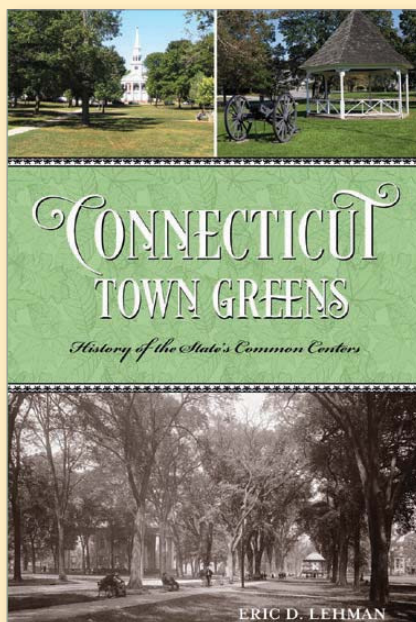


Book Lines



Creative Writing Director **Eric D. Lehman**

continues to explore Connecticut's rich history with his eleventh book, **Connecticut Town Greens** (Globe Pequot). The Nutmeg State has 170 town or village greens that still exist today.

Dating back to Colonial times, they served as the physical and spiritual centers for the state's first communities. Today, many town greens continue to be the center of town events, fairs, and other gatherings.

Connecticut Town Greens explores the history of these remarkable greens and provides a guide to current events.

— Leslie Geary

Faculty Lines



Bridging the Digital Divide

STEM—the acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math—may be the key to future success, but studies show that too many urban and low-income students are missing out because they don't have access to information technologies.

That concerns **Dr. Navarun Gupta**, chairman of UB's Department of Electrical Engineering. For the past decade, he's teamed up with Bridgeport public school teacher Ron Rapice to lead semester-long computer classes for eighth graders at Columbus School, where 99 percent of the students are from low-income households.

"STEM education is very much desired now, and schools are not providing enough skills for students to succeed," says Gupta. "This will prepare them."

Gupta, who volunteers his time, and Rapice recently kicked off their latest course, which is bigger than ever. This semester, approximately 15 students from the Talented and Gifted Program at Columbus, Roosevelt, and Cesar Batalla Schools in Bridgeport meet

with Gupta at UB's Technology Building to learn computer skills that they'll use on a final project.

"They get exposed to the University, and they get to meet other students and faculty," says Gupta. "Hopefully, this will encourage them to go to university after they graduate."

Adds Rapice: "It is so important for students now to have a good grasp of STEM principles, and for the past decade, [School of Engineering Dean] Tarek Sobh and Dr. Gupta have been so generous in donating their time and facilities to help our students to reach this goal." ■ — Leslie Geary

