Series of moves to renovated space under discussion

BY KAREN A. GRAU

A preliminary plan to phase in a series of moves will create new and renovated space for biology, mathematics, physics, the Institute of Materials Sciences, and University Information Technology Services without any department moving more than once.

The plan was outlined to the Capital Projects Planning Advisory Committee in May, and because it was received favorably, it will be explored in detail over the next few months.

The plan, which retains the former warehouse building near the Health Services facility, would accomplish a series of renovations at a lower cost and more quickly than replacing Torrey Life Sciences with a building of equal or larger size, said Provost Peter J. Nicholls. Both the warehouse and the new Torrey building could be done simultaneously.

It would also mean that no department would move more than once. This is especially important, since many of the departments involved have large and complex labs, he said.

The plan’s focus initially would be the new Relocation plan page 2

Emergency siren to be tested May 30

BY KAREN A. GRAU

The University’s long-dormant Storrs emergency siren will be tested on Wednesday, May 30, between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Originally installed in case of air raids, the siren has not been used for many years. But concerns about warning students in emergencies, in the wake of recent shootings at Virginia Tech, have caused University officials to reactivate the siren.

The siren will be tested first at 11 a.m. to determine whether it can be heard throughout the Storrs campus. If it does not perform adequately, technicians will check equipment, power, or telephone connections and retest it throughout the afternoon until 3 p.m.

The siren is not the only emergency communication the University is considering. A committee, headed by Michael Kerntke, associate vice president and chief information technology services, is in the discussion space under renovated space.

Emergency test page 2

Future physicians, dentists, lawyers graduate

BY MICHAEL KIRK & KRISTINA GOODRIDGE

Peace is one of the fundamental rights of humanity, and without it all other fundamental rights lose their meaning, said Nobel Peace Prize-winner Shirin Ebadi in her native Farsi.

Ebadi, using an interpreter, delivered the commencement address at the School of Law on May 20, where 227 degrees were awarded. She spoke about the nature of peace, social justice, and democracy.

Peace is possible only if people know their rights are not violated and their dignity is respected, said Ebardi. “Peace stands on two pillars. These pillars are democracy and social justice. “Peace is one of the fundamental rights of humanity,” and without it, she said, “all other fundamental rights lose their meaning.”

Ebadi, a lawyer, was awarded the Nobel peace prize in 2003 for her work to advance democracy and human rights, especially the rights of women and children. She is the first Iranian and the first Muslim woman to receive the prize.

“Democracy is not a present you can bring to a people,” she told the audience. “It is not a commodity you can export to a country. Democracy has to be born and bred from within.”

She also discussed income disparity throughout the world. “A society where there is a large gap between the poor and the rich cannot be a stable society,” she said.

Ebadi is the founder and leader of the Association for Support of Children’s Rights in Iran. The author of a number of books and academic articles focused on human rights, she has had several books translated into English, including The Rights of the Child: A Study of Legal Aspects of Children’s Rights in Iran, published with support from UNICEF; and History and Documentation of Human Rights in Iran.

Ebadi earned a law degree from the University of Tehran. From 1975 to 1979, she served as president of the city court of Tehran, where she was one of the first female judges in Iran. After the Iranian revolution in 1979, she was forced to resign. She also has served as a professor at the University of Tehran.

In her closing message to graduates, she said: “Let us fertilize science just as we fertilize land. Let us become wind and spread righteousness and friendship.”

As a lawyer, Ebadi has been involved in a number of controversial political cases. She was the attorney for the families of the writers and intellectuals who were victims of serial murders in 1999-2000. She worked to reveal the principals behind the attack on the students at Tehran University in 1999, where several students died.

Her work has led the Iranian government to imprison her on numerous occasions. She campaigns for peaceful solutions to social problems.

Future physicians, dentists, lawyers graduate page 4

Protecting oceans page 3

Mapping bird species page 4

Amistad voyage page 8
John Szarlan, learning consultant, dies

BY SHERRY FISHER

John Szarlan, a learning consultant in the Institute for Teaching and Learning, died unexpectedly on May 13 after a car accident in Long Island. He was 60.

