Mathematician appointed dean of liberal arts and sciences

BY CHAP WELLS

Jeremy Teitelbaum, a mathematician and senior liberal arts and sciences administrator at the University of Illinois at Chicago, will join the University of Connecticut in August as the new dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Teitelbaum will replace Ross MacKinnon, who will retire this summer after leading the College for 12 years.

“We have recruited an outstanding new dean for the College,” says Peter J. Nicholls, provost and executive vice president of academic affairs at UConn. “Jeremy brings to this position energy, enthusiasm, and an exciting vision for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.”

Teitelbaum currently is senior associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and professor of mathematics at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), a diverse, urban, public research university. He joined the mathematics faculty there in 1990 and at different times was associate dean for natural sciences, facilities, and academic programs before becoming senior associate dean in 2006.

“My experience tells me that public support and love for the University of Connecticut rests first on the quality and depth of the education that UConn’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences offers its undergraduates,” said Teitelbaum. “I see the opportunity to lead a liberal arts college as distinguished as that at UConn as the chance of a lifetime.”

At UIC, Teitelbaum is responsible for budgets and recruitment and retention of faculty. He has overseen innovations in teaching, such as the creation of the Mathematical Sciences Learning Center, where students receive peer tutoring.

He is a co-investigator on a National Science Foundation grant that is designed to increase the number of minority students seeking degrees in technical fields such as math, science, and engineering. He also has worked toward increasing faculty diversity, introducing measures to broaden hiring searches and to support the appointment of women in science and technical fields.

New dean of social work hails from Iowa

BY MICHAEL KIRK

Salome Raheim of the University of Iowa has been selected as the new dean of the School of Social Work, located at the Greater Hartford Campus. She will begin in August.

Raheim was previously senior associate to the president and director of the School of Social Work at Iowa, where she has been a professor of social work since 1997. She has also held positions at Augustana College in South Dakota, the University of Sioux Falls, The State University of New York at Albany, and Bowie State College, and was a visiting professor at the University of South Australia.

“I am delighted and honored to join the University of Connecticut and its School of Social Work,” says Raheim. “The School’s accomplishments in research and public service are impressive. There is a clear and strong commitment to promoting social and economic justice and improving human well-being. I look forward to working with the faculty, staff, and students to advance the school’s contributions to social work practice statewide, nationally, and internationally.”

Raheim recently served on the board of directors of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), the accrediting body for social work programs, among other leadership activities in the field. She was chosen as the 2007 CSWE Carl A. Scott Memorial Lecturer for her contributions to social and economic justice.

Speaker says advances in genetics pose new human rights challenges

BY GREGORY HUDS

A torrent of new information on human genetics could pose acute challenges to human rights in the near future, according to an expert in the history of medicine.

Daniel Kevles, a professor at Yale University, warns that dramatic advances in genetic science have “revived some of the old issues” surrounding the eugenics movement that flourished in the United States and Europe during the early part of the 20th century.

Kevles, author of In the Name of Eugenics: Genetics and the Uses of Human Heredity, gave the Second Annual Heinz and Virginia Herrmann Distinguished Lecture on Science and Human Rights at Konover Auditorium April 3. His talk was sponsored by the Program on Science and Human Rights of the Human Rights Institute.
Women’s pole team wins championship

BY RICHARD VEILLEUX

The UConn women’s pole team on April 5 captured its fourth consecutive national championship, beating Texas Christian University 19-13 in the finals, a victory that capped a perfect season for the squad.

The top-seeded Huskies reached the championship game by defeating Cornell in the Northeast Regional Tournament, 26-8, then routed Santa Barbara City College in the national semifinals, 24-5.

In the finals, held at Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Ky., Texas Christian’s horsewomen kept the game close for three chukkas (periods of play), before the UConn team pulled away to win in the fourth chukka. Two of the Huskies — Kelly and Elizabeth Wisnewski — were named to the All Star team. In the Northeast Regional, the Wisners and senior Elizabeth Rockwell were three of the four players named to that tourney’s All Star team. Senior Lindsey Marrotte rounds out the team.

“They’re incredible athletes, these young ladies,” says Daniel Fletcher, head of the Department of Animal Sciences, which hosts the team. “Four in a row is pretty special.”

For Rockwell, who with Kelly Wisner rode on all four championship teams, the high point of this year’s tournament was beating Cornell in the regionals. “They were number 2 in the country, and they had only missed going to the nationals once in 21 years, so it was great that we played so well as a team in that game,” Rockwell says.

Playing against the likes of Yale, Cornell, the universities of Virginia and Massachusetts, and Skidmore and Vassar colleges, the Huskies cruised through the season with an 18-0 record, and became only the second team to win at least four consecutive championships. The Huskies have won seven national titles during the last 13 years.

“It was so good to win,” says Coach James Dinger, an associate professor of animal sciences. Although three of the players will be graduating this year, he says he is not worried about next year. “We have a lot of good players coming in,” he says.

