Psychology professor elected AAAS fellow

BY MICHAEL KIRK

UConn psychology professor David A. Kenny has been elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a highly coveted spot in one of the nation's oldest and most prestigious honor societies.

According to the Academy, Kenny is one of 212 new scholars, scientists, artists, civic, corporate, and philanthropic leaders from 20 states and 15 countries to be elected this year.

“I could have never achieved this honor without the many excellent colleagues and students here at the University of Connecticut,” said Kenny, who joined UConn in 1978 after serving as an assistant professor at Harvard for six years.

He is the author of six books and has written extensively in the areas of mediational analysis, interpersonal perception, and the analysis of social interaction data. His work is highly quoted, with one paper garnering roughly 10,000 citations. He has lectured and conducted workshops throughout the world, including in Hong Kong, Rome, Geneva, and Amsterdam.

Kenny received his A.B. from the University of California at Davis and his Ph.D. from Northwestern University in 1972.

Speaker explores changing concepts of human rights

BY GREGORY HLADKY

An 18th-century Connecticut slave who managed to buy his freedom and that of his family is at the center of a new effort by Anne Hiskes to look at the changing concepts of human identity.

Hiskes, an associate professor of philosophy, said this week that the trigger for her project was a legal dispute over whether the remains of Venture Smith should be exhumed for DNA testing at the request of his descendants.

“Smith’s remarkable life story was originally told in an autobiography published in 1798, one of America’s first slave narratives. During a luncheon discussion April 29 at UConn’s Humanities Institute, Hiskes said the question of “who speaks for Venture Smith” led her to an investigation of how different societies and different eras have attempted to define humanity and the meaning of human rights.

The role life sciences and genetics can play in the creation of a modern, more inclusive approach to human rights is a central theme of her project, she said.

“T’ll argue that science has an important role in that debate,” she said, adding a caveat that science has often been misused in the past to provide a basis for discriminatory or racist social and political policies.

Hiskes is director of the Program on Science and Human Rights and director of research ethics and education for stem cell research at UConn. She said she is now “in the very early stages” of a 12 to 18-month project to use Venture Smith’s story as an entry point for an examination of changing definitions of human rights.

Historians believe Smith, whose original name was Broteer Furro, was born in or near modern-day Ghana about 1729. He was kidnapped and sold into slavery before the age of 10, and was bought by a family on Fisher’s Island off the Connecticut coast in 1738. After 27 years as a slave, the renamed Venture Smith managed to save enough money to purchase his freedom and eventually the freedom of his wife Meg and their three children. He bought 10 acres of land on Haddam Neck along the Connecticut River in 1775 and worked the farm until his death in 1805.

In 2006, Smith’s descendants were granted the right to have his and his wife’s bodies exhumed and tested for DNA at the request of Smith’s great-great-great-grandson, Michael Hiskes.

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Research Foundation announces spring 2008 ‘Faculty Large Grants’

The Research Foundation’s spring 2008 Faculty Large Grants were announced recently. The goal of these awards is to help faculty move into a better position to apply for and receive extramural funding for their research and scholarly activities.

For the Faculty Large Grant competition, the Research Advisory Council received 61 proposals totaling more than $1.2 million and made 34 awards totaling more than $575,000.

The proposals were peer reviewed by members of a standing review panel.

Award recipients are:

- **Ananth Agrawal**, Anthropology, UConn’s Archaeological Field School in Armenia Prehistory.
- **Tarun Agarwal**, Computer Science, The University of Texas at Austin.
- **David Baldwin**, Cell Biology, The Cellular Basis of Heterotopic Osteification, $16,300
- **Amy Ruth Howell**, Chemistry, Investigation of a Plantium-Catalyzed Catalytic Hydrogenation, $23,500
- **Randy Hoyt**, Art & Art History, The Origins and Influence of Graphic Design Pedagogy in the United States during the Mid-to Late 20th Century, $10,000

The proposals were peer reviewed by members of a standing review panel.

