University officials are reviewing proposals from area hospitals to form affiliations with the Health Center to update its clinical facilities and strengthen its education and research programs.

Four proposals were submitted Aug. 1 in response to a solicitation of interest the Health Center issued in June. The proposals are from Hartford Hospital and The Hospital of Central Connecticut; St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center; Connecticut Children's Medical Center; and Bristol Hospital.

“The hospitals’ interest in partnering with the Health Center is gratifying,” says University President Michael J. Hogan. “It highlights the significant benefits of such a partnership to quality health care in the region and to the state’s long-term economic development by attracting biomedical research funding and developing new patents, technologies, and partnerships with business and industry.”

Dr. John W. Rowe, chairman of the Board of Trustees, says, “High quality medical and dental schools are essential to educate the next generation of health professionals.”

“Healthcare professionals are key for the growth and development of our region,” Rowe said. “This is an opportunity to provide a high quality and affordable healthcare to the state’s residents.”

The Health Center anticipates the first of the proposals to be chosen by late fall. The Health Center will select the hospital or hospitals with which to form the affiliation and provide more information about the progress in the coming months.

New fund to help students cope with crisis situations

When an out-of-state UConn student learned that his parent unexpectedly died, he was faced not only with coping with his grief but also with the financial challenge of trying to fund an unplanned trip home.

A new program started by the Division of Student Affairs will help students cope with the unexpected when they are confronted with a personal or financial crisis such as this.

The program, the Students First Fund, will enable the University to reach out to students who are in need, using private contributions made by members of the UConn community.

“The fund is necessary because we are prohibited from using state funds to personally benefit an individual student,” said Denielle Burl, director of risk management in the Division of Student Affairs. “This fund will allow us to reach out to students through the donation of funds or gift certificates when they need it the most.”

The fund, administered by the UConn Foundation, will permit Student Affairs to contribute to students who have had apartment fires, car accidents, or other crises, and need transportation, books, clothing, or even food.

So far, the fund has collected more than $12,000 in donations.

CHEFA director named to UConn’s top finance post

Richard Gray, executive director of the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority (CHEFA), has been appointed UConn’s vice president and chief financial officer. He will join the University on Aug. 29.

Gray, a 1972 graduate of UConn who also holds a master’s of business administration from the University of New Haven, will serve as the University’s chief financial officer for both the Storrs-based and the Health Center programs. He succeeds Lorraine M. Aronson.

“This appointment is central to UConn’s ability to manage its finances,” said University President Michael J. Hogan in announcing the appointment. “Mr. Gray is a highly skilled professional, with a comprehensive background in commercial finance, health care finance, and public finance, who understands how higher education and Connecticut government work.”

The VP-CFO reports directly to the president and is also responsible for developing financial policy and serving as a point of contact for external agencies and partners on financial matters.

Gray has been the executive director of CHEFA for the past 12 years and has had a 36-year career in commercial lending, health care financial management, and banking. CHEFA provides Connecticut’s non-profit institutions – including institutions of higher education, hospitals, independent schools, child care providers, cultural institutions, and human service pro-

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Psychology emeritus dies at 83

BY SHERRY FISHER

Victor Denenberg, an emeritus professor of psychology, died July 19 at 83.

He lived in Issaquah, Wash. After graduating from high school, Denenberg served in the U.S. Army in the 95th Infantry. He was wounded in action during World War II, after which he attended college on the GI Bill. He graduated from Bucknell University in 1949, and earned his master’s, and a Ph.D. in experimental psychology from Purdue University.

In 1969, as a tenured professor at Purdue, he was recruited to a newly created program in behavioral sciences at UConn, where he served as professor and acting head/coordinator, from 1984 to 2000.

Benson Ginsburg, professor emeritus of psychology, says Denenberg was a pioneer in his field.

“Vic’s teaching and research attracted many able graduate and postdoctoral students to the behavioral sciences, and later, to the psychology department,” Ginsburg says. “He considered his students to be part of his extended family, and maintained close personal and professional contact with them for the remainder of his career.”

Stephen Maxson, professor of psychology, says Denenberg had a “boyish enthusiasm for living and enjoying all of life. Professionally, he was a very exceptional and highly productive experimental psychologist.”

Maxson recalls a conversation he had with Denenberg about differences between humans and animals. “I said that humans had language and animals did not. Vic responded that he thought there might be a quantitative but not qualitative difference in this between ourselves and some animals. This conversation may have been part of his incentive to develop an animal model for some aspects of human dyslexia, which is a dysfunction in human language.”