Horticulture professor Dick Ashley dies

BY ASHLEY SPORLEDER

Richard “Dick” Ashley, professor of horticulture and vegetable crops specialist, died March 26. He was 68.

Ashley specialized in weed-crop competition, nutrient management, protected vegetable culture, sustainable agriculture, and developing integrated pest management programs in primary schools.

He wrote, published, and edited many refereed journal articles and proceedings, and taught undergraduate courses on horticulture production, garden center management, and marketing for nearly 35 years.

Ashley coordinated the Integrated Pest Management Program from 1996 to 2003, and twice served as acting head of the plant science department.

Derek Allinson, emeritus professor of plant science, calls him an “all-round, very fine faculty member who served the department well.”

In addition to teaching, Ashley was passionate about research. “He attempted and was successful in providing answers to problems faced by many vegetable growers not just in Connecticut, but throughout New England,” Allinson says. “He was a consummate professional.”

Ashley contributed many articles to the New England Vegetable Management Guide and also served as its editor for several years.

He was secretary-treasurer of the Northeast Weed Science Society and was awarded the society’s Distinguished Member Award. He also was a member of the steering committee for the New England Vegetable and Berry Growers’ Conference.

Ashley was active in the community, and served on the Coventry Republican Town Committee, the Coventry Board of Education, and the Coventry Town Council.

He also served for many years as a dean at the Presbyterian Church of Coventry. In addition to horticulture, his interests included war history and battle strategies, coins, stamps, and sports.

After retiring from UConn in 2003, he enjoyed traveling and spending time with his family.

He is survived by his wife Sandra, two children, and three grandchildren.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK 73123-1718.

Wallace Stevens program to present poet Alice Fulton

Acclaimed poet Alice Fulton will read from her work during the 46th annual presentation of the Wallace Stevens Poetry Program on April 22 and 23.

The program, which is presented by the English department in association with The Hartford Financial Services Group Inc. and The Hartford Friends and Enemies of Wallace Stevens, will also showcase the student winners of the Wallace Stevens Poetry Contest.

Fulton has published six acclaimed works of poetry and a book of prose. She has received many fellowships, including one from the National Endowment for the Arts, and her poems have appeared in Poetry, The New Yorker, Farnaus, The Partisan Review, The New Republic, and The Atlantic Monthly. Her work has also been included in five editions of The Best American Poetry series, including the 10th anniversary edition, The Best of the Best American Poetry, 1988-1997.

The first reading will take place on April 22 at 1:15 p.m. at the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts. Fulton will be joined by John Harrity, the high school winner of the Wallace Stevens prize and a Hartford resident, who will read the poem that earned him the scholarship.

The second reading will take place on April 23 at 6 p.m. in the Konover Auditorium, Thomas J. Dodd Research Center. Fulton will be joined by University winners Michael Michaud, Joseph Lena, and Matthew Harding.

Pontacoloni, this year’s first-place winner, is an English major from Somers. She considers Donald Barthelme, Gabriel García Marquez, Russell Edson, and Roald Dahl as the main influences on her. Harding, the third-place winner, is an English major from Enfield and a repeat winner of the Wallace Stevens prize. He cites An Orange Message by William Stafford as the earliest influence on his writing.

The mission of the Wallace Stevens Poetry Program is to promote poetry at UConn and in the Hartford area by offering two poetry readings each spring by a poet of national or international reputation.

Both events are free and open to the public.

For more information about the events or the Wallace Stevens Poetry Program, please visit UConn’s Creative Writing Program web site at: www.longrider.uconn.edu.

Social work dean continued from page 1

“Salome has a national presence in the social work field and has served in several leadership capacities in social work organizations,” says Peter Nicholls, provost and executive vice president of academic affairs. “She brings to this position the energy, enthusiasm, and vision for the School of Social Work that will enable her to lead it to the next level of excellence. I am excited about this appointment.”

A native of Baltimore, Md., Ramirez received a bachelor’s degree in social work from Bowie State, completed doctoral studies at The George Washington University, and received a master’s degree from the Catholic University of America and a Ph.D. in communications studies from the University of Iowa. Her research interests include cultural competence, social justice, human rights, social and economic development, and organization and community practice.

She began her career in 1976 as a psychiatric social worker in Prince George’s County, Md.
Employee Recognition Week set for April 21-25

By Ashley Spector

Nearly 410 employees will be recognized for their service to the University, during the Employee Recognition Breakfast to be held at Alumni Center on April 22, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Certificates will be given to individuals with 25 or more years of service.

The event is part of Employee Recognition Week, April 21-25, which seeks to honor University employees of all departments, schools and colleges, including the regional campuses, for their contributions to UConn.

“arates vital to democracy, says speaker

By Elizabeth Omara-Otunnu

Open access to government records plays an essential role in a strong democracy, according to the head of the U.S. National Archives.

“At the Archives, says Archivist of the United States Allen Weinstein, “we believe that full access to the documents that outline our rights, chronicle the actions of government officials, and record our national experience provides the transparency for a healthy and vital democracy.”

