Emergency communications plan in place for University

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

UConn wants your cell phone number, but it’s not for a social call. The numbers are being collected as part of a program for emergency communications developed during the summer and put into place this fall. “In light of the potential for a crisis to take place on college campuses, as most recently and tragically occurred at Virginia Tech, the University has been reviewing and enhancing its emergency communications systems,” says Barry Feldman, vice president and chief operating officer. “The safety of our students, faculty, and staff is paramount.” The new emergency communications will include a text messaging notification system to all UConn faculty, staff, and students who register their cell phone numbers at alert.uconn.edu. “Text messages promise to be one of the fastest and most direct means of communicating, in the event a critical situation develops requiring an alert notification,” Feldman says. “Our goal is to notify people as quickly as possible when there is something they need to know.” The text messages will be used on each of the University’s campuses except the Health Center. Text messages are not the only new component of the alert system. The Storrs, Greater Hartford and law school campuses will have siren systems. Sirens will both

see Emergency communications page 2

UConn joins ranks of top 25 public colleges

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

UConn is among the top 25 public universities in the nation, jumping three places in the U.S. News & World Report rankings issued last week. For the ninth year in a row, UConn is also tied with Purdue and the University of Iowa as the top public university in New England. UConn is ranked number 24 on the list, tied with Purdue and the University of Iowa. Last year, UConn was ranked 27th. UConn is also included again this year in The Princeton Review: “The rankings, gratifying though they are, really tell an incomplete story,” says President Michael J. Hogan.

see Latest rankings page 5

Iowa provost appointed new UConn president

BY ELIZABETH OMARA-OTUNNU & KAREN GRAVA

Michael J. Hogan has been appointed the 14th president of the University of Connecticut.

Hogan, 63, joins UConn from the University of Iowa, where he has been executive vice president and provost since 2004. He plans to start at UConn on Sept. 14. He is expected to hold a faculty appointment as a full professor in the history department, and has indicated that he will live on campus in the president’s house.

Hogan, selected after a comprehensive national search, was the unanimous choice of the 33-member search committee, and was endorsed for the post by the Board of Trustees during a meeting in the Rome Ballroom Aug. 1.

The committee included the chair and other members of the Senate Executive Committee, student representatives, several trustees, the governor, the mayor of Mansfield, and the president of the Alumni Association. It was chaired by John Rowe, M.D., chairman of the Board of Trustees.

“Michael Hogan is a distinguished scholar and one of the nation’s outstanding academic leaders,” says Rowe. “His experience at the University of Iowa, and prior to that at The Ohio State University, equips him superbly for the challenges and opportunities at the University of Connecticut. His responsibilities at Iowa, including engagement with health care issues as well as the full range of undergraduate and graduate programs at a major public university, will serve him – and us – well in the years ahead.”

A specialist in the history of American diplomacy, Hogan holds the F. Wendell Miller Professorship in History and has been the chief academic officer at the University of Iowa. He was responsible for oversight of all health care issues as well as the full range of undergraduate and graduate programs at a major public university, will serve him – and us – well in the years ahead.”

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A specialist in the history of American diplomacy, Hogan holds the F. Wendell Miller Professorship in History and has been the chief academic officer at the University of Iowa. He was responsible for oversight of all academic programs, including the medical school; student academic services; academic strategic planning; and the promotion of student and faculty diversity.

He also was a key advisor to the University of Iowa’s president on health sciences issues and chaired the university’s health sciences policy-setting committee, comprising the health sciences deans and the directors of the university’s clinical care programs, including the hospital.

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make a warning sound and deliver a short message instructing people what to do.

The Avery Point campus already has a siren owned by the Town of Groton that will be used in case of an emergency on that campus.

The Stamford, Waterbury, and Health Center campuses have intercom systems that will be used to deliver messages in an emergency.

The Code Blue phones located on every campus will be used to flash blue lights and deliver a short message about the emergency. Also planned are systems to broadcast messages via classroom cable systems, and the use of voice mail, e-mail and the Web to update the community on a potentially threatening situation.

“We will have redundant systems so there are multiple ways to get the message out,” Feldman says. “While we may not be able to reach every person directly, we hope that through one means or another, people will quickly find out what they need to know.”

The systems were put into place this summer after a committee, headed by Michael Kerntke, associate vice president and chief information officer, identified and evaluated the options. Feldman appointed the committee last spring in response to the Virginia Tech tragedy. The committee and an oversight committee included representatives of student affairs, human resources, communications, UTIS, telecommunications, facilities operations, purchasing, the School of Law, academic affairs, the police department, orientation services, registrar, enrollment management, the Institute of Teaching and Learning (representing the regional campuses), and the Health Center.

