Homeland security program receives federal funds

The Department of Homeland Security has awarded a $1,334,200 competitive training grant to the Center for Continuing Studies at UConn.

The Center will develop and deliver a Collaborative Leadership in Homeland Security program for state and local homeland security senior and emerging leaders nationwide during the three-year project period, which began Oct. 1.

Roy Pietro, executive director of academic partnerships and special programs in the Center for Continuing Studies, says the purpose of the training program is to "develop a new breed of homeland security leaders, equipped with requisite critical thinking skills and collaborative leadership abilities."

This will allow them to make effective strategic planning and incident management decisions on issues and challenges impacting the security of all Americans."

The eight-week leadership development program will consist of three phases: a two-week web-based state and local homeland security crisis leadership simulation focusing on a pandemic flu scenario; a one-week mobile leadership lab designed to develop collaborative leadership and critical thinking in homeland security; and a five-week web-based class on collaborative leadership in action.

During the project period, the Center for Continuing Studies will offer the program 15 times, to a total of 660 participants. Each session will be attended by a cohort of 44 emerging and senior leaders who work in homeland security related areas.

Pietro and his staff have played a key role in the Center for Continuing Studies’ substantial commitment to the field of homeland security education. In 2001, they created a leadership development program for the Department of Homeland Security’s Customs and Border Protection Unit that was selected for a multi-year contract award.

In 2003, they signed a multi-year agreement with Connecticut’s Department of Public Safety to develop and manage a new Homeland Security Education Center for the state. In 2004, Pietro and his staff oversaw the planning and evaluation of Connecticut’s security to develop and manage a new Home Security Education Center for the state.

Linguistics department part of prestigious international research consortium

By Elizabeth Omara-Odumu

When Professor Mamoru Saito was looking for institutional partners to form an international consortium on linguistics, UConn was one of five he chose from around the world.

“We listed the top linguistics programs in the world, and contacted five of them,” says Saito, a professor of linguistics at Nanzan University in Japan, who heads the consortium and had collaborated with UConn researchers previously.

The consortium, which is funded by the Japanese government, has six participating institutions: the University of Cambridge, the University of Hyderabad, India; Nanzan University; the University of Siena, Italy; Tsing Hua University, Taiwan; and UConn.

"Each of the consortium participants has an excellent linguistics program and an impressive group of researchers,” says Saito. "We are now doing even better by combining forces."

"The UConn linguistics program is the most established among the six,” he adds, "and its participation makes the consortium very attractive."

In establishing the consortium, says UConn linguistics professor Diane Lillo-Martin, the Japanese “wanted to replicate what happens naturally here, having a large number of international students work together on projects and make comparisons across languages. At other universities, there are not so many international students. The consortium creates a ‘meta-department,’ a large department in the sense that students and faculty work together and get together at certain times in different places.”

The UConn linguistics department has nine faculty members and up to 30 Ph.D. students. It does not award master’s or bachelor’s degrees, but offers a number of general education courses and joint undergraduate majors in linguistics and psychology and linguistics and philosophy.

“The linguistics department is actively promoting international opportunities for doctoral students,” says William Snyder, department head, “and is being recognized on the international scene as a leader in doctoral education in the field of linguistics.”
Two student organizations recognized

Two UConn student organizations, The Daily Campus newspaper and the Student Union Board of Governors (SUBOG), have been recognized.


Convention Best of Show awards are on-site competitions open only to those publications attending each convention. Best of Show entries consist of one copy of a newspaper from the current school year.

In the four-year daily broadsheet category, first place went to The Daily Tar Heel, of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. The Daily Titan, of California State University, Fullerton, took second place.

SUBOG received the Excellence in Programming award at the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA) regional conference held in Hartford Nov. 1-3. This is the first year SUBOG has entered the competition.

The awards are made in categories based on school size, with UConn in the ‘large school’ category of more than 7,500 undergraduates.

Before the conference, schools had to submit an online booklist of their top five programs from the past year. Each program needed to include the advertising method used, budget, audience reaction and overall rating of the event, and any other gimmicks.

Of those who submitted their books, three schools from each school size category were chosen to present their events to a panel of judges and fellow programmers during the conference. The scores were based on a combination of diversity in programming, creativity, use of resources, adherence to the presentation rules, and the quality of the programs overall.

Donations requested for charity drive

A “Stuff the Bus” collection to benefit the Covenant Soup Kitchen in Willimantic will take place during the week beginning Dec. 10.

