UConn, community colleges sign new transfer agreement

By Karen A. Grava

Graduates of Connecticut’s community colleges who earn an associate’s degree with at least a B average will be guaranteed admission to UConn through a new program announced Nov. 14.

The Guaranteed Admissions Program will provide Connecticut’s community college students with admission to any UConn campus – Storrs, Avery Point, Greater Hartford, Torrington, Waterbury, or Stamford – provided they complete an associate’s degree and have at least a 3.0 (B) grade point average in a liberal arts or other approved major. Approved majors include agriculture, veterinary technician, and environmental engineering technology.

Students must sign up before they have earned 16 community college credits. They then receive counseling from UConn advisors.

The agreement was signed during a press conference at Manchester Community College by UConn President Michael J. Hogan, and Marc S. Herzog, chancellor of the community college system.

“Connecticut’s investments in all of its systems of higher learning are paying dividends by helping to create our highly skilled workforce,” Gov. M. Jodi Rell said. “Community colleges provide unique, affordable college opportunities to thousands of students throughout our state."

“The Guaranteed Admission Program rewards student achievement by offering an opportunity for students to complete a degree at the University of Connecticut,” Rell added. “These students will have the chance to attain a bachelor’s degree at UConn, and enter the professional workforce as a major contributor to the state’s economy.”

Students admitted to the University will be guaranteed admission, if they meet eligibility requirements for the program.

Eligibility requirements include completing an associate’s degree with at least a 3.0 (B) grade point average in a liberal arts or other approved major.

Approved majors include agriculture, veterinary technician, and environmental engineering technology.

Students admitted to the University can then receive counseling from UConn advisors.

“The Guaranteed Admission Program will provide Connecticut’s community colleges with an opportunity to provide their students with access to the University of Connecticut,” said Hogan. “This agreement will prove very beneficial to Connecticut students, the community colleges and the University of Connecticut, and the state of Connecticut,” said Hogan. “It’s a win-win-win situation. I’m looking forward to seeing the impact this program will have.”

Faculty, students discuss proposed policies for handling cases of academic misconduct

By Elizabeth Omara-Otunnu

A proposal to streamline procedures for handling cases of academic misconduct and centralize the adjudication of such cases was the topic of a public forum organized by the University Senate Scholastic Standards Committee in Komover Auditorium on Nov. 13.

The proposal, available on the Senate website, is an outgrowth of a 2004 report on plagiarism by an ad hoc committee of the Scholastic Standards Committee, said Andrew Moiseff, professor of physiology and neurobiology and chair of the Scholastic Standards Committee.

The committee also recommends the creation of an Academic Hearing Board to adjudicate cases of academic misconduct.

The draft proposal suggests making a notation in the transcript of a student found responsible for academic misconduct that would remain after the student leaves or graduates from the University.

Currently, Moiseff said, a student found to have engaged in academic misconduct can have grade forgiveness, take the course again, and there’s no consequence.

“We’re more of an educational institution than a punitive one,” he said, “but there are egregious cases where quite honestly there is no excuse.”

Cathy Cocks, director of the Office of Community Standards in the Dean of Students Office and one of the panelists at the forum, said that although a faculty member may still resolve a situation of suspected academic misconduct directly with the student under the proposed policy, faculty should report all suspected cases.

“Our office is a warehouse of information,” she said. “Even if you think it’s an isolated situation, by keeping us in the loop we can make sure there’s not a wider pattern of
Four teams of employees who have worked together to improve challenging administrative processes were honored Nov. 16 during a celebration at the Alumni Center. President Michael Hogan and Vice President Barry Feldman addressed the honorees.

The teams are part of the BEST program (Breakthroughs, Excellence, and Success through Teamwork), a joint initiative between the Health Center and the Storrs Campus that seeks to improve services provided to students, patients, faculty, and staff through process improvement teams charged with tackling specific ongoing problems.