“We have no way to predict if and when a critical situation will occur,” Feldman says, “but we need to be prepared for all types of emergencies, including severe weather problems such as a tornado and other situations.”

To register your cell phone number, visit alert.uconn.edu. Your NetID and password will permit you to enter your number. In addition to cell phone registration, the web site alert.uconn.edu will serve as the primary Web resource for obtaining information during a crisis. There are also frequently asked questions and answers about the program posted there.

Testing of all the equipment will be done periodically, and will be announced via e-mail and on the Web.

Audio clips on this topic from an interview with Barry Feldman are available on the Advance web site: www.advance.uconn.edu.

Water conservation measures announced

by Karen A. Geria

The University has issued a water conservation alert asking students, faculty, and staff, as well as municipal, commercial, and residential water users, to voluntarily limit water use.

The alert was issued on Aug. 6 in compliance with the University’s water supply contingency plan, which asks system users to conserve water when stream flows in the Fenton River are reduced below specific levels.

This is a special trigger adopted by the University, based on environmental considerations.

The reduced stream flow in the Fenton River is due to dry weather conditions and low rainfall. The University has not pumped water from the well field since July 26, and only minimal daily summer withdrawals from the Fenton well field were made before that.

“It’s important to note that the University’s water supply is not taken from the Fenton or Willimantic Rivers themselves, but from groundwater aquifers that are located underneath the ground, adjacent to the river streams,” says Thomas Q. Callahan, associate vice president for facilities operations.

“The conservation alert was activated due to naturally occurring environmental conditions,” he adds, “not because of pumping, increased demands or concerns with the water system capacity. Because of recent system improvements, demand management measures, and greater operational flexibility, the University continues to have adequate water to serve UConn’s water system customers needs, both on and off-campus.”

Under the Water Conservation Alert, customers both on and off campus are asked to voluntarily:

• take shorter showers;
• run dishwashers and washing machines with full loads;
• run cold water run continuously when washing dishes, shaving, and brushing teeth;
• avoid washing cars or power washing buildings;
• reduce lawn watering, or water in the late evening;
• not fill swimming pools;
• raise the thermostat temperature in air-conditioned UConn buildings, and;
• report leaky fixtures in UConn buildings to campus officials.

Additionally, the University is working to minimize its own use. Those measures have been successful in the last few years, as a result, even though the University has grown, its water use has not. UConn’s water system, managed by Connecticut Water, serves the Storrs and Depot campuses, and some municipal, commercial, and residential users near the campus. “There is now greater operational flexibility due in large part to improvements made by the University, working closely with the state Department of Public Health and Department of Environmental Protection and Connecticut Water’s operation and management team” Callahan says.

System and operational improvements have lessened demand on any one source of supply, and help the University better meet the system’s average daily demand. Improvements include new pumps and motors; new automated tank level controls at the wells for better operational and water usage efficiency; leak detection surveys in 2005 and 2007 to identify and correct leaks and system inefficiencies; improvements to the transmission main that carries water from the Willimantic well field to better meet system demand; and improved stream flow measurement for a more accurate reading of stream flow conditions.

In addition, says Callahan, the University is installing system-wide metering to better measure usage, completing and implementing recommendations from a broad conservation study, and developing a water reclamation plan.

Athletic apparel liquidation sale Aug. 30-31

A two-day “fan appreciation” liquidation sale of unused promotional clothing and accessories will take place Aug. 30 and 31 at the Grier Field House from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Included in the sale of more than 4,000 items – most bearing UConn logos – are jackets, short- and long-sleeve polos, sweatshirts and sweatspants, wind shirts and wind pants, T-shirts, sweatpants, sweatshirts, travel bags, and sneakers. The sale is organized by the Division of Athletics, in conjunction with the UConn Co-op. Items will range between 50 and 75 percent below retail pricing. Credit cards and Husky Bucks will be accepted. All sales are final.
Freshman class includes record total of vals, sals

Richelle Yonkovic

About 3,200 new freshmen, including a record number of valedictorians and salutatorians, and more than 100 new faculty will kick off the new academic year when classes begin Aug. 27.

The new students were welcomed to campus by President Philip J. Kutz, who delivered the annual Convocation on Aug. 24. Austin used the occasion to introduce his successor, President-designate Michael Hogan, who officially assumes office in mid-September. Most of the 105 new faculty attended orientation Aug. 23.

