“We must be the change we want to see in the world.”

Mahatma Gandhi
OUR MISSION

The mission of The University of Connecticut Foundation, Inc. is to solicit, receive and administer gifts and financial resources from private sources for the benefit of all campuses and programs of the University of Connecticut. The Foundation operates exclusively to promote educational, scientific, cultural and recreational objectives of the University of Connecticut. As the primary fundraising vehicle to solicit and administer private gifts and grants that will enhance the University’s mission, the Foundation supports the University’s pursuit of excellence in teaching, research and public service.

A Focused Vision of THE FUTURE

Thanks to your generosity, the UConn Foundation is able to make more resources available for the University of Connecticut than ever before.

This support—in the forms of financial aid for students, faculty funding to promote research and professional development, and program enhancements across every discipline and campus—continues to provide the critical margin of excellence for an institution widely recognized as one of the best public research universities in America.

These results signify a milestone for more than just the obvious reasons. With the arrival of President Michael Hogan, the University has undertaken a comprehensive assessment of its strengths, particularly in areas where there is a critical mass of talented faculty and students whose efforts pose the best chance of devising solutions to today’s most pressing issues.

We refer to such cross-disciplinary areas as stem cell research, nanotechnology, renewable energy and the environment, sustainable and safe food supplies, national security and transportation, human rights and the plight of the economically-disadvantaged, teacher education, and the increased need for broader global collaboration. These and more are the proper domain of any institution that aspires to viability and relevance in the twenty-first century.

Many of you have heard that we are in the early stages of what will ultimately become the largest fundraising campaign ever undertaken at the University of Connecticut. By next fall, we will launch the campaign publicly to a larger network of alumni and friends. For now, however, it is gratifying to acknowledge the steadfast and inspirational support we have received from those closest to us, who already understand the critical role that private giving plays on behalf of UConn.

For us the message is simple and clear: As with so many of the universities against which we measure ourselves in both academic and economic terms, we depend on the forthright support of those with the means and inclination to enhance UConn’s standing as one of the nation’s educational leaders.

In a way, then, this report about visionaries across our campuses—faculty and students, researchers and future leaders—is equally about those who, through their own vision and philanthropy, help move the University of Connecticut toward a fuller realization of its aspirations and destiny.

We are happy to count you among this circle of friends.

C H E R Y L G R I S É
Chairman, Board of Directors
UConn Foundation

J O H N K . M A R T I N
President
UConn Foundation
This is my first opportunity to introduce the UConn Foundation’s annual report, and it’s a significant one. It has been a year of change, opportunity and potential for the entire University.

It has been a wonderful year for the University in terms of the support shown by you, our friends and donors. In fact, 2007–2008 was the Foundation’s third-highest fundraising year on record.

The best is yet to come, however! As an institution, the University of Connecticut has a potential for true greatness and commands a wealth of talent, energy and drive that is evident across every college, school, department and program.

This year’s annual report, Visionaries, displays the wealth of imaginative, gifted, and far-seeing individuals on all our campuses, doing important work every day. From the cutting edges of science and technology to the arts and humanities, from the lab benches to the playing fields and from the classrooms in our regional campuses to the clinical bedside at the UConn Health Center, UConn has attained a place among the highest ranks of the nation’s great public research universities.

The people and programs highlighted in this report are wonderful representatives of the University. Yet the most exciting part is that they are just a sampling of what we are doing, and what we can accomplish together.

By together, I underscore that none of this progress can come without the backing of our friends and supporters. From the more than 29,000 individuals who give through the Annual Fund each year, to those who make major gifts to those who leave the University in their estates, our donors inspire us with their vision, propel us with their generosity and stand with us as partners.

As we prepare to embark on a visionary capital campaign in the years ahead, the University of Connecticut is fortunate to have each of you as a catalyst for our journey. I look forward to a very successful 2008–2009, and to working with you all to see the very best hopes and aspirations of the University of Connecticut become reality.

MICHAEL J. HOGAN
President
University of Connecticut
How do we create A JUST FUTURE FOR ALL?

Holocaust Survivor Helps Expand Human Rights Program

Simon ’68H, a Holocaust survivor, and Doris M. ’50 Konover (photo, seated) focus much of their philanthropy on Jewish life and the research and preservation of Jewish history and materials. Mr. Konover, born in 1922 in Poland, was interned in a labor camp at age 16, and later conscripted into the Soviet army and imprisoned in Siberia during World War II. His parents and more than 50 other members of his family were killed in the Holocaust. In 1949, Mr. Konover immigrated to the U.S. and settled in Connecticut, where he established Konover & Associates, a successful real estate development firm.

