Fasten your seatbelts, alumni and parents! We're kicking off Fall Weekend by taking to the skies. Your charter flight on Hawk Air departs from Konover Campus Center on Friday evening, featuring an “in-flight” casino and four fun destinations with food, music, and many great prizes.

On Saturday don’t miss the Alumni Artisans Marketplace, the Alumni Musicians Spotlight, various Hawk athletic events, and the annual Alumni Anchor Awards, which recognize outstanding alumni.

COME ABOARD!

SAVE THESE DATES!
A University of Hartford Alumni Association Trip
in conjunction with Smithsonian Journeys and Collette Vacations

Explore Australia and New Zealand
The Lands “Down Under”
April 12–26, 2010

From the tropical splendor of the Great Barrier Reef on Australia’s northern coast to the ethereal beauty of glacial fjords on New Zealand’s South Island, this 15-day journey brings you the best of both countries at an enjoyable pace.

Trip Highlights
* A delightful dinner cruise of Sydney Harbour
* Australia’s Great Barrier Reef—the largest coral reef on the planet Earth
* A sheep-shearing demonstration on a family farm in Canterbury, New Zealand
* Queenstown—a center for adventure tourism and the filming site for the Lord of the Rings trilogy
* Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park—a beautiful alpine environment with skyscraping peaks and glaciers

Cost
$4,899 per person, double occupancy
Included in the price is round-trip airfare from Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks, Conn.; ground transportation; hotel accommodations; and 20 meals. Additional gateways are available.
Deposit of $250 per person due with reservation prior to Nov. 14, 2009.

For more information, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at aust@hartford.edu or 888.842.5867.
Dear Readers,

And we’re off! It’s back-to-school time, and the campus is buzzing with events, activities, and the faces and voices of students and faculty. The Class of 2013 has figured out exactly how much stuff can be crammed into a shared room in the first-year residence halls, and their parents are struggling to get used to one less loved one at home.

As we say hello to a new group of students, we’re also celebrating the graduates of Commencement 2009 (see p. 8). These include six faculty members from the University of Herat in western Afghanistan who received Master of Engineering degrees. This group is the first to receive their degrees from a contingent of 12 Afghani educators who are studying here through a partnership between the University of Hartford and Herat University.

Like many of you, I’m already looking forward to basketball season, and this year the Hawks have received a special honor. The University is very pleased to announce that it has won the bid to host the first-ever combined men’s and women’s America East Championship in March 2010 (see p. 14). Be sure to get your tickets early!

Read about seven successful alumni in our special section, Alumni Hit the Big Time, starting on page 18. Some of your former classmates are making us all very proud.

We’re looking for alumni who have left their first careers and gone to Plan B—perhaps shaping a long-time interest into a new career. If you’ve left insurance for acupuncture or teaching for boutique cupcake baking, we want to hear from you for an upcoming issue of the Observer. Send me an e-mail, and we’ll talk.

Trish Charles
Editor-in-Chief
pcharles@hartford.edu

Read the Observer online at www.hartford.edu/observer.
From the President

The University of Hartford will always be a part of Harry Jack Gray’s legacy

When Harry Jack Gray and his wife, Helen, began supporting the University in the late 1970s, they did so with great enthusiasm, a love for and understanding of education, and a great appreciation for what the University could offer the Hartford region and the world. Over the past 30 years, they have been close friends of three University presidents: Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, Humphrey Tonkin, and myself. The Grays listened to our dreams for the University, offered their advice, and gave most generously. As a result, the University reflects not only their generosity; it reflects their vision.

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— Walter Harrison, President

Later in that decade their key gift helped build the University’s central building, the Harry Jack Gray Center, which houses the Mortensen and Allen Libraries, the Joseloff Gallery, the University Bookstore, and instructional space for the Department of Architecture, the School of Communication (and WWUH Radio and the Kent McCray Television Studio), and the visual communication and illustration departments of the Hartford Art School. It was Harry’s vision that attracted Tai Soo Kim, the highly regarded architect, to design the University’s signature building. Since it also houses the conference center, The 1877 Club, and Wilde Auditorium, Harry understood that the building that carries his name would be a building that would greet many of the University’s first-time visitors, and he wanted to be sure their first impression of the University was favorable. In that, as in everything that connected him to the University, Harry’s vision was spot on.

Harry and Helen gave many other gifts for which they wanted no public recognition. I’ll honor their request, but trust me—dozens of classrooms, laboratories, and academic programs have been created through their smaller gifts. I’ll just mention their first gift to the University under my presidency—the brick sidewalk that runs through the courtyard of the Gray Center—and the last—funding for a bridge program in mathematics for a select group of students entering Hillyer College. These gifts reflect two different aspects of Harry’s vision for the University: a distinctive physical environment and excellent and focused educational programs.

When Harry Jack Gray died on July 8 at the age of 88, the University of Hartford lost its most generous contributor, its staunchest advocate, and its keenest long-range strategist. The Hartford region lost its most successful corporate leader and its most farsighted and conscientious benefactor. I lost one of my best friends, one of my greatest supporters, and one of my most trusted advisors. His name will be forever attached to the University of Hartford; its success will always be part of his legacy.

Harry Jack Gray (Hon. ’78), left, with President Harrison in a 2000 photograph

With Harry at its helm, United Technologies Corporation gave the lead gift for the building that we call UTC Hall, now home to the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture. That is no accident, of course. UTC, under Harry’s leadership, became one of the world’s leading technology companies. Harry understood the obvious connection between that company, headquartered in Hartford, and Hartford’s university. But he also understood that America’s world leadership would increasingly rely on its being a world leader in technology, and that meant that universities like ours would increasingly need to educate young women and men in engineering and technology.

In the 1980s Harry and Helen supplied matching funding to enable the University to secure a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to create the Harry Jack Gray Endowment in the Humanities. That endowment has allowed history, English, philosophy, and the other humanities fields to animate the intellectual life of the University and enabled our faculty and faculty from local public schools to learn from some of the world’s leading humanists. Again, Harry and Helen understood that all universities depend on a vibrant liberal arts core, and they provided vital funding at just the right time to enable the University of Hartford to thrive.

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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.
Olga Levitskiy ’07, left, shows artwork from her first illustrated children’s book, Team Dawg: Trevor’s Bully Problem, to one of Associate Professor Bill Thomson’s illustration classes.

She is also working on her second children’s book, Mr. Goundhog 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 Buckberrough, 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.

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.

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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 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).

What’s on the Menu?
New Gengras Café Opens

Taking advantage of the quieter summer months, workmen began revamping the cafeteria in Gengras Student Union right after Commencement in mid-May. The new café, now nearly twice the size of the former cafeteria, was remodeled to ease congestion and offer a variety of new food options.

Two new national franchises, Einstein Brothers Bagels and Extreme Pita, have joined an expanded salad bar and a brick-oven pizzeria (see above). The new Burger Studio offers customized burgers and fresh-cut French fries.
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 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.”
Graduates Urged to Look for Opportunities in the Current Global Recession

During a chilly but dry Commencement on Sunday, May 17, former LEGO President Peter Eio urged graduates concerned about the global recession to find hope in the experiences of two legendary toy companies.

Eio, also a University regent, addressed the members of the Class of 2009 and their families and friends at the University’s 52nd Commencement ceremony. Both he and another former toy industry executive—Alan Hassenfeld, former chairman of Hasbro, Inc.—were presented honorary Doctor of Commercial Science degrees.

LEGO and Hasbro were founded during the Great Depression and yet—through imagination, entrepreneurship, and hard work—grew to become successful global companies, said Eio.

University President Walter Harrison announced during the Commencement ceremony that as a follow-up to the honorary degrees, both LEGO and Hasbro plan to donate a large quantity of toys and games to be distributed to area children through the Blue Hills Civic Association and the Upper Albany Neighborhood Collaborative.

Donald Sinta, a former Hartt School faculty member, acclaimed saxophonist, and chair of the winds department at the University of Michigan, received an honorary Doctor of Music at the ceremony. Louise Blalock, who recently retired after 14 years as chief librarian of the Hartford Public Library, received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.

In addition, the University presented its Distinguished Alumni Award to broadcasting executive and businessman Richard Belkin, a 1956 graduate of the original Hillyer College, one of the founding schools of the University. He is currently chairman and treasurer of World of New York, Inc., a former corporate partner of Top of the World at the World Trade Center observation deck. Belkin is a former executive at the General Electric Company; McClatchy Newspapers, Inc.; Lee Enterprises; and for the Command Performance Network, where he created the concept of the electronic racetrack adopted by the state of Connecticut for off-track betting.

Among the many happy graduates at the Commencement ceremony were six faculty members from Herat University in western Afghanistan, who earned master’s degrees in civil engineering. The six men are part of a contingent of 12 Afghani educators who are studying engineering or architecture here as part of a partnership between the University of Hartford and Herat University. The partnership is being funded by a nearly $2 million grant from the World Bank and an earlier $215,000 grant from the United States Agency for International Development.

The first-ever Belle K. Ribicoff Junior Faculty Prize was also presented to Michael Robinson, assistant professor of history at Hillyer College.

Top photo: Gilbert Ramirez Jr. ‘08, M’09, center, received a Master of Architecture at Commencement. He wore Mickey Mouse ears with his robe and hood in honor of his new job with Walt Disney Imagineering, the arm of The Walt Disney Company responsible for creating Disney resorts, theme parks and attractions, hotels, cruise ships, and a host of other projects.

