

Dorothy Goodwin, pictured with former University President John T. Casteen III, receives an honorary doctorate in laws at the 1988 commencement ceremony. (Dorothy C. Goodwin Papers, Thomas J. Dodd Research Center. Published with permission.)

Goodwin Legacy Benefits Future Teachers

A bequest from a noted academic, public servant and education advocate is being used to carry on her legacy. Dorothy C. Goodwin '57 '88H, who died in 2007 at age 92, generously supported UConn and the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History during her lifetime. In a fitting tribute, her unrestricted bequest of more than \$141,000 to be used at the Foundation's discretion has been allocated to establish the Dorothy C. Goodwin Fund for Teacher Preparation.

The fund will support museum programs aimed at improving teacher quality that are consistent with the principles of the Teachers

for a New Era (TNE) initiative. UConn is one of only 11 colleges and universities nationwide selected as TNE institutions by the initiative's lead sponsor, the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

"Both TNE and the museum directly serve the needs of UConn students and the youth of the state of Connecticut. With this new endowment, both programs will have a second layer of impact since they enhance the training and knowledge of the next generation of Connecticut's teachers," says Douglas Hamilton, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and a member of the TNE Leadership Committee.

Museum Director Leanne Harty notes that collaborative programs with the Neag School of Education will expand hands-on training and better prepare teachers for the classroom.

"The new museum experiences will help on many different levels to make the curriculum align more meaningfully with the real-world classroom and informal science settings that these teachers will eventually find themselves in. They will provide a new way for faculty to reinforce principles with practice and develop more effective teachers," Harty says.

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Travelers Supports Diversity, Outreach Initiatives

Two gifts totaling \$425,000 from the Travelers Connecticut Foundation, the charitable arm of Travelers, are enhancing academic, outreach and diversity programs at UConn.

The gifts strengthen the longstanding collaborative partnership between UConn and the insurance company. "Travelers has strong ties with the University of Connecticut. We have more than 700 alumni employees, and we continue to actively recruit at the University," says Marlene Ibsen, president of the Travelers Foundation.

Travelers has committed \$275,000 for the Education Access Initiative to improve access to higher education for underserved populations and build awareness about careers in insurance and finance.

"This gift is a source of support for a number of things that are critical to our mission, including expanding access and equity for underrepresented students in the state through a variety of activities designed to enhance recruitment, retention



The Multicultural Business Club offers students a variety of activities such as professional development workshops.

and the success of these students," says Ronald Taylor, vice provost for multicultural and international affairs.

The comprehensive initiative will support a wide range of efforts such as mentorship and scholarships in addition to youth outreach in greater Hartford school districts.

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Alum Kicks Off Student Assistance Fund

George Findell, Jr. '56, an alumnus of the School of Business, has given \$100,000 toward two new funds. In addition to establishing an endowed fund in his own name to support student leadership programs, Findell kicked off fundraising for the University of Connecticut's new Students First Fund to enhance the University's ability to help students in times of need.



George Findell

The George Findell Program Fund supports the Leadership Legacy Experience, a yearlong enrichment program for exceptional students who have demonstrated leadership at UConn and in the community. The fund will be used for priority needs, such as inviting guest speakers, mentor programs and networking events.

Findell, who was on the board of governors as a student, says it is especially meaningful for him to contribute to programs run through the Division of Student Affairs and the Student Union because of the significant role they played in his UConn experience.

"I was very involved with the Student Union when it got started in the 1950s," says Findell.

The program is designed to teach promising students a broad definition of leadership. Students will attend workshops, work closely with faculty and gain access to senior-level administrators. Vice President for Student

Affairs John Saddle mire notes that a key component will be mentoring by alumni like Findell to show students what it takes to become successful leaders in their communities and professional lives. Findell is a practicing attorney and owner and president of Findell & Co., a financial services firm in New Hampshire.

"We're thrilled that George is committed to being part of this program," says Saddle mire.

The other portion of Findell's gift provides direct support to students as well. A \$10,000 leadership gift has kicked off the Students First Fund, which was created by the University and the UConn Foundation to help students after unforeseen misfortunes, such as a serious illness or injury, fire or flood. In response to an event, the University, for example, may send flowers or money to help replace books or clothing.

Saddle mire notes that the fund is not for providing emergency relief, but

rather for offering emotional support and some assistance.

"They aren't meant to be large gifts, but gestures from the heart. This fund allows us to give a tangible and caring expression from what at times can be seen as a large, impersonal university," he explains.

"This fund puts a mechanism in place that enables us to say we care about you and want to reach out," adds Denielle Burl, UConn's director of risk management. Burl will lead a new committee of faculty, staff and students charged with appropriating money from the Students First Fund.

Findell and Saddle mire hope that the gift will function as a sort of match challenge for the Close to Home faculty and staff campaign. Saddle mire reports that faculty and staff are showing strong support and excitement, and making steady progress toward doubling the fund. 🌞

To support the Leadership Legacy Experience or the Students First Fund, please contact Becky McEnery at 860.486.6851.

UCHC RECEIVES GIFT TO RECRUIT BREAST HEALTH EXPERT

A new three-year, \$300,000 grant from the Connecticut Breast Health Initiative (CT BHI) will support the recruitment of a nationally recognized physician-researcher and significantly enhance basic, translational and clinical research in breast cancer at the Carole and Ray Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center at the UConn Health Center.

CT BHI announced the grant at its fifth anniversary ceremony on October 16. The organization's mission is to make a difference locally in the fight against breast cancer through education and research. To accomplish this mission, CT BHI funds a diversified portfolio of clinical/translational research projects.

Marsha Goldstein, co-chair of the CT BHI grants committee and a 15-year breast cancer survivor, says that the UConn Health Center's position and reputation for cancer care set it apart.

"UConn is our hospital," she says. "Everyone knows it's the state's flagship hospital, and we've always respected it and have been proud of the work done there. Choosing a grant recipient

was a decision for us about who we would most want to be identified with, and UConn responded to our challenge."

