



Connecticut International

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This publication can be found on our website at:
www.ia.uconn.edu

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Boris E. Bravo-Ureta

The most significant event that we have experienced since our last newsletter is the Tsunami that struck this past December. This horrible disaster caused immense harm to many people in Asia and parts of Africa. The International Center took a leading role at UConn in coordinating various relief efforts and a community wide vigil which took place on February 16. The tsunami might seem like a distant event for many of us, both in time and geographically, but it surely remains a major fact of life for thousands of people in the devastated areas. Our thoughts and best wishes go to all those that continue to suffer the effects of this disaster.

Several of us at OIA have spent a great deal of time over the past several months to convert our F and J visa handling software to a fully integrated PeopleSoft SEVIS tracking module known as People PASS. The staff at the International Center has worked closely with staff from IT to accomplish this migration. We have recently 'gone live' with the new system and the staff is now engaged in various fine-tuning activities. I want to express our sincere appreciation to everyone who has been involved in this challenging process. I also want to thank our international students and scholars for their patience during the transition. I trust that when this new software is fully implemented, we will be able to continue to deliver high quality services to this important segment of our community.

I end these brief remarks by expressing on behalf of all of us at OIA our warmest welcome to Provost Peter Nicholls and to Associate Vice Provost Cathleen Love. We look forward to working with both of them.

Department of International Services and Programs (DISP) *Contributed by Mark Wentzel, Director of DISP*

The Department of International Services and Programs has finally moved into its permanent location in the Student Union. Known also as the International Center, we can be found on the third floor in the center of the building. Open to all students, faculty and staff, visitors will find an impressive suite of offices, a large comfortable student lounge with a TV, piano, and computer stations; a new game room with a foosball and a ping-pong table; and a reception area for those in need of advisory services.

In addition to our weekly coffee social hours, held Wednesdays from 2:00-4:00pm, the International Center sponsors several events throughout the year, with the most recent being the annual *World Fest 2005*, held this past April 9th. For the first time, the venue for the World Fest was located in the Student Union with activities scheduled throughout the entire building. Over twenty student organizations participated in this campus celebration of international cultures through performances, a fashion show and exhibits.

Next year, our programs will include events to encourage students to use the Center facilities and activities as a "home away from home", whether home is in Tallahassee, Tallahassee or Tokyo! Activities will also include events to commemorate our fortieth year as a cultural center [1965-2005]!

College of Continuing Studies: Senegal

Dr. Abdou Ndoye traveled to Senegal (West Africa) in January 2004, and again this past January, to set up the infrastructure for a research project on the impact of the local culture on social capital. The travel was supported by a grant awarded by the University of Connecticut Research Foundation. The project intends to investigate the ways in which social capital is developed and defined in a collectivist non-western social environment. For that purpose, the research aims at exploring:

- (1) activities and practices embedded in a collectivist society that would favor or hinder the development of social capital, and
- (2) how individuals within a collectivist community identify and define social capital.



Adult community members and development agencies' workers will be interviewed. This effort will contribute to a better understanding of social capital in a collectivist social environment. The research will be conducted in rural Senegalese areas, where the communitarian social structure in place seems to be better suited for this research project.

Connecticut International is a publication of the University of Connecticut Office of International Affairs

Stephen Cote.....Editor

Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Contributed by Peter Kingstone, Director of CLACS and Associate Professor of Political Science

The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies has had an exciting and active year with a range of activities and programs. One of the highlights has been the Center's lecture series this year and its unifying theme of human rights in Latin America. Supported through grants from the Dodd Center's Human Rights Initiative and the Human Rights Institute, the series is interdisciplinary and geographically broad, including Argentina, Uruguay, Peru, Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico.



