Uphold goals, says Hogan in State of University address

BY ELIZABETH OMARA-DUNLU
President Michael Hogan has reaffirmed the University’s commitment to its strategic goals despite the difficult economic climate.

Speaking to an audience of faculty, staff, and students during his first State of the University address on April 20, Hogan said, “Our first priority is to preserve the exceptional standard of education we’ve all worked so hard to achieve.”

He said the Academic Plan will guide the difficult decisions that must be made, and predicted that by adhering to the vision outlined in the plan, the University will emerge from the current financial constraints stronger.

Hogan said the University has been particularly hard hit by the state budget cuts because, by comparison with many other public universities “where tuition long ago surpassed state appropriations as the major source of revenue,” UConn receives a relatively high percentage – 34 percent – of its funding from the state.

“The generosity of the state in funding over one-third of our operation means that we feel any cut in our appropriation more deeply than most,” he said.

Thanks to the cost-saving recommendations of the CORE task force and to careful planning at the time of the 3 percent rescission in the fall, Hogan said, the University has been able to cope with the recent rescission of an additional 2 percent of the current state budget.

Although some have hoped the federal stimulus package might help the University, the package is essentially a “two-year bridging program,” he said. “It’s not a permanent solution for state budget cuts that are basically permanent.” The stimulus funds may buy some time, but they won’t eliminate the need to make some difficult choices, he added.

He noted that other sources of revenue, such as private fund-raising and auxiliary services, have limited potential to offset cuts in state funding; research funding is growing.

Three faculty named Distinguished Professors

BY COLIN POITRAS & CINDY WEISS
Two faculty members in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and one in the School of Pharmacy have been named Board of Trustees Distinguished Professors.

Those receiving the honor in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences were: Diane Lillo-Martin, a professor of linguistics and former department head; and Gregory Anderson, a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology who stepped down last year as vice provost for research and graduate education and dean of the Graduate School.

Anderson is currently serving a one-year appointment as graduate dean in residence at the Council of Graduate Schools and the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C.

In the School of Pharmacy, Diane Burgess, a national expert in drug delivery systems and a professor of pharmaceutics, is now a distinguished professor.

The board announced the honors April 21 in recognition of the professors’ “exceptional distinction in scholarship, teaching, and service while at UConn.”

Lillo-Martin studies how children acquire their native language. Her latest research focuses on young children who are learning both spoken and sign language, so-called “bimodal bilinguals.”

Some children have two deaf parents who sign, and those youngsters do not have difficulty acquiring spoken as well as sign language, she says.

“They are amazing in their ability to go back and forth with languages – they learn so much, so fast,” says Lillo-Martin, who came to UConn in 1986 and serves as editor-in-chief of the journal Language Acquisition.

Lillo-Martin also has a new project studying language acquisition by deaf children with a cochlear implant, a surgically implanted electronic device that provides a sense of sound to those who are deaf or profoundly hard of hearing.

Sign language can actually help children learn spoken language, she theorizes; deaf
Founder of Natural History Museum dies

Carl Rettenmeyer, professor emeritus of ecology and evolutionary biology died April 9. He was 78.

Rettenmeyer, who lived in Storrs, joined the UConn faculty in 1952 and retired in 1996. Internationally recognized for his research on New World army ants, he also produced a DVD on the subject.

Rettenmeyer was founding director of the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History. During his years at UConn, he taught courses in biology, social insects, and photography for biologists. Gregory Anderson, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, says Rettenmeyer was always “bigger than life. He knew more, worked harder, he did more, he cared more than almost everyone — often everyone combined.”

Anderson says that it was Rettenmeyer’s energy and that of his wife, Marian, that “made” the Museum of Natural History. The museum opened in 1985.

He adds, “Carl was a world class naturalist, and one of the last great comprehensive naturalists in the world. He was a mentor and a role model for so many for so much.”

Rettenmeyer completed his undergraduate work at Swarthmore College and earned his Ph.D. from the University of Kansas in 1962. He taught there from 1960 to 1971. He was an officer in many professional societies. At UConn he served on the University Senate from 1989 to 1990, and was the executive officer of the Biological Sciences Group at UConn from 1983 to 1985. He authored and co-authored many scientific papers about social insects, and had his photographs published in many books and magazines.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Marian, his daughter Susan, his son Ron, and four grandchildren. A memorial service will take place on May 30, at 11 a.m. at Storrs Congregational Church, at the corner of Route 195 and North Eagleville Road. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Carl Rettenmeyer to the American Cancer Society or another charity of choice.