Carolyn D. Runowicz, M.D., director of the Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center and also a breast cancer survivor, says that the collaboration with CT BHI will help build a regional center of excellence in breast cancer at the Health Center.

"To make advances in cancer, a multidisciplinary approach is required," she says. "With CT BHI's support, we will be able to attract and recruit a world-class team to take our research and care to the next level. This regional center of excellence will not only benefit women in Connecticut and the region, but new discoveries will also affect the hundreds of thousands of women living with breast cancer."

Joyce Bray, president of CT BHI, says the organization is excited about the partnership with UConn, and sees it as a continuation of the advances in research and treatment that the field has seen in recent history.

"We're finally realizing the research component to all the breast cancer questions that are out there," she says. "In the last 40 or 50 years, we've moved past simply diagnosing breast cancer to today's

detection, prevention and treatment strategies. It's a complicated disease and there are many answers, but it would be great if one of them could be found at UConn."

She and Runowicz believe the selection of the program's initial recruits will be a key part of that process. The program is currently led by Drs. Susan Tannenbaum and Kevin Claffey.

"Finding the right person to join this program is important. This grant will allow us to recruit a clinician-scientist to work with the outstanding group of breast cancer investigators at UCHC," Runowicz says. "I'm confident we will find someone whose reputation for outstanding care and research will set us apart."

Goldstein and co-chair Judy Donofrio believe the time is right for making great advances in finding a cure for breast cancer.

"We're getting closer to a cure," Goldstein says. "There are so many more options for treatment now than there ever have been, but there are still too many women—and especially too many younger women—with breast cancer. It's a fight that keeps us passionate and focused, and we found that UConn's passion matches ours. We're all on the same page." 🌞

To support the Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center, please contact Karen Tomasko at 860.679.2153.



UConn
Momentum

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Raveis Gift Expands Cancer Navigator Program

The diagnosis of cancer brings strong emotions to the forefront, often in overwhelming and unforeseen ways. Carolyn Deal, president and COO of William Raveis Real Estate, Mortgage & Insurance knows the feeling firsthand from her own ten-year fight with the disease.

“When you’re first diagnosed, you only halfway hear the things people are telling you. You don’t even know what questions to ask,” she says. “And you quickly find that the more you ask other people, or the more you look online, the more overwhelmed you get, because everyone’s cancer is different.”

That experience, and Raveis’s strong support of the Carole and Ray Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center over the past four years, has led to a groundbreaking \$750,000 pledge from the William Raveis Charitable Fund, Inc. to expand the center’s existing Navigator Care Program.

The program, which pairs newly diagnosed patients with trained volunteers who assist them through the treatment process, is currently focused on breast cancer. Among other things, Raveis’s support, in collaboration with the American Cancer Society, will allow for full-time Navigator staff on site and expand the focus to other cancers as well.

“We’ve seen how cancer affects our company,” says Lorraine Megenis, vice president of operations at Raveis. “A very high percentage of our 1,900 sales associates are female. If they haven’t gone through cancer themselves, their sisters, mothers or friends have. We feel the support given to patients through the Navigator program is a necessity.”

“We’ve always supported research and education, but this is something that is helping people right here and now,” adds William Raveis, chairman and CEO. “The big picture is vital, but so is making sure that we assist individual patients and their families through our philanthropy. The collective dedication of our sales associates, employees, vendors and clients has been nothing short of outstanding as we witness such positive outcomes to our fundraising efforts. Knowing this is only the beginning, we’re excited to see where the Navigator program will go in the years to come as it continues to expand and grow.”

Nancy Baccaro, A.P.R.N., coordinates the existing Navigator program and says the service can make all the difference for patients at any stage of their journey through diagnosis, treatment and care.

“When patients enter the health care system with a complicated condition like cancer, it’s overwhelming.

But through the Navigator program, we have an opportunity to decrease that anxiety, guide and direct a patient, and, most importantly, give the patient knowledge,” Baccaro says. “With knowledge comes power and control, in a situation where patients often feel powerless. The Navigator acts as an adjunct to the professional provider and serves as the eyes and the ears of the patient throughout the process.”

“Raveis’s support is so important because it allows us to expand the scope of our program and help more of our patients,” says Carolyn D. Runowicz, M.D., director of the Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center. “We’ve seen how useful it has been for patients with breast cancer and recognize the need to provide this service for all of our patients. This program is a real resource for our patients and helps to empower them to become more active partners in their treatment and recovery.”

That support is something that Carolyn Deal believes would have been helpful in her own case, and she sees great possibilities for the future.

“When I learned about the Navigator program, I remember thinking how useful this would have been for me,” she says. “To have someone take you through the process, represent you, educate you, help prepare you, and offer that support, well, that just adds so much for the patient. Cancer is a long process, with so much that goes along with it. Supporting the Navigator program lets us make a difference to thousands of cancer patients today.”

To support the Navigator program, please contact Karen Tomasko at 860.679.2153.



Hinkel Estate Funds Arts at UConn

A major gift from the estate of Martha Hinkel, a retired staff member and patron of the arts, will leave a lasting tribute at the School of Fine Arts and the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts.

Hinkel, who died in 2006 at age 91, joined UConn in 1962 following her marriage to Cecil Hinkel, former head of the theater department, who himself significantly influenced the arts at UConn. Hinkel was dean of women and later assistant dean for residential student affairs until her retirement in 1977. She also was a dedicated member of the University community, serving in the University of Connecticut League, the Women’s Club of Storrs and the American Association of University Women.

The estate gift includes approximately \$200,000 to establish the Cecil E. and Martha C. Hinkel Scholarship and Fellowship at the School of Fine Arts.

“I really feel that Martha was a part of the school,” says David Woods, dean of the School of Fine Arts.

The Hinkel gift will have a lasting effect for students and faculty by enhancing academics and theater performances, Woods explains. The fund will support undergraduate scholarships, graduate fellowships and student productions. The fund also will help the school bring in various experts for lectures, performances and collaboration with UConn faculty.

