

Neag School jumps to #21 in U.S. News Rankings

The Neag School is poised to attain its goal of becoming one of the top 20 schools of education in the country with core programs ranked in the top 10, according to two new reports.

In the rankings released by *U.S. News & World Report* this spring, the Neag School made a significant jump from last year's rank of #29 to #21 among all 276 graduate schools of education in the country. Four of its signature programs ranked among the top 25. But that's not all.



For the first time ever, kinesiology programs in the nation were ranked through an objective review process, and the Neag School's doctoral program in kinesiology was ranked #1 in the country. (Details on right)

These rankings, says Dean Richard Schwab, exemplify the growing national reputation the Neag faculty, research and programs enjoy, especially among the school's peers. In addition to remaining the #1 public graduate school of education in the northeast, the Neag School is now regarded as one of the top two along the entire east coast, second only to the University of Virginia.

"We are now a school of choice," Schwab says. "We are proud to have some of the nation's top graduate students and highly-respected scholars calling us for positions which has created a significant talent pool to draw from."

Each year, U.S. News gathers opinion data from program directors, senior faculty, school superintendents and deans to rank professional school programs. Statistical indicators supplied by each school are used to measure the quality of a school's faculty, research, and students.

A rise in the Neag School's assessment by the nation's deans of education, coupled with gains in the GRE scores of incoming students and continued increases in faculty research funding, helped to propel the Neag School to #21.

Continued on page 3

Gifted Researchers Develop Cyber-Aide for Teachers

Students have different needs and learning styles. To well-trained teachers that comes as no surprise. What they sometimes find baffling is the expectation that they are suppose to increase achievement scores, adhere to highly-structured curriculum, while also finding the time and materials to keep *all* of their students engaged in learning.

The answer just might be at www.RenzulliLearning.com.

Based on 30-plus years of research, Neag School professors Sally Reis and Joe Renzulli, internationally known and highly-regarded names in gifted education, have formed a web-based software and database company.

"It's an online program unlike any other," says Renzulli, the namesake of this "Google" of enrichment learning and resources. "Teachers using our system tell us it's like having a couple of teacher aides helping them in the classroom."

Kinesiology Program #1 in Nation!

What a year for rankings! For the first time ever, doctoral programs in kinesiology were objectively reviewed by the American Academy of Kinesiology and Physical Education. The evaluation, based on data from the last five years, took into account seven indexes involving faculty and students.

Of the 62 programs in the country, the Neag School's kinesiology department nailed top honors - tying with Penn State for first place. Dean Richard Schwab is extremely proud of kinesiology's ranking.

"The competition was fierce and we are in good company in the rankings," he stated. Some of the other top programs are Arizona State, the universities of Michigan, Indiana, Maryland, and Oregon, and Columbia University.

This honor is not only important to the kinesiology department, in terms of highlighting the quality of its faculty, research, and students, it reflects well on the whole School, Schwab said.



"Carl Maresh and his team have worked hard to achieve our mission by raising standards and recruiting some of the field's top researchers and students," the dean added.

In the kinesiology department's Human Performance Lab, Dr. Douglas Casa (right) checks the condition of a participant in a study, that when completed, determined moderate amounts of caffeine, do not cause dehydration in adults exercising in the heat.

Photo courtesy: National Geographic

Kinesiology, which originated from the discipline of physical education, is a multi-faceted field of study in which movement or physical activity is the intellectual focus. Programs can include physiology, biochemistry, genetics, biomechanics, sports medicine, psychology, and sociology.

The American Academy of Kinesiology and Physical Education is dedicated to educational and scientific advancements in the field. Among the factors weighed in the evaluation were students' GRE scores, percentage of students on research support, faculty publications in refereed scientific journals, number of books published, editorial boards served on, grant dollars received, and fellowships in professional organizations.

Continued on page 2



Reis, his research colleague and wife, came up with the initial concept. She was in an urban classroom studying students identified as talented readers and observed the teacher's struggle to keep the students engaged. Long before most of the class completed their assignments, these students would finish early. The teacher directed them to

"go use the computer." Reis watched as the students surfed the web looking for information about their favorite celebrities.

Continued on page 4

ON THE INSIDE

- Spotlight on Alum3
- Students tee off with Tourney Plans ...4
- ReCONNECT with Alums6

Reis Receives University's Highest Honor

Sally Reis has established a reputation for being a dedicated, hard-working faculty member at the Neag School, as well as the University. Her accomplishments have not gone unnoticed.

The American Psychological Association considers her one of the world's most influential psychologists in the area of gifted children and talent development, and now she has been honored with the University's highest tribute, the Board of Trustees' Distinguished Professor Award.

Reis, a professor in the Department of Educational Psychology, says she is humbled by the honor. This summer she relinquished her position as department chair to spend more time with her two passions - family and research.

Over the years, Reis has authored more than 200 publications and mentored more than 30 graduate students. She is a self-confessed workaholic who, on most days, would rather focus on her work than anything else.

"I love what I do and am passionate about my work," says Reis. She points out that many professors work hard, but she's been lucky. "I've had support, funding from grants, work in a great school with excellent colleagues and deans with a common mission. I am blessed to have this combination in my life."