“Covenant Soup Kitchen assists shut-ins, families, the elderly, veterans, and children,” says Janet Freniere, an administrator in UConn’s transportation services department, which is hosting the charity drive. “Most of those people rely on the soup kitchen to survive from day to day and week to week.

Freniere says the department will collect children’s books and toys, personal care items, and some non-perishable foods.

A green, decorated van will be set up on Hillside Road, directly across from the UConn Co-op, each day Dec. 10-14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain, snow, or shine.

Departments may also collect items internally. Those items can be picked up by Mail Services, by leaving them in the immediate vicinity of the outgoing mail box in the department. For large full boxes, call Freniere at 860-486-4804 to arrange for pick up.

Needed items include:

- Children’s books, puzzles, board games, dolls, stuffed animals, coloring books and crayons, trucks and cars.
- Personal care items, including shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, disposable razors, shaving cream, toilet paper, soap, hats and gloves, scarves, and warm socks.
- Non-perishable foods will also be accepted, but personal care items are needed most.

If anyone would like to donate items – instead or as well – to troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, Freniere works with two support groups, Soldiers Angels and Silver Star Families of America, sending items to troops overseas or to wounded veterans at Walter Reed Hospital.

Donated items intended for troops and veterans should be labeled as such, as everything will be picked up together. Breakables, liquids, and aerosol cans are not recommended for sending overseas.

Needed items include:

- Prepaid international phone cards
- Travel-size board games, handheld electronic games, playing cards
- Bandana coolers/cool-ties, mini battery-operated fans
- Hand and foot warmers and socks
- Commercially wrapped individual packets of trail mix, beef jerky, nuts, energy bars, sunflower seeds, candy
- Ready to eat tuna or chicken salad kits
- Small tins of cookies
- Packets of powdered cold beverages
- Commercially sealed lip balm
- Roll-on deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes
- Most towelettes
- Travel-size containers of foot powder and other toiletries
- Soap, baby wipes, etc.
- Blank holiday greeting cards, for troops to send
- Magazines and paperback books (new and used)

Please call or e-mail Freniere at Janet.Freniere@uconn.edu for more information.

Provost announces 2007 Outreach Award-winners

The winners of this year’s Awards for Excellence in Outreach and Public Engagement were announced by Provost Peter J. Nicholls during a reception Nov. 27, in the Wilbur Cross North Reading Room. The reception was preceded by a poster display outside the North Reading Room featuring the accomplishments of the finalists.

The winners were:

- Faculty Award
  - Tessa Getchis, College of Agriculture & Natural Resources, Department of Extension, Avery Point.
  - Getchis has developed programs to enhance aquaculture and marine ecology, was appointed to serve on a NOAA Marine Aquaculture committee in 2007, and has presented her work at the National Shellfisheries Association.

- Staff Award
  - Clinton Moritz, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Storrs.
  - Moritz, plant growth facilities manager, organizes greenhouse tours that bring in more than 2,000 formal tour participants and close to 4,500 other individuals to visit the collections each year. His efforts helped bring more than 22,000 people to campus when the Titan Arum bloomed. He hosted the 2007 annual meeting of the Association of Educational & Research Greenhouse Curators, has facilitated exchanges of plant material with more than 170 institutions throughout the U.S., and maintains a web site that is a vital resource for botanical researchers, educators, and gardeners.

- Program Award
  - Husky Sport, Neag School of Education, Kinesiology Department, Storrs.
  - Husky Sport is a program that connects UConn students and student-athletes with youth in Hartford’s North End. Created four years ago by Jennifer Brunen, associate professor of sport management and sociology, the program has sponsored hundreds of after-school days, physical education classes, and sponsored more than a dozen field trips. The Hartford students learn to live healthier, more productive lives, while the UConn students and faculty grow professionally.

- Graduate Student Award
  - Theodore Van Alst, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Comparative Literature & Cultural Studies Program, Storrs.
  - Van Alst, a Ph.D. candidate in modern and classical languages, is also program coordinator for the Native American Cultural Society. He is an advocate for the Native American students on our campus and, as a result of his work, the University has begun to solidify its ties with the local native communities. He has also mastered the Lakota language and designed several courses here at UConn in Native American Studies.

- Undergraduate Student Award
  - Christopher Soares, Student Activities, Community Outreach, Storrs.
  - Soares is a senior majoring in molecular and cell biology. He has worked to establish a stronger relationship between UConn and the Connecticut Special Olympics by establishing the inaugural Husky Classic Special Olympics Soccer Tournament. He also has served as a leader with the Alternative Breaks program; last spring break, he led a healthcare-focused trip to Philadelphia, this year, he will lead a trip – his fourth – to New Orleans to help with the rebuilding efforts.

