

CENTER FOR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Update

April 2013

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

**Maria D. Martinez, Assistant Vice Provost
Institute for Student Success
Director, Center for Academic Programs**

Welcome to the 2012–13 edition of *Update*, the annual newsletter of the Center for Academic Programs (CAP). Inside, you'll find a summary of the events, activities, accomplishments, and initiatives of our busy 45th anniversary year.

The past 12 months have been exciting ones for CAP. In November, the Student Support Services (SSS) program received the prestigious Provost's Award for Excellence in Public Engagement. Just a month prior, CAP held a special reception to celebrate the remarkable history of 45 years supporting educational access and opportunities for first-generation, low-income (FGLI), and underrepresented students at the University of Connecticut.

CAP enjoyed another cause for celebration last fall. In September, we were awarded a \$1.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to establish a McNair Scholars Program at UConn. The McNair program will prepare talented FGLI and underrepresented students to pursue doctoral degrees in STEM (science, technology, engineering, or math).

Earlier this year we also received funds for the University Success Program (USP), which supports the activities and services provided by SSS. This annual grant, awarded in June, comes from the Connecticut Office of Financial and Academic Affairs for Higher Education.

News on the funding front was not all good, however. Like many other longstanding programs across the country, federal funding for our 45-year-old Upward Bound program fell victim to national budget cuts. While disappointing, this does not mean an end to our commitment to pre-college students in Connecticut. It does mean that we will be more determined and creative than ever in advocating for these types of programs and securing alternate forms of funding for the future.

In other news, two SSS staff members joined our dedicated team this year. We extend a warm welcome to Avery Point Coordinator Aaron Collins and Learning Services Coordinator Yesenia Cajigas.

Besides our new staff members, we want to recognize the accomplishments of our many students and alumni who made news this year. In these pages you can read about the exciting activities of the first group to take part in the SSS London Study Abroad program. I

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also invite you to be inspired by the young man who recently established a corps of volunteers on the Waterbury campus to provide preventive care for community members in need. I'm sure you will enjoy learning about the inventive book buyback program created by Stamford SSS students. And don't miss the article about the Bok brothers, former SSS students now living the sweet life as founders of a new self-serve frozen yogurt business.

Thank you for taking a few moments to read our newsletter and enjoy highlights of this exciting year. Until our next issue, look for updates throughout the year on our newly revamped website: www.cap.uconn.edu.

On behalf of the CAP staff and all the students who benefit from our programs, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your continued interest and support.

CAP CELEBRATES 45 YEARS OF PROVIDING ACCESS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



CAP Alumni Awardees (L-R): Toddchelle Jean Young, Amber Jones, Romil Shah, Fabiana Baltazar, Allison Tartaglino, Neville A. Daley, Rasbaunda M. Tyson, S. Kent Butler

The Center for Academic Programs proudly celebrated 45 years of providing access and educational opportunities to first-generation, low-income, and underrepresented students at UConn during a reception held on October 13, 2012 at the Storrs campus. Alumni from each of CAP's programs attended, as did their friends and family members, campus staff and administrators, and community partners.

CAP's history dates back to 1967, when Upward Bound was established to provide a summer enrichment experience to first-generation, low-income (FGLI) high school students who had the aspiration of attending college. That same year Summer Programs, now SSS, was founded to provide programming to FGLI and underrepresented students attending UConn. CAP's family later grew to include Educational Talent Search and other federally and state funded programs. In total, CAP's programs have provided high quality services to thousands of students.

The special occasion was marked by the presentation of alumni awards, which included seven Rising Stars and two Outstanding Alumni. In addition, two CAP staff emeritus received recognition awards for their many years of outstanding service.

The following alumni received the Rising Star Awards:

Educational Talent Search: Toddchelle Jean Young graduated from Georgetown University with a major in sociology and received a certificate from the Georgetown University School of Nursing and Health Studies in Population Health. She currently attends Columbia University, pursuing her master's degree in public health.

Upward Bound/ConnCAP: Rashaunda M. Tyson graduated from College of the Holy Cross with a degree in English and a concentration in African studies and creative writing. She earned a master's degree in secondary education from St. John's University and currently is a college advisor for a charter high school in Newark, New Jersey.

