Rebecca Lobo tell graduates to dream big

BY SHERI FISHER AND ELSIE BENNET-TAHUNU

“I’m a living testament to the power of delusional thinking,” Rebecca Lobo told graduating students during undergraduate commencement exercises in Gampel Pavilion on May 11.

“When I was a kid, I was foolish enough to think that I could play professional basketball in the U.S.,” she said. “Silly enough to think I could participate in the Olympics. Sufficiently delusional to believe I might one day broadcast ballgames for a living.”

Lobo, a UConn trustee and the forward/center on UConn’s undefeated and national champion 1995 women’s basketball team, gave the Commencement address to some 2,400 undergraduates in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The ceremony started late as an unprecedented number of students attended the event and filled just about every seat.

Lobo told the crowd that she missed her own graduation because she was trying out for the Olympic basketball team. “I feel like an honorary member of the Class of ’98,” said Lobo, who was gold medalist in the 1996 Olympics and is a women’s basketball analyst, working on broadcasts for CBS and ESPN.

Prominent surgeon named Health Center vice president, dean

BY MAUREEN McGUIRE AND KRISTINA GOODNOUGH

A nationally prominent orthopaedic surgeon and administrator from the University of Virginia was appointed vice president for health affairs at the Health Center.

He will hold the Van Dusen Chair in Academe and a professorship in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. “I couldn’t be more thrilled to make this appointment,” says University President Michael J. Hogan. “Dr. Laurencin is an exceptionally accomplished scientist, doctor, and community leader with outstanding administrative skills.”

Laurencin is currently the Lillian T. Pratt Distinguished Professor and chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Virginia, as well as the Orthopaedic Surgeon-in-Chief at the University of Virginia Health System. In addition, he was designated a University Professor at the University of Virginia, holding one of the university’s most prestigious titles, and has professorships in biomedical engineering and chemical engineering.

Laurencin is an expert in shoulder and knee surgery and an international leader in tissue engineering research. He is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the American College of Orthopaedic Surgeons, is widely published in scholarly journals, and holds more than 20 U.S. patents. Among his numerous awards and accolades, he was recently honored by Scientific American Magazine as one of the top 50 innovators for his groundbreaking technological work in the regeneration of knee tissue.

“The University of Connecticut is a wonderful institution with an outstanding young medical school,” Laurencin says. “I am excited about leading this great medical center.”

His selection follows a comprehensive national search to find a successor to Peter J. Deckers, M.D., who is leaving his position Aug. 10, after 13 years as dean, eight years as executive vice president and more than 20 years of service to the UConn Health Center. Deckers will take a one-year leave and will formally retire in 2009. During his retirement, however, Deckers, an accomplished surgical oncologist, will remain involved with the Health Center and will see patients, teach, and assist with philanthropic and outreach efforts.

“I’m grateful that Peter Deckers has agreed to continue in his role and assist with the leadership transition until Dr. Laurencin begins his appointment on August 11,” says President Hogan. “Throughout my transition here, Peter has provided not only assistance and advice, but also personal friendship that I deeply value.”

The search committee for Deckers’ successor was led by Richard Garibaldi, M.D.,...
Teaching award winners announced

This year’s winners of awards for excellence in teaching and advising were announced on April 24, during a recognition dinner held in Rome Ballroom. The event was hosted by Provost Peter J. Nicholls, Veronica Malkovsky, provost, and Keith Barker, associate vice provost.

The award recipients are:

First Year Experience
Joseph Broady, Student Development & Learning
Outstanding First Year Experience Teaching Award
Carl Dean Jr., Center for Academic Programs
Outstanding First Year Experience Teaching Award

Advising
Jennifer Murphy, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
Outstanding Undergraduate Advising and Advocacy Award
Morty Ortega, Natural Resources Management & Engineering
Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award

2008 Teaching Fellows
Ronen Derer, Pharmaceutical Sciences
Joseph Madaus, Educational Psychology

2008-09 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award
Steve McDaid, Philosophy
Jason Schmink, Chemistry

The John T. Szazar Memorial Outstanding FYE Mentor Award
Robert Gendreau, Health Care Management
Benjamin Gruenbaum, Psychology
Additional faculty members who have been recognized for excellence were 30.