Szarlan, who lived in Ludlow, Mass., joined the Department of Counseling Services in 1994 as a learning skills counselor. About three years ago, he became part of the Institute for Teaching and Learning’s design team, coordinating on helping students understand how to learn more effectively.

“His great sense of enjoyment came from launching new and innovative program initiatives for students and staff alike,” Lewis says. “John was a wonderful human being and hundreds of lives have been made richer and more meaningful because they were touched by him.”

Friend and colleague Kevin Sulman describes Szarlan as “modest, and a real gentleman. He will be sorely missed by the UConn community, but mostly by those closest to him.”

JoAnne Lewis, a former counseling supervisor at UConn, says, “John was a professional in every sense of the word. He was creative, supportive, a team player, and he enjoyed sharing ideas – new and old – with his colleagues.”

He was also an excellent mentor of graduate students, many of whom are now prominent practitioners.

“Toni was absolutely committed to advancing education and practice in pediatric audiology. She touched the lives of many students and staff alike,” Lewis says. “She was also an excellent mentor of graduate students, many of whom are now prominent practitioners.”

“Toni was an excellent teacher and a gifted clinician,” says Carl Coelho, head of the Department of Communication Sciences.

She was internationally renowned for her work in pediatric audiology and rehabilitation of infants and children with cochlear implants.

“Toni was an excellent teacher and a gifted clinician,” says Carl Coelho, head of the Department of Communication Sciences.

She was internationally renowned for her work in pediatric audiology and rehabilitation of infants and children with cochlear implants.

“She has always been an advocate for students and a warm, caring individual who continues to be an asset in the Communication Sciences Department,” he adds.

Brancia was a concerned parent who devoted her efforts to the New England Center for Hearing Rehabilitation, which she and a friend, Diane Brackett, founded in 1999.

“The committee is also considering communications strategies for the regional campuses, and the School of Law and Social Work. The committee will meet throughout the summer, with the goal of having emergency communication systems operational this fall.”

Retired professor dies in crash, husband injured

BY RICHARD VIEILLEUX

Antonia Brancia (Maxon), a long-time professor in the Department of Communication Sciences, died May 13 after a car accident in Long Island. Her husband and colleague, Sjef van den Berg, was badly injured in the crash.

“Toni was absolutely committed to advancing education and practice in pediatric audiology. She touched the lives of many students and staff alike,” Lewis says. “She was also an excellent mentor of graduate students, many of whom are now prominent practitioners.”

“The committee is also considering communications strategies for the regional campuses, and the School of Law and Social Work. The committee will meet throughout the summer, with the goal of having emergency communication systems operational this fall.”

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Relocation plan

continued from page 1

The next issue of the Advance will be published on Monday, June 18. We wish you a productive and enjoyable summer.
Professor authors guide to evaluate success of marine protected areas

By Peg Van Patten

How do you evaluate how well a portion of the ocean is being protected? Not an easy task, but Robert Pomeroy, an associate professor of agriculture and resource economics and Sea Grant fisheries specialist, is up to the challenge.

He is one of three authors who have created a 216-page guidebook to evaluate the success of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), which received the 2007 NOAA President’s Award.

"I think with so much money was spent, what permitted were issued, or how large the area protected. The socioeconomic needs of the surrounding peoples are also important to outcomes, so the manual incorporates social as well as ecological indicators of success," Martinez says.

Feds renew funding for UConn’s Upward Bound

By Sherry Fisher

UConn’s Upward Bound program has been awarded nearly $1.2 million over the next four years from the U.S. Department of Education.

The pre-college program helps prepare and motivate academically at-risk youth from high schools in Hartford, New Haven, and Windham.

"UConn has been fortunate from having this successful pre-college program, since it promotes the University’s strategic goals for community outreach, recruitment, and diversity," Martinez says.

Students in Upward Bound are selected during the ninth grade, and attend programs at UConn during the summer following their 9th, 10th, and 11th grades. They must meet guidelines set by federal and state governments.

The six-week residential program at UConn places emphasis on literature, composition, foreign languages, science, and math. During the school year, the Upward Bound students are engaged in social, recreational, and career-related activities, in conjunction with tutoring, developmental workshops, and weekly team meetings.
Geographical patterns of South American birds attract researchers

BY SCOTT BUNCKERHOFF

Tropical rainforests teem with plant and animal life, including birds, but dry and cold environments are much less hospitable, as any armchair naturalist knows. The question is “why?”