Denenberg enjoyed teaching and conducting research. He referred to his students as one of his major accomplishments, as they represented the future and would carry on the teaching and research. His students say they loved his wit and intelligence and his willingness to work with them. He published some 400 scholarly papers and chapters, including several statistical texts. He served on various national committees relating to early development, and spoke nationally and internationally at many conferences. He was a reviewer for scholarly journals, and received substantial funding to support his ongoing research on the early development of the brain and behavior. He was a founding member of the Society for Neuroscience.

Denenberg retired from UConn in 2000, and accepted a position as visiting professor at the University of Washington.

He loved to ski and enjoyed cooking Chinese meals. He is survived by his wife Evelyn Thoman, also an emeritus professor of psychology; three daughters, six stepchildren, and grandchildren. He was predeceased by an infant son, and a daughter. Memorial contributions may be made to the Obama campaign or the Democratic Party.

Epicinus engineering professor dies

BY ALEXA BUCHKIND

Victor Scotton, an emeritus professor of civil engineering, died June 17. He was 93.

Scotton, who lived in Storrs, received his doctorate in environmental engineering science from Johns Hopkins University. A specialist in water resources, Scotton was a member of UConn’s engineering faculty for 37 years. He was a highly respected teacher, researcher, and administrator. Following his retirement in 1985, he continued to pursue his interest in history and technology. “As one of his former students, I remember him as an inspiring teacher, dedicated to his students and very effective in getting his students to think for themselves,” says Peter McFadden, emeritus professor and a former dean of the School of Engineering.

Scotton authored many technical publications and books on hydraulics and fluid mechanics. He was particularly knowledgeable about canals in Europe. He was director of both the Institute of Water Resources and the Sea Grant Program at UConn, and a longtime member and leader of the University Senate. He was also president of the National Civil Engineering Honor Society, Chi Epsilon, and an active member of the historical society.

During his career, Scotton received many awards, including the Distinguished Public Service Award from the UConn Alumni Association, and the Benjamin Wright Award, named in recognition of the founder of the American Society of Civil Engineers. “He was a key member of the University community as well as the faculty of the School of Engineering,” says McFadden, “He brought credit to higher education.”

Scotton is survived by his wife Kathryn Jan, a daughter, four grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Donations in his memory may be made to The UConn Foundation for the Victor E. Scotton Scholarship Fund, and sent to 2390 Alumni Drive, U-3206, Storrs, CT 06269.

2009 Provost’s Scholarship Development Awards

The recipients of the Provost’s Scholarship Development Awards for 2009 were announced recently. The Provost’s Scholarship Development Awards, previously known as the Provost’s Research Fellowships, offer an opportunity for release time for teaching for one semester to eligible faculty engaged in long-term research projects. This competitive program is designed to support and promote long-term research projects that cannot be funded via other, more traditional avenues. Recipients of a Provost’s Scholarship Development Award are able to undertake long-term and/or especially demanding projects with a sure sense the projects can be completed, resulting in publication or exhibition, or the award of important extramural funding, in a timely fashion.

The 2009 award recipients are:

Peter Baldwin, associate professor, history
The Watches of the Night: Transforming the Nocturnal City, 1820-1930, Spring 2009

Daniel Caner, associate professor, history
Completion of book manuscript, History & Fiction on the Late

Library to open earlier on weekdays

Starting Sept. 2, the Homer Babbidge Library will open at 7:30 a.m. instead of 8 a.m. for the academic year. The opening time on Saturday and Sunday during the academic year will continue to be 10 a.m.

The change in hours in response to requests from students who frequently need documents printed for early classes, and from faculty who need access to library materials, such as videos, for classes that meet at 8 a.m.

“Our user surveys have indicated that students want access to printers and photocopiers before 8 a.m.,” says Brinley Franklin, vice provost for University Libraries.

“Likewise, faculty members may need to pick up library materials for their early classes. Despite a budget cut, we are re-deploying some of our remaining staff resources to serve these important needs,” Franklin adds.

Closing hours will remain the same: 2 a.m., Monday through Thursday; 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. The 24-hour room in Babbidge Library was also enlarged over the summer. For a complete schedule, go to www.lib.uconn.edu/campuses/storrs/hours.

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Administrators take on new responsibilities

BY SHERRI FISHER

Several administrators at the University have been promoted or have temporarily taken on new duties.