Honors Program
Steven Wisensale, Human Development & Family Studies
Honors Council Faculty Member of the Year, 2008

College of Agriculture & Natural Resources
Robert Milhаве, Animal Science
UCANRAA Excellence in Teaching Award

University of Connecticut

Funding expected for Storrs Center garage

By Richard Velleux

Connecticut Gov. M. Jodi Rell on Friday said $10 million will be used to fund a parking garage for the Storrs Center is expected to gain approval when the state Bond Commission meets on May 30.

The nearly $220 million, 50-acre village, complete with restaurants, retail outlets, housing, offices and 35 acres of open space, will be built on Rte. 195 near the School of Fine Arts and E.O. Smith High School.

The bonding will cover about 70% of the cost of the garage. Other funding for the downtown project includes approximately $190 million from the developers, Leyland Alliance of New York and federal and other state and local sources.

“This is our opportunity to shape a college town,” Rell said. “UCONN has become truly a world class institution and we are so proud of how far our flagship university has come in so short a time. Still, I think we would all agree that one key ingredient is missing at UConn – a town center that would provide Mansfield with a ‘college town’ look and feel.”

UCONN, Mansfield and Downtown Partnership officials have been laying the groundwork for the project since 2002. Officials are waiting for final three payments, including two from the state.

“It’s another step forward,” Cynthia van Zelm, director of the Downtown Partnership, said shortly after Rell’s announcement.

“Support we’ve received from the governor and Sen. Williams and Rep. Merrill, and the assistance of state agencies has been extraordinary,” Hogan said. “They understand what a necessary advantage Storrs Center will be, not only to the University – where the impact will be huge – but to the Town of Mansfield, Eastern Connecticut and the state itself.”

Teaching Service awarded for new healthy food line

By Ashley Sporleder, CLAS ’08

The Department of Dining Services has earned a national award for its new line of healthy foods known as Spa Foods.

Staff of the department will receive the Menus Master’s “Healthful Innovations” award on May 17, during the organization’s award ceremony in Chicago. This is the first time a college or university will receive a Menus Masters award. The awards are sponsored by Nation’s Restaurant News and Ventura Foods LLC, and are generally given to chains restaurants.

According to Memas Masters, UConn received the award “for setting new standards of excellence and creativity, which significantly impact and benefit the food service industry.”

“They really have the ability to do this,” says Dennis Pierce, director of dining services. “It’s been very successful.”

Pierce said he came up with the idea while washing dishes. As he looked out the window, he began to think about the concept of spas and their reputation as a place for relaxation and healthy eating.

He then pitched the idea to Rob Landophi, manager of culinary development, and Amy Pumanti, the university dietician, last spring and the three put their heads together and created a dozen recipes that meet specific criteria for fat and calories.

“We were listening to students,” says Pierce. “They said there was a lack of healthier, probable options.”

After a successful trial run held at Wilbur Cross during the summer, the line became available in two convenience stores and six university cafes in the fall.

“The student response has been phenomenal,” Pierce said. “We can’t make enough.”

Spa Foods offerings include a variety of wraps such as the Fruity Tuna Wrap and Thai Shrimp Wrap, as well as salads including the Citrus Bean Salad.

All items are made fresh daily. This will be the first year the University is a participant in the Menus Masters ceremony, although UConn representatives have attended the past three years.

Pierce, Landophi, and three chefs will travel to the event, where they will showcase and prepare the Spa Foods items for attendees.

Dining Services plans to introduce new items next fall.