Victim testimony and activism is a common theme in this lecture series. **Sara Méndez, Denese Becker, and Alicia Partnoy** - all victims of state terrorism - emphasized the importance of victims' testimonies in bringing about justice for human rights crimes and ensuring that they do not happen again in the future. The lack of justice for the recent wave of murders of women along the U.S.-Mexico border, a topic discussed by **Alicia Schmidt Camacho** in April, parallels the experiences of these women. In March, noted Political Scientist **Louis Bickford** brought a different perspective on the challenge of delivering justice by discussing the legal aspects of how countries transitioning to democracy deal with a violent past.

Three other lectures in the series highlight modern human rights issues in Latin America. In the fall, journalist **Mario Murillo** lectured on public misinformation surrounding Plan Colombia. **Lissie Wahl** spoke about indigenous rights and sustainable development in the Peruvian Amazon on March 31. Finally, the effect of Plan Colombia on rural citizens was discussed by **Maria Clemencia Ramírez** in April.

The human rights theme in the lecture series complements the practical work of the Center in its final year of collaboration with the Universidad de San Carlos of Guatemala (USAC) under the auspices of the Educational Partnership grant of the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State. In the final stage of this grant, researchers from UConn and from USAC will design and implement a study of local democracy and good governance in Guatemala with both scholarly and policy applications. For more on the center, see our website at: <http://clacs.uconn.edu>

School of Business

This academic year, the Auckland University of Technology invited Professor **Michael Lubatkin**, School of Business, to be a "visiting professor" during the last 2 weeks of January (2005). In addition, he will be giving lectures this May at Ben Gurion University (Israel), his fourth invitation there in the past 6 years, and this June at EM Lyon (France), where he has been returning each year since 1991, and where he involves up to 20 UConn MBA students.

He is also currently serving as an Associate Editor (2002-2005) on Entrepreneurship topics for the *Journal of International Business Studies*.

TIES: Marine Sciences and Coastal Management, Mexico

Contributed by Charles Yarish, Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Study Abroad in Latin America

For the past two years the University of Connecticut and the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California (UABC) have been collaborating in the project "Enhancing the Marine Sciences and Coastal Management Programs at UABC and UConn." This project is part of the U.S.-Mexico Training, Internships, Education and Scholarships (TIES) Partnership funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development. The project is managed by UConn's Office of International Affairs and co-directed by **Dr. José Zertuche** (UABC) and **Dr. Boris E. Bravo-Ureta** (UConn).

In a recent visit to Baja California, **Dr. José Zertuche**, **Dr. Charles Yarish**, **Mr. Ivar Babb** and **Mr. Craig Bussel** surveyed the subtidal invasive seaweed, *Undaria* (*U. pinnatifida*) in the Bahía Todos Santos, in Baja California, México. The purpose of this survey was to determine the distribution and density of the seaweed at depths greater than 33 meters using a remote operated vehicle (ROV) brought in from the National Underwater Research Center (NURC) at UConn. Efforts were made to determine the associated flora and fauna community of *Undaria* and special attention was given to potential herbivore activity.

No evidence was found that *Undaria* is capable of displacing native algal species through direct competition, as it was not seen in areas where there was an established kelp community dominated by a species of deep water kelp, *Agarum*. Stands of *Undaria* were found to depths of at least 43 meters where there were shell and cobble bottoms. Plants were estimated to be about 1 meter in length. The areas where plants were found were prone to disturbance. Plants at this depth were reproductive, thereby indicating this invasive alga was not light or temperature limited. There is a high level of probability that this species may penetrate further into the sublittoral than was observed at the study site. Grazing by the white sea urchin (*Lyttochinus*) may be slowing the spread of *Undaria*.

This team of researchers suggest that it may be practical now to manage the abundance of *Undaria* since it is still restricted to one area of Bahía de Todos Santos. This kelp may have value at the local level in northern Baja California given its use as a source of food called *wakame* in Japanese and Korean restaurants (*Undaria* at the wholesale level has a value of \$2.25/kg and is the basis of a \$360 million worldwide industry).

However, if *Undaria* does spread into other areas of Bahía de Todos Santos, it may be impossible to control this latest biological invasion on the west coast of North America.