‘Atmospheric’ new academic year is always a time of great hope and excitement on the UConn campus,” Austin said last week. “It has been my great fortune and privilege to serve at a time of tremendous progress, as we moved from a position of regional prominence to true national stature. I know the University will be in great hands under Dr. Hogart’s leadership, and I’m convinced that UConn’s best years lie ahead.”

The latest admissions report confirms that UConn is now recognized nationally for the 11th consecutive year, applications for the freshman class increased, with 22,353 applicants competing for 3,200 seats at Storrs and about 1,100 at the regional campuses.

And for the third consecutive year, more than half the applicants came from outside Connecticut, though the University will continue to enroll no more than 30 percent of its freshman class from out of state.

Besides President-elect Hogan, new deans are being welcomed to several positions. William R. Croswell, who assumed his new role April 27, begins his first full year as dean of the School of Law. Anne Bavier began her tenure at UConn School of Nursing Aug. 17. Christopher Earley (School of Business) and Mun Young Choi (School of Engineering) commenced in January 2008. David Couroyer last month was named interim dean at the School of Social Work, while a search committee works to find a replacement for Kay Davidson, and a search will soon be underway for a successor to Kirklyn Kerr, who has announced he will step down as dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the end of the academic year.

The academic credentials of new classes in Storrs and at the regional campuses continue to impress. A record 146 valedictorians and salutatorians are among the freshmen class, eight of whom will attend a regional campus.

Last year, 105 “vals and sals,” the top ranked students in their high school class, came to UConn. Since 1995, UConn has recruited nearly 1,000 valedictorians and salutatorians.

The Storrs freshman class this year averaged 192 on the SAT. The average SAT for the nearly 300 freshmen at the Waterbury campus is about 28 points higher than last year’s entering class.

The 275 freshmen who have registered for the University’s Honors Program boast an average SAT of 1,409, an 11-point increase compared to last year.

Additionally, the average GPA for the 700 students who are transferring to Storrs this semester is 3.3. The 230 students transferring into regional campuses average 3.1.

“Those students are transferring to UConn because they really desire the outstanding quality and value of a UConn degree,” says Dolan Evanovich, vice provost for enrollment management.

Top students also want to attend the law school — the incoming classes’ median LSAT matches the school’s previous high, and nine of the new students scored above 168 on the exam, placing them in the top 4 percent of all students who took the test last year. These had similar test scores.

At the UConn School of Medicine, the average GPA for incoming students is 3.65. It also is one of the school’s most diverse classes, with 21 percent of the 81 students from populations other than white or Asian. The students earned their undergraduate degrees from 51 different schools, including 19 from UConn, four from Johns Hopkins University, three from Yale and two from Princeton and New York University.

The School of Dental Medicine will enroll another 40 first year students — the school’s normal complement. The cohort scored very well in the Dental Admission Test and averaged a 3.5 GPA in their undergraduate schools, where 80 percent majored in science.

Back at Storrs, cranes and construction workers are busy, as the UConn 21st Century Campus plan continues. Adding to the many new buildings erected during the past decade, the next few years will see two new academic buildings on Fairfield Way, which will replace the time-worn Arjona and Monheath buildings; a replacement for Torrey Life Sciences Building, and the renovation and reuse of the old Central Warehouse near the co-generation plant.

On a smaller scale but more immediate, the first phase of a $1.4 million landscaping plan for the Student Union Mall began last week. The work will include landscape planning, infrastructure improvements (mainly drainage), and topsoil and seeding on the former site of the pharmacy building.

A second phase will include the installation of sidewalks and lighting.

Work also will begin soon on exterior renovations to the Wilbur Cross Building, and both interior and exterior work will be done on the 92-year-old Hawley Armory.

Both structures are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

by John Spinauer

A $1 million gift from Julia B. Budney to support the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History at the University will allow the museum to expand its facility in the future and its educational programs today.

The current and deferred gift support from Mrs. Julia B. Budney will be used to promote education activities, as well as the design and construction of the next phase of the museum’s renovations.

It also includes support for the Henry S. Budney Natural History Collection, more than 115 high-quality vertebrate mounts and assorted ethnographic items collected by Mrs. Budney’s late husband and contributed by his estate.

“The diversity of the natural world is the research focus of many of our faculty in liberal arts and sciences,” says Ross MacKinnon, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the museum’s home at UConn. “Julia Budney’s gift will help the museum’s visitors — both children and adults — understand why we are interested in biodiversity, conservation, and our natural history.”

The museum has an active educational loan program serving nature-oriented organizations statewide. The Budney collection will enable the museum to expand this program, and Mrs. Budney’s gift specifically allows the museum to move forward more quickly on the expansion needed to permanently house and maintain the collection.