Publication Notice

The Advance is now on a reduced publication schedule for the summer. The next issue will be published on June 2. Additional summer issues will be published monthly, and we resume weekly publication at the start of the fall semester.
Pediatric dentistry specialist receives Health Center's faculty award

BY KRISTINA GOODNOUGH
Dr. Mina Mina, professor and chair of the Division of Pediatric Dentistry in the Department of Craniofacial Sciences, is this year's recipient of the Faculty Recognition Award from the Health Center's board of directors. She received the award at the Health Center commencement ceremonies May 18.

An internationally renowned researcher in the field of craniofacial biology, Mina received her DMD degree from the University of Iran. After a brief stint in private practice in that country, Mina decided to focus her research and education. "My parents were educators," she says, "and I always wanted to teach." She came to the United States for residency training in pediatric dentistry and a master of dental science at Case Western Reserve University. After completing those programs, she joined the Ph.D. program in biomedical sciences at the Health Center. She graduated in 1989 and joined the faculty in pediatric dentistry.

One afternoon a week, she serves as preceptor to third- and fourth-year students at the Burgdorf Community Clinic in Hartford. She has also served as mentor for summer research projects for more than 50 dental and medical students and has been the major research advisor or co-advisor for more than 20 pediatric dentistry residents, 15 master's of dental science students, and 12 Ph.D. students, many of whom now hold academic positions at universities across the country and around the world.

Since 2002, Mina has served as director of the dental school's division of pediatric dentistry. "The division's pediatric dentistry residency program is considered among the best in the country by peer institutions and prospective applicants," Dr. Mony MacNeil, dean of the dental school, says. In the laboratory, the focus of her research has been understanding the molecular mechanisms regulating the growth and differentiation of the skeletal tissues in the lower jaw and tooth formation, and identifying stem cells for tissue engineering a human tooth. In 2006, she was awarded the Distinguished Scientist Award for Craniofacial Biology Research from the International Association for Dental Research.

"We're delighted the board of directors recognized Mina with this award," says Dr. Richard Skinner, director of clinical operations for pediatric dentistry. "She is extremely demanding of herself and of others, but she is also very supportive of her faculty and students. She is very skilled at rallying members of our large, diverse dental faculty to work well together to accomplish our educational and clinical goals."

The award, which carries a $10,000 prize, was established in 2003 by the board of directors to recognize and celebrate excellent faculty members. Mina's name and photo will be on permanent display at the Health Center.

University student teams excel in statewide business plan contest

BY DAVID BULMAN
Two teams from the School of Business are doing well in a recent statewide business plan competition that lets students apply their entrepreneurial skills to create and launch new businesses in Connecticut. And two more were finalists in the contest. Two of the teams were awarded start-up grants.

The competition was sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development in partnership with the Connecticut Venture Group (CVG) – a non-profit group of venture capitalists that seeks to connect students with high-potential new businesses in Connecticut. And two more were finalists in the contest. Two of the teams were awarded start-up grants.

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Roper Center to hold Mexican polling archives

BY MICHAEL KIRK
UConn's Roper Center for Public Opinion Research has cemented a partnership with the largest repository of poll and survey data in Latin America. Mark Abrahamson, the director of the Roper Center, and the head of Mexico's Centro de Investigacion y Docencia Economicas (CIDE), signed the agreement in Mexico City on May 8.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for us," says Abrahamson. "Roper is already the largest holder of public opinion data in the U.S., and this agreement will greatly expand our holdings from Mexico and Latin America. Eventually, we want to be the archive with the largest collection of international surveys as well as those conducted in the U.S."

The Roper Center's archives of public opinion polling data go back to the 1940s. The Center recently fulfilled several agreements with the major constructors of surveys to provide special online access to data on shared web pages. The data include diverse surveys focusing on everything from presidential approval ratings to attitudes toward health care. These agreements include CBS News and all projects of the Pew Research Center. The web pages also bring thousands of visitors to the UConn home page.

