Greetings from the UCPA President

The other day I had dinner with an old friend I hadn’t seen in quite a while. She asked me about my kids and then wanted to know what I’d been up to the last several years. So I filled her in on all our news. We had a great time catching up—it was so good to see her. I thought about our conversation thereafter—the part about what I had been doing the last several years—and I realized that UConn has been a huge part of my life ever since my son, Nick, decided to come to UConn as a freshman in the fall of 2007. During Nick’s freshman year, I became very involved in the UConn Parents Association (UCPA), serving as a volunteer at Family Weekend and other events. In subsequent years, I continued to stay involved, serving on the Executive Board of UCPA, first as secretary and for the past two years as president. The Parents Association has provided me the opportunity to work with many of the staff and administration of the University, and in doing so I have come to understand and appreciate just what an incredible institution UConn is. 2011-2012 has been a big year for the University. Dr. Susan Herbst finishes her first year as President, and what a difference she has already made. Additionally, this year UConn made its leap, according to U.S. News and World Report rankings, to standing among the top 20 public universities in the nation. And UConn has continued, thanks to funding from the state of Connecticut, to expand and build classrooms and buildings, as well as enhance the quality of its already outstanding faculty. It has indeed been a good year.

My tenure as president of the UConn Parents Association ends on June 30, and as I head out the door of this great University, let me congratulate all UConn seniors and their families who will also be heading out the door and graduating this May. I can only hope your experiences here at UConn have been as amazing as those my family experienced. I hope you find happiness in whatever career UConn has prepared you for. And to those students continuing on to the next academic year, I encourage you to really explore UConn. Take full advantage of all the spirit and wonderful opportunities that are available to you.

Enjoy your summer break; we’ll see you in the fall.
Sincerely,

Susan Camenker, President
UConn Parents Association
While visiting UConn supporters this past winter, I was presented with several “glass-half-full” thoughts about UConn. As a UConn alumna, fundraiser, department director and mentor, I was pleased to hear them, and happy to share them now with you.

I had the pleasure of meeting an alumna from the Class of 1963. She and her husband both graduated from UConn, and have been supporting the University annually for 30 years. During our visit, I mentioned how in-state students now pay slightly more than the State of Connecticut toward their UConn education. Her immediate response was, “And it’s still a great value!” She was right, and Kiplinger’s agrees. In January 2012, Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazine ranked the University of Connecticut #30 in public colleges and universities that offer the best value for a top-notch education, and #1 in New England. “This year’s top 100 public schools deliver strong academics at reasonable prices. We applaud these institutions for tightening their belts without compromising quality,” the report stated.

That same day, I met with a current UConn parent and supporter of the Parents Fund. Her view on being a parent donor was summed up in a phrase we’ve all heard before, and resonates from the day our children are born: “It takes a village.” She and her husband support the Parents Fund because it supports areas of the University that enrich her son’s educational experience, many areas that would not be possible without charitable donations. She expressed her interest in seeing more parents participate in giving, no matter the size of the gift. I couldn’t agree more.

What a wonderful story UConn can tell if we have a high percentage of UConn parents supporting the University with a gift of any amount to any part of the University!

This has been an impressive year for Parent Giving at UConn. We were delighted with the unprecedented challenge put forth in September by Mark Boxer (MBA ’87) and his wife Michelle, and thrilled with the response from the UConn community of parents. Not only did we meet the $125,000 challenge, but we exceeded it with a growing number of parent donors.

Thank you to all who have made a gift this year to the Parents Fund, or to any other facet of the University.

On behalf of the Parents Fund and the University of Connecticut Foundation, I wish you well this summer. And, to the May 2012 graduates, congratulations on your achievements! You now join the growing family of UConn alumni. Please remember to keep UConn informed as you grow in your careers or further your education. We want to hear about your successes!

Students Today. Huskies Forever.
Updated Parents Website from the Division of Student Affairs

Cat Carter
Office of Student Services and Advocacy

Uploading soon! The Division of Student Affairs is proud to announce the development of a newly improved electronic resource. In an effort to further build upon our partnerships with parents and families, we have been working on enhancing our website filled with resources to support students and their families in transition. We understand that many challenges present themselves as students navigate through their academic careers. While educators and parents may understand the importance of allowing students to take charge of their own actions and decisions, effectively supporting students to achieve independence can be easier said than done.

