Gov. M. Jodi Rell has rescinded another 2 percent from the University's current state appropriation, bringing this year’s total rescission to 5 percent, the maximum the governor is permitted by law.

The newest cut amounts to about a $6 million reduction in state support for the University, and is in addition to the rescission the governor imposed earlier this year, which reduced state support by $12.1 million.

The 2 percent rescission is calculated based on the state appropriation for the year. Coming at the beginning of the fourth quarter of the fiscal year, it amounts to an 8 percent reduction in the last quarter allotment.

The additional rescission comes after the Board of Trustees set tuition for next fall. The board approved a 6 percent tuition increase rather than the 8.6 percent alternative.

“It will be challenging for the University to adjust to this reduction in state support because it comes so late in the fiscal and academic year, after much of the budget has been spent,” says Provost Peter J. Nicholls.

The University will implement a policy of charging 60 percent of allowable in-state tuition for graduate students to grants that support the stipends for students assigned to them.

University adopting new policy on graduate student tuition

The University will implement a policy of charging 60 percent of allowable in-state tuition for graduate students to grants that support the stipends for students assigned to them.

The policy will be effective with new grant proposals and renewals submitted after July 1, Provost Peter J. Nicholls announced recently.

Budgeting partial tuition on all grants that permit such charges is expected to result in revenue of up to $2.5 million, which will be used to support research programming, Nicholls says.

The policy will be reviewed in summer 2012.

“I have engaged in discussion with members of the Senate Executive Committee as to the amount of a tuition charge and the method of its calculation,” says Nicholls. “We have had a good exchange and recognition of each other’s point of view that has enabled me to shape a reasonable policy.”

Nicholls says the policy brings the University into conformity with the practice at most other major research institutions and is necessary in light of state budget cuts.

“Taking into account the very serious fiscal challenges that the University faces in the immediate future, I have decided we must implement a policy of recouping a portion of tuition from grants,” he says. Nicholls will work with the University Senate's Executive Committee on the

Three science students win Goldwater Scholarships

BY CINDY WEISS

Three students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences have won prestigious Goldwater Scholarships to further their studies toward doctorates in the sciences.

Michael Abramczyk, a double major in physics and philosophy; Kevin Burgio, an ecology and evolutionary biology major, and Alexander Meeske, a molecular and cell biology major, are among 278 students nationwide who won 2009 Goldwater awards.

A fourth CLAS student, Rory Coleman, a molecular and cell biology major, won honorable mention.

The four students were UConn's four permitted entries in the national competition.

“I knew we had a strong applicant pool, and I'm thrilled they were recognized,” says Jill Deans, director of the Office of National Scholarships at UConn, who shepherded the applications.

The Goldwater awards were established by Congress in 1986 in honor of former Senator Barry Goldwater to encourage outstanding students to pursue careers in mathematics, the natural sciences, and engineering.

The one- and two-year scholarships of up to $7,500 per year are considered the premier undergraduate award in these fields. Winners often go on to win Rhodes Scholarships and Marshall Awards.

This year, other schools with three Goldwater winners include California Institute of Technology, the University of Florida, Oberlin College, Northwestern University, and the University of Chicago.

See Goldwater Scholars page 5
Correction

Russell Schimmer is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The department name was incorrect in an article in the March 30 Advance.

Further rescission continued from page 1

has already been encompassed,” says University President Michael Hogan. “UConn is not like other execu-
tive branch entities, which are primarily administrative agen-
cies,” Hogan says. “Rather, UConn operates in a competitive environ-
ment where our constituencies, including students and faculty, have a choice whether or not to come to UConn. Our services must be provided seven days a week on a 24-hour-a-day basis.”

In addition, the University continues to experience record enrollments and now has 29,400 students, 12,000 of whom reside on campus.

“In the state’s current economic environment, even more Con-
necticut families are depending on a UConn education,” Hogan says. While the governor is within her authority to effectuate the additional rescission, the reality on the University's campuses is that the number of students being provided services will not dimin-
ish nor will students' expecta-
tions diminish with respect to the range, quality, and duration of those services, he adds.

“UConn students and their families have already paid tuition and fees, in return for which they have a legitimate expectation that their educational and related services will continue throughout the academic year. These services include instruction, academic support, residential and dining, health care, security, and pro-
gramming,” he says.

UConn also is responsible for managing what amounts to a moderate-sized municipality in Storrs. This entails operating police and fire departments, water and waste systems, and utilities. None of these responsibilities can be eliminated, or even reduced. Many steps have already been taken in response to the earlier rescission, including $7 million in reductions and revenue enhance-
ments that will be implemented in the next fiscal year, which begins in July. Among the savings identi-
fied by the president’s Cost, Sav-
ings and Revenue Enhancement (CORE) Task Force are those from energy, facilities operations, purchasing, printing, staffing, and voluntary leave reductions.

The University already has cut hours at the Homer Babbidge Library and drastically reduced hours of operation at the Dodd Center and the Benton and Natu-
ral History Museums. In response to the governor’s 2 percent rescission and recom-

dendations for state support in the next fiscal year, the University is considering reducing the size of the incoming freshman class, curtailing student research opportunities, and reducing the number of dining halls open dur-
ing weekends.