“My history is the catastrophe of the Holocaust as a young man,” says Mr. Konover. “I’ve lost my whole family in Europe and I’ve seen the cruelty I never can forget. And I want to make sure it never happens again.”

In 2007, the Konovers, who are founding supporters of the Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, endowed the center’s first faculty chair with a $1.5-million gift. Arnold Dashefsky (photo, standing), a professor of sociology and director of the center, has been named the first Doris and Simon Konover Chair of Judaic Studies.

Dashefsky says the Konovers’ gift supports UConn’s goal of expanding its human rights education, research and outreach programs. His first initiative is to develop a new course on anti-Semitism. The chair also will provide assistance to graduate students in the Judaic studies program and funding for sponsoring conferences, offering lectures and promoting scholarly publications.

“How does human civilization allow genocide to occur and how can we prevent it from happening again?” says Dashefsky.

Reflecting on his family’s professional success and ability to give back, Mr. Konover is proud of what they’ve been able to accomplish.

“It’s amazing for me to think of where I am now starting out where I did. I tried to survive hour to hour, day to day. Here we are in 2008, and doing what we can do for the University and the community. We really feel good about it,” says Mr. Konover. “I wish that my parents could be here to see what we accomplished. I wish they could see it.”

What can we do to solve THE STATE’S NURSING SHORTAGE?

Hospitals Support Nursing Program Expansion

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

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

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

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

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

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

Arnold Dashefsky
Partnership with State, Industry Improves Energy Outlook

Signaling its commitment to finding solutions for the world’s energy problems, UConn is building a multidisciplinary team of scholars and scientists and providing them the resources to make breakthroughs. The Eminent Faculty Initiative in Sustainable Energy at the School of Engineering is a remarkable public/private initiative supported by an annual $2-million appropriation from the state and one-time matching gifts totaling $2 million from corporate partners FuelCell Energy, the Northeast Utilities Foundation and UTC Power.

“This level of sustained commitment from the state and industries enables UConn researchers to focus on multifaceted solutions that involve the advancement of fundamental research that provides greater understanding of energy technologies while promoting translational research that may provide more immediate technological impacts,” says Dean Mun Choi (photo).

The funding will be used to recruit internationally recognized experts and enhance the education, research and development enterprises at the school, which comprises the Connecticut Global Fuel Cell Center and the Biofuel Consortium. In the 2008-09 school year, the School of Engineering anticipates hiring up to a dozen new faculty members.

“We are fortunate in having diversified energy expertise in fuel cells, photovoltaics and solar cells, energy harvesting, batteries and energy storage, and alternative and renewable fuels,” says Choi. “We take a holistic approach that considers multifunctionalities as well as impacts. So, the challenge to develop and distribute clean energy must consider impacts on such elements as carbon footprint, water resources, soil erosion, pollution, energy pricing, and the availability and cost of food crops.”

The special partnership among UConn, the state and industry will support economic and workforce development and propel Connecticut onto the international stage in the development of sustainable energy.

“Connecticut has a rare opportunity to provide national leadership in the development of viable, sustainable and environmentally sound energy alternatives, including fuel cells and biofuels,” says UConn President Michael J. Hogan.

How do we address DISPARITIES IN EDUCATION?

Travelers Supports Diversity Initiatives

With two major gifts, Travelers Connecticut Foundation, the charitable arm of Travelers, is enhancing academic, outreach and diversity programs at UConn.

Education Access Initiative

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

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

The initiative supports a wide range of efforts:

• A New leadership scholarship will be given to students who demonstrate a commitment to multicultural diversity.
• Significant funding for the School of Business will support the Multicultural Business Club, faculty mentoring and outreach to high schools in predominantly minority areas.
• Funding supports the Science, Engineering and Health Professionals Collaborative Symposium for minority students considering careers in those fields and the National Middle School Science Bowl, which is co-sponsored in the Northeast by UConn’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

“This gift is a source of support for a number of things that are critical to our mission, including expanding access and equity for underrepresented students in the state through a variety of activities designed to enhance recruitment, retention and the success of these students,” says Ronald Taylor, vice provost for multicultural and international affairs.

Project M³ Enrichment Math Club

Travelers also committed $350,000 to expand UConn’s Project M³: Mentoring Mathematical Minds by creating the Project M³ Enrichment Math Club for underserved students in Hartford.

Project M³, developed by the Neag Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development at the Neag School of Education, was kicked off in 2002 with a $3-million federal grant to develop math curricula for talented students in grades three through five, provide professional development for teachers and implement field tests in schools.