Scientists, including Robert Colwell, a professor in UConn’s Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, are not content merely to describe the phenomenon known as “species richness” – they want to understand its causes.

In pursuit of this end, Colwell and a graduate student, Thiago Rangel, have dedicated years to what they are learning has applications in species preservation, global climate studies, evolutionary theory, and biogeography. Their findings may help scientists predict what will happen to birds living in different locations on the planet, depending on trends in such environmental factors as elevation, topography, temperature, and rainfall.

Their research is based around simulations that use existing data about where South America’s bird species are found, and in what richness or paucity of species. Colwell and Rangel are especially interested in species that have smaller geographical ranges.

“We think it’s important to separate narrow-ranging species from wide-ranging ones,” Colwell says. “If we were working in the United States, for example, we wouldn’t pay as much attention to American robins, since they’re found almost everywhere. They’re like someone who gets to vote many times in an election. But Kirtland’s warbler is quite another story.”

“The narrow-ranging species are the ones we have to worry about,” he adds, “because there’s a greater risk that some unfortunate event will wipe out the species. We don’t have to worry about the robins.”

As one might expect, computers are key to sorting through the data produced by 2,248 species of birds and at least a half dozen scientists on Colwell’s team. Based on what is known about where various species live, the scientists constructed algorithms that reduce the characteristics of those locales to numbers and symbols.

These are then used literally to paint colorful maps of South America that reflect the number of bird species living in one part of the continent or another. The computer models are used to predict what is actually occurring in the field. Factors, including random ones that the scientists view as supportive of species richness, are in the maps. Scientists differ over which factors are most important in determining species richness. Often, the differences focus on the role played by contemporary environment versus evolutionary history.

Colwell and his colleagues tried to build computer models that give equal weight to both kinds of factors, as well as random processes.

Noting that computer models are ideal, Colwell says, “Suppose you have a pattern that is known about where various species are found, and in what richness or paucity of species. Colwell and Rangel are especially interested in species that have smaller geographical ranges.

“We think it’s important to separate narrow-ranging species from wide-ranging ones,” Colwell says. “If we were working in the United States, for example, we wouldn’t pay as much attention to American robins, since they’re found almost everywhere. They’re like someone who gets to vote many times in an election. But Kirtland’s warbler is quite another story.”

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Colwell and his colleagues tried to build computer models that give equal weight to both kinds of factors, as well as random processes.
Medical, dental, law school students address peers at Commencement

Daniel Colmno

Just before his junior year at Middlebury College, Daniel Colmno decided to change his major from American literature to pre-med and pursue a career in medicine.

“It was an introspective decision,” says Colmno. “I sought a career that would allow me to combine interests in humanities and science, with people and their stories being just as important as the scientific fact and process.

Graduating magna cum laude from Middlebury, he accepted a scholarship from the UConn School of Medicine, where he soon became interested in physical medicine and rehabilitation, a field he found inspiring.

“To work with dedication and commitment for the slowest progress and smallest functional gains can mean everything to a patient and family, and to a physician,” he says. “The process becomes the reward as much as the results.”

Dunn found that the teamwork, commu- nication, and open-mindedness in this medical field suited his nature, which he says was rooted in his background as a team athlete. He played team sports including football, wrestling, and baseball through college, and still plays pick-up games when he can and participates in marathons and triathlons.

“Physical medicine and rehabilitation is built on teamwork, and I think my charac- ter and abilities will complement my work,” he says.

Colmno also became interested in acupuncture. “If it’s a fine-tuned idea, a rethinking of how the body works and how we look at it, and something to explore as an additional treatment option,” he says. “Sometimes those options are limited and the willingness to look for new ways to make lives better can help patients.”

On a medical school elective, he traveled to China, where he studied acupuncture and traditional Chinese medicine. “The trip was incredible,” he says. “I learned about their system and culture of medicine and gained a new perspective.”

During medical school, Colmno volunteered at a number of clinics, a nursing home, and at Hartford schools, where he taught health education. He has also conducted research in the area of aquatic rehabilitation related to arthritis.

Colmno was students’ choice for commencement speaker. “I’m proud to rep- resent the class,” he says.