CORE is also preparing to pres-
tent a report on additional savings in June.

In an e-mail to faculty and staff last week, the president said, “The cuts will be very challenging for us to absorb, but I am confident in our ability to generate the needed savings or revenue. We’ve achieved considerable positive results through these efforts and through the innovative and col-
loborative efforts of department heads, deans, faculty, and staff. I want you to know that I’m very grateful for your efforts and the ideas you’ve shared with me and the CORE Task Force.”

The University will also contin-
u to limit out-of-state travel on state funds, will fill only essential positions, and will limit institu-
tional spending.

“I think it’s important to recognize that we will likely need to take further steps to curtail activities and programs that are less central to our core missions of teaching and research,” Hogan said in his e-mail. "Each time we must contemplate such actions, it is with sadness and a sense of loss. Every activity adds value to our campus and to our students’ expe-
riences, and I know that many of our faculty and staff have worked hard to develop these programs over many years.”

New rowing shell named for psychology professor

The UConn women’s rowing team has honored Professor Sam Witryol by naming their new Po-
cock racing shell after him.

The shell, now named Witryol’s Wake, is being used by the varsity eight this spring. Witryol participated in a ceremony naming the new boat at halftime of a men’s basketball game in December, in front of the rowing team and a crowd of nearly 10,000 people.

“Sam has been a supporter and friend to UConn rowing for many years,” says rowing head coach Jennifer Sanford-Wendy. “It’s a nice connection to be able to name a boat after a UConn professor to show the important tie between academics and athletics. And the ceremony during halftime of a basketball game gave our program and student-athletes some nice recognition. Most people couldn’t help but stop and watch, as the 60-
foot shell was brought out onto the court by the team.”

Witryol has been a fixture on the UConn campus since he ar-
rived in Storrs in 1949. He was born and raised in Syracuse, N.Y., and earned his undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral degrees from Syracuse University.

He came to UConn to teach psychology in the graduate pro-
gram, and became an undergradu-
ate professor in 1959.

Witryol started the child psychology program at UConn, which has developed into one of the country’s finest in that disci-
pline. He is considered an expert in the development of curiosity in children.

He retired as a full-time profes-
sor in 1992, but still teaches one course each semester. He is now in his 60th consecutive year of teach-
ing at UConn.

He took a keen interest in UConn women’s athletics from their inception, and has devel-
oped a strong camaraderie with the women’s coaches and their student-athletes.

Golf tournament May 1 will benefit student fund

The Division of Student Affairs is sponsoring a May Day char-
ity golf tournament to bolster the Students First Fund, a program that offers monetary help to stu-
dents facing a family or personal emergency.

The Students First Fund Golf Tournament, sponsored by Rock-
ville Bank, will take place May 1 at the Willimantic Country Club. The event features a round of golf in a scramble format, a cart, and buffet lunch. A silent auction will also be held. The fee is $125, with a pottery going to the fund.

“More often than we would like, students find themselves in a chal-

lenging situation,” says John Sad-
dlemire, vice president for student affairs. “Books or laptops are lost during a flood, they’re called away for a family emergency and can’t afford the plane fare, a fire destroys their belongings. So many things can happen and unexpected needs arise. In trying economic times, sometimes neither they nor their family can afford to replace what’s lost.”

“The Students First Fund is an initiative that makes a positive difference in the lives of students when it is most needed,” he adds.

Scott Gallo, who works in the Department of Residential Life and has seen students in need, came up with the idea and is coordinating the tournament.

Players may register as a team or as individuals. For more information, call Gallo at 868-486-5473 or go to www.dsa.

uconn.edu/golf
Scientists receive state funds to advance stem cell research

BY DAVID BAUMAN

Eleven UConn scientists have received state-funded grant awards totaling $5.4 million from the Connecticut Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee (SCRC) to advance embryonic and human adult stem cell research in Connecticut.

Nine of the state grants were awarded to scientists based at the UConn Health Center in Farmington. Two were awarded to researchers at the Storrs campus.

The grants were among a total of nearly $9.8 million awarded to fund 24 research proposals in the third round of funding issued by the SCRC, a committee in charge of developing the state’s stem cell research grants-in-program aid.

“These grants are further testament to the ground-breaking work in stem cell research that’s going on at UConn’s Health Center and Storrs campuses,” said University President Michael Hogan. “This further investment by the state in our stem cell programs reflects the leadership role that UConn researchers are playing in scientific discovery and state-of-the-art healthcare.

The funding program, approved by the legislature and Gov. Jodi Rell in 2005, set aside $100 million for Connecticut-connected embryonic and adult stem cell research through 2015. Stem cells are the ‘building blocks’ for every type of cell in the body, capable of maturing into any tissue type, including pancreas, bone, blood, or neuronal cells. Research on stem cell promises to advance human health care by developing innovative cell transplantation therapies for diabetes, cancers, heart and blood diseases, Multiple Sclerosis, and Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s diseases.