Each award-winner receives a $1,000 allocation to financial aid or a department account. These funds may then be used to further develop and enhance outreach and public engagement efforts across the institution.
Huskies invited to bowl game Dec. 29

The UConn football team has accepted a bid to play in the 2007 Meineke Car Care Bowl.

The bowl will be played on Saturday, Dec. 29, at 1 p.m. at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte, N.C., home of the NFL's Carolina Panthers. "The game will be broadcast live on ESPN," the Huskies' opponent, a team from the Atlantic Coast Conference, will soon be announced.

"UConn will be making its second bowl appearance," remembers Evelyn Morgen, "because we are part of the Atlantic Coast Conference," says library director Chris DeFrancesco.

"Library welcomes the addition of the Hartford Medical Society in Tolland in the early and mid-1800s," related to both the academic community and the general public, "says Renee Drabier, assistant vice president and director of the Hartford Medical Society on the history of medicine. "Fortunately, the historical thrust of our collections is very compatible with UConn's commitment to the history of medicine and to the humanities in medicine. Therefore, housing our collections at the UConn Health Center, with its academic environment and sophisticated information technology, is a natural fit." Dr. Bruce Kooppen, dean of academic affairs and education at the UConn Health Center, says, "These one-of-a-kind articles, books and journals are really Connecticut treasures. It's great that we'll be able to preserve this valuable collection."

"The Health Center also will provide space for the Society's continuing education initiatives for physicians," the Society is bearing the cost of renovation, relocation, and maintenance of its collection, and will reimburse UConn for the salary and benefits paid to the librarian to be added as part of the agreement.

"This is an important collaboration with the Hartford Medical Society on the history of medicine, and bringing the Society's collection here will make it more available to the public," says Renee Drabier, assistant vice president of health informatics, it was the physician members of the Hartford Medical Society that supported programs at UConn; "I'm proud to say we've been a strong message that UConn fans travel in large numbers to support their team at bowl games."

Grant to support training in oceans, human health

"The Lyman Maynard Stowe Medal from Smithsonian Institute awarded to train future scientists, and in turn, human populations that depend on them for food, revenue, and employment."

The goal is to train the next generation of scientists to work in the field of oceans and human health. "The network we are establishing involves scientists with expertise in such topics as molecular biology, shellfish physiology and ecology, immunology, fish ecology, environmental science, physical oceanography, and marine-mammal biology," Ward says. "The traineeship program also covers public awareness and outreach, public health, and environmental health. It will allow an exchange of ideas and research among scientists who often do not have the opportunity to collabo-

The training will be offered to Ph.D.-level graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, starting in spring 2008.

Author Tomie dePaola receives children's literature award from UConn Libraries

The Thomas J. Dodd Research Center awarded the inaugural Northeast Children's Literature Collection Distinguished Service Award to renowned children's book author and illustrator Tomie dePaola during a ceremony on Nov. 10.

"The award, which will be given periodically, recognizes an individual's or organization's distinguished and long-standing contribution to the field of children's literature, and their support and contribution to the Northeast Children's Literature Collection. dePaola, a native of Meriden, is the author of Strigs Nons and 26 Fairmount Avenue, winners of the American Library Association's Caldecott and Newberry Honors respectively, and more than 200 other children's books. His books have been translated into more than a dozen languages and he has more than 6 million books in print. dePaola has received the Smithsonian Award for outstanding contributions to the history of children's literature and the Regina Medal from the Catholic Library Association. UConn awarded him an honorary degree in 1999. dePaola donated manuscripts, drawings, and papers representing his creative output to the Northeast Children's Literature Collection in 1999. He has provided support for its organization and continues to add material on a regular basis."

The award is "very compatible with UConn's historic treasures of the healing profession," related to the Hartford Medical Society. "Fortunately, the historical thrust of our collections is very compatible with UConn's commitment to the history of medicine and to the humanities in medicine," says Dr. Bruce Kooppen, dean of academic affairs and education at the UConn Health Center, with its academic environment and sophisticated information technology, is a natural fit." Dr. Bruce Kooppen, dean of academic affairs and education at the UConn Health Center, says, "These one-of-a-kind articles, books and journals are really Connecticut treasures. It's great that we'll be able to preserve this valuable collection."

