President's Report

Dr. Radenka Maric

University of Connecticut
Board of Trustees Meeting
15 April 2024

UCONN

NCAA National Champions
Men's Basketball

UConn is in Demand

Demand for a UConn education is strong . . .

First-year application trends at Storrs Campus continue to rise to nearly 57,000 for fall 2024

From Fall 1996 to 2023, applications at all campuses have increased **421%** and 56**%** since 2013.

. . . and the quality of the first-year student class is highly competitive.

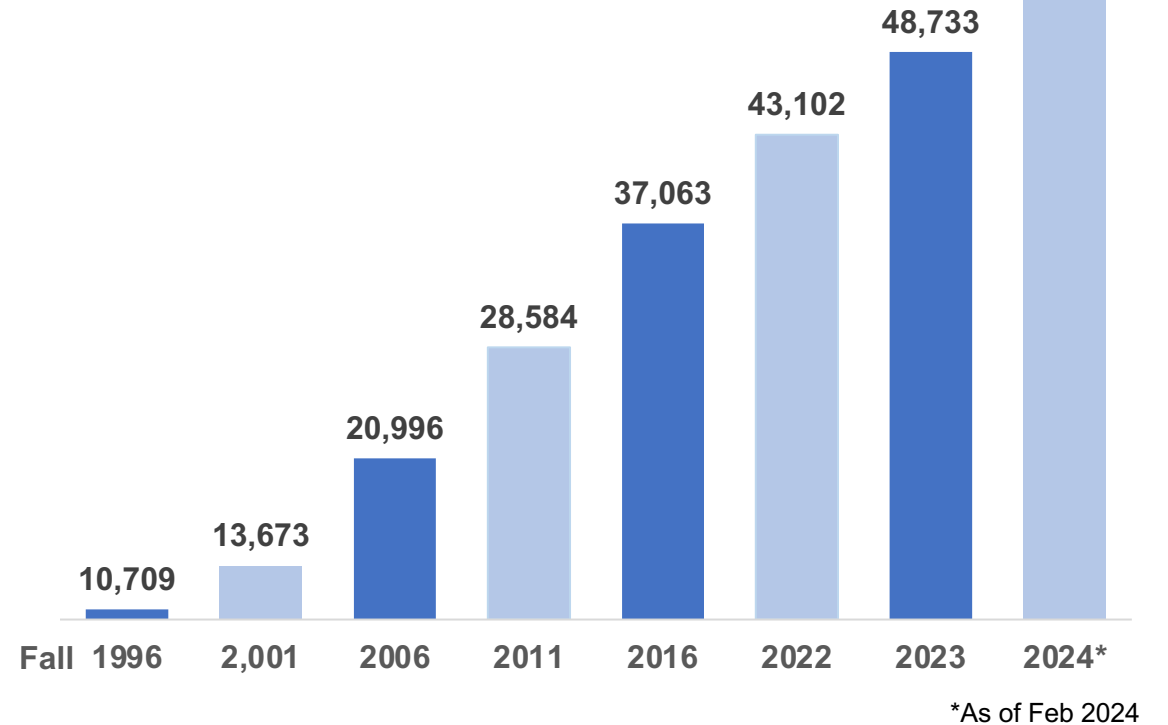**192** **Valedictorians and salutatorians**
Storrs & Regionals

1296 Mean SAT* score of Storrs Campus entering first-year students for fall 2023

Connecticut mean SAT: 1007
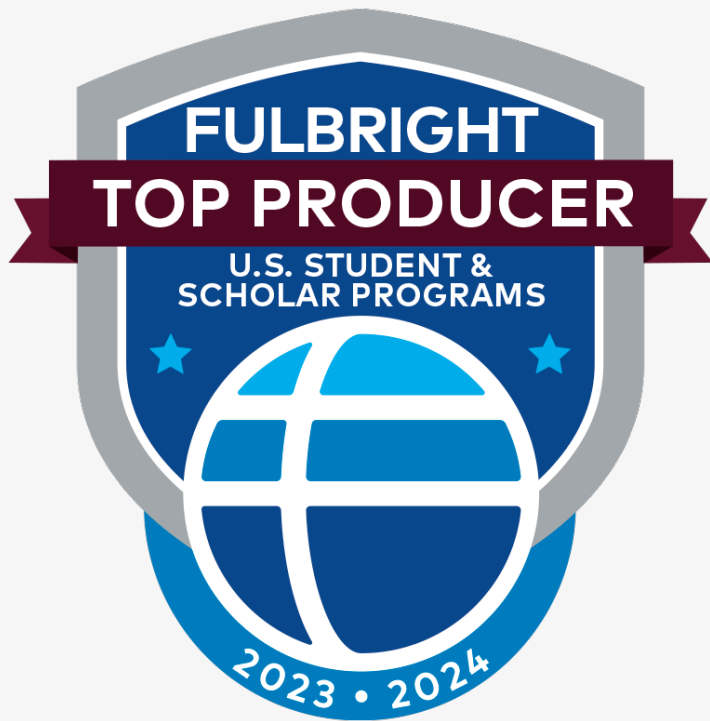National mean SAT: 1028

