WHO IS THE CLASS OF 2016?

The University’s newest class of students, the Class of 2016, is settled in and becoming involved in campus life. Here’s a brief look at who these students are and what they are like.

3 MOST POPULAR MAJORS SO FAR

- Biology
- Engineering
- Physical Therapy

The Class of 2016 traveled here from 35 states, including as far away as Alaska. The majority are from Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York. About 110 class members are from another country, including a dozen students from China. Others are from Brazil, Denmark, Germany, Saudi Arabia, and Vietnam. The class includes one set of triplets.

1st class to socialize on the new patio outside University Commons
1st class to learn in the Shaw Center in Hillyer Hall
3rd class to participate in Power Struggle, the dorm competition to save energy
4th class to take dance, theatre, and music theatre classes at the Mort and Irma Handel Performing Arts Center
5th class to study art in the Renée Samuels Center at the Hartford Art School

6th class to draw rooms in Hawk Hall and to use the baseball and softball fields
7th class to play on the refurbished Al-Marzook soccer and lacrosse field and to take biology and chemistry classes in the refurbished Dana Hall
14th class welcomed to campus by President Harrison
56th entering class at the University of Hartford

Above: First-year students and their parents cross the bridge over the Hog River on campus. Left: A new student uses his ID card to open his dorm room.

12 things you should know about the Class of 2016

With thanks to The Mindset List, released annually by Beloit College and authors Tom McBride, Keefer Professor of the Humanities at Beloit, and Ron Nief, emeritus director of public relations at the college.

- They have always lived in cyberspace, addicted to a new generation of “electronic narcotics.”
- Michael Jackson’s family, not the Kennedys, constitutes “American Royalty.”
- If they miss The Daily Show, they can always get their news on YouTube.
- They can’t picture people actually carrying luggage through airports rather than rolling it.
- Bill Clinton is a senior statesman of whose presidency they have little knowledge.
- They have never seen an airplane “ticket.”
- For most of their lives, maintaining relations between the U.S. and the rest of the world has been a woman’s job in the State Department.
- Exposed bra straps have always been a fashion statement, not a wardrobe malfunction to be corrected quietly by well-meaning friends.
- Women have always piloted war planes and space shuttles.
- Before they purchase an assigned textbook, they will investigate whether it is available for rent or purchase as an e-book.
- They watch television everywhere but on a television.
- Point-and-shoot cameras are soooooo last millennium.

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Some say that every University of Hartford student has a class in Hillyer Hall, formerly known as the General Classroom Building. While that tradition may or may not be true, it is in fact true that Hillyer Hall is the University’s oldest classroom building on the Bloomfield Avenue campus. For many years, Hillyer Hall was the hub of campus life, which makes it the first visual that comes to mind when many alumni from the 1960s and 1970s think about the University.

Today, there are other classroom buildings on campus, but Hillyer Hall is still heavily used. This past summer, the building underwent its biggest HVAC and energy system upgrade since it was constructed in 1959. Three general-purpose classrooms were also renovated on the second floor; a section of the roof in the lobby outside Auerbach Auditorium was replaced; and a section of the building façade was replaced. But the largest change was the new two-story, 10,000-square-foot addition to the building, named the Shaw Center. It is the first major renovation to Hillyer Hall since it opened in 1960. See the following pages for more on Hillyer College.
Bright sunlight glistened off the red ribbon draped in front of the door of the University’s newest addition as dozens gathered to celebrate the ceremonial opening of the Shaw Center in September. The two-story, 10,000-square-foot addition to Hillyer Hall, the University’s oldest classroom building, adds faculty offices, state-of-the-art classrooms, a large gathering space for students, and—most importantly—a home for Hillyer College.

Standing outside the building that bears his name, lead donor John “Jay” Shaw A’74 spoke of his pride in Hillyer College and the renovation that “fully recognizes and integrates” it as an essential part of the University. Shaw and his wife, Debi, gave $1.5 million to the project. Their daughter, Carrie, is a 2008 graduate of Hillyer.

Although the Shaw Center is a dedicated home for Hillyer College, it will benefit the entire University because nearly all students take classes in Hillyer Hall during their college careers. “We see it as a place for all students of the University,” David Goldenberg A’73, ’76, M’76, dean of Hillyer College, said during the dedication. “This is a building everybody can take pride in and consider theirs to enjoy.”

Following brief remarks, the Shaws; President Walter Harrison; Goldenberg; Tom Groark, chair of the University’s board of regents; and Dean Andrews of Bank of America cut the red ribbon so attendees could go inside. The large, first-floor common area, known as Regents Commons, is the centerpiece of the Shaw Center. It provides an informal gathering place for students and faculty—complete with comfortable chairs, video monitors, and computer stations.

