Transition plan a ‘starting point’ for Hogan

BY ELIZABETH OBARA-OTUNNU

A presidential transition plan outlining 16 broad issues the University must address has been completed and presented to the Board of Trustees, President Michael J. Hogan, and senior University leaders.

The plan, prepared by Katzenbach Partners, a consulting firm specializing in organizational transitions and change, is intended to facilitate a smooth transition from former President Philip E. Austin to Hogan.

The consultants worked closely with both Hogan and Austin, and conducted 60 interviews with a range of representative members of the University community, including faculty, staff, student life, alumni, legislators, major donors, and local leaders.

The issues identified range from the academic mission, the research enterprise, and students, to the Health Center, the regional campuses, diversity, athletics, long-term funding, and the partnership with the Town of Mansfield.

It is available on the President's official web site at http://president.uconn.edu/ and on a new 'blog' web site to which documents are posted, called 'PresRelease.' The blog URL is: http://blogs.uconn.edu/president/

“The plan establishes a process and tone for this administration, by receiving information from all important stakeholders,” says Hogan. “It presents a coherent perspective that puts everyone on the same page, and establishes the channels of communication between the new administration and its stakeholders.”

Although hiring consultants to assist with a leadership transition is more common in corporate settings, it is becoming more widespread in higher education, too.

“The role of a university president has become much more complicated in the past 15 to 20 years,” says Jack O’Kelley III, a principal with Katzenbach Partners. “The average tenure of a university president is a little under seven years, and many end in fewer than five, so it’s imperative to get off to a good start.”

Winter commencement speaker, honorary degree recipient named

BY RICHARD VEILLEUX

Charlotte Bunch, an activist, author, and organizer in the women’s, civil rights and human rights movement for 40 years, will deliver the commencement address during UConn’s fifth annual winter commencement exercises on Dec. 16.

Bunch, who is the founder and executive director of the Center for Women’s Global Leadership at Rutgers University, will deliver her talk to nearly 900 undergraduates about the mid-year ceremony. The decision to add a December event to complement the traditional May Commencement was made several years ago, against the backdrop of increasing numbers of students who, due to work pressures, internships, study abroad programs, or for academic reasons were increasingly completing their studies at the conclusion of the fall semester. Research in.

Summer commencement speaker, honorary degree recipient named

BY RICHARD VEILLEUX

David S. Miller, former Connecticut Senate majority leader and nine-term congressman, will deliver the commencement address during UConn’s second annual summer commencement exercises on June 15.

Miller, who is a senior adviser to the Global Leadership Foundation, will deliver his talk to nearly 900 graduate and professional students about the importance of leadership in the 21st century. The decision to add a summer event to complement the traditional fall commencement was made several years ago, against the backdrop of increasing numbers of students who, due to work pressures, internships, study abroad programs, or for academic reasons were increasingly completing their studies at the conclusion of the spring semester.

Alan R. Bennett ’69 has donated $750,000 to establish an endowed honors professorship in political science – the first for both the Department of Political Science and the Honors Program. The professorship is intended to enhance high-level course offerings and faculty research.

“Alan Bennett’s gift is generous and well-targeted,” says Ross MacKinnon, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

“The professorship will enrich the already fine scholarly climate that exists for undergraduate students in political science, and reinforce the close association between the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Honors Program.”

Bennett, a former honors scholar, says he wanted to support the programs that helped prepare him for a successful career. Now a partner at Ropes & Gray in Washington, D.C., he previously served in the general counsel office of the Food and Drug Administration and was counsel to the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee. He is a member of the UConn Foundation Board of Directors.

“I remember a real esprit de corps and individualized attention within the University, and wanted to give something back in return for that,” says Bennett. “Maybe this professorship can serve as something of a model for future contributions, and together, they can help make both the Honors Program and the political science department nationally recognized centers of excellence.”