The Roper Center's Latin American faculty advisory board includes 10 faculty from departments across the University. Their research focuses on topics including migration, democratization, and other developments in and related to Latin America. "As Roper expands to Latin American database, these faculty, among others, will be the beneficiaries," says Abrahamson. "Our highest priority is always to add new collections that will benefit the research interests of UConn faculty."
Two graduates attribute success to Student Support Services

BY ELIZABETH ORMA-OTUNNU

Jeffrey Ambroise almost stayed back a year in elementary school. Growing up in a household speaking mostly Haitian Creole, he struggled to keep up with classes in English. Now he’s graduating from UConn with a degree in psychology and will go to graduate school in the fall.

Ambroise, a first-generation college student, grew up in public housing in Stamford. The oldest son in his family, he resolved to set a good example for his younger siblings and, as he says, “create a future.” He studied hard, brought up his grades, and set his heart on attending a “big-time” college. When the time came, he applied only to UConn.

Ambroise spent his first six weeks on the Storrs campus attending a seven-credit summer program through Student Support Services (SSS), and has been part of SSS ever since.

Carlton Jones of Stamford had hoped to attend Central Connecticut State University. But when the admissions teur he planned to take was full, he took a tour of UConn instead. He “fell in love with the campus,” he says, and wrote his application essay the same week. The following week, he heard back from UConn, “he says, and wrote his application essay the same week. The letter of admission to the University included a recommendation that he join the SSS program.

SSS, part of UConn’s Center for Academic Programs, helps low-income and first-generation students adjust to college life, beginning the summer before freshman year and continuing until graduation. Services offered include academic advising, peer tutoring, financial aid advice, short-term loans for books or other emergencies, and career counseling.

Jones and Ambroise, who each have a GPA of about a 3.0, say SSS not only helped them succeed academically, it provided community within the UConn community and helped them identify their career paths.

“It’s a good way to meet a lot of people,” says Jones. “You get to know about 100 people by being part of SSS.”

“If not for SSS,” he adds, “I wouldn’t be at UConn, I wouldn’t have become a peer advisor, and I wouldn’t have found my career path.”

Through SSS, in his freshman year he was paired with a peer advisor who was president of SUBOG at the time. Jones also became active with the organization. After a couple of years assisting with SUBOG activities, Jones was selected as SSS program assistant for his senior year. A sociology major, he plans to pursue a career in student affairs, starting with a master’s program at Central.

“SSS has been a great experience,” he says. “It has honed my people skills.”

Two summers ago, Jones and Ambroise took part in a Study Abroad program in Liverpool, England, organized through SSS.

The three-week program focuses on the history of black settlement in the United Kingdom and the role Liverpool played in the African slave trade. SSS also traveled to London, Wales, and Germany.

The experience had a profound impact on both students.

“It was a great experience,” says Jones. “I’d travel again if I had the opportunity.”

Ambroise did travel again. Later that summer, he made a trip to Haiti. The poverty he encountered was an eye-opener. For his Study Abroad essay, he wrote a comparison of four capital cities he had visited: London, Berlin, Washington, D.C., and Port-au-Prince.

“I wanted to write about the differences,” he says, “why one city was so successful and one struggles to survive.”

The next year, he went back for a three-month paid internship through SSS. He helped students go to college. Ambroise developed a curriculum and taught at eight area middle schools.

Ambroise, who has served as a peer advisor and assistant counselor with SSS, plans a career as a professional counselor. Like Jones, he will go to Central in the fall to earn a master’s degree.

“I love what counselors stand for, for what they do for kids,” he says. “They’re unappreciated but they do so much. I want to help out my community. As I grow up, I see so many people that needed help, and didn’t know how to get it.”

Ambroise credits SSS with providing the academic and social support he needed to succeed in college.

“It’s really looked out for me,” he says. “I’ve been through so many situations. I wouldn’t be what I am without them. They’re technically my second family.”