Continued from page 1

Kinesiology Program #1 in Nation!

"It is particularly satisfying to be ranked at the top the first time purely quantitative standards are used to compare kinesiology programs," says Maresh, department head and director of the Human Performance Laboratory.

The kinesiology department offers two areas of doctoral study: exercise science and sport management/sociology. It has three research laboratories, including the Human Performance Lab, where the exercise science team has access to sophisticated technology. Through advanced science, Maresh and his powerhouse faculty look at the underlying mechanisms associated with a particular physiological response.

The department's nine-tenure track faculty include: William Kraemer, an endocrinologist and neuromuscular physiologist, whose research in strength and conditioning, sports medicine and exercise physiology has earned him recognition around the globe; Lawrence Armstrong and Douglas Casa -- two of the nation's leading authorities on issues related to exertional heat illnesses and hydration -- whose work is the basis by which the National Athletic Trainers Association and the American College of Sports Medicine set guidelines for amateur and professional athletes; Jaci VanHeest, an exercise physiologist and endocrinologist who investigates physical, hormonal and metabolic outcomes, and has received media attention coast-to-coast for her before-school activity intervention for overweight children; and Jeff Volek, a registered dietitian and an authority in sports nutrition, diet and lipid metabolism, who is best known for his extensive work on low-carb diets.

The #1 ranking stands for five years.



Dean Richard Schwab presents Dr. Sally Reis with an engraved crystal bowl to commemorate the University's decision to honor her with a Board of Trustees' Distinguished Professor Award.

Reis is a member of the Neag Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development research team, which has generated over \$35 million in grants and contracts. Rather than focusing on the stereotypical definition of "gifted students" Reis' research embraces a range of gifted population's, including those with learning disabilities, gifted females, and culturally diverse and talented students of poverty.

Of all her professional service, Reis says she is proudest of her role in Confratute - the summer

"I love what I do and am passionate about my work,"

Sally Reis

institute on enrichment teaching and learning she runs with her husband and research colleague Joe Renzulli. They've trained over 20,000 teachers from the U.S. and many parts of the world. She hopes that teachers bring talent development and enrichment opportunities back to their students.

Juggling her many responsibilities has not been without challenge, but she lives by this mantra: In seeking balance, seek the path you choose, not a path anyone else chooses for you. The path she chose included being a stepmother to two sons, Mark and Scott, and her daughters, Sara and Liza Renzulli.

"It works for me," Reis says. "I found an environment in which I can work and maintain a happy personal life. I don't take that for granted."



Physical Therapy Moves to NSoE University calls for realignment of schools and colleges

The Neag School of Education has expanded to five departments!

On July 1, the Department of Physical Therapy moved from the School of Allied Health to the Neag School. It is a facet of Provost Peter J. Nicholls' academic restructuring plan designed to strengthen programs. The School of Allied Health, which housed physical therapy, has been eliminated.

"Compared to peer and aspirant institutions, UConn's many independent schools and colleges have reduced institutional effectiveness and efficiency," said Nicholls in an article published in the UConn Advance newspaper. By moving physical therapy into the Neag School, the department can "benefit from the levels of review of a larger school and work in synergy with the kinesiology and special education programs," stated Nicholls.

Dean Richard Schwab and Associate Dean Thomas DeFranco are working to ensure a

smooth transition for the faculty, staff and students.

Learn more about the new physical therapy department and its' Nayden Rehabilitation Clinic next fall in *Spotlight*.



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Alum Teaches Students About Joys of Writing

Continued from page 1

Jump to #21 in U.S. News Rankings

Consider these recent achievements:

The amount of research grants and contracts awarded to the Neag faculty has tripled in six years, reaching \$15.5 million in the 2006 rankings report.

The average GRE score of incoming teacher education students rose 23 points within the past year alone, to a combined score of 1201.

The Neag School's doctoral program in kinesiology was ranked #1 this year.

"While we're proud of our rankings, ultimately, this is all about improving learning for children

What if? Tom Rameaka urges his students to ponder the possibilities in his quest to help them think and write creatively. As an author of two children's books, it's a method that has worked for him.

Rameaka, who earned a master's degree in special education from the Neag School in 1981, is



Mansfield teacher, Tom Rameaka M.A. '81, at a computer in the Dorothy C. Goodwin Elementary School's Resource Room.

entering his 31st year of teaching. The past 16 have been spent at the Dorothy C. Goodwin Elementary School in Mansfield, Conn., where he worked with a student population for whom writing does not come easily.

This special teacher has created a stimulating environment in the Language Arts and Math Resource Room for students of all ability levels. Every inch of classroom space offers encouragement and thought-provoking ideas.

"I try to get the message across to my students that writing is such a pleasurable thing to do even though it can be difficult at times," he says. "I urge them to behave as authors and I refer to them as authors." He also encourages them to share their work. He leads by example.

"I try to get the message across to my students that writing is such a pleasurable thing to do even though it can be difficult at times,"

Tom Rameaka

"By reading passages out-loud and talking about the problems in writing I've encountered, I let them know that it is okay to struggle while writing. As a group we discuss their road-blocks."