For more information on the TIES program, please go to:

<http://www.oia.uconn.edu/ties/index.html>

School of Law

Contributed by Michelle Helmin, Director of Communications, School of Law

Associate Dean **Jeremy Paul** visited Israel in March 2005 as part of a program to strengthen a connection between the UConn School of Law and the law faculty at Haifa University in northern Israel. The relationship between the two schools was kicked off in the summer of 2004 when **Dr. Oren Gazal** traveled here from Haifa and taught a course in law and economics to UConn Law students during the July term. To reciprocate, Professor Paul spent two weeks in Haifa in March offering a condensed course in American Legal Realism. He attended a faculty seminar concerning human rights litigation in the Israeli Supreme Court, and traveled to Jerusalem where he witnessed an Israeli Supreme Court argument.

(Please see "School of Law", Page 4)

UConn students have numerous options for studying in Latin America. The Office of Study Abroad website lists about two dozen program opportunities in several Latin American and Caribbean countries, including Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Mexico, Belize, the Dominican Republic, Turks and Caicos Islands, and Jamaica, at: <http://secure.sa.uconn.edu/sap/studioabroad/>

To expand options for studying Latin America, a Latin America Study Abroad Working Group has been formed to explore establishing new direct exchange programs with Latin American universities. **Dr. Ross Lewin**, Director of the Office of Study Abroad, will visit Chile and Argentina next fall to negotiate agreements with the Universidad del CEMA and the Universidad Favaloro in Buenos Aires, and the Pontificia Universidad Católica in Santiago, Chile. The UCEMA exchange program will emphasize course work in political science, economics and public affairs, while the Favaloro program will focus on biomedical engineering, and the PUC exchange will support study in a wide range of fields.

Along with the exchange agreement with the Universidad de Monterrey (Monterrey, Mexico) and the newly created exchange program in sustainable coastal resource management, which will send its first cohort of UConn students to the Universidade Federal Fluminense and the Universidade Federal da Paraíba, both in Brazil, during the 2006 spring semester, the new programs in Argentina, Chile, and Brazil will bring to five the number of direct exchange programs available to UConn students for this region.

SCHOOL OF LAW*Contributed by Dean Nell Newton***Diploma in Information Technology and Entrepreneurship (DITE): Egypt***Contributed by Stephen Cote*

Professor **Laura Dickinson** is currently teaching a course in which students receive credit to do actual human rights work. The course is entitled, "Problems in Human Rights Practice: Iraqi War Crimes". In the class, students are preparing research memos on discrete legal issues in international human rights and humanitarian law that will be relevant to the trial of Saddam Hussein and his associates in Iraq. The Law School is part of an academic consortium of a handful of law schools around the country performing such research for the U.S. Department of Justice Regime Crimes Office in Baghdad. We are the only law school in the Northeast in the consortium. This office provides assistance to the Iraqi Special Tribunal (IST), the court responsible for trying Saddam Hussein and other high-ranking members of his government for genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, as well as several domestic Iraqi crimes.

Law students have undertaken internships in various venues, including numerous students supervised by Dean **Nell Newton** who are or have been working as interns in human rights organizations (including the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Amnesty International, the International Justice Mission, and the Coalition to Support the International Criminal Court).

On October 13, 2004, the Asylum & Human Rights Clinic made a presentation to 70 undergraduates at Storrs as part of the first-year experience program. The Clinic continues to have a very successful 70% victory in cases in which students, supervised by clinic attorney-professors, represent asylum seekers.

Diploma in Information Technology and Entrepreneurship (DITE): A Partnership between UConn and Ain Shams University in Cairo

The Egyptian government has embarked upon an ambitious program to develop the information technology sector. To contribute to this endeavor, UConn and Ain Shams University (ASU) have developed a post-graduate Diploma in Information Technology and Entrepreneurship (DITE) that integrates information and communication technology with business administration. This two-year program, to be taught completely in English, will be offered in Egypt by ASU. An important motivation underlying this project is to build a bridge between the university and the business community.