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Health Center to house Hartford Medical Society's historical collection

The Hartford Medical Society, established in 1846, provides educational programs for professionals in the fields of medicine, dentistry, history, and the arts by offering lectures, seminar/roundtable study sessions, and preserving historic treasuries of the healing professions.
Anthropologist’s book analyzes impact of globalization on sugar cane workers

by KAREN SINGER

They live in primitive barracks and earn a pittance, toiling for hours in the blistering heat as sugar cane cutters in the Dominican Republic. Yet despite their circumstances, says Samuel Martínez, these Haitian migrant workers are as eager as residents in more affluent societies to acquire consumer goods and pursue gratification beyond their basic needs. Such desires, he contends, “are being promoted by global media, and also play into a deep-seated human fascination—perhaps even a need—to transcend the limits of the mundane, to dream beyond reality.”

Martínez, an associate professor of anthropology, studies Haitian migrants living in the Dominican Republic. He began the research for his doctoral dissertation, looking at migrant workers living in a company compound called Monte Coca. At the low end of the social ladder, they are targeted for abuse, and far worse than the Haitian nationals who live there year-round, amid the permanent Dominican residents. During the past two decades, he has expanded its scope to include other groups making up the compound’s social hierarchy.


“Payday weekend bingeing, home decorations . . . and desires for consumer durables such as television sets and refrigerators are not expenditures that we in the more prosperous countries of the world readily associate with people living in dire poverty,” says Martínez, “and yet you see all these and other company compounds and impoverished neighborhoods in the Dominican Republic and elsewhere in the so-called Third World.”

Their aspirations are reflected, to some extent, in photographs Martínez took of the people he studied. In exchange for being allowed to take candid photos of their daily lives, he also took “beauty shots” staged by the interviewees, which he gave to them. The two types of photo often show a very different picture. In one instance, Martínez recalls, so many possessions were crammed into the room, including a TV set and glass-fronted display cabinet with china figures, that they almost seemed to be crowding the owner to the edge of the picture.

During repeated visits to Monte Coca, Martínez has observed that people’s expectations of what constitutes a good life have grown, while at the same time there’s been a construction of what their declining incomes can buy them, as well as an increased level of economic inequality among the mass of working people. Although free market reform and divestment from sugar production have provided more economic opportunities, other work doesn’t pay much better. “With increases in already shocking levels of poverty has come a coarsening of the social fabric,” says Martínez, “with people turning their backs on the proletarian ethic of living as equals and moving to Monte Coca and other capital, to engage in some pretty terrible ways of exploiting each other, the stronger taking advantage of the more vulnerable, as well as reaching for commodified dreams of a better life, as advertised through electronic communications media.”

Martínez says his research adds to growing anthropological literature on cultural globalization by looking beyond the motivations social researchers usually ascribe to expenditures beyond utility, and noting evidence that these consumer aspirations respond also to people’s needs to transcend the limits of the mundane.

“What I’m bringing to this debate is an appeal to consider not only custom and thought, but also relations between people and the texture of everyday life as domains on which globalization may have an impact,” he says. “Even though local culture may retain much of its distinctiveness, as reflected in annual rituals like Rara (a voodoo-inspired, carnival-like Lenten festival featuring band processions, lavish costumes, competitive dancing, and participants in a trance and other heightened states of emotion), economic decline—paired with proliferating consumer aspirations—divides communities into haves and have-nots, with worsening levels of exploitation and violence.”

Martínez last visited the area in spring 2007 for Rara, a Haitian tradition, and was surprised to notice the Dominican flag prominently carried in the parades. “I can’t help but see that as a reflection of a larger trend that has taken shape,” he says, “for people of Haitian ancestry to proclaim that they belong to the Dominican nation, even though the festival is Haitian.”

That emerging “Haitian-Dominican” identity has been the main focus of Martínez’s research since 2002. He has been studying Haitian-Dominican rights organizations, which work at the local level to help people identify and solve their problems.

In his next book, to be titled “The Onion of Oppression,” Martínez will take his lead from these organizations’ “broad spectrum human rights agenda,” to examine the Haitian-Dominicans’ interlocking economic, social, cultural, and political/civil rights challenges.

Comparative research

The consortium’s research focus is on language acquisition and syntactic theory, both areas of specialization at UConn. Saito says comparative research is very important in the field of linguistics.

“As the goal of linguistics is to uncover the nature of the innate language faculty, unique to humans, comparative research plays an important role,” he says. “For this reason, important projects of ten take the form of international joint research. The main purpose of the consortium is to provide an opportunity for graduate students to get training in this kind of research.”

Since its founding in 2006, the consortium has held four joint graduate seminars and seven workshops with graduate students. Each institution has hosted at least one event. Sometimes all the members meet; at other times, meetings are held for subgroups working on particular projects. Participants also communicate with each other on an ongoing basis through e-mail. The working language is English.