Rameaka's first story *Where's Dorothy?* is based on his school and the woman for whom it was named. Dorothy C. Goodwin is a former state legislator and UConn faculty member whose portrait hangs in the school's front entrance - the same portrait which mysteriously disappears in Rameaka's story. For his two fictional characters, Dorrie and F.B.I. (short for Francis Bernard Iannucci) the search for the missing portrait allows imaginations to run wild. Rameaka wove in real-life people and school characteristics that every Goodwin student could identify with. Students were so enthusiastic about the story Rameaka was convinced to write a second one that sent favorite characters Dorrie and F.B.I. scrambling to solve *The Mystery of Wolf Den Cave*

This second tale is based on the Goodwin School's annual field trip to Wolf Den Cave in

Mashamoquet Brook State Park. A plaque outside the cave reminds visitors of Israel Putnam who is believed to have killed the last wolf in Connecticut. But what if there were more to this piece of local history?

It took several years to intertwine the factual and fictional elements, and along the way, Rameaka discussed the twists and turns with his students. "We'd talk about 'what if this happened?' or 'what if we went this way with the story?' Before they knew it, they realized just how fun writing can be," he says.

With encouragement from students, teachers and family, Rameaka approached a publisher with his stories. *Wolf Den* was the first to be published in 2005, and several months later *Where's Dorothy?* rolled off the presses. Both books are used in Mansfield's elementary schools and are carried by a national bookstore chain.



Satisfying as that might be, the dedicated educator takes more pleasure in his students' achievements. "If I've inspired kids - taken some of the mystery and apprehension out of the writing process -- than I'm contented with the job I've done," Rameaka says.

So is his employer. Recently he was selected as Mansfield's 2006 Teacher of the Year.

Tom and his wife Mary (also a Neag alum '83 and special education teacher) live in Mansfield. Tom is starting in a new position this fall at Mansfield Middle School.

Best Graduate Schools of Education

- #1. Harvard
 - #10. Northwestern
 - #15. University of Oregon
 - #19. Boston College
 - #20. University of Virginia
 - #21. Neag School, UConn**
 - #50. UMass - Amherst
- *Supplied by U.S. News & World Report*

here in Connecticut and nationwide," Schwab says. "We are in a far better position today to accomplish this because of the \$21 million investment Ray Neag made in our school along with other generous individuals who have helped raise our endowment to over \$32 million. We're able to hire top people, recruit top students, and increase our research efforts on the critical issues facing our schools and communities."

For example, in 2005, the Neag School recruited George Sugai, one of the nation's most prominent experts in behavioral practices to fill the Carole J. Neag Chair in Special Education. Don Leu, who holds another endowed chair, the John and Maria Neag Chair in Literacy and Technology, also is regarded as one of the top national experts in his field.

Other critical investments have also contributed to the Neag School's rise, funded an increase in the number of scholarships, and supported an aggressive faculty recruitment effort which has attracted some of the brightest scholars in the country to UConn.



UConn

NSoE Alumni Society Golf Tournament
Sunday, October 8
<http://www.education.uconn.edu/alumni/index.cfm>

UConn Homecoming Weekend
October 20-22
www.uconnalumni.com/events/homecoming.cfm

Gifted Researchers Develop Cyber-Aide for Teachers

"I kept thinking, 'What can I do to make it easier for teachers in this situation,'" says Reis who, as a former classroom teacher, understands the guilt when they are not able to meet their students' needs.



"We know from research -- some of it ours -- that when curriculum is adjusted to meet individual student needs, and students are provided with enrichment opportunities, resources, and encouragement, their achievement scores improve and they are a happier, creative and engaged learner," explains Reis.

So she and her team began book-marking what they considered quality, enriching web sites they hoped to supply to teachers. But their effort really began taking shape when the University of Connecticut Research and Develop Corporation - a for-profit unit established to identify research with commercial appeal -- approached Reis and Renzulli.

"The truth is, without commercialization, a lot of great ideas and products never get off the shelf," says Renzulli who is director of the National Research Center for the Gifted and Talented.

After hearing of Reis' idea, UConn R&D introduced the couple to Michael Daversa, a UConn alum and

successful education software entrepreneur, who saw potential in using their research to develop a software company. With the guidance of UConn R&D, a group of private venture capitalists was formed to create Renzulli Learning System, LLC.

It is based on the philosophies of the Schoolwide Enrichment Model (SEM) developed by Renzulli and Reis two decades ago - a model still used as by hundreds of schools around the world to establish gifted and enrichment classes. Although its roots are in gifted education, the Renzulli Learning System is designed for all students grades two through 10. It can be purchased individually or as a site license, at a cost ranging from \$10 to \$40 per pupil, and can be accessed from home as well as school.

The student's first step in using the system is to create a profile. Using the Renzulli Profiler tool, the student answers a series of questions. From those answers, the student's three primary interest areas, learning styles and preferred modes of expression are identified. A built-in search engine pulls from a comprehensive bank of more than 15,000 resources, each vetted by the Renzulli group, to construct a vast list of activities, projects, virtual tours, books, videos, competitions and contests, all which fall within the parameters set by the student's profile. The teacher serves as guide, taking students through the steps on how to use information to develop products or projects. Student work is saved in a personalized Total Talent Portfolio and is accessible to the teacher and parent, as well as the student.

