What do grizzlies and sand gnats have in common? If you’re talking about the Gastonia Grizzlies and the Savannah Sand Gnats, the answer is easy: they’re minor-league baseball teams owned by Ken and Bette Hanson Silver.

Owning baseball teams is just one of many pursuits for a couple whose days overflow with work, travel, family, and other interests. The Silvers are both 1968 graduates of the University of Hartford. Ken studied at the Barney School of Business; Bette, at The Hartt School.

The Silvers’ home in Northport, N.Y., is the center of Ken’s CPA business and Bette’s work as a flute, voice, and piano instructor.

Getting involved in baseball was a natural offshoot of Ken’s love for the game. He played center field at the University of Hartford and was co-captain of the team in his senior year. “I had such a passion for baseball. So, owning teams was a way I could stay involved in the game.”

The Grizzlies are located in North Carolina and the Sand Gnats, in Georgia. Ken stays in touch with the teams daily and visits each team at least once a month. The Silvers have spent so much time in Savannah that the city of Savannah voted Ken citizen of the year in 1999.

Bette has her own way of staying involved with the teams. “It’s the greatest thrill to be able to sing the national anthem at a baseball game,” she says. “My friends say Ken had to buy me a team just for that purpose.” The Silvers often plan family reunions around the teams’ schedules. Two of their children and three grandchildren live within half an hour of the Grizzlies.

In addition to giving music lessons 30 hours a week and doing her part for the baseball teams, Bette has been instrumental in bringing local theater to Northport. Some years ago, she started a summer musical theater camp for children. The camp has grown to accommodate 100 children and three staff members each summer. Bette also convinced the local school board to start a community theater group for adults. The group, which has become totally self-sufficient, presents two shows a year.

Ken and Bette have both had a stint teaching at local community colleges, Ken while he was starting his CPA business, and Bette until she decided she wanted to work out of her home. Ken loved teaching accounting. “I tried to pattern myself after [the late] Bernie Goodman, one of my favorite professors at the University of Hartford. He was a wonderful...
Cardin to Chair Campaign

Richard J. Cardin is the new chair of the steering committee for the Campaign of Commitment, the University’s 10-year, $175 million capital campaign. Cardin fills the vacancy created when Peter Eio, who had been heading the committee, was elected chair of the University’s Board of Regents last May.

An English major who graduated from the University in 1962, Cardin recently announced that a $500,000 pledge he has made to the University will be directed to the College of Arts and Sciences, the largest gift the school has ever received. Reflecting his love for the liberal arts, Cardin’s gift will be used to support faculty development in the humanities and to fund scholarships for honors students in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Cardin, whose 32-year career with United Parcel Service included management positions both domestically and abroad, believes that his University education was the foundation on which he built his personal and professional life. “I am deeply grateful for how my professors taught me to think objectively and critically, and I’m proud of the skills I developed, thanks to them. I want to be sure the same opportunities exist for students today. My decision to chair the Campaign of Commitment and my gift to the College of Arts and Sciences reflect my very strong optimism for the future of the University of Hartford.”

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Jeter, Cook & Jepson Brings Architects to Campus

A talk by Thomas Fisher, AIA, dean and professor of architecture in the department of architecture and landscape architecture at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, launched a new lecture series on Oct. 16 at the University of Hartford.

Underwritten by a generous gift from Jeter, Cook & Jepson Architects Inc. (JCJ) the series will present four lectures annually.

The former executive editor of Progressive Architecture and a contributing editor to Architecture magazine, Fisher is the author of In the Scheme of Things: Alternative Thinking on the Practice of Architecture, published by the University of Minnesota (UofM) Press. His book Salmela, Architect, on the work and ideas of Duluth (Minn.) architect David Salmela, will be published by the UofM Press in 2004.

The next lecturer, on Dec. 3 in Wilde Auditorium, will be John Black Lee, who will discuss...
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modern architecture and the work of influential architects who practiced in the Greater New Canaan, Conn., area. Lee was associated with Marcel Breuer and John Johansen, two architects from the Modern Movement, with Breuer inextricably linked to the Bauhaus. Lee is active in the efforts to preserve the built examples of “modern architecture” residences.

The new series comes at a time of further growth and development of the University’s Architecture Program. The undergraduate preprofessional program leading to a Bachelor of Science is now in its 13th year. In the fall of 2004, the University will admit its first cohort for the professional degree Master of Architecture.

James E. Fuller, AIA associate professor of architecture says lecture series are an important component of any department of architecture program, bringing prominent architects, planners, artists, journalists, developers, and others in the design professions to the campus. This kind of exposure to new ideas, approaches, and insights benefits students, faculty, and local professionals as well.

Jeter, Cook & Jepson Architects, Inc. (JCJ), founded in 1936, is one of the country’s largest and most respected architectural firms. Last April, the University of Hartford Associates presented JCJ with a Business Leadership Award for the firm’s commitment to the highest standards in responsive client service and design excellence and its commitment to the Hartford community. JCJ offers highly integrated planning, architectural, and interior-design services for a variety of public and private clients.

In addition to the new lecture series, JCJ also underwrites the University’s Architecture Student Exhibit held annually in the spring. This year the exhibit has a gala opening on April 1, 2004.

2003–04 Upcoming Concerts

Friday, October 24 Rani Arbo and daisy mayhem with The Road Birds
Friday, October 25 Get Back! The Cast of Beatlemania (9 p.m., Lincoln Theater)
Friday, November 14 Batt Burns—An Evening of Irish Humor and Stories
Friday, November 21 James Keelaghan with Sonia (of disappear fear)
Friday, December 5 Tish Hinojosa
Friday, December 12 Cheryl Wheeler with David Roth
Friday, February 6 Eddie From Ohio (Millard Auditorium)
Friday, February 13 Aztec Two Step (Millard Auditorium)
Friday, March 5 Tom Paxton
Friday, March 12 Brooks Williams
Friday, March 19 Mad Agnes
Friday, March 26 Jonathan Edwards
Friday, April 16 Ellis Paul
Friday, April 23 Greg Greenway, David Roth, and Sonia

All shows are at 7:30 p.m. in Wilde Auditorium, unless otherwise noted.

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