Legislators’ initial budget would restore funding to UConn

By Richard Veilleux

The state legislature’s Appropriations Committee on April 2 approved a two-year budget proposal that increases state support for UConn’s Storrs-based programs and the Health Center by more than $70 million above the support proposed for the biennium by Gov. M. Jodi Rell last month.

The committee’s approved budget would add $11.2 million for each year of the biennium for the Storrs-based programs, bringing the appropriation in fiscal years 2010 and 2011 nearly even with the current year’s appropriation prior to the governor’s 3 percent and 2 percent rescissions.

The Health Center, the committee added $10.5 million for each year, and also included another $13.5 million in each of the two years to the comptroller’s budget to cover the fringe benefit differential for Dempsey Hospital employees.

The cost of the differential was not included in the governor’s budget.

Report shows increase in external research support

By Richard Veilleux

Researchers in Storrs-based programs last year brought in more than $100 million in awards, a 9 percent increase compared to 2007.

The increase came despite the fact that faculty submitted 178 fewer funding requests in 2008 than in the preceding fiscal year.

The increase is documented in the 2008 Report of Sponsored Project Activity, available at http://research.uconn.edu/

“This development marks a significant upturn in the size of the extramural portfolio at UConn, after experiencing several years of status quo funding levels,” says Michael Crouch, executive director of the Office for Sponsored Programs and assistant vice provost for research. “With increasing emphasis on interdisciplinary research, activities at the University, this trend will hopefully be sustained.”

The bulk of the funding, $78.1 million, came from the federal government, including more than $23 million from the Department of Health and Human Services, which includes the National Institutes of Health.

Other major funding agencies included the National Science Foundation ($16.1 million), the USDA ($11.9 million), the Department of Education ($6.8 million), and the Department of Defense ($6.6 million).

Non-federal funding, including state grants, contracts with industry, and grants from foundations and non-profit agencies, increased 14 percent in 2008 compared to 2007, to $23.8 million.

“This is quite an achievement, because the current environment, where we all need to be informed about the administration’s thinking and responses to the many challenges faced by the University,” says Meredith Zaritheny, president of the Undergraduate Student Government.

President Hogan to deliver ‘state of university’ address

University President Michael Hogan will deliver a State of the University address on Monday, April 20 at 4 p.m. in the Student Union Theatre. Faculty, students, staff, and the public are invited to attend.

The event is hosted by the University Senate and the Undergraduate Student Government.

In his address, Hogan will discuss the challenges facing the University and strategies to meet them as a community while moving forward with plans to achieve goals articulated in the University’s Academic Plan.

The address will acknowledge the many achievements of UConn faculty, staff, students and the substantial progress being made toward these goals, despite the difficult economic environment.

An annual State of the University address will provide an excellent opportunity for the entire university community to hear directly from the president,” says Hedley Freake, chair of the University Senate Executive Committee and professor of nutritional sciences.

“This is particularly important in the current environment, where we all need to be informed about the administration’s thinking and responses to the many challenges faced by the University.”

Meredith Zaritheny, president of the Undergraduate Student Government, says, “This is an excellent opportunity for the students of UConn to hear directly from President Hogan concerning the state of the University. Students are major stakeholders and it is very important they are informed of this administration’s goals, concerns, and challenges which shape the future of the University of Connecticut.

A reception will follow the address in Room 104, adjacent to the Theatre.
National security expert to give talk April 22

A Republican who served as chief of staff to Secretary of State Colin Powell but later became a fierce critic of the Bush administration and the Iraq War, will speak in the Dodd Center’s Konover Auditorium on April 22 at 4 p.m.

Lawrence Wilkerson will discuss his time in government, and the challenges faced by the Obama administration, and future national security teams.

The event, organized by the International Relations Association, is open to the public. A question-and-answer session will follow the talk.

Wilkerson, a retired U.S. Army colonel, was chief of staff to Powell from 2001 to 2005. His association with Powell dates to the Reagan administration, when he was appointed as an assistant to Powell who was National Security Advisor at the time, and continued during Powell’s tenure as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the George H.W. Bush administration and the early years of the Clinton administration.

During the second Bush administration, Wilkerson was involved in key aspects of national security policy. In particular, he was the senior official assisting Powell in the preparation of the secretary’s February 2003 presentation to the U.N. Security Council on Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

The revelation that much of this information was untrue was the beginning of Wilkerson’s disenchantment with the Bush administration, which was deepened by the ongoing situation in Iraq and the treatment of detainees at Guantanamo Bay and Abu Ghraib.

When Powell left the State Department, Wilkerson followed and began to speak publicly about his experiences during the first Bush term. Since leaving government service, Wilkerson has taught national security decision-making at the George Washington University and the College of William and Mary. He is interviewed at length in the award-winning Iraq war documentary No End in Sight, and provides a full-length commentary to Why We Fight, an analysis of the military-industrial complex.

Babbidge Library book sale scheduled for April 29

Homer Babbidge Library will conduct a book sale on the plaza adjacent to the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center on Wednesday, April 29, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Several thousand books donated by members of the campus community and friends of the library will be available for sale. The books are either duplicates of those already owned by the library, or works on subjects that the library does not collect.

Books offered encompass fiction, poetry, prose, spirituality, biography, philosophy, social sciences, and history. VHS videotapes and LPs will also be sold. Those with UConn IDs will be admitted between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.; all others will be allowed to enter after 11 a.m.

Hardcover books will be $1; paperbacks will be 50 cents. Special items will have different pricing. Proceeds will benefit the Abbie Jean Quick Leisure Reading Collection.