Mrs. Budney says her gift is for the benefit of the whole state as well as for the museum. “I want future generations of children to see first-hand how interesting natural history can be,” she says. “The museum brings education to life and helps visitors understand the beauty of nature and see the ways we’re all connected to it.”

“With the new exhibition space and renovations, the museum can now do so much more than ever,” she adds. “It’s really a wonderful resource for the state, and I’m happy to be able to support the experience it provides.”

The museum reaches more than 50,000 people annually through visits to the facility and exhibit loans to dozens of related organizations. It also houses the Connecticut Office of State Archaeology and the Connecticut Archaeology Center, and coordinates many efforts, such as the Stone Wall Initiative. The museum re-opened in April, following the first phase of extensive renovation to add classrooms and exhibition space.

The recent improvements, which tripled the museum’s square footage, were funded by nearly $500,000 in donations from hundreds of committed members and matching funds from the state through the 21st Century UConn program.

Museum director Leanne Kennedy says the Budney gift will dramatically improve the museum’s operations and offerings going forward.

“This is such an exciting time for us,” she says. “Mrs. Budney’s gift allows us to celebrate this moment in time by launching the next phase of the museum’s history.”

The next phase includes a $4.5 million reconstruction plan to create a much-needed collections storage facility, an archaeology lab, and a library to house the Office of State Archaeology’s 8,000-volume holdings.

“Our focus is on making connections between cultural and natural history through time, and helping people look closer at those fascinating relationships,” Kennedy says. “Mrs. Budney’s gift presents an opportunity to advance our mission and expand the programs and services we can provide, both on campus and across the state. This is what we’re all about.”

Devin Gaines scholarship fund started

A fund has been started to create an endowed scholarship to honor the memory of Devin Thomas Gaines ’07, who died July 10. Gaines, who graduated with five degrees, was known for his compassion, volunteerism, philanthropic nature, and academic success.

Those who wish to make donations to establish the scholarship should make a check payable to the UConn Foundation with “Gaines Memorial Fund” as the memo field. Checks may be sent to Michael McCarthy, Program Director of Leadership Gifts, Alumni Giving, University of Connecticut Foundation Inc., 2390 Alumni Drive, Storrs, CT 06269-3206.

Any contribution can bring the Devin Gaines Memorial Fund a step closer to reaching permanent endowment status, which will help perpetuate the scholarship for years to come. Additional information may be found at the website set up by his friends, www.devingaines.com.
Hogan attracted to UConn by its ‘steep upward trajectory’

Hogan spoke of his commitment to maintaining access to higher education in the face of rising costs, increasing support for academic research, promoting diversity, and finding new sources of financial support.

New president continued from page 1

“Michael Hogan is the ideal candidate to lead our state’s flag- ship public university,” said Gov. M. Jodi Rell. “He is committed to excellence, and he shares my vision for the young people who go to UConn to prepare for their futures.”

Before joining the University of Iowa, Hogan held positions as executive dean of the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences, dean of the College of Humanities, and chair of the Department of History at Ohio State.

Rowe calls Hogan an academic deschalcote: “You only win the gold medal in the decathlon if you score a lot of points in every event. Because of his broad career, personal- ity, inclination, and distinguished academic abilities, Michael Hogan is in fact a decathlete.”

Rowe says about 500 candidates expressed interest or were nomi- nated for the post, and the pool in- cluded government officials as well as candidates from academe. The initial stages of the search were con- ducted by Isaacson, Miller, a firm specializing in academic searches. The finalists included three minorities and several wom- en. When the steering committee interviewed the 10 front runners in July, Hogan emerged as the clear top choice.

Rowe says the committee was looking for a scholar to provide academic leadership for the faculty, someone with experience at a large public university, who cared about student life, had dealt with legislators, had an appetite for fund raising, and had experience with health care. He says Hogan is strong in all these areas.

The tasks that will face the new University president include over- sight of the 21st Century UConn infrastructure program and an upcoming capital campaign.

A solid career

Hogan, one of five siblings of Irish heritage, grew up in Water- loo, a mid-sized industrial city in northern Iowa. His parents placed great emphasis on education. He earned his bachelor’s degree in English, with minors in history and classics, at the University of Northern Iowa, and his master’s and Ph.D. in history at the Univer- sity of Iowa.

He spent much of his career at Ohio State, where he was on the faculty from 1986 to 2004. He was chair of the history department from 1993 to 1999, dean of the College of Humanities from 1999 to 2003, and executive dean of the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences from 2003 to 2004.