“Anything that comes into our school that enhances programs helps us grow as a school. I think her gift will make a significant difference for the school, and in particular the dramatic arts department,” says Woods.

What is special about Hinkel’s gift, adds Woods, is that it will enable improvements that will help the school continue to recruit the “very best students.”

In addition to the school, Hinkel was deeply involved with the Jorgensen

Center for the Performing Arts.

“Martha Hinkel, until the last few years of her life, bought tickets to every single Jorgensen event,” says Rodney Rock, director of the center. “She came to everything she possibly could. We were very fortunate to have Martha.”

A bequest of more than \$115,000 established the Martha C. Hinkel Jorgensen Auditorium Fund. Rock notes that the gift will be used to carry on Hinkel’s legacy of a strong commitment to the arts. The fund will directly support cultural programming.

“We’re going to use the gift as seed money to start a programming endowment for Jorgensen,” says Rock. “It seems to me she would approve of us using the money in this way to support programming into the future.”

To support the School of Fine Arts or the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts, please contact Paul Goldberg at 646.385.4344.



Martha Hinkel

Scholarship Aids Families Facing Cancer Care Costs

Health-care costs associated with serious illnesses can be crippling to families and impede a student's pursuit of higher education. An alumnus who has personally experienced the devastating effects of cancer has endowed a scholarship fund to provide incoming and continuing students who face similar challenges with much-needed financial support.



Marshall and Amy Senk

Marshall Senk '85 '87 was inspired to create the scholarship after being diagnosed with lymphoma.

"I've spent the past 18 months fighting a very rare and aggressive blood cancer. It makes you reassess the priorities in your life and the things that you can no longer take for granted. Cancer is humbling, and it can throw the most carefully laid plans out the window," says Senk. "Our family's goal with this scholarship is to give some breathing space to UConn students who are pressured by the financial burdens that this disease in all its forms can inflict on a family."

The Marshall Senk Family Scholarship will be given to full-time undergraduate and graduate students who demonstrate financial need as a result of their own or a family member's health-care costs related to cancer or other life-threatening illness.

John Saddlemire, vice president for student affairs, reports that a fairly high number of students and their families face cancer and other serious illnesses. The trauma and expense, whether they occur before or after the student enrolls, can significantly affect the

student's ability to achieve his or her academic goals.

"What a wonderful way to reach out and put students first who find themselves in a unique challenge while trying to get their degree," says Saddlemire. "Knowing that we have someone who will help students like this is extraordinary."

Senk, an investment manager, and his wife, Amy, were also motivated by a desire to give back to UConn. Senk earned both a bachelor's and a master's degree in communication sciences at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

"My wife and I both believe very strongly in public education. I credit my UConn education and particularly my involvement in student activities with laying the foundation for my career," says Senk. "The time seems right to us to give back, not only to thank UConn for all it has done for me, but also to do it in a way that can relieve the crushing financial burden that cancer can bring to a family." 🌞

To support the Marshall Senk Family Scholarship, please contact Becky McEnery at 860.486.6851.

Goodwin Leaves Legacy at UConn

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The new fund adds to a pair of major endowments Goodwin set up during her lifetime: the Dorothy Goodwin Teaching Innovation Fund and the Professor Dorothy C. Goodwin Teaching Institute Endowment Fund.

The endowments reflect Goodwin's lifelong commitment to public service and education. Goodwin was born in Hartford in 1914, and grew up in Connecticut. After graduating from Smith College in 1937, she held positions at various federal agencies, including the Department of the Interior during World War II. In the late '40s and early '50s, she was stationed in Japan as an agricultural economist working for the U.S. Foreign Agriculture Organization.

After returning to Connecticut, Goodwin earned the first doctorate awarded in agricultural economics at UConn in 1957. She then began a long tenure at UConn as an eminent professor and assistant provost. She retired in 1965 after 22 years, during which time she published widely on economics and state aid for education.

Goodwin later returned to public service, winning a seat in the Connecticut General Assembly in 1974. During her five terms, she worked tirelessly as co-chair of the Education Committee and a member of the Finance and Human Services Committees. After retiring from the House of Representatives in 1984, Goodwin was appointed by Governor William O'Neill to the state Board of Education, where she remained until 1990, continuing to shape the state's public education system. 🌞

To support the Neag School of Education, please contact Abigail O'Brien at 860.486.4530. To support the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History, please contact Frank Gifford at 860.486.6798.

RETIRED PROFESSORS SUPPORT ANIMAL SCIENCE MAJORS

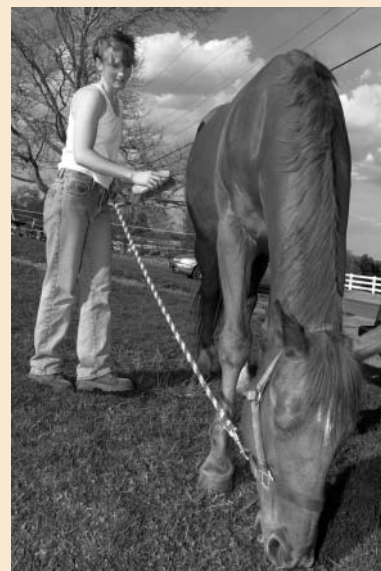
Two retired professors who have made significant contributions to the field of animal science are helping students follow in their footsteps. William A. "Al" Cowan and Nathan Hale '46, who funded a student award together nearly two decades ago, are each establishing permanent endowed scholarships for students in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) and the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture.

"I was fortunate to have Dr. Hale as a teacher when I attended UConn, and have known Dr. Cowan since that time as well. They have always demonstrated a commitment to student learning through their personal and professional commitments and through their generosity," says Cameron Faustman '82, associate dean at CANR and director of Ratcliffe Hicks.

In the early 1990s, Cowan and Hale gave a joint non-endowed gift to establish the Cowan Hale Award for freshmen majoring in animal science. In late 2007, they decided to close their previous award in favor of establishing permanent endowments to provide lasting support for future students.