Environmental award winners announced

The winners of UConn’s 2008-2009 Environmental Leadership Awards were announced recently. The awards recognize dedication and outstanding contributions to a more environmentally aware and sustainable campus. They will be presented by Provost Peter Nicholls on April 20.

The winners are:
- Undergraduate Student: Emily Galanto, 6th semester, environmental science major
- Graduate Student: Ross Friedberg, JD and MPH candidate, Law School and UConn Health Center
- Staff: Amy Crim, Department of Residential Life
- Faculty: James Stuart, professor emeritus, Chemistry
- Team: Avery Point Campus Environmental Awareness Team: Syma Ebbins, Christine Green, Jamieson Densmore
- Student Organization: Willimantic River Alliance: W. Densmore, Christine Green, Jamieson Densmore
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- Graduate Student: Environmental Organization Environment Law Society, Law School
- External Organization: Willimantic River Alliance: Vicky Wetherell, Meg Reich

Appropriations Committee continued from page 1

Legislative leaders will now negotiate the final appropriation. The legislature is scheduled to end the session June 6.

“While this is good news, and we’re grateful for the General Assembly’s recognition of the value UConn brings and the importance of protecting higher education during these challenging economic times, our optimism must be tempered,” says University President Michael J. Hogan. “There’s still a long way to go in this process, and we recognize that the state is facing a deficit of more than $8 billion.”

The additional funding would help mitigate anticipated cuts to department and program budgets, but is still millions of dollars less than the University requested to maintain current services earlier this year.

The governor’s budget proposal bases the budget for the Storrs-based programs on the University’s current budget, after the 5 percent ($13.2 million) rescissions, which translates to reductions from current services of 9.2 percent in 2009-10, and 13.1 percent in 2010-11. The Appropriations Committee’s budget would restore $22.4 million of the governor’s approximately $59 million in reductions.

“It is very early in the budget process,” says Richard Gray, the University’s chief financial officer. “These amounts represent only the start of negotiations with the Executive Branch and will likely vary prior to the adjournment of the legislature in June. [But with] that caveat, the news is positive.”

External research grants continued from page 1

Federal funding has been flat the last two years,” says Suman Singh, vice president for research and graduate education and dean of the Graduate School. “It speaks very highly of our faculty and, when you consider the stimulus bill, we are well positioned to see continued increases in our federal grants.”

According to Crouch, total grant funding for the first six months of the current fiscal year has increased by 8 percent compared to the first six months of fiscal year 2008.

“We have every reason to be optimistic, as well as the changing environment as reasons to be modestly optimistic as we look forward to the second half of the fiscal year.”

Crouch and Singh cite the Obama administration’s modest increases in funding for the agencies from the current services of 9.2 percent in 2008-09, to 8 percent in 2009-10.

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Breast cancer prevention study launched for women with increased risk

BY MAUREEN McGUIRE

Many women worry about their risk of breast cancer and wonder what they can do to lower their risk. For women with known risk factors for breast cancer, the anxiety is even more intense.

Now, women at increased risk may be eligible to participate in a new breast cancer prevention study offered at the Health Center’s Carole and Ray Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center. The ExCel research study is an international study aimed at discovering whether a certain treatment can help prevent breast cancer. The medication is from a class of drugs, aromatase inhibitors, that suppresses estrogen production. Aromatase inhibitors are already approved to treat advanced breast cancer in postmenopausal women.

“This study is looking at a medication that is already approved to treat breast cancer and may have fewer side effects than our existing prevention drugs,” says Dr. Molly Brewer, director of women’s cancer prevention programs and the Division of Gynecologic Oncology. The ExCel study will last five years and is expected to follow more than 4,500 postmenopausal women from the United States, Canada, and Spain. To be eligible, women must be 35 years of age or older and have an increased risk of developing breast cancer. Participants will receive either the study drug or a placebo. According to the American Cancer Society and the Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center, risk factors for breast cancer include:

• Gender – simply being female increases the risk of breast cancer;
• Age – the incidence of breast cancer increases with age;
• Genetic risk factors – such as the inherited BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations;
• Family history of breast cancer – especially among first-degree relatives (mother, sister, or daughter);
• Personal history of breast cancer;
• Race – white women are slightly more likely than others to develop breast cancer;
• Abnormal breast biopsy reports;
• Early age at start of menstrual cycle and late menopause;
• Previous chest radiation;
• Exposure to DES (Diethylstilbestrol), a synthetic estrogen that was prescribed between 1938 to 1971 to help prevent miscarriages.

The study is one of several approaches Brewer and other experts at the Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center offer to help women prevent cancer. Other initiatives include genetic counseling, an innovative colon cancer prevention program, and personalized women’s cancer prevention services.

“We strongly encourage all women to learn more about their unique risk factors for cancer,” says Brewer. “If you are at increased risk for breast cancer, the ExCel trial could be an opportunity to participate in a study evaluating a new class of drugs for breast cancer prevention.” To learn more, call 860-679-2100 to set up an appointment with Brewer to discuss the study.

Faculty and administrators are encouraged to attend a forum on promotion, tenure, and reappointment (PTR) on Friday, April 17, from 3 to 5 p.m., in the Student Union, Room 304B, on the Storrs Campus. The event will be co-sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the Faculty Standards Committee of the University Senate. The forum will include a session outlining PTR procedures led by Provost Peter Nichols and Vice Provost Veronica Makowski. Topics to be addressed during this session include: What are the milestones in the PTR process? How does UConn reappoint, promote, and grant tenure to faculty members? And, What is the nature of the PTR review by the department, school or college, or center, and the provost?