Award recipients are:

- **Daniel Adler**, Anthropology, UC/Com Archaeological Field School in Armenian Prehistory. The Razdan Gorge Paleolithic Project, Armenia, $23,523
- **Maya Beasley**, Sociology, Investigating the Role of Counterterror and Repression on Terrorism and Non-Violent Activities in the Middle East, $3,000
- **David Benson**, Molecular & Cell Biology, Comparative Shotgun Proteomics of Free-Living Versus Plant-Symbiotic Nitrogen-fixing Bacteria, $24,000
- **Edna Brown**, Human Development and Family Studies, The Divorce Experience in the Context of Race and Gender, $3,010
- **Richard Christenson**, Civil & Environmental Engineering, Distributed Real-Time Hybrid Simulation, $23,500
- **Christophe Dupraz**, Marine Sciences, Biosphere-Lithosphere Interface: the Role of EPS in the Precipitation of Carbonate Minerals in Biofilms, $21,289
- **Pamela Erickson**, Anthropology, Social Context of Sexual Behavior among Emerging Adults: A Pilot Study of Caucasian, $26,000
- **Till Daniel Frank**, Psychology, Delay Oscillators of Behavioral Dynamics and Dysfunctional Diseases, $21,593
- **Paulo Goes**, Operations & Information Management, A Study of Late Bidding Behavior in Online Auctions, $10,100
- **David Goldhammer**, Molecular & Cell Biology, The Cellular Basis of Heterotopic Osteification, $16,300
- **Amy Ruth Howell**, Chemistry, Investigation of a Plantium-Catalyzed Catalytic Hydrogenation, $23,500
- **Randy Hoyt**, Art & Art History, The Origins and Influence of Graphic Design Pedagogy in the United States during the Mid-to Late 20th Century, $10,000
- **John Ivan**, Civil & Environmental Engineering, Investigation of Vehicle Interaction Severity as a Surrogate for Highway Crash Severity, $2,500
- **Blair Johnson**, Psychology, Meta-analysis of Psychosocial Interventions to Increase Physical Activity in Cancer Survivors, $2,269
- **Cynthia S. Jones**, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Variations in Structural and Functional Traits Across Diverse Plant Growth Forms, $15,225
- **Shiva Kotha**, Mechanical Engineering, Non-invasive Stimulation of Bone Regeneration, $23,500
- **Kathryn Libal**, Human Development and Family Studies, Analyzing Non-Governmental Politics, U.S. Refugees Policy, and Iraqi Refugees, $12,460
- **Earl Macdonald**, Music, The Composition and Recording of Original Works for Jazz Orchestra, $20,000
- **Mary McGrane**, Nutritional Sciences, Protective Effects of a Functional Food Component: Maintaining Distal Biliary Lineage Development and Bone Health, $23,831
- **Tyson Miller**, Chemistry, Assessment of Stereoregionality Through a Formal Interview, $24,688
- **Akiko Nishiyama**, Physiology & Neurobiology, In Vivo Fate Analysis of NG2 Glia Using New Transgenic Mouse Lines, $22,294
- **Spencer Nyholm**, Molecular & Cell Biology, Regulation of Mucus Secretions in a Squid/Vibrio Symiosis, $21,000
- **Crystal Park**, Psychology, Health Behavior Change in Breast Cancer Survivors: Project to Collect Pilot Data, $17,698
- **Heather Read**, Psychology, Functional Organization of Developmentally Altered Cortices, $15,225
- **Mark Rudnicki**, Natural Sciences Management & Engineering, Interaction Between Large Cohesive Eddies and Tree Swing Motion: Full Scale Measurement, $12,704
- **Eric Schultz**, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Ecological Pathways in Pocillopora, a Genus of Livebearing Fish, $13,304
- **Erling Smith**, Civil & Environmental Engineering, Research on Progressive Collapse and Transportation Safety, $3,500
- **Joan Smyth**, Pathobiology & Evolutionary Research, Investigation of Necrotic Eutrophication. Investigation of Chloorophyta Periflagellar Adhesion to Epiteliud and Extracellular Matrix Proteins, $16,500
- **Wei Sun**, Mechanical Engineering, Biomolecular Modeling of Periatamal Transversal Mitral Annuloplasty, $29,805
- **Nathanial Trumbull**, Geography, Urban Waterfront Renewal, Participatory Planning, and Lessons to Learn in New London and New Bedford: A Comparative Analysis, $6,126
- **Charles Venator**, Political Science, Constitutional Exceptionalities: From Territories to Congressional Apportionment, A Historical Appraisal, $9,250
- **Randall Wallkonis**, Physiology & Neurobiology, Regulation of Excretory Synapses of a-Met, $21,689

**AAAS fellow continued from page 1**

In a new release, the Academy notes that other new fellows include Nobel laureates and recipients of Pulitzer and Priztker prizes, Academy and Grammy awards, and Kennedy Center honors. Among them are former White House chief of staff James A. Baker III, Linda Buck, a 2004 Nobel laureate who developed a molecular understanding of the sense of smell, and filmmakers Joel and Ethan Coen.

