The transformed Mort and Irma Handel Performing Arts Center of The Hartt School officially became a University facility in July. Officials from the Downes Construction Company handed over the keys to University Provost Lynn Pasquerella as University officials, the lead individual donors, and members of the construction team looked on.

“This is a facility that truly befits the outstanding talent at The Hartt School. We couldn’t be prouder of this facility,” Pasquerella said to Downes Construction Company President John e. Downes III and Chief executive Officer Joseph N. Desautel Jr.

The center is located at the site of the former Thomas Cadillac distributorship at the corner of Albany Avenue and Westbourne Parkway in Hartford, about 1.5 miles from the main campus. The 55,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility will be the instructional home for collegiate and Community Division students at The Hartt School. The building houses five dance studios, four theatre rehearsal studios and two black-box theatres, as well as faculty offices, a bank, a café, and community meeting space.

Hartt school Dean Malcolm Morrison called the Handel Performing Arts Center “the fulfillment of a dream, the culmination of a career.” Morrison will be stepping down as dean of The Hartt School on Dec. 31.

Also attending the ceremony were Mort and Irma Handel, donors of the largest individual gift to the project. “There is no better testament to Malcolm’s tenure as dean than this facility,” Mort Handel said.

Downes Construction, based in New Britain, Conn., was the lead construction management company on the project, which began in June 2007 and was completed on time and under budget. Capital Restoration of Hartford provided assistance to Downes in managing the project and supervising the subcontractors.

The center was ready for the University’s first day of classes, Sept. 3, 2008; its official dedication date is Sept. 12. An open house will be held on Oct. 4, and a special celebration gala is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 8.
With Your SUPPORT

Educators and World Travelers
DUNNS HELP STUDENTS STUDY ABROAD
BY PETER CONGLETON

In the fall of 2007, Gladys and Robert (Bob) Dunn responded to this urgent need by generously creating the Gladys B. and Robert E. Dunn Fund for International Study. Of the 226 Hartford students who studied abroad last year, the Dunn Fund helped three students study in Australia, Poland, and Israel, respectively.

The Dunns’ connections to the University of Hartford go back to its earliest beginnings. Bob taught courses required for certification in education at the old Hillyer College building on Hudson Street in the late 1950s. He also was principal of Hall High School in West Hartford, where he collaborated with the late dean of the University’s School of Education, Irving Starr. Gladys received her master’s in education in 1960 from the University, followed by guidance counselor certification in 1969 from the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions.

In 1962 the couple was named by The Hartford Courant as People to People representatives from the city of Hartford to the city of Birmingham, England. Two years later the Dunns traveled to Europe with a University of Hartford group. After Bob’s 38-year career as principal of Hall High School, the couple moved to the Seoul International School in South Korea. There, Gladys served as director of admissions, while Bob was deputy headmaster from 1990 to 1995.

As educators and world travelers still residing in West Hartford, the Dunns stress their shared personal belief that “both American and international students need more opportunities to learn through interpersonal contact, not just through travel experiences.” In addition to their current endowment of the study abroad program, the Dunns have included the University of Hartford and other favorite charities in their estate plans.

If you would like to learn how to plan your own gift for study abroad, or any other program or field of study at the University of Hartford, please contact Peter H. Congleton, director of planned giving, at 860.768.2415 or visit www.hartford.edu/plannedgiving.

A Cup of Latte, a Good Book, and Thou

Until this past May, students craving caffeine during a late-night study session at Mortensen Library had to ponder their only choices—hike to Java City in Konover Center or leave campus to find a late-night coffee shop. But now they can visit the new Dorothy Goodwin Café on the main level of the library. In addition to coffee, the café serves specialty drinks and pastries.

The new café was funded in part by a generous bequest to the University from the late Dorothy Goodwin. Goodwin was a life regent of the University, a longtime trustee of Hartford College for Women (HCW), and a life member of the Mortensen Library Board of Visitors. A popular state legislator with a deep commitment to education, she died in June 2007 at age 92.

Goodwin’s mother, Ruth Cheney Goodwin, played a significant role in establishing HCW, so it is no surprise that her daughter also left a bequest to the Women’s Education and Leadership Fund (WELFund), the successor to HCW. WELFund provides grants to University of Hartford students, faculty, and staff who have innovative ideas to enhance women’s education.
The University of Hartford’s President’s College, a noncredit adult education program, is pleased to announce

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