The former professors created their new awards with planned gifts to the UConn Foundation. The W.A. Cowan Undergraduate Award in Animal Science was established with an IRA transfer of \$100,000. Gifts of annuity and stock were used to establish the Nathan Hale Award in Animal Science.

Both new merit scholarships will be given to full-time undergraduate students, with priority given to incoming freshmen, enrolled in either the two-year animal science program at Ratcliffe Hicks or the



A student grooms a horse from UConn's 80-member herd.

four-year program at CANR. Recipients will be chosen based on their accomplishments and leadership in working with livestock.

"The monies provided will help students achieve their educational goals. In some instances it will make the difference between attending or not attending college," says Faustman. "Equally important is that the formal recognition will provide affirmation to the students that their interests are valued and that the faculty is confident that they are the future leaders in animal science."

Cowan and Hale left indelible marks at UConn. Cowan headed the animal science department for 32 years, and was beloved by students and faculty throughout his tenure. In the 1970s, he selected the champion cattle and horse lines that are the backbone of UConn's current herds. His legacy for eminent work extends well beyond UConn's campus.

In 2007, Cowan won the Agricultural Adventurers Award at the Eastern States Exposition for his contributions to New England agriculture.

Hale was given the Distinguished Alumni Award in 1999 by the CANR alumni association for his contributions to animal science. He intends his endowment to carry on not only his own legacy, but that of Connecticut teacher and Revolutionary War hero Nathan Hale, whom he was named after. Similarly to his namesake, who was a pioneer in the struggle for equal access to education for women, Hale wants to improve the accessibility and affordability of higher education.

"The opportunity to secure tuition help at the onset of freshman year is sparse compared to the scholarships available in the latter years," says Hale, who hopes that contributions from other donors will help expand his fund. "It is my wish that others, seeing the same value of this award for entering freshmen, and those who have admiration for Nathan Hale's sacrifice, will contribute to this fund."

Hale is also giving back to UConn for the education and assistance he received. Hale won scholarships and worked his way through school by taking a job working with the University's livestock. He earned a bachelor's degree in 1946, went on to get a doctorate, and then returned in 1954 to teach at UConn for 31 years. 🌞

To support the W.A. Cowan Undergraduate Award in Animal Science or the Nathan Hale Award in Animal Science, please contact Amy Hanaburgh at 860.486.1763.

Scholarship to Honor Beloved SSW Professor



More than 200 people attended an event in honor of Albert Alissi in November, including (l-r) Raymond Albert, Amy Alissi Donofrio and Myron Weiner.

The death of a longtime faculty member in the School of Social Work (SSW) has prompted an outpouring of support to establish a scholarship in his name.

Albert Alissi, D.S.W. died August 21, 2007 during his early morning jog when he was struck by a car near his vacation home on Cape Cod. He was a professor at the University of Connecticut School of Social Work for nearly 40 years, and was widely known for his dedication to group work, his popularity among students, and his work outside the classroom putting ideas into practice throughout the community.

He retired in 2003, but continued to teach in the doctoral program, served on several doctoral dissertation committees and had recently completed an article for the Social Work Encyclopedia on the history of social group work.

To honor his memory, a "Celebration of the Life & Work of Albert Alissi" was held at the school in November, with more than 200 people in attendance. Colleagues and alumni spoke eloquently about the impact Alissi had on their personal and professional lives, and his many contributions to social work and group work practice. An endowed scholarship fund has been established in his memory, which

has attracted more than 100 donors to date, including Alissi's family.

Alissi's background and passion for the field and for students fit the spirit of a scholarship well. He was president of the Open Hearth homeless shelter in Hartford from 1984 to 1992, and remained a board member thereafter. He also served on the board or held leadership positions at Families in Crisis, Hartford Neighborhood Centers, Community Partners in Action and the Springfield Boys Club. Among his many honors and distinctions are the 2003 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Connecticut Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers and the 2003 International Social Group Work Award from the Association for the Advancement of Social Work with Groups.

"Al inspired and supported students in so many ways, both while at the school and as alumni," says Catherine Havens, M.S.W. program director. "He was a faculty member who students came back to see and seek advice from long after they had graduated. Al was a fierce advocate for students and would do anything to help them learn. A scholarship in his name is the perfect way for his legacy to continue." ☀

To support the School of Social Work or the Alissi Endowed Scholarship Fund, please contact Kevin McMahon at 860.486.8923.

Alums Give Back to Waterbury Campus

A couple who met while they were undergraduate students at UConn have committed \$100,000 to support scholarships at the Waterbury campus.

Dorothy Bessette-DeSomma '66 and Martin DeSomma D.D.S. '66 have established an endowment to assist financially challenged students, a decision that they attribute to their working-class upbringing.

"UConn has helped us move through life, and it was a wonderful experience for both of us," Martin DeSomma says. "Because of where we came from, and having developed a work ethic early in life, supporting students who have a financial need just makes sense."

The DeSommas attended UConn's Waterbury campus from 1957 to 1959, and met while serving on opposing parties in student government. They both graduated from Storrs in 1966, after Mr. DeSomma was drafted into the U.S. Army and had served in Europe for several years. Today, he operates a successful dental practice in Woodbury, Conn. and the couple frequently travels back to France for vacations. One of the couple's children also attended UConn.

"We've been very lucky and fortunate in our life, and there comes a time when you have to think about others, not just



yourself," DeSomma says. "There are other people in this world besides us. In ten years, I hope that our gift will allow young men and women to possibly gain their footing to get into the middle class. Hopefully they'll use their education to do something productive for our society."

Originally from the Town Plot section of Waterbury, the DeSommas believe that the University's presence in the city was a major factor in their decision to give.

