Polls, panels examine race for president

BY MICHAEL KIRK

Two weeks before Election Day, the University held a day-long event on the historic presidential race at both its Storrs and Stamford campuses on Oct. 20.

"Every four years, we're told that this is the most important election of our lifetime," said University President Michael Hogan, kicking off the day in the Dodd Center's Konover Auditorium. "However, this year it may actually be true."

The four Storrs panel discussions were on foreign policy and the approaches favored by Barack Obama and John McCain; race, gender, and age in the 2008 race for president; fairness and bias in the media during the campaign; and polling, politics, and the electorate this year.

The Stamford portion of the event featured a panel on the economy and financial crisis in the context of the election.

More than 20 UConn faculty experts either participated in or moderated the panels. They represented a broad array of disciplines from the Colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Law, and Business. Guests included journalists and media commentators such as Journal Inquirer editor Chris Powell; Hartford Courant columnist Kevin Rennie; former U.S. Rep. Rob Simmons; and Jack Condlin, president of the Stamford Chamber of Commerce.

The final panel of the day — on polling, the electorate, and the state of the race for president — was moderated and recorded for broadcast by WNPR, Connecticut Public Radio. In addition to UConn political science faculty, the panel featured Lauren Ellis, president of the UConn College Democrats, and Jennifer Miller, president of the UConn College Republicans. A recording of the panel discussion can be found at: http://www.cpbn.org/program/where-we-live/episode/2438-

The University dramatically expanded its nanotechnology research capabilities this month, with the opening of a 1,000-square-foot 'clean room' that will allow scientists to fabricate cutting-edge devices for use in defense, industry, and medicine.

Gov. M. Jodi Rell, President Michael J. Hogan, and a host of other elected officials and UConn representatives acknowledged the opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Oct. 20 at the Institute of Materials Science (IMS) in the Edward V. Gant Science Complex.

The Nanobionics Fabrication Facility — as the dust-free ‘clean room’ is formally known — supplements state-of-the-art research technology worth more than $20 million that is currently available at the IMS, including high-power electron microscopes, atomic force microscopes, and advanced spectrometers.

Hogan called the $2 million facility a "significant milestone" in UConn's continuing program to build new interdisciplinary scientific initiatives.

"This new nanobionics clean room is one part of UConn's comprehensive nanotechnology infrastructure that we think is second to none in Connecticut," Hogan said. "The possibilities of nanotechnology are innumerable, with the potential to revolutionize every facet of applied science and modern technology — from high-tech manufacturing to military devices to fuel cells to new methods of health care."

The University has invested more than $7 million of its own funds in support of nanotechnology research facilities and equipment in the IMS over the past three years.

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Brazillian music at Jorgensen Oct. 28

BY ANDREA ADER

Heitor Villa-Lobos died 90 years ago, but Marsalsi Brasilia-
nos gives new life to the revered Brazilian composer's music.
World renowned saxophonist and three-time Grammy-winner Branford Marsalis will perform with the Filharmonia Brasileira, famous for its preservation of the Villa-Lobos music, at Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts on Tuesday, Oct. 28, at 8 p.m. A free concert talk will precede the performance at 7:15 p.m.

Villa-Lobos was inspired by native cultures, music, politics, the classical tradition, and modernist composer from Picasso to Aaron Copeland.

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Playwright, author David Rabe to speak at Torrington Campus

Playwright and author Da-
vide Rabe will discuss his Tony Award-winning play Sticks and Bones at the Torrington campus on Wednesday, Oct. 29, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. His talk is part of the Li-

chfield County Writers Project fall

series. He will also talk about his new novel, Dinosaur on the Roof, published in June. A book signing will follow the discussion.

Sticks and Bones is part of Rabe's trilogy of Vietnam plays. It charts the reactions and dynamic of a middle-American family faced with the return of son David from Vietnam as a blinded and trauma-
tized veteran. The play depicts the agony of David and the horrible solution he and his family reach to end his suffering.

