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Pick any FOUR America East home games—all women’s, all men’s, or a combination of both—and save $5 per ticket—a $20 savings—per game.

You can choose from the best seats in the house, midcourt, or behind the bench.

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So get here this season and shout “GO, HAWKS!” until your voice is gone. You have to See Us Fly!

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hartfordhawks.com
Dear Readers,

President Walter Harrison explains the vital importance of the University’s new strategic plan in his letter in this issue. The University of Hartford, like colleges and universities across the country, is facing some daunting developments in the coming years on a number of fronts. One is the change in demographics, which means there are fewer young men and women of traditional college age in the Northeast overall. Second, the cost of higher education has been much in the news, and families are taking a long look at the availability of financial aid when they consider a school. Third is what the president calls “the explosion in online learning.” Please read his letter and look at the strategic plan on our website to see how we will be planning and adapting to the future.

In this issue we bring you articles that will take you to the moon and back, literally. Read about the University’s connection to NASA and a very famous alumnus, John “Jack” Swigert Jr. M’67, who was aboard the troubled Apollo 13 mission to the moon. Three alumni who have earned Fulbright scholarships talk about their experiences abroad. We celebrate six alumni who earned Emmys at the 2013 Sports Emmy Awards.

We also check in with the student chapter of Engineers Without Borders and get an update on their work bringing clean water and power to villages in India. Professors in the mathematics department in the College of Arts and Sciences are on the cutting edge in their field. Find out how they are using a new technique to help students learn.

Learn what keeps the Hawks at the top of their game in the classroom, and read about the new football club on campus. Don’t miss the photos from Hawktober Weekend! Were you there? And last but not least, read about Karen Romero ’93, a coproducer on Glee.

It’s basketball season, so come out and make some noise for the Hawks!

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

Read the Observer online at hartford.edu/observer.
2. Our University has been characterized since its founding by close relationships between students and faculty and staff, and among students. These relationships are what the majority of alumni treasure most about their experiences here. This isn’t just my opinion. It is the most dominant result of market research conducted by Simpson Scarborough, a nationally known leader in this field that the University has retained to help us plan for the future. The important things to realize for this discussion are (a) this system has developed around people coming together in one geographic space to learn, and (b) it is relatively expensive to operate.

I know these are very general descriptions, threats, and goals, but many of us have been busy over the summer adapting them to the specific situations the University of Hartford faces. We’ll continue this activity—engaging as many faculty, staff, alumni, and students as we can—throughout the fall and winter, hoping to develop a comprehensive plan by the spring.

What will that plan consist of? It is far too soon to tell yet. But I will tell you what I, for one, think are the essential questions we should be asking ourselves:

- How do we value, both moral and educational, that have traditionally characterized the University of Hartford and use them to help form a University that is more flexible and nimble in responding to a world defined by the increasing pace of change? In other words, how do we ensure our sustainability?
- And in doing so, how do we reach new groups of students who can benefit from educational technology that can now bring them a University of Hartford education anywhere in the world?

During this process, I know there will be people who feel we have mischaracterized our strengths or the challenges or what we should do. I hope all of us can have a lively and thoughtful conversation on these subjects this fall and winter.

What is important now is for us to use the next five months or so to construct a plan that will help our University face the challenges of the next five years, the five years beyond that, and the century ahead.

Thanks for reading this far. Please let me know by email (hrmsv@hartford.edu) if you have thoughts or comments. I would especially love to know your thoughts on what makes us distinctive. We are all in this together, and I value your thoughts, now and in the months and years ahead.

If you want to read more, see the strategic planning website: hartford.edu/strategicplan.

WALTER "HARRY" OSBORNE
President

In today’s high-tech world, problems are solved by the person who gets a piece of software to work faster and better. In the field of architecture today, one of the best high-tech standouts is Jeff Pinheiro—but most people know him as “The Revit Kid.”

The Revit Kid
Alum Becomes Architecture Software Guru

Jeff Pinheiro, who earned his bachelor’s degree in architecture in 2011 and his master’s in architecture in 2013, both from the University’s College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture (CETA), has made a name for himself by creating a series of self-help videos and a blog that help others get the most out of the Revit software. The program, developed by Autodesk, is growing dramatically in usage in the architecture industry. Pinheiro says the software helps designers see buildings and landscapes in 3-D, then to see the impact of any changes they make to a building’s design.

Pinheiro started using the software when he was an undergraduate at the University of Hartford and used it to help him get a job at the firm. Following his graduation, he continued to use it and at times used his Revit skills to help friends and family who were using the software. Eventually, other people started asking Pinheiro to provide additional information.

The website has become the go-to place for Revit information, receiving 270,000 hits per month from people looking for tips on using the software. All those visits have turned Pinheiro into a nationally recognized expert on Revit software. He has been invited to speak at conventions and seminars and is recognized by Autodesk as a top technical advisor on Revit.

“Revit is the bridge between design and technology and between school and the real world,” Pinheiro says, noting that more and more members of the architecture community are embracing this three-dimensional design tool.

For Pinheiro, though, his bridge between school and the real world has been Dan Davis, professor of architecture in CETA and a colleague of Pinheiro’s at Fletcher Thompson Inc. Pinheiro and Davis both work in the firm’s Hartford office. Pinheiro is one of four University of Hartford alumni currently working at Fletcher Thompson. “We are the entire design team for them in Connecticut,” joked Pinheiro, who joined the firm in 2010, while he was still in college.

Davis notes that being a mentor as well as a teacher is common in the architectural world. “Full-time faculty teach first-year degree candidates and graduate students and everything in between,” he says, which offers the opportunity to develop a real bond between teacher and student. He adds, though, that a teacher and student working for the same architectural design firm is not a usual occurrence.

Davis and Pinheiro have been teammates on some projects at Fletcher Thompson, but much of the time they are just bouncing ideas off of each other about the separate projects they are working on. “A lot of what I’ve done for the past three years has been school designs, but I’ve also done some hospitals and some single-family homes,” Pinheiro says, adding that it is the variety that makes what he is doing so much fun. “For me, it’s always been about designing, but I am intrigued by the intricacies of building and of technology,” he says.

“Jeff is so good with technology,” Davis says of Pinheiro. That is critical in today’s architectural world, where technological skills are as vitally important as design skills. “Technology has changed everything,” Davis says. After all, it changed Jeffery Pinheiro into The Revit Kid.
Strategic planning. When I told a friend that this would be the topic of this Observer column, she responded, “If you pick that topic, people will immediately turn the page!”

I hope you’re still with me. If so, let me use the next five minutes to tell you why I think it is so important for the University to focus on how we plan for the next five years.

The University of Hartford—and colleges and universities all over the country—face very significant threats to our continued vibrancy, perhaps even our continued existence, unless we recognize them and adapt to them. Among those threats are the declining numbers of traditional-age, college-bound youth in the Northeast and their increasing reliance on numbers of traditional-age, college-bound youth in the Northeast and their increasing reliance on

1. Pros and cons of a national structure. What are the benefits to a single university versus the federated model? If this were a two-university federation, would the smaller institution be at a disadvantage?

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Pinheiro started using the software when he was student at Norwich Community College, where he earned his associate’s degree before coming to the University of Hartford. As he learned more about the program’s capabilities, he decided to help his classmates who were struggling to learn it. He created the website therevkit.com and posted how-to videos there; he also started a question-and-answer forum to provide additional information.

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Fulbright Shines Spotlight on Three Alumni

Two artists who graduated from the University of Hartford’s Hartford Art School recently returned to the United States after completing their Fulbright research abroad. While they were in different countries working on very different projects, Stass Shpanin ’12 and Chortoni Dean ’98 both used art to connect the present with the past.

Shpanin, who was born in Russia, spent most of the past 12 months in Moscow, where he did research on the history of pre–World War I Russia.

After a brief visit home earlier this fall, Shpanin returned to Moscow in late October to do something truly unusual: live in a glass house outside the Moscow Museum of Art for a month and complete a painting a day based on images from television and newspapers.

“This is a public project, I want everyone to see it,” says Shpanin. “Webcams will be set up so people can follow me. It’s a social experiment on how we see our contemporary history. I want to show that we, as a society, are responsible for the history we are making.”

The only political statement I am aware of is that the U.S. and Russia have a lot in common and I hope they can have a friendship,” Shspanin explains. “We live in a global world, where everything is interconnected. Culture is something that can start that mutual friendship. You don’t need to speak the same language to understand art.”

Shpanin’s Fulbright research followed that theme. He created artwork based on the history of pre-World War I Russia. One of his first pieces was a coat of arms, connecting images of human and animal parts into one symbol.

“There is a heart, a tongue, and skeleton all in the form of a coat of arms,” Shpanin describes. “What I want to show is that Darwinism applies to animals and people. The strongest one survives. That is also the case with coats of arms. They are symbols of someone’s power.”

Shpanin’s ultimate goal is to get viewers to think about art and history in their own way and not to focus on what they may have learned from books.

“I’ve been trying to use symmetry and symbols from history in compositions,” says Shpanin. “In many cases, it is absurd, but it depends on the viewer to determine what they see. There are a lot of parts, but I want to let the viewer make the final decisions about what it is.”

On the Swiss/English Express

Alumnae awarded both Fulbright in Switzerland and University’s John G. Martin Scholarship to Oxford University

When Miles Aron ’13 learned his Fulbright Scholar application had been accepted, he was faced with an unusual dilemma. Aron had just received the John G. Martin Scholarship at Commencement last May. He was set to spend the next two years in England, studying at Hertford College at Oxford University. After some serious thought, he postponed the Martin scholarship for a year and is now at the University of Zurich in Switzerland for the next year.

“aroon, a graduate of the Acoustical Engineering and Music program in the University of Hartford’s College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture (CETA), is working to improve the treatment of brain diseases such as cancer, Alzheimer’s, and Parkinson’s. He is looking into ways doctors can use ultrasound to penetrate the blood-brain barrier in order to deliver drugs more effectively to the brain. Aron is starting his research in Switzerland and will continue it at Oxford, where he hopes to earn his PhD.

“When I first learned ultrasound was an option for treating brain diseases, that seemed like something worth spending a life on,” Aron says. He became even more convinced of that decision on his flight to Switzerland.

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So far, Aron is treasuring his Fulbright experience. He lives in a flat with a view of the Alps, has traveled to Germany for Oktoberfest, and has experienced paragliding. He also loves his research team. Aron says he feels blessed to have the opportunity, and hopes his work please everyone who gave him a chance, including Robert Golter, professor of mechanical engineering in CETA, his advisor during Aron’s years at the University.

“He’s an amazing guy,” Aron says of Golter. “It was exciting to be his student. He expects a lot and makes you raise the bar.”
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Personal viewpoint is also a theme that runs through the research of ceramics artist Chotsoni Dean ’98, who spent nine months as a Fulbright scholar in Varanasi, India, in 2012–13. Among her many projects was a series of clay workshops for young students at the Kirti Gallery in Varanasi, which mounts art exhibits in its gallery and also offers artist residencies. During their first visit, Dean showed her students miniature paintings that are part of India’s tradition.

“We were teaching them about seeing with their eye but also seeing art through themselves,” she says. “We wanted them to ask themselves, ‘What do you really see when you look at the colors?’”

The workshops also introduced Dean to the plight of some young girls in Varanasi. One of her students was kidnapped by her father and sold into marriage. The girl eventually ran away but became ill and died of leukemia. C. Dean, who learned of the child’s death after she returned to the United States, says the experience had a profound effect on her.