Business graduates are very interested in studying computer science, but have a difficult time finding a program that fits their background. At the same time, computer science and engineering graduates have the technical knowledge but they do not know how to establish or manage an IT business. The new diploma will be an excellent opportunity for both groups.

The job market in Egypt needs graduates with a combination of business and computer background. The Egyptian Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology (MCIT) is spending a lot of effort and resources to educate students at different levels of information technologies. DITE will complement MCIT's effort and fill a gap in their activities.

The UConn co-directors of this project, **Dr. Reda Ammar** (CSE) and **Boris Bravo-Ureta** (OIA), have worked with several colleagues from our university and ASU in order to establish the academic, administrative and financial structures for the DITE. Details of this plan are available on the project web site: http://www.engr.uconn.edu/~eas03006/DITE/UCONN_ASU.htm.

This semester's activities started with a visit from ASU officials including **Dr. Mohmed Said Ghonemey** (Vice Dean for Graduate Studies, Faculty of Computers and Information Sciences), **Dr. Said Tawfik Ebeid** (Vice Dean for Graduate Studies, Faculty of Commerce), and **Dr. Yasser Dakrouy** (Professor of Computer Engineering and System, Faculty of Engineering).

UConn's co-directors, visited Cairo from March 6-12 to confer with the ASU project staff and to plan future activities. **Dr. S. Rajasekaran** (Computer Science at UConn) and **Dr. Ian Greenshields** (Assoc. Dean, UConn's School of Engineering) also visited ASU during this period. Ammar and Greenshields participated in a workshop in Cairo sponsored by the Electronic Research Institute and the National Center for Remote Sensing and Space Science.

The Egyptian National Sector on Computer Science approved the DITE on March 17th, 2005. The next step is to have the official endorsement from the Minister of Higher Education, which is expected soon. The launching of the program is on schedule for October 2005.

Global Training and Development Institute

Contributed by Gerald Murphy, Training Coordinator and Faculty Advisor GTDI

OIA's Global Training & Development Institute (GTDI - formerly known as IPSI) is proud to announce that (a) it has physically relocated from the West Hartford campus to UConn's main campus in Storrs, Connecticut, and (b) there has been a sharp increase in the number of participants trained during the last year. Details:

Welcome Home! GTDI dates its roots back to 1961, when the Institute began training managers and administrators from developing countries by hosting a group of government officials from Afghanistan on UConn's Storrs campus. After several years in Storrs, the Institute relocated to Hartford in the mid-1960s, then to West Hartford in 1985. Now, after nearly 40 years in the Hartford area, the Institute has returned home to the Storrs campus, just in time for 2005's training programs, scheduled for March 21 - November 11, 2005. With this move, participants will become integrated into the University community and be able to take advantage of the wide range of academic and social activities taking place on UConn's Storrs campus.

Special Programs: After a prolonged period of low activity following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, there has been a sharp increase in training activities conducted on-site overseas. During the last 12 months, GTDI has conducted 11 separate custom-designed training programs for over 300 participants in four countries, including three management/leadership training programs in Dubai, United Arab Emirates; three audit training programs in Banjul, The Gambia; a customized leadership program in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; and most recently, four separate training programs on risk management and insurance in Jakarta, Indonesia. All of these programs received highly positive evaluations and were featured prominently in local media. Not included in the above totals is a banking workshop conducted by longtime Institute faculty member **Dr. Bob Beaudoin** in Manila, Philippines in October, 2004.



Dr. Abdullah Al Karam, CEO of Knowledge Village, presenting a certificate to our participant in Dubai .

Regular Programs: During 2004, GTDI conducted four short-term training programs for 26 participants from such countries as Ghana, India, Kenya (among others), and two customized Diploma programs for participants from Afghanistan and Kenya.

