Once hidden musical composition will premiere at UConn

BY ROBERT FRIEM

A Chinese composer who hid his music from authorities during China's Cultural Revolution will realize a dream this week, when UConn musicians perform his lone surviving composition.

More than four decades after Lu Wei began work on *D-C-A-C: Variations on a Chinese Folk Song*, the University Symphony Orchestra will give the world premiere performance of the composition Oct. 10 at von der Mehden Recital Hall.

Because of his age and concerns about his health, the 88-year-old composer declined UConn's offer to bring him to Storrs for the performance, but he said the concert will fulfill a lifelong wish to have his music performed.

UConn officials learned of the composition from Yuhang Rong, an assistant dean in the Neag School of Education and a relative of the composer.

"I had it sitting in my study for a few years," says Rong, who had been given a copy of the musical score by his mother in hopes he could find someone to perform it.

see Chinese composer page 4

Economics panel predicts U.S. recession, not depression

BY CINDY WEISS

The Great Depression was "great" because of what happened after the initial financial crisis, a scenario that probably won't be repeated in the current financial meltdown, said several economics faculty members at a forum on campus Sept. 30.

Several of them predicted possible recession, but nothing on the scale of the 1930s.

After the stock market crashed in 1929, banks failed over several years. Unlike now, the Federal Reserve withdrew money, leaving banks with no liquidity, said Christian Zimmermann, associate professor of economics.

Over-regulation of banks, labor issues, and protectionism in the 1930s contributed to the problems, he said. "This is not the environment we have now."

What we do have now is a solvency problem, according to Stephen Ross, associate professor of economics.

"We have put hundreds of billions of dollars of liquidity into the system," he commented after the forum, referring to the Fed's open market window loans and its loan guarantees to Wall Street banks. "I don't believe that anyone thinks these firms are not liquid enough to loan. Rather, the problem is that they are insolvent," he said.

"We have to do something to change the incentives they face concerning making loans. The hope is that more solvent firms will take more risks and make more loans," he added.

new version of PeopleSoft to debut later this month

BY RICHARD VEILLEUX

A new and improved PeopleSoft system will be unveiled this month, full of changes that should make life easier for faculty, staff, and students.

"There are big benefits to the new system," says Registrar Jeffrey von Munkwitz-Smith. "The terminology is better, it's easier to navigate, and I think it will make planning and data gathering easier.

PeopleSoft Version 9.0 is expected to be active by Monday, Oct. 13. Its release comes almost exactly seven years after the system debuted at UConn in October 2001, with registration and student records. It was later expanded to other departments and more have been added since, but this is the first major upgrade to the system since 2002.

Among the major changes, he says, is a "Faculty Center" web page with links to enrollment and grading that makes it much easier for professors to do their work. The current system requires a series of clicks to enter grades or review class rosters.

PeopleSoft 9.0 also lets faculty send e-mails to individual students, the entire class and advisees, or subsets of each. And, he says, it allows faculty access to much more information.

Work is also underway to make it possible for instructors to upload grades from HuskyCT or from spreadsheets. This function is expected to be ready in time for grade submission in December.

For students, there is a "Student Center".
University joins effort to increase early childhood literacy

BY BARBARA LIPSCHE
Lots of people have read Don Freeman’s book Corduroy. But on Oct. 2, a national event sponsored by Jumpstart for Children Inc. sought to set a record for the number of people reading it on the same day.

UConn’s Office of Community Outreach and Department of Human Development and Family Studies participated in “Read for the Record,” hosted by UConn’s Jumpstart program. Jumpstart for Children Inc. is a national early education organization working to ensure that every child in America enters school prepared to succeed.

The event aimed to raise awareness about early childhood literacy issues by having more than 258,000 people read the book Corduroy, to beat last year’s Guinness Book of World Records tally for the most people reading the same book on the same day.

This year’s selection, Corduroy tells the story of a teddy bear purchased by a little girl named Lisa, who visits the toy store where he lives. Originally published by Viking Press in 1968, the book has been produced in a special edition by Jumpstart partner the Pearson Foundation.