Bottom photo: Althea Cordner, right, adjusts Coronica Richardson’s doctoral hood before the ceremony. Both women received Doctor of Educational Leadership degrees.
Robert Graham MBA’09

Robert Graham was a member of an unusual graduate class in the Barney School of Business, one offered for the first time in the fall 2008 semester. Just as the Dow approached its lowest level since the Great Depression, Graham and his classmates were given $250,000 of the University’s endowment to invest in the stock market. Adjunct faculty members James Hogan and Stephen Mulready gave advice. Students divided into two teams, one buying global funds and one buying green energy funds. Each student had to pitch his or her stock picks to the rest of the class. The outcome? The class invested $100,000, earning a 22-percent return by the end of the school year in May.

Graham, who is currently working as a portfolio manager for UPS Capital Business Credit’s Special Asset Department in Windsor, Conn., talks to the Observer about his experience.

Being the Guinea Pig The student-led investment fund was the ultimate experience. It was great to be in the first [class of this kind]. We really had to hit it out of the park. It took a lot of hard work and a little bit of luck, and we did a good job.

A Conversation Starter Make money or lose money, that class is awesome—no matter what. What they’re doing is just so real. You talk to your family about the stock class, and people want to learn more about it. It’s a conversation starter.

Learning to Lead Barney has really helped me take charge and given me more confidence and more credibility to lead. Getting up in front of people is never easy. It was good that I did it [in the class] because when I did it at work, I didn’t stumble around. It just gives you that edge.

Professors with Real-World Experience Most of the professors have experience in the business world. That’s good. In business there is the application and then the study and the theory. There can sometimes be a gap. But Barney provided a really good experience, a well-rounded experience. I’m very glad I went there.
Three graduating seniors received special recognition at the 2009 Commencement ceremony as recipients of the University’s highest student awards—the Belle K. Ribicoff Prize, the John G. Lee Medal, and the John G. Martin Scholarship.

The Class of 2009

“I know it’s a very demanding business, but I have a great education and great training, and I know that with drive and persistence I can be successful in the long run.”

Kelly Cipriano ‘09
Hometown: Woodbury, Conn.
College: Hartford Art School
Major: Illustration
Student award: Belle K. Ribicoff Prize, which recognizes one graduating senior who best exemplifies academic excellence, leadership, and the ability to excel outside the classroom
Academics: 3.9 GPA; graduated summa cum laude
Leadership: Resident assistant in Regents Park suite-style campus apartments
Outside the classroom: One of 100 student Illustrators selected from nearly 6,000 candidates by the professional Society of Illustrators to have work displayed at the Museum of American Illustrators in Manhattan
Career goal: To become an art director, perhaps in the music recording industry

“They’re too early to tell where I’ll end up teaching, but I’m already looking forward to opening new worlds of ideas to my students and helping them achieve their dreams.”

Maegen Garthwaite ‘09
Hometown: Windsor, Conn.
College: Barney School of Business
Major: Accounting
Student award: John G. Lee Medal, awarded annually to a graduating senior from Greater Hartford who has excelled academically and been deeply involved in community service
Academics: 3.86 GPA; graduated summa cum laude
Leadership: Active member of the Barney Leadership Council, helped to connect students with local business leaders, and organized fundraising drives for the Make-A-Wish Foundation and Toys for Tots
Outside the classroom: Raised money for the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, volunteered for FoodShare, and supported Red Cross blood drives
Career goal: Joined CIGNA’s prestigious accounting development-track program in August

Daniel Hultgren ‘09
Hometown: Hillsboro, N.H.
College: College of Arts and Sciences
Major: Dual degree in physics and philosophy; minor in math
Student award: John G. Martin Scholarship, which provides funding for two years of study abroad at Hertford College at Oxford University in England. He will continue his studies in philosophy and physics.
Academics: 3.95 GPA; graduated summa cum laude and with University Honors
Leadership: Coordinated and managed tutors at King Philip Middle School in West Hartford, Conn.
Outside the classroom: Red Cross volunteer, member of University Philosophy Club, Educational Main Street tutor, performed with local band
Career goal: to earn a PhD and become a professor at a small liberal-arts college
In The Spotlight

English Majors, Take Note

STUDENT WRITING BOOK ON EXPERIENCES IN UGANDA

“I love to tell stories. I hope to have as many to tell about myself as possible,” says Rebekah McMahon ’11, an English major and the second student to receive the Galluccio Scholarship. The two-year scholarship is awarded to second-year students in the humanities and the politics and government programs and provides $10,000 per year for their third and fourth years of study.

McMahon is well on her way to achieving her goal. “Rebekah started at the University three semesters ago and has established herself as an outstanding writer,” says Joseph Voelker, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Raised by devout Jehovah’s Witnesses in Winsted, Conn., McMahon explains that she and her mother “did not see eye to eye” on religion, which led to her moving out when she was 16. McMahon worked as a line chef and a seamstress during high school to support herself.

After she graduated, she became a massage therapist to earn money for college. McMahon, who suffers from juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, found that massage helped her manage the pain of her disease. “I was so impressed with my success that I wanted to share this process with others,” she says.

McMahon is no stranger to helping people. After hearing about an orphanage in Uganda from her father-in-law, she sold her car to finance a trip to work there in the summer of 2008. She also volunteered for Smile Africa, a program that helps street orphans.

“Uganda changed my life,” she says. “My heart remains in Africa. I hope someday to return and stay for as long as life will allow me to.”

In the meantime, McMahon is working on a book about her experience. She and her husband of two years, Brian McMahon, would also like eventually to adopt a child from Uganda.

McMahon says the future is wide open, once she and her husband finish college. She hopes to “live well and be as happy as possible. Perhaps join the Peace Corps. Anything that is rewarding and will enrich my life.”

The Galluccio Scholarship was endowed by a $250,000 gift in 2005 from Nicholas Galluccio, a University regent who received a bachelor’s in English from the University of Hartford in 1972.

Do the Right Thing

STRANGERS HELP STUDENT STAY IN COLLEGE

BY MEAGAN FAZIO

Amidst all the recent bad news about layoffs, foreclosures, and other economic problems, the story of a first-year University of Hartford student stood out and sparked generosity from people around the country.

In February, CNN aired a piece about Nicole Suissa ‘12 and her struggle to pay for college. She had scholarships, loans, and wages from a part-time job, but she still owed nearly $5,000 by the time the second semester began.

Suissa and her mother have had a difficult time financially since her father abandoned them when she was 11. But Suissa is determined to become a lawyer. She has maintained an A average at the University and did not want to transfer.

“None of the kids who can afford it have to [transfer],” Suissa said on CNN. “And their grades aren’t as good.” Those words touched viewers.

J. Edward Bell, an attorney from South Carolina, was inspired to establish the Bell Scholarship at the University, and Suissa is the first recipient. He traveled to West Hartford in April to meet with Suissa and University President Walter Harrison.

“Nicole has this positive attitude about life that is refreshing,” says Bell. “I think she has a great future ahead of her.”

The Bell Scholarship will give Suissa the opportunity to meet her expenses in the coming school year. Bell also gave Suissa an internship at the Bell Legal Group in Georgetown, S.C., this summer.

“Mr. Bell deserves a public thank–you for all he’s done for me,” Suissa says. “I’m indebted to him for helping me achieve my dreams.”

Suissa has also received financial offers from a soldier in Iraq; a Las Vegas man who lost his job; a bone-marrow-transplant survivor; and the mother of another University student, who helped Suissa clear up her debt instead of buying a car for her own child.

“I am truly amazed there are so many people who are willing to help me in this time of economic struggle,” Suissa says.

President Harrison, who calls Suissa the type of student he wants to attract to the University, echoes her gratitude.

“What I find really heartwarming,” says Harrison, “is that somebody’s generosity is going to help a deserving student stay here.”

J. Edward Bell, left, with Nicole Suissa ’12.
At 43, Anne Parker decided to pursue a bachelor’s degree. Her goal was to complete it by the time she turned 50. At 49, Parker was on schedule. She had taken all her core classes as a part-time student and was well on her way to achieving her Bachelor of Arts in University Studies with a concentration in corporate communications by her deadline. Then a new job lured her to Texas.

Four years ago, Parker would have had to complete her degree at another school, but today, the University’s distance learning program offers her a new option.

“I am on track to graduate in May 2010 and turn 50 in March,” Parker says. “I only have six electives remaining to finish my degree through the University of Hartford even though I’m in Texas.”

The flexibility of online courses has become increasingly attractive to a mobile and busy population. Whether volunteering in Africa or working at a summer job in Montana, students can take courses anywhere there is access to the Internet.

Nationwide, the increase in online education programs has been explosive. The expansion of the University’s distance learning program reflects this trend. Launched in the summer of 2006 with 90 students enrolled in six courses, the program has grown more than sixfold in three years, with 562 students taking the 43 courses offered in summer 2009.

And more growth is on the horizon.

R. J. McGivney, dean of University programs, says plans are under way to offer an online version of the current Saturdayterm degree program. Once the New England Association of Schools and Colleges approves, “it will be the University’s first online degree program,” McGivney says.

Most distance learning courses at the University are asynchronous, meaning students interact with their professors and fellow students through technology—usually e-mail, online chat rooms, and discussion boards—according to their schedules. The University’s distance learning courses initially evolved to meet the needs of two categories of students, McGivney explains.

“The first audience is full-time University undergraduates who have gone home for the summer and are taking courses at other schools and transferring the credits back to us,” he says. “They don’t get the grades in that case, only the credits. Students interested in improving their grade point average will take our online courses over the summer.”

