Greetings from the College of Arts and Sciences!

In this edition, we have much to celebrate. This past spring, we recognized two alumni and three faculty for their outstanding achievements. In addition, we honored five faculty who retired after nearly 150 years of service to the University of Hartford.

We also highlight three individuals. One of our faculty took her teaching expertise on the road to help universities in Afghanistan build their curriculum and train their teachers. Our alumnus and student stories illustrate their fond memories of learning opportunities in and outside the classroom.

Please share your story with us. Who and what do you remember most fondly from your University of Hartford experience? Where has that experience taken you? We’d love to hear about it.

Katherine A. Black
Dean and Professor of Psychology
aandsdean@hartford.edu

For information on included stories and more, please go to hartford.edu/a_and_s/express.

2017 ARTS AND SCIENCES AWARDS CEREMONY

On March 28th, the College of Arts and Sciences recognized two exceptional alumni and three outstanding faculty members.

The Board of Advisors Alumni Awards celebrate the value of a liberal arts education and recognize the significant achievements of Arts and Sciences alumni who make a difference in their professions and/or their communities.

The Outstanding Faculty Awards celebrate the faculty’s significant impact on students, accomplishments in their respective fields of study, and dedication to the University by recognizing outstanding contributions in teaching, scholarship, and/or service.

Learn about the honorees on page four.
While at the University of Hartford, Eric Moreira had a number of opportunities to apply what he learned in his classes. “What helped me in my career path post-graduation was my student internships,” Moreira writes. “Real world career experience is very important.”

Moreira gained that real world experience both on and off campus. As a communication major with a focus on radio and television, he was in the studio early on. “I enjoyed the radio communications course,” Eric recalls. “The final project we did in the class was to produce a 30- or 60-second radio advertisement.” As a sophomore, Moreira was able to intern in television news production at NBC Connecticut in West Hartford. That same year, he became a disc jockey at University radio station WWUH. “I grew up listening to the local college radio stations in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, so I always had an interest in being involved with college radio,” Moreira writes. Through his senior year, Moreira stayed active at WWUH. “I hosted a hip-hop and dance music radio show on Sunday nights.”

During Moreira’s junior and senior years, he also took advantage of an opportunity to be a teaching assistant, helping Professor Michael Graziano in the same radio communications course that inspired him. Part of his role was to assist with hands-on radio production projects in the School of Communication’s studio and share his experience. “I enjoyed the fact that I was able to help students learn.”

Another internship the following year with Fidelity Investments in Providence, R.I., introduced Moreira to the world of finance. “I noticed there were a number of areas within this industry, providing a good opportunity for job growth.” When he returned to campus for his senior year, he supplemented his communication and production courses with some basic business courses. After graduation, Moreira went to work full time at Fidelity Investments in Boston, and he eventually earned five brokerage and insurance licenses. Currently, Moreira works as a registered principal and client relationship manager at Essex Financial Services in its new office in Fairfield, Conn.

Moreira has not left his disc jockey days behind him. He took the experience he gained working as a DJ at campus events and opened up Moreira Events, where he provides professional DJ services from New Jersey to New Hampshire, including the weddings of a few University of Hartford alumni. “I still keep in touch with a lot of people from UHart,” he tells us.

As for his college experience, Moreira says in the end it was the people who made it special. “It was great meeting people from all over the country and the world,” Moreira writes. “What stands out to me is my classmates and friendships.”

In addition to her classes, Elizabeth Martin has made use of a number of opportunities at the University. She spent the fall of her sophomore year studying abroad at Regents’ College in London. “It was pretty amazing,” she recalls. “I came back more adventurous.” Back on campus she has been a student worker with the All-University Curriculum office and the Arts and Sciences’ Dean’s office, which enabled her to meet faculty from all over the University. She also became a college ambassador and says she enjoyed working with her fellow ambassadors, who, “give prospective students a personal experience of being here at the University of Hartford.” By her junior year, Martin also began working with Psychology Professor Leonard Milling on research related to the psychological interventions for pain.

As if all that did not keep Martin busy enough, she joined the service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega, and eventually became the organization’s president. “I like being surrounded by a group of people as dedicated to service as I am,” she says. This spring, Alpha Phi Omega held its second 5K Run for Stand Up to Cancer, an event that Martin established and organized. She says she created the event because she, “wanted to work on something bigger than our campus in our local community.” The 5K has been a massive success, raising thousands of dollars for cancer research and becoming a regular part of Alpha Phi Omega’s service program that will continue after Martin graduates.

So with all of her classes and activities, Martin was asked what the most memorable part was about her years at the University. “My friends,” she replies quickly. “I feel like schoolwork isn’t the only thing in the long run.”
Beth Richards, assistant professor in the Department of English and Modern Languages, knows that effective writing is the foundation of any degree program, not just those in the liberal arts. So it is not surprising that as the University’s director of First- and Second-Year Writing, she has worked extensively with the faculty in the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture (CETA), for example, to improve writing in their programs. This work led to Richards traveling halfway around the world to Afghanistan to train university faculty in effective teaching and active learning techniques.

