

OUTCOMES AND INNOVATIONS

University of Connecticut 2001 President's Annual Report





OUTCOMES AND  
INNOVATIONS

At the turn of a new century, public universities are what they have always been, scholarly communities dedicated to education, innovation and discovery. But in the new century they must be more. Universities must be results oriented, purposefully cultivating intellectual capital to derive specific outcomes. To that end, we are proud of what we're accomplishing at UConn. Outcomes and Innovations have become the very essence of the University of Connecticut.

—President Philip E. Austin





The University of Connecticut continued its dramatic transformation in 2000-01 as the University fortified its standing in American public higher education.


Today, six years into UCONN 2000—the 10-year, \$1 billion commitment to rebuild, renew, and enhance our campuses and spur private investment in the University—evidence of the positive effects of this historic effort abound. UCONN 2000 has played a key role in our drive to enhance the rigor of our academic program, to recruit additional outstanding faculty and students, and to enlist private financial support at levels unmatched in this institution's history and extraordinary for public universities in our part of the country. Through the commitment of Governor John G. Rowland and the Connecticut General Assembly, the leadership of the Board of Trustees, and the dedication of University faculty and staff, UConn has earned a reputation as the top public institution of higher education in New England. We are, moreover, recognized as an innovative model for universities throughout the United States.

The clearest single measure of our success is our attractiveness to talented, highly motivated students from diverse backgrounds. The numbers tell the story: Between 1997-98 and 2000-01, freshman enrollment increased 29 percent and average SAT scores went up 28 points. Twenty-three percent of the Class of 2004 ranked in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class, and among our freshmen were 60 high school valedictorians and salutatorians. During the past four years there has been a 50 percent increase in the number of freshmen minority students. We are very much a school of choice for many exceptional young people within Connecticut, and for a significant number of very talented students from other parts of the United States and beyond.

As in recent prior years, 2000-01 was marked by a number of particularly significant achievements and external honors. Faculty in law, ecology and evolutionary biology, dramatic arts, marine sciences, art and art history and political science were awarded Fulbrights. Professor of English Dr. Marilyn Nelson was named Connecticut's poet laureate. Remarkable advances in genetic research at the Storrs campus and the University of Connecticut Health Center attracted widespread media attention. The UConn Dental School was ranked first in the nation. Our athletic program built on its long-established record of excellence, as our men's soccer team captured the 2000 NCAA Division I championship. As the pages that follow indicate, these are just a few examples from a very long list.

Moreover, the most ambitious private fund-raising campaign ever conducted by a public university in New England—*Campaign UConn*—went into its public phase during the 2000-01 year. The campaign reflects the phenomenal growth of private support for the University, which for the first time raised over \$50 million in annual support, including an \$8 million commitment by GE Capital that has catapulted UConn to the forefront of e-business research. This growth in private support reflects a growing conviction that the University has a central role in enhancing Connecticut's economic development and quality of life.

This report discusses these and other major achievements at the University of Connecticut during the year. In so doing it presents the story of an important institution of higher education making progress on multiple fronts, serving its students and its state, and demonstrating the extraordinary value of a great university in the 21st century.

  
President Philip E. Austin







## Fountain of Youth takes flight

Scientists at the University of Connecticut's Health Center have announced a discovery that might realize a most ancient and powerful wish—to extend human life.

The researchers have identified a gene in fruit flies that, when modified, actually doubles the insect's life span. The discovery of the gene, which is also found in humans, could open the way for new life-extending therapies.

The gene—whimsically named INDY for “I’m Not Dead Yet” (which should bring a smile of recognition to Monty Python fans everywhere)—has been subjected to multiple, independent mutations, each resulting in extended life spans equivalent to 150 human years. What's more, quality of life has been maintained in the longer-living fruit flies. The alteration appears to prolong adulthood and delay the onset of aging, rather than extend infancy. The flies also remain physically and sexually active.



The research, initially reported in *Science* in December 2000, has been widely publicized around the world. Dr. Stephen Helfand, the principal investigator and an associate professor of genetics and developmental biology, says the INDY mutations seem to extend life by causing a form of caloric restriction that, in essence, puts body cells on a diet. Currently, caloric restriction is the only known way to extend the life span of mammals. If the mutations are creating a genetic caloric restriction, Helfand speculates, “it would be as if an INDY animal could eat as much as it wants without becoming obese, live twice as long as average, and still retain normal function and activity.”

According to co-investigator, Dr. Blanka Rogina, assistant professor of genetics and developmental biology, “our next objective is to demonstrate more clearly that the effect on extending life span is indeed due to caloric restriction in the gene-altered fruit flies.”

UConn researchers deny they have found the Fountain of Youth. Still, they concede that if the INDY gene's primary role in humans is absorbing nutrients, their finding could result in the development of engineered weight-control drugs that target the specific areas of the body responsible for energy absorption.

One thing is certain: The remarkable discovery at the UConn Health Center has scientists from around the world wondering if a tiny fruit fly could hold answers to some of science's biggest questions.





Countless reasons, endless possibilities



This year, the University announced the most ambitious private fund-raising campaign ever conducted by a public university in New England—*Campaign UConn*. The six-year, \$300 million campaign is off to a strong start. Thanks to extremely successful preliminary work, the campaign had already raised an impressive \$150.2 million at the time of the public announcement.

The campaign will help realize landmark University initiatives through endowments for students, faculty and program support. *Campaign UConn* also seeks to increase annual private giving from the \$20 million received in 1997-98 to \$70 million by 2003-04.

“Status as a premier public research university entails high levels of research funding, substantial endowments and robust programs of annual giving,” says President Philip E. Austin. “All of us recognize that it will be difficult to sustain, much less expand, our capabilities without the infusion of increased levels of private support.”

About 25 percent of the money raised will be directed toward endowed faculty positions, allowing the University to attract and retain the nation’s most distinguished scholars, researchers and teachers.

Another 25 percent of *Campaign UConn* funds will be designated for student scholarships and the Honors Program—designed to challenge and nurture the academic curiosity of highly talented high school graduates who have made UConn their school of choice. In addition, new merit scholarships will be used to recruit the nation’s best and brightest young scholars, and need-based scholarships will make UConn accessible to all qualified students, regardless of economic background.