"The Waterbury campus is outstanding," he says. "When I was growing up, Waterbury was a strong industrial town, with lots of different groups living and working together. Today, some of that has changed, but the campus, with the renovations, has become an even bigger boost to the city. We're very impressed with what we see." ☀

To support UConn's Waterbury campus or the Bessette-DeSomma Scholarship, please contact Frank Gifford at 860.486.6798.

UPCOMING

EVENTS

Founders Society Induction

Saturday, April 12

Marriott Downtown Hartford

Invitations have been mailed for the UConn Foundation's banner donor recognition event, which will also celebrate President Michael Hogan's inauguration. For more information, please contact University Events at 860.486.1001.

Inauguration Festival for President Michael J. Hogan

Sunday, April 13

3 p.m. Inauguration
4 p.m. Festival

Join the entire UConn community in welcoming President Hogan at campus-wide events and celebrations, immediately following the inauguration ceremony. For more information, please contact University Events at 860.486.1001.

Alumni Weekend

Friday, June 6 and Saturday, June 7
(Storrs campus)

Saturday, June 7 and Sunday, June 8
(UConn Health Center)

Whether you're from the Class of 1937 or 2007, you're invited to an activity-filled weekend. For more information or to register, please call the UConn Alumni Association at (888) UC-ALUM-1 or visit www.uconnalumni.com. Alumni of the Schools of Medicine or Dental Medicine may contact Paula Brink at 860.679.6039 or pbrink@foundation.uconn.edu for more information.

2nd Annual Jim Calhoun Cancer Challenge Ride

Sunday, June 8

Simsbury, Conn.

The 2008 ride will build on the success of the inaugural ride, which raised more than \$150,000 to support the Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center. For more information, please visit www.calhounride.com or call the UConn Foundation's Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 860.679.1122.

Farewell Celebration for Peter J. Deckers, M.D.

Monday, June 23

6-9 p.m.

Invitations will be mailed soon for this fundraising event to honor the accomplishments and success of Dr. Peter Deckers, who has led the UConn Health Center as dean of the School of Medicine since 1995 and executive vice president of health affairs since 2000. For more information, please call the UConn Foundation's Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 860.679.1122.

HOSPITALS PROMOTE NURSING PROGRAM EXPANSION

Through several major gifts from partnering hospitals, the Master's Entry Into Nursing (MbEIN) program at UConn's Stamford campus is dramatically expanding, a step expected to help ease the shortage of nurses in Fairfield County and across the state.

Stamford Hospital, Norwalk Hospital and Greenwich Hospital have each made recent contributions, more than \$250,000 in total, to support MbEIN. The program is designed for those with a bachelor's degree in a non-nursing field, and allows students to become eligible to take the RN licensure exam after the successful completion of a calendar year of coursework.

This effort to attract non-nursing majors ideally fits UConn's mission, believes Dean Anne Bavier of the School of Nursing, and is a recognition that the nursing field is changing with the advent of new technology and market opportunities.

"MbEIN is consistent with the history and heritage of UConn's nursing program, building on a foundation of sciences and liberal arts," she says. "The entire state benefits, because through MbEIN we are creating nursing leaders who are critical thinkers and are from a rich intellectual background that they can apply to nursing."

Facing a projected statewide deficit of 11,000 nurses by the year 2010, several local hospitals in lower Fairfield County joined with UConn to offer space and financial support for the program.

"With the kind of track record and excellent results we've seen from UConn's School of Nursing, it's very exciting to partner with them," says Pam Koprowski, director of community affairs at Stamford Hospital. The hospital is allocating space adjacent to its main building for an MbEIN simulation lab that features some of the latest nursing instruction technology.

The region's hospitals, who may spend up to \$50,000 recruiting and retaining a single nurse, must compete with higher salaries and flexible shifts offered in New York City, and see an advantage from MbEIN to both themselves and the entire region.

"There's an incredible benefit to us all by increasing the number of nurses in our community," says Patricia Grant, senior vice president of patient care services at Greenwich Hospital, one of UConn's MbEIN partners. "Every hospital is going to benefit from hiring nurses who are established residents of the area. MbEIN students have decided to make nursing their career, and now they are giving back by working at their own community hospital. There's a tremendous opportunity for us here."

Mary Nolan, vice president of nursing at Norwalk Hospital, agrees. "UConn's willingness to work with Norwalk and the other hospitals is critical in helping to provide a pipeline of talent for us and a model partnership to address the nursing shortage in Connecticut," she says.



Dean Bavier believes that the market-based realities the hospitals face help to shape the focus of the school.

"Our hospital partners are critical to MbEIN because they understand the workplace needs. That knowledge allows us to direct our attention to preparing nurses who focus on what the patients and clients need the most: critical thinkers who bring nursing care to the bedside." 🌞

To support the MbEIN program, please contact Lisa Baronio at 860.486.4618.

Travelers Supports Diversity, Outreach Initiatives

continued from page 1

"Research shows that first-generation and non-traditional college students are much more likely to achieve success if they have access to a broad range of supportive programs. Travelers and UConn are structuring a comprehensive approach that we believe is a formula for success for underserved students," says Ibsen.

The lion's share—\$140,000—will support leadership scholarships for students who demonstrate a commitment to multicultural diversity through leadership in activities at UConn or in the community. Additionally, Travelers will offer scholarship recipients opportunities for mentorship, internships and summer work.

Another \$105,000 will go to the School of Business to support the Multicultural Business Club, faculty mentoring and outreach to high schools in predominantly minority areas. Expanding efforts to promote diversity is important to the school's future, says Dean Christopher Earley.

"This gift is a critical building block in our strategy to enhance diversity. As we push forward to become a globally recognized business school, we will be judged according to the strength, breadth and depth of our students and alumni, and we see this gift as a way to create momentum along these lines," he says.

The funding also includes \$25,000 for the National Middle School Science Bowl, which is co-sponsored in the Northeast by UConn's College of Liberal Arts

and Sciences. Lastly, \$5,000 will support the Science, Engineering and Health Professions Collaborative Symposium for minority students considering careers in those fields.