For 2005, GTDI has just announced an extensive schedule of regular programs, including "General Management" (March 21 - May 13, 2005), "Project/Health Project Management" (May 23 - June 17, 2005), "Public Financial Management" (June 20 - July 15, 2005), "Essential Management Skills" (September 19 - October 14, 2005) and "Performance Auditing" (October 17 - November 11, 2005), among other topics.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Professors **Jonathan Bobaljik** and **Susanne Wurmbrand** of the Linguistics Department conduct research on Itelmen, a highly endangered language spoken by a few dozen people on Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula. Their work has involved extended field research in Itelmen communities between 1993 and 2001, in addition to ongoing work with recordings and data collected in those trips. Their joint research involves the theoretical study of the structure of the Itelmen language and documenting a careful record of the language for posterity. In addition, Professor Bobaljik has been involved with language preservation and maintenance, such as the development of teaching materials for Itelmen classes and more general issues surrounding endangered languages.

Professor **Maria Gordina** of the Mathematics Department has been awarded a prestigious Humboldt Foundation Summer Research Fellowship to conduct research in Germany. She will work on "Stochastic Analysis in Infinite Dimensions" with Professor **M. Rockner** of the University of Bielefeld and Professor **S. Albeverio**, University of Bonn. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation was established by the Federal Republic of Germany to promote international research cooperation.

Professor **Kenneth Simpson**, senior lecturer in the Department of English Studies and director of Scottish Studies at the University of Strathclyde, has been in residence at UConn in spring 2005 as the Lynn Wood Neag Distinguished Professor of British Literature. Prof. Simpson also served as the Neag professor in fall 2000.

SCHOOL OF NURSING

On her sabbatical last Fall, Professor **Regina M. Cusson** was a Visiting Professor at the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing and Midwifery at King's College, London, England. During that time, she visited many Trusts (hospitals) throughout the UK for her research project examining advanced practice neonatal nursing roles. She was interviewed by the BBC, the local radio & the Guernsey Press, when she visited the Isle of Guernsey. Following is an excerpt from the Guernsey Press article from October 15, 2004 by Jane Corbet:

'It's top-notch,' said Professor Regina Cusson of the University of Connecticut. The professor is in the island to study the unit at the Princess Elizabeth Hospital for research. She applauded the high level of expenditure on the unit. 'The citizens of Guernsey need first-class care but it's expensive,' she said. 'Pieces of equipment do not remain sterile forever and they need to be replaced, even if they haven't been used. It's like milk. You never use it if it's out of date.'

Another expense was the need regularly to send neonatal nurses for training in England. She said that the authorities in Guernsey were more supportive than those in the USA where nurses had to fund their own training. Local nurses are sent to King's College London to learn from a designated neonatal lecturer. 'I like that a lot.' Professor Cusson said that she would recommend the system when she returns to the USA after a six-week stay at King's. Another project on her return will be writing a paper comparing the roles of neonatal nurses in the UK, Guernsey and the USA. 'There are some lessons we can all learn from each other,' she said.

School of Social Work

Contributed by Professor Lynne Healy, School of Social Work

Visit by Graduate Students from University of the West Indies: The School of Social Work hosted a 2-day visit by seven social work/social policy graduate students and Professor **Peta-anne Baker** from the University of the West Indies, Jamaica Campus. The February 23-24 program included agency visits, a dinner with students, faculty and members of the West Indian community, and presentations to classes. The UConn School of Social Work has had a long-standing exchange and linkage project with UWI. In August 2005, UConn will assist UWI in hosting the biennial Caribbean conference of social work educators in Kingston.

School of Social Work Hosts New President of the International Association: In his first speech at a University since election as President of the International Association of Schools of Social Work, **Dr. Abye Tasse**, Dean of the School of Social Work and Associate Vice-President for International Affairs at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, addressed faculty, students, and community members at the School of Social Work on March 2nd. In his speech, he outlined the major challenges facing social work education around the globe. During his two-day visit, Dr. Tasse also gave a seminar for students on Social Work in Ethiopia.

