New UHSSE Building a Beauty

As we went to press in August, the construction crew was putting the finishing touches on the University High School of Science and Engineering’s new building on the Bloomfield Avenue campus, which opened for classes Aug. 31. The high school, a public magnet school for students from 9th to 12th grade, is a partnership between the University, Hartford public schools, and the Capitol Region Education Council. Since September 2004, students enrolled at the high school had been attending classes on the University’s Asylum Avenue campus. UHSSE joins the University of Hartford Magnet School, an elementary school that opened on campus in 2001. The University is the only private university in the nation with two public magnet schools on its campus.

Handel Center Honored for Adaptive Reuse

The year-old Mort and Irma Handel Performing Arts Center has received several awards over the past few months as an outstanding example of “adaptive reuse” of an old industrial facility:

- A 2009 Hartford Preservation Alliance Award "for the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of the former Thomas Cadillac building"
- A Connecticut Real Estate Exchange award for adaptive reuse
- A 2009 Connecticut Preservation Award from the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation
- A Connecticut Main Street Center 2009 Award of Excellence for adaptive reuse

“It is amazing to realize that this building, which once was a Cadillac showroom in the front and a repair and assembly facility in the back, now contains performance venues, rehearsal and recital rooms, dance studios, space for numerous supporting activities, and even a branch bank and a café,” states the Hartford Preservation Alliance website. “By bringing the University of Hartford into the Blue Hills and Upper Albany neighborhoods, the new site invites a greater degree of involvement of the University with the city.”

The Handel Center project transformed the former Thomas Cadillac distributorship at the corner of Albany Avenue and

Westbourne Parkway in Hartford into a 55,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility for dance and theatre instruction and performance for The Hartt School. The $22 million facility, which opened last September, includes five dance studios, four theatre rehearsal studios, three vocal studios, and two black-box theatres as well as faculty offices, the Backstage Café, a bank branch, and a community room.

The Handel Center was designed by Smith Edwards Architects of Hartford with the goal of preserving the unique character of the original facility, which was built in 1929 for General Motors from the design of pioneering industrial architect Albert Kahn. Sixty of his buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places. The firm plans to apply for several other awards for the Handel Center, including honors from the American Institute of Architects.
Back from the Trenches
HAS GRADUATE RETURNS TO CAMPUS

Olga Levitskiy ’07 has the honor of being the only illustration student to do a cover for the Observer magazine. For the fall 2007 cover, Levitskiy created fictional contents representing life at the University for the official time capsule the University buried in Alumni Plaza to mark its 50th anniversary.

Bill Thomson and Dennis Nolan, associate professors of illustration, both recommended Levitskiy for the opportunity and have stayed in close contact with the artist since her graduation in 2007. This past May, they asked her to return to campus to show some of her recent professional work and describe her postcollege experiences to current undergraduate illustration majors.

“Speaking to the students and being able to share my background with them was a very fulfilling experience,” says Levitskiy. “I talked about the ups and downs of pursuing this career and what they can expect after they graduate.”

Levitskiy is currently awaiting publication of her first illustrated children’s book, Team Dawg, Trevor’s Bully Problem, being published by Team Dawg Productions, Inc.

She is also working on her second children’s book, Mr. Groundhog Wants the Day Off, to be published by Raven Tree Press in spring 2010.

Former HAS Dean Dies
BERNARD HANSON, 86, CHALLENGED THE STATUS QUO

Noted art historian, art critic, and professor Bernard Allen Hanson died on June 21, 2009, at the age of 86. Hanson was dean of the Hartford Art School from 1970 to 1979.

“Hanson was always passionately engaged in the issues of his time. He challenged the status quo,” says Power Boothe, current dean of HAS. “He brought many unknown artists to campus who are now highly recognized in the art world, and as dean, he left a legacy of pursuing originality that continues to this day.”

Following his nine years as dean, Hanson taught in the art history department in the College of Arts and Sciences until his retirement in 1987. His research, teaching, and public lectures addressed the history of Indian art, the nature of public art, the history of architecture, and film theory. Before coming to HAS, Hanson held teaching positions at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., and the Philadelphia College of Art.