She was similarly moved by her time on a tea plantation in northern India. Like cotton before the U.S. Civil War, tea in India is grown on plantations and tended by workers who do not receive any of the crop’s revenue. Dean visited the main tea plantation and spoke with young girls living there. She says they were amazed that an American had taken the time to meet them.

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“When I first learned ultrasound was an option for treating brain diseases, that seemed like something worth spending a life on,” Aron says. He became even more convinced of that decision on his flight to Switzerland.

“I was sitting next to a woman who was very proud of her son, who was a brain cancer researcher,” Aron says. “Last year, he died of brain cancer. He was in his early 30s. Seeing the pain she was in from the loss of her son was moving, and even though we had never met, his story is one of many that inspire me to mix work on brain cancer and diseases.”

While she spent part of her time in India on the tea plantation, Dean’s primary research focused on cotton. She was looking for a connection between Africa, the home of her ancestors, and India, which was the main exporter of cotton before the Atlantic slave trade.

“I was just interested in that dynamic because that’s how my ancestry impacted a different culture,” Dean says. “I learned that West Africa was trading with India. And Indian textiles had the striped patterns loved by Africans and that you see in my work. It was just interesting to go to India to piece together a different kind of narrative to my ancestry and the impact my ancestor’s hands had on the global economy of cotton.”

Cotton continues to inspire Dean’s work. She makes ceramic quilts based on the fabric quilts created on plantations. It’s that connection between the past and the present that led her to Varanasi.

“It is one of the oldest, most sacred cities in the country,” she explains. “That’s part of what drew me to it. You have these holy men with iPads. They have the acoustemont of now, while they’re embodying the elements of the past. The past, present, and future were happening all at the same time.”

So far, Aron is treasuring his Fulbright experience. He lives in a flat with a view of the Alps, has traveled to Germany for Oktoberfest, and has experienced paragliding.

He also loves his research team. Aron says he feels blessed to have the opportunity and hopes his work pleases everyone who gave him a chance, including Robert Colmer, professor of mechanical engineering in CETA, his advisor during Aron’s years at the University.

“He’s an amazing guy,” Aron says of Colmer. “It was exciting to be his student. He expects a lot and makes you raise the bar.”
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 ’10, Ron Bishoff ’10, Brad Cheney ’00, Arnold Fucci ’03, Brandon Moye ’10, and Matt Partapiano ’09 were honored for their work with the MLB Network’s MLB Tonight broadcast, which was named the outstanding daily studio show for 2012. Cheney, director of engineering for the network, served as an anchor for the show, which was named the outstanding studio show for 2012. Cheney, director of engineering for the network, served as an anchor for the show, which was named the outstanding studio show for 2012.

“My experience at the University of Hartford was the diversity of the student body, and the ability and access to pursue my interests,” Moye 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 2012, 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 bringing about the school’s move from Division II to Division I. An elaborate advertising campaign on television and radio in newspapers talked about the beginning of “Hartford’s newest sports tradition.” And a Hawks hotline boosted season ticket sales from 12 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.

“Being in a Hartford High student with a passion for band repertoire,” says Michael Gaylord ’87, "I arranged the song for the new pep band," Gaylord’s “Hartford on to Victory” beat was shot in Brooklyn, N.Y. "I arranged the song for the new pep band," Gaylord’s “Hartford on to Victory” beat was shot in Brooklyn, N.Y.

In 1997 Gaylord joined MTV Networks, where, as vice president of digital media for TV Land and Nick at Nite, he “was responsible for every screen but the television.” He and his team won an Emmy for the 2005 TV Land Awards synthesized 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.

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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

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The Hawks are the best that can be;
Oh, Hartford has spirit that is next to none,
For sure we are Number 1!

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We’ll win every battle with a shout and cheer,
Our message is really very clear;
On red and white, Go, go, Hartford! CHARGE in victory!

To hear Gaylord’s music for the fight song, go to hartford.edu/observer/fightsong.
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“The University of Hartford community had a half-dozen reasons to celebrate as the 34th Annual Sports Emmy Awards were presented in New York City,” said Lynne Kelly, director of the School of Communications. “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 student body, and the 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 celebrated gameday experience for years, an academic billboard 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 12 to 600 just two months before the first Division I basketball game, according to Kelly.

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"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), and that started me down the digital media path, when digital media was fairly new," he says. "Having been a musician all of my life lent itself well to what was happening in the digital world. I developed interactive videos for museums and shopping malls. Thinking about all the layers and possibilities of a video capitalized on my musical composition skills. There was something symbiotic about what I did in digital media and what I did as an arranger. I think the career I ended up in uses the same side of the brain that I was trained to use at Hartt."

In 1997 Gaylord joined MTV Networks, which, as vice president of digital media for TV Land and Nick at Nite, he 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.

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, On red and white, Go out and win the fight, Go, Hartford, CHARGE to victory!

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

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The University’s NHS recipients are chosen from the pool of students who have already received Regents’ Scholarships, awarded to students in the top 10 percent of their high school class with a combined SAT score of 1270 or higher. The Regents’ Scholarship supplants up to $17,000 toward tuition and the National Honor Scholarship covers the rest.

Eleven students made up the first group to receive the scholarship for the 2005–06 academic year, each with the excellent high school academic records that put them in the top echelon of entering college freshmen. And they were student council presidents and yearbook editors and club officers. The National Honor Scholarship was established to help the University attract these high-achieving students.

This year’s recipients are just as impressive as that first group. Connor Goyette was designated an AP Scholar with Honor, which means he received an average score of at least 3.25 (in a range of 1–5) on all advanced placement exams taken, with scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. He comes to the University from Sturbridge, Mass., where he was the geography bee champion at his high school and received the highest score for Tantasqua Regional High School on the annual Worcester Polytechnic Institute math competition.

As a member of the National Honor Society, Goyette participated in a food, clothing, and supplies drive for victims of a June 2011 tornado that devastated Springfield, Mass., and other towns in Massachusetts, including Sturbridge. As an undeclared engineering major, Goyette says he will use this first semester to take classes in the University of Hartford’s College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture to educate himself about the different aspects of engineering so that he can decide which one will be right for him.

Of his decision to come to the University of Hartford, Goyette says he had already made up his mind without the bonus of scholarships.

“I first found out about the University of Hartford at a college fair. I was impressed with how the University was presented at its booth, so I further researched the school and its programs. Everything I learned about the school was great, from the variety of majors and opportunities to its many clubs and extracurricular activities offered. I then went to visit the school, and that is when I truly realized that this is the school for me. I talked to people who previously attended the University, and they had nothing but good things to say.”

“Receiving the scholarship was just a bonus. I had already fallen in love with the school, so receiving this scholarship was just icing on the cake.”

Kathryn Mitchell is from Easton, Md. She graduated as the valedictorian of her class from St. Michael’s Middle/High School in the neighboring town of St. Michaels.

Mitchell has been playing the piano for almost nine years. “I accompanied my high school’s musical productions in the orchestra and worked as a paid accompanist last summer for a local theater. I also often volunteered to play at Talbot Hospice House, a local charity that provides inexpensive medical care to the terminally ill,” says Mitchell, who brought a keyboard to campus with her to stay in practice.

As early as her junior year of high school, Mitchell says she decided to major in some area of business, and that positive reviews of the University’s business program encouraged her to apply to and enter the University of Hartford’s Barney School of Business. Mitchell is considering a major in marketing.

“I initially applied to the University of Hartford after hearing good things about the business school from a representative at a college fair; additionally, the location appealed to me—it is in a suburban area and has a beautiful campus but is close to several major cities.”

“While I was very happy with the University and was considering it as a top choice before being offered the scholarship, I must say in all honesty that the scholarship was the largest factor in my decision. Other schools had offered some scholarship money, but the University of Hartford was the most generous,” says Mitchell.

Rukhvan Vathupola, originally from Kandy, Sri Lanka, went to high school at Northwest High School in Germantown, Md. An AP Scholar with Distinction, he passed nine advanced placement examinations in various subjects, including world history, calculus, statistics, English literature, and physics. His award means that he had an average score of 3.5 on the advanced placement exams and scores of 3 or higher on five or more exams.

Vathupola is interested in languages. For his senior project in high school, he studied slang and how it influences the change in language over time. He says he has dabbled in Hebrew, Dutch, Japanese, Portuguese, Latin, and French. Vathupola also played electric bass in a heavy metal band called Leviathan Rising with some of his friends.

Now planning to become an architecture major in the University’s College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture, Vathupola says that he considered other careers as well.

“Before I wanted to be an architect, I wanted to be an artist, a professional musician, a writer, a biologist, and a paleontologist, in that order. Ultimately I chose to become an architect because I love to draw.”

Vathupola’s decision to come to the University was influenced by the programs offered and the scholarships available to him.

“I applied to a lot of schools in New England, some in Maryland, and the rest were in California. I applied to the University of Hartford because they had a good program in architecture. I first got seriously interested in the University after I received a letter saying I would get scholarships to go here that would eliminate the cost of tuition.”

“Eventually, after the acceptance letters from the other schools came back, I looked them over with my parents and realized that the University of Hartford was the best choice because it had the architectural engineering technology program and because of the scholarships they offered me.”

Welcome to these three and all the members of the Class of 2017.
The Class of 2017 arrived on campus at the end of August—excited, a bit anxious, and possibly homesick. We welcomed more than 1,500 new students (see back cover) and thousands of returning students over Labor Day weekend. It was as if someone flipped a giant power switch somewhere and the giant woke up.

Among the incoming members are three very remarkable students who have received the University of Hartford’s only full-tuition, four-year academic scholarship. Called the National Honor Scholarship (NHS), it was established in 2005 by life regent Belle K. Ribicoff, with additional support from life regent Richard J. Cardin ’82 and longtime University of Hartford supporter Claire Pryor ’84. This year’s recipients are Kathryn Mitchell, Rukhahan Vathupola, and Connor Thomas Goyette.

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For many students who sign up for the project, traveling to India will be their first experience living and working in a foreign country. To prepare them for what’s to come, faculty and returning students lend a helping hand. Faculty members act as mentors to the new students by providing them with the information needed to work on the various projects, as well as preparing them for the cultural differences they will experience in India.

When it comes to traveling advice like what to wear, what to pack, and the dos and don’ts of India, new students rely on the guidance of students who have already taken the trip.

Throughout the years, we have created a plan to go about getting things done in India, and many of the students help implement that template,” explains David Pines, associate professor of civil, environmental, and biomedical engineering in the University of Hartford’s College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture, and faculty head of the program.

It all began with an assignment to sophomore students in an engineering course in 2007 to design a solar-powered water pump and storage system and be able to build it with materials that would be locally available in Abheypur.

The engineering students first traveled to Abheypur in January 2008. They installed their pump successfully and began providing 10,000 gallons of easily accessible water daily to the village’s 3,000 residents, including the side of the girls’ school.

One goal of the water project was to improve the village children’s attendance at school. Another goal was to reduce the amount of time women and girls spent getting water for their families and homes.

Before the pump was installed, women in the village had to walk up to a mile to reach a well, wait for their turn at the pump, and then walk back to their homes carrying water jugs on their heads. The electricity to run the pump was not reliable, and the women and girls could spend hours on just this one daily task.

With more reliable and faster access to water, it is hoped that the village’s women will have time to learn about small business, generate income, and improve their status.

