Momentum
The University’s progress continues unabated, and our momentum propels us to even greater heights.
The success of UCONN 2000 led the Connecticut General Assembly to establish a new $1.3 billion initiative known as “21st Century UConn.” Proposed by Governor John G. Rowland and approved by an overwhelming majority in the General Assembly, the new 11-year program will continue what UCONN 2000 began. It will allow us to proceed with the physical transformation of our main and regional campuses while directing $300 million toward much-needed facility enhancements at the University of Connecticut Health Center.

Investment in our infrastructure has already turned the brain drain of past years into a dramatic brain gain. The University welcomed its largest and possibly most distinguished freshman class this year. A standard of excellence coupled with inclusion translated into better grades for the University itself: an upgraded bond rating of Aa3 from Moody’s Investor Services. The University’s strength in the higher education marketplace as a lure for bright and ambitious young people was one of the main reasons for the enhanced standing. These developments helped the University secure major research grants and contracts, led to a number of innovative collaborations, and enhanced our capacity to generate philanthropic support. Even in an uncertain economy, Campaign UConn, the University’s six-year, $300 million private fundraising campaign, exceeded its ambitious goals, reaching beyond the $200 million mark this fiscal year.

The year includes a number of points of dramatic achievement. Among them, UNESCO selected the University of Connecticut to host its first and only chair in human rights in the United States, affirming the high ideals we have upheld through numerous human rights initiatives. Corporate and government sources invested substantially in the Connecticut Global Fuel Cell Center, positioning the University to help lead the way in the development of efficient energy alternatives. UConn Health Center researchers discovered a gene that causes a common form of glaucoma, facilitating early diagnosis and prevention. In an unprecedented arrangement, the Metropolitan Opera forged a partnership with our School of Fine Arts, giving students access to internships and opportunities no other university can offer.

Those are just the highlights of a year of rapid progress. As you read the pages of this report, you will find additional examples of accomplishment, commitment and service. The University’s progress continues unabated, and our momentum propels us to even greater heights.

President Philip E. Austin

The 2001-2002 academic year represented a period of dramatic forward motion for the University of Connecticut. Working with faculty, students and staff, and supported by alumni, Connecticut citizens and their elected leaders, and corporate partners, we have built significantly on the progress of recent years.

Our momentum has touched virtually every aspect of institutional life. In the aftermath of the September 11 tragedy, our faculty and student body demonstrated that the high standards of scholarship and commitment evidenced in our classrooms have broader applications within our community. The same standards spurred advances in many areas—including our ranking among peer universities, the supernal performance of our incoming and graduating classes, the research achievements of our faculty, and our ongoing contribution to the quality of life and economic vitality of our state.

As we progressed through the seventh year of the University’s 10-year, $1 billion infrastructure renewal program, UCONN 2000, we reached new heights in our effort to create an attractive, technologically advanced statewide campus. Students entered residences remarkable for their spaciousness and functionality. The promise of a University on the move became measurable as the Student Union building was readied for renewal; the Wilbur Cross building was renovated to become a site for “one-stop shopping” for student administrative needs; a state-of-the-art School of Business was completed; and the Agricultural Biotechnology Laboratory prepared the way for pioneering research.
Allegro and fortissimo

To a voice, drama or theater design major, the American dream isn’t a house with a picket fence. It’s the Metropolitan Opera, where the careers of such legends as Callas and Caruso rocketed. Its hall rings with the most glorious human voices on the planet. Its curtains frame set designs that are revolving worlds. Its lighting is visual accompaniment, turning an opera at the Met into an experience that transcends libretto and score.

When the Metropolitan Opera and the University of Connecticut raised the curtain on their new partnership, it wasn’t just another debut. It was a crescendo—the first partnership of its kind ever undertaken by the Met’s artistic and production departments.

Under the partnership’s terms, students from the School of Fine Arts will sit in on Met rehearsals, attend lectures and visit the opera house’s backstage labyrinth of sound, scenery, costuming and lighting. They will also learn firsthand from cast members and staff about production underpinnings—from the way a quartet is staged to how a set is rotated into place. Met General Manager Joseph Volpe will be a featured lecturer.

Ultimately, some of the world’s finest creative talents and production experts will mentor selected UConn students. The first of these, John Froelich, a first-year graduate student in lighting design, interned at the Met during the spring semester. His curriculum was hands-on lighting design, costume design, scenery, and production management. “Having the Metropolitan Opera behind your name is not something anyone in my profession will ignore,” he says.