Breakout sessions will follow, outlining the PTR process specific to each school, college, or center. These will be led by the dean or the dean’s designee. There will also be an alternate session on mid-point and final PTR reviews, led by Makowsky. The forum is intended as an information session to reduce anxiety about PTR and promote understanding of the details of the process and the resources available. It will be particularly valuable for non-tenured assistant or associate faculty, but is open to any faculty member, administrator, or PTR committee member who wants to learn about the tenure and promotion process. Refreshments will be served. Reservations are not necessary. More information is available on the Senate website: http://senate.uconn.edu/FSCminutes/PTRforum/PTRforum.htm State’s elderly population increasing, study says

BY DAVID BALDWIN

A recent report from UConn demographers shows that Connecticut’s rapidly aging population is growing increasingly dependent on a dwindling workforce.

The state’s dependency ratio – the ratio of non-working people (ages 0-19 and 65 and older) per 100 workers (ages 20-64) – will increase from 68.5 in 2000 to 70.3 in 2010, according to a report by the Connecticut State Data Center. The Center is part of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. State projections from the U.S. Census Bureau forecast that by 2010, Connecticut will have the ninth highest percentage of people aged 65 and older in the country. "These demographic shifts present challenges for both the state and Connecticut employers," the report says, "because there will be an increasingly small proportion of the workforce at the same time that an increasingly larger aging population is exiting the workforce and looking for retirement benefits." The report, “Projected Population in 2010 for Congressional Districts in Connecticut,” provides demographic projections for the state’s five Congressional districts in 2010. The Data Center notes that the changing demographics of four of the state’s Congressional Districts – 1, 3, 4, and 5 – are mostly consistent with national trends. Hispanic Americans are the largest minority group statewide, and are projected to be the largest and youngest group entering the workforce. Asian Americans, however, are the fastest growing minority group in the state.

The report notes that the ethnic composition of District 2 – most of Eastern Connecticut – differs from statewide trends, with South Asian Indian and mainland Chinese projected to outnumber Hispanics, the report says. In another divergence from statewide trends, in District 3, African Americans are the largest minority group, whereas in Districts 1, 4, and 5, Hispanics are the largest minority group.

“This report provides public policy makers in Connecticut with important demographic data for the state,” said Orlando Rodriguez, a demographer and manager of the Connecticut State Data Center based at UConn. "We are releasing the report now to highlight that only one year remains before the next decennial census." The rise in the state’s dependency ratio is due primarily to an increasing population of white retirees, ages 65 or over, which is occurring at the same time the population of children ages 0-19 is decreasing, the report says.

Independently, data from the State Department of Education show a second consecutive year of decline in the number of children in grades 1-12. Enrollment in grades 1-12 has declined by 8,792 since October 2006. These data are consistent with the projections of the Connecticut State Data Center. People in the state’s elderly dependent population will be, in many cases, retiring and living on fixed or reduced incomes, the report notes. Although Connecticut in 2000 had the 2nd highest median income in the nation, by 2009 it had dropped to 4th, behind Maryland, New Jersey, and Alaska. In addition, the increase in the size of the retiree population may be greater than previously forecast, due to the concurrent and simultaneous increase in demand and utilization of health services,” the report concludes. And while the population of the race may not be unique to Connecticut, the report warns, “The state will be among the first to experience the changes, due to the size of its elderly population and the decreasing number of children.”

Alert system test April 14

On Tuesday, April 14 at 12:20 p.m., the University will conduct a test of all components of the Alert Notification System. This test will include sirens and code blue phones on the Storrs and Depot Campuses, text messages, e-mail, the alert banner system on University web pages, and voice mail and/or recorded messages on the telephone emergency line 860-486-3768.

After the test, faculty, staff, and students based at the Storrs campus will receive an e-mail with a link to a survey about the test. Feedback from this survey will be critical in evaluating the effectiveness of the Alert Notification System test.

Many components of the University’s Alert Notification System have been recently upgraded, as the University continues its work to ensure that the system is as effective as possible for communicating during an actual emergency.

Future tests of some or all of the components of the system will be conducted as necessary, with a full test occurring at least once each semester. Sirens, blue phones, and other message systems at the regional campuses will be tested on a future date.

Test messages are sent to all students, faculty, and staff at all campuses who have registered their cell phones. Those who have not yet done so may register their cell phone at any time at www.alert.uconn.edu. In order to be part of the April 14 test, cell phones must be registered no later than April 13 at midnight. If an actual emergency occurs, information will be available at www.alert.uconn.edu.
Health Center transitioning to electronic medical records

BY CHRIS DEFRANCOSE

Starting next month, patient care providers at the Health Center's John Dempsey Hospital will have electronic access to patients' medical records.

The Health Center is preparing to introduce eHIMS, which stands for "electronic Health Information Management System."

"This will give our health care providers password-protected online access to all-inclusive hospital-based medical records for discharged patients and hospital-based ancillary testing from anywhere," says Elena Ahnini, director of health information management. "Our goal is to have records scanned into the eHIMS system within 24 hours of discharge, and they will be instantly accessible once scanned."

A patient's eHIMS record will include his or her entire chart as it currently exists in paper format, including all handwritten documents, dictated reports, and electronically fed reports. It will be considered that patient's legal medical record after discharge.

"The patient's chart will always be accessible," says Dr. Richard Simon, chief of the medical staff. "No more trips to Medical Records, and no more waiting for medical records to be pulled."

Paperless records also allow simultaneous access to patient information, editing of dictated reports, completion of incomplete records, and signature approvals, which will be done electronically and remotely.

"In the dark hours of the night, being able to immediately access data from prior hospital stays is priceless," says Dr. Daniel McNally, who chairs the Health Center's Health Information Management Committee. "With this we will be able to access our hospital records and hospital-based services data whenever it's needed, and not have to count on someone finding a chart. That's a big safety issue."