In addition to students who work on the engineering projects, University students have accompanied Marcia Hughes, assistant director of the College of Arts and Sciences Center for Social Research, to Abheypur to study culture, family structure, and women’s issues in the village. The students will soon be interviewing village residents about the impact of the new water system and other issues.

In addition to the engineering projects in Abheypur, Marcia Hughes, assistant director of the University of Hartford’s College of Arts and Sciences Center for Social Research, has been traveling to India to study the culture, family structure, and especially women’s issues in the village. University students have accompanied her to interview members of the village, especially about the impact of the new water system. The engineering students are also involved in surveying the villagers so that they can better understand how to help the people of Abheypur.

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In January 2014, students and faculty will begin Phase I of a project at the neighboring village of Ghumar. Although this village has more resources than Abheypur and has a well-defined water system consisting of wells, a pump, and storage tanks with taps, electricity runs everything. The villagers suffer the same uncertainty about when electricity to power the pump will be available.

“Right now, the electricity tends to be available in the middle of the night, which means that for those families who have smaller storage tanks, the women and girls have to wake up and fill them,” Pines explains. “We are trying to eliminate the middle-of-the-night routine by providing solar power to distribute water from the tanks during the day.

“Students are designing solar panel structures and panels this semester that will hold with local supplies when we get to India. Our goal is to partner with the villagers to install reliable and sustainable technology that the local residents can operate and manage easily,” says Pines.

As the program becomes more established with every trip, faculty members have taken more of a supervising and mentoring role on several projects. This gives students the ability to get more involved each year.

“Once we got the ball rolling, (Professor) Pines gave our group space to develop a design and input our own ideas,” says civil engineering graduate Justin Howe ’09, who traveled to Abheypur during his junior year.

Howe is now pursuing a master’s degree in civil engineering at the University of Texas and believes that the experience he gained on his travels to India helped him land his first job as well as get accepted into graduate school. “The experience shows employers your ability to adapt to unfamiliar situations and environments, and willingness to assist others in need—all of which are very attractive attributes for various career paths,” explains Howe, who plans to get involved with the projects in India again, following the completion of his graduate program.

The program now looks to expand on this project by improving the distribution of water to surrounding villages. Over the semester break in January 2014, students and faculty will begin Phase I of a project at the neighboring village of Ghumar. Although this village has more resources than Abheypur and has a well-defined water system consisting of wells, a pump, and storage tanks with taps, electricity runs everything. The villagers suffer the same uncertainty about when electricity to power the pump will be available.

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The University of Hartford’s Hartford Art School (HAS) awarded 15 degrees in August to the second class of graduates of its International Limited-Residency MFA in Photography program. True to the program’s name, the 2013 class included students from Germany, Iceland, Japan, and Brazil, as well as American students from Houston, Texas; San Francisco, Calif.; Kansas City, Mo.; and Brooklyn, N.Y.

At the program’s thesis exhibition, renowned photographer and educator Robert Lyons, director of the program, said, “The program is exceeding my expectations, in terms of the intensity of the work and in terms of the applicants we are attracting.” He noted that one graduate of the program is already having a second photography book published. “This is the only program of its kind with a focus on photography and photography books.”

“This is really a cutting-edge program,” agreed Morgan Ashcom, a member of the Class of 2013 from Brooklyn. “The limited-residency aspect offers you the flexibility to explore new worlds without having to be in a set location,” he said.

Felipe Russo of Sao Paulo, Brazil, another member of the Class of 2013, echoed Ashcom’s sentiments. What first attracted him to the program was the quality of the faculty and the fact that he would be able to work at home and still attend school. During the course of the two-year program, he has become very close to his classmates. “The group is now my network. They are the ones that I want to share my work and ideas with,” he explained.

Class of 2013 graduate Dorothee Deiss of Berlin, Germany, said she came to the program because of Lyons, who was previously her teacher in Berlin. “This program was my only possibility for getting my master’s degree. I work full time.” She added that she loved the international element of the program, not just being able to visit and work in other locales but to work with people from other countries.

Lyons noted that other art schools around the United States are studying the model that has been created here at the University of Hartford to determine how they might try to duplicate it. Both the low-residency requirement and the international-student component make the program the first and only of its kind.
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Hall of Fame Honors Tinkelman

Murray Tinkelman, director of the Hartford Art School’s Low-Residency MFA in Illustration program, was inducted in June into the Society of Illustrators Hall of Fame, the highest honor in the field of illustration. He was one of six illustrators to be inducted this year; other 2013 inductees include the late Charles M. Schulz, creator of the iconic Peanuts comic strip.

The Society of Illustrators Hall of Fame includes some of the most recognized names in the field of illustration—Norman Rockwell (the first inductee in 1958), Maxfield Parrish, Al Hirschfeld, Maurice Sendak, to name just a few.

“The idea of being inducted into the Hall of Fame that houses my childhood heroes—the greatest illustrators who ever lived . . . that same pantheon is more than I can even wrap my mind around. It is shockingly moving,” Tinkelman said. He was especially honored, he said, to be in the same induction class as his favorite cartoonist, the late George Herriman, creator of the comic strip Krazy Kat.

Tinkelman is an internationally renowned illustrator, educator, and art historian. He and his wife, Carol, brought the Low-Residency MFA in Illustration program to the University of Hartford in 2006. The program is designed for working illustrators, designers, and art educators who want to enhance their illustration skills and further their careers. It is the only low-residency MFA program in the country dedicated exclusively to illustration. Seventeen students graduated from the two-year program on July 19.
Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, Skylab, Columbia. Many Americans remember the names of the projects and the excitement surrounding every launch into space as the nation became fasciinated with the NASA space program, beginning in the 1960s. Children were actually allowed to watch television in school on those special days, and adults crowded around TV sets wherever they could find them.

It may surprise you to learn that a young man who eventually became an astronaut on one of NASA's early lunar missions was taking MBA courses in the University of Hartford's Baney School of Business in the mid-1960s. John L. "Jack" Swigert Jr. came to Hartford, Conn., in 1957, after receiving his bachelor's in mechanical engineering from the University of Colorado. Swigert became an engineering test pilot at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Group in East Hartford and North American Aviation Inc., now part of Boeing. He earned a master's in aerospace science from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Hartford in 1966 and his Barany MBA in 1967.

Three years later he would be strapping in as pilot of the Apollo 13 command module and heading for the moon.

After two failed attempts to join the astronaut program, Swigert was selected in 1966. NASA required astronauts to have a bachelor's degree, and most had graduate degrees as well, which is probably what brought Swigert to the University of Hartford.

While here, he took an undergraduate course in statistics from an assistant professor in math, Cecilia Wolin. Later, he took calculus and she tutored him for one semester. Once when she arrived to begin a tutoring session, he presented her with a cake he had baked. "He was very personable and good natured... and he loved to bake," said Wolin in a 1982 Observer story after Swigert's death from cancer that year.

Wolin, who died in 2012, had a long career at the University, eventually becoming the long-time chair of the math department, dean of both the College of Arts and Sciences and business, and being known as The Institute of Education, Nursing and Health Professions, as well as a professor emerita and University regent.

A member of the back-up crew for Apollo 13, Swigert was bumped up three days before launch to replace Thomas K. "Ken" Mattingly, who had been exposed to German measles and was grounded by NASA doctors.

Apollo 13 would go down in history as the "successful failure." Launched on April 11, 1970, from Kennedy Space Center, Fla., it suffered a devastating explosion just under 56 hours into the mission. An oxygen tank exploded on board, leaving the astronauts the choice of parachuting into the ocean or circling the moon. It was then that Swigert uttered the now-famous sentence, "Houston, we've had a problem here." (This statement was changed to "Houston, we have a problem" in the movie Apollo 13 in which Swigert was played by Kevin Bacon.)

Flight Director Glynn Lunney ordered the astronauts to fly down to the lunar landing, and the astronauts were forced to use the lunar module Aquarius as their "lifeboat." For four days, the astronauts were confined to Aquarius and Houston, Texas, scrambled. Adequate power and water and the removal of carbon dioxide were major concerns. And, of course, planning the astronauts' safe return.

That plan involved a sling Shot maneuver that would use the moon's and Earth's gravity. What NASA calls a "free-return" to Earth trajectory took Apollo 13 around the back side of the moon. The astronauts then fired up the LM's descent engines and returned to Earth on a re-entry trajectory. As the nation held its breath, the astronauts crawled back into the CM, fired it up, jettisoned the LM, and splashed down in the Pacific Ocean near Samoa.

Nevertheless, the Apollo 13 crew and millions of Americans who watched the drama live on television and radio were thrilled that the astronauts survived the crisis. For Swigert, it was a "two-day hero’s welcome from the city."

 Asked why he became interested in the space program when he returned to Hartford, Swigert told the Hartford Courant: "I’m a test pilot. A man should try to advance to the top of his profession. The astronaut program is the Supreme Court of the test pilot business."

The friendship that grew between the professor of mathematics and the young man who would become an astronaut in the Apollo program as well as a successful political candidate, continued after Swigert left the area. Wolin received Christmas cards from him and contributed to his two political campaigns. He was elected to the U.S. Congress as a Republican in the House of Representatives from Colorado's 6th district. Sikich with cancer during the campaign, he died in a Georgetown University hospital in December 1982 at age 51, a week before he was to have assumed office.
Many alumni of CETA, beginning in the late 1950s, have helped design important components for NASA. Robert E. Breslin ’59 and Edgar H. Brisson ’59 were the last engineers at Hamilton Standard in Windsor Locks, Conn. (today known as UTC Aerospace Systems), for the design and development of the portable life-support system, called the “backpack,” and the spacecrafts used during lunar landings. Without that backpack, life support system, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin would not have been able to make their historic moon walk. Brisson had this to say about his experiences: “I went to work at Hamilton Standard six months after graduation. In 1966 they sent me down to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida to open a field office. We trained the astronauts to use the spacecrafts and the backpack. We even built a lunar landscape for them to practice on. For Apollo 13, I flew to Houston after the launch and helped with the emergency rigging of equipment to reduce the build-up of carbon dioxide in the LM (lunar module).” The backpack had a canister of lithium hydroxide, but canisters in the command module (CM) were incompatible with those in the LM. We had to improvise a way to connect the canister’s CM canisters to the LM’s cylindrical canister-crooks.” After Apollo, Breslin went on to work on the space shuttle, finally retiring in 2000.

In recent years, two University engineering students, Brett Turfan ’08 and Craig Dickor ’08, conducted a study involving air flow used to cool jet engines and the flow of air through the face shells of spaced lift elements. As students, Michelle Jarzynicki ’06 and Jesse Berube ’06 designed a small “snorkel” that would allow astronauts at the space station to purge nitrogen from the systems continuously, while wearing their spacesuits. Another faculty member, Iwona Milanovic, professor of mechanical engineering in CETA, has completed four NASA faculty fellowships to conduct research at the John Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio. Her work is in the field of aerodynamics, studying air flows and the vortexes that form when air hits a corner or a cross-flow of air.

The University of Hartford and what is now the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture (CETA) have a long history of partnership with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Even before the 1969 moon landing and the dramatic Apollo 13 mission, University of Hartford alumni were making significant contributions to major projects in the nation’s space program.

Today, that partnership continues and includes students working directly with the space agency on a long list of engineering projects. The University is the lead institution for NASA’s Connecticut Space Grant Consortium, and Thomas Fitbull, professor of mechanical engineering in CETA, is the consortium’s director. The Space Grant Consortium provides students with research grants, fellowships, scholarships, and internships.