The remaining 50 percent will be used to enhance undergraduate and graduate programs, as well as address facility improvements not included in the UCONN 2000 building program. Focus areas include: coastal marine sciences, e-commerce, fuel-cell technology, regenerative biology, the University’s international human rights initiatives, and the Health Center’s four signature programs (cancer, brain and human behavior, musculoskeletal disease and Connecticut health). Facility improvements include enriching the planned expansion of the Student Union and building indoor practice facilities for our athletic teams.

According to Edward T. Allenby, vice president for Institutional Advancement and UConn Foundation president, “*Campaign UConn* will take philanthropic support for UConn to the next level—support that is needed to assist the University in achieving its goals and continuing its remarkable transformation.”







## It's all in the genes

University of Connecticut scientists are pioneering an exciting new world of biotechnological discovery with tremendous public health implications.

Under the direction of Dr. Xiangzhong (Jerry) Yang, head of the Biotechnology Center's Transgenic Animal Facility, a team of UConn researchers announced in June 2001, that a Holstein heifer named Daisy—cloned two years ago from a post-menopausal cow—gave birth to Norm, a 90-pound male calf. The fact that Daisy can reproduce demonstrates that clones follow a normal pattern of maturation. Previously, scientists had been concerned that cloned animals might age prematurely, reflecting the age of the DNA of the animals from which they were cloned.

Yang suggests that Norm's successful birth moves science a bit closer to the promise of "therapeutic cloning," in which human cells are used to create tissues for the treatment of diseases such as diabetes or Parkinson's.

"Demonstrating that clones from aged animals can develop and reproduce normally is important," Yang explains, "because when therapeutic cloning becomes applicable to human therapy, older individuals are often likely to be the intended beneficiaries."



Like Yang, Dr. Thomas Chen, director of the Biotechnology Center, is also conducting breakthrough transgenic research. Chen's investigations involve fish and invertebrates—transplanting genes from one species into another to yield new strains that grow faster, have varying physical characteristics, and are more resistant to disease.

Chen has also begun investigating a gene—originally found in fish—which possesses anti-tumor characteristics that may halt the uncontrolled growth of cancer cells.

Elsewhere at UConn, Dr. Yi Li, head of the Biotechnology Center's Plant Transformation Facility, and Dr. Richard McAvoy, associate professor of plant science, have developed a novel gene construct that produces fuller, more aesthetically pleasing ornamental plants without the need for chemical growth regulators.

Currently, an estimated 60,000 pounds of the active ingredients found in growth-regulating chemicals are sprayed on ornamental crops in the United States annually to produce plants that are more compact, and have more branches and flowers. The new gene will aid in the cultivation of ornamental plants, while lowering production costs and reducing the potential for environmental contamination associated with agricultural chemical use.

These historic advances at UConn are attracting the attention of the international scientific community and the support of a variety of industries with an interest in biotechnology. Licensing these discoveries could also provide necessary financial resources for UConn researchers to further develop technologies that improve food production and keep plants, animals and the world's population healthier.





An unprecedented building program



Now completing its sixth year, UCONN 2000—a visionary 10-year, \$1 billion infrastructure renewal program—provides the most visible indication of the University's emergence as the top public university in New England.

"UCONN 2000 truly sets a national standard for public higher education," says President Philip E. Austin. "While many institutions have construction projects underway, I am aware of no other university building program in the United States of this magnitude or complexity."

Student life at UConn has benefited enormously through the UCONN 2000 program. For 2000-01, construction was completed on the Northwest campus residential community that features student room renovations, the additions of study and meeting areas, and a new food-court-style dining commons. To enhance student service, the historic Wilbur Cross Building is being transformed into a central, one-stop location integrating financial aid, registration, dining services and residential life, among other programs.



Projects nearing completion this year include the School of Business building, which promises to be one of the finest business school facilities in the nation, Hilltop-area residential communities offering suite-style rooms and, for the first time on campus, apartment-style housing. UConn's first campus-based hotel—the Nathan Hale Inn and Conference Center—is preparing to open as well. The Inn will be a full-service hotel for visiting families, faculty and dignitaries.

The dynamic physical development spans the entire University system. At the Avery Point campus, UConn's nationally recognized marine sciences program occupies a new 116,000-square-foot research facility. In addition, the Litchfield Agricultural Center at the Torrington campus and a new student center and computer facility at the Greater Hartford campus are complete. Design is proceeding for a new \$25.5 million UConn campus in downtown Waterbury.

Thanks in large part to the UCONN 2000 initiative, the University is enjoying remarkable success in student recruitment and retention, attracting world-class scholars, and securing significant research funding. The cranes that fill the skyline over UConn's campuses are indicative of a truly remarkable success story in American public higher education and suggest there are still great things ahead in the University's ascent into the top ranks of public higher education in the nation.







Bringing good things to UConn

The General Electric family of businesses—GE Capital, GE Industrial Systems, and the GE Fund—pledged \$11 million to the University over the next five years to fortify UConn’s position as an educational leader in e-business and e-engineering, and to bolster diversity initiatives.

Collectively, the GE commitment represents the largest single corporate investment in UConn history and will support the Schools of Business and Engineering, and the Neag School of Education.

“Major institutions are known by the company they keep, and we are indeed honored that one of the world’s most admired companies is making this generous and broad-based investment in the University of Connecticut,” says President Philip E. Austin.

GE Capital’s five-year, \$8 million investment has already resulted in the establishment of the innovative GE Capital *edgelab* at the University’s Stamford campus. The facility includes a 9,000-plus-square-foot lab where students and faculty researchers collaborate with GE Capital executives to analyze emerging technologies and make recommendations on actual GE Capital e-projects and e-commerce business models.

According to Denis Nayden, chairman and CEO of GE Capital and a UConn School of Business alumnus, “UConn students and faculty will be enriched by an unprecedented learning and applied research experience, while GE Capital will benefit from the projects and the direct talent pipeline to tomorrow’s e-business leaders.”

The GE-UConn partnership also includes GE Industrial Systems’ three-year, \$1.5 million commitment to the School of Engineering, supporting joint research in materials, circuit breaker technology, and energy management ventures.