Undergrads in pre-dental society reach out to local schools

BY SHERRI FISHER

Mr. Chompers put on his best smile, as his teeth were brushed in front of about 100 elementary school children.

Chompers, a dinosaur hand puppet with larger-than-life pearly whites, took center stage recently in the gymnasium at Natchaug School in Willimantic, during a program called “Your Mouth, Your Health.”

Four UConn undergraduates who are members of the pre-dental society gave a 40-minute presentation that taught the basics of oral health.

“Brush your outside teeth in a circular motion,” Wen Sun told the audience, demonstrating the technique on the puppet. “Use an up-and-down motion for the inside of your teeth.”

Sun, a freshman with an individualized major in public health, developed the program during winter break. “I wanted to do something to learn about dental hygiene,” she says, “and my idea was to teach kids, especially minorities, about oral health. I wanted to reach children who don’t have access to health care and may never get to the dentist.”

Since the program started in February, more than 1,000 children in schools around the area have seen the presentation.

“It’s been very successful,” says Sun, noting that the schools have asked for repeat visits.

The children are taught the basics, says Sun, who developed the presentation that includes information on how to brush, how long to brush, and what kinds of foods are good or bad for teeth. A PowerPoint presentation illustrates these and other facts, and several small hand puppets are also used.

Sun told the children that at the dentist’s office, patients sit in a “relaxing, comfy chair” while a dental hygienist looks for germs in their mouths.

“Does anyone know what germs are?” she asked. One of the children shouted, “A germ is something that can stop your body from working.”

Sun added, “Germs like to hide in the back of your mouth and on your tongue. They like to hide everywhere, so brush your tongue and roof of your mouth.”

“How long should you brush?” Sun asked. Hands darted in the air as children called out everything from one to 20 minutes. When Sun gave the answer, “two minutes,” a child called out, “I was going to say that.”

After a lesson in proper brushing, large cartoon images of foods appeared on a screen. The children were asked whether particular foods are good or bad for their teeth. The UConn students provided some answers.

“Milk has calcium and keeps teeth strong,” Sun said.

Ralph Rizzi, a freshman presenting major in epistemology and biochemical theory, talked about healthy foods. “Vegetables are good for your teeth,” he said. “They give you strong bones.”

Pamela Karkut, a junior majoring in molecular and cell biology, held up a hard-boiled egg that had been soaked in dark soda pop. She showed the audience how it compared to a normal white egg. “To keep your teeth white and strong, don’t drink soda,” she advised.

Linda Thomas, the school nurse at Natchaug School, later said the program was beneficial to the children. “Many don’t have access to dental care, so showing the basics is one step in the right direction.”

Joceline Luginbuhl, a freshman majoring in biology, said that presenting the program was fun. “I learned a lot for myself and for us and the children. We’ll be teaching the same kinds of things to our patients some day.”

Rizzi said he wants to return as a presenter in the fall. “I think this is a great program, because it promotes good oral health at a young age,” he says. “Some of the kids didn’t know soda was bad for them. That shocked me.”

Photo by Frank Dahlmeier

Jeffrey Ambroise, of the SSS program, outside the CUE Building.

Carlton Jones, graduate of the SSS program and President of SUBOG, outside of the Student Union.
Dream! continued from page 1

She said she owed much of her success to “the University of Connecticut, whose reach, you will discover, is infinite.”

Looking back, I was just way ahead because they were my friends. I ate with the boys at lunch, who played with the boys at recess more like a girl. I was the only girl grades are fine, but you need to act really worried about you. Your teacher told me, ‘Rebecca, I’m half my time. ’

She said she hoped to raise her daughters “to believe they can be anything they want to be – anything except a Yankees fan.”

Her comment elicited some boos, which made Lobo laugh. She said she had a bet with her husband that it was possible for her to have people boo at her on her home court of Gampel Pavilion.