Former head of animal science dies

William “Al” Allen Cowan, professor emeritus and former head of the animal science department in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, died April 4. He was 88.

Cowan, of Storrs, joined the UConn faculty in 1952 and retired in 1985. He worked with livestock production and breeding. Cowan earned his bachelor’s degree in animal husbandry from the University of Massachusetts in 1942. He joined the faculty there after serving in the U.S. Navy. He earned his master’s degree in 1948 and his Ph.D. in 1952 from the University of Minnesota.

After retirement, he continued to work in an advisory capacity. He was the author or co-author of more than 184 publications and reports in scientific journals, popular journals and briefs. Cameron Faustman, associate dean of academic programs in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, says Cowan was a “tremendous supporter of undergraduate education and Connecticut agriculture. He touched the lives of many, many students, and believed very much in the concept of experiential learning.”

Faustman adds, “His dedication to his department, college, and university were remarkable and continued long after he retired. He will be missed.”

Ian Hart, associate dean for research and advanced studies in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, says Cowan was “incredibly helpful” to him when he became head of the animal science department. “He was like a mentor and I enjoyed his company,” says Hart.

Cowan was a member of the American Society of Animal Science and was awarded its most prestigious Honorary Fellow Award in 1994. He was appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture as director of the National Cattlemen’s Beef Promotion and Research Board. He also served on the Connecticut Governor’s Council for the Development of Agricultural Industry.

A strong supporter of the Working Lands Alliance for the protection of Connecticut’s farmland, he was also director of the Connecticut Agricultural Education Foundation, which seeks and administers funds for the benefit of programs that promote Connecticut agriculture through education.

Cowan was predeceased by his wife Ila Fae Hutson Cowan. He is survived by his son Robert and his daughter Carol. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Cowan’s memory to the William Allen Cowan Agriculture Education Fund, c/o New Alliance Bank, 596 Middle Turnpike, Storrs, CT 06268.

UConn police department earns re-accreditation

BY KAREN A. DREW

The University’s Police Department has been re-accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies Inc. (CALEA).

The re-accreditation, effective for the maximum period of three years, was granted after the department demonstrated during a site assessment that it meets the “requirements of the highly regard and broadly recognized body of law enforcement standards,” according to Louis Dekmar, chair of the department.

“The assessors believe the UConn Police Department is an excellent law enforcement agency that is well-equipped and well-trained to perform its function of protecting the safety of the students and faculty at the University of Connecticut,” the report said.

The assessors “were struck by the professionalism and responsiveness of the agency’s personnel,” the report continued. “The agency also has first-class equipment and facilities that are meticulously maintained. The UConn Police Department has an excellent relationship with surrounding law enforcement agencies, and exhibits its commitment to re-accreditation by working closely with the other members of the local accreditation coalition.”

Robert S. Hudd, associate vice president for public and environmental safety and chief of police, notes that the UConn Police Department has been accredited since 2008. This is the third re-accreditation attained by the department since then. Only 15 other police departments in the State of Connecticut, and less than 30 percent nationally, have achieved accreditation through CALEA, a voluntary process.

adds Hudd, “We are gratified that our commitment to the highest standards was evident to the assessors.”

Humans fellows named

The Humanities Institute has announced its fellowship awards for 2009-2010. The recipients are:

Residential Fellowship Award: Naem Mur (Creative Writing – Fiction)

A novel – Welcome to the Hotel of Strangers.

UConn Faculty Falls: Clare Eby (English)


Glen MacLeod (English)

Authenticity in American Art and Literature: From Craft to Copy and the Age of Mechanical Reproduction.

Janet Pritchard (Art & Art History)

Views from Wonderland, an artist’s book.

Glenn Stanley (Music)

Fidelio and the Modern German Identity: Criticism and Performance of a National Cultural Icon.

Jennifer Terni (Modern & Classical Languages)


Graduate Dissertation Fellowships: Jennifer Lynn Holley (English)

The Child Elegy.

Sherry Zane (History)

The Politics of Sex, Scandals and Progressive Reform in Newport, Rhode Island, 1917-1921.
Biomedical engineer studying heart’s response to valve repair

BY NAN COOPER

Wei Sun, an assistant professor of biomedical engineering and mechanical engineering, was recently awarded an American Heart Association National Scientist Development grant of more than $300,000. The grant will support his work to develop accurate biomechanical models that depict how human hearts respond to a heart valve repair procedure called percutaneous transvenous mitral annuloplasty (PTMA).