Dana McGee, formerly the director of the Office of Diversify and Equity, has been promoted to associate vice president for diversity and equity. M. Dolan Evanovich, formerly vice provost for administrative management, has been promoted to vice president for enrollment planning, management, and institutional research. Naming the vice provost on books, for academic administration, will serve as interim vice president for research and dean of the Graduate School, and senior vice provost; and Nancy Bull, associate dean of outreach and public service and associate director of the Cooperative Extension System in the College of Agriculture, has been appointed to a temporary three-quarter time position as vice provost for academic administration. McGee is now responsible for promoting diversity across all levels and campuses of the University. As UConn’s chief affirmative action officer, she oversees the Office of Diversity and Equity at Storrs and the Health Center.

Evanovich, in his expanded role, will continue to oversee efforts to recruit top undergraduates, while ensuring accessibility. In addition to overseeing the Office of Institutional Research and the Office of Enrollment Management, he will advise the president and provost on UConn’s strategic progress to enhance its stature as a top public research university.

Provoost Peter J. Nicholls says the promotions of McGee and Evanovich, “reflect the priority we are placing on diversity and continued strategic analysis and assessment, as well as our continuing efforts to unify our Storrs and Health Center campuses and programs.”

Nicholls says that his office has taken on significantly increased responsibilities relating to academic oversight of the University including the Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine. These new responsibilities include oversight of academic budgets, the development and implementation of consistent procedures for hiring, promotion, and development of faculty and staff, and a greater level of interaction with the Health Center’s Board of Directors.

“These new responsibilities impact all of us in the Provost’s office, but especially entail a greater level of oversight from Vice Provost Suman Singh,” Nicholls says. “In light of this fact and the fact that I wish Dr. Singh to serve as deputy provost in my absence, I have decided to promote him to the position of senior vice provost.”

Nicholls says the budget recession and the new responsibility his office is assuming for the Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine have also led to an increased workload with regard to fiscal administration. He says Bull’s temporary position as vice provost for academic administration fills the increased need for assistance in the development of collegiate budgets.

Library offers new program to manage citations, bibliographies

The process of managing citations for research papers or journal articles is now easier with UConn’s newly expanded bibliographic management program “RefWorks.”

RefWorks functions as a personal bibliographic database, storing citations for books, book chapters, journal articles, or other bibliographic references. In addition to organizing an unlimited number of references, the program operates in conjunction with Microsoft Word to automatically arrange, italicize, underline, and otherwise punctuate the bibliographic information into endnotes that comply with the rules of the APA, MLA, or many other bibliographic styles.

The Babbidge Library is offering workshops on how to use the new program. Any current UConn student, staff person, or faculty member at any campus may sign up for a free RefWorks account and register to attend a workshop. Go to http://refworks.uconn.edu.

Grant renewed for recruitment, retention of minority students

BY RICHARD VEILLEUX

The state Department of Higher Education has renewed and increased a grant to help UConn continue its efforts to recruit and retain undergraduate minority students.

“These grants aim to reward and support these institutions’ efforts to achieve their student diversity goals,” Gov. M. Jodi Rell said in announcing the grants to UConn and other state public colleges. “The funds will be put toward mentoring, peer counseling, job fairs, and outreach programs.”

UConn will receive nearly $160,000 per year for the next five years, says Lee Melvin, director of admissions. The grant is more than $40,000 higher per year than the previous five-year grant, he says. It is also more than twice the amount any other state school received.

The amount of each institution’s grant was based upon its performance in the enrollment and graduation of Latino, African American, Asian American, and Native American students. Since 1995, UConn’s minority population has increased by more than 100 percent, more than 90 percent of whom return for their sophomore year. Nearly 70 percent of the underrepresented students who enroll at UConn graduate within six years, placing the University in the top 20 of 58 public research institutions.

“We are a template in the state for minority recruitment and retention,” says M. Dolan Evanovich, vice president for enrollment planning, management, and institutional research. “The continuation of this grant and the increase in funding recognize those efforts.”

Roughly half of the grant, which will go to the University, will be used to support undergraduate admissions, says Melvin, and the rest will be applied to programs designed to keep those students on campus.

The percentage of undergraduates at the University has increased from 13.4 percent in 1995 to 18 percent in 2007. The new freshman class also is expected to feature about 20 percent minority representation.

