

Hillyer Transitions

News for Alumni of Hillyer College and the former College of Basic Studies

Winter 2006-07

Growing and Glowing

Building a Fire under a Fireplace Company

Carl Spadaro, who graduated from Hillyer in 1978, has a particular interest in the stone produced by the Hekla volcano in Iceland. The stone, known as pumice, is perfect for making fireplaces, chimneys, and hearths.

The perfection of Hekla's pumice matters a lot to Spadaro because he is the president and chief executive officer of Earthcore Industries, a company that imports masonry material made from Iceland's volcanic glass. Hekla's pumice is particularly clean and lightweight, which makes it both strong and useful for insulation.

During the 1980s, Spadaro worked for a number of investment banking firms, including Merrill Lynch and Kidder Peabody. Then, in 1989, he was invited to join the U.S. distributor for Dansk Isokern, a Danish company wanting to break into the fireplace market in America. "People thought I was crazy," says Spadaro. "They couldn't understand why I would go from banking to importing fireplaces. But I thought I would be able to expand the business if I could understand both consumer psychology and how construction trends differ regionally throughout the United States."

Spadaro founded Earthcore Industries, which is based in Jacksonville, Florida, in 1991. He focused on marketing Isokern fireplaces to areas with rapid population growth and on maintaining control of distribution and installation in order to keep a handle on quality, costs, and profitability. The company has grown from a three-person, one-office business with sales of \$200,000 to a company with 70 employees, nine locations, and sales in excess of \$30 million.

continued on page 3



Carl Spadaro, this year's recipient of Hillyer's Distinguished Alumnus Award, stands in front of material made from volcanic pumice that is used in the Isokern chimney systems built by Earthcore Industries. Spadaro is Earthcore's president and chief executive officer.



UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD



Transitions is published twice yearly for friends and alumni of Hillyer College and the former College of Basic Studies. Produced by the Office of Communication.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

via e-mail to
goldenber@hartford.edu
or by mail to
Dean's Office
Hillyer College
University of Hartford
200 Bloomfield Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06117

Dear Alumni and Friends:

I'm particularly excited about the three feature articles in this newsletter because they represent the commitment to excellence that is typical of our students, faculty, and alumni. The people profiled in this issue—alumnus Carl Spadaro, freshman Maki Kobayashi, and faculty member Anthony Rauche—all exhibit a kind of first-class distinction in their areas of expertise. Hillyer College benefits from being associated with them.

It's unusual for a freshman to have "an area of expertise," but that phrase is an understatement when it comes to Maki Kobayashi. A member of the University's golf team, Maki won, qualified, or was a top finisher in a number of major state and national tournaments while he was in high school. The University recruited Maki to help strengthen its golf program, and his performance has helped the team significantly raise its ranking in the national collegiate standings.

Excellence is a perfect word to describe the contributions of faculty member Tony Rauche to Hillyer's rich teaching environment. An associate professor of ethnomusicology, Tony teaches his students about the music of Indonesia, India, Africa, and many other countries. He symbolizes the degree to which our faculty members will go to enliven and energize their classrooms. At a time of increasing globalization, Tony provides his students a life-long lesson by opening their minds, hearts, and ears to other cultures.

In October, I was very happy to be able to present the Distinguished Alumnus Award to Carl Spadaro, president and chief executive officer of Earthcore Industries, a leading company in fireplace and chimney systems. Carl, who graduated from Hillyer in 1978, has the kind of dynamic intensity that makes a great entrepreneur. His business acumen, product innovation, and targeted marketing have led Earthcore through rapid growth over the past 15 years.

In this issue you'll also see an announcement about Hillyer's new Web site, which you can access at www.hartford.edu/hillyer. The site is a dynamic platform that introduces prospective students and their parents to Hillyer's strengths and provides the college community with timely information about our distinguished alumni, dedicated faculty, and engaged students.

We've also included a few pictures of some changes we've made to brighten up Hillyer's hallways using fascinating historical pictures in a timeline beginning with 1957, the year the University of Hartford was founded.

I hope that if you're in the area, you'll drop by to see the changes we've made in our building, and I urge you to visit our new Web site. Best wishes for a truly joyous holiday season.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David H. Goldenberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dean
Hillyer College

Growing from page 1

Under Spadaro's leadership, Earthcore also went from being a one-product business to a 21-product custom wholesale and distribution company selling high-end fireplace systems to architects and contractors. To build on the company's success, Spadaro plans to increase the number of Earthcore offices, start a manufacturing operation for Isokern products in this country, and develop a wood-burning fireplace that is environmentally cleaner.

