



(Top row, left) Mort and Irma Handel with an architect's rendering of the new Handel Center; (top row, right) shortly after the construction kickoff, the heavy equipment moved onto the site; (bottom row, left) President Harrison, in hard hat, thanked the Handels for their longtime support of the project; (bottom row, right) (l-r) Debra A. Palermino, corporate vice president, MassMutual Financial Group; Linda Kelly, president, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving; Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez; U.S. Rep. John B. Larson; Peter Eio, chair, Board of Regents; and Gov. M. Jodi Rell were among the speakers.



Handels Helped Make It Happen

UNIVERSITY KICKS OFF PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

With the weathered brick façade of the former Thomas Cadillac distributorship as a backdrop, state and local officials, neighborhood residents, and members of the University community came together on a sunny June morning for a festive construction kickoff and naming ceremony for the University's newest building project, the Performing Arts Center.

At the ceremony, President Walter Harrison announced that the 55,000-square-foot main building of the complex has been named the Mort and Irma Handel Performing Arts Center.

"Mort and Irma Handel have shared our vision for this project from the beginning. Their \$1.5 million commitment—the largest gift from individual donors to the project—is just the latest chapter in their long history of support for the University of Hartford, The Hartt School, and the Hartford arts community," Harrison said. Mort Handel, chairman

of the board of Marvel Entertainment, has been a trustee of The Hartt School and a regent of the University since 1990. Irma Handel is a trustee of the Hartford Art School, Inc.

"This is all about commitment. It's all about something I said five years ago in the Commencement address when I received the honorary doctorate from the University," said Mort Handel. "It's about leaving your mark.... It's about giving back to the community.... [And] the University of Hartford is part of the Hartford community."

The project will transform the former Cadillac distributorship in north Hartford, providing much-needed space for The Hartt School's Theatre and Dance divisions while also serving as an economic catalyst and cultural resource for the Upper Albany and Blue Hills neighborhoods. It is expected to open in the fall of 2008.

Speakers included Connecticut Gov. M. Jodi Rell; U.S. Rep. John B. Larson; Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez; Linda Kelly, president of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving; Debra A. Palermino, corporate vice president for MassMutual Financial Group; Mort Handel; Board of Regents Chair Peter Eio; President Harrison; and Hartt School Dean Malcolm Morrison.

Funding for the \$21 million Handel Center has come from federal, state, and city governments; individual donors; and corporations and foundations, including MassMutual Financial Group and the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. ■

To see video clips of remarks made by some of the speakers, please visit www.hartford.edu/daily. Click on the Search button and then enter "June 19, 2007." The article is called "University Kicks Off Performing Arts Center."



Vanessa Golembewski '09 (left) with friend and benefactor Nicholas Galluccio '72. As the first Galluccio Scholar, Golembewski will receive \$10,000 toward her expenses in both her junior and senior years at the University.

Opening Doors for Outstanding Students

ALUMNUS ENDOWS SCHOLARSHIP IN THE LIBERAL ARTS

Meet Vanessa Golembewski '09, an English major with a 3.25 GPA who writes poetry and loves to play Ultimate Frisbee. Golembewski is the first recipient of the Galluccio Scholarship, a two-year scholarship awarded to sophomores in the humanities and the politics and government programs at the University. It provides \$10,000 a year for both their third and fourth years of study.

Golembewski has been financing her education herself through jobs, scholarships, and student loans. When her grandmother called her over spring break to tell her that she had received the Galluccio Scholarship, Golembewski says it was a complete surprise. It turns out she had not applied for the scholarship but was nominated by several of her professors.

"I cried," she says about that phone call. "English majors don't get that many opportunities to earn major scholarships. I am very grateful that I was selected."

The academic scholarship was endowed by a \$250,000 gift in 2005 from Nicholas Galluccio, a group managing director at Trust Company of the West's New York office and a University regent. Galluccio received a bachelor's in English from the University in 1972 and went on to earn both a master's in English and an MBA from Columbia University.