He will stay at the UConn Health Center for an internship in internal medicine, before starting his residency next year in physical medicine and rehabilitation at the University of Washington Affiliated Hospi- tals in Seattle.

Christine Edwards

“Despite all of the things seemingly stacked against us, we’ve made it, and I challenge you to find anyone better at multi-tasking, or anyone more ready to meet the demands of practicing law.”

Family and friends “have gotten us through this race,” she said, “much like the aid station volunteers you would find at a marathon – those people who hand out water and energy gels, offer encouragement, and call an ambulance when you just can’t walk another step.”

Edwards said she is grateful for the friends she made. “We have had an incred- ible, binding, common experience,” she said. “We cheered each other on when we had done well, and offered encouragement to one another when things didn’t quite go our way.”

She said the law school offers students incredible opportunities. “There is a diverse curriculum with many different specialties. You can’t possibly sample them all.”

Edwards earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology from Eastern Connecticut State University, and an MBA from the University of New Haven. “But I always wanted to go to law school,” she said.

She spent her first year of law school at Western New England College, School of Law. At UConn, she participated in the Criminal Clinic Trial Division, a year-long course. “We went to court and gain practical litigation experience, while helping defendants who didn’t have a lot of resources available to them,” she said.

Edwards says for now she is focusing on passing the bar exam, and is weighing her options as to where to begin her legal career.

Justin Clemow

As a pre-med student, Justin Clemow researched brain development at Thomas Jefferson Hospital while attending the Uni- versity of Pennsylvania. After graduating with an interdisciplinary degree in the bio- logical basis of behavior, he worked on gene-targeting and heart-related research at the university’s cardiovascular division.

Then he met a dentist who loved his work.

“He pointed out the better hours, lower insurance, and better lifestyle of dentistry compared to medicine,” says Clemow. “As an oral surgeon, I would have the best of both worlds. I also liked the idea of helping a patient right away. Fixing a smile for good oral health is important, but so is the confi- dence that a healthy smile brings.”

While in dental school at UConn, Clemow worked in Emory University’s operating room, helped manage trauma patients at the University of Pennsylvania’s hospital, and assisted in the operating rooms and emergency departments at John Dempsey and Hartford hospitals.

His most memorable experience, how- ever, was in Riobamba, Ecuador, he says, where he performed extractions and assisted with a cleft lip repair under the supervision of Dr. Richard Opapay.

“It was a moving experience,” he says. “The way they tolerated pain and gave us big hugs when the work was done. The peo- ple were so grateful. Every single person was appreciative of our help.”

Clemow will attend the University of Florida College of Medicine, where he will pursue a medical degree as part of his resi- dency in oral and maxillofacial surgery. He says the dental school has prepared him well.

“Despite all of the things seemingly stacked against us, we’ve made it, and I challenge you to find anyone better at multi-tasking, or anyone more ready to meet the demands of practicing law.”

Dunn says law school requires stamina and commitment.

“The first semester was consuming,” he says. “Then it eased up a bit. I think the biggest lesson I learned is that hard work is the key to success. Putting in the hours. It’s not just about innate talent; that only takes you so far.”

Dunn is inspired by people who are “pas- sionate about goals and willing to make sacrifices,” he says. “I’m intrigued and inspired by people who work hard and enjoy their success.”

He says he will always treasure the friends he made at UConn. “I have been truly lucky to meet an incredible group of people and spend three years with them,” he says.

Next year, he will be working at the law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom in New York City.

Robert Dunn

It’s not surprising that Robert Dunn decided to become a lawyer.

“I’ve always liked to argue,” he says. “I remember when I was in the second grade, we played kickball at recess and the captain picked teams. One day, I was one of the first kids picked. Someone asked why I – who wasn’t particularly good at the sport – was chosen first. The captain said, I’m sick of arguing with him.”

Dunn delivered remarks to the graduat- ing class at the School of Law Commencement ceremony May 20.

He went to Conard High School and earned his bachelor’s degree at Holy Cross College in history and political science. “I was really interested in both subjects,” he says. “I’ve always enjoyed reading history books, and I’ve always been fascinated by politics. The two majors meshed well.”

