Artist Stew Henderson (HAS ’76) will exhibit 60 pieces of his artwork in the Hartford Art School’s Taub Hall Gallery from September 23 through October 12. The one-man show is a five-year survey of Henderson’s art, from 1995 to the present, and primarily includes wall-hung constructions. An opening reception for the artist is planned for Saturday, September 23, from 5 to 7 p.m.

“My intent with this exhibit is to reveal a visual lineage in my work that will explain at least one approach to making art,” Henderson explains. In addition to common materials like wood, paper, and paint, he enhances his work with less conventional materials, such as birch bark, dragonfly wings, and guitar strings. “I include enough real information, often ambiguous, for the viewer to interpret,” he says, but “the work must also be visually appealing so that people will want to look at it.”

By presenting his work as a five-year survey, Henderson hopes that this exhibit will “help provide an access to contemporary art for others.” He believes that his work lends itself to this type of survey because “the viewer can trace explorations from one idea to the next and discover many intuitive choices as well as some logical decisions.”

While a student at HAS in 1976, the artist apprenticed in wood carving and metalwork to the late Wolfgang Behl, professor of sculpture. He has also been an apprentice in large kinetic sculpture to New Orleans artist Lin Emery.

Of his own artistic process, Henderson says, “So much of my art is about experimentation, the need to continually find new combinations of materials, colors, and textures. These pieces somehow surface and take form,” and “this internal process is what keeps me making art.”

Henderson points out that because he returns to the same places for ideas, “the works have a conceptual lineage that may at first appear nonexistent.” Because of this lineage, “the viewer can trace explorations from one work to the next and discover the intuitive choices as well as the logical decisions. There are recurrent themes throughout this extended body of work that reveal the strong influences of family, nature, and art history.”

Preparator at the Farnsworth Art Museum, Rockland, Maine, since 1993, Henderson has worked for the Frick Gallery in Belfast, Maine, and as a member of the Unity College sculpture faculty in Unity, Maine. He has also been art reviewer for several Maine newspapers. Henderson has held one-man shows at a number of Maine venues and has exhibited with other artists at galleries in Maine, Connecticut, and New York.

The University of Hartford will soon make its cinematic debut on silver screens around the world. Some UofH faculty and students, campus and area locales were recruited for scenes in The Inscrutable Americans, an international feature film that is expected to be shown at film festivals in the United States this fall.

Cast and crew from India and the United States were on campus shooting last winter. The movie, based on the book of the same name by Anurug Mathurs, was completed in June. Sundeep Muppidi, assistant professor of communication, is the film’s associate director and co-screenplay writer. It is largely through his guidance that the project wound its way from India to the University’s West Hartford campus.

Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Mass., and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst campus, were hosts to other location shooting for the film.

The mid-1970s was a dark time for Connecticut’s construction industry. More than 20,000 jobs were...
lost between 1973 and 1976, as OPEC’s oil embargo sent gas prices skyrocketing and this region’s economy tumbling. It was because of this crisis that a few leaders began talking about forming a group that would bring the disparate elements of the industry together to tackle the recession and supply a unified voice for the first time. “The founding group, recognizing that working together depended upon mutual trust, solicited the aid of the UofH President Archibald Woodruff, a respected carpenter, and his associate, Robert Forrester. The University provided the name, a meeting space, and a part-time executive director for what became the Construction Institute, said David LaBau, an original founding member of the Institute and a retired founding partner of the S/L/A/M Collaborative, an architectural firm in Glastonbury, Conn.

The long-standing partnership between the University and the Institute was the focus of the Institute’s 25th Anniversary Celebration on June 14 at The Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville, Conn. The relationship between the University and the Institute has grown over the years. The University’s Office of Continuing and Professional Education (OCPE), based at the Downtown Center in Hartford, provides nearly 30 workshops a year for members of the construction industry. They are created, designed, and taught by the Institute, with administrative support from the OCPE.