“The Academy honors excellence by electing to membership remarkable men and women who have made preeminent contributions to their fields, and to the world,” said Academy President Emilio Bizzi. “We are pleased to welcome into the academy these new members to help advance our founders’ goal of ‘cherishing knowledge and shaping the future.’”

An induction ceremony will take place in Cambridge, Mass. on Oct. 11.

**Steam outage begins May 11**

A complete steam shutdown at the Storrs campus to enable repairs and maintenance to the system is scheduled to take place from Sunday, May 11, at 11:45 p.m., through Friday, May 16. It is expected to take a couple of days to restore the system to full capacity.

In some cases there will be no hot water available for heat, showers, dishwashing, or lab needs. If you have questions or special requirements, please call Mike Pacholki at 860-486-0014, or Work Order Control at 860-486-3113 to discuss alternate arrangements.

**Publication notice**

This is the last weekly issue of the Advance for the 2007-08 academic year. The next issue will be published on May 19.

During the summer, the paper is published on a reduced schedule, with biweekly issues in May and monthly issues in June and July. We resume weekly publication in August, at the start of the new academic year.

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**Mental health conference**

A conference on Eliminating Mental Health and Addiction Disparities in Connecticut and Beyond will take place in Rome Ballroom on Tuesday, May 20, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The event, which is intended for researchers, physicians, public health practitioners, social workers, community agencies, and students, is organized by the Connecticut Center for Eliminating Health Disparities among Latinos. Felip Gonzalez Castro of Arizona State University will deliver a keynote address on “Acculturation, Drug Abuse, and Mental Disorder in Latino Populations: Current Knowledge, Knowledge Gaps, and Future Directions.”

Thomas Kirk Jr., Commissioner of the state Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, will give a keynote address titled, “Culture? Healthcare Disparities? So what?”

Other topics to be discussed include epidemiology and determinants of mental health and addiction; DNA-guided medicine, mental illness, and advancing personalized healthcare among the Hispanic population; gender disparities in mental health and addiction; and building culturally competent programs.

Registration is free, and lunch will be provided. To register, visit the Conference section of the Center’s web site at www.cdhl.uconn.edu.
Senior class gift to redesign main entrance to Student Union

The class of 2008 is raising money for a gift to mark the past, whether it was for scholarship, building renovations, or technology advancements. This is a great opportunity for seniors to start giving back, ensuring future undergrads similar experiences.

The Senior Square is being designed by juniors in the landscape architecture program as a class project. The effort is led by Kristin Schwab and Mark Westa, both associate professors of landscape architecture in the plant science department in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

"The physical benefit of our gift," says Kyle Bellemare, CLAS '08, chair of the senior class gift committee, "will be a beautiful entrance to a very central location on campus, the Student Union. It will be like a finishing touch to the building that has undergone so many renovations during the past few years." The goal is to raise $30,000. To date, seniors have committed more than $28,500. The gift committee is asking each student to give $20.08 in commemoration of their graduation year. Fundraising expectations are high, following successful campaigns in the past two years, when seniors raised $31,000 and $32,000, respectively.

"The senior class gift is an excellent way for seniors to give something back to the University that has provided us with so much over the past four years," says Belle- mae. "We have all benefited from private gifts to the University in the past, whether it was for scholarship, building renovations, or technology advancements. This is a great opportunity for seniors to start giving back, ensuring future undergrads similar experiences."

The design plan is expected to be reviewed soon by the senior class gift committee and campus planners, with groundbreaking anticipated next year.

Bellemae, a double major in political sciences and economics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, is enjoying participating in the design process and working with his classmates to give back to UConn.

"This experience has taught me a lot about team building and fundraising," he says. "It's extremely fulfilling to see seniors give back while benefiting the University at the same time."

Fund raising and community involvement are not new responsibilities for Bellemae, who will be a graduate after graduating this month. Through his job in the student call center at the UConn Foundation, he has helped bring in private donations for the University. Bellemae also engages in philanthropic and community service activities through the international business fraternity Delta Sigma Pi.

"To make a gift to the Senior Square Fund, contact Leanne Proc- tor at 860.486.1565.

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Health Center Auxiliary steps in to help families of preemies

BY CHRIS DEFRAncESCO

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Management professor studies dynamics of teamwork

**By Scott Brodnoff**

What do such diverse settings as a building on fire, a corporate office, a manufacturing floor, or an air traffic control tower have in common? All are places where teamwork occurs. And they are places where new technology is periodically unveiled in the hope that it will improve results.

