FROM THE DEAN

With my announced intent to step down as dean of the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources in January and planned retirement from UConn in May, this will be my last dean’s message for Pathways. I have had the extraordinary privilege to serve as dean of the College since July 2008, during a period of significant growth and change. As my time as dean comes to a close, it is an opportune moment to reflect on the progress we have made as a college over the past several years. That progress would not have been possible without the dedication of our faculty and staff each and every day and the overwhelming support of our many alumni and friends, who serve as our strongest advocates and cheerleaders. As dean, I take no credit for our progress but rather give all credit to our hard-working faculty and staff.

Since my arrival in 2008, our enrollment has increased nearly 80 percent, which I think speaks to the relevance of our programs to today’s students and our dedication to student success. Several years ago, I was interviewed by a reporter doing a story for USA Today on growth in colleges of agriculture and related sciences across the nation. He told me that based on his information, we were the second-fastest-growing college in the nation. I was stunned; I had no idea that we were growing so fast compared to our counterparts. He asked me to what I attributed this growth. After reflecting for a moment, I attributed the growth to two main factors. The first was the interest of today’s youth in seeking degree programs that are relevant in addressing current issues such as sustainable food systems, nutrition and health, the impact of climate change on our environment and many others. I said that the College’s research, extension and undergraduate and graduate education programs are at that intersection of food, health and the environment and address many of these pressing issues. Second, the media highlight many of these important issues on a daily basis, which helps drive that student interest. I said that you cannot pick up a newspaper or listen to the news without hearing a story about food, nutrition, the environment or another area represented in the College. I see a great future for our College and others across the nation due to our focus on addressing these complex issues.

We would not be where we are today without the support of our alumni and friends who inspire and support us. You have my heartfelt thanks for your support over these past several years.

Dean Gregory Weidemann
College of Agriculture, Health & Natural Resources Advisory Board

Tracy Burrell, Connecticut Master Gardner Association
David Christensen, Connecticut Grounds Keepers Association
Andrea Dennis-Lavigne, CT Veterinary Medical Association
Tim Devanney, Connecticut Food Association
Chris DiPasquale, Performance Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine
Erica Fearn, Connecticut Irrigation Contractors Association
Polly Fitz, Allied Health Sciences
Ben Freund, Connecticut Farm Bureau Dairy Committee
Liz Glynn, UCAHNRA
Eric Hammerling, Connecticut Forest & Parks Association
Bryan Hurlburt, USDA/FSA
Bill Hyatt, Connecticut DEEP
Anthony Johnson, Connecticut Environmental Council
Terry Jones, Working Lands Alliance
Leslie Kane, Audubon Center Bent of the River
Mark Mansur, Wintonbury Hills Golf Course
Serge Martinod, President, ARCANATURA
Tom Morgart, USDA/NRCS
Dan Morley, State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management
Lucy Nolan, End Hunger CT!
Liam O’Leary, Salmon Brook Veterinary Hospital
David Peterson, Council Agricultural Research Extension Teaching
Gary Proctor, Connecticut Poultry Association
James Putnam, Farm Credit East
Mike Reilly, Connecticut Equine
Steven Reviczky, Commissioner, DoAG
Jennifer Riggs, Extension Partners
Kevin Sullivan, Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association
Henry Talmadge, Connecticut Farm Bureau
Mike Theiler, Connecticut Seafood Council
Emilio Troiano, Connecticut Grounds Keepers Association
John Turenne, CT-NOFA, Sustainable Food Systems
Lynne Warren, Friends of Goodwin Forest
Kevin Woolam, CT/NE Sheepbreeders Association
Nick Zito, South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority

PATHWAYS is published annually by the College of Agriculture, Health & Natural Resources for alumni & friends of the college. Due to the costs of printing and mailing the magazine, PATHWAYS will now be found at cahnr.uconn.edu/Pathways. To read more news and information about the teaching, research and extension outreach programs and activities of the University of Connecticut's College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, visit our blog at naturally.uconn.edu.
President’s Message

Dear alumni and friends,

It is my pleasure to serve as president of UConn Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources Alumni (UCAHNRA). As we approach the end of the calendar year, I’d like to take a few moments to reflect on the accomplishments of our alumni group.

This summer, UCAHNRA adopted new operating guidelines, which will help this dedicated group of volunteers continue our mission to support the alumni, students, faculty and staff of the College. As always, UCAHNRA supported current students through scholarships. We were happy to award scholarships to two current students, and we wish them well as they continue their studies.

On October 1, UCAHNRA, the College and the Department of Alumni Relations hosted Husky Bluegrass, Brews and More under a tent in the quad in front of the W.B. Young Building. This event featured wine, beer, drinks, cheese and more from alumni-owned and local distributors. Proceeds from this event benefited our endowed scholarship fund. Our thanks to all the vendors, alumni and friends who supported this event and helped make it a success.

The following day, October 2, featured the 20th Cornucopia Fest. It’s hard to believe that this College tradition celebrated twenty years this fall! What a wonderful way to learn about the incredible research and projects that are happening at CAHNR. We hope that you will be able to join us for this annual event next fall.

Again this year, UCAHNRA had the opportunity to sponsor a buffet dinner for representatives who attended the annual CAHNR Career Night in November. This is a chance for current students to connect and network with professionals in the field and to learn about career options. This year saw great turnout, with over 100 representatives and more than 250 students attending!

In addition, UCAHNRA has supported other College and University programs and initiatives throughout the year. If you are interested in learning more about our alumni group and how you can get involved, please don’t hesitate to contact us at ucanraa@uconnalumni.com.

On behalf of UCAHNRA, I would like to thank Dean Weidemann for his years of outstanding service to our alumni board, to the College and to the entire UConn community. His dedication to the advancement of CAHNR and of UConn has had a positive impact on the work we do, and we wish him the best in his new adventures.

Sincerely,

Liz Glynn, ’08, ’11

Find us on Facebook!
CORNUCOPIA CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY

By Marlese Lessing

Cornucopia 2016

Continued on next page...
After cancellation due to high winds last year, the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources’ annual Cornucopia Fest was held Sunday, October 2, according to event coordinator and director of communications Sara Putnam.

“The purpose of Cornucopia is to show the public what’s going on in the College—the research that’s being done, student activities and Extension programs,” says Putnam. “We have activities and exhibits on nutrition, horticulture, the environment and health.”

Last year would have been the twentieth anniversary of Cornucopia Fest. Started by Dean Kirklyn Kerr in 1995 as a meet-and-greet event for faculty, staff, administrators and supporters of the College, it has evolved to become a public outreach event with activities and learning opportunities for all ages.