Beginning in 2003, UConn will be home to the Metropolitan Opera Summer Institute Program, featuring performances by Met singers and offering instruction to music educators nationwide.

The ambitious UConn-Met partnership was forged by two of the University’s most generous benefactors, Raymond and Beverly Sackler. “Raymond Sackler is the cornerstone of this partnership,” explains David G. Woods, dean of the School of Fine Arts. “Through his efforts and financial support, two of his ‘loves’—the Met and the University of Connecticut—are forming a relationship through which both will be enhanced.”

Prior to the partnership, UConn’s opera program was considered one of the country’s strongest, attracting superlative faculty and students. Through the Sacklers’ persistence, it is now without peer as a Met partner. For UConn students of opera, that’s another American dream.

The curtain rose on an historic partnership between UConn and the Metropolitan Opera. It wasn’t just another debut. It was a crescendo.
The objective is to amplify our position of national leadership in public higher education. Thanks to UCONN 2000 (and a boom year), we’re achieving it.

New heights

As the nationally unprecedented UCONN 2000 building program entered its seventh year, UConn attained pinnacles of the kind that are described in dollars as well as square feet. Building upon the remarkable success of the $1 billion UCONN 2000 program, a new initiative—21st Century UConn—was passed by an enthusiastic General Assembly. 21st Century UConn extends the historic infrastructure renewal program with an additional $1.3 billion investment continuing the University’s remarkable transformation through 2015.

21st Century UConn owes its approval in large part to the tremendous success of UCONN 2000. And 2001-2002 was the year when that success was clearly visible from every UConn campus perspective.

It was a year of ribbon cutting and breaking new ground. The School of Business building opened, with 1,800 computer plug-ins giving students ready access to the world of electronic information and e-commerce. The new Agricultural Biotechnology Laboratory was finished, a magnet for scholars on the high frontiers of bioscience. Ground was broken on the School of Engineering’s Information Technologies building, to be ready in 2003.

This was the year that doors opened on a variety of new options in University living and learning. The Hilltop Apartment community and Hilltop Suites provided students more spacious, independent living environments. Between campus neighborhoods, paths wind, creating residential communities high in aesthetics and convenience.

It was the year when students could begin the new term with a single destination for answers to questions about University business and services. UConn’s signature landmark, the gold-domed Willbur Cross building, was completely renovated to consolidate all student services, from financial aid to residential life.

It was, most of all, another profoundly successful year of UCONN 2000. What The New York Times called “a building boom that would be the envy of most university presidents,” UCONN 2000 has yielded a crop of exclamation points since the program began in 1995: a 56% increase in freshman enrollment. A 62% rise in freshman minority enrollment. The SAT scores of incoming freshmen have jumped nearly 30 points. UCONN 2000 has made the University a top choice for Connecticut’s sons and daughters, spurring a fourfold increase in UConn’s endowment.

The objective is to amplify our position of national leadership in public higher education. Thanks to UCONN 2000 (and a boom year), we’re achieving that goal.
Power surge

When Francis Bacon said that knowledge is power, he wasn’t thinking of advanced research into energy alternatives. But his statement could easily be the theme of UConn’s newly established Connecticut Global Fuel Cell Center. The 16,000-square-foot building was constructed to facilitate research on fuel cell power generation—a promising alternative to energy-guzzling internal combustion engines.

The Center forms the core of an historic agreement between UConn and Connecticut Innovations, Inc., a partnership that has sparked $13.3 million in funding from private and government sources for fuel cell research, six endowed chairs, and the new facility. The combined package fortifies the state’s commitment to fuel cell power.

Another mainstay of the initiative is a high-capacity fuel cell recently installed at UConn. Weighing some 40,000 pounds, it looks like a giant battery from a B-movie set. But with a price tag of approximately $1 million, it’s the genuine article. Generating energy without combustion and associated polluting byproducts, it’s also generating excitement among engineering faculty and students. The cell combines hydrogen and water to produce electricity, leaving harmless water vapor in its wake. The unit, a 200 kW PC25 by UTC Fuel Cells, donated by Connecticut Natural Gas, powers the United Technologies Engineering building and serves as a learning tool for engineering students and fuel cell researchers. Virtually noise-free, the cell recycles waste heat, funneling it back into the building’s heating system.

Driving the research forward are six new chaired professorships of $1 million each, to be filled by world leaders in fuel cell research and development. The chairs provide funding to develop advanced fuel cells and establish research partnerships with businesses interested in energy alternatives to drive their own engines.