Readers at UConn on Oct. 2 included not only UConn students, faculty, and staff, but also Gov. M. Jodi Rell, Rep. Joe Courtney (D-2nd District), University President Michael J. Hogan, Mansfield Mayor Elizabeth Paterson, and members of the Connecticut Early Childhood Cabinet.

“I’m very impressed with the national Jumpstart effort, and gratified that our Community Outreach office and other members of the UConn family are involved in it,” said Hogan.

The main goals for this event were to highlight the importance of early childhood literacy and to let people know about the Jumpstart program, said Meg Marshall, Jumpstart site manager. Since the program was launched at UConn last year, volunteers have provided one-on-one assistance to children at local pre-schools.

Jumpstart was launched in 1993 at Yale University with three main goals: achieving school success for low income children, involving children’s families in school, and training future teachers. The organization has grown into a national program serving more than 15,000 children through a network of partnerships with colleges and universities.

“A majority of UConn’s volunteers have an interest in being educators in the future,” Marshall said. “They have a love for children, and an interest in community service.”

English professor still runs marathons at 72

BY COLIN POITRAS
When he’s not grading papers or teaching undergraduates the finer points of grammar, longtime English professor David Sonstroem is usually out running.

The 72-year-old Sonstroem has been taking daily runs for more than 30 years. In 2006, he was named Sonstroem Connecticut’s top male runner in the 70-79 age group in the world. Last year, he represented and another running partner, also makes trips to the track when his schedule allows.

They’re a rowdy bunch. With a 10 mile run taking a little under two hours, there’s plenty of time for some good-natured teasing, in between discussions of world events, national politics, University news, and updates on people’s personal lives. Sonstroem, a Harvard-educated expert on Victorian literature, usually brings a daily word to share. Recently, it was “teiwsons,” a British expression for a light refreshment or snack taken mid-morning.

“It’s fun to move and to be outside with good people,” Sonstroem says. “We are constantly ribbing each other as we go along. But it’s all in good fun. It’s really the camaraderie of running together every day that I enjoy most.”

Sonstroem started at UConn as an assistant English professor in 1965. After a dismal start trying to play tennis with his colleagues, he put down his racquet and hit the track.

He is well known for his brisk pace. It’s one his running mates have come to expect from such a dedicated athlete.

“David the runner is tireless – 10 miles a day,” Weiland says. “He’s always experimenting with his stride, while the rest of us are still trying to move forward at a pace faster than a brisk walk.”

Sonstroem and his buddies figure they’re logged roughly 305,000 miles together over the years, enough distance to take them from Earth to the Moon. Now they are, so to speak, on their way back. Sonstroem figures at their current pace they should return to Earth when each of them is approximately 120 years old.

The 73 year-old Harry Johnson, who started running before Sonstroem and has three Boston Marathons and four Bay State marathons under his belt, is a little more cautious in his assessment. “I can only hope gravity pulls us in,” Johnson says. “I’m not so sure our wheelchairs will make it.”

Meetings scheduled to solicit ideas for spring weekend

BY KAREN A. GRAU
The Student Life Committee of the Board of Trustees will hold hearings on Thursday, Oct. 9 and Wednesday, Oct. 15 to solicit ideas on spring weekend.

The committee has been charged by the Board of Trustees to refocusing spring weekend so that students can celebrate their academic achievements and the end of the term but “demonstrably and significantly” reduce alcohol and substance abuse, risky behavior, injury to people, and damage to property.

The committee is also expected to complete a survey of students, faculty, and staff on the topic of spring weekend, and to report to the Board of Trustees on Nov. 18.

The hearings will take place from 4 to 9 p.m. Invited speakers include representatives from the Mansfield Campus Community Partnership, Senate Executive Committee, Student Alumni Association, Undergraduate Student Government, Community Standards Office, Off Campus Student Services, Windham Community Memorial Hospital, Student Health Services, and the police and fire departments.

The hearing on Oct. 9 will be in Student Union Room 320; the hearing on Oct. 15 will be in the Student Union Room 410.