The SCRC previously disbursed $20 million in 2006 in the first round of competitive grants and $9.8 million in 2008 in the second round. Including the latest round of grants, the state award program has so far awarded UConn scientists $20.7 million, with Yale and Wesleyan receiving about $17.5 million and $1.4 million, respectively.

For this third round, the SCRC received 77 requests, seeking more than $30 million for research projects. UConn and its Health Center submitted 41 of the proposals, Yale University turned in 30, Wesleyan University, the University of Hartford, and Western Connecticut State University each submitted one proposal, as did two small biotech firms based in the state.

The applications were peer reviewed by a separate group of scientists and ranked for the state stem cell program with respect to the ethical and scientific merit. The SCRC awards four types of grants:

• Seed grants of $100,000 a year for two years to support early phases of research that is not ready for larger-scale funding
• Established Investigator grants of up to $250,000 a year for three years for scientists with a track record of independent research and grant support
• Group Project grants of up to $2 million over four years to support coordinated research among several investigators working toward specific goals that are beyond the scope of a single laboratory
• Core Facility awards intended to establish or maintain centers with the equipment and personnel necessary to operate a core lab that will be made accessible to the state stem cell research community.

In the third round of funding, the SCRC awarded UConn investigators five seed grants, five established investigator grants, and one core facility grant. Seed grant recipients are:

• Yong Wang, Chemical, Materials, and Biomedical Engineering, Storrs, “Hybrid Peptide/RNA Molecules for Safe and Efficient Gene Silencing in Human Embryonic Stem Cells,” $200,000.
• Srdjan Antic, Neuroscience, Health Center, “Can Natural Neuromodulators Improve the Generation of Nerve Cells from Human Embryonic Stem Cells?” $200,000.
• Ling-Ling Chen, Genetics & Developmental Biology, Health Center, “A Human Cell Culture Model of Angelman Syndrome for Drug Screening,” $200,000.
• Alexander Lichtler, Reconstitutive Sciences, Health Center, “Program Grant: Engineering Human Stem Cells towards Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells Using mRNA Incorporated in Biodegradable Beads,” $500,000.

Established Investigator grant recipients are:

• Dashiezhe Bryasaisahin, Reconstitutive Sciences, Health Center, “Williams Syndrome Associated TFIIF-1 Factor and Epigenetic Marking out in Human Embryonic Stem Cells and Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells,” $500,000.
• Linda Shapiro, Center for Vascular Biology, Health Center, “Mechanisms of Stem Cell Homing to the Injured Heart,” $500,000.
• Zihai Li, Immunology, Health Center, “Therapeutic Differentiation of Regulatory T Cells from Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells for Immune Tolerance,” $500,000.

Theodore Rasmussen, Animal Science and Center for Regenerative Medicine, “Mechanisms of Spontaneous Differentiation and Epigenetic Compromise of Human Embryonic Stem Cells and Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells,” $500,000.

Panel discusses how metaphors aid in understanding science

BY CINDY WEISS

Scientific metaphors are essential to helping non-scientists understand what the technically astute are talking about, but you have to be aware of where their limits are.

That’s how Peter Galison, keynote speaker, characterized a panel discussion, March 27, during the Day in the Humanities at UConn.

Humans Day this year focused on “Imagining, Performing, Writing Science” as part of UConn’s Year of Science celebration.

Galison, the Joseph Lepelgrino University Professor at Harvard, a specialist in the history of science, along with the co-hosts of WNVC’s popular Radio Lab program, Jad Abumrad and Robert Krulwich, joined UConn faculty in a panel discussion of how scientific metaphor clears or muddies the waters.

Krulwich, who is also a science correspondent for National Public Radio, earlier told the audience that his aim in interviewing scientists is to get them to explain things in a way that’s plain, who was glad to escape from her last science class, would understand.

On the Radio Lab show, he said, “We’ve very careful to take the scientists off their pedestals and treat them as very cool people – and to poke them.” Scientists themselves have developed telling metaphors about their subjects, some non-scientific panelists pointed out.

Carl Linnaeus, known as the father of taxonomy, sexualized plants, giving them male and female parts and “romanticizing” botany, even though most flowers are hermaphroditic, said Nancy Naples, professor of sociology and women’s studies, who studies the sociology of gender.

Helen Rozwadowski, associate professor of history and coordinator of maritime studies, said that the metaphor of a frontier “of science became popular after historian Frederick Jackson Turner in 1893 established the significance of the frontier in American history. Turner linked westward expansion to American independence, democracy, and progress. Once the frontier was won, others made science the new frontier for America – ideal because it was endless.”

Geneticist Rachel O’Neill, associate professor of molecular and cell biology, cited the array of metaphors used in her field – cracking the code, the genetic roadmap, the book of life, the obesity gene. The image of cutting up words helps people understand the depth of the information that geneticists have to deal with and the size of the genome, she said.

“I use metaphors daily to relate technical work to society and to students,” she said. “The placenta becomes a battlefront where male and female characteristics fight to dominate. The centreomere of the chromosome becomes an elevator, a constant part of the infrastructure no matter what the style of the building.”

“I’m describing something no one has ever seen,” she said, “I use genes and DNA. “I don’t know any other way of doing that except metaphors.”