Alan R. Bennett ’69

Endowed professorship

Winter commencement speaker, honorary degree recipient named

BY RICHARD VEILLEUX

Charlotte Bunch, an activist, author, and organizer in the women’s, civil rights and human rights movement for 40 years, will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

Bunch, whose work has played an instrumental role in the development of feminist studies as an academic discipline, will receive an honorary Doctor of Laws. Nearly 10,000 people are expected to attend the mid-year ceremony. The decision to add a December event to complement the traditional May Commencement was made several years ago, against the backdrop of increasing numbers of students who, due to work pressures, internships, study abroad programs, or for academic reasons were increasingly completing their studies at the conclusion of the fall semester.
Retired music professor Juel-Larsen dies at 78

Petter Juel-Larsen, professor emeritus of music, died Nov. 11. He was 78.

Juel-Larsen, who lived in Storrs, taught at UConn for 33 years. A popular lecturer, attendance in his music appreciation course sometimes topped 500 students.

He was well-known for giving his courses a dramatic flair, by turns pacing the aisles or sitting at the piano demonstrating a melody. He claimed never to have repeated a lecture. After retiring from the University in 1992, he turned his attention to dramatic productions.

Glenn Stanley, professor of music, remembers Juel-Larsen as a “wonderful colleague with a wry sense of humor” and a “wonderful mentor to me. He provided great intellectual stimulus, took an active interest in my research and teaching, and guided me through some turbulent waters from time to time.”

Stanley says Juel-Larsen’s community service contributions equaled his university work. “About these, he was exceeding modest, but that was typical of this distinguished man who I will greatly miss.”

Juel-Larsen grew up in Al-bany, N.Y. He graduated from Yale University in 1951 and the Eastman School of Music in 1955.

He enjoyed traveling. London and Scotland were his favorite places to visit. He lived in London for a year and took several sabbaticals there.

He was an accomplished concert pianist from an early age, and performed in the U.S. and Europe.

He served in the army for three years and was assigned to the U.S. Military Academy Band at West Point, where he became the band’s pianist. He studied for a year at the Royal Academy of Music in London before joining the UConn faculty in 1959.

During the 1960s, Juel-Larsen narrated a weekly radio program called “Night Themes” for WTIC-Hartford and then WQXR-New York. The show blended contemporary music and poetry with short meditations.

He narrated Christmas programs with the Boston Pops and the Hartford Symphony orchestras. He also planned and performed several solo dramatic readings, including a Christmas program at the Hillstead Museum in Farmington and, more recently, two programs at the Hartford Public Library.

Juel-Larsen was an avid book collector. He read the dictionary for pleasure and was conversant in French, familiar with German and Italian, and remembered snippets of Norwegian from the pre-war European summers of his childhood.

He is survived by Ann, his wife of 24 years, and his three children, Peter Niels, Michael, and Sara. Contributions may be made to Joshua’s Trust, the St. Mark’s Chapel Organ Fund, or Amnesty International.
Environmental sciences, engineering fellowships boost research

By Karen A. Griska
Regina Barreca, professor of English, is one of seven academicians around the country who will be writing a new blog for the Chronicle of Higher Education three times a week. Barreca, an expert on women’s writing and feminist theory and 20th-century British literature, will be writing about culture and humor.

The writers are featured in a column called “Brainstorm, Lives of the Mind” and will appear on the Chronicle’s web site and in its daily news update.

“Blog sounds like an expletive, something muttered under the breath when a jerk steps on your foot in an overcrowded, wet-wood-smelling, Ph.D.-burdened elevator at the MLA,” Barreca wrote in the first installment on Nov. 19.

But her students are excited about it, she wrote. “Usually, they’re only proud of other undergraduates dressed in blue and white uniforms, the ones with a white dog mascot clapping nearby. But when the ones hanging around my office heard I’d be part of a blog, they made sounds of approval of the sort that nurses make when a patient begins eating solids.”

Since the first installment, Barreca has written about graduate school, academic jealousy, holiday shopping, and watching Law and Order on television.

“I like to analyze everyday things that happen and write about them,” she says. “Most of what I write will be about my students.”