GEAR UP: Amber Jones currently attends UConn with a double major in English and human development and family studies. She is the chair of community service and public relations for Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc. Amber's goal is to work in the educational field as an administrator, with the underlying mission of starting a TRIO program modeled after GEAR UP.*

SSS-Torrington: Allison Tartaglino is the first SSS graduate from the Torrington campus. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from UConn in three and a half years with a degree in human development and family studies. Currently, she is pursuing a master's degree in counseling at Central Connecticut State University.

SSS-Waterbury: Neville A. Daley graduated from UConn with a double major in political science and history. Currently, he is working for the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services and serves as a volunteer and mentor for the Waterbury Police Activity League (PAL).

SSS-Stamford: Fabiana Baltazar graduated from UConn with a business degree in accounting. She is currently completing her master's degree at Fordham University and is employed by Price Waterhouse Coopers as a tax associate.

SSS-Avery Point: Jose Santana received a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from UConn in 2007, and a Master of Science in Materials Science, UConn 2010. He is currently enrolled in a doctorate degree program in chemistry at UConn and works for United Technologies Research Center. *(not pictured at left)*

Recipients of the Outstanding Achievement Award were:

SSS-Storrs: Dr. S. Kent Butler received a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology, with a concentration in counseling psychology from UConn. Dr. Butler is an Associate Professor at the University of Central Florida. His research and expertise include: multicultural counseling, group counseling, school counseling, and multicultural supervision.

SSS-Hartford: Romil Shah. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy Studies at UConn in 2008 and a Doctorate in Pharmacy in 2010. Dr. Shah is the pharmacist at Brooks Pharmacy in Bloomfield.

The following CAP staff emeritus were recognized for outstanding service:



*CAP Staff Emeritus Awardees
Marie McCain and
Robert L. Brown*

Robert L. Brown retired from the University of Connecticut after 38 ½ years of service, having worked with the CONNPEP program and as the regional coordinator of the SSS program at UConn's Greater Hartford campus. During his tenure he worked tirelessly and selflessly to help countless SSS students achieve their dream of earning a college degree.

Marie McCain served as a SSS counselor at the Storrs campus for 16 years. Her dedication to her students and commitment to helping them succeed in their dream of earning a college degree had a tremendous impact on their lives.

Congratulations to all!

* In December 2011 federal funding for the GEAR UP program was discontinued. The program was able to make significant contributions to the New Haven Public Schools from 2000 to 2011 through promoting postsecondary education to low-income students in grades 6-12 with services for students, parents, and teachers.

SSS STUDENT DELIVERS KEYNOTE SPEECH AT FALL OPEN HOUSE

SSS sophomore Shantel Honeyghan was selected by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions to be one of two student keynote speakers at UConn's 2012 Fall Open House in Storrs. Shantel, who is preparing to apply to the NEAG School of Education as a secondary English Education major, was thrilled to address the crowd of about 8,000 in Gampel Pavilion.

"It was a very fulfilling experience," she said. "I felt so empowered. My speech was centered on my experiences coming from another country to America for better opportunities, and my journey coming from an inner city school to a prestigious institution."



SSS Student Shantel Honeyghan Addresses Crowd at Fall Open House

Shantel, who took the stage alongside UConn President Susan Herbst, was grateful that she had the freedom to be as honest as she wanted in her speech, which also emphasized the power of education.

"You shape your future," she told the crowd of prospective students and their families. "You decide where you go and how far. If you want to be in an environment where growth is promoted and encouraged then I truly believe UConn is the place for you."

Shantel came to UConn in 2011 through the SSS program in Storrs.

SSS STUDENT REALIZES DREAM OF STUDYING ABROAD IN LONDON

By Edwine Paul, SSS Storrs

Participating in the UConn in London study abroad program in fall 2012 has and will forever be a life-changing experience. I have always wanted to study abroad since I first heard about the program my freshman year. I was a bit apprehensive about actually going to a different country, but I knew it would be an experience I would never regret. For some reason, I didn't believe study abroad was something I could achieve or ever get the opportunity to do. Finally, after starting several study abroad applications without finishing them, my SSS counselor, Joanna Rivera Davis, agreed to assist me in completing and submitting the application for the London program. When I heard the decision that I had been accepted, I was shocked and overwhelmed with joy.

