A new Center for Implant and Reconstructive Dentistry has opened at the Health Center, with a team of nationally-recognized experts who provide a full range of dental implant services to improve health and enhance smiles with natural-looking replacement teeth.

Dr. Donald Somerville, an accomplished prosthodontist who trained at some of the best dental programs in the country, has been appointed director. The new center, which opened in August, is part of the New England Musculoskeletal Institute. Located on the main level of the Health Center, it has eight state-of-the-art treatment rooms, and sophisticated equipment including a cone-beam tomography unit that quickly and precisely captures 3D and 2D images of jaws and teeth.

“We offer patients today’s best technologies as well as the highest quality care from providers who are leaders in the field of dental implant therapy,” says Somerville, who has lectured extensively to national and international professional organizations about new advances in dental implant techniques.

“In addition, our specialists with the New England Musculoskeletal Institute and the UConn School of Dental Medicine are leading innovative research initiatives to improve care,” he says.

Somerville is not new to the Health Center. He is a 1997 graduate of the UConn School of Dental Medicine, where he received many awards including the Connecticut Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Award and the American Academy of Oral Medicine Award.

After dental school, Somerville completed a certificate in general practice dentistry at Harvard University School of Dental Medicine and Brigham and Women’s Hospital. While at Harvard, he served as director of the residency program in advanced education general dentistry.

He also received a master’s of science in prosthodontics from Texas A&M University Health Science Center and Baylor College of Dentistry. Somerville joins UConn from Toronto.

“Production chef Amy Grenus, one of UConn’s two beekeepers, collects honey from an extractor. The honey, part of the first crop produced in the University’s own hives, will be used in marinades and sauces prepared in the dining halls.”

“Photoby Gail Merrill”

“Inside”

“3 Community policing 4 Fulbright educator 5 Lively essays”

“Expert on race and law says Constitution flawed”

“By Sherry Fisher”

“The United States Constitution should be celebrated, but its flaws must not be ignored, says internationally known legal theorist Charles J. Ogletree Jr.

Ogletree made his remarks Sept. 17 in the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center’s Konover Auditorium. His presentation, “From Slavery to Freedom? Reflections on Race Relations in America,” was part of the University’s celebration of Constitution Day.

Ogletree, a civil rights attorney and professor at the Harvard School of Law, is the author or co-author of several books on topics connected with race. He also serves as co-chair of the Reparations Coordinating Committee, a group researching a lawsuit based upon a claim of reparations for descendants of African slaves.

“The Constitution is an impressive document, but deeply flawed from the beginning, because it did not address the issue of race,” Ogletree said.

In 1787, when the founding fathers of the nation used the words of the preamble of the Constitution, “We the people ..., they did not have in mind the majority of Americans,” Ogletree said.

The Supreme Court’s decision in Dred Scott v. Sandford in 1857 found even free slaves ineligible for U.S. citizenship, he said, noting that Chief Justice Roger Taney said Scott would never have rights because he was from Africa.

“His chilling line was, ‘negroes are so inferior that they have no rights which whites are bound to respect,’ ” said Ogletree.

Even after the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments were added to the Constitution, Blacks were still marginalized, Ogletree said. Poll taxes, grandfather clauses, and literacy tests that had nothing to do with voting precluded people from exercising rights.
Invasive plants symposium scheduled for Oct. 1

A symposium on invasive plants will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 1, in the Rome Ballroom, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration begins at 8 a.m.

The event, *Ceridh Our Natu- ral Heritage: Managing Invasives to Promote Native Diversity*, will celebrate native plants, animals, and ecosystems of Connecticut; describe threats posed by invasive species; and provide tools for managing invasive plants.

The keynote address, "A Case for Native Plants," will be given by Professor Doug Tallamy, chair of the University of Delaware Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, and author of *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens*. Additional morning presentations will highlight new invasive plants, legislative updates, and weed management areas. Afternoon topics include organic control, Connecticut's invaded woodlands, aquatic invasive plants, invasive plant management projects, managing native grassland habitats, and non-plant invaders.

The event is open to the public. Registration is $55 including lunch, or $25 for students with ID. Pre-registration (post-marked by Sept. 24) is recommended. Visit the web site to see if there is room for walk-ins (lunch is not guaranteed).

For more information, go to www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg or call 860-486-6448.

The symposium is presented by the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group, and funded in part by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.

The Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group is a consortium of individuals, organizations, and agencies concerned with invasive species issues. Co-chairs are Donna Ellis, senior cooperative extension educator-in-residence in the Department of Plant Science, and Les Mehroh, a research associate in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.
Police officers engage, educate University community

BY KAREN A. GRAVA
Christopher Casa may spend more time in a classroom than a professor, but he’s not on the faculty. And most of what he’s teaching might be called “street smarts.”

A sergeant in the internationally accredited UConn police department and the head of UConn’s community policing program, Casa concentrates on teaching students, faculty, and staff about safety.

“My job is to break down the mystery of what the police do, he says. Along with his colleague, Officer Thomas Ryba, Casa offers seminars and talks on a variety of topics, from workplace violence to sexual assault, drinking and driving, drugs, vandalism, and bike safety.

“We teach people when to call 911, how to spot suspicious behavior, how to report a crime, and what to expect from the police,” he says. “We want to take the mystery out of what we do and keep the lines of communication with the students, faculty, and staff open.”

It’s important for the UConn community to realize that they can call 911 if necessary. Casa says. People also need to be able to state exactly where they are – say, in the northeast corner of a building.

“The goal of a 911 call is to paint a visual picture of what’s happen-
Business professor teaches marketing concepts in Peru

BY DAVID BAUMAN

Teaching marketing research skills is a challenge under the best of circumstances, but even more so when the students live in a nation that is politically volatile and where counterfeit products dominate the marketplace.

That was the setting for Narasimhan Srinivasan, an associate professor of marketing in UConn’s School of Business, who recently spent six weeks in Lima, Peru, teaching executives and MBA students new marketing concepts and consumer survey techniques as a Fulbright Senior Specialist.

He was among some 30 U.S. business faculty awarded the prestigious grants to teach their specialties at institutions across the globe this summer.

Srinivasan, who has extensive experience in short-term academic exchanges including a previous Fulbright scholarship to Canada, says he was specifically recruited by Peru’s ESAN University, the oldest and No. 1 ranked business school in South America.

During his stay, he taught a course on survey research, a research seminar on cross-cultural strategies, developed marketing course syllabi, evaluated a new undergraduate marketing program ESAN plans to launch this fall, and conducted some research.

His classes were delivered in English but simultaneously translated into Spanish.

Peru is one of the poorest countries in Latin America. A small elite controls most of the wealth and political power, and the country has long alternated between democracy and military dictatorship. It remains deeply divided politically, Srinivasan says.

In the past 20 years, hyperinflation— as high as 7,500 percent— fueled a Maoist guerrilla insurgency that forced many Peruvians to flee the country. Despite the near destruction of the Shining Path and Tupac Amaru guerrilla groups, violence is still a problem and has been linked to the drug trade.

Srinivasan says Peruvians face a lot of uncertainty about the stability of their political system.

“Many in my classes in Peru have family members living in the United States,” he says. “They left during the 90s when the political environment was very volatile and terrorism was rampant.”

After two decades of turmoil, he adds, “Lima looks chaotic but has pockets of great prosperity. You see razor wire and hired security guards surrounding many communities. It’s unnerving.”

Despite this, he says his students were “incredibly hard working.”

Many of his classes were held at night, because most of the students worked by day.

“They are eager to understand new marketing techniques and become more entrepreneurial,” he says.

Doing business in Peru poses considerable hurdles, however. Srinivasan estimates that 95 percent of the books, music, videos, and computer games he saw in Lima were pirated versions of intellectual property.

“They say people can’t afford the copyrighted version of the products,” he says.

In addition, the “formal” market of legal goods is very small when compared to the “informal” sector, he says. In Lima’s garment district, for example, many types of counterfeit high-end apparel, such as Lacoste shirts, are made by seamstresses working in sweatshop conditions.

Srinivasan says he expects his experience in Peru will benefit his students at UConn.

“As Americans, we are on the learning curve as global citizens and need to be taken out of our cocoon,” says Srinivasan, who emigrated to the U.S. from India and has been on the faculty of the School of Business since 1987.

“Because of globalization, we cannot afford to be isolationists,” he adds. “We need to understand why business people in countries such as Peru are doing what they are doing. I hope to help my students think again about difficult issues of culture and society, such as the benefits of open business relationships in a global world.”

Family studies professor named honors faculty member of year

BY SHERI FISHER

If there’s one thing that Steve Wisensale hopes students will take away from his classes, it’s a love of learning.