Rabe's work is characterized by its dark humor, satire, and surreal fantasy. In 1965, Rabe was drafted into the U.S. Army and later served 11 months in Vietnam

until the end of 1967. After leaving the service, Rabe earned an M.A. and began work on Sticks and Bones. The other two plays making up the Vietnam trilogy are the award-winning The Basic Training of Pavlo Hummel, which focuses on the brutalization of American troops and the effects of the war, and Tony Award-nominee Stain-

Room, depicting racial and sexual tensions in a Virginia army camp. His other plays include Hur-

lyburly, The Orphan, and In the

Boon Room. Rabe has also written screenplays for the Viet-

nam War drama Casualties of War and the film adaptation of John Grisham's The Firm. Darven Verstandig, director of the Litchfield County Writers Projec-
t says, "David Rabe captures the conscience of the American people with his surrealistic play Sticks and Bones. It is one of the strongest plays I have read that deals with electrical crises and the consequenc-
es of war in a family setting. Both Arthur Miller's All My Sons and Rabe's Sticks and Bones deal power-

fully with moral issues of private and public conscience."

The Litchfield County Writ-

ters Project provides programs that celebrate the creative work of Litchfield County and support the academic aims of the University of Connecticut. The Torrington UConn Co-op carries all the books for related events. A series of presentations, Play-

wrights of Litchfield County, is offered on Wednesday evenings at the Torrington Campus from 6:30 to 9 p.m., running through Dec. 3. Special events will run at different times. For details, see the website www.lcw.upconn.edu/

All discussions will be held in the Francis W. Hogan Lecture Hall at the Torrington Campus, 655 Uni-

versity Drive, Torrington.

Health Center seeks faculty, staff feedback

BY KRISTINA GOODNOUGH

Through Nov. 12, faculty and staff at the Health Center are asked to share their perceptions and opinions about the Health Center through a confidential survey.

“The survey has several goals,” says Cindy Couture of Know Bet-

ter Place, the workplace culture change initiative that is sponsoring the survey together with the Health Center’s human resources department.

“We want to evaluate how connected the staff and faculty feel to the Health Center; assess how well the mission, vision, and strategies are communicated; identify areas of strength as well as opportunities for improvement; and continue to improve our standing as an employer."

A summary of the results will be presented to the Health Center community within 90 days of the survey closing date.

The survey takes only minutes to complete, according to Couture. Employees can access it through a link in the daily broadcast messag-
es, through the Know Better Place web site (employees.uconn.edu), and at kiosks located in the lobbies of the Food Court, the Munson Road, Dowling South, and Medical Arts and Research buildings, the Human Resources reception area in the Administrative Services Building, and at other offices in East and West Hartford.

Individuals who don’t have ac-

cess to a workstation computer or kiosk can obtain paper copies of the survey at the volunteer desk in the hospital lobby and at the Hu-

man Resources reception desk.

“Employees are trying to make it easy and convenient to take the survey,” says Couture.

Know Better Place and Human Resources have partnered with the Connecticut Area Health Educa-

tion Center (AHEC) to conduct the survey.

“AHEC will receive the surveys, handle the data, and maintain the confidentiality of respondents,” Couture says. “Aggregate results will be reported without any per-

sonal identifying information.”

The survey is scheduled to be a biennial event, says Alexis Creen, human resources education and staff development specialist for the human resources department.

“It changes doesn’t happen over night. It’s a gradual process, and we want to make sure the voices of our fac-

ulty and staff are well represented in any changes we make.”

The survey follows the culture and diversity survey conducted in 2005 by the Collaborative Center for Clinical Care Improvement (C4I) and the Office of Diver-

sity and Equity, which provided baseline data about the Health Center’s workplace culture.

The Know Better Place culture change initiative was established in 2007 in response to feedback from that survey.

Three questions in the 2005 survey relating to engagement are included in the current survey, to provide a measure of whether change has taken place since then.

Based on the feedback provided in the new survey, it will be pos-

sible to evaluate employee perceptions, identify best practices, and plan improvements, says Creen.

Couture says engagement represents a higher degree of com-

mitment to the workplace than satisfaction. According to industry experts, engaged employees feel a sense of connection to their workplace, believe in what they do and feel valued doing it.

Their commitment to stay with the organization improves and, as a result, they and the organization are more productive.

“The Health Center wants to be an employer of ‘first choice’ in the region, with the ability to attract and retain a diverse, high quality staff,” says Couture. “The survey can help us continue moving towards that goal.”