The Institute also gives much back to the University, noted William Cianci, executive director of the Institute. “We carry the University of Hartford name with us to all of the numerous events we hold across the state,” he said, adding that as the reputation of the Construction Institute grows, so does the value of the University’s affiliation. “The partnership of the Institute and the University is a perfect reflection of the growing sophistication of the construction industry,” said Ronald Van Winkle, director of community services for the Town of West Hartford and executive director of the Institute from 1982 to 1984. Another aspect of the partnership appears in the Institute’s new logo and 25th anniversary logo, both designed by Institute member Carolyn Bligh of Bligh Graphics, a 1987 graduate of the Hartford Art School.

Charles Condon, University secretary and general counsel and a member of the Construction Institute’s board of directors, was among those honored at the 25th anniversary celebration. Accompanying him was his wife, Virigina Luxenburg Condon ’75, ’83.

In honor of the 200th birthday of the Library of Congress, the University’s Libraries and Learning Resources (LLR) is celebrating “America’s Favorite Pastime.”

First up is a Baseball Exhibit from Sept. 1 to Oct. 15 in Mortensen Library. Focusing on the history of baseball, the display will feature items from the extensive collection of baseball memorabilia in the American Memory section of the Library of Congress. The Mortensen exhibit will include personal baseball memorabilia on loan from President Walter Harrison and Warren Goldstein, chair of the history department.

LLR will also sponsor a Baseball Trivia Bowl, hosted by WTIC-AM sports personality Arnold Dean, on Thursday, Sept. 14, at 5 p.m. in Wilde Auditorium.

On Wednesday, Sept. 27, there will be a free lecture on the “History of Baseball” by Harrison and Goldstein at 6 p.m., also in Wilde Auditorium. Seating is limited, so please reserve your spot by calling 860-768-4269.

To round out the baseball bicentennial celebration, there will be a faculty-versus-staff softball game on Thursday, Oct. 5, at 11:30 a.m. on the Gengras Student Union lawn.

Those interested in participating in the Trivia Bowl and the softball game should call 860-768-4269. For more information please check LLR’s Web site, <www.hartford.edu/llr/libofcon/bicenten.htm>, or contact Sara Metcalfe at 860-768-4811.
A New Approach to Community Health Nursing

It’s just after dinner at My Sister’s Place, a shelter for women and their children in Hartford’s North End. The dishes have been washed and put away, and most of the children are getting ready for bed. This means it’s time for Cheryl Simons and Susan Wanat, students in the University’s Community Health Nursing program and both registered nurses with many years of experience, to get ready to go to work. They are holding a music therapy session at the shelter tonight, something they do regularly as a way to help the residents relax.

“The clients are really stressed from the day. This settles everybody down and allows them to relax. And when they relax, that allows them to talk more deeply about what is going on with them and their children,” said Wanat.

This may not be the traditional approach to community health nursing, but it is a style that is encouraged by Karen Lucas Breda, associate professor of nursing in the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions and director of the Hartford Healthcare for the Homeless project, a program of the College’s Division of Nursing. A nurse since 1973, Breda has extensive clinical experience in pediatric, adult, and psychiatric mental health nursing.

The project was started in 1988 by Barbara Witt and Mary Schulze, former assistant professors of nursing, to provide vital healthcare services in Hartford’s shelters and to give nursing students hands-on training in a community health setting.

The students undertaking these internships are all registered nurses. They work one night a week throughout one school year in Hartford’s eight homeless shelters, providing hands-on nursing care, as well as health teaching, wellness promotion, support, advocacy, and referral advice.

For Heidi Caron, Cindy Schuler, and Claudette Thompson, who are working at Mercy Shelter on the fringe of downtown Hartford, their weekly shift means doing a little bit of everything. They start in the late afternoon by helping the kids in the shelter and then shift gears and go upstairs to work with the adult residents during dinner. Sometimes that means having group discussions about HIV or safe sex; sometimes it means doing blood pressure screenings, said Schulter.

“I was working in a hospital, but this program has helped me see the other side of nursing,” Caron said. “I’m going to stay in community health nursing. This program helps you see people on a different level. It has been an eye-opener in a very positive way.”