University President Michael J. Hogan reads the story of Corduroy to pre-schoolers at the Child Development Laboratories as part of Jumpstart’s Read for the Record event on Oct. 2.
Two centers closed as part of review process

BY KAREN A. GRAHANickolls said. “We began a very careful review process in 2005 to ensure that our technology communications. “If fans are leaving the room for a commercial break during a game and will resume in 2009. Both ads were shot at the Health Center campus in late August. The ads can be found by visiting http://security.uconn.edu/SecurityAwareness.html. More information on the week, which coincides with national Cyber Security Awareness Month, is available at http://security.uconn.edu/SecurityAwareness.html.

Information technology services to put spotlight on computer security

BY KAREN A. GRAHANickolls said. “We began a very careful review process in 2005 to ensure that our technology communications. “If fans are leaving the room for a commercial break during a game and will resume in 2009. Both ads were shot at the Health Center campus in late August. The ads can be found by visiting http://security.uconn.edu/SecurityAwareness.html. More information on the week, which coincides with national Cyber Security Awareness Month, is available at http://security.uconn.edu/SecurityAwareness.html.

Two centers closed as part of review process

BY KAREN A. GRAHA Two centers will be discontinued and 11 renewed, as a result of a review undertaken by a committee appointed by Provost Peter J. Nicholls. The centers were reviewed as part of a process that annually looks at centers and institutes on a five-year cycle. The centers this year were reviewed using criteria outlined in the new academic plan. The plan notes that centers that duplicate other work, involve only a single discipline, or fewer than three tenured faculty, are financially in solvent, or are not consistent with a top-ranked university should be discontinued.

“Investments in centers and institutes can be measured by their vitality, solvency, and substantial and unique contribution to the University,” Nicholls said. “We began a very careful review process in 2005 to ensure that our funds are spent wisely.” This year, the committee found that two centers, the Center for Geographic Information and Analysis and the Center for Health Promotion, should be discontinued.

Two centers, the GE Global Learning and the Wildlife Conservation Research Center, were renewed for two years. The Centers for Conservation and Biodiversity; Land Use Education and Research; Food Marketing Policy; and Applied Research in Human Development were renewed for five years. Also renewed for five years were the Bioinformatics and Bio-Computing Institute; the Connecticut Institute of Water Resources; the Connecticut Transportation Institute; Booth Engineering Center for Advanced Technology; and the Institute of Materials Science.

New UConn commercial, web site promote Husky loyalty

BY RICHARD VEILEX A new web site allows users to download the Husky fight song to their cell phones, post photos or videos, or join one of half a dozen UConn-related social networking groups. The site, http://alwaysspar-tan.com, is featured in a new 30-second commercial that will run during UConn football and basketball games this year through March 2009. It debuted during the Huskies’ game against Baylor on Sept. 19.

In it, a series of UConn alumni are seen proudly displaying UConn sweatshirts, a UConn diploma, license plate, and flags. Throughout the ad, the Husky fight song plays, but it swings from the familiar marching band version to variations featuring a soft piano, jangling guitars, and a soft Hawaiian lilt.

“We decided to use the fight song because if you’ve come through the doors of the University of Connecticut, you know it,” says David Martel, director of marketing communications. “If fans are leaving the room for a commercial break during a game and hear the song, they’re going to pause. ‘They know their fight song,’” the commercial communicates that UConn isn’t simply a four-year experience but rather, one that lasts a lifetime,” Martel says. “They know their fight song.”

The key to the effort is the al- finity website, which is chock full of features. Visitors can download the Husky fight song—indee versions heard in the commercial—as a ringtone for their cell phone or iPod; there are several versions of wallpaper and screensavers for computers; photos and videos can be loaded onto the site or viewed; there are links to social networks that allow visitors to join groups for Husky football or basketball fans—men’s or women’s—or for people who would like to discuss any or all of UConn’s 24 athletics teams. There’s another group for friends of the UConn Marching Band, one for the Student Alumni Association, and another for UConn alumni.