*SAT Data: Standardized test average represents students who elected to submit test scores as part of their application materials.

Nearly 58,000 applications for Fall 2024

17,940 First generation student applications

Total Applications Storrs and Regional Campuses

57,795

48,733

43,102

37,063

28,584

20,996

13,673

10,709

| Fall 1996 | 2,001 | 2006 | 2011 | 2016 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024* |

*As of Feb 2024

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Top Producer: Fulbright US Student Program
U. S. Department of State

10 UConn Recipients

Name	Destination Country	Grant
Madeline Baird*	Mexico	Research Award
Danicia Brown	Germany	English Teaching Assistantship
Rebecca Ercolani*	Bulgaria	English Teaching Assistantship
Keely Greiner*	Netherlands	Study Award
Neal Krishna	Taiwan	English Teaching Assistantship
Daniel Leaf*	Germany	English Teaching Assistantship
Christine Savino*	Taiwan	English Teaching Assistantship
Stephanie Schofield*	Germany	Research Award
Elisa Shaholli	Turkey	English Teaching Assistantship
Joan Tremblay*	UK/Glasgow	Study Award

In partnership with more than 140 countries worldwide, the Fulbright U.S. Student Program offers unparalleled opportunities in all academic disciplines to passionate and accomplished graduating college seniors, graduate students, and young professionals from all backgrounds. Program participants pursue graduate study, conduct research, or teach English abroad.

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NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program

10   UConn Recipients (current and former students)

Name	NSF Field of Study
Brigid Bernier	Geosciences - Tectonics
Charlotte Chen	Engineering - Biomedical Engineering
Samuel Thomas Degnan-Morgenstern	Engineering - Chemical Engineering
Sila Ecem Inanoglu	Life Sciences - Ecology
Jackson Davis Kaszas	Materials Research - Ceramics
Rebecca Lee	Engineering - Chemical Engineering
Lorraine Pérez-Beauchamp	Life Sciences - Ecology
Paxton Tomko	Geosciences - Geobiology
Cynthia Webster	Life Sciences - Genomics
Bre-Anna Willis	Chemistry - Chemical Synthesis

About the GRFP

The NSF GRFP is the country's oldest fellowship program that directly supports graduate students in various STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) fields.

GRFP was established as the first program in the foundation's history, to encourage individuals to pursue graduate education in science.

The GRFP is highly competitive. Past fellows include Nobel Prize winners, the former U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu, Google founder Sergey Brin, and Freakonomics co-author, Steven Levitt.

Four Faculty Elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science
2023

Bahram Javidi
Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, College of Engineering

Wolfgang Peti
Professor, Department of Molecular Biology and Biophysics, School of Medicine

Anthony Vella
Professor and Chair, Department of Immunology, Senior Associate Dean for Research Planning and Coordination School of Medicine

James Magnuson
Professor, Department of Psychological Sciences, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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Selected Faculty Awards

Faculty across UConn honored for their research and scholarship

Dr. Chi-Jen "Jackie" Sung
2024 AIAA Energy Systems Award
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics

Jeffrey McCutcheon
Al Geib Professor of Environmental Engineering Research & Education
NAMS Permeance Prize for Mid-Career Excellence (Inaugural recipient), 2024
North American Membrane Society

Roman Shrestha, PhD, MPH
2024 Deborah J. Bowen Early Career Investigator Award
HIV and Sexual Health SIG Early Career Award
Society of Behavioral Medicine