Spadaro attributes his instinct for finding opportunity in the building and construction industry, at least in part, to his background. He grew up around construction, with a grandfather in the concrete business and a father who worked in the facilities division at Merrill Lynch. "I watched my father oversee the building of a lot of new offices for Merrill Lynch," he says. "It always fascinated me." After Hillyer, Spadaro went on to major in construction management at the University of Florida.

Earthcore's success gives Spadaro a lot of satisfaction, but few things make him prouder than having received, last year, the Medal of Honor from Prince Henrik of Denmark in recognition of his contribution to Danish export. He was the first American to receive the award since 1993. "What an honor," says Spadaro. "It's wonderful working with the Danish people. They're always positive and very generous in acknowledging people."

Spadaro was also named the 2006 Florida entrepreneur of the year by Ernst & Young, and he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Hillyer College this fall. Spadaro is happy with these accolades, but if he has a chance, he might just take his many laurels and lay them at the foot of a volcano in Iceland.

Hillyer Hall Gets Facelift

Removed along with some "interesting" items from these lockers was the bleak and uninspired atmosphere of Hillyer Hall's first floor.



Former Hillyer College faculty member Tony Giorgio and his wife Nina, a University alumna and former staff member, were among those reliving history and popular culture during a reception to celebrate the transformation of Hillyer Hall's ground floor.

Faculty Publications

Marissa Cloutier, instructor in biology and nutrition, and Jacob Harney, associate professor of biology in the College of Arts and Sciences, had their course model for Issues of Health and Society: Weighing In, published by SENCER, a Web site sponsored by the National Science Foundation. The duo first taught the new All-University Curriculum course last spring. SENCER, which encourages student interest in science and math, publishes only four research studies each year.

Woody Doane, professor of sociology, was selected as a Faculty Fellow to the University's Humanities Center. Doane also presented a paper, "New Song, Same Old Tune: Racial Discourse in the Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina," at the annual meeting of the American Sociology Association. His article, "What is Racism? Racial Discourse and Racial Politics," appeared in the journal, *Critical Sociology*.

Darryl McMiller, assistant professor of political science, was selected as a Faculty Fellow to the University's Humanities Center.

Michael Robinson, assistant professor of history, had his book, *The Coldest Crucible: Arctic Exploration and American Culture*, noted as recommended reading in *The Sunday Times* of London. Published by the University of Chicago Press this year, the book examines the struggles faced by expeditions to the North Pole during the late 1800s.

Michele Troy, assistant professor of English, is the recipient of the University's Outstanding Achievement in Pedagogy Award. The award is given for excellence in innovative teaching methods.

Charles Wagar, instructor in mathematics, was recognized by the state of Connecticut for 20 years of service to the Upward Bound program.

Self-taught, Stubborn, and Successful

A Freshman Finds the Fairway

When Masayuki Kobayashi entered Hillyer College this fall on a golf scholarship, he had never taken a golf lesson. Called “Maki” for short, Kobayashi says he likes figuring things out for himself. He must be pretty good at it because he shot six under par at a recent collegiate golf competition in Utah and helped the University of Hartford golf team win the tournament.

Kobayashi was born in Japan and moved to Newington, Conn., from Miami when he was in middle school. He has been competing in golf tournaments for many years. Because of his excellent showing in state and national tournaments during high school, Kobayashi came to the attention of University of Hartford golf coach Bill Poutre, who recruited him for the team.

Since he was quite young, Kobayashi has played a lot of golf with his older brother, Chaki. “My brother would point out things I could do differently,” he says. “I had trouble listening to him a lot of the time. I’m stubborn when it comes to direction, but he kept after me until I at least tried to do it his way.”

When he was still in middle school, Kobayashi would ask the bus driver to drop him off at the golf course on the way home from school. He and his brother played at Indian Hill, where their grandfather had played for many years. “I learned from playing with the members at the golf club,” Kobayashi says. “They had known my grandfather and they were so welcoming. When I was only 11 or 12, they would invite me to make up a threesome

or foursome to play matches.

The coach of the golf team at Newington High School played at that club, too, and he had his eye on me.”

