Janine Caira, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, in her lab at the Torrey Life Sciences Building.

By Karen A. Grava

The University has been notified by the state Office of Policy and Management that 3 percent of the state appropriation for the Storrs-based budget is being rescinded.

The University’s state support will be reduced by $6.7 million, with an additional reduction of $2.7 million in related fringe benefits. This totals $9.4 million, or approximately 3 percent of the state appropriation.

It is not yet clear whether support for collective bargaining increases (which comes from the state’s Reserve for Salary Adjustment account) will also be reduced, says Lorraine Aronson, vice president and chief financial officer.

The rescission was imposed throughout the executive branch of state government because state revenues are not meeting expectations and, as a result, the state is projecting a $150 million deficit for the fiscal year that has just begun. In order to close that gap, Gov. M. Jodi Rell exercised her statutory authority to impose budget rescissions of up to 5 percent of state agency budgets.

“While this news is not welcome, neither is it unexpected,” says University President Michael J. Hogan. “The state budget is in deficit and we, like other public institutions, see—Budget rescission page 2

UConn 2000 sequencing to change

By Karen A. Grava

The Board of Trustees recently approved changes in the sequencing of projects within the UConn 2000 program.

These measures will accommodate changing research priorities, bring the building program in line with the academic plan, and allow more time for planning large projects such as the Torrey Life Sciences Building.

The UConn 2000 legislation gives the University authority to sequence projects and determine project scope and budgets.

Named projects, those enumerated in the legislation, can only be added or deleted by the Board of Trustees. Changes to the program will be made by the University’s new Statewide Planning Committee.

Efforts to sequence projects within the UConn 2000 program have focused on aligning with the academic plan and university goals.

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By Cindy Weiss

Janine Caira, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, has won a rare $3 million National Science Foundation Planetary Biodiversity Inventory grant to oversee a worldwide network of specialists to study the biodiversity of tapeworms, her research specialty.

The grant will be shared with the University of Kansas, where Caira’s former Ph.D. student Kirsten Jensen is now an assistant professor of biology. Co-principal investigators with Caira are Timothy Littlewood, a zoologist with the Natural History Museum in London, and Jean Mariaux, a zoologist with the Museum of Natural History of Geneva, Switzerland.

In all, 34 researchers from 20 countries around the world – from Vietnam to Ethiopia to Argentina – will be involved in the massive five-year project to learn as much as possible about the world’s diversity of tapeworms.

Caira, who is known for her sense of humor, titled her grant proposal, “A Survey of the Tapeworms from the Vertebrate Bowels of the Earth.”

Tapeworms inhabit the bowels of all classes of vertebrates, but not much is known about them, she says. A few are of medical or veterinary interest as parasites, and the researchers expect to learn more about them.

She expects the search to find as many as 1,700 new species, a nearly 40 percent increase over the roughly 5,000 species now known, and under the grant will describe 1,000 of them.

“If we can accomplish what we propose to do, the tapeworms are going to be one of the most well known groups,” she says.

The project will revise the way that tapeworms are classified, using molecular methods as well as more traditional methods that use morphology and anatomy to identify species.

For this project, UConn will be the home of a tapeworm database, designed by Jensen and housed on a server at UITS. All the researchers worldwide will have access to the same database, using the same criteria.

The first phase will be to collect hosts of tapeworms. Sharks, one of Caira’s research
Hans Turley, an associate professor of English, died June 13. He was 52.

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New director named for Office of Sponsored Programs

BY ELIZABETH OBIADA-OTUONYI

Michael Crouch, an administrator with extensive experience in non-profit grants management, has been appointed executive director of the Office of Sponsored Programs and assistant vice provost for research. He joined the University June 26.

Crouch worked at the University of Pittsburgh for nearly 15 years in a similar role, and also at Northwestern University. He has also managed the grants portfolio for a hospital consortium, the MedStar Research Institute, and worked as an independent consultant to non-profit organizations.

Crouch replaces Carol Welt, who retired last year. He was selected after a national search, conducted by a committee chaired by Provost stamp, a committee of Trusteess Distinguished Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology.

Gregory Anderson, vice provost for research and graduate education and dean of the Graduate School, says, “The search committee and I were impressed by the depth and breadth of Dr. Crouch’s experience and professional connections and his commitment to research. He is dedicated to helping faculty manage their grants and assisting the University in most effectively meeting its compliance demands. He also has impressive national connections with professional agencies and federal organizations.”