Asked why he made the gift to the University of Hartford rather than to Columbia, Galluccio replied, "Because I really believe that the undergraduate education is the most important. Also, I liked the idea of giving back and creating something that will outlive me. My hope is that it will help the University prosper in the 21st century."

And how does he feel about the first student to benefit from his gift?

"When I met Vanessa for the first time in [then] Dean Joe Voelker's office, we talked for 30 minutes. I was and still am very impressed with her. Both Joe and I agreed that we would be hard pressed to find a better first candidate for the scholarship." ■

Athletics Donors

Joseph F. Coughlin '80 (below top), pictured here with wife Patty and children Ryan and Samantha, was a three-sport athlete at the University of Hartford. The lobby of the Sports Center was recently named in his honor. Coughlin, who is the founder and CEO of Corporate Risk Solutions LLC, is a member of the Circle of Commitment as a major donor to the Home Field Advantage Campaign.



Dr. Michael Gargano Jr. '78, pictured here with his mother, Marie Gargano, served in various roles (student-athlete, coach, administrator, and advancement officer) during more than a decade of service to the University of Hartford. A member of the Circle of Commitment as a major donor to the Home Field Advantage Campaign, Gargano was recently honored as the Sports Center's conference room was named for him. He is currently the vice chancellor for student affairs and campus life at the University of Massachusetts. ■

Hartt Supporters Take Their Seats

Gala attendees fund new permanent seating in Berkman Auditorium

Hartt Celebrates!, The Hartt School's annual fundraiser, held at the Hilton Hartford hotel in April, brought together students, faculty, and supporters for an outstanding evening of fine food, stellar performances, and silent and live auctions.

Proceeds from the event, which raised more than \$40,000, are earmarked for improvements to performance facilities in Fuller Music Center. A particular success was the "Take Your Seat!" campaign to fund comfortable, permanent seating in Berkman Auditorium. Guests made commitments to purchase nearly all of the 90 new seats required.

Students from Hartt's Music, Theatre, and Vocal Studies divisions, as well as the Community Division music and dance departments, provided the evening's entertainment. Radio personality Colin McEnroe of WTIC Talk Radio 1080 was guest auctioneer for the live auction, which featured private, in-home concerts by Hartt faculty members, accompanied by gourmet meals provided by area caterers.

Watson Morrison, piano professor emeritus; oboe Professor Humbert Lucarelli; double bass Professor Robert Black; the Music Education faculty; and the Miami String Quartet, Hartt's professional quartet-in-residence, all offered their services.

Hartt has announced that *Hartt Celebrates!* will return to the Hilton on April 5, 2008. For more information, contact Hartt Public Relations at 860.768.4862. ■



Robert (left) and Francine Goldfarb, longtime supporters of The Hartt School, share a moment at the Hartt gala with President Walter Harrison.



Frances Blumenthal '62

In Their Own Words

MEMBERS OF THE PLANNED GIVING SOCIETY
TELL THEIR STORIES

Few people care to contemplate their mortality, and certainly not enough people take the time to plan their legacies. But those who do are usually happy to share their stories with others. Through the Founders' Society, hundreds of people have set up charitable provisions for the University of Hartford in a variety of thoughtful ways, and now any of us can read those stories on the University's website, www.hartford.edu/plannedgiving.

The purpose of the Founders' Society is to publicly recognize and celebrate the thoughtful foresight of its current members, in many cases long before the University receives the financial benefit of their generosity. In the meantime, we hope that future generations will be able to understand and appreciate why these generous people chose to entrust the University of Hartford with their gifts. Their stories should also inspire or encourage like-minded people to follow in their footsteps. As a new feature of the University's planned giving website, online visitors will be able to read stories, often written by the donors themselves, about their reasons and motivations for giving.