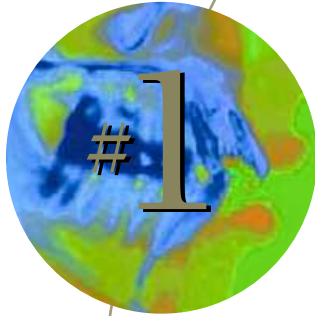
“By joining UConn and GE research,” explains Lloyd Trotter, president and CEO of GE Industrial Systems, “we can work together to explore new technologies and form a new e-engineering environment that will dramatically change how engineering concepts are created, as well as how teachers teach and students learn.”

The GE Fund, the philanthropic foundation of the General Electric Company, provides the third part of the \$11 million GE investment: a five-year, \$1.5 million grant to be divided equally between the Schools of Business and Engineering. The money will be used to develop innovative ways of working and learning across distances, pilot new technology-based curricula—in collaboration with the Neag School of Education—and strengthen outreach and scholarship activities to increase the enrollment and success of minority engineering and business students.





Dental School is best in nation



**I**n 2000-01, the UConn School of Dental Medicine was ranked the top dental school in the nation.

According to American Dental Association (ADA) test results, the School ranked first in the United States after UConn students posted the highest average scores on the National Board Dental Examinations. The ADA administers the exams in the final year of dental education, and the scores are used to evaluate the qualifications of those seeking to practice dentistry.

“This is outstanding,” says Dr. Peter J. Robinson, dean of the School of Dental Medicine. “With the test scores and our students’ success in the residency placement match, there’s no doubt they are the top graduating dental school class this year.”

UConn’s Dental School has long been regarded as one of the country’s best. For more than a decade, the scores of UConn students have regularly placed them in the top ten nationally. More recently, student test takers have consistently ranked among the top five. This is the first time in school history that students occupy the number one spot among test takers nationally. The designation indicates that UConn dental students are among the best prepared as they begin careers in dentistry. UConn also has a high placement rating in advanced dentistry programs. Nationally, 34 percent of dental students enter such programs upon graduation. This year, an incredible 92 percent of UConn dental students went on to study a dental specialty or entered an advanced general dentistry program.

The Dental School’s academic standing and reputation are attracting top students from around the country to study in UConn’s advanced dentistry programs. The oral surgery program, for instance, includes graduates from some of the most highly regarded programs in the nation. Other dental specialties (including orthodontics, periodontics, endodontics, prosthetics, pediatric dentistry and advanced general dentistry) each received their top choice of incoming residents.

Being the nation’s top ranked dental school means that the University is providing Connecticut with some of the best practicing dentists and dental specialists available anywhere. “We provide Connecticut with extraordinarily skilled, state-of-the-art practitioners,” says Robinson. “Since more than 50 percent of our graduates stay in Connecticut, state residents have access to some of the finest talent in dental medicine available today.”





**A**ttracted by state-of-the-art facilities and a plan to increase investment in academic centers of excellence, a number of distinguished researchers and scholars joined the UConn faculty this year. Among a stellar class of faculty recruits are endowed chair holders: Robert Birge, Richard Mains, and Donald Leu.

Dr. Robert Birge, holder of the Harold S. Schwenk Distinguished Chair in Chemistry, is one of the world's most original scientific thinkers. Birge is pioneering research that uses a 3.5 billion-year-old bacterium to store information. In fact, Birge and his colleagues have already adapted one of the organism's proteins, turning it into a storehouse of electronic data.

"We are essentially using nature to provide a mechanism for data storage," he explains. And nature appears to be doing a terrific job. A small vial of gel containing the protein can store twice as much textual information as the Library of Congress contains.

A primary reason Birge came to UConn was the new chemistry building which he calls "the finest facility for chemistry research in the nation." The offer of an endowed chair was further incentive: "The endowed chair provides me with resources to do the kinds of experiments I would not be able to do otherwise—very high-risk projects, with tremendous potential for significant scientific advancements."

While Birge is leading the way in chemistry and biotechnology, Dr. Richard Mains is exploring the secrets of the human nervous system. As the William Beecher Scoville, M.D. Chair in Neurosciences at the UConn Health Center, Mains focuses his scientific attention on peptides—chemicals which neurons use to "talk" to one another.

Mains is joined at UConn by Dr. Elizabeth Eipper, a peptides expert who collaborated with him previously at Johns Hopkins University. Research advances made by Mains and Eipper could eventually lead to treatments for spinal cord injuries and debilitating nervous system diseases.

In the field of education, Dr. Donald Leu, one of the nation's prominent specialists in reading and Internet technology, was named to the John and Maria Neag Chair in Literacy and Technology.

Leu believes "the Internet is fundamentally redefining what it means to become literate" and wants to make teachers more proficient in using it to build literacy skills. Leu is the author of the first multimedia software series to integrate children's literature with digitized speech and animation.

These newly appointed chair holders represent the outstanding faculty the University has recruited this year—teachers, researchers and visionaries who are at the forefront of knowledge and innovation in a multitude of academic disciplines.





2000-01 Athletic Team Achievements

Men's Soccer  
NCAA National Champions  
Big East Regular Season Champions

Women's Basketball  
NCAA Tournament Final Four  
Big East Tournament Champions  
Big East Regular Season Champions

Field Hockey  
NCAA Tournament Elite Eight  
Big East Tournament Champions  
Big East Regular Season Champions

Huskies triumph in soccer championship



Another UConn athletic team was crowned national champion as the men's soccer team took top honors in the 2000 NCAA Division I Tournament. It was UConn's eighth national championship overall, the third in men's soccer history, and the third title in two years following the men's basketball championship in 1999 and the women's basketball championship in 2000.

The UConn men's soccer team finished the championship season with a 20-3-2 record. In addition to securing the national title, three team members achieved All-American status, including Chris Gbandi, who was named the nation's best collegiate soccer player, and Coach Ray Reid, who was named NCAA Division I Coach of the Year.

This year was also memorable for four other Husky teams that earned bids to NCAA championships: women's basketball, women's soccer, field hockey and softball. What's more, the UConn men's and women's track and field teams were victorious at both the New England Indoor and Outdoor Championships (the women had a perfect 20-0 record).



The success of UConn athletics has been another asset for the University, routinely ensuring that UConn excellence is reported on the sports page as well as the science page. Moreover, the visibility and attention generated by championship athletics has had a positive and energizing effect across Connecticut as Husky flags adorn homes statewide and elementary schools celebrate UConn Husky days.