“While many UConn students and families come to Cornucopia, many others who aren’t affiliated with UConn also attend,” says Putnam. “We want people to see what we’re doing here and interact with our faculty, students and staff.”

She has been in charge of Cornucopia since its inception 21 years ago. Planning begins in the spring each year and involves working with many University units and organizations outside of UConn.

“We start planning around May or June,” she said. “I meet with Pam Chudzik, our director of alumni relations, and Jason Sheldon, our new marketing and publicity coordinator. We send out a request for ideas from students and faculty around the end of May. I do a lot of logistical planning over the summer, with the fire department, food services and vendors, regulators and certification administrators, environmental health and safety, parking and traffic management—it’s a lot.”

Some of the activities for this year’s Cornucopia Fest included corsage making, hayrides, a 5K run, greenhouse tours, a guided hike through the UConn Forest, ancient Roman surveying instrument instruction, equestrian team demonstrations and a plant sale held by the College’s alumni organization.

Outside organizations that collaborate with the College and University were also represented at Cornucopia, with informational and educational exhibits and interactive demonstrations.

“Bartlett Tree Experts, a company that’s done a great deal of work with the trees on the Storrs campus, gave away 500 tree saplings and offered a tree scavenger hunt,” Putnam says. “We had Riverside Reptiles, who brought snakes and other reptiles, and Horizon Wings, with rehabilitated birds of prey, and a therapy dog, a Newfoundland named Wrigley.”

The Cornucopia Challenge scavenger hunt activity encourages people to check out the booths and the displays.

“Visitors can go to the Communications Tent to pick up a Challenge card. The card has a numbered grid with activities to do and questions to answer,” said Putnam. “Look for the numbers among the activities and exhibits, and then get the answers to the questions, or do the activities. Fill in at least twenty of the boxes, and then bring the card back to the Communications tent to get your CAHNR water bottle. You are entered in a drawing for a dozen prizes, including CAHNR logo baseball hats, umbrellas and totes. The grand prize was four tickets to the October 22 UConn Homecoming game against UCF.”

Besides the opportunity to win prizes and learn something new, Cornucopia Fest is a way for friends to see each other and for family members of all species to interact.

“There are people whom I haven’t seen for a year, and they come up and talk to me. It’s really fun to see them,” says Putnam. “People like to bring their puppies or their service dogs in training. It’s a very family-friendly, animal-friendly environment.”

Many people were disappointed about the cancellation of Cornucopia Fest last year. Though Hurricane Joaquin narrowly missed hitting Storrs last year, the wind predictions projected an environment that was too risky for tent setup and breakdown.

This year, Cornucopia was held in the W.B. Young quad, as it has been for many years. In 2014, the
last year the event was held, the site was shifted to the Ratcliffe Hicks Arena and the adjacent parking and lawn areas due to construction in the quad. In 2015, the site was to have been moved even further from the quad and would have been surrounded by construction fence. Says Putnam, “The Facilities staff and contractors have been wonderful to work with, doing everything they could to lessen the impact of the construction on the event,” said Putnam.

“We get a lot of great feedback from the public,” said Putnam. “They come from all over the state and even elsewhere in the Northeast. I know of a few people who came to Cornucopia as children and later came to the College as majors.”

Cornucopia Fest is an important outreach event for the College, both educating and entertaining the public about agriculture, health and the environment.

“So much of the work that’s done here in the College is really about the quality of life,” says Putnam. “It’s important for people to come and interact with our scientists, our staff, our extension educators, economists and our students, and find information that’s useful for their everyday lives. The personal benefits of Cornucopia Fest include learning about landscaping with native plants, improving the quality of life through nutritional awareness … or enjoying a nice day in the countryside with family.”
Center for Learning in Retirement celebrates 25 years of offering lifelong learning opportunities
By Kim Colavito Markesich

The UConn Extension Center for Learning in Retirement (CLIR) is celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary of providing lifelong learning activities for UConn retirees and other adults. The milestone was celebrated October 19 with a luncheon at the Deanston House in Storrs. The UConn Board of Trustees chartered CLIR in September 1991, under the Division of Continuing and Extended Education. Four years ago, the program moved to the Department of Extension.

“The College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources has been very supportive,” says Stephen Kenton, CLIR president and professor emeritus at Eastern Connecticut State University. “We depend on a lot of people from Extension. They not only help us, they are so positive. They’ve been wonderful.”

The center provides lectures in a variety of subjects, from history and politics to health and the arts. Membership fees are $20 per term (three terms per year) and members may attend as many classes as they wish. The lectures include single talks and short courses, all offered at the Vernon Cottage on the UConn Mansfield Depot Campus.

“When I retired, I knew I had a choice to either spend my time watching television until my mind turned to oatmeal, or I could find things to do that would challenge me physically and mentally to retain my faculties for as long as possible,” says Howard Raphaelson, CLIR member. “CLIR has helped me maintain my mental capabilities by exposing me to a variety of experts in many fields.” Before retirement, Raphaelson worked in the financial department of an international marketing company.

“Lifelong learners are interested in lots of things,” says Kenton. “Most speakers find themselves ten minutes into a talk before people pepper them with questions. People are very engaged. There is a lot of give and take during the sessions.”

“The audiences are interested in what the speakers have to say,” says Cathleen Love, professor in the Department of Extension and CLIR administrative liaison. “They are grateful for the program. People at this age often find themselves isolated. This is a way to keep their brains active and maintain a social connection.”

“I visited similar programs across the country,” Love says. “This is by far the least expensive, and it’s run by a phenomenal group of retired people who have devoted an enormous amount of time to make this program work. It’s the hardest working group of volunteers I know.”

The Center has approximately 250 members, with twenty to sixty people attending each class. The College provides extension staff assistance and a location with parking. In turn, the CLIR contributes $6,000 per year to the University.

“We’ve had wonderful faculty members come speak,” Love says. “We’ve had presentations from the UConn president and provost and almost every dean. Little by little, the group is becoming more woven into the UConn community.”

“This program is an example of why we need to be reflective about aging. When I went around the country, there were 95-year-olds teaching dynamic courses that people couldn’t wait to get into. In our society, we tend to say that at a certain age we are done. For me, this program has been such a gift.”

“Land grant universities were set up to serve the whole population,” she points out. “Lifelong learning is a form of adult education and this outreach is critical to the mission of Extension.”

Love hopes to build more partnerships with Extension, the University and the community. “I think we could build partnerships that would engage populations of all ages with the community in very powerful ways. Including everyone in the work of a community provides us with resources we may otherwise overlook. CLIR is a community resource that has provided an outstanding service for adult learners for twenty-five years.”
PEP (People Empowering People) Celebrates 20th Anniversary
by Cathleen Love, Ph.D.