Once inside Regents Commons, the crowd was treated to a multimedia student performance called “Living Space.” The performance by the Qualia student ensemble, featuring students from The Hartt School and the Hartford Art School, incorporated dance and images inspired by the building itself. The dancers moved to sounds created when percussionists struck the floors and walls of the Shaw Center.

Guests were then able to tour the building, and some received signed copies of recently published books by five Hillyer College faculty members. Read more about what Hillyer faculty and alumni have accomplished “behind the ribbon” on the following pages.
A ‘Jane’ Fan

Robert Dryden’s first encounter with the works of popular English author Jane Austen was relatively late. The Hillyer College associate professor was at Louisiana State University working on his PhD in English when he discovered her.

“I didn’t read Jane Austen in grade school or high school like most people,” Dryden explains. “I was looking at 18th- and early 19th-century British literature for my dissertation on pirates, fortune hunters, and colonial opportunists, when my advisor suggested that I look into Persuasion and Mansfield Park. Both offered a window into the seafaring world. That’s how I started reading Jane Austen.”

Since then, Dryden’s passion for the author has turned into scholarship, with his first complete book published in June and a second book, for which the University awarded him a Vincent B. Coffin Grant, due to his publisher in December.

The first book, Jane Austen for Beginners, is the latest in the For Beginners series of graphic nonfiction books that examines visionaries and subjects ranging from philosophy to politics to history in an easy-to-understand manner.

Dryden’s next book, Jane Austen in a New Age: Pleasure, Passion, and Possessiveness in the Global Jane Austen Community, will survey Austen’s appeal around the world through essays from writers in Brazil, China, India, and other locations.

A River Historian

For more than a decade, Renwick “Wick” Griswold, Hillyer College associate professor of sociology, has taught a class called Sociology of the Connecticut River Watershed and taken Hillyer honor students kayaking on the river to teach them about the role that it plays in Connecticut’s history, ecology, and economic development. Now the public can become students of one of America’s most famous waterways by reading Griswold’s book, A History of the Connecticut River (The History Press, 2012).

“The book is a replication of the course work we did,” says Griswold. “The organization of the course—from the materials we used to the classroom discussions we held—made this book the right thing to do. It came together beautifully as a result.”

While the book highlights the Connecticut River’s prominent role in the state’s development, it also celebrates prominent people who connected with it. “Many have found a deep inspiration along the river,” says Griswold, “including David Bushnell, creator of the first American submarine, and Albert Einstein, who contemplated the cosmos while relaxing on the riverbanks.”

Much attention has been given to the Shaw Center as a physical home for Hillyer College. Now meet some of the Hillyer College professors who call it “home, sweet home.”
A Student of Race Relations

Professor Ashley “Woody” Doane, chair of the social sciences department at Hillyer College, was awarded the prestigious 2012 Founder’s Award for Scholarship and Service by the American Sociological Association [ASA]—Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities.

When presenting the award to Doane in August, the ASA noted that “he manifests a delicate balance of extraordinary scholarship that has shaped the contours of our field, just as he has managed to mentor and advise students, lead his own department and institution, and direct the vision of the section.”

Committed to scholarship and service throughout his career, Doane has written groundbreaking publications that include Dominant Group Ethnic Identity in the United States, White Out, and What Is Racism? He has also freely invested his personal time and energy in working with young, aspiring race scholars.

A Poet, Performer, Professor

As a poet, performer, scholar, and teacher, Joyce Ashuntantang, a Hillyer College assistant professor of English, infuses her classes with creative energy; a rich, multicultural background; and a passion for the written and spoken word.

Originally from the western African nation of Cameroon, Ashuntantang brings to Hillyer her growing reputation on the world stage. In June 2012 she was one of 70 poets from 45 countries to participate in one of the world’s largest poetry festivals, the 22nd International Poetry Festival, in Medellin, Colombia.

“I write very strong, woman-centered poetry,” says Ashuntantang. When reading her poems, she doesn’t simply read, she performs—often accompanied by drums. Ashuntantang is currently working on her second book of poetry, Wings of Words; her first book, A Basket of Flaming Ashes, was published in 2010.

A recognized scholar of African literature, Ashuntantang often arranges for African authors to discuss their works with her students on Skype. In July 2012 she was a guest on National Public Radio in Chicago, Ill., to discuss the portrayal of African human rights conflicts in Hollywood films.

At Commencement 2012, Ashuntantang was honored with the University of Hartford’s Belle K. Ribicoff Junior Faculty Prize, which recognizes an outstanding junior faculty member in a tenure-track position who has not yet been tenured.

Joyce Ashuntantang, assistant professor of English, has a growing reputation on the world stage as a poet.