Elizabeth Omara-Otano Editor

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Human rights speaker brings discussion close to home

BY SHERI FISHER

As the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights approaches, Americans should think about how to celebrate human rights in the United States, says Charlotte Bunch, founder and executive director of the Center for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers University.

Bunch gave the 15th Raymond and Beverly Sackler Distinguished Lecture in Human Rights on Oct. 20 at Konover Auditorium in the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center. Her talk was titled, "Passionate Pioneers: The Intersection of Gender, Culture, and Human Rights."

Bunch said the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, is "an amazing document, because it puts forward what I think is the aspirational aspect of human rights. Human rights is a struggle for relationships of individuals to each other and individuals to the state."

She called it a time to look at the Declaration's principles and ask, "What does this mean in the United States today? How can we begin to interpret our own relationship to rights, not just as something somewhere else in the world?"

She adds, "We think of human rights primarily in terms of government's accountability, but rights are also about our accountability to one another."

She said she was disappointed that the question of human rights wasn't raised more often in the presidential debates.

"It's a critical discussion," she said. "I recall only one moment when Obama and McCain were asked if health care was a right or a responsibility. I think that was a reflection of an important discussion going on in this country that I hope we will see as part of a worldwide discussion, about how we understand human rights to be not only in the civil and political sphere but also as a matter of social and economic well being, and the importance of everyday rights in everyday life, in the home and family. I believe that that's what women's human rights has sought to personify."

Bunch said 20 years ago violence against women wasn't considered a human rights issue.

"If you went to an Amnesty International meeting or a Human Rights Watch meeting, you would be told that violence against women was not a human rights issue," she said. But today the situation is different.

"Women started to think about what violated their human dignity, what taking principles of human rights and saying that something that so fundamentally corrodes and debases our dignity must be understood in relation to human rights," Bunch said. That led to a body of works that women have contributed to from around the world, defining rape, domestic violence, and torture. Today, the United Nations Committee Against Torture recognizes that there can be extreme forms of domestic violence that constitute torture.

Bunch said that indigenous peoples have sought to interpret their human rights and how their traditional understanding of rights relates to human rights declarations.

For example, a group of indigenous women from several different countries wrote a companion report to the UN Secretary General's Report on Violence, Bunch said. They looked both at violence within the community by men toward indigenous women and violence against indigenous women as indigenous people in the community.

"This is the kind of work that's happening all over the world," she said, "where people take human rights principles and connect the issues of race, gender, and class and come up with new interpretations of how human rights are viewed."


discussion close to home

Ambassador of Nepal to speak on campus

BY GREGORY MILADY

Breach control and meditation can be part of the solution for a world in economic and political turmoil, according to spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar. "The root cause of violence is stress and a lack of understanding," he said. "It's the interplay of personal choice and new attitudes toward religion, business, and politics."

Shankar (no relation to the musician) was the closing speaker at a conference on the extent to which values melded by religious institutions and philosophy have promoted or undermined human rights. The daylong event was sponsored by the UNESCO Chair and Institute of Comparative Human Rights in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

Shankar is the founder of the Art of Living Foundation, an international nonprofit educational and humanitarian organization. His foundation has been involved in relief programs for natural disasters such as the tsunami in Southeast Asia and Hurricane Katrina, as well as mediation efforts in regional conflicts from Kosovo to Kashmir. Shankar has been recognized around the world for his work toward global peace.

Other featured speakers at the conference were Archbishop Njongjomiku Ndongangue, retired archbishop of Cape Town, South Africa, and Jeremy Gun, director of the American Civil Liberties Union program on freedom of religion and belief.

In his evening keynote speech, Shankar argued that all cultures "need to secularize religion." He said one way to deal with religious intolerence is to "have people of every religion pray for the people of all religions."

Young people need "multi-cultural and multi-religious education," he said, to help them understand that everyone is part of the worldwide human society.

Shankar said there is an urgent need to "socialize business," not through state takeovers of private industry, but by having every business recognize that it has a social responsibility to its workers and its customers.