The research is an extension of ongoing work Sun has been conducting with Dr. Bruce Liang, a professor of cardiology at the UConn Health Center. Through the American Heart Association project, the researchers expect to improve their understanding of the biomechanics involved in PTMA treatment, and to aid in the development of novel, minimally invasive valve repair devices.

Sun says approximately 300,000 heart valve surgeries are performed annually around the world—either whole valve replacement or surgical valve repair. Both procedures require open-heart surgery with cardiopulmonary bypass, risky surgery that makes it desirable to develop less invasive, non-surgical techniques.

One type of heart disease is known as “mitral regurgitation,” a condition in which the mitral valve, located between the left atrium and the left ventricle, fails to close completely, allowing blood to leak backward into the heart. Mitral regurgitation limits the body’s ability to circulate blood efficiently.

PTMA, which involves minimally invasive insertion of a synthetic band or ring into the coronary sinus, was recently developed as an alternative to open heart surgery. A number of companies are developing experimental PTMA devices, and early clinical trials in humans were conducted in 2006 and 2007.

Sun says that dysfunctional performance and fatigue fracture were reported in the trials, possibly as a result of unknown biomechanical interactions between venous tissue, the mitral valve system, and the device.

Through a combination of experimental and computational studies, Sun hopes to better understand the mitral tissue-implant interaction. He and Liang will develop patient-specific computational models of the mitral valve using clinical cardiac images. These models will be used to simulate PTMA device deployment and function under various conditions and to evaluate PTMA device failures.

Policy on rehiring retirees approved by Trustees

BY KAREN A. GRAHA

The Board of Trustees last week approved a policy regarding rehired retirees.

The policy permits rehiring retirees “on a limited basis when the operational requirements and financial benefits outweigh the use of regular, continuing employment categories.”

Appointments will be reviewed every two years for operational necessity and cost effectiveness. The policy allows the University to rehire retirees to meet a variety of needs at a cost savings to the University and the state, said President Michael J. Hogan.

Rehired retirees are limited to working 120 calendar days a year or teaching a load equivalent to 12 credits per year, according to the policy.

Re-employed retirees may not be funded by the General Fund and should be paid a market rate for their services.

“Gov. Rell asked the Board of Trustees to establish and approve a policy that would provide central oversight and approval of the use of retirees, limit the number of years during which a retiree may be re-employed, and limit the number of days a retiree may work in a calendar year,” said Hogan.

“Rehired retirees are experienced and uniquely qualified individuals with proven abilities who help us meet immediate, temporary, and seasonal staffing needs. Our need to retain particular expertise in the classroom or to tap into the knowledge and expertise of former employees who are able to bring external funding to UConn are also met by reemployed retirees.”

Medical school dean to receive honorary degree from Lincoln University

BY CAROLYN PENNINGTON

Dr. Cato Laurencin, vice president for health affairs at the UConn Health Center and dean of the School of Medicine, will receive an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Lincoln University of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and be the school’s keynote speaker during its 150th commencement exercises on May 3.

Lincoln University, chartered in 1854, was the first institution in the world to offer higher education in the arts and sciences for young men of African descent. Since its inception, Lincoln has attracted an interracial and international enrollment.


Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Mrs. Rosa Parks are among past recipients of honorary degrees from Lincoln University.

Correction

An article in the April 20 Advance incorrectly stated that the United States dropped hydrogen bombs on Japan during World War II. The bombs were atomic.
New book examines diversity within South Asian religions

**BY STEFANIE DION-JONES**

Not all scholarly works originate from within the quiet confines of a professor’s office. The idea for a new book co-authored by Bandana Purkayastha, associate professor of sociology and Asian American Studies, surfaced during a lively dinner party in the company of friends.

Among this group of female friends and colleagues, the conversation one evening turned to the portrayal of Hindu and Muslim women in mainstream media, which often generalize these women as oppressed victims of a “non-modern” culture.

Fundamentalist religious groups further distort such perceptions, projecting a narrow, skewed view of servile female devotees, who in reality practice and interpret their religious beliefs in very diverse ways seldom acknowledged in public discussion.

“We said, ‘What about the rest of us?’ Don’t we have something to say about these religions?’” Purkayastha says. “At the end of dinner, we decided to put a book together.”