There will be no lack of applications for the ingenuity that results. The behemoth fuel cell at UConn is only one example—mobile fuel cells could someday power vehicles, appliances, lawn mowers and laptop computers as well as homes and buildings. In the meantime, current efforts fuel UConn’s reputation as a leading global center for fuel cell technology and innovation.

The Connecticut Global Fuel Cell Center is proof positive that in the search for energy alternatives, knowledge is power.
After 9/11, the common reflex across all UConn campuses was giving—everything from relief to insight.

Tragedy transcended

Tragedy changes everything. September 11, 2001, did not deviate from the pattern, leaving a chasm between the day before and the day after. At the University, however, tragedy itself was transformed.

Students turned to one another, gathering before television screens on campuses across Connecticut. On the Stamford campus, where nearly every student and professor knew someone who worked at the World Trade Center, an auditorium became UConn’s “ground zero” of memory and compassion.

Others brought their compassion to the scene of the crime. Carmine Centrella, acting deputy chief of the UConn Health Center Fire Department, journeyed with seven other members of the emergency services tactical team to New York City. Expecting to put their trauma expertise to work, instead they helped fire fighters retrieve the metal, plastic and digital remains of victims’ lives. Their only patients were rescue workers.

Undergraduate and Marine veteran Brendan Nutkus ’04, visiting his family in Manhattan, volunteered for the Army Corps bucket brigade, helping sift through the ashes.

On the evening of September 12, the Student Union Mall in Storrs was a constellation of candles, held by campus residents and visitors expressing their unity in light. The Music Department chose Mozart’s Requiem as elegy, performed in Storrs, Bloomfield and Stamford; it raised more than $30,000 in relief funds.

The common reflex across all campuses was giving—everything from relief to insight. The women’s basketball team collected a relief fund. UConn seniors created a scholarship fund for children of the victims. The Health Center provided free educational programs to the public on trauma and bioterrorism. As it assisted the state in upgrading emergency preparedness, the Health Center also gave the Connecticut media its main source material on traumatic stress, coping, healing and bioterrorism. The Law School held a symposium on liability issues as $80 billion in 9/11 losses quaked Connecticut’s insurance industry.

No one is unchanged by 9/11. At UConn, however, the roots deepened, the bonds were strengthened and, along the circuit of human empathy, the light shone.

University alumni who perished in the tragedies of September 11:

Richard Blood Jr. ’97
Evan Gillette ’83
Robert Higley ’94
Joseph A. Lenahan ’82, ’84 M.B.A.

Cheryl Monyak ’79, ’81 M.B.A.
Scott J. O’Brien ’83
Margaret Q. Orloske ’73
Sean Schielke ’96
Human rights first

When the University announced that the fall 2001 semester would be dedicated to the study of human rights, September 11 was just another square on the calendar. With the start of a new academic year, UConn was introducing a semester-long series of programs to advance a cause already woven deeply into its culture.

In the aftermath of September 11, however, every human rights lecture and conference redoubled in relevance. All 60 events, attended by some 11,000 members of the University community and visitors from the U.S. and abroad, examined issues that seemed more pivotal than ever before.

They included the UConn-African National Congress Partnership’s second annual comparative human rights conference as well as a roster of lectures as diverse as the people who led them. The HIV/AIDS crisis, the Holocaust, capital punishment, racial profiling, Middle East issues, and equality in access to health care were just a few of the vetted issues. Speakers ranged from scientists to ethicists, from attorneys, dignitaries and scholars to peace activists, each with original insights on problems often mired in misconception.

Rhoda Howard-Hassmann, the Gladstein Visiting Professor in Human Rights, examined why human rights is perceived as a western-styled threat in certain nations. Xiao Qiang, a former doctoral student who returned to China in the wake of the Tiananmen Square demonstration, spoke alongside noted Israeli peace activist and government professor Galia Golan.

Naledi Pandor, chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, South African Parliament, discussed why equal access to education must be a key component of human rights. The personal testimony of anti-apartheid activist Lionel Basil Davis resonated with both young and more mature audience members.

The semester culminated in one of the greatest honors ever bestowed on the University—the first and only UNESCO chair in human rights in the United States. Amii Omara-Otunnu, UConn history professor, was named the first chair holder. Already spearheading UConn’s partnership with the ANC, Omara-Otunnu’s credentials were considered preeminent.