Once I arrived in London, I instantly fell in love. I often hear people refer to New York as a place that they were born to live in; that is exactly how I felt about London. Living there for three and a half months, London became my home. Every day was a new and exciting experience. The only bad thing I could think of was returning home at the end of the semester. My homesickness was minimal and speaking to my family weekly helped to keep it that way. I was able to travel to Rome, Italy, Cork, Ireland and Paris, France, while abroad. Each place had so much to offer me and contributed to my new perspective on life. I met new people, learned about new cultures, and tried amazingly different dishes. It all felt like a dream.

The academics abroad were also something new. As a student majoring in English, being able to study Shakespeare and his works in the place in which most are based was phenomenal. I was able to visit the Shakespearean Globe Theatre and even watch a live performance of "Taming of the Shrew." With many of the other courses I took, the



Edwine Paul climbing Mt. Hellvelyn, 3rd highest peak in England.

professors were eager to take us on field studies and to museums, to witness firsthand the works that we discussed. Our professors enjoyed and encouraged our views as American students, but also allowed us to understand their views and cultures.

Study abroad has helped me to grow as a person, a student and a member of society. I have a new appreciation for my Haitian culture, the American culture, as well as the cultures I experienced abroad. I was able to face and conquer fears, enjoy living outside my comfort zone, and learn things about myself and how I interact with others. I have been able to grow personally and understand who I am and who I want to be. Whenever I can, I share my memories and stories about London with whoever is listening. Studying abroad is my greatest achievement in life, to date. I consider London my home and I cannot wait to return.

WILBUR CROSS STUDENTS SHADOW JOBS AT AT&T

Last fall, students in Katie Gates' Freshman Seminar Class at Wilbur Cross High School learned what real-life work is like. They took part in a job shadow experience coordinated by Educational Talent Search (ETS) in collaboration with Junior Achievement, an organization that teaches young people about workforce readiness through hands-on experience. The goal of the job shadow program was to inspire the New Haven students to be entrepreneurial in their

Gates took her class to visit the AT&T offices in New Haven on November 30, 2012. They received company and job overviews by a department/area manager, shadowed employees for the day, and had an opportunity to ask questions.

"They were extremely interested in what the employees at AT&T did every day and were able to ask great questions," Gates expressed.

"It was an important experience for them to see what a typical day in a workplace would be and how they need to present themselves in a professional manner. I am confident this opportunity will make a lasting impression on my students."

Participants told Gates they especially enjoyed the job shadowing portion of the program, where they were split into small groups and were able to follow the AT&T professionals and observe their daily work. They were surprised to learn how many different positions AT&T has to offer and were grateful for the opportunity.

ETS Director Nella Quasnitschka said, "The job shadow program allowed students to understand the relevance of class work to the world of work and how skills they learn today will help them create successful careers later." She hopes to partner with Junior Achievement again to provide this opportunity to more students in the future.



approach to work, expose them to crucial 21st century professions and industries, and encourage mentoring between the young people and caring adults.

After leading three class lessons that exposed her students to career exploration, success skills, resume building, and mock interviews,

STAMFORD SSS STUDENTS CREATE BOOK BUYBACK

Frustrated over high textbook prices, several students participating in the SSS program at UConn's Stamford campus came together to find a creative way to give back to each other. The student-to-student book buyback initiative enables undergraduates to purchase textbooks from one another, making the process fun and more affordable.

"It feels great to be united for a common cause on campus that benefits students, both as a seller and buyer," said SSS student Ricardo Desouza, who helped start the initiative.

Ricardo and fellow SSS peers soon expanded the book buyback to include non-SSS students. The process was made relatively easy given the fact that the majority of Stamford students take the same general education courses.

Overall, Ricardo said the book buyback has been "a win-win for everybody involved."



Nardel Marin (left) and Ana Diez Canseco participate in Book Buyback Program.

NINE AVERY POINT SSS STUDENTS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

Nine UConn Avery Point SSS students were among 23 recipients of the Kitchings Scholarship at a dinner ceremony held on September 19, 2012 in the beautiful Branford House at the Groton campus. The scholarship is presented to full time undergraduate students who demonstrate solid academic performance and good campus citizenship. Each student was honored individually and introduced by the faculty member they worked with most closely.

Scholarship recipient Rachel Piette said, “The faculty, campus director, advisors, and program coordinators at Avery Point are among the best people I have ever met. They are determined to make your college experience the most enjoyable and unforgettable time of your life.”