Professor John Mathieu, the Robert Cizik Chair in Manufacturing and Technology Management, has long studied team dynamics in such places, the impact of technology on various tasks, and how managers can improve outcomes. His research has brought him into the worlds of firefighters, nuclear power plants, pharmaceutical salespersons, aerospace engineers, and air traffic controllers, to name a few. Recently, he’s been working with the military to build the most effective teams of American soldiers charged with turning security responsibilities over to their Iraqi counterparts.

“Teams are often incredibly dysfunctional,” Mathieu says, even though managers in all sorts of situations readily depend on them. “Teams are not one-size-fits-all, and blending the right people together into an effective team isn’t easy.” As teams have spread through the public and private sectors, they have become increasingly “layered.” Mathieu says. Often, teams work together in what he calls a ‘multi-team system.’

**Navy physiologist earns doctorate in educational psychology**

**By Kala Kachmar**

Two pilots in the air suddenly become short of breath. Their heads pound, their vision begins to blur. They are becoming hypoxic – oxygen-deprived – as the cabin pressure drops. They must take prompt action if they’re to survive.

Lt. Cdr. Anthony Artino, a Navy aerospace physiologist, is responsible for training pilots in emergency situations like these. And that’s why he’s at UConn.

Artino, who will graduate this month with a Ph.D. in educational psychology, came to the University of Connecticut three years ago to learn how to better train his students. And this is how things ideally:

“Firefighting illustrates the concept. In a study written with Leslie DeChurch of the University of Central Florida, Mathieu describes firefighters operating in a burning building. To an applied behavioral scientist like Mathieu, such an apparently straightforward exercise in teamwork is highly complex.

The various firefighter teams are charged with such functions as search and rescue, fire suppression, on-site medical care, discovery of potentially explosive stored materials, and ventilation. The teams often consist of both volunteers and professional firefighters from more than one municipality. Crowd control and media relations must be addressed. Someone has to be in charge of the entire operation, but that’s often too much for one person, Mathieu says.

While the teams are united in their mission, the potential for unintended conflict is real, he adds. If the different teams are not carefully coordinated, they may jeopardize each other. Mathieu describes how a firefighting multi-team system functions ideally:

“When the teams first arrive on the scene, the fire suppression and search and rescue teams’ goals are linked sequentially. The fire suppression teams must get water on the fire before search and rescue operations can commence. Second, the nature of the goal hierarchy shifts as the task cycles unfold over time, and the teams become more reciprocally interdependent.”

If team dynamics are this complicated at the site of a single building fire, what does that suggest about the difficulty teams face in a more complex situation?

Mathieu uses Hurricane Katrina to illustrate not only the massive challenge of coordinating all the players in the aftermath of such an event, but also to drive home another point: It’s better to avoid getting into a bad situation than to expect a team to bail you out after the fact.

“I’m not an expert on Hurricane Katrina,” he says, “but there were clear failures on the management side long before the disaster occurred. Political leaders didn’t take steps that might have minimized the loss of life and property damage, which included not only physical measures but also hiring and training the right people to handle crisis situations.”

The chemistry needed to transform a group of individuals into an effective team is complex, but it’s not the only area Mathieu studies. He also researches how technology can be successfully used to improve teamwork.

One such study involved some 250 pharmaceutical salespeople who call on doctors. Armed with special laptop computers containing more than 90 screens of relevant data, the drug reps visited each doctor’s office in their area an average of 25 times a year.

The computers contained software that allowed researchers to see how often the reps were using particular screens, giving them a glimpse into how easily salespeople adapt to different selling situations.

The study found that putting technology at a salesperson’s fingertips provided measurable benefits that included higher sales, greater customer satisfaction, and smarter salespeople.

The laptop selling tools helped both the salesperson and the customer, the study found. But among the sales force, there were still pockets of resistance to the program.

Such a response may fly in the face of common sense, but as Mathieu says, “If common sense is so pervasive, why do we still have ‘Dilbert’ cartoons?”

Outstanding Doctoral Student Research Award from the Neag School of Education. He also won the Lorraine H. Woollett Distinguished Paper Award from the Northeastern Educational Research Association, the Ellingston Distinguished Paper Award for a paper he published in Aviation, Space, and Environmental Medicine.

He worked as a research assistant for the Teachers for a New Era project, an initiative of the Carnegie Corp. of New York to improve the quality of teaching by bringing better teacher education programs to higher education institutions.

In addition to his other responsibilities, Artino was president of the Neag Graduate Student Association in 2007-08, and previously served as student representative to his program’s faculty council.

“He brought back the voice of the students to the cognition and instruction program,” Brown says. Artino also co-taught an undergraduate course in educational psychology, and was the instructor for a graduate course in learning theories last summer.