Lobo told the audience “never mistake what you do for who you are. I understand that people will always associate me with basketball. I’m 6-foot-4 – with the funny hat, 6-foot-5. And I cherish my four years at UConn. But I’m happiest watching my daughters dancing in their diapers in the kitchen. ‘People say college is the best of your life, ’ she said. ‘But I can tell you on this Mother’s Day, they are not. The best years of your life are still ahead of you. That’s why they call this commencement.’

She added, ‘It’s time to realize your dreams. It’s time to change the world.’

Grady ceremony

Gary Wills, scholar and journalist, had similar advice for the graduating students at a ceremony on Saturday, May 10 in Gampel Pavilion.

Don’t regard your degrees as a closed chapter but go on learning. Wills told graduate degree candidates.

Wills addressed master’s and doctoral students and their families and friends, during the graduate commencement ceremony.

“Surely when you have a graduate degree, you have a right to say your education is finished, but it isn’t,” he said. “Knowing is not a lump of accumulated data. It is a process. … It must always be renewed and expanded in order to exist at all.

‘Your teachers have failed you, and you have failed yourselves;’ he added, “if you think the education process is ended, if you do not go on learning, testing what you know, expanding what you know.”

Wills has written more than two dozen books on theology, U.S. political history, and 20th-century popular culture. He won the National Medal for the Humanities in 1998.

“Ask yourself who are the most interesting people you know,” he said. “Odds are that they are the ones still learning, still curious, still seeking.”

Wills, who holds an MA and Ph.D. in classics as well as a master’s in philosophy, recalled that when he was arrested during a demonstration against the Vietnam War, he took a copy of the Greek New Testament to jail. He said learning Greek is the most economical intellectual investment that can be made, because so many of the world’s great thinkers were trained in the study of ancient civilization.

While not advocating that everyone learn Greek, he said, “To stay intellectually alive you must keep learning something. … This is not an assignment. It’s an entitlement. It’s fun.”

Wills received an honorary doctorate of letters degree during the ceremony, as did women’s rights activist Charlotte Bunch and alumnus and philanthropist Gary Gladstein.

Other ceremonies

Ten other schools and colleges held separate graduation ceremonies during the weekend. Additionally, the Army and Air Force ROTC programs held commissioning ceremonies.

The remaining schools – law and medicine and dental medicine— celebrated their graduations May 18.
GRANTS

The following grants were received through the Office for Sponsored Programs (OSP) in March 2008. The list represents only new proposals awarded, and excludes continuations. The list is supplied to the Advance by OSP. Additional grants received in March were published in the May 5 issue.

Alphabetical, by Principal Investigator

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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Vice President continued from page 1

who is the Health Center’s former chairman of the Department of Medicine. “Dr. Laurencin is inspirational, an outstanding candidate,” Garbaldi says. “The search was a great team effort; everyone approached the task in good faith with the best interests of the Health Center in mind. It was a great job of really pulling together to get a great new leader.”

“The opportunities for the Health Center and for the university are enormous,” Lau- rencin says. “I look forward to working with faculty, students, staff, and the community.” Laurencin, who has been with the University of Virginia and its Health System for five years, was also at Drexel University, Drexel University School of Medicine and Hahnemann Hospital in Philadelphia where he served as the Helen I. Moorehead Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engi-

neering, Vice Chairman of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Clinical Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Director of Shoulder Surgery. Raised in North Philadelphia, Laurencin earned his undergraduate degree in chemical engineering from Princeton University and his medical degree from Harvard Medical School, where he was a Magna Cum Laude graduate and the recipient of the Robinson Award for Excellence in Surgery. During medical school, he also earned his Ph.D. in biomedical engineering/biotechnol- ogy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he was a Hugh Hampton Young Scholar.

Upon completing both of his doctoral degrees, Laurencin joined the Harvard University Orthopaedic Surgery program, ultimately becoming the chief orthopaedic surgery resident at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston. He also completed a fellowship in sports medicine and shoulder surgery at Cornell University Medical Center and the prestigious Hospital for Special Surgery, where he worked with the team physicians for the New York Mets and St. John’s Uni- versity in New York.