"It brings their learning to another level"

**Justin Berman, principal
Intermediate School #187,
New York City**

Justin Berman, principal of Intermediate School #187 in New York City, purchased a site license six months ago to make it available to his 950 students. He says he "loves" the idea of pairing the interests of his stu-

dents with online content that is filtered and screened.

"It's a wonderful product," he says. Another aspect of the system he is particularly pleased with is the portfolio. Once an activity is completed, the portfolio program offers students the opportunity to assess their work and respond to questions about their favorite activities.

"It brings their learning to another level," he says. "Not only are they completing an activity, there is a reflective piece that helps them process it all."

Daversa, the company's CEO, says he is receiving plenty of positive feedback from teachers, students and parents, but the proof is in the numbers. In one year they've achieved "advanced market penetration," he says. Currently, 600 schools in 37 states are clients, including school systems in New York City, Atlanta, Fort Worth, Oakland, Minneapolis-St. Paul and even Bermuda.

The company, with 10 full time and 15 part time employees, hopes to turn a profit in about a year or so, and both UConn and the Neag School will receive a portion of that profit. For Renzulli and Reis, the dividends are already rolling in, in the form of teacher and student feedback.

"They payoff for me is being able to see kids in a classroom having fun with Renzulli Learning. It's about seeing what I passionately believe in, and what I fought on behalf of for so many years, now having the potential for reaching hundreds of thousands of students. It's a conceptual and practical success," he says.

Reis is also proud of the elements built in for the teachers. "We made sure this system included tremendous resources for teachers," she says, "stellar material, easy to use, that tie into content standards. When all is said and done, Joe and I can say we did our very best."

Students Take Swing at Neag Golf Tourney

Five Neag students who want careers in sport management are taking a swing at running the Neag Alumni Society's annual golf tournament scheduled for **Sunday, October 8th**.

The tournament was established five years ago by the society's president, Larry Fenn B.A. '70 Ph.D. '83, for the purpose of raising funds for his alma mater. Fenn, who is Superintendent of Schools in Lisbon, Conn., has run the event since then and decided he could use a break.

"Larry has done an incredible job with the tournament, and done most of it himself," says Dean Richard Schwab. "We can't thank him enough for his great efforts which has raised much needed funding for student scholarships and the future Alumni Hall in the Gentry Building's new wing."

Hearing about the vacancy, Laura Burton, an assistant professor in the Department of Kinesiology, realized it could be an incredible opportunity for her students.

"I had been thinking about incorporating an experiential component into my sport management master's course, and here it was, presenting itself to me," says Burton. "I couldn't pass it up."

Loosely based on Donald Trump's "Apprentice" television show, Burton divided her class into six groups. Five of them created an event to manage and the sixth she assigned to the golf tournament. Each group would be graded on how well they managed the event and worked together as a team

"Experiential learning is important because it is an effective method for exposing students to unexpected problems that erupt -- the kinds of problems you can't plan for," explains Burton.

The golf group, including Kate Abbott, Bill Cartun, Jason Poppe, Jill Oppenheim and Mike Louis, began by brainstorming and seeking advice from Larry Fenn.

"We had so many ideas initially, we finally had to say 'stop' and move forward on nailing down our plans," says Jill Oppenheim. After graduation next spring her focus will be on establishing and running healthy youth development programs.

The team created a promotional flyer which will be mailed out to an extensive list of alums, educators and business leaders. They are soliciting a multitude of

raffle prizes and gift bag donations. There is a catered lunch, chili and beverages on the course, and the surf 'n turf dinner they are planning. They are also trying to work out the sponsorship needed for a hole-in-one car giveaway.



Prof. Barry Sheckley, head of the Dept. of Educational Leadership, follows through on a shot during a NSoE Alumni Society Golf Tournament in Groton, Conn.

"We've been meeting with lots of people and business owners," says Bill Cartun, a huge basketball fan who has been working for the UConn's men's team. He expects he'll be working with a professional team in the near future.

Kate Abbott, who hopes to develop and manage youth programs, appreciates the opportunity to get her feet wet. "Not only is it real experience that will look good on my resume, it's for a good cause. Students will get scholarships based on what we do."

From their professor's point of view, there's another payoff. "Getting our students involved with events like this is a perfect way to showcase their skill-set to folks throughout the school and especially to our alums," says Burton.

Two of her student groups organized healthy, safe activities for UConn's Spring Weekend, including a dodge ball tournament and a shoot-and-dunk contest which raised \$900 for Special Olympics. A third group ran a soccer clinic for Willimantic Girl Scouts. Another team organized a field day and nutrition clinic for 50 children from Hartford.

Don't miss the opportunity on Sunday, October 8th to find out how Burton's golf tourney students performed! Look for details in the mail or online.