The curriculum, which is now being used in 42 states and several other countries, targets children with high potential who are often bored by traditional curricula. Results have shown strong quantitative and qualitative evidence of student achievement, according to Katherine Gavin, program director and associate professor at the Neag Center. That success attracted Travelers to fund the implementation of the research findings in a new year-long, after-school enrichment program in Hartford.

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

Where will the energy for the TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY COME FROM?

Travelers committed $250,000 for the Education Access Initiative to improve access to higher education for underserved populations and build awareness about careers in insurance and finance.

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

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How can we view food DIFFERENTLY?

Gift Supports Functional Foods Center

A new major gift will help position UConn as a national leader in the study and application of functional foods, those with health benefits beyond basic nutrition that may prevent and help treat disease.

The commitment from the Esperance Family Foundation will assist with the creation and support of a multidisciplinary center for functional food research and education in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR), which will be aided by the addition of faculty specialists in the area.

Examples of functional foods include a variety of fruits, vegetables, whole grains and legumes rich in antioxidants and other bioactive compounds that may prevent or delay the onset of coronary heart disease, diabetes, cancer and other chronic conditions. Functional foods are now a nearly $30-billion annual market in the U.S. alone, and some projections indicate the market will soon double.

Ian Hart, associate dean for research and advanced studies at CANR, believes the potential for UConn’s program is enormous.

“Americans are obsessed with their health. If we can demonstrate to the public the benefits of eating certain foods, not in the sense of a fad, but by saying, ‘You may be able to actually prevent or help cure a certain condition or disease,’ there is tremendous potential in terms of the growth of research at the University, growth of agriculture in the state and improvement of the public health in general,” says Hart.

With the planned center, the University could become one of the few schools across the nation—and the only one in New England—with such a dedicated focus.

Sung Koo (photo), head of the Department of Nutritional Sciences, sees the importance of not just research, but the integration of that research with existing medical practice and consumer education.

“This gift will serve as the stepping stone,” he says. “We will focus on research, technology transfer, curriculum development and consumer education. We need to disseminate information about functional foods to consumers so that they can be educated about modifying their dietary habits and food choices. And also through translational medicine, we can connect basic research on functional foods to patient care, and nutritional and diet therapies.”

“...tremendous potential in terms of the growth of research at the University, growth of agriculture in the state and improvement of the public health in general.” —IAN HART

How can we offer CUTTING-EDGE CARE?

Gift Provides for Integrated Diagnostics and Treatment Suite at UCHC

A new major gift from the University’s most generous donors will enable the UConn Health Center to be the first in the region with an integrated imaging and treatment suite to help patients seamlessly move from diagnostics to treatment planning to treatment, using the latest technology.

Torrington natives Carole and Ray ’56 ’01H Neag made the $3.8-million pledge to upgrade the Health Center’s computed tomography (CT) scanner with a new, more advanced model, as well as to incorporate new planning and treatment tools into the suite. The latest pledge complements their 2006 gift to acquire a Tomotherapy cancer treatment system for the Health Center. The new integrated suite will allow for even more thorough and precise application of Tomotherapy.

The suite will also enhance nearly every area of the Health Center’s operations, from conducting research to educating students and treating patients through the Center’s signature programs, such as cancer and cardiology.

“The suite’s functionality for cardiology alone will be leaps and bounds beyond our existing capabilities,” says Bruce Liang, M.D. (photo, standing), director of the Pat and Jim Calhoun Cardiology Center. “This will truly be an upgrade to state-of-the-art technology.”

Ray Neag says that the decision to give was driven by the desire to offer the state’s residents the very best care.

“Carole and I take a broad view about the need to serve the people of Connecticut,” he says. “We feel strongly about the state and its University, and believe that our state’s flagship research university should have the very best if at all possible.”

Advantages of the new CT scanner include dramatically clearer images, a reduction in scanning times by about 90 percent, and selective presentation of a scanned image, allowing a physician to, for example, isolate the image of a heart without including arteries and vessels that may be blocking the view.

The suite also offers a CT simulator for treatment planning, as well as new high dose rate (HDR) brachytherapy, used to treat breast, cervical, uterine and other cancers. With the addition of the simulator, more efficient, convenient and accurate treatment planning will be offered.

“The addition of HDR dramatically increases our ability to give our cancer patients treatment options,” says Robert Dowsett, M.D., of the Division of Radiation Oncology. “It is becoming the standard of care, and offers major improvements in patient convenience and comfort.”

Douglas Fellows, M.D., F.A.C.R. (photo, seated), is the chair of Department of Diagnostic Imaging and Therapeutics at the Health Center, and says that the new equipment couldn’t come at a better time in the field’s development.