Ibsen notes that partnering with UConn in these efforts was a logical choice: "As Connecticut's flagship public university, UConn is uniquely positioned to help Travelers remove barriers to higher education and careers that underserved students face."

In addition to funding the Education Access Initiative, Travelers has given \$150,000 to expand the highly successful Project M³: Mentoring Mathematical Minds developed by the Neag Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development at the Neag School of Education.

"Travelers has a special interest in fostering mathematics skills in young people because they're skills that directly relate to our business. These students are our future workforce, and we will look to them to keep Hartford a thriving community for insurance and financial services," says Ibsen.

Project M³ was kicked off in 2002 with a \$3-million federal grant to develop math curriculum for talented students in grades three through five, provide professional development for teachers and implement field tests in schools.

"These are the first curriculum units nationwide that are research-based, developed specifically for talented elementary students, and explore math concepts in depth," says Katherine Gavin, Ph.D., program director and associate professor at the Neag Center.

The curriculum, which is now being used in 42 states and several other countries, targets children with high potential who are often bored by traditional curricula. Results have shown strong quantitative and qualitative evidence of student achievement, according to Gavin. That success attracted Travelers to fund the implementation of the research findings in a new year-long, after-school enrichment program, called Project M³ Enrichment Math Club, for underserved students in Hartford.

"We believe that the Neag Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development has the expertise to implement and monitor a program like the math club," says Ibsen.

Eighty third- and fourth-grade students from four elementary schools will take part. Additionally, a teacher from each participating school will receive support through professional development at UConn.

Pleased with the record and growth of Project M³ thus far, Gavin anticipates positive results from the new enrichment program.

"Most after-school programs are designed as intervention strategies, meaning remediation help for students. This program is unique in that it first recognizes that there are many students in Hartford who have mathematics potential, and second that it affords them the opportunity to study high-level mathematics—one to two levels above their grade—with fun, motivational activities," Gavin says. 🌞

To support these or other initiatives at UConn, please visit www.foundation.uconn.edu or call 860.486.5000.

Family Supports Range of Programs

Gift Helps Education & Business Schools, Athletics and Hartford Students

A new leadership campaign gift from Roger '65 and Marjory Cohen '66 Gelfenbien will build on three scholarship funds the couple established during Campaign UConn and create a new scholarship for accounting students in the School of Business.

Roger Gelfenbien served on the UConn Foundation's board from 1992 to 1997, and also served as chairman. He was the chairman of the UConn Board of Trustees from 1997 to 2003. In April, the UConn Board of Trustees renamed the Towers Dining Hall in Storrs in honor of Gelfenbien's service. Under his leadership, the University launched its first major fundraising initiative in more than a decade.

Mr. Gelfenbien says that such campaigns have had a transformative impact on the institution.

"Capital campaigns separate a good school from the very best schools," he says. "UConn has always been great, but we've become better now that we've attracted private giving. Our friends understand that without their support we cannot achieve our ultimate dream."

The existing Gelfenbien funds support students on the women's soccer team, in the Neag School of Education and from the Hartford school system, where Mr. Gelfenbien himself was a student. Marjory Gelfenbien graduated from UConn's Neag School of Education, and the couple's daughter, Jill '95 (SFS), played soccer and women's basketball for the University.

"I look at myself, coming out of the south end of Hartford and being able to accomplish what I have. I couldn't have done it without UConn," says Mr. Gelfenbien, who retired as the managing partner of the Hartford office of Accenture, a global management consulting company. "My passion is helping young people from Hartford. So many students need just a little bit of help, and if they get that help, their future is so much brighter."

"Roger is really one of the special graduates of our accounting program," says Mohammed Hussein, accounting department head. "Throughout his career, Roger has been a leader across the entire state. He understands the

needs of our students. The value of the Gelfenbien Family scholarships is that they give opportunities to young people who might not otherwise be able to continue their education. And it provides their families with peace of mind, taking away some of the worry about where they will find the money for higher education."

Through philanthropy, Gelfenbien says the potential for both students and the University is nearly limitless.

"I think it's impossible to count the benefits that private giving offers to students who receive scholarships. Maybe someone who we've helped finds a cure for cancer. Or becomes president. You just can't measure it," he says.

From his strategic view of the University itself, Gelfenbien sees similar potential.

"What I've always told people is 'shame on us' if we don't become one of the best universities in the country," he says. "When you take the base of support given us through UCONN 2000 and then leverage the private support on top, nothing can stop us. People will tell

you that we can't be in the top ten. I don't know why not."

"Margie and I have been blessed to be able to give back. My feeling is that if you can step up, step up. There have been so many people who have done just that. If we all do our share, it will make a huge difference to this university." 🌞

To contribute to the Gelfenbien scholarships, please contact John Martin at 860.486.2709.