Last spring, four UConn doctoral students attended a workshop in Japan on the topic of language acquisition. They were selected partly on the relevance of their research, and partly on the basis of a written proposal outlining how they would contribute and how they expected to benefit.

Natasha Rakhlin, a former Ph.D. student who has since graduated, gave a presentation on how children acquire an understanding of English sentences with quantifiers.

“The Onion of Oppression,” Martínez says, “is an example of how this program is making a difference in students’ lives. I’m looking to continue to build on the work that we’ve already done, and I’m really happy to see the impact it’s been making.”

Lillo-Martín says participating in international research collaborations will help UConn graduate students in their careers. Not only will they be better qualified to apply for academic jobs but they can ask for letters of recommendation from faculty in the consortium.

Saito, “I am sure that they will continue to collaborate even after they complete their Ph.D.s, and not only in research but also in the development of the international research community.”
Students can often identify a teacher or two who shepherded them through their academic careers and shaped their thinking for decades to come. For UConn political science professor J. Garry Cliffords, a book of essays seemed like the perfect way to thank just such a mentor, one who taught him a great deal about the art of researching and writing diplomatic history.

President, Diplomats, and Other Mortals (University of Missouri Press), published this summer and co-edited by Clifford, is a tribute to Robert Ferrell, a well-known historian of American foreign relations. Ferrell taught diplomatic history for many years at Indiana University and was a visiting professor at UConn in the mid-1960s.

The book, called a Festschrift German for "celebration" and "writing" contains more than a dozen essays by Ferrell’s students and colleagues that explore American diplomacy in diverse times, places, and situations. The essays fit well, Clifford says, with UConn’s approach toward writing diplomatic history.

Retired professors Louis Gerson, Thomas Paterson, Imanuel Wexler, and Edmund Wehrle, as well as two current professors, Frank Costigliola and now President Michael Hogan are very much a part of this tradition, he says. The University also hosts a foreign policy seminar four times a year that has brought many scholars of U.S. foreign relations to Storrs since 1984.

“Our history and political science departments have emphasized traditional diplomatic history as part of their curricula, without necessarily excluding a post-modern approach in which a period in diplomatic history might be looked at through a much narrower prism,” Clifford says. For example, a post-modernist approach might study U.S. relations with Middle Eastern governments by analyzing how popular movies and novels treat the subject. Or foreign relations might be written about primarily from the perspective of race or gender.

A textbook co-authored by Clifford, Paterson, and two Ph.D. graduates from UConn is regarded as one of the leaders in the field. The book, American Foreign Relations: A History (Houghton Mifflin) is now going into its seventh edition.

The essays in Cliffords’ latest book tend to emulate Ferrell’s way of telling a story, often using anecdotes and humor. But Clifford says they also do not stray too far from the “orthodox,” or traditional, way of writing archive-based diplomatic history by focusing on the actions of government institutions and officials during a particular time.

The essays include one on Lincoln, raising questions about his attitude toward slavery and slaves, another by Clifford and co-editor Theodore Wilson, on the import of a close vote to extend the military draft on the eve of entry by the United States into World War II, and a third that looks at a shipboard meeting between President Franklin Roosevelt and Saudi King Ibn Saud in 1945.

The Clifford-Wilson essay re-reflects Clifford’s long-term interest in the period leading to the second World War. The essay refutes what has become common wisdom about the impact of a close vote on draft extension taken in the House of Representatives in August 1941. The authors contend that the approval of that measure -- by a single vote -- has been misconstrued by many academics.

Clifford and Wilson maintain that if the vote had gone the other way, “against” the draft, it would not have meant that the United States could not have entered the war. They cite a number of reasons, including that an ample number of congressmen would have readily supported an extension of service for draftees, for a shorter period than the bill specified.

In the Ferrell tradition, the authors “dig and dig” and find that the bill nearly failed because isolationists were ascendant, but because national officials, including President Roosevelt, simply were preoccupied with other matters and were not lobbying effectively for it. Ferrell, now in his mid-80s and still writing about history, always encouraged his students “to really go beyond what others have done, to research well and let the chips fall where they may,” Clifford says.

“He urged us to write in a style that’s readable by everyone, not just academics. He used to say, ‘History is meant to be read and understood by all.’

For the most part, the essays do not break new ground, says Clifford, but offer new and innovative ways of looking at familiar chapters in history. Often, the essays draw parallels between past and present events, such as between President Harry S. Truman’s experience with “regime change” in Korea in the 1950s and President George W. Bush’s efforts in Iraq.