Armenia Trip: Again this year, MSW students traveled to Armenia to continue the collaboration between UConn and Yerevan State University. This year's group of 4 students (**Jennifer Glick, Karina Jimenez Lewis, Jason Ostrander** and **Kathryn Price**) spent spring break week in Armenia; they continued the discussion of new policies for helping youth "age out" of state subsidized care in Armenia, and investigated a newly designed community-based social service planning and delivery system. The students are advised by **Dr. Nancy Humphreys**.

Dr. Lirio Negroni, Associate Professor, taught a 5 day course in Monterey, Mexico on "Understanding and Teaching Generalist Social Work Practice" to faculty members from the Social Work Department at Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León in February. During her visit, she spoke to 125 social work students and faculty from the University on "Basic Knowledge and Skills Required for Casework Practice," and collaborated with the Faculty in revising their social work curriculum.

Dr. Robin Spath, Assistant Professor, gave an invited presentation at the 4th Annual Seminar of the International Association for Outcome-Based Evaluation and Research on Family and Children's Services in Abano Terme, Italy, in September. Her paper focused on her research in Family Reunification.

Dr. Rebecca Leela Thomas, Assistant Professor, visited India shortly after the Tsunami hit the region in December and quickly became involved in coordinating relief, development and planning strategies with several NGOs serving the area. She was involved in translation and dissemination of information to major relief organizations regarding the needs of the community. In addition, she is engaged in planning for reconstruction and sustainability. On her return, she was part of a panel presentation sponsored by the Asian-American Student Organization at the School of Social Work, discussing her experience and the role that social workers can play in responding to natural disasters.

Dr. Lynne Healy, Professor and Director of the School's Center for International Social Work Studies, was elected Secretary of the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) at their biennial congress in Adelaide, Australia in October. In January, she traveled to Addis Ababa for the Executive Committee meeting of the IASSW.

Dr. Scott Harding, Assistant Professor, gave a presentation at the Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education in New York in February on "Man-made Disaster and Development: The Case of Iraq."

INDIA STUDIES PROGRAM

Contributed by Betty Hanson, ISP Coordinator and Professor of Political Science

The India Studies Minor has been officially approved by the College of Liberal Arts Courses and Curricula Committee. More information can be found at:

<http://www.ia.uconn.edu/india>

The India Studies program has hosted several notable India-related events in the past year, including:

Shrikant Paranjpe, Professor of Political Science and Defense Studies, University of Pune, India, gave two lectures on April 19, 2005 sponsored by the India Studies Program and the UConn Center for International Business Education and Research and India Studies: "A Dialogue with Pakistan: An Indian View" and "Globalization: A View from South Asia."

Professor **V.T. Patil**, Former Vice-Chancellor, Pondicherry University spoke March 24 on "India in World Politics: Current Issues."

On March 8, an international business luncheon focusing on "Doing Business in India" was hosted by **Dr. Subhash Jain**, Director of the University of Connecticut Center for International Business and Education Research. The keynote address was by **Sameek "Miki" Ray**, President Manufacturing Services, Tecnova India PLC, an Indian diversified services company based in the U.S. This event was held at The Hartford Club in Hartford and was sponsored by the World Affairs Council.

On February 23, a documentary film entitled "Yoga Unveiled: The Evolution and Essence of a Spiritual Tradition" was shown in Theater 2 of the Homer Babbidge Library.

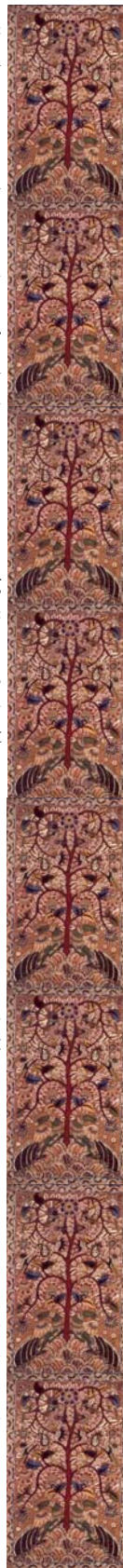
From December 30, 2004 to January 12, 2005 The Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER), working with several other CIBERs in the U.S., held its annual faculty development seminar at the Management Development Institute in Gurgaon, India. Fifteen business, foreign languages, and international studies faculty from throughout the United States took part in this year's program, which provided participants with lectures on the Indian economy, culture, and political system, discussion sessions, visits to companies, and opportunities to interact with management faculty and students.

