Dr. Copenhaver is an established clinical psychologist and respected Associate Professor in the Department of Allied Health Sciences with joint appointment in the Department of Psychology. He has been a principal investigator at the Center for Health Intervention and Prevention (CHIP) since he joined the University in 2002. Dr. Copenhaver’s research currently focuses on HIV risk reduction and prevention among marginalized, drug-involved, populations. He received his doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology from Virginia Tech and completed post-doctoral training in clinical psychology in the Department of Psychiatry, Division of Substance Abuse at Yale University School of Medicine. Prior to his doctoral work, he received a Master of Science in Experimental Psychology from Villanova University and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Clemson University. In addition to serving as principal investigator at CHIP, Dr. Copenhaver belongs to several national organizations. Since 1994 he has been a member of the American Psychological Association and since 2003 he has been a member of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence. He also has a lengthy track record of serving on national grant review committees for the National Institute on Drug Abuse as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In addition, Dr. Copenhaver chairs the internal grant review committee at CHIP and chairs the CANR Excellence Committee at UConn. He serves on the editorial board of a peer-reviewed journal, AIDS and Behavior. Balancing his research and services efforts, Dr. Copenhaver teaches a core undergraduate research and writing-intensive course for Allied Health Sciences majors each semester. He also teaches a yearly graduate seminar-style course on behavioral interventions targeting at risk populations which is a core graduate course for the Allied Health Sciences graduate students in Health Promotion and also attracts graduate students from other disciplines such as Psychology and Public Health. Dr. Copenhaver actively mentors masters, doctoral, and post-doctoral students at UConn and at Yale across several disciplines. Dr. Copenhaver has contributed to the field of HIV prevention through federally funded studies aimed at designing HIV interventions that can be readily used in clinical settings where large numbers of high risk individuals seek treatment. He recently completed a randomized controlled trial (NIDA-funded R01) of a “community-friendly” HIV risk reduction intervention for drug users participating in an inner city methadone maintenance program. He is also involved in a national multi-site study in the US of HIV prevention in criminal justice settings as well as studies aimed at developing better HIV prevention approaches in prison settings in Malaysia and in the Ukraine to name a few. Dr. Copenhaver was just awarded a 5 year R01 from NIDA to conduct a randomized trial in which a four-session adapted evidence-based HIV prevention intervention (Holistic Health for HIV or 3H+) will be compared to the comprehensive gold standard among HIV-infected drug users in treatment. If outcomes from the 3H+ intervention approach are comparable, it would be much more cost-effective and practical to be implemented in common clinical settings where high risk individuals can be reached. Over the past decade, Dr. Copenhaver has earned an international reputation for his HIV prevention work and continually seeks to develop innovative ways to move the field forward.
The Dept of Allied Health Sciences is pleased to welcome Lauren Wilson. Lauren joined the Department as a Lecturer and an Advisor in March 2012. Lauren earned a Bachelors Degree in Cytogenetics and a post-baccalaureate certificate in Molecular Diagnostics from the UConn Diagnostic Genetic Sciences Program. She has a Masters degree in Biomolecular Sciences and ASCP certifications in molecular biology, cytogenetics, and laboratory management. Lauren joins us with nine years experience working in cytogenetic and molecular clinical laboratories. She has been teaching DGS 3223: Lab in Cytogenetics as an adjunct faculty member. Her new responsibilities will include teaching an undergraduate health care issues course and academic advising for Allied Health Sciences students.

College Ambassadors

CANR/RSHA ambassadors are undergraduate students majoring in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) and the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture (RHSA). These individuals work closely with the Associate Dean and staff of the Office of Academic Programs to represent CANR/RHSA at UConn. Responsibilities include serving as tour guides, providing recruitment presentations, assisting with co-curricular activities, and participating in alumni events. The College Ambassador position provides students with opportunities for networking, professional development, public speaking and to learn teamwork and leadership skills.

“Being an ambassador has been an extremely rewarding experience. I have learned so much about the college outside of my major and have been able to work with a great group of students. I have also enjoyed speaking with prospective students and seeing them get excited about the option of attending UConn,” said Kim Philopena, an Allied Health Sciences major and ambassador.

The College is recruiting students with enthusiasm, independence and strong communication skills. Check out the Program on Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/pages/College-of-Agriculture-and-Natural-ResourcesRatcliffe-Hicks/493421035594

Welcome to our newest faculty member

The Dept of Allied Health Sciences is pleased to welcome Lauren Wilson. Lauren joined the Department as a Lecturer and an Advisor in March 2012. Lauren earned a Bachelors Degree in Cytogenetics and a post-baccalaureate certificate in Molecular Diagnostics from the UConn Diagnostic Genetic Sciences Program. She has a Masters degree in Biomolecular Sciences and ASCP certifications in molecular biology, cytogenetics, and laboratory management. Lauren joins us with nine years experience working in cytogenetic and molecular clinical laboratories. She has been teaching DGS 3223: Lab in Cytogenetics as an adjunct faculty member. Her new responsibilities will include teaching an undergraduate health care issues course and academic advising for Allied Health Sciences students.