The second audience consists of adult students in the University’s Saturdayterm degree-completion program, which offers all classes on Saturdays. “If they don’t have time or don’t want to spend Saturday in class, they can take the courses online,” McGivney says. Full-time undergraduate students cannot take online courses during the fall or spring semesters.

The convenience of online courses also appeals to professors. When adjunct professor Maggy Tomkins began teaching the course Epidemics and AIDS in 1999, the Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence brought to the University firsthand experience and knowledge of Australia’s successful HIV prevention program. Tomkins continued her relationship with the University by teaching here during vacations from her regular job.

“In 2007, I decided to stay home,” Tomkins e-mailed from her home in Tasmania, Australia’s southern-most state. “Teaching this course online means I can keep up my contact with the University and the Epidemics and AIDS course, even when I don’t have the time (or money) to visit the United States,” she says.

Don’t expect an online course to be an easy A. You’ll need plenty of self-discipline to keep up with discussion forums, reading assignments, tests, and quizzes; and good time-management and communication skills are critical, as adjunct professor Karen Sullivan points out in the syllabus for her class, Discovering the News.

“I weigh my grades much more heavily on the discussion component because I want students to be engaged,” Sullivan says. “By requiring that everyone post and participate, you don’t get the student who says nothing.”

So will the day ever come when campus life becomes obsolete? McGivney and the professors currently teaching the University’s online courses say no.

“As the student population changes, as the demands on their time increase, you will see more of these classes,” says Sullivan. “It won’t overtake the traditional classroom, but it will be a strong component of what the University offers.”

Thanks to summertime distance learning, students can combine sunning and studying.
The economic crisis that raised everyone’s blood pressure in 2008 raised concerns for two professors in the Barney School of Business as well—but of a different nature.

Susan Coleman, professor of finance, and Mitchell Weiss, an adjunct professor with more than 30 years of experience in financial services, had been noticing something they found disturbing. It was clear from students’ questions and requests for advice that they were ill equipped to make decisions for themselves in financial matters like using credit cards, managing debt, or budgeting income.

And these were students in Barney. What about the rest of the student population? During the fall 2007 semester, Coleman surveyed 401 students, asking them a series of questions on personal financial topics. The respondents were split—66 percent business majors and 34 percent other—and fairly equally spread across class year and gender. The results, which mirrored other research in this area, were not encouraging.

“Almost 25 percent didn’t know what deductions are taken out of an employee’s gross pay. Less than 63 percent knew that when they signed a 12-month lease for an apartment, they were liable for the rent for the full term of the lease,” says Coleman. “Only 40 percent knew that potential employers could access their credit history in making hiring decisions, which is quite routine now. And 51.64 percent did not know what the interest rate on an unpaid balance was on their credit cards.”

As the economy began to freefall, Coleman and Weiss became convinced that students needed help to avoid getting trapped in high-interest loans and credit cards and stressful paycheck-to-paycheck living.

Together they developed a new class, being offered for the first time this semester and geared for first- and second-year students. Personal Financial Management (US 210), taught by Weiss, begins Oct. 26 and is open to all undergraduates with no prerequisites. The course addresses topics like the financial impact of career choices; the use, management, and protection of personal credit; and how to set up personal budgets that leave room for saving and investing.

“Colleges typically make courses available in financial planning, presuming that their graduates will have successful careers and eventually, money to invest,” says Weiss. “But when we surveyed colleges and universities across the country, there were very few that teach the nuts and bolts of personal financial management—how to balance a checkbook, how to select a credit card, how to save, and how to structure loans.”

The new course is only one component of a three-pronged effort that Coleman and Weiss have developed. In July they presented a plan to establish a Center for Personal Financial Responsibility (CPFR) at the University. The center will offer three one-hour presentation modules. The first is designed for incoming first-year students; the second targets the student population in general; and the third will focus on important issues for seniors who are about to graduate.

“We will be presenting the first module this fall to the Red Caps and residential assistants,” says Coleman. “And we are developing a module specifically to present on Parents’ Weekend, Oct. 2–4.”

The third component is a speakers’ bureau of financial industry experts who will present in a variety of venues, including University classes and community events. Coleman and Weiss hope that, eventually, the CPFR can provide service-learning opportunities for students who have completed US 210. The students would go into K–12 and college/university settings to teach others about personal financial management.

“The primary goal is to equip students with the tools to make prudent and informed financial decisions,” says Coleman. “We also hope to instill a sense of what is a proper code of professional conduct because the problems we face today are, in large measure, the result of a breakdown in that area.”
USA Gymnastics and Connecticut Gov. M. Jodi Rell announced in late July that the city of Hartford and the University of Hartford will host next year’s gymnastics national championships. State economic development officials expect at least 25,000 people to attend the event, which will be held Aug. 11–14, 2010.

The men’s and women’s championships will be held at the 15,000-seat XL Center, while the rhythmic, acrobatic, trampoline, and tumbling competitions will take place on campus at the Chase Arena, which seats about 3,500.

“We are fortunate to welcome Rick Brunson to our coaching staff,” said men’s basketball Head Coach Dan Leibovitz. “Our student-athletes will benefit greatly from his work ethic, expertise, and vast experience in our sport.”

Dan Gaspar (front row, fourth from right), head coach of men’s soccer, joined the Portuguese Football Federation’s national team staff this summer in preparation for the World Cup Qualifiers. Portugal began training camp on May 27, facing Albania on June 6 and Estonia on June 10. The Portuguese team defeated Albania in injury time by a 2-to-1 final and battled to a scoreless tie with Estonia.

Former NBA player Rick Brunson has been hired as assistant men’s basketball coach. He comes to the Hawks after two seasons as director of basketball operations with the University of Virginia Cavaliers. Brunson played college basketball at Temple University, then played nine seasons for various teams in the NBA, including the Chicago Bulls, Houston Rockets, Los Angeles Clippers, New York Knicks, Portland Trail Blazers, and Seattle SuperSonics.

USA Gymnastics in Chase Arena in 2010

Hartford student-athletes on America East (AE) 2008–09 Winter/Spring Academic Honor Roll (minimum GPA 3.0 required) and Commissioner’s Honor Roll (minimum GPA 3.5 required)

139 Hartford student-athletes on AE Honor Roll
73 Hartford student-athletes also on AE Commissioner’s Honor Roll (including all six members of the women’s golf team)

Hartford teams finishing as AE academic leaders in their sports

3.53 GPA Women’s golf team (highest team GPA among all AE sports)
3.47 GPA Women’s cross-country team
3.31 GPA Women’s basketball team
2.99 GPA Men’s basketball team
3.01 GPA Overall for Hartford student-athletes
It is an enormous honor for the University of Hartford to have been chosen to host the first-ever combined America East Conference men's and women's basketball tournament,” said University President Walter Harrison when the news was announced. “It’s a thrilling format—four straight days of jam-packed basketball action that will bring thousands of America East fans from all over the Northeast to Hartford. For those four days, we will be the basketball capital of New England, and basketball fans from the Greater Hartford region can catch all the action. Personally, I can’t wait.”

The 2010 America East Men's and Women's Basketball Championship will be played on campus at the Chase Arena in the Reich Family Pavilion, March 4-7, 2010. Nine institutions and 18 teams will compete for a conference title and a chance to represent the conference at the 2010 NCAA Tournament.

The schedule includes men's and women's first-round games on Thursday, the women's quarterfinals on Friday, the men's quarterfinals on Saturday, and both semifinals on Sunday. The championship games for both men's and women's basketball will be held on the home court of the highest remaining seed the following week.

Tickets are scheduled to go on sale Oct. 1. “All-session ticket prices will be $75 for chair-back tickets (all 14 games), and we are strongly encouraging people to get their tickets early as we have only a limited number of chair-back seats available,” says Dan Ruede, director of athletics communications. “There will also be a package for all 14 games in the VIP section that includes food and beverages for $300.”

For tickets to Hawk basketball and the 2010 AE Championships, call 860.768.HAWK (4295) or visit www.hartfordhawks.com.

Meiser Named AD of the Year

Patricia H. Meiser, director of athletics and special assistant to the president, was selected as the 2008–09 Northeast Region Division I Under Armour Athletics Director of the Year. The awards program recognizes athletics directors who have shown administrative excellence within the campus and/or college community for that academic year. This year, 29 awards were presented, four per division in the U.S. regions and one cross-divisional winner in the international region, at the annual National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics convention in June.

Meiser is one of only 22 female directors of athletics among the 329 institutions competing at the Division I level. During her tenure, seven sports (women's basketball, men's soccer, women's soccer, men's golf, women's golf, men's tennis, and women's volleyball) have won America East Conference championships and either reached the NCAA Division I tournament or national postseason play.

Women's basketball in particular has emerged under her leadership. It was Meiser who hired Jennifer Rizzotti, former University of Connecticut and WNBA star, as head coach of women's basketball. Since then, the women have won four conference championships and two NCAA tournament games, upsetting Temple in 2006 and Syracuse in 2008.

“Pat Meiser has been devoted to our student-athletes for the past 17 years,” said University President Walter Harrison when the award was announced. “She has brought great leadership to the university’s athletics department, raising money, building facilities, attracting highly qualified coaches, and supervising a great staff. Most of all, however, she has been unfailingly dedicated to improving student-athlete welfare, and for that all of us are grateful.”