Laurencin has served as Speaker of the House of the National Medical Associa- tion, and serves as Chair of the Board of the National Medical Associations’ W. Mon- tague Cobb Health Institute. He has been a member of the National Institutes of Health National Advisory Council for Arthritis, Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases and the National Science Advisory Board for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. He sits on the National Science Foundation’s Engi-

neering Directorate Advisory Committee.

Laurencin has been named to America’s Top Doctors and America’s Top Surgeons for his clinical achievements and is profiled in the current edition of Black Enterprise magazine which features “America’s Leading Doctors.” His research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Na- tional Science Foundation, NASA, and the Department of Defense.

He has won the prestigious Nicolas Andry Award from the Association of Bone and Joint Surgeons for his work in muscu- loskeletal regeneration and is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.
One of the trees included on the campus: “We want people to know they can take the tour when they come to campus,” Brand says. “But visitors can start the tour at the Visitors Center and takes about an hour and a half.”

“Some of the trees have been unusual,” Brand says. “One we have on campus is really unusual. “

Walking tour showcases 40 rare trees

By Sherry Fisher

A new self-guided walking tour showcases 40 of the University’s most unusual trees.

The guide includes a map and descriptions of the plants.

“We picked trees that are impressive because of their size and grandeur, or because they are rare, bear a special flower or fruit, or have a particularly interesting leaves or bark,” says Mark Brand, professor of plant science and co-chair of the University’s Arboretum Committee.

“The trees have been here since 1895 such as the jumbo-sized Camperdown Elm, “This tour is not only for the general public,” Brand says, “but also for people in Connecticut, and we want to encourage them to visit our campus.”

One of the trees the University’s online Events Calendar. However, it has been included in the database by a p.m. on Monday, May 5, if you need special accommodations to participate in events, call 860-486-2943 (Storrs), or 860-777-5359 (Farmington), or 860-570-5350 (Law School).

Avery Point Campus Library. Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed weekends.

Greater Hartford Campus Library. Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed weekends.

Stamford Campus Library. Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; Sunday, closed.

Tonington Campus Library. Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.; Friday, Sunday, closed.

Waterbury Campus Library. Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.; Friday, Saturday, closed.

University ITS Help Desk Hours: Call 860-486-4357. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Meetings Tuesday, 5/20 – Parking Advisory Committee, Room 101, 2 p.m., School of Business.

Ph.D. Defenses Monday, 5/19 – Regenerative Biology. Muree Embryonic Stem Cell Fusion- Mediated Reprogramming of Primary Mouse Embryonicfibroblasts, by Dominick Ambrosi (adv.; Honvich) 11 a.m., Room 109, Advanced Technology

Laboratory.

Tuesday, 5/19 – Finance. Essays on Real Estate Investment Trusts, Corporate Governance, Institutional Investment, and Corporate Exit Strategies, by Lisa Frank (adv.; Sirmans) 12 a.m., Noon, Room 204, School of Business.


Exhibits Tuesday, 5/27 through Friday, 6/15 – Balbidge Library. Two 2006 paintings by Janice Trecker, Stevens Gallery, also, the “Selis Sea Shells” created by sailors’ Valentines by Lynda Susan Henning, Gallery on the Plaza. For hours, see libraries section.

Through Wednesday, 6/15 – Celeste Le Witt Gallery. In the Moment, paintings by Rita Bond; also, Puts/ Structures/Large and Small, paintings by Arthur Bredfeldt. Daily, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.

Through Wednesday, 7/9 – Health Center. Landscapes and Seascapes, photographs by Rick Pogham, Main and Mezzanine Lobbies.

Through Sunday, 7/12 – Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry. Puppets Through the Lens, an exhibition of puppets on film, and the internet, and the television from across the United States, from the 1930s to the present. Hours: Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, noon-5 p.m., Depot Campus. Free admission, donations accepted.