He has been assigned after graduation to the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md., as an assistant professor in the department of preventive medicine.

“My plan,” he says, “is to keep my hand in the research world as I go along in my naval career.”

John Mathieu, the Robert Cizik Chair in Manufacturing and Technology Management, in his office at the School of Business.
Start-up company benefits from incubator space on campus

BY DAVID BALAHAN

Because the cost of developing new medicines is so high, pharmaceutical companies have started outsourcing research and development to countries such as China and India. Yadagiri Pendri has a different idea: Do such work in a start-up company based at UConn. “The pharmaceutical outsourcing industry is still very much in its infancy,” says Pendri, founder and CEO of Escientia Life Sciences, the newest client in UConn’s Technology Incubator Program. “The resulting companies like Escientia can exist,” he explains, “because the cost of research of pharmaceutical companies doing research in-house is just too high.”

He founded Escientia in October 2007, with a vision for tech companies to partner with biotechnology and biopharmaceutical companies in drug discovery, development, and manufacturing.

Faced with regulatory changes, complex patent laws, global clinical trials, and an urgent need to minimize the development time of new drugs and medicines, many major drug companies are turning to outsourcing, or shifting work to contractors. It’s no longer viable for these companies to carry out in-house the various processes that extend from drug discovery all the way to drug manufacture and commercialization.

Pendri sees an opportunity to search to move them into clinical trials. The company is also developing new proprietary medicines on its own to treat diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis. Such drugs tend to have small profit margins, and hence are not widely explored by big pharmaceutical companies.

“Our goal,” he says, “is to develop chemical processes and technologies that are cost-effective, safe, environmentally friendly, and practical for manufacturing drugs of high quality.”

Escientia, which has moved into laboratory space at the Storrs campus, is the 16th company in the University’s Technology Incubator Program.

“An easy reason Pendri’s company was allowed TIP space,” says Zangari, “is that his services and expertise could provide support for faculty interested in drug discovery, with the potential for valuable collaboration.”

Pendri notes that with Escientia on campus, more chemistry students may become interested in drug discovery and development and understand the full range of research experience required to take a molecule from the laboratory to market.

Medical/dental program boosts high schoolers’ interest in field

BY CHRIS DEFRANCESCO

Dozens of potential medical and dental students have already heard their first lectures at the UConn Health Center, even though they wouldn’t matriculate for four more years at the earliest.

Sixty-nine students from 16 Connecticut schools took part in this year’s High School Mini Medical/Dental School, a program of the Health Center’s Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs.

“The goal is to inform and excite students about cutting-edge basic science research that is being conducted by some of the outstanding professors at the Health Center,” says Dr. Marja Hurley, associate dean of the medical school and program director. “These students also heard lectures from outstanding physicians and dentists who provide care to patients.”

Over the course of nine weeks, 16 faculty members gave presentations. The students were presented with diplomas April 24.

“I like how the doctors talk about where they come from and the goals they set to become a doctor, and they try to motivate you to do what you have to do in order to reach where they are, or even higher,” says Deezana Minnifield, a sophomore at Hartford’s Weaver High School, who sees herself as a future gynecologist. “I got a lot out of it. It just makes me want to become a doctor even more.”

A student of Berger, Weaver sophomore Samarbre Stewart says the program inspired her to consider becoming either a surgeon or a dentist. “It exposed me to different illnesses and areas of medicine,” she says, “and gave me an idea of what we want to become.”

Dr. Biree Andemariam, who lectured on sickle cell disease, says she’s living proof of the impact this type of program can have.

“It was through a similar experience when I was in high school that I decided I wanted to be a doctor,” Andemariam says. “Up until then, I thought I would be an engineer.”

Some students, like Glastonbury High School senior Lauren Hutchinson, already knew they wanted to get into medicine. She says she particularly enjoyed the presentations on neurology, oncology, and dentistry. Next year, Hutchinson will start the pre-medical program at Simmons College in Boston.

Caitlyn Gaetani, a senior at Kennedy High School in Waterbury, says she has always wanted to work in medicine. “I’m not sure what field in medicine yet, so this is helping me,” she says. Both students and faculty left impressions on each other.

“The students are bright, curious, ask questions, and stay alert throughout the lectures that come after a long week of classes,” says Dr. David Papernoster, whose presentation was titled “What Do Green-eyed Frogs Tell Us About Blindness?” “After the lectures, they come forward to ask more questions, or get an e-mail address to send in additional questions,” he says. “What more can a teacher ask?”

Dr. Peter Schulman, who lectured on cardiology, says, “I really enjoy the enthusiasm of the high school students. Their questions are often right on target and force us to rethink how we explain complex topics to students.”

Hussey says some of the students who attended the first program 12 years ago have completed medical school and are now in residency programs.

Dr. David Bowe, who discussed stem cell research, says “The Mini Medical/Dental School program should be a paradigm for how the University can have a larger impact on the secondary school population to draw a larger number of Connecticut students to our university, enhance their career in the sciences, and eventually practice that career within the state.”

Dr. Edward Thibeudeau, associate dean of the School of Dental Medicine, gives a presentation on oral health and disease to high school students in the Mini Medical/Dental School.
humed, in an effort to discover more about their legendary ancestor and his origins. Hiskes said Smith's descendants were "turning to science to supplement their sense of identity."

The project was carried out despite a legal challenge that worked to prevent the project from going ahead. Hiskes said the researchers to found their dismay that Connecticut's acid soil had left them little to work with and thwarted the effort to trace Smith's DNA.

According to Hiskes, the debate over who should speak for Venture Smith and what role science may have in researching who he was can serve as a starting point for a wider ranging discussion of how the definition of humanity has evolved.

In her talk, Hiskes argued that the 18th-century Enlightenment concept of human rights failed to include women and children as part of the social contract. She added that many Western thinkers in that era did not consider Africans to be rational human beings and excluded them from the concept of human rights.

She said that attitude was at least partially responsible for a situation in which Thomas Jefferson could pen stirring sentiments about the equality of all men while continuing to own slaves. In his autobiography, said Hiskes, Smith was "speaking for all those whose humanity had been denied."

But the definition of human rights, partially through the efforts of modern science, is changing to include women, children, the disabled, and minorities, Hiskes said. "All humans share the same genome," she said.

Hiskes also pointed to differing, non-Western concepts being offered by some African nations and thinkers, such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa. Aindow, M. Institute of Materials Science United Technologies- $30,000 9/07-4/08

TEM Characterization of SAM Al (G. Gavrilescu)

Andrew, S. Animal Science Walter (George) Milk Research Fund $20,250 3/08-12/08

Use of Ultrasound Technology to Reduce Intramammary Infections in Heifers During the Pre-partum Period

Bahr, B. Pharmaceutical Sciences Natl.'s Inst. of Health $43,282 9/07-9/08

Natl.'s Inst. on Drug Abuse/MSKCLINICAL, LLC

New Drugs to Endoscopy in Enfuenoidal Responses for Treating Excitotoxicity, Small Business Innovation Research Phase I

Boelsterli, U. Pharmaceutical Sciences Helsin Healthcare $57,600 11/07-8/09

Mechanisms of Nimesulide Hepatotoxicity: Possible Role of Reactive Metabolites

Boggs, S. Institute of Materials Science Dept. of Defense/ Air Force/Universal Technology Corp. $5,701 2/08-8/10

Processing and Surface Analysis of Interfaces in Hybrid Composites

Broun, J. Kinesiology City of Hartford, Conn. $8,000 12/07-8/09

Husky Sport / Husky Nutrition: A Partnership for Promoting Healthy Lifestyles

Bucklin, A. Marine Sciences University of Rhode Island $49,922 3/08-4/08

Charter of Research Vessel Connecticut by University of Rhode Island to Recover Triplet

Bucklin, A. Marine Sciences University of Rhode Island $427 2/08-3/08

Provide Dive Services to the University of Rhode Island

Chrysouchoou, M. Civil & Environmental Engineering Schmal Engineering $6,000 3/08-4/08

North LLC, Inc.

Analysis of All-Rich Powders

Chrysouchoou, M. Civil & Environmental Engineering National Chromium Co. $7,500 2/08-3/08

Treatability Study of Co-Contaminated Soil in National Chrominium Facility

Cicco, D. Natural Resources Mgnt. & Engineering Environmental Protection Agency $145,442 2/08-12/08

Fifth International Workshop on the Analysis of Multi-Temporal Remote Sensing Imagery