Over the years, University of Hartford students have conducted a number of important research projects for NASA, opportunities that are unusual at the undergraduate level. Fitbull says: “Several engineering students are currently working on a water reclamation project for the International Space Station that is aimed at increasing the amount of clean water that can be recovered from urine,” and a reclamation project for the International Space Station that is aimed at increasing the amount of clean water that can be recovered from urine.

Astronaut alumni Jack Swigert M.S.T. ’70 would have seen the Apollo 13 mission in its early stages. A member of the backup crew for Apollo 13, Swigert was bumped up to the main crew three days before launch to replace Thomas K. “Ken” Mattingly, who had been exposed to German measles and was grounded by NASA doctors.

Astronaut Jack Swigert, shown here with Peter F. Hunter ’51, former director of alumni relations (center), and Jack Opinsky, former sports information officer (right), was back on campus three weeks after Apollo 13’s successful landing to receive the 1970 Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University during his two-day home’s welcome. He was nominated for the award by Thomas F. Brennan ’51.

Astronaut Jack Swigert, shown here with Peter F. Hunter ’51, former director of alumni relations (center), and Jack Opinsky, former sports information officer (right), was back on campus three weeks after Apollo 13’s successful landing to receive the 1970 Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University during his two-day home’s welcome. He was nominated for the award by Thomas F. Brennan ’51.

Top: Jack Swigert M.S.T. ’70, an Apollo 13 holds the separate that astronauts used to connect the air in the cylinder to that of the spacecraft, reducing dangerous carbon monoxide levels. Above: Swigert (left), shown here with Peter F. Hunter ’51, former director of alumni relations (center), and Jack Opinsky, former sports information officer (right) was back on campus three weeks after Apollo 13’s successful landing to receive the 1970 Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University during his two-day home’s welcome. He was nominated for the award by Thomas F. Brennan ’51.

“Houston, We’ve Had a Problem.”

Astronaut alumni Jack Swigert M.S.T. ’70 aboard Apollo 13
Upside Down, Inside Out

FLIPPING THE CLASSROOM—A NEW TREND IN EDUCATION
Calculus I. Those of us who weren’t required to take it probably didn’t. Many engineering, chemistry, biology, math, and health sciences majors, however, find themselves in a calculus class fairly early in their college careers.

Just as industry is always looking to build a better mousetrap, educators are constantly evaluating their teaching methods and looking to improve the results. Members of the Department of Mathematics in the University of Hartford’s College of Arts and Sciences are no exception.

In fact, this group of innovative and dedicated faculty is working on the frontier of mathematics education. In March 2012 the department received recognition for the teaching of calculus from the Mathematical Association of America (MAA). In a survey of 900 undergraduate Calculus I courses nationwide, the MAA identified the University’s department, chaired by Professor John Williams, as one of the 17 most successful in the United States.

Innovation is nothing new for the University’s mathematics department, with its long history of pioneering new teaching strategies and integrating technology, its goal to enhance student success in the classroom.

“Weil ahead of the rest of the country, our department piloted the use of computer labs in the mathematics classroom in the 1980s, the graphing calculator in the early 1990s, interactive online homework systems in the mid-1990s, and student response systems [clickers] in the mid-2000s,” says Mako Haruta, associate professor of mathematics.

Clickers, which work something like a TV remote, allow students to answer questions in a video. The idea is to get students engaged in answering questions and class discussion by incorporating an appealing technology. Students also work with computer algebra software, virtual graphing calculators, and e-textbooks.

In traditional math classes, college students sit in large lecture halls for many of their classes. The professors/experts talk and the students listen, participating in what educators call “passive learning.” They scribble down notes that they hope will help them sort things out later.

Outside of class, they do readings and review their notes. If they have questions, they may try to puzzle things out with a classmate. Asking questions in class can be embarrassing. Actually talking to a professor during office hours is a last resort.

In 2011 Jean McGivney-Burelle—associate professor of mathematics, director of the secondary mathematics program, and chair of the Department of Education in the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions—learned about a new teaching method.

The new method is called “flipping/inverting the classroom,” and research is still in progress on which students benefit more from this method. In this new model, the lecture and homework elements are reversed. Outside of class, students viewed video lectures made by their mathematics professors before each session that replaced the professor’s in-class lectures. Class time transformed into a workshop where students analyzed data and solved problems together.

An internal grant from the University allowed the department to set up two classrooms designed to facilitate the new method. Students sit in small groups at multiple tables around the room. The professor moves from table to table answering questions and assessing whether students are grasping the material. If not, the professor stops the discussion and gives a brief explanation to the entire class.

Larissa Schroeder, assistant professor, says the fact that the department has a collaborative approach to new endeavors is what makes it all work.

In spring 2012 a core group of six faculty—Williams, McGivney-Burelle, Haruta, Schroeder, and Associate Professors Benedict Pollina and Fei Xue—applied for a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant, “Flipping Calculus,” which they received in spring 2013. The grant provided $172,136 to be used for expanding the department’s library of course material, preparing more faculty in the department to use this approach, and assessing the method’s effectiveness. The grant ends in 2015.

In general, student responses to the flipped classroom have been positive. Their comments indicate they felt less stress/were more comfortable, and that it is easier to learn, especially since they can rewatch the preclass lectures. These comments are from the evaluation forms that students filled out at the end of the course:

“I like that you can see what you will be learning ahead of time rather than just getting to class and trying to understand what the instructor is teaching.”

“I think watching the videos made me a better student, too . . . . It made me more aware of how much effort I put into my school work . . . . When you get into the real world . . . . you are not going to have someone holding your hand, teaching you how to do things, you are going to have to learn for yourself . . . . Those are really good skills you are developing for us.”

The department is also enthusiastic about the new model. Says McGivney-Burelle, “It’s already hard for me to think about returning to my former teaching methods.”

In the spring 2012 semester, Xue compared the results from flipping a portion of one of his Calculus II sections with one section that he taught exclusively in a traditional manner. He was looking for improvement in grades and in student engagement with the subject matter.

“The students did better on the finals and spent more time outside of class thinking about math on a deeper level,” says Xue, known as “Professor X” to his students.

This fall, the department is comparing sections of Calculus I that are flipped to sections that are not. Because there is a common final examination, they hope to get a clearer picture of whether flipping makes a substantial difference in learning.

Although flipping began in the sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines, other areas, like the humanities and social sciences, are taking a look at this new approach.

After the math department received the NSF grant, the University applied for and received a $222,958 grant from the Davis Educational Foundation, established by Stanton Davis, the former chair of Shaw’s Supermarkets, Inc., and his wife, Elizabeth Davis.

“These funds will be used over the next three years to investigate how flipping can be done in other subjects such as psychology, English, or political science,” says H. Frederick Sweitzer, associate provost and dean of graduate studies.

“How does it work and how well does it work in an introductory literature course? We are trying that out this semester to find out. In general, what we are hoping to see is deeper learning, where students are engaged with the subject and the process of learning and carry their learning with them into future courses and experiences.”
Governor Malloy Visits New Lab at CETA

"The challenges facing today’s businesses require a new breed of leaders and management approaches. The Barney School must prepare graduates that are culturally aware, technologically savvy, innovative, and resourceful, in addition to having functional expertise. To do so, we will engage the corporate community, conduct research, and develop programs that help students, alumni, and business partners to create economic, social, and personal value," said Roth.

Roth also taught at the Carroll School of Management at Boston College, the Katz Graduate School of Business at the University of Pittsburgh, and at universities in Austria, France, Hong Kong, Mexico, Thailand, and Tunisia. He has won several teaching awards during his career.

In announcing Roth’s selection, Harrison said, “Marty Roth has the scholarly record and administrative experience to provide outstanding academic leadership, and his outgoing nature will make him a big hit with students, alumni, and business leaders in the Hartford community. I look forward to working with him in the years ahead.”

Making the Lists

The University of Hartford appeared on two notable lists recently. Reform Judaism magazine (Fall 2013) listed the University in its Insiders Guide to College Life, which lists the top 60 schools Jews choose according to the number of Jewish undergraduates. The University was 17th among all private universities. We also ranked 8th among all colleges and universities in terms of the percentage of Jewish students (33 percent) relative to the entire student body.

On another list, the University was named one of The 25 Most Liberal Colleges in America by the website Flavoreze. The website mentions that the University “has a strong English department and has given the Edward Lewis Wallant Award to authors like Nicole Knauss and Dara Horn.” The Wallant Award, presented each year by the University of Hartford’s Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies, is one of the oldest and most prestigious Jewish literary awards in the United States.

Hartford, Conn., recently ranked 8th among the best metro areas for college graduates looking to enter the job market, according to a study published online in the Atlantic Cities. The study was conducted by Richard Florida, a senior editor at The Atlantic, director of the Martin Prosperity Institute at the University of Toronto’s Rotman School of Management, and global research professor at New York University.

The University of Hartford’s Barney School of Business has been named one of the nation’s most outstanding business schools, according to the education services company The Princeton Review. The company features the Barney School in the 2014 edition of its book, The Best 295 Business Schools. The book publisher says, “We recommend the Barney School of Business as one of the best institutions a student could attend to earn a business school degree. We chose the schools we profile in this book based on our high regard for their academic programs and our reviews of institutional data we collect from the schools. We also solicit and greatly respect the opinions of students attending these schools.”

Social Media

Follow University of Hartford News on Facebook and Twitter for updates on University news. You can also find us on Instagram by following the University of Hartford account. Tag photos you want us to see with #universityofhartford or #uhart, or email them to mfazio@hartford.edu.
The University of Hartford has entered into a partnership with the University of Saint Joseph (formerly Saint Joseph College) in West Hartford, Conn., on an accelerated joint degree program. Beginning this fall, students can earn a BS in biology or BA in chemistry at University of Hartford, followed by a Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) at Saint Joseph’s School of Pharmacy. Hartford students will be given priority consideration to enroll in the PharmD program after three years in a specific course of study in biology or chemistry. After one year in the PharmD program, University of Hartford students are encouraged to return to campus to join their classmates at Commencement. They will then continue their studies for two more years at Saint Joseph to receive their doctorates. Additional dual degree programs in other areas of study are being planned.

Microgrid Project
The University of Hartford is one of nine organizations and municipalities in Connecticut to receive state funding for a microgrid project that is part of the state’s plan to better prepare for destructive storms. The University will receive $2.3 million, which will be used to connect the entire campus’s electrical system to the emergency diesel generator located alongside East Hall. Several student residences—Village Apartments, Regents Park, and Park River—as well as Konover Campus Center are not currently connected to the generator. Norm Young, associate vice president for facilities planning and management, says the University hopes to begin this fall and have it completed by late spring 2014.

Art Blaise. He then went on to release 14 recordings as a bandleader and to tour and record more than 135 CDs with jazz greats like Elvin Jones, Freddie Hubbard, and Charlie Haden. In 2010, Jackson was commissioned by the Syracuse International Film Festival to compose a full-length score for the Alfred Hitchcock silent film The Lodger, based on the hunt for Jack the Ripper. Jackson is also a highly sought-after music educator, conducting clinics and lectures at universities throughout the United States and abroad.