“As radiology advances, it’s important that we remain on the cutting edge at the state’s flagship teaching hospital,” Fellows says. “The Neag’s generosity has made a huge difference to UConn and the patients who depend on us every day.”
Donors’ Waterbury Ties Benefit UConn Students

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

Dorothy Bessette-DeSomma ’66 and Martin DeSomma, D.D.S. ’66 (photo, right, with Himank Gupta, a DeSomma scholarship recipient) have established an endowment to assist financially challenged students, a decision that they attribute to their working-class upbringing.

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

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

“We’ve been very lucky and fortunate in our life, and there comes a time when you have to think about others, not just yourself,” DeSomma says. “There are other people in this world besides us. In 10 years, I hope that our gift will allow young men and women to possibly gain their footing to get into the middle class. Hopefully they’ll use their education to do something productive for our society.”

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

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

Retired CANR Professors Aid Animal Science Majors

Two retired professors from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) who have made significant contributions to the field of animal science are helping students follow in their footsteps. William A. “Al” Cowan and Nathan Hale ’46, who funded a student award together nearly two decades ago, have established permanent endowed scholarships.

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

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

Both new merit scholarships will be given to undergraduate students—with priority given to incoming freshmen—enrolled in either the two-year animal science program at Ratcliffe Hicks or the four-year program at CANR. Recipients will be chosen based on their accomplishments and leadership in working with livestock.

“In some instances [the scholarships] will make the difference between attending or not attending college,” says Faustman. “Equally important is that the formal recognition will provide affirmation to the students that their interests are valued and that the faculty is confident that they are the future leaders in animal science.”

Cowan and Hale left indelible marks at UConn. Cowan headed the animal science department for 32 years, and was beloved by students and faculty throughout his tenure. In the 1970s, he selected the champion cattle and horse lines that are the backbone of UConn’s current herds. Hale, who taught at UConn for 31 years, was given the Distinguished Alumni Award in 1999 by the CANR alumni association for his contributions to animal science.

How do we make higher education MORE AFFORDABLE FOR EVERYONE?
Gift Promotes Global Health Studies at UCHC

Students at the UConn Health Center who wish to carry on a long institutional tradition of studying global health issues will now have private financial support to do so, thanks to a scholarship funded by a School of Medicine alumnus.

Edward Hargus, M.D. ’73 and his wife Maria have made a gift to provide assistance for students participating in global health education activity through the Center for International Community Health Studies (CICHS) in the School of Medicine.

To recognize the work done by Judy Lewis, M.Phil, (photo, center, with students Jonathan Shupe and Cheryl Bilinski) director of the Global Health Education (GHE) program, and professor in the departments of community medicine and pediatrics, the fund is named partly in her honor.

Since 1985, more than 300 medical, dental and public health students have taken part in global health studies, including language study, research, clinical care and community health improvement projects. The programs have allowed UConn students to collaborate with local community research programs in more than sixty countries to improve patient care and public health.

Lewis says that Dr. Hargus’s gift fits perfectly with the increasing awareness of—and interest in—global health issues.

“A majority of incoming students express a desire to participate in global health issues, but many do not because of financial considerations,” she says. “The UConn Health Center has been fortunate to have some funding for summer research projects, but it has sometimes been unpredictable and limited. The gift by Dr. and Mrs. Hargus is an important beginning, enabling students with the means to participate.”

Hargus says that while he never traveled as a student, he sees a clear benefit to doing so.

“It’s a big world. I think exposure to other cultures is very good for students, or anyone who wants to be involved in helping the poor. It’s good for the school. And it’s good for the country,” Hargus says. “Either by sending our students to other countries, or supporting people to come here and get their medical education, I think we’re taking great steps to improve the lives of people everywhere.”

Scholarships Promote Global Citizenship

Two new scholarships established with a non-endowed gift of $100,000 are helping undergraduate students gain experience and skills for nonprofit and social entrepreneurial careers. For the fiftieth anniversary of his graduation, Edward Satell ’57 wanted to not only give back to UConn, but also to help students explore what they’re passionate about and become conscientious global citizens.

“Each generation makes its own contribution, building on what was done by the previous generation. The most important of these contributions is the freedom and opportunity we inherited,” says Satell. “Students now have the opportunity to contribute in their own way to make this world a better place.”

The Ed Satell Non-Profit Internship Program supports students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences working in unpaid positions with nonprofit organizations, such as museums or government agencies that address poverty.

The Ed Satell International Social Entrepreneurship Fund supports students in any school or college working on economic and social development projects while studying abroad. It is critical to educate and involve students to become the next generation of leaders for programs that create jobs and grow economies in developing and third world countries, explains Satell. Max P. Chanoch ’09 (photo) was among the first group of 10 students to take part in the social entrepreneurship program in Guatemala in summer 2008.