“He was beloved by students and inspired an entire generation of young graduates, several of whom are now luminaries in the art world,” says Associate Professor Sherry Buckberough, chair of the Department of Art History.

In recognition of Hanson’s contributions, the Hartford Art School endowed the Bernard Hanson Scholarship in 2007 for promising young artists with financial need.
Timothy Black, associate professor of sociology and director of the Center for Social Research, has written *When a Heart Turns Rock Solid: The Lives of Three Puerto Rican Brothers On and Off the Streets* (Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, August 2009). The book is the result of Black’s 18-year study of three streetwise Puerto Rican brothers from Springfield, Mass. Black provides a detailed and empathetic portrait of lives lived on the social and economic margins.

Michael Clancy, associate professor of politics and government, is the author of *Brand New Ireland? Tourism, Development and National Identity in the Irish Republic* (Ashgate, June 2009). Examining tourism in the Republic of Ireland over the past 20 years, Clancy explores its role in the “Celtic Tiger” phenomenon, a term that refers to the period of rapid economic growth in Ireland between 1995 and 2007. Tourism also provides the lens for observing national identity formation during a period of rapid change.

Richard Freund, director of the Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies, has published *Digging through the Bible: Understanding Biblical People, Places, and Controversies through Archaeology* (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., November 2008). Freund provides new information about the Holy Land as he takes readers through the digs he has led, searching for evidence about key biblical characters and events.

Benjamin Grossberg, assistant professor of English, has written his second book of poetry, *Sweet Core Orchard* (University of Tampa Press, March 2009), for which he has received the Tampa Review Prize for Poetry.

Avinoam Patt, Feltman Professor of Modern Jewish History, has published *Finding Home and Homeland: Jewish Youth and Zionism in the Aftermath of the Holocaust* (Wayne State University Press, May 2009). Patt examines the meaning and appeal of Zionism to young Jewish displaced persons and the reasons for its success among Holocaust survivors.


T. (Teresa) Stores, associate professor of English and director of creative writing, has received the 2009 Kore Press Short Fiction Award for her story “Frost Heaves.” The story is the title piece of her nearly completed collection of stories set in a small Vermont town. Her latest novel, *Backslide*, was published by Spinsters Ink Books in July 2008.
Former HAS Faculty Member
Ted Behl’s Sculpture Comes Home

It’s been 15 years since Johann Wolfgang “Ted” Behl, professor of sculpture in the Hartford Art School (HAS), died in 1994. Despite this fact, the internationally known sculptor is once again teaching today’s students, thanks to the recent gift to HAS of one of his works.

Behl, who taught from 1955 to 1983 at HAS, was born in Berlin, Germany, in 1918 and studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Berlin before immigrating to the United States in 1939.

The piece, God Game, was purchased by art collector Harriett B. Kravitz. It traveled to campus once before in 1983 for the exhibit ICON: Wolfgang Behl Retrospective, which coincided with Behl’s retirement from teaching. In early 2009, Dr. Barbara Kravitz, now the executrix of her mother’s estate, contacted the University saying she felt that HAS was a fitting permanent home for the sculpture.

“Ted Behl’s carving classes were a beehive of activity, with Ted moving about the class, questioning, showing techniques, and imparting his passion for art and life to each student in turn,” says Tom Bradley ’77, M’96, a former student of Behl and now associate dean of HAS.

“Throughout his career, he focused on the development of his students as skillful artists with a broad understanding of the world in which they worked. He was a dynamic and engaging teacher, dedicated and loyal to his students, and they returned the loyalty. Many kept in touch throughout their lives and careers.”

The 1973 ebony wood sculpture, God Game, suggests a puppeteer manipulating three figures represented by heads strung on a piece of rope.

Tying a Yellow Ribbon
NEW PROGRAM WELCOMES VETERANS TO CAMPUS

For the 2009–10 academic year, the University of Hartford has enrolled in the Yellow Ribbon program, a new, voluntary federal program designed to supplement veterans’ educational benefits provided by the base GI Bill.