Melvin says efforts include college life days in the spring, when more than 1,600 high school high school students who would become first-generation college students should they enroll in college are brought to campus for tours and discussions of the college experience; college recruitment days in the fall, when high school juniors ranked in the top 25 percent of their class come to Storrs to discuss residential life, financial aid, and other aspects of the University; several information receptions; open houses for admitted minority students and their parents; and multiple informational sessions with high school guidance counselors.

Programs designed to retain minority students include a summer program known as ConnectUS, First Year Experience, mentoring, and tutoring services in the Center for Undergraduate Education.
Researchers study impact of healthy food program in Hartford

**Partnership proposals**

next generation of doctors and dentists to attract and retain high-quality healthcare professionals in our state.

Evaluating the proposals is a top priority for Dr. Cato T. Laurencin, the Health Center’s new vice president for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine.

In seeking collaborations, the University is adhering to the process set out in legislation enacted during the 2008 legislative session and signed by the governor. The two-step process was originally recommended by the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE) in a report to the General Assembly last March.

In the first phase, the Health Center and the regional hospitals developed a mutual vision for establishing affiliation agreements. In the second phase, one or more hospitals would propose an affiliation agreement that would improve clinical care in the region and support excellence in education at UConn’s medical school.

The process is being monitored by CASE, with progress reports to the General Assembly.

This is the mid-point in a process that will determine what is working and what’s not.

Many local shop owners have been reluctant to carry fresh fruits and vegetables because they go bad faster and lose freshness faster than processed snack food, are less profitable, and take up valuable shelf space, Jones says. But the owner of Williams Market, Antonia Helena, says the best alternative is partnering with UConn.

“Mr. Aronson has been a tremendous resource for me throughout my first year as president,” says Hogan. “I’m pleased that we will continue to have her advice and expertise on board as Mr. Gray transitions to UConn.”

Gray resides in Cheshire with her husband Dianne. They met in 1971 while attending UConn.

**Chief Financial Officer**

voters — with low-cost financing in the public municipal markets. Formed in 1965, CHIEFA has more than 563 million in bonds outstanding.

“I am honored to be given the opportunity to join President Hogan’s administrative team,” says Gray. “I look forward with great standing.

The Hartford Food System is one of the nation’s oldest organizations dedicated to fighting hunger and improving nutrition for Connecticut’s lower-income and elderly residents. The private, non-professional advocates for healthier school meals, oversees a 24-acre nonprofit farm, and does extensive outreach and advocacy in the Hartford community.

The Hartford Food System’s Healthy Food Retailer Initiative is one of many service-learning experiences in which undergraduate and graduate students participate at UConn. The Center for Public Health and Health Policy operates health and nutrition service-learning programs in more than 25 agencies in Hartford, six days a week, year-round.

UConn students involved in the programs spend a portion of their school year teaching nutrition to school-age children, reading books to preschoolers, and engaging in physical activities with city kids. Medical students also run migrant farm worker health clinics in the summer and fall, with the assistance of the Health Center’s Dr. Bruce Gould and the Area Health Education Centers.

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Minority students conduct research, prepare for graduate work

By Sherry Fisher

Undergraduate minority students from colleges and universities across the United States conducted research at UConn this summer as part of an interdisciplinary Polymer Program. The program is designed to encourage and prepare minority undergraduates for graduate studies in the sciences, math, and engineering.

Thirty-six students participated in the Northeast Alliance Summer Research (NEASURE) program. The program, now in its third year at UConn, is directed by Ruth Washington and Lee Aggison, a married couple who are associate professors in residence in the molecular and cell biology department. Aggison is also associate dean of the Graduate School.

The program has grown from six students during the first year, to 36, this summer. Students in the program are juniors and seniors who have shown a strong interest in research at their home institutions. They are paired for the summer with a UConn faculty researcher and a graduate student mentor, and conduct research under their supervision.

In addition to research, students participate in seminars and workshops on topics related to their academic, personal, and professional growth. Each student makes a poster presentation on their research at the end of the program.

Aggison and Washington say the program is an excellent opportunity to expose underrepresented students to graduate studies in the sciences.

"Increasing diversity in the sciences and engineering is very important," Aggison says. "More qualified minority faculty are needed in these areas, and this program puts us a step closer to meeting that goal.

"Also, there are very few positive images of professors and scientists in our society and that has had a negative impact on the field," Aggison says. "This program offers students an opportunity to see the passion of their faculty and graduate mentors."

