Paul and Mary Mali Donate $500,000 to ISET Project

Paul Mali, professor emeritus of management in the Barney School, and his wife, Mary, have donated $500,000 for the construction of two lecture halls in the Greer Wing of Dana Hall on the University of Hartford’s main campus. President Walter Harrison announced the gift at the June 16 ceremonial groundbreaking for the Integrated Science, Engineering, and Technology (ISET) complex. The renovation of Dana Hall is one part of the $34 million ISET project, which includes the construction of a new, 37,000-square-foot building and minor upgrades to United Technologies Hall and East Hall.

“I am especially proud that an emeritus faculty member and his wife have been the leading givers to this project,” Harrison said. The state-of-the-art lecture halls, named Mali 1 and Mali 2, each have tiered seating for up to 120 students and are handicapped accessible. Opened this fall, both are SMART classrooms featuring wireless data capabilities, with overhead projectors that can display images from computers, CDs, and DVDs. The rooms are also equipped with microphone and speaker systems and have multilevel lighting capabilities. One lecture hall is also equipped for biology and chemistry science demonstrations.

Paul Mali, who began teaching at the university in 1967 and retired in 1994, became a certified management consultant and has worked with some of the largest corporations in the United States, including IBM, Westinghouse, U.S. Steel, General Motors, and Aetna. In the 1960s he served as a director of education and personnel development at General Dynamics’ Electric Boat division.

Topping Off ISET

President Harrison signs the last beam put in place for the university’s $34 million Integrated Science, Engineering, and Technology Complex during a “topping-off” ceremony on Sept. 2, signaling the successful end of the steel erection phase of the construction project. Officials from Shawmut Design and Construction in Boston, the project’s general contractor, joined university administrators, faculty, and staff at the event.

The project was officially launched at a festive groundbreaking ceremony June 16, at which time the $500,000 gift by Paul Mali, Barney professor emeritus of management, and his wife, Mary, was announced. Guest speaker at the groundbreaking was David Hess, president of the Hamilton Sundstrand Division of United Technologies Corp.

Hess said U.S. industries soon will face a critical shortage of engineers, scientists, and technology professionals. “Can a building make a difference? Absolutely,” he said. “Construction [of the ISET complex] will bring together students and teachers, academia and industry, basic and applied research. Collaboration and innovation cannot occur without physical space. Once you have a building, everything else can fall into place.”

Interim Barney Dean James Fairfield-Sonn greets those assembled in one of the new Mali lecture halls at an opening ceremony Sept. 14.
Community Division Awarded Grant for New Dance Program

The Hartt School Community Division opened a new dance division this fall, helped by a generous $302,000 grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

The awarding of the grant follows a June agreement under which the University of Hartford purchased the assets of the School of Dance Connecticut. The school’s dance education programs fully transferred to the Hartt Community Division as of July 1.

“With this grant, we are helping to ensure that a quality community-based dance program for area residents continues,” said Michael Bangser, president of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. “The dance program is in great hands with The Hartt School.”

The grant enables the Hartt Community Division to continue the Dance Program for City Youth (DPCY), which supports Hartford students who might not otherwise be able to afford dance instruction. This program parallels the Hartt Community Division’s Fund for Access, which provides financial aid to students in music and theatre.

“I am deeply grateful to the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, whose generosity will allow many Hartford youths the opportunity to enrich their lives through dance,” said University President Walter Harrison. “The foundation’s commitment to the Hartford area is without parallel.”

Susan Brooker, the former director of the School of Dance Connecticut, will take on the leadership of the new Community Division dance department, and the faculty will largely remain the same as it was at Dance Connecticut. The Hartford Courant Arts Center studios on Farmington Avenue will continue to serve as the main instruction center for the programs, in addition to satellite locations in Avon and Glastonbury.

“The addition of a community dance program mirrors the transition of the collegiate programs from a music conservatory to a full performing arts school inclusive of dance and theatre,” said Hartt Dean Malcolm Morrison.

Past and Present Hartford Scholars

A City of Hartford Scholars reception and reunion was held Aug. 25 at The 1877 Club. Among those attending were (top photo), DeLois Traynum-Lindsey (left), director of multicultural programs, and Tiberius Halai ’03; (center photo), Lolly Garcia ’03 (left) and Dieu To ’03; and (bottom photo), current students Raquel Brown ’05 (left) and Alyssa Hughes ’05.

Garcia is a graduate student in forensic science at the University of New Haven; To is a graphic designer at Vitalworks; and Halai is a specialist with CVR (Computerized Vehicle Registration).

Under the Hartford Scholars Program, the University of Hartford offers half tuition to any qualified high-school graduate from the city of Hartford. Since the program began in 1990, more than 400 students have received scholarships. Members of the University of Hartford Associates, a network of area businesses, are major supporters of the program. Otis Elevator Company, a member of the Associates, recently donated $45,000 to the program. Otis has contributed nearly $500,000 to the Hartford Scholars Program since 1991.

Another source of generous support is the Stand Tall Foundation of NBA star and former Hawk Vin Baker ’93. In August, the foundation’s sixth annual Vin Baker University of Hartford Presidential Golf Tournament raised $50,000 for Hartford Scholars.