In 1993, Extension Educator Cherry Czuba and a social services coordinator in a Windham low-income housing project taught family life and community development strategies to five people identified as natural leaders in the community. Each participant committed a year, attended ten training sessions and monthly meetings, and addressed community issues through projects. In 1994, Czuba used a similar method in Vernon to address growing crime. Later that year, a VISTA worker conducted the program in Brooklyn and Danielson.

Extension educators Cathy Malley and Ede Valiquette brought the program to Danbury, Manchester, Hartford, East Hartford and West Hartford. Additional VISTA members allowed expansion to Vernon, Enfield and Meriden. From these programs, the UConn People Empowering People (PEP) program was founded in 1996. More than two thousand people have graduated from the PEP program in the past twenty years.

UConn PEP is a personal and family development program with a strong community focus. Building on individual life experiences and strengths, the program encourages growth in communication, goal setting, problem-solving skills, parent and family relationships and community involvement. Czuba retired in 2013, and Extension Professor Cathleen Love now coordinates the program.

UConn PEP participants set goals, develop relationships and make connections. They also share stories and begin to believe they can make a difference. An early participant from Enfield reflected, “UConn PEP changed my life for the better. If it weren’t for PEP, I wouldn’t have the job I have today. PEP helped give me the drive to want something better and gave me the confidence to believe that I could do it. It also helped me be a better parent.”

PEP expanded to other states, including Michigan, California and Missouri. Czuba worked with a professor from South Africa to establish the program at the University of Pretoria. PEP continues to have a broad reach, with Vermont and Florida actively teaching PEP programs in 2016.

In the words of one recent UConn PEP graduate, “I learned from every participant in my wonderful group. I re-learned things like trust in groups. I came to appreciate different lifestyles and different ways of thinking, living, caring, sharing and teaching. PEP program helped me renew my faith in how wonderful people are. It has reopened my eyes to how important differences are in people, in every aspect, but yet in the end how we really are the same and that we, each one of us, can make a difference.”

During the UConn PEP program, one woman set a goal to go to college. She is now working on her bachelor’s degree. The student says, “Participating in PEP changed my life. I had begun to feel unworthy, unintelligent, unappreciated. This program built and renewed my confidence in myself. For that I am so appreciative.”

PEP continues to grow through support from partner organizations, including school districts, nonprofit organizations and faith-based communities.

In partnership with UConn’s the Center for Applied Research in Human Development (CARHD), a questionnaire was administered to all participants before and after program participation. Key findings from the analyses were that UConn PEP participants showed significant positive changes in self-assertive efficacy, sense of mastery, parental satisfaction, family problem-solving communication and community engagement. Participants were overall very satisfied with the program. They felt that the community project was beneficial to the community.

UConn PEP has positively influenced communities across the state; more than fifty towns have had programs in the last twenty years. UConn Extension has created an endowment at the UConn Foundation, the Cherry Czuba UConn PEP Program Fund, to provide permanent support for the program.

“I enjoyed every moment of our classes,” a participant said, “I loved the stories we shared, the tears we shed, the laughter, the trust within the group and the comfort we felt in sharing and speaking with one another.”
Augustus and Charles Storrs Award
Clinton S. Roberts Foundation
By Nancy P. Weiss

In 1881, Augustus and Charles Storrs made a gift of 170 acres of farmland with buildings and $5,000 to establish a school of agriculture. The Storrs Agricultural School opened September 28, 1881. In April 1893, the General Assembly changed the school’s name to the Storrs Agricultural College, allowed for the enrollment of women and made it the beneficiary of the federal Land Grant Act of 1862.

From the beginning, the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, the original school and college of what became the University of Connecticut, has served the state with distinction, providing undergrad-uate, graduate, extension, family and 4-H youth education, research and service in a wide variety of areas related to agriculture, food, natural resources and the environment.

The Augustus and Charles Storrs Award is given by the University of Connecticut College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources. The award recognizes and honors those who, through their leadership, generosity and belief in the future of Connecticut, support the College in its service to the state, region and nation.

Clinton S. Roberts, a businessman from Bristol, Connecticut, left a legacy that continues to improve the lives of students at the University of Connecticut College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, through gifts from the Clinton S. Roberts Foundation.

Mr. Roberts was a farmer. In 1992, he suffered a stroke while haying. Mr. Roberts moved to a nursing home as his wife and son, Warren, who had attended the University of Connecticut, pre-deceased him. Roberts was a vibrant man who enjoyed keeping track of the news in hometown of Bristol.

In his 80s, Mr. Roberts was faced with the question of what would be done with his assets when he passed away. He created the Clinton Roberts S. Foundation, naming nieces Linda Arbesman and Ellen Ferrier and nephew Leonard Roberts as board members.

“It is a pleasure to be a member of the foundation and to provide financial help to students in need and to other worthy groups,” said Ellen Ferrier.

Clinton Roberts died in 1994 and his affection for the land and people involved in the study of agriculture and the environment lives on in scholarships totaling over $375,000 to more than 200 students in the College. Through his nieces’ interest and involvement in the 4-H program have come gifts for the Connecticut 4-H Farm in Bloomfield and the 4-H Orchard as well as support of projects on a statewide basis.

The Clinton S. Roberts Foundation will continue in perpetuity to honor his vision and to help students continue their studies in agriculture and the environment.
UConn Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources Alumni Awards

UCAHNRA OUTSTANDING STAFF AWARD
Stacey Stearns
Department of Extension

Stacey Stearns joined UConn Extension in 2012. She has distinguished herself as an exceptional resource to faculty and staff across UConn Extension. Her primary responsibility is providing program support for the UConn Extension Agriculture Team. She works with agricultural extension educators to organize programs, develop educational materials, promote programs and create new delivery channels. Ms. Stearns brings a positive attitude to her assignments. She shows commitment, energy and enthusiasm in every task and has made a considerable impact on UConn Extension.

Ms. Stearns also provides leadership on federal accountability reporting for UConn Extension, coordinating data collection for multi-state and integrated programs required by federal reporting guidelines. She collects success stories from across UConn Extension, organizing them into the report used to demonstrate accountability and impacts for the College’s $2.2 million in federal capacity funding.

Ms. Stearns’s leadership on social media has transformed Extension’s presence in this digital forum. She created a blog for Extension, overhauled the UConn Extension Facebook page and developed a series of training exercises for faculty and staff on using social media. The result is that UConn Extension stories are picked up by external media around the state, increasing the visibility of extension programs and their impacts.

UCAHNRA EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD
Joseph Bonelli
Department of Extension

Joe Bonelli is a vital extension faculty member in the area of agricultural risk management and farm business management. He teaches Garden Center Management in the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture and Essentials of Accounting and Business in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, both offered jointly with the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture.