“I wanted to participate in the social entrepreneurship program because it offered something different than every other study abroad,” says Chanoch, who is pursuing a major in management, a concentration in international business and a minor in philosophy. “My favorite part of Guatemala was the people. It was a very rewarding experience to see how delighted people were when we told them we were in Guatemala to help improve their country, rather than exploring it as a tourist.”

The program gets students out of the classroom and into real-world situations. “The program focused more on hands-on activities rather than classes, something that was a huge draw for me,” says Chanoch.

Beyond intensive Spanish classes, Chanoch spent the majority of the trip learning firsthand about Guatemalan and Mayan society, culture and history by interacting with communities, exploring the country, and studying local business and the economy. Among various experiential projects, the students helped expand a business that creates jobs for entrepreneurs to sell eyeglasses to, among others, aging women so they can continue their work as craftswomen.

After returning home, Chanoch started his senior year and began working at the Innovation Accelerator at the School of Business’s Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation in East Hartford.
What role does UConn play IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES?

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

The gift is the largest ever to support the Torrington campus and will allow for a room to be renovated into a dual-purpose teaching and gallery area. It will also sustain the LCWP itself through an endowed fund.

“This has come as a wonderful honor and an unexpected delight,” says Robley E. Whitson, a Litchfield County writer and artist who helped to coordinate the gift from an anonymous couple. “I think what is most impressive about the program is that it allows for a connection between academics and the community. It moves beyond the narrow side of academia and has become something unique, wonderful and valuable—truly where the University meets the public.”

Involving the entire community plays a large role in the LCWP’s success. It is the primary outreach effort of UConn’s Comprehensive Cancer Center. This program has helped to encourage faculty from a number of disciplines to come together.

Geraldine Van Doren is an English professor at the campus and a member of the LCWP Advisory Board. She says the project has helped to encourage faculty from a number of disciplines to come together.

“I don’t think there’s any other community quite like this one,” she says. “There are dozens of award-winning authors in this area, and it’s fascinating to see that talent come together and dialogue with this community. The fact that our program is that it allows for a connection between academics and the community. It moves beyond the narrow side of academia and has become something unique, wonderful and valuable—truly where the University meets the public.”

“Dee” Rowe. Proceeds will benefit The Lee’s Foundation Center for Leukemia Research; and former UConn Men’s Basketball Coach Donald “Dee” Rowe. Proceeds will benefit the Lee’s Foundation Center for Hematologic Disorders and the “U-CareSurvive” Program, a new initiative to support clinical and research for young adult cancer survivors.

Cancer Advisory Board

This dynamic group of volunteers, advocates and supporters of the Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center is leading the way in advising and guiding the program’s direction and focus. The board boasts members from a range of backgrounds, experiences and skills, all of whom share a passion for cancer prevention, treatment and advocacy. The board works with Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center Director Carolin Rauschmaier, M.D. and her staff on a range of strategic issues impacting the center. Members also lead by example, as a group, they have donated more than $20 million to the Health Center.

Cancer Golf Committee

Now in its thirty-first year, the Cancer Golf Committee has raised more than $2 million for the UConn Health Center and the American Cancer Society, including $150,000 in 2007 to expand the Health Center’s public awareness fund. The 2008 UConn Cancer Research Golf Tournament supported the acquisition of a new hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC) system at the Carole and Ray Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center. This therapy enables physicians to deliver chemotherapy to difficult-to-reach cancerous cells.
From the Division of Athletics to the School of Business, few family names have left such a lasting, intergenerational impact on UConn as the Wolffs.

Thomas Wolff ’56 (photo), Bette, his wife of 60 years, and their three children (Greg ’74, Gary and Debi Davis ’79) have endowed no fewer than seven funds, supporting areas as wide-ranging as swimming and basketball scholarships, along with an annual business plan competition for entrepreneurial MBA students.

More than 50 years since he graduated summa cum laude in economics, Tom and Bette Wolff remain among UConn’s most devout philanthropists and fans. They have held season tickets for men’s basketball since 1950. Their son, Greg, is a former UConn swimmer, and the family still regularly attends games and swim meets together, followed by ice cream at the UConn Dairy Bar, a decades-long tradition.

The founder and chairman of Wolff-Zackin & Associates, Wolff credits much of his success in business to his UConn experience, particularly working with the late Professor Emeritus of Insurance and Finance David Ivry, and a degree of luck.

Commuting to classes in 1952, Wolff was fresh from service in Korea and working part-time testing milk for UConn’s cooperative extension system and selling insurance. Ivry took him under his wing and encouraged him to consider insurance full-time.

“He was a dynamo; such a tremendous influence on me,” Wolff recalls. “I had picked up selling insurance as just a part-time thing to get through school, but Dave Ivry put the finishing touches on me.”

Those initial steps catapulted Wolff to success running one of Connecticut’s leading financial services companies.

On campus, his presence and leadership has inspired others.

“He is an incredible man of dignity, huge integrity, with the highest standards and values,” says Donald “Dee” Rowe, former UConn men’s basketball coach and one-time instructor for Wolff’s son, Greg. Rowe says that Wolff’s friendship and good counsel greatly impacted his career at UConn starting in the turbulent 1960s, and the two have remained close friends. When Rowe helped launch the UConn Athletic Development Fund, he says Wolff was an early advocate of the need to give back.

“He stepped up to support Athletics early on, and he’s never stopped,” Rowe says. “He’s totally committed to making our world a better place. He’s an example and an inspiration to everyone who has been privileged to touch his life. The Wolff family’s giving has left an incredible legacy for the University and UConn’s student-athletes.”

The Wolff name is prominent on campus. The Wolff-Zackin Natatorium, part of the complex that includes Gampel Pavilion, is home to UConn’s swimming and diving programs. The Wolff Family Park features the iconic statue of Jonathan, the Husky mascot. Additionally, the Wolffs have sponsored a lecture series, endowed a chair in strategic entrepreneurship in the School of Business, and sponsored the Wolff Business Plan Competition for M.B.A. students. The Wolff chair is held by Professor Michael Lubatkin, one of the preeminent scholars in the field.

“Tom Wolff was the visionary for the study of entrepreneurship at UConn,” says John Veiga, Board of Trustees Distin-
guished Professor and former chair of the Department of Management. “From offering a minor in entrepreneurship, to hosting entrepreneurial speakers, what we’re doing today is what he envisioned 20 years ago. He moved us in this direction, and has urged and supported us along. That the state provides $2 million annually to fund our Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation has its roots in Tom’s seed money. To me he is the consummate entrepreneur.”

Jeffrey Hathaway, director of athletics, says that Wolff’s personal leadership has made all the difference.

“UConn is extremely fortunate to have supporters as dedicated, as engaged and as personable as the Wolffs,” he says. “When you look at the range of programs they have supported, both in Athletics and across the University, you can see that Tom has established a legacy of giving, which not only includes him and his wife, but the entire family.”

Wolff says that Bette has been an active and equal partner in everything since those early days of commuting to classes, and believes supporting UConn is merely a way of giving back. He echoes a point he made in 2003 when awarded the University Medal, UConn’s highest honor.

“My feeling is that UConn owes me nothing. I owe, and my family owes, UConn everything.”

THOMAS WOLFF
Annual Giving Breaks Records
The annual giving program experienced its strongest year ever, handing exceeding its goal of $5 million by more than 15 percent, ending at $5.8 million. More than 29,000 households contributed to annual giving appeals this year, up by last year’s total. The student-run calling program generated more than 28 percent of the total amount raised, and connected with 134,096 UConn alumni, parents and friends.

New Leadership and Opportunity across the University
In May, Carol T. Laurencin, M.D., Ph.D. was named the vice president for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine for the UConn Health Center (page 3). Laurencin’s selection follows a comprehensive national search to find a successor for the proposed relocation of Joseph J. Morrone Stadium, the home of UConn soccer, to the existing site of Memorial Stadium.

Laurencin is an expert in shoulder and knee surgery and an international leader in tissue engineering research. He is widely published in scholarly journals and holds more than 200 patents. Laurencin is an expert in shoulder and knee surgery and an international leader in tissue engineering research. He is widely published in scholarly journals and holds more than 200 patents. Laurencin is an expert in shoulder and knee surgery and an international leader in tissue engineering research. He is widely published in scholarly journals and holds more than 200 patents. Laurencin is an expert in shoulder and knee surgery and an international leader in tissue engineering research. He is widely published in scholarly journals and holds more than 200 patents. Laurencin is an expert in shoulder and knee surgery and an international leader in tissue engineering research. He is widely published in scholarly journals and holds more than 200 patents. 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Laurencin is an expert in shoulder and knee surgery and an international leader in tissue engineering research. He is widely published in scholarly journals and holds more than 200 patents.
The University of Connecticut Foundation’s financial performance in fiscal year 2008 was strong despite myriad challenges in the economy. Again this year, goals were surpassed for the Office of Annual Giving and new gifts and commitments.

Annual donors gave $1.2 million more than last year, bringing in a record $5.8 million. This is the sixth consecutive year of significant growth in the Annual Fund.

New gifts and commitments ($47.4 million), revocable and deferred planned gifts ($5.6 million) and pledge payments ($8.6 million) totaled $56.6 million, which represents 103 percent of the $55 million goal for the year.

Of this amount, donors directed $13.8 million for faculty, $6.9 million for scholarships, $40.1 million for programs and $5.8 million for capital improvements. A total of $22.7 million was contributed for the Storrs and regional campuses, $15.2 million for the UConn Health Center and $18.7 million for athletics. Donors specified $43.5 million for operations and $13.1 million toward endowments.

Forty-five new endowments were established, bringing the total number of endowments to 1,250.

The number of donor households held steady at approximately 32,000, while the trend of strong support from alumni continued. Alumni gave $1 million more than last year, contributing $18.3 million total. Parents donated $1.3 million, other individuals gave $9.4 million, corporations gave $14.2 million, and foundations and other organizations gave $13.4 million.

The University requested $31.4 million of the record $50.2 million made available by the Foundation for various programs in fiscal year 2008. Of the total used, $11.5 million was disbursed for scholarships, fellowships and awards. Other appropriations included $9.4 million for faculty and staff support, $3.6 million for programs and research and $2.5 million for facilities and equipment.

Endowment performance was affected by a bear market and an economic slowdown. The pooled investment portfolio posted a 5.5-percent loss for the fiscal year, running close to the portfolio’s benchmarks, which lost 5.4 percent. Returns of more than 14 percent in private capital, 10 percent private real estate and 7 percent in U.S. TIPS were outpaced by losses of more than 12 percent in global equities and 18 percent in public real estate.

The total endowment ended the year at $317 million, down by $18 million from the end of fiscal year 2007. The decrease was caused primarily by the negative investment return, but was partially offset by $8 million in new endowment gifts and $3 million in state endowment match. However, even including this subpar year, the endowment has grown 52 percent over the past five years, from $209 million in 2003 to $317 million on June 30, 2008.

Finally, the Foundation’s total assets now equal $397 million, an $11 million decrease over last year. Over the past five years, the total assets have grown by $140 million, or 54 percent.

Consolidated Statements of FINANCIAL POSITION

As of June 30, 2008

(Dollars in millions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash restricted for debt service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pledges receivable, net</td>
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<td>Prepaid expenses and other receivables</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funds held in trust by others</td>
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<td>Cash surrender value of life insurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property and equipment, net</td>
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<td>Deferred bond issuance costs, net</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research and Development Corporation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trusts and annuities payable</td>
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<td>Accrued debt service interest</td>
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<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
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<td><strong>NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td>Unrestricted</td>
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<td>Research and Development Corporation</td>
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<td>Foundation</td>
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<td><strong>Total unrestricted</strong></td>
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<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
<td>$396,802</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** This data is summarized from the Foundation’s financial statements. Complete audited financial statements are available upon request.
Consolidated Statements
OF ACTIVITIES

As of June 30, 2008
(DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)

2008 2007
Contributions $35,978 $29,394
Net total investment return (12,503) 48,334
Contractual payments from 8,586 8,313
The University of Connecticut
Memberships and other income 538 536
Research and Development Corporation 139 78
Total revenues, gains and other support $34,728 $86,845

EXPERTS

UNIVERSITY SUPPORT
Student scholarships, fellowships and awards $11,490 $11,098
Facilities construction, improvements, and related expenses 930 2,890
Faculty and staff compensation 9,257 13,128
General program and research support 3,381 3,586
Fundraising, events, promotions 2,071 2,354
and donor cultivation
Development expenses 10,908 10,329
and related expenses

FOUNDATION SUPPORT
Alumni Association 130 192
Equipment 1,579 1,117
Faculty, staff and student travel, conferences and meetings 1,847 2,433
Fundraising, events, promotions 2,071 2,354
and donor cultivation
Equipment 1,579 1,117
Facilities construction, improvements, and related expenses 9,257 13,128
Research and Development Corporation 554 544
Total University support $31,339 $33,332

FOUNDATION SUPPORT
Development expenses 10,908 10,329
Fiduciary expenses 3,449 3,326
Total Foundation support 14,357 13,655

Total expenses $45,696 $46,987
Change in net assets (12,938) 39,858
Net assets, beginning of period 392,939 353,081
Net assets, end of period $380,001 $392,939

REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT

2008 2007
Net assets, beginning of period 392,939 353,081
Change in net assets (12,938) 39,858