The honorees were:

**Emergency Protocol**
Rhoda Averna, Police Services
Kenneth Crowell, Facilities Operations
Julie Elkins, Vice President for Student Affairs Office
Charles Fink, UITS
Karen Grava, University Communications

**Provost**
Vernon Williams, Athletics & Sports Operations

**Special Payroll – Researchers**
Dianne Dalot, Human Resources
James Manderville, UITS
Jennifer Peron, Payroll
Deborah Shelby, CLAS Dean’s Office
Amy Tor, Payroll
Carol Valone, Psychology

**Vendor Payment**
Kristin Allen, Purchasing
Jennie Atkins, Athletics Business Office

**Emergency Protocol – Emeritus**
H. Fred Simons, emeritus and University Professor

**Excellence in Diversity**
Heather Barresi of Enfield and her son Jonah look at a book together during the Connecticut Children’s Book Fair Nov. 11.

### Awards given for diversity achievements

Recipients of the University’s Second Annual Diversity Awards were honored during a reception on Nov. 15. Charlie Nelms, chancellor of North Carolina Central University, gave a keynote address.

The award winners were:

**Special Recognition Award for Excellence in Diversity**
Philip E. Austin, President emeritus and University Professor

**Presidential Award for Excellence in Diversity**
Jack Hasgłosow, member of the Staff Office at the Connecticut State Department of Education

### Process improvement teams honored

Four teams of employees who have worked together to improve challenging administrative processes were honored Nov. 16 during a celebration at the Alumni Center. President Michael Hogan and Vice President Barry Feldman addressed the honorees.

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Heather Barresi of Enfield and her son Jonah look at a book together during the Connecticut Children’s Book Fair Nov. 11.
Survey: Better understanding of long-term care needed

BY CAROLYN PENNINGTON

The results are in from the state’s first long-term care needs assessment program, and they reveal that residents have a lack of understanding about long-term care issues. “People aren’t planning for their future needs,” says Julie Robison, a leader of the Health Center’s research team which conducted the state project, “so they don’t plan because they don’t understand what long-term care is, who needs it, how much it costs, who pays for it, and what choices are available to them.”

The Connecticut Long-Term Care Needs Assessment was authorized in 1996 to assess and study the long-term care services needs of Connecticut’s population. The project, which was conducted by the Health Center in cooperation with the Connecticut Department of Social Services, was completed in 2000. Its purpose is to help the state respond to the looming demand for long-term care services based on demographic trends and in the face of soaring Medicare expenditures. Robison and her team presented their findings during a November 9 meeting of the State’s Health Policy Commissions.

Long-term care encompasses the array of services and supports needed for extended periods by people of all ages who need help due to a disability or chronic illness. More than 6,000 plus residents who responded to the statewide survey believe they will need long-term care some day, but few say they have planned for it and though their life savings could quickly be drained, few are planning ahead.

People of all ages have very little understanding of long-term care, even though the cost of the average 20 month nursing home stay – just one part of a long-term care stay, is $272,000,” says Robison. “Part of the problem is that many people erroneously believe long-term care refers exclusively to nursing home care, particularly for older adults.”

The federal Medicare program provides health care coverage for people 65 years of age and older. It does not cover most long-term care services, including nursing home cost. “The fact is that although almost all of us will require some form of long-term care during our lives, many people believe that they don’t need it, or that Medicare or traditional private health insurance will pay for it,” she says. Robison. “That’s not the case, and the demand for long-term care increases, the public’s lack of understanding reinforces the imminent need for a major educational program along with systemic changes.”

Biologist’s book on amphibians seen as major contribution to field

BY CINDY WEISS

Kentwood Wells keeps a collecting net close at hand, near the door to his office. It is the indispensable tool of his lifelong quest to capture knowledge about amphibians. When he was 12 years old, he began chasing after frogs near his northern Virginia home. As a teenager, he published his first article about toads in the Virginia Herpetological Society newsletter. Now a professor and the department head of ecology and evolutionary biology, he admits that he “never outgrew it.” In fact, he just published what others are calling the definitive book on amphibians. After 20 years in various states – from field notes to chapters to proofs – “The Ecology and Behavior of Amphibians” (University of Chicago Press) has metamorphosed into a five-pound book with 1,150 pages, including 250 pages of references and a 64-page index he prepared himself.