Handwritten documents in the patient's record, such as progress notes, flow sheets, nursing notes, assessments, advance directives, and care plans, will be scanned.

Other documents that will be part of a patient's eHIMS record include discharge summaries, operative reports, lab reports, pathology reports, and anatomic pathology reports.

"We have tremendously more information about a patient in one place than doctors in the community do," McNally says. "We have a unique integrated system here, where we can access all the care someone gets at UConn. While the rest of the world is talking about demonstrations of portable records, we and our patients are lucky to work in a system where we can access this information so easily."

"Preparation for the changeover to the eHIMS system will involve training for about 750 people, most of them physicians who will take a 15-minute online tutorial. Other health care providers, such as nurses, nurse managers, medical assistants, unit clerks, practice managers, therapists, and certain ancillary staff will attend an hour-long classroom session."

"We will like this," McNally says. "They can sign their charts, complete them, edit them, all electronically. Everything will be up to date. Everything will be available."

Adds Simon, "It will make their life easier. There's not much of a learning curve. The system is very intuitive."

Beyond the Health Center, the concept of going paperless with medical records fits into a broader plan to improve the American health care system.

"Ultimately the gain in the global sense will be interchangeability among hospitals," says Simon, "and the ability to encode and to create portable patient records."

More information about eHIMS is available at http://ehims.uchc.edu. 

Pharmacy students help physicians manage patients' medications

BY COLIN PIRNAS

With recent studies showing one in three older adults taking at least five prescription drugs and half regularly using dietary supplements or over-the-counter drugs, the need for proper medication management has become a critical health issue in Connecticut and elsewhere.

Students and faculty in the School of Pharmacy are doing their part by stepping up to help physicians manage their patients' medications to avoid potentially dangerous drug interactions and make sure patients are complying with their medication directives to improve their health.

At four locations around the state, pharmacy faculty and students are working alongside primary care physicians in helping manage underserved, uninsured patients suffering from persistent health problems. The patients often have multiple chronic illnesses that are being treated with several medications and require regular medication management, says Marie Smith, head of the pharmacy practice department in the School of Pharmacy.

The students participate during their final year of the Doctor of Pharmacy degree program. By then, they have already completed five years of academic coursework in pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, pharmacotherapeutics, patient communication, and health care systems.

Toward a model program

The doctors and patients appreciate the help.

"The primary care model is broken," Smith says. "Doctors are overwhelmed and have limited time to manage complex medication regimens, learn about actual prescribed and non-prescribed medication use at home, detect drug interactions, and determine patient factors affecting medication compliance."

"UConn is helping build a model program that incorporates a pharmacist's expertise in medication management into a practical primary care system," she adds.

Individuals with diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, cardiovascular disease, asthma, chronic pain due to arthritis or osteoporosis, and those participating in smoking cessation programs are just some of the patients ideally suited for this kind of medication therapy management, Smith says.

Nearly 71 percent of physician office visits involve some form of medication management, according to the 2006 National Ambulatory Medical Survey. A study published in the December 2008 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association shows that an estimated 175,000 adults age 65 and older will visit the emergency room this year for treatment due to adverse drug reactions. A separate study by researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago showed that for every dollar spent by hospitals or health systems on clinical pharmacy services, $4.81 was saved through lower drug costs, fewer adverse drug events, and fewer medication errors.

Meeting with patients

While clinical pharmacy services have been around since the late 1970's, expanded pharmacy practice through primary care and medication management is becoming increasingly common. UConn is working with the Connecticut Pharmacists Association and other groups to expand the clinical pharmacist model to improve health care in other venues across the state. Advocates of the model say it could greatly improve health care delivery in hospitals, doctors' offices, community pharmacies, nursing homes, and other facilities.

Unlike traditional pharmacy services, in which a pharmacist dispenses medications, clinical pharmacists get more involved in patient care.

In UConn's model programs, Pharm.D. students – closely supervised by on-site faculty instructors – meet face-to-face with patients to make sure they have the right medication and are taking the prescribed dose. They also make sure that the patients aren't taking any prescription medications or over-the-counter drugs that may interact with other medications, and provide feedback to doctors, nurses, and patients about possible lower-cost alternatives.

The pharmacy students, with their particular expertise, review the medication lists, medical problems, and laboratory data in the patient's medical charts before their scheduled appointments. A list of medication-related problems and areas for improvement is then presented to the patient's physician. Patients can also be referred by their primary care providers to pharmacist-led programs such as smoking cessation, cardiovascular risk management, a comprehensive medication review, and medication compliance programs, all initiated and maintained by UConn's School of Pharmacy faculty and students. Documentation of all patient care is incorporated into the patient's permanent medical record so it can be shared with other healthcare professionals involved in the patient's care.

The four Connecticut sites where UConn student and faculty do this work are: Providence Career andTechnical Center at the Mt. Sinai Campus of St. Francis Hospital and Health Center in Hartford; the Brownstone Clinic at Hartford Hospital in Hartford; the Community Health Center in Meriden; and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in West Haven. Plans are under way to expand the program to the Community Health Center in New Britain in the near future.
New dean of social work puts focus on cultural competency

BY COLIN PRITIAS
When Salome Raheim learned that a UConn diversity training program scheduled for the School of Social Work conflicted with the Jewish holiday of Passover, she wasted little time getting the training changed to a more appropriate date.

Raheim’s actions sent a clear message to her faculty and staff that, as the School’s new dean, she takes her commitment to diversity seriously.