Previously, he was a faculty member at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, for nine years, and a visiting professor at the University of Texas at Austin and SUNY at Stony Brook. Hogan and his wife Virginia have four grown children. Hogan’s resume is available at: http://www.uconn.edu/newpresi- dent/curriculum.php

Outstanding scholar

A well recognized scholar, Hogan is the author or editor of nine books and a host of scholarly articles and essays. He has been a fellow at the Harry S. Truman Library Institute and the Wood- row Wilson International Center for Scholars and has served as Louis Martin Sears Distinguished Professor of History at Purdue University.


Tom Paterson, a UConn emeritus professor of history who collaborated with Hogan on two editions of Explaining the History of American Foreign Relations, describes him as “well organized, incisive, and clear-headed.”

He says Hogan’s book on the Marshall Plan, which showed the give and take between Europe and the U.S. in shaping the implemen- tation of the plan, established him as an outstanding scholar.

“It was a massively researched book, very attuned to detail and to the complexity of events,” he says.

As editor of Diplomatic History, an international journal of record for specialists in diplomacy, inter- national relations, and national security studies, Hogan turned the journal into a major voice for discussing new approaches in the field, says Paterson.

“His very open to different ap- proaches, though he has his own,” he adds. “He’s very interactive with other scholars.”

In recognition of Hogan’s 15 years of service as editor, the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations established an endowed scholarship in his name. Hogan’s scholarship and achievements have also been recognized by the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, which awarded him the Bernath Lecture Prize in 1984. And Ohio State presented him with its Distinguished Scholar Award in 1990, the highest award for scholarly distinction conferred on faculty members.

As an administrator, Hogan has remained an active scholar.

In 2003, he was president of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, and in 2004, he published the second edition of Explaining the History of American Foreign Relations. He is currently working on a history of the field of diplomatic style.

Leadership style

Hogan’s first venture into aca- demic administration was as chair of the Ohio State history depart- ment for six years. Under his leadership, the department earned not only a departmental teaching award but a selective investment award from the university, recog- nizing excellence in both teaching and research. He also increased its national profile as a top-20 gradu- ate program.

When he was confirmed as dean of humanities at Ohio State in March 2000, an article in the university’s newspaper stated that he had the “deep respect and understanding for the faculty throughout the college.”

In 2003, he became executive dean of a new federation of Colleg- es of Arts and Sciences, compris- ing five colleges, 41 departments, and some 1,000 faculty.

He moved to the University of Iowa in 2004, where he has served as provost.

Colleagues describe Hogan as a man of integrity and commitment, who is easy to work with.
commitment to academic culture...discussions with members of the academic excellence. "

...and background at a high level of...University who has real experience...from different areas. "

...ranks. "

...teacher, who has risen through the personal attributes...administrative credentials and...process, attesting to his scholarly...delighted at the outcome of the...President Hogan's appointment...committee who were present when...ranks.

"Dr. Peter Albertsen, a professor...already has a good grasp of the...commitment to decreasing the...branch campuses, the law school,...and quality of their research and...Membership is by invitation.)

...He said he anticipates the...new president will "set the bar high,...tions of the Iowa strategic plan is...and how to tie in and integrate......she says. Hogan emphasized...tions, with a 114 percent...admissions, with a 114 percent...freshman up 79 points, to 1192,...average SAT scores for Storrs...percent. "

...Increasing admission of students of color. This year's...class includes 20 percent minority students, for a...total since 1995 of 124 percent.

"One of the five major sec...

...She says Hogan emphasized...Hogan's leadership.

...adds Thomas Rocklin, senior...associate provost for undergradu...

...University of Iowa officials say...high major impact. Rocklin says it's...he was there for only three years.

...at Iowa, Hogan directed a stra...

...Lisa Troyer, interim associate...assembled a representative planning commit-

...He's really skilled at marsha-

..."Connecticut can look for-

..."He's incredibly warm, friend-

...Donna Kate-Bahensky, CEO...the University of Iowa hospitals...mechanics, says the university's..."highest budget times ever."

...Troyer suggests this commit-

..."We'll miss that."

...Troyer. "After he's learned more...in the University "to the next lev-

..."America's 200 best colleges"..."It's a very good way to be around."...you're someone he works with,...higher education really come...

..."Connecticut can look for-

..."He's incredibly warm, friendly, and funny. His per-

...Looking ahead

..."Colleges can look forward-

..."After he's learned more about the university and the state and their needs, you'll see really positive progress, real fast."
Periodontist honored for excellence in teaching

BY CAROLYN PENNINGTON

The teaching style of Dr. Frank Nichols, professor of periodontology at the UConn School of Dental Medicine, has long been popular with his students. Nichols believes that’s because he doesn’t just emphasize the new trends in dentistry, he also talks about some of the older techniques and approaches that still work well.

