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DEAR READERS,

“Dedicated to learning, personal growth, knowledge creation, and the betterment of society...” Thus begins the University of Hartford’s mission statement. This edition of the Observer includes several examples of our mission in action. From the two graduate students who have jobs now but continue to work on the Hartford Hand Project because of their dedication to learning, to the incredible story of personal growth and extraordinary character demonstrated by Chaz Davis ’16, who, although visually impaired, set and met the goal of running in the 2016 Paralympic Games. More knowledge about the Holocaust was unearthed by archaeologist and Professor Richard Freund and a student this summer. Their discovery literally made worldwide news. And untold numbers of lives have been saved by an invention by alumnus Frank Hursey ’77.

President Harrison describes one of the fondest memories of his 19-year presidency as he enters his last year at the University’s helm before retirement. We take a brief look back at Commencement Weekend and some of the honorees, plus give you a peek at what some of the Class of 2016 are doing post-graduation.

There’s a message from the president of the Alumni Association and lots of news from alumni, including one who graduated in 1957, the year the University was created. It’s hard to believe that this year’s first-year students are twice each year for alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends of the University of Hartford. All rights reserved. Produced by the Office of Marketing and Communication, University of Hartford, 200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117. The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official University of Hartford policy.

Sincerely,

Mildred McNeill
Executive Director, Office of Marketing and Communication

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On the cover:
Chaz Davis ’16 lost his sight during his freshman year at UHart but not his passion for running. He set a goal to compete in the Paralympics and he is there.

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As I begin my final academic year as president before retiring, I’m thinking about how to answer a most-frequently asked question: what are you most proud of accomplishing during your nineteen years as president? While I am proud of the restoration of our campus and our financial stability, two areas that others have singled out as exemplars of my leadership, I am most proud of what we have done directly for students. I want to focus on one of those programs, the King Hussein Scholars Program.

In January of 1999, during my first academic year as president, my wife Dianne and I traveled to London and Paris to meet some of our international alumni. Among those we met in London was Hussein al Rifai, ’86 who was working in the Jordanian embassy in London then and had previously served as Queen Noor’s press secretary.

During a dinner conversation I asked him what we could do to increase our international student numbers generally and our Jordanian students particularly. He told me that one of King Hussein and Queen Noor’s personal projects was the Jubilee School, an English-speaking high school for gifted and talented Jordanian students, and he suggested we might start a scholarship for graduates of that school. Since I had been a great admirer of King Hussein, who was very ill at the time, I thought this was fitting, and after a subsequent trip to Jordan to see the school and meet Queen Noor, we began a scholarship that would bring one student a year from the Jubilee School to the University of Hartford. Now, eighteen years later, the program continues to flourish. King Hussein Scholars have succeeded at the University and gone on to remarkable achievements after graduation. Almost all of them have earned master’s degrees here or elsewhere, and many have earned PhDs in engineering or other STEM fields.

I would love to recount the successes of each of them—many now professors, engineers, or graduate students. One is an architect. I could go on and on, mentioning each by name with their accomplishments, but I think they will all understand if I focus on the first two King Hussein Scholars, Ghaith Hammouri ’03, ME ’04, and Sameh Awaideh ’03, ME ’05, who came to visit me this summer. I was so very pleased to see them, thrilled to catch up with them, and proud of their fond recollections of their days as students here.

Ghaith earned a bachelor of science and master’s degree in engineering at Hartford, and then went on to earn a PhD in cryptography at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He has become what I would describe as a “serial entrepreneur,” having a hand in starting two companies in the security industry, one here and one in Jordan. When I asked him what he would do next, he said, “I love to teach and do research, but my real passion is entrepreneurship. I think I have some other companies to start!”

Sameh also earned a bachelor of science and master’s degree in engineering at Hartford and then a PhD in electrical and computer engineering in Saudi Arabia. He taught at a university in that country but, like Ghaith, has now returned to the United States. Asked the same question about his professional future, he said: “I also see the draw of industry, but I think my future lies in academics.”

More than just telling me about their professional success, they spent a good deal of time telling me how much Dianne and I had played a part in their lives. “You were our American parents,” Sameh said. They also described how much their experience at the University had formed them as people. We feel both Jordanian and American, they said. We feel equally at home in both countries and, in some ways, citizens of the world.

When we kicked off a fundraising campaign for these scholarships in 2001, Queen Noor visited the University and received an honorary degree. During her remarks, she envisioned how this scholarship and other programs between schools and universities could help frame the future of both Jordan and the United States. I so wish she could have been in my office this summer when Ghaith and Sameh visited. I think she would be proud of how the scholarship program, named for her late husband, has fulfilled her vision for a more cooperative and understanding world.
PROVOST SHARON L. VASQUEZ RETIRES

After six years of service to the University, Provost Sharon Vasquez retired on June 30, 2016. When announcing her retirement, President Harrison said Vasquez “brought leadership, creativity, decisiveness, and a thorough knowledge of higher education to her role as the chief academic officer of the University. Under her direction, our academic programs have grown in nature and in scope, and in many cases in size. She presided over a dramatic increase in both enrollment and reputation of our disciplines in the basic sciences, in health sciences, and in engineering.” As the first provost of the University with an academic background in the arts, she was a tireless champion for their place in the University. One of Vasquez’s last projects was planning the renovation of the University Libraries that began in May.

H. FREDERICK SWEITZER NAMED INTERIM PROVOST

On July 1, H. Frederick Sweitzer became interim provost of the University. Since 2013, Sweitzer was the University’s associate provost and dean of graduate studies and responsible for the development, implementation, and oversight of faculty development, the faculty search process, and the Faculty Center for Learning Development. He holds faculty rank as Professor of Educational Leadership. He joined the University faculty in 1985, the same year he received his EdD from the University of Massachusetts. When announcing Sweitzer’s appointment, President Harrison said “I am delighted we are able to call on a teacher, scholar, and administrator of his quality to serve in this role.”

T. CLARK SAUNDERS NAMED ASSOCIATE PROVOST AND DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES

T. Clark Saunders has been named associate provost and dean of graduate studies at the University. Saunders comes to the position from The Hartt School where, since 1999, he has held a variety of administrative positions including twice serving as interim dean, which was his position immediately prior to this appointment. In addition to his skills as an administrator for academic affairs, Saunders brings experience and expertise in graduate education to the position, having served as graduate director at The Hartt School for many years.

ELIZABETH COOPER NAMED DEAN OF THE HARTT SCHOOL

Elizabeth (Betsy) Cooper is the new dean of The Hartt School and professor of dance. A native of New York City, Cooper came to UHart from Hunter College where she was chair of the CUNY (City University of New York) dance department. Prior to that, she had a long career at the University of Washington (UW), the flagship campus of that state system. At UW, Cooper was dean of the Division of Arts which serves over 1,000 undergraduate and graduate students in a wide array of programs. Prior to her career in academia, Cooper performed with classical and contemporary dance companies nationally and abroad. She holds a MFA in Dance from the University of Washington and graduated cum laude from Yale with a Bachelor of Arts degree in archaeological studies.
If you’re in the Hartford, Conn. area before the end of October 2016, don’t miss the opportunity to walk the grounds of the Hill-Stead Museum in Farmington, Conn. to see a sculpture trail created by seven recent graduates of the Hartford Art School (HAS). Imagine walking along a trail and coming upon a large chess set floating in a pond, a giant sphere of sheep’s wool in a field, a relief sculpture of a fiberglass cow, a working clock behind a granite stone, or a statue of a borer beetle carved out of wood.

The Hill-Stead sculpture trail was made possible when HAS Inc. board member Jane Herzig and her friends Jim and Lois Coon and Neil and Judy Cowan gave the art school a $5,000 grant for a special project. Faculty members Sam Ekwurtzel and Hiro Fukawa used the grant to provide sculpture majors a rare opportunity to showcase their work publicly. The project enabled the students to enhance their portfolios and utilize the skills they had been taught on how to successfully create a public art exhibition.

Audrey Musinski ’16, a sculpture and ceramics double major, says one of her courses focused on creating multiple proposals and taught her how to identify the necessary tools, materials, and budget for an exhibition. “It was very professional and now I know what I need to do if I ever want to apply for a grant,” says Alexis, who sculpted “Theodate’s Cow” for the trail exhibition. “It was actually really helpful, as far as what could potentially happen after graduation,” she said.

Kevin Hernandez ’16, who created four “Sign Poems” along the sculpture trail, agrees. “We had to come up with a way to present our idea so that it was very clear.” Kevin says those who review proposals not only want to know details about the art piece, but also how it will benefit the museum or gallery.

“This project gave me a lot of skills I can use,” says Taylor Schaffer ’16 who will attend graduate school to pursue a degree in secondary art education. “It’s something that’s different than what other art teachers teach their students.” Taylor carved “The Wooden Emerald Ash Borer,” a beetle statue out of ash wood that sits at the entrance to one of the walking trails.

Another sculpture on display is: “Stalemate,” a 32-piece chess set that floats on a pond, by Dylan Ahern ’16.

To learn more about the sculpture trail and exhibit hours, visit hillstead.org.
One of the University’s most compelling research projects, known as “the Hartford Hand Project,” has reached an important milestone. The world’s first prosthetic hand that can be fully customized to patients’ needs has been approved for testing on patients. Currently, amputees and those born without hands have a limited selection of sizes and designs for a prosthetic hand. The groundbreaking Hartford Hand has a unique design that allows each patient to get a custom-made hand that can be adjusted as the patient grows.

“This is a need and something I could have used from the very beginning,” was the reaction of one patient when he saw the prototype. That reaction compelled five graduate students in the University’s Prosthetics and Orthotics (P&O) program in the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions to spend many non-class hours working on the project throughout their degree program.

“This has been one of the best opportunities I have had in my life to design,” says Christopher Welch M’16, one of the students who spent two years working on the project under the guidance of Prosthetics and Orthotics Assistant Professor Michael Wininger. Christopher and colleagues Yonathan Moshayev M’16, Jake Green M’16, Amber Sayer M’16, and Stephen Sousa ‘14, M’16 spent hours upon hours improving the current design to make the unique Hartford Hand a reality for patients.

“This is a good chance for students to train on cutting-edge technology,” says Wininger. “They have more training than any other students in the country, which makes them competitive for their residencies.” This has proven to be true. With the Hartford Hand project on their résumés, the five graduate students all landed promising clinic jobs before graduating in May. Even though they are moving on to new exciting opportunities, Stephen and Christopher plan to continue developing the Hartford Hand. Christopher is working at De La Torre Orthotics & Prosthetics in Pittsburgh, Pa. and Stephen started his career at Long Island Orthotics and Prosthetics in Long Island, N.Y.

While the two recent alumni will work on new prototypes, incoming graduate students will test the Hartford Hand on patients.
The 2016 Hartt Alumni Award recipient, Jimmy Greene ’97, is considered one of the most respected saxophonists of his generation. Greene’s 2015 album, “A Beautiful Life,” is a celebration of the life of his daughter, Ana, whose life was tragically taken on December 14, 2012 at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. The album garnered Grammy nominations for Best Jazz Instrumental Album and Best Arrangement, Instruments, and Vocals for Greene’s arrangement of his composition “When I Come Home,” featuring vocalists Javier Colon ’00 and Latanya Farrell M’97, M’98.

The 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to Brett D. Gerstenblatt ’94, vice president and executive creative director at CVS Health. At CVS Health, he is responsible for CVS’s campaign to remove cigarettes and tobacco products from its inventory. He works with executives and senior leaders to ensure the company’s purpose, strategy, and values are being expressed properly and consistently every day.