Those who know Raheim from her days at the University of Iowa, where she was director of Iowa’s School of Social Work, say they were not surprised by that account. During Raheim’s 11 years in Iowa, she earned a national reputation for her expertise in building diversity and cultural competency.

“Raheim is a mission Raheim,” says Ronald Sabatelli, professor and head of the Department of Human Development and Family Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. “She understands the value of diversity and cultural competency and she’s done it for 11 years at the University of Iowa. She is driven by her commitment to diversity, and she has always been that way.”

While the School of Social Work already has a good record in terms of diversity – approximately one third of its students, faculty, and staff are members of underrepresented racial or ethnic groups – there is always room to do more, Raheim says.

“At this diversity of this school, this is just the beginning. As our career moves forward and we get back and as we work to increase the diversity of all people, not just of students, but of the faculty and the staff, we also have to work to increase the diversity of the faculty,” she says.

That’s why, Raheim says, she and Raheim’s editorial board have decided to publish a diversity-focused special issue in its journal, Social Work and Education.

“I was interested in studying those different aspects of human development and the family,” says Sabatelli, professor and head of the Department of Human Development and Family Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

“It’s a fascinating field.”

Much of his work over the last 28 years has been in assessment and measurement, an area where he has been a mentor to dozens of doctoral students. He has developed measures to assess the quality of marital relationships that are used by therapists and in basic research around the world, as well as measures to assess the construct of family functioning. Sabatelli has also researched intimate relationships, divorce trends, parent-child dynamics, and adolescent individuality.

As senior research associate at UConn’s Center for Applied Research in Human Development, his recent work has focused on the evaluation of youth programs in the state’s urban communities. The Center, a joint venture between the Department of Human Development and Family Studies and the Cooperative Extension System, seeks to provide assistance to state and community-based agencies in the development, delivery, and evaluation of human service programs.

“We want to help them improve their programs and ensure that they promote youth development,” Sabatelli says. He develops survey questionnaires for therapists that help providers understand whether their programs are effective.

Sabatelli uses his strong background in social science and measurement in his work. “I’m very committed to applied scholarship,” he says. “I think the development of program assessment devices – the research tools themselves – is an important contribution to making a difference in adolescents’ lives.”

He has also been significant in meeting funders’ demands for accountability.

Sabatelli was recently honored for his professional accomplishments by being named a Fellow of the National Council on Family Relations. Fellows are nominated by their peers and selected for their outstanding contributions to the field of family studies.


And the Zachs Chair in Social Work, says the School’s new academic plan illustrates Raheim’s distinctive leadership style. “Dean Raheim respected existing structures and processes and engaged all constituencies,” he says. “The outcome is a dynamic academic plan in which everyone has a sense of ownership.”

Raheim is a centered and positive person for whom being fair and principled is an essential quality of her leadership.”

National presence

Nancy Humphreys, a professor of policy practice, has known and worked with Raheim nationally for years. She praises the new dean for her “quiet, but forceful and thoughtful leadership style.”

Raheim was recently nominated to become the next president of the Council on Social Work Education, a nonprofit national association representing more than 3,000 individual members, as well as graduate and undergraduate programs of professional social work education. The council is the sole accrediting agency for social work education in the U.S.

Raheim has served on the council’s board of directors and was chosen as the council’s 2007 Carl A. Scott Memorial Lecturer for her contributions to social and economic justice. A native of Baltimore, Md., Raheim began her career as a social worker in Prince George’s County, Md. Her research interests include cultural competence, social justice, human rights, social and economic development, and organization and community practice.

Family studies professor specializes in assessment, measurement

BY SHERRY FISHER
Ronald Sabatelli describes his interests as eclectic.

“I’ve conducted research on many different aspects of human development and the family,” says Sabatelli, professor and head of the Department of Human Development and Family Studies and the Cooperative Extension System, seeks to provide assistance to state and community-based agencies in the development, delivery, and evaluation of human service programs.

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When Salome Raheim learned that a UConn diversity training program scheduled for the School of Social Work conflicted with the Jewish holiday of Passover, she wasted little time getting the training changed to a more appropriate date.

Raheim’s actions sent a clear message to her faculty and staff that, as the School’s new dean, she takes her commitment to diversity seriously.

Those who know Raheim from her days at the University of Iowa, where she was director of Iowa’s School of Social Work, say they were not surprised by that account. During Raheim’s 11 years in Iowa, she earned a national reputation for her expertise in building diversity and cultural competency.

“Raheim is a mission Raheim,” says Ronald Sabatelli, professor and head of the Department of Human Development and Family Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. “She understands the value of diversity and cultural competency and she’s done it for 11 years at the University of Iowa. She is driven by her commitment to diversity, and she has always been that way.”

While the School of Social Work already has a good record in terms of diversity – approximately one third of its students, faculty, and staff are members of underrepresented racial or ethnic groups – there is always room to do more, Raheim says.

“At this diversity of this school, this is just the beginning. As our career moves forward and we get back and as we work to increase the diversity of all people, not just of students, but of the faculty and the staff, we also have to work to increase the diversity of the faculty,” she says.

That’s why, Raheim says, she and Raheim’s editorial board have decided to publish a diversity-focused special issue in its journal, Social Work and Education.

“I was interested in studying those different aspects of human development and the family,” says Sabatelli, professor and head of the Department of Human Development and Family Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

“It’s a fascinating field.”

Much of his work over the last 28 years has been in assessment and measurement, an area where he has been a mentor to dozens of doctoral students. He has developed measures to assess the quality of marital relationships that are used by therapists and in basic research around the world, as well as measures to assess the construct of family func- tioning. Sabatelli has also researched intimate relationships, divorce trends, parent-child dynamics, and adolescent individuality.