Patricia H. Meiser

2009 Alumni Athletics Hall of Fame

President Walter Harrison (far left) and Patricia H. Meiser (far right) present The A. Peter LoMaglio Award to Stan and Susan Harris, longtime supporters of the lacrosse program and the Department of Athletics. The Harrises received the award at the 2009 Alumni Athletics Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

The 2009 inductees are Justin Bailey ’99, men’s basketball excellence; Candace Bintner-Schlaht ’90, women’s tennis excellence; Maureen DiJulia-Sadoff ’99, women’s basketball excellence; Dr. Mark Greenberg ’77, football and wrestling excellence; Chris LaMonica ’88, men’s basketball (1971–75) and men’s soccer (1971–74) excellence.

Other special awards were also presented. Joe Zubretsky ’79 received the Vincent Brown Coffin Award, and Jack Phelan, the Pioneer Award.
DRAW ME A PICTURE

PROFESSIONAL ILLUSTRATORS TED AND BETSY LEWIN ON CAMPUS
hey met in art school in the 1950s at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, N.Y. He was from Buffalo; she was from Clearfield, Pa., a small, rural town of a few thousand people about 90 miles northeast of Pittsburgh. Despite their different backgrounds, they had a strong common bond.

“Both of us had a pencil in our hands since childhood. It was kind of hit or miss before art school, but once we were there, we knew we wanted to do illustration,” says Ted Lewin, half of a renowned children’s-book illustrator-and-author team, with his wife, Betsy. Both are faculty in the limited-residency Master in Fine Arts in Illustration program at the Hartford Art School. The Lewins, who have illustrated about 200 books apiece, were on campus in July for the program’s intensive, two-week summer session.

But the path from budding artist to celebrated illustrator, author, and teacher included an unusual element.

At the age of 17, Ted Lewin was looking for summer work to help finance art school. He was about to take a job in a surplus store when fate stepped in. His older brother, Donn, had come back from World War II and was headed west to Ohio to become a professional wrestler. Ted, who had loved wrestling since childhood, became his sparring partner, and the two formed a tag team, the Lewin Brothers.

Ted’s summer job turned into a part-time job in the fall in New York City, helping to pay for art school, then providing income during the early years when he was building his portfolio and reputation. During the downtime between matches, Ted did a lot of drawings of fellow wrestlers. Eventually his experiences and some of the artwork were published in a 1993 book called I was a Teenage Professional Wrestler.

“In those days, I worked on canvas by day and on canvas by night,” says Ted, with a laugh.

Initially, the Lewins did various types of illustration. Betsy created artwork for greeting cards, and Ted did magazine illustration and book jackets. By the late 1960s he was illustrating children’s books and by 1976 issued World within a World—Everglades, the first in a three-book series he wrote and illustrated that focused on wildlife.


Their mutual love of travel led to several trips abroad, including one in 1997 to Uganda to see mountain gorillas. From that trip came the idea of their first collaboration, called Gorilla Walk (1999). Since then, they have done five other books together, the latest of which is Horse Song: The Naadam of Mongolia (2008).

Some 10 years ago, the Lewins met Murray Tinkelman, also a celebrated illustrator and the current director of the MFA in illustration program.

“We met Murray at a Society of Illustrators event in New York. We admired each other’s work. Now he thinks he’s my third brother,” says Ted. Tinkelman brought the Lewins into the program three years ago as faculty to teach an intensive, five-day class in illustrating children’s books.

“Most of the students have never done children’s books before. It’s a very different concept with different rules,” says Betsy. “The cover has to tell what the book is about without giving the story away. Inside, the pictures have to move the eye from left to right, with the main images on the right-hand page. Telling the story is a marriage of pictures and words.”

“At the end of the five days, the students have to finish a 32-page dummy of the book they are creating. Some of the dummies are rough sketches; some are almost like final artwork,” adds Ted.

The limited-residency Master of Fine Arts in Illustration is specifically designed to meet the needs of practicing illustrators who maintain active, full-time professional careers. The independent, tutorial-based program structure requires two and one-third years to complete. Students are in residence at the University for two-week, intensive summer sessions and at off-campus, one-week residencies in selected cities during the fall and spring semesters. During the nonresident portions of the program, students maintain ongoing contact with faculty members.

“The level of professionalism in the class and the dedication of the students are amazing,” says Ted. “It makes our jobs as instructors so much easier. Everything progresses very rapidly. I think we’ve had a half-dozen former students who have taken their projects from this class and sold them to publishers.”
Success is no stranger to the alumni of the University of Hartford. In business, in the arts, in technology, in government, in education, in health care, and nearly every other field, our alumni are making their mark. Here we highlight seven, including a student from Hartt’s Community Division, who have earned their spots on our Alumni Honor Roll.  

Alumni of the The Hartt School’s three divisions—theatre, music, and dance—were well represented at this year’s Tony Awards by the likes of actress Marin Ireland ’00, nominated for Best Featured Actress in a Play; musician John Clancy ’96, nominated for Best Orchestration; and Meg Guzulescu, Hartt Community Division dance student, as part of a cast that won 10 Tony Awards, including Best Musical. These three talented performers are quick to say The Hartt School played a huge role in shaping their careers.  

MARIN IRELAND ’00  

Marin Ireland, whose role as Steph in Neil LaBute’s reasons to be pretty won her critical acclaim and landed her a Tony nomination, says acting in a second-year student production of Three Sisters at Hartt was an artistic epiphany.  

As sophomores, the student actors were just beginning to perform in the classroom. Acting in that setting, under bright florescent lights with minimal costumes and just two feet away from other students, was daunting.  

“The kind of focus and concentration needed for that was extreme,” Ireland says. “It taught me so much. You can’t rely on all that other stuff to do the job for you. It was you, not the makeup or the sets, that had to bring that character to life.”  

Ireland was encouraged to turn her role into a classic study of human behavior by the play’s director, Malcolm Morrison, the theatre professor who was then dean of The Hartt School and creator of Hartt’s theatre program.  

The chance to work with Morrison was what had drawn Ireland to Hartt. A high school friend who had studied under Morrison told her he was starting a new theatre division at the University of Hartford and urged her to apply.  

Excited by the diversity of training that Morrison promised and the chance to help launch a new program, Ireland joined Hartt’s first actor training class. She is the first division graduate to be nominated for a Tony Award.  

Ireland’s Off-Broadway credits include Blasted (Soho Rep), Cyclone (Studio Dante, Obie), The Beebo Brinker Chronicles (4th Street, 37 Arts), Bad Jazz (the Play Company), The Ruby Sunrise (Public Theater), The Harlequin Studies (Signature), The Triple Happiness (Second Stage), Manuscript (Daryl Roth), Fighting Words (Underwood), Savannah Bay (Classic Stage), Where We’re Born (Rattlestick), Sabina (Primary Stages), and Far Away and Nocturne (both at New York Theatre Workshop).  

The California native says she loved working with the reasons talented cast and crew and reveled in the grandeur and history of the Lyceum Theatre, the oldest continuously operating theater on Broadway. “It is so moving to feel that Broadway history, and to know I’m part of it,” she says.  

Although she lost to veteran actress Angela Lansbury at the Tonys, Ireland says she’ll never forget her red carpet walk, or actress Edie Falco’s complimenting her work, or the look on her mother’s face when they first took their seats and the awards show actually began.  

Since reasons closed in June, Ireland has had time to reflect on the Tony experience. She says the nomination has boosted her credibility and probably helped her line up her next Broadway role. In mid-July, Ireland joined the cast of Patrick Marber’s three-character After Miss Julie, a new take on August Strindberg’s famous play about class and relationships. The fall production stars Sienna Miller, Johnny Lee Miller, and Ireland.  

“I didn’t really know if it would mean a whole lot,” Ireland says. “I’ve been around enough to know there’s really no such thing as a big break. I don’t feel any different, but getting recognized by people you respect so much, well, that was huge.”
John Clancy woke up to a text message last May telling him he had been nominated for a Tony for his orchestration work on *Shrek The Musical*.

“When we were in a preliminary recording session, a composer friend came up to me and said we’d win a Tony for it,” Clancy says, although the *Shrek* orchestration did not win. “I said wow, but I don’t come from that world. I mean, I wear a Mohawk. I was just glad it was good stuff.”

The Newtown, Conn., native learned to write for an orchestra at Hartt. He entered on half-scholarship as a drummer playing Metallica—thrilled that Professor Robert Carl, then the composition department chair, had taken a chance on him—and graduated in love with orchestral music.

“Hartt was very open minded,” Clancy says. “They had no problem with a rock-and-roller. They saw the raw talent. They didn’t mind I hadn’t written a string quartet as a teenager. Soon I was writing for percussion ensemble, flute, string orchestra.”

At Hartt, Clancy learned the skills that would prepare him to join with partner Danny Troob to turn *Shrek* composer Jeanine Tesori’s chord charts, melodies, piano recordings, and vocals into music for *Shrek’s* 23-piece orchestra.

Post-Tonys, Clancy is still straddling two musical worlds. He is touring as a drummer with soul rocker Danielia Cotton and working with U2’s Bono and the Edge on their rock musical, *Spiderman: Turn Off the Dark*, which will hit Broadway next year.

Meg Guzulescu did not spend her early years dreaming of winning a Tony Award. As a competitive figure skater, the West Hartford, Conn., girl wanted to win an Olympic gold medal, but fate led Guzulescu to a different stage.

When she was 8 years old, a skating friend urged Guzulescu to consider acting. She called an agent, who sent her to a manager, and within weeks, she had landed the role of young Cosette in the touring production of *Les Misérables*.