Alumni Honored for Achievements

More than 250 people turned out for Eighth Annual Neag School Alumni Society Awards Dinner held on May 13th in the Rome Commons Ballroom. Seven awards were presented amid many laughs and some tears, as recipients shared memories of the trials and tribulations of their careers and recognized the people who had contributed to their success. This year's recipients were:



Distinguished Alumnus

Dr. John MacDonald, Ph.D. '70 Education Administration
Senior Advisor, Neag Center for Education Policy Analysis

The Dean's Administrative Council selected Dr. John "Jack" MacDonald for the Distinguished Alumnus Award because of his contributions, from the local level to the federal, to improve education for all children.

Dr. MacDonald joined the Neag School's educational leadership department in 2001 -- the same place where he'd earned his doctorate 31 years earlier. He has contributed to the School as a professor-in-residence and as a senior advisor to the Center for Education Policy Analysis - a center he helped establish. He has also worked on behalf of the School as a member of the Dean's Advisory Board.

MacDonald's career as an educator has spanned more than 45 years. He began as a teacher in Groton public schools, then became principal. He served as superintendent of schools in Connecticut and Massachusetts. In 1986, he was appointed Commissioner of Education for the state of New Hampshire, serving under Governors John Sununu and Judd Gregg. Nearly four years later, he was beckoned to the nation's capitol to become a principal advisor to the Secretary of Education on elementary and secondary education issues. At the end of the George Bush (41) presidency, MacDonald was recruited by the Council of Chief State School Officers - a nonpartisan advocacy and service organization representing the nation's state education commissioners. On behalf of the council, MacDonald established the State Leadership Center, which provides information and direct technical assistance to school leaders and policymakers in every state.

Outstanding Higher Education Professional

Dr. Irving Schneider

*M.A. '75, Ph.D. '82 Technical & Industrial Education
President, Providence Campus of Johnson & Wales
University (R.I.)*



Described by his colleagues as a "true academician who is very deserving of this honor," Dr. Schneider was selected for this award to acknowledge his important contributions to higher education. During his 30-plus year tenure at Johnson & Wales,

he was instrumental in the college achieving "university" status.

Schneider began teaching at Johnson & Wales in 1970 and was soon promoted to full professor. In 1986 became dean of the business division. As Vice President of Academic Affairs, Schneider brought a consistency to curriculum across the system. He developed international and study abroad programs that helped Johnson & Wales become a university of choice for students around the globe.

He serves on the board of directors for several organizations and is chairman of the Rhode Island Independent Higher Education Association.

Outstanding Superintendent

Dr. Anthony Singe

*Ph.D. '75 Education Administration
Superintendent of Schools, Locust Valley, NY*

Dr. Singe has been a respected and supportive administrator during the nearly 25 years he served as school superintendent. He was selected for this award because of the significant impact he has had on the field and for his inspiration upon other education professionals.



This past spring, Singe retired from his position in Locust Valley, N.Y., where he'd spent the last 10 years. He served another 10 years in Danbury, Conn., and four years in Niskayuna, N.Y.

Over the years, he became a highly regarded professional as evidenced by the offices he held. He is currently on the Executive Board of the Nassau County Superintendent's Association. He served as president of both the Western Connecticut Superintendent's Association and the Connecticut Association of Urban Superintendents, and director of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents.

Outstanding Administrator

Dr. Eleanor Osborne

*Ph.D. '00 Exercise Physiology
Associate Superintendent for Curriculum &
Instruction, New Haven Schools*



Dr. Osborne, a veteran educator, was selected for this award based on her excellence in administrative leadership within the New Haven School District. She is credited with helping the district make tremendous strides in literacy while serving tirelessly as an advocate for closing the achievement gap.

lessly as an advocate for closing the achievement gap.

Osborne began her career in the Ridgefield Public Schools and also worked in Bethel, Southbury and Middlebury. In 1998, she was hired as New Haven's supervisor for programs in Language Arts, Reading and English. She was instrumental in developing programs that have been held up as models by the State Department of Education. Over the years she has served as an adjunct professor at Southern Connecticut State University and Sacred Heart University and has been a keynote speaker presenting on topics such as dual language education, reading improvement and breaking the literacy barrier.

Outstanding School Educator

Patricia Pinney

*B.S. '73, M.A. '98 Gifted & Talented
Hall Memorial School, Willington, Conn.*

Pinney has been a teacher of gifted and talented students since 1994. She was selected for this award based on her dedication to her students, her excellence as a teacher and her service to the community. She is described by her principal as "a highly organized, enthusiastic team player" and is "one of the finest teacher's (I've) ever worked with."



Pinney began her career in Enfield as a learning disabilities resource room teacher. In Willington she coordinates the regional History Day program, runs a drama club and a student broadcast news club. She oversees Discovery Place, the school-wide Gifted and Talented Program. She serves as a mentor to the Neag School master's students who work with her and to teachers who learn from her on infusing technology into the curriculum.

Outstanding Kinesiology Professional

Dr. Deborah Riebe

*Ph.D. '95 Exercise Physiology
Professor & Chair, Dept. of Kinesiology,
University of Rhode Island*

Dr. Riebe started as an assistant professor at U.R.I. and soon became a full professor and chair of the kinesiology department. She is regarded as an "invaluable guide" and "leader in the fields of exercise science and sport performance."