Changes at the Top
Provost Sharon Vazquez has announced some organizational changes in her office. Guy C. Schuck, a former associate provost and dean of undergraduate studies, has been named senior associate provost and dean of enrollment management. Schuck will focus on the considerable skills and years of experience to help the University deal with the current challenges facing higher education. In light of Schuck’s promotion, Hilary Dean of Arts and Sciences Helene S. Levison ’56 has been named interim provost and dean of the college. Levison, who served as senior vp and chief officer in the past 35 years, said she is excited to continue at the helm of the college. Elected in Hilary College, however, everything changed, and he ended his first semester of college with a 3.68 GPA. He went on to earn a bachelor’s in communicati- on from the University of Hartford’s College of Arts and Sciences. Seidman and his business partner, Doug Hardy, cofounded Independent Media Network LLC, which brings together local news and information websites for the purpose of attracting advertisers and developing sustainable sources of revenue. Seidman is also the main writer and editor of CTTechJournal.com, a website that allows him to inform readers about technology news, reviews, and trends.

Barney under New Leadership
Over the summer President Walter Harrison Loy and @uhartfordnews on Twitter for updates on University news. You can also find us on Instagram by following the University of Hartford account. Tag photos you want us to see on our Facebook page or email them to mfsnews@hartford.edu.

Social Media
Follow University of Hartford News on Facebook and @uhartfordnews on Twitter for updates on University news.
The Blackhawks, a new football club on campus, played their first game against Central Connecticut State University's club football team at Arute Field in New Britain, Conn., on Sept. 21. The team, which plays in the Yankee Collegiate Football Conference, won its season opener against Central's team by a score of 12-7 in front of cheering fans who came to the game on a University fan bus provided by the team. The Blackhawks played four more games, using Dillon Stadium in Hartford as their home field. Their opponents included club teams from Boston University, Eastern Connecticut State University, Clarkson University, and the North Jersey Collegiate Football Club.

How did all this come about? Meet Martin Jones, Jr. ‘14 and Leonor Toward ‘14. At the end of the fall semester in 2012, Jones, now president of the club, and Toward, vice president, decided to bring football back to the University of Hartford. The last time students played club football on campus was in 1983.

Beginning in spring semester 2013, the team began completing the necessary paperwork and spreading the word on campus that they were starting a football club. Along with the students came their volunteer coach, Joaquín Williams, and his staff, Tommy Dillon, Martin Jones Sr., Dave Young, and Wayne Zalaski.

The club held several fundraisers, including a dawn stomping, and received funds from the Student Government Association. Team members were asked to pay dues to belong to the club to help with expenses. Jones and Toward also reached out to local businesses and organizations over the summer and are currently affiliated with the Hartford Fire Department's Latin Society and with Woody’s and City Steam, both restaurants in downtown Hartford.

It’s not just about the football. The team participated in a backpack drive with the Hartford Fire Department's Latin Society to benefit the Burns Latino Studies Academy, a middle school in the Hartford Public School System. The team plans to continue its relationship with the kids at the school.

Follow the Blackawks on Facebook at facebook.com/UHartClubFootball.
East—men’s and women’s golf—actually would America East squad. Twenty student-athletes and field (3.28), men’s outdoor track and field soccer (3.46), softball (3.47), men’s indoor track GPA of their America East peers. The Hawks’ or higher during the 2012–13 academic year and one other time, in 1996–97.

Prior to 2011–12, Hartford student-athletes recorded the highest GPA average (GPA) of 3.24. In the process, University of Hartford student-athletes did not Cup by six points with an overall grade point

A Winning Formula University of Hartford student-athletes did not take defending their America East academic championship lightly. Winners of the previous year’s Academic Cup by a minuscule one-hundredth of a point, the Hawks convincingly won the 2012–13 Academic Cup by six points with an overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.24. In the process, University of Hartford student-athletes recorded the highest GPA of any school in the 16-year history of the award. The Academic Cup is presented to the institution whose student-athletes post the GPA during a given academic year. Prior to 2011–12, the University of Hartford captured the honor only one other time, in 1996–97.

Fifteen of the University’s 16 athletic programs that compete in America East earned a 3.00 GPA or higher during the 2012–13 academic year and a league-high nine teams recorded the highest GPA of their America East peers. The Hawks’ baseball (3.17), women’s basketball (3.34), men’s lacrosse (3.15), men’s soccer (3.36), women’s soccer (3.46), softball (3.47), men’s indoor track and field (3.38), men’s outdoor track and field (3.30) and volleyball (3.58) programs all led the conference in each respective sport for team GPA. The volleyball team’s mark was the highest for any America East squad. Twenty student-athletes registered a perfect 4.0 mark.

The two sports that were not figured into the equation because they do not compete in America East—men’s and women’s golf—actually would have boosted the cumulative GPA even higher, registering grade point averages of 3.31 and 3.36, respectively.

“Congratulations to the University of Hartford, most notably its student-athletes, on this historic achievement,” said America East Commissioner Amy Hurthausen. “It is indicative of the hard work put in and the value placed on academics not only by Hartford but by all nine of our institutions and student-athletes.”

“The coaches we have now are the best all-around students when they are recruiting,” says Alex Coury, assistant athletics director for student-athletes services. “Clearly they want people skilled in their sports, but they are going after students who are getting presidential scholarships and choosing to study fields such as physical therapy and engineering.”

With two primary Department of Athletics advisors (Courtney and Arline Robbins) complementing the advisors that students have in their specific majors, the support system for student-athletes has a solid base. Add in two tutors (Harriet Shidroff and Judy Porter) housed in the athletics building, 10 additional student tutors with special expertise in math and science, and coaches who take an active role in their players’ day-to-day classroom work, and the winning formula starts to take shape.

“There are so many eyes on our student-athletes,” Coury says. “An individual must answer to a lot of people if he or she is not doing well in the classroom.”

Among them are older teammates, who are setting a high bar academically for the newer student-athletes to follow—and offering them needed reminders when academics are taking a back seat. It is peer pressure in a very positive way.

From the start, UHart student-athletes clearly see the emphasis on academics. Athletics advisors work with them extensively on time management skills during the first semester, mapping out charts clearly showing the time distribution for classes, practices, and study hall.

All freshmen have a required number of study hall hours during their first year, with adjustments made thereafter based on academic performance. Student-athletes sign in electronically as they enter and leave study hall, giving them instant information on required study time remaining for the week—and athletics staff a continuous picture of who is in study hall at any given time. Each Monday, coaches get reports on any players who did not meet the required number of hours during the preceding week.

The software system used for this monitoring, according to Coury, has been a huge help to the academic support staff. Its other functions have allowed staff to communicate easily with professors and receive mid-semester progress reporting that allows the advisors to become aware of an issue when there is still time for a student athlete to recover.

It is a system that clearly produces the desired results.

“For me, this second time proved that we were a winner,” says Coury. “It was so close two years ago, but when you win it for a second time—in the decisive way we did—you realize that we really have something special here.”

In the field, on the court, in the classroom

Football Is Back on Campus!

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Follow the Blackawks on Facebook at facebook.com/UHartClubFootball.

Soccer Shorts

At press time, the University of Hartford’s soccer team, with one regular-season game remaining, had clinched a spot in the America East Tournament. Enjoying one of their best seasons ever, the Hawks were 11-3-3 and ranked sixth in the entire Northeast region.

Posting the most wins in a decade, the Hawks set the Division I record in shutouts, with 10, while registering the second-best record through 17 matches since making the jump to the NCAA’s highest ranking in 1984.

Ranked 13th nationally in goals-against average (0.65) and 10th in shutout percentage (0.56), the defense has led the way. Up until this point, eight different Hawks, four of whom scored the first markers of their careers, accounted for the team’s 20 goals.

In nonconference play, Hartford secured the school’s best Division I record ever, finishing 8-1-2. That mark surpassed the previous program-best percentage of .700 (10-4-1), set in 1992. In addition, the eight wins in out-of-league contests were the most since 1998.

The University of Hartford women’s soccer team’s 2013 season came to a close on Nov. 3 with a 2-0 loss to the top-seeded University of Maryland, Baltimore County, in the semifinals of first America East Championship. The Hawks finished the season with an 11-6-3 record.

In a tally of America East head coaches, nine University of Hartford women’s soccer players received postseason accolades, led by juniors Chloe Johnson and Stephanie Santos, who were named America East Striker of the Year and co-Midfielder of the Year, respectively.

The All-Rookie team consists of 11 players, regardless of position, with three Hawks—goalkeeper Jessica Jung and defenders Caitlin Smallfield and Katie Connolly—earning the distinction. Jung was a force between the pipes for Hartford, allowing just nine goals in 14 games during the regular season for a 0.62 goals-against average, which led all league keepers and was 23rd best in the nation.

Defender Emma Donaldy was one of 11 players named to the America East Academic Team, and later earned Capital One/ CoSIDA Academic District 1 First Team. The Kanata, Ontario, native sports a 4.00 grade point average as a biomedical engineering major in the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture.

Follow all Hawks teams around the clock with game updates, videos, blogs, and more at HartfordHawks.com.
All 2013 Hawktober Weekend (Oct. 18–20) a great success this year. Friday night's festivities began with an alumni reception and a free concert by Bronze Radio Return, whose members include four alumni. Artisans, many of them University of Hartford's Hartford Art School alumni, displayed their wares in the Hog River Arts Festival on Saturday. Soon the delicious smells from the barbecue lured everyone into the food line. Alumni children enjoyed the balloon animals, face painting, photo booth, and other activities in the tent on the Harry Jack Gray green. A crowd filled the stands to watch alumni vie in softball and lacrosse games, and we managed to round up some soccer alumni for a photo. Fans and alumni also sat in on a Q&A session with the basketball coaches and watched open practices. Saturday evening began with the men's soccer team's game against Birmingham, which ended 0-0, followed by a comedy show featuring the witty Paula Poundstone. Sunday morning activities began with the Hawktober 5K run, sponsored by the University's cross-country and track-and-field teams, followed by food and music at the jazz brunch in Gengras Student Union. In the afternoon, alumni and parents cheered on the women's soccer team, as the Hawks beat Vermont 2-0.

Plan now to attend next year's Hawktober Weekend in October and don't miss out on all the fun! Watch for more information next summer. For more 2013 Hawktober Weekend photos, see hartford.edu/hawktoberphotos.

The 2013 Anchor Awards honored five distinguished alumni at a ceremony during Hawktober Weekend.

Pedro Bermudez ’07 is an award-winning director, filmmaker, and cofounder of Revisionist, a film and music video production company whose work runs the gamut from short films to commercials to documentaries. Revisionist got its start shooting a public-service spot in Nepal for BuildOn, a charitable organization in Stamford, Conn., that builds schools around the world for the impoverished.

Morris Jackson ’72, M’73, is currently vice president for business development for Senoda Inc., a privately owned promotional, marketing, and mailing-service company located in Washington, D.C. Jackson was employed for 18 years in the development field at American University in Washington. He received a bachelor's in counseling and a master's in education from the University of Hartford.

Salvatore Lopes ’71 is an internationally renowned photographer and platinum printmaker whose work has been exhibited in the United States and abroad and is in the permanent collections of the Art Institute of Chicago, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, and others. He received his bachelor's from the University of Hartford’s Barney School of Business.

Robert Petcove A’89, ’91, currently serves as area vice president of Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc. In 2005, Petcove founded Advanced Benefit Advisors, Inc. (ABA), an employee benefits consulting firm based in New Jersey and Florida. Serving as CEO and president, Petcove quadrupled the size of the company over the next seven years. This growth paved the way for the acquisition of ABA by Gallagher this past April. Petcove received his associate's degree from the University of Hartford’s Hillyer College in 1989 and his bachelor’s in business administration from the Barney School of Business in 1991.

