

Academic Affairs UPDATE

June 18, 2026



INSIGHTS

From the Provost

The past few weeks have demonstrated, yet again, the outstanding quality and achievements of our faculty. At its recent meeting, the Board of Trustees recognized three faculty as [Board of Trustees Distinguished Professors](#): Dr. Bruce Liang, Prof. Jeffrey Ogbar, and Prof. Rebecca Puhl. Individually, they have made outstanding contributions in scholarship, teaching, and public impact; as a group, they reflect the breadth and depth of talent at UConn.

We are very proud of our faculty who have received coveted national and international recognitions for their work. Recent examples include [Prof. Thomas Blum](#), department of physics, who received the prestigious Humboldt Research Award from the German Alexander von Humbolt Foundation and [Prof. V Penelope Pellizzon](#), department of English, who received a Guggenheim Fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. [Prof. Sir Cato T. Laurencin](#) was once again recognized for his extraordinary contributions by being appointed to the Charles M. and Martha Hitchcock Professorship at the University of California, Berkeley, for the 2026-2027 academic year. What makes these awards very special is that they are given to scholars from many disciplines, reflecting a broad recognition of the significance of their work. Please join me in congratulating these and all of our faculty on their achievements.

As you may know, my interim appointment has come to an end, and I look forward to working with you on a permanent basis. Please see President Maric's [announcement](#) in UConn Today for details.

Hoping your summer is going well,

Pamir Alpay
Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

NEWS



Three Faculty Named Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor

Join us in congratulating Dr. Bruce Liang, School of Medicine, Prof. Jeffrey Ogbar, Department of History, and Prof. Rebecca Puhl, Department of Human Development and Family Sciences, on receiving the title of Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor for their outstanding contributions in teaching, scholarship, and service.

[Read more](#)



Helping Huskies Rise

The RISE (Resilience, Inclusion, Success, and Equity) program is helping students from populations that have been historically underrepresented in higher education not only succeed, but thrive at UConn.

[Read more](#)



Expanding Access to Study Abroad

22 UConn students were awarded Gilman Scholarships in the past two cohorts. The Gilman Scholarship expands participation in study abroad programs by providing financial support to Pell-Grant eligible students.

[Read more](#)

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