She has made important contributions in peer-reviewed scientific publications including 28 original research articles, eight as first author. She was the principle investigator for two grants over \$400,000, one from the American Cancer Society and one from the National Institute of Health. Over the years, she has received numerous awards and honors and is past president of the New England Chapter of American College of Sports Medicine. Currently, she serves as a grant reviewer for the National Institute of Health and on several different review panels.

Outstanding Professional

Dr. Sandra Hastings

*M.A. '89, Ph.D. '94 Adult Learning
President, Sandra Hastings Associates*



Dr. Hastings' work has provided a valuable service to the education of over 75,000 people from all 50 states. She was chosen to receive this award because of her contributions in transforming the Connecticut Department of Labor into an integrated "one stop"

service system using the adult learning principles to ensure workplace application of new skills. As a direct result of her efforts, the state Labor Department won the U.S. Department of Labor's "National Capacity Building Award." She, herself, has won U.S. Department of Labor's Workforce Excellence Awards from Ohio ('98) and Nebraska ('02).

Dr. Hastings currently works with companies to design and develop human resource interventions including orientation manuals, recruiting/ retention policies & procedures and reward/ recognition systems. Her consulting firm also provides training, organizational development, facilitation & management solutions for profit and non-profit organizations.



UCONN

Remembering Our Friends...

Two former leaders and a devoted alumna are among the friends and family the Neag School has lost during the past year. We extend our heartfelt sympathies to the Case, Karnes and Bockstein families.

Charles W. Case, Ph.D.



Dr. Charles Case, dean of the Neag School from 1988 to 1996, died on April 30th at a hospital in St. Pete Beach, Fla. He and his wife, Kay, also a former faculty member, had moved there in 2004 after their retirement from the school.

Case, who also served as dean of University of Iowa School of Education, spent his career working to improve education. He believed in setting high standards for teacher preparation, treating teachers as professionals, and raising their pay. He is credited with implementing the five-year Integrated Bachelor's/Master's teacher education program requiring students to spend a significant amount of time in Professional Development Centers - public schools partnered with the Neag School. Due, in part, to his leadership, the IB/M program is nationally recognized as a model for teacher preparation.

John W. Karnes, Jr., Ph.D.

Former associate dean and professor emeritus of industrial education, Dr. John Karnes, passed away in February. He and his wife Bettejane had been living in Mansfield since his retirement from the School of Education in 1977.



As associate dean in the early 60's, Karnes was responsible for student admissions and graduate studies. He developed a reputation with the University administration for his willingness to take chances on graduate students - particularly women and other under-served populations.

Karnes was an influential force in the establishment of an instructional materials lab - a new concept at that time in the preparation of elementary and special education teachers. He was also instrumental in the construction of the school's new home in 1960, the C.B. Gentry Building.

Stanley M. Bockstein '47 M.A. '52



We note the passing of a good friend and enthusiastic alumnus who served two years on the NSOE Alumni Society Board. Stanley Bockstein, who earned an impressive four degrees from UConn, including two from the Neag School, died in January. At the time

of his passing, he was a resident of Jefferson, Mass., where he'd become a town legend.

Bockstein was a World War II veteran who often took the time to speak about his experiences to students at the local schools. He taught math at Nathan-Hale Ray High School in Moodus, Conn., from 1948-1952, and spent another 34 years in engineering which included several stints teaching in-plant technical courses.

RECONNECT to Alums

Where are you now? ReConnect with your classmates. Email us at Neag.News@uconn.edu

Sasha Barab '94 M.A. '97 Ph.D.M.A. has been named the Barbara Jacobs Chair of Education and Technology at Indiana University where his research focuses on establishing rich learning environments with the aid of technology.



Karen Cook '93 B.S. '94 M.A. received two prestigious national awards this past year. The National Council for the Social Studies selected Cook as Outstanding Secondary Social Studies Teacher of the Year. She was also one of two Connecticut teachers selected to receive a Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award. Since 1998, Cook has been teaching advanced placement U.S. history, world history and psychology at the Norwich Free Academy.

Dick Curland '56 M.A. '60 Sixth-Year, was an associate editor and author of 20 stories highlighting historical figures and show business personalities from the Norwich area. The book, *The Nine Mile Square*, was published by Bill Stanley Books for the Norwich, Conn., Historical Society.

Steven DeMorro '73 is vice president of human resources and recruitment for Publicis Selling Solutions in Blue Bell, Pa.

Betsy DeSantis '94 B.S. '95 M.A. has been a teacher at Julia A. Stark School in Stamford, Conn., for 10 years. She writes that she is "most honored" to be Stamford's Teacher of the Year and shares the honor with her wonderful friends, colleagues, and students at Stark!

David B. Erwin '75 B.S. and currently pursuing a doctoral degree in educational administration, has been named Superintendent of the Year 2006 by the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents. His colleagues describe him as "an extremely competent, creative and energetic school superintendent who consistently performs above and beyond the call of duty." Erwin has been Montville's school superintendent since 1999.

Donn Friedman '72 B.A. '79 M.A., '85 Sixth-Year was honored by the Connecticut Association of Schools as the 2005 Middle School Assistant Principal of the Year. He is in his 11th year at Lincoln Middle School in Meriden.