At the age of 14, Kobayashi played in the U.S. Junior Amateur Championship. He was the

youngest person in the field.

When he was in high school, the young golfer fulfilled a goal he had since the eighth grade: winning the Division One State High School Connecticut Golf Tournament. During his high school years, Kobayashi also qualified for the Junior PGA Tour Championship three times and was one of the top 32 players, out of a total of 3,500, in the U.S. Junior Amateur Golf Championship.

Kobayashi, who hopes to become a professional golfer some day, names four golfers he particularly admires. It’s no surprise that Tiger Woods is one of them. The other golfers on his list are three PGA players—Jerry Kelly ’89, Tim Petrovich ’88, and Pat Sheehan ’92—who are former members of Hartford’s golf team.

When asked what he likes most about the game of golf, Kobayashi doesn’t hesitate: “You never have the same shot. There’s constant thought process and creativity. I guess it’s almost like art. When someone paints a picture, they have an idea in their mind of what they want it to look like. I think of a golf shot the same way, and when it’s a good shot, the feeling is indescribable.”



Three former University of Hartford golfers are currently on the professional golf tour. Maki Kobayashi hopes to become the fourth some day.

Maki would ask the bus driver to drop him off at the golf course on the way home from school.

Rauche Opens Students' Minds and Ears

Going Beyond the 3 Bs

They're known as the "three Bs," the ultimate representatives of classical Western music. Anthony T. Rauche, associate professor of ethnomusicology and music theory, has nothing against Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms. He likes them as much as the next guy, but he knows there is literally a world of music outside the three-B box.

Sometimes called the anthropology of music, ethnomusicology explores the music-making activities of people all over the world. So, for example, if you happen to be a student in Rauche's World Music Survey course, you can expect to learn something about raga, a melodic pattern in Indian music; minyo, Korean folk songs; and dangdut, a genre of Indonesian pop music.

Rauche says that music is an excellent way of getting students to open their ears, eyes, and minds to the richness and diversity of other cultures. "We bring in drums," he says, "and get students to beat out the rhythms of Ghana and Nigeria. One culture's music is no better or worse than any other culture's. It's the passion and humanity behind music that makes it universal. There are different styles of expression, but the human being is still there."

"It's the passion and humanity behind music that makes it universal."

—Anthony Rauche

Rauche, who serves as chair of Hillyer's Department of Humanities, studied piano at the New England Conservatory of Music. He came to the University of Hartford in 1975 to teach music theory at The Hartt School. In addition to the World Music Survey course, which is offered cooperatively by Hillyer and Hartt, Rauche has taught Native American Cultures, Immigrant Cultures in America, Global Pop Music, and Ethnic Roots and Urban Arts, a course he helped develop in the late '80s that is still part of the All-University Curriculum.

In his World Music Survey class, Rauche introduces students to the music of Africa, Indonesia, India, South America, Japan, and Korea. He has a particular interest in Korean music and, in 2005, spent three weeks in Seoul in order to study at the National Center for Korean Traditional Performing Arts.

Rauche says that, in general, today's students are more open to different sounds and cultures than students used to be. "It's partly the Internet," he says. "That has opened up whole worlds for people. But students are also more respon-

sive to different kinds of music because they listen to a lot of pop musicians who have been influenced by music from different cultures. It started when the Beatles went to India to study with Ravi Shankar, then Paul Simon became fascinated by African music, and it's gone on from there."

In addition to his teaching schedule, Rauche serves as director of music and organist at the Memorial United Methodist Church in Avon, Conn. If you happened to be one of the people sitting in that particular church on any given Sunday, you might even hear him play a prelude or a hymn that was written by one of the three Bs.



Tony Rauche shows off his kayageum, a 12-string, half-tube, plucked zither supported by 12 movable bridges.



Hillyer College
UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD

200 Bloomfield Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06117

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
UNIVERSITY OF
HARTFORD



Hillyer Transitions

News for Alumni of Hillyer College and the former College of Basic Studies

Winter 2006-07

Check out Hillyer's new Web site

www.hartford.edu/hillyer



Our exciting new site not only provides a wealth of information about the opportunities offered by Hillyer College but also contains profiles of individual students, faculty, and alumni.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Distinguished Alumnus Award Winner
- Hillyer Freshman Golf Standout
- Deck the Halls and No More Lockers
- Beyond Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms