Six Alumni Garner EMMYS in SPORTS BROADCASTING

The University of Hartford community had a half-dozen reasons to celebrate as the 34th annual Sports Emmy Awards were handed out this past spring in New York City’s Lincoln Center. Six UHart alumni captured prestigious Sports Emmy Awards.

Ashley Allen ’94, Ron Bishop ’70, Brad Cheney ’00, Arnold Fucci ’83, Brandon Moyer ’10, and Matt Parlapieno ’99 were honored for their work with the MLB Network’s MLB Tonight broadcast, which was named the outstanding sports program in the primetime Emmy category. The Sports Emmy Awards are presented by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in recognition of excellence in American sports television programming, including sports-related series, live coverage of sporting events, and best sports announcers.

In contrast to the more well-known primetime Emmy Awards, which hold a high profile in the entertainment world, the Sports Emmy Awards are given in all categories during a single ceremony. Parlapieno credits the University’s Student Television Network for introducing him to “the real TV news world” and says the video editing system he uses now in his day-to-day work is the same one he used while taking an advanced television class that focused on local sports.

“My experience at the University of Hartford fully prepared me for the real world,” Parlapieno says, “and is the reason why I was able to do what I wanted to do right out of college—and even when I was still in school.”

Several of the more recent alumni developed their skills through Hawk Sports Television, a student-run sports broadcasting club that Allen cofounded. Lynne Kelly, director of the School of Communication, was a big supporter of the efforts to get this organization up and running. “Ashley Allen has a true passion for sports broadcasting,” Kelly recalls. “She took advantage of every opportunity available to participate in shooting sporting events. Where there were no opportunities, she created them for herself by her own resourcefulness.”

Kelly observed other students, including Moyer, shadowing Allen and learning from her, adapting the same enthusiasm and work ethic. “My favorite thing about the University was the diversity of the student body, and the ability and access to pursue my interests,” Moyer explains. “Winning an Emmy has been an amazing accomplishment. To have one at such an early age makes me only want to achieve more later in life.”

“I couldn’t be prouder of these alumni for their accomplishments,” Kelly says. We provided them with opportunities to develop their skills in media and beyond, but they took advantage of those opportunities and had the drive and passion to excel. Receiving Emmy Awards for their work at MLB is recognition of their skill level and their ability to work collaboratively as part of a team, an intangible that we try hard to instill in our students.”

In 1984 the University of Hartford was pulling out all the stops to raise its profile as a new NCAA Division I school. At the GHO, Greater Hartford’s most celebrat-ed golf tournament, for example, an aerial banner bragged about the school’s move from Division II to Division I. An elaborate advertising campaign on television and radio and in newspapers talked about the beginning of “Hartford’s newest sports tradition.” And a Hawks hotline boosted season ticket sales from 22 to 600 just two months before the first Division I basketball game, according to news reports at the time.

As the start of the season neared, the only thing excited Hawks needed to cheer on the fledgling Division I team was a fight song. “I’m a Hartt School student with a passion for band repertoire,” Gaylord says. “I arranged the song for the new pep band.”

In my freshman year I saw a posting for a fight song contest,” says Michael Gaylord ’87. “I always loved band repertoire—marches, concerts. I played many instruments—the sax, flutes, clarinet, oboe, and bassoon. I had played so much band music that I figured it would be easy to come up with a fight song.”

Gaylord’s “Hartford on to Victory” beat out entries by graduate students to win the $200 prize. “I arranged the song for the new pep band,” Gaylord says. “We were Division I, we had to have a pep band. Back then, games were played at the [Hartford] Civic Center. In my junior year, a jazz band was organized to play during games, and I made an arrangement for them as well.”

After graduating, Gaylord took his ground-breaking habits to the Manhattan School of Music to earn a master’s in commercial composition. “In graduate school I took a job with a digital media company [Fusion Media],” Gaylord says. “I was responsible for every screen but the television.” He and his team won an Emmy for the 2005 TV Land Awards synchronized broadband experience. Gaylord now lives in Madrid, Spain, and works for Silicone Valley companies like Google and Twitter. He continues to be involved in orchestrating and arranging. His current project is a score for a short film, The Pan Complex, which was shot in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Although alumni received Emmy trophies at the actual ceremony, shown here in the background, we received photos from Ashley Allen, ’94 (left foreground) and Brandon Moyer, ’10 (right foreground) proudly showing off their Sports Emmy Awards.

Do You Remember the Lyrics?

Michael Gaylord ’87 recalls that the original lyrics he wrote for the fight song commemorating the University of Hartford’s entry into the NCAA Division I were tweaked slightly. But he says he will always remember “Hartford on to Victory.”

Check your memory:

Hartford on to Victory
The red and the white are set for victory, The Hawks are the best that can be; Oh, Hartford has spirit that is next to none, For sure we are NUMBER 1! We’ll win every battle with a shout and cheer, Our message is really very clear; Go Hartford! CHARGE on to victory!

To hear Gaylord’s music for the fight song, go to hartford.edu/observethehawk.