Jim Henkel, associate vice provost for graduate education and research, says the program offers an opportunity for students to get ready for and learn more about graduate school.

"UConn, as a member of the Northeast Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (NEAGER), seeks to broaden the base of people going into faculty positions in the sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics," Henkel says. "We want to attract first-generation underrepresented groups who might otherwise be shut out of the process, and offer them an opportunity to prepare for graduate school."

He adds, "In order to succeed in academia, students have to prepare early on. They need to find a niche, find something to study that they are passionate about, and build their research expertise. Hopefully, the program will inspire them to go to graduate school and give them a head start."

The program is working, Aggison says. Five students who participated in the program will be attending graduate school at UConn this fall.

Kofi Adomako-Ayisi, a UConn senior with a double major in molecular and cell biology and ecology and evolutionary biology, has participated in the program for two summers.

Last year he studied invasive ants. This summer, he worked on research conducted by David Knecht, professor of molecular and cell biology, and graduate student Charito Romeo. He studied how certain amoeba engulf extra cellular fluid, using fluorescent live-cell imaging.

"I cherish this summer and last summer," he says. "I've found my purpose in life: learning. I love doing research. I love the fact that you are constantly learning. You might solve one problem, but in doing so, five or six more questions will pop up."

After graduation, Adomako-Ayisi plans to take a year off to focus on his GREs, and then go on to graduate school.

LaFonda Kincard, a student at Wiley College in Marshall, Texas, worked with John Salamone, a professor of psychology. She conducted research on the motor effects of caffeine in laboratory rats.

"The experience was exciting," she says "and Professor Salamone is amazing. I come from a small school, and there's not much research going on. This program really introduced me to graduate school."

Abdel Rivera, a senior from the University of Turabo in Puerto Rico, worked with Helena Silva, an assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering. He worked on building a laser spy microscope, which can scan to find cancer.

"I really introduced me to graduate school, and there's not much research going on. This program really introduced me to graduate school."

Rivera says in addition to the research, the program offered him an opportunity to improve his English, and meet new people.

"I realized after being with all the students, that even though we have different cultures, we're equal and similar in many ways," he says. Aggison and Washington say, "work hard and want us to succeed. And I'm grateful to Dr. Silva, who is a great mentor."

Rivera is finalizing plans to attend graduate school at UConn in the fall.

Also from Puerto Rico, Cristina Tatis, who attends Universidad Metropolitana, worked for two summers on a research project run by Jose Manautou, associate professor of toxicology in the School of Pharmacy. The project involved the response of the liver to toxins in the popular painkiller acetaminophen.

Last fall, Tatis presented her work at a national conference and received several awards. She also co-authored a research publication on the subject. "That's unusual for an undergraduate," Manautou says.

He adds, "Many talented under-represented students, when they're very good in math and science, are pushed to go to medical school. The summer program opens their eyes to other opportunities. They learn that they can do exciting things and use their talents in other ways."
Student Fund  continued from page 1

"University employees, who often are the first to hear about or witness these circumstances, can contribute through cash, credit card, or payroll deduction," Burl says. "Alumni who may remember what it is like to be a student without a lot of resources may also want to contribute to this fund." Individuals wishing to contribute to Students First can do so through a single payment or a payroll deduction. "Gifts may be given in honor of a person, entity, or group," adds Burl, "and because this is managed through the Foundation, gifts may be given without implicating our state ethics code." The fund will be administered by the Students First Fund Committee, which has established a procedure by which students can be nominated or apply for assistance. "Gifts of any size make a difference," Burl says. "We are able to reach out and connect the family to reach out to students in need."

More information is at the Students First Fund website: http://studentsfirst.uconn.edu/students_first_fund.html.
Initiative educates public about lead poisoning prevention

BY KAREN SINGER

UConn’s reputation has drawn attention to lead-tainted children’s toys from China, but many people don’t know that the biggest source of lead poisoning may be lurking in their homes.

A UConn program, the Healthy Environments for Children Initiative, is working to educate the public about the dangers of lead poisoning and ways to prevent it.

Dangers levels of lead can be found in paint chips, dust, and debris in houses built before 1978, when the U.S. banned lead-based paint from residential use.

Today more than 300,000 children have lead poisoning, which damages the brain, nervous system and other systems, and causes lifelong learning, behavior and health problems.

“Sadly, this preventable problem still exists,” says Joan Bothell, a writer and curriculum developer for the Healthy Environments for Children Initiative, a collaboration between the University’s Cooperative Extension System and the Department of Human Development and Family Studies.