The essay most faithful to the Ferrell style is by Ross Gregory, professor emeritus of history at Western Michigan University. It recounts in colorful detail the remarkable meeting between President Roosevelt and King Ibn Saud, who unexpectedly brought a retinue of 200 with him to a U.S. Navy ship, along with a herd of 86 sheep for fresh meat.

World War II was nearly over, Roosevelt’s health was failing, and the United States knew little of Arab affairs. But Roosevelt believed that personal diplomacy with Saudi might advance the idea of creating a homeland in Palestine for displaced European Jews. Roosevelt found, as so many of his successors have, that Arab-Israeli issues do not lend themselves to easy solutions.

For Clifford, Presidents, Diplomats, and Other Mortals is a departure from his ongoing research, much of which has focused on the politics of U.S. interventions in World War II, American defense policy in the decades leading up to, and especially the great debate between isolationists and interventionists.

New essay collection seen as tribute to professor of diplomatic history

Survey aims to gather student reaction to school choice programs

BY SCOTT BENEDOEFF

When the landmark Hartford school desegregation case Sheff v. O’Neill returned to court last month, it gave educators, parents, and politicians in the city and the surrounding suburbs a chance to air their views on the progress and policy changes associated with school choice programs.

A handful of high schools this fall and set to be administered widely in elementary, middle, and high schools in the spring, examines students’ attitudes on a variety of reported benefits of integrated school settings, including improved racial attitudes, relationships with peers and teachers of all backgrounds, a sense of belonging, and engagement with studies.

“Connecticut has invested heavily in choice programs and we are trying to gather evidence that may speak to the returns on those investments,” says Casey Cobb, the Center's director and an associate professor of educational leadership. “Students are the ones directly experiencing these policies, so it makes sense to ask them.”

A second component of the Center’s project for the Department of Education is an analysis that will compare the standardized test scores of students selected by lottery for the Open Choice program and a sample of inter-district school students enrolled in the state’s 54 inter-district magnet schools, 16 charter schools, and the Open Choice program. The decades-old Open Choice program has the goal of making 1,600 seats available each year in suburban classrooms for Hartford students.

The survey, piloted in a handful of high schools this fall and set to be administered widely in elementary, middle, and high schools in the spring, examines students’ attitudes on a variety of reported benefits of integrated school settings, including improved racial attitudes, relationships with peers and teachers of all backgrounds, a sense of belonging, and engagement with studies.

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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 were published in the Nov. 26 issue.

**Prin. Investigator** | **Department** | **Sponsor** | **Amount** | **Award Period**
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Petrelli, D. | Plant Science | U.S. Dept. of Agriculture/University of Kentucky | $54,909 | 8/07-01/07
Rampazad, R. | Institute of Materials Science | National Science Foundation | $399,968 | 1/08-12/10
Shin, D. | Computer Science & Engineering | Dept. of Defense/UCONN Health Center | $333,000 | 8/07-01/07
Sotzing, G. | Materials, & Biomolecular Engineering | UCONN Health Center | $44,996 | 6/07-09
Suh, S. | Chemistry | Dept. of Energy/Tarn~\textsuperscript{o} | Technical Products Inc. | $40,000 | 8/07-03/08
Super, C. | Human Development/ Family Studies | HHS/Administration for Children and Families/Children's Trust Fund | $84,994 | 8/07-02/09
Tian, X. | Center for Regenerative Biology | U.S. Egypt Joint Science & Technology Board | $50,000 | 9/07-10/10
Tufts, J. | Communication Sciences | PhR/CD/C/National Inst. for Occupational Safety & Health/UCONN Health Center | $7,600 | 7/07-06
Wagner, D. | Ecology & Evolutionary Biology | Conn. Dept. of Transportation | $5,766 | 8/07-08/08
Warner, G. | Natural Resources | Conn. Dept. of Environmental Protection | $30,547 | 8/07-02/08
Weaver, S. | Human Development/ Family Studies Instruction & Research | Conn. Dept. of Education | $50,000 | 7/07/06
Worthley T. | Dept. of Extension | U.S. Dept. of Agriculture | $25,000 | 9/07-10/08