As President Philip E. Austin remarked, the chair is “a mark of distinction for the University as a whole.” It says that the University is fully committed to an issue staked on humanity’s highest aspirations—reaching across borders, languages and recent history.
Mansoor Sarfarazi examines eyesight in a way that’s quantum leaps from the traditional eye chart in a doctor’s office. His “chart” is a map of the human genome, tracing nucleotides along the double helix that encodes every human characteristic—including diseases that can be inherited just as easily as freckles or hair color.

Sarfarazi is a professor of genetics. He directs the Surgical Research Center at the UConn Health Center. According to peers and fellow researchers from Toronto, Chicago and New York, he is among the top experts in the world on the genetics of glaucoma. This February, together with research associate Tayebeh Rezaie, he pinpointed the cause of primary open-angle glaucoma (POAG), a leading cause of blindness. Their findings first appeared in Science.

POAG can lie in wait for as long as 30 years, producing few or no symptoms. Then it blindsides victims, leaving them with the classic tunnel vision symptomatic of glaucoma. Detected too late, blindness is inevitable—but sight loss can be limited if the disease is diagnosed early. Suspecting that POAG has genetic roots, Sarfarazi set out to find a genetic marker to use in detecting the disease.

The research team found it by meticulously studying 54 families with inherited, adult-onset glaucoma. In a significant number of these patients, a specific gene sequence on one chromosome was damaged by mutations. The researchers learned that one of the genes in the sequence gives instructions for a special eye protein they named “optineurin.”

Normal optineurin suppresses a devious protein that kills optic nerve cells prematurely. Sarfarazi theorizes that in patients diagnosed with POAG, mutated optineurin can’t perform this task. Peripheral vision narrows, and eventually vision is squeezed to the zero point.

Now that he has pinpointed the mutation, he and Rezaie hope to develop a drug that can reverse its effects. In the meantime, the discovery can help doctors diagnose POAG years in advance of symptoms, so patients can be treated and eyesight loss deferred and curbed.

The research continues Sarfarazi’s life interest in how the optic nerve interacts with the brain. For people who don’t yet know that POAG is their genetic fate, it could remove a major blind spot—for Sarfarazi and his team, that makes the years of disciplined effort worth every second.
Smart investment

With more than $200 million raised, Campaign UConn is galvanizing the support of private investors who put their money where their pride is.

Private support for a public university can do what that special faculty member, a semester abroad, or interdisciplinary research can do for a college undergraduate. It helps define a truly exceptional educational experience.

When the University publicly launched its six-year, $300 million Campaign UConn in 2001, three areas were targeted for private funding—student scholarships, endowed faculty positions and program enhancements. With more than $200 million raised, Campaign UConn is achieving its goals and galvanizing the support of private investors with a vision for UConn excellence.

Evelyn Gilman ’47, a passionate supporter of the arts, is one of them. Knowing that UConn’s William Benton Museum was short on exhibit space for its 5,000 works, she donated $800,000 to fund a 7,000-square-foot gallery, giving curators the space to bring art treasures out of storage for regular viewing.

Valuing the ecology of Long Island Sound, Northeast Utilities committed $500,000 for two endowment funds in UConn’s Marine Sciences Department at Avery Point. One will support research on board the research vessel Connecticut. The other will financially assist marine sciences students, particularly women and minorities.

The UConn Association of Orthodontists had countless reasons to establish a clinical teaching chair in the School of Dental Medicine. In the main: to reciprocate for a state-of-the-art-education. The gift will help draw and retain nationally recognized orthodontic scholars to the top-ranked school.

Campaign UConn has raised expectations alongside hopes. As a greater number of scholarships become available, more high-achieving high school seniors are selecting UConn. Since 1995, they have included 334 valedictorians and salutatorians.

A Nutmeg Scholarship clinched the decision of Joelyn Rosinski. An undergraduate with an eye toward medical school, she has maintained a 3.75 GPA in a daunting dual-major curriculum. A music education major, Rosinski hones her scientific mind with a second major in physiology and neurobiology. Like her, Day of Pride scholar Luis Gonzales possesses commitment and confidence beyond his years. An honors student with a 3.9 GPA, he mentors “at risk” middle and elementary students in his time off campus.

Gonzales believes in repaying his good fortune. In that sentiment, he is seconded by countless other individuals and corporations who put their money where their UConn pride is.
Perpetual champions

Sometimes a sports fan has the final word. This year, the words were scribed on a sign handed to women’s basketball standout Asjha Jones by a woman seated in a wheelchair: “We didn’t shock the world,” the fan had written. “We were simply the best.”