“People aren’t planning for their future needs,” says Kurt Schwenk, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology and a fellow herpetologist, although he mostly studies reptiles rather than amphibians. “It will be the standard reference work on amphibians for several generations of vertebrate biologists,” Schwenk says, “and the Rosetta stone for anyone even remotely interested in the group.”

When Wells started the project, he wrote chapters on a portable electric typewriter, and the biological illustrator at UConn at that time, Mary Jane Spring, used a Selectric, then to a green-screen logical illustrator at UConn at that time, Mary Jane Spring, used a Selectric, then to a green-screen computer and finally to a Mac. “That could be a rude awakening for people who are used to working at a typewriter,” says Wells.

Wells graduated to an IBM Selectric, then to a green-screen mainframe terminal, and wrote out three PCs before he was done. “The second biological illustrator, Virge Kask (Spring retired before the book was finished), converted the early figures to a digital format and prepared many new ones for later chapters.”

“Working on it cut down on my personal life,” says Wells. “It involves helping a frog who communicates to his female tadpole school by bobbing up and down and creating waves to communicate the need to move, perhaps to get more food or to avoid predators.”

This is very sophisticated parental behavior for a frog whose brain is the size of a pencil eraser, he says. Wells began his work in Panama after he earned his Ph.D. at Cornell, with a postdoctoral fellowship with the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. For several years his research in Panama was funded by the National Science Foundation and the National Geographic Society. Locally, Wells finds dense aggregations of American toads to study around the Fenton River, and bullfrogs and green frogs at a farm pond in Lebanon, where he has worked with another of his graduate students, Susan Herrick. Wells, who came to UConn in 1977 and began writing the book in the 1980s, admits that writing such a comprehensive volume “was a sort of taking over your whole life.”

Working on it cut down on the number of journal articles he could write, he says, but it is likely to be a more long-lasting contribution to the field. Reviewer Marty Crump, adjunct professor of biological sciences at Northern Arizona University and a leading amphibian researcher, comments, “the book is truly a masterpiece. Every topic that Wells addresses is a stunning synthesis of the state of our knowledge.”

Flu Vaccination clinic set for Nov. 27

The Student Health Service will be hosting a flu vaccination clinic on Tuesday, Nov. 27, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom.

The clinic is open to all students, faculty, and staff. The cost is $20, cash or check. Students may charge this to their university fee bill. Please bring your University ID Card.
Williams recognized for teaching, mentorship of grad students

BY SHERRY FISHER

Michelle Williams had always thought that teaching was a skill "some people had" – and some people didn't.

"I didn't think that I was one of those people," she says. Williams, an associate professor of psychology and director of clinical training, "had great admiration for teaching and teachers," she says. "I credit my entire academic success to a handful of amazing ones, from elementary school through college. I know what good teaching is. I just never thought I'd be good at it."

That's obviously not the case. Williams recently received an award from the Alumni Association for faculty excellence in teaching at the graduate level.

"When I came to UConn in 1996, it was encouraged by mentors who thought I was well suited for teaching," Williams says. "I say it a lot about faculty who thought I was well suited to be a professor. When I came, I was encouraged by men and women who believed I was the right person for the role with grad students, but says a faculty member's role is to mentor them and watch them evolve as they move from student to junior colleague. "It was my first job," she says. She also has a joint appointment with the Institute for African American Studies.

Williams earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Emory University, and a Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Georgia. For many years, she had considered a career in medicine. After taking her first psychology course at UConn, however, she found her true calling.

Williams enjoys teaching both undergraduate and graduate students, but says a faculty member's role with grad students is more that of a mentor.

"Graduate students come in very eager with a strong set of skills," she says. "You can really mentor them and watch them evolve as they move from student to junior colleague. It's so rewarding to see them in your role just five or six years later."

Williams says that teaching graduate students extends beyond the classroom.

"You're mentoring them in their research, work-life balance, and career decisions," she says. "You're really involved in their lives."