Theories that metaphors bring to mind can, in a sense, make scientists “the Picasso or Cezanne of your trade,” particularly for concepts that are hard to imagine, said NPR’s Krulwich.

“If you could be the author of the protein image that survived – that would be like coming up with Pluto or Goody or Mickey Mouse.”

Matthew Proser, emeritus professor of English, summed up the discussion: “The scientific life interrelates the arts and the sciences. It’s the rhetoric we’re forced to use in order to make apprehensible a point.”
Visiting dental surgeon from Nigeria works with Health Center faculty

By Chris DeFrancesco

Call it a “knowledge exchange” between the UConn Health Center’s oral pathologists and an oral and maxillofacial surgeon from Africa.

For the past four months, Dr. Ozoemene Obuekwe, dean of the University of Benin’s dental school in Benin City, Nigeria, was a visiting faculty member at the UConn School of Dental Medicine.

“For someone to come from so far away to spend this kind of immersion time is a very rare thing, especially since Dr. Obuekwe is in a different specialty,” says Dr. Ellen Eisenberg, chair of the Section of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology.

Obuekwe says, “As an academic, one hopes that there will be a point in your career where you can stop out to see what others are doing, to share knowledge and to gain insights. Having had the chance to spend time with the oral pathologists, immersed in what they do on a daily basis, it is obvious that our respective specialty areas do go hand-in-hand.”

Most of Obuekwe’s time was spent with Eisenberg and Dr. Easwar Natarajan, an assistant professor in the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology. Eisenberg says Dr. Obuekwe contacted her via e-mail more than a year ago, asking if he could take a sabbatical with her, after Eisenberg’s writing and role as section editor for pathology for the Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery caught his attention.

“I felt that shadowing Dr. Eisenberg and her associate, Dr. Easwar Natarajan, would be a valuable experience for me as an oral and maxillofacial surgeon, and that this interactive time would give me a fresh perspective about my own work,” Obuekwe says. “This has improved my understanding of the basis of oro-facial diseases and their diagnoses.”

A surgeon’s perspective

“Dr. Ozo, as he became known at the Health Center, attended didactic sessions and clinical pathological conferences, and spent time in the dental clinics and at the microscope observing and assisting the pathologists in solving diagnostic problems.”

“It’s good to get a surgeon’s perspective on the approach to treating various diseases and also their approach to obtaining diagnoses,” says Eisenberg.

Obuekwe also sat in on seminars with oral surgery residents, and spent time with them in their clinics and operating rooms, where, he says, he learned new techniques and contemporary approaches to practice in the field of oral and maxillofacial surgery. It was Obuekwe’s first visit to the United States.

“In Nigeria, the access to dental care could be better,” Obuekwe says. “This is partly due to fewer dentists per capita and limited health insurance. Part of what I intended to share with UConn is to bring another, very different perspective concerning the treatment of patients with oral-maxillofacial diseases.”

Eisenberg says she learned from Obuekwe, too. “He understands what’s happening at the tissue level, what makes something look the way it does or behave the way it does. He’s also aware that there are certain conditions he doesn’t usually see or treat because he’s a surgeon, but we’ve seen them and have our own approach to their diagnosis and management.”

Obuekwe hopes that his stint as a visiting faculty member at the UConn Health Center represents the beginning of a long-term relationship between the dental schools at UConn and the University of Benin.

“The most important realization to take back is that truly, the world has become a global village,” Obuekwe says. “The era of being cocooned in your locality is over. There is much to learn from each other.”

Researcher seeks to improve health of underserved communities

By Chris DeFrancesco

He’s made a career of becoming involved in poor, urban communities, securing grants to conduct public health research, and establishing community-run institutions and programs to benefit those communities after he leaves.

It goes back to the late 1960s, when anthropologist Stephen Schensul, then with the University of Illinois’ Westside Community Mental Health Program, started studying and participating in the development of Chicago’s Mexican-American community.

He joined the UConn Health Center faculty in 1976.

Today, as director of the Center for International Community Health Studies in the UConn School of Medicine’s Department of Community Medicine and Health Care, Schensul’s vision remains the same, but has an international reach.

For most of this decade, his focus has been on preventing the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases in urban India, most recently among married women in Mumbai. His work involves traveling there an average of three times a year, for two to four weeks at a time, through 2013.

“I’ve tried to work collaborative-ly with people in the communities where I’ve worked, so that the research could be of benefit first to them, and then to the general discipline, and then to policy and program developers and the public health discipline,” Schensul says. “Research results can then be used by the community to advocate for its needs and for institution-building in the communities.”

The research that Schensul initiated in the 1970s is the foundation on which two Hartford health institutions were built.

His work with Hartford’s Hispanic community and with the Charter Oak/Rice Heights Public Housing Tenants Association contributed to the establishment of the Hispanic Health Council in 1978 and the Charter Oak Health Center in 1979.

“Both of these institutions continue to be a vital force in the Hartford community and are nationally recognized as models of community-based institutions committed to improving the health of underserved communities,” says Martha Botko, a research associate in the Department of Community Medicine and Health Care.

Schensul’s research began taking a global turn in 1981, when he helped establish the Center for International Community Health Studies (CICHS), which has emphasized research and graduate education in international primary care and training for health professionals from developing countries.