Richards partnered with CETA Professor M. Saleh Keshawarz on a two-year grant through the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Embassy in Kabul. Keshawarz’s contacts within Afghanistan and Richards’ experience developing English and writing curricula, meant that the University of Hartford was well-suited to make a difference in that country’s educational community. While Afghanistan has state universities such as Herat University in the western part of the country, limited space and funding mean not every qualified student can attend a state college. This dilemma has led to the establishment of private universities that need to ensure the quality of their programs. Richards helped members of the Private Universities Union of Northern Afghanistan (PUUNA) develop their new curricula.

“We spent the first year just gathering data and making assessments,” Richards recalls. “We needed to know what we were starting with.” It became clear that an English language curriculum was only one area of need. These new universities needed assistance with administrative structures and performing financial functions as well.

Another hurdle was travel. Many countries restrict visas for Afghan nationals, so the workshops had to be held in other countries. In March 2016, Richards conducted training for English-language teachers in Delhi, India. Topics included active learning, student-centered teaching, and classroom management. Member institutions of PUUNA hope to eventually be recognized by Afghanistan’s Ministry of Higher Education, so their programs need to be prepared to align with national, as well as local standards. In October, a second workshop was held in Dubai for senior administrators (chancellors and vice-chancellors). In addition to addressing fundamental structures of the institutions, the project hoped to foster partnerships within the region so that the community of institutions could share best practices.

Five faculty members have retired this year, with a combined total of nearly a century and a half of service to the University.

» Michael Anderson, PhD, professor of computer science, came to the University in 1995. His research has included diagrammatic reasoning and machine ethics.

» Donald Ellis, PhD, professor of communication, has conducted research about culture and conflict. He had been at the University of Hartford since 1986.

» Benedict Pollina, PhD, associate professor of mathematics, came to the University in 1975. The primary focus of his career has been on the application of technology to the teaching of mathematics.

» Joseph Voelker, PhD, professor of English, is a scholar of Irish and American literature. He started at the University in 2003 and has served as dean of the college, interim provost, and most recently as the director of the Presidents’ College.

» John Williams, PhD, associate professor of mathematics, came to the University in 1984. His research area is complex variables, although more recently he has been active in adapting technology for teaching and developing flipped courses.

In addition, other members of the faculty and staff are celebrating anniversaries this year.

» 40 years: Roger Desmond

» 35 years: Robert Duran and Vincent Motto

» 30 years: Robert Decker

» 25 years: Diego Benardete, Caryn Christensen, and Randy Jacobs

» 20 years: Maria Esposito Frank, Warren Goldstein, Donald Jones, and James Shattuck

» 15 years: Mark Blackwell, Sharmon Kennedy, Linda Scacco, Karen Schermerhorn, T. Stores, Erin Striff, and Lynn Thibodeau

» 10 years: Lauren Cook, Marco Cupolo, Aime Levesque, Deborah Perleoni, Beth Richards, and Bryan Sinche

» 5 years: Allison Joslyn
Montgomery B. Douglas grew up in Dominica, West Indies, where he was number 15 in a family of 16. He credits his start to life in America to the foundation he received at the University of Hartford, where he matriculated shortly after arriving in this country at age 19. He ultimately graduated summa cum laude with a BS in chemistry/biology, was president of the Chemistry Club, and earned the Regents Honor Award and membership in the Alpha Chi Honors Society. He was admitted to medical school a year early, after spending only three years at the University. He later graduated from Cornell University Medical School in 1986.

Douglas has been in primary care practice for his entire career and has received over a dozen awards, including the New York State Academy of Family Physicians’ Family Practice Educator of the Year Award in 1997, and being listed as an American Top Doctor by Castle Connolly each year from 1998 to 2008. He also founded a nonprofit organization, the NY Portsmouth Roman Catholic Church Rebuilding Initiative, to assist in rebuilding his former church in Dominica, which was destroyed by an earthquake.

Nicholas F. Galluccio, a double major in English and history, earned a BA from the University of Hartford in 1972. He then earned an MA in English from Columbia University in 1973, and an MBA from Columbia Business School in 1978.

Galluccio has been a columnist for Forbes magazine and has been featured in numerous publications, including Barron’s magazine. He has been a guest lecturer at Columbia Business School, most recently on the topic of creative destruction in financial services. He has been instrumental in organizing the “News and Finance Initiative” at Columbia University. He has served on various committees at Middlebury College and Columbia University and has endowed scholarships at the University of Hartford, Columbia Business School, Middlebury College, and Columbia University.

Tony Crespi teaches personality assessment, family therapy, consultation, ethics, and supervision courses primarily to school psychology students. He is a licensed psychologist, licensed marriage and family therapist, a nationally certified school psychologist, and a board-certified psychologist. Crespi was recently cited as the eighth most prolific scholar among school psychology faculty in specialist-level programs, according to a study that looked at the number of publications across a 10-year span.

Benjamin S. Grossberg is a poet and teacher. He is the author of three full-length collections and two chapbooks of poetry. His honors include appearances in the Pushcart and Best American Poetry anthologies, a Lambda Literary Award, and publication prizes for four of his manuscripts. This is his eighth year directing the creative writing concentration here at the University.

Katharine Owens is a teacher, researcher, and artist. She teaches courses on American politics, research methods, public policy, and environmental policy including marine debris and sustainable food systems. She consistently incorporates active learning strategies in her classes and assesses their effectiveness, not only on students’ learning but on their behavior and attitudes as well. In January 2017 she became the director of the All-University Curriculum, the University’s interdisciplinary general education program.