At the South Park Inn, Kathy Moss and Ruth Giampetaruzzi have also had a positive experience. “It really opens up your eyes. You see that not all people live like we do. This experience helps you be more sensitive to other people and their problems,” said Moss.

“I had never been to a shelter before. My idea of homelessness has completely changed,” said Giampetaruzzi, a nurse with more than 25 years of clinical experience.

Breda notes that the students can be overwhelmed during their first few times at the shelter, but the program does not let them go into the experience unprepared. Before they can take part in the internship program, they must take a course taught by Breda that explores diversity and family values, cultural, racial, and class issues. Getting to know the students during the class helps her to determine which students would work well together and which shelter in Hartford would be the best fit for them. The students also attend training sessions on safety and how to present themselves in a shelter. Breda follows up with regular meetings with the students in the shelters.

The students also help each other, Breda said, by getting together to share stories and experiences. Some of the students who have been through the internship program come back to talk and offer guidance.

A number of the interns say they will continue to work at their shelters as volunteers. Giampetaruzzi spoke for many of the students when she said, “This was a group that I had never been exposed to, but I’m going to stay with them as a volunteer.”

Cool-Hand Car

The annual race car project of the University of Hartford’s student section of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) received a major boost this year from someone who knows the curves of Lime Rock Park race track in western Connecticut. Actor and race car driver Paul Newman approved a $15,000 grant from the Newman’s Own Foundation for the project. The grant helped the UConn students complete the design work and construction of their mini-Indy-style race car, which competed in the SAE International Formula Car Competition in Pontiac, Mich., last May.

The competition is the premier SAE event for college students, according to Frank Lahey, recently retired professor of mechanical engineering, who has supervised the SAE students in this project every year for the past eight years. “The challenge is for students to design a weekend autocross racer, which, if built as one of a thousand cars, would not cost more than $9,000,” said Lahey. “We had to pass a number of tests, such as a tilt test, a safety inspection, and a brake-and-noise test before we were even allowed into the competition.”

The University of Hartford entry completed all of the events in the international competition, finishing 42nd out of 104 entries. Cars are judged in three categories: static inspection and engineering design, solo-performance trials, and high-performance track endurance. Up to a total of 1,000 points are given in areas such as engineering design, cost, acceleration, and fuel economy, in addition to the autocross and endurance track events.

New Scholarships
for Success

John Hunt says his philosophy is, “You work people out of poverty one kid at a time.” This spring, Hunt, along with his wife, Carol, took steps to apply that philosophy to some Hartford elementary school students.

They established the Maria Sanchez Scholarship fund with a gift of more than $264,000. The fund will provide full-tuition scholarships for at least six students who are residents of Hartford. Preference will be given to those currently attending the Maria Sanchez Elementary School.

Beginning in 2008 and continuing for at least three years, two Sanchez Scholarships will be awarded annually. If money remains in the fund after three years, more scholarships will be awarded. The Hunts participate in the scholar-selection process.

A retired executive of The Travelers Companies, Hunt is an active member of the board of Center City Churches and began tutoring as part of that organization’s Center for Youth program.

He volunteers in Maria Lizotte’s third-grade class at the Sanchez School four hours each day, four to five days a week, working with about 18 students, particularly in the areas of reading, writing, and math.

Hunt was inspired to start his scholarship program when he read about the Say Yes to Education program years ago. Started in 1990 by West Hartford residents George and Diane Weiss, Irma and Mort Handel, and John and the late Beverly Berman, Say Yes offered free tuition and fees for college to fifth-graders at Hartford’s Annie Fisher Elementary School, if they stayed in school and were accepted at post-secondary institutions. Three-fourths of the original 76 students in that class went on to attend college.

Hunt hopes to expand his scholarship program for Sanchez Elementary students along the lines of Say Yes. He has met with George Weiss, who has pledged to provide the Sanchez students with the same academic and social support available to Say Yes students through the Say Yes office located on campus.

Hunt is also working with Eliot P. Williams, principal of The New England Guild and a new member of the University’s board of regents, to structure the finances for the program.