His continued involvement in Hartford during the 1980s, expanding his focus on international health when he became director of CICHS in 1986. In the late 1980s and 1990s, the Center’s research expanded to Sri Lanka, Kenya, and Mauritius, and its continuing education program attracted health professionals to UConn from 69 developing countries.

His work in India began in 2001 with a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to study the prevention of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases among men in Mumbai.

“I just did a paper that showed our focus on disseminating findings directly into the community was our first priority and its impact on the development of new community action groups that could sustain the work,” Schensul says. “Sustainability is a major issue in health and development. Unless research and intervention connects with the culture and dynamics of a community, and people are drawn in and involved, it’s not going to continue to be sustained, and then when the project ends, that’s that.”

In December, UConn Provost Peter Nicholls presented Schensul with the Faculty Award for Excellence in Public Engagement.

In her nomination letter, Botko wrote, “As an applied anthropologist, Dr. Schensul has been dedicated to working together with local communities in the research process and disseminating research results to community residents and policy makers. Much of his work has focused on the founding of innovative community-based institutions that give voice to the needs of underserved communities.”
Molecular and cell biologist wins career development award

BY CINDY WEISS

Victoria Robinson, an assistant professor of molecular and cell biology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, has won a $93,600 early career development award from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

The CAREER award, as it is known, is the NSF's most prestigious award in support of the career development of promising teacher-scholars who integrate research and education.

The five-year award is for a research project on a bacterial protein known as BipA. Robinson's research group has uncovered a link between BipA and a "magic spot" molecule in bacteria that was discovered 30 years ago. Their hypothesis is that increasing the levels of this molecule influences BipA's activity, causing the bacteria to put its energy into surviving stressful conditions such as those encountered during infection.

With the grant, Robinson and her group will seek to determine exactly how BipA functions in the cell. This would increase understanding of the bacteria's ability to infect a host, and of bacterial infections such as those caused by Salmonella or MRSA Staphylococcus, which are highly resistant to current drug therapies.

Robinson came to UConn in 2004 from a Howard Hughes Medical Institute laboratory at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School at Rutgers, where she was a post-doctoral associate. She earned her Ph.D. in biochemistry and structural biology from the University of Iowa, her master's degree in chemistry from Villanova University, and her bachelor's degree in biochemistry from Trinity College, Hartford.

She is part of UConn's interdisciplinary partnership, which brings together Health Center and Storrs biologists for research and training. Her specialty is protein crystallography.

Robinson's current research group consists of a post-doctoral associate and three graduate students. She has also mentored 14 undergraduate research students, including a University Scholar.

Goldwater Scholars continued from page 1

the University of Colorado at Boulder, and the University of Rhode Island.

The field of potential candidates at UConn was extremely strong, says Deans. All four UConn nominees are students in the Honors Program and also University Scholars, UConn's highest academic distinction.

Abramczyk, who won an honorable mention in last year's Goldwater competition, is "doggedly persistent in asking questions about how the universe works," says Deans.

Abramczyk, 24, took some time off before entering UConn, but he came in knowing that he wanted to study physics and philosophy. He contacted his future physics advisor, associate professor Thomas Blum, before his freshman year to find out about doing undergraduate research.

"I'm particularly interested in the philosophy of science — how do we know the things that we say are true in science," he says. His University Scholar advisor in philosophy is associate professor Anne Hikes, who is also director of research ethics and education for stem cell research at UConn.

"I enjoy learning things," says Abramczyk, who plans to pursue a Ph.D. His research in Blum's laboratory is in the area of particle physics, using supercomputers to understand the interactions of quarks and gluons, fundamental particles that compose the ordinary matter of the universe.

The research comes at an exciting time for particle physicists looking to make sense of new experiments, which may point to basic physical laws that go beyond the picture of nature that has dominated for decades, says Blum.

Burgio, whose research subject is Monk Parakeets, had never taken an ornithology course until last spring, when he began working with his advisor, associate professor Margaret Rubega, the state ornithologist. Burgio, who will be 31 soon, redirected his career into biology research after serving in the Air Force for six years.

He had planned to become a dentist, drawing on his Air Force dental training in combat medicine and his work as a dental hygienist. He also worked as a dental assistant at a public health clinic in Willimantic.

A neurological condition that caused his hands to shake led to a change of plans. He had been a casual birdwatcher, and one day, contemplating his changed future, saw an American Woodcock struggling in the snow outside his bedroom window.

"I had an epiphany," he says. He put together the love of the outdoors and his interest in birds and bores into his new studies.

His current project, which he expects to continue into his Ph.D. research, is to learn about the nest-building habits of Monk Parakeets. These South American natives were released by pet owners and are now building large nests on power poles in Connecticut and other northeastern states, causing power disruptions and even fires.

Burgio has gained the cooperation of United Illuminating, which has been at the center of a controversial effort to get rid of the birds, getting access to examine the nests that are removed. He spends hours observing the birds and collecting data.

He also had a National Science Foundation REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates) fellowship last summer, when he began his research.