As the former vice president of corporate compensation and performance management at The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc., Daniel Purushotham M’74 oversee strategic planning and implementation of executive and broad-based compensation programs. In 2012 he helped launch the Colonial Total Rewards Association, a nonprofit local network member of WorldatWork, a premier international total rewards organization.
Fall color, sunshine, and a campus full of alumni and parents made Hawktober Weekend (Oct. 18-20) a great success this year. Friday night’s festivities began with an alumni reception and a free concert by Bronze Radio Return, whose members include four alumni. Artisans, many of them University of Hartford’s Hartford Art School alumni, displayed their wares in the Hog River Arts Festival on Saturday. Soon the delicious smells from the barbecue lured everyone into the food line. Alumni children enjoyed the balloon animals, face painting, photo booth, and other activities in the tent on the Harry Jack Gray green. A crowd filled the stands to watch alumni vie in softball and lacrosse games, and we managed to round up some soccer alumni for a photo. Fans and alumni also sat in on a Q&A session with the basketball coaches and watched open practices. Saturday evening began with the men’s soccer team’s game against Birmingham, which ended 0-0, followed by a comedy show featuring the witty Paula Poundstone. Sunday morning activities began with the Hawktober 5k run, sponsored by the University’s cross-country and track-and-field teams, followed by food and music at the jazz brunch in Gengras Student Union. In the afternoon, alumni and parents cheered on the women’s soccer team, as the Hawks beat Vermont 2-0. Plan now to attend next year’s Hawktober Weekend in October and don’t miss out on all the fun! Watch for more information next summer. For more 2013 Hawktober Weekend photos, see hartford.edu/hawktoberphotos.


2013 Anchor Awards

The 2013 Anchor Awards honored five distinguished alumni at a ceremony during Hawktober Weekend.

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An annual gift to the Anchor Fund is another great way to support your alma mater. As students, all of us benefited in some way from the financial support of others. As alumni, we can pay that gift forward by helping current students with our own Anchor Fund.

Have you noticed our increased efforts to keep in touch with you via the Alumni Association e-newsletter, our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram posts; and our invitations to regional and campus events? If you’re not getting our emails, send us your current email address. If you’re not getting our emails, send us your current email address. Have you noticed our increased efforts to keep in touch with you via the Alumni Association e-newsletter, our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram posts; and our invitations to regional and campus events? If you’re not getting our emails, send us your current email address. If you’re not getting our emails, send us your current email address.

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Dear Fellow Alum,

Remember those exciting first days as a student at the University of Hartford? Meeting new friends; navigating the campus; adjusting to classes, dorm life, and cafeteria food—just what the Class of 2017 did in their first days on campus. And your Alumni Association was on hand to celebrate their arrival into the UHart family.

Each entering student received a T-shirt emblazoned with “Your Only Limits Are Self-Imposed.” In even stronger solidarity, the entire T-shirt-sporting class formed a giant M on the heart of the college green (see back cover). Hawktober Weekend brought hundreds of us back to campus to celebrate our UHart connection. On a glorious mid-October weekend we honored the accomplishments of the talented alumni among us—from the free concert by acclaimed all-alumni band Bronze Radio Return and the art at the sixth annual Hartford Art School Juried Alumni Exhibition to the presentation of our alumni Anchor Awards and the reunions of former student leaders, student-athletes, and scholars representing all UHart schools.

We’ve taken our show on the road this year with alumni gatherings in New York City, Boston, Los Angeles, Florida, Cape Cod, London, Paris, and, of course, Greater Hartford. Alumni Relations Director Heather Corbett and her team are committed to strengthening our UHart connection by developing regional chapters across the country. They have already started meeting with alumni to learn more about what we’re looking for and to recruit alumni volunteers to lead the charge.

If you’re interested in serving your alma mater as a volunteer—chapter leader, internship sponsor or student mentor, affinity group volunteer, or member of the Alumni Board or a subcommittee—don’t be shy about getting in touch with someone on the board or the staff. We need you!

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Best,

DaRel J. Eastling ’99, M’12
President
Alumni Association

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University of Hartford Alumni Board 2013–14

DaRel J. Eastling ’99, M’12, President
Celia Duke Loflik ’79, Vice President
Barbara Beaudin C’82
Carolyn Blight ’87
Steven H. Bonnepri ’92
Christopher Carr ’11
Robert J. Carr ’93

Elisa Chin A’07, ’09
Sarah K. Conroy ’08
Matthew Cooke ’10
John M. Diemra Jr. M’12
Heather L. Fraser ’99
Angela Henke ’92, M’99
George L. Henriquez A’83, ’84
Bernard L. Kavalier ’79, M’88

Bobbi J. McNeil ’84
O. James Purnell III A’99, P’02
William Rodriguez A’02, ’04, M’12
Paul A. Sittard ’85
Adam Stansic ’09
Arina Tapirian ’11
Naomi Lerner Tussin ’77, P’12
P. Alumni parent

DaRel J. Eastling ’99, M’12 President
Alumni Association

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Habitat Buddies

Donald H. Shaw Jr. M’77 (Barney), for 58 years on the board of directors of Wells Fargo Bank, was selected as the 2013 Alumnus of the Year by the Alumni Association. He is president of Patterson Veterinary Supply in Dedham, Mass. With Scott Anderson (right in photo), chairman and CEO of Patterson Companies, Henriquez recently celebrated Patterson’s 20th year as a public company by ringing the opening bell to initiate daily trading on the NASDAQ exchange.

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P. Alumni parent

DaRel J. Eastling ’99, M’12 President
Alumni Association
Jordan O'Donovan ’04 learned in October 2011 that the flu-like symptoms she had been suffering for 10 days were something much more serious. She soon found out that she had Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML). Despite being told that most patients can manage CML, with medication, O’Donovan had not responded as expected to the pills. She worked with a medical team for 18 months to find a combination that would combat her cancer. But in May 2013 she had to face the fact that her only choice was stem cell transplant. O’Donovan had the procedure performed at Dana-Farber/Boston Children’s Hospital Cancer Center in Boston. As of July, receiving her new bone marrow from an anonymous donor on the National Bone Marrow Registry, she had been in remission. Although she had some initial setbacks, she is now back at home and beginning her long recovery.

The medications she must take to keep her body from rejecting the transplant also weaken her immune system. As a result, she will be confined to her apartment for at least six months and possibly a year.

O’Donovan’s two classmates and close friend Shiva Tiwar ’04 and Emily Pettersen ’04 set up a fund on indiegogo.com, a fundraising website, with the goal of raising $15,000 to help cover O’Donovan’s expenses before and after her surgery because she won’t be able to go to work. The campaign, which closed in late September, was successful, raising almost $16,000.

To read O’Donovan’s posts on her progress, go to caringbridge.org/ijoderynodonovan. You can also email well-wishes to her at jordynodonovan@gmail.com. To learn more about how you can help someone’s bone marrow donation, visit betheMatch.org.

The Gift of Life

A THOMAS SCHILLACI

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The Gift of Life

Are YOU connected?

Download the University of Hartford Alumni Hub app!

RECONNECT with fellow University alumni

Ties That Bind

Ties That Bind

Twenty years paid and three states away are no match for many University friendships. Amy Ekorn Quigley ’93 (AS) (of Belmont, N.E.), Linda O’Donovan ’73 (AS) (right) of New York, N.Y., caught up on all the news and enjoyed each other’s company last summer in front of the new entrance to Prince Residence Hall. The friends, who rendezvoused together during their undergraduate years, faithfully return to campus every year for their own mini reunion.

EDWARD MYLES (BARNEY) of North Easton, Mass., has been appointed chief financial officer and executive vice president of corporate development at Advanced Cellicon Technology, Inc., in Marlborough, Mass.

VICTORIA VOKETAITIS (HARTT) of New York, N.Y., has been named president of the Jazz Foundation of America as its special assistant.

KIRK N. RUSKAT (AS) (of Miami, Fla., has been named senior vice president of sales and marketing for MSC Direct USA.

SARAH J. GRAUMANN (HAS) of Brooklyn, N.Y., has been named associate professor of music. He and his wife, Shannon, are the proud new parents of a baby boy (see Hawk Hortheing, p. 29).

KEVIN M. O’CONNELL (BARNEY) of Torrington, Conn., was named administrator of Gator Sports, ex- tension senior health and life faculty in Cannan, Conn.

AKA BECKLES SWANSON (HARTT) of Clinton, Conn., has been appointed economic development associate at Meriden City Hall in Meriden, Conn.

On Broadway

Parry will appear in the Broadway revival of Les Misérables. Christine Dwyer ’07 (CL) of West Hartford, Conn., directed the Broadway debut this season as the Elphaba character in Wicked. Kevin Duda ’01 and Douglas Lyons ’09 have been cast in the Broadway company of Beautiful (The Carole King Musical), which opened Nov. 21. Duda and Lyons also shared the Broadway stage in The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (2005). Alec Snider ’06 is part of the cast of Les Mis. A Night with Janis Joplin (2013), and Janis Joplin opened the show on Feb. 16. The show opened on Oct. 10. John Brink ’09 will be appearing in the Broadway production of Lee Blessing’s Three Days in the Country. This fall, he played Elyot and understudied Brandon in Coward’s Sweeney Todd.

For more information about the University event, please contact:
Peter H. Congleton
Director of Planned Giving
200 Bloomfield Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06117
congleton@hartford.edu
860.768.2415

WHAT’S YOUR PLAN?

To discuss a planned gift to the University, please contact:
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The Gift of Life (and Rent Money)

Jordan O’Donovan ’04 learned in October 2011 that the flu-like symptoms she had been suffering for 10 days were something much more serious. She soon found out that she had Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML). Despite being told that most patients can manage CML with medication, O’Donovan did not respond as expected to the pills. She worked with a medical team for 18 months to find a combination that would combat her cancer. But in May 2013 she had to face the fact that her only choice was stem cell transplant.

O’Donovan had the procedure performed at Dana-Farber/Boston Children’s Cancer Center in Boston, Mass., on Aug. 7, receiving her new bone marrow from an anonymous donor on the National Bone Marrow Registry. Although she had some initial setbacks, she is now back at home and beginning her long recovery.

The medications she must take to keep her immune system away from her body will keep her from traveling to the University for at least six months and possibly a year.

Are YOU connected?

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Explore upcoming events and reunions

Ties That Bind

Twenty years paid and three slates away is no match for many University friendships. Amy Ekros Quigley ’93 (A&S) of Belmont, Mass., joined Steinberg ’73 (A&S) of New York, N.Y., in a recent e-mail on the news and enjoyed each other’s company last summer in front of the new entrance to Poe Residence Hall. The friends, who roomed together during their undergraduate years, faithfully return to campus every year for their own mini reunions.

Edward Miles (BARNEY) of North Easton, Mass., has been appointed chief financial officer and executive vice president of corporate development at Advanced Cell Technology, Inc., in Marlborough, Mass.

Victoria Voketaitis (HARTT) of New York, N.Y., has been chosen to direct the Jazz Foundation of America as its director of special projects.

Kenneth R. Muskat (A&S) of Miami, Fla., has been named senior vice president of sales and marketing for MCI Douglas (USA).

Sarah Graumann (HAS) of Brooklyn, N.Y., has been named assistant professor of music and assistant coordinator of special projects.