Weinstein made his remarks during the 2008 RBS Greenwich Capital Seminar at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center on April 2.

He said the National Archives provides access to the nation’s records to all “those seeking information to claim entitled benefits, the genealogist searching for family history, the reporter working on a current news story, the victim of a natural disaster trying to reassemble a life, and the individual citizen interested in the story of this country. All are welcome.”

Weinstein traced the origins of today’s National Archives to President Franklin Roosevelt’s founding of the first presidential library in the 1940s.

In addition to bringing together the records of the past and housing them in one building, he said, Roosevelt also emphasized the digitization of records using the latest technology at that time, microfilm, so that if original archives were destroyed during wartime, a record would exist somewhere else.

Weinstein said that since the 1960s, the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), a law ensuring public access to government records, has had a huge impact.

“FOIA has become the cornerstone of access to governmental records, and as such is pivotal to maintaining a robust democracy,” he said.

The National Archives has re-released a wide variety of records as a result of FOIA, he said: the files of Supreme Court nominees John Roberts and Samuel Alito during their confirmation hearings, for example; official and confidential files of former FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover; portions of files from independent researchers during the Iran-Contra and Whitewater controversies; and more recently, the scheduling files of former First Lady Hillary Clinton.

Weinstein, a former history professor, said the National Archives are indispensable to historians.

Records in the Archives document not only the actions of the U.S. government, but also the justifications and deliberations surrounding those actions, he noted: “These records are the livelihood of historians, who write the story of the nation’s past.”

Two years ago, Weinstein said, he learned that thousands of publicly available records had been “quietly removed from the shelves” since 1999. An audit found that more than one third were wrongly reclassified, and that in some cases, uncataloged documents were withdrawn to obfuscate the declassified documents that the originating agency was seeking to protect. These actions were a serious threat to the traditions of openness, accessibility, and accountability, Weinstein said, and “must never, never, never be repeated.” Since then, the National Archives has been working to ensure that the improperly removed documents are back on the shelves.

Weinstein said digitization has opened up new opportunities for access to archival records.

In some cases, original documents are being made available through partnerships with private entities. One such partnership, with Footnote, a subscription-based web service, involves transcribing the 98,000 names on the Vietnam War Memorial and correlating them with military records so they can be searched by name, age, hometown, state, length of service, and unit.

The National Archives is also developing its own capability to digitize records, he said, including an initiative known as the Electronic Records Archives (ERA).

In the future, the ERA will provide Internet access to the electronic records of the U.S. government, including e-mails, web pages, digital images, databases, and satellite imagery; regardless of the software or hardware used to create them.

“The ERA will be our archives of the future, or what some have called our ‘archives without walls’,” he said.

The National Archives also works to educate the public about the value of original historic documents, including the creation of a recently completed “family-friendly quasi-museum” in the Archives building in downtown Washington, D.C.

“The National Archives,” he said, “is the great undiscovered treasure of Washington.”

New software helps protect against plagiarism

By Sherry Fisher

A new software package called Safe Assign, part of the enhanced version of the course software HuskyCT, can help teach students when they have failed to cite sources properly and, perhaps, reduce plagiarism. It complements the University’s efforts to foster a culture of academic honesty.

The software allows faculty to check students’ papers against sources on the Internet, a growing database of journals, and papers written by other UConn students. If a student chooses, a paper may be submitted to a global database of student papers, and Safe Assign checks these papers against student papers from other universities as well.

Kim Chambers, director of educational technologies, says Safe Assign might be used in several ways. A faculty member may tell the entire class that they are working on a Safe Assign assignment. The papers are then submitted electronically, and automatically checked for proper citations. Or, using a feature called Direct Submit, faculty may check a particular student’s paper to check for improper citations.

Faculty also can allow students to use Safe Assign themselves before submitting work.

“If you’re a faculty member and check the box agreeing to allow students to check their papers first,” says Chambers, “there are going to be significantly fewer instances of students turning in papers where citations were improper, leading toward plagiarism.”

“I’m encouraging faculty and students to use this not simply to deter plagiarism,” he adds, “but to teach students the process of scholarship and how to properly cite scholarly work.”

Guest professors program brings scholarships to UConn

Four scholars have been awarded a short-term Guest Professorship at UConn during the spring or fall semester 2008: Robert Charles Pond, University of Liverpool, U.K., nominated by Mark Andrew of the chemical, materials, and biomolecular engineering department; Verta Taylor and Leila Rupp, University of California-Santa Barbara, nominated by Nancy Naples of the sociology department; and Manual delLano, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, nominated by William Stewley of the physics department.

The Annual Guest Professorship (short-term) program is designed to bring distinguished visitors to campus each year for an intensive period of scholarly exchange with faculty members and graduate students.