**GRANTS**

Molecular Medicine | Hansen, M. | National Institute of Arthritis & Musculoskeletal & Skin Diseases | $30,796 | 9/07-08/07
Molecular, Microbial, & Structural Biology | Setlow, P. | National Institute of General Medical Sciences | $393,760 | 9/04-08/08
Proteomic Analysis of Apoptotic Signaling Networks | Community Medicine & Health | Babo, T. | National Institute on Drug Abuse | $268,040 | 8/04-08/08
Brief Interventions for Nicotine & Cannabis Use | Surgery | Das, D. | National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute | $319,041 | 8/07-05/07
Phospholipid Signaling in Myocardial Ischemic Injury | Oral Health & Diagnostic Sciences | Lalla, R. | National Institute of Dental & Craniofacial Research | $313,324 | 9/07-08/08
Cell Biology | Peluso, J. | National Institute of Child Health & Human Development | $314,500 | 9/07-08/08
Pair BP & PGMC as a Membrane Receptor Complex in Mice | Medicine | Protiva, R. | National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases | $21,793 | 9/07-08/08
Research Network for Drug Induced Liver Diseases | Oral Rehabilitation | Rowe, D. | U.S. Army | $5,010,463 | 8/07-07/08
Improving Oocyte Maturation and Embryo Culture by Comparing Global Expression Profiles of In Vivo and In Vitro Embryo in Cattle & Buffalo | Oral Rehabilitation | Rowe, D. | National Institute of Child Health & Human Development & NIDDK | $585,000 | 9/07-08/08
A Novel Technology to Generate Conditionally Inactivated Alleles in Mice | Oral Rehabilitation | Rowe, D. | National Institute of Arthritis & Musculoskeletal & Skin Diseases | $188,200 | 9/07-08/08
Molecular Medicine | Tirunna, L. | U.S. Army | $111,000 | 9/07-09/08
Molecular Medicine | Lake, L. | National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases | $222,000 | 9/07-08/08
CD 2 T Cell Response to Influenza Virus Infection | Immunology | Clark, R. | National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases | $357,040 | 9/07-08/08

**Department** | **Prin. Investigator** | **Sponsor** | **Amount** | **Award Period**
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Community Medicine & Health | Lazzarini, Z | National Institute on Drug Abuse | $461,254 | 9/03-08/08
Rapid Assessment of Drug Law & Policy in the FSU & CEE | Community Medicine & Health | Lazzarini, Z | National Institute on Drug Abuse | $461,254 | 9/03-08/08

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**Homeland security** continued from page 1

participation in the largest counter-ter~\textsuperscript{er}rorism exercise in the world, known as TOPOFF (T3). And the following year, the Center for Continuing Studies collaborated with the Naval Postgraduate School to coordinate mobile education training sessions on crisis planning and information/intelligence sharing for senior federal, state, and local government leaders.

Those efforts led to UCONN’s selection as the lead academic partner for the Naval Postgraduate School’s graduate program in homeland security. Under an articulation agreement with the Naval Postgraduate School, the Center for Continuing Studies successfully launched a cohort-based gradu~\textsuperscript{ate} program in homeland security leadership, in 2005, with students from federal agencies such as the FBL, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Transportation Security Administration, as well as local and state law enforcement agencies from across the continental U.S. and Alaska.
**Movement ‘re-education’ helps drama students improve performance**