The graduate students that work with Williams seek careers in academia or in clinical settings. When they graduate from the University, they still call her for advice. "The students who are in academic positions still see me as a mentor," she says. "I'm in regular contact with them."

She recalls the words of George Allen, a professor emeritus of psychology who was one of her mentors: "A good mentor is able to envision the future for the person being mentored, understands what is necessary to be successful, and ultimately provides the resources, skills, and opportunities to make the future a reality. Even when the student doesn't believe it is possible, the mentor is absolutely convinced of it."

Williams says her job is "having students believe in that possibility."

"I think of the positive impact on my students that he has had on me, and I would consider myself lucky," Amber Douglas, who is now teaching at Mount Holyoke College, says Williams was a "phenomenal teacher" and "a constant friend. I'll miss him very much."

"He will be remembered for his kindness, caring, and friendship. Bernie always had a caring way," says Lauren LeBlanc, manager of UConn's Office of Travel Services. "He was a good manager – very supportive. He was loved and admired by countless people."

LeBlanc adds, "I'm very glad to have known him for the past 10 years, and especially to have had him as a friend. I'll miss our chats about our grandchildren and our families. I miss him very much."

UConn's controller Paul McDowell describes Celli as "one of the kindest and gentlest people I've ever met. He cared an awful lot about the people who worked for him and with him. He was innovative and did nice things for the University in a quiet way." "We shared each other's weekly events and long-term goals," McDowell adds. "He was a family man. I couldn't ask for a nicer friend. I'll miss him."
Faculty and staff donors are giving ‘close to home’

Of the tens of thousands of donors who support the University of Connecticut each year, few have a more personal connection to the University than the faculty and staff who work for and at UConn every day. The UConn Foundation would like to recognize the more than 1,600 faculty and staff who generously donated a total of $74,000 during the past year to support a variety of academic, research, and cultural programs, including those at the UConn Health Center, the School of Law, and the regional campuses. The total represents a 15 percent increase over 2006. Since the first ‘Close To Home’ Campaign was launched in 2004, annual gifts from faculty and staff have risen 23 percent.

The focus of the faculty/staff campaign is primarily on unrestricted gifts, which provide the most immediate and effective sources of funding to address critical and time-sensitive needs at the University.

During the past year, such contributions have benefited undergraduate scholarships, graduate fellowships, study abroad programs, internships, guest speakers, First Year and Senior Year Experience programs, advanced laboratories, and modern classrooms, to name a few. The Close To Home Campaign also accomplishes another key objective: to demonstrate to others outside the University community and across the state that those employed at the University feel strongly enough about the importance of their work to personally invest in its successful outcomes. That is an endorsement that captures the attention of other potential donors, as well as the leadership of the state.

The 2008 Close to Home Campaign was launched recently, with ambitious goals for dollars to be raised and rates of faculty and staff participation. There has never been a better time to show your support for UConn.

Thank you to the following faculty and staff for your support during the 2007 Close to Home Campaign!

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The 2007 Close to Home volunteer committee, from left: M. Kevin Fahey, senior associate director of student activities; Stuart Sidney, professor of mathematics; William Stwalley, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Physics; and Katrina Gable, alumni and community relations coordinator, School of Nursing.
“As dean of the pharmacy school, one of my responsibilities is to seek private contributions to support the teaching, research, and professional activities of our students and faculty. In order to be credible with potential donors, it’s essential that I demonstrate my commitment to our school’s mission by personally supporting our development efforts.”

Robert McCarthy, Dean, School of Pharmacy
I am extremely thankful to be part of this wonderful university. My specific passion is to support undergraduate student involvement in leadership development and civic engagement. It is very rewarding to establish an endowment fund to support students. It gives me a sense of connection and pride that only giving can provide.
"It is important for faculty and staff to support UConn, not only in gratitude for the support we’ve received and not only to buttress our own programs, but also in order to lead by example. When the University makes its case for support, that case will be much more convincing if it is known we feel strongly enough to allocate personal resources to the cause."

Stuart Sidney, Professor of Mathematics
Humanitarianism program starting to take shape under new director

**By Cindy Weiss**

Alexis Dudden, director of the new Foundations of Humanitarianism program, faces the challenge of defining a concept that defies neat description.