Nichols’ approach is so popular with students that for two years in a row, he has been honored with the Kaiser Permanente Excellence in Teaching Award. “I’m very honored to be recognized by the students,” says Nichols.

Nichols, who joined the dental school faculty in 1985 after receiving his dental degree from Ohio State University and a Ph.D. in biophysics from the University of Rochester in Rochester, N.Y., has seen many changes during the past 20 years. "As dentistry has changed, so has what the students are interested in learning,” he explains. “For instance, dental implants are now a critical part of the curriculum, but when I first started here, we had just begun talking about implants because they were mainly being done in Europe.”

Nichols splits his time three ways – teaching, research, and patient care. The teaching component, which includes both clinical instruction and lecturing and organizing courses, takes at least half his time. The rest of his time is focused on research and treating patients as a member of the University Dentists practice. Which does he prefer? “That’s a tough one. I like it all,” he says. “Because I wear all three hats, I have a deeper appreciation and understanding of the importance of each and how they are relevant to each other.”

As a clinician, for example, he treats patients with periodontal disease, and as a researcher he's studying the intricacies of what causes the disease. His interest focuses on how immune cells react when exposed to bacteria in the mouth – bacteria that lead to gum disease. As a professor, he can offer his students a more complete understanding of this very common problem, which impacts 80 percent of Americans.

Since nearly half of UConn’s dental graduates stay in Connecticut, it’s not unusual for Nichols to hear from his former students – whether it’s to consult on a case, refer a patient, or invite him to a reunion. “It’s very gratifying to see how the students progress over the years,” he says, “not just in their skill level, but in their maturity and judgment. They can go from not knowing which end of a dental instrument to holding, to being an impressive practitioner and someone I’m very comfortable referring family members to see.”

Summer funding helps graduate students develop mentoring skills

BY CHRISS WEISS

Graduate students in the sciences and those with an interest in environmental research received a shot of financial support this summer to develop their skills mentoring undergraduate students and collaborating with researchers in other fields.

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS), through its donor-supported Fund for Innovative Education in Science, provided more than $40,000 in summer support for a pilot program that paired graduate student mentors with minority undergraduates doing scientific research with CLAS faculty. An additional $33,000 was provided by the Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Education and the Graduate School, so that 30 graduate students could learn to be research mentors.

The funds also were used to supplement National Science Foundation summer research stipends to six of the undergraduates that the students mentored.

The undergraduates came from the Northeast Alliance Summer Research Program for Underrepresented Minorities at UConn, a program started last year by Ruth Washington and Lee Aggison, associate professors-in-residence in the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, to encourage minority students to choose careers in science.

The Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering, in another effort, provided $125,000 in awards this summer for graduate students who proposed interdisciplinary environmental research projects requiring them to work with faculty from at least two departments and, in some cases, from different schools and colleges.

The awards provided critical summer support for graduate students, many of whom are paid teaching assistants during the regular school year but lack support in the summer. “This provided an important bridging resource,” says Michael Willig, director of the Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering.
Study of tourism is topic of emeritus professor’s new book

by Karen Singer

Though humans probably have always been tourists, it was not until the 20th century that social scientists began to investigate tourism.

Those who pioneered the field are the subject of The Study of Tourism: Anthropology and Sociological Beginnings (Elsevier 2007), edited by UConn’s Dennis Nash, an emeritus professor of anthropology.

“In every science there comes a time when it looks at itself as an institution. The investigators, their methods, and theories become of interest,” says Nash, who spent five years working on the book. “I was involved, and probably was the best qualified to do it.”

Nash recently gave a presentation on the topic at a meeting of the International Academy for the Study of Tourism in Fethye, Turkey.

According to Nash, 20th-century European scholars paid significant attention to tourism, especially beginning in the 1930s, but the mid-1970s surge of interest in the subject coincided with the reality that more and more people were traveling.

He says the trend represents a late stage of industrialization, which began in the 1930s, but the attention to tourism, especially international tourism, “I wanted to do an inside story about these people, who are scientists and whose business is the pursuit of knowledge,” he says.

Researching tourism was something that they dreamed about on their own. Nobody helped them, and at the beginning they didn’t have any assistance, but they went ahead anyway, against the grain of those who didn’t think it was worthy of serious attention.

“But it is serious to people who are in the industry, and it’s serious to academic—on-paper commentators who are putting all their bets on tourism development.”

Nash says he too did not get support for his tourism research.

“People would chuckle, and say, ‘You consider that work?’” he says.

“So it was not unexpected that I found these scholars were stubborn and persistent and strongly independent-minded.”