PARADES - Parades will be appearing on Broadway this summer. Christine Dwyer ’07 (M, A&S) of Wolcott, Conn., was named in the blockbuster musical Wicked. Kevin Duda ’01 and Douglas Lyons ’03 have been cast in the Broadway company of Beautiful (The Carole King Musical), which opened Nov. 21. Duda and Lyons also shared the Broadway stage in The Boy in the Dress of Musical Aladdin ’09 as part of the cast of Broadway’s A Night with Janis Joplin. Similarly, Lauren Joplin understudied Janis Joplin. The show opened on Oct. 10. John Brink ’09 will be appearing in the Broadway production of Les Misérables, based on the national tour of Les Mis, where he plays Enjolras and understudied Jean Valjean.

On Broadway

Visit hartford.edu/plannedgiving to learn more about how your planning today can strengthen the future for the University.

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WHAT’S YOUR PLAN?

Rose Nigs Carley ’58 combined her passion for music with her University of Hartford’s Hert School training as a pianist and shared both with her 5th-grade students over a long career. In gratitude for her 42 years of teaching, the Hert School Alumni Board in Meriden, Conn., named its school stage in her memory after she died.

To hoping to honor the memory of her beloved wife here with the Hert School, Marvin Carley has established the Rose Nigs Carley ’58 Memorial Fund for Music Education. When the Rose Nigs Carley Fund receives Markus bequest, Rose’s legacy will be carried on by each Hert School student fortunate enough to receive financial assistance in her name.

If you would like to honor the memory of someone you know and love, perpetrating a valued legacy in an meaningful way, we encourage you to follow Maruvis example and plan your financial legacy with the University of Hartford. We’d like to welcome you into the Founders’ Society.
Women for Change Calendar

The theme of this fifth annual calendar is "Miss Represented," which contains photos and stories submitted by women that explain how they feel misrepresented, missed, or dismissed in their culture. The calendar will be sold to raise money for the campus organization Women for Change. The group sponsors events related to body image issues, feminism, and sexuality. The calendars may be ordered for $12 ($10 plus shipping) by contacting Associate Professor Malia Warschaw, further and faculty sponsor of Women for Change, at malia@hartford.edu.

Cheryl T. Gross '04 (A&S), is the new marketing manager at Johnson College in Scranton, Pa.

AISHA SALEM (HARTT) of Winter Park, Fla., has been appointed intellectual property attaché for the Middle East and North Africa, based in the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, Egypt.

2003

JULIO M. DUARTE (HAS) of Simsbury, Conn., is currently the senior director of Connecticut High School in West Hartford, Conn.

NICHOLAS JACQUES (HAS) of Canton, Conn., is the 2013 recipient of the Roos/Padula Faculty Scholarship at Central College. Jacques is director of the Gwennan Gallery at Colby.

KENNETH W. JOHNSON (HAS) and his wife, JOSIE MILLER JOHNSON (HAS), of Olympia, Wash., are owners and directors of the Olympia Dance Center. Celebrating 40 years, the center prides itself not just on teaching dance. It works to develop self-confidence, poise, grace, and discipline in its students, and relationships with its community.

JESSI ROSINSKI (HAS) of Boston, Mass., has been accepted into the full-time MBA class of 2015 at the W. Olin Graduate School of Business at Beloit College.

2004

JOSEPH W. BATALLIA (HAS) of West Hartford, Conn., is a finalist for the 2013 Hartford Teacher of the Year competition. As an English teacher at Opportunity High School, Batallia uses the arts to help motivate his students.

CORRY KANZENBERG (HAS) of Santa Rosa, Calif., is curator of the Charles M. Schulz Museum. The museum is dedicated to the preservation, display, and interpretation of the life and art of Peanuts comic strip creator Charles M. Schulz.

MARY VOLKOFSKI MURPHY (HAS) of Middletown, N.J., has been promoted to the producer of NBC News. Murphy, who was born with NBC for nine years, produces WNBT20’s 3 p.m. show, The Cycle.

SHARON MURPHY (HAS) of Middletown, N.J., has joined the digital marketing agency Revolution Digital as senior art director.

2005

CHRISTOPHER TRANBERG (M, HARTT) of Tenafly, Conn., has been appointed principal of Avon High School in Avon, Conn.

2006

VIVIANNE FRIDAY (ENHP, M’07) of Beverly, Mass., is an assistant professor of nursing at Blegen Western Community College, one of six recipients of the 2013 NLN Hearst Foundation’s Excellence in Geriatric Education Award. Friday accepted the award for Blegen Western at the NLN Education Summit in Washington, D.C., in September.

2008

SARAH J. WAGNER (M, HARTT) of West Hartford, Conn., is a master artist who performs with the West End String Quartet. She is also a faculty of The Hart School Community Division.

2009

DONALD C. HIGHTOWER (HAS) of Charleston, S.C., is project manager at Hightower Construction Company in Charleston.

2010

EDWIN MUEZNER (M, BARNEY) of Norwich, Conn., was recognized by the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants with an Accounting Education Excellence Award. Mueznerr (right) received the award from John Turgis (left), master of ceremonies for the evening and a CPA with CyphertRicci LLP.

MATTHEW T. NOUQUAND (HAS) of Windsor, Conn., received a 2012 Pearl Award for his work as a Fox CT Morning News editor.

2013

JESSICA BOURQUE (HAS) of Providence, R.I., has graduated from Rhode Island School of Design with a master’s degree in textiles. SUSAN P. BERETON (M, SIMS) of Simsbury, Conn., won a Best in Show award from the Southington Arts and Crafts Association for the Breast Collection 36x30 oil portrait of a young girl in a beach hat.

NICOLE FAZIO (HAS) of Portland, Maine, is the illustrator of a newly published children’s book, My Massachusetts. AMANDA PARKIN (HAS) of Windsor, Conn., has been appointed manager of the Windsor Art Center.

JACOB YOTCHICK (HARTT, M’12 HARTT). See COLIN BRITT 08.

2014

JASON AKIN (CETA) of Melford, Mass., and his Jason Aink Quartet presented a Gypsy jazz swing concert at the First Church of Marlborough.

COLIN BRITT (HARTT) of Wilton, Maine, and JACOB YOTCHICK ‘07 (HARTT, M’12 HARTT) of Waltham, Mass., are members of the 3 Penny Chorus and Orchestra, a 50-person ensemble and one of the largest acts to compete in Tel Aviv’s prestigious America’s Got Talent. The group went on to compete at the next level in Las Vegas, Nv.

Hawk Hatchlings

TOP TO BOTTOM
Mary Guberman Weiss ’03, M’04 (A&S) & Mark Weiss
Sharon Roper of Bridgeport (left) & John J. O’Leary M’09 (Barnes & Noble Bookstores & Associates)
Sharon & Sean Burke ’00 (Hartt) & Karice Kehlman, 4.21.13 (Associate Professor of Dance)
Sarah Reuter O’Leary M’08 (Barney) & John J. O’Leary M’09 (Barney) (Elise Kehlman, 4.13.13)

NOT PICTURED:
Sharon & Sean Burke  ’00 (Hartt)
(b)-c) 16.11.13 (right)
Weddings

Above left: LINDA MAT ’06 (HAS) and JAMES DEMORRO ’06, M’09, C’10 (HAS), pose for a wedding portrait in front of Bill Miller’s Castle in Branford, Conn., on June 3, 2013. Middlesex, Conn., is now home to the happy couple.

Above center: JENNIFER CERPELLI ’07 (HAS) and JUSTIN CAMILLERI ’06 (Barney) proudly make their entrance together after tying the knot on June 1, 2013, at the Bedford Post Inn in Bedford, N.Y.

Above right: Carolyn M. Cartelli and E. BARNEY proudly make their entrance together after taking their vows on June 1, 2013, at Brae Burn Country Club in Purchase, N.Y.

Above: On November 20, 2013, at the Bedford Post Inn in Bedford, N.Y., Joseph M. and Emily A. Zander (ENHP) were married. The bride and groom are originally from Tomball, Texas. The couple resides in Alexandria, Va., as the new chief financial officer and chief administrative officer of the Community Foundation for Western Massachusetts in Springfield, Mass.

ENGAGEMENTS

JEREMY EUROPE ’09 (HAS) and Andrea Thomas celebrated their nuptials on a sunny June 15, 2013, in Burlington City, N.J., surrounded by a host of family and friends. The couple resides in Alexandria, Va., as the new chief financial officer and chief administrative officer of the Community Foundation for Western Massachusetts in Springfield, Mass.

ALUMNI CONNeCTIONS

JAMIE SASSMAN (HARTT) of Winter Park, Fla., has been appointed associate director of admission at the Walnut Hill School for the Arts in Natick.

TIMOTHY E. ROBINSON (HAS, F. ’06, M. ’07, C. ’10) cut the cake at their wedding reception on Aug. 7, 2013, in Andover, N.J. Since her honeymoon in Mexico, the newlyweds call Succasunna, N.J., home. The groom is a senior engineer at Login, S. Goalthorpe and Associates.

NOT PICTURED:

ALISON JILL RAUCH ’05 (HAS) and Martin Seher Buirge took their wedding vows on May 19, 2013, at Brax Burn Country Club in Purchase, N.Y.

ERICA BEVERLY ’05 (HAS and Andie Thompson celebrated their nuptials on a sunny June 15, 2013, in Burlington City, N.J., surrounded by a host of family and friends, including many of Beverly’s former Hartley Hawks basketball teammates.

Hawk Hatchlings

BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

JOSEPH W. BATTAGLIA of Fremont, Calif., has been appointed manager of the Windsor Art Center.

JACOB JOTVICH (HARTT, M. ’12, HARTT) is the new marketing manager for Johnson College in Scranton, Pa.

CHRISTOPHER TRANBERG (M. HARRIT, M. ’10, HARRIT) of Tunkhannock, Pa., has been appointed principal of Avon Hall School in Avon, Conn.

VIVIENNE FRIDAY (ENHP, M. ’07, ENHP) of Bedford, N.Y., is an assistant professor of nursing at Ithaca Community College, one of six recipients of the 2013 NLN New Faculty Excellence in Geriatric Education Award. Friday accepted the award for Western New York at the NLN Education Summit in Washington, D.C., in September.

SARAH J. WASHBURNE (M. HARRIT, M. ’07, HARRIT) of West Hartford, Conn., is a master siteholder who performs with the West End String Quartet. She is also on the faculty of the Hart School Community Division.

DONALD C. HUGHTON (CETA) of Charlotten, S.C., is project manager at Highower Construction Company in Charleston.

EDWIN MUENZER (M. BARNEY, M. ’03, M. HARRIT, M. ’07, ENHP) of Norwich, Conn., was recognized by the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants with an Accounting Education Award. Muenzer (right) received the award from John Turgoff (left), master of ceremonies for the evening and a CPA with CohynReznick LLP.

MARTIN H. NODLAND (HAS) of Windsor, Conn., received a 2012 Entropy Award for his work as a FOX CT Morning News editor.

JESSICA BOURGEOIS (HAS) of Providence, R.I., has graduated from Rhode Island School of Design with a master’s degree in textiles.

SUSAN P. BRERETON (HAS, M. ’07, HARTT) of Bellevue, Wash., received an Excellence in Education Award. Friday accepted the award for Iowa Western Community College, one of six recipients of the 2013 NLN H.E.A.R.T. Award for Excellence in Geriatric Education.

KAREN M. WARD (HARTT) of Silver Creek, N.Y., has been appointed principal of graveyard Hill School for the Arts in Natick.