Colbert, R. Educational Psychology Future Inc. $53,000 8/07-8/08

Counseling Internship – J. Hardwick

Colbert, R. Educational Psychology Future Inc. $53,000 8/07-8/08

Counseling Psychology Internship – A. Morris

Colbert, R. Educational Psychology Future Inc. $53,000 8/07-8/08

Counseling Psychology Internship – E. Frenette

Colbert, R. Educational Psychology Future Inc. $53,000 8/07-8/08

Counseling Psychology Internship – E. Hayden

Colbert, R. Educational Psychology Future Inc. $53,000 8/07-8/08

Counseling Psychology Internship – D. Thomsen

Ellis, D. Plant Science U.S. Dept. of Agriculture $9,580 1/08-12/08

Agriculture & Animal Health Inspection Service

Biocontrol Work Plan for Calendar Year 2008

Ellis, D. Plant Science U.S. Dept. of Agriculture $10,000 1/08-12/08

Agriculture & Animal Health Inspection Service

Noxious Weeds Work Plan for Calendar Year 2008

Faustman, C. Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture Conn. Dept. of Higher Education $100,000 9/07-6/08

Personal Services Agreement with Iowa State University for Veterinary College Contract Positions for Qualified Connecticut Residents

Fitzgerald, W. Marine Sciences National Science Foundation $232,579 7/08-5/11

Collaborative Research: Mercury Biogeochemistry on the Continental Shelf and Slope

Frisman, L. School of Social Work, Instruction & Research Natl.'s Insts. of Health/ $22,400 2/08-4/08

Natl.'s Inst. of Mental Health & Addiction Services

Aged-Out Youth in the Adult System II

Frisman, L. School of Social Work, Office of Dean Natl.'s Inst. of Mental Health & Addiction Services $21,211 6/07-5/11

Evaluation of Advanced Supervision and Intervention Support (ASIST) Program

Gao, P. Institute of Materials Science United Technologies Research Center $9,395 1/08-6/08

Synthesis of ZnO Nanocrystals as Field Emitters

Grillo, M. Dept. of Extension New Haven Board of Education $22,500 1/08-6/08

The 4-H Horticultural Program

Johnson, B. Psychology National Science Foundation $7,993 3/08-2/09

Doctoral Dissertation Award in S&S: Daily Diary Study of Hispanic Culture, Identity, and Health (M. Bloyton)

Kalishman, S. Psychology-Center for Health, Intervention & Prevention Natl.'s Inst. of Health $2,737,750 2/08-1/13

HIV Treatment Adherence Intervention for People with Low Literacy Skills

Kehle, T. Educational Psychology Winchester Public Schools, Winsted $12,333 8/07-5/08

School Psychology Internship – S. Reddy

Kehle, T. Educational Psychology Corporation – C. Breton $12,497 8/07-5/08

School Psychology Internship – S. Luftman

Kehle, T. Educational Psychology Willow Public Schools, Willow $29,238 8/07-5/08

School Psychology Internship – S. Pontillo

Kendall, D. Molecular & Cell Biology Natl.'s Inst. of Health $1,464,232 9/08-3/12

Redesign of Structural Regions of Alkaline Phosphatase

Kraemer, W. Kinesiology Dept. of Defense/Army $624,600 3/08-12/08

Inst. of Environmental Medicine

Maximizing the Osteogenic Properties of Polymeric Exercise to Induce Optimal Structural Adaptations in Bone and Muscle: Effects on Endocrine and Cellular Controls

Kraus, C. Center for Survey Research & Analysis Conn. Dept. of Public Health $212,000 1/08-6/08

Sickle Cell Project

Kraus, C. Center for Survey Research & Analysis Conn. Children's Medical Center $4,400 2/08-7/08

Physicians Survey

Luturo, J. Physiology & Neurobiology Natl.'s Insts. of Health $1,622,615 3/08-1/12

Natl.'s Inst. of Child Health & Human Development

Dyslexia Susceptibility Genes and Mechanisms of Neuronal Development

Luh, P. Electrical & Computer Engineering Alstom Power Corp. $414,754 8/08-1/09

Power Plant Boiler Modeling and Optimization, Phase VII

Anne Hiskes, professor of philosophy, right, discusses how changing definitions of humanity have shaped the concept of human rights. Also shown is Ruth Milikan, professor emerita of philosophy.
Weekdays, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday & Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sunday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, with a trip to the UConn Observatory.

CEN 1004: "Understanding the Biology of Cancer," by James Michaelson, Harvard Medical School. 1 p.m., Room 135, Biology/Physics Building.


Exhibits
Through Sunday, 5/15 – The William Benton Museum of Art. The William Benton Master of Fine Arts Exhibition: also, Rome, Italy and Europe, and Marcus Vuori. 5 p.m., Room 120, Benton Museum. Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday, 1-4:30 p.m. Free admission.

Through Sunday, 5/15 – Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. The Free African American Cultural Society. For the arts, see Libraries section.

