a focus on divorce and family law, estate planning, personal injury law, business law, and criminal defense.

Kimberly Rauch '06 (CLAS) received her JD degree from the Roger Williams University School of Law in Bristol, R.I., on May 18, 2012.



Greta Scheibel '06 (CANR), '07 (CLAS) is executive director of United Plant Tanzania, a volunteer organization that places

volunteers from the United States and Europe with local host families while they work at orphanages and schools in Tanzania.



Joy Southworth (CLAS) '06, a certified personal trainer and pre/post-natal exercise specialist, released a DVD

set called "Body by Trimester," a series that focuses on maintaining a woman's health and fitness throughout her pregnancy. She owns her own personal training business, Body Design by Joy, LLC, located in New Hampshire.

Katie Brigham '07 (CANR), '07 (CLAS) and **Patrick Egan '05 (ED), '06 MA** announce the birth of a son, Charles "Chip" Benedict, on Jan. 12, 2012. The family resides in Fairfield, Conn.

Mathew Calkins '07 (ENG) is a civil engineer in the engineering applications department at the Connecticut Department of Transportation.

Jennifer (Elman) Cushman '07 (CANR), '08 (ED) and Wesley Cushman were married on July 3,

2011. The couple resides in West Hartford, Conn.

Jeffrey D. Downs '07 (BUS), '09 MS received the Elijah Watt Sells award for his excellent performance on the certified public accountant exam. He currently works at Pricewaterhouse Coopers in Hartford, Conn.

Heather M. Faulkner '07 (CLAS) completed 12 weeks of basic training for the United States Marine Corps at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, in Parris Island, S.C., where she and her fellow recruits went through physical conditioning, field assignments, and instruction in the Marine Corps values and traditions.

William T. Jachym '07 (BUS) is recipient of the Elijah Watt Sells Award for his excellent performance on the certified public accountant exam. He currently works at McGladrey and Pullen, an assurance, tax, and consulting firm in New Haven, Conn.

Aaron Torres '07 (CLAS) is the author of *The Unlikeliest Champion: The Incredible Story of the 2011 UConn Huskies and Their Run to the College Basketball National Championship*, published by CreateSpace in December.

Anthony R. Artino Jr. '08 Ph.D., associate professor with the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences and commander in the Medical Service Corps of the United States Navy in Bethesda, Md., received the Outstanding Young Professional Award from the Neag School of Education Alumni Society in March.



John J. Kelly '08 MBA is vice president and commercial loan officer in commercial lending at the

Vienna, Va., branch of TD Bank.

Marissa Manzelli '08 (CLAS) is a seventh-grade teacher at the Amity Regional Middle School located in Bethany, Conn.

Jason Nall '08 (CLAS) is attending a physician's assistant program at the University of Bridgeport.

Valerie (Spaight) Olinyk '08 (BUS) and **Brendan Olinyk '10 (BUS)** were married on July 30, 2011, in Geneva, Wis. Valerie is district sales manager at Coca-Cola Refreshments, and Brendan works at Mark Toyota. The couple resides in Plover, Wis.

Rebecca K. Stetz '08 (CANR) and **Michael P. Cangiano '08 (BUS)** were married on June 2, 2012, in Dedham, Mass.



Andre Bowser '09 (BGS), second lieutenant and wing public affairs officer at Westover Air Reserve Base in Massachusetts,

graduated from the Defense Information School, a division of the Department of Defense, which trains military public affairs specialists and officers.

William R. Cayer '09 (CLAS), band director of Amanda Elzy High School in Greenwood, Miss., led the high school band in the Gator Bowl in Jacksonville, Fla., in January.

Elizabeth Clark '09 (CANR), a Peace Corps volunteer in Ecuador, has started a beekeeping cooperative with a group of local families.

Matthew O. Liskom '09 (BUS) is on the sales and local tax team at Lattimore Black Morgan and Cain, an accounting and investment firm located in Nashville. He was previously employed as a sales and tax analyst at IBM.

2010s

Anne Begin '10 (ED), '11 MA is a first-grade teacher at Lewin Joel Elementary School in Clinton, Conn.

Beth Dolan '10 (CLAS), Patricia Kostiuik '10 (CLAS), Ashley McGuffie '06 (BGS), and Aisha McLean '10 (CLAS) are employees of the Women's Business Development Council, a nonprofit organization located in Stamford, Conn., which helps women start and expand independent small businesses.

Kendall Hinman '10 (CLAS) is working at an elementary school in Providence, R.I., as a tutor, mentor,

and instructor for Inspiring Minds, a division of AmeriCorps.