As senior research associate at UConn’s Center for Applied Research in Human Development, his recent work has focused on the evaluation of youth programs in the state’s urban communities. The Center, a joint venture between the Department of Human Development and Family Studies and the Cooperative Extension System, seeks to provide assistance to state and community-based agencies in the development, delivery, and evaluation of human service programs.

“We want to help them improve their programs and ensure that they promote youth development,” Sabatelli says. He develops survey questionnaires for therapists that help providers understand whether their programs are effective.

Sabatelli uses his strong background in social science and measurement in his work. “I’m very committed to applied scholarship,” he says. “I think the development of program assessment devices – the research tools themselves – is an important contribution to making a difference in adolescents’ lives.”

He has also been significant in meeting funders’ demands for accountability.

Sabatelli was recently honored for his professional accomplishments by being named a Fellow of the National Council on Family Relations. Fellows are nominated by their peers and selected for their outstanding contributions to the field of family studies.


And the Zachs Chair in Social Work, says the School’s new academic plan illustrates Raheim’s distinctive leadership style. “Dean Raheim respected existing structures and processes and engaged all constituencies,” he says. “The outcome is a dynamic academic plan in which everyone has a sense of ownership.”

Raheim is a centered and positive person for whom being fair and principled is an essential quality of her leadership.”

National presence

Nancy Humphreys, a professor of policy practice, has known and worked with Raheim nationally for years. She praises the new dean for her “quiet, but forceful and thoughtful leadership style.”

Raheim was recently nominated to become the next president of the Council on Social Work Education, a nonprofit national association representing more than 3,000 individual members, as well as graduate and undergraduate programs of professional social work education. The council is the sole accrediting agency for social work education in the U.S.

Raheim has served on the council’s board of directors and was chosen as the council’s 2007 Carl A. Scott Memorial Lecturer for her contributions to social and economic justice. A native of Baltimore, Md., Raheim began her career as a social worker in Prince George’s County, Md. Her research interests include cultural competence, social justice, human rights, social and economic development, and organization and community practice.
The following grants were received through the UConn Health Center’s Office of Grants and Contracts in January 2009. The list represents new awards as well as continuations. The list is supplied to the Advance by the Office of Grants and Contracts.

### Federal Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PI/Department</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Award Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ford, J.</td>
<td>Psychiatry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gryk, M.</td>
<td>Molecular, Microbial &amp; Structural Biology</td>
<td>National Institute of General Medical Sciences</td>
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<td>Gundt, A.</td>
<td>Genetics &amp; Developmental Biology</td>
<td>National Institute of Allergy &amp; Infectious Diseases</td>
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<td>Hesselbrock, V.</td>
<td>Psychiatry</td>
<td>National Institute of Mental Health</td>
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<td>Heath, S.</td>
<td>Neuroscience</td>
<td>National Institute of Neurological Disorders &amp; Stroke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laurencin, C.</td>
<td>Orthopedics</td>
<td>U.S. Army</td>
<td>$258,480</td>
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#### Development of a Novel Injectable Controlled-Release System for Pain Management

- Liaw Francois, L. | Immunology | National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases | $333,000 | 12/07-12/11 |
- Setlow, P. | Molecular, Microbial & Structural Biology | U.S. Army | $144,520 | 07/07-10/09 |
- Weller, S. | Molecular, Microbial & Structural Biology | National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases | $253,759 | 01/06-12/09 |
- Yu, J. | Center for Cell Analysis & Modeling | National Institute of General Medical Sciences | $278,446 | 01/09-12/09 |

### Private Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PI/Department</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Award Period</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albertson, P.</td>
<td>Surgery</td>
<td>University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bona, R.</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>Institutionally Funded</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chhabra, A.</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>Breast Cancer Alliance</td>
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<td>Cloutier, M.</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>CT Children’s Medical Center</td>
<td>$85,205</td>
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<td>Cloutier, M.</td>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
<td>CT Children’s Medical Center</td>
<td>$35,776</td>
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<td>Diackhoos, K.</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>Vanderbilt University</td>
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<td>*Hita, T.</td>
<td>Center for Vascular Biology</td>
<td>Vanderbilt University</td>
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<td>*Kenny, A.</td>
<td>Center on Aging</td>
<td>Yale University</td>
<td>$188,752</td>
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<td>*Mayer, B.</td>
<td>Genetics &amp; Developmental Biology</td>
<td>Yale University</td>
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<td>*Otsmiste, T.</td>
<td>Pathology</td>
<td>University of Georgia</td>
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<td>*Pappagallis, M.</td>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
<td>University of Pittsburgh</td>
<td>$2,850</td>
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<td>Pilbeam, C.</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>American Society for Bone &amp; Mineral Research</td>
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### State Grants

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<th>PI/Department</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
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<th>Award Period</th>
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<tr>
<td>*Brenner, B.</td>
<td>Surgery</td>
<td>National Surgical Oncology Foundation of America</td>
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<td>Clark, S.</td>
<td>Genetics &amp; Developmental Biology</td>
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<td>*Cocker, S.</td>
<td>Neuroscience</td>
<td>National Multiple Sclerosis Society</td>
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<td>*Dolan, R.</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>University of Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>*Loew, L.</td>
<td>Center for Cell Analysis</td>
<td>National Institute of General Medical Sciences</td>
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<td>*Maulik, N.</td>
<td>Surgery</td>
<td>National Heart, Lung &amp; Blood Institute</td>
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<td>*Robison, J.</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>Adjuvant Breast &amp; Bowel Project</td>
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<td>*Robison, J.</td>
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<td>University of California</td>
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<td>*Rosen, R.</td>
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<td>University of Massachusetts</td>
<td>$103,000</td>
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<td>*Sylvestre, J.</td>
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<td>Community Medicine &amp; Health</td>
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<td>*Tennant, H.</td>
<td>Community Medicine &amp; Health</td>
<td>Duke University</td>
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### Federal Grants