The Office for Sponsored Programs supports sponsored research activities at the Voors-based programs. It is the central point of coordination for such projects, working with faculty and staff writ- ing the grants and with the University’s finance and accounting offices. It is the University’s authorized repre- sentative for grants, contracts, and other agreements from government agencies, private industry, and non-profit foundations.

UConn is currently seeking to enhance its research profile. The Academic Plan, which is now be- ing finalized, includes the goals of developing a stronger extramural funding portfolio and expanding the infrastructure that supports research.

“I look forward to advising the research interests of the Univer- sity,” Crouch says, "working on enhancements and refinements of service operations, and doing everything possible to promote the flow of communications pertaining to those activities, as initi- ate and continue dialogue with faculty, staff, senior administrators, and other interested stakeholders across campus."

"At the more strategic level," he adds, "I also look forward to having a voice in promoting the research mission, engaging in discussions about infrastructure, future directions, resources and re- sourcing, so we can address issues of capacity and capacity-building for research."

Crouch has been an active member of both the National Council of University Research Administrators and the Council on Government Relations.

He has published articles on conflict of interest in a research university and academic research infrastructure, and serves as a member of the editorial review board of the Research Management Review and on the manuscript editors board for the Journal of Research Administration.

Crouch earned a bachelor’s degree in biology at Kalamazoo College, an MBA at the University of Detroit, and an Ed.D. from the University of Pittsburgh.

By Karen A. Grava

The Board of Trustees has asked its Student Life Committee to undertake a complete review of Spring Weekend.

A focused effort by the Uni- versity, led by Student Affairs and Public Safety, in cooperation with the Town of Mansfield and the State Police, has led to more orderly Student Union, area carnivals, and other programs offered to UConn students during Spring Weekend. Over the years, problems continue to come up, and the number of incidents and severity of public disruptions have declined.

Over the past several years, the University has initiated numerous actions to increase the number of sanctioned and non-alcohol-related events, including enhancing the Saturday night concerts, ozoneball, Late Night at the Stu- dent Union, area carnivals, and other programs offered to UConn students.

"Spring Weekend has a nega- tive image in the student con- nexion," says John Saddlemire, vice president for student affairs. "The board is looking for ways to address this ongoing challenge, recognizing that there are no easy answers."

"We have initiated a number of programs to increase students’ safety and raise awareness about underage and binge drinking. We have worked with package stores to limit leg sales, sales of bottles, and sales to underage individ- uals, and we have worked with area high schools and other colleges to discourage outides from coming to campus." Saddlemire notes that UConn has focused its efforts on engaging UConn students in appropriate activities and discouraging non-student participation in events during Spring Weekend. "Over the years, the events taking place have attracted many people not related to the University and this continues to be a problem," he says. Most of the arrests each year are of non-students.

The Board's Student Life Comm- ittee has been asked to review Spring Weekend and consider the gamut of options, including continuing current efforts, sug- gesting program alternatives, or eliminating Spring Weekend as it is currently organized.

"We need to remember that the overwhelming majority of the programs involve non-UConn students," Saddlemire says. "UConn students have been tak- ing increasing responsibility for their actions and their weekend. However, problems continue to concern the board and the admin- istration."
Health Center clinic specializes in voice disorders

By MAUREEN McGUIRE

Experts with the Health Center’s Voice and Speech Clinic have helped high-profile professional singers, actors, and broadcasters, as well as teachers, lawyers, ministers, and others get their voices back after struggling with chronic hoarseness and other problems.

“There are different levels of voice use, but no matter who you are or what you do for a living, voice is important at every level. It’s something we can easily take for granted until problems occur,” says Dr. Denis Lafirena, an otolaryngologist – ear, nose and throat expert – and head and neck surgeon, who has led the Voice and Speech Clinic since its inception in 1993.

Lafirena, who is also chief of the division of Ear, Nose and Throat services at the Health Center, started the Voice and Speech Clinic with Starr Cookman, a voice and speech pathologist and professional singer.

Because of its comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach, the clinic remains the only one of its kind in the region. Along with Lafirena and Cookman, the team now includes Patricia Doyle and Janet Rovalino, who are also voice-trained speech pathologists.