What is humanitarianism, and what is its scope? “To be responsible as a human member of society toward another human member of society,” Dudden says. “It involves the wider trajectories of Western Enlightenment and thought and 20th-century global thought.”

Dudden, who this fall joined the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences as an associate professor of history, and Kerry Bystrom, associate director of the program and a new assistant professor of English, will gather and develop programs and recruit other faculty around campus to focus on humanitarianism.

Determining how to approach the subject may take months, however, because of its broad range. One certainty for Dudden is the relevance of her charge in a world facing so many humanitarian crises.

The Foundations program will take up questions of how to respond to a humanitarian crisis, but it will also recognize the history behind the crisis, she says.

The program will host outside speakers and conferences. Its first speaker, Christopher Gunnness, spokesperson for the UN Relief Work Agency in Gaza and a former BBC reporter, will talk about “Chaos and Refugees” on Dec. 6 at 4 p.m. at the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. His talk will precede the Jorgensen production of a play, Pentecost, directed by dramatic arts professor and department head Gary English, which explores similar themes.

Foundations of Humanitarianism grew out of a successful 2005 Provost’s Grant Competition proposal by Richard Wilson, the Gladstein Distinguished Chair in Human Rights and director of the Human Rights Institute, and Richard Brown, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of History and director of the Humanities Institute, to provide a program for research and teaching that focused on the humanities-based origin of human rights work.

It was designed to enrich and expand the undergraduate curriculum in human rights, diversity, and global studies; to increase scholarship by faculty; and to promote interdisciplinary connections among faculty from all humanities disciplines.

Its first international conference, “Humanitarian Narratives of Involuntary Suffering,” was held here one year ago. The conference proceedings will soon be published by Cambridge University Press.

“Many of universities now have human rights programs, but one of the measures that distinguishes the University of Connecticut’s from the others is the strength and depth of scholarship and teaching in the humanities,” says Wilson.

Brown adds, “We want to emphasize the extent to which human rights is rooted in humanitarian ideology: That includes literature and the arts, and areas that some human rights programs do not cover.”

Dudden said she wants Foundations of Humanitarianism to include a broad range of faculty. “Everyone is invited,” she says.

Dudden left a post as associate professor at Connecticut College because she sees her new role as “a once-in-a-lifetime chance to try to define a bigger question.”

Foundations in Humanitarianism will provide a means for faculty and graduate students “to engage in intellectual exchanges outside disciplines and programs and outside the responsibilities of teaching,” she says. That, in turn, will improve their teaching. “The Foundation’s center” is a table next to Dudden’s desk in the History Department at Wood Hall.

“New cross-disciplinary programs always begin with a small table,” she jokes. Hes is laden with books that she is reading to prepare for her task. “Both Kerry and I are very interested in the question of how to take up humanitarianism,” she says.

Dudden’s research interests are modern Japanese and Korean history. She has studied in both countries and is fluent in Japanese and knowledgeable in Korean. She earned her master’s and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Chicago and her bachelor’s degree from Columbia University. She is teaching Korean and Japanese history at UConn, with a focus on questions of human rights and whether they differ from humanitarianism.

Dudden is about to publish a book, Troubled Apologies, on “the cultures of amnesia” in Japan and the U.S. since 1945 that have kept the U.S. from apologizing for bombing Nagasaki and Hiroshima and Japan from apologizing for its wartime actions on the ground in Asia.

One of the objects in her new office is a toy Viewmaster slide viewer, sent to her by a former graduate student who had visited Los Alamos. Blazed across the souvenier viewer is its topic, “Atomic Tests in 3D.” It may provide a point of reference for a Foundations of Humanitarianism discussion.

Speaker says efforts to reduce human trafficking ineffective

**By Sherry Fisher**

An international monitoring project designed to combat human trafficking is flawed, according to Brown University anthropology professor Kay Warren.