Therefore, our website will provide conversation starters and talking points, offer strategies for helping your student develop autonomy, identify key transition issues, discuss monthly common stressors and present a continually updated list of available books.

Please stay tuned for further announcements as we get ready to launch www.uconnfamilies.uconn.edu. Look out for a postcard this summer, and we’ll see you again in the August issue!

Candidates for the 2012-2014 UConn Parents Association Executive Board

For all their hard work, we express our sincerest appreciation to the current executive board members whose terms end June 30. We encourage you to vote for the new executive board candidates by visiting parents.uconn.edu and clicking on Executive Board Ballot. Please be sure to have your student’s seven-digit ID number ready; one ballot per student ID number. Voting ends June 1.

• Caroline Chapman-Candidate for President
  Caroline is a resident of Stonington, Connecticut and attended UConn from 1982-1986. She is the mother of three children; Richard, 24 of Stonington; Ben, 22, a senior kinesiology major at UConn; and Megan Rose, 19 a freshman human development and family studies major and member of the women’s track team at UConn. Caroline and her husband Rick (UConn ’85) believe that being active in your children’s lives can make a difference only for the better, so they have always volunteered in their children’s schools and activities. She sees the Parents Association as a way for parents to “stay involved and network with each other as we help our kids navigate towards independence.”

• Eugenie Williams-Candidate for Vice President
  Eugenie, originally from the island of Jamaica, is an alumna of Jamaica’s Durham College of Commerce, Saint Joseph College and Hartford Seminary. Her son Adam is a junior and loves being at UConn. She has worked for the state of Connecticut for 23 years. She was so impressed with the UConn community when she volunteered at Family Weekend 2009 that she was determined to become actively involved with the University by serving in any capacity. Eugenie thinks that the University of Connecticut is a “well-orientated machine that runs on spirit and enthusiasm.”

• Marisol Rivera-Candidate for Secretary
  Marisol is a resident of Newington, CT. Originally from Puerto Rico, Marisol has been in the U.S. for the past 28 years. She is currently employed at the UConn Health Center in the dermatology department as a medical assistant, where she has worked for 12 years and counting. Marisol believes the UConn Health Center is a great organization. Marisol is the mother of two wonderful daughters; Megan, 18, a freshman at UConn majoring in journalism, is almost done with her first year and loves being at UConn; Lynette, 15, a sophomore in high school at the Sports & Medical Sciences Academy, is hoping to become a UConn student as well. After volunteering at the University, Marisol said, “I was amazed with how wonderful everything was planned and organized. I couldn’t say no to being part of this team.”
Moving Out

Department of Residential Life

The academic year is ending and although it may feel like you just loaded all those belongings to bring your student to UConn, it’s time to pack them up and move them out. Did you know that students move out up to 40% more belongings than they moved in? Planning the move-out process can cut down on time and stress. Below are some suggestions to help make the process go smoothly.

When Do Your Students Need To Be Out Of Their Rooms?
All students must be out of the residence halls no later than 24 hours after their last final exam. Those students participating in the undergraduate graduation ceremonies must move out by 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 6.

Follow Check-Out Procedures
Residence hall staff will instruct students on how to vacate their rooms properly. Please be sure that your student follows proper instructions when moving out, such as cleaning the room, assembling furniture correctly, and handing in the key. Checking out with a staff member also allows you the opportunity to discuss any damages and who is responsible.

Consider Renting a Moving Van or Truck
Depending upon the quantity of items your student has at school, it may be convenient to rent a moving van or truck. If you are thinking about doing this, arrange to do so early. The month of May can be a busy time to rent a truck since many colleges are closing at the same time.

Bring Moving Supplies
Start saving those boxes! Boxes, tape and even Ziploc bags are very helpful on move-out day. Large garbage bags are one of the best ways to get clothes and blankets home. You may also want to consider packing items that your student needs for school into separate boxes. Label these boxes and put aside for storage. Hand trucks are a great way to move boxes so be sure to bring one along if you have one.