This year’s program for the spring semester and fall semester 2008 attracted five nominations from a variety of UConn departments. An ad hoc review panel considered each nomination and made recommendations to Gregory Anderson, vice provost for research and graduate education. For further information about the program, please visit www.research.uconn.edu/ips/.
**Stem cells may help improve implantable glucose monitors**

*By Kristina Goodnough*

Ulrike Klueh is studying the use of adult stem cells to help make use of long-term implantable wireless glucose sensors a reality, with a $413,000 grant from the American Diabetes Association. The sensors already exist, but need to be improved, because they tend to stop working fairly quickly. "A long-term, implantable glucose sensor has remained elusive, because of the rapid loss of sensor function after implantation," says Klueh, who was a nurse in native Germany and came to the Storrs campus to pursue a master’s degree in chemical engineering. She went on to earn a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering.

"I like the interdisciplinary focus and the interrelationship of technology, engineering, chemistry, and biological processes," says Klueh, an assistant professor in the Department of Surgery.

"We believe the loss of sensor function is a result of sensor-induced tissue reactions, including inflammation and fibrosis, which ultimately causes the loss of blood vessels at the site of the sensor," she adds.

The body reacts to current implantable sensors inserted into the skin the same way it would react to a wood or metal splinter, mainly with inflammation, loss of blood vessels, and fibrosis.

With the grant, Klueh is focusing on new ways to suppress inflammation and fibrosis and promote new blood vessel formation around the sensor, using adult human blood derived stem cells.

If the principle stands up, then blood-derived stem cells from patients with diabetes could be safely removed, remodeled into "gene carrier cells," and injected back into the same patient at the site of the sensor, to extend the lifespan of the glucose sensor.

The use of an individual's own stem cells would reduce worries about potential rejection.

Currently, people who have diabetes monitor their blood glucose levels using external monitors and "finger sticking" for blood samples.

"If we can develop a reliable, workable, implantable glucose sensor that can be linked to an insulin pump, together they would act as an artificial pancreas, and that would revolutionize diabetes management," says Klueh.

If successful, she adds, the same approach could be used to develop implantable sensors that could detect and treat other diseases, such as cancer and heart disease.

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**Education professors work to enhance math curriculum for elementary grades**

*By Karen Singer*

Meerkats may soon be coming to a school near you – to help teach mathematics.

Not the ones on Animal Planet, but cartoon characters created by M. Katherine Gavin, Tutita Casa, and their colleagues, as part of a project to engage children's curiosity in learning geometry and measurement, and increase mathematics achievement.

Gavin, an associate professor in the Neag School of Education, is principal investigator and senior author of Project M2: Mentoring Young Mathematicians. Casa, an assistant professor in the Neag School of Education, is co-principal investigator.

Project M2 will have two units per grade level, with each unit being four or five weeks long. That will enable students to develop a deeper understanding of math concepts, Gavin says, adding that a lot of math will be done in the context of scientific inquiry.

One of the units features two meerkat characters, Dru and Teller. The "detective duo" guide students through investigations such as simulated car crash tests with plastic eggs as passengers, and figuring out the amount of water they use while brushing their teeth – also a lesson in water conservation.

"A big piece of our project is students talking to each other about math as a community, not just answering questions posed by the teacher," Gavin says. She adds that students will write about their mathematical adventures in a journal, and will be encouraged to share their mathematical reasoning with classmates.

"What we're trying to do is use the same kinds of high-end strategies to work with students across all socio-economic sectors and all ability levels," says Gavin. "The goal is that these students will perform as well as our M3 students."

Mathematically talented students studying the M3 curriculum have outperformed control groups of similar ability students from the same schools on national standardized tests.

The U.S. curriculum is typically "a mile wide and an inch deep, meaning we try to cover about twice as many topics as the average country," Gavin says. She cites a 2004 Trends in International Math and Science study of 25 countries, in which American fourth graders ranked 17th in the world in geometry and 13th in measurement.

"The problem is that we're not starting children early enough in thinking deeply about math concepts," she says. "We know young children have an interest in math and the world around them and come to school loving mathematics, but by third grade and as they move into higher levels, many have math anxiety – often because they have memorized formulas rather than understood the concepts."

Gavin says another goal of the grant is to target traditionally under-represented students. The researchers will field test mainly at-risk students at 12 schools nationally, in Connecticut, Texas, Kentucky, and South Carolina.

Grade 2 curriculum units are being piloted this year, and will be field-tested during the 2009-2010 school year; units for other grades will follow.

As a youngster, Gavin loved Latin as well as math, but chose math as a career. She spent a couple of decades as a math teacher, before earning a doctorate at UConn in 1997 and becoming a math specialist at the Neag Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development. She wrote the M3 grant proposal in the hope of inspiring young mathematicians and challenging them to learn at high levels.

The M3 project has garnered many awards since 2004, including ones from the National Association for Gifted Children for exemplary curriculum for gifted education.

M3 curriculum units have been purchased by schools in 43 states, as well as in Singapore, Japan, the Netherlands, and Canada. M3 also has become part of some summer programs, as well as the centerpiece of an after-school math enrichment club in four Connecticut public schools that is funded by the Travelers Companies Inc. through the UConn Foundation.

Gavin is especially pleased by children's reactions to the curriculum.