Under the Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2008, the federal government pays the highest public in-state undergraduate tuition rate for qualifying veterans. In Connecticut, the maximum tuition rate is $486 per credit, and the maximum total in fees payable per term is $1,946. The Yellow Ribbon program addresses the gap between in-state undergraduate tuition rates at public educational institutions and those at private universities.

Joining approximately 700 other colleges across the nation in the program, the University is offering financial assistance for up to 100 veterans per year. Maximum annual assistance amounts to $7,712 per student for undergraduate tuition, to be matched equally by the federal government. Funds are also available for graduate and doctoral degrees.

“The University is a stout supporter of the Yellow Ribbon program. We feel strongly about our veteran population and what they bring to the table,” says Jennifer Fuhrmann, director of student financial assistance. “We want to show them that we champion their right to a private education and welcome them to our campus.”

The University’s commitment of more than $750,000 in financial aid to the program outstrips other participating private institutions within the state, including Quinnipiac University ($500,000), Yale University ($250,000), Trinity College ($150,000), and Saint Joseph College, also in West Hartford, Conn. ($149,025).
On Campus

Complexity Kickoff
NEW VAN ROOY CENTER OPENS

The van Rooy Center for Complexity and Conflict Analysis opened to students, faculty, staff, and friends in May with a reception inviting the University community to join in the study of the science of complexity. The center is located on the second floor of Mortensen Library in the Harry Jack Gray Center.

Established in 2008 through a generous gift from University regent Jean-Pierre van Rooy and his wife, Marie-Claire, the center’s mission is to assist the University in giving students an understanding of the fundamentals of the science of complexity. The center is located on the second floor of Mortensen Library in the Harry Jack Gray Center.

The science, which emerged during the mid-20th century, studies the common properties of complex systems. As Jean-Pierre van Rooy explains, the multidisciplinary science “strives to allow economists, physicists, financial analysts, air-traffic controllers, medical researchers, and meteorologists to speak the same language, to recognize parallel behaviors, and gradually to solve their more specific problems by applying their knowledge of the behavior of systems and the rules that direct them.”

“J.P. wants all University students to be exposed to the science of complexity,” says Jane Horvath, director of the center and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “We plan to embed the science throughout the University, beginning with the All-University Curriculum, courses that are required for all undergraduates. We will have faculty associates who will work on modules that fit into these courses. Other faculty will have use of these courses. All disciplines will be part of this curricular initiative.” Horvath is currently recruiting associates.

The center will also facilitate collaborative research, host symposiums, and present speakers. “It is an intellectual gathering place focused on our students,” Horvath says. “Whatever the field—the economy, art, communication—we are here to help guide students in more in-depth study.”

Let’s Dance
STUDENTS COME TO HARTT FOR RIGOROUS INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

“I thought it was very important that The Hartt School’s Community Division offer first-class training in ballet comparable to what is available in New York and Boston,” says Miguel Campaneria about why he established the new International Summer Ballet Academy. Campaneria, a world-renowned dancer and teacher, is chair of the Community Division’s dance department.

More than 30 students from across the United States as well as Japan, Puerto Rico, and Columbia attended classes six days a week during four weeks in July. Advanced- and intermediate-level students between the ages of 12 and 21 studied with world-class faculty at the University’s new state-of-the-art Mort and Irma Handel Performing Arts Center. Approximately 20 out-of-town students stayed in residential housing on the University campus during the academy.

Guest faculty included Haydee Gutierrez of the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center; Haiyan Wu, principal dancer with the Miami City Ballet and a gold medalist in the USA International Ballet Competition; and Kurt Douglas, principal dancer with the José Limón and Lar Lubovitch dance companies in New York City. They were joined by Hartt faculty members Debra Collins Ryder, Lorelei Chang, and Campaneria.

“Of course, we are learning a lot because it is our first year,” says Campaneria. “But I am very happy with the results. I have seen much improvement. In fact, I am already thinking that next year we might do five weeks, and I would like to have 50 students.”

Miguel Campaneria, chair of the Hartt Community Division’s dance department and an internationally known dancer, works with students in this summer’s first International Summer Ballet Academy.