Mr. Bonelli represents the essence of excellence and lasting impact in teaching. His impact on students and the lessons they learn through his courses are felt long after their time in the classroom ends. His personal experience in the field allows him to connect teaching material to the real world. He presents highly relevant information, is an avid listener, firmly grasps issues and is well prepared to address those issues brought before him. Mr. Bonelli takes an active interest in his students, making himself available for supplemental instruction and advising throughout the semester. He is fair and gives students every opportunity to succeed.

Mr. Bonelli has the ability to reach out and engage audiences seeking help to improve economic opportunities. He stays current with what is happening in corresponding fields of research, and his ability to translate this information to understandable material helps audiences flourish.

Mr. Bonelli has pursued professional development in the continued improvement of teaching and student learning by becoming a service-learning instructor and participating in the many workshops and leadership sessions organized by that group. He also regularly partners with other faculty and professionals outside of UConn to enhance the value of his teaching program. Mr. Bonelli is an excellent faculty member and teacher and a credit to UConn.

UCAHNRA EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD
Steven Rackliffe
Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture

Steven Rackliffe joined the faculty of the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture in 2000. He currently serves as instructor for four courses and co-instructor of a fifth course and has been recognized for his contributions to teaching and student learning.

Continued on next page
course in the two-year and four-year programs. He also manages all internships for turfgrass majors, totaling 170 to date. He visits each intern and spends several hours with each student as he or she learns all aspects of turfgrass management. Many internship experiences lead to job offers.

With more than twenty years of experience as a golf course manager, Mr. Rackliffe brings a wealth of personal experience to the learning environment and uses this experience to challenge students with real-world situations. He equips his students with the tools necessary to address practical problems and then through practice, he enables them to develop the critical thinking skills and self-confidence necessary to take on challenges.

Mr. Rackliffe is a valuable contributor to both research and outreach education programs. He is recognized throughout the state for his expertise in turf management and his advice is highly valued. He is currently involved in evaluating turfgrass varieties, providing students with athletic field maintenance experience and testing organic turf care and alternative pest control strategies. He is also a regular contributor to the Connecticut Master Gardener Program’s educational offerings.

Mr. Rackliffe is a member of many professional organizations, including the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. He is an honorary member of the Connecticut Grounds Keepers Association. He also serves on multiple College committees. Mr. Rackliffe is an innovative faculty member who serves as a model for his outstanding classroom performance.

A quiet and humble leader, Mr. Parisi has been part of the Yale-New Haven rehabilitation team since 1978. In 1982, he moved into a supervisory position and became director in 1986. He received the UConn School of Allied Health Clinical Education Pluralism Award in 1997 for his work in the Consulting Pairs program, which promoted diversity in the hospital community. Most recently, Mr. Parisi has been tasked to lead an evolving institution at Yale-New Haven Hospital with a team of nearly 150 therapists. In an ever-changing environment, he continues to provide consistent leadership.

Throughout his career, Mr. Parisi has successfully taken on the challenges in health care, embraced diversity, provided leadership and organizational influence and represented the field of physical therapy in the most positive light.

Bonnie Noel-Kegler has been educating and mentoring young agriculturalists for more than twenty years as a high school teacher and advisor; as a leader in agricultural organizations, 4-H and scouts; and through continued involvement in the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources’ activities. She has clearly demonstrated that an individual with local roots can have state and national impact on agriculture and agriculture education.

Ms. Noel-Kegler has a broad range of knowledge, abilities and characteristics that have been recognized at the national level. She has been selected as an outstanding teacher by the National Association of Agricultural Educators and served as a judge at the National FFA (Future Farmers of America) Convention and as a board member for national FFA publications. Ms. Noel-Kegler has received the Honorary American FFA degree, one of the highest awards given by the National FFA. She is currently the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) representative on the National FFA Alumni Council. She was nominated for Disney’s American Teacher Award and included in Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers. In addition, Ms. Noel-Kegler serves on local boards and organizations and has served as the cooperating teacher for numerous student teachers from the Neag School of Education.

During her years as a leader and educator, Ms. Noel-Kegler has made outstanding contributions to agriculture, mentoring hundreds of youth. She has helped shape the future of the broad fields of agriculture, health and the environment.
ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

Quinn Named General Manager
Robert Quinn Jr. ’98 BA (Political Science), ’00 MA (Kinesiology) has been named general manager of the Detroit Lions. Prior to joining the Lions, Quinn had been with the New England Patriots for sixteen sixteen seasons, serving as director of pro scouting for the last four.

Siegel Inducted into Hall of Fame
Paul Siegel ’53 BS was inducted into the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Hall of Fame. Siegel, University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Animal Science, began his career at Virginia Tech in 1957. His work focused on the role of genetics on nutrition, disease, immunology, physiology and behavior. Siegel has also been inducted into the American Poultry Industry Hall of Fame by the American Poultry Historical Society, and in 2010, the Virginia Tech poultry research center was renamed the Paul B. Siegel Poultry Research Center.

Casasanta Named Vice President
Lisa Casasanta ’87 BS (Medical Technology), ’95 MPH has been named vice president of populations health for Mercy Medical Center and the Sisters of Providence Health System. Prior to this role, Casasanta served as director of populations health marketing and managed markets marketing for Boehringer-Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals.

Steven Zinn, Ph.D., professor and head of the Department of Animal Science, received the UConn Alumni Relations Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award at a luncheon attended by President Herbst, Provost Mun Choi, members of the UConn Foundation Board of Directors and faculty colleagues. The UConn Faculty Excellence Award, awarded by the UConn Foundation Office of Alumni Relations, is a nomination-based recognition award that raises up the dedicated members of the UConn family. Left to right: Steven Zinn; UConn Foundation board member Sue Bird; Catherine North, wife of Steven Zinn; and Zinn’s and North’s son, Jacob Zinn (BS, Pathbiology; MS, Allied Health Sciences).
Kyle Pretka, a graduate of the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, is living his dream. He’s residing in sunny southern California designing skate parks. One of his recent projects was creating the skateboard course for the 2016 X Games in Austin, Texas. Here’s what he said in an interview.

**What was your major in the College? When did you graduate? With what degree?**

My major was landscape architecture (LA). I graduated in May 2015. I received a BS in landscape architecture with a minor in ornamental horticulture.

**What class was most useful to you?** All of the design classes in the LA program were really useful to me. I use the skills I was taught from those classes every single day. If I had to pick one class that stood out, I would say the model building course I took in my junior year really taught me a lot about design and spatial relationships. It is crucial to everything I do now. The class was all about creating abstract designs that fit the guidelines of a given project. It forced you to be creative and think outside the box, which I believe is necessary if you want to be a successful designer.

