Blitzer and Greenbergs Honored

It was honors all around on Sept. 25 for renowned journalist and political commentator Wolf Blitzer and for Beverly P. and Arnold C. Greenberg (Hon. ’89), founders of the University’s Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies.

Blitzer, lead political anchor and host of CNN’s The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer, was presented an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters by University President Walter Harrison and regent Arnold Greenberg. Following the ceremony in Lincoln Theater, Blitzer spoke to a full house as the Rogow Distinguished Visiting Lecturer.

Before accepting his honorary degree, Blitzer addressed a roomful of 360 invited guests at a gala dinner held in Gengras Student Union to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Greenberg Center, which is dedicated to the exploration and understanding of Jewish history and culture. Founders Beverly and Arnold Greenberg were the guests of honor at the festive affair, which featured several speeches and a short film about the center.

In his keynote address Blitzer praised the Greenberg Center for having done amazing things in bringing noted speakers and programs to the community. He said he believes the next 25 years will be even greater for the center.

Professor Richard Freund, director of the Greenberg Center, couldn’t agree more. “This year, we are celebrating 25 years of Greenberg Center courses, lectures, exhibits, concerts, excavations, symposia, and workshops for the campus and the greater community. Our reputation for excellence has extended worldwide, thanks to extensive media coverage,” he says.

“Stay tuned,” says Freund. “We know that the best is yet to come.”

Hillyer Breaks Ground for New Shaw Center Addition

In 1960 the University of Hartford constructed its first classroom building on campus. More than 50 years later, Hillyer Hall, known as University Hall until 1976, is receiving its first major renovation.

In June the University broke ground for a 10,000-square-foot addition that will provide much-needed faculty offices and common spaces for Hillyer College. The addition will be known as the Shaw Center at Hillyer College in recognition of lead donors John “Jay” Shaw A’74 and Debi Shaw, who made a gift of $1.5 million to the project. Bank of America also has provided support for the project in the form of a $250,000 grant.

Shaw, who earned his associate’s degree from Hillyer College in 1974, is chair of the Hillyer College Board of Visitors and a former member of the University’s board of regents. The Shaws are parents of 2008 Hillyer College graduate Carrie Shaw.

“This is a chance for us to give back to an institution that was transformative in my life,” says Shaw, who credits the personal attention he received from professors and advisors at Hillyer with encouraging him to pursue his aspirations.

Hillyer Dean David Goldenberg notes, “The generosity and leadership of the Shaw family—now with two generations of Hillyer College graduates—make possible our dream of a home for the college that is in keeping with our goal of reaching the untapped potential in all of our students.”

The project, at a projected cost of approximately $4 million, is expected to be completed in the spring of 2012. For more information on the Shaw Center at Hillyer College or to make a gift to the project, visit www.hartford.edu/hillyer/expansion.