"They're actually hugging their student math journals," she says, "and staying in during recess to play math games."
Wrongful discharge laws increase cost of doing business, study shows

BY DAVID BLUMEN

State laws to protect workers from being unfairly sacked have an unintended consequence: they contribute to companies’ becoming less profitable.

Moreover, as the list of legal protections against wrongful discharge has grown during the past four decades, salary costs have gone up too.

These are the findings of a study by two UConn business professors to be published in the Journal of Law and Economics in May 2009. The study by Robert Bird and John Knopf, “Do Wrongful Discharge Laws Impair Firm Performance?” is one of the first to provide empirical evidence of the economic costs of these laws on firms.

“Scholars and policymakers have been debating for years whether legislating job security was bad for business,” says Knopf, an assistant professor of finance. “Now we know that giving employees too many protections increases the financial burden on companies that hire them.”

The professors surveyed more than 20 years of wrongful discharge laws across the United States, then compared that information with data from banks on the costs of operating in each of the 50 states.

They found that enforcement of wrongful discharge laws - while offering protection against arbitrary or unfair firings - impedes employers’ performance.

These findings underscore a significant consideration for state policymakers to ponder in difficult economic times, says Bird, an assistant professor of marketing specializing in business law: “If a state wants to attract business but makes it hard to hire and fire people, companies are less likely to come.”

The growth of state laws designed to curb wrongful discharge has made it far more challenging and costly for employers to fire an employee, says Bird. He notes that most workers have jobs that are covered by some wrongful discharge legal protection and that more than 10,000 wrongful discharge lawsuits are filed in state courts each year.

The cost of wrongful discharge litigation is huge. Jury awards, for example, can reach hundreds of thousands of dollars. In California during the 1980s, when wrongful discharge protection there was at its peak, the average wrongful discharge jury award was more than $388,000. Today, employers’ concerns about the legal minefield of employment support an entire industry dedicated to advising and protecting firms against wrongful discharge litigation.

Until the 1960s, “employment at will” - which allowed firms to give employees a “pink slip” for any reason - prevailed as the legal rule regulating employment. But starting in 1959, when a California court ruled that a worker could not be fired for refusing to commit perjury, a growing number of legal exceptions have been imposed by courts.

Today 43 states, including Connecticut, recognize at least one of three categories of illegal firings. These are: public policy, such as forcing a worker to participate in an illegal act; implied contracts that can create enforceable terms that trump written contracts; and good faith policy, that prevents a firm from firing a worker one day of qualify- ing for a pension, for example.

To examine the economic effect of job security protections, the researchers decided to study the impact of state wrongful discharge laws on bank performance. Because state laws vary in the scope of their job protection, and Congress, until recently, restricted state-chartered banks to operating in a single state, “comparing the two data sets offered a novel empirical way of matching widely available bank data with state employment laws,” says Knopf.

In their study, Bird and Knopf conclude: “We find that wrongful discharge laws increase salary costs and reduce the profitability of employers within a given state.”

This is because wrongful discharge laws - despite their intended aim of providing job security - not only hinder performance by imposing litigation costs on firms, they also cause many employers to shy away from hiring new workers, because they fear being taken to court, says Bird and Knopf.

In addition, wrongful discharge laws may embolden employees to demand higher salaries in ex-change for refraining from legal action, notes Bird. “That’s not necessarily a good thing,” he adds. “Higher salaries mean that firms are less willing to hire, and that means fewer jobs available for people who are unemployed or are looking to switch. On the other hand, the more firms are allowed to hire and fire, the more they reward good employees and the more willing they are to grow the business.”

Report says UConn education graduates stay in profession

BY JAMIE NESTI

A recent study sponsored by the Teachers for a New Era (TNE) program shows that an overwhelming majority of graduates from the Neag School of Education stay in the classroom for 10 years or more, and in far greater numbers than their colleagues nationwide.

“This study tells us in a powerful way that when teachers are given high quality, rigorous prepa- ration, such as they experience at the Neag School, they are more successful in meeting the diverse challenges of today’s classrooms,” says Richard Schwab, dean of the Neag School and a member of the National Commission on Teaching and America’s Future.

“They commitment to teaching remains at a high level for a long time and, most important, they stay in the profession,” he adds. Scott Brown, a professor of educational psychology and direc- tor of TNE, adds, “We see our five year program as the key to that high level of commitment and teacher retention.”

Using data from the Connecticut State Department of Educa- tion, the study looked at more than 66,000 teachers who were working in Connecticut between 1994 and 2005.

The group included 1,100 UConn graduates from either the Integrated Bachelor’s/Master’s program or the Teacher Certification Program for College Graduates in the Neag School of Education. Seven percent of those were still classroom teachers in Connecticut 10 years after graduating from these programs. Among the non-UConn graduates in the sample group, just 58 percent were still teaching after 10 years.

A national average for the 10-year time frame is harder to ascertain, because data is difficult to obtain. For a five-year period, the retention average nationally is roughly 50 percent.