Alyssa Kane '10 (CLAS), assistant account executive at Cercone Brown Company, a public relations firm in Boston, was the

keynote speaker at the 2012 U.S. collegiate and high school baton twirling championships, held at William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo. She previously held the title of College Miss Majorette of America from 2010 to 2011 and was the feature twirler with the UConn marching band from 2006 until 2011.

Jason Stephens '10 (CLAS) published his first e-book, *Days Like These*, in January.

Gregory Fink '11 MA is assistant director of the student center and campus life for fraternity and sorority life at Quinnipiac University. He will oversee Quinnipiac's efforts with Greek alumni development and risk management, as well as co-facilitate the emerging leaders program.

In Memoriam

ALUMNI

Althea D. Stadler '38
Edmund de Mattia '43, '49
George E. Frick '43
William Muller '59
Alan G. Klopfenstein '63
Lorraine (Edmondson) Owens '63
Joyce A. Coutinho '66
Susan McNally '68
George A. Russell '68
Eric V. Sandin '71
Bradley Warren Brock '78
Kevin J. Sullivan '94
Keith Robert Amato '04

FACULTY

Stephen J. Kaplowitt

STUDENTS

James E. Casey '12
Bennett C. Cheney '12
Pawel K. Sywak '15

For an updated list, go to UConnAlumni.com/inmemoriam

From Graduate Student to International Researcher

By Susan M. Kiene '07 Ph.D.

When I started graduate school at UConn in 2002, my mentor, Jeff Fisher – the director of UConn’s Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP) – immediately thrust me into working on a multimillion dollar grant proposal during the final weeks before it was due. While I enjoyed the challenge, I thought, “What did I get myself into?” I knew that I wanted to do HIV/AIDS prevention research, but I didn’t know anything about writing a grant.



Assistant Professor Susan Kiene '07 Ph.D. conducts social and behavioral science research on HIV/AIDS prevention in the U.S. and Africa.

Yet by the end of my second year of graduate school, I had submitted my first grant application for a pre-doctoral fellowship to the National Institutes of Health to do research in South Africa.

Turns out I did know something about writing a grant – or, rather, I learned quickly. The environment at CHIP was one of high expectations but also solid support, and it has nurtured the development of many graduate students like me, who have gone on to successful careers in academic research.

I never imagined that I would have the opportunity to do international research. If someone had asked me 10 years ago whether I would now be leading research projects in Africa and traveling there every other month, I would have thought it unlikely. But today I do most of my current research at a rural hospital in Uganda, where we are working to improve HIV testing and prevention services.

Conducting research in Africa while I was still a graduate student at CHIP set my career trajectory, giving me opportunities that have not only boosted my career but also affected me personally.

One day, an old man who was volunteering at the hospital where I often work in Uganda said to me, “Thank you for being here and coming back” (translated to me by one of my staff). “The others,” he said, “they never come back.” Many researchers visit once but do not return, in part because of the difficult living and working conditions. I am not the type who imagined that she could survive without running water and electricity, but people like the old man remind me that it is worth it, ten times over.

Now I am trying to build something sustainable that will further develop public health education and research. I have taken numerous undergraduate and medical students to Uganda. Since joining the UConn Health Center faculty this past fall, I have been working to establish a collaboration between the Health Center and Makerere University School of Public Health in Uganda to foster innovative public health educational, research, and community service activities for Ugandan and UConn students and faculty.

My vision is that we will develop a true bidirectional collaboration with student and faculty exchanges and research projects in Uganda and the U.S. The success of this burgeoning collaboration comes down to raising funds and getting grants to support it – those grant-writing skills I learned as a graduate student at CHIP continue to come in handy.

Uganda has changed me. I hope that my work provides a brighter future for the many Ugandans who have accepted me as one of them and who continue to inspire me.

Susan M. Kiene '07 Ph.D. is an assistant professor in the Department of Community Medicine and Health Care at the UConn Health Center and an adjunct faculty member at Brown University.

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Off the Beaten Path

Caitlin Penepent '12 (CLAS), second from left, rides across the Sahara in Morocco on camelback. She spent the fall of 2011 in Rabat, Morocco, studying anthropology and Arabic, conducting research, living with a local family, and traveling throughout Morocco. "Everyone always tells you that studying abroad is a life-changing experience, but I don't think it is possible to understand how life changing it is unless you go it," Penepent says. "Living in another country so different from the United States allowed me to see how different life is around the world. It opened my eyes to another culture, another religion, and another way of life. It was an invaluable part of my undergraduate education at UConn and has made me a better anthropologist and person."



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