



## Changes at the Top



Thomas  
Dorer

The University announced in July the selection of Thomas Dorer as its new general counsel and secretary. Dorer comes to the University of Hartford from West Virginia University, where he was general counsel for the past five years. He succeeds Charles Condon, who retired after 38 years of service to the University.

"I am delighted we have been able to attract someone of Tom Dorer's caliber to such an important leadership position at the University," said President Harrison. "He has an unmatched combination of education and experience in education and education law."

The departure on June 1 of Provost Donna Randall to become president of Albion College, a liberal arts school in Michigan, left an empty chair on the academic side that has been temporarily filled by Joseph Voelker, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Voelker is now interim provost of the University, and longtime faculty member Harry Workman, professor of chemistry, is serving as interim dean of A&S, both for the 2007–08 academic year. A search committee has begun identifying candidates for the provost position. ■

## Come Fly with Us

## FRESHMEN ROOSTING IN NEW RESIDENCE FACILITY THIS FALL

Where once students wore a path through the woods as a shortcut from their dorms to the Hog River bridge, a five-story brick and glass beauty now stands. Tall and slender, it rises from the new Alumni Plaza like a large ship, its bow pointing toward the bridge.

To introduce the new building to faculty and staff, President Walter Harrison invited them to join him for a Hawk Hall sleepover the evening of Mon., Aug. 13. Approximately 30 members of the University community gathered in the first-floor lounge for an informal dinner before joining Harrison on an evening stroll through the residential side of campus. Fourteen people, including the president and regent Robert K. Killian Jr., spent the night.

Roz Reaback '77, a sleepover participant and director of major and leadership gifts at the University, was clearly impressed with the new facility, saying, "I'm proud that the University has a showcase dorm like this."

This newest facility on campus is a "residential learning community" in which each wing of the building houses students with a shared focus. Faculty and staff associates are assigned to each wing and will develop special programming related to the corresponding themes throughout the academic year. The top floor's theme is leadership. Wings on the other floors are dedicated to honors; environmental awareness; women in science, engineering, and technology; wellness; cultural exploration; and Hawk spirit.

Officially christened Hawk Hall by faculty and staff, it is home to 204 first-year students, sharing 102 rooms, and 8 resident assistants. Lounge areas on each floor have

floor-to-ceiling windows, offering panoramic views of the campus in all directions. The main floor includes a spacious lounge with a large, flat-screen TV as well as two "smart" classrooms and a kitchen.

"Hawk Hall was designed to encourage maximum interaction among first-year students," says Irwin Nussbaum, associate vice president and director of residential life. "Students who don't feel connected to their school through friends and common experiences are less likely to continue their studies at the University."

Competition for rooms in Hawk Hall was stiff. First-year students who wished to live there were required to write an essay about their special-interest topic when they applied. Residents were selected based on the quality of the essays.

Windows on the west side of the building overlook Alumni Plaza, a new gathering place for students. Just across the plaza, the Hawk's Nest is being transformed with multiple TV screens and an ESPN-like decorating theme.

"I live in the Hawk spirit wing," says Michelle Babin '11, a member of the Hawks women's soccer team. "It's really beautiful. Dean [of Students and Vice President of Student Affairs] Lee Peters is organizing a pep rally for our wing when everyone has moved in. I can tell it's going to be a fun place to live." ■

## Beyond Feng Shui

UNIVERSITY OFFERS FIRST COURSE IN ELEMENTARY CHINESE

In response to requests from students and a general awareness of China's increasing importance, the University is offering its first course in elementary Mandarin Chinese this fall semester.

"We are very happy and excited to be offering this new course in Chinese," says Jane Horvath, associate dean of curriculum and academic planning in the College of Arts and Sciences. "The initial inquiry about the course came from Barney [School], but students from across the campus have enrolled."

The course introduces the Pinyin pronunciation system, the fundamentals of written characters, basic sentence structure, grammar, and beginning conversational skills. Additional materials on Chinese culture and the Chinese language are made available.

Feng Zhou, the instructor for the course, has taught Chinese at Boston University and Miss Porter's School in Farmington, Conn. He has a bachelor's from Shanghai International Studies University and a master's from Central Connecticut State University. ■