Does Your Student Have Unwanted Items?
As students begin packing, they often come across items they no longer want. Items such as canned goods and clothing can be donated to a charitable organization. Ask your student to check with the residence hall staff in their building for drop-off locations. Other unwanted belongings must be removed from the room or building. Large dumpsters will be located in areas around the residence halls for disposal of large unwanted items such as rugs and furniture. Do not leave large items in the student’s room or near trash receptacles in the residence hall as your student may be charged for improper disposing of his or her belongings. We greatly appreciate your assistance in this area!

Please Keep Vehicles Off The Grass and Sidewalks
Upon your arrival to campus for move-out, please park in a designated parking space or loading area near the residence hall. Please help to keep our campus beautiful by not driving or parking on grass, sidewalks or landscaped areas.

Consider Renting a Local Storage Space
If your student has many large items that they will not need during the summer, consider renting a storage space. Often, a group of students will share a storage space. Personal belongings cannot be stored at the University over the summer and any items left in a room or building will be disposed of after students check out of the residence hall.

Travel Safety
As you are packing up your vehicle, be sure to maintain visibility for safe driving. Please tightly secure any items on roofs or trucks to ensure a safe drive home.

Prepare For Your Student to Return Home
Over the past few months, your student has changed and matured. Having your student back at home will be somewhat of an adjustment for both the student and the family. Patience and good communication get help to make this transition smooth and enjoyable.

Self-Service Storage
Is your student looking for a place to store some things this summer? Check out these local storage facilities

Affordable Self Storage Center, Somers 860-749-6549
Andover Hillside Self Storage Center, 860-742-1644
Bolton & Hebron Self Storage, Bolton 860-228-8030
Chaplin Commons Self Storage, Chaplin 860-456-0475
Columbia Rent-A-Space, Columbia 860-228-4734
Coventy Self Storage LLC, Coventry 860-742-5540
Daniel’s Mini Self Storage, Vernon 860-871-9015
East Lyme Rent-A-Space, Niantic-Columbia 860-739-3386
Easy Does It Self Storage, Franklin 860-887-2400
Home Town Self Storage LLC, Pomfret 860-963-1090
Mansfield Self & RV Storage, Mansfield 860-423-5677
Murphy’s Storage Depot, N. Franklin 860-642-1900
North River Road Self Storage, Tolland 860-870-4504
North Windham Self Storage, N. Windham 860-423-0497
Stock N Lock Self Storage, S. Windham 860-456-8544
Stock N Lock Self Storage, Willington 860-429-9339
The Attic Self Storage Center, Ellington 860-872-7233
UHaul Self Storage, Columbia 860-228-1886
U-Store-It, Enfield 860-745-2700
Vernon Storage Center, Tolland/Vernon/Rockville, 860-875-9991
Our summer session program gives students the opportunity to earn college credits in a variety of accelerated courses without sacrificing their summer plans. Classes are offered May – August and can be completed in three or six week intervals. Course offerings include many of the general education, writing and math courses that are required for graduation. Some majors also offer upper-division courses. Weighing the costs, a few summer session courses are more affordable than paying for an extra year at UConn. Our summer courses offer the same University of Connecticut quality, but at a real savings. Instead of paying the expenses associated with an additional semester or two of full tuition to meet graduation requirements, summer session classes are charged on a per-credit basis.

Many students enjoy the flexibility that summer session offers. Classes are offered at a variety of times during the day and allow students to still pursue summer internships and other plans. The abbreviated class terms also leave plenty of time for summer vacations and work.

Summer sessions can also be seen as an opportunity to get ahead. For many students, the chance to get ahead is of great value and importance. Summer session is a convenient alternative to heavy course loads during the fall and spring semesters. This summer, the School of Business is offering many of the courses that count towards the Business minor, expanding the opportunities for students to complete that popular minor.

Students taking courses on the Storrs campus in the summer are eligible for half-price housing and reduced dining costs. There are even opportunities to find summer jobs.

In addition to being offered at our main campus in Storrs, summer session courses are scheduled at each of our five regional campuses. Students can take courses at a location that’s convenient to them regardless of the campus they attend in the academic year. Parents, there’s added cost saving if your student takes summer courses at a regional campus and lives at home.