Frances Blumenthal '62 (A&S) chose a gift plan that provides her with income for life and leaves a legacy to the University at

her passing. In addition to being a generous donor, Blumenthal is also a teacher, mother, grandmother, businesswoman, and a writer who believes in the value of sharing stories. Her essay, "Why I Chose to Give My Money to UoffH after Attending Every College in Greater Hartford between 1957 and 1967," offers a frank, sometimes poignant, and often humorous account of her pursuit of higher education while raising three children. Blumenthal is the first Founders' Society member to contribute to an online compendium of donors' stories that will preserve and promote the rich legacies of the University of Hartford.

After you read Blumenthal's story in the "Donor Stories" section of the Planned Giving website, you may also want to explore the links there that can lead you to a wealth of information about gift planning. Try out the "Gift Calculator," look for updates on opportunities created by recent legislation such as the Charitable IRA rollover, or refer your financial advisor to the site. ■

Director of Planned Giving, Peter H. Congleton, invites you to take a look at the website and welcomes you to contact him with any questions you may have at 860.768.2415 or congleton@hartford.edu.

Going Once... Going Twice... Sold!

ANTIQUES ROADSHOW AUCTIONEER HELPS RAISE \$210,000



(left) Bob and Renée Samuels celebrate the opening of the Renée Samuels Center at the Hartford Art School at the Hartford Art School's spring gala.

(right) Nicholas M. Dawes, expert appraiser for the *Antiques Roadshow* on PBS, conducted a live auction of artwork that helped raise more than \$200,000.



To celebrate the opening of the new Renée Samuels Center, the Hartford Art School held an elegant gala and art auction in April that drew more than 400 guests. Renée and Bob Samuels, generous supporters of the Hartford Art School and the University of Hartford, pledged a \$1.1 million lead gift to the project in spring 2006.

A number of distinctive prints and photographs by such well-known artists as Jim Dine, Robert Indiana, Susan Rothenberg, and Jules Olitski were auctioned off. Many of the pieces were created by the artists while in residency at the Hartford Art School.

International antiques dealer Nicholas M. Dawes, an expert appraiser for the *Antiques Roadshow* on PBS, conducted the live auction. Net proceeds from the live and silent auctions plus ticket revenues came to \$210,000.

"The Hartford Art School gala was one of the greatest such events in the University's history, . . . thanks in great measure to the wonderful work of Joan Hurwit and a great committee of volunteers," said University President Walter Harrison. Hurwit, a member of the HAS board of trustees and a former University regent, chairs the Special Events Committee that planned the gala.

The S/L/A/M Collaborative designed and built the architecturally striking 15,000-square-foot addition to Taub Hall that houses photography and media arts as well as expanded space for the painting and drawing department, the printmaking department, and the foundation studies program. ■

It Was a Very Good Year

University raises more than \$15 million in fiscal year '07

When the books closed on June 30 at the end of the University's fiscal year, the total amount raised came to \$15,560,188. According to Vice President for Institutional Advancement Don Rizzo, this is the second-highest fundraising year total in University history, an increase of 15 percent over the prior year and 38 percent above two years earlier. Contributions came from 8,727 donors, 10 percent more than the previous year and 18 percent more than two years ago. Last year's success brought the University's Campaign of Commitment total to \$155.7 million.

Rizzo said he is grateful to the University's alumni, parents, and friends for their generous support. "People who care about the University of Hartford see the strides we have taken in recent years and are stepping forward to help us build on the momentum we have achieved," Rizzo said. "Every donor makes a difference—whether a University regent who makes the lead gift for a new building, parents who fund

scholarships so other children can receive the same quality education their child is receiving, a company or foundation that helps us create a new program to benefit society, or an alumnus who makes a gift each year to the Annual Fund—all gifts and grants enable the University to continue improving our programs and facilities. This helps us recruit and retain the best faculty and students while maintaining a consistently balanced budget."

In addition to raising endowment gifts and general operating funds, the Campaign of Commitment provides the resources needed to construct new facilities. Last year, gifts raised provided funding to construct new athletic fields for soccer, lacrosse, baseball, and softball through the Home Field Advantage; the Renée Samuels Center for the Hartford Art School; and the Mort and Irma Handel Performing Arts Center for The Hartt School. ■