Guzulescu, who is now 13, decided to give up competitive skating and pursue a stage career. A veteran of Hartford Children’s Theater, she began taking dance and vocal classes at Hartt’s Community Division to prepare.

Under the direction of Hartt’s Rosie Docal Pizzuto, Guzulescu learned the ballet that would help her win a role as one of the talentless ballerinas in *Billy Elliot*, the Broadway musical that earned 10 Tonys, including Best Musical.

Although she plays a mediocre ballerina on the stage, Guzulescu says it takes a lot of skill for that many dancers to create so much orchestrated chaos, especially on a tilted stage.

The hardest thing for Guzulescu since landing *Billy Elliot* has been taking a temporary break to recover from a foot injury. She is eager to return to the show but already has plans for the future that involve acting in television and film.
When it comes to the smash Broadway musical, *Jersey Boys*, there is the magic that happens on stage that earned four Tony Awards in 2006, and then there is that little known magic that happens off stage in a tiny, darkened dressing room.

That is where Janelle Leone, a 2001 musical theatre graduate of The Hartt School, is head of a team of stylists that transforms the three actresses who help tell the story of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons into 40+ different women during 52 costume changes. In all, there are 33 wigs in the show.

"From curtain to curtain, the show is a long, never-ending parade of lightning-fast costume and wig changes," Leone says. "We're like a pit crew in a car race. It's our job to get those actresses back out on stage so they can do what they do best."

The Newington, Conn., native helped build the wigs for *Jersey Boys* when it opened on Broadway in 2005, and now, as the touring show's hair supervisor, she maintains the wigs as they travel from city to city.
PGA Tour standout Jerry Kelly ’89 returned to campus in June to claim a different kind of keepsake for his trophy case.

Kelly donned a doctoral hood to receive an honorary Doctor of Humanities from the University of Hartford for his accomplishments as a golfer and a public citizen.

“It’s fun to be able to get a degree like that,” says Kelly, the first Hartford athlete to receive an honorary degree. “It lets me look back on a lot of the things I’ve done and feel real good about them.”

The amiable Kelly—in town for the Travelers Championship, held at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell, Conn.—took practice swings on the Wilde Auditorium stage as President Walter Harrison recited his accomplishments. But the golfer was all business when discussing his finance and insurance degree from the Barney School of Business.

“There are so many guys [on tour] with agents in control of their lives,” Kelly says. “I knew from the start I didn’t want to be one of them. My business school background prepared me for my golf career and making a living at this game.”

A three-time tour winner, Kelly has earned nearly $20 million in prize money in 14 seasons, including $1.1 million for an April victory at the Zurich Classic in New Orleans. In 2002, Kelly won the Sony Open and Advil Western Open and was inducted into the Hawks’ Athletics Hall of Fame as the first alum to win a professional championship. He earned a spot on the President’s Cup team in 2003.

The school has been equally impressed with Kelly’s work outside the ropes. In recent years Kelly has visited U.S. troops in the Persian Gulf, co-founded a pro-am invitational to assist Hurricane Katrina victims, and served as honorary chair of the University’s Home Field Advantage campaign, which raised $10 million for a new baseball field, a refurbished soccer/lacrosse field, and a relocated and improved softball field on campus. Kelly was also a major contributor to that campaign, which will roll out a second phase to raise money for a running track.

“Jerry’s values make him stand out,” says Harrison, who personally forwarded Kelly’s name to the University’s board of regents for consideration for an honorary degree. “He exemplifies the talents we hope we’re developing at the University: in his case, his golfing talent—doing what only a very select few can do—and secondly, the character we hope we can produce. We’re just very proud of Jerry.”

While a student-athlete, Kelly’s golf teammates included future PGA Tour members Tim Petrovic ’88 and Patrick Sheehan ’92 as well as Pete Stankevich ’89, currently the Hawks’ men’s golf coach.

“Jerry was always intense. His hockey background definitely carried over into golf,” Stankevich says. “His success on tour has a lot to do with intangibles—handling the pressure, dealing with the travel grind.”

Kelly still lives in Madison, Wis., with his wife, Carol, and the couple’s 10-year-old son, Cooper. He practices deep-breathing techniques to calm his nerves and has a family member for a swing coach, brother-in-law Jim Schuman, who also is the University of Wisconsin men’s golf coach.

Ranked 22nd on the PGA Money List as of Aug. 30, Kelly hasn’t finished outside the Top 60 on the tour money list this decade. And, true to his roots, he skipped the British Open in July to help save the U.S. Bank Championship in Milwaukee, his hometown tournament.

Summing up what makes him tick, Kelly says, “It’s really uplifting to hear your name yelled out, to hear ‘Wisconsin’ and ‘University of Hartford’. So I’ve always tried to give back.”
ALUMNI HIT THE BIG TIME

ON THE COVER OF ROLLING STONE

AMID CAPECI ’83

“You’re interested in a wide range of artistic media. You have a visual eye,” says graphic designer Amid Capeci ’83, recalling the autumn of 1979 when he embarked on his education at the Hartford Art School. “But you haven’t really learned to look much past the surface. When you attend a great art school, you learn how to think, how to solve visual problems. That was the most important part of my education,” Capeci reflects.

Guiding him through that transition from raw talent to competent designer was a paint-encrusted, ink-stained cast of gurus whose approaches to art spanned the 20th century. They included prominent postmodernist painter David Salle; painter and lithographer Fred Wessel; the late Jack Goldstein, who during the 1970s and 1980s was at the vortex of the New York–based Pictures Group, from which sprang Robert Longo, Troy Brauntuch, and Phillip Smith; and the late Rudy Zallinger, whose famous 1947 mural, The Age of Reptiles, occupies one wall of the Great Hall of Dinosaurs at Yale University’s Peabody Museum.

“They were a terrific mix of traditionalists and new thinkers,” says Capeci, “and studying with them was both inspiring and enriching. It was a great foundation.”

That juxtaposition of traditional and new also defined, in many respects, the period during which Capeci was a University of Hartford student. “We were immersed in the intersection of art and commerce,” he says. By 1983, when he graduated, he had become a self-described “media junkie.”

“I was into film, newspapers, magazines—the whole idea of storytelling for a mass audience,” he remembers. “I wanted to be part of a national conversation.”

Not surprisingly, he gravitated to magazines. And after a brief stint with a music publishing company, he landed a job with Personal Computing. It was an early business-to-business and networking publication, and it reflected a trend that would dramatically shape Capeci’s work in the years to come.

At the University, Capeci remembers, “everything I learned about technique was based on razor blades and rubber cement.” But all that was about to become antique technology. Just a year after he graduated, Apple Computers introduced the Macintosh, and almost overnight, designers adopted the new personal computers. The shift from traditional design tools to computer design has impacted his career ever since.

In 1989, Capeci joined Travel Holiday magazine, which turned out to be a boot camp for learning how to use photography, maps, tables, and other graphics in storytelling layouts. He says it was a terrific experience and, two years later, helped him land the position of deputy art director at Esquire.

“I love working with editors,” he says. “I love the collaborative process and working against deadlines.”

He got plenty of both when he became design director at Newsweek, in 1995. “Nothing was more exciting than to be in a morning news meeting,” he says, “knowing we were going to put out a magazine in a week. It was simply thrilling.”

For the next eight years he was responsible not only for producing weekly content but also for producing special issues of Newsweek in response to major news like the death of Princess Diana and the 9/11 attacks.

In 2004 he emigrated to Rolling Stone where, as art director, he managed all visual aspects of the magazine’s brand. Reporting directly to publisher Jann Wenner, he was charged with creating what he calls “a refreshed and revitalized visual vocabulary for the legendary music
Ten years into his career, Mike Soltys M’94 needed a fresh perspective. It was 1992 and he had just been named director of communications at television’s ESPN, responsible for day-to-day media relations operations.

Soltys’s career trajectory had paralleled ESPN’s phenomenal popularity. But, he says, “You can become insulated.” ESPN was the only company he’d ever worked for, and the media relations game had changed decidedly over the past decade as the network’s popularity exploded.

So, he enrolled at the University of Hartford as a graduate student in the School of Communication and soon found himself refreshed not only by the course work but also by interaction with classmates. “Many were senior communicators for other area corporations,” Soltys says. “It was really valuable to share ideas with them and learn how they were handling challenges similar to those I faced every day.”

Soltys found his calling early. He began earning regular paychecks as a freelance reporter for the Associated Press, United Press International, Boston Globe, and other media by the time he was in high school. When ESPN debuted in 1979, the year he was a sophomore at the University of Connecticut, Soltys was soon picking up assignments from the nascent network.

One afternoon in 1980 he encountered ESPN’s founder, Bill Rasmussen, at UCONN. Soltys needed an internship to complete his undergraduate education, and he successfully pitched Rasmussen for an opportunity to become ESPN’s first college intern.

When Soltys graduated the following spring, the network hired him as a staff assistant, and he began his meteoric rise up the career ladder. The two years he spent working on his master’s degree at the University of Hartford, he says, were just the mid-career shot in the arm he needed. Revitalized, he threw himself into the next decade with renewed energy. During that time, ESPN quickly staked its claim as the world’s foremost sports network, and Soltys found himself grappling with a host of new media and new media tools.

In 2003 he was named vice president, U.S. network communications. The next year, his 23rd with ESPN, he managed the company’s ambitious 25th anniversary publicity campaign, a program so successful it garnered 12 major public relations awards. In 2005, Soltys was named Media Relations Professional of the Year by PR News.