I hope you will seize the opportunity to discuss the benefits of summer session with your student. Although it may seem too early to begin thinking about summer, it’s closer than you think. Registration began in February and your student recently received more information about our summer session program in their HuskyMail email accounts. Together we can help your student achieve their academic goals.

**Online Summer Course Options**

Some students will not be able to take advantage of the courses that UConn offers at a variety of times at our main campus in Storrs or at regional campuses across the state. For those students, taking UConn courses online may be a good alternative. UConn’s online courses offer the same high academic quality as our in-person offerings. They cover the same material and count towards the same academic requirements as their in-person counterparts.

More than 70 courses are currently offered online for Summer Session 2012 in a variety of academic disciplines. Many of these courses count towards the University’s General Education requirements and the others count towards major requirements. UConn Summer Session is a true academic and economic value. Summer Session courses are charged on a per credit basis and are offered at a fixed rate, regardless of a student’s residency status. For students not on track to graduate in four years, a few summer session courses are often more affordable than an additional semester or two of tuition.

Our accelerated summer classes are a convenient way for students to catch up or get ahead on degree requirements, while focusing on a smaller academic course load.

To learn more about Summer Session at UConn, visit us online at summersession.uconn.edu.
New Satisfactory Academic Progress Regulations

Federal regulations require the Office of Student Financial Aid Services (OSFAS) to review the academic progress of each continuing student applying for aid and to determine each student’s compliance with the University’s Satisfactory Academic Progress Guidelines. Applicants found to be in violation of the standards are ineligible for the aid programs governed by the guidelines. Recent changes to these regulations require that beginning this coming fall, the OSFAS review a student’s satisfactory academic progress at the end of each semester, rather than at the end of each academic year. Additional information is available at www.financialaid.uconn.edu/sap.

2012-2013 Financial Aid Process

To ensure that your students’ financial aid is applied to their fee bills in a timely manner, please encourage them to complete the following items:
- Log into the Student Administration System to accept or decline their financial aid
- Provide all requested documents. The OSFAS may request documentation to verify information reported on the FAFSA. Financial aid award packages for incoming students who are selected for verification may be revised after the documentation is received and reviewed. Continuing students who are selected for verification will not receive a financial aid award package until all requested information is received and reviewed. Funding is limited and financial aid is awarded on a first-come first-served basis. If the information requested by our office is not submitted early enough, the student may miss an opportunity for financial aid funds that become depleted as the awarding cycle continues. Please only submit documentation that has been requested.
- First-time Federal Direct Stafford Loan borrowers must also complete a Federal Direct Stafford Loan MPN, and Stafford Loan Entrance Counseling.
- First time Federal Perkins Loan borrowers must also complete the Perkins Master Promissory Note (PMPN), and the Confidential Federal Perkins Loan Data form.
- Students and their parent/s must have submitted a 2012-2013 FAFSA before a parent can borrow a Federal Direct PLUS Loan. Additionally, the parent borrower will need to complete a PLUS application at http://studentloans.gov.

Important Financial Aid Updates

Read All About It

The UConn Parents Association LISTSERV provides important updates via emails from our Association and from the UConn Administration. We hope you want to receive these emails; please sign up at parents.uconn.edu. You may also remove your email address when you no longer wish to receive these very important messages.
**New Culinary Management House Learning Community!**

*Gail Merrill, Publicity Marketing Manager Dining Services*

Is your student interested in an exciting opportunity that offers housing, employment, experience and a chance to get to know other UConn students with similar interests? They may want to consider joining the new Culinary Management House. The Culinary Management House is a Dining Services’ Learning Community with a focus on professional development in areas including hospitality, business management, culinary, leadership, nutrition, human resources and sustainability.

For more information about joining the Culinary Management House, your student can contact Chelsea Beaudry, UConn Dining Services Student Program Coordinator at 860-486-0059 or email: Student0864@ad.uconn.edu

For more information on Learning Communities visit: [http://lc.uconn.edu/](http://lc.uconn.edu/)

**Important: UConn e-mail**

Please remind your student to check their HuskyMail over the summer. Several University departments correspond with students by email only.