"UConn is recognized nationally for excellence and quality. We're proud to be doing our part to reinforce that assessment," says Lew Perkins, UConn's director of athletics.

For their part, UConn's student-athletes are a testament to that quality in the classroom as well. This year 271 student-athletes were honored as members of the Athletic Director's Scholar-Athlete Honor Roll for achieving a 3.0 or better grade point average. Ten student-athletes attained a perfect 4.0, including four members of the women's swimming and diving team.

"Our student-athletes come to the University of Connecticut with high academic expectations," Perkins notes. "Beyond athletic opportunities, they are looking for academic quality, whether it be chemistry, law or communications. They're savvy about academics and are quite focused on their future beyond athletic competition. Our student-athletes know that with a UConn education, they are positioning themselves for long-term success."

Men's Ice Hockey  
MAAC Tournament Quarterfinals

Women's Soccer  
NCAA Tournament Elite Eight  
Big East Northeast Division Champions

Softball  
NCAA Tournament Participants  
Big East Tournament Champions

Men's Track & Field  
New England Indoor Champions  
New England Outdoor Champions

Women's Track & Field  
New England Indoor Champions  
New England Outdoor Champions







YEAR IN REVIEW



**Alumni couple gives \$1 million for chair in American history.**

Alumni James L. and Shirley A. Draper '41 have a long history of support for the University. This year the Drapers furthered their commitment to UConn with an endowed gift of \$1 million to establish the James L. and Shirley A. Draper Chair in American History. Because of the State of Connecticut's endowment matching program the total value of the gift is \$1.5 million.

"We've always thought highly of the education we received, and had planned on leaving something in our estate for the University," says James Draper. When his wife, Shirley, died in October 2000, Mr. Draper decided to honor her memory and lifelong interest in history by endowing the chair. The University plans to award the chair to a prominent scholar in American history, providing additional academic leadership to what is already a nationally recognized program.



**Husky House: the newest Habitat for Humanity.**

More than 600 UConn students, faculty and staff are helping an economically disadvantaged family living near the main campus in Storrs realize the dream of a lifetime—home ownership.

The team from UConn is working on Husky House, a two-story colonial that will be sold at cost, complete with a no-interest mortgage. Experts in a variety of trades at UConn are supervising the work of an army of volunteers from the University community. The effort has been organized by the UConn student chapter of the Habitat for Humanity.



**Tackling the China question (in China).**

Faculty members of UConn's Insurance Law Center participated in an international conference in Beijing where they analyzed China's pending membership in the World Trade Organization.

During the conference, Robert Googins, founding director of the Insurance Law Center, John Day, lecturer in law, and Hugh Macgill, professor of law and former UConn Law School dean, discussed the changes with Chinese insurers and regulators that will accompany China's expanding global role.

UConn's Insurance Law Center, the only program of its kind in the nation, is recognized as a world leader in the study of insurance as a business and as a social institution for allocating risk and responsibilities.



**Law library is ranked one of the country's finest.**

The UConn Law School library has been ranked the tenth best in the nation. Evaluated with 178 other law school libraries by *National Jurist*, the nation's largest magazine for law students, UConn was ranked according to the breadth and depth of its collection, the allocation of resources, accessibility and technology, and the number of library staff.

**Alumni give \$2 million to support learning disabilities programs.**

A conversation with three graduate students led alumni Joyce and Philip Mahoney '65 to provide a \$2 million gift to support the Neag School of Education's learning disabilities programs.

"It was eye-opening in the sense of the breadth of their activities, their commitment, and the value that UConn is delivering. You just couldn't help but support that kind of activity," says Philip Mahoney.

Because their oldest son has struggled with a learning disability, the Mahoneys understand the value of education programs for those who face similar challenges. Their gift will benefit future teachers, teacher educators, and special education administrators, as well as promote alternative methods for students with disabilities to use in mastering materials and becoming more effectual in and out of the classroom.



**Morales named Latino Citizen of the Year.**

Professor Julio Morales has been named Latino Citizen of the Year. Morales, a member of the School of Social Work faculty for 22 years, received the distinction from the State of Connecticut Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission.

Dr. Morales is considered the architect of UConn's Puerto Rican/Latino Studies curriculum—a program Morales launched 20 years ago to recruit and retain Puerto Rican and Latino social work students. It serves as a national model today.

**Outstanding publishing record honored.**

School of Business management professors, Dr. Michael H. Lubatkin and Dr. John E. Veiga, were inducted into the Academy of Management Hall of Fame. The Academy, with nearly 15,000 members, is the world's largest and most prestigious society for management scholars. Lubatkin and Veiga were among the first 34 scholars to achieve this honor for having published extensively in the Academy's journals. When the award was announced, Lubatkin and Veiga had each published ten papers in the journals. Their writings represent extensive research into a broad range of business management issues.



**UConn mines gold and silver at the Sydney Olympics.**

The University was well represented at the 2000 Olympic games in Sydney. One coach and six athletes with UConn connections were part of the competition—representing four countries and ultimately taking home one silver and two gold medals.

Gold-medal winners were Kara Wolters '97, who played on the U.S. women's basketball team, and former UConn star, Ray Allen, who led the U.S. men's basketball team. UConn women's basketball coach, Geno Auriemma served as assistant coach for the U.S. women's team. The silver medal was earned by Sara Whalen '98, who played for the U.S. women's soccer team. Svetlana Abrosimova '01 took to the courts representing Russia, while Dudley Dorival '97 raced in the 110-meter hurdles for Haiti and Joanne Durant '98 competed in both the 100- and 200-meter dashes for Barbados.



**Researchers net major research instrument award.**

A multidisciplinary team of UConn faculty—in engineering, geology, physics and chemistry—was awarded a \$620,000 Major Research Instrumentation grant from the National Science Foundation to purchase a state-of-the-art automated digital transmission electron microscope. Matching funds of \$420,000 were also awarded from various University sources.

The funds will be used to purchase the microscope and support a full-time postdoctoral fellow to assist scholars in using the device. The instrument will dramatically enhance existing research programs, and positions the University to pursue path-breaking nanoscale science and engineering initiatives. When networked across campus, the device will also enrich graduate and undergraduate education by revolutionizing the teaching of electron microscopy and related subjects.