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### GRANTS

The following grants were received through the Office for Sponsored Programs (OSP) in March 2007. The list represents only new proposals awarded, and excludes continuations. The list is supplied to the Advance each month by OSP.

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<td>Mahoney, J.</td>
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<td>Long-Term Ecological Research in the Luquillo Mountains of Puerto Rico</td>
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Lauren Mocko, left, a first-year student, Gia Bass, center, a senior, and Mason Jaget, a junior, all members of the Pre-vet Club, wash Cassie during a fund raiser April 29.
**Family Leave proposal earns recognition for undergraduate public policy and the best practices for student transition from high school to college, beyond: 8:30 a.m., Student Union Ballroom. Admission $5 and $25. Visit www.conferences.uconn.edu/schedule for more information.**

**Thursday, 5/2 – Graduate Student Research Day.** Also, students can present their research. Keynote speaker Dr. Church, Har- vard University, Academic Research Building, Low Learning Center, Keller Auditorium, information.

**Thursday, 5/2 – Special Panels, Astrophysics, & Nuclear Physics Seminar.** The talk is titled "High Temperature & Breakdown of the Classical Approxi- mation." By Daniel Grumiller, M.P., 2 p.m., Room P21, Gantz Science Complex.

**Tuesday, 5/3 – Adult Learning Conference.** “Students’ Interpretation and Application of Feedback in a First-Year English Composition Course” is at 11 a.m., Room 246, Gentry Building.

**Tuesday, 5/3 – Junior Majoring in Human Physiology.** "Thresholds of Oscillatory Discharge in the Hippocampus," by F. B. M. Strickland, University of California at Irvine, is at 2 p.m., Room 242, Academic Research Building, Health Center.

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**Two UConn students to join study trip on re-created Amistad**

By Cindy Weiss

Two UConn undergraduates will be among up to 10 college students sailing from New Haven to London, England on the first leg of a yearlong voyage of the Amistad.

Recreated by Mystic Seaport, the ship recalls an 1839 revolt by Africans captured for the slave trade.

The four-semester college program at sea, “Sankofa, Sailing in the Wake of Our Ancestors,” will focus on the transatlantic slave trade and the history and legacy of the 53 Amistad Africans who were kidnapped from what is now Sierra Leone and sold as slaves.

The voyage will also commemorate the 200th anniversary of England’s ban on the slave trade.

There will be ports of call in Canada, England, Portugal, Africa, the Caribbean, and the U.S.

On board for the summer are Erica Whyte, a maritime studies major from Hartford, and Logan Sennack, an environmental sciences major from Torrington, both students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The schooner will leave New Haven on June 21, stop in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and arrive in London around Aug. 9.

The students will study the underground railroad in Nova Scotia, the Return to Africa movement, and British connections to the transatlantic slave trade in three courses taught by a historian from Washington, D.C., whose research has focused on the African diaspora and the Black Atlantic.

They will learn practical navigational skills, and study how ships sailed and the seafaring geography of the Atlantic. They will also contribute to the ship’s web log, and will stand watches.

Under close observation by an experienced crew, the students will have a chance to sail the schooner themselves, paralleling the experience of the Africans who took over the original La Amistad. They also will offer educational guided tours of the schooner at various ports of call.

The students’ participation in the Amistad college program will be fully paid by funds raised from 12 units on campus, including CLAS and several of its departments and programs, International Studies, the Honors Program, the Center for Academic Programs, the Provost’s Office, the Office of International Affairs, the UNESCO Chair and Institute of Comparative Human Rights, and the Avery Point Campus.

The Amistad’s voyage will track slave trade routes, and demonstrate to students that the economies of powers such as France and England and the wealth of the world were rooted in the textile, sugar, and coffee trades that the trade supported, says Jefrey Ogbar, associate professor of history and director of the Institute for African American Studies.

“The connections between the three different continents - America, Europe, and Africa - are found,” he says.

Ogbar chairs the UConn student admissions committee for the project, and with Ross Lewin, director of the Study Abroad program, raised funds for students to participate. The program is recruiting a multi-ethnic team of students from several colleges.

The Study Abroad program is administering all college credits for the voyage, which is run by Amistad America, a nonprofit educational organization based in New Haven.