Barreca is in good company. The other Brainstorm Bloggers, as the Chronicle calls them, are Mark Bauerlein, professor of English at Emory University; Dan Greenberg, an observer of science policy and politics; Stan Katz, director of the Center for Arts and Cultural Policy Studies at Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School; Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, former president of both the University of Hartford and George Washington University; and Bob Zemsky, chairman of the Learning Alliance at the University of Pennsylvania.

Barreca invited to join Chronicle of Higher Ed blog

Tayelor joins in discussion on blending multicultural, international education

By Elizabeth Omara-Otunnu
A national movement is afoot to bridge the gap between international and multicultural education in higher education, and the University of Connecticut is involved in the discussions.

The American Council on Education (ACE) is proposing to launch a three-year, multi-institutional initiative to model good practices for promoting greater collaboration between international and multicultural education. In late October, ACE invited officials from 15 higher education institutions to Washington, D.C., to discuss the initiative.

“Ther’s a tendency towards specialization in the sciences, but this award’s multidisciplinary approach allowed me to take ideas from different fields and put them together,” Taylor says.

The CESE grant enabled him to travel to Kansas to do field work on the ecological effects of rainfall changes on tallgrass prairie.

“This project examines how predicted changes in the timing and intensity of precipitation to affect plants in the tallgrass prairie,” Hoover says. “Understanding this response to climate change is important because grasslands cover a large part of the world’s land surface, feed the world’s wild herbivores and livestock, and remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.”

This summer, CESE expects to award 20 to 25 new multidisciplinary environmental research awards. The awards of around $5,000 are intended to support research that is not currently funded.

To be eligible, a student must be in good standing in a graduate program at UConn at the time of application and in summer 2008. Applicants must identify two graduate faculty mentors who will collaborate in the conduct of the research, and the mentors must be from different disciplines—preferably from two different departments.

Last summer, CESE gave awards to 25 students from 17 departments in CLAS, the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the School of Business, the School of Engineering, and the School of Medicine.

Dr. Mark Aindow, professor of chemical, materials and biomolecular engineering at UConn, has been deeply involved in Provost’s Research Equipment Grants through his leadership role as Provost’s Research Equipment Program coordinator. The grants have provided funds for researchers to purchase high-quality equipment to enhance their work.

According to Aindow, Provost’s Research Equipment Grants have been crucial in establishing research programs and advancing scientific research. These grants have enabled researchers to purchase cutting-edge equipment, facilitating their work and enabling them to stay at the forefront of their fields.

Aindow notes that the equipment purchased through these grants has allowed researchers to conduct experiments that would have been impossible without the necessary equipment. This equipment has enabled researchers to make groundbreaking discoveries and advance scientific knowledge.

In terms of impact, Aindow says that Provost’s Research Equipment Grants have had a significant impact on the university’s research output and reputation. The grants have helped to attract top researchers and researchers to UConn, contributing to the university’s status as a leader in research.

Overall, Aindow sees Provost’s Research Equipment Grants as an important tool for the university’s research community, enabling them to conduct high-quality research and advance scientific knowledge.

In conclusion, the Provost’s Research Equipment Grants have been a valuable resource for UConn researchers, enabling them to purchase the necessary equipment to conduct groundbreaking research. These grants have had a significant impact on the university’s research output and reputation, helping to establish UConn as a leader in research.

Six projects to benefit from Provost’s research equipment grants

Six projects to benefit from Provost’s research equipment grants

The Provost’s Research Equipment Grants program has provided significant funding for researchers at the University of Connecticut. Here are six projects that have benefited from these grants:

1. **Microscopic Imaging and Analysis**
   - **Institution:** University of Connecticut
   - **Principal Investigator:** Mark Aindow
   - **Description:** The equipment purchased through the grant will enable researchers to conduct microscopic imaging and analysis, providing detailed insights into the structure and function of biological samples.

2. **Biophysical Characterization**
   - **Institution:** University of Connecticut
   - **Principal Investigator:** Gregory Anderson
   - **Description:** The equipment purchased through the grant will enable researchers to characterize the physical properties of biological samples, providing valuable information for understanding biological processes.