The second part of the study consisted of a survey sent to more than 1,400 UConn education graduates from roughly the same time frame, 1994 to 2005. Eighty-one percent of respondents who stayed in teaching indicated that they did so because they enjoyed working with students and felt a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction in helping them learn. Those who left cited “burnout,” as well as “changing career interests.”

Schwab, who has written extensively about job stress, says schools can head off burnout by continuing to be “vibrant learning communities, with leaders who re- inforce the importance of student achievement.”

Brown credits TNE’s tracking and support of its new teachers during their first two years of employment for helping them stay in the profession. TNE sponsors workshops that deal with every thing from coping with “Meet the Parents Night” to innovation in the classroom.

“We think of Neag graduates as change agents in the schools where they’re hired,” Brown says. “While they have to be adaptable to the culture of their particular school setting, we also want them to be willing to try the new approaches they’re learned during their prepa- ration at the Neag School.”

When a school is accepting of teachers’ new ideas, Brown says, that can go a long way toward encouraging them to stay.

But Brown says longevity isn’t the only thing that matters. “I’ve seen 30-year-olds who are burned out in the classroom, and 50- and 60-year-olds with a high level of excitement and enthus-iasm,” he says. “Time alone isn’t the key. It’s a teacher’s passion for teaching and learning that keeps him or her working at and dedi- cated to the job every day.”

Eugenics lecture continued from page 1

Kevles said the eugenics movement was based in large part on Darwin's theories of natural selection and new scientific research on heredity. The movement's adherents advocated the improvement of the human species through selective or controlled human reproduction.

Kevles said eugenics was discredited primarily because of its association with Nazi Germany's horrific sterilization policies and the death camps of World War II. "But eugenics was not unique to the Nazis. It could and did happen virtually everywhere," he said.

Kevles said many people are stunned to learn that "liberal, democratic Swedes" sterilized approximately 60,000 people between the 1930s and the 1970s.

Between the start of the 20th century and World War II, two dozen American states passed laws authorizing the forced sterilization of "the feeble minded" and others labeled as genetically flawed. In 1927, the U.S. Supreme Court voted 8-1 to uphold Virginia's eugenics law, with the majority opinion written by Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. And, according to Kevles, by 1930, California had sterilized some 6,000 people.

Kevles said the racial concerns of the American eugenics movement focused less on fears about blacks than on the waves of immigrants that would result in costly medical care. "Publicly mandated eugenics seems very unlikely in the West, especially in the United States, with its very strong commitment to civil liberties," Kevles said. In 1990, the human genome project was begun in the U.S., with the goal of identifying and mapping the more than 20,000 genes in human DNA. Some experts fear this project may "spark a revival of negative eugenics, that is, state programs of intervention in reproductive behavior so as to discourage the transmission of so-called 'bad genes,'" he said.

Kevles said rising health care costs could trigger a taxpayer rebellion "against paying for the care of those whom genetics doomed to severe disease or disability." Employers and insurance companies may well seek to screen potential employees for "diseases that would result in costly medical or disability payouts," he said.

The issue of who should be able to benefit from the advances in genetic science and medicine is made more difficult by the fact that some 45 million Americans lack health insurance, he said. "If genetic diagnostics, therapies, and cures are not equitably available to all," Kevles added, "then the marvelous and growing arsenal of knowledge and technology will only compound, worsen, and intensify the current inequities."

Wednesday, 4/16 – Materials Science Advanced Technology Laboratory. Subsp. Stewartii, Wilt Disease of Pantoea Stewartii in the Bacterial Agent of the Stewart's Characterization and Applications, of Metal and Fiber Substrates. Part Optimization of Ceramic Coatings Ph.D. Defenses Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. : Call 860-486-4357, a.m.-2 p.m.; Sunday, closed. Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-6:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, closed. Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed weekends. Health Center Library. Hours: Monday, 7-11 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday, 7-11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 9-11 a.m., Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Hours: Sunday, closed.


Wednesday, 4/16 – Materials Science & Engineering. New Approaches to Epitaxial Ferroelectric Thin Films on Anisotropic Substrates, by Gervais Nicolosi (adv.: Abbey). 9 a.m., Room MS1559, Gant Science Complex.


Lectures & Seminars Monday, 4/14 – Stamford Distiguished Lecture in Physics. “Gold Nanoparticles, and Electrons, Transform” by Flavio Mauro, University of Padova. 4 p.m., Room P318, Gant Science Complex.


Tuesday, 4/15 – Stamford Faculty Colloquium. “Faces of Women Entrepreneurs Around the World,” by Kathleen Dechant. 5 p.m., Room 132, Stamford Campus.

Tuesday, 4/15 – Marine Sciences Lecture. “Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary: Management Challenges for a Multiple Use Marine Protected Area,” by Craig MacDonald, Stellwagen Bank Marine Sanctuary. 7:30 p.m., Room 103, Marine Sciences Building, Avery Point Campus.