Living Our Religions: Hindu and Muslim South Asian Americans Narrate Their Experiences (Kumarian Press, 2009) is a collection of deeply personal accounts written by 14 women with roots in one of four South Asian countries – India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan. Each chapter is written from the perspective of a different author, who offers a unique insight into how she “lives” her religion, from early memories and experiences with religious customs to the way she has come to understand and celebrate her religious values today, living in the United States.

“People interpret religion very differently,” Purkayastha says. “The point of the book was to let people say in their own words how they live their religion, whatever that word means to them. And this was the only way of doing it — that is, let people talk, let people take the ownership, let people’s stories go where they need.”

Authors include first- as well as second-generation South Asian Americans whose professions run the gamut from doctors, lawyers, and historians to college professors and students. Their narratives vary greatly, shaped by distinct voices and different nationalities, family histories, levels of education, even the regions in which they live, with authors residing across the United States, in the United Kingdom, Midwest, and West. Among the writers are several UConn faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

As much of the book reveals, the boundaries between religions are surprisingly blurry. In their introduction, Purkayastha and co-author Anjana Narayan, a UConn alum and assistant professor at California State Polytechnic Institute at Pomona, highlight the significant diversity inherent even within a single religion.

“Hinduism,” they write, “does not look the same in different parts of India, Nepal, and Bangladesh; Islam does not appear the same in Pakistan, Bangladesh, and India.”

Author Bidya Ranjiret, for instance, describes her childhood in Nepal, where her community embraced both Hindu and Buddhist traditions. Purkayastha, who grew up in India’s Bengali region, points to examples of religion’s “permeability” within her own life.

In practicing Hindutva, she follows a calendar for religious observances that is in fact based on the Muslim calendar. Meanwhile, her friends from other regions of India use a different religious calendar. “It’s another good example of this blending and blurring,” Purkayastha says. A great deal of diversity exists within any given religion, she adds, but there are also shared variations across regions and local cultures.

In the United States, religion is often perceived as something celebrated almost exclusively in designated places, such as temples, mosques, or churches. Not all religious traditions require this, however. Some authors describe their adherence to certain rituals, others choose to pray at home rather than visit places of worship.

The writers also illustrate how stereotypes about their religions have spilled into other parts of their lives, particularly in the years since Sept. 11, and share insights into how they live their religions in ways that challenge common misperceptions about Hindu and Muslim women.

Ultimately, the book asks its readers to “look to the diversity of religions,” Purkayastha says. “Try to listen to women who practice any religion — not the institutional spokesperson. Look beyond the simplicities and don’t generalize from a handful of cases. These religions are too vast, too diverse and dynamic.”

**Distinguished professors continued from page 1**

Bandana Purkayastha, associate professor of sociology and Asian American studies.

**Photo by Jenessa Tormoahill**

**By Faith**

By Faith is a faith-based, faith-building program launched by Cornerstone Church in 2008 and run by the Graduate School of Professional Psychology, that brings together students from different religious traditions to work together on a service project as a way to develop a shared understanding of and respect for religious diversity.

“By Faith is a very special experience,” says student Jonathan Brackenridge, who co-founded the program with student Jennifer Tichy.

“In doing these projects, I’ve learned so much about a variety of religious experiences,” says Brackenridge.

“I’m more willing to reach out to people with different religious backgrounds now,” he says. “I’ve come to better appreciate the diversity around me.”

**Photo by Jenessa Tormoahill**

**Diane Lillo-Martin**

Diane Lillo-Martin, professor of English, is author of numerous books and articles on the history, theory, and criticism of African-American literature. She has been awarded research grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

In 2006, she was a fellow at the National Humanities Center in North Carolina.

Her research focuses on literature of the African diaspora and her work has spilled into other parts of her life, particularly in the years since Sept. 11, and she shares insights into how she lives her religion in ways that challenge common misperceptions about Muslims.

She has written about women in mainstream media, whose portrayal of Muslims is often generalized and viewing them as oppressed victims. Her work has spilled into other parts of her life, particularly in the years since Sept. 11, and she shares insights into how she lives her religion in ways that challenge common misperceptions about Muslims.

Ultimately, the book asks its readers to “look to the diversity of religions,” Purkayastha says. “Try to listen to women who practice any religion — not the institutional spokesperson. Look beyond the simplicities and don’t generalize from a handful of cases. These religions are too vast, too diverse and dynamic.”