Patients benefit from the expertise of two disciplines. The speech pathologists carefully analyze the functional realm of each patient’s voice and Lafirena focuses on the contributing medical factors.

Seeking Care

Signs and symptoms of voice disorders include hoarseness that lasts several weeks, persistent throat pain – when throat feels raw, achy or strained for several weeks; unusual changes in voice, such as the inability to hit certain high notes when singing, and sounding like you have a cold or cough when you don’t.

Voice disorders. Lafirena explains, fall into three categories: neurological, anatomic, and functional. Neurological disorders result from damage to the central or peripheral nervous system, such as strokes or Parkinson’s disease – it’s estimated that 80 percent of patients with Parkinson’s disease experience voice disorders.

Anatomic problems are caused by physical problems, such as allergies, polyps (small growths) on the larynx, or the reflux of gastric juices. Functional disorders develop when people get into the habit of using the voice abnormally, for example, while suffering from a cold that causes laryngitis.

Diagnoses and individualized treatment plans are made after patients are evaluated by speech analysis computer software and/or videostroboscopy. These sophisticated techniques visualize, measure, and record vocal cord vibrations and movements. They can reveal a wide range of problems, such as nodules or polyps on the vocal cords.

The treatment plan may consist of speech therapy, surgery, or a combination of these approaches. A high percentage of vocal nodules can be resolved with speech therapy administered by a voice-trained speech pathologist. Lafirena says. Surgical procedures, including minimally invasive options, are also very successful to restore normal function to vocal cords.

“The results can be dramatic. We’ve videotaped patients before and after surgery or treatment, and the improvements are astonishing,” Lafirena says. “Our goal is to get people back to what they were doing.”

To learn more about the program, visit the students’ website: chemistry.uconn.edu/gsoc/index.html.

To hear UConn faculty member Nicholas Leadbeater talk about his green chemistry research, go to www.cs.uconn.edu/~nick/nicknews/snapshots/view.php?id=leadbeater

Grad students to lead national symposium on green chemistry

By CHAD WEISS

Seven chemistry graduate students will direct an all-day symposium on “Transitioning into Green Chemistry” at the American Chemical Society national meeting in Philadelphia in August.

The students, all Ph.D. candidates, will present speakers and organize a research poster session and exhibition at the national meeting, which is expected to attract 14,000 top professionals from academia and the chemical industry.

The chemistry graduate student group, part of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, was chosen to lead the graduate student symposium when their proposal to explore green chemistry won a competition among universities around the country.

“We went through a lot of different topics,” says Christine Cardillo, a member of the group. “This was something we felt passionate about.”

Interest is growing in green chemistry, which finds “environmentally friendly” alternatives to procedures and materials used in chemical laboratories and industrial processes.

The students have prepared their program over the past year and a half, visiting other American Chemical Society national meetings and learning the ropes from student groups that preceded them.

“This is a monumental effort,” says Tyson Miller, an assistant professor of chemistry and chemical education, who advises them.

“When graduate students are involved in this type of endeavor, they learn about networking, fund raising, and programming at national meetings.”

All are skills that they can later use on the job, whether they work in industrial or academic settings.

As the organizers of this year’s national graduate student symposium, the UConn students got to try at UConn, will speak on his research into microwave heating as an alternative to the use of solvents in chemistry laboratories.

Nicholas Leadbeater, an assistant professor of chemistry at UConn, who advised the group is Justin Fair, a graduate student in biofuel production.

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Parham receives grant to improve treatment of hearing loss in elderly

BY KRISTINA GOODNOUGH

Dr. Kourosh Parham, assistant professor of otolaryngology, has received the Jahnigen Scholar research award as part of the American Geriatrics Society's long-term project to increase geriatrics expertise in surgical and medical specialties.

Parham, who has a longstanding interest in age-related hearing loss, will study the ability of steroids to protect the ears of elderly people from hearing loss related to the use of certain chemotherapy drugs for the treatment of cancer. Cancer treatment is common among the over-65's, who make up more than 60 percent of newly diagnosed cases of cancer, according to data from the National Cancer Institute.

"It's widely known among physicians that certain drugs used for treating cancer can cause loss of hearing and ringing in the ears as side effects," says Parham.