Wednesday, 4/14 – Statistics/Physics Colloquium. “Compressing the Universe: Monte Carlo Simulations in Statistical Physics and Beyond,” by D.P. Landau, University of Michigan. 4 p.m., Class of 1947, CLAS Building.

Wednesday, 4/14 – Recent Cases Law Lecture. A Law School course in which a different faculty member each week presents a recent case of interest. 5 p.m., Room 150, Chase Hall, School of Law.

Wednesday, 4/14 – David Ivy Memorial Lecture. “Smoggy Excavations at Natirar in Galloway and Raritan Tradition,” by Eric Meyers, Duke University. 5 p.m., Class of 1947, Room Babbage Library.

Wednesday, 4/14 – India Studies Lecture. “Gujarati Weddings and Traditions,” by Donald Johnson, University of Minnesota. 4 p.m., Class of 1947, Room Babbage Library.


Performing Arts Monday, 4/14 – The UCSC Jazz Quintet. Earl MacDonald, director. Featuring new, unrecorded music by Grammy Award-winning composer Jim McNeely 8 p.m., von der Mehren Recital Hall. Tickets: $7, free for student D. Tuesday, 4/15 – Percussion Ensemble. Director, Jay Pickering. 8 p.m., von der Mehren Recital Hall. Friday, 4/18 – The Conn-Men Spring Concert. A cappella group. 7 p.m., Student Union Theatre.


Pottopuri Wednesday, 4/16 – Black Law Students Association Recognition Night. An evening to strengthen the diversity pipeline. 6 p.m., Stam Reading Room, School of Law. Wednesday, 4/16 – Litchfield County Writers’ Project. Featuring Alejandro Kinsolving and Elizabeth MacDonald speak on creativity: 6 p.m., Hogen Lecture Hall, Tourney Tower. Thursday, 4/17 – 6:30 p.m., Stam Poet, gran: “The自动.” Thursday, 4/17 – Civil Worksite Seminar. Learn more about what behaviors are not acceptable in the workplace and what options are available. Open to members of the AFSCME and CELU bargaining units. 9 a.m. noon, Student Union Ballroom. Thursday, 4/17 – IT Training Account Information session for faculty and administr. 3:30 p.m., Shippee Dining Hall.

Saturday, 4/19 – Butler-McCook House Tour. Tour of Hartford’s oldest house. 10 a.m., Hartford Free Press membership required: $15 (for use of Museum for Natural Science; and Renaissance compasses. 8 p.m., St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel.

Saturday, 4/20 – Run. The Athletic Training Students Club will host a 2.5 mile Fun Run. 10 a.m. 10 tet Run and Walk Registration fee $5 per person. Saturday, 4/20 – UCOn Concert History book. A look at the history photographs from the University Archives, by Mark Rose. Noon, 1-4 p.m., Parish House, Storrs Congregational Church, North Eagleville Road. Dessert sells 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Sunday, 4/20 – An Afternoon with New Yorker Cartoonist Harry Bliss, and wife Michael Maslin SFA-76 and Liz Donnelly, cartoonists for the New Yorker magazine, will discuss their careers and the history of cartooning. 2 p.m., Konover Auditorium.

The Division of Athletics, the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, Environmental Policy, Residential Life, and the EcoFriendly Student Group are co-sponsoring the campus-wide Snacker Recycling Drive and Mount Snaker. The goal is to collect more snakers than ever, creating the largest Mount Snaker at UConn to date. Collection bins have been placed in residence halls, academic buildings, dining halls, and athletic and recreational facilities. The collection bins will continue until Earth Day, April 21. Donate your snakers (no fl0ps, sandals, pumps, dress shoes, or boots), and help UConn reach the goal of more than 4000 lbs. Then stop by the Mount Snaker in front of Gampel Pavilion on Earth Day. UConn has participated in the Great American Cleanup since 2005, in cooperation with Nike, the National Recycling Coalition, and Coalition Against Wasteful Packaging. The recycled snakers are used for synthetic tracks and turfs, playground surfaces, and tennis courts. To learn more, visit: www.eco-friendly.uconn.edu snackerrecycling.htm
Senior Year Experience gets students in gear for graduation and beyond

Gift expands Navigator program for Health Center cancer patients

CLAS dean (continued from page 1)

by John Spokalder
Even 10 years on, Carolyn Deal remembers the way she felt when she was first diagnosed with cancer. Deal, the president and COO of William Raveis Real Estate, Mortgage & Insurance, says the diagnosis of cancer arouses strong emotions, often in overwhelming and unforeseen ways.

“When you’re first diagnosed, you only halfway hear the things people are telling you,” says Deal, who has coped with the disease for the past 10 years. “You don’t even know what questions to ask. And you quickly find that the more you ask other people, or the more you look online, the more overwhelmed you get, because every- one’s cancer is different.”

That experience, and her company’s strong support of the Carole and Ray Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center during the past four years, has led to a $750,000 pledge from the Wilham Raveis Charitable Fund Inc. to expand the center’s existing Navigator Care Program.