Dr. Cato Laurencin
University Professor
Inventor of the Year Award, 2023
Intellectual Property Owners Education Foundation

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Diane Burgess
Board of Trustees Distinguished
Professor of Pharmacy
Alice E. Till Advancement of
Women in Science Awards, 2023
American Association of
Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS)

Jose E. Manautou
Professor, Pharmacy
Division for Toxicology Career
Award, 2023
American Society of
Pharmacology and Experimental
Therapeutics (ASPET)

Yohei Igarashi, Associate
Professor, English
2023-2024 Fellow, National
Humanities Center
2023 National Endowment for the
Humanities Summer Stipend

Kathryn Blair Moore,
Associate Professor, Art and Art
History
Samuel H. Kress Senior Fellow,
2023-2024
National Gallery of Art

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Selected Faculty Awards

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Nancy Schmieder Redeker
Professor of Nursing
2023 Katharine A. Lembright
Award & Lecture
Council on Cardiovascular and
Stroke Nursing (CVSN), American
Heart Association

Ruth Lucas, Ph.D., RNC, CLS, FAAN
Associate Professor, Nursing
2023 ISONG Founders Award for
Excellence in Genomic Nursing
Education
International Society of Nurses In
Genetics

Cynthia Jones
Professor Emeritus, Ecology and
Evolutionary Biology
2023 Charles Edwin Bessey
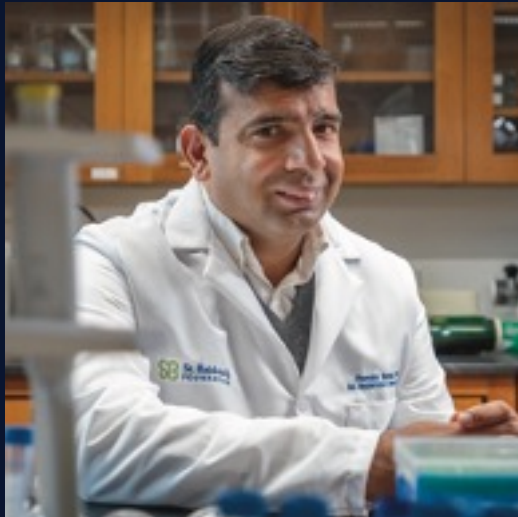Teaching Award
Botanical Society of America

Daniel I. Bolnick,
Professor, Ecology and Evolutionary
Biology
2023 ASN Distinguished Naturalist
Award
American Society of Naturalists

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Selected Faculty Awards

Early Career Awardees

Raman Bahal
Emerging Leader Award, 2023
American Association of
Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS)
Young Investigator Award, 2023
The Oligonucleotide Therapeutic
Society

Daniel Anglés-Alcázar
Assistant Professor, Physics
2023 Cottrell Scholars Award
Research Corporation for Science
Advancement

Caiwen Ding, Assistant Professor,
School of Computing
CAREER Award
National Science Foundation

Dongjin Song, Assistant Professor,
School of Computing
CAREER Award
National Science Foundation

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12 Faculty Members Elected to the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering

Ali M. Bazzi • Indrajeet Chaubey • Bodhisattwa Chaudhuri

Yupeng Chen • Caroline N. Dealy • Lindsay J. DiStefano

Avinash Dongare • Liisa T. Kuhn • Yi Li

Rebecca Page • Wolfgang Peti • David Pierce

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Selected Faculty Awards

Zeljko Mirkovic
Associate Research Professor,
Werth Institute

NIKI PILIC: THE LEGEND

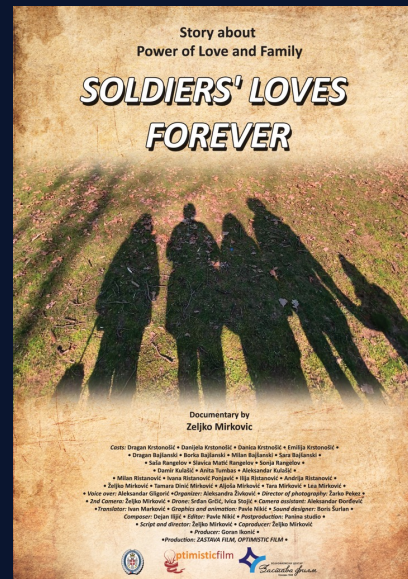**BEST SPORT FILM & BEST BIOGRAPHY DOCUMENTARY FEATURE**
New Cinema Festival
BRAZILIAN FILM ACADEMY AWARDS 2024