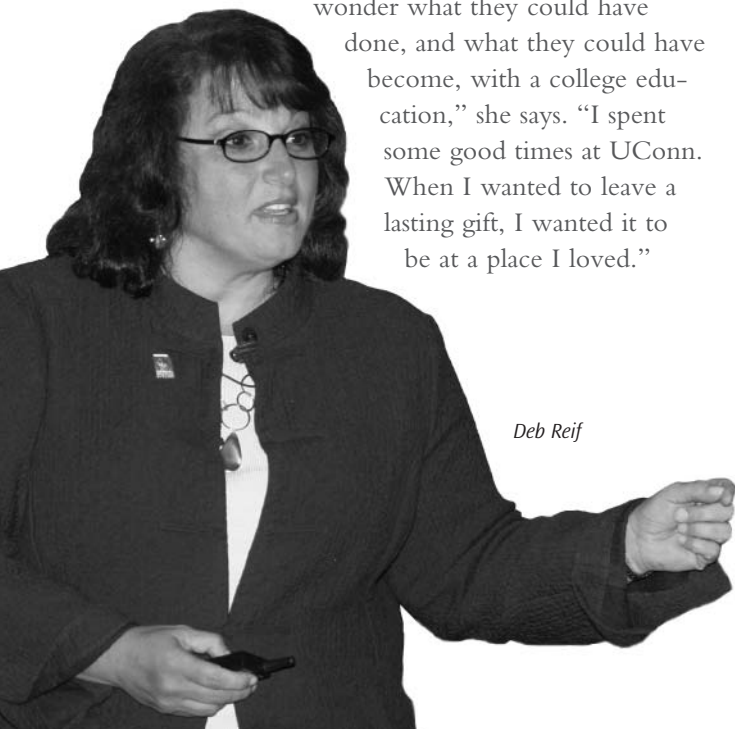
Roger and Marjory Cohen Gelfenbien

M.B.A. Grad Creates Scholarship to Honor Parents

From her first professional job as a clerk in the payroll department of GE, to her present role as President and CEO of GE Equipment Services, Deb Reif '95 M.B.A. has continually proven herself as someone who is not afraid to take intelligent risks, excel and set an example.

The example of her own hard-working parents has now proven to be the inspiration for an endowed gift in their honor, which will support students in the School of Business through the Milo and Mary Albanese Business Scholarship.

"My motivation for making this gift was pretty simple. Neither one of my parents went to college and we never had a lot of money. I can't help but wonder what they could have done, and what they could have become, with a college education," she says. "I spent some good times at UConn. When I wanted to leave a lasting gift, I wanted it to be at a place I loved."



Deb Reif

Reif told her 84-year-old father at Christmas that she had named a scholarship in the couple's honor, and says he was deeply moved at the gesture.

"My parents have always been so supportive of my brothers and me," Reif says. "They gave us so much love and support, and instilled a confidence in us that we could do whatever we wanted to do. My brothers and I have all become successful in our lives, so it seemed fitting that I should do something for people to help them afford an education."

While she now runs a multibillion dollar company providing global transportation and shipping services, Reif recalls the difficulty of affording college in a family without a lot of money to spare.

"When I was in high school, at the top of my class, I was competing for scholarships so that I could afford college. It is more competitive today and the cost of education just keeps rising. When you're talking about someone who doesn't have a lot of money, every bit helps. Now with my scholarship, I want someone to get that advantage from me."

During her steady rise through the leadership levels at GE, Reif earned an M.B.A. from UConn in 1995, an experience she remembers fondly.

"The UConn M.B.A. program gave me the confidence to step out of my comfort zone. I was an expert

in my job function at GE, but becoming a business leader is a whole different story. The UConn program gives you a forum to learn and to practice skills to influence people across businesses and externally, those not working directly for you but that impact your success. You must have this skill to succeed in today's global business environment."

Mohammed Hussein, Ph.D., head of the accounting department, was one of Reif's instructors.

"Deb is one of my favorite students of all time. She has been a strong supporter of our program through both her time and money, so it's not at all surprising to hear that she is giving an opportunity for someone to come after her," he says.

Reif was elected to the School of Business Hall of Fame in 2006, and continues to be involved in the M.B.A. program as a speaker. She says that her gift is designed to help students reach their potential.

"I hope that the students realize their dreams, wherever those dreams take them. I never imagined that I'd be able to do all that I've done in my career, and I want to give others that same chance." 🌞

To support the School of Business, please contact Diana Timlin at 860.486.2656.

Student Leaders, Fine Arts Majors Supported

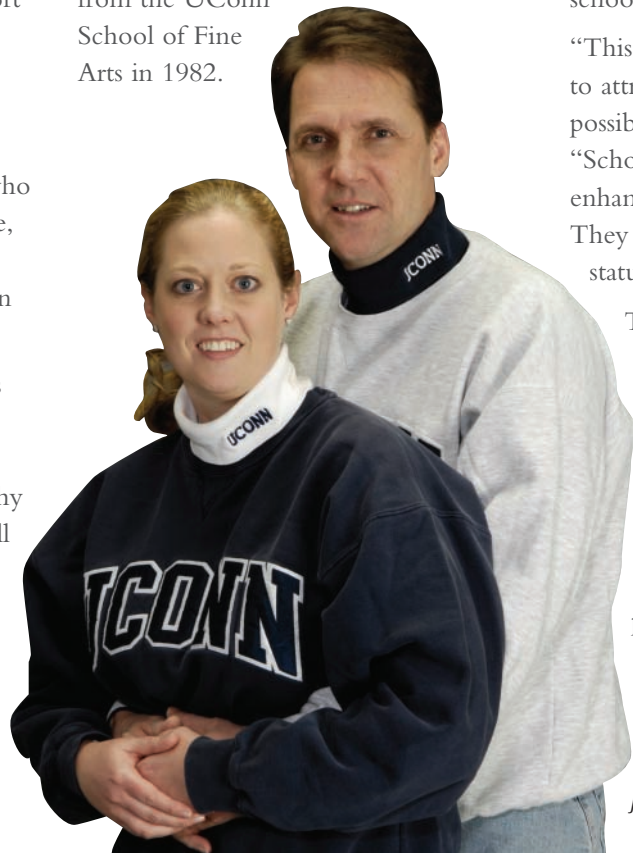
A couple with four degrees from UConn between them has endowed two new permanent scholarship funds. J. Peter '82 '83 '85 and Jennifer '92 Natale have given \$50,000 to establish scholarships for fine arts majors and student leaders. In addition to this new gift, the Natales are longtime supporters of the track and field team.

“Our primary mission in establishing these scholarships is to provide support for students interested in pursuing opportunities that we both found to be of such great value: athletics, fine arts and leadership,” says the couple. “In time, our hope is that students who benefit from our gift will in turn give, and continue the cycle of giving for generation after generation of UConn students.”

While attending UConn, the Natales pursued a number of academic and co-curricular interests. Mr. Natale earned bachelor's degrees in geography and in geology and geophysics as well as an M.B.A. Mrs. Natale earned a bachelor's degree in psychology. Outside the classroom, Mr. Natale gravitated toward the arts, and Mrs. Natale ran on the track and field team. Both were involved in student

government and the Department of Residential Life as resident assistants and hall directors. The couple's scholarships reflect their wide-ranging passions.