Also awarded were Ana Cruz, Yosha Dungana, Zhouyi Dong, Tasnia Hasan, Usman Manzoor, Wenjing Ou, Hong Zhang, and DeQuan Zhu.

CAP LAUNCHES MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM



McNair Scholars (l-r): (front row) Hebo Ismail, Angelina Hernandez, Indhira Nunez-Caraballo, Prekiya Kennebrew, Ashley DiFava, Georgette Appiah-Pippim. (back row) Luis Organista, Samuel Milbin, Rob Stickels, Jason Torres, Tiahna Spencer. Scholars not present: Daniela Sousa, Adam Eichen.

In September, the Center for Academic Programs (CAP) received some great news. The U.S. Department of Education awarded the Center a 1.1 million dollar five-year grant to start a McNair Scholars Program at UConn. The program supports talented, motivated students in their pursuit of doctoral degrees in the STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering, and math).

Each year, UConn’s McNair program will induct up to 25 students and prepares them for acceptance into, and success in, graduate school. The program is open to low-income, first-generation undergraduates and/or students from populations underrepresented in STEM graduate study. Students may apply during their sophomore year for participation during their junior and senior years.

“We are very excited to be awarded a McNair grant,” said Assistant Vice Provost Maria D. Martinez, Director of CAP. “It fulfills the

university’s land grant mission and will help us provide equal access to research opportunities for UConn’s underrepresented students.”

As part of the McNair program, Scholars learn to build skills needed for graduate school, travel to conferences and workshops in their fields, visit graduate programs, and receive other academic support services. Following the junior year, they take part in a Summer Research Institute under the guidance of a faculty mentor. Scholars receive a stipend as well as room and board. They also gain valuable experience presenting their research at academic symposia and write articles for publication.

“Whether or not you reach your goals in life depends entirely on how you prepare for them and how badly you want them. You’re eagles! Stretch your wings and fly to the sky!” —Ronald E. McNair, Ph.D.

The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program is part of the family of federal TRIO initiatives that have been supporting educational access for nearly 50 years. It is named after a NASA astronaut who was killed in an explosion during the launch of the space shuttle Challenger in 1986. In his youth, McNair had to work in the tobacco and cotton fields of South Carolina to help support his family. He overcame difficult circumstances to achieve outstanding academic accomplishments that eventually led to a doctorate from MIT and a career as an astronaut. The McNair Scholars Program was founded in his honor to help students live up to their potential.

The federal government currently funds McNair programs at about 200 institutions nationwide. To learn more about the program, or to apply to become a McNair Scholar or a Faculty Mentor, please visit www.cap.uconn.edu/msp or call 860-486-4040.

SSS RECEIVES PROVOST'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The SSS program received the Provost's Award for Excellence in Public Engagement during a ceremony held on Nov. 13, 2012 at the Storrs campus. The outreach and engagement activities at the state, national, and international levels caught the attention of the award committee for its innovation and impact on first-generation, low-income (FGLI) students.

"It's an honor," SSS Director Bidya Ranjeet said. "Our students and partners have always recognized the importance of SSS, but it's rewarding to be officially recognized. We're proud of our program and excited to be able to share our success with the University community."

Initiatives such as partnerships with the University of Liverpool in England have created unique educational opportunities for SSS students. As one of the first and few of its kind, the SSS Liverpool Study Abroad program at UConn has become a model for other institutions of higher education throughout the nation that seek to provide FGLI students with international experiences. Over 100 SSS students have participated in the program since its inception in 2000.

Efforts to send SSS students abroad have not been limited to Liverpool. Collaboration with the Office of Study Abroad has enabled dozens of SSS students to study abroad in London, South Africa, Spain, Italy, Greece, and several other countries. During the 2011-12 academic year alone, 37 SSS students studied abroad.

"We constantly are seeking out new opportunities for our students through partnerships and collaborations. It is a vital part of our pro-

gramming," Ranjeet said. She noted that SSS recently partnered with the Office of Study Abroad to create the SSS Summer in London program, which was developed after the University of Liverpool announced that budget cuts would require them to end the 10 year program. The first group of SSS students participated in the London program in summer 2012.

The SSS program currently serves close to 1,100 UConn students at the Storrs campus and the five regional campuses, making it a key partner in helping the University to meet its strategic goals for diversity by providing underrepresented Connecticut residents access to higher education.