**Please describe your current job.** I am a designer for California RampWorks. California RampWorks is a prestigious skate park design-build firm. We create skate parks for events like the X Games, Dew Tour, Van Doren Invitational and many more all over the world. I have been helping create the designs, which have to be progressive in their aesthetics, form and flow in order to develop exciting events and parks.

**Are you doing what you imagined you would be doing at this point in your life?** I’ve had the goal of being a skate park designer since I was a sophomore, but I never thought I would be designing for one of the best skate park design firms in the world this early on in my career. However, I’ve been skateboarding for over ten years and to be able to apply those years of hard work and experience to my landscape architecture schooling has opened so many doors for me. I would not be able to be a skate park designer without those two components, which is the main reason I was able to fit right into the RampWorks crew.

**Do you have advice for current students that will help them in the future?** My advice for current students is don’t be afraid to take risks. I was the only one in my classes that was interested in designing skate parks. When I graduated from UConn I had a job offer in Connecticut, and there was a lot of pressure on me to take that job, but I’ve always had the dream of living in California and pursuing a career in the skateboarding industry. So I took a chance, moved out to California and went for it. I might have been a little lucky as well, but I don’t think people should be settling for something they don’t want, especially when you go to a great school like UConn.

**Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?** I have never really been a fan of the snowy, cold winters in Connecticut. I like to be outside and active and California seemed like the perfect place for that. I have been picking up surfing in my spare time out here and I am able to skateboard all year round. I live in San Diego and it’s been really awesome exploring a new place; it’s a great city.
Rachel Hume is a senior undergraduate student majoring in natural resources. A Mystic resident, she enjoys hiking, gardening and the outdoors. Rachel also is a recipient of the Difference Makers Scholarship. She works at the Spring Valley Student Farm and hopes to travel the world when she graduates. Here is what she said about her experiences as a CAHNR student.

What attracted you to UConn? I started at Three Rivers Community College for my associate’s degree, in order to get my general education requirement completed. I knew I wanted to work with the environment, but I was not sure what I wanted my major to be. Since the credits automatically transferred to UConn, I decided that I could figure out what I wanted to do in the meantime.

What is your major, and why did you choose it? I am a natural resources major, with a focus in climate and water resources. I originally wanted to go into either marine biology or environmental engineering, but then, after a few chemistry classes, I realized math was not for me. I really like the environment and being outside, and I wanted my work to be primarily out in the field instead of working in a laboratory or at a desk. I was drawn to a degree in natural resources because it allows for a large diversity of career options and graduate school research.

Which one of your UConn activities, internships or jobs was the most memorable? Why? Over the summer, I maintained EcoGarden, which is a student run garden. For this semester I’m working at Spring Valley Student Farm. We the crops we grow include green beans, peas, yellow squash, zucchini, eggplant, tomatoes, peppers, onions, cucumbers, lettuce mixes, herbs, tomatillo, melons, edible flowers and a variety of gourds. All of the produce is sold at Chuck and Augie’s, One Plate Two Plate, the UConn dining halls and the farmer’s market on campus.

I work with Julia Cartabiano, the farm manager at SVSF and a dining services affiliate, who taught me a great deal about organic, sustainable farming practices. She is a very motivated, hard-working woman, and she inspires me to work with sustainable agriculture and development in the future.

Name two other experiences that have enriched your studies. Natural Resources Measurements with Professor Clausen was one of the first classes I took at UConn. It gave me a broad overview of what kind of work I might do with my degree. We learned a variety of techniques to determine fish and wildlife population and how to take forest, vegetation, hydrologic, habitat and meteorological measurements. In addition, I learned how to determine water quality and the amount of air pollution in an area.

Introduction to Geomatics with Professor Meyer made me realize how important mapping was in my field of study. Creating a map can be a powerful tool to display complex information in a visual format.

What was the biggest challenge in your UConn career? My biggest challenge is mainly trying to balance work and school. I live off-campus and have fully supported myself financially since I was eighteen years old. When I moved to Willimantic to attend UConn, I had to find a job that would support my expenses. Trying to generate enough income to be able to keep my apartment while being a full-time student can be very stressful.

When do you expect to graduate? What then? I’m going to graduate in May 2017. Afterwards, I would like to participate in World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms for a year or two. You work four to five hours a day on an organic farm in exchange for room and board. I am particularly interesting in participating in a WWOOF program in northern Thailand at an elephant sanctuary and a WWOOF program in New Zealand where they build Earthships, which are solar-powered houses. After that, I may continue my education and go to graduate school.

Is there anything else you would like us to know about you? Prior to receiving the Difference Maker scholarship, I was planning to take a semester off to save up money. Dr. Volin called me late on a Friday in May to tell me I received the scholarship, and I was ecstatic. It was one of my happiest memories at UConn. Due to the generous donors of the Difference Makers Scholarship, I’ll be able to graduate on time! Not only did this scholarship allow me to continue my schooling, but I was also able to pay off my student loans.I will officially be graduating debt free! I am so very grateful for this scholarship.
Memorial award honors alumnus and provides professional experience for landscape architecture students

by By Kim Colavito Markesich

Tristan Welch, a senior majoring in landscape architecture in the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, is the first recipient of the Kyle C. Slocum Memorial Award. The award grants an internship with the largest integrated design firm in the state, The S/L/A/M Collaborative, located in Glastonbury, Connecticut. Services include landscape architecture, architecture, structural engineering, interior design and construction services.

SLAM is a multi-disciplinary design firm headquartered in Glastonbury, Connecticut, with offices in Atlanta, Boston and Syracuse. The internship honors the contribution of UConn graduate Kyle Slocum, who is credited for growing the landscape architecture (LA) studio at SLAM. Slocum passed away in June of 2015, at the age of 50.

“Kyle Slocum was responsible for developing the strong landscape architecture presence at SLAM,” says John Alexopoulos, associate professor of landscape architecture. “He was able to develop an identity for landscape architecture within a traditional architecture firm. Kyle was a terrific student. He had this quiet demeanor, but a great sense of humor. He was a very likable person. It shows in his work. He was able to manage and get along with everyone.”

“Kyle was the first landscape architect to solidify the mission of the LA studio at SLAM,” says Daniel Granniss, SLAM LA Studio leader. “When the first studio leader left, he stepped in to keep the LA Studio at SLAM. He built it up, brick by brick. Kyle was one of the reasons I came here.”

The six-week internship provides a $3,000 stipend and offers a landscape architecture student the opportunity to receive real-work experience while working with respected professionals involved in numerous innovative projects.

“The mission of this internship is to train students in very strategic areas and take that knowledge back to the LA studio at UConn,” says Granniss. “We are able to give students field experience on high-end design projects, as well as exposure to cutting-edge technology.”