JASON ANICK (CETA) of Middletown, N.Y., and his Jason Anick Quartet presented a Gypsy jazz swing concert at the First Church of Marlborough.

COLIN BRITT (HAS, M. ’11) of Portland, Ore., is the illustrator of a newly published children’s book, My Massachusetts Adventure.

NICOLE FAZIO (HAS) of Portland, Mea., is the illustrator of a newly published children’s book, My Massachusetts Adventure.

MARC WELCHER (CETA) of Middletown, N.Y., is the illustrator of a newly published children’s book, My Massachusetts Adventure.

CAROLYN MILBURN (HAS) of Portland, Mea., is the illustrator of a newly published children’s book, My Massachusetts Adventure.

JAMIE GRUSS ’04 (HAS) is pleased to announce her engagement to Justin T. Culloon. The couple plans an April 2014 wedding.

Amanda McLean ’10 (CETA) is pleased to announce her engagement to Christopher Pollicino ’10 (HAS). An October 2014 wedding is planned.

JASON HERSON (HARTT) of Natick, Mass., has been appointed associate director of admissions at the Walnut Hill School for the Arts in Natick.

DEREK G. MARTIN (HARTT) of Rocklin, Calif., was named chief of the Creative Arts Department at William Jessup University in Rocklin.

BARRY “SCOTT” KUNKLY (M. BARNEY) of Granby, Conn., was endorsed by the Granby Republican Town Committee as his candidate for first selectman in the fall municipal election.

MATT MARGULIS (A&S) of Silver Creek, N.Y., has published the second fiction book, 250 Reasons Why Barack Obama is the Worst President in History, which is available at Amazon.com.

DONNA ROSENAN DAVID (M. BARNEY) of Simsbury, Conn., is the new chief financial officer and chief administrative officer of the Community Foundation for Western Massachusetts in Springfield, Mass.

JASON HERSON (HARTT) of Natick, Mass., has been appointed associate director of admissions at the Walnut Hill School for the Arts in Natick.

AMANDA PAWLIK (HAS) of Portland, Conn., has been appointed principal of Avon High School.

See COLIN BRITT ’04.

2008

JASON ANICK (CETA) of Middletown, N.Y., and his Jason Anick Quartet presented a Gypsy jazz swing concert at the First Church of Marlborough.

COLIN BRITT (HARTT) of Wilton, Mea., and JACOB JOTVICH (HARTT, M. ’12, HARTT) of Westerly, R.I., are members of the 3 Penny Chorus and Orchestra, a 55-person ensemble and one of the largest casts to compete in telethoning’s popular America’s Got Talent. The group went on to compete at the next level in Las Vegas, Nev.

SHAIN MURPHY (HAS) of Madison, N.J., has joined the digital marketing agency Revolution Digital as senior art director.

2004

JOSEPH W. BATTAGLIA (ENHP) of West Hartford, Conn., is a finalist for the 2013 Hartford Teacher of the Year competition. As an English teacher at Opportunity High School, Battaglia uses the arts to help motivate his students.

CORY RANZENBERGER (HAS, A&S) of Santa Rosa, Calif., is curator of the Charles M. Schulz Museum. The museum is dedicated to the presentation, display, interpretation and the life and art of Peanuts comic-strip creator Charles M. Schulz.

MARY KOLOVSKY (HAS) of Middletown, N.J., has been promoted to the producer of NBC News. Murphy, who was born with NBC for nine years, produces MSNBC’s 3 p.m. shows, The Cycle.

JAKOB JOTVICH (HARTT, M. ’12) of Montclair, N.J., is the new marketing manager for Johnson College in Scranton, Pa.

The theme of the fifth annual calendar “Men Impersonated,” which contains dozens of photos submitted by men that explain how they feel misrepresented, hidden, or dominated in the culture. A portion of the proceeds will be sold to raise money for the camp organization Women for Change.

The group sponsors events related to body image issues, feminism, and sexuality. The calendar may be ordered for $12 (including shipping) by contacting Associate Professor Mala Maris, hunter and faculty sponsor of Women for Change, at marisherbert@hartt.edu.
The Hartt School's Robert Black Garmany Recital: Sun., Feb. 16 3:30 p.m., Wilde Auditorium

The Hartt Orchestra at the Bushnell: Sat., April 19 7:30 p.m., Millard Auditorium

The Hartt School Choruses and the Solo Hartt Singers present: Sat., April 27 2 p.m., The Connecticut State Department of Education in Hartford, Conn. She was chosen to represent the Connecticut State Department of Education in Hartford, Conn.

The Hartt School Choruses and the Solo Hartt Singers, under the direction of Edward Resnick, present Mozart's monumental Requiem:

For the full schedule of events at the University of Hartford, beginning in January 2014, visit hartford.edu and select Campus Calendar. For more information on events at The Hartt School, go to the hartt.edu/campuscal website, and for more on Hartford Art School events, visit harttart.edu. Other important events include the Hartt School’s Open Juried Exhibition, and the Hartford Art School’s Art Auction.

For the full schedule of events at The University of Hartford, beginning in January 2014, visit hartford.edu and select Campus Calendar. For more information on events at The Hartt School, go to the hartt.edu/campuscal website, and for more on Hartford Art School events, visit harttart.edu. Other important events include the Hartt School’s Open Juried Exhibition, and the Hartford Art School’s Art Auction.

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Winter/Spring Calendar 2014

Send Your News

We would love to share your news with the University of Hartford alumni community through Observer magazine. Please send news about your accomplishments, travel, milestones, announcements, and photos to

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MUSIC, DANCE, THEATRE

Thurs., Jan. 23 – Sun., Feb. 2
Street Scene, Mill Alden Theatre
Thurs., 7:30 p.m.
Sun., 3 p.m.
Hartford Stage Theatre presents Kurt Weill's Street Scene. Admission: $20, with discounts for seniors, students, and groups of 10 or more.

Fri., March 7
MoiseyRequiem
Cathedral of St. Joseph
Falmouth Avenue, Hartford, Conn.
7:30 p.m.
The Hartford School Choruses and the Solo and Duet Singers Orchestra, under the direction of Edward Reckless, present Moisey's monumental Requiem.

Fri., April 4
HartOrchestra at the Bushnell
The HartOrchestra returns to the Wadsworth Theatre at Bushnell for the Performing Center's spring gala performance. Works by Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, and Samuel Barber conducted by Edward Cooper.

April 7–17, April 19
HartDances, Lincoln Theatre
Thurs., Sat., 7:30 p.m.
Sun., 3 p.m.
Admission: $20, with discounts for seniors, students, and groups of 10 or more.

Opening Reception: Sat., March 15
March 4–30
Alexander A. Goldberg Student Exhibition

Juniors and seniors majoring in economics.

Yael Yossef '66 (center) chats with Alana G. Smith '66, Lifelong regent Helen Willis ’67.

Hartford Art School
d Garage Recital:
Sun., March 9
Joseloff Gallery
Thurs., March 27
Visiting Artist Lecture:
March 4–21
Steven M. Elovich ’79, P.C.

Opening Reception:
Sat., March 15

Opening Reception:
Sun., Feb. 16
Jonathan Brand, P.C.

Student exhibition of contemporary art;

Street Scene, poster exhibit;

The Hartt School Choruses and the Solo and Duet Singers Orchestra, under the direction of Edward Reckless, present Moisey's monumental Requiem.

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Jonathan Brand, P.C.

Student exhibition of contemporary art;

Street Scene, poster exhibit;
A Life Full of glee

“I loved television and movies as a child. When we went to the movies, I always wanted to stay until the credits rolled so I could see all the names and jobs that people did. Back then, I didn’t know I wanted to be a producer, but I knew I wanted to be involved in the process of making TV/movies somehow.”

That’s Karen Romero ’93 talking about when she first realized what her career would be. Romero, a mass communication major in the School of Communication in the University of Hartford’s College of Arts and Sciences, is now a coproducer on the hit Fox television show Glee.

Now in its fifth season, the weekly, hour-long, primetime series revolves around the relationships, sexuality, social issues, and team efforts of the fictional McKinley High School glee club, New Directions. Thanks to the poignant solos and the dazzling production numbers, Glee has won every major award from Golden Globe to Emmy to Peabody, been syndicated worldwide, released several soundtrack albums, and even coined its own term—Gleeks (Glee + “geeks”)—to describe its millions of enthusiastic fans.

From her earlier work on Fox’s popular Malcolm in the Middle and other shows, her professional path has stayed true and steady since her undergraduate days. So how did she get her start in the business?

“I had a friend from high school who worked on Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman. He helped me get my foot in the door as a PA [production assistant]. It was a hard and thankless job, but whatever I was asked to do, I didn’t just do it, I went above and beyond. For example, PAs are always asked to get coffee. So I would make sure the coffee was in special mugs and every choice of cream and sugar you could imagine. After that, it was hard work and dedication. I feel by always going that extra mile, even for mundane jobs, I put myself on the right radars for the right reasons. Even today, I continued with that philosophy: Do the best you can do at whatever it is you are doing.”

Romero has been with Glee from the beginning, first as production coordinator, then production supervisor, and now coproducer.

“Trying to list my responsibilities is not an easy task. Even people who work in ‘the business’ don’t know what producers do. It’s a little bit of everything. For example, a typical day for me could be breaking down scripts, working on budgets, figuring out our shooting schedule around an actor’s availability, making sure we have someone who can breath fire for an upcoming performance, checking about glow-in-the-dark wigs and makeup, wrangling our cast for their flu shots, figuring out a way to launch one of our cast members out of a canon. (Yes, we actually did that in Season 2). The list is endless!”

Professor Lynne Kelly, director of the School of Communication, had Romero in her classes, one of which was Organizational Communication. She recalls that Romero’s collaborative project group in the class gave the future producer “very high marks for her role in the group—even back then she was demonstrating the skills of coordinating people involved in a project.”

Romero, too, remembers things she took with her from the University of Hartford, along with four intensely productive years and her diploma.

“My mass communication professors [Roger Desmond, Kelly, and James Keener] were so dedicated and passionate about what they were teaching, they inspired me to be my best. I was a sponge because I wanted to learn everything I could about the industry. They always said to ‘do what you love.’”

What’s next for Karen Romero? “Personally, becoming a mother. My wife and I are due to have our first child in April. Professionally, I never want Glee to end—but, of course, it will. When it does, I can only hope that my next show will be just as exciting and challenging as Glee has been.”
Scholarships have made a difference already in the lives of Keara Valentine ’15 from Hopewell Junction, N.Y., and Darius Wilmot ’14, from Waterbury, Conn. Thanks to the financial aid packages that they receive, they are well on their way to great careers.

Both students work at the University’s Telefund office, where Darius, a marketing major in the Barney School of Business, is the student manager, and Keara, who will receive her bachelor’s in psychology after just three years in the College of Arts and Sciences, is a student supervisor. Because they know firsthand the importance of scholarships, Keara and Darius spend six to 10 hours each week calling alumni and asking them to help support future students’ educations.

“Financial aid is important to me because without the assistance, there is no way I would be in school right now. My little brother is a senior in high school and is about to go into college. He’s looking here because of the financial aid possibilities,” says Keara.

Darius agrees. “Financial aid is important to me because it gives me the opportunity to further my education and attend an institution of higher learning. Without my financial aid, I would not be able to go to school.”

Your gift to the Anchor Fund, no matter how large or small, helps the University support scholarships and helps thousands of students like these earn their degrees.

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