The program pairs newly diag- nosed patients with trained volun- teers who assist them through the treatment process. It is currently focused on breast cancer patients. Raveis’ support, in collaboration with the American Cancer Society, will allow for full-time Navigator staff on site, and will expand the program to serve patients with other cancers as well.

“We’ve seen how cancer affects our company,” says Lorraine Mege- nis, vice president of operations at Raveis. “A very high percentage of our 1,900 sales associates are fe- male. If they haven’t gone through cancer themselves, their sisters, mothers, or friends have. We feel the support given to patients through the Navigator program is a necessity.”

William Raveis, chairman and CEO, says, “We’ve always support- ed research and education, but this is something that is helping people here and now. The big picture is vital, but so is making sure that we assist individual patients and their families through our philanthropy.”

“We’re excited to see where the Navigator program will go in the years to come, as it continues to expand and grow!” he adds.

Nancy Baccaro coordinates the existing Navigator program. She says the service can make a huge difference for patients at any stage of their journey through diagnosis, treatment, and care.

“When patients enter the health care system with a complicated condition like cancer, it’s over- whelming,” she says. “But through the Navigator program, we have an opportunity to decrease that anxiety, guide and direct a patient, and, most importantly, give the patient knowledge. With knowl- edge comes power and control, in a situation where patients often feel powerless. The Navigator acts as an adjunct to the professional provider and serves as the eyes and the ears of the patient throughout the process.”

Dr. Carolyn Runowicz, director of the Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center, says Raveis’ support allows the Center to expand the scope of the Navigator program and help more patients. “We’ve seen how useful it has been for patients with breast cancer,” she says, “and recognize the need to provide this service for all our patients. This program is a real resource for pa- tients, and helps to empower them to become more active partners in their treatment and recovery.”

That support is something Deal believes would have been helpful in her case.

“When I learned about the Navigator program, I remember thinking how useful this would have been for me,” she says. “To have someone take you through the process, represent you, educate you, prepare you, and offer that support, that adds so much for the patient.”

Gift expands Navigator program for Health Center cancer patients

by Sherry FISHER
Personal adjustment, social life, moving home, financial planning, career preparation, and other life skills are taught to UConn seniors in the Senior Year Experience (SYE) program.

The 10-week, one-credit course is designed to provide information and experiences to help seniors make a smooth transition as they move beyond college. SYE works in collaboration with the Depart- ment of Career Services and other offices on campus.

“We want to help students suc- ceed after graduation,” says Daniel Doerr, director of SYE, “and we want to give them the support they need as they transition out of their senior year. We also want to celebrate and recognize their ac- complishments as seniors.”

The course is divided into lec- tures and discussions. The discussion of career prepa- ration covers writing resumes, ap- plying for jobs, filling out applica- tions for graduate school, and the interview process.

“We want to make sure that stu- dents know how to write resumes, what to expect at job interviews, how to start the job search, how to conduct informational interviews, and that they understand the value of networking,” Doerr says.

“We address the personal money management and personal finance piece so they have exposure to budgeting, and an understanding of how they can start working on their long-term financial security. We also teach them about insur- ance and banking options, as well as assessing the financial packages that come with job offers.”

Lectures are generally given by guest speakers, often from industry, or by a staff member from UConn’s Career Services. Discussions are led by UConn staff members and graduate students in the higher education and student affairs master's degree program. The discussions are experiential and activity-based, says Doerr. For example, students may practice networking by mingling at a mock “cocktail party,” or develop 60-sec- ond “commercial” to practice marketing themselves.

“If we give them a chance to practice, it will help them when they go on their first job interviews,” he adds.

Another activity requires stu- dents to conduct interviews with people in their field of interest, and then write up what they’ve learned.

“It gives them a chance to prac- tice doing an interview, and also to get a better understanding of the particular field they’re inter- ested in pursuing,” Doerr says.

The final written assignment requires students to reflect on their undergraduate experience, how they acquired the skills they have, and how that will help them be successful in the future.

“That helps them make some mean- ing of their undergraduate experience,” Doerr says. “They reflect on how their time here has helped them grow personally, profession- ally, and intellectually.”

Doerr says another important component of SYE is the pro- gramming outside the classroom. For example, “Countdown to Commencement” information fair and celebration, reaches students in a broad way, he says. Students can have lunch, and pick up information about tables run by the UConn bursar’s, registrar’s, financial aid, alumni, and career services offices.

“Kids also have a chance to mingle,” Doerr adds.

Beth Shapiro Settje, a counselor in career services, is also a discus- sion leader.

“I try to do activities that encourage students to share their opinions and to answer each other’s questions,” she says. “They learn about their peers, and they’re learning that their thoughts and feelings are not iso- lated. They’re also learning that the careers and fields offer a lot of different resources.”

Discussion leader Connor O’Rourke, a graduate student in the higher education and student affairs master's degree program, says an exercise in budgeting was an eye-opener for students.

“In college, most students don’t pay rent, utilities, or insurance, or have to dress up to meet clients,” he says, “so some students were surprised to find out how ex- pensive it is to live outside of the college world.”