Meeske started his research in molecular and cell biology with associate professor Adam Zweit-fach in August 2007, and spent the following summer in a research internship at Pfizer in Groton. His applications for human beings.

"As a kid, I had all these books on dinosaurs and sea life," he says. His mother, a nurse, and his stepfather, a highway worker and Vietnamese immigrant, have supported and encouraged his excitement and inspired him to work hard.

He plans to pursue a doctorate in immunology.

Goldwater Scholar Victoria Robinson, assistant professor of molecular and cell biology.
The following grants were received through the Office for Sponsored Programs (OSP) in January 2009. The list represents only new proposals awarded, and excludes continuations. The list is supplied to the Board each month by OSP.

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<tr>
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<td>Skidaway Institution of Oceanography</td>
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**GRANTS**

The winners of the 2009 Mitofsky Awards for Excellence in Public Opinion Research, given annually by the Roper Center, were announced recently by Mark Abrahamson, executive director of the Roper Center, and Suman Singh, vice president for research and dean of the Graduate School.

Named for the former chairman of the Roper Center, Warren J. Mitofsky, these awards provide graduate students with a stipend of $1,200 to conduct research during the summer, using data in the Roper Center archives. Recipients are chosen based on the potential theoretical or methodological contribution of the proposed research to the applicant’s field of study.

The following grants were received through the Office for Sponsored Programs (OSP) in January 2009. The list represents only new proposals awarded, and excludes continuations. The list is supplied to the Board each month by OSP.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principal Investigator</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Award Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Auster, P.</td>
<td>National Undersea Research Center</td>
<td>Skidaway Institution of Oceanography</td>
<td>$133,236</td>
<td>10/08-12/09</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auster, P.</td>
<td>National Undersea Research Center</td>
<td>Dept. of Commerce/ Nat’l. Oceanic &amp; Atmospheric Admin./ Univ. of Louisiana</td>
<td>$45,345</td>
<td>8/08-7/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Synaptic Replenishment Through Embryonic Stem Cell-Derived Neurons in a Transgenic Mouse Model of Alzheimer’s Disease</td>
<td>Bar-Shalom, Y.</td>
<td>Electrical &amp; Computer Engineering</td>
<td>Dept. of Defense/ Nat’l. Imagery Analysts</td>
<td>$265,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Sensor Data Fusion</td>
<td>Lin, S.</td>
<td>Marine Sciences</td>
<td>Conn. Dept. of Environmental Protection</td>
<td>$125,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-occurring State Incentive Grant Family Training</td>
<td>Les, D.</td>
<td>Ecology &amp; Evolutionary Biology</td>
<td>Commonwealth Scientific &amp; Ind. Research Org. – Australia</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lin, S.</td>
<td>Marine Sciences</td>
<td>Conn. Dept. of Environmental Protection</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
<td>11/08-12/09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Island Sound Phytoplankton Identification</td>
<td>Luh, P.</td>
<td>Electrical &amp; Computer Engineering</td>
<td>Southern California Edison</td>
<td>$68,815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simultaneous Optimal Auction and Unit Commitment for Deregulated Electricity Markets, Phase V</td>
<td>Luh, P.</td>
<td>Electrical &amp; Computer Engineering</td>
<td>Alstom Power Corp.</td>
<td>$42,376</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Roper Center awards announced**

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Named for the former chairman of the Roper Center, Warren J. Mitofsky, these awards provide graduate students with a stipend of $1,200 to conduct research during the summer, using data in the Roper Center archives. Recipients are chosen based on the potential theoretical or methodological contribution of the proposed research to the applicant’s field of study.

This year’s award winners are:

- **Sylvie Tschuntchea**, Agricultural Economics, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, “Modeling Associations Between Multivariate Longitudinal Categorical Variables in Survey Data,” faculty sponsor Dipak Dey.
- **Annie Wisnieski**, Sociology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, “The Impact of Social Capital on Gender Differences in Health,” faculty sponsor Michael Wallace.
CALENDAR
Monday, April 6, to Monday, April 13

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

Note: The next Calendar will include events taking place from Monday, April 6, to Monday, April 13.

If you need special accommodations to participate in events, call 860-486-2943 (Storrs), or 860-679-3563 (Farmington), or 860-570-3310 (Law School).

Libraries
Home Library. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; closed weekends.

Stamford Campus Library. Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m.; Saturday, noon-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4 p.m.; closed weekends.

Health Center Library. Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m.-11 p.m.; Friday, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday, noon-10 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-2 a.m.

Law Library. Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-11 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday, noon-10 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-2 a.m.

Avery Point Campus Library. Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m.; Saturday, noon-4 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; closed Sunday.

Torrington Campus Library. Monday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; closed Friday-Sunday.

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

University IT Services
Help Desk: Call 860-486-4357, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

P.D. Phenes

Dr. Allen ngồi by 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Room 403, Storrs Hall.

Wednesday, 4/8 – Kinesiology. Effect of Ambient Temperature on Caffeine Ergogenicity during Submaximal Exercise, by Matthew Giano (adv.: Armstrong). 10:30 a.m., Room 142, Gentry Dining Hall.