According to Shankar, the best solution doesn't involve a choice between socialism and capitalism but "a good marriage of both." Shankar said he believes each nation must "spiritualize its politics. ... Today, spiritual values are being eroded from politics, and corruption is taking their place."

He pointed to Mahatma Gandhi and his combination of spirituality and political activism. At the heart of Shankar's philosophy is his belief that people can reduce their own stress – and therefore the stress and violence in the world – through deceptively simple techniques, such as controlling their breathing.

"Your breath is the link between mind and body," he said.

His belief is that the human mind and its emotions are often too intangible for a person to control. "But what you can control over is your breath," he said. "If you allow your breath, you can calm your mind down."

"It was a shift," he added, "even though it was just a drop in the ocean."

In discussing how to combat prejudice, Shankar urged the audience not to see the world only in terms of "culturals and victims."

"Inside every culprit there is a victim crying for help," he said. He also argued that those seeking to right the world's wrongs should not fall into "a victim consciousness."

"Fight for justice, but without being self-pitying," Shankar said. "Mahatma Gandhi fought for his rights, but never did he hate the British."
Research team developing electronic nose to detect explosives

By Nan Cooper

A team of researchers headed by a UConn engineering professor is working to develop an electronic nose system to detect explosives. With a three-year grant of almost $800,000 from the National Science Foundation, a team headed by Yu Lei, an assistant professor of chemical, materials, and biomolecular engineering, hopes to develop real-time arrays of ultra-sensitive sensors that can sniff out even trace quantities of explosives.

The team includes UConn colleagues Christian Brückner, an associate professor of chemistry, and Ali Gokirmak, an assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, and University of California-Riverside professor Yushan Yan. UConn’s Krishna Pattipati, a professor of electrical and computer engineering, will assist the team with aspects of the research that involve pattern recognition.

The team is focusing on developing the science behind a miniaturized sensing device capable of detecting potential explosives with greater speed, selectivity, and accuracy than ever before, using simple instrumentation. Lei and his colleagues hope this will lay the groundwork for a handheld unit that could be used by officials to inspect the luggage of passengers boarding a plane, for example, or mounted on a small robotic vehicle to ‘sniff out’ land mines.

The team envisions a unit that will combine the ability to capture and concentrate airborne explosive molecules, and the real-time capacity to distinguish and identify compounds commonly found in explosives. A real-time system requires that the operation be performed not only correctly but also within a specified time.

Lei says the complexity of the animal scent detection/recognition system illustrates the challenge of designing an electronic sensor. Animal noses – including those of humans – detect and process scents with an array of sensors that respond to all gaseous components of a scent, although each sensor type responds to a differing degree. The brain collects the output from these sensors and memorizes the pattern of responses for roses, apples, or carrion, for example.

The next time the animal brain detects this pattern, the animal recognizes the scent as corresponding to a rose or an apple, even if the apple aroma comes mingled with all the other scents of a supermarket or the apple is of a type that’s different from those smelled previously.

Many bombs use nitrated compounds – such as TNT or dynamite – with volatile components that emit scent molecules which can be detected by trained animals, such as dogs or rats.

An electronic sensor for detecting explosives would likely be used in an open space, such as a luggage handling room, where explosive volatile vapors are found at such low concentrations – in the range of parts per billion or even parts per trillion – that detection is difficult.

To overcome this problem, the unit being developed will employ an ultra-thin molecular sieving membrane that will sample ambient air and concentrate any explosives vapor encountered. Concentration is possible because the membrane’s pores are about half the size of a single nanometer (a typical human hair is about 100,000 nanometers wide). The small molecules of nitrogen and oxygen found in air can pass easily through these pores, but larger explosive molecules cannot.

The unit will concentrate the explosives molecules by many orders of magnitude within a short period of time.

Having concentrated the molecules on the membrane’s surface, the unit’s next task is detection. The device will incorporate an array of single-walled carbon nanotube-porphyrin conjugates as sensors. Planted onto microelectronic circuitry, these are capable of signaling the presence of explosives (and many other volatile compounds) by a change in their conductivity.

Using a variety of different porphyrins – large organic molecules that are particularly suited to interacting with nitroaromatic compounds – different sensor elements will respond differently to particular explosives vapors.