**Nelson named poet laureate.**

The Connecticut Commission on the Arts has named UConn English professor Dr. Marilyn Nelson the state's poet laureate. Nelson will serve a five-year term in the honorary position, which was created by the state legislature to recognize a Connecticut poet of the highest distinction. In addition to this prestigious honor, in 2000-01 Nelson received a Guggenheim Fellowship and won the 2001 Boston Globe-Horn Book Award for Excellence in Children's Literature for her book, "Carver: A Life in Poems." Nelson is the author of six books of poetry and two children's collections. Her work has appeared in numerous anthologies and literary collections.



**Virtual reality researchers combat fear of flying and other phobias.**

People suffering from paralyzing phobias such as a fear of flying will soon have a new treatment option thanks to work being done by UConn researchers in partnership with Argus VR International, a Connecticut virtual reality technology firm.

Dr. Eugene Santos, associate professor of computer science and engineering, in collaboration with Dr. Irving Kirsch, professor of psychology, and Argus VR International, received a \$150,000 Yankee Ingenuity Technology Competition award for the project, which intends to demonstrate the effectiveness of virtual reality in treating phobias and other anxiety disorders.



**Fighting invasive plants for the National Park Service.**

UConn researchers have been tapped by the National Park Service to help combat an increasing number of invasive, non-native plants that are upsetting the ecological balance in national parks in the eastern United States.

Dr. John Silander, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, and Dr. Leslie J. Mehrhoff, curator of the University's George Safford Torrey Herbarium, are focusing their attention on nearly 40 eastern parks from New England to the Virginias.

Through workshops, Silander and Mehrhoff will teach park personnel to identify the invasive plants, assist them in establishing inventories, and help them develop plans for monitoring and remediation. UConn students will benefit as well through internships and assistantships in the program.

**Women's health research bolstered by NIH grant.**

Research on women's health issues—from osteoporosis to gender differences in health and illness—has been expanded at the UConn Health Center with a five-year, \$2.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health. The proposal pairs junior researchers with senior Health Center faculty who are nationally recognized leaders in such areas as infertility, aging, alcoholism, and autoimmune disorders.

The Health Center is one of 11 academic institutions nationwide to receive funding from the new NIH initiative, which seeks to increase the number of researchers in women's health fields.



**\$8.5 million to support Gifted and Talented Center.**

Established in 1990, UConn's National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented is the first and only educational center of its kind in the nation. This year, the Center's leadership role was acknowledged with a new five-year, \$8.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Educational Research and Improvement.

The Center focuses on the psychology and education of high-potential youth, from preschool through high school. Each year thousands of educators from around the world turn to the Center for advice and guidance for cultivating the talent of the world's most remarkable young people.

**Redefining human rights.**

Dr. Wiktor Osiatynski was the first Marsha Lilien Gladstein Visiting Professor in Human Rights. As the Gladstein professor, Dr. Osiatynski spent much of his time teaching and discussing human rights with students and faculty. He was instrumental in founding the new Human Rights minor in UConn's College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

Delivering the inaugural Gladstein Distinguished Lecture, Osiatynski, a professor at Central European University in Budapest and Warsaw, emphasized the critical importance of human rights in response to oppressive governments and suggested that we can build healthier communities by putting more emphasis on social obligations.

"The future of human rights," he says, "may lie at the personal level, where rights and human dignity intersect."

**UConn is again ranked the top public university in New England.**

Once again, UConn is New England's top public university, according to a ranking of the nation's best colleges and universities by *U.S. News & World Report*. The magazine also recognized the University's programs in medicine, education and law among the best in the country, while naming the UConn Health Center's John Dempsey Hospital one of America's best 50 hospitals for geriatric services.





**UTC gives record \$4 million gift to engineering.**

United Technologies Corporation's \$4 million contribution to the School of Engineering is the largest gift ever to a public school of engineering in New England, and it represents the most significant financial contribution UTC has ever made to an educational institution.

The generous donation was enhanced through the State of Connecticut's endowment matching program, bringing the total contribution to \$6 million. The gift will permit the University to endow three faculty chairs, establish an Advanced Technology Clinic for joint UTC-UConn research, sponsor junior faculty positions, and establish a \$1 million endowment for undergraduate scholarships.



**Five faculty members are named Distinguished Professors.**

The University of Connecticut Board of Trustees named five faculty as Distinguished Professors in March 2001. Those honored are: Dr. Carl David Benson, professor of English; Dr. Robert K. Colwell, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology; Dr. Ruth Millikan, professor of philosophy; Dr. Steven L. Suib, professor of chemistry; and Dr. John F. Veiga, head of the management department in the School of Business. The honored faculty members are widely respected in their fields and have, collectively, produced hundreds of books, papers and journal articles. The Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor designation, which is conferred for life, is the highest University academic title a UConn professor can attain.



**UConn's "space" flag returns home.**

When the space shuttle, *Atlantis*, lifted off in September 2000, astronaut Richard Mastracchio, a UConn alumnus, carried the flag of his alma mater where no UConn flag has ever gone before—into outer space.

Mastracchio graduated from UConn in 1982 with a bachelor's degree in electrical and computer engineering. On this space flight, Mastracchio's first, he served as a mission specialist, delivering supplies to the International Space Station and making final preparations for the station's first inhabitants. Homecoming weekend was the perfect setting for the presentation of the well-traveled flag to the University, which is now proudly displayed on campus in the Lodewick Visitors Center.