Tuesday, 4/7 – Coffee Hour Lecture. ‘The Oceans and Human Health,’ by Sandra Shimway and Evan Ward. 7 p.m., Room 301, Marine Sciences Building.

Exhibits

Monday, 4/6 – University Senate. 4 p.m., Room 7, Bishop Center.

Meetings
Monday, 4/6 – University Senate. 4 p.m., Room 7, Bishop Center.

Lectures & Seminars

Tuesday, 4/7 – Toxicology Colloquium. ‘Emerging Epilogue and Experimental Pathology: Airway Toxicity of Butler Flowering Vapors,’ by Ann Hubs, veterinary pathologist. 1 p.m., Room 338, Pharmacy/Biology Building.

Tuesday, 4/7 – Leadership Lecture. ‘Rudeness and Leadership: The Rights and Rewards of Speaking Truth and Speaking Honestly in Washington,’ by former U.S. Rep. Christopher Shays. 5 p.m., Konover Auditorium.

Tuesday, 4/7 – Coastal Perspectives Lecture. ‘The Oceans and Human Health,’ by Sandra Shimway and Evan Ward. 7 p.m., Room 301, Marine Sciences Building.

Exhibits

Graduation

Graduate tuition

Graduate tuition continued from page 1

formulation of a review/app- eval process and on a trans parent and fair process for the distribution of revenues received under this program. He notes that an ad hoc committee established to consider the fiscal and other impacts of such a policy was concerned the University’s stipendary stipend levels and benefits already make UConn somewhat expensive in terms of the cost of hire graduate students, and worried that adding tuition to grant budgets would exacerbate the situation.

Based on that, he says, it was decided to include just a portion of the tuition and also to review the policy in three years. Nickbelski says he is grateful to members of the commit tee, particularly co-chairs Suman Singh, senior vice provost and vice president for Research and Dean of the Graduate School, and Eric Schultz, associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, for developing a very thorough report on the proposed tuition charges.

Looking for a job? A boy coming to staff Red Sox to the Promised Land, by John Frascella, sports writer. 4 p.m., Union Co-op Book Store.

Film

Wednesday, 4/8 – India Film Series. Bhool Bhulaiya 6:30 p.m., Room 107, Art & Art History Building

Friday, 4/10 – Film Screening. Handsome in America, by Paul Lynch. 7:30 p.m., Regional Theatre, von der Mehden Recital Hall.

Athletics

Thursday, 4/7 – Men’s Tennis vs. Boston University. 3 p.m., Tennis Courts.

Friday, 4/10 – Softball vs. Rutgers. 2:30 and 4:30 p.m., Softball Field.


Saturday, 4/11 – Women’s Tennis vs. Villanova. Noon, Tennis Courts.

Saturday, 4/11 – Women’s Lacrosse vs. Rutgers. 1 p.m. Sherman Family Sports Complex.

Saturday, 4/11 – Softball vs. Notre Dame. 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., Softball Field.

Potpourri

Monday, 4/6 – UConn Co-op Author Event. Theo-Ivy: How a Boy Wonder Led the Red Sox to the Promised Land, by John Frascella, sports writer. 4 p.m., UConn Co-op Book Store.

Thursday, 4/7 – Conversations on a Tight American Budget: ‘Ingerich, the marketing of Philip Roth’s American Pastoral, by Ross Miller. 7 p.m., Stafford Student Center.

Thursday, 4/7 – Student Recital. Indigenous Voices, Aztec, Mayan, and Incan codices; Rice through Monday, 4/20, Transitional Spaces in Post-Soviet Estonia, photos by Sarah Rhine, West Corridor. For hours see Libraries section.

Ongoing – State Museum of Natural History & Connecticut Archaeology

Performing Arts

Tuesday, 4/7 – Jazz Combos. Kenny Davis, Earl MacDonald, and Bill Reynolds, ensemble. 7 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall.

Thursday, 4/7 – Spring Recital. SÃ¥ngfridur, 8 p.m., Regional Center for the Performing Arts. Free admission.

Thursday, 4/7 – Student Recital. Noah Parker, percussion. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Free admission.

Saturday, 4/11 – Student Recital. Johanne Chang, cello. 5 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Free admission.

Saturday, 4/11 – Student Recital. Guan-Ting Liao, violin. 7 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Free admission.

Monday, 4/13 – Student Recital. Sarah Maierheiser, piano. 7 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall. Free admission.

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Residential learning communities help foster student interests

BY KAREN A. DHARA


More and more students at UConn are seeking residential learning communities that will pique their intellectual and social interests, whether it’s engineering students interested in jazz, international students hoping to fit into American culture, or students passionate about issues of social justice.

"Some of our learning communities are residential and some are not," says David Ouimette, executive director of the Office of First Year Programs and Learning Communities. "We are offering students opportunities to pursue their major and interdisciplinary interests inside and outside of the classroom. We want students to integrate their experience with support from other students, faculty, and staff who have the same interests and expertise."

Living-learning communities are a way to allow students to become more comfortable with taking risks, he says, so they will be willing to begin contributing to UConn and the broader community through service, internships, study abroad, and undergraduate research earlier in their college career.