“It was both a privilege and an honor to have been awarded the Kyle Slocum Memorial Award,” says Welch. “I can’t express enough how welcomed I have felt throughout my entire internship experience. I want to thank everyone at the LA studio for creating such a pivotal experience in my very young career.”

“Tristan did so well that at the end of the six weeks, they kept him on and paid him throughout the remainder of the summer,” says Alexopoulos.

“Tristan was amazing,” Granniss remarks. “We selected him because of his high character, not just his portfolio. He is excited about being a mentor to other students.”

A number of Slocum’s colleagues at SLAM are also UConn graduates, including Granniss, Bill Cone, Julissa Mendez, Michael Rettenmeier, Matt Cosma and Megan Duva.

“Our landscape architecture program is one of those best-kept secrets in the College,” says Amy Chesmer, senior director of development for health sciences. “The program is so widely respected that our students go on to have opportunities at some of the best firms in the country. These types of opportunities created by alumni for current students are immeasurable in their value to the students’ education. We’re very appreciative when alumni are willing to provide such an opportunity.”

“The LA studio at SLAM has been very supportive to our students,” says Alexopoulos. “It’s a two-way street. The students are given an opportunity to learn, and the firm is able to contribute to the next generation of young professionals.”
Faculty researchers in the College are credited with developing methods to determine caloric contents of foods; discovering the relationship between bovine tuberculosis and human tuberculosis; performing pioneering research in the role of viruses in poultry diseases; successfully isolating and growing Vibrio fetus, which led to a vaccination program for vibriosis in 1954; discerning the involvement of different bacteria in bovine mastitis and their control; developing the first high-efficiency poultry feed, “Connecticut Ration”; establishing the interrelationships of vitamins A, D and E; and characterizing the nutritional value of human breast milk. Faculty members in the plant sciences have developed new plant varieties, particularly in horticultural crops, that have generated significant licensing income for the University. Dr. Jerry Yang and his research team announced in 1999 that they had delivered the first cloned bovine calf in the world.

The new knowledge generated by the College’s faculty, staff and students is communicated to students in UConn’s classrooms and delivered to practitioners in the field through the Cooperative Extension System.

“I’d like to identify why we are not symmetrical. Why our left and right sides don’t do the same jobs on the same schedule. It has huge clinical implications.”

— Jeffrey Kinsella-Shaw

Physical therapist studies risk and prevention of falling

By Kim Colavito Markesich

According to the CDC, each year 2.5 million older people are treated in emergency departments for fall injuries.

“We are more prone to falls as we age,” says Jeffrey Kinsella-Shaw, associate professor in the Department of Kinesiology and director of the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program (DPT). “Keeping people from falling and hitting the ground is hugely important, as falls are the fourth biggest killer of Americans over the age of sixty-five.”

While a physical therapist at Windham hospital, Kinsella-Shaw directed a fall risk reduction program and support group for patients with Parkinson’s disease and multiple sclerosis, as well as stroke survivors. Working with these patients gave him an insider’s view into living with balance issues.

His current research focuses on two areas. The first is looking at the biophysics of postural control, evaluating fall risks and examining how aging in the brain and other perceptual systems affect movement and balance.

His other area of interest is determining how exercise affects neurotrophic factors in the brain relating to aging, to improve short term and spatial memory as well as stave off major depressive disorders often seen in elderly patients. This research will be done at UConn’s...
newly constructed Brain Imaging Research Center (BIRC).

“One of the exciting things at UConn is the new Siemens 3 tesla Prisma MRI scanner housed in the BIRC,” Kinsella-Shaw says. “We are now one of the best-equipped research facilities on the East Coast for clinical and cognitive neuroscience.”

So why do we fall more as we age? “The changes are principally neuromuscular,” Kinsella-Shaw explains. “This includes both a slower reaction time and a general loss of balance that parallels changes in vision, hearing, and the entire nervous system.”

The most common way people fall is to misjudge the height of a surface when stepping up or down, tripping over a step, uneven surface or clutter, or by experiencing a loss of balance.

“In physical therapy we find that people change the degree in which they penetrate the local environment,” Kinsella-Shaw says. “They engage in fewer activities because they feel an escalated sense of risk, or worse, don’t change until they’ve had an accident. People lose their ability to judge what they are capable of doing.”

Anything that affects movement of fluid in the ears or that damages the cells in the inner ear can influence balance. This could include exposure to second-hand smoke, high levels of noise pressure and overuse of antibiotics in the erythromycin family.

Kinsella-Shaw and a team of DPT students are conducting a study on the potential of minimalist running shoes to improve balance.

“We know that the use of minimalist shoes by long distance runners creates healthy changes in foot mechanics,” Kinsella-Shaw explains. “We want to see if using these shoes will give elderly folks better contact with the ground and improve their balance.”

The study will compare the use of minimalist shoes and standard shoes. New Balance is supporting the project by providing shoes.

In another study supported through a seed grant ($10,000 to pay for twenty MRI sessions), Kinsella-Shaw is partnering with Assistant Professor of Kinesiology Adam Lepley in a patient-centered study at the BIRC. The project will involve transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) to determine whether brain stimulation will improve recovery from ACL knee surgery. The idea is to train the muscles while applying direct facilitatory stimulation to the part of the brain that controls the muscles in the upper thigh and knee, examining any changes in the motor cortex after stimulation through a functional MRI (fMRI). While a structural MRI provides images of tissues, an fMRI maps brain activity.

Such research could lead to advances in treating patients with other health issues such as stroke or total knee replacement. “This is a step toward a new class of clinical interventions in regenerative medicine,” Kinsella-Shaw points out.

Regenerative medicine is a relatively new area, but one with exciting potential to treat a variety of illnesses such as Parkinson’s disease and multiple sclerosis.

When asked what Kinsella-Shaw would most like to learn about the brain, he says, “I’d like to identify why we are not symmetrical. Why our left and right sides don’t do the same jobs on the same schedule. It has huge clinical implications.”

“We know a lot about sections of the brain, but not why it works altogether,” he says. “We are in a period of history where the expansion of our knowledge base is more rapid than ever before, because we finally have the tools that allow us to examine the brain from a molecular to holistic level.”

Extension partners with NRCS to help agricultural producers prepare for drought

By Kim Colavito Markesich

While Connecticut residents live in a state with ample water resources, we are beginning to notice some changes in precipitation trends. “Connecticut is very fortunate as we’re actually quite water rich,” says Angie Murdukhayeva, research assistant in UConn Extension. “We are getting rainfall, but there’s a shift in what we are beginning to experience, and what scientists expect to continue, which is more intense rain events less frequently. This type of rainfall can lead to drought conditions for agricultural producers.”