This year’s perfect season—39 and 0—came as no shock to UConn women’s basketball fans or to National Coach of the Year Geno Auriemma. Reaching beyond past pinnacles, the women became the fourth team in women’s college basketball history to finish the season undefeated, winning the 2002 NCAA national championship.

The hoops in the classroom were mastered as well—Jones was named a District I Academic All-American. Asjha Jones and her All-American teammates—Sue Bird, Swin Cash and Tamika Williams—were top picks of the WNBA. They also celebrated the spoils of academic victory as they all graduated together in May.

This year, Jim Calhoun, coach of the UConn men’s basketball team, brought his team back from the Big East tournament as champions and, to the delight of the Husky faithful, went on to fast break through the NCAA tournament, finishing among the nation’s Elite Eight basketball teams.

Division I-A Husky football—now in its second season—pulled off its first defeat of a Big East opponent, scoring a 20–19 come-from-behind win against Rutgers. The Huskies will play their last season at Memorial Stadium before moving to a state-of-the-art, 40,000-seat stadium at Rentschler Field in East Hartford.

The string of triumphs continued on the track, soccer and baseball fields, and volleyball court with notable winning streaks and individual honors.

It was mirrored in classroom achievements. You’ll find the names of UConn student-athletes in the two-inch headlines of the sports pages. You’ll also find them on the Athletic Director’s honor roll as 250 student-athletes achieved a 3.0 or better grade point average. You’ll find them in the running for graduate school fellowships, internships and among those who bring professional and civic honor to our state.

It is the result of an athletic program ranked among the top 20 by U.S. News & World Report. It is the fruit of a public university ranked among the top three in the Northeast. It is the momentum behind people who, to no one’s surprise, are achieving the best in the classroom, in the research lab, and on the athletic fields.

The “best”—personal best as well as team bravura—is a theme that runs from UConn’s fields and courts to its classrooms.
Increased demand for IT knowledge. Fairfield and Westchester Counties are among the most technology-driven business communities in Connecticut. So when the UConn Stamford campus became home to the Connecticut Information Technology Institute (CITI) in 1998, it had a ready-made population of business students, many employed by Fortune 100 companies. This year, CITI’s professional development opportunities drew 1,700 people and 60 companies to its classrooms. Many who tap CITI for IT credentialing go on to pursue advanced academic degrees at UConn. Demand for CITI’s nationally recognized expertise in software integrations and complex computer system roll-outs spurred a 68% increase in IT services to the corporate community this year.

Thirst-free plants may help alleviate hunger. In developing countries, drought and salt deposits have turned formerly rich farmland into lunar-like dust. Robert Gaxiola, assistant professor of plant science, knows the effects well. A native of Mexico concerned about “feeding humanity,” he set out to genetically engineer a plant that thrives in dry, salty soil. Last year, his efforts bore fruit, or at least lush shoots. Gaxiola and his team successfully engineered specimens of mustard weed that, like a camel, can pack water away in storage sacs and keep toxic levels of salt from circulating. In time, his feat may help turn wastelands into food-producing fields.

Leap year for UConn in national rankings. When a university leaps 10 places higher in the U.S. News & World Report rankings from the previous year, who notices? Everyone interested in higher education. “We don’t need the rankings to testify to all the positives taking place at UConn, but students and parents pay close attention to them,” comments Dolan Evanovich, associate provost for enrollment management. This year, UConn was ranked number 28 nationally, third in the Northeast and, once again, the number one public university in New England—climbing more places than any other institution in the top 50. President Austin attributes the ranking results to "a remarkable transformation" that's making UConn a prime pick for high achievers.

Intellectual property program distinguishes law school. Copyrights, trademarks and patents are supposed to protect the ownership rights of authors, artists, inventors and creative companies. In today’s cyber-world, however, legal battles over intellectual property are anything but cut and dried. A new program at UConn’s School of Law offers intensive training in this growing field to selected law students. Only a handful of other law schools offer a similar program. In its first year, 15 students were selected for the 15-credit curriculum, which includes an externship. Steven Wilf, one of four faculty members who developed the program, says it gives future lawyers a coveted skill in an information-driven economy.