As a former professional trumpet player, Mr. Natale is pleased to be able to support students interested in the performing arts. The J. Peter & Jennifer Natale Fine Arts Scholarship is particularly meaningful because Mr. Natale's brother, David, a painter and musician, graduated from the UConn School of Fine Arts in 1982.



“My commitment to fine arts stems from a lifelong commitment to music, art and theater. It's a commitment that began in childhood and continued through a professional career in music that spanned over a decade,” adds Mr. Natale.

David Woods, dean of the School of Fine Arts, says the scholarship will provide critical assistance for talented students and also contribute to the school's high reputation.

“This financial assistance is essential to attract the best artists and scholars possible to the campus,” says Woods. “Scholarships such as this expand and enhance the possibilities for students. They contribute significantly to the stature and quality of our program.”

The couple credits their leadership training at UConn with putting them on the road to success.

Mr. Natale is chief information officer for Becton, Dickinson & Co., a Fortune 500 medical technologies company. Mrs. Natale notes that UConn's program helped her develop the skills needed to become an effective leader working with

local charities and international philanthropic foundations.

“Both of us were actively involved in student leadership organizations while attending the University of Connecticut. The value of these experiences has paid dividends for us in the roles we have today,” says the couple.

The J. Peter & Jennifer Natale Student Leader Scholarship will be given to high-achieving students who take on leadership roles, such as peer mentors, community assistants or student government representatives.

UConn's leadership activities are experiential, offering hands-on lessons to complement what students learn in the classroom, says Christine Wilson, associate dean of students and director of student activities. Student leaders have opportunities to work closely with faculty mentors and participate in a variety of activities.

“Our programs, services, retreats and conferences can be costly, so we are fortunate that donors like the Natales can help support student leaders,” says Wilson. 🌞

To support the School of Fine Arts, please contact Paul Goldberg at 646.385.4344. To support leadership programs, please contact Becky McEney at 860.486.6851.

J. Peter and Jennifer Natale

TORRINGTON WRITERS AND ARTISTS PROGRAM BOOSTED

A \$250,000 gift is enhancing the Litchfield County Writers and Artists Project (LCWAP) at UConn's Torrington campus, a program that has become a touchstone of the University and brought dozens of highly acclaimed authors and artisans to campus.

The gift is the largest ever to support the Torrington campus and will allow for a room in the M. Adela Eads Classroom Building to be renovated into a dual-purpose teaching and gallery area. It will also sustain the LCWAP itself through an endowed fund that supports fellowships for writers and artists and sponsors LCWAP events. The first display in the teaching and gallery area will feature the works of Robley E. Whitson, a distinguished writer and artist from Litchfield County who helped to coordinate the gift from an anonymous couple.

“This has come as a wonderful honor and an unexpected delight,” Whitson says. “I think what is most impressive about the writers and artists program is that it allows for the development of the connection between academics and the community at large. It moves beyond the narrow side of academia and has become something unique, wonderful and valuable—truly where the University meets the public.”

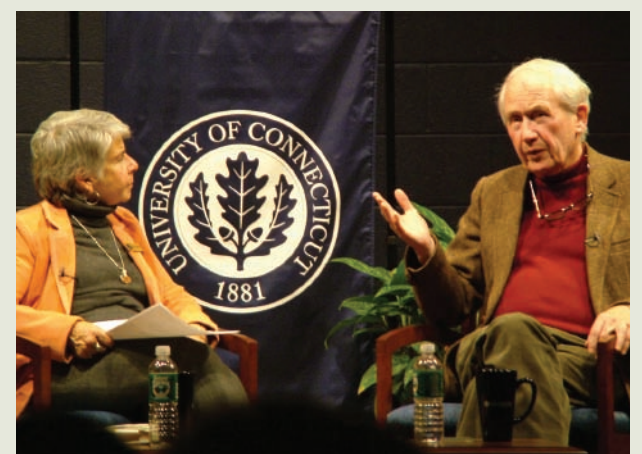
Whitson says that the program provides an atmosphere that is highly conducive for a deeper understanding of the arts, which the gift supports through the room renovations.

“For a visitor, the [dual-purpose room] area will be much more experiential than a typical gallery,” he says. “Instead of simply looking up at the pictures, patrons can actually study what the art means. There aren't many settings where you find the academics, the community and the arts so integrated.”

Involving the entire Litchfield County community plays a large role in the LCWAP's success. It is the primary outreach effort of UConn's Torrington campus, and has attracted such authors as Frank McCourt and Arthur Miller for presentations that are open to the public. The free and informal nature of the lectures attracts an audience from across Connecticut to the quiet north-west corner of the state. Director Davyne Verstandig believes the surroundings of Litchfield County itself may provide some of the artistic and literary inspiration for the program to thrive.

“I don't think there's any other community quite like this one,” she says. “There are dozens of award-winning authors in this area, and it's fascinating to see that talent come together and dialogue with this community. The fact that our project is free and open to the public matters a great deal. At each lecture, one can find a wide range of backgrounds, perspectives and viewpoints.”

Geraldine Van Doren is an English professor at the campus and a member of the LCWAP Advisory Board. She says the project has helped to put UConn-Torrington on the map. On campus,



LCWAP Director Davyne Verstandig (left) and award-winning author Frank McCourt

it has encouraged faculty from a number of disciplines to come together, which ultimately enriches the University.

“I can't see how this gift could do anything but raise more interest in the project,” she says. “This campus has such an interdisciplinary atmosphere. Torrington is so intimate, which I think gives us a certain freedom to work together. It is different from any campus on any university I've seen. The writers and artists project provides a catalyst on campus. There's a wonderful value to the community through the writers and filmmakers who have come, and the more we invest in it, the more it will give back to the entire University and the state.” 🌞

To support the LCWAP or UConn's Torrington campus, please contact Frank Gifford at 860.486.6798.