Editors note: As we were going to press, we learned that Amid Capeci has accepted a position as the design director at Entertainment Weekly, where he will also be involved with the website.
KICK IT!
September 22, 2009
6:30 p.m., BBQ; 7 p.m., Game
Third Annual Soccer Season Kickoff and Alumni and Student BBQ
Coach Dan Gaspar and the men’s soccer team invite alumni, students, and families for a barbecue and soccer game vs. Boston College. Come out to Alumni Stadium and show your Hawk pride!

BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!
Fall Weekend, October 2–4, 2009
It’s an action-packed weekend you won’t want to miss. Your charter flight on Hawk Air departs from Konover Campus Center on Friday evening. Passengers will be spending their Hawk Dollars at the tables in the “in-flight” casino and enjoying four fun destinations with food, music, and many great prizes.

On Saturday there’s shopping for handcrafted items at the Alumni Artisans Marketplace, music from featured alumni in the Alumni Musician Spotlight, various Hawk athletic events, and new-and-improved children’s activities. That evening it’s the annual Alumni Anchor Awards, which recognize outstanding alumni.

ART & COCKTAILS
October 9, 2009
5:30 p.m., Silpe Gallery
Hartford Art School Alumni Exhibition Opening Reception
Join us for the opening celebration of the third annual HAS alumni show, titled Work It! Measure It! 120. Graduates from more than six decades will be represented in this exhibit. Many pieces will be available for purchase.

ART, FOOD, FALL COLOR
October 17, 2009
8 a.m. departure, Lot F, University of Hartford
Daytrip to the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute
Join alumni and Anchor Award recipient Dorothy Bosch Keller ’62, M’63, as she leads us through the collections of The Clark in beautiful Williamstown, Mass. A delicious lunch at The Williams Inn will follow our tour. And don’t forget: this is prime leaf-peeping season in the Berkshires!

MANHATTAN FOR THE HOLIDAYS
December 5, 2009
Buses leave from West Hartford, Conn., and Framingham, Mass.
The Hartford and Boston alumni chapters have arranged for coach buses to bring alumni to the Big Apple at the height of holiday season. With stops at Rockefeller Center, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Broadway, you have your choice of activities throughout Manhattan. Bus departs Lot F, University of Hartford, at 8 a.m.; second bus departs 1672 Worcester Road, Framingham, Mass., at 7 a.m.

Register for any event at www.hartford.edu/alumni or call 860.768.2452.
The Big E.

Amusement Business Association. He is president of the Eastern States Exposition, better known as the Big E.

SHARRAN SELIG (A, HCW) of Windsor, Conn., along with the rest of her family, developed a Mother’s Day giveaway as a way to thank military families for their sacrifices. Selig Jewelers gave away pearl necklaces to the first 1,000 wives and mothers of those serving in the military who couldn’t be home for Mother’s Day.

Sports Chairs for a Cure

Pink sports chairs complete with a cooler and a comfortable shoulder strap will be available this spring. These lightweight yet sturdy chairs are available for $50, with $5 of the purchase price going to the American Cancer Society and $5 to the Alumnae Council for Women. An individual’s name, college, or university can be embroidered on the front panel (as shown in the photo) at no charge. What a perfect gift!

If you would like to order your chair, contact Kandyce M. Aust, director of alumni relations, at aust@hartford.edu or 860.768.2409. There are a limited number of chairs available.

1962
WILLIAM W. LANDON (CETA) of Lebanon, Conn., was featured in The Hartford Courant for inventing a magnet-powered motor. He is currently awaiting a decision from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

1964
G. WAYNE MCCARY (BARNEY) of Longmeadow, Mass., was elected chairman of the Outdoor Amusement Business Association. He is president of the Eastern States Exposition, better known as the Big E.

1967
JEREMY J. JOYELL (M, ENHP) of Bristol, Conn., discussed his book, A Lifetime Ago: Before the Death of Childhood, at the Woodbury Public Library in Woodbury, Conn. The book is a memoir of Joyell’s life that infuses insights concerning today’s youth with thoughts on children past and present.

1969
JOHN M. BETZ (BARNEY) of West Haven, Conn., is the new director of finance administration for the Town of North Haven, Conn.

1973
PETER M. DUDIS (BARNEY) of Rocky Hill, Conn., was inducted into the Connecticut Food Association Hall of Fame. Dudis is the director of grocery sales for Big Y Supermarket.

1975
RAYNARD D. KING (M, BARNEY) of Oakland, Calif., was appointed by the California State Board of Education to its African-American Advisory Committee. King is the president of the Urban League of San Diego County, a nonprofit organization that sponsors youth education programs and advocates for residents of color in low-income communities.

1976
JOHN E. ABRAHAM (A&S) of Atlanta, Ga., has published From Ballpark to Boardroom: Lessons for CEOs from a Little League Coach, in which he applies the lessons he learned from the “little kids” to the “big kids” at the Centers for Disease Control and keeps its loyal clientele happy with approximately 150,000 album titles.

1977
STEVEN J. KOBYLENSKI (HAS) of Naugatuck, Conn., successfully defended his doctoral dissertation, titled Artistic Emergence: Common Triggers, Shared Perceptions, and Strategies for Perpetuation. He is an art instructor at Naugatuck High School and an adjunct professor at Quinnipiac University.

Playing to a Worthy Crowd

David Dyson ’81 (right) draws a long, cool bow next to singer, actor, and composer Harry Connick Jr., who hired him to play at a birthday party for Connick’s friend in New Canaan, Conn., in May. Like Connick, Dyson believes in working for worthy causes and served as co-chair of the 15th annual Tabor House giant tag sale and auction held in July in West Hartford, Conn. Each year, the event raises thousands of dollars for local men and women living with HIV/AIDS.
Newlyweds at Last

It’s a story of two young people who went off to college in 1955, excited to begin their adult lives. At a freshman orientation picnic at Trinity College in Hartford, they spotted each other—and as the saying goes, it was love at first sight. After graduation, they began their careers and continued their education. In 1967 they moved into a house with two apartments, giving them their first sight. After graduation, they began their careers and continued their education: one as a high school math teacher and eventual administrator; the other as a professor of philosophy, religion, and education, and as an Episcopal priest.

Their relationship, which has lasted more than 50 years, has weathered considerably more than the usual ups and downs. Why? Because the Rev. Dr. Richard T. Nolan and Robert C. Pingpank M’64 are gay men.

Fearing intolerance and its consequences, Nolan and Pingpank hid the true nature of their relationship for years from all but their closest friends. Gradually, attitudes within society and the church changed, and they felt safe selectively revealing their secret. In 2006 they received a domestic partnership certificate from Palm Beach County, Fla., their current home. In June 2009 the couple returned to Connecticut, one of six states in this country that allows same-sex marriage, for their 50th class reunion and to be wed in Trinity College’s chapel. Now, at age 72, the two are finally newlyweds and also celebrating their 54th anniversary together. (Their informal biography, Soul Mates: More Than Partners, may be accessed at www.nolan-pingpank.com.)

Nolan says that getting married was a mixture of sentiment and practicality. “Rich has been hospitalized on an emergency basis and for major surgery about five times in recent years. . . . Our Florida attorney recommended that we marry in Connecticut. Although the marriage certificate is not yet recognized in Florida, he believes [it] would be very persuasive in a medical crisis and some other matters.”

Nolan and Pingpank have strong ties to the early years at the University of Hartford. Both remember taking and teaching classes initially in the old Hillyer College building in downtown Hartford before moving to the main campus, which Nolan describes as having been “only a couple of buildings on a rather stark acreage.” Pingpank earned a master’s in education here in 1964, just after the Fuller Music Center was dedicated (1963) and the same year the Hartford Art School moved to the Bloomfield Avenue campus. Nolan was an adjunct instructor of philosophy and ethics at the University between 1966 and 1968, during the years when the University opened its first residence halls and built the Gengras Campus Center.

In a recent trip to campus the two expressed their amazement at the University’s growth in the intervening decades. “Our June visit to the campus was surreal. . . . A lot can happen in half a century!” says Nolan. “We are very proud to have been associated with the University in its formative years and now to be so welcomed as alumni/friends.”
Student • Teacher
Glassblower Naomi Kravitz ’05

BY THERESA SULLIVAN BARGER

Hartford Art School adjunct instructor and 2005 alumna Naomi Kravitz is a flowing stream of motion while she’s creating a glass sculpture. She spins a hunk of glass in a 2,000-degree oven, then removes it to mold the glowing orb quickly into a piece that plays with color, light, air, and form. Some of her vases, sculptures, and bowls capture her love of nature. Lime dots of glass resemble lichen on a pink bowl. Sacred Water, above, blends shades of blue, evoking the sea.

Kravitz’s says her work evolves because she’s always learning, including from her students at the Hartford Art School (HAS) and the world-renowned Pilchuck Glass School, founded by glass artist Dale Chihuly (Hon. ’00), near Seattle, Wash. At HAS, Kravitz teaches a glass fabrication course that introduces students to glass casting, mold making, and blowing.

“Every class that I teach, . . . at the end at least two students have found their art form [that] they have always been searching for,” says Kravitz, of Canton, Conn. “This is what happened to me when I first found glassblowing.”

In June, Kravitz worked as a teaching assistant to master glassblower Sonja Blomdahl at the Pilchuck School, helping to teach a three-week class called Blowing in Color.

Kravitz began teaching informally while still a college student majoring in sculpture.