(l-r) Provost Mun Choi, SSS Regional Coordinator Aaron Collins, SSS Counselor Carl Dean, CAP Executive Program Director Bidya Ranjeet, SSS Associate Director Leo Lachut, SSS Counselors Joanna Rivera Davis and Kimberly Gorman; and Assistant Vice Provost Maria D. Martinez

HARTFORD SSS STUDENTS SPRUCE UP ASYLUM HILL NEIGHBORHOOD

On November 16, 2012, twenty-four SSS students from the UConn Greater Hartford campus spent the day cleaning up yards and knocking down walls in Hartford's Asylum Hill neighborhood. They were fixing up homes in need of renovation as part of a community service project for their SSS peer advising enrichment



course. The project was organized by the Northside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance (NINA).

"Your volunteers saved NINA \$2,500," NINA Program Manager David Corrigan told SSS Counselor Luis Ramos. That was the amount taken off the price of a home NINA purchased on Ashley Street after the students cleaned it up—one of three sites where the students volunteered that fall day.

NINA is a not-for-profit corporation that fosters collaboration among area institutions and residents to revitalize the Asylum Hill neighborhood. It offers attractive, affordable homes to low- and moderate-income families and individuals and provides job opportunities for local contractors and residents. NINA is a popular volunteer outlet for the SSS students, many of whom have continued to serve the organization after their peer advisement course ended.

EARLY COLLEGE EXPERIENCE (ECE) GIVES SSS STUDENTS A BOOST

In recent years, more SSS students have been arriving at UConn with credits earned through the Early College Experience program, which enables students to take UConn courses while still in high school. SSS freshman Theus McBee was one of them. He took an ECE course in advanced classics during his senior year at Hartford's Classical Magnet High School. In addition to earning credits, the course helped prepare him for academic success at UConn.

"I was able to gradually build my skills and get a feel for what college courses are like," he said.

"ECE credits combined with credits earned during the SSS summer program really give our students a head start," SSS Counselor Kim Gorman said. "Not only do they enter their freshmen year

ahead of the game in terms of credits, most often the preparation gives their GPAs a boost."

Brian Boecherer, Associate Director of the ECE program and the driving force behind its urban initiative, agrees that the preparation helps students perform better as UConn undergraduates. ECE alumni generally do a full grade level better than non-ECE students in their first and second semesters. He noted that 87 of the 307 SSS freshmen in this year's class took ECE courses.

Bidya Ranjeet, SSS Director, recognizes the efforts the ECE program has made to include urban area schools. "We are excited that the ECE mission is providing access to all students, and that many SSS students are taking advantage of this opportunity," she said.

SSS DEVELOPS WORK-STUDY INITIATIVE FOR FRESHMEN



SSS Storrs Freshmen Attend the Work-Study Job Fair

The Student Support Services program held a work-study job fair for its freshmen on the Storrs campus during the 2012 summer program. Nearly 25 campus departments and over 100 students attended the event held in the Student Union ballroom. The fair was part of a multi-campus initiative created by SSS to help students develop their professional skills and secure meaningful work-study positions that relate to their majors and interests.

With increasing numbers of freshmen awarded work-study, SSS recognized the importance of taking a role in training them to be successful in their professional endeavors. Students attended a series of workshops held throughout the summer program that addressed topics such as effective resume writing, interviewing skills, and professional etiquette. The workshops were facilitated by SSS upperclassmen that were trained by Mike Petro, Assistant Director of Career Services.

As a result of the fair and trainings, the vast majority of eligible freshmen have obtained work-study jobs at the Storrs campus. At the Greater Hartford campus, SSS Coordinator Lynn Papacostas Ginolfi said that since the promotion of the work-study program, 21 first year students have secured positions. They are making valuable contributions to the campus while gaining important work experience.

The 2012 – 2013 academic year marked the first time that SSS freshmen were permitted to hold work-study jobs; previously, they were encouraged to focus on their academics. However, recent data that shows students who are employed an average of 9 hours per week on campus tend to have higher retention rates than students who either work too many hours or do not work at all prompted SSS to change its policy.

SSS ALUMS NOW LIVING THE SWEET LIFE

As kids, SSS alumni Dennis and William Bok were self-described troublemakers. Today, they're enjoying the sweet life as entrepreneurs and founders of FroyoWorld—Connecticut's first self-serve frozen yogurt chain.