3. **Electron Microscopy**
   - **Institution:** University of Connecticut
   - **Principal Investigator:** Senjie Lin
   - **Description:** The equipment purchased through the grant will enable researchers to conduct electron microscopy, providing high-resolution images of biological samples.

4. **Fluorescence Imaging**
   - **Institution:** University of Connecticut
   - **Principal Investigator:** Adam Zweifach
   - **Description:** The equipment purchased through the grant will enable researchers to conduct fluorescence imaging, providing insights into the distribution and localization of molecules in biological samples.

5. **Protein Analysis**
   - **Institution:** University of Connecticut
   - **Principal Investigator:** Steve Suh
   - **Description:** The equipment purchased through the grant will enable researchers to conduct protein analysis, providing insights into the structural and functional properties of proteins.

6. **Cell Culture**
   - **Institution:** University of Connecticut
   - **Principal Investigator:** Cindy Weiss
   - **Description:** The equipment purchased through the grant will enable researchers to conduct cell culture experiments, providing insights into the behavior and function of cells.

These projects demonstrate the impact of the Provost’s Research Equipment Grants program in advancing research and contributing to the knowledge base in various fields.

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*Source: University of Connecticut, Office of the Provost*

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*Image courtesy of University of Connecticut.*

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*Note: The image contains a photo of Dr. Mark Aindow, a professor at the University of Connecticut.*
Health Center’s blood testing laboratory now fully automated

BY CAROLYN PENKING

A new automated clinical laboratory is adding another level of patient protection at the Health Center, as well as cost-savings and safety benefits for staff. “This is a state-of-the-art system that has not been implemented to the extent we have in any other hospital in Connecticut,” says Dr. Sidney Hopfer, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine. Over the past several years, the Health Center has changed incrementally to automated systems. Now with one small tube of blood, 88 different tests can be analyzed in a matter of minutes. Those results are immediately sent via computer to the hospital staff or physician’s office that requested the tests. In the emergency room, where the time factor is really crucial, instead of hours, complete the usual battery of tests is completed in less than 15 minutes.

The new automated equipment fills one large room and is made up of a track system that transports the tubes of blood through a complicated network of testing stations. The automation is able to handle up to four times the current test volume, enabling the laboratory to grow and provide more test results faster without the need for additional staff. Since 1999, the volume of blood tests performed has doubled to nearly two million tests a year.

A quick answer for worried patients is always a bonus, but the new system brings other benefits. Less blood is collected during the phlebotomy, and because the specimen is handled by human hands less often, the integrity of the specimen is more likely to remain intact. There are also fewer transcription errors due to the paperless environment and an entire year of results can be placed on one CD so storage area is saved. If the patient’s blood has been tested before, those results are saved and can be used to compare to current test results using sophisticated algorithms in the computer. For those who work in the lab, there are safety and ergonomic benefits. Fewer tubes need to be drawn and decapped (about 10 percent of specimens require removal of the tube cap) which means less chance of spillage or breakage and less risk of exposure for the staff.

Hopfer says in the long run, total laboratory automation has produced significant cost savings for the Health Center. “One of the biggest expenses we had was sending out samples to other labs for testing. Now we can virtually avoid that added cost. We also save money because we utilize our staff more efficiently and negotiate better deals on instrument and equipment expense because of the high volume of tests we do.”

UConn horticulturalist develops new variety of poinsettia

BY ELIZABETH OBAMA-OTUNNU

The floriculture greenhouse is colorful at this time of year: flame red, rose pink, cream, and burgundy poinsettias pack the benches as far as the eye can see. Tucked in among them is a golden gem.

The plant, named Cinnamon Stick, is Bob Shabot’s baby, and he has been nurturing it since its infancy. The color and shape make it unique among poinsettias.

After five years of careful propagation and small-scale testing, the plant is now undergoing trials in Germany and Colorado. Shabot, a horticulturist in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, is working with UConn’s Center for Science and Technology Commercialization and may apply for a patent on it soon.

Cinnamon Stick, a herbaceous perennial native to Mexico, was introduced to the United States in the 1880s. It is named after Joel R. Pomsett, the first U.S. ambassador to Mexico. The winter-flowering plant has since become inextricably linked with the holiday season.