The alumni social networking group also allows alumni to access the alumni career network, the University’s Career Services office, an online directory, and an events calendar. There is also a section for class notes—small tidbits of information on what old friends are doing today. “We’re proud to have taken the University commercial and created an interactive experience for those who have an affinity for the University to be able to show it and express it,” Martel says. The Health Center has also launched two new television ads this fall. One ad promotes TomoTherapy, a sophisticated and precise radiation oncology treatment that is recommended for several types of cancer. In Connecticut, TomoTherapy can only be found at the Health Center’s Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center. The other ad promotes joint preservation and replacement services at the New England Musculoskeletal Institute, also at the Health Center. Joint preservation is a niche program that provides multidisciplinary care for younger patients with arthritis or other degenerative diseases who want to remain active.

“While both ads draw attention to very specific services within the Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center and the New England Musculoskeletal Institute, they also create a ‘halo effect’ for the entire Health Center,” says Maureen McGuire, communications director at the Health Center. “They complement our ongoing efforts to differentiate the Health Center from its clinical competitors.”

The Health Center ads will air on all major networks, as well as PBS and cable systems in northern Connecticut throughout the fall, and will resume in 2009. Both ads were shot at the Health Center campus in late August.

The ads can be found by visiting the Health Center’s homepage—www.uconnhealthcenter.org—and looking for the banners for TomoTherapy and the Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center and the New England Musculoskeletal Institute.
Having your blood pressure checked in the doctor's office is not the only way to keep tabs on your hypertension. It may not be even the most precise way.

"Blood pressure readings should be taken both in and outside of the medical care environment," says Dr. William White, professor of medicine in the Pat and Jim Calhoun Cardiology Center at the University of Connecticut Health Center. "Blood pressure values are highly variable throughout the day and night, so taking one or two measurements during an office visit often doesn't capture the truth about blood pressure behavior. Additionally, our research over the past two decades has made it clear that monitoring in the office alone isn't always the most reliable method for assessing blood pressure control in patients with antihypertensive therapy."

White and Dr. Thomas Pickering from Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York City are co-authors of an official American Society of Hypertension position paper on home and ambulatory blood pressure monitoring, published in the May-June 2008 issue of the Journal of the American Society of Hypertension.

The paper provides guidance on when to supplement in-office blood pressure measurements with out-of-office techniques, such as self-monitoring at the home or worksite and ambulatory blood pressure monitoring.

"Self and ambulatory blood pressure monitoring can provide unique information that may be helpful for both making treatment decisions and for evaluating the response to treatment," the authors write. "The mainstay for the justifications of both procedures is that there is steadily increasing and substantial evidence that both measures give a better prediction of cardiovascular risk than office blood pressure measurements."

Self-monitoring devices enable patients to take their readings at home at several points throughout the day. Oscillometric blood pressure monitors, which use technology that senses pressure waves emanating from the brachial or radial artery, are available in drug stores and medical supply shops and through catalogs, generally ranging in price from $50 to $150.

Ambulatory blood pressure recording involves wearing a cuff on the upper arm, typically for a 24-hour period. The cuff is attached to a monitoring device clipped to the patient's belt. A microchip in the monitor stores the data for analysis and display. The Calhoun Cardiology Center provides 24-hour in-office blood pressure monitoring upon referral from the patient's primary care doctor or medical sub-specialist. White's research and testimony led to Medicare coverage of ambulatory monitoring tests, starting in 2002.

"Done properly, these methods increase the number of readings used to calculate average blood pressure, and therefore give much better estimates, yielding a better prediction of risk than the office measurement alone," White says. He emphasizes that only devices that have been independently validated for precision and reliability should be used for self- or ambulatory monitoring. Physicians and patients can determine grading from independent studies at the Dahl Educational Trust web site: www.dableducation.org/

White, head of the Calhoun Cardiology Center's Hypertension and Clinical Pharmacology Division, says these out-of-office measures offer another advantage. "One often hears the term 'white-coat hypertension' or 'white-coat effect' to describe a phenomenon when the patient's blood pressure is high in the medical care environment but relatively normal elsewhere," he says. "This can cause unnecessary anxiety for the doctor in the doctor's office that does not occur anywhere else. However, we also have seen the converse to be true, that is, patients actually have a higher pressure outside of the doctor's office, particularly when medications are wearing off—a syndrome called 'masked' or 'hid- den' hypertension. This is more problematic, as the doctor assumes the pressure control is acceptable, when actually hypertension and pressure values are occurring throughout the day and night—clearly a risk factor for cardiovascular problems, including heart attack, stroke, and kidney disease."