Nash, who has studied expatriates and taught a course on “Americans Abroad” at UConn, says his interest in tourism spiked when he gave a paper on tourism as a kind of imperialism at a 1974 meeting of the American Anthropological Association.

“The paper, he says, generated great enthusiasm.

The momentum continued with Fan’s launching of Annals of Tour-

ism Research (now one of more than 50 periodicals on the subject in English), the establishment of tourism studies at universities, and the creation of academic research centers on tourism, which have multiplied to more than 550 in 145 countries.

“Scholars in European coun-

tries generally got involved earlier than Americans, and now there are some whole departments involved,” Nash says.

Over the years, researchers expanded their interest in the subject to all its aspects, including the impact of tourism on local cultures, and tourists themselves.

“For a while, scholars were excited about different kinds of tourism,” Nash says. “Now some of them are looking at themselves and the institutions that have been developed to deal with the subject.”

He says he is troubled by an increasingly “business-oriented” approach, with far more investigators conducting applied research than basic research in the field.

“This creates practical problems, where you sell yourself, or work for people who want results favor-

able to tourism,” he says.

Nash believes travelers typi-

cally “go on tours to get away from things and to enjoy themselves;” but those who read his book should come away with a different perspective.

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Dennis Nash, emeritus professor of anthropology.

Photo by Dennis Benson

Though humans probably have always been tourists, it was not until the 20th century that social scientists began to investigate tourism.

Those who pioneered the field are the subject of The Study of Tourism: Anthropology and Sociological Beginnings (Elsevier 2007), edited by UConn’s Dennis Nash, an emeritus professor of anthropology.

“In every science there comes a time when it looks at itself as an institution. The investigators, their methods, and theories become of interest,” says Nash, who spent five years working on the book. “I was involved, and probably was the best qualified to do it.”

Nash recently gave a presentation on the topic at a meeting of the International Academy for the Study of Tourism in Fethye, Turkey.

According to Nash, 20th-century European scholars paid significant attention to tourism, especially beginning in the 1930s, but the mid-1970s surge of interest in the subject coincided with the reality that more and more people were traveling.

He says the trend represents a late stage of industrialization, which began in the 1930s, but the attention to tourism, especially international tourism, “I wanted to do an inside story about these people, who are scientists and whose business is the pursuit of knowledge,” he says.

Researching tourism was something that they dreamed about on their own. Nobody helped them, and at the beginning they didn’t have any assistance, but they went ahead anyway, against the grain of those who didn’t think it was worthy of serious attention.

“But it is serious to people who are in the industry, and it’s serious to academic—on-paper commentators who are putting all their bets on tourism development.”

Nash says he too did not get support for his tourism research.

“People would chuckle, and say, ‘You consider that work?’” he says.

“So it was not unexpected that I found these scholars were stubborn and persistent and strongly independent-minded.”

Nash, who has studied expatriates and taught a course on “Americans Abroad” at UConn, says his interest in tourism spiked when he gave a paper on tourism as a kind of imperialism at a 1974 meeting of the American Anthropological Association.

“The paper, he says, generated great enthusiasm.

The momentum continued with Fan’s launching of Annals of Tour-

ism Research (now one of more than 50 periodicals on the subject in English), the establishment of tourism studies at universities, and the creation of academic research centers on tourism, which have multiplied to more than 550 in 145 countries.

“Scholars in European coun-
tries generally got involved earlier than Americans, and now there are some whole departments involved,” Nash says.

Over the years, researchers expanded their interest in the subject to all its aspects, including the impact of tourism on local cultures, and tourists themselves.

“For a while, scholars were excited about different kinds of tourism,” Nash says. “Now some of them are looking at themselves and the institutions that have been developed to deal with the subject.”

He says he is troubled by an increasingly “business-oriented” approach, with far more investigators conducting applied research than basic research in the field.

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Neags host reception to unveil new cancer treatment system

by STEVE VEVSCHKY

An enthusiastic group of Health Center supporters, volunteers, and staff members gathered recently at the historic Warner Theatre in Torrington to celebrate the newest addition to the Carole and Ray Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center.

The reception, hosted by the Neags, was designed to promote the ground-breaking accomplishments of the Cancer Center and to highlight the Cancer Center's new Helical TomoTherapy Hi-Art System – the latest, most technologically advanced development in radiation oncology.

One of only approximately 150 such systems in use worldwide, UConn's TomoTherapy system is the first of its kind in Connecticut. It is scheduled to be fully operational this fall. This state-of-the-art technology employed by the TomoTherapy system differs in many ways from other systems in its ability to deliver radiation with pinpoint accuracy. That precision allows for far more effective treatment of tumors, and also reduces the amount of healthy tissue exposed to radiation. It will be especially useful in treating patients with cancers of the head and neck, prostate, brain, and other tumors adjacent to organs that could be damaged by radiation.