On November 18, 2004, the India Studies Program co-sponsored a lecture by **Indrapramit Roy**, a Fulbright scholar from India. Roy is a professor of painting at the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Baroda, India and is a practicing painter who has shown his work extensively in India and elsewhere, including London, Berlin and, most recently, New York. He also represented India at the Cairo Biennale and International Asian Art exhibition in Macau.

Center for Integrative Geosciences: Spring Field Trips

A common trait among many geologists and biologists is their personal "call of the wild." Geologists have been known to search the world for missing tectonic plates, and biologists have been known to spend months, if not years, in far-off deserts or tropical forests searching for missing genetic links or the origin life. It is therefore fitting that one of the key courses of the new *Center for Integrative Geosciences* (GEOL 213) is a weeklong field trip for geologists and biologists that is far from the comforts of Connecticut. Last spring ('04), **Dr. Tim Byrne** led fifteen students through northern Baja California, Mexico. After a series of lectures at the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California in Ensenada, the group traversed the Sierra Juarez in search of a Mesozoic volcanic arc and the famous Cardon cactus. A stop at the Cerro Prieto geothermal plant put the importance of understanding geologic and biological process in appropriate human perspective.

During Spring Break 2005, GEOL 213 explored the link between geological and biological processes along the Caribbean and North American plate boundary where the plates are actively colliding. The collision produces substantial earthquakes and tsunamis, and has both depressed the North American plate, forming one of the deepest stretches of sea floor on Earth, and uplifted the leading edge of the Caribbean plate, forming Cuba, Hispaniola and Puerto Rico, which was the focus of GEOL 213. **Dr. Pieter Visscher** joined Tim in leading fourteen students across this uplifted plate boundary, which, because of the tropical climate, also harbors living organisms in some of the most extreme environments imaginable. To understand how life is sustained in these environments, the group collected samples of methane gas from microbial mats living in highly saline salterns (or *salinas*).



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UCAELI Summer Sessions

Contributed by Kristi Newgarden, Director, University of Connecticut American English Language Institute (UCAELI)

Summer is a time when most University departments and offices slow down. UCAELI, on the other hand, is preparing for our busiest season of the year. Summer is often the only time students can devote to a 25-hour-per-week language program. This year, a major new program will be delivered which will bring 225 Turkish high school students to the Storrs campus each day for intensive English instruction.

Another change will involve shortening our two 6-week Summer Sessions to 4-week Super Intensive sessions. More contact hours of Core Courses (major English skill areas) will be delivered with an optional TOEFL Preparation course offered in the evenings. We hope to attract a more diverse student population by changing program dates to accommodate students from European and Asian countries. Online placement testing is being developed to allow students to begin classes more quickly after their arrival.

This year's Summer Camp will be UCAELI's fifth. The three-week camp combines English study with trips and recreational activities. Curriculum focuses on developing an understanding of New England history and culture, past and present. Local teens are recruited as "conversation partners" to join certain class discussions and activities. The Summer Camp will include trips to New York City, Boston, and Newport as well as Mystic Seaport, the Pequot Museum, and a grand finale at Six Flags New England. Blueberry picking, a drive-in movie, a beach trip and crafts are also planned.

Finally, Evening English courses for International Students will be offered from mid-May to July. The eight-week sessions will include TOEFL Preparation in addition to the courses offered in the past, which are designed for international graduate students. UCAELI's garden of English learning will be in full bloom again this summer! Please contact us for information on any of the above programs at: register-ucaeli@uconn.edu