Through Friday, 5/16 – Babbidge Library. "The Start of the New Year: Polypaintings, paintings by Pamela and Frank Bramble, Gallery on the Plaza and Stevens Gallery. For hours, see Libraries section.

Through Friday, 5/16 – Dodd Center. The Ethnic American Film Series. For hours, see Libraries section.

Through Wednesday, 6/12 – Celeste Le Witt Gallery. "In the Moment, paintings by Rita Bondi, also, Pubs/Structures/Lege and Smith, paintings by Jan Bredfeldt. Daily, 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Ongoing. Field Museum: Natural History & Connecticut Archaeology Center. "How Free are We?" by author Anthony Lewis. 7 p.m., Auditorium, Greater Union Church. Free admission.

"The First Amendment: Free and Fair, or Free and Weak?" by author Anthony Lewis. 7 p.m., Auditorium, Greater Union Church. Free admission.

"A Winning Smile." 7 p.m., Keller Auditorium, Main Campus. Free admission.

"The First Amendment: Free and Fair, or Free and Weak?" by author Anthony Lewis. 7 p.m., Auditorium, Greater Union Church. Free admission.

"How Free are We?" by author Anthony Lewis. 7 p.m., Auditorium, Greater Union Church. Free admission.

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Class of ’08 Outstanding Students

Daniel Melchor

BY SHERY FISHER

Daniel Melchor grew up in one of the poorest neighborhoods in Mexico City. “My dad passed away when I was four years old, and my mother raised six children by herself,” he says. “It wasn’t easy for us, but we were helped by a variety of government programs.”

That’s why Melchor, who is graduating this month with a master's degree in social work, decided to enter that field. “I wanted to provide service to others in the same ways that my family was helped,” he says. “Social work was the natural place for doing this.”

His area of focus is administration. Melchor, who holds a bachelor’s degree from the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, took courses through the Staff Training and Education for the Profession (STEP) program for two years before matriculating in the social work master's program. STEP offers credit courses and non-credit continuing professional education programs.

Before moving to the United States in 2003, he worked for the Mexican Association for Rural and Urban Transformation as program coordinator for a micro-credit program for people with low incomes. He is currently a case manager for the Supportive Housing for Families Program at The Connection Inc., where he works with homeless people and families at risk of homelessness.

In addition to his full-time job, Melchor is completing a 15-hour a week internship at the School's Center for International Social Work Studies, and chairs the Latin American Student Organization. He says his experience as the School of Social Work has been wonderful.

“The STEP program really helped me get started and learn about graduate school in the United States,” he says. “I didn’t speak English very well, so it was hard to communicate, but the teachers and students were supportive and encouraged me to participate. And when I became a full-time student, the professors were very helpful and allowed me to go at my own speed.”

Melchor has served as chair of the Latin American Student Organization. “Latin Americans in the U.S. face many issues regarding immigration, poverty, language, income, and jobs,” he says. “In the School of Social Work, there’s a big population of Latin American students who are very active.”

Melchor’s future plans include pursuing a doctorate related to public policy or international development.

Marshall Dougherty

BY CURRIE KENNEDY, CLAS ’08, in intent on making her mark on the world and she plans to do it through her photos. Kwentoh, a journalism major with a double minor in human rights and African American studies, will graduate this month. She hopes to pursue a career in photojournalism after college.

Kwentoh came to UConn from North Haven High School. In October 2007, Kwentoh’s work was featured in a juried art exhibit in Brooklyn, New York. Celebrity photographer Kareem Black was the exhibit’s curator.

Kwentoh says the exhibit was a perfect opportunity to display her talent. “Showing my photography in New York City reassured me that I do have a talent that will take me far,” she says. Kwentoh also discovered confidence while on vacation with her family in Nigeria, her parents’ native country. Her mother and grandmother participated in the ceremony of initiation into a women’s organization known as Otu Odu (Ivy Society). Kwentoh captured the event on camera.

She is particularly proud of a particular photo that was taken on the second day of the ceremony. “It’s a picture of a group of kids watching the ceremony take place,” she says. Kwentoh later titled this picture Nwa Ude, which in the Igbo language spoken by her family means “shy child.” It was also the photo that Black chose for the exhibit.

“The ability to tell a story without saying a single word is what attracted me to photography,” she says. Now she hopes to take her interests a step further. “I want to be a human rights advocate and use my photography to show people what's really going on in the world,” Kwentoh adds. “I want to capture powerful moments. I want people to look at my photos and say, ‘I understand what you're saying.’”

Over a period of several weeks, the Advance is publishing short profiles of some of this year’s graduating students. Those featured were selected from among those recommended by each school and college.