2016 Hillyer Distinguished Alumnus Kenneth Vecchione ’74 rose through the ranks of CitiCorp to become Chief Financial Officer of their credit card business and then CFO of credit card giant MBNA. Today, he is the President and chief executive officer of Encore Capital Group, Inc. This year’s commencement was especially meaningful to Vecchione because he able to present honors student Alexander Vecchione ’16, his son, with his Hillyer College degree. Alexander will continue his studies in finance in the Barney School of Business.
2016 COMMENCEMENT CAP SNAPS
During the May 14 graduate degree ceremony, the University bestowed honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees upon former provost (2000-07) Donna Marie Randall, PhD, chief executive officer of the Cancer Prevention Institute of California; and Miriam Therese “M.T.” Winter, PhD who joined the Hartford Seminary in 1980 to establish a department of liturgy, worship, and spirituality.

Randall gave the Commencement address and told the graduates, “Your integrity will define your reputation and your reputation is the most important asset you will bring to your personal and professional life.” She went on to explain that people follow those they trust and implored the students to choose the right path.

At undergraduate Commencement on May 15, keynote speaker Kennedy Owiti Odede, internationally recognized social entrepreneur and CEO of Shining Hope for Communities (SHOFCO), said, “At some point in all of our lives, there is a moment when you’re at a crossroads. You can continue on the path you’ve always known—whether good or bad—or you can take the path of the unknown, the one that will likely change your life.”

A former street child who lived most of his life in one of Africa’s largest slums in Nairobi, Kenya, Odede founded SHOFCO to combat extreme poverty and gender inequality by linking free schools for girls to a set of high-value, holistic community services for all.

Odede received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. Alan B. Lazowski, chairman, chief operating officer, and founder of Connecticut-based LAZ Parking, received a Doctor of Commercial Science and his father, Philip Lazowski, PhD, rabbi emeritus at Beth Hillel Synagogue in Bloomfield, Conn., and a Holocaust survivor, received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters; and Calvin Trillin, New York Times best-selling author and a writer for The New Yorker for more than 50 years received an honorary Doctor of Letters.

Sunday’s Commencement included the presentation of awards to several faculty members for their achievements:

Undergraduates were ecstatic when their degrees were conferred.
Susan Coleman, professor of finance, Barney School of Business
Humphrey R. Tonkin Award for Scholarly and/or Artistic Creativity

Mark Blackwell, professor of English, College of Arts and Sciences (A&S)
Oscar and Shoshana Trachtenberg Award for Sustained Service to the University

Raymond McGivney, professor of mathematics, A&S
University Medal for Distinguished Service

Sarah Senk, assistant professor of English and modern languages, A&S
Donald W. Davis All-University Curriculum Award

Jessica Nicklin, associate professor of psychology, A&S
Belle K. Ribicoff Endowed Professorship

Eoin King, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture
Belle K. Ribicoff Junior Faculty Prize
Cindy Lau '16 says she knows from personal experience that the key to staying on track with an exercise program is to have fun. That's why Lau, who earned a double major in visual communication design and illustration from the University's Hartford Art School, created a mobile game app for her senior project. It uses “virtual pets” to help track every step you take as a way to promote a healthier lifestyle.

“I feel Hartt has prepared me for all kinds of jobs,” says Zachary of his career plans. Each of the brothers has been working with a private voice teacher to develop his own sound. “Assistant Professor of Voice Robert Barefield has helped me so much in terms of opening up my voice,” says Evan. Chase also feels well-prepared for his music career, and he encourages new students to take advantage of the many opportunities The Hartt School has to offer. “The teachers really care about the students. They want you to succeed,” Chase says.

SANBO, which means slow walk or stroll in Cantonese, is suited for health enthusiasts and gamers who are not into heavy exercising. It uses a mobile device’s pedometer to track the number of steps taken and measures it against a daily goal. When goals are achieved, points are awarded to improve the health status of the app’s virtual pets, and if steps fall short, the pets are in danger of entering a “sick state” that Lau hopes will motivate the user to get moving again.

Lau is working as a junior designer at Taylor Design in Stamford, Conn., and hopes to make SANBO available for free for Android and Apple devices on the iTunes App Store.
FUTURE OPTOMETRIST SHEDS LIGHT ON PROPER CONTACT LENS CARE

Do you know how often a contact lens case should be replaced? Is it, a. Every month, b. Every 3 months, c. Every 6 months, or D. Every year? If you answered anything other than b. Every 3 months, you might want to take a contact lens care survey created by health science major Cassie Pastier ’16, of Oxford, Mass.

Pastier, who enters Salus University’s doctoral program in optometry this fall, says, “This survey had a major influence on me and how I plan to treat my future patients.” To demonstrate that the lack of proper contact lens care instruction can contribute to chronic eye infections and irritations, Pastier created the survey as part of her Honors Program research and education project in the University’s College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions (ENHP).

With the help of Associate Professor Claudia Oakes and funding from the University’s Women’s Advancement Initiative’s Dorothy Goodwin Scholarship Program, Pastier developed the survey and a contact lens care and hygiene education program. She recruited 61 students to answer 10 survey questions, attend a brief presentation about proper contact lens care, and take a post-education session survey.

What surprised Pastier was that the pre- and post-education scores were nearly the same for both the survey’s 24 contact lens users, and 37 non-users. The contact lens users achieved a pre-education survey score of 49%, compared to the non-users’ score of 46%. Results among the contact lens users post-education increased to 88%, while the non-contact lens users’ score rose to 85%.

“You’re so overwhelmed with information when you first get contacts, you don’t always remember what you’re supposed to do,” says Pastier, who may decide to specialize in pediatric eye care. No matter what she decides, one thing is certain, her patients will know their contact lens care.

HIRED AND WORKING BEFORE GRADUATION

Scott Roberts ’16 didn’t have to wait until graduation to become a professional news producer. After two internships at NBC Connecticut, a television station in West Hartford, Conn., his bosses were so impressed they offered him a job during his senior year. Scott wrote and produced early-morning newscasts twice a week during his final semester and started working full-time at the station after Commencement.

So what exactly does a producer do? “I arrange all of the stories, the content, the video, and every graphic that you see go up on screen,” Scott explains. “It’s an art form. You want to make sure it flows well. You want to make sure you give enough time to the weather anchor and traffic anchor and make sure everything goes smoothly.”

Scott, who majored in communication in the College of Arts and Sciences, traces his success back to his first meeting with School of Communication Professor Lynne Kelly. She encouraged him to check out STN-2, the student-run campus television station. He was an STN reporter in his freshman year, learning how to write for television and how to put together a newscast. He eventually worked his way up to general manager.

Because of his STN experience and his passion for producing, professors encouraged him to contact Kristie Borges ’93, a producer and internship supervisor at NBC Connecticut. The two alumni are now co-workers.

Throughout it all Scott also was active in student life, playing in the pep band and being a Red Cap at orientation for new students. He is very appreciative of the personal attention that was given to his personal goal and how others helped him achieve it.

“The close relationships between professors and students are really something special about the University," says Scott. “The support and encouragement have made me a better person overall.”
An international team led by University of Hartford Professor of Jewish History and archaeologist Richard Freund has discovered a 100-foot-long underground tunnel made by 80 Jews who attempted a courageous escape from the extermination pits at Paneriai, Lithuania, on the last night of Passover in April 1944. Although the entrance to the tunnel was known, its exact path remained a mystery until the discovery made in early June, 2016.

Calling it one of the “great Jewish escapes” of the Holocaust, Freund, who also is director of the University’s Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies, likens the discovery to finding a very well-known needle in a haystack. Noninvasive ground-penetrating radar equipment was used to find the tunnel in order to protect the sanctity of the site. As many as 100,000 people are believed to be buried there and Freund and his team found unknown burial pits in the forest adjacent to the site.

Freund initiated the investigation of the Lithuanian archaeological sites with geophysicists from Worley Parsons, Inc.’s Advisian Division in Canada, and is working with the Antiquities Authority of Israel, The Vilna Gaon Jewish State Museum, Duquesne University, and University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, as well as students and staff.
As far back as Nicole Awad ’17 can remember, she has wanted to be an archaeologist. But never in her wildest dreams did this history major from New Canaan, Conn., imagine that, as an undergraduate, she would play a part in an archaeological discovery that would make headlines around the world.

This summer, Nicole was a member of an international team—led by archaeologist Richard Freund, the University of Hartford’s Maurice Greenberg Professor of Jewish History—that discovered the location of a Holocaust escape tunnel hand-dug by 80 Jewish prisoners at the extermination pits in Paneriai, Lithuania. Called the “burning brigade,” the prisoners were forced by the Nazis to incinerate bodies to hide evidence of the destruction of Lithuanian Jews during World War II. Only 12 prisoners survived the courageous escape via the tunnel, which took place on the last night of Passover in April 1944, and 11 of the 12 lived to tell the harrowing story of digging for 76 nights using only their hands, spoons, and other crude tools.

Immediately after its announcement in June, news about the discovery spread quickly throughout the world with articles and interviews appearing in countless newspapers, television stations, and online media, including The New York Times, USA Today, The Atlantic, Yahoo, and the BBC. Nicole, Freund, others from the team, and descendants of the escapees will be featured in a documentary being produced by the award-winning science series NOVA. It is scheduled to air on PBS in 2017.

Nicole was amazed to learn that people from all over the world, regardless of faith or locale, care about the discovery. “As someone who wants to become an archaeologist, it is really amazing for me to see the emotion archaeology can provide,” Nicole says. She adds that, while people still care about archaeological digs at castles from the 1500s or at ancient structures, the tunnel discovery strikes a chord with many people because it’s part of recent history.

Calling the tunnel discovery monumental, Nicole says, “You find what these people did to survive and it almost feels like—not only are you discovering a real story, but you are doing them a service. It’s hearsay when someone says, ‘there’s a tunnel there”—there’s no substance to it. But now their voices can be heard and we can provide a whole community with a story of hope and liberation from this terrible and awful thing that happened.”

This was not Nicole’s first time working on an archeological project. Throughout her years as an undergraduate, she has worked on projects from Griswold, Conn. to Rhodes, Greece, and learned cutting-edge strategies along the way. The contours and direction of the 100-foot-long escape tunnel were found at levels of 3 to 15 feet underground using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) equipment, which Nicole has operated at numerous archaeological “digs.” Originally developed for the gas and oil industry, the noninvasive technique was used in Lithuania because of its ability to identify the location of the tunnel without disturbing the resting places of some 100,000 bodies buried there.

When she came to the University of Hartford, Nicole thought she would be working on only small projects like digging in someone’s backyard for arrowheads. She credits Professor Freund with providing opportunities and invaluable experiences that will contribute to her future success. “The University of Hartford literally gave me everything,” she says. “I wouldn’t have been able to do archaeology if not for the University. The level at which the University cares about your career is astounding to me.”

Nicole is now applying to graduate school to continue her study of archaeology and finds many of the admission applications require fieldwork and real-life experiences. Looking to the future, she says her dream is to work in Egypt. “I’ve studied Egypt all my life and ever since I was 3, I wanted to be an Egyptologist. My parents said I was crazy, but here I am still trying to do it. But as long as I’m digging, I’ll be happy.”
Blind alum Chaz Davis ’16 has a vision for his life and is representing the United States at the Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

In early July, after a few exhausting, but exhilarating, days participating in the U.S. Paralympic Track and Field tryouts in Charlotte, N.C., Chaz waited with eager anticipation for the men’s team that would compete in Rio to be announced on July 3. When he heard his name, he almost could not believe it.

“It was just an unbelievable feeling that I made the team and I get to represent my country in Rio,” says Chaz, a native of Grafton, Mass., who ran track and field and cross country at UHart.

The Paralympic Games is an international multi-sport event involving athletes with a range of physical disabilities. Chaz will be competing with a visual impairment. About midway through his first year at the University, he was stricken with Leber Hereditary Optic Neuropathy (LHON), a rare, incurable genetic disease that causes vision loss. At first, the disease only caused deteriorating vision in his right eye, but by the end of the school year, he lost the vision in his left eye as well. When it first happened, Chaz thought he would never run again. “I thought my college days were over,” he says.