Poinsettias have undergone extensive breeding and selection to produce the hundreds of cultivars that exist today. “Everybody wants something new,” says Shabot. “Every year, there’s a subtle change.”

UConn has been growing poinsettias for many years for teaching and research purposes. Tucked in among them is a new poinsettia cultivar known as Cinnamon Stick. Horticulturalist Robert Shabot examines the unusual vase-shaped flower on a new poinsettia cultivar known as Cinnamon Stick.

For now, Cinnamon Stick mostly remains in the greenhouse, where Shabot can continue to observe and, as he describes it, “tinker” with it. Come Christmas, most of the other poinsettia plants will be sold, leaving the greenhouse growing tables bare.

But Shabot is already planning for next year’s holiday season. “Christmas begins in January,” he says. Before the end of January, he must place the University’s order for the poinsettia cuttings that will arrive in August. Not only that, the Easter lilies have just been planted.

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The following grants were received through the UConn Health Center’s Office of Grants and Contracts in September 2007. The list represents new awards as well as continuations. Additional grants received in September were published in the Dec. 3 Advance.

### GRANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
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<th>Sponsor</th>
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<td>Comprehensive Characterization of Drosophila Transcriptome</td>
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### Private Grants

- **State Grants**
  - **Biomedical Research**
    - **Cell Biology**
      - Peluso, J.
      - Department of Public Health
      - $281,016
      - 7/07-09/09
    - **Oral Health & Diagnostic Services**
      - Tanev, K.
      - University of Rochester
      - $37,000
      - 4/07-09/08
    - **Community Medicine & Health**
      - Gregorio, D.
      - Department of Public Health
      - $107,409
      - 3/07-09/08
    - **Occupational Health Surveillance**
      - Meyer, J.
      - Department of Public Health
      - $8,000
      - 7/07-08/08
    - **Psychiatry**
      - Taney, K.
      - University of Rochester
      - $54,125
      - 7/05-06/07
    - **State Grants**
      - **Community Medicine & Health**
        - Ballit, H.
        - University of the Pacific
        - $98,936
        - 3/07-08/08
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        - Steinberg, K.
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      - $216,667
      - 6/07-08/08

### December Commencement continued from page 1

Soros Fund Management LLC, and his wife have helped boost UConn’s aspirations to be a leader in the field of human rights through their generosity and encouragement. Besides the chair, the Gladsteins’ support for the University has included the Marsha Lilien Gladstein Visiting Professorship in Human Rights, the Gladstein Endowment for the MIS Research Laboratory, the Gladstein Professorship in Information Technology and Innovation, and the Marsha Lilien Gladstein Human Rights Fund.

The Gladsteins also have contributed to the UConn Health Center, the School of Business, and the Morris N. Trachten Kosher Dining Facility. Gary Gladstein serves on the Board of Directors of the UConn Foundation.

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- **Endowed professorship continued from page 1**

  "The professorship will be used for an outstanding scholar, researcher, and educator who will contribute to the department’s profile and mentor students. "We would look for an accomplished scholar with a record of distinguished research and publication, but who is also committed to teaching our best students," says Howard Reiter, head of political science.

- **The new faculty position will enable the department and the Honors Program to collaborate on expanding advanced courses, enrichment programs, and one-on-one research opportunities. “Hornors students are choosing UConn over some of the most prestigious institutions in the country,” says Lynne Goodstein, director of the Honors Program. “Having the opportunity to study and work closely with a distinguished faculty member reinforces their confidence that they have made the right choice.”

- **Charlotte Bunch**

  She was also national president of the University Christian Movement.

- **Gary Gladstein**

  A 1966 UConn graduate who retired as partner and chief operating officer for Soros Fund Management LLC, and his wife have helped boost UConn’s aspirations to be a leader in the field of human rights through their generosity and encouragement. Besides the chair, the Gladsteins’ support for the University has included the Marsha Lilien Gladstein Visiting Professorship in Human Rights, the Gladstein Endowment for the MIS Research Laboratory, the Gladstein Professorship in Information Technology and Innovation, and the Marsha Lilien Gladstein Human Rights Fund.

