

## **Expanded Personal Statement – Dr. Robert W. Makuch**

My journey with UConn began in 1968 when I entered as a freshman at the Storrs campus. I quickly learned how to integrate myself into college life and "The Jungle," the raucous set of freshman dorms. Here, I developed disciplined reasoning, an indispensable trait among many others I developed at UConn, which I maintain to this day.

Another memorable aspect of UConn is the extensive support and guidance provided by numerous faculty members and fellow students—a hallmark that I still treasure. My UConn CLAS education instilled in me the personal and academic confidence to attend leading graduate schools, including Yale, where I received my Ph.D. in 1977. In 2008, I was honored with a Distinguished Alumni Award from UConn. This recognition deepened my commitment to UConn and fueled my desire to give back all that UConn provided me with as the son of a factory worker.

I was selected to serve for ten years on the CLAS Dean's External Advisory Board. This position helped me identify opportunities to fulfill my goal of supporting UConn. I established an endowed fund to support an annual invited lecture series, enabling renowned external scholars to present their current research to UConn faculty and students. The success of this initial fund led me to create a second, larger endowed fund to support faculty research in mathematics and data sciences. The creation and success of these entities underscored the lifelong impact UConn has in enriching the lives of faculty and students.

As an active alumnus and proud Husky, I have participated in numerous UConn activities for decades. I attend multiple events and enjoy hearing about the current successes and concerns impacting alumni, faculty, staff, and students. I am a passionate supporter of UConn sports, attending many men's and women's basketball events and men's football games. Participating in these activities, I came to understand alumni interests better. I aim to leverage my UConn experiences to strongly support initiatives that enhance the University's academic exceptionalism, reputation, Husky pride, and the career development of its faculty and alumni.

Currently, I am continuing my leadership activities and serving on corporate boards, public service initiatives, and non-profit organizations. I aim to promote public health and provide a better future for all. I remain dedicated to pursuing this lifelong dream through my ongoing involvement in education, academic research in public health, and practical creation and improvement of health-related programs.

Attending the University of Connecticut was among the best decisions I ever made. It prepared me to become a well-rounded citizen of the world and play a critical role in my personal and professional development as a teacher and scholar.

I live in Westport, Connecticut, with my wife, Jin, and our teenage son, who is off to college this fall. We enjoy spending time outdoors together with family and friends at every opportunity.