After a summer of up and down emotions, Chaz resolved that, with help and support from family, friends on the team, and professors, he would continue his criminal justice studies in the University’s College of Arts and Sciences and start running again. “I was able to get back on track just three months after I became legally blind,” Chaz says. He started running first on the
treadmill and began slowly working with teammates to run outdoors. Chaz especially relied on teammate Kyle Hamel ’16 who was also his roommate. Kyle helped Chaz feel comfortable running again.

“I am so grateful to be a part of Chaz’s story. He is such an inspiration and a great role model for all young runners,” says Kyle, a native of Southington, Conn. who earned his degree in mechanical engineering in the University’s College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture.

Chaz is not able to make out details of objects and says what he sees looks like pixelated colors. When he walks around he uses a cane to detect objects. When training on roads for cross country, the two friends ran together and Kyle would point out potholes and other obstacles that Chaz should be aware of. Kyle also would act as Chaz’s guide in cross country meets. In the fall of 2015, Chaz competed in his first cross country event after losing his vision and completed the 8K course in 27:04.26 for 59th place. He was the third Hawk to cross the finish line in that event. Kyle, as his guide, finished right after Chaz in 27:04.28.

In May 2016, Chaz concluded his collegiate career with a standout performance in the 5,000-meters at the New England Championships. He took eighth in the race, finishing in a time of 14:48.61. He also graduated with his degree in criminal justice that month.

At the Paralympics qualifiers in Charlotte, N.C., Chaz took top billing in the 5,000-meter run covering the track in 15:25.32. He also won his section of the 1500-meter run, leading the field in 4:05.90.

Chaz may not be able to see but he has a vision for his life that is clear. “I set this goal three years ago, when I first lost my sight,” Chaz says. He will compete in the 1,500-meter run on September 11 and the 5,000-meter run on September 15.

Having supported him throughout the whole process, Kyle could not be more proud that Chaz made it to the Paralympics. “I am just so excited for him and I wish I could go to Rio to support him,” says Kyle.

After the Paralympics, Chaz is planning to attend a 10-month program at the Colorado Center for the Blind where he will learn basic skills for independent living. Then he plans to pursue a master’s degree in social work to help people who have gone through similar experiences to his.

“The blindness has not kept me from my goals and what I want in life. I have found a purpose and I want to work with other people like me,” he concludes.
Kim McNeill is a realist. She knows that there are games during the season when her Hawks’ women’s basketball team will have an off night shooting. “But there are things we can control,” she emphasizes, “such as our defensive effort, how hard we play, and how many times we decide to dive on the court. I think our style of play is going to be extremely exciting and people are going to come and watch us play.”

On May 25, University of Hartford Director of Athletics Anton Goff introduced McNeill as UHart’s eighth head women’s basketball coach. She succeeds Jennifer Rizzotti, who resigned after 16 seasons last spring to become head coach at The George Washington University.

McNeill has spent the past 16 seasons as an assistant coach at the Division I level, distinguishing herself as an effective and successful recruiter and coach.

McNeill arrives at Hartford by way of the University of Virginia, where from 2011-13, she was an assistant coach under Joanna Boyle before being elevated to associate head coach in 2013.

McNeill is no stranger to winning. Five of the six programs she has been a part of have earned berths to either the NCAA Tournament or the Postseason WNIT. She has been a part of 10 teams that have qualified for the postseason, guiding seven squads to NCAA Tournament berths, and four to appearances in the Postseason WNIT.

“My goal is to create a positive student-athlete experience, where our success is found on the court, in the classroom, and throughout the community,” McNeill says.
CLASSROOM STARS
A conference-leading nine student-athletes from the University of Hartford were named America East Presidential Scholar-Athletes for their outstanding academic achievements throughout their college years. The award recognizes student-athletes who graduated in May who compiled a cumulative grade point average of 3.75 or higher as an undergraduate student.

The women’s soccer team had four members earn America East Presidential Scholar-Athlete laurels: Emma Donnelly, Elise Galipo, Kristen McAdams, and Erica Primovic. Also honored were Sara Buckley (women’s track and field), Christopher Helminski (men’s track and field), Erinn Lavelle (volleyball), Anthony LoBello (men’s soccer), and Christie Michals (women’s basketball).

ALL-AMERICAN
Dylan Protesto ’18 of Men’s Lacrosse received All-America laurels from the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA). Protesto, a sophomore, was named to the Division I USILA/Nike All-America Third Team as a face-off specialist.

He was a force to be reckoned with inside of the face-off circle all season, winning 70.8 percent of his duels (272-for-384), marking the best single-season performance in Hartford history. Protesto’s winning percentage at the X was the nation’s top mark. In addition, his 151 ground balls in 2016 were the second most in school history.

Men’s Basketball
Pancake Thomas ’17 had one of the finest individual seasons in program history, finishing with 566 points (eighth in school history) and earning Second Team NABC All-District honors.

Women’s Basketball
Darby Lee ’18 was one of two Hawks honored by America East, named Third Team All-Conference. Teammate Lindsey Abed ’19 was selected to the league’s All-Rookie Team.

Women’s Golf
Annamarie Mallat ’16 placed ninth to lead the Hawks at the MAAC Championship.

Men’s Lacrosse
Won the America East title with thrilling one-goal wins over Albany (ranked fourth nationally at the time) and Vermont, advanced to the NCAA Tournament, and was ranked 19th in the country in a late-season media poll managed by Inside Lacrosse.

Men’s Track
Chris Helminski ’16 delivered top-15 finishes in the mile at the New England Championships and in the 1,500 meters and 5,000 meters at the America East Championships.

Softball
Advanced to the America East Tournament for the first time since 2013.

Baseball
David Mackinnon ’17 led the Hawks to a school-record 37 wins in 2016, becoming the first player in program history to be named America East Player of the Year and First Team Academic All-America.

Men’s Golf
Evan Russell ’16 won the individual title at the Big Sky Championship and qualified for the NCAA Tournament.

Women’s Track
Sara Buckley ’16 took seventh place in the 10,000 meters at the New England Championships in her final season for the Hawks.
Dear Fellow Alumni,

I am thrilled that writing to you is my first official act as President of the Alumni Association. I am honored to serve you and the University for the next three years. I owe a ton of gratitude to the faculty, staff, students, parents, friends, and alumni who supported my journey back onto campus and to serve our alumni. I am fortunate to have people in my life who care and believe in me. This is truly a gift, and it is also what inspires and motivates me to share this gift with you.

It’s All About You!
The Alumni Board and Alumni Relations team are here to help you. We want to be part of your journey, and make U-Hart mean something to you every day. Your relationship with U-Hart doesn’t end the day you graduate. It is the start of the next exciting chapter. The story is yours to define, and we are cheering you on.

This coming year, the lineup for alumni events is extensive and impressive. There is something for everyone across the nation. Check it out at hartford.edu/alumni. Be sure to follow the Alumni Association on social media: facebook.com/UHartfordAlumni and twitter.com/UHartfordAlumni. We want to be part of your story. Let us know where you are and how you are doing.

Cheers to you!
Carolyn Reibling Bligh ’87
President
University of Hartford Alumni Association

Follow the Alumni Association on social media:
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UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD Alumni Board, 2016–17

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DEGREE KEY
Alumni Connections entries are distinguished as follows:
A associate’s degree
AD artist diploma
C sixth-year certificate
D doctorate
GPD graduate professional diploma
M master’s degree
nd nondegree alumnus/a

No letter designation before a degree year indicates a bachelor’s degree. P indicates the parent of a student or alumnus/a.

1957
BEVERLY WEURDING
A (BARNEY), 78 years young, is the founder and CEO of the Wheelchair Dancers Organization. She is active in bringing all-inclusive individuals dance classes throughout San Diego and Southern California.

1960
The Town of West Hartford (Conn.) named its soccer complex after PAUL GLOVER A’58 (CETA) of West Hartford, Conn., long-time soccer coach who has spent almost 40 years mentoring youth in his community.

1962
ELLIOTT DUNN (BARNEY) of Windsor, Conn., was inducted into the 2015 Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame on November 30. The ceremony took place in the atrium of the State Legislative Office Building in Hartford, Conn. He was honored as a Golden Hawk in 2012.

1963
The Center for Engaged Learning’s new Institute for Teaching and Learning at Bridgewater College was named in honor of JANICE WADE M (ENHP) and her husband, Ben, of Lakeland, Fla. It is now the Wade Institute for Teaching and Learning.

1965
DENNIS SULLIVAN (A&S) of New Britain, Conn., authored and published a memoir, “Irving Street & Other Hartford Memories: 1943-1966.”

To learn more about becoming a Board member, or to get involved as a volunteer, log on to http://www.anchormonline.org/get-involved.
The photography work of DAVID KREISS (A&S), M’04 (HAS) of Collinsville, Conn., was featured in a solo exhibit at Gallery on the Green in Canton, Conn., in January. A former photographer for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner of Conn. and River Front Recapture, he has taught photography at several colleges in the Hartford, Conn. area. David’s photographs have appeared in historical books in and around his hometown.

1973

BILL DOUGAL (HAS) of Lebanon, Conn., created a video called “Cowboy Billy’s OK Corral,” which teaches character values cowboy style. It is available on DouglaMusic.net along with his other recent videos, “Fast Draw Fun” and “Fish Fact Fun.”

DAVID McBRIEDE (HARTT) of West Hartford, Conn., had his composition “Flam” premier at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention in San Antonio, Texas, last November. JOSEPH VAN HASSEL D’II (HARTT) of Laurinburg, N.C., directed the piece, which was performed by the University of North Carolina Pembroke Percussion Ensemble.

1968

JOSEPH CELLI (HARTT) of Bridgeport, Conn., received an Asian Cultural Council grant for music research in Indonesia about Muslim culture and music, and has launched a nationally-broadcast radio program titled, Soundprint: Asia on WPKN 89.5 FM.

1969

CHERYL MELODY (HARTT) of Hopkinton, Mass., released her ninth CD, “Lullabies of Love.” The CD features heart-centered and peaceful adult lullabies, and is described as “Nurturing the Heart of the Inner Child.”

1971

PHILLIP BOWLER (HARTT) of Newtown, Conn., opened the seventh season of the Flagpole Radio Café by performing as “Phil Bowler and Friends” at the Edmond Town Hall. Bowler is widely respected for his artistry as well as his award-winning program, “Jazz Adventures.”

1974

RON BARISANO (A&S) of New Castle, Del., recently joined the AFLAC family as an associate. He was also recently highlighted by the Delaware News Journal in an article on diabetes.

1975

CHRISTOPHER HODGSON (ENHP) of Castine, Maine, received an Excellence in Teaching Award by the Maine Maritime Academy. She joined the faculty in 2001 and is an associate professor of humanities and history.

1976

DERRICK BAILEY (A&S) of Stuart, Fla., has joined the medical team at Physicians Immediate Care in Jensen Beach, Fla. Physicians Immediate Care is the largest provider of urgent care services in Florida’s Treasure Coast region.

1979

BERNARD KAVALER M’88 (A&S), (BARNEY) of West Hartford, Conn., has been elected to a three-year term on the Better Business Bureau (BBB) Board of Directors and is also a board member of Leadership Greater Hartford. He is the founding principal of Express Strategies, an independent communications and public policy consulting business.

1980

IRA B. SCHWARTZ (A&S) of Bethesda, Md., has been elected fellow of the American Physics Society (APS). He was recognized by the APS for his pioneering contributions to the understanding and development of topological insights into the dynamics, fluctuations and control of strongly nonlinear physical and population systems.

1983

JOE KALISMAN A’83 (HARTT) of Newtown, Conn., represented his alma mater, Maloney High School, at The Stoddard Bowl played Thanksgiving Day. Panciera played club football at UHart.
1980
GWENDOLYN CAHILL (A&S) of Petersburg, Va., released Out of Love, a novel about art theft, justice and love. The premiere book signing event occurred April 9 at Barnes and Noble Chesterfield Town Center in Richmond, Virginia.