Lynn C. Gatehouse '03 M.A. writes to us: "A degree from UConn is highly regarded here in California." She is a sixth grade Language Arts and History teacher at the Harvest Park Middle School in Pleasanton. In 2003 she received the Distinguished Service Award from the California Association for the Gifted.

Ronald L. Martel '77 M.A. '80 Ph.D. is the dean of students at Johnson & Wales University in Providence, R.I. He'd spent 17 years at Northeastern University and the last 10 years at Temple University as interim associate vice president for student affairs.

Maureen E. McGarry '92 Ph.D. has been the dean of Health and Rehabilitative Services at Community College of Rhode Island since 1995. She was recently honored for her stewardship as a "teacher, leader, and nurturer." She is credited with pioneering the college's satellite nursing program in Newport, R.I.

Grace Morris '04 Sixth-Year, former assistant principal of Squadron Line School in Simsbury, Conn., was appointed principal of Latimer Lane School in December 2005.



Harvey B. Polansky '87 Ph.D. is the 2006 recipient of the Excellence in Educational Leadership Award. This recognition comes from the national organization University Council for Educational Administration in acknowledgement of his "significant contributions to the improvement of administrator preparation." He received the honor from Dean Richard Schwab during the Neag School's annual Honors Day Celebration held on May 5.

Barbara Poltrack '70 B.A. '72 M.A. has retired after teaching elementary education for 34 years in Stamford and Guilford, Conn.

Kathleen Reardon '71 recently published a book, "It's All Politics: Winning in a World Where Hard Work and Talent Aren't Enough." She teaches at the University of Southern California.

Anne Halloran Tortora '90 is bandmaster of the 1st Company Governor's Foot Guard Band based in Hartford, Conn. In receiving a commission of captain, she is the second woman officer in the history of the 1st Company. Tortora is also a teaching fellow in music education with an emphasis in wind conducting at The Hartt School in Hartford.

Jed Upson '00 M.A. has been named Hockanum (Conn.) Elementary School's Teacher of the Year 2006. He has been a fourth grade teacher there since 2000.



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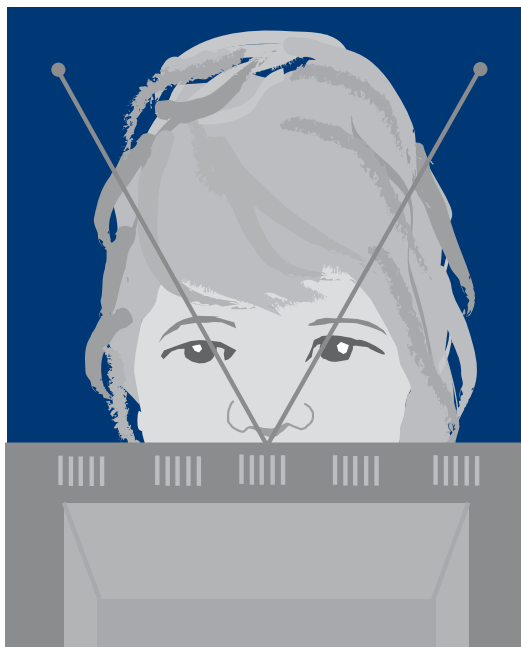
Conference Tunes in to Media Culture Hazards

Video games, electronic toys, and advertisements that target children are stifling their creativity, blurring their understanding of the world, and turning them into ultimate consumers, warns Diane Levin, author of *Remote Control Childhood*.

She was a keynote speaker at the fourth annual Northeast Media Literacy Conference entitled "Rethinking Media Literacy in a Changing Youth Culture." The event was held in March and sponsored by the Neag School.

Dr. Thomas Goodkind, a professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, organizes this annual conference because "Children are easy targets," he said. "We need to help them deconstruct many of the messages they're getting."

An audience of 130 educators and parents heard Levin's views about how media affect every aspect of children's lives and have become a challenge for teachers and parents to counter. She is an education professor at Wheelock College and an internationally recognized expert on helping teachers and parents deal with the effects of violence, media, and commercial culture on children.



Imaginative play is essential to children's well-being, but it is quickly disappearing, Levin warned. As one example, she pointed to children playing video games. According to Levin, the children are not really making decisions about what happens in the game; they are figuring out what the programmer intended them to, she said.

"Even when we do get children to read books, the books become movies, which become sources of commercialism," Levin said. "Everything you do from morning till night becomes something you can buy."

She said every time there's a blockbuster movie, a new game comes out. She gave Star Wars Monopoly as an example. "I still have my 50-year-old Monopoly game, but now it's become obsolete," she said. "Children want the one that's connected to the latest movie."

And then there's television. According to statistics Levin shared with the audience, 43 percent of preschoolers and kindergarteners have TVs in their bedrooms. Many of them have toys based on movies that were rated PG-13.

She suggested that those who are concerned can help meet children's needs by developing TV rules limiting the amount of time they spend in front of television; creating appealing alternatives to screen time; and discussing advertisements with children.