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Monday, December 10, to January 22

**Academics**

**Monday, 12/10** – Final examinations begin.

**Saturday, 12/15** – Final examinations end.

**Sunday, 12/16** – Undergraduate Commencement ceremony, Gampel Pavilion.

**Tuesday, 12/18** – Deadline for submitting final semester grades via Student Administration System.

**Libraries**

Honors Babbidge Library. Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-2 a.m.; Friday, 8 a.m.-10 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-2 a.m.; Sunday, 12 a.m.-8 a.m. 12/25, Monday Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 12/21-12/25.

Dodd Center. Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed weekends.

Health Library. Hours: Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m.-11 p.m.; Friday, 7 a.m.-10 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 12 a.m.-5 p.m. 12/22-12/24, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. 12/25.

**University ITS**

Hours: Monday-ITF, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Help Desk: Call 860-486-4372.

**Research Center**

Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; closed weekends.

**Dodd Center**

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed weekends.

**Health Library**

Hours: Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m.-11 p.m.; Friday, 7 a.m.-10 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 12 a.m.-5 p.m. 12/22-12/24, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. 12/25.

**Greater Hartford Campus Library**

Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 12 a.m.-5 p.m. 12/22-12/25, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. 12/26.

**A children’s book in the Dodd Center’s exhibit**


**Lectures & Seminars**

Monday, 12/10 – Ultrasound. 4:30 p.m., Room 7, Bishop Center.

Tuesday, 12/11 – Joint Audit & Compliance Committee Meeting. 3 p.m., Room E003, Academic Research Building, Health Center.

Wednesday, 12/12 – Code of Conduct Ethics Training Session. Staff only. 2 p.m., Konover Auditorium.

Thursday, 12/13 – Code of Conduct Ethics Training Session. Faculty only. 2 p.m., Konover Auditorium.

Friday, 12/14 – College Professionals Planning Advisory Committee. 3 p.m., Room 3, Bishop Center.

Monday, 12/17 – Academic Advisor for lunch.

Tuesday, 12/18 – Code of Conduct Ethics Training Session. Staff only. 2 p.m., Konover Auditorium.

Wednesday, 12/19 – Academic Advisor for lunch.

Thursday, 12/20 – Academic Advisor for lunch.

Friday, 12/21 – Academic Advisor for lunch.

**Performing Arts**

**Wednesday, 12/12** – Music. 7:30 p.m., Gampel Pavilion.

Saturday, 12/15 – Saturday at the University. Drop in any time between 1 and 4 p.m. to view special collection and natural history activities at the museum. Connect at the University’s online Events Calendar. (More information available at the website)

**Po’Pouri**

Saturday, 12/12 – Saturday at the University. Drop in any time between 1 and 4 p.m. to view special collection and natural history activities at the museum. Connect at the University’s online Events Calendar. (More information available at the website)

**Lectures & Seminars**

Monday, 12/10 – Health & Wellness Lecture. “Women and Adipose Tissue.” By Edie Thompson, Noon, Henry Low Learning Center, Health Education Center.

Tuesday, 12/11 – Neuroscience Seminar. 4 p.m., Room 13, Academic Research Building, Health Center.


Wednesday, 12/12 – Health & Wellness Lecture. “Dental Implants: Smiles of the future.” By Dr. Jacqueline Duncan. 6 p.m., Health Center.


**Exhibits**


Through Wednesday, 12/19 – Health Center. Most Mux - Mixed Media Artist Show Michael Trexler and Maizanne liebbl, Health Center. (Art image)

Through Wednesday, 12/19 – Celeste Litt.m Gallery. Morocco of a glance, paintings by Emelie Bisbeen and Wild America, photographs by Gary Melsynn. (Art image)


**Sports**

Sunday, 12/16 – Men’s Basketball vs. Quinnipiac. 7 p.m., Hartford Civic Center.

Monday, 12/17 – Women’s Basketball vs. South Carolina. 7:30 p.m., Gampel Pavilion.