A call to action by the American Society of Hypertension, the American Heart Association, and the Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association recommends that home monitoring become a routine component of blood pressure measurement in the majority of patients with known or suspect- ed hypertension. It also recommends that health care providers advise patients to use monitors that measure blood pressure on the upper arm and show them how to use the devices. Additionally, it calls for health insurance to reimburse patients who purchase them.

Dr. William White, co-author of an American Society of Hypertension position paper on self-monitoring of blood pressure, demonstrates the use of an ambulatory blood pressure monitor and a home blood pressure monitor.

Chinese composer continued from page 1

Rong discussed the idea last year with David Woods, dean of the School of Fine Arts. Woods asked to see what Lu Wei, whom Rong had met in New York City, could do.

"I thought it really had a lot of merit — not only musical merit, but merit with UConn's commitment to human rights," Woods says. The concert coincides with the opening of a three-day conference organized by the University's Human Rights Institute.

Born in China, Lu Wei lived in France from 1946 to 1955, and taught composition at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music after returning to his home country.

Like many Chinese intellectuals and artists during the Cultural Revolution, Lu Wei faced persecution by Chairman Mao's Red Guards for any work deemed not to serve the interests of the state.

According to Rong, Lu Wei longed for the freedom to com- pose but knew that creative work could not be accomplished under the oppressive communist regime. He began writing his composition in 1966, re-interpreting a familiar Chinese folk song as a song of hope for a brighter future.
Researchers to study breast milk’s role in preventing food allergies

BY KRISTINA GOODNOUGH

Lynn Puddington, an associate professor in the Department of Immunology at the Health Center, has received a two-year, $407,000 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases as part of a new federal initiative to support research related to food allergy.

Her research project considers whether exposure to food antigens in breast milk can induce tolerance in newborns and provide them with long-term protection from inflammatory responses to food allergens in the gut.

Puddington is one of 12 investigators nationwide who have received grants totaling $5 million over two years to lead high-impact, innovative studies of food allergy.

“Little is known about why only some people develop food al- lergy, and finding answers to that fundamental question is one of the key objectives of this initiative,” says NIAID director Dr. Anthony Fauci, whose institute is contributing $2 million towards the grants.

Puddington says the number of known sign languages is in the hundreds. “So linguistic theories have to step up to a more abstract level,” he adds. “That has had enormous implications for how I think about phonology, which we should now define as the study of the perceptible form of language.”

The UConn linguistics department in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is one of the few linguistics departments in the world where sign languages are a specialization. In addition to van der Hulst, Professor Diane Lillo-Martin studies the structure of sentences in sign languages. The department also collaborates with the Department of Modern & Classical Languages, which has an American Sign Language (ASL) program taught by Doreen Simons-Marques.

“Mothers, particularly those who are nursing, are highly moti- vated to improve the health of their children,” says Puddington. “If it’s possible to modify breast milk content to enhance the development of gastrointestinal T regulatory cells in newborns, this could be an effective strategy to prevent or reduce some inflammatory diseases in the intestine and perhaps other sites as well.”

Linguistics experts compile database to compare international sign languages

BY ELIZABETH OMARA-OTUNU

Two researchers in the Depart- ment of Linguistics are engaged in a comparative study of sign languages from around the world.

With support from a two-year, $200,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, Professor Harry van der Hulst and Rachel Channon, a research specialist, have compiled a database that contains information on nearly 12,000 signs from six different sign languages.

The initial goal of the project, says van der Hulst, is to under- stand through quantitative analysis how sign languages differ in terms of the visual images they use. The next stage will be to draw theoreti- cal conclusions from those differ- ences.

The information recorded in- cludes hand shape, movement, lo- cation of the movement, and other characteristics for each sign. The database, known as SignTyp, uses Excel software and will be posted to the Web as a resource available to any researcher interested in sign language.

“We tried to make it as user- friendly as possible,” says van der Hulst.

The database consists of collec- tions gathered by sign language specialists around the world, the largest being a database of Sign Language of the Netherlands that van der Hulst compiled in his native Holland before com- ing to UConn in 2000. The others include American Sign Language (both current and historical), Finnish, Japanese, Korean, and New Zealand sign languages. Because they were developed indepen- dently, each collection used a different coding system.

One of the challenges of the project, says van der Hulst, was to design a universal coding system and then translate the information about each sign recorded.

The researchers have already be- gun to analyze which hand shapes are used in each particular sign language, and to explore issues such as how these building blocks are combined.

Van der Hulst says the study of sign languages is a relatively new field that emerged only in the past 50 years.

“Sign languages – languages used by deaf people – are in linguistic circles considered to be full-fledged human languages,” he says. “But this view has not been around that long. And still, outside linguistic circles, people may think of them as gestural communica- tion systems without grammatical structure.”

Van der Hulst specializes in phonology, which strictly inter- preted refers to the study of the sounds that are the building blocks of words.

“When I started studying sign languages, it changed my perspec- tive on what human languages are,” he says. “Sign languages are extra interesting in the domain of phonology, because the medium is not sound but visual display.”

Van der Hulst says sign lan- guages have comparable build- ing blocks to those that make up words in spoken languages – visual images. They also have rules for combining words into sentences, known as syntax.

Linguistics, he says, has tra- ditionally focused on “sound.” It was once thought that language has to be speech. Now we learn that language does not have to be speech, it can also be gesture. And the view that all languages have consonants and vowels no longer holds, because consonants and vowels are speech entities.

“Sign languages are a specialization. In addition to van der Hulst, Professor Diane Lillo-Martin studies the structure of sentences in sign languages. The department also collaborates with the Department of Modern & Classical Languages, which has an American Sign Language (ASL) program taught by Doreen Simons-Marques.”

During the summer, van der Hulst and Channon hosted a conference at UConn that was at- tended by about 80 scholars from 15 countries, including Australia, Brazil, Japan, the Netherlands, Turkey, and the UK. “They engaged a team of four professional ASL interpreters to translate the spoken presentations, some of the papers were delivered in ASL.

“Because our project has com- parative focus, we involved in our project an impressive forum of international researchers,” says van der Hulst. He hopes that by involving sign language specialists from around the world, he can expand the project to incorporate additional languages.

“Now they’ve seen the proto- type of SignTyp and what can be done with it, we hope they will be willing to give us their inventories too,” he says.

Van der Hulst says the number of known sign languages is in the hundreds.

Currently on a one-year ‘no cost’ extension of the original two-year grant, van der Hulst and Channon are applying to the NSF for a four to five-year renewal.
New seminar available online to assist in course development

**By Elizabeth O’Marra-Otunnu**

Instructional design staff in the Institute for Teaching and Learning are offering a new online seminar to help faculty design and teach online courses.

The online seminar is an extension of the generally face-to-face services offered by the University’s instructional designers to faculty wishing to develop a new course or revise a course they already teach.

“The Instructional Design team offers support to faculty in adopting pedagogical best practices in face-to-face, online, and blended courses,” says Desmond McCaffrey, manager of instructional development services. “Many faculty members walk through the door and ask for help. This online seminar can be used as an alternative, or before or after working with one of us to develop or enhance a course.”

The online seminar also models for faculty members what they would be doing in an online course, McCaffrey notes. “It demonstrates that online teaching and learning can work and be successful.”

The seminar, launched on a pilot basis last spring with faculty from the School of Pharmacy, is now available to all UConn instructors, by going to http://itl.uconn.edu/ idd/. There are two versions, one directly accessible on the Internet and the other in HuskyCT.

McCaffrey says he believes the seminar is timely. “Interest is growing, people are becoming more aware of the potential of online teaching and they want to do it well.”

He says that as a percentage of the overall number of courses, the number of online courses at UConn is still relatively small. He notes that proportionately more online courses are offered in the summer than during the academic year, but faculty are increasingly beginning to teach online courses during the fall and spring semesters.

McCaffrey notes that designing a course is a time-intensive process. “When you add in a new element – such as an online component – you add to the level of complexity by introducing something faculty have to become familiar with.”