In 2015, Connecticut requested over $8 million dollars in federal emergency loans to be made available for crop losses due to moderate drought conditions across the state.

Mike O’Neill, associate dean and associate director of UConn Extension, and Murdukhayeva are working on a two-year water conservation project funded through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program. Funding is provided through a $400,000 NRCS grant matched one to one by the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources.

The UConn team is partnering with NRCS to promote conservation assistance to agricultural producers. The project goal focuses on agricultural water security by helping farmers prepare for drought, improve their irrigation efficiency and establish water conservation practices.

“In the past, NRCS did everything
themselves,” O’Neill explains. “But now they are outsourcing some of that work because they realize we have partnerships in the community that can be effective in helping people implement agricultural conservation practices. I think this is a very innovative act on the part of the NRCS.”

Twelve pilot sites across the state have been identified to include a variety of agricultural operations including greenhouses, nurseries, vegetable growers and dairy and livestock farms.

“We’re really trying to target new and beginning agricultural operations because we feel they run the greatest risk of failure as a result of drought,” O’Neill says. “We look at what these operations can do in advance to make them more secure when a drought hits. If you can prepare farmers in advance, then when drought occurs, they’re not dealing with mitigation or lost crops, they will be able to weather the drought and be successful.”

The first step in the project involved review of the operations, followed by a site visit. Then the team installed a water meter at each site. The meter information is easily managed by farmers through an innovative text messaging data collection method developed by Nicholas Hanna, computer programmer with the College’s Office of Communications. The program allows operators to check their meter reading once weekly, quickly send the results via text messaging and receive a confirmation of their submission. The readings are entered into a database associated with their number and farm name. By season’s end, the team will chart water usage tied to climate variables such as precipitation and wind, and will then review current watering practices and help owners develop strategies that manage water usage and prepare for drought conditions.

The NRCS will also use this data to help farmers access water saving strategies and equipment.

“In the end, we will be directing them to NRCS for financial assistance to implement conservation practices,” says Murdukhayeva. The NRCS financial assistance programs are designed to help agricultural producers maintain and improve their water program in areas such as soil management and irrigation efficiency.

Some seventy-five agricultural producers have expressed interest in the program thus far, with the number growing weekly. To join the program, farmers complete a water use survey available online. A member of the team will conduct a field site visit. “If farmers are interested in getting a meter, we want to hear from them,” says O’Neill. “We have a really great team working on this project,” he says. The group includes Rosa Raudales, assistant professor and horticulture extension specialist in the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture; Mike Dietz, extension educator in water resources, low impact development and storm water management; and Ben Campbell, former assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, currently an assistant professor and extension economist at the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

In another aspect of the project, the team is partnering with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Office of Policy and Management to explore water needs for agriculture in Connecticut. This understanding could inform policy decisions for future agricultural development within the state.

O’Neill is submitting a proposal in hopes of renewing the project for another three years, with a goal of adding fifty to sixty more metered sites.

“This is a teachable moment for us,” O’Neill says. “We feel like these agricultural producers are scientists. We have an opportunity to help farmers conserve water, increase profitability and preserve the environment. They treat their business as a science, and we are trying to work with them to help them enhance their science capabilities and make better choices.”
Agricultural economist studies voting and farming legislation

By Jason M. Sheldon

This fall, the Department of Agriculture and Resource Economics welcomed a new faculty member, Assistant Professor John Bovay. As an agricultural economist and outreach educator, he brings years of experience researching agricultural policies and the food supply chain, including labeling, imports, safety, waste and animal welfare. In his previous work with the University of California Agricultural Issues Center and the USDA Economic Research Service, he assisted farmers, businesses and policy makers. At UConn, Bovay is engaging in teaching, research, and extension, applying his economic knowledge to educate students in sustainable agribusiness management and continuing to explore new ways to help farmers and growers and legislators.

Part of Bovay’s research investigates the economic effects of farming legislation and the role of economic incentives in determining voter preferences for agricultural regulation. On November 8, Massachusetts approved Question 3, a measure that sets minimum size requirements for farm animal containment. The ballot question concerned restricting the sale of veal, pork and eggs when animals are kept in spaces that prevent them from standing up, lying down, extending their limbs or turning around.

Bovay researched a similar measure passed in 2008, Proposition 2 in California, that banned constrictive methods of farm animal containment. The ballot question concerned restricting the sale of veal, pork and eggs when animals are kept in spaces that prevent them from standing up, lying down, extending their limbs or turning around.

Bovay has conducted additional research in California on Proposition 37 in 2012, a ballot measure related to labeling requirements for foods containing genetically modified organisms (GMOs) or produced by genetic engineering. He found that economic and social variables correlated to support or dissent, as it had for animal containment. The greatest correlation he discovered was voters supporting Barack Obama in the presidential race also backed the passage of Prop 37, as they had backed Prop 2. There were additional indicators that more education signaled support as well, while higher income signaled a lack of endorsement for the measure.

Bovay has conducted additional research in California on Proposition 37 in 2012, a ballot measure related to labeling requirements for foods containing genetically modified organisms (GMOs) or produced by genetic engineering. He found that economic and social variables correlated to support or dissent, as it had for animal containment. The greatest correlation he discovered was voters supporting Barack Obama in the presidential race also backed the passage of Prop 37, as they had backed Prop 2. There were additional indicators that more education signaled support as well, while higher income signaled a lack of endorsement for the measure.

A federal GMO labeling bill was passed over the summer this year that nullifies state labeling but Bovay explains the value of this research in learning more about how votes are cast when pertaining to agricultural policy. While voters can have a voice in agricultural legislation, many regulations are invoked directly by lawmakers. Bovay explores how farms deal with costs from the introduction of new policies.

The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) was signed into law in 2011 and its expansive regulations began taking effect this past September. FSMA was designed to increase food safety through health and hygiene measures to prevent contamination with the goal of protecting the country’s food supply.

Bovay explains that these additional requirements and practices have already been adopted by most suppliers and buyers. The requirements will likely have little effect on larger farms, but smaller farms and businesses find themselves at a severe disadvantage based on additional costs associated with new protocols, especially related to water testing and handling of animal manure.

“The fear is that FSMA will increase costs for smaller farms and jeopardize their ability to remain viable,” Bovay says. “If a ten-acre farm and a thousand-acre farm have to test one water source, for example, both farms pay the same fees, but it takes more percentage-wise from the smaller farm’s bottom line. I’m investigating how farm size plays a key role in the effects of FSMA and also how farms growing a particular type of crop might incur differing costs from the legislation. FSMA might not...
put a farm out of business, but it will definitely make a farm less profitable.”