Since the mid 1990s, Bothell has been working with Mary Margaret Gaudio, extension educator at UConn’s Hartford County Extension Center and a co-founder of the program, on educational materials about the dangers of lead poisoning and how to avoid them.

“We try to make people aware that they can prevent lead poisoning, and that it is not difficult,” Bothell says.

The work began in 1992, when state Department of Public Health officials asked Gaudio to write some easy-to-understand fact sheets about lead poisoning.

“They liked what we did,” Gaudio says.

The next project was a training manual about lead poisoning.

Since then, the Healthy Environments for Children Initiative has developed educational and outreach programs and materials in English and Spanish for children, childcare providers, teachers, contractors, and do-it-yourselfers, and has partnered with state, regional, and national agencies, as well as non-profits and community-based organizations.

The materials include a Native American-themed curriculum for young children, “How Mother Bear Taught the Children about Lead,” that won an award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA), and a video aimed at do-it-yourselfers, “Don’t Spread Lead!”

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has used some of the program’s materials in its National Lead Poisoning Prevention training programs.

In Connecticut, the program’s 24 trainers have trained nearly 2,000 people in lead-safe work practices for painting, remodeling, and maintenance.

“Lead dust is usually the major culprit for any child who lives in a house with lead-based paint that is disturbed or deteriorating,” says Bothell, adding that people who live in older houses need to learn ways to deal with lead safety issues.

Other sources of lead include old furniture, toys, and jewelry.

Bothell recommends checking lead recalls for consumer products at the state Department of Public Health website: www.ct.gov/dph/

“Simple good practices” are part of the prevention program according to Gaudio. “We tell parents to make sure their children wash their hands before meals and snacks, leave their shoes at the door, eat healthy foods, and stay away from paint dust and paint flakes,” she says. The educational materials also teach children to do some of these things themselves.

HEC also administers the New England Lead Coordinating Committee, a regional consortium of state agencies working to eliminate lead poisoning, especially in children.

The group is working on new approaches to prevent lead poisoning at the Storrs campus in June.

CALAERT Monday, August 25, to Tuesday, September 2

Items for the weekly Advance Calendar are downloaded from the University’s online Events Calendar. Please enter your Calendar items at: http://events.uconn.edu/ Items must be in the database by 4 p.m. on Monday for inclusion in the issue published the following Monday.

Note: The next Calendar will include events taking place from Tuesday, Sept. 2 through Monday, Sept. 8. Those items must be in the database by 4 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 25.

If you need special accommodations to participate in events, call 860-486-7293 (Storrs), or 860-679-3563 (Farmington), or 860-570-5100 (Law School).

Academics

Monday, 8/25 – Fall semester classes begin.

Monday, 9/1 – Labor Day, no classes.

Tuesday, 9/2 – Last day to file petitions for course credit by examination.

Libraries

Homer Babbidge Library, Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday, noon-5 p.m.; Monday, 9-11 a.m. and 1-9 p.m., Closed 9/1.

Torrington Campus Library, Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Friday-Sunday, Closed 9/1.

Trenton Campus Library, Monday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; closed Friday-Sunday, Closed 9/1.

Greater Hartford Campus Library, Monday-Thursday, 1-9 p.m. Closed 9/1.

Health Center Library, Monday-Thursday, 1-9 p.m. Closed 9/1.

Monday-Thursday, 8-11 a.m. and 1-9 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Monday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Closed 9/1.

Dodd Center, Reading Room and Research Center hours: Monday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, noon-4 p.m.; closed Sunday.

Pharmacy Library, Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-10 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1-9 p.m. Closed 9/1.

Law Library, Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-11 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Monday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Avery Point Campus Library, Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m..closed weekends Closed 9/1.

Greater Hartford Campus Library, Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed 8/30-9/1.

Stamford Campus Library, Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; closed Sunday. Closed 9/1.

Waterbury Campus Library, Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; closed weekends. Closed 9/1.

University ITS Help Desk Hours: Call 860-864-4357. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Ph.D. Defenses

Thursday, 8/28 – Kinesiology. Pursued Effects of Martial Arts Training on Mood, by Gregory Kane

Friday, 8/29 – Psychology. Mental Health Input and Children’s Theory of Mind: A Training Study, by Alice Howard (adv.: Nagiel). 1 p.m., Room

University 2 p.m., Room P121, Quant Science Complex.