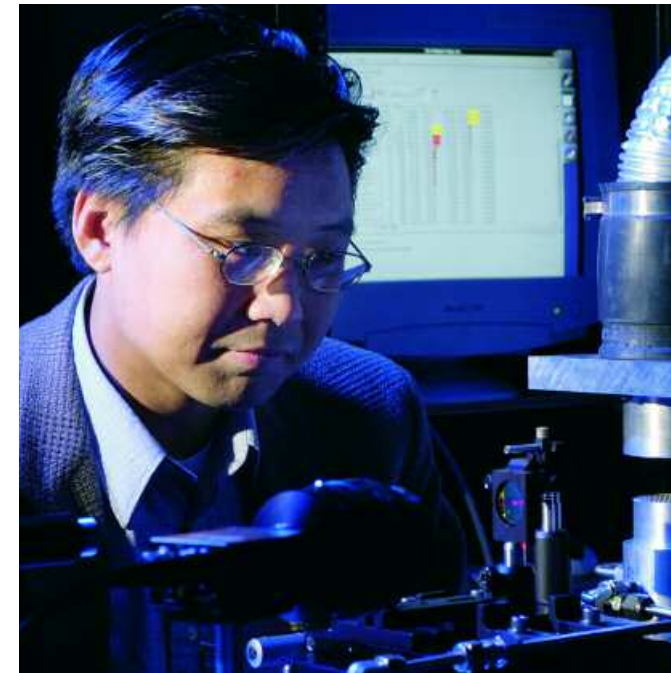
**UConn partnership with South Africa receives research grant.**

Extending the extraordinary partnership between the University and the African National Congress is a \$665,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The grant will fund archive management work at UConn's Thomas J. Dodd Research Center and the University of Fort Hare, the oldest and most illustrious of South Africa's historically black universities. Together, the two universities will catalog and archive documents that chronicle the history of the ANC and describe the heroism of those who led the fight that ended apartheid.

**A guiding light in optical fiber research.**

Dr. Wilson K.S. Chiu, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, has received two prestigious honors: the National Science Foundation Early Career Development Award and the Office of Naval Research Young Investigator Program Award. The awards provide over \$715,000 to support his innovative optical fiber research.

Optical fibers have revolutionized telecommunications because they transmit dramatically more information than conventional copper wires. However, Chiu foresees a future in which these fibers are also used as chemical, biological, environmental and industrial sensors. While optical fibers make excellent sensors, they degrade quickly under extreme conditions. Chiu's research centers on making the hair-thin fibers more durable and improving the fiber's sensing capability.



**Earthdance: UConn's first festival of student films.**

The first-ever UConn student film festival opened to rave reviews this year. The festival, called Earthdance, was hosted by the UConn Student Film Organization, which began in 2000 as a modest student club and has grown to become a fully equipped filmmaking organization, attracting members from all over the University.

The event featured three student films as well as promotions for films currently in production. The films premiered at the festival were: Blake Harjes's "The Walk," Daniel Gould's "The Shower Project," and William Swofford's "Stupa, Power Place of Tibetan Buddhism," a production filmed in Nepal.

**Avery Point named a Sun Center for Excellence.**

UConn's Marine Sciences Program at the Avery Point campus was named a Sun Center for Excellence by Sun Microsystems. With this distinction—shared with a select group of institutions around the world—the University receives \$2 million in high-performance computing equipment, including two of Sun's supercomputers.

Equipped with state-of-the-art hardware, researchers will have the necessary computing power for developing models to study complex ocean patterns and perform real-time data collection on wave movement and changes in sea climate. This data will provide UConn researchers critical information for forecasting underwater weather patterns and evaluating the environmental effects of organisms, nutrients, and pollutants moving through Long Island Sound.



**Education dean to serve on distinguished national commission.**

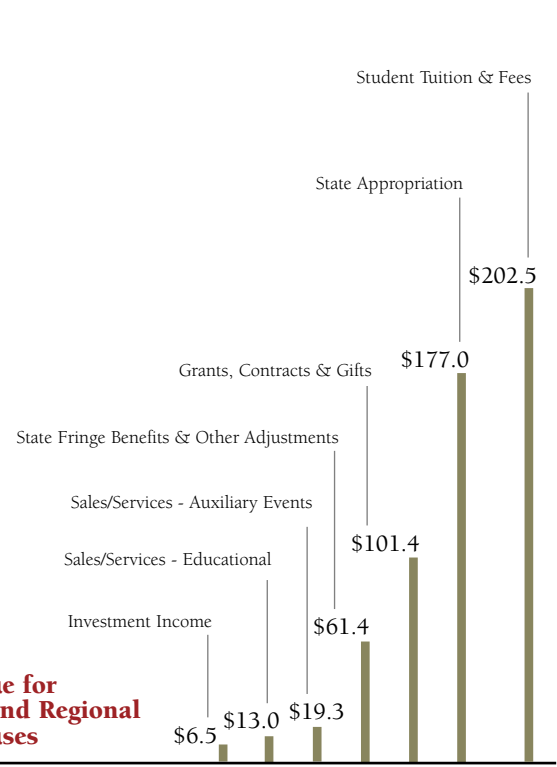
Dr. Richard Schwab, dean of UConn's Neag School of Education, has been tapped to serve on one of the nation's most prestigious education commissions—the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future. The 30-member commission includes prominent public officials, as well as education, business and community leaders. Established in 1994 with funding from the Rockefeller Foundation and Carnegie Corporation of New York, the group strives to improve the quality of teaching across the country.

James Hunt, commission chairman and former governor of North Carolina, says that Schwab's "insights and experience as a dean at an innovative teacher preparation institution greatly benefit our work."



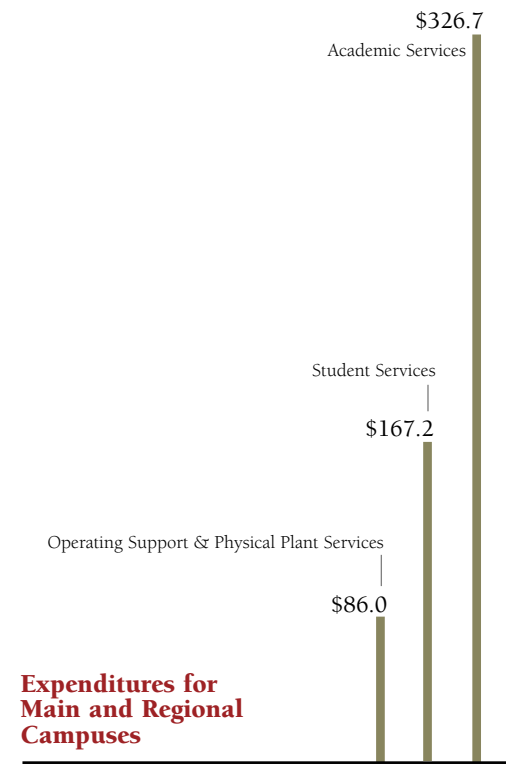
**Revenue for Main and Regional Campuses**