Warren made her remarks during this year’s Robert G. Mead Jr. Lecture, held in the Student Union Theatre on Nov. 8. The lecture, on human trafficking around the world, was part of the University’s celebration of International Week.

Warren is the Charles R. Tillinghast Jr. ’62 Professor in International Studies at Brown, where she directs the Politics, Culture, and Identity Program at the Watson Institute for International Studies.

She said a Trafficking in Persons program (TIP) was created by the U.S. State Department to measure countries’ levels of compliance with international norms in what are called TIP reports. However, she says, the TIP program lacks the measures needed for accurate results.

She defined human trafficking as “the international recruitment and transportation of individuals, especially women and children, which involves some form of coercion with the goal of exploitation for financial gain.”

Any form of labor could be the subject of trafficking, she said, but “in practice, there has been a much narrower understanding of trafficking, which focuses mostly on women and children and sexual exploitation.” The Colombia-to-Japan trade fits into this category.

Women, mostly in their 20s, are recruited from Colombia to go to Japan for the country’s sex entertainment industry, she said. “That may range from anything from bar hostessing and waiting tables at all, to what would be regarded as coercive and violent sexual exploitation,” said Warren.

“The TIP reports are widely circulated four-tier rankings designed to reward those judged to be in full compliance and to sanction those that fail both to recognize human trafficking and to embrace the global discipline combating this transnational crime,” Warren said.

“Analyzes show how state policies and practices in Colombia and Japan have reworked American standards in striking ways—being that these and other countries jockey to keep their U.S. State Department rankings high,” she said. “It’s hysterical to watch in practice.”

She said that countries take the protocol and “try to change it with another national, domestic agenda. The protocol actually morphs in this process. It might, for instance, take on a new identity as an anti-immigrant vehicle.”

“Even as these countries are trying to play with this imposition from the U.S. government, they also want high rankings,” she said. “Everyone wants to be a tier 1.”

Colombia, a source country for trafficking, has a high tier ranking, Warren said, noting that it is “working very hard to reform its morals.”

Japanese, on the other hand, through 2004, was ranked tier 2. “It hurt their reputation,” Warren said. “Japan is the second largest economy in the world. It’s a sophisticated place.”

But it has been hard for Japan to move out of tier 2 status, Warren said. “Japan has a one billion dollar sex entertainment industry. It’s part of their corporate culture.”

She said the global estimate of 600,000 to 800,000 trafficking victims each year has been used in government reports as a measure of a global tragedy, but asked, “Where did those numbers come from? There was no methodology.”

She asked, “Is criminal disorder actually defeated by these anti-trafficking processes? It’s not clear to me. Anti-trafficking policies have had important effects on state policies through the legal system, but it’s unclear to me that they have had very effective consequences for transnational organized crime.”

Added Warren, “The issue is: Would there be another way to measure, and another kind of methodology, that one could develop that would target the criminals?”
### GRANTS

The following grants were received through the Office for Sponsored Programs (OSP) in September 2007. The list represents only new proposals awarded, and excludes continuations. Additional grants received through OSP in September will be published in a future issue.

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<tr>
<th>Prin. Investigator</th>
<th>Department</th>
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*Source: University of Connecticut, Office of Dean of Business and Gampel Pavilion.*

*Photo by Frank Dahlmeyer.*
Monday, November 26, to Monday, December 3

**CALENDAR**

The Bloomberg Library orchestra will perform a holiday concert at Jorgensen on Dec. 1. See Performing Arts.

**Meetings**


**Lectures & Seminars**


**Events**

Through Wednesday, 12/5 – Celebrate LeWitt Gallery, Movement and Light Festival. Featuring works by Richard Serra and Levinson Realities, by John Lanzoni. Daily, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Health Center.


Through Sunday, 12/6 – Chamber Music Festival Opening Recital. National violinist R.Heavey and Grammy Award-winning violinist James Dunham to perform. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Tickets, $10. Sunday, 12/6 – Chamber Music Festival and Master Classes. All day festival, featuring coaching sessions, master classes with R.Heavey and James Dunham, UConn faculty performance, festival orchestra reading session, and festival concert. $25 for each member of an ensemble. 9 a.m.-9 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall.