Gold Award - FEATURE DOCUMENTARY December 2023
HOLLYWOOD GOLD AWARDS

among other awards

SOLDIERS' LOVES FOREVER

BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE
International Network Film Festival
KEITH HARING Pop Cinema Awards in New York, February 2023

BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE
Frida Film Festival
VINCENT VAN GOGH Cinema and Audiovisual Art Awards 2023

among other awards

Selected Research Awards: Health

Rachel Cohen, Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention and Policy (InCHIP)
CT Start Early Intervention Study, CT Office of Early Childhood, $9,864,169
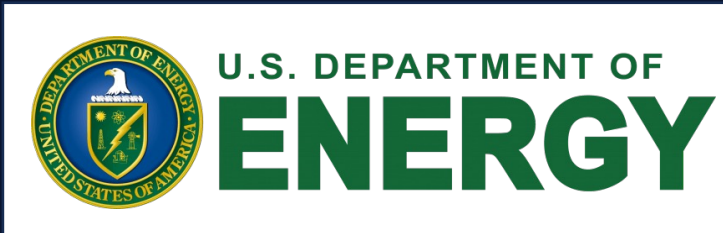

Jeffrey Hoch, PI,   School of Medicine
Biological Magnetic Resonance Data Bank
NIH, $3.7M

Kenneth Pugh, PI - College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Tracking Neurocognitive Changes During Evidence-Based Reading Instruction in Typically and Atypically Developing Children
NIH $3.1M

Anna Tarakanova, PI – College of Engineering
Multiscale Effects of Aging on Elastic Arterial Tissue Mechanics
NIH $3.1M;

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Selected Research Awards: Clean Energy and Engineering

Ravi Gorthala, PI, Pratt & Whitney Institute for Advanced Systems Engineering
U.S. Department of Energy Onsite Energy Technical Analysis And Support Center (DOE OE-TASC)
DOE - $7,979,346

Xiao-Dong Zhou, PI - College of Engineering
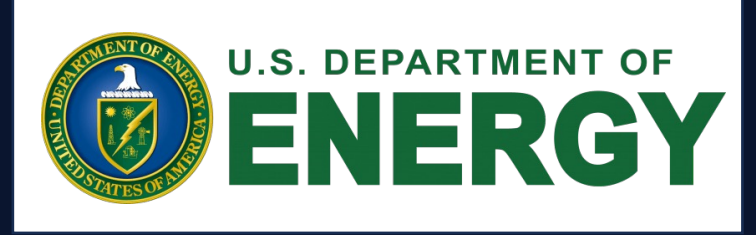High Performance Metal-Supported SOFC System For Range Extension Of Commercial Aviation
DOE - $4.5M

Kay Wille, PI - - School of Engineering
Long-Term Risk Management and Mitigation Strategies of Crumbling Foundation
DOC - $4.0M

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UConn Participates in Clean Hydrogen Projects
Clean Hydrogen Electrolysis, Manufacturing, and Recycling Activities under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

PI: Jasna Jankovic (Q. Yang, Co-PI)
Sponsor: Plug Power. Total grant: $45,700,000; UConn requested amount: $1,500,000 / Cost Share: $375,000
Title: Gigawatt Scale Electrolyzer Component Manufacturing and Stack Assembly

PI: Jasna Jankovic (S. Bliznakov, Co-PI)
Sponsor: Mott Corporation
Total grant: $10,000,000. UConn requested amount: $1,680,000 / Cost Share: $420,000
Title: Advanced Porous Transport Layer Design and Manufacturing for PEM Electrolyzers

PI: Xiao-Dong Zhou (S. Bliznakov, S. Santos, Y. Wang, and N. Xu, Co-PIs)
Sponsor: NexTech (d.b.a. Nexceris)
Total grant: $30,000,000. UConn requested amount: $750,000 / Cost Share: $187,678
Title: High Temperature Electrolysis Cell and Stack Cost Reduction

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Commencement

Storrs: May 4, 5, 6
UConn Health: May 6
Law: May 12

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