“This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our students,” says Lewin. “The Amistad uprising is a key event in Connecticut history, and participation in this program will allow our students to study that history both academically and experientially.”

Unlike the original La Amistad, which was a coastal trader, the contemporary schooner is a heavily armed vessel that has been outfitted to cross the ocean and has been certified by the U.S. Coast Guard.

This will be its first transoceanic voyage.

The ship will be manned by nine professional crew members and a captain, Eliza Garfield, who has 20 years of experience in sailing-based education. The vessel is equipped with security and communications technology systems.

The trip has been vetted by nine desks at the State Department, representing every country ship will pass through. Ogbar says it also has established links with the U.S. Coast Guard and the navies of Britain and Portugal.

Students will begin their orientation to the ship and the history of the Amistad on June 7 in New Haven. A “captain’s party” fundraiser will be held in New Haven in June 28, the eve of the launch.

The fall leg of the voyage, Aug. 11 to Dec. 14, will sail from Liverpool, England, to Sierra Leone, making stops in England, Portugal, and Senegal. The spring voyage will sail from Sierra Leone to Charleston, S.C., with stops in Senegal, Cape Verde, Barbados, and Puerto Rico.

More information about the UConn program is available from the Study Abroad web site, www.studyabroad.uconn.edu, under “New Programs.”

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**High schoolers learn financial basics at Business School event**

By Kala Kachmar

Being trapped with a bad credit score is one less financial burden for Alicia Klysz of Coventry High School to worry about.

Klysz and 25 other high school students from around Connecticut visited the School of Business to participate in the first annual Connecticut Youth Financial Institute, a program, designed to educate students about personal finance.

The high school seniors took part in three informational seminars, each taught by a UConn faculty member. One session was on money and banking, another was on goals, planning, budgeting, and saving, the third was on investing.

“All the things we learned were helpful,” Klysz said. “It’s important to have a basic background in finance.”

While the students were in their sessions, high school teachers participated in informational sessions on resources for financial education, Junior Achievement, an organization that seeks to educate youth on how to succeed in a global economy; and on admissions and opportunities at the University’s business school.

“I think [financial education] is a must,” said Paula Jussila, who teaches business at South Windham High School. “Students don’t always feel it’s important. "Most think, ‘we’re young, we don’t need to know this stuff yet,” she adds. “But they really do.”

Financial education for students is an area that is getting more attention, especially since there are more opportunities to get into financial trouble, said Linda Klein, associate dean of the School of Business, who instructed the student session on goals, planning, budgeting, and saving.

“Finance is a critical life skill,” Klein said. “If students understand how money works, they will be eight years ahead of everyone else.”

She said the students were “involved and willing to share their ideas. It was an interactive environment.”

Joe Banach, a senior at South Windham High School, said, “The budget course will help me now and throughout my life. It’s important to know how to balance your budget.”

The program was designed to bring high school students into a university setting and allow them to experience college-level instructors, according to Lou Golden, president of Junior Achievement of Southwest New England. He is also chair of the JumpStart Coalition, an organization comprised of government agencies, financial institutions, and corporations seeking to increase financial literacy among Connecticut’s youth.

Both organizations were co-sponsors of the program with the business school.

“UConn has a great business school,” Banach said. “I thought it was a great opportunity to see what college is like and learn about something I like at the same time.”

Luncheon speaker Vincent Armentano, senior vice president for Travelers, spoke with students and teachers about corporate life and reaching career goals.

“More opportunities for students to gain experience through partnerships between businesses and colleges can only add up to a good thing,” he said.

Golden said JumpStart teamed up last summer with the School of Business to examine the impact of financial literacy on high school students. The result was an intensive program focused on educating a small number of high-performing students on financial literacy.

“We wanted students to have the opportunity to delve intensively into issues that will affect their lives in the future, like investments and saving strategies,” he said.

The program was publicized to all high schools in Connecticut during the fall and winter. Participants were required to have a 3.2 grade point average, write an essay explaining their interest in financial education, and provide a letter of recommendation.

“I was impressed with the caliber of the students that applied,” said Golden.

Katherine Pancak, professor-in-residence of finance who helped organize the program, said the program will be held again next year.

“We’ve been getting positive feedback,” she said. “It’s definitely worth having again.”