“There came a point when I was being asked by others how to create a certain shape or idea,” she says. “One learns the most through teaching. I have been teaching glassblowing since 2004, and I love it, as I am still learning new techniques daily that I feel obligated to pass on.”

She credits former professor Joe Dal Pra, her glass instructor, and Associate Dean Tom Bradley, who allowed her to use the glass studio and was “always there for advice and encouragement.”

“It was in that studio that I was able to hone my skills through trial and error and really find my way of communicating my art through sculpture,” she says. “It was there that I learned about glass making, equipment building, equipment maintenance, and how to teach.”

She has furthered her education by studying glassblowing in Italy, both in Cortona and Murano; at the Pilchuck Glass Studio with Hiroshi Yamano, a leading Japanese glassblower; and at the Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, N.Y.

“Glass making is the ultimate art form, and I thank the University of Hartford for giving me the opportunity to discover its power,” she says. “The University has also given me the confidence to follow my dreams and not let anything stand in my way.”

Editor’s note: To watch Naomi Kravitz create a glass sculpture as she teaches a class at the Hartford Art School in 2008, see www.youtube.com and search for “Naomi Glass.”
Weddings

Alumni

is a senior account executive for The Hartford.

The groom

and David Jorgensen

Rachel A. Lutzker ’99

Right: A radiant Rachel A. Lutzker ’99 and David Jorgensen cut their wedding cake on March 28, 2009, in New York City. The bride is a morning news anchor and traffic reporter for WTIC-TV, the Fox affiliate in Hartford, Conn. The groom is an executive officer of Hoosac Bank in North Adams, Mass., was promoted to president and chief executive officer of Hoosac Bank in North Adams.

Kathleen M. Lupher M’06 & Richard Nolan

Stephanie Tsouvalas & Andrew Zell (10.11.08)

Aliza Berger M’06 & Harry Petrucci (8.2.08)

Jennifer Forello A’02, ’04, & David S. Broslovsky ’04

Kathleen M. Lupher M’06 & Andrew Zell (11.10.08)

Stephanie Tsouvalas & David M. Hernandez M’08 (8.17.08)

Not pictured: Carrie Long & James W. Long ’93 (Joshua William, 8.31.07)

Cindy Waters & Richard B. Waters M’97 (Matthew Charles, 4.6.09)

Elizabeth Raiche & Kevin R. Raiche ’99 (Ella Rita, 3.3.09)

Michael J. Gonzalez ’02 (Kaelyn Beth, 2.29.08)

Births

ROBERT A. COOPER (A&S) of Fort Myers, Fla., has been named a partner with the law firm of Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP in Fort Myers.

DONALD E. KEAGAN (M, BARNEY) of North Adams, Mass., was promoted to president and chief executive officer of Hoosac Bank in North Adams.

PATRICK SHEEHAN (ENHP) of Oviedo, Fla., birdied the first playoff hole to win the Athens Regional Foundation Classic, his first win of the season in the Nationwide Golf Tour.

1993

JAMES W. LONG (CETA) of Virginia Beach, Va., is the Hampton Roads bridge safety engineer with the Virginia Department of Transportation. He is responsible for the safety and maintenance of more than 1,700 bridges and 20,000 ancillary highway structures.

1994

MATTHEW T. CURTIS (A&S) of Ellington, Conn., is director of human resources with the Simsbury Board of Education in Simsbury, Conn.

SCOTT B. METCALFE (HARTT) of Severna Park, Md., has been names director of recording arts and sciences at the Peabody Conservatory at Johns Hopkins University.

1996

SUSAN V. CHMIELEWSKI (ENHP) of Farmington, Conn., moderated a panel at the PLUS Medical Symposium in Chicago, Ill. She is the senior vice president of risk management at Darwin Professional Underwriters, Inc., in Farmington.

LYNN A. MURRAY-CHANDLER (A&S, M’98 ENHP) of Keene, N.H., completed her doctoral degree in curriculum and institution at the University of Nevada–Las Vegas. She is starting her third year as an assistant professor of education at Franklin Pierce University.

ANDREW N. PINTO (HAS) of Monroe, Conn., had an exhibition of his acrylic paintings at the Monroe Public Library. The exhibit featured Pinto’s factory building series as well as paintings of local Monroe barns.

WAYNE L. WEBSTER (A&S) of Hartford, Conn., has been named vice president of commercial lending at Chicopee Bank in Chicopee, Mass.

1997

TONY Y. KEUNG (WARD) of Albany, Calif., was promoted to associate at Ratcliff Architecture in Emeryville, Calif.

RACHEL A. MANSFIELD (HARTT) of East Hampton, Conn., directed the Young People’s Center for Creative Art’s presentation of High School Musical at East Hampton High School.

1998

DOREEN L. TAYLOR (WARD) of Albany, Calif., was appointed to the Peabody Conservatory at Johns Hopkins University.

Celebrate with the Observer!

Weddings, births, new jobs, promotions, performances, exhibitions, publications—these and so many other notable milestones and accomplishments are what punctuate our lives once we leave the University of Hartford campus. Send the Observer your news, and we’ll let old friends and faculty, as well as the global University community, know what you’ve been up to since graduation. Announcements may be sent to alumni@hartford.edu or to the Office of Alumni Relations, 200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117.

ROBERT C. PINGPANK M’64 & Richard Nolan

Susan J. Dulepski ’92 & Brian Ducey (9.27.08)

Kristen J. Branca ’99 & Richard Acton

Susan J. Dulepski ’92 & Brian Ducey (9.27.08)

Michael J. Tellerico ’01 (9.27.08)

Kristen J. Branca ’99 & Richard Nolan

Robert C. Pingpank M’64 & Richard Nolan

JAMES W. LONG

THERESE D. PRESTON (HAS) of Monroe, Conn., had a photograph of her son, Adoni, featured on the cover of the “Towns” section of The Hartford Courant.

JASON S. WALLENSTEIN (A&S) of Sharon, Mass., won a bronze medal at the Blind Sailing World Championship Regatta in New Zealand.

JAMIEE J. ROBERTS (BARNEY) of New York, NY, graduated from Fordham University with a Master of Business Administration in Finance.

JAMES M. WINKLER (M, BARNEY) of Monroe, Conn., is the health management consulting practice leader at Hewitt & Associates in Norwalk, Conn.

JAMES W. LONG (CETA) of Virginia Beach, Va., is the Hampton Roads bridge safety engineer with the Virginia Department of Transportation. He is responsible for the safety and maintenance of more than 1,700 bridges and 20,000 ancillary highway structures.

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1999
RACHEL A. LUTZKER (A&S) of Hartford, Conn., was featured on the TLC reality show Say Yes to the Dress, as she chose the perfect wedding dress for her March 2009 nuptials (see Weddings on p. 28).

2000
JOSEPH D. COLWICK (M, BARNEY) of Plantsville, Conn., has accepted the position of account executive with TD Insurance, Inc., in Wethersfield, Conn. Colwick is responsible for employee benefits sales to business customers throughout Connecticut.

CRISTINA D. PLACILLA (M, HARTT) of Winston Salem, N.C., is a member of Ensemble Argos, a flexible chamber music ensemble. Along with performing works from the standard literature, the ensemble is dedicated to commissioning and performing new works. Placilla is a viola soloist, chamber musician, scholar, and teacher.

LOUIS R. SPETRINO (A&S) of Stratford, Conn., opened a studio named Spetrino Pictures, LLC, in Milford, Conn. The studio offers motion-picture, video, and photography services for weddings, music videos, corporate events, and commercial promotions.

2001
JONATHAN M. RIVERA (A&S) of Guilford, Conn., is the new head coach of the girls’ track-and-field team at Guilford High School.

2002
JEREMY F. BELL (HAS) of New Haven, Conn., is the gallery conservation technician at the Yale University Art Gallery. Bell works with conservators in an effort to maintain and preserve the gallery’s collection of paintings and sculpture as well as new acquisitions.

2003
JONATHAN P. BABCOCK (D, HARTT) of Kyle, Tex., is the associate director of choralar activities at Texas State University-San Marcos, where he conducts the School of Music’s University Singers and Men’s Chorus.

KATHARINA LINDNER (A&S, M’05 A&S) of Kleinostheim, Germany, was nominated for the Scottish Women’s Football Player of the Year Award. She is a striker for Glasgow City and was named Players’ Player of the Year in her first season.

DESTINY M. KIMMERLE (HAS) of Grotov, Conn., announces her engagement to Matthew Proctor. An October 2009 wedding is planned in Grotov.

BRENDA A. ROBERTSON (ENHP) of Windsor Locks, Conn., is the new director of care coordination at the Hospital of Central Connecticut in New Britain, Conn.

HEATHER A. STRIZALKOWSKI (M, HARTT) of West Hartford, Conn., completed a three-year teacher certification program in the Alexander Technique. She teaches flute and Alexander Technique in private practice throughout the Greater Hartford region.

2004
DAVID R. BOSSO (M, ENHP) of Berlin, Conn., was honored by the Connecticut Council for Social Studies as its 2009 Social Studies Teacher of the Year.

LISANN D. CAMPBELL-ROBINSON (BARNEY) of Cromwell, Conn., has accepted the position of marketing communications director with the Connecticut Economic Resource Center, Inc., in Rocky Hill, Conn.

TIMOTHY M. DELOUREIRO (CETA, M’08 BARNEY) of Rocky Hill, Conn., was inducted into the Rocky Hill Athletic Hall of Fame. He is the third member of his family to receive the honor, following his father and sister.