**Photo by Jenessa Tormoahill**

**Diane Burgess**

Diane Burgess is a professor in the Department of Molecular Therapeutics and Medicinal Chemistry and the Center for Biofilm Engineering in the School of Pharmacy.

Burgess’s research focuses on developing strategies for the delivery of bioactive substances. She has been named a fellow of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS), an AAPS fellow, and former president of the association. She is currently president-elect of the Controlled Release Society, an international organization dedicated to the science of delivering bioactive substances.

**Photo by Jenessa Tormoahill**

**Gregory Anderson**

Gregory Anderson is a professor in the School of Pharmacy, with a joint appointment in the School of Engineering. He is director of the Center for Biofilm Engineering and the co-director of the Center for Medical Engineering.

Anderson’s research focuses on developing strategies for the delivery of bioactive substances. He has been named a fellow of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS), an AAPS fellow, and former president of the association. He is currently president-elect of the Controlled Release Society, an international organization dedicated to the science of delivering bioactive substances.
Dean says 21st century agriculture a complex scientific field

BY DAVID BAUMAN

Just before Thanksgiving last year, Gregory Weidemann, the new dean of UConn’s College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, convened a gathering of all 130 members of the faculty. He described the get-together as a “great opportunity to welcome and meet with new members of the College family.” It is a telling gesture about how Weidemann has been winning his welcome at the College: “You can’t start to administer an organization until you get out and get a good feel for its culture,” says Weidemann. “I need to become part of the family before I begin making changes.”

During his first nine months on the job, Weidemann has devoted much of his time to meeting with the faculty, staff, students, alumni, lawmakers, and other stakeholders in Connecticut’s agricultural sector. And he is getting rave reviews. “He couldn’t have started any better,” says lan Hart, the College’s associate dean for research and advanced studies. Hart says the dean has traveled the state “six and a half days a week” to meet all the College’s constituencies: “This is the industry we support and they support us. He has pretty much met with everybody.”

Cameron Faustman, the College’s associate dean for academic programs, says Weidemann is “doing just great,” despite beginning his tenure just as declining budgets imposed “incredible fiscal challenges on the entire University.” Faustman says that a bi-weekly blog the dean uses to communicate “is a great way to let everyone know what’s going on, how he operates, and that he’s approachable.”

Land-grant mission

A native of Wisconsin, Weidemann spent his academic career at two other land-grant universities before coming to UConn. He has a bachelor’s degree in zoology and a Ph.D. in plant pathology from the University of Wisconsin.

As a faculty member in plant pathology at the University of Arkansas, Weidemann became a recognized international authority on plant pathogenic fungi. He also received several teaching awards. He headed the university’s Agricultural Experiment Station for seven years, and in 2002 was appointed as dean of the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food, and Life Sciences.

Weidemann says the UConn College of Agriculture and Natural Resources continues to play a significant role in the University’s land-grant mission: “We have a firm commitment to research, education, and outreach to benefit the citizens, communities, and economic well-being of Connecticut.”

He notes that there is widespread and growing interest in buying locally grown food, eating healthfully, developing green lifestyles, and ensuring the security of the food system. “This enthusiasm provides us a unique opportunity to help transform the state’s food sector,” he says.

Identifying priorities

Weidemann says the College’s priorities include efforts to broaden its programs in environmental sustainability, human nutrition and health, and families and communities – areas that are important to the future of the state.

This focus is reflected in the new strategic plan he helped draft, which includes the goals of expanding undergraduate opportunities for study abroad, recruiting top graduate students, and boosting research in animal health, human nutrition, regenerative and developmental biology, plant biotechnology, horticulture, and land use planning.

The College is also well positioned to play a leadership role in educating people about the complex path food takes from the farm to the fork. Weidemann says: “Your typical consumer doesn’t have any recognition when buying something in the grocery store about how much science has gone into the product they’re purchasing.”

By MAUREEN MCMURRY

Since Dr. Jose Muniz and a handful of others completed the first pediatric residency program at the UConn School of Medicine in 1973, nearly 600 pediatricians have followed in his footsteps. More than 180 are now general pediatricians in Connecticut, and many others, like Muniz, are subspecialists throughout the state and elsewhere.

Muniz has a thriving practice specializing in allergies and immunology in Frederick, Md. He recently visited the Hartford area with Dr. Robert Greenstein, who was director of the pediatric residency program during Muniz’s training.