Saturday, 12/22 – Men’s Basketball vs. Maine. 7 p.m., Hartford Civic Center.

Saturday, 12/29 – Men’s Basketball vs. Providence. 7:30 p.m., Hartford Civic Center.

Saturday, 12/29 – Toyota UConn Men’s Hockey Classic: UConn vs. Army. 7:15 p.m., Freitas Ice Forum.

Wednesday, 12/30 – Men’s Volleyball. 7:05 p.m., Freitas Ice Forum.

Sunday, 1/5 – Men’s Basketball vs. St. John’s. 2 p.m., Gampel Pavilion.

Wednesday, 1/8 – Women’s Basketball vs. West Virginia. 7:30 p.m., Gampel Pavilion.

Wednesday, 1/16 – Men’s Basketball vs. Quinnipiac. 7 p.m., Hartford Civic Center.

Thursday, 1/17 – Men’s Basketball vs. Liberty. 7:05 p.m., Freitas Ice Forum.

Saturday, 1/19 – Women’s Basketball vs. Cincinnati. Noon, Hartford Civic Center.

Saturday, 1/19 – Men’s Ice Hockey vs. Mercyhurst. 7:05 p.m., Freitas Ice Forum.

Sunday, 1/20 – Men’s Basketball vs. Marquette. 7 p.m., Gampel Pavilion.

Monday, 1/21 – Women’s Basketball vs. North Carolina. 7 p.m., Gampel Pavilion.

**Performing Arts**

Wednesday, 12/12 – Music on a Wednesday. Violincellist Parry Lui will perform string chamber music by Bach and Britten. 5 p.m., Benton Museum. Ticket available at the door: Public $10, members and UConn students $5.

Saturday, 1/19 – Saturday at the University. Drop in any time between 1 and 4 p.m. to view special collection and natural history activities at the museum. Connect at the University’s online Events Calendar. (More information available at the website)

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Health Center Auxiliary seeks new volunteers to keep up good work

By Chris DeFrusceco

The Health Center Auxiliary, a group of volunteers that over the past four decades has contributed scholarship funds, awarded a grant to purchase equipment, established an on-site child care center, began a collection of artwork, and established an endowed chair, is seeking new members.

“The Auxiliary is behind much of what has become part of the Health Center’s fabric,” says Dr. Peter J. Deckers, executive vice president for health affairs at the UConn Health Center and dean of the School of Medicine, says the Auxiliary is “critically important to the well being of the schools here at the Health Center, as well as the John Dempsey Hospital and our physician practice.”

“They enable us to do things we wouldn’t otherwise be able to do because of financial limitations,” Deckers says.

The group hopes to become better known among the UConn community.

Irene Engel, Auxiliary facilitator and longtime member, says, “The work is rewarding in that you know you’re making a difference for all who come here as patients, visitors, students, faculty, or staff.”

She wants to be known that the Auxiliary is for the entire Health Center, not just John Dempsey Hospital, and that membership is open for both men and women, and that it is open to all.

“We are looking beyond Health Center employees as we seek to actively engage the UConn community.”

Each volunteer has his or her own page, including a profile and photograph. They are encouraged to write briefly, several times a week, about their work at UConn.

They post under categories including: classes; class work; my friends; “funny stuff”; my job; and student life. Their entries are not pre-reviewed or filtered.

“We ask the bloggers not to sugarcoat their experiences,” Fazio says. “We’ve asked them to blog because we want them to articulate what life for them in the university really is like.”

Those who read the blogs may post comments or ask questions. Blog writers are encouraged to respond to and engage their audience.

This is the second year blogs have been used to share information with the public. Last year, the bloggers selected were student workers at the Lodewick Visitors Center.

“Prospective students are able to access the web from around the world, and get an insider’s view of living and learning occurring at Storrs,” Fazio says. “Each student has had a very different experience. Their voices complement the informational material that prospective students receive. While brochures and other promotional materials certainly are important, we think prospective students appreciate the honesty they get from a student who is already here.”

The bloggers, who are identified only by first name on the site, agree.