New football complex to kick off in 2003. “I feel very fortunate to be able to support an athletic program that is known for winning on and off the field,” says Robert Burton, the president and CEO of Moore Corp., Ltd., and father of Michael Burton, a UConn alumnus who captained the 1999 Husky football team. Burton, already a generous benefactor to the University, recently announced a contribution of $2.5 million to build a new football complex on the Storrs campus. The Burton Family Football Complex will house the gamut of football-related facilities while raising UConn’s stature in Division I-A football. Ground breaking will begin in 2003.
Mellon grant once again funds anti-apartheid archives. The African National Congress (ANC), the leading organization in the struggle to end apartheid, possesses archives that stretch back to 1912. Once scattered across more than 30 countries, the documents of anti-apartheid leaders now have a home in Johannesburg and at the University of Fort Hare, thanks to the University of Connecticut-ANC partnership. This year, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded a three-year, $700,000 grant to the organization, the second made by Mellon in two years. It will be used to organize the ANC’s extensive archival materials. UConn is now the official North American repository of ANC archival materials, providing invaluable access to researchers studying the decades-long struggle for freedom.

BioBlitz uncovers urban menagerie. For four years running, the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History at UConn has co-sponsored an annual BioBlitz. Part quest, part fun, in May it drew more than 100 scientists from UConn and beyond to the 400-acre Mohegan Park in Norwich, Connecticut, a mosaic of gardens, forest and wetlands. The mission: to identify as many plant and animal species as possible over a 24-hour span. Rare finds included a species of fairy moth and two fungi the attendant research mycologists had never seen. The count came to 1,898 species—"an amazing amount of biodiversity," says Ellen Censky, museum director.

Joint venture: new ambulatory surgery center. A new day-surgery center is coming to UConn’s Health Center—a joint venture in more ways than one. It’s a team effort of UConn and Health Resources International of West Hartford, a company that will finance construction of the five-story building. The “surgicenter” will make room for day surgeries that UConn’s John Dempsey Hospital can’t accommodate. It will also house UConn’s bone and joint research center, one of the medical school’s signature programs. Because half of the one-day surgeries currently performed at the UConn Health Center are orthopedic cases, this arrangement makes perfect sense, says Steven Strongwater, director of clinical operations. Scheduled for completion by 2004, the facility will permit UConn physicians to extend a much-needed patient service.

Fortified snack could be brain food for babies. DHA is short for docosahexaenoic acid, a fatty acid essential to infant development. Supplementing an infant’s diet with DHA after birth may improve cognitive performance. Could additional benefits be reaped if pregnant mothers consumed more DHA? UConn nutritionist Carol Lammi-Keefe was awarded a $1.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to find out. She recruited 140 pregnant women to eat DHA-fortified snack bars during the last half of their pregnancies. Their babies will be followed to see whether pre-natal DHA makes a difference in brain function—and perhaps even school readiness.

University Medal goes to born survivor. Sam Gejdenson was the first child of Holocaust survivors to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. As Connecticut’s Second District Congressman, his record spanned 20 years. Defeated in 2000, he left a trailblazer’s legacy, including advocacy for working families and legislation to make college more affordable. A 1970 UConn graduate, Gejdenson was a recipient of the University Medal this year. President Austin lauds Gejdenson as “an example to our students and alumni of how success can follow determination and hard work.”

Preeminent on the coast. With a mint-new Marine Sciences Research Center on its Avery Point campus, UConn has charted a course for preeminence—to become one of the nation’s leading centers of coastal marine studies. While the 5-year plan is ambitious, the focus on coastal studies carries star potential to advance knowledge and understanding of this historically understudied area where the land and the ocean intersect. UConn’s Avery Point campus, along Long Island Sound, is an ideal real-world lab for plumbing those depths.

University of Connecticut-ANC partnership. The African National Congress (ANC), the leading organization in the struggle to end apartheid, possesses archives that stretch back to 1912. Once scattered across more than 30 countries, the documents of anti-apartheid leaders now have a home in Johannesburg and at the University of Fort Hare, thanks to the University of Connecticut-ANC partnership. This year, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded a three-year, $700,000 grant to the organization, the second made by Mellon in two years. It will be used to organize the ANC’s extensive archival materials. UConn is now the official North American repository of ANC archival materials, providing invaluable access to researchers studying the decades-long struggle for freedom.
People's Bank puts money where it works.

What makes a state economically viable? Its workforce, according to People's Bank, which pledged more than $500,000 to UConn in support of programs that bring students into Connecticut’s classrooms, government agencies, health professions and businesses. People's calls its effort “a partnership to nurture Connecticut’s future.” The point is to prepare bright students to meet global competition while keeping them in Connecticut, says John A. Klein ’71, People’s president and CEO. The pledge is the largest donation from a bank in UConn’s history and one of the largest by People’s to any educational institution.