A Scholar of Exploration

Michael Robinson, Hillyer College associate professor of history, is currently completing research for his latest book, The Lost White Tribe: Explorers, Scientists, and the Theory That Changed Africa. The book will chronicle the rise and fall of the Hamidic hypothesis, which proposes that the human species originated in Asia and all people migrated from there.

In the 1800s explorers came across groups of people who appeared to be Caucasian in areas where white people were not normally found, such as the Arctic, Panama, and Sub-Saharan Africa. The hypothesis was formed to try to explain the racial diversity of Africa. Robinson will follow in these explorers’ footsteps with a trip to Uganda this winter.

Although scientists eventually discredited the Hamidic hypothesis, it has had a large impact on the world. Europeans who colonized Rwanda used the theory as their basis for defining two groups of people as being racially different. This division eventually led to the Rwandan genocide that killed more than 800,000 people in 1994.

By any measure, Emily Audibert ’13 is a remarkable young woman. She is pursuing a triple major in the Barney School of Business, serves as executive vice president of the Student Government Association, is an exceptionally talented dancer, and is involved in an extraordinary range of activities.

But this past summer, Audibert took her dazzling résumé and dizzying schedule to a whole new level, when she was crowned Miss Connecticut 2012. The Observer spent a few days with Audibert this fall to capture the many competing demands in her life and how she manages to juggle them so skillfully.
Audibert was crowned Miss Connecticut on June 30, 2012, and will go on to compete in the Miss America pageant in January. She had never competed in a pageant before 2011, when her dance teacher encouraged her to sign up for the pageant in her hometown of Wolcott, Conn. Photo: Steve Smith/Miss Connecticut Scholarship Corporation

Audibert's already busy schedule has become jam-packed since winning the Miss Connecticut title, as she balances her classes and school activities with numerous public appearances, her Miss Connecticut platform of fighting childhood obesity, and rigorous preparation for the Miss America pageant. “It’s been very challenging,” Audibert said. “I’m fortunate that my family and friends have been very supportive.”

Audibert makes an appearance as Miss Connecticut at a fundraising walk for the Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation in Simsbury, Conn. Joining her are sisters Emma Acampora, 4, and McKenna Acampora, 8.

Audibert speaks with Michael Malarsie, U.S. Air Force senior airman, who was grand marshal at the Fidelco fundraising walk. Malarsie was blinded by an improvised explosive device while serving in Afghanistan. His guide dog, Xxon, was given to him by Fidelco.

Audibert, who has been dancing for most of her life, practices with the University Dance Team. She spent many years teaching dance to children and says she “loved every second of it.” She will perform a dance routine during the talent portion of the Miss America pageant in January.

Working at her desk in the Student Government Association (SGA) office, Audibert goes over some items with June Krippner, SGA administrative assistant. Audibert was elected executive vice president of SGA for 2012-13. She previously served as a student member of the University’s Board of Regents, and she is a student coordinator of the annual Hawks Helping Hartford Day of Service.

Audibert prepares a healthy lunch while working in the SGA office. With the Miss America pageant around the corner, Audibert is diligent about her diet and her daily exercise routine.

Audibert walks across campus with Andrew Gregor ’14.

With her project partner, Andrew Newberger ’13, Audibert gives a presentation in her Seminar in Entrepreneurship class. “I love learning,” says Audibert, who is pursuing a triple major in accounting, entrepreneurial studies, and economics/finance, and will graduate with 150 credits, nearly 30 credits beyond the average bachelor’s requirement.
University Is Teaching Needed Manufacturing Skills

New lab and certificate in metrology introduced

The University’s College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture (CETA) is now addressing a critical shortage of people trained in metrology with the opening of its new Manufacturing Metrology Lab in Dana Hall. Metrology is the science and technology of automated precision measurements for complex manufactured parts.

“The University of Hartford launched its Manufacturing Metrology Lab to address critical skill shortages in this technology,” says CETA Dean Lou Manzione. “We have collaborated closely with regional partners such as Pratt & Whitney to build a state-of-the-art laboratory and prepare our students to assume leadership positions in the development of a world-class manufacturing base.”

The new Manufacturing Metrology Lab features equipment donated by a number of local companies including Nikon Microscope, Zygo Surface Finish, Faro Arm, and the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology. The lab now enables the University to offer a four-course Certificate in Manufacturing Metrology. The metrology certificate courses are offered one night a week, and the certificate program can be completed in one year. Those who complete the certificate program will have the ability to perform a variety of manufacturing dimensional measurement services.

Corporate executives and political leaders who attended the lab opening in August noted that having such high-quality training available for employees is critical. Some Connecticut companies have been turning down lucrative contracts because they do not have enough workers with the needed training.

To learn more about the metrology certificate program and metrology lab, visit www.hartford.edu/ceta/manufacturing-metrology.