“Blogging is a good way for students to learn about the University, because bloggers are going to give you the unadulterated, no-holds-barred look into the life of a real University student,” says Fernandes, a junior majoring in English. “Blogging is free writing, unhindered by literary constructs. In brevity and candor make it an appealing venue for young, Internet-savvy students who are always on the go.”

Justine, a junior majoring in pharmacy, says she enjoys being a blogger.

“As one of the student orientation leaders, I was able to prepare incoming students for their first year,” she says. “Now, we have the opportunity to reach out to high school students before they even set foot on campus. I really love sharing my UConn experiences with those interested in reading about them.”

She adds, “It wasn’t that long ago that I was looking at colleges, and I remember it being a very overwhelming experience. I’d had an outlet or way to see into what life was truly like outside of the very structured tour, I would have jumped at that opportunity. With such a tech-savvy generation, blogs and other forms of Internet communication to reach out to incoming students are becoming more and more pertinent.”

Philip, a junior studying psychology and neurobiology, says the blogs “act as a sort of instructional manual to being a student at UConn.”

He also says blogging has given him an extra perk: his writing skills have improved. “I get a chance to try out different styles of writing, and it serves as a type of practice when I have to write for my classes. I’ve noticed that my grades on papers and writing samples have improved from last year; and I attribute that to being a blogger for UConn.”

The student blogs are at: http://wwwblogs.uconn.edu/2007/.

Health Center Auxiliary
Student bloggers give insiders’ view to prospective students, families

By Sherry Fisher

How can prospective students and their families learn about life at the University first hand without setting foot on campus? It’s simple. Head to UConn’s admissions website and read the student blogs. The blogs are designed to give prospective students, their parents, and others a dynamic snapshot of life at UConn. On the site, six bloggers write about their daily lives at the University.

Patricia Fazio, manager of marketing services, says, “Today’s high school students use the web to get much of their information about colleges, and the blogs add a personal dimension.”

The bloggers – three men and three women were recommend by Maria Sedotti, coordinator of orientation services, for whom they served as leaders during the summer.

“Because they’re already knowledgable about UConn and the type of information incoming students are looking for, they were a natural fit for blogging,” Fazio says.

“They went through an interview process and were selected because they’re representative of UConn’s students. They are a diverse group, with a variety of interests, and are

Health Center Auxiliary award and $500 Dental Student Merit Award bring the total to more than $50,000 in scholarships and awards.

“This support is very well received and critical for the continued maturation of graduate programs at the Health Center,” says Gerald Maxwell, associate dean of the School of Medicine Graduate School.

For many, the most visible Auxiliary contribution is the ConnCreative Gift Shop, which has been in business for almost 90 years and is the main building since 1975. The UConn Health Center Auxiliary Gift Shop, at 290 Park Road in West Hartford, opened in 1993. Volunteers keep both shops operating.

The Health Center’s collection of artwork, started by the Auxiliary, has grown to more than 1,500 paintings, sculptures, quilts, photographs, and murals.

Linda Webber, the Health Center’s art curator, says, “The art supports the people who work here, the patients, the families, and the community. We think it gives the Health Center a visual power that makes people feel good.”

This summer, the Auxiliary awarded a $35,000 research grant to the Health Center’s core labs to invest in basic science research at the schools of medicine and dental medicine.

The new equipment includes a nano drop spectrophotometer, which enables scientists to determine the concentration of DNA or RNA using a very small sample, and a G-box chemiluminescence, which enables them to detect light signals associated with proteins and DNA extracted from cells.

“We are most appreciative of this grant to purchase equipment that will be of broad benefit to a broad spectrum of basic science and translational investigators,” says Dr. David W. Rowe, director for regenerative medicine and skeletal development in the School of Dental Medicine’s Department of Reconstructive Sciences.

And two years ago, the Auxiliary raised and donated $900,000 to fund the Joseph M. Healy Jr. Memorial Chair in Medical Humanities and Bioethics, held today by Audrey R. Chapman.

According to Engel, the UConn Health Center Auxiliary may be the only volunteer group in the country to have established an endowed chair.