Artist DAVID HOLTZMAN (HAS) of Avon, Conn., had his work displayed from January to March at New Britain, Conn.’s Stockman Gallery. The exhibit was titled “David Holtzman: From the book of Umm.” Since 2011, he has produced a series of small watercolor/gouache paintings that has been the focus of his process. David has been teaching art at Simsbury High School since 1986, and also teaches sculpture at Central Connecticut State University.

1981
DAVID CULLEN (HARTT) of Reading, Pa., performed the first solo faculty guitar recital at Millersville University, where he is a guitar instructor. The Grammy Award-winning classical guitarist is also artist in residence at Elizabethtown College.

TIMOTHY HURLOCK (BARNEY) of Farmington, Conn., was named chief financial officer at Catholic Charities. Previously, he had served as the organization’s controller.

1982
KEITH FROME (A&S) of Amherst, N.Y., the CEO and Co-Founder of College Summit, was featured in a PBS NewsHour segment in March. He spoke to the power of College Summit’s peer-driven model, and its impact on college enrollment and persistence in making a college education possible for students from low-income communities across the nation.

DEBRA PALERMINO M (BARNEY) of Westbrook, Conn., was promoted to senior vice president of corporate human relations at MassMutual. She has been with MassMutual since 2006.

LONNIE SHOR (BARNEY) of Marietta, Ga., was hired by Sprayberry High School in Marietta, Ga. as the varsity boys’ assistant head lacrosse coach. For the past three years, he was an assistant JV coach at Lassiter High School which compiled a 27-4-5 record.

JAMES A. SOWELL (BARNEY) of Panama City, Fla., was awarded a certificate and 20-year pin by the AARP for providing free income tax preparation for the elderly through its Tax AID Program.

MICHAEL ZIOGAS (ENHP) of Bristol, Conn., received the Ed Lodovico Award at the Bristol Tramps Sports Reunion recognition event in April. A standout soccer player in Bristol, he continues to serve the youth of his hometown in a coaching capacity. Michael was an All-America goalkeeper for the Hawks and was elected to the Alumni Athletics Hall of Fame in 1996.

1983
MARK BOXER (Engineering) (A&S) of Glastonbury, Conn., joined Senator Ted Kennedy, Jr. and other advocates to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Boxer, who is CIGNA’s global chief information officer, and other attendees at the Oct. 8 event at CIGNA in Bloomfield, Conn., called for the need to expand job opportunities for people with disabilities.

ALISA COLEMAN (HARTT) of Morris Plains, N.J., was named the first chief operating officer of ABKCO Music & Records, Inc. in January. She first joined ABKCO in 1985 and has worked in every division of the company, finding innovative ways to introduce ABKCO’s song and film catalog to new generations. The catalog includes compositions, recordings and films by such notable performers as Sam Cooke, the Rolling Stones and The Kinks.

WENDY DAVIES-STAUFFER (A&S) of Cheshire, Conn., a lawyer at Rome, Clifford, Katz & Keorner, GAYLE MULLIGAN ‘88 (BARNEY) of Hebron, Conn., a Representative in the Connecticut State Legislature, and ERIC BENCIVENGA ’99 (BARNEY) of Amityville, N.Y., a financial advisor at Edward Jones, returned to campus in early February to speak to a group of student-athletes about life after graduation. From developing teamwork, to overcoming adversity, to learning how to network, all three credited their time as a Hawk for much their success.

1984
Cabrini College named CHERYL HA-RAD-PILCHK (BARNEY) of Huntingdon Valley, Pa. as an associate professor.

RICHARD WILLIAMS (HARTT) of Larchmont, N.Y., performed his third solo recital on April 24. He is in the midst of his 27th season with the Westchester Symphonic Winds, the 10th as principal Trombone.

1985
KATHY BEHRENS (ENHP) of Irvington, N.Y., was one of three individuals who received the 2016 Women in Sports and Events (WISE) Women of the Year Award. Kathy is President, Social Responsibility & Player Programs for the National Basketball Association. The award was given in June at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York City.

Motivational speaker and organizational leadership expert KAREN JAMES (CETA) of Cammeray, Australia, returned to campus in January to speak to the LEAD (Leadership, Education and Development) program of The Women’s Advancement Initiative. She recently published a book On Purpose.

VICTOR MARQUES (BARNEY) of Trumbull, Conn., was appointed senior vice president at U.S. RE Corporation, the reinsurance brokerage subsidiary of U.S. RE Companies. Marques, who has more than 25 years of experience, was formerly executive vice president for BMS Group, Ltd.

1988

RUTH B. SMITH (A&S), M’86 (BARNEY) of Barre, Vt., has been promoted to the position of vice-president for protection at National Life Group. Since 2009, she has been in charge of the life insurance division of National Life Group, a financial services firm with $29 billion in assets under management.
ALEX NAKHIMOVSKY (HARTT), M’88 (HARTT) of West Hartford, Conn., lead a quintet of jazz and classical musicians during a performance December 5 at Beth Sholom B’nai Israel in Manchester, Conn. He is a jazz and classical musician who is well-known throughout the world. Since 1999, Nakhimovsky has been a full-time faculty member at the Greater Hartford Academy for the Arts and an adjunct faculty member at the Hart School. MITCHELL C. SKLAR, Esq. (A&S) of Voorhees, N.J., has received a Certificate in Facilitation Skills from the Training Foundation. In addition, he has been accepted as an Associate Member of the British Institute for Learning and Development. Mitchell has been the executive director of the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police since 1999.

1986

Dwight Edwards A’86 (WARD), (WARD) of Boise, Idaho was the keynote speaker in January at the Toastmaster’s Leadership Institute’s District 15, Division A gathering titled Crisp Clear Cool Communication. He spoke in celebration of Black History Month. Dwight is a distinguished toastmaster and has delivered thousands of speeches to corporations, non-profits, and universities on topics ranging from how to develop self-esteem to overcoming the fear of public speaking.

Paula S. Gilberto M (BARNEY) of Farmington, Conn. was named President and CEO of the United Way of Central and Northeastern Conn. She joined the United Way in March 1998 and was previously senior vice president in charge of resource development, community engagement, and development of community initiatives. University of North Texas College of Visual Arts and Design professor ANNETTE LAWRENCE (HAS) of Denton, Texas, had her art exhibit, “Around Again,” displayed in late January at UNT on the Square. The exhibition ran in conjunction with the Denton Black Film Festival.

1987

The Silvermine Guild of Artists welcomed ROBERT R. CALAFIORE (HAS) of West Hartford, Conn., as one of 11 new members. The Guild recognizes work that meets their criteria for excellence of technique, cultural or social relevance, clarity and continuity of style, and professional accomplishment.

Ginny (Kirwin) Johnson (HARTT) of Rockland, Mass., has been selected as the director of library services for the East Bridgewater (Mass.) Public Library.

1988

Paul Andruszk (CEA) of Clarence Center, N.Y., was named vice president of Gear Motions Buffalo, N.Y., operations, which includes its Oliver/Pro-Gear and Niagara Gear divisions. Paul has more than three decades of experience in the gear industry and most recently served as general manager of the company’s Niagara Gear division.

Steve Davis (HARTT) of New Britain, Conn., and James Burton III ‘03 (HARTT) of Westbury, N.Y., joined the Christian McBride Band and a slate of gifted artists who performed in “A Tribute to Ray Charles” February 26 at the White House in front of President Obama and the First Lady.

Michael Morris M’07 (BARNEY) of Glastonbury, Conn., was promoted to managing director, operations and finance, at the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority.

Gayle Mulligan (BARNEY)

See WENDY DAVIES-STAUFFER ’83 (A&S)

1990

Cellist Jolyn Pegis AD’87 (HARTT), (HARTT) of Plano, Texas served as a guest artist in December at a Masterclass for the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester. She has been a member of the Dallas Symphony since 2000, and is also the assistant principal cello of the Chautauqua Symphony.

St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center nurse Elaine Scheinblum (ENHP) of West Hartford, Conn., was a recipient of a Health Care Hero Award at an awards ceremony December 2 at the Connecticut Convention Center. The Awards were given by HartfordBusiness.com.

1991

Stephen Collins (HARTT) of South Glastonbury, Conn., was named the executive director of the Hartford (Conn.) Symphony Orchestra. Since 2014, he has been HSO’s director of artistic operations and administration.

Philip Faraci (ENHP) of Middletown, Conn., created and performed the music for the Oddfellows Playhouse Youth Theater’s (Middletown, Conn.) production of “A Comedy of Errors” that ran in March. The Shakespeare’s classic farce was re-imagined with circus acts, clowns, masks and careening confusions.

Jeffrey Kurtz (A&S) of Edwards, Colo., was appointed director of sales for the Colorado Mountain Express. His primary focus will be to develop strategic initiatives to enhance the overall guest experience. Kurtz has worked in hospitality and transportation for more than 20 years, including more than a decade with Colorado Mountain Express in a variety of sales roles.

Marc Liebowitz (A&S) of Lawrence Township, N.J., has joined CFO Consulting Partners as a director and head of the firm’s insurance and risk management practice. He has more than 25 years of senior financial management experience in commercial insurance.

Gioia Zack A (HCW) of Wethersfield, Conn., joined O, R&L Commercial as a commercial broker. She has been a real estate professional since 2011.

1993

Edwardo A. Serpa M (BARNEY) of Bogota, Columbia, was invited to join Ambassador Kevin Whitaker at his residence in Bogota. He was among more than 200 Columbian alumni of United States universities invited in recognition of the United States Department of Education’s “International Education Week” in mid-November.

Cantor Ellen Tilem (HARTT) of Teaneck, N.J., shared her talent at the annual Cantor Sapir & Friends concert held December 24 in Delray Beach, Fla.

Gara Field (A&S), ’93 (A&S) of Meredith, N.H., has accepted a position as the director of global learning at the Moses Brown School in Providence, R.I. One of the most respected public school educators in Rhode Island, she has been at Pleasant View Elementary School since 2011. Field is widely credited with spearheading the turnaround efforts at the long-struggling school by promoting innovation and creating a culture that was embraced by teachers, students and families.

Jeffrey L. Hayman M (BARNEY) of Goldsboro, Pa., has accepted the Zurich Insurance Group’s (Zurich) nomination to join its board of directors. He is an independent consultant and advisor who has an extensive knowledge of the insurance industry.

Derek Hardin (HAS) of Fall River, Mass. was named the coordinator of visual arts at Mansfield High School in Mansfield, Mass. In his new position, he will teach students to think creatively, combine technology and the arts, and bring the arts into better collaboration with other academic subjects.

Morgan Stanley has promoted RW “Reginald” Martin (BARNEY) of Hong Kong to executive director. He will be responsible for the BYOD, VDI, Remote Access and Cloud global strategies as they apply to the delivery of desktop application virtualization to 60,000-plus users worldwide.

Hern Sorcher (A&S) of Newtown, N.J., was named vice-president of business development for the Morristown-based Sky Blue FC, a women’s professional soccer team. He will manage the team’s overall business strategy, including ticket, sponsor and marketing initiatives. Sorcher has been the CEO and managing ownership partner for the Danbury (Conn.) Whalers of the Federal Hockey League since 2009. Previously, he spent 17 seasons with the minor league baseball New Jersey Cardinals.
Richard M. Cangro (Hartt) D’04 (Hartt) of Macomb, Ill., traveled earlier this year to Myanmar as one of the first United States educators to provide professional development to their music teachers. He also celebrated his selection as the new conductor for the Quincy Area Youth Orchestra in Quincy, Ill.

Eva Esposito (A&S) of Branford, Conn., was named to the Branford (Conn.) Sports Hall of Fame. She played basketball for the Hawks.