Since its launch in the summer of 2010, the chain has grown to 18 locations, including the recently opened FroyoWorld in the new Storrs Center development, just off the UConn campus at 1 Dog Lane. The chain is expected to expand to 50 or more locations by the end of 2013, according to William, the younger of the two Bok brothers. In the past year, FroyoWorld has experienced a whopping 600% growth. The Boks credit the SSS program with helping them achieve such success.

In their youth, the Bok brothers were capable, but didn't have much initiative, admits William. It was their responsible older sister, also a UConn alum, who convinced them to apply for the SSS program. SSS provides advising, academic support, and advocacy for first-generation, low-income, and/or underrepresented students at UConn.

All SSS students take part in a six-week summer program just before their freshman year to help prepare them for university life and the rigors of college-level courses. Dennis went through the SSS summer program in 2000. His brother took part two years later.

The course was "almost like a boot camp," described Dennis. "At first, it's hard to be there knowing your friends are off at the beach," William added, "but it's worth it."

The summer program showed them what to expect at UConn, and helped them get some basic requirements out of the way, easing the workload while they were adjusting to life in college. "It helped us out tremendously," Dennis attested.

Both brothers graduated from UConn—Dennis from the School of Business with a degree in accounting and William from CLAS with a major in history. While Dennis is the one with a business-related degree, both brothers have business in their blood. They followed in the footsteps of their parents who came from Korea and opened their own dry-cleaning establishment in Branford.

William got his initial taste of the frozen yogurt trade when he started a self-serve frozen yogurt lounge in San Francisco with his wife's cousin. A few years later, he sold the business and moved back to Connecticut. In August, 2010, he opened the first FroyoWorld in New Haven with his wife and brother. The chain has been rapidly expanding ever since.

FroyoWorld targets areas around college campuses, positioning its first store near Yale and others near Brown and UMass. Right now, most FroyoWorlds are located in New England and New York, but the chain also has two sites in Puerto Rico. In an effort to take the



Dennis (left) and William Bok pose in the Storrs FroyoWorld with mascot E.L.F.Y. (Everybody Loves Frozen Yogurt).

company international, the Boks are working on opening a store in London.

From the very beginning, they intended to bring FroyoWorld to UConn, but it took a while to get the Storrs location off the ground, they said. They are also scheduled to open a store near UConn's planned new Hartford campus.

While frozen yogurt isn't new, the self-serve aspect of their business is. Customers pay by the ounce and choose from a rotating menu of 12 unique flavors and dozens of toppings and "drippings" (sauces). The base flavor is the original award-winning Tart William brought back from San Francisco. His wife and sister create new flavors, which are exclusive to FroyoWorld. (Dennis' favorites are Strawberry Tart and Peanut Butter. William prefers Original Tart topped with Fruity Pebbles, strawberries, and mochi—a sweet Japanese rice cake.)

The Bok brothers aren't just introducing new froyo flavors to the world. They're also creating much-needed jobs. Each FroyoWorld employs 10 to 15 people, William disclosed. The company's core employees are mainly friends and family, he added. The manager of the New Haven store is a fellow SSS alum. So is Cec Amado, who manages the Storrs FroyoWorld.

"Dennis was my first friend at UConn," Amado shared. They met in the SSS summer program.

"We like to help UConn people," Dennis maintained.

The frozen-yogurt barons have come a long way since their undergraduate days. To today's SSS students, Dennis says: "When you ask yourself, 'Why am I learning this? I'll never use it,' think of it as the building blocks."

William agreed. "All the things you learn and the people you meet will come into play later," he affirmed.

That's some pretty sweet advice.

SSS STUDENT CHANGING LIVES IN WATERBURY

Emmanuel Marte, a sophomore in the SSS program, wants to dedicate his life to keeping people healthy. He is already making a good start. During the fall 2012 semester he started a chapter of the Collegiate Health Services Corps (CHSC) at the UConn Waterbury campus. Students in the club provide volunteer preventive health care to the underserved in the city while raising awareness about the health professions.

A biological sciences major who wants to become a doctor, Marte first heard about the CHSC last September from peers who are members of the chapter at Western Connecticut State University. They introduced him to the CHSC Coordinator from the Connecticut Area Health Education Center (AHEC) program, who told him what he needed to do to initiate a chapter at the UConn Waterbury campus.