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<th>Amount</th>
<th>Award Period</th>
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<tr>
<td>Arnold, A.</td>
<td>Molecular Medicine</td>
<td>National Institute of Diabetes &amp; Digestive &amp; Kidney Diseases</td>
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<td>Elper, E.</td>
<td>Neuroscience</td>
<td>National Institute of Diabetes &amp; Digestive &amp; Kidney Diseases</td>
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<td>Heinen, C.</td>
<td>Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center</td>
<td>National Cancer Institute</td>
<td>$221,112</td>
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</table>

### Grants to Support Research Projects

- **Federal Grants**
  - **Breaking the Cycle III: Women Overcoming & Managing Adversity Now (WOMAN) Study**
  - **CONNUR: A Software Integration Platform for Biomolecular NMR Spectroscopy**
  - **Multifunctional Class I Transcription in T. Broccoli**
  - **Etiology and Treatment of Alcohol Dependence**
  - **Excitotoxicity and Inflammation**
  - **Tissue Repair, Maintenance, Scars and Inflammation**
  - **Development of a Novel Injectable Controlled-Release System for Pain Management**

- **Private Grants**
  - **Isolating a High Avidity Breast Cancer Marker**
  - **Role of Viral and Cellular Replication Proteins in HIV DNA Replication**
  - **Bacterial Cytoskeletal Structures and Dynamics at Single-Molecule Level**

- **State Grants**
  - **Impact of the Ablation of TGF-Beta Signaling and SPARC Protein on the Fibrotic Phenotype in the TSK2 Mouse Model**
  - **Optimization of T-Cell Transduction with a Melanoma Epitope-Specific TCR**
  - **Investigating the Role of TIP1-1 in CNS Demyelination and Repair**
  - **Identification of a New Tool for the Study of the RANKL Axis in the Osteoimmune System**
  - **Surveillance of the RADARS System by Pulsion Control Centers**
  - **Optimization of T-Cell Transduction with a Melanoma Epitope-Specific TCR**
  - **Acute Antigenic Response Against Breast Milk Milk Mammary Gland T-Cells**
  - **Costs of Criminal Justice Involvement Among Persons with Severe Mental Illness in CT**

- **Contracts in January 2009**
  - The list represents new awards as well as continuations.
Monday, April 13, to Monday, April 20

**COURSES**

Monday, April 13

**ECONOMICS**
- 3 p.m., Room 103, Marine Sciences Building, Avery Point Campus. Thursday, 4/17 – Physics Lecture. "Super Parallelism in the CBA Sea," by Manuel de Llanos, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico. 4 p.m., Room P211, Gant Science Complex.

Tuesday, April 14


Wednesday, April 15

- 2 p.m., Room 27, Business Hall. Friday, 4/17 – Linguistics Colloquium. "Embeddings, Relatively Speaking," by Maria Polinsky. Harvard University. 4 p.m., Room 311, Aeron Student Union.

Thursday, April 16

- 3 p.m., Room 103, Marine Sciences Building, Avery Point Campus. Friday, 4/17 – Physics Colloquium. "Strange Beauty and Other Embarrassments," by Robin Greeley. 4 p.m., Benton Museum of Art. 8 p.m., von der Mehden Recital Hall.

Friday, April 17

- 4 p.m., Benton Museum of Art. "Anatomically Correct: The Life and Art of Andreas Vesalius," part of the exhibit "Italian Renaissance: The Art of the Middle Ages to 1530." Reception to follow. Friday, 4/17 – Student Recital. 4 p.m., Room P38, Marine Sciences Complex.

Saturday, April 18

- 10 a.m., Room 301, Fenton Hall. Friday, 4/17 – Chamber Music. "Raising Poultry at Home," Wayne Billingsley, Extension. 3 p.m., Room 27, Business Hall.

Sunday, April 19


Monday, April 20


Tuesday, April 21


Wednesday, April 22


Thursday, April 23


Friday, April 24


Saturday, April 25

- 10 a.m., Room 301, Fenton Hall. Friday, 4/17 – Chamber Music. "Raising Poultry at Home," Wayne Billingsley, Extension. 3 p.m., Room 27, Business Hall.

Sunday, April 26


Monday, April 27


Tuesday, April 28


Wednesday, April 29


Thursday, April 30


Friday, May 1


Saturday, May 2

- 10 a.m., Room 301, Fenton Hall. Friday, 4/17 – Chamber Music. "Raising Poultry at Home," Wayne Billingsley, Extension. 3 p.m., Room 27, Business Hall.

Sunday, May 3


Monday, May 4


Tuesday, May 5

Professor puts landscape architecture skills to work for UConn professor

BY KAREN A. GRAVA

A faculty member is both teaching his specialty and practicing it at the University.

Mark Westa, a landscape architect and associate professor of plant science in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, spends half of his time on teaching and research and the other half working for the University’s administrative operations unit.

“I practiced for 10 years professionally before I joined academe and I miss it,” Westa says. “But I also enjoy teaching and working with students.”

The arrangement is advantageous to the University as well, since Westa is familiar with the campus, says Thomas Q. Callahan, associate vice president for administration and operations services.

“Mark is the ideal individual to undertake several important projects that will help the University protect students, faculty, and staff, save money, and improve efficiency,” Callahan says. “Under this model, we are using faculty with expertise to provide assistance, rather than seeking outside consultants. It’s a model we would like to use in other areas as well.”