The works of Kathi Packer (HAS) of West Hartford, Conn., and Stephanie Lauretano M’09 (HAS) of Torrington, Conn., were displayed at Five Points Gallery in Torrington, Conn. in October. The exhibit was titled “Fire and Ice”. Packer’s works are drawn from a series titled, “An African Tale” based on her visits to Africa. Lauretano manipulates materials and processes to tell of her life identity in her works.

Christopher Selby (Hartt) of Mount Pleasant, S.C., is the orchestra director at the Charleston County School of the Arts. Under his leadership, the School was named this year’s ASTA National Orchestra Festival Grand Champion in Tampa Fla.

1993

Former UHart women’s basketball standout Mary Jane Besselink A’91 (Hillyer), (A&S) of Kingston, Ontario, Canada was inducted into the Kingston and District Sports Hall of Fame during ceremonies in May, 2016. She has been enshrined in numerous “Halls,” including UHart’s own Alumni Athletics Hall of Fame (in 2004).

Sean Braikas (A&S) of Windsor Locks, Conn., was inducted as a member of the Class of 2015 in the Windsor Locks (Conn.) Athletic Hall of Fame. He was a three-sport athlete at Windsor Locks, and was tabbed All-State in baseball as a junior and senior. Sean played baseball for the Hawks.

The works of John Sullivan (A&S) of Bridgeport, Conn., was featured in a Journal Inquirer article which touted him as a “State-of-the-Art” coach. The former point for the Hawks won his second State Championship at East Catholic H.S. (Conn.) this year.

Steven M. Wenig (Hartt) of Kingswood, Texas, was named vice president and general manager of the Oregon Symphony. In his new role, Wenig will oversee artistic operations, broadcasts and recordings, orchestra personnel, and education and outreach programs.

The works of Matthew Best (HAS) of Manchester, Conn. and Margaret Vaughn 12 (HAS) of Wethersfield, Conn., were featured in an exhibition of collage works curated by Melanie Carr of the New Britain Museum of America Art in March.

David Carter (Barney) of North Granby, Conn., executive vice president of middle market at The Hartford, has been named to the Greater Hartford Arts Council Board of Directors.

Sagar Kuraide M (Barney) of New Delhi, India has been chosen as the new President of the Food Processors Association (AIFPA). Kuraide works with Suman Project Consultants Pvt Ltd in various positions, a leading consultancy in India dedicated to the food processing sector. The evocative work of Kathleen Zimmerman 96 (HAS) was on display at the Kehler Liddell Gallery in New Haven, Connecticut from January 14 to February 14. The show, “Couples” featured Zimmerman’s drawings, prints and sculpture.
1997

JIMMY GREENE (HARTT) of Sandy Hook, Conn., was nominated for two Grammy Awards for his recording “Beautiful Life.” The album was nominated in the Best Jazz Instrumental category, and the song, “When I Come Home,” was nominated for Best Arrangement, Instruments and Vocals. “Beautiful Life” celebrates the life of Greene’s daughter, Ana, who was killed in the Newtown (Conn.) tragedy in 2012. Fellow Alumnus JAVIER COLON 00 (HARTT) of West Hartford, Conn., and LATANYA FARRELL M (ENHP), ’98 (ENHP) of West Hartford, Conn., appeared as vocalists on the album. Greene enjoyed national exposure, performing on the Meredith Vieira Show on Feb. 15, along with Colon, and then on the Jimmy Fallon show March 1, sitting in with the Roots.

New Canaan Public Schools will welcome JO-ANN KEATING D (ENHP) of Southbury, Conn., as its director of finance and operations beginning this summer. Her integrity, financial and budget skills, collaborative management style, and extensive experience in school performance and operations were cited by district officials as attributes that make her well-suited for the job.

ANDREW MAYO M (HARTT) of West Hartford, Conn., wrote the music and lyrics for the Poppins Children’s Theatre production of “Caught in the Middle” performed in West Hartford, Conn. in March. Mayo, who was a student at the Hartford Institute of Music, composed the musical with assistance from his mother and his grandmother.

1998

ERIC BENCVENGA (BARNEY) See WENDY DAVIES-STAUFSFF ’83 (A&S)

JAMES BURTON III (HARTT) See STEVE DAVIS ’88 (HARTT)

DAN HORTLITZ (HAS) of Granby, Conn., was promoted to creative director at van Schouwen Associates LLC, a strategic business-to-business March 1, leaving in 2013 to join Alden’s consulting business venture, MayValueTree.com.


2000

JAVIER COLON (HARTT) See JIMMY GREENE ’97 (HARTT)

Pianist YOSHIO SATO GDP (HARTT), AD’92 (HARTT) of Bennington, VT, along with Christopher Lewis, performed three Beethoven piano sonatas on March 12 at the Bennington Museum in Bennington, VT. It was the first of a musical odyssey that will feature the pair playing all 32 Beethoven sonatas in eight concerts at multiple venues throughout southwest Vermont.

ANDREA VARGAS M (BARNEY) of Scotch Plains, N.J., was named President of the Schools Division at Catapult Learning, Inc. The former CFO will manage the expansion of the company’s alternative education, dropout recovery and special education schools programs.

In March, 2015, MAXWELL WILLIAMS (HARTT) of New Orleans, La., was named artistic director of Le Petit Theatre du Vieux Carre, and this January was selected by New Orleans Magazine as one of its “People to Watch.” He was formerly artistic director for Hartford Stage in Hartford, Conn.

2001

TODD BERKICH (HARTT) of Mechanicsburg, Pa., joined the touring production of “Ragtime.” He played the roles of J.P. Morgan, Admiral Robert Peary, and a railroad conductor, in the ensemble.

Obiobat MEREDITH COLEMAN M (HARTT) of Overland Park, Kan., a member of the City Winds Trio, performed as part of the Music at Noon Concert Series held Dec. 3 for the Morristown, N.J. community.

JEANNINE NONAILLADA (ENHP) of New Hyde Park, N.Y., received her PhD in social work, with a concentration gerontology from Fordham University.

2002

PAUL BRAND A’02 (A&S), (CEA) of Hartford, Conn., is now senior engineer at GM2 Associates, Inc. He is a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

The love story and professional journey of ANNETTE ROGERS M (BARNEY), D’11 (ENHP) and Alden Davis of Avon, Conn., was chronicled in a Hartford Courant article in January. She was assistant dean at the Barnert School of Business before leaving in 2013 to join Alden’s consulting business venture, MayValueTree.com. She was invited back soon thereafter and is now assistant dean and clinical instructor of management in the MBA program at Barnert.

Hands portrait artist SARAH PAOLUCCI (HAS) of Hartford, Conn., was featured in the Hartford Courant as a prelude to her work being displayed at ArtWalk at the Hartford Library in April.


2003

Numerous HARTT School alumni took center stage at the “Broadways Sessions” performances at the Laurie Beechman Theatre in New York, N.Y. March 21, “Broadway Sessions” is a zany, musical theatre variety show that takes place every Thursday. Among those performing that night were RICHARD BARTH (HARTT) from Canan City, Colo., CHRIS-

TINE DWYER ’07 (HARTT) from Brooklyn, N.Y., DOUGLAS LYONS ’09 (HARTT) from New Haven, Conn., JAMAL SHURIAH ’10 (HARTT) from Great Neck, N.Y., and ZOE KASSAY ’11 from New York, N.Y.

MATTHEW J. BROOKS (HARTT) of Harrisonburg, Va., conducted the Northern Neck Orchestra (Va.) in May. He will join the full-time music faculty at Shasta College in Redding, Calif., where he will direct the student orchestra, teach music theory, ear training and keyboard skills courses.

ANDREW CHAN (BARNEY) of Hong Kong, People’s Republic of China, was named managing director of YGM Trading Ltd. Formerly an executive director of the company, Chan, has extensive experience in international brand licensing and fashion retailing in the Far East, the United States, and Europe.

ELANA “LONI” HERSCH M’05 (ENHP) and AMIEL “AMY” HERSCH ’04 (ENHP) of Orangeburg, N.Y., recently visited campus with their four children, Miach, 6; Zev, 3; Noa, 1; and Yael, 1. Loni is a physical therapist at Mount Sinai/St. Luke’s Medical Center, while Amy, a rabbi, is an associate director at Camp Ramah in Nacoy, N.Y.

SALVATORE T’ORY VERDI M (ENHP) of Ann Arbor, Mich., was named the head women’s basketball coach at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. He spent the last four seasons at Eastern Michigan University.

2004


AMIEL “AMY” HERSCH (ENHP) See ELANA “LONI” HERSCH ’03.

2005

FAITH MONTAPER-TO-WARD (HCW) of Monson, Mass., along with her husband, Anthony Ward, are performing musicians and artists and own a very successful photography business, Artshelpingshearts Studio. The two were married on September 7, 2013 in a coffeehouse-style wedding.

STUART ORAVETZ (HARTT) of New York, N.Y., is the director of business development at Eternal Noise, a production house in New York City.

2006

TODD MYERS (A&S) of Wallingford, Conn., was named vice president, programming acquisitions and development for ONE WORLD SPORTS. America’s network for Global Sports. He will be responsible for the network’s programming acquisitions across all platforms for the USA and Canada. Previously, Myers spent 16 years as director of programming & acquisitions for ESPN.
2005
The work of ELLEN AUGarten M (HAS) of Northampton, Mass., were featured in the photos that appear in the upcoming Florence Bank calendar. A reception to introduce the calendar, including a meet and greet with Augarten was held December 4. Here her work was spanned more than three decades and includes children and family portraits, and compelling images of the Pioneer Valley.

AARON BELEN (BARNEY) of Bloomingdale Hills, Mich., president of AFB Hospitality Group, LLC and AFB Investments, LLC, was named to Crain's 40-under-40 for 2015.

WALTER GIBSON (HARTT) of Bloomingdale, Conn., participated in “TubaChristmas,” a national tradition which made its New Britain, Conn., debut on December 19.

Flutist MINTA WHITE (HARTT) of Hartford, Conn., performed with the Alturas Duo at the Monadnock Center for History and Culture in Peterborough, N.H. in October.

2006
For the seventh consecutive year, ANNIE KERINS (HARTT) of Sutton, Mass., performed the role of Mrs. Cratchit in the performance of “A Christmas Carol” at the Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts in Worcester, Mass.

Soprano AMANDA KOHL (HARTT), D’15 (HARTT) of Hartford, Conn., performed with the Chorus of the Finger Lakes at a holiday concert held at Clemens Center in Elmira, N.Y. December 13.

CohnReznick, LLP has promoted MICHAEL PEZZULLO M (BARNEY) of Glastonbury, Conn, and MICHAEL WALTZAK M’10 (BARNEY) of South Glastonbury, Conn., to tax senior managers.

The alumni-dominated group, Bronze Radio, recently released its fourth album, “Light Me Up.” The first video and title song from the album made its exclusive premiere online on the Wall Street Journal’s “Speakeasy.” Alumni in the band are keyboardist MATTHEW WARNER (HARTT) from So. Glastonbury, Conn, drummer ROB GRIFFITH ’07 (HARTT) from West Hartford, Conn., guitarist CHRIS HENDERSON ’07 (HARTT) from Hartford and bassist BOB TANNEN ’07 (CETA), Patrick Fekowitz and Craig Struble are the other band members.

MICHAEL SHAHANI D (HARTT) of Walnut Creek, Calif., was featured in petalma360.com. Michael directs the Cinnabar Singers, a chorale group associated with Petaluma’s Cinnabar Theater. He also teaches a wide range of music classes at the City College of San Francisco. Michael is an award-winning composer, director and teacher.

Composer and harpist BRANDEE YOUNGER (HARTT) of Uniondale, Conn., featured in WNPR in an on-line article that celebrated her “outside the box” approach to playing the harp. Brandee, who recently released an album titled “Wax & Wane,” was described as a “boldly independent harpist and composer who creates a genre-crossing, smart, soulful, free-wheeling and happy hybrid of hipness.”