Marte then presented the idea to his SSS advisor, Lillie Wright. With her support, he worked with representatives of the CHSC and the student government at the Waterbury campus to officially establish a chapter there. Marte was instrumental in recruiting student members and a faculty advisor. The first official meeting of the UConn Waterbury Collegiate Health Services Corps was held on December 12, 2012. The organization is now running smoothly with Marte as its president.

When asked why he wanted to start a CHSC chapter at the Waterbury campus, Marte explained, "I want to be a doctor, and I would like to have as much exposure to the health field as possible."



Members of the Collegiate Health Services Corp at UConn's Waterbury Campus

An honor student, Marte also gives back to his community through involvement in several other community service projects in Waterbury. He provides technology support for Shekinah Christian Church, tutors at the Boys and Girls Club, participates in Relay for Life, and volunteers for the Homeless Project Connect program.

Marte is also a member of the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and the Latin American Student Organization at UConn in Waterbury. He received the Outstanding SSS/CAP (Center for Academic Programs) Award for 2012 at the Waterbury campus.

AVERY POINT SSS STUDENT FINDS MEANING IN GIVING BACK

By Alan Anderson, SSS Avery Point Campus

Having the opportunity to mentor a student at my former middle school in Groton has been a great learning experience. For me, West Side Middle School was where I formed some of my best memories and found out who I was as a person. West Side was where I first discovered my passion for the game of football and my talent for mathematics.

Having the chance to mentor a kid that is still finding himself has been so meaningful. I find that my mentee and I are more like each other every visit. Seeing all of my former teachers also sparked some excitement. Teachers that once sent me to the office for being insubordinate now greet me when I visit. We even laugh when they tell me some of the stories about my past bad decisions.

Mentoring has been a great reminder of how far I have come and how far I could go still. As I walk down the hallways of my former

middle school old memories of playing basketball and sitting with friends at lunch resurface. I hope that my mentee also finds his own memories at West Side, so that when he attends college he can go back there someday and smile at all the experiences he had at this great school.



Avery Point Mentor Alan Anderson with his Mentee

CONNCAP STUDENTS BUSY GETTING READY FOR COLLEGE



ConnCAP Students Vist Fairfield University

Students in UConn's ConnCAP program have been busy researching, preparing for, and applying to colleges and universities throughout the state and beyond. In their quest to find the perfect school, they have visited numerous higher education institutions in and out of state, and attended college fairs.

During Academic Day on October 27, 2012, seniors spent the

morning completing college applications and essays while their junior and sophomore peers attended workshops addressing topics such as time management and knowing the difference between high school and college. At the University of Bridgeport campus on November 12, 2012, students attended the Southern Connecticut College Fair, where more than 50 institutions were represented. After learning about various schools' majors and admissions requirements, they took a campus tour and later visited Fairfield University. UConn Upward Bound alumna Enerida Ademi, now a senior at Fairfield, spoke to the group about college life and the financial aid process.

The vast majority of ConnCAP students are the first in their families to attend college, and the guidance they receive from the program plays a vital role in helping them prepare for and complete the college admissions and financial aid processes. UB alumna Rashaunda Tyson, who was honored at CAP's 45th anniversary ceremony in October as a rising star, attributes the encouragement and assistance she received from the program as crucial to helping her get to where she is today. A former teacher with a master's degree in secondary education, she currently is a college advisor for a charter high school in Newark, New Jersey. "Without Upward Bound, I don't know where I'd be today," she said. "I hold the saying 'UB for life' dear to my heart."

CAP ALUMNI EXEMPLIFY WHAT IT MEANS TO BE TRIO ACHIEVERS

Two CAP alumni were recognized as TRIO Achievers at the annual Connecticut Association of Educational Opportunity Programs conference held on November 9, 2012 at the legislative building in Hartford. CAEOP is a statewide volunteer organization whose purpose is to promote educational opportunities for populations traditionally underrepresented in higher education. Carl Dean Jr, a counselor with the SSS program in Storrs and current CAEOP president, noted that Upward Bound alumnus Shanado Williams and SSS alumnus Mirat "Mike" Joshi each exemplify the qualities that TRIO programs seek to foster within their students.