in millions



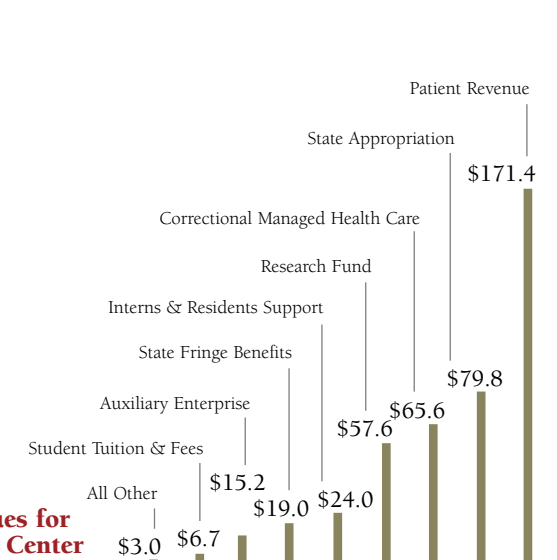
**Expenditures for Main and Regional Campuses**

in millions



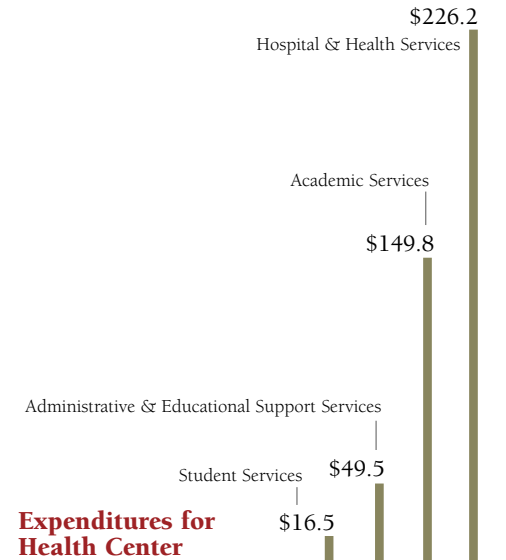
**Revenues for Health Center**

in millions



**Expenditures for Health Center**

in millions



**Revenues & Expenditures**

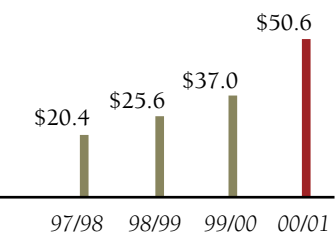
- University operating expenditures for FY 2000-01 totaled \$1.02 billion.
- Authorized capital budget expenditures in FY 2000-01 for the UCONN 2000 infrastructure program totaled \$100 million. Since the inception of the landmark program in 1996, authorized expenditures have totaled \$612 million.
- Enhancements to University purchasing processes resulted in improved efficiency and a savings of \$5.5 million during FY 2000-01.
- Key energy saving measures implemented by the University resulted in a savings of over \$3.5 million during FY 2000-01.

**Private Investment**

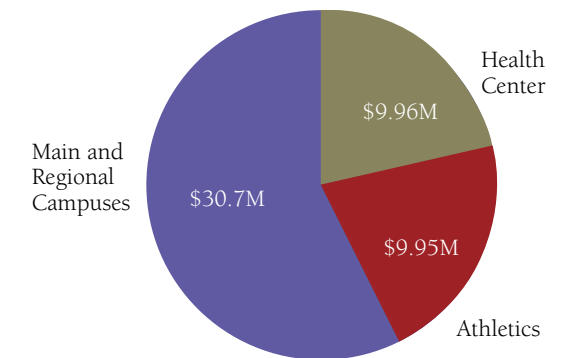
- The University of Connecticut Foundation, Inc. surpassed \$50 million in annual gifts for the first time in FY 2000-01.
- With over 33,000 donors contributing a total of \$50.6 million, UConn Foundation assets stand at \$251 million.
- In May 2001, the University launched the public phase of the \$300 million, multi-year *Campaign UConn*. At the close of FY 2000-01, over \$156 million (52% of the goal) had been secured in gifts and commitments.
- UConn alumni's 20% participation rate in annual giving ranks among that of top public universities in the nation.
- The Foundation disbursed over \$20 million to support UConn priorities in FY 2000-01, compared with \$5 million seven years ago.