A concept popular at large research universities around the country, living-learning communities help students succeed, says Lee Williams, dean of students and co-author of the book, Learning Communities and Student Affairs: Partnering for Powerful Learning. "They are a proven approach to increase student retention and enhance learning," she says. "Research has shown that since they often incorporate course work from a variety of disciplines into the experience, they also enhance connections across campus between both faculty and students. The curricular innovations bring faculty and disciplines together as well as students.”

UConn’s living-learning communities will be expanded this fall to include EcoHouse and a Public Health Public Service House, both located in West Campus, and Eurotech (German and engineering) in McMahon Hall. The University is also interested in opening additional living-learning communities over the next few years, including ones focused on areas suggested by students or faculty.

EcoHouse will be located in Hollister residence hall, and will be open to 120 students passion-ate about environmental issues, including 60 first year students. Students will work on environ-mental projects and will serve as stewards of environmental sustain-ability around campus.

The building, which will be renovated before students move in, will include space for meetings and classrooms. Another new community, Pub-lihealth, Public Service, will also include both freshmen and up-perclassmen. It will offer students outreach opportunities in Hartford and in other locations through existing service learning programs.

Students who join the Public Health, Public Service community will enroll in a two-credit course each semester that will be integrated with a weekly community service experience.

The Eurotech community will provide students interested in both engineering and German with a variety of cultural and educati-onal experiences, including a film series, guest lecturers from industry, study trips to Germany, visits to various companies in the region, and contact with German exchange students on campus. The program also offers engineering courses taught in German.

Interdisciplinary residential learning communities already on campus include:

• Community Service in Ells-worth Hall, which emphasizes volunteer work;
• Connecting with the Arts in Shippee Hall, which focuses on arts, including theatre, art, and music, and includes a group of engineering students interested in jazz;
• Global House in McMahon Hall for students interested in learning about global culture, politics, and arts, and/or study-ing or working abroad; and those who are in an academic program with an international focus or who are international students or have foreign-born parents;
• Leadership, Learning, and Life in NorthWest, which allows students to explore their values and develop and practice leader-ship skills;
• Social Justice in a Global Community in Ellsworth Hall for students who want to celebrate in-tercultural perspectives of campus life, with a focus on topics such as human rights, equality, war, and the environment.

Major based residential communities, such as:

• Fine Arts in Shippee Hall, Mu-sic in South Campus, Nursing in Rogers and South (Pre-Pharmacy in Towers; and Women in Math, Science, and Engineering in Hale Hall); and
• Honors in Buckley Hall, for students in the Honors Program.

At Global House, boundaries of culture and language disappear, says Morty Ortega, associate pro-fessor of natural resources man-agement and engineering, who heads the program. "We spend a lot of time getting to know each other, and we end up accomplish-ing a lot of things.”

The University also has non-residential learning communities in allied health, animal science, economics, engineering, exploring helping professions, pathology, and pre-teaching.

Political scientist’s book examines evolution of modern Germany

BY KAREN SINGER

Despite a turbulent 20th-century history, Germany has evolved into a country much like its neighbors, according to a new book about the metamorphosis. "We take this very definite stand that Germany has become a normal Western democracy . . . and now has the same problems, benefits, and lifestyles as the rest of the European community," says Henry Krisch, professor emeritus of political science in the Col-lege of Liberal Arts and Sciences, who co-wrote the book, Politics in Germany (CQ Press, 2008). His co-author, M. Donald Hancock, is a political science professor at Vanderbilt University.

The co-authors have known each other since the 1950s, when both were graduate students at Co-lumbia University, where Krisch earned a master’s and Ph.D. and taught before joining the political science faculty at UConn in 1969.

Krisch and Hancock wrote the book to fill a void in those cur-rently available on the subject. "We thought we could add something to the accounts of German politics found in other studies, particularly by putting Germany’s current institutions and practices against the background of the existence of two German states for roughly a half century after World War II,” Krisch says. Their interests overlapped. West German politics is one of Han-cock’s specialties and Krisch is an expert on East Germany, including the two decades since its collapse.

The book examines “the ef-fects of there having been an East German politics found in other states, election outcomes, social movements, socioeconomic poli-tics, and pop culture in Germany, as well as the country’s relation-ship with Europe and the world.”

"One of the things that is interesting is the ways Germans are able now to engage in military action abroad, which would have been unthinkable 10 years ago," Krisch says. “So in that sense, it has become more normal.”

He cites other signs of normality. “There’s a conflict in Germany, which you have in other European countries and in the U.S., between those who want to keep a safe-ty net without too much inflation or too much debt and those who would like to have a freer market,” he says. “They have the same sort of issues about executive compen-sation and reining in markets that have gone unregulated, and the same issue about integrating immigrant communities, the largest of which is Turkish. They’re questioning what it means to be a German citizen.”

 Debate about such real and controversial issues is likely to intensify, as Germans gear up for a federal election in September 2009. Krisch plans to be there, as a member of a group of academic observers.

Since retiring in 1999, Krisch has remained in the Stors area and retained close ties to UConn, where he is a member of the Glad-stein Institute of European Studies. His current interests include the legal and human rights aspects of prohibiting Holocaust denial.