(Portions reprinted from the Advance)



A delegation of Chinese educators hears about the adult learning strategies built into the successful University of Connecticut Administrator Preparation Program from Dr. Barry Sheckley, head of the Dept. of Educational Leadership, and Michelle Femc-Bagwell, program director (center left). The Chinese-U.S. Principal Shadowing Project is sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Schools and China, with the goals of promoting mutual intercultural understanding and creating opportunities for professional development.



NSoE Notes

Graduates of the Neag School of Education (UConn School of Education prior to 1999) are invited to join the NSoE Alumni Society! As our membership grows, so do our opportunities for supporting our alma mater, alumni activities and events.

In this issue of *Spotlight*, you're reading about the alums we honored at our annual dinner and efforts to make this year's golf tournament a hole-in-one. We teamed up with the Neag Graduate Student Association in its efforts to raise money for Hurricane Katrina victims, and we've successfully started up two new programs, the Spring Leadership Academy and Adopt-A-Grad.

Spring Leadership Academy

We partnered with the School to establish the Spring Leadership Academy which pairs alumni couples with fifth year teacher education students for guidance on work-life balance issues. Dr. Marijke Kehrhahn, director of the Teacher Education Program, Elizabeth Shibles, a member of the society's Board of Governors, and Lynne Allen, Alumni Coordinator, met in January to develop the program. Faculty nominated students who are considered leaders and could benefit from a discussion on this topic.

Three dinners, funded by the Society and School, were held at the Nathan Hale Restaurant. The nominated students were asked to read five selected articles

about balancing time between work and other life demands, and then form questions to bring to the dinners for discussion with the couples.

Eight to ten students attended two or more dinners. At the conclusion of each, the students were asked to reflect on the experience, and those reflections are being used to build next year's program.

Our thanks to this year's participants who took the time to share their experiences: Chris & Wally Lamb, Anne & Tony Rash, and Bonnie & Bill Ryan. Any couple interested in taking part next spring is urged to contact Lynne Allen.

Adopt-A-Grad

The Society's Adopt-a-Grad program is up and running with the help of Jill Castek and Erin Quann, two members of the Neag Grad Student Association. Based on common areas of interest, we paired 12 students with alums. Mentors made contact with their students using email and discussed issues of interest.

Other Events

Each spring, the Dean hosts a pre-commencement reception for undergrads and grads. Once again we were pleased to have the opportunity to shake graduates hands and present them with a Neag School lapel pin. Other activities this year included: a skating party, basketball game watches and a special get-together for our alums celebrating their 50th class reunion.

Get the latest on NSoE Alumni Society events online at www.education.uconn.edu/alumni or for information about membership, please contact Lynne Allen, Neag Alumni Coordinator at (860) 486-2240, (888) UC-ALUM-1, lynne.allen@uconn.edu.



Neag School of Education

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You've heard it in a TV commercial, "Life comes at you fast." It surely does.

Just before Christmas, we received news that the university was finalizing a reorganization plan for its schools and colleges. Among the major changes was the elimination of the School of Allied Health and transfer of the Department of Physical Therapy to the Neag School, effective July 1.

This merger brings new opportunities for sharing courses and conducting research among our nationally ranked programs in special education, kinesiology and physical therapy.

We are working diligently with the physical therapy faculty to help make the transition a smooth one and assist them in their efforts to make their well-respected program even stronger on the national level.

Many other positive events have happened this year. One of the most rewarding was the school's rise in the U.S. News & World Report rankings to #21 among all graduate schools of education, with four core programs among the top 25. Just as important was the news that our doctoral program in kinesiology ranked #1 in the country. The work of dedicated and talented faculty, staff and students is indeed paying dividends.

Although I prefer to highlight our successes, it is also important to talk about challenges.

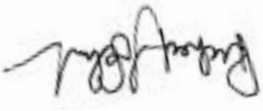
Unfortunately, a recent report released in April by a national non-profit group shed light on a problem we need to address - the debt load of college graduates entering public service careers in teaching and social work. The starting pay in these careers barely covers basic living costs, not to mention the loans they must repay.

We investigated and found the average debt load of our fifth-year students is about \$22,000 with some burdened with double that debt or more. The ABC television network sent a World News Tonight team to the Neag School to highlight the study. The reporter wanted to find out why our students, who pay for five years of teacher preparation courses, would incur this debt to enter a low-paying profession in a high cost-of-living state.

How could I not respond to their message? After discussing this with the leadership team, we've decided to increase our annual student scholarship support from \$50,000 to \$100,000. These scholarships have been established by allocating funds from the Neag endowment, through permanently endowed scholarships some of you have established, and through the Dean's Fund to which some of you have contributed.

I am deeply gratified by your past support and appreciate your continued support. Please consider helping our future educators. In this issue of *Spotlight* you will find a special solicitation for the Dean's Fund.

Thank you, and have a great summer!




Dean Richard L. Schwab


During the annual Honors Day ceremony, Dr. Thomas Weiland (left) and Dean Richard Schwab (right) present Nicholas Gelbar (center) a senior in the secondary history education program, with the Thomas P. Weiland Scholarship.



DEAN'S VIEW



As Times Change...



Neag School of Education