**Gifts Received on Behalf of the University of Connecticut**

in millions

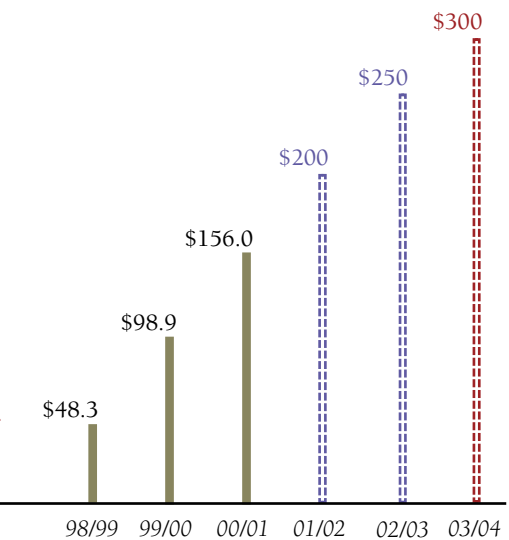


**Designation of Gifts, 2000-01**

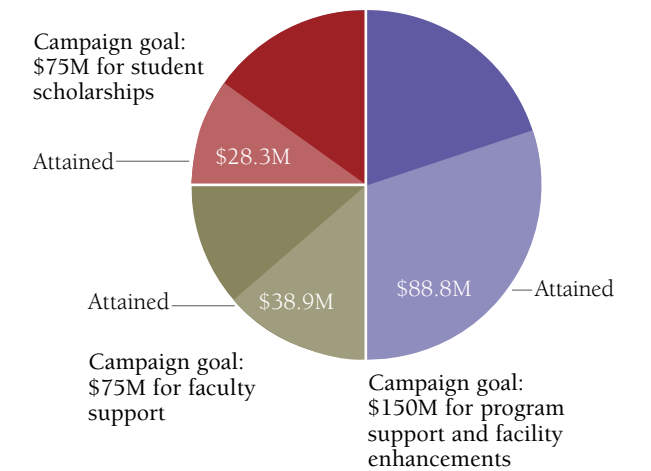


**Progress of Campaign UConn**

in millions



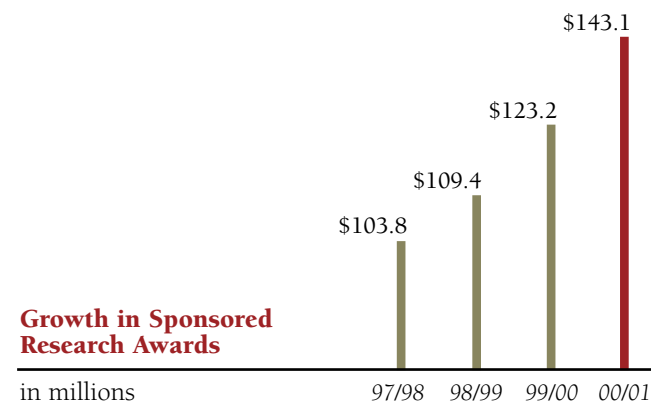
**Campaign UConn Goals progress through 2000-01**





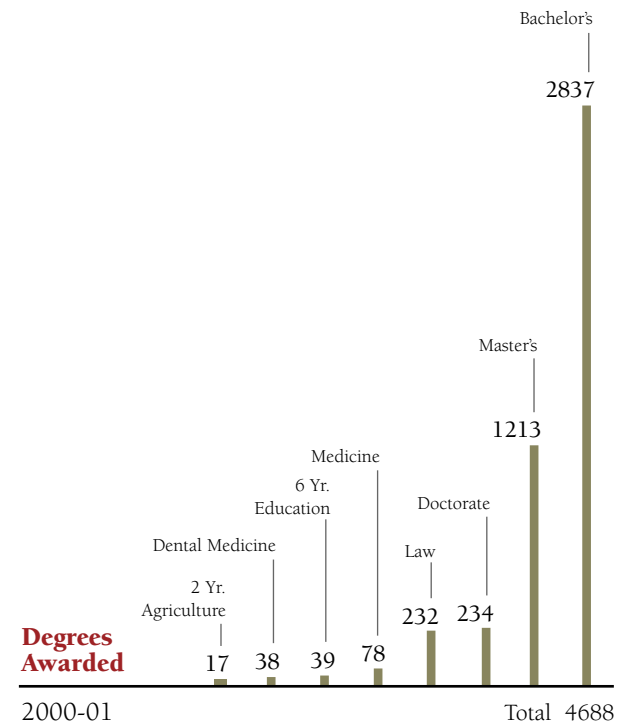
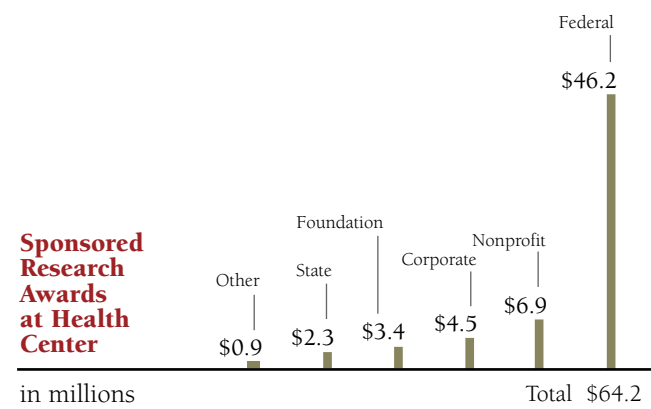
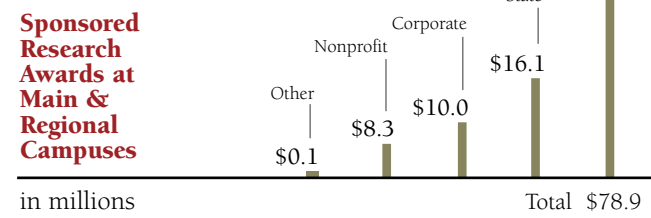
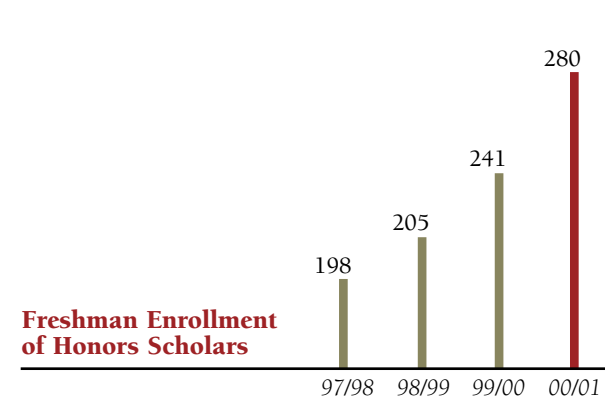
**Research, Training & Public Service**

- The University of Connecticut is nationally ranked 74<sup>th</sup> among 615 institutions and 51<sup>st</sup> among 351 public institutions by the National Science Foundation in research and development spending.
- FY 2000-01 sponsored research (excluding financial aid) totaled \$143.1 million with 55% or \$78.9 million at the main and regional campuses and 45% or \$64.2 million at the Health Center.
- Sixty-three percent of funding for sponsored research came from federal initiatives, 24% from private/other sources, and 13% came from state support.



**Our Students**

- Freshman enrollment leapt from 2,199 in FY 1997-98 to 2,836 in FY 2000-01, an increase of 29%.
- Mean SAT scores for incoming freshmen have increased by 28 points since FY 1997-98 from 1112 to 1140.
- Across the University's campuses a total of 60 national valedictorians and salutatorians made UConn their school of choice in FY 2000-01, an increase from 42 in FY 1997-98.
- Since FY 1997-98, the number of freshmen minority students has increased by 50%.
- Freshman enrollment of out-of-state students has increased 103% since FY 1997-98.



2000-2001 Board of Trustees

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Changes to Board

Effective April 10, 2001 – David W. O’Leary was appointed to replace John R. Downey

Effective July 1, 2001 – Christopher S. Hattayer was elected to replace James M. Donich

Effective July 1, 2001 – Denis J. Nayden was appointed to replace Irving R. Saslow

Effective September 1, 2001 – Philip P. Barry was elected to replace Louise S. Berry





University of Connecticut