“Once they leave UConn, the subject matter might fade, but I want them to be excited about learning new things,” says Wisensale, a professor of human development and family studies.

Wisensale teaches courses on family policy, family law, comparative family policy, and aging policy. He also advises students, including those working on their honors theses.

He was recognized for his efforts last spring when honors students selected him as Honors Council Faculty Member of the Year. The award recognizes an honors faculty member for his or her exemplary work in providing an exceptional educational experience for honors students.

Wisensale says he enjoys brain-storming with honors students.

“They come to you with a seed of an idea for doing a thesis, for example, and sometimes all they have is a word or a phrase,” he says. “It’s fun to just talk to them and get them thinking and steer them in the right direction.”

He says when students start exploring an idea, they come back to him for advice.

“It’s exciting for me to see how far I can take them, and in what directions,” he says. “It’s especially rewarding when their thesis is complete, and you see the poster and final product.”

Wisenalsae says one of the tools he uses with students is visualization.

“I’m big on having them visual- ize scenarios,” he says. “I tell them, ‘Sit down and picture your thesis in a three-ring binder. You open the cover and you’re going to see a title page. What does the title page say? Then you’re going to turn the page and you’ll see a table of contents. What do you see there?’”

Visualization helps students put their ideas into a framework, he says. He says he tries to generate intellectual curiosity by creating puzzles.

“I hope these will arouse their interest, and I encourage them and reinforce whatever intellec- tual curiosity they bring to the class,” he says.

Samantha Sherwood, who graduated in May, was in several of Wisensale’s classes. He was also the advisor for her honors thesis.

“Professor Wisensale teaches every course like an honors course,” she says. “He has high expectations, but also encourages students to think creatively and express their thoughts, opinions, and unique perspectives on the mate- rial being taught.”

As an advisor of honors theses, Sherwood says Wisensale “consistently sets the bar high for his students. He challenges them to explore their intellectual ability and tackle research projects that may not have a clear path.”

He cultivates students’ interests, Sherwood says, whether it’s for- warding a newspaper article that someone might enjoy, or having a debate with a student in his office.

“If Professor Wisensale always has his students and their futures in mind,” she says.

Colleen Deasy, another former student who graduated in May, says Wisensale was concerned about students and easy to ap- proach. “He was there the time to get to know us,” she says.

Wisenalsae says it’s important to get to a point in life where work and fun become one. “I think that the sooner you can do that, the better off you are,” he says. “That’s what I tell my students.”

The recipient of several teaching awards, Wisensale is the author of more than 75 journal articles, book chapters, and policy briefs, and has published three books, including Family Leave Policy: the Political Economy of Work and Family in America.

He has held two Fulbright Fellowships—one in Germany and the other in the Czech Republic—and is a former Research Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America.

He was a consultant to the United Nations on the world’s aging popu- lation and, over the years, he has served on seven state task forces in Connecticut.

Wisenalsae is a Senior Scholar at the Council on Contemporary Families, a private non-profit, non- partisan research organization based at the University of Illinois-Chicago that produces policy briefs on a variety of family issues. He is also a Fellow of the National Council on Family Relations.

Steve Wisensale, professor of human development and family studies, with Samantha Sherwood, an honors student who graduated recently.

Wisensale is a Senior Scholar at the Council on Contemporary Families, a private non-profit, non-partisan research organization based at the University of Illinois-Chicago that produces policy briefs on a variety of family issues. He is also a Fellow of the National Council on Family Relations.
English professor’s memoir captures her life, work in essays

BY COLIN POITRAS

As a Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of English and the University's first Aetna Chair of Writing, Lynn Z. Bloom has been a pioneer in the field of composition studies for more than 20 years.

So it’s no surprise that Bloom’s first autobiographical work – *The Seven Deadly Virtues and Other Lively Essays* – Coming of Age as a Writer, Teacher, Risk Taker, (University of South Carolina Press, 2008) – celebrates her iconoclastic style.

Bloom’s memoir is a compilation of 15 colorful essays – some 18 years in the making – that describe her trials as a chronic nonconformist and female scholar; her Christian parents’ vehement opposition to her marrying a man of Jewish descent; and her life as a teacher, wife, mother, and grandmother. Her warm personal tales are laced with humorous, insightful, and often inspirational accounts of the risks and rewards she encountered as an artist living and writing on the edge.