“The priority is to deal with poverty,” said Hunt. “The children come from the Frog Hollow and South Green neighborhoods of Hartford and are probably among the city’s most disadvantaged. George Weiss agrees with me that, today, you need to start such a program earlier than the fifth grade. I am aiming at second-, third-, and fourth-graders, with the hope that the fourth-graders will be ready for college in 2008.”

Music for a Change

The Music for a Change benefit concert series presented by the University’s Center for Community Service and WWUH continues this fall with an opening concert by nationally known folksinger Jonathan Edwards on Sept. 9. The series brings national and local folk and acoustic artists to campus with proceeds from the performances benefiting local charities. Highlights of the fall season will be Shawn Colvin on Sept. 23 and Allison Krauss on Oct. 2.

Irvin Nussbaum, director of the Center for Community Service, sees the program as a way of developing a “positive, long-term partnership with the Hartford community.”

The Music for a Change series will offer two concerts a month, including:

**Sept. 9—Jonathan Edwards (to benefit Covenant to Care)**

**Sept. 23—Shawn Colvin (to benefit Habitat ASB)**

**Oct. 2—Alison Krauss & Union Station (to benefit Food Share)**

**Oct. 13 (Fall Weekend)—Odetta**

**Oct. 21—Tribute to Harry Chapin**

**Nov. 4—Richie Havens (to benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation)**

**Nov. 17—Stan Sullivan and Louise Taylor**

**Dec. 2—Patty Larkin**

**Dec. 15—Cheryl Wheeler**

For more information, call the Center for Community Service at (860) 768-5409 or to order tickets, call the University Box Office at 860-768-4228.

Vin Baker’s Presidential Golf Invitational 2000

HOOP STARS AND GOLFING BUDDIES. Vin Baker, four-time NBA All-Star and former University of Hartford basketball star (1989–93), gathers with some friends at the University of Hartford Presidential Golf Invitational tournament, held July 31 at The Hartford Golf Club in West Hartford, Conn. From left to right are Willie Maye, sports anchor at Fox Channel 61 in Hartford; Jay Nkonoki, executive director of Baker’s Stand Tall Foundation; Baker; and Todd Day of the NBA’s Phoenix Suns. Proceeds from the third annual Presidential Golf Invitational will be donated to the University of Hartford Scholarship Fund through the Stand Tall Foundation. Vin Baker Scholars are traditionally juniors and seniors who have demonstrated need and campus excellence.
A Top Strategic Priority

Let me take you back to the beginning. The development and implementation of a plan to improve compensation has been one of President Walter Harrison’s top strategic priorities since he took office in July 1998.

The University of Hartford has always been distinguished by its exceptional teaching and its extraordinarily dedicated faculty and staff, and President Harrison quickly recognized that competitive compensation is critical to maintaining those qualities.

In December 1998, President Harrison appointed a Compensation Review Committee to examine employee compensation and make recommendations to improve it. I am honored to have had the opportunity to chair that panel. After gathering and analyzing a tremendous amount of information, the committee confirmed what had long been suspected: faculty and staff salaries at the University of Hartford are significantly lower than the salaries paid at our peer institutions. In order to be competitive, the committee concluded, we must bring our salaries in line with those of other colleges and universities over the next five years.

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During the spring of 2000, President Harrison endorsed the report of the Compensation Review Committee, and the board of regents unanimously approved President Harrison’s recommendations for the first year of a five-year compensation improvement plan, to begin on July 1, 2000.

“I am gratified that the board has recognized the important role played by our faculty and staff and the need to make our compensation levels more competitive with our peers,” President Harrison said. He noted that these initial compensation increases were made possible by the University’s ongoing financial recovery, “which now affords us the opportunity to do more long-term planning and to recognize the efforts of those who stayed the course during the tough times.”