New gathering place for School of Social Work.

Seminars, receptions and meetings now have a bright new space at the School of Social Work’s Hartford campus. The Zachs Community Room was made possible by a $300,000 gift from Judith and Henry Zachs. A 1977 UConn master’s of social work graduate and former director of the UConn Foundation, Judith Zachs previously committed $1 million to establish an endowed chair for doctoral studies in social work. She sees the new gathering place as fulfilling a significant, unmet need for faculty and students. “This also provides an opportunity for UConn and the School of Social Work to reach out to the community at large,” she says.

Designer molecules detect disease and switch off pain.

On the surface of every cell are biochemical switches that certain molecules can turn on or off to trigger healing or relief. The applications are diverse, as Alexandros Makriyannis, director of UConn’s Center for Drug Discovery, is demonstrating. His work with specially engineered molecules that interact with cells led to three major discoveries recently: a way to detect diseases such as Huntington’s chorea long before they destroy the brain; a possible way to treat conditions such as multiple sclerosis; and a new way to block intense pain from diseases like shingles. Makriyannis’s long record of accomplishment was recognized this year when he received the Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor Award, UConn’s highest academic title.

Business school benefactor invests in “human capital.”

Robert Cizik ’53 has once again invested in faculty excellence at UConn. With a generous gift, he created the Robert Cizik Professorship in Manufacturing and Technology Management, assumed by School of Business Professor Jeff Rummel. In 1997, Cizik created an endowed chair of strategic technology management with a $500,000 donation. An ardent supporter of the arts and academics, he was the former chairman and CEO of Cooper Industries, a Houston-based manufacturer. His generosity helps UConn focus on technology in business by recruiting top faculty experts.

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More than a century of Huskymania. Jonathan, the legendary Husky mascot, has a new station in life. His proud form now greets visitors to the new J. Robert Donnelly-Husky Heritage Sports Museum at the heart of the new UConn Alumni Center in Storrs. The 2,700-square-foot museum is named after Robert Donnelly, a former UConn basketball and football captain. The museum dramatically displays the school’s athletic history, housing such artifacts as a 1931 football signed by the entire UConn squad and team photos snapped in 1902. The Basketball Rotunda features life-size cutouts of star players and a six-screen multi-media presentation of championship highlights. Visitors have been pouring in since last fall.

Departament of Defense to develop the “super-vaccine” for military personnel deployed overseas. Vaccine development could take years, but if a safe solution is found, mosquitoes and ticks will no longer be agents of disease.

Vaccine may put the sting on ticks, mosquitoes.

Lyme disease, West Nile virus and Dengue fever are illnesses borne by ticks and mosquitoes. Currently, there is no single vaccine that combats all of them. But Stephen Wikel and his UConn Health Center team are working on a vaccine that could give people immunity to any virus or bacterium the pesky blood-feeders carry. This year, the UConn researchers received a $2.5 million grant from the U.S.

People’s Bank puts money where it works.

What makes a state economically viable? Its workforce, according to People’s Bank, which pledged more than $500,000 to UConn in support of programs that bring students into Connecticut’s classrooms, government agencies, health professions and businesses. People’s calls its effort “a partnership to nurture Connecticut’s future.” The point is to prepare bright students to meet global competition while keeping them in Connecticut, says John A. Klein ’71, People’s president and CEO. The pledge is the largest donation from a bank in UConn’s history and one of the largest by People’s to any educational institution.
Time travel theory bends minds. Einstein’s theory claims both matter and energy (light) can bend space and time. What if light could be used to bend time on itself, creating a loop one could cross from the present to the past? That, in a capsule, is physics professor Ronald Mallett’s theoretical question. He proposes to transport subatomic particles through time, using a circle of laser beams. When his time machine concept appeared last spring in *New Scientist*, Mallett became a celebrity. Time will tell whether his theory will someday transport people to the past. Right now, it’s helping transport fascinated students to UConn.

$1.9M to make educators masters of technology. UConn’s Neag School of Education landed a $1.9 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation last fall on behalf of a statewide educational consortium. More than 1,600 superintendents and principals across Connecticut will benefit from the grant, which supports a three-year program to raise their proficiency in using technology for decision-making, improving classroom teaching, and effecting change. The funds will take Connecticut schools beyond mere “wiring” to intelligent “mastery” of new technology, according to Richard Schwab, dean of the Neag School.