Walking tour showcases 40 rare trees

By Sherry Fisher

A new self-guided walking tour showcases 40 of the University’s most unusual trees.

The guide includes a map and descriptions of the plants.

“We picked trees that are impressive because of their size and grandeur, or because they are rare, bear a special flower or fruit, or have a particularly interesting leaves or bark,” says Mark Brand, professor of plant science and co-chair of the University’s Arboretum Committee.

“There are some of the trees that have been here since 1895 such as the jumbo-sized Camperdown Elm, “This tour is not only for the general public,” Brand says, “but also for people in Connecticut, and we want to encourage them to visit our campus.”

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By CAROLYN PENNINGTON

Levine graduated with a minor in art, and believes he has “a good eye” and the fine-motor skills necessary to make an excellent dentist. “Aesthetics are involved in dentistry,” he says. “Even medically necessary dental procedures are centered on aesthetics. People want their smile to look good.” Levine graduated with a minor in art, and believes he has “a good eye” and the fine-motor skills necessary to make an excellent dentist. “Aesthetics are involved in dentistry,” he says. “Even medically necessary dental procedures are centered on aesthetics. People want their smile to look good.” Levine had always thought he would be a healer – medicine is so vast, there’s a place for everything.”

During the four years, however, he hadn’t had much time to enjoy his love of painting and drawing. In addition to his course work, Levine has been active on both the local and national levels in the American Student Dental Association, a national student-run organization for students pursuing careers in dentistry. Levine was elected Speaker of the House this year by delegates representing the 56 dental schools nationwide. He has made six trips in the past year to Chicago where the board meetings are held.

His work with the Association also led him to Washington, D.C., where he lobbied legislators on a variety of issues important to the dental profession. “I have a keen interest in politics and legisl-ation,” he says. “Many people don’t realize just how much legislation can impact our occupation.”

Some of the issues he’s been involved in are declining Medicaid reimbursement rates, increases in student loan funding, and greater education concerning “meth mouth” – methamphetamine addicts often have serious oral health problems.

Levine’s penchant for public policy-making likely won’t end with graduation. He plans to specialize in orthodontics or oral pathology after completing his general practice residency at St. Barnabas Hospital in the Bronx, N.Y. But he’s also not ruling out pursuing another degree – perhaps a master’s in public policy, or a law degree.

“I’m too much of a policy wonk to be a political officer holder,” he says, “but working on and influencing legislation is definitely something I could see myself doing.”

Sarah Jane Borch was an active member of the MPH student community, organizing workshops on topics such as how to pick an advisor, ways to get involved in international health, and public health career opportunities. She adds, “When you’re just taking classes, you don’t get a chance to actually experience what it’s going to be like to be a lawyer. Working at the clinic was my first real lawyering experience, and I was relieved to find out how much I liked it. There’s a real difference between book learning and experience.”

She says her experience as an engineer has been beneficial to her career. “It’s been a wonderful combination,” she says. “It gave me a better perspective about the inventions that I’m working on, because I understand the background and the development that goes into them. And when inventors find out that I’m also an engineer, it puts a different perspective on things. Book learning is certainly valuable, but I think an engineer is probably the portion of my technical background that I utilize more than anything else.”

“In a Quaker center in the middle of the Redwood forests in California and learned ways to bring more humanism into medicine,” she says. “I love teaching simple mind/body techniques to help people feel better. There are so many different ways to be a healer – it’s just as simple as being there, having a relationship with the patient.”

As this year’s Medical School class commencement speaker, Borch says she hopes to represent the diversity of people that make up the class. “Everybody brings something unique and valuable to medicine,” she says. If her grandmother were alive today, she wonders if she would take pleasure not only in Borch’s accomplishments but also that her predictions came true – her 5’7” granddaughter is now a medical doctor.