Together, they visited the Health Center’s Farmington campus and the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, which has been the center of the pediatric residency program since it opened 13 years ago. Residents also now train at St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center and the Burgerdorf/Bank of America Health Center.

When Muniz trained, however, neither the children’s hospital nor the Health Center existed. Instead, he rotated through the former, McCook Cook Hospital in Hartford, Hartford Hospital and the former New Britain General Hospital.

Muniz, who attended medical school in Peru at a sister school to Johns Hopkins University, said the UConn School of Medicine was his first choice for his residency because of the reputation of the faculty, particularly Dr. Milton Markowitz, the first chairman of the Department of Pediatrics.

“I knew it was a new program so a small group of us would have access to an outstanding faculty,” Muniz said. At that time, the faculty for the pediatric residency program included Drs. Markowitz, Greenstein, Robert Kramer; Pat Hurwitz and Charlotte Lepor. Today, more than 120 full- and part-time faculty members support the residency program. “There is a real pride in the program,” says Dr. Edwin Zalneraitis, who currently serves as the pediatric residency director.

He notes that the residency program currently includes 17 physicians per year, and the number will increase to 20 next year as they introduce a new advocacy training track. In contrast to the early years, when the program was predominantly male, the vast majority of pediatric residents today are women.

“This reflects a national trend,” Zalneraitis says. “It is considered a more family-friendly field.”

But some things haven’t changed. The program still offers a rigorous training for pediatricians to respond to the needs of patients and families – lessons that remain important to Muniz today.

Physician recalls early days of pediatric residency program

“Dr. Greenstein did not let us do anything that was too technical,” he adds. “He taught us a lot about the work ethic.”

On April 29, Connecticut will celebrate “Dr. Robert Greenstein Day” with a reception at the state capitol to honor his career at UConn. This summer, he will step down as director of the Division of Human Genetics, although he will continue to see patients.

He says he vividly remembers an occasion during his residency when he was at the end of a grueling three-day stretch in the hospital. Toward the end of the third day, he admitted a child with meningitis. When he finally came home later that day, he was no sooner in the door than the phone began ringing.

“It was Dr. Greenstein calling to tell me I had not completed the medical history for the last patient I had admitted,” Muniz recalls. “I told him I couldn’t do it at the time because the child’s mother wasn’t available. Dr. Greenstein told me she was there now and he expected to see me soon. So, of course, I went back to work.”

“Dr. Greenstein did not let us do anything that was too technical,” he adds. “He taught us a lot about the work ethic.”

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“Dr. Greenstein did not let us do anything that was too technical,” he adds. “He taught us a lot about the work ethic.”
Promotion, tenure recommendations approved

The Board of Trustees approved the following promotion and tenure recommendations at its meeting on April 21.

Promoted to Professor
Emmanouil Anagnostou
Civil & Environmental Engineering, School of Engineering

Susanne von Bodman
Plant Science, College of Agriculture & Natural Resources

James Edson
Marine Sciences, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Gayanath Fernando
Physics, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Devendra Kalonia
Pharmaceutical Sciences, School of Pharmacy

Senjie Lin
Marine Sciences, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Aikiko Nishiyama
Physiology & Neurobiology, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Cheryl Parks
School of Social Work

Gregory Sozzi
Chemistry, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Evan Ward
Marine Sciences, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Barrett Wells
Physics, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Promoted to Professor and Granted Tenure
Alexandra Lahar
School of Law

Susan Schmeiser
School of Law

Appointed as Professor and Granted Tenure
Hanchen Huang
Sustainable Energy and Mechanical Engineering, School of Engineering

Timothy Hunter
Dramatic Arts, School of Fine Arts

Promoted to Associate Professor and Granted Tenure
Hou-Clift (Simon) Cheng
Sociology, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Felix Coe
Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Craig Coleman
Pharmacy Practice, School of Pharmacy

Keith Conrad
Mathematics, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Kirstie Cope-Farrar
Communication Sciences, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Kelly Dennis
Art & Art History, School of Fine Arts

Aeglesio Kiyiayis
Computer Science & Engineering, School of Engineering

Jeffrey Ladewig
Political Science, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Alan Marcus
Curriculum & Instruction, Neag School of Education

Xenia Matschke
Economics, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Michael Morrell
Political Science, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Jeremy Pressman
Political Science, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Ramamurthy Ramprasad
Chemical, Materials, & Biomolecular Engineering, School of Engineering