Bovay hopes to present his research on the economic consequences of FSMA on farms at the New York Produce Show and Conference in December. He also has a number of other projects on the horizon.

As an extension educator, Bovay is eager to implement new outreach initiatives. He intends to focus on assisting greenhouses and dairy farms, two of Connecticut’s largest agricultural industries. One of his aims is to help farmers mitigate energy costs by adopting new technologies like solar panels and anaerobic digesters, machinery that composites animal waste into biogases that can produce electricity on the farm.

Bovay is also planning an expansive approach to help all sectors of the Connecticut’s agricultural industry by determining benchmarks for crops and livestock. Calculating average costs throughout the state can help farmers evaluate their current practices and also present options for farmers looking to diversify their crops or livestock. In the future, he hopes to have an interactive program or an app that can help farms calculate expenses based on field size and other variables to produce accurate estimations of feasibility and profitability.

“My hope is that this information will be an invaluable tool that farmers can use to evaluate their productivity and practices to look into reducing costs in certain areas. It will break down different categories of cost and farmers can use these benchmarks to improve their farms. If farmers have an empty field or are looking to expand, they can use this information to find economically viable crops. Farmers will be able to use this knowledge to make informed decisions. I hope to create something where variables can be entered into an interface to give farmers specific information based on their property and resources. I’m starting this project in the coming months.”

By Sara Putnam

After serving as dean of the College for two highly successful and productive terms, Dean Gregory J. Weidemann announced earlier this fall that he will step down as dean of the College, effective January 11, 2017.

In an email addressed to members of the College, Dean Weidemann wrote, “When I arrived in Storrs in July, 2008, I publicly stated that I would serve no longer than ten years as dean. While I am stepping aside a bit earlier than that, much of what I set out to accomplish has been done and those items outstanding cannot be realized over the next few years. While the timing is never perfect, I believe that the time is right to hand over the reins to new leadership.”

He continued, “To each and every member of our College family, it has been a pleasure serving you as dean. I am very proud of what you do for our students and every Connecticut citizen each and every day. I have been blessed with an outstanding leadership team and I am confident in a smooth transition to new leadership.”

Provost Mun Choi honored Dean Weidemann for his leadership and service to the College at a reception on December 8.

On Wednesday, November 30, Provost Choi announced that Associate Dean Cameron Faustman will serve as interim dean. A professor in the Department of Animal Science, Faustman is currently the College’s associate dean for academic programs and research and director of the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture.

In his announcement, the provost stated that “Cameron has been honored with local and national awards in both teaching and research, including his selection as a UConn Teaching Fellow. He has also assumed many leadership and service roles at UConn and is widely respected as a colleague across campus. We are grateful that Cameron, a University Scholar alumnus of UConn, has agreed to assume this additional leadership role, for many reasons, including his knowledge and commitment to both the University and the College.”

Faustman’s appointment as interim dean will begin January 12, 2017.
Meet undergraduate Paige Gorman, Difference Makers Scholarship Recipient
By Marlese Lessing

Seventh semester senior Paige Gorman calls herself a “nerd for community service” and has worked in a soup kitchen for the homeless as well as in nursing homes. In addition, she is a Difference Makers Scholarship recipient. An Enfield resident, Gorman is actively involved in her sorority, Alpha Phi. She enjoys cooking and volunteering for the American Heart Association. Here is what she said about her experiences as a CAHN student.

What attracted you to UConn? UConn has a great science program and a great healthcare program. It’s also close to home. There’s a place and organization for everyone on campus to get involved. It felt like it had a surplus of opportunity for me.

What is your major, and why did you choose it? I am an allied health sciences major with a minor in biological sciences. I initially started as a biology major, but I felt that allied health was more focused and well rounded. I switched over in fall of my junior year.

Which one of your UConn activities, internships or jobs was the most memorable? Why? I have an internship with a dermatology office in Enfield, which I received UConn credit for. I helped in running a clinical trial for an acne face wash, which was a great experience. It’s very cool to take the lead on an “experiment” in real life and see firsthand what the practice looks like. I’ve been working with them since the summer of 2015.

Name two other experiences that have enriched your studies. My sorority, Alpha Phi, has helped me get involved with a lot of activities at UConn. The support of my sisters has been irreplaceable. I’m always being encouraged to better myself. College is such a hectic time, and it’s nice to have a support system through all the craziness. Alpha Phi has helped me join several honors societies such as Order of Omega and Alpha Lambda Delta.

HuskyTHON has also made a big impact on my college career. I’ve been involved the past three years, and it’s been very inspiring to me. Working along with UConn students and helping raise funds for the children has

For the second year, CAHN is helping pave the way for some undergraduates’ futures with a scholarship initiative called Difference Makers, which will award a total of $150,000 to fifteen student scholars pursuing majors in the College.

The Difference Makers scholarship program was made possible in December 2014 when the UConn Foundation received an anonymous donation of $150,491.53 for the purpose of supporting CAHN students in pursuing and completing their education. The School of Pharmacy and the Foundation also received $150,000 gifts from the same anonymous donor. The scholarship was developed shortly after receipt of the gift by Cameron Faustman, associate dean for academic programs; Gregory Weidemann, dean of the College, and Amy Chesmer, the College’s liaison to the UConn Foundation.
motivated me in a very positive way. There’s so many leadership opportunities available and the spirit of the whole event is inspirational to me.

**What was the biggest challenge in your UConn career?** Limiting my involvement in other activities, because of my academic commitments, has been hard. My major requires a lot of time and dedication, and it’s been hard for me to turn away from other events. There’s so much opportunity here, and not enough time in the day. I take time to make sure I balance my academics, and since my friends are following a similar schedule, it makes it a little easier because they support me.

**When do you expect to graduate? What then?** I graduate in May 2017. I would like to go to medical school and go into dermatology. People discount dermatology because they associate it with the cosmetic field, but it can involve many serious topics. Just recently, I’ve been working on a paper to help doctors differentiate between Zika virus and other morbilliform rashes. I’d also like to do some research at some point.

I’m going to take a year off after I graduate and continue working at the dermatology office for now. I’d like to get some hospital experience before going to medical school.

**Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?** I love romance novels. I’m quite the hopeless romantic.

The Difference Makers scholarship has helped me immensely. It’s such financial relief to be able to continue my education at UConn. I’m very grateful and honored.

---

**IN MEMORIAM**

*The College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources remembers Donald N. Maynard Class of 1954, Distinguished Alumnus, Past President of the Sun Coast Chapter, Life Member of the Alumni Association and Founders Society Member.*

---

*Don Maynard, left, and his wife Gail Maynard.*

---

**thanks**

to all of our Donors

The College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources is grateful for the generosity of its donors.