Ellen Shanley, RD - Medallion Award Winner

Ellen Shanley, Director of the Dietetics Program in the Department of Allied Health Sciences, has just been notified that she has won a 2012 Medallion Awards from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics! This very prestigious award is given to those who have shown dedication to the high standards of the dietetics profession through active participation, leadership, and devotion to serving others in dietetics and allied health fields. The Connecticut Dietetic Association has long been fortunate to have Ellen’s service and friendship as she has consistently set examples for students and others to follow. Ellen will officially receive her award at the Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo in Philadelphia this October 2012.
A Positive Addition to the Graduate Program Faculty

Dr. Katie Martin joins the ranks of the Graduate Program in Allied Health Faculty. Dr. Martin joined the Dept of Allied Health Sciences in April 2010 as an Assistant Professor in Residence. Katie’s research focuses on access to healthy food and food security among low-income households. Dr. Martin received a 2010 K12 Award for Mentored Research from the CT Institute for Clinical and Translational Science for her proposal on the implementation and evaluation of Freshplace, an innovative food pantry model in Hartford. Dr. Martin’s expertise in research and teaching are a valued addition to the students and faculty of the Masters Degree Program in Health Promotion.

Professional Science Masters Degree in Health Care Genetics

The UConn Dept of Allied Health Sciences will accept its inaugural class for the Professional Science Master’s Degree in Health Care Genetics for fall 2012. This program will train scientists and professionals with interdisciplinary competency in human genetics, disease identification, laboratory diagnostics, health care ethics, and regulatory issues in the clinical laboratory. Apply online at http://grad.uconn.edu/online.html or contact the Program Director, Dr. Judy Brown at judy.brown@uconn.edu for additional information.

Student Highlight: Cedric Haddad

Cedric Haddad, born and raised in S Brunswick NJ, attended UConn to study Allied Health Sciences with aspirations to become a physical therapist.

“I had always been interested in the human body and after shadowing a few different healthcare professionals in high school I knew physical therapy was right for me.”

Cedric chose the healthcare profession of physical therapy because therapists have a personal interaction with their patients, the ability to make an impact on a patient’s quality of life without drugs or surgical treatment, and apply knowledge of human anatomy and biomechanics for various treatment techniques. Cedric chose the UConn PT program for its large alumni base and because the program provides a smooth transition from undergraduate to graduate studies. His professional and active involvement within the profession of physical therapy, going beyond learning in the classroom, rounded out his experience as a graduate student. Cedric had the honor of being elected by his peers to serve on the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Student Board of Directors, as one of 10 students representing the 20,000+ physical therapy students in the US. This experience was eye opening for Cedric, helping him realize how big of a difference students can make in the profession of physical therapy. He hopes to show his appreciation to his supportive peers and professors in the future. Cedric graduated from the DPT Program this spring 2012, and when asked about what comes after graduation, Cedric was eager to answer saying that he feels prepared and excited to take the next step into his career after completing a challenging and rewarding Program. After completion of clinical internships in various types of settings, Cedric has decided to pursue outpatient orthopedics. Cedric said that the outlook for employment is very good but he is taking time to look through all options in order to make the best decision.

“Life is an open book now which is intimidating but UConn has helped me develop a strong foundation for my professional growth.”
2012 Alumni Connect Campaign

The Allied Health Sciences Department hopes to enrich the experience of their students' senior year and beyond into the alumni years, through a new campaign, 2012 Connect. The 2012 Connect Campaign will establish an enduring connection for students with the University through the Senior Year Access Pass. The Senior Year Access Pass can jumpstart a student's future by joining the network of more than 225,000 proud alumni worldwide. With the access pass, seniors will have access to resources that can contribute to the job hunt. Resources include career webinars, alumni mentors, career fairs, job and resume postings and information about resumes and interviews. The benefits of the access pass go beyond networking opportunities to include free oozeball, front of the line access at midnight breakfast, and discounts at many local restaurants. With donations from current alumni, seniors will be given a two-year Alumni Association membership as well as an invitation to the “AHS Senior Dinner” on September 27, 2012. The 2012 Connect Campaign is a way to keep Huskies linked to UConn, to the Alumni Association and to each other. UConn Alumni Association: Connecting Alumni, Supporting Students, Strengthening UConn.

Please direct questions to Pam Chudzik, Director of Alumni Relations, at pamela.chudzik@uconn.edu

Program Highlight: Fit After 55

Fit after 55 is a program designed to offer an affordable gym membership for senior citizens in Mansfield and surrounding communities. The program runs twice weekly for one hour in the fully-equipped, air conditioned Hawley Armory Fitness and Wellness Center. The class promotes seniors to build muscle strength, increase energy, and in return reduce the number of falls and injuries associated with aging. The group currently consists of 6+ active members ranging in age from 81 to 93 years old. Some of the seniors have been part of the Fit after 55 program for over 20 years, and still remain active in the class and in their community. The class is supervised by an Allied Health Sciences Student completing her senior year at UConn, Cara Callahan. Cara is a knowledgable instructor for the class with a health science education background, as well certification to teach both SPIN and Zumba. Cara gives assistance and instruction for effective and safe use of machines to the seniors in the first half of the class where they freely use equipment working on cardio and strength training. In the second half of the class, Cara leads a group circle seated strength training session with optional use of weights, as well as cool down stretch. The goals of these weight bearing exercises and stretches are to build bone and increase strength and balance to prevent falls. The Fit after 55 members are loyal to the program and to their bodies. As the oldest member of the program said, “I wouldn't still be here if I didn't start coming.”

For more information about the Hawley Armory Fitness Center or the Fit after 55 Program please contact Colleen Thompson at colleen.thompson@uconn.edu.