Westa is working on an access study of the Storrs campus, as well as a landscape master plan and site design manual. In short, he is helping the University decide how the campus will look and how it will function.

“Landscape architects are trained much like architects,” he says. “Architects look at how people interact with space inside. Landscape architects look at how people interact with the world outside. We are interested in making places that are safe and function well, but also that add interest, beauty, and meaning to everyday life.”

One of his projects, for which the firm of Chance Management Advisors Inc. of Philadelphia is doing the research, is to improve access management of the Storrs campus.

The study includes how and when U.S. Postal Service, FedEx, UPS, Coke, 53-foot delivery trucks, and other trucks enter campus, cross sidewalks, and pull up to loading docks. Sometimes there are so many trucks at the loading docks that they are three deep, waiting for their turn.

“We’re concerned about the trucks interacting with pedestrians,” Westa says, “so we want to look at changing the routing of the trucks and perhaps the timing of the deliveries to increase efficiency and safety.”

The project involves observing the deliveries and studying where roadways could be altered to protect students and other pedestrians.

The landscape master plan will eventually include that information and other details that will help catalogue how the campus will look and function, he says. It may call for realignment of roads, limiting the number of crosswalks, or installing or moving sidewalks to make traversing campus safer.

“Safety is our first concern,” he says.

Another concern is attractive plantings that don’t require a lot of time to maintain. The plan will suggest landscaping that will be easy to care for, and will specify trees, plants, bushes, and other plantings that need minimum maintenance but provide maximum beauty.

“The study will also look at issues such as mowing and plowing, and recommend steps that can save time and money. Snow plowing is a major undertaking that is sometimes made more difficult because of a slope, the placement of a curb, or the width of a sidewalk, says Westa. Over time, adjustments will be made, ‘and, as we buy new equipment, we will phase in the equipment that is the most efficient.’

Making all the changes in the plans will take many years, Westa notes. But the long-term results will provide a safer campus that is more efficient to run, as well as being more interesting and attractive.

Mathematics and love coupled in professor’s book of poetry

BY SHERRY FISHER

Mathematics and poetry are two of Sarah Glaz’s passions. They are melded together in her new book, Strange Attractors, Poems of Love and Mathematics.

The book is co-edited by A. K. Peters Ltd., is an anthology of about 150 poems that are strongly connected to mathematics in form, content, or imagery, says Glaz, a professor of mathematics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The collection includes poetry from all around the world, some in translation, and spans about 3,000 years. In addition to works by noted poets and scientists, the book also contains material by Glaz.

Love is the common theme of the poems in Strange Attractors. The first chapter focuses on romantic love between two people, while the poems in the second chapter are about love of family, nature, and life, and spiritual love.

The last chapter centers on love for mathematics and mathematicians.

The book is co-edited by mathematician JoAnne Growney. Glaz, whose mother read poetry to her as a child, says she started enjoying poetry before she even knew how to count.

“I’ve been fascinated with it all my life,” she says. “I’ve been collecting poems with mathematical connections for as long as I can remember.”

Glaz and Growney came to write the book after several years of e-mail correspondence. Their relationship began when Glaz found a chapbook — a pocket-sized booklet — of poetry with a mathematical theme that Growney had published.

“I contacted her and we corresponded via e-mail for several years before deciding to write the book together,” Glaz says. “We met for the first time this January at a mathematics conference, where we celebrated the book’s publication.”

Glaz says finding poetry for the book was easy: “Both of us had large collections of poems with links to mathematics. Choosing the poems was the bigger problem.”

Many poets use mathematical language to express love, Glaz says. “I think that any strong emotion makes you feel you don’t have enough words to express it. Searching for new ways of expression leads some poets to the language of mathematics.”

In a poem from “Five Poems about Zero,” Erika Salvaggio writes about losing love: Zero is a number of yearning.

In your absence, I have nothing.

But it’s mine.

“Sacifice and Bliss,” a poem by Kaz Maslanka, is in the form of a mathematical equation. “The equation-poem involves the mathematical notion of a limit,” Glaz explains. “It can be ‘translated’ into words by saying that the relation between ego and love in a relationship is inversely proportional. As ego approaches zero, love grows to infinity.”

Glaz says the book also contains a few “humorous, goofy” poems. Katharine O’Brien writes in her poem “Valentine”:

You disintegrate my differential,

you dislocate my focus.

My pulse goes up like an exponential

whenever you cross my locus.

Glaz, who wrote a poem called “Calculus” says her poem is about the passionate, early history of calculus. “It’s something I tell my students when I teach them calculus — the story of Newton versus Leibniz,” she says.

Mathematics is much like art, Glaz says: “I love to teach and I love doing research in mathematics. I think that proving a theorem and writing a poem come from the same place. You need to create, to discover, to look for a truth, to look at a pattern, and then enjoy it when it appears, and, of course, share it with students.”

“Mathematical publications are for the initiated,” she says. “They are read by the few hundred people around the world who work in the same research area.”

Strange Attractors, on the other hand, is an interdisciplinary work touching on mathematics, poetry, and history. In addition to the collection of poems, it includes bibliographical information for further exploration of the links between mathematics and poetry, and biographical information on the contributors and on the mathematicians appearing in the poems.

“It was exhilarating to work on such a project,” Glaz says. “I hope the book brings poetry to mathematicians and some love of mathematics to poets. I hope people from many disciplines enjoy it.”

For more information about the book, and a sample of poems, Glaz invites you to visit her web page: www.math.uconn.edu/~glaz

April is National Poetry Month and Mathematics Awareness Month.