"Generally, a patient dealing with cancer is concerned about survival and is willing to accept these side effects as part of treatment," he adds. "Others who cannot tolerate the side effects may be switched to an alternate, possibly less effective chemotherapy drug. My goal is to overcome some of those side effects." Parham will study whether steroids injected into the inner ear provide protection against hearing loss from cisplatin, a common chemotherapy drug.

"We hypothesize that aging and cisplatin-induced hearing loss interact to produce greater hearing loss than would be expected from either factor alone, and that the aged ear can be protected against cisplatin-induced hearing loss by administering steroids directly into the ear and suppressing inflammatory pathways," he says. Steroids are used already in treatment for sudden hearing loss and for cancer. Parham was a basic scientist in the Health Center's surgical research center in the early 90's before going to medical school.

Besides graduating from the University of California, Davis, Parham completed his medical degree at the University of California, San Francisco, and his training in ear, nose and throat surgery at the University of Washington.

Kimenyi has written for a Unitarian Universalist Association report, which calls for improving service delivery, "he says.

Economist discusses obstacles to delivering aid in Africa

BY CARM WILS

Mwangi Samson Kimenyi studies the African economy and the institutional factors that seem to thwart development on a continent renowned for its rich natural resources.

On July 2, he delivered the keynote address to a meeting of economists in the Africa Division of the World Bank in Washington, D.C., focusing on how to improve service delivery in fragile states that are marked by low accountability. Low accountability hinders economic development in many African countries, he believes.

Kimenyi, associate professor of economics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, coordinates a long-term study on institutions and service delivery in Africa on behalf of the Nairobi-based African Economic Research Consortium.

He also has served on the Public Universities Commission in his native Kenya, and is founding executive director of the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis.

Many sub-Saharan African countries do not have the financial resources to pay their teachers and doctors or to build the infrastructure that would provide education, health, and sanitation services needed for an efficient economy, he notes.

They also lack qualified personnel to lead the effort, and their governments do not have the institutional capacity to deliver public services.

Some are also ethnically fragmented, which affects both their politics and their public service delivery, he says.

But lack of accountability among policy makers, service providers, and consumers is the most glaring problem, he has found.

Accountability relationships that link these three groups "have totally broken down in some cases. In other cases, they are very weak. If you go to a clinic and wait three hours and the doctor does not show up, you should be able to report it and someone should do something about it."

Abseentism among professionals who are paid to provide services to the population shows up when researchers conduct random checks and censuses at clinics.

A large share of resources allocated by central budget authorities do not reach the frontline providers, he says. Instead, service delivery is characterized by what he calls "widespread leakages of resources." Highly centralized political structures in which governments control resources and treat ethnic groups differently are another problem. The exclusion of some groups is a particularly serious problem in Africa, Kimenyi has found.

Democracy is not fully entrenched, and electoral processes are totally broken down in some cases. Groups that feel marginalized suffer serious grievances, Kimenyi says.

Universities in Kenya have also suffered from a brain drain, with their graduates leaving to work in more prosperous areas.

His message to organizations such as the World Bank is that while it is important to strengthen the capacity of weak governments, it is crucial to look for alternate approaches, such as using management contacts or working with the private sector. Where accountability relationships have totally broken down, non-governmental organizations or even community groups could be more effective in delivering services, he maintains.

"You need to continue engaging in improving service delivery," he says, especially with weak African states, because they face a high risk of reverting to civil conflict. He argues that as citizens receive better services, eventually a tipping point is reached when health care and education improves enough that the risk of reversion recedes. Voters then become more active, and governments become more accountable, he says.

Some African countries have made major strides. Kimenyi says Uganda has made progress in the post-Idi Amin era, although it is not fully stabilized yet. Botswana is very strong, he says, providing services to the poor and instituting progressive policies.

Still, most of the weakest countries in the Failed States and Fragility indexes are African, he points out. These states are not on a trajectory to meet targets for reducing hunger and poverty and infant mortality rates, despite their having agreed to do so by 2015. Uganda has made progress in the Millennium Development Goals.

The primary reason is poor service delivery, he says.

Kimenyi has written for a United Nations program a prescription for reform policies for Africa that he believes would deliver better services to those most needed and would achieve balanced growth.