Dr. Robert Dowsett, chief of radiation oncology at the Health Center, likened the TomoTherapy system to Star Wars in its level of sophistication. Unlike previous technologies that use wide bands of radiation, TomoTherapy uses narrow rotating "pencil" beams of radiation to treat tumors from all directions with specifically determined levels of radiation intensity.

Attendees were also treated to a Shamokin, and the music and entertainment offerings of the Warner Theatre in Torrington.

A 1930s-era movie palace that is now home to a variety of arts and entertainment offerings. The ongoing restoration of the Warner, also played a significant role in the Neags' generosity has transformed many areas of the University, including the School of Education, the Cancer Center, and the Pat and Jim Calhoun Cardiology Center.

During her comments, Runowicz called attention to some of the latest advancements at the Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center. She said TomoTherapy is a "shining example" of the vision and commitment necessary to be at the forefront of cancer care. She emphasized the importance of private philanthropy to the work currently under way at the Health Center.

The Neags, who have contributed $50 million to philanthropy to the work currently under way at the Health Center, likened the TomoTherapy system, the Neags' generosity has had on the University, helping to shape its course for the 21st century.

Locksmiths hold key to evolving University landscape

by KALA KACHMAR

Being responsible for more than 102,000 keys can't be easy. But Paul Brazeau, UConn's locksmith department supervisor, has the job.

The locksmith department, part of the Division of Public Safety, is responsible for the locks and keys of more than 120 buildings at the Storrs and Depot campuses.

Locksmithing began as the art of shaping and molding small metal pieces to make keys and locks for cabinets, businesses, homes, and cars. Modern locksmiths are responsible for more complex locks, key control systems, and the overall security of a unit.

When the locksmith department at UConn was created in the 1940s, there was just one locksmith. Today, the changing landscape of UConn keeps four of these time locksmiths – each of whom has 20 years or more of locksmith experience – busy.

Eighty-seven major building projects are on the drawing board. Since the start of UConn 2000, and that has added more to the long "to-do" list of those engaged in this craft.

UConn locksmiths attend all construction-related meetings on campus and set standards to ensure that appropriate locks will be used in new and renovated buildings.

It's important to determine what kind of locks will be used before the job starts," Brazeau says. "We talk to the department to find out what they need, and we suggest the locks with the highest level of security that will fit the budget.

August is the busiest time for the locksmiths, as they prepare residence hall locks and keys for students coming to campus in the fall. A dorm room key was not given out until the first day of school, the lock must be replaced.

The locksmith department has plans to re-key all of the nearly 7,000 dorm rooms on campus, to make the doorknobs hand-cap accessible. This summer, the department replaced the 268 locks at Storrs Hall.

If a Husky OneCard is lost, the cardkey system to accept the new Husky OneCards that were distributed at the beginning of the summer. The encryption code on the electronic system had to be changed to match those on the Husky OneCards.

The electronic system has an added security benefit. "We can do an audit trail to track who has unlocked the door if we need to," Brazeau says.

The locksmiths often work closely with the police and fire departments to keep the campus safe by responding to calls when a key is lost or stolen, or when there is a break-in.

"Locksmiths are in regular contact with the police and fire departments, and are considered part of the essential services on campus," says Lauren Barrett, public safety operations manager. "The departments have a history of closely working together. It provides an excellent emergency response system." At least one locksmith is on call 24 hours a day.

"Lost keys, stolen purses, and break-ins can happen at any time," adds Brazeau. "The security of a building is always a priority for us, no matter what time it is. Safety comes first.

Barrett says the department is committed to making sure the right keys are in the right hands. The staff monitors key control records, and ensures that the information on who has access to what places is up-to-date.

"The population of this campus is changing all the time, so we have to be in contact with every department," she says. The department has to stay on top of locksmith know-how, including new equipment and methods as they become available.

"We attend state-of-the-art training and locksmith conventions to keep up with technological changes," says Brazeau. "They often introduce new, time-saving equipment to us." Last year, for example, the locksmiths began working with a key cutter machine that recognizes a key by its serial number, instead of using an actual key to make a copy.

Another device stamps a key automatically with its serial number. Previously, locksmiths had to manually pound the numbers into keys.

Records of serial code numbers for keys, which used to be hand-written, are now computerized. "We streamline the equipment," says Barrett, "so the job is cost effective, less labor intensive, and more efficient."