Benefactor raises the bar for law school. One of UConn’s most generous benefactors raised the bar on his own record of giving in 2001. Dan Flynn ’62 pledged $1 million through the John G. Martin Foundation, a trust he heads, to create the Flynn-Martin Fund for Excellence at the School of Law. The president of Resource Management Corporation, an investment advisory firm in Farmington, Connecticut, Flynn pledged the funds to enhance his alma mater’s visibility. Notably, it will be used to send UConn’s talented legal faculty to high profile professional functions around the world, shining a beacon on their scholarly pursuits.

Winning mother-daughter team creates scholarship. The name Lobo is synonymous with winning. Rebecca Lobo ’95 captained UConn’s championship women’s basketball team in 1995 while her mother, Ruth Ann, courageously faced breast cancer. In October, the two continued their winning tradition when they pledged $25,000 to create a scholarship for Latino and African American students in the School of Allied Health. The state’s matching program brought the total to $37,500. The Lobos created the fund to increase minority representation in health care. Rebecca has set a funding goal of $100,000.

Public service: a Connecticut treasure. A commitment to public service and community health represents a critical element of the UConn Health Center’s signature program called, Connecticut Health. Among its most successful outreach efforts is the South Park Inn Homeless Shelter Medical Clinic, a student-managed and staffed facility serving Hartford’s homeless population since 1987. Dental and medical student volunteers keep the clinic doors open two days a week, funding operations with an annual road race and support from such benefactors as the Hartford County Medical Association. An offshoot of the indoor clinic is a unique Migrant Farm Workers Clinic, a temporary “tent facility” that takes free health care directly to Connecticut migrant farm workers in the fields. In combination with other student-run clinics, these efforts won the Connecticut Treasures Award this year, an honor conferred by Lieutenant Governor Jodi Rell.

A sensor with staying power tracks diabetes. For diabetics, glucose monitoring means a lifetime of painful finger pricks. Francis Moussy, assistant professor and researcher at the UConn Health Center, wants to change that reality with a tiny implantable sensor that can monitor glucose levels painlessly. Because the human body rejects implants fairly quickly, Moussy is leading a research team to develop a sensor coated with time-released medicine that reduces the inflammatory response. The researchers have already applied for a patent for their coated sensor.

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Private Investment

- The University of Connecticut Foundation, Inc., received $43.3 million in annual gifts during FY 2001–02, the second highest total in University history.
- In swift pursuit of the 6-year, $300 million goal of Campaign UConn, the University had secured $202.3 million in gifts and commitments at the close of FY 2001–02.
- With an all-time high of 35,462 donors making financial contributions to the University this year, the UConn Foundation reported $242 million in total assets.
- This year the Foundation disbursed a record $22.3 million to support students, faculty and institutional programs of excellence.

Research, Training and Public Service

- The University of Connecticut is nationally ranked 65th among 641 institutions and 45th among 370 public institutions by the National Science Foundation in research and development spending.
- FY 2001–02 sponsored research (excluding financial aid) totaled $166.9 million with 52% or $86.8 million at the main and regional campuses and 48% or $80.1 million at the Health Center.
- Sixty-six percent of funding for sponsored research came from federal initiatives, 22% from private/other sources, and 12% came from state support.

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Our Students

- Freshman enrollment at Storrs has leapt from 2,021 in FY 1995–96 to 3,149 in FY 2001–02, an increase of 56%.
- Mean SAT scores for incoming freshmen at Storrs have increased by 27 points since FY 1996–97 from 1113 to 1140.
- Across the University’s campuses a total of 334 national valedictorians and salutatorians have made UConn their school of choice since FY 1995–96.
- Since FY 1995–96, the number of freshmen minority students enrolled at Storrs has increased by 61%.
- Freshman enrollment of out-of-state students has increased 128% since FY 1995–96.

By the Numbers FY 2001–02

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Revenues and Expenditures

- University operating expenditures for FY 2001-02 totaled $1.1 billion.
- UCONN 2000 capital budget expenditures authorized in FY 2001-02 totaled $100 million. Since the landmark program commenced in 1996, authorized expenditures have totaled $712 million.
- Moody’s Investors Service boosted the University’s bond rating to Aa3 during FY 2001-02. The ratings upgrade resulted from the University’s financial stability, educational value, student demand and competitive pricing.
- The Connecticut state legislature approved, “21st Century UConn,” an 11-year, $1.3 billion dollar initiative extending the remarkably successful, $1 billion dollar UCONN 2000 infrastructure renewal program through 2015.