JAMES A. FORD (HARTT) of West Boylston, Mass., appeared in an episode of FOX’s scary supernatural series, Fringe. He played a computer-whiz geek helping a villain to open up a time-dimension portal.

DARCY PURINTON (M, ENHP) of Jeffersonville, Vt., is co-author of Tobacco Sheds in the Connecticut River Valley. The book gives an overview of the tobacco industry from the farmer’s perspective and tours the valley’s rich agricultural history, using interviews and hands-on research to capture the essence of this special crop.

Calling All Alumni!
We’re looking for alumni who have made mid- or even late-career changes.

Did you start out as an attorney and end up designing custom lampshades? Were you an artist who now bakes pies and cakes for a living? Did you leave social work to write novels or sell real estate? For an upcoming issue of the Observer, we’re looking for alumni who have traded in their first careers to follow their hearts in what the media calls “Plan B” careers.

If you have a story to tell, contact us at observer@hartford.edu. And thanks!

2005
CHRISTOPHER J. DUBEY (A&S) of Middletown, Conn., was the recipient of the Middlesex Community College Annual Award for Academic Excellence in Biotechnology.

MICHAEL J. HANLON (M, BARNEY) of North Haven, Conn., was reappointed to serve as a member of the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants’ Advisory Council.

KERRY K. JONES (C, ENHP) of West Hartford, Conn., has been named principal at Squadron Line School in Simsbury, Conn.

RUTH I. LEVY (D, ENHP) of Middlefield, Conn., is superintendent of Regional School District 4 in Deep River, Conn.

SCOTT M. WISE (CETA) of Rocky Hill, Conn., graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Tex.
2006
CAITLIN EICHLER (ENHP) of Madison, Conn., is the new head softball coach at Westbrook High School in Westbrook, Conn.

JENNIFER O. JURCZAK (M, BARNEY) of Avon, Conn., was named branch manager and officer of Bank Newport’s Narragansett office. She is responsible for branch operations, business, and staff development.

2007
RENEE J. MONICO (HARTT) of Eldsburg, Md., is on tour with TheatreWorksUSA as the lead in Juni B. Jones, a children’s show.

PETER J. MORETTI (A&S) of Stratford, Conn., graduated from Western Connecticut State University with a Master of Fine Arts in creative and professional writing.

Mari Skarp ’04, C’07 (HAS, A&S), Rocking Horse (welded steel, wood, wire, rubber, horse hair, found objects, 23” x 15” x 27”), 2008. Concerned with the disappearance of farmland in the United States, Skarp works to promote farm-preservation awareness by re-creating the living spirit of the farm and its animals using objects found on abandoned farms in Connecticut. Skarp’s work has won several awards recently, including second place, sculpture category, in the 59th National Juried Exhibition of Contemporary Realism in Art. Find more of her work at www.mariskarpart.com.

In Memoriam

Mark Ferguson, an adjunct faculty member in sculpture at the Hartford Art School, died on Nov. 11, 2008, at the age of 49. Ferguson, who was instrumental in establishing the art school’s glass studio, was honored this summer with a retrospective exhibit of his work in glass at the Windsor Arts Center.

Fredric “Fritz” Moses, associate professor of voice at The Hartt School and an accomplished baritone, died on July 8. Performing as a soloist with such conductors as Joshua Rifkin and Robert Shaw, Moses sang in the United States with the Detroit Symphony, Boston Bach Ensemble, and Washington Cathedral Choral Society, and abroad with the Stadttheater Trier, Stadttheater Oberhausen, and London Contemporary Opera.

Louise C. Murray A’43 5,14.09
William R. Steidel A’44 6,10.09
Wallace H. Churchill A’48 3,19.09
Walter F. Bender A’50 4,13.09
John N. Leach A’48, ’50 5,27.09
Robert L. Lassow A’50, ’52 4,19.09
Harriett B. Leon A’52 5,31.09
Robert H. Schultz ’52 3,16.09
John C. Cannata C’58 4,28.09
Elsie Johnson M’60 3,24.09
Richard F. Pauloz ’60 5,28.09
Lucille A. Diorio C’61 4,2.09
Hugo R. LaPenta M’61 5,28.09
Melvyn L. Raiman ’62, M’68 6,7.09
Peter T. Viera M’62 3,14.09
Priscilla G. Thompson ’63 3,24.09
Sumner R. Thompson M’63 4,20.09
William R. Neznayko M’64 5,3.09
Blanche Sherman M’64 3,19.09
Henry G. Rothauser C’66 5,11.09

Marie A. Petrizzo M’67 4,13.09
Edward P. Farrell ’68 5,7.09
Donna P. Neumann A’68 4,29.09
Susan S. Anderson M’69 4,7.09
William E. Bottomley ’69 5,26.09
Wayne E. Harrington ’69 3,24.09
Donald W. Ryan ’71 3,17.09
Kathleen J. Duncan ’74 4,23.09
Dennis W. Schaeffer M’74 4,11.09
Raymond Aron M’75 4,21.09
Michael W. Kurmiaskie ’76 4,14.09
Linda K. Ryan M’76 4,24.09
Linda Carriero A’80 4,2.09
Harris G. Cohen M’81 3,28.09
Christian P. Marlowe ’82 3,19.09
Andrew B. Lipner ’83 4,2.09
Iolina L. Ragazzo M’83 5,17.09
Joseph H. McCann ’86 5,27.09
Kip B. Evans M’89 4,29.09
John J. Marek ’92 4,27.09

Attention, Alumni Artists!

The Observer welcomes your art. Your work in any medium is a great addition to our Alumni Connections section. We’re proud to publish the art you’ve worked so hard to create.

Let us give your art a wider audience. Send in digital photos of your artwork from a recent or upcoming exhibition. Photos should be high resolution, less than 2MB each, saved in jpg format, and e-mailed as attachments to bkennedy@hartford.edu. Larger files may be mailed on CD to Observer, Office of Communication, University of Hartford, 200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117.
(1) First row from left: Bill Sherman, Nicole Bocra ’95, and Kandyce Aust, director of alumni relations, in Washington, DC, with the 2009 CT Honor Flight. (2) Bill Sherman salutes for the camera at the Air Force Memorial in DC. (3) Adam Stanisic ’09 and Elsa Chin ’09 celebrate at a Commencement reception. (4) Alumni volunteers turn out for the Travelers golf championship in Cromwell, Conn. (5) From left: Michele ’92, Brian ’91, Noah, and Jordan Swanson at the May 29 Rock Cats baseball game. (6) Susan, professor of finance at Barney, and Bill Coleman found a new friend at the Rock Cats game.

(7) Jonathan Jones, Prudential Retirement and an Express to Success mentor, with Nikki Hoang ’11 and James Ogwu-Weekes ’11. (8) Alumna Penny Coppen hosted an Alumnae Council for Women event in Gengras Student Union featuring the Wisdom Wheel. The wheel has roots in Native American culture and involves discussion of value systems and ethics. (9) Hartford Art School alumni gather in New York in April.
(1-3) Golden Hawks welcome each other and prepare to lead the Commencement procession. (4-5) Brand-new alums and their families celebrate their success at Commencement gatherings. (6) Deborah ‘05, M’09, and Mark Kulwich are a new addition to an ancient backdrop in Greece. (7) The alumni gang in Greece.

(8) A Night at the Wadsworth.

(9) Sam Skinner M’85 (first row, center), director of international admission, sits surrounded by a gathering of alumni in Taiwan. (10) Hilary Rudy ’00, left, and Alumni Board member Heather Fraser ’99 explore the Grecian ruins.
Rachel Lutzker ‘99 and Da’Rel Eastling ‘99 are the 2009–10 chairs of the University of Hartford’s Anchor Fund (formerly the Annual Fund).

Lutzker, who received a BA in mass communication in 1999, has kept her career path moving by reporting on how Connecticut traffic is moving. She currently is news co-anchor on WTIC Fox 61 Morning News and traffic reporter for Fox 61 and several area radio stations.

“The knowledge and internship experiences I gained at the University have made a big difference in my life,” Lutzker says. “I want to help the University make an even bigger difference in the lives of students and alumni.” True to her word, she also is a member of the Alumni Board.

Eastling received a BA in management in 1999 and is currently studying for his MBA here. He is vice president of secure retirement solutions at Prudential Financial in Hartford, Conn.

“I know and understand the value of wise investments,” says Eastling. “Investing in education is always a wise decision, and I want to help more people make the decision to give to the Anchor Fund.”

The USS Hartford anchor that sits outside Bates House on campus is a symbol of support, stability, and security. These are also attributes of the University’s annual fundraising efforts. For this reason, the Annual Fund has been renamed the Anchor Fund.

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Give to the Anchor Fund

To make a gift
Visit: www.hartford.edu/giving   Call: 860.768.2412
Mail: Use the convenient postage-paid envelope to mail your check, payable to the University of Hartford, Office of Development, 200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117.
Up, Up, and Away—
Fly the Red-and-White Skies of Hawk Air

Fasten your seatbelts, alumni and parents!

We’re kicking off Fall Weekend by taking to the skies. Your charter flight on Hawk Air departs from Konover Campus Center on Friday evening, featuring an “in-flight” casino and four fun destinations with food, music, and many great prizes.

On Saturday don’t miss the Alumni Artisans Marketplace, the Alumni Musicians Spotlight, various Hawk athletic events, and the annual Alumni Anchor Awards, which recognize outstanding alumni.

For more information on Fall Weekend or to become involved with the planning committee, contact Kandye Aust, director of alumni relations, at 860.768.2409 or alumni@hartford.edu.