The Legacy of HAS Professor Stephen Brown

An exhibition of paintings and drawings by the late artist and Hartford Art School (HAS) faculty member Stephen Brown, presented in the University of Hartford’s Joseloff Gallery this fall, displayed Brown’s talent and secured funds for young artists to follow in his footsteps. Opening night for Stephen Brown: Legacy on Sept. 6 included a reception, at which a portrait of University of Hartford President Walter Harrison was unveiled, and a gala, where seven original paintings and drawings by Brown were auctioned off, with a portion of the proceeds to benefit the newly established Stephen Brown Memorial Scholarship at the Hartford Art School.

The exhibition showcased more than 100 works from 25 public and private collections, with a focus on 1989 through 2009 when Brown was on the painting faculty at the Hartford Art School. The luminous still lifes of everyday objects for which Brown was known, as well as his candid and stunning portraits, hung alongside pastoral images of Pennsylvania dairy farms and sprawling landscapes from Colorado to New England and the French countryside. The portrait of Harrison, begun in 2006, was incomplete in 2009 at the time of Brown’s death.

Stephen Brown: Legacy was organized and curated by Lisa Gaumond, managing director of the Joseloff Gallery, along with a committee of Brown’s HAS colleagues and close friends—Tom Bradley, Gilles Giuntini, and Walter Hall. The group worked closely with Brown’s widow, Gretchen Treitz-Brown.

Six pieces were sold during the auction and raised $11,500 for the Brown Memorial Scholarship. Sara Adams ’13, a painting major, is the first recipient of the Brown scholarship.

Left: Self-portrait by the late Stephen Brown

Editor’s note: To learn more about the Stephen Brown Memorial Scholarship, contact Aryne Alexander at aalexande@hartford.edu or visit www.hartfordartschool.org/giving.
In September, ENHP and community partners—Hartford Public Schools, Saint Francis Care, East Hartford Public Schools, and the Connecticut Science Center—brought experienced science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) teachers and administrators together at the Connecticut Science Center for the Connecticut STEM Conference. "Future careers in the global workforce will rely heavily upon students who are well prepared in STEM," says John Tapper, ENHP assistant professor and member of the STEM Conference Planning Committee. "The conference showed educators how to facilitate student learning in these areas," he says.

Keynote speaker Stephen Hegedus, director of the Kaput Center for Research and Innovation in STEM Education at the University of Massachusetts–Dartmouth, shared his work on "Creativity in School: Math, Identity, and Motivation." Training topics included teaching with Legos; using movement and dance to teach the Periodic Table; teaching math with iPads; and prosthetics and orthotics, led by faculty from ENHP’s Department of Rehabilitation Sciences.

The event was very successful in improving professional practice and increasing connections between all education-related STEM constituencies in our area," concluded Tapper.

In May, ENHP students, faculty, and partners showcased their collaborative scholarly achievements at the inaugural ENHP Day. The day opened with an announcement of the latest affiliation agreement between ENHP and LIMBS International for collaboration around research and development to benefit amputees in the world's underserved regions and to provide clinical opportunities for ENHP students and faculty.

Keynote speaker Kevin Carroll, vice president of Hanger, Inc., shared his knowledge of innovations in prosthetics and orthotics and his often poignant stories about the strides made by those who rely on them. One of those stories was about a dolphin trapped and injured in netting. The dolphin's tail had to be amputated. After much experimentation, it was successfully fitted with a prosthetic tail by Carroll and colleagues. Carroll later acted in an advisory capacity during the filming of the associated movie, Dolphin Tale.

ENHP Day also included many poster presentations, informal and formal research discussions, and panel discussions. Follow the ENHP website, www.hartford.edu/enhp, for more information on the next ENHP Day, scheduled for May 3, 2013.
It was three days jammed full of music, sports, food, fun, and joyful reunions—even shopping—in the crisp New England air. Alumni and parents chose from a variety of activities between Oct. 12 and Oct. 14. There was the Hawkadelic ’60s party for some and Midnight Mania in the Chase Arena for basketball fans—both on Friday night. Saturday began with the 2012 Anchor Awards (see p. 30), followed by alumni musicians and artists on the green, an alumni lacrosse game, and lunch at the barbecue. Later in the day was a women’s volleyball game and both an alumni men’s soccer game and a Hawks men’s soccer game against Stony Brook. The Department of Athletics held the A. Peter LoMaglio reception honoring the former director of athletics and founder of sports at the University of Hartford. It was attended by a number of alumni players from the 1960s, when LoMaglio was also the men’s soccer coach. A jazz brunch on Sunday, a softball game against Manhattan, and a concert in celebration of Hartt Professor Stephen Gryc’s retirement rounded out the weekend.