Exhibits

Tuesday, 8/25 through Friday, 12/19 – Benton Museum, Storrs. The Way of the Tibetan Monk; also, The Photographs of Sheila Rock. Also, Tuesday, 9/2 through Sunday, 10/12, 4th annual Art Department faculty exhibition. Tuesday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday, 1-4:30 p.m.


Friday, 10/1 – Dodd Center. Celebrating the Sculpual Arts. The Challenge of Structure. For hours, see Libraries section.

Friday, 10/8 – Psychology. Last day to file course petitions for course credit by examination.

Friday, 10/15 – Psychology. “Nongovernmental Organizations in the Reconstruction of War-Torn Societies,” by Rachel Koenig (adv.: De Jong). 1 p.m., Room


Friday, 11/5 – Psychology. “Mindreading, and that it’s not difficult, “ says Gaudio, who is disturbed or deteriorating, “ says Bothell, adding that people who live in older houses need to learn ways to deal with lead safety issues. Other sources of lead include old furniture, toys, and jewelry.

Bothell recommends checking lead recalls for consumer products at the state Department of Public Health website: www.ct.gov/dph/

“Simple good practices” are part of the prevention program according to Gaudio. “We tell parents to make sure their children wash their hands before meals and snacks, leave their shoes at the door, eat healthy foods, and stay away from paint dust and paint flames,” she says. The educational materials also teach children to do some of these things themselves.

HEC also administers the New England Lead Coordinating Com- mittee, a regional consortium of state agencies working to eliminate lead poisoning, especially in chil-

The group has a conference on new approaches to prevent lead poisoning at the Storrs campus in June.

by Christopher Zhang. Wednesday-

University 2 p.m., Room P121, Quant Science Complex.

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Young human rights leaders learn about global activism at week-long forum

BY COLIN PETTRAS

After spending a week partici-
pating in the University’s fourth
annual international forum on
human rights and leadership,
Abiodun Bakare was full of energy
and excitement.

“It’s a very good experience,
where young leaders are able to
network and learn about what
others are doing,” said Bakare,
of Nigeria, who was making his first
trip to the United States to attend
the forum.

“It is wonderful seeing people
different races, ethnicities, and
color talking, laughing, and shar-
ing ideas,” Bakare, 29, said.

Bakare already has a few ideas
of his own. In Nigeria, he regularly
helps a child welfare organization
with fund raising and serves as a
consultant to non-profit organiza-
tions through his Hum Creativity
Point Foundation.

Bakare was one of more than 70
individuals from 55 countries who
attended this year’s International
Leadership Programme: A Global
Intergenerational Forum sponsored
by the University’s UNESCO Chair
and Institute of Comparative Hu-
man Rights.

UNESCO stands for United
Nations Educational, Scientific,
and Cultural Organization. Institu-
tions, organizations, and states
affiliated with UNESCO seek to
contribute to international peace
and security by promoting col-
aboration among nations through
education, science, and culture.

The forum focuses on the inter-
generational sharing of knowledge
and building leadership skills. One
of its primary goals is to nurture
and develop young people to prepare
for them to locally and globally
lead and to create a net-
work of solidarity in the develop-
ment of human rights around the
world, says Ami Omara-Otunnu,
UNESCO Chair in Comparative
Human Rights.

Participants in this year’s forum
were selected from among 700 ap-
licants, based on their prior com-
mmitment to human rights work,
the strength of their application
essay, and their potential contri-
bution to the forum. Organizers
tried to select a balanced slate
of candidates from diverse regions,
backgrounds, genders, and ages.

Those selected came from Ka-
zakhstan, Lebanon, Kenya, Burma,
Mexico, France, the Philippines,
and many other countries. They
relied on philanthropy in their
native countries, self-funding, and
assistance from their embassies or
nongovernmental organizations to
underwrite the cost of attending
the forum.

This year’s keynote speaker was
Ahmed Kathrada, a South African
anti-apartheid activist who served
26 years as a political prisoner
with Nelson Mandela. Kathrada
spoke about the importance of
unity and communication in help-
ing oppressed people.

Another of the forum’s guest
speakers, Krishna Sondhi, founder
of Kumarian Press, said she was
impressed by the level of interest
on behalf of the participants. Many
gathered around her after she
spoke, pressing her with questions
and seeking her guidance.