Whether writing about picking blueberries in New England, coping with FBI wiretaps while authoring the first biography of famed pediatrician and peace activist Dr. Benjamin Spock, or her experience as an adjunct professor working with a desk next to a cat litter box, Bloom doesn’t miss an opportunity to enlighten, instruct, and entertain.

A master essayist known for her lively and provocative writing style, Bloom believes the traditional structures surrounding academic expression – her seven deadly virtues – stifle personal creativity and subvert the mission of education. She pleads with her students and readers to avoid the traps inherent in the “deadly virtues” of duty, rationality, conformity, efficiency, order, economy, and punctuality so often affiliated with academic prose.

“I am not out to supplant virtue with rice, though that is always tempting.” Bloom writes in the book’s introduction, “but to propose, in essay after essay, an alternative set of lively virtues to replace the deadly.

“Duty and helpfulness have their place, though I have basted up more than one romance and quit more than one job over issues of servility, sexism, and second-class citizenship,” Bloom continues in the book’s opening lines. “I would augment these with anger and defiance.”

“Her other “alternate” virtues are honesty, risk-taking, independence of mind and spirit, originality, rigor, energy, and having fun.

“One of the things that I would like people to take away from the book is to feel that they can take risks,” Bloom says. “In my mind, I am always taking risks. I don’t think you ever grow intellectually if you don’t take risks. … If I had done what my professors had told me to do, I wouldn’t have had a very good time. I might have gotten a job, but it wouldn’t have been original and I wouldn’t have been happy.”

Taking risks does not mean being irresponsible, however, Bloom says. She is both serious and disciplined about her work. One of her specialties is creative nonfiction – an art that requires great skill in developing the traditional narrative writing styles of plot, dialogue, character development, and tension within the confines of hard and true fact, she says.

“I learned to write from Dr. Seuss, which means writing ought to be fun,” Bloom says. “And I learned from Dr. (William) Strunk Jr. and E.B. White, which means writing ought to be clear.”

“I also learned from Dr. Spock,” she adds. “His point was that if you don’t write clearly, someone could die. If you don’t write clearly, your idea could die; you could cause some horrendous misunderstanding.”

Once challenged for her innovative essay style, Bloom says she is now being called upon to write personal essays for academic journals looking to diversify.

“I find that heartening, because it validates a lot of what I’ve been trying to do with routine academic submissions for the past 20 years,” she says.

The author of 28 books and more than 150 articles, Bloom is preparing to release four more publications in the coming year. One of them, *The Essay Canon*, is about the evolutionary history of the essay, its rise and fall and recent resurrection as a distinguished literary art form. She has been working on it for 14 years.

Bloom is also working on a book about the rhetoric of food writing. Lynn Bloom is married to Martin Bloom, professor emeritus of social work. They have two sons, Bard and Laird, and three grandchildren.


Audio clips of Bloom discussing her life and work are available at advance.uconn.edu.

Bloom will read from her book at the UConn Co-op on Oct. 1 at 4 p.m.

Dental implant center

where he had an active maxillofa- cial and prosthetics practice. He was on the dental staff at Princess Margaret Hospital, and was an as- sociate in dentistry at the Universi- ty of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry. Dr. Donald Somerville, director of the new Center for Implant and Reconstructive Dentistry at the UConn Health Center, in his office.

To make an appointment, call 860-679-7600.

Dental implants are long-term, natural-looking tooth replace- ments. Unlike dentures or bridges, the implant is surgically implanted in the patient’s jaw bone and supports the replacement tooth or bridge. The surgical implant process typically spans between three to six months, depending on the patient’s specific needs.

National and local studies, including a survey completed in 2007 by UConn’s Center for Survey Research and Analysis, report very high patient satisfaction rates with dental implants. Many patients reported increased comfort and confidence with talking, chewing, and smiling.

More information about the Center for Implant and Recon- structive Dentistry is available at dentalimplants.uche or nemi.sche.edu.

Patient reports increased comfort and confidence with talking, chewing, and smiling.

Photo by Fran Dahir
The following grants were received through the UConn Health Center’s Office of Grants and Contracts in June 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.

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**Private**

*Denotes federal funds that are awarded to other institutions and “passed through” to the UConn Health Center.*
Tobacco use is the single most avoidable cause of death in the long-term abstinence and health can improve early response to or prizes for “good” behavior — in among patients using varenicline, known as contingency management. Based Behavioral Intervention professor in the Department of Center is examining whether by Carolyn Pennington

A research team at the Health Center is examining whether adding incentives to a treatment program will help people give up smoking.