During the first year of the new compensation plan, $160,000 will go toward increasing faculty salaries, and $100,000 will be used to increase staff salaries. Funding for additional salary increases will be proposed annually for the next four years but will be contingent upon the University’s continued financial recovery. In addition to approving the allocation for salary increases, the board of regents also approved funding for several important benefit enhancements that were recommended by President Harrison and the Compensation Review Committee. The board earmarked funding to restore retiree health benefits, expand health coverage to include same-sex domestic partners, and provide an allowance for adoption fees for couples who choose to adopt a child.

Our Most Precious Resources

The University of Hartford has always been distinguished by its exceptional teaching and its extraordinarily dedicated faculty and staff. Beverly Maksin, vice president for finance and administration and a member of the committee that examined the compensation issue, put it well when she remarked that the process “was a model of collegiate cooperation.”

Editor’s note: Anne Fitzmaurice chaired the University’s Compensation Review Committee.

July 1 may have seemed like an unremarkable summer Saturday on the University of Hartford campus, but the day actually held a lot of significance for the University and its employees.

That date—the start of the University’s new fiscal year—marked the beginning of a five-year plan to improve faculty and staff compensation. The implementation of the first phase of the plan is important for a number of reasons. First, improvements in compensation will strengthen the University’s competitiveness in attracting and retaining the outstanding faculty and staff that have become this institution’s hallmark. In addition, the plan is another indication of the University’s continuing financial recovery following the regional recession of the early and mid-1990s.

The compensation plan is also significant because it was the result of an intensive, collaborative effort on the part of many different constituents within the University community who worked tirelessly toward a common goal. Beverly Maksin, vice president for finance and administration and a member of the committee that examined the compensation issue, put it well when she remarked that the process “was a model of collegiate cooperation.”

To understand why the compensation plan is so critical, one must recognize that the University’s faculty and staff clearly are our most valuable resources. The dedication and accessibility of our faculty, and the mentoring roles that they play in the lives of students, are what make the University of Hartford so special.
Take Ed Weinswig, for example. You may remember Dr. Weinswig from the 1999–2000 President’s Report. A professor of curriculum and instruction in the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions, Dr. Weinswig exemplifies the kind of faculty member whom University of Hartford students encounter every day. He has been teaching here for 38 years and has influenced generations of educators. He is known as a passionate teacher and a warm and caring adviser who always makes time for students, often at night and on weekends. He continues to advise and mentor a number of his former students even after they graduate, and many credit him with being a major influence on their careers and their lives.

“After the first day of class, he knows everyone’s name. He genuinely wants to see you succeed,” said Jason Pantages, one of his many appreciative students.

Dr. Weinswig is just one example of the many passionate and extraordinarily dedicated faculty members at the University of Hartford. They truly are our most precious resources, and that’s why it is so important that we give them the support they deserve.

Our nonteaching staff members also are highly dedicated to the University and its students, and play an invaluable role in making this institution such a wonderful place to learn and grow. But talented staff members can be lured away, not only by other colleges and universities but also by corporations, government, and other employers who can afford to provide more attractive compensation. The competition is especially intense in rapidly growing areas like information technology (IT), where private companies and government agencies often pay a premium for skilled professionals.

For example, state-funded universities and community colleges in Connecticut are aggressively recruiting information technology workers who are familiar with Banner, a comprehensive database system that is used by many educational institutions, including the University of Hartford. During the past year, three of the University’s IT employees have been wooed away by the state, and one went to work for Banner’s parent company, said Robert Vojtek, assistant provost for educational technology and dean of graduate studies. The state of Connecticut pays as much as $10,000 more than the University for many lower- and mid-level information technology jobs, Dr. Vojtek said. For upper-level jobs, the salary discrepancy is even greater.

“It’s not that people really want to leave, but at some point, when the dollars are significantly higher, it’s hard to say no,” Dr. Vojtek said. “We’re in an environment where people who deal with

Improving faculty and staff compensation is a top priority of the University’s 10-year, $150-million Campaign of Commitment.

In the meantime, the implementation of the first year of the new compensation plan is a wonderful beginning. Thanks to the work of President Harrison and the Compensation Review Committee, the participation of faculty and staff, and the action of the board of regents, the University has taken an important first step in supporting its employees, improving its

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