This will generate a distinct electronic response pattern that, properly processed using pattern recognition software, will identify the explosive. Once this electronic nose ‘smells’ an explosive, the software will trigger an alarm, alerting the user to the presence of explosives vapors.

Preliminary proof-of-concept data have been encouraging. The team will now focus on building a solid-state 32-sensor array to generate the signature for common explosives such as TNT. They will expand the recognition capacity of the device to include other explosives over time. The sensor device will then be combined with the molecular sieving membrane to complete the unit.

The researchers hope the project will help the nation attain a greater level of security in a variety of venues, including airports, bus terminals, and post offices.

Byline continued from page 1

UConn’s Advanced Laboratory for Automation, will use the room to help with the ongoing development of a nanoscopic device that can transfer genetic material into cells with greater accuracy and effectiveness – a potential boon for nanomedicine.

In addition, nanotechnology is expected to have a major impact on next-generation energy concepts, such as state-of-the-art solar and fuel cells. The nanobionics fabrication facility was made possible in part through a U.S. Army Center grant, in conjunction with pooled resources and equipment from the University’s nanobionics-associate faculty and IMS.

In addition, UConn 2000 funding supported the necessary infrastructure improvements to make the clean room, said Professor Fotios Papadimitrakopoulos, director of the Nanobionics Fabrication Facility and associate director of IMS.

“Nanobionics lies at the intersection of nano- and bio-technologies, where artificial nanomaterials and devices are complemented with biological function,” Papadimitrakopoulos said. “This facility intends to enable researchers across the state to realize advanced devices, along with bridging different disciplines to cross-fertilize new concepts.”

UConn is the only place in the state that high-technology businesses can come to access equipment that can characterize, synthesize, manipulate, or assemble matter at the nanoscale level.

Each year, more than 40 Connecticut companies use UConn’s expertise in nanotechnology and materials science for their research and development efforts.

“The basic scientists in UConn’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, such as Fotios Papadimitrakopoulos in our Department of Chemistry, are providing knowledge about the nature of matter that is at the foundation of work in nanotechnology,” said Jeremy Teitelbaum, dean of the College.
Study finds nicotine gum helps women who smoke during pregnancy

Smokers who use nicotine gum during pregnancy are likely to smoke fewer cigarettes and reduce their risk of having a low-birth-weight or premature baby, according to new research led by Dr. Cheryl Oncken, associate professor of medicine and obstetrics and gynecology at UConn Health Center.

A study published Oct. 1 in the journal Obstetrics & Gynecology included Health Center colleagues Ellen Dornelas, associate professor of medicine, Dr. John Greene, associate professor of medicine, and Dr. Henry Kranzler, professor of psychiatry. The study was a collaborative effort between the Health Center, Hartford Hospital, New Britain General Hospital (now known as the Hospital of Central Connecticut), Yale School of Medicine, and Baystate Medical Center.

The participants received two smoking cessation counseling sessions, were given a supply of gum, and were instructed to chew one piece for every cigarette they usually smoked per day. The women in the “nicotine” group were given two-milligram nicotine gum, while the women in the placebo group got a nicotine-free gum in packaging that mimicked the nicotine gum.

In addition to the findings on gestational age and birth weight, Oncken noted that the study showed a trend for other differences in birth outcomes favoring the nicotine gum users, including higher gestational age (the newborn’s height), head circumference, Apgar scores (an assessment of neonatal well-being), infant length of stay, and neonatal intensive care unit admission. But Oncken describes those findings as not statistically significant.

“It’s important to examine treatments that may help pregnant women quit smoking or reduce their tobacco exposure, especially when these treatments are available for purchase over the counter and may be used in personal care,” Oncken says. “Smoking is the most modifiable risk factor for poor pregnancy outcomes in the United States.”

The study cites previous research that concludes smoking doubles the risk of delivering a low-birth-weight or premature infant, and that tobacco smoke contains more than 3,500 chemicals, many of which can threaten fetal development.

An abstract of Oncken’s study is available at http://wwwadvance.com/content/article/abstract/11248459.
Almost all students (95 percent) describe the country's economic condition as "poor" (65 percent) or "fair" (29 percent). Almost 3 in 10 (28 percent) think the economy will get worse in the next year. More than half (56 percent) worry about having too much student loan debt. Credit card debt is of less concern to students (13 percent worry a great deal) than being able to afford health care (26 percent) or secure a loan to purchase a car or house (26 percent). "Students' emphasis on economic issues is not surprising considering their overwhelming dissatisfaction with the economy and their worry about finding a job in the near future," said Christine Kraus, associate director of CSRA. Among the student respondents, 94 percent said they were registered to vote or planned to, and 83 percent say they are registered to vote in Connecticut. Other numbers show that 87 percent say Obama's race does not affect their choice for president, while 52 percent say that the age of a candidate does.

A straw poll is different from a scientific poll in that respondents must opt in to participate, rather than be chosen at random. Several e-mails with a link to the poll were sent to all UConn's undergraduates, who had to enter their NetID and password to access the site. The survey was released to all UConn's undergraduates, who had to enter their NetID and password to access the site. The survey was also released. It showed the candidates tied at 44 percent each, with 10 percent undecided. In addition to questions on the election, the 44th District poll also covered the economic situation facing those living in Fairfield County, among other issues. The race has generated a great deal of national attention because Shays is the lone Republican candidate.

For the full results from both polls, see http://news.uconn.edu/press_room/
CALENDAR
Monday, October 27, to Monday, November 3

Ph.D. Defenses
Thursday, 10/29 – 12:30-1:30 p.m. – Thursday, 10/29 – 1:30-2:30 p.m. – Thursday, 10/29 – 2:30-3:30 p.m. – Thursday, 10/29 – 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Lectures & Seminars
Tuesday, 10/28 – dishes on pass/fail option to letter grade. 

Libraries
Monday, November 3 – 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, 1-4 p.m.

Pharmacy Library.
Monday, November 3 – 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Health Center Library. Monday, November 3 – 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

Avery Point Campus Library. Monday, November 3 – 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

Stamford Campus Library. Monday, November 3 – 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

Waterbury Campus Library. Monday, November 3 – 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

University ITS
Help Desk: Call 860-486-4537. Monday, Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.


Tuesday, 10/28 – 12:30-1:30 p.m. – Tuesday, 10/28 – 1:30-2:30 p.m. – Tuesday, 10/28 – 2:30-3:30 p.m. – Tuesday, 10/28 – 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, 10/29 – 12:30-1:30 p.m. – Wednesday, 10/29 – 1:30-2:30 p.m. – Wednesday, 10/29 – 2:30-3:30 p.m. – Wednesday, 10/29 – 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Thursday, 10/30 – 12:30-1:30 p.m. – Thursday, 10/30 – 1:30-2:30 p.m. – Thursday, 10/30 – 2:30-3:30 p.m. – Thursday, 10/30 – 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Friday, 10/31 – 12:30-1:30 p.m. – Friday, 10/31 – 1:30-2:330 p.m. – Friday, 10/31 – 2:30-3:30 p.m. – Friday, 10/31 – 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Through Friday, 11/7 – 4:30-5:30 p.m. – Through Friday, 11/7 – 5:30-6:30 p.m. – Through Friday, 11/7 – 6:30-7:30 p.m. – Through Friday, 11/7 – 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Due to a strike for the seventh day, this event has been cancelled. Please contact the Office of the Registrar at 860-486-3165 for updates.

Torrington Campus Library. Monday, 10/27 – 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Thursday, 10/30 – 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

University ITS
Help Desk: Call 860-486-4537. Monday, Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Academics
Monday, 10/27 – last day to drop a course.

Monday, 10/27 – Registration for the spring semester begins.

Monday, 10/27 – open houses to convert courses on pass/fail option to letter grade.

Ph.D. Defenses
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Help Desk: Call 860-486-4537. Monday, Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Q Center’s peer tutoring popular with students needing help in math, science

Outstanding advisor helps biology students navigate UConn

Strangely, the quietest times at the center are often just before midterm and final exams, because students are busy with course review sessions at those times. Roby says the center’s rapid growth has been a challenge: Finding enough furniture – and sufficient funding to provide extra tutors – has been a priority this semester.

But, he adds, between the quality of the center’s help and recent budget cuts causing many depart- ments to teach more students in large sections, the growth of the Q Center is expected to continue.