Sheila Alessi, an assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry, and her collaborators are studying whether an incentive-based behavioral intervention known as contingency management — among patients using varenicline, an approved medication for smoking cessation. Contingency management is a type of treatment in which patients receive incentives or prizes for “good” behavior — in this case, not smoking.

“If it’s behavioral therapy such as contingency management can improve early response to varenicline,” says Alessi, “more patients may achieve abstinence, which can be associated with long-term abstinence and health benefits.”

Tobacco use is the single most avoidable cause of death in the U.S. According to data from the state Department of Public Health, smoking kills more than 5,000 in Connecticut every year, yet more than 25 percent of the state’s population smokes. Nearly 70 percent of smokers want to quit, but each year fewer than 3 percent of them are successful.

Participants in the study will be divided into two groups. One group will receive brief smoking cessation counseling with varenicline, plus the chance to receive small incentives for participation. The number of drawers from a prize bowl increases as long as the participant continues to test negative over the 24-week study. The prize bowl contains about $100 in prizes such as a DVD, books, certificates, to tool kits, compact letries, snacks, or coffee shop gift cards, according to Alessi.

Alessi notes that the benefits shifted. Alessi’s co-investigator in the study, behavioral psychologist Nancy Petry, has been studying the technique for more than a decade. “At first, therapists were horri- fied at the thought of rewarding substance abusers for abstaining,” says Petry. But as therapists use the technique and see it work in practice, support has grown dramatically, she says. A recent nationally based study of over 900 treat- ment programs found that nearly a quarter have begun implementing contingency management. According to Petry, one component of the smoking cessation study is measuring blood pressure before, during, and after the study. The participants will wear a small portable device that takes regular blood pressure and heart rate read- ings over 24-hour periods.

“We expect that CM-treated patients will achieve greater decreases in blood pressure, and that reductions in blood pressure will correlate with smoking abstin- ence,” says Alessi. She also notes that the benefits of the research should extend to patients’ families, friends, and co-workers, who are vulnerable to the health risks associated with second-hand smoke.

The economic cost of smoking to the nation is high: nearly $3.480 per smoker per year. In Connecticut alone, this amounts to more than $1.7 billion annually, accord- ing to data from the state Department of Public Health. Every pack of cigarettes sold in the U.S. costs an estimated $7.16 in medical care and lost productivity.

Cancer control research is being funded through a grant from the Patrick T. and Catherine Weldon Donaghue Medical Research Foundation. The grant is part of the Foundation’s Clinical and Community Health Issues Program, which has a particular interest in funding more effective and less intrusive methods of preventing and diagnosing, and treating illnesses and conditions that have a major impact on health in Connecticut. To apply for the grant, please call 860-299-5607.
Constitution Day continued from page 1

their right to vote.

He said that years later, when his pastor tried to vote while liv-
ing in the South, he was asked to guess how many marbles were in a jar.

“That’s part of the challenge,” Ogletree said. “We have a Constitu-
tion that talked about embrac-
ing everyone, but it didn’t.”

He added, “Racial gerryman-
dering and Jim Crow Laws were designed to say, ‘you’re no longer slaves, you have fundamental rights, but you’re still second-class citizens in terms of the law, poli-
cies, and practices.”

Ogletree said that in 1954, after Brown v. Board of Educa-
tion, there were violent racial attacks that undermined the ideal of equal education for all in America.

“But what we forget, and what we really aren’t taught, is what happened after the court said ‘equal education for all,’” he said, noting that there has been a lack of progress toward this ideal.

“It is particularly troubling when you talk to young African American people in urban high schools today,” he said. “When they’re asked about the Civil Rights Movement, they’ll say there was slavery, there was Jim Crow segregation, there was Dr. King and he had a dream. It tells you how much of the rich, tortured history is lost.”

A year after the Brown decision, for example, a youngster, Emmett Till, was lynched for whistling at a white woman, Ogletree said. That same year Rosa Parks was trying to ride the bus and was told to give up her seat. In 1964, in Phila-
delphia, Miss, three civil rights activists were murdered.

Ogletree said Americans should love what the Pledge of Allegiance states: “One nation under God with liberty and justice for all.”

“That’s our challenge. That’s our task,” he said. “Let’s all make the American dream real for all children.”

Charles J. Ogletree Jr., legal theorist and professor at the Harvard School of Law, speaks about race and the U.S. Constitution at Kenan Auditorium, as part of Constitution Day.