As a participant in UB, Shanado distinguished himself as an outstanding student and role model for his peers. He graduated with high honors in 2007 from Weaver High School in Hartford, where he was the valedictorian of his class. While at Weaver, he participated in many activities that taught him leadership and determination, including UB. In the fall of 2007, Shanado began his college career at the University of Connecticut, where he completed a Bachelor of Science degree in biology in May 2011. Currently, he is pursuing a master's degree in molecular and cell biology at UConn and intends to enroll in medical school in fall 2014.

As an SSS student at UConn, Mike pursued double majors in physiology and neurobiology, and in molecular and cell biology, all while working as a junior accounting clerk and grill supervisor at a market in Norwalk, CT. After graduating from the university with two bachelor of science degrees, he worked at Boehringer-Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals analyzing data for drug development. His career underwent a shift when he began working as a supervisor at Commerce Bank. Currently, Mike is a lead analyst at GE Capital, where he makes critical decisions toward the future direction of a \$440 billion dollar corporation.

CAP is proud of its TRIO achievers, and wishes them continued success in their personal and professional lives.



*UB Alumnus and TRIO Achiever
Shanado Williams*



*SSS Alumnus and TRIO Achiever
Mike Joshi*

SSS STUDENTS RETURN FROM LONDON CHANGED AND INSPIRED

Most of the 10 students who took part in the first-ever SSS London Study Abroad Program had never left Connecticut, never mind the country. But for three weeks last spring they visited one of the biggest, most vibrant cities in the world. They came back changed by the experience.

“You learn so much about others, and surprisingly, your own culture,” said Emmanuel Baffour-Siaw, a senior majoring in allied health. “I got a lot out of the experience. I will never forget it.”

The SSS program compresses the study abroad experience into three short weeks. During their stay, the students lived in flats in central London and attended class every morning. In the afternoon they took field trips “to bring to life what we were talking about in the morning,” explained SSS Associate Director Leo Lachut, who accompanied students on the trip last May.

The class, called London’s Global Geographies, was taught by Dr. Jill Fenton, Resident Program Director of the UConn in London Program. It’s the same class she teaches over the course of a semester, but condensed. It covered how London developed as a modern city.

The first half of the course dealt with the region’s early history. Students visited centuries-old places like Oxford University and learned about venerable traditions still followed today. The second half of the course delved into London in the 21st century. Fenton weaved in current events such as the effect of hosting the 2012 Olympics. The students examined issues like gentrification, the polarization around migrant labor groups in modern London, and the campaign to establish a “living wage.”

The highlight of the trip for many was spending a weekend in Paris. Students compared that city’s development with London’s. A Paris artist gave them a guided tour that included a visit to the Louvre Museum, a climb up the Eiffel Tower, and a cruise along the Seine.

“It was the best trip to Paris I’ve ever had with students,” Fenton exclaimed. They didn’t passively take in the sights. They actively investigated. One of the students, junior Jetsenia Rodriguez, is studying art and led the others in analyzing the paintings at the Louvre. “She really came into her own,” Fenton claimed. In fact, Rodriguez was so inspired she plans to take part in a semester-long study abroad experience with her art program.

The SSS London Study Abroad Program was developed to take the place of the similar 10-year-old SSS Liverpool Study Abroad Program, shut down last year because of budget cuts at the University of Liverpool. The shorter SSS program makes study abroad more attractive to students with work and family commitments who might not otherwise consider it.

“We are trying to change the face of study abroad,” asserted Dr. Dorothea Hast, Assistant Director of the UConn Office of Study Abroad, who manages the program from this side of the pond. Programs like this open up educational opportunities to a broader range of students and serve as a national model, she said.

According to SSS Director Bidya Ranjeet, an impressive 92 percent of SSS students who study abroad go on to graduate. The experience changes their world views and empowers them, she said. “They come back more confident and motivated, and with a greater sense of the possibilities that exist for them.”

Ranjeet has been at the center of a movement to get more SSS students to study abroad. “She has seen firsthand how they change as a result of it,” testified Hast. “It’s an eye-opening, transformative experience for them.”

Lachut witnessed those changes in his young travel companions. “They make huge connections to global issues and world cultures,” he insisted.

Rodriguez summed it up this way: “It makes you want to go somewhere else outside your comfort zone and make a difference.”



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CENTER FOR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS MISSION

The Center for Academic Programs provides educational opportunities and access to higher education for students who are first-generation to college, from underrepresented populations, and/or from low-income backgrounds.