Friday, 11/30 – "Yule Be Swingin’", jazz sotet, Lab Band, and Jazz Combos. Ear Malcolmson, John Mazzuozini, Kenny Smith and Bill Goulds; directors. An evening of holiday classic in von der Mehden Recital Hall. General admission $7, students and children free with ID.

**Performing Arts**

Tuesday, 11/27 – Chamber Music Ensemble. Kangho Lee, director. 7:30 p.m., Freitas Ice Forum. General admission $7, students and children free with ID.


Saturday, 12/1 – Chamber Music Festival Opening Recital. National violinist R.Heavey and Grammy Award-winning violinist James Dunham to perform. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Tickets, $10. Sunday, 12/2 – Chamber Music Festival and Master Classes. All day festival, featuring coaching sessions, master classes with R.Heavey and James Dunham, UConn faculty performance, festival orchestra reading session, and festival concert. $25 for each member of an ensemble. 9 a.m.-9 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall.

Friday, 11/30 – "Yule Be Swingin’", jazz sotet, Lab Band, and Jazz Combos. Ear Malcolmson, John Mazzuozini, Kenny Smith and Bill Goulds; directors. An evening of holiday classic in von der Mehden Recital Hall. General admission $7, students and children free with ID.

**Pootpuri**

Tuesday, 11/27 – Wear Red Day. Show support for World AIDS Week and wear red today.
Accounting majors try their hand at investigating tax fraud

By David Bauman

“Special tax agents” Joe García and Demetrios Psafogios – whose day jobs are studying accounting at UConn’s School of Business – recently found themselves across a table from Chris Shots, owner of Cheaters Bar, who was trying to sell them his business for $3.2 million.

Shots was detailing how he pocketed $1,000 a night from his cash-only bar and was still able to file annual tax returns showing gross profits in excess of $1.1 million. What the bar owner didn’t know was that an hour earlier, an informer ratted on his defrauding ways to his would-be buyers, the two students playing the role of undercover tax agents.

As the conversation progressed, García and Psafogios deftly teased out of Shots that he owed taxes, that he had failed to report all his income, and that his plan to defraud the government was intentional – all elements the “agents” would need in order to take the case to trial.

“Crimes with accounting! Not everyone at the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has a desk job. Some special agents from the Criminal Investigation Division of the IRS have more in common with famous FBI agent Eliot Ness than with regular accountants. Just as Agent Ness fought the notorious mobster Al Capone on tax evasion charges, the special IRS agents – known as certified forensic examiners – use a combination of high-tech resources and old-fashioned sleuthing to investigate tax fraud in order to catch cheats, drug dealers, money launderers, and terrorist financiers.

That’s what the IRS was trying to demonstrate to 25 UConn accounting students last week, by hosting a mock fraud investigation of several crime scene scenarios using teams of accounting students to try and solve the crimes.

The program, known as the Adrian Project, teaches accounting students the investigative techniques of an agent, said JoAnn Zuniga, head of the IRS Criminal Investigation Boston Field Office. The agency’s Criminal Investigation Division has more than 100 special agents located in the Northeast investigating not only tax crimes, but also money laundering and financial reporting crimes, she said.

“One day’s event gives these students the opportunity to begin to think like a special agent,” Zuniga said. “They need to be creative in asking questions that will make an investigation progress, and creative in deciding what needs to be done to complete an investigation.”

This is the first time the IRS has hosted the event in Connecticut, said Cliff Nelson, assistant professor of accounting. Since the scenarios were designed to draw on the students’ accounting knowledge, training, and logic to solve the cases, all the participants were accounting majors in their junior or senior year.

“The program gives students a great opportunity to learn what a fraud investigator does,” Nelson said. “It also gives them a chance to take charge in a simulated situation.”

As part of the day-long program, 14 IRS special agents played roles in the mock fraud investigation, such as Chris Shots in the Cheaters Bar. In their cameo roles, the hard-nosed real-life agents dodged questions and verbally argued and fought with the student agents, giving the scenarios an extra air of reality.