The School Administrators Association of New York has selected MATTHEW YOUNGHANS (ENHP) of Nanuet, N.Y., as its 2016 New York State Secondary Assistant Principal of the Year. This award is given annually by SAANYS and the National Association of Secondary Principals to an assistant principal who has set the pace, character and quality of education for the students in their school.

2007
PEDRO BERMUDEZ (A&S) of Hartford, Conn., a visiting professor of cinema in the College of Arts and Sciences, screened his latest film, “Hasta Manana,” January 14 at Real Art Ways in Hartford, Conn. The film was inspired by a trip he took to Puerto Rico as a student when he stumbled across a rooster fight. The cast largely included residents of Hartford and was filmed throughout the city.

TRACY BLOSSER M (HARTT) of Lahaina, Hawaii, lent her singing talents to a unique performance of “Handel’s Messiah,” that was performed at the historic Lao Theater December 19-20. Blosser is currently on the faculty at Maui Music Mission in Lahaina, co-leading the Keiki Choral Program, “Voice-Everybody Sing!”

HOLLY BESSONI-LUTZ M (ENHP) of Farmington, Conn., was appointed director of hospice and palliative care at Hartford HealthCare at Home. In that role, she will oversee and direct all services of the hospice/palliative care program. Besson-Lutz has held a variety of clinical and leadership positions in her 30 years in nursing.

CASEY CORMIER (HARTT) of Denver, Colo., is a proud member of the band “Woods in Flight” which plays shows throughout the Boulder and Denver area. Included was a featured performance at the Swallow Hill Music Hall earlier this year. He relocated from the Hartford, Conn, area to Colorado in the summer of 2012 and took up a teaching residency at The Lesson Studio in Boulder.

CHRISTINE DWYER (HARTT) See RICHARD BARTH ’03 (HARTT)

JOSH FELDMAN (A&S) of S. Orange, N.J., was promoted to senior capital specialist at FORA Financial. He was also recently appointed FORA’s Spotlight recipient in honor of his hard work and dedication to the company. Josh joined FORA in Sept. of 2014.

ROB GRIFFITH (HARTT)
See MATTHEW WARNER ’06

CHRIS HENDERSON (HARTT)
See MATTHEW WARNER ’06

CALIDA JONES M (HARTT) of District Heights, Md., is the artistic director for a social change music education program called “Bravo Waterbury” in Conn. In addition to music education, students receive homework tutoring, physical activity and are involved with host of development projects. Currently, more than 200 of Waterbury’s most vulnerable students are engaged physically, mentally and emotionally through creative expression. Her work in Bravo and the El Sistema movement (which inspired Bravo) has taken Jones all over the world.

ANDREW JOHN McGOWAN M (BARNEY) of Roswell, Ga., has been named a visiting professor in the J. Mack Robinson College of Business at Georgia State University. He will be teaching communication at both the MBA and undergraduate levels. McGowan was previously the director of global media relations and brand reputation for UPS.

BRET O’NEIL ’04 (HILLYER), (BARNEY) is now spearheading sales and business development efforts on the West Coast for a startup called “Plugless” based in Richmond, Va. The company is the first in the world to do wireless (inductive) electric vehicle charging.

MARTY VOELKER ’07 of Wheaton, Ill., was named the 2015 Illinois Secondary Art Educator of the Year by the Illinois Art Education Association. The award recognizes exemplary contributions, service and achievement by one IAEA member annually.

RICHARD YURIS M (BARNEY) of Middle-town, Conn., the CFO of Ferazzoli Imports of New England, was a finalist for CFO of the Year by HartfordBusiness.com, a publication of the Hartford Business Journal.

2008
A story on former Hawk COURTNEY GOMEZ (ENHP), D’10 (ENHP) of New Haven, Conn., appeared in norwichbulletin.com in January. The piece focused on the return to her high school alma mater, Norwich Free Academy (where she won two women’s basketball state titles as a player), in her current role as an assistant coach for Mercy High School. Courtney works in home health care.

STELLA MARIS OGWU A’06 (HILLYER), (A&S) of Hartford, Conn., was honored by Hillyer College with its Outstanding Young Alumna Award this past fall. Committed to become a pediatrician, she is currently enrolled in Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn. Ogwu expects to complete her degree and begin her residency in May, 2016.

BOB TANNEN (CETA)
See MATTHEW WARNER ’06 (HARTT)

2009
Artist PETER ALBANO ’09 (HAS) of Middletown, Conn., was featured in an article in the Middletown Press (Conn.) for a grant he received to create 50 different paintings for 50 families who live in the
North End of his hometown. Tagged the North End Pride Project, the paintings will be placed in the homes of the families and reflect each of their views on the neighborhood in which they live.

SANTO S. ALDERUCCIO (BARNEY) of Rocky Hill, Conn., has joined the corporate tax department at ESPN as a tax supervisor. He will be responsible for federal, state, and local income tax compliance for selected ESPN entities.

PETER CORDEAU (BARNEY) of Goshen, Conn., was named to the permanent CEO position at Sharon (Conn.) Hospital. He was appointed interim CEO the previous November.

SHANI HADJIAN (HARTT) of Baltimore, Md., earned a starring role as the Wicked Witch of the West in a production of The Wizard of Oz that played at the National Theatre in Washington, D.C. in May.

STEPHANIE LAURETANO (HAS) See KATHI PARKER ’92 (HAS)

DOUGLAS LYONS (HARTT) See MATTHEW BEST ’96 (HAS)

STEPHANIE MINOR (HAS) of Beacon, N.Y., gained international notoriety when a video of her placing the faceplate on Leonardo DiCaprio’s Oscar at the Governor’s Ball (with the actor standing by her side) went viral. The video first appeared on the Variety web site, then BuzzFeed, then found its way into cyberspace. Stephanie is the project manager for statuesque at Polich Tallix Fine Art Foundry, the foundry that was contracted to produce this year’s Oscars. A picture of Stephanie and Leo also appeared in the March 14 issue of People magazine.

MARIA J. QADRI (CETA) of Highland Park, N.J., spoke at the America Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) to discuss student-driven science policy activities at the Catalyzing Advocacy in Science & Engineering (CASE) Workshop.

JACKIE ROCHE (HAS) of East Haven, Conn., was one of two distinguished writers who taught block-long advanced creative writing courses at Cornell College this past year. She is a cartoonist, illustrator and writer specializing in non-fiction comics. Her work has been published in such venues as the Economic Hardship Project, Fusion and Symbolia Magazine.

KARA L SHYPUA (CETA) of Manhattan, N.Y., has been promoted to senior project coordinator at Hoffman Architects in New York City. She was previously a project coordinator.

Kara will provide project management and construction administrative services for building envelope rehabilitation and new construction consultation.

2010

Actor and theater performer CORINNE COSTA (HAS) of Cherry Hill, N.J., a.k.a Cori “Lady” Main, was featured in an N.J.com article for her role as a cosplayer. Cosplay is a mixture of playing a character and wearing a costume.

CARRIE ATLA DECHAMPLAIN (HARTT) and MATTHEW DECHAMPLAIN (HARTT) of Wethersfield, Conn., debut their first Jazz album together in two shows at the Palace Theater Poli Club in Waterbury.

Artist ELISABETH MCBRtEN (HAS) of West Hartford, Conn., won “Best of Show” at The West Hartford (Conn.) Art League’s Regional Juried CT-6 exhibit.

Connecticut agency Mintz + Hoke has announced the promotion of CHRISTINE MATONTI (ENHP) of Highland Mills, N.Y., to the position of human resource and business development manager. In this role, Christine is responsible for overseeing the agency’s payroll, benefits and training programs. As a member of the new business development team, she is responsible for coordinating proposal responses and supporting the agency’s strategic initiatives.

ANTHONY SPERANZA (HARTT), C’12 (HARTT) See JOSEPH ABAD C’13 (HARTT)

MICHAEL WALCZAK (BARNEY) See MICHAEL PEZZULLO (BARNEY) ’06

2011

SULTAN A. ASGHAR (CETA) of Hartford, Conn., was included in an article in the Saudi Gazette that profiled the country’s “Generations for Generations” program. The program represents a team of empowered current professionals and previous scholarship recipients who have all studied abroad, largely due to the King Abdullah Scholarship Program.

DAVID FINCKEL H See WU HAN ’83 (HARTT)

JONAS HAMPTON (CETA) of New Britain, Conn., qualified for the U.S. Olympic Marathon trials held in Los Angeles in February. He won the Hartford Marathon in October.

Classical Pianist IRINA NUZOVA D (HARTT) of Metuchen, N.J., was a featured artist at the InterHarmony International Music Festival as it opened its New York concert season at the Weil Recital Hall in mid-October.

JOSEPH VAN HASSEL (D, HARTT) See DAVID McBRIE ’73

2012

Classical guitarist FRANCESCO A. BARONE (HARTT) performed a free concert at the Bethel (Conn.) Public Library in December. His performance represented four composers and spanned four centuries.

KATHERINE DONOVAN M (BARNEY) of Suffield, Connecticut, was invited to the Connecticut Society of CPAs (CTCPA) “New and Young Professionals to Watch” list. She was among a select group of three up-and-comers, aged 35 and younger, who have set themselves apart as emerging leaders in the accounting profession. She is a senior audit associate at Whitleyse & Hadley, P.C., in Hartford, Conn.

ANDREW GOLDSTEIN (HARTT) of Olympia, Wash., has cofounded Emerald City Music, a new chamber music series, along with violinist Kristin Lee.

KEVIN HARRIS (BARNEY) of Naugatuck, Conn., joined Mahoney/Sabol & Company as a tax senior.

MARGARET VAUGHN (HAS) See MATTHEW BEST ’96 (HAS)

2013

JOSEPH ABAD C (HARTT) of Bristol, Conn. ANDREW BARNHART M (HARTT) of Davis, Calif., MAX SCHWIMMER M (HARTT) of Scottsdale, Ariz., and ANTHONY SPERANZA ’10 (HARTT), C’12 (HARTT) of Vernon, Vt., are members of the classical chamber music ensemble, Asylum Quartet. The group became the first saxophone quartet to receive honors in the 12-year history at the 2014 International Chamber Music Ensemble Competition. They won the grand prize and gold medal.

MICHAEL BASKOWSKI (HARTT) of Holliston, Mass., was featured in a story that appeared in the Providence Journal in late December. He was a member of the cast for the touring production of “Beauty and the Beast,” which played at the Boston Opera House during the holidays. It was a homecoming of sorts as Michael is a Holliston, Mass. native.

JUSTIN GLODICH M (HARTT) of Montgometry, N.Y., authored an article that appeared in the December issue of Choral Journal, a publication of the American Choral Directors Association. It is titled “Vocal Percussion in Contemporary Choral Music.”

PIANIST MICHAEL KORMAN M (HARTT) of Manchester, Conn., and soprano MICHELLE FRIETEK D’14 (HARTT) of Berlin, Conn., performed a collection of Cabaret songs December 13 at the Simsbury, Conn. as part of the “Songs Expose” musical duo.

JOSHUA LONG (HARTT) of Bangor, Pa., was the band leader for the Bellevilne Community Band (group of more than 50 volunteer musicians) that presented a concert March 13 on the Penn State University campus. The concert saluted the “Golden Age of Bands.”

WENDY MARTINSON M (ENHP) of Rocky Hill, Conn., was named program director at the Connecticut Center for Healthy Aging. She will be responsible for program development and care coordination.

Cellist OLIVIA J. PAGAN (HARTT) of South Euclid, Ohio, lent her talents in support of the “Music for Missions” series held at Faith United Church in Springfield, Mass., Nov. 24. The concert series benefited victims of domestic abuse.

Marguiles Peruzzi Architects welcomed MATTHEW SIMON (CETA) of Bedford, N.Y., as an architectural designer, responsible for design development, programming, and project management and coordination. The organization is one of Boston’s most innovative architectural design firms.