Adds Marty Lawton, an instructional designer who led development of the seminar, “You don’t need to be an expert in technology to teach an online course, but you do need an understanding and a certain level of mastery to be comfortable doing it.”

For those who already have some experience of using educational technology, say Lawton and McCaffrey, the seminar will be a tool enabling them to do what they envision online. For others, it will be an introduction to a new way of teaching.

The two hope the online seminar will also help advertise the University’s instructional design and support services for faculty who are developing new courses or retooling existing ones, or looking for new technical skills.

Instructional designers have expertise in curriculum development, learning theory, educational technologies, and assessment tools. They also work as project managers, coordinating where necessary experts in network, graphics, media, and programming, as well as the library liaisons and administrators who deal with grading.

“We want faculty to realize they don’t have to do it all themselves – that’s what Instructional Design is here for,” says Lawton. “The tools, the software, and the skills that may be needed are spread across campus. Instructional designers have the training and connections to bring them all together.”

Adds McCaffrey, “Faculty are still the subject matter experts. That doesn’t change. But we bring a whole array of coordinating services. ‘Many faculty members walk through the door and ask for help. This online seminar can be used as an alternative, or before or after working with one of us to develop or enhance a course.’”

**GRANTS**

The following grants were received through the Office for Sponsored Programs (OSP) in July 2008. The list represents only new proposals awarded, and excludes continuations. The list is supplied by OSP. Additional grants received in July were published in the Sept. 29 Advance.

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Monday, October 6, to Tuesday, October 14

CALENDAR

Library Events

Binxo Hall, Sanford Campus. Binxo Hall's annual poetry, art, and film series, "A World History of Genocide," will close on Friday, Oct. 10, at 7:30 p.m. Free admission. The series features two African novelists, Nuruddin Farah and Zakes Mda, who will respond to Kiernan's talk. A daylong think tank, moderated by Joe Short, will take place on Saturday at the Rome Library. It will include art- ist-scholars, novelists, and filmmakers. Two African novelists, Nuruddin Farah and Zakes Mda, will lead a conversation facilitated by Joseph Slaughter, associate professor of English and comparative literature at Columbia University and author of Human Rights, Inc.: The World Novel, Narrative Form, and International Law. For more information, call 860-486-4770.

Monday, October 6 – Library Documentary

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Science program for minority students fosters leadership skills

BY SHERRI FISHER

Underrepresented students studying science, technology, engineering, and mathematics are better able to achieve success thanks to the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) Leadership and Academic Enhancement Program.

The program, funded through the National Science Foundation, is part of an alliance of New England institutions designed to strengthen the preparation and success of historically underrepresented students in the sciences.

The LSAMP program was launched at UConn by Damon Guinta, Ricardo Lewis, and Samantha Henry. Students in the LSAMP program at their Leadership Launch at Holiday Hill. From left, Mykel Mendes, Ginauinta, Ricardo Lewis, and Samantha Henry.

Economics panel

Zimmermann said the issue of solvency — having the assets to back up claims — should not result in bank runs today. At this point, people are still working, factories are open, and the non-financial sector is still in good shape, he noted. But over time, if little credit is available and investment is reduced, the impact of the financial market’s problems could spread.

“I’m reasonably optimistic there are solutions out there,” he said.

Arthur Wright, professor emeritus of economics and a specialist in regulatory policy, said a large part of the current crisis has regulatory roots. “The regulatory system has not kept up with the rate of innovations,” he said, especially with what he called “stealth banks,” financial institutions that have behaved like banks but have not been subject to regulatory scrutiny.

Wright expects a recession.

The period of “the great moderation,” from the Clinton years on, when the economy was characterized by growth, low interest rates, and moderate inflation, “may have led regulators to get lazy,” he said. This is a problem that won’t be solved before the presidential election, he said. After the election, Wright favors strengthening the Federal Reserve, perhaps consolidating regulatory power that now is scattered across agencies.

Steven Lanza, editor of The Connecticut Economy, a quarterly publication of the economics department, said the government has responded remarkably quickly to the crisis. By contrast, in the 1930s, it took years to buy up as sets of companies and banks that failed and to prop up the housing market, where values dropped by half.

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