Total assets $366 $478

Endowment Distribution
DOLLARS IN MILLIONS

2008 2007 2006 2005
$179.0 STORRS & REGIONAL CAMPUSES $47.8 ATHLETICS
$90.2 UCONN HEALTH CENTER

Endowment Assets by Purpose
DOLLARS IN MILLIONS

2008 2007 2006 2005
Scholarship Support $98.5 $102.5 $97.9 $299.0
Program Support $86.3 $96.5 $86.2 $272.0
Faculty Support $79.3 $96.8 $101.4 $370.0

Total Assets
DOLLARS IN MILLIONS

2008 2007 2006 2005
$366 $478 $434 $397

The FOUNDERS SOCIETY

The Founders Society was established in 1996 to recognize the University’s most generous benefactors. All gifts to benefit the University, including contributions to the UConn Foundation, the University Athletic Development Fund, the UConn Law School Foundation and the UConn Health Center, count toward membership in The Founders Society. Fifty-five new members were welcomed into the society this year. Founders Society members contributed more than $18 million in new gifts this year in support of colleges, schools, programs, students, faculty and athletics.

SOURCE: The University of Connecticut, 2008 Annual Report
**2009 NEW BOARD MEMBERS continued**

**RONALD P. MCKINTOSH ’82** is portfolio manager at Cantox Associates in New York. Cantox Associates is a trading and investment firm that manages, with its affiliates, more than $1.7 billion in assets. Cantox specializes in managing client and proprietary capital through global hedge funds and alternative investment instruments. Previously, McIntosh was head of life insurance research at Fox-Pitt Kelton, a global investment bank. McIntosh earned a B.S. in accounting from the School of Business.

**JOHN W. RAFAL ’71** is founder, president and CEO of Eases Financial Services (formerly John W. Rafal & Associates). Eases Financial Services, a subsidiary of Eases Savings Bank, is a financial services firm that manages more than $1.7 billion in assets. Rafal has been named to lists of top financial advisors by Registered Rep., Research Magazine and Barron’s. Previously, he was director of Maritime Bank and Trust. He serves on the boards of Eases Savings Bank, Middletown Memorial Hospital, the Eugene O’Neill Theater Center and the Cove Center for Grieving Children. He has been a trustee of the Connecticut River Museum and the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra. He is a member of the Connecticut and American Bar Associations, the Investment Management Consultants Association and the Financial Planning Association. He earned a B.A. in political science from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and a J.D. from Temple University. Rafal and his wife, Dyanne, are Charter Oak Circle members of The Founders Society.

**GENERAL ROBERT W. RISCASSI ’58 (ret.)** is senior VP of L-3 Communications Holdings, a leading supplier to the aerospace and defense sectors. RisCassi retired as a four-star general from the U.S. Army after 35 years of distinguished service. Previously, he was U.S. Army commander in-chief of the United Nations Command and the U.S. Combined Forces Command in Korea. In private industry, he served as VP of land systems at Lockheed Martin. RisCassi is on the Advisory Board for the Spectrum Group and has been on the boards of ATK Corp., the National Defense Panel, the Commission on Roles and Missions, the National Intelligence Council and the Washington Institute of Foreign Affairs. He is on the Boards of Directors for the Fort Leavenworth Foundation, Command and General Staff College Foundation, the Korea Society and the Atlantic Council of the United States. RisCassi received the UConn Distinguished Alumni Award in 1989. He is a member of the Connecticut and American Bar Associations, the Investment Management Consultants Association and the Financial Planning Association. He earned a B.A. in political science from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and a J.D. from Temple University.

**STEPHEN J. SILLS** is co-founder, chairman, president and CEO of Darwin Professional Underwriters. Previously, he was founder and CEO of Executive Risk, Inc., which was bought by the Chubb Corp., of which he became executive VP. Sills is president of the Professional Liability Underwriting Society, which honored him with the Founders Award in 1997. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Connecticut Children’s Medical Center. Sills earned a B.S. in economics from the University of Tennessee.

**DANIEL D. TOSCANO ’87** is co-head of leveraged and acquisition finance in the Americas at HSBC. Previously, he was managing director and head of senior debt capital markets in the Americas at Deutsche Bank in New York City. Toscano also held top-level positions at Deutsche Bank’s predecessor, Bankers Trust. Toscano philanthropically supports Norwalk Hospital, Stepping Stones Museums for Children, the Joshua House Fund, the Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah, the University of Utah Health Sciences Center and Special Olympics. Toscano was elected in 2006 and 2007 to serve on the Board of Directors of the Loan Syndications and Trading Association. He graduated magna cum laude with a B.S. in finance from the School of Business and earned an E.M.B.A. from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.