"Focus on improving the functioning of markets where poor people participate," he advises.

Other recommendations call for targeting low-skill, labor-intensive economic activities, reducing market segmentation so that markets for the poor are better integrated into the economy; and instituting policies that support the accumulation of tradable assets by the poor. He also calls for institutional reforms that empower the poor through the progressive diffusion of power.

To read Kimenyi's recommendations, go to http://pgpblog.worldbank.org/the_ten_commandments_of_pro_poor_growth
### GRANTS

The following grants were received through the Health Center's Office of Grants and Contracts in April 2008. The list represents new awards as well as continuations. The list of grants is supplied to the Advance by the Office of Grants and Contracts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Prin. Investigator</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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### Private Grants

| Neag Comprehensive Andamariam, B. Cancer Center | National Cancer Institute | $36,629 | 10/06-8/06 |
| Community Medicine Babor, T. SBIRT – Evaluation | National Cancer Institute | $143,738 | 9/04-9/08 |
| Center for Cell Analysis Carson, J. Center on Aging | National Cancer Institute | $4,850 | 2/97-5/08 |
| Calhoun Cardiology Liang, B. Center Jim and Pat Calhoun Cardiology Research Fund | National Cancer Institute | $73,993 | 2/03-9/04 |
| Calhoun Cardiology Liang, B. Center Cardiovascular Signature Program | National Cancer Institute | $10,000 | 9/07-8/08 |
| Orthopedics Lieberman, J. Chase Family Skeletal Biology Fund | National Cancer Institute | $11,718 | 5/06-6/08 |
| Neuroscience McCullough, L. Northeast Consortium | National Cancer Institute | $6,000 | 1/08-10/08 |
| Medicine Palmsino, J. James E.C. Walker MD/Primary Care Endowment Fund | National Cancer Institute | $74,384 | 1/06-6/10 |
| Surgery Parham, K. American Geriatrics Society | National Cancer Institute | $75,000 | 7/06-6/09 |
| Center for Vascular Sanchez Garcia Vao, T. American Heart Association | National Cancer Institute | $65,000 | 7/06-6/10 |
| Cell Biology Smilowitz, H. Nanopores Inc. | National Cancer Institute | $550,833 | 9/06-9/08 |
| Immunology Stoklayer, T. Combined IL-15/IL15R Alpha Immunotherapy Maximizes IL-15 Activity and Tumor | National Cancer Institute | $6,250 | 7/06-6/08 |
| Psychiatry Taney, K. Cooperative Huntington’s Observational Research Trial | National Cancer Institute | $4,205 | 7/06-8/08 |
| Oral Health & Diagnostic Sciences Anfylase Binding Strepococci Plaque-Cay | National Cancer Institute | $56,882 | 4/12-4/12 |

### State Grants

| Psychiatry Huynh, L. MOA for Dan Brockett uHhMe2009 | Conn. Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Svcs. | $577,356 | 3/08-3/1 |
| Obstetrics & Gynecology Palley, J. New Britain Fetal and Infant Mortality Review | Conn. Dept. of Public Health | $60,000 | 9/07-6/08 |
The following grants were received through the Office for Sponsored Programs in April 2008. The list represents only new proposals awarded, and excludes continuations. The list is supplied to the Advisory Committee each month by OSP. Additional grants received in April were published in the June 23 issue.

**GRANTS**

**Potpourri**

**Thursday, 7/14 — Spirituality Study Group.** Includes discussion, reflection, dream interpretation, and guided meditation. $50 per class: 7-8:30 p.m., OnWyke Dining Room, Main Building, Health Center.

**Saturday, 7/16 — Museum of Natural History Field Workshop.** "Project O: In the Lab and Out to Sea." Adults and children 6 and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Admission fee: $15 non-member/$10 member. Call 860-486-4460 for more information. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Avery Point Campus.

**Thursday, 7/21 — Spirituality Study Group.** Includes discussion, reflection, dream interpretation, and guided meditation. $50 per class. 7-8:30 p.m., OnWyke Dining Room, Main Building, Health Center.


**Friday, 8/1 — Museum of Natural History Field Workshop.** "Bats Alive." Adults and children 6 and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Admission fee: $15 non-member/$10 member. Call 860-486-4460 for more information. 7:30-9 p.m., Hixon Library.