Susanne Wurmbrand
Linguistics, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Xiaodong Yan
Mathematics, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Zhongis (John) Zhang
Operations & Information Management, School of Business

Promoted to Associate Clinical Professor
Khanh V. Dang
Pharmacy Practice, School of Pharmacy

Granted Tenure as Associate Professor
Hart Blanton
Psychology, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Heather Bortfeld
Psychology, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Rachel Peruse
Educational Psychology, Neag School of Education

Stephen Walsh
School of Nursing (tenure transferred from UConn Health Center)

Other Promotions
Phara Bayonne
Librarian III, University Libraries

Elizabeth Rumery
Librarian II, University Libraries

Michael Young
Librarian III, University Libraries

This list was supplied to the Advance by the Office of the Provost.

Increasingly competitive, and the 6 percent tuition increase still leaves a funding gap of $15 million for next year.

With spending reductions and a potential wage freeze, Hogan said, the University should be able to manage the gap next year; but the following year may be “very challenging,” with another budget gap of between $10 million and $15 million.

He said the University will need to be strategic in managing the deficit, and the Academic Plan will guide decision-making.

“Our goals for undergraduate, graduate, and professional education, for research, scholarship, and creative activity, for diversity and public engagement are still our goals,” he said. “We shape the future of UConn not by the hands shake. He recently won a Goldwater Scholarship to pursue his studies.

As an example of turning setback into opportunity, the President spoke of undergrad- uate Kevin Burgio, who turned to the study of birds after having to give up his ambition at Virginia Tech for academic reasons.

“Sometimes being the target of attention is a good sign,” he said.

“Achieving ambitious goals, like growing our research enterprise and developing top-ranked graduate programs, requires better ways of operating and aligning our resources, however limited, with our priorities,” he said. “We must continue to examine programs, majors, and centers to ask if some are more than we can afford, just as we must examine how we operate and ask if there are better ways of doing business.”

Hogan pledged to continue to consult with the University community regarding the choices that must be made. “These questions won’t be asked and answered behind closed doors,” he said.

He noted that there are many more committees in place today than a year ago, committees comprised of faculty and staff, who are wrestling with difficult issues and making concrete suggestions.

“Although we may not always agree, I appreciate their consultation with me and with you,” he said, adding that there will probably be more review committees and more people asked to serve on them, because “through that consultation, we find the best answers. I know that all of my decisions will be unpopular with somebody or group, but a university without debate is itself a contra- diction,” he told the audience, “and I look forward to many lively conversations with you about your vision for our University.”

The full text and audio recording of the President’s speech are available on his website: http://president.uconn.edu/
Amelia Arnold

Amelia Arnold says working as a clerk in her home town pharmacy sparked her interest in the field. “I worked in a local pharmacy part time on Saturdays and I really loved it,” says Arnold, who is graduating with a Pharm.D. degree, earned in a six year program. “I knew the customers and I enjoyed the relationships that I built.”

She says her experience in UConn’s pharmacy program has been rewarding. “It’s a great, small, close-knit pharmacy community,” says Arnold. “You get to know every faculty member and they know you, but you also have all the advantages of a large public research university.”

Arnold has been actively involved in pharmacy programs and events at UConn. “There are so many wonderful opportunities here,” she says. “There’s something going on all the time.”

Sally Neal

Sally Neal will never forget the last statistics calculation exam she took during her senior year in college. “On one side of the paper I was doing statistics calculations,” she says. “On the other side, I was timing my contractions. My daughter was born a week later.”

Her daughter is now 15, and Neal is graduating from UConn with a Ph.D. in adult learning from the Department of Educational Leadership in the Neag School of Education. Neal, a first-generation college student, took her first college course when she was 31.

“Like many first-generation students, when we graduated from high school we either got a job or got married,” she says. She did both.

“I was working as an announcer at a radio station, had a two-year-old son, and had my mornings off,” she says. “I decided to take some college classes and fell in love with education.”

Neal has always worked full time while going to college. At UConn, she has been a secretary in the Dean of Students Office and a program assistant in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and she is now the academic advisor for transfer students in the College.

“I’ve always been interested in nontraditional students,” says Neal, who has dedicated herself to their support. She was the recipient of the 2008-2009 UConn Undergraduate Student Government Advisor of the Year Award.

Neal’s dissertation topic is “Successful female first-generation adult learners in an undergraduate environment.”

She says the women in her study said that they returned to college for their children. “They knew intuitively that if they took care of their own education, their kids would be inspired to do the same,” she says. “I felt a great kinship with the women in my study.”