BY SHERIFF FISHER

Hillary Parker, a UConn graduate student working on a master's degree in performance, faced a challenge. For a recent Connecticut Repertory Theatre performance, she had to play a character who recites complex lists of information while keeping her body perfectly still. "It was daunting," she says. But it was not too daunting for Elizabeth Huebner, who trains Parker and other students in the master of fine arts program. Huebner, an adjunct faculty member, teaches the Alexander Technique, a way to use the mind and body to improve movement and performance. "I'm not an actor or a director," she says. "I'm a movement expert." Huebner showed the student how to breathe life into an otherwise motionless character. "She helped me be a still presence on stage, that could fill a room for a good 10 minutes," Parker said. "People were amazed." Huebner says the Alexander Technique, developed by Australian actor F. Matthias Alexander more than a century ago, "is basically movement re-education." It helps athletes and musicians as well as actors and people in their everyday lives, use their bodies in a way that promotes comfort and ease, instead of moving in ways that create discomfort, she says. "This gives the average person more energy and vitality, and less injury to the neck and lower back." Classes in the Alexander Technique are required for graduate students in performance. They start taking the course their first semester at the University, and continue until they graduate. Huebner is a certified teacher of the Alexander Technique, who has taught workshops and performed dance in Europe as well as the U.S. She maintains a private practice, and offers workshops throughout Connecticut. She says the Alexander Technique is an important tool for acting students. "Drama students need to have a very agile, powerful, and accurate use of their bodies," she says. "Their body is their instrument of expression. They need to be able to find a physical neutral and build a character out from there. If they have lots of unconscious habits, they'll be very limited in the kinds of characters for which they're cast." During class on this day, Huebner is working with an acting student who finds it hard to sing in public. She works with his breathing, and the other students offer their thoughts. An actor wants to be able to play the body of any character, says acting student Chris Hirsh. "I do that," he says, "you have to get rid of your habits. If you habitually bend forward at the top of your shoulders and protrude your head and neck forward, you have to understand how to correct that. The Alexander Technique helps accomplish that." Hirsh says the technique also "opens you emotionally. When your body is aligned properly, you become a more open channel to the emotions that may or may not flow out of you. You have fuller freedom of emotional expression." Huebner says when meeting a new student, or any client, the first step is to find out "what their movement lives are like. Do they spend their days sitting, standing, twisting to file, or in constant motion?" "I teach them basic physical landmarks and give them specific information about how the body works in movement. Important landmarks are the major joints, the full length of the spine, and the role of the high and heavy head," she says. "When the head is well balanced on top of the spine, all movement will be lighter and better coordinated. I then address the hip joints, the strongest weight-bearing joint." During the first year, students spend a lot of time on what is called constructive rest, which includes breathing exercises and skills to increase awareness of the body and how it moves. Later, they are trained in using the Alexander Technique in performance. It's a matter of breaking old habits. "If an actor tightens up his neck and shoulders every time they need to speak loudly or with passion, for example, he can learn to lengthen and widen his back to achieve support that doesn't interfere with vocal production," Huebner says. Acting student Heddy Lahnmann loves the class. "She tells us to ask, What does your body need? Take a survey of what's going on in your body. And then she'll give hands-on help, touching your neck and Elizabeth Huebner teaches the Alexander Technique to Luke Daniels, a drama student in the master of fine arts program.

**Volunteer gives back to hospital with hand-made hats for preemies**

BY CAROLYN PENNINGTON

Ever since her son Brandon was born prematurely in August 1985, Sue Murphy of Wallingford has been a regular supporter of the Newborn Intensive Care Nursery at the Health Center. Even though Brandon died, Murphy always appreciated the professional care and warm support he received while he was in the NICU. Murphy, who teaches art at Holy Trinity School in Wallingford, wanted to do more than give monetary support. She wanted to use her talents as an artist and teacher to do something special for the babies in the NICU.

"One of the fondest memories of my son was when my husband and I went to the hospital to see him and he was wearing a beautiful knitted hat that his nurse had made him," says Murphy. "He just looked so adorable and more like a full-term baby. This is the feeling that I wish for all those who receive these beanies." Maureen Garey, nurse manager in the NICU, says the Newborn Intensive Care experience has a profound impact on both parents and staff. Many of the relationships that are formed with the families are life long." Murphy's project “shows the long-term impact and positive connections we make with people in our community," she adds. Murphy enlisted her art class to help with her idea. She thought knitting the hats would be too time-consuming, so the students make the beanies out of socks. "The babies' heads are so small, four hats can be made out of one pair of socks." Then the students decorate each one with sparkly ribbons, delicate lace, or fabric footballs — depending whether it's for a girl or boy. Along with the beanies comes a card from the young maker of the beanie and a printed insert from Murphy explaining why she started the project. So far, Murphy and her students have made more than 40 hats. The response from parents has been extremely positive. "What a wonderful idea! They are so cute, and when she was first born this was the only cap that fit her," says Janet Klos of Ledyard. Her daughter Kathryn was born at 29 weeks and weighed just over two pounds. "It was a nice surprise receiving such a precious and personal gift," Klos adds. "I also enjoyed reading the handwritten card from the student — that was extra special. I think Katie looks so adorable in her beanie, but I'm afraid she has almost outgrown it!" Jeanne Lattanzio, family support specialist in the NICU and the nurse who distributes the beanies to new parents, says the babies quickly grow out of the beanies. "That's a good thing," she says, "because it means the baby is healthy and thriving. But once they've outgrown them, many parents put the beanies in their baby's scrapbook or treasure box." Ellen Leone, associate vice president of operations and director of nursing, says the American Hospital Association encourages strong connections between hospitals and the communities they serve. "This is a good example of that," she says. The impact that our newborn intensive care staff has on babies and their families makes a lifelong impression." While the beanies are a fun fashion statement, they also serve an important purpose. "The babies really need their heads covered, especially when they spend time out of their isolette," says Lattanzio. "They lose a lot of body heat through the head." Murphy says research has shown that wearing clothes has been proven to increase premature children's weight and improve parent/infant attachment. "The beanies are not only cute but necessary," says Murphy. She also finds them an appropriate remembrance for her son and the nurses who took care of him.