**Saturday, 8/2 — Museum of Natural History Field Workshop.** "The Secret Lives of Mushrooms." Adults and children 8 and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Admission fee: $10 non-member/$5 member. Call 860-486-4460 for more information. 10 a.m.-noon, Central Connecticut Location.

**Thursday, 8/14 — Spirituality Study Group.** Includes discussion, reflection, dream interpretation, and guided meditation. $50 per class. 7-8:30 p.m., Room Nacc02, Medical Arts and Research Building, Health Center. Monday, 8/11 through Friday 8/15 — Archeology Field School. Adults and teenagers 16 and up. Call 860-486-4460 for more information. Advance registration required: $450 non-member/$350 members. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. daily, Friday, 8/15 — Fridays at the Museum. Cultural and natural history activities at the museum. Fridays, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Connecticut State Museum of Natural History, Hartford.

**Saturday, 8/16 — Natural History Museum.** Whale watch trip. All ages welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 860-486-4460 for more information. Advance registration required by Aug. 8. Registration $75 adult/$65 child. 8 a.m. bus departure from Storrs to Plymouth, Mass.

**Mondays, 7/21 through 8/25 — Al-Anon.** Twelve-step program for adults and families. Noon-4 p.m. For more information call 860-486-9351.

**Tuesday, 8/19 — Tons of Fun Tuesday.** Ice cream and novelties at the Student Union, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. $2 with student ID/$3 without.

**Wednesdays, 8/5 — Lively Wednesdays.** Live music and barbecue lunch at the Student Union, noon-5 p.m. Thursdays, 8/14 — Thrilling Thursdays. Programs in Budweiser (formerly Charter Oak Suites) Recreation Room. 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Kids learn about biodiversity in new summer science module

BY SHERRY FISHER

Armied with magnifying lenses, Petri dishes, insect vials, and field guides, the youngsters traipse into the UConn forest to examine the biodiversity of a rotting log.

“We want to see how many different species we can find,” says Cheri Collins, one of the leaders of a new biodiversity module offered through the Kids Are Scientists Too (K.A.S.T.) summer program. On this day, the children learn how the variety of species in the log, including invertebrates, fungi, and microbes, break down organic debris into nutrient-laden compost that enriches the soil.

“We discuss how the biodiversity in the log contributes to the health of the forest,” Collins says. The weeklong field program, Amazing Biodiversity, was sponsored by the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History, the Center for Conservation and Biodiversity, and the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. The program is for children in grades five through 10. The K.A.S.T. program includes modules on archaeology, chemistry, engineering, and marine science.

Adding a module on biodiversity to the K.A.S.T. program made sense, says Collins, program and collection manager at the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and Connecticut Archaeology Center. “It’s a hot topic,” she says. “Most people have heard of the concept of biodiversity — often in the context of faraway places like the rainforests of Costa Rica. But we wanted to bring the concept of biodiversity closer to home. It’s not just about tropical snakes. It’s about the vast number of species of living and nonliving things that make up ecosystems that exist right in the kids’ backyards, and even on their own bodies.”

Collins says one of the goals of the module is to help youngsters understand how the health of their environment promotes and maintains their personal health through biodiversity.

On another day, the group looked into the biodiversity within the ecology and evolutionary biology department’s research collections. “They learned how to preserve and record plant specimens and toured the collections, which include insects and invertebrates, parasites, fish, and birds,” Collins says.

Another morning’s activity included investigating the variety of organisms found on their own bodies, with the help of a microscope.

“There are six tribes of beneficial bacteria on our inner elbows,” says Chuck Smith, an assistant professor-in-residence of ecology and evolutionary biology. “Drops of stain are added carefully. Twelve-year-old Lexi studies her cheek cells under the microscope. ‘I don’t see any black dots which are bacteria, so you must have brushed well this morning.’”

Ethan, 10, looks at a slide at Lexi’s specimen. “That’s amazing,” he says.

Twelve-year-old Margo checks it out as well. “I see the nucleus,” she says.

Later in the morning the group visits the Electron Microscopy Laboratory in the physiology and neurobiology department, where they see tapeworms and head lice magnified some 200,000 times by an electron microscope.

Margo says one of her favorite parts of the program was examining pickled amphipaths. “They’re disgustingly cool,” she says.