Neal says she feels “very lucky” to have found the Neag School’s program in adult learning.

“Everyone wants to see you succeed,” she says, “and they give you the tools, the resources, and the encouragement to do it.”

She adds, “I love what I do and I hope that it has some impact on women who think that a college education isn’t accessible to them.”

At the May 10 Commencement ceremony, Neal is serving as a marshal for College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Camille Patterson

Camille Patterson has made community service and leadership activities a big part of her UConn career. A psychology and political science double major in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, she has been actively involved with programs through UConn’s Community Outreach programs. She has volunteered with Food Share Inc. and has been a mentor with an after-school program for middle school students in Willimantic. Through the alternative breaks program, she built homes with Habitat for Humanity in Bridgeport.

“I found the community work very rewarding,” Patterson says. “I liked having the opportunity to step outside the university atmosphere and help individuals who are less fortunate.”

After taking a First Year Experience course in leadership, and learning about the Peer Leadership Program, Patterson applied to become an instructor. She was accepted during her junior year and taught the leadership course for a semester.

Patterson was a Student Union representative to the University’s Policy Council, and has been a Student Union building manager for two years.

She says participating in the University’s Leadership Legacy Experience was inspirational. “My experience there led to a great deal of personal development. Although we were all recognized as established leaders at the University, it was important that we didn’t stop there. We were presented with opportunities to further develop our leadership skills,” Patterson says.

Patterson spent her first six weeks on the Storrs campus attending a seven-credit summer program through Student Support Services. The program, part of UConn’s Center for Academic Programs, helps low-income and first-generation students adjust to college life. “The staff at CAP are a great resource,” she says.

Patterson says UConn offers a perfect balance. “I feel that your college experience is 50 per cent academic and 50 per cent social. The University of Connecticut offers that. You’re going to be challenged academically and you’re going to blossom socially. “So much is offered to you here, like clubs and different organizations. You can definitely graduate from here as a well-rounded person.”

Patterson, who plans to go into entertainment law, has been accepted to several law schools.

By Eunice Omeda, CLASS ’10

Aaron Lee has always wanted to do two things: go to medical school and become an educator. Now he has the opportunity to do both. Lee has deferred his acceptance to the UConn School of Medicine, and will work for two years for Teach For America. Lee, a biological sciences honors student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, is one of eight UConn students selected this year for the highly competitive Teach For America, a non-profit organization that seeks to bridge the gap in educational equality by recruiting outstanding college graduates to teach in rural or urban schools.

He heard of the organization in high school and immediately connected to its mission.

“I almost feel obligated to spend part of my life doing something meaningful for the community,” Lee says. “I want to make sure that everybody gets the education that they are expected to get.”

Lee, who graduated as valedictorian of Plainville High School, is concerned about the academic gap between students who attend schools in high-income communities and those educated in low-income communities. “It just seems unfair that I have opportunities that other students don’t have because I went to better schools than they did,” he says. “As an individual and as a citizen, I feel that it would be selfish not to at least try to improve educational equality.”

As an undergraduate, Lee has been engaged in two years of research in physiology and neurobiology. “With the help of Professor Akiko Nishiyama, he conducted research on the relationship between growing axons and the relatively recently discovered NG2 cell in the brain. It is speculated that NG2 cells can repair axons that are damaged in certain pathological conditions such as multiple sclerosis.”

Lee also worked for four years as the CLAS web master, building the College’s web site and occasionally upgrading it. He also helped many CLAS departments and faculty design their sites.

After medical school, Lee hopes to combine science and teaching in a career in academic medicine.

“Teaching at a medical school, you get the best of both worlds,” he says. “I'd get to teach, do research, and see patients.”

He will begin teaching this summer. After five weeks of training, he will be placed in the Baltimore, Md. school system, teaching secondary school biology. He plans to enter medical school in 2011.

By Sherry Fisher

Camille Patterson has made community service and leadership activities a big part of her UConn career. A psychology and political science double major in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, she has been actively involved with programs through UConn’s Community Outreach programs. She has volunteered with Food Share Inc. and has been a mentor with an after-school program for middle school students in Willimantic. Through the alternative breaks program, she built homes with Habitat for Humanity in Bridgeport.

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Over a period of several weeks, the Advance is publishing short profiles of some of this year’s graduating students.

Those featured were selected from among those recommended by each school and college.