“I’m so encouraged to see so
many young people who are going
to contribute to the fight for hu-
man rights,” said Sondhi, 72, who
has fought sexism and discrimina-
tion in Kenya and elsewhere for
decades. Kumarian Press, based
in Virginia, publishes books on
international development and
management geared toward devel-
opment countries.

In order to foster their leader-
ship skills, participants took part
in a ropes challenge course at the
Holiday Hill Day Camp in Mansfield. They also toured
the anti-poverty organization Food-
Share of Hartford and visited the
United Nations headquarters in
New York.

Joseph Briody, associate direc-
tor of student development and
learning at UConn, spoke about
acquiring leadership skills for
social action. Rafael Pérez-Escamilla,
a UConn professor of nutritional
sciences and public health, spoke
about human rights, nutrition, and
hunger; and Joyce Ashantantang,
an assistant professor-in-residence
in English literature at the Greater
Hartford Campus, shared her
thoughts on the use of theatre in
human rights education.

Charles Prewitt, emeritus
professor of physics, captivated his
audience by the progress of the
Manhattan Project from World War II
to international scholar and peace
activist. The Manhattan Project was
a collaboration among the U.S., the
U.K., and Canada to produce the
first nuclear weapon.

In other sessions of the forum,
participants learned about conflict
resolution and grassroots organiz-
ing.

Elena Mihajlova of Macedonia
said she found the sessions invigor-
rating.

“There are a lot of differ-
ent countries represented here,”
Mihajlova said. “When you could
find a room with other countries, you
learn.”

Aheli Purkayastha, who lives
outside Boston and attends Bryn
Mawr College in Philadelphia, said
she felt fortunate she could attend.

“This is an amazing con-
ference,” she said. “I think it could
be replicated across the world. Since
coming here, I have met people
who have inspired me. I’ve been
inspired by their stories and what
they have done.”

Health Center staff use green thumbs to beautify courtyards

BY CHRISTIE DI FRANCO

This spring, a few dozen Health
Center employees made it their
mission to beautify the second-
floor courtyards.

Before long, what started with
some clearing of old branches
and unsightly plants turned into a
friendly competition. Employees
from the Department of Pathology
and Laboratory Medicine worked
on the south courtyard, while
transportation aides and staff from
the Dempsey Hospital Cardiac
Stepdown Unit tended the north
courtyard.

As the plants filled out, each
side tried to one-up the other, with
decorations, outdoor furniture,
and other grounds improvements.

“They were coming in early,
staying late, so they could work
in the yards, coming out on their
breaks,” says nursing manager
Debra Abromaitis. “It’s wonderful
to see so much pride in their work-
place. They take it very seriously.”

They took it so seriously, they
called in two master gardeners
from the Farmington Garden Club
to judge each courtyard.

“They love it, they’re at
peace here,” says Maritza Barta,
an administrative program as-
sistant in the Pat and Jim Calhoun
Cardiology Center, speaking from
the courtyard facing the cardiac
stepdown patient rooms. “And as
employees, we look forward to
coming out here to relax.”

Medical technologist Lucy
Nadeau says, “Our jobs are very
stressful, so it’s nice to have a place
you can go to relax, recharge, and
rejuvenate. And think of the pa-
tients and visitors here. This gives
them someplace to go to relax and
unwind. The garden has been de-
liberately designed to be a serene
and tranquil place.”

Each “team” has about 20 em-
ployees, who take turns watering,
pruning, and maintaining the
courtyards’ appearance.

“Everybody puts in a little
something,” says transportation
aid Howard Fairley. “Somebody
watered it one day when a person
couldn’t be there, somebody did
a little weeding when someone
shouldn’t have. It was about beauti-
fying the garden for the patients,
the employees, and the patients’
loved ones, and it boosted morale.”

Transportation aide Bernadette
Serafin says, “I think the project
brought people from many depart-
ments closer. They seemed excited,
closely following the progression
of the gardens, noticing even the
smallest changes. Many offered to
help, and donated plants and time.”

The master gardeners, Mary-
joie Bingham and Margaret Bliss,
visited July 11. They studied both
courtyards, took notes, deliber-
ated at one of the picnic tables,
then joined the green-thumbed
employees who had gathered, to
announce their findings.

“These are both very beautiful
gardens,” Bingham said, before
declaring the courtyard maintained
by transportation aids and cardiac
stepdown staff the winner.

“When you work in the hos-
pital and you see the afflictions
and sickness of the patients,” says
Fairley, “you want to contribute a
little something more.”