The Center for Latino Progress, a Hartford, Conn.-based non-profit organization dedicated to serving the Latino community announced the hiring of SAMANTHA SLADE M (A&S) of Cromwell, Conn., as director of advancement & marketing. Previously, she was the development manager at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Hartford (Conn.).

KRISTIN ZECHER (BARNEY) of Merrick, N.Y., released an app on iTunes called “Aura Rating.” It finds farm-to-table restaurants in the five boroughs of New York. She is also a field consultant for TouchBistro which is an iPad software program used by restaurants.
Indie rock group “Sorority Noise” member CAMERON BOUCHER (HARTT) of Hooksett, N.H., celebrated the release of the band’s album, “Joy, Departed.” It was inspired by Boucher’s struggles with depression and addiction.

ETHAN BOURDEAU (CETA) of South Hero, Vt. and KEVIN ZHENG (CETA) of Colchester, Conn., won the Hallberg Foundation Award from the Institute of Noise Engineering. They presented aspects of their work, accessing pedestrian noise levels in New York City, at the international noise conference, INTER-NOISE 2015, held in San Francisco in August.

Saxophonist MICHAEL CASEY (HARTT) of Hartford, Conn. joined Cory Garcia for two concert performances in December Studio 59 in Torrington, Conn. While at Hartt, he studied under such jazz artists as saxophonists Abraham Burton, Rene McLean and Javon Jackson, trombonist Steve Davis and bassist Nat Reeves. Michael was a nominee for “Best Jazz” in the Hartford (Conn.) Advocate’s “CT Music Awards.”

BENJAMIN COHN (A&S) of Springfield, N.J., was featured in the popular TimeOut New York’s “The Undateables” section.

ASHLEY CROCE (HARTT) of Peabody, Mass., began her post-graduate professional career by returning to Hartford to join the cast of “Rear Window” at Hartford Stage. She played a young, recently married woman in the ensemble, which included veteran actor Kevin Bacon.

STEPHEN CUSANO (HARTT) See DANIEL LIPARINI ’14 (HARTT)

JUSTYNA DABROWSKI (HAS) of Danbury, Conn., had her artworks displayed on the walls at the 100 Pearl Street Gallery in Hartford. She creates images from old family photographs of happy gatherings. The centerpieces of the exhibit are paintings that hang across the gallery from each other that depict the same meal, but from views on opposite sides of the table. The Boston Children’s Theatre named AUSTIN DAVY (HARTT) of Beverly, Mass. as its musical director. Most recently, he has written orchestrations for its new musical “Caps for Sale.”

NICK EINSTEIN (HARTT) of Basking Ridge, N.J. is working as an assistant at Jungle City Studios in Manhattan, one of the top recording studios on the east coast.

CARLY GLENN (BARNEY) of Chicago, Ill., presented the New York debut of her film “Bark Mitzvah,” at the Chelsea Film Festival.

CONOR HAMILL (HARTT) of Newington, Conn., landed the leading role in “Third” staged at TheaterWorks in Hartford.

MICHÈLE BETH HERMAN (HARTT) of Commack, N.Y., has been nominated for a New Hampshire Theatre Award as Best Actress in a Musical for her portrayal of Aldonza in Man of LaMancha that ran last summer at Jean’s Playhouse in Lincoln, N.H. The award winners were announced January 23 during a gala at the Capital Center for the Arts in Concord, N.H. She is currently performing with Celebrity Cruises in South America.

2014

PAINTINGS

2015

AMBER BEPKO B (A&S) of Guilford, Conn., joined the Northeast Conference in Somerset, N.J., this year as a member of the media relations staff. She is the primary media contact for specific sports and implements online video.

“Wise Old Moon,” with band members DANIEL LIPARINI (HARTT) of N. Kingston, R.I. and STEPHEN CUSANO ’15 (HARTT) of North Haven, Conn., released its second album, “Don’t Take Me Off.” The release of the album, which has received positive reviews from the critics, was followed by a March tour.

“Voids,” a film written by KYLE RODGERS (A&S) of Naugatuck, Conn., made its debut at Spotlight Theaters in Hartford, Conn. on April 24. The film, told through still images, featured The Hartt School students and alumni as actors.

ALEXIS SEMEVOLOS-VELAZQUEZ (HARTT) of Glastonbury, Conn. landed a role in the musical “Golden Bridge” produced by the National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York.

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Alumni Night with the Hartford Wolfpack
Alumni and friends gathered January 8 for Alumni Night with the Hartford Wolfpack. Some of those in attendance at the pre-game reception at Vaughn’s were (l-r) Ariana Tarpinian ’11, Chris Mazella ’12, Matt Moore, Matt Cooke ’10, Ben Accardo ’12, and Marissa Giammarino A’10, ’12.

National Networking Nights
National Networking Nights were held in five cities last fall. The events took place in Florida (top photo), Boston (bottom photo), San Francisco, New York and Hartford. Attending the Ft. Lauderdale event were (l-r): Domonique Bedbury ’08, Kenneth Kulas ’04, M’06, Lauren Firtel ’03, Scott Krasick. Jennifer Doctor ’86, Barry Doctor ’86 and Gabriel Deutsch A’02, ’02. Joining the crowd in Boston were (l-r): Melissa Ciociolo ’13, ’15, Molly Sadoff ’12, Brooke Tallinger ’14, Dale McGrath ’11 and Kimberly Packard ’11.

Hartford Scholars Reception
Alumni and current students attended the 25th anniversary celebration of the Hartford Scholars Program on November 13. Initiated by former University President Humphrey Tonkin (far right), the program has provided half-tuition support to students from Hartford Public High Schools since 1990.

UHart Alumni and the Hawks
The Alumni Association held receptions and alumni nights at three basketball games this winter. Rich Marinelli ’82 and Paul Brand ’02 were among the attendees at the January 30 men’s game (top photo) in West Hartford vs. Albany. Volunteer Nicole Bocra ’95 (second row right in bottom photo) organized an alumni gathering at the women’s basketball game against George Washington in Washington, D.C. on December 30. An alumni night was also held in Providence, R.I. as the Hawks took on the nationally-ranked Providence Friars.

Faculty Lecture Series
A UHart Faculty Lecture Series hosted by President Walter Har- rison took place this winter in New York, Boston and Hartford. Below are pictures from two of the events. The top picture shows (l-r) President Harrison with associate professor Wick Griswold, and alumnae Marya Triandafellos ’81 and Natalie Camen A’88, ’90 in New York. The bottom picture shows associate professor Bilal Seklo flanked by Helyne Hamelburg P’16 and Stephen Hamelburg P’16 in Boston. Associate professor Michele Troy lectured in Hartford.

HCW Reunion
On May 8-9, the Hartford College for Women Class of 1966 50th Reunion took place. Among the HCW alumnae in attendance were: Sitting (l-r) Sharon Kaslius Byron A’66, ’71, Suzanne Meny Woodward A’66, Linda Demikat A’66, and Claudia Testa Weicker A’66; Standing (l-r) Margaret Brannan Pieschel A’66, Polly Bothfield A’67, Martha Anne Ferris-O’neal A’66, Rosanne Casale-Daigneulat A’66, Maris Carlson Cornell A’66, Barbara Despres A’66, Barbara Wolfe Bursi A’66, and Leila Cunningham Walden A’66.

Join Us!
Alumni Parties Before Postmodern Jukebox Shows
in Providence (9/29), Hartford (10/1), Boston (10/6), New York City (10/7), and Washington, D.C. (10/13)

UHart How to Series
“Home Buying” in Hartford (9/14), Boston (9/21) and New York City (9/28)
“Financial Planning” in Hartford (10/5), Boston (10/19) and (10/26)
“Career Advancement” in Hartford (11/3), Boston (11/10), and (11/18)

Holiday Bus Trip to New York on December 3
To learn about other Alumni Association events, including details and how to register, log onto anchoronline.org/events.

The University-wide events calendar is available at Hartford.edu.
Hawk Hatchlings
Births & Adoptions

Paul Brand ’02 (CETA), ’02 (A&S), an Alumni Association Board Member, and his wife, Mary Kate Brand ’04 (ENHP), M’14 (ENHP) of Hartford, Conn., welcomed Grady James Brand on November 23, 2015. Grady joins big sister, Whimsy, 4.

Sarah Rose Sussa was born July 7 to Nicole Sussa ’12 (A&S) in Harrisburg, Pa.

Alumni Association Board member Laura Dinan Haber B’07 (Barney) of New Britain, Conn., and her husband, Sean Haber, welcomed their son, Grant Dickinson, December 18, 2015.

Saige Annmarie Stewart was born September 12 to Daileann Hemmings ’06 (ENHP) M’11 (ENHP) of Manchester, Conn.

Not Pictured

William Jay Cushing Ginsberg was born October 20 to Jessica Cushing ’06 (US) and David Ginsberg of Granby, Conn.

Robert Murratti ’02 (Barney) and his wife, Brook, of Wallingford, Conn., who were married in August, 2014, announced the birth of their first child, Mia Elizabeth, on April 20, 2015.

WEDDINGS

Nicholas Shortino ’09 (CETA) and Melissa Lehman Shortino ’09 (A&S) of Westminster, Colo., were married at Lionscrest Manor October 3 in Lyons, Colo. SARA MURRAY MADISON ’09 (CETA) was the matron of honor. Melissa is a brand manager for a medical device company, while Nicholas is a fire-sprinkler designer.

Megan Close ’05 (A&S) and Michael Zavala of Burbank, Calif., were married at her parents’ home at the foot of the Organ Mountains in Las Cruces, New Mexico Oct. 24, 2015. Megan is a literary agent at Keller Media, an agency based in Marina Del Rey, Calif. Michael is a visual effects producer at Hydraulix VFX. The couple honeymooned in France and Italy in April. While at UHart, Megan majored in cinema and worked on the Informer, including spending her senior year as editor-in-chief.

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Laura Engel ’07 (A&S) and Rob Griffith ’07 (Hartt) of West Hartford, Conn., were married August 22, 2015 at The Bushnell in Hartford, Conn. Laura is a recruiting manager at Robert Half Technology in Hartford, Conn., while Rob is the drummer for the popular band Bronze Radio Return. The wedding party included Theresa Dolan ’06 (Barney), Elise Boutin ’08 (Hartt), Elizabeth McConaughy ’08 (HAS), John Phillips-Sandy ’07 (Hartt), Cory Sims ’08 (Hartt), Julian Freeman ’07 (Barney) and Thomas Caffrey ’07 (US),
BYRON WILLIAM HARRISON ’01 (CETA) and Brian Alexander Klimskie, of London, England, were married October 16 at Salvage One, an event space in Chicago. Harrison designs the acoustics of performing arts buildings for Charcoalblue, a theatre design firm. Klimskie is the director of European investment research and senior vice president in the London office of Heitman, a Chicago-based real estate investment firm.

TONY FILARDO ’09 (CETA) and TINA BROCKMANN ’09 (Hartt) of Belmont, Mass., were married November 14, 2015 in Northborough, Mass. Alumni and faculty in attendance were REVEREND MICHAEL RUMINSKI ’08, DEACON PATRICK FFIORILO ’10, BRITANY GILROY ’09 (Hartt), BRADY STOUFFER ’11, ANDREW SGRO ’10, BRENDAN FLOYD ’10, ALYSSA HEBERT ’11, DANIELLE ETTO SOBOCHINSKI ’12, BRENDA GOOCH ’10, ANDREW Sgro ’10, BRADY STOUFFER ’09, BRITTANY BLACK STOUFFER ’09 and CHRIS HEBERT ’08.

NATHAN SCALZONE ’99 (Hartt) and Debbie Chou ’04 (Hartt) of Astoria, N.Y., were married last July in Camden, Maine. The two first met working in the Hartt administrative offices, and reconnected in New York City through their work at 92nd Street Y and Steinway & Sons. Hartt Composition Professor David Macbride was the officiant at the wedding. Joseph Diponio M’00 (Hartt) and Audra Jamai White (A&S) were in the wedding party.