Besides Cheaters Bar, other scenarios involved a race track gambler, a drug dealer, a money launderer, and a mail clerk involved in fraud. The simulations involved digging through trash for bank statements, anonymous phone calls, surveillance, witness interrogations, and executing search warrants.

“We try to create situations that mimic real life crime scenes,” said special agent Richard Murray of the IRS field office in Hartford. “The play-acting agents will lie and act out, and the students must keep their cool and ask the right questions. We guide them, but it isn’t a cakewalk.”

The collaboration between the IRS and UConn is part of a continuing effort by the IRS to show that the agency works in ways people don’t usually think about, said Zuniga. The IRS Criminal Investigation Division is the only federal agency authorized to investigate tax fraud, money laundering, and health care fraud. And since Sept. 11, 2001, the agency has devoted a significant amount of resources to investigating terrorist financing, she said.

Zuniga said the Adrian Project is a good recruitment tool for the IRS, but added that the agency receives thousands of applications annually. The job requires a college degree in business and applicants must be older than 23. Beginning salaries range between $55,000 and $60,000.

“We don’t do a lot of publicity,” she said. “Many people don’t even know there is a criminal investigation division in the IRS.

Accounting major Ashley Ferrara, president of the Beta Alpha Psi accounting society, which worked with the IRS to bring the program to UConn, called the hands-on interactions and life-like simulations an “eye-opening” experience.

“We were living in a story instead of just taking notes in a classroom,” said Ferrara, who intends to seek a career in forensic accounting. “This is what it’s really like.”

Community colleges continued from page 1

to working with Marc Herzog and our community colleges as we open opportunities for four-year degrees to more of our young people.”

The program follows a successful pilot program that enabled students from three community colleges – Three Rivers, Manchester, and Quinebaug Valley – to enroll in liberal arts programs at UConn’s Storrs campus. Since the start of the pilot program in 2004, the Guaranteed Admissions Program has grown to 140 students enrolled at community colleges and 18 students enrolled at UConn.

The new agreement extends the program to all 22 community colleges and all six UConn campuses. This agreement represents a major expansion of opportunity for community college students,” said Herzog. “Each year, the open doors of community colleges offer thousands of students access to the many opportunities provided by higher education – academic success, personal development, improved earning potential and career advancement, and a better life for themselves, their families, and the communities in which they live.

“We’re very grateful to the University, its leaders, the leaders of our ‘pioneer’ colleges, and all those who developed, implement ed, fine tuned, and expanded the agreement beyond its beginnings in 2004,” Herzog added. “Now the door to opportunity has been opened for the benefit of all Connecticut’s students, who can enjoy a streamlined transfer process and effective support services.

Students who do not participate in the Guaranteed Admissions Program may still be eligible to transfer to UConn through a competitive transfer process.

UConn community urged to send in charitable pledges

By Richard Veilleux

With only a few days remaining before the close of the 2007 Connecticut State Employee Charitable Campaign, employees at the UConn Health Center and the Storrs campus were closing in on their goals – and each other. By Nov. 15, 475 employees at the Storrs campus had contributed $113,347, less than $25,000 short of the goal set by Laura Davis Shea, Storrs campus campaign coordinator. At the Health Center, 659 employees had contributed $103,359. Totals from the regional campuses were not available.

“Faculty and staff at the Storrs campus traditionally come through near the end of the campaign, and even a little after,” says Shea. “With President Hogan’s genuine support, I have absolute confidence that as a community we will not only meet but exceed our goals.”

Shea says it’s important for donors to send in their pledge cards by Nov. 30 so state officials will have time to process the payroll deduction forms before the first pay period in 2008. Contributions are still welcomed after Nov. 30, she says, but the payroll deduction will not apply to all 26 paychecks.

Planning continues for a reception on Jan. 17, at the UConn Foundation building, for all Storrs employees who have donated to the campaign. The last six drawings will be conducted during that event, with prizes including a one-year Area 1 parking pass. A football signed by Coach Randy Edsall will also be given away during that drawing.

The statewide goal for the 2007 campaign is $1.9 million.