STEPHANIE GENOVESE ’10 (Hartt) and ROBERT YONSKIE ’09 (Hartt) of North Miami, Fla. were married September 20 at West Hills Country Club in Middletown, N.Y. Alumni who were members of the wedding party include: TINA BROCKMANN ’09 (Hartt), BRADY STOUFFER ’10, ALDEN CAPLE ’10 (Hartt), NICK PALAZZO ’10 (Hartt), DAVE MARMANILLO ’10 (Hartt), SHANI HADJIAN ’09 (Hartt), and KATIE BRUESTLER ’09 (Hartt). DAVID J. MADORE ’01 (Hartt) provided the music for the ceremony. Robert is using his theatre training to help coach public speakers on how to communicate a script; Stephanie is working in the regional theatre circuit. Most recently, she played Electra in Broward Stage Door’s production of “Gypsy.”

NANCY GOLDMAN ’86 (Barney) and Jonathan Isaiah Littman were married June 23 at the Hotel Bel Air in Los Angeles. She is a sales and marketing assistant at J. Robert Scott, a home-furnishings manufacturer in Los Angeles. They reside in Encino, Calif.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Class/Year</th>
<th>City, State</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manfred Adler</td>
<td>A'48, B'52</td>
<td>Bloomfield, Conn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard J. Ailbri</td>
<td>'69, M'78</td>
<td>Newport, R.I.</td>
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<td>Ralph J. Archer</td>
<td>'66 (A&amp;S), '69 (HARTT)</td>
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<td>Everett Archibald</td>
<td>A'74, '78 (CETA)</td>
<td>Ellington, Conn.</td>
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<td>Frank J. Barbarossa</td>
<td>C'55 (HILLYER)</td>
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<td>David Barnes</td>
<td>'73 (BARNEY)</td>
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<td>Nancy Bauer</td>
<td>'70 (A&amp;S)</td>
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<td>Susan Rubin Block</td>
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<td>Udo Birk</td>
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<td>'56 (HILLYER), M'65 (BARNEY)</td>
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<td>Janet Craig Bradford</td>
<td>A'67 (BARNEY), Vernon Rockville, Conn.</td>
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<td>Guy W. Brisson</td>
<td>A'63, '67 (CETA)</td>
<td>Plymouth, N.H.</td>
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<td>Sarah R. Brody</td>
<td>M'88 (ENHP)</td>
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<td>Charles T. Bunting</td>
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<td>David Burgdorf</td>
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<td>William J. Burke</td>
<td>'66 (BARNEY)</td>
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<td>Keith E. Burwell</td>
<td>A'09 (BARNEY), '11 (A&amp;S), Brooklyn, N.Y.</td>
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<td>Earle S. Cathcart</td>
<td>Jr. '78 (BARNEY), Yardley, Pa.</td>
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<td>Michael &quot;Hap&quot; Ciervo</td>
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<td>Anne Sullivan Collins</td>
<td>'62 (A&amp;S), M'86 (BARNEY), West Hartford, Conn.</td>
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<td>Irene M. Conover</td>
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<td>Alison Coolbirth</td>
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<td>Alice R. Cooperstein</td>
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<td>Anita Pelletier Cowles</td>
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<td>Thomas E. Cummings</td>
<td>C'67 (ENHP), Cheshire, Conn.</td>
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<td>Roy E. Dahlberg</td>
<td>M'64 (ENHP), Southington, Conn.</td>
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<td>Robert B. Davis</td>
<td>M'63 (ENHP), North Waterboro, Maine</td>
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<td>Stephen F. Davis</td>
<td>'87 (A&amp;S), Hebron, Conn.</td>
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<td>Ronald F. DeLisa</td>
<td>A'65 (WARD), Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.</td>
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<td>S. Thomas Denoto</td>
<td>M'66 (ENHP), Bristol, Conn.</td>
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<td>Sandra Dickson</td>
<td>'93 (BARNEY), Mechanicville, N.Y.</td>
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<td>Robert J. Diemer</td>
<td>'92 (BARNEY), Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.</td>
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<td>Dr. Dario Diorio</td>
<td>'64, M'65 (ENHP), Torrington, Conn.</td>
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<td>Joseph W. Dishaw</td>
<td>'62 (BARNEY), Yorktown Heights, NY.</td>
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<td>John W. Dominic</td>
<td>Jr. C'63 (WARD), Greenwich, Conn.</td>
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<td>Kathleen Holmes Dowd</td>
<td>M'67 (ENHP), Deerfield Beach, Fla.</td>
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<td>Thomas G. Downes</td>
<td>'80 (A&amp;S), Enfield, Conn.</td>
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Laurier W. Doyon A'62, '66 (CETA), Farmington, Conn. 1.24.16
John A. Dronen III M'93 (BARNEY), West Hartford, Conn. 1.15.16
Donald L. Dubiel '59 (CETA), Enfield, Conn. 9.24.15
Dr. Joan Duggan M'96, D'00 (A&S), Wistantville, Conn. 11.16.15
Lisa K. Durgin A'78 (HCW), '81 (A&S), Gardnerville, NV 5.27.15
David F. Ertman '69 (A&S), Penn Yan, N.Y. 12.23.15
Alice D. Fisher M'73 (ENHP), West Hartford, Conn. 2.15.16
Susan Waterman Foraker '87 (CETA), Titusville, Fla. 3.17.13
Donald R. Foster M'87 (BARNEY), Simsbury, Conn. 10.9.15
Marilyn Libby Fried A'48 (HCW), Vero Beach, Fla. 1.14.16
Thomas F. Fulop A'64 (CETA), A'68, '71 (BARNEY), Winchester, Mass. 1.12.16
Roger J. Gagne '73 (BARNEY), Enfield, Conn. 2.15.16
Alan Gates '63 (ENHP), Storrs, Conn. 11.12.16
Lois Mueske Garrison M'78 (ENHP), New Hartford, Conn. 2.1.16
Robert D. Gilmour M'85 (BARNEY), Plainville, Conn. 10.27.15
Joyce Watts Godin '78 (A&S), Farmington, Conn. 9.21.15
Sidney A. Gold A'47 (BARNEY), Deerfield Beach, Fla. 4.12.16
Alan Goldberg M'72 (BARNEY), Windsor, Conn. 12.16.15
Joseph J. Golec '59 (BARNEY), Wethersfield, Conn. 12.8.15
Hermon K. Golnik, Jr. M'66 (ENHP), Wethersfield, Conn. 10.12.15
Cynthia Hanson Gordon M'03 (ENHP), Bloomfield, Conn. 2.24.16
Frances S. Gracia '60 (ENHP), Tiverton, R.I. 2.17.16
Louise Greenfield '44 (HARTT), Waterbury, Conn. 10.17.15
Evans E. Griffin, Jr. A'51 (HILLYER), Colchester, Conn. 12.21.15
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Harry Haldeman '72 (BARNEY), Fairfax Station, Va. 6.13.15
Elaine Mulford Hammick '84 (CETA), North Granby, Conn. 1.16.16
George A. Harger, Jr. '70 (CETA), M'79 (BARNEY), Enfield, Conn. 12.16.15
Gail Cadwell Hansen '71 (HAS), Wethersfield, Conn. 11.3.16
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Muriel Hosch '74 (HAS), Winsted, Conn. 11.10.15
Nicholas A. Janazzo C'57 (WARD), Bristol, Conn. 11.28.15
Azekah E. Jennings '80 (HAS), Hamden, Conn. 10.4.15
David P. Johnson '60 (A&S), Tariffville, Conn. 12.3.15
Barbara A. Jordan '90 (BARNEY), East Hampton, Conn. 11.15.15
Robert Judd '62 (ENHP), Pleasant Valley, Conn. 11.12.15
Shirley Rosenthal Juraj M'66 (ENHP), Manchester, Conn. 2.23.16
Elaine Kass M'87 (BARNEY), Wethersfield, Conn. 11.25.15
Phyllis Sachs Katz M'66 (ENHP), West Hartford, Conn. 10.15.15
Jerome F. Kennedy C'56 (WARD), West Hartford, Conn. 4.26.16
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Edward A. Kelly ’58 (CETA), West Harwick, Mass.</td>
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<td>Simon Konover H’11, Delray Beach, Fla.</td>
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<td>Shaun Krauthofer M’05 (BARNEY), Newington, Conn.</td>
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<td>Mary Mestre Koptonak A’47 (HILLYER), Colchester, Conn.</td>
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<td>Robert G. Kunik ’70 (A&amp;S), Brockton, Mass.</td>
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<td>Gloria Lanza A’63 (BARNEY), New Britain, Conn.</td>
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<td>Catherine Rich Lansdell ’69 (ENHP), Timonium, Md.</td>
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<td>William Lapenta C’59 (WARD), Newington, Conn.</td>
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<td>Theodore A. Lorence ’78 (CETA), Higganum, Conn.</td>
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<td>Bette J. Lumpkin M’73 (ENHP), Bloomfield, Conn.</td>
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<td>Daniel F. McCarthy ’73 (CETA), Old Tappan, N.J.</td>
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<td>Margaret H. McConnell ’87 (A&amp;S), West Hartford, Conn.</td>
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<td>Dr. Brian J. McCartin ’94 (HARTT), Flint, Mich.</td>
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<td>Martin A. Muldowney A’90 (HILLYER), Glendale, Wisc.</td>
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<td>Thomas A. Picone M’78 (A&amp;S), Basking Ridge, N.J.</td>
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A HAWK’S TALE

Frank Hursey ’77

When someone suffers a severe bleeding injury, every second counts. That is why Frank Hursey ’77, who studied mechanical engineering in the University’s College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture, invented QuikClot. It’s a type of gauze that stops bleeding practically on contact and has saved thousands of lives in hospitals and war zones around the world.

QuikClot is permeated with a mineral that accelerates the body’s natural clotting ability. When pressure is applied, it conforms to the wound site and stops the bleeding within minutes. It is particularly important in trauma cases caused by manmade or natural disasters, during which bleeding causes 40% of deaths.

Hursey came up with the idea for QuikClot in the course of his job building machines that separate oxygen from water. He was working with a mineral called zeolite, which is a highly effective absorbent of water. A scientist at heart, Hursey says he knew blood is 90% water and he hypothesized the mineral could work to stop bleeding. He was right.

Hursey patented his invention in 1987, but it didn’t get much attention until the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and the resultant military conflicts in which U.S. troops suddenly had an unfortunate need for QuikClot. All five branches of the military now use it in the field. It is also part of the standard equipment for first responders and law enforcement officers, including the members of the University’s Department of Public Safety. The University became the first higher education institution in New England, and among the first in the nation, to equip its officers with life-saving QuikClot Bleeding Control Kits in February of 2016.

Hursey, a University of Hartford regent, is a former Apollo Space Program engineer and is the president and founder of On Site Gas, which sells oxygen and nitrogen generator technology.

“My advice for students would be to pursue your dreams and don’t ever give up.”

Frank Hursey’s QuikClot gauze, which has saved thousands of lives in hospitals and war zones around the world, is in bleeding control kits that University Public Safety officers now carry on campus.
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YOUR GIFT TO THE ANCHOR FUND SUPPORTS OUR STUDENTS FROM THE DAY THEY STEP ONTO CAMPUS TO THE DAY THEY STEP OUT INTO THE WORLD. This year, all gifts to the Anchor Fund will be used for our students’ greatest and most immediate need, financial aid.

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A BIG WIN IN RIO

Angel Muñoz ’17 was the only engineering student selected from thousands who applied to NBC for a coveted intern position on the network’s production team at the Olympic Games in Rio. Angel, an audio engineering technology major, worked with